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CEO Confusion: Election Officials Past & Present Called into Question • 4

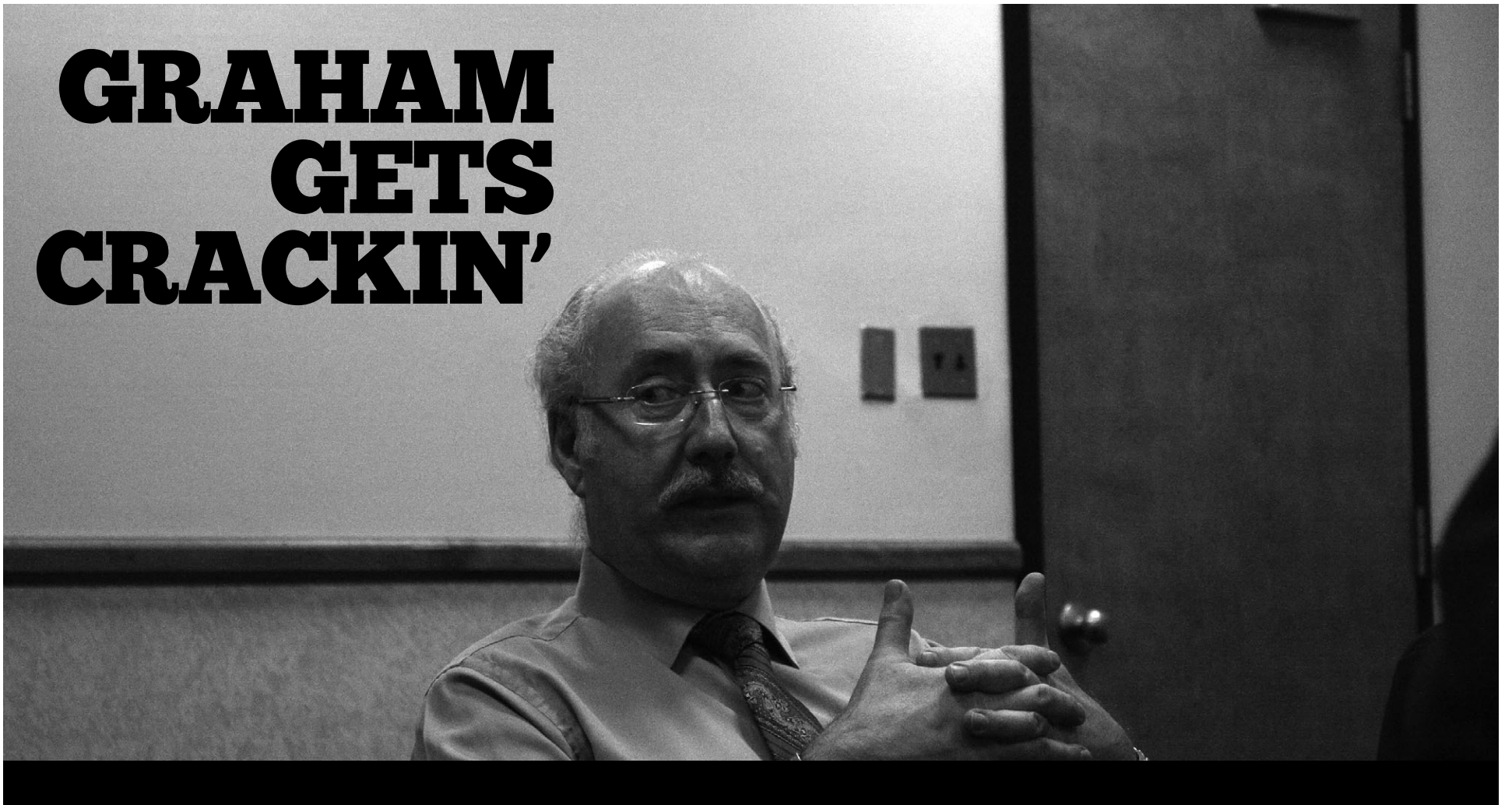
GRAHAM
GETS
CRACKIN'

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Concordia's Provost Talks Tuition, Academic Plan

• ADAM KOVAC

Provost David Graham presented Concordia's new Academic Plan to the Concordia Student Union Council on Wednesday.

After the presentation, Council voted to reject the plan, citing concerns about its budget, the possibility of a new president tossing it out, a lack of focus on undergraduate needs, a lack of student members on the working group that put the plan together, and some points in the plan being either too vague or too specific.

You can read the article about the meeting on our website, as well as a full transcript of our interview with Dr. Graham.

When Concordia's Senate meets this Friday, they will vote on a plan that will set the course for the university's academic development for the next five years.

This will happen against the wishes of its student members, who asked for, and received, a mandate from the CSU council to vote against the plan, a move that has left Provost David Graham, the highest academic officer in the school, less than satisfied.

"Obviously I'm disappointed," he

told *The Link*. "First of all [...] so much of the plan was created with students in mind and thinking of the benefit of students at Concordia that it seems strange to me that students are, for reasons of their own, deciding not to support it."

"I'm disappointed because there's been such a lengthy consultation process already, and because we did reach out to students last year, including both the CSU and Graduate Students' Association, without, as far as I can recall, getting any response from them."

Graham added that after he left the meeting, a number of points were brought up by Council that he would have addressed, including the potential power of the next president to veto the plan.

"I see no reason why the next president would want to change anything in the plan radically," he said. "The idea that the next president would come in and just veto or jettison the plan seems absurd to me."

One possible motion Senate will vote on is tabling the plan until January, which will give the working committee that drafted the plan time to refine it further.

But Graham noted that the plan was

originally supposed to be voted on last spring, and that he thought the majority of Concordians would be "of the view that the consultation process has really gone on long enough, and it's time to approve the plan and get it implemented."

At both Council and the last Senate meeting on Oct. 7, a major sticking point was the plan's emphasis on attracting better grad students. Students at both bodies asked why the plan focused on how to do that, rather than on better serving the students who are already at Concordia.

Graham said that the point of the plan is not to change the purpose of or restrict access to Concordia. "Nobody is talking about abandoning our traditional commitment to accessibility in the slightest."

"I think it's good for all of us if we could attract more good students for all kinds of reasons," he said. "Not just because they attract good faculty, but because they provide great role models for other students."

He also explained that good graduate students garner positive attention academically, pointing to Rhodes Scholar Lillian Chamas, who was granted the prestigious honor in 2008.

Graham also discussed the controversial \$1,625 per year tuition increase that was proposed by the Liberal government in their budget last spring. While he said he understood students' concerns over the increased fees, he compared the situation in Quebec with other systems around the world.

"When you look at the effects of tuition increases—not sudden violent increases like the ones in England that in my view are completely pernicious—but when you look at the effects [the] increases our government is talking about, those have not produced a decline in enrollment elsewhere," he said. "Generations of artificially low tuition fees have still left us with one of the lowest university participation rates in Canada."

"Nobody is talking about moving to an American fee model," he added.

Graham said he felt low tuition actually subsidized richer students, as 35 per cent of the money from tuition increases would go towards raising financial aid.

While that means you shouldn't expect to see him at the Nov. 10 Day of Action, stay tuned to see how he—and the rest of Senate—respond to students' concerns at the Nov. 4 Senate meeting.

APPEAL ORDEAL

When the Concordia Student Union met for their Council meeting on Oct. 26, it's possible that nobody realized what would come of their gathering.

When the CUTV cameras stopped rolling, they discussed the usual, non-contentious business of executive reports, possible fee levy questions and other mundane issues. When the subject turned to possible issues with the hiring of Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein in closed session, however, things got heated. As you'll read, things got more contentious as the week wore on.

SEND IT TO THE JB

Independent Body to Decide CEO's Fate

• LAURA BEESTON

The Judicial Board, an independent ruling body of Concordia Student Union, will hold a hearing on Nov. 2 to decide if the hiring procedure for current Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein was valid.

At a Council meeting on Oct. 26, the CSU Council mandated the executive to file a procedural complaint after missing documentation suggested Goldstein's hiring process was questionable, as it is unclear whether his predecessor ever formally resigned. Without a proper resignation, any hiring would be invalid.

This comes three weeks before a byelection in which students will vote on reformed bylaws, a variety of fee levies and on candidates seeking seats on Council.

After receiving the appeal, JB Chair Cassie Smith called a "preliminary hearing" Oct. 28 that would allow Goldstein to speak, despite the formal respondents to the complaint being last year's Council members who appointed him.

Explaining the meeting was "not following a specific process" of the Fast-Track Procedure laid out in Section 4 of the Judicial Board Code of Procedures, Smith said the hearing was "deliberation process-based" and that it was called to decide "whether or not it makes sense to consider making a provisional decision because of the limited timeframe."

CSU VP Outreach Morgan Pudwell took issue with the way the meeting was being held. "I am very uncomfortable with us proceeding in any way other than outlined in the [JB] code of procedures," she said. "There's a clear process not being followed. [...] You cannot possibly call a hearing."

Pudwell explained to the JB Chair that no process exists to "talk about his evidence or what he'd like to present. You can either officially respond [to the appeal] or you don't."

Smith replied that, as an "Interested Party" it was not out of bounds for Goldstein to speak. Smith said she felt it might not have been possible for Goldstein to submit a respondent brief in time, which would be required in a hearing for a final decision to be made, but that she "understood where [Pudwell] is coming from."

"We're going to move this back into a meeting without having people speak," Smith finally conceded. She said she didn't want to go outside procedure, but wanted to resolve the issue in the "fairest and quickest" way possible.

"I want legitimacy too, and I also want things to happen quickly, but there is a process to follow," said Pudwell, before the JB went into a closed-session meeting.

Goldstein, told *The Link* following the meeting he hadn't decided if he was going to formally respond to the appeal.

On Oct. 28, former CSU president Heather Lucas threw her weight behind the respondents, stating former CEO Oliver Cohen's resignation was validated at the Annual General Meeting on May 9, where he submitted his electoral report and ver-

bally stated, "Consider this my resignation" in front of other executive members.

Lucas also alleged that, while she provided the Appointment Committee members all of the applicants' CVs, she was unable to reach quorum after numerous attempts to hold a committee meeting.

Lucas said she told the committee via email to "select their top three candidates [and that] they would then be brought to council for the main interview."

Lucas also stated Gill was "vehemently against" Goldstein's candidacy in closed session, which the current president has denied. Gill said she abstained from voting for or against Goldstein.

"[In her letter, Lucas] basically validates our concerns that we brought up," said Gill.

"Fundamentally, the only thing that we're doing is acting on behalf of a legally binding decision of council to file a complaint with the JB on procedural issues.

"All we want is a CEO that appears legitimate and legitimately appointed by every Concordia student so that the election process of the CSU remains in some position of integrity," she said.

On Oct. 29, former CSU Fine Arts councillor Tomer Shavit told *The Link* that he would be defending the respondents—officially cited in the appeal as "the CSU Council of 2010-2011"—at the JB hearing.

Shavit said he could "prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the hiring process of Goldstein was legal and went through the proper channels."

Though he couldn't produce a letter of resignation from the former CEO, Shavit explained, "It's not important. If there was

a letter, it'd be open-and-shut, but [this case] is already open-and-shut."

On Oct. 31, Shavit sent a response to the JB, outlining his arguments against the appeal. Among his rebuttals were statements regarding the alleged Appointment Committee errors and that Cohen did, in fact, resign.

Shavit also submitted "new facts" concerning the "questionable timeline [...] and behaviour" of Gill and a confidential email submitted to council by Pudwell.

He also suggested in his appeal that Goldstein's possible termination could be grounds for legal action against the CSU.

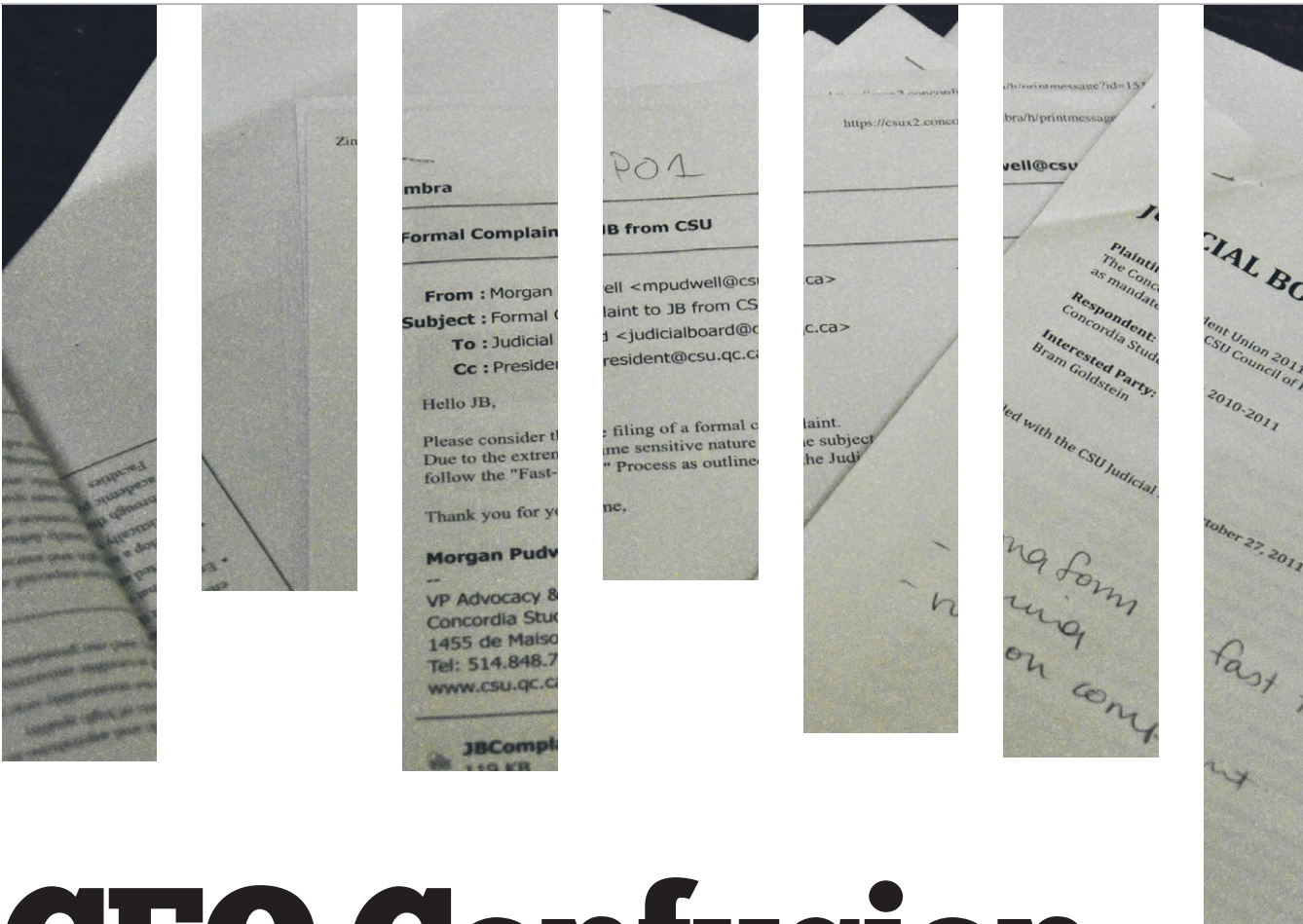
In an email to *The Link*, Gill said that Shavit's response had "very little fact" and that "much of it is based on hearsay, or very strong opinions."

That same day, CUTV also submitted an appeal as another 'Interested Party,' claiming they were concerned they would "be treated in a prejudicial matter by Goldstein if he remains CEO in the November 2011 byelections."

The hearing today will allow Goldstein—who is also officially registered as an "Interested Party" in the appeal—to speak.

"The bylaws state that the JB can only dismiss a CEO after giving him 'the opportunity to be heard' and I am committed to following the bylaws as closely as possible, in the event our decision results in a dismissal," said Smith.

Follow @LauraBeeston on Twitter for updates on tonight's JB hearing at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the CSU conference room.



CEO Confusion

CSU Judicial Board Looks Into CEO Appointment

• LAURA BEESTON

The Concordia Student Union's November referendum and byelection has been pushed back a week after the legitimacy of Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein was called into question at a CSU Council meeting on Oct. 26.

After over an hour of closed session, council passed a motion to bring procedural complaints to the Judicial Board, an independent ruling body of the CSU.

The complaints involve former CEO Oliver Cohen's status as a student at the time of Goldstein's appointment, and whether or not Cohen had officially resigned when Goldstein was named his replacement.

Questionable hiring processes by last year's Council, missing applications and no record of last year's Appointment Committee holding a meeting to vet possible applicants were also complaints filed to the JB.

To "ensure the upcoming election would not be compromised," Council moved to simultaneously open up a tentative hiring process in case the JB's decision leaves the CSU without a CEO.

"[Cohen] told me he resigned at the meeting," Goldstein—who acted as the Deputy Electoral Officer at last April's CSU elections—said in the meeting. "He gave his resignation, he spoke to people, he gave a letter to the Chair, so I don't even know why we're having this discussion."

"I feel totally sandbagged," he continued. "I was called at 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 26, two days before the deadlines for the announcement of polls. I'm working my ass off, taking four courses, I have no political interests, I'm doing this for the money, and I'm probably the only person in this school that is independent."

Councillor April Underwood responded to Goldstein, stating that the decision reached by Council was not

personal nor was it made as an indication of his performance to date, but that procedurally there were concerns that affected the legitimacy of the upcoming election.

"We're super appreciative of the work you've done so far, and, to clarify, you're still the CEO," she said. "It doesn't change until the JB looks at the circumstances surrounding the way you were hired. You're still the CEO until the JB tells you you're not, if that's the case."

"I think this is unacceptable. Why wasn't this brought up with me [when they realized there was an issue?]," Goldstein demanded after the meeting.

While Council stated they acted in the "fairest way possible" and felt uncomfortable making a "unilateral decision" on the matter, Goldstein said he feels blindsided.

"I set up a meeting as soon as I could, until yesterday we didn't have all the facts," said CSU President Lex Gill, following the meeting. "We had to pull up an immense amount of records to be certain. We looked through everything."

As it stands, the elections have been moved to Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1.

Bonus Money

Extra \$10K Given to CEO and Deputies After 2011 Election

• LAURA BEESTON & PIERRE CHAUVIN

During a "preliminary meeting" of the Judicial Board on the morning of Oct. 28, it was revealed the former Chief Electoral Officer and three Deputy Electoral Officers received \$10,000 in bonus money to attend JB meetings at the close of last year's election.

According to documents obtained by the Concordia Student Union VP Finance, a total of \$22,000 was spent on election and referendum honorariums last year, while the March election went \$25,000 over budget.

The documents suggest former CEO Oliver Cohen was remunerated \$5,500 in bonuses for attending the two JB meetings—which took place after he disqualified both *Action* and *Your Concordia* candidates in April—and gave the three DEO's \$1,500 each.

In an email interview, former CSU President Heather Lucas, who along with former VP Finance Ramy Khoriarty, signed off on the bonuses, said she was unaware of Cohen's overspending, and that if she had she "would have brought that to the attention of Council immediately."

At the Friday meeting, Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation Board member and former CSU President Sabine Friesinger, who was there with CUTV, confronted current CEO Bram Goldstein, who served as a DEO last year.

"I was informed that there was some kind of payment made to the party in question, that had to do with the JB and I was wondering if you could respond to that," said Friesinger.

"I don't know anything about that," replied Goldstein, who was hired on as CEO by last year's council and is currently an 'Interested Party' in an appeal that questions the legitimacy of his appointment.

Goldstein maintained Cohen didn't pay him to show up at the meeting, but used it to validate his bonus.

"[Cohen] told me it might be a good idea to show up and see how things are run if I ever wanted to run for CEO," Goldstein explained. "I showed up, sat in the corner, kept my mouth shut and he listed it as one of the reasons why I was there. It was just a point as to validate a bonus. That's all it was."

What followed was a heated exchange between CUTV and Goldstein that has since been uploaded to the CUTV website.

The meeting ended with Goldstein asking to be shown a record or receipt indicating he was paid for attending the JB meeting, and CSU VP Outreach Morgan Pudwell showing him the budget line in her office.

While no rules were officially broken—at the time CEOs were allowed to establish their own remuneration scale—any CSU expenditure over \$5,000 must go through the Financial Committee.

According to the financial documents, Lucas and Khoriaty signed off on the bonuses.

"Oliver wasn't paid a bonus specifically just for attending the JB meetings, but for the job as a whole," said Lucas. "I followed what was done the previous year as the precedent was set in regards to the bonuses given, which are decided by the CEO."

After numerous attempts, Cohen has not responded to *The Link's* interview request.

Stay tuned for updates online this week.

THE CASE OF THE MISSING COUNCILLORS

• ADAM KOVAC

The World Series may be over, but the three-strike rule is still in effect at the Concordia Student Union.

At Wednesday's Council meeting, President Lex Gill gave a warning to members of Council who had already missed two meetings.

"At the point where you miss a third meeting without a valid excuse, which does not include work or class, you are no longer able to vote on Council, and your position is effectively open."

"There are four councillors who are [at] the two-meeting mark. Keep in mind that this is not because we're particularly concerned about the rules,

but because you are here to represent people, and every meeting you miss, those people are not represented."

The Link identified the four councillors as being John Molson School of Business representatives Ariel Dabora, Anthony D'Urbano and Mahmoud Abdelrahman, as well as Engineering and Computer Science councillor Emran Ghasemi.

However, Dabora told *The Link* that he had not received a warning email sent out by Council Chairperson Nick Cuillerier and that he had missed one meeting due to an injured ankle.

D'Urbano, Abdelrahman and Ghasemi were not available for comment.

ASFAIL

• HILARY SINCLAIR

Despite being called a joint information meeting to inform students about tuition hikes, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and the Concordia Student Union failed to educate more than a handful of students.

Only CSU VP External Affairs Chad Walcott and ASFA President Alex Gordon were on hand to talk to students during the Nov. 27 lunch hour meeting, which was supposed to include a number of member association executives and would, according to Gordon, “gather a lot of people and get them informed.”

“I’d call today a very small start,” he said. “In reality this was a very small information session leading up to bigger information sessions. It was a baby step.” Gordon admitted that, “the promotion was not as big as we wanted.”

With the Nov. 3 general assembly approaching, ASFA needs to mobilize at least 400 students to vote. This is the minimum number of ballots required to pass a binding strike motion for the Nov. 10 anti-tuition hike protests.

Passing the strike mandate would mean that a potential 18,000 students could join protesters on the picket lines on Nov. 10. If fewer than 400 students cast ballots, regardless of the outcome, the strike will not be legal.

Gordon acknowledged that the goal is ambitious, but he is optimistic about the steps that ASFA and the CSU will be taking in the coming week to combat student apathy.

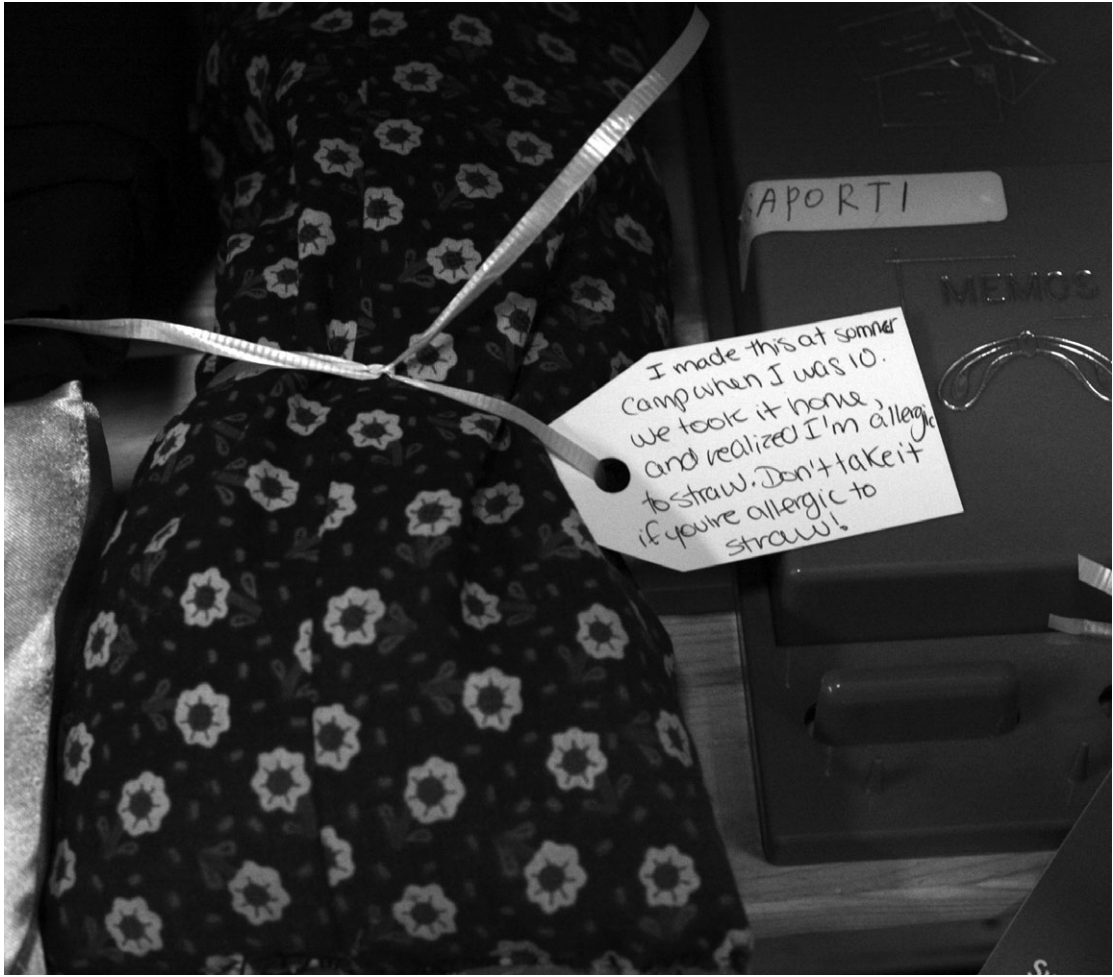
When Gordon shouted out into the crowded seventh floor of the Hall building for anyone interested in learning more about tuition hikes to come speak to him and Walcott, most students glanced up and continued to eat.

Despite the meeting, Gordon said ASFA is making progress. Member associations of ASFA are working within their departments to rally students with classroom chats and a Facebook group.

“This is us getting the ball rolling,” said Gordon. “We are working from the bottom up. We have a lot of departmental students and groups and they are doing a lot of similar info sessions.”

Gordon says that because it’s easy to ignore Facebook events and posters, classroom talks are proving to be the best way to reach out to students.

Swap Shop



Inside the CSU Swap Shop you never know what you might find. It is an ideal location for treasure hunters and a sustainable alternative to throwing away the stuff you no longer need. It opens to students on Nov. 1 at 11 am.

PHOTOS ADAM KOVAC

We’re 25th! We’re 25th!
Concordia Slips a Spot in Maclean’s University Rankings

• ADAM KOVAC

Much has happened at Concordia in the past year. A president left under mysterious circumstances, setting off a massive overhaul of the governance system. A new academic plan was introduced that will chart Concordia’s next five years. Students and professors alike have won awards, published papers, and made advances in their fields.

And yet, Concordia has barely moved in one particular place: the annual rankings of Canadian universities in *Maclean’s* magazine, which has Concordia at number 25—one spot lower than last year.

While McGill placed second behind Waterloo, the next highest Quebec university was Sherbrooke at ninth. Université de Montréal was 17th, followed by Concordia; UQAM finished in the 39th spot.

During a meeting with campus media, Concordia’s Director of the Institutional Planning Office Bradley Tucker argued that not

only do the *Maclean’s* rankings have a minimal effect on enrollment, but are based on a flawed methodology—as the rankings are largely based on a survey of university administrators.

“If university administrators see this survey as high stakes, there is reason for them to subconsciously mark their university higher than other universities,” he said. “They know it’s going to get published in October of every year and I don’t know that there are any checks to ensure [that self-aggrandizement doesn’t happen.]”

Tucker also pointed out that only 21 per cent of Concordia students had cited *Maclean’s* as a source they’d consulted for making a decision on a university in a survey.

Underfunding was one contributor Tucker also used to explain the low ranking of Quebec’s universities. He referred to a study done by the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du

Québec that indicated Quebec’s universities are underfunded by \$650 million per year.

He would not tie a better performance in the rankings to the planned tuition hikes, however.

“I would suggest that the rankings of Quebec universities will rise with time,” he said. “I believe that financing can help, but it’s not the only thing that’s going to help.”

Tucker stressed that students pick Concordia because of the programs offered and that he did not expect next year’s enrollment to be affected by the ranking.

In addition, he argued that while Concordia’s governance issues over the past year have attracted negative attention locally, they would probably not influence a national magazine such as *Maclean’s*.

“We’re in the same place reputationally [sic] this year that we were last year. Does that mean we would have gone up without that [negative attention]? I don’t know.”

While Concordia did not fare

well in *Maclean’s*, *The Globe and Mail* was much kinder.

In its Canadian University Report released on Oct. 27, the *Globe* gave Concordia a B grade in terms of student satisfaction. Only four universities in the ‘Large’ category outpaced it, and the mark was good enough to tie McGill.

ConU also got decent grades from its students for its student-faculty interaction, instructors’ teaching styles, class sizes, city satisfaction, environmental commitment, information technology, libraries, and academic counselling—though it rated particularly poorly in terms of its reputation with employers.

You can read *The Globe and Mail’s* Canadian University Report by scanning this code with a smartphone:



AN ACTIVIST IN THE ASSEMBLY

MNA Amir Khadir Wants Tuition Frozen and More Options in Politics

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

► **To the uninitiated, Quebec may seem like a political Rubik's cube—one of those mysteries wrapped in an enigma, covered with French fries, cheese curds and gravy.**

Although the province is a hotbed for progressive ideas, its political landscape is still defined by a 250-year-old language debate.

No matter how badly things seem to go for Premier Jean Charest, quite possibly the least popular Quebec politician in modern history, he can always count on his base of federalist, Anglophone voters to turn out for the Liberals on election day.

Across the aisle, the Parti Quebecois would be wise to exploit Charest's increasingly unpopular austerity measures and widespread allegations of corruption for political gain. But instead the PQ is mired in its own internal debate—a power struggle over who best can protect the French language and lead the province to sovereignty.

While this never ending drama plays itself out in the media and through the halls of the National Assembly, one politician sticks out as an anomaly in provincial politics. As the leader and sole elected member of the left-leaning sovereigntist Quebec Solidaire party, Amir Khadir can tackle larger issues than Bill 101 and reasonable accommodation. Operating out of his modest Mercier riding headquarters on Montreal's Mont Royal Ave., he doesn't have to worry about alienating his base or breaking the party line with actual ideas: he is the party.

"Being a smaller party shelters us from a lot of problems," Khadir told *The Link*. "Just look at what the big parties in the province are talking about. Right now you have Charest and [opposition MNA] Francois Legault arguing over language, but their point is essentially the same. They want to run the province like a business."

Though he was only elected to public office three years ago, Khadir is well traveled in Quebec's political scene. As a doctor, he was involved with humanitar-

ian-activist organizations like Medecins du Monde and Doctors for Social Justice. He has long campaigned against the province's increasingly privatized healthcare system and unsuccessfully ran as a Bloc Quebecois candidate in the 2000 federal election.

Criticized as being more of an activist than a politician, Khadir doesn't stick to a regimen of well-defined talking points. Staying true to his roots as a student organizer in the 1970s, his ideas may not make for great soundbites but do tend to include those who feel left out of the province's political discussion.

"Like so many western societies, we're facing this huge debt," he said. "But the problem is not that we don't have enough wealth. It's that wealth is out of public control. In the last six years more than \$23 billion of the wealth of our soil was extracted. Of that amount, the people of Quebec saw less than three per cent of that."

"In the last 10 years, the PQ and Liberals have cut the taxes of the wealthiest Quebecers by \$10 billion."

"So when people at the top are saying we have a debt problem, why aren't they looking at that side? Why are they just cutting and cutting and cutting services? Why are they increasing the burden of taxation over citizens and students?"

With Quebec university tuition set to nearly double over the next five years, Khadir is among the few MNAs showing solidarity with the thousands of students threatening to approve strike mandates across the province.

"It's Quebec Solidaire's job to make student issues a more pressing concern in government. The PQ are letting the Liberals do the dirty work because, when they were in power, they were open to raising tuition," he said. "It's about social justice. We know that those who are that

bottom of the economic ladder won't be able to [have] access [to a] university education and they will remain at the bottom of the ladder.

"Unfortunately," he added, "there's one elected member in this party and I haven't done enough to make it a more pressing issue."

"But there will be gains if the student movement organizes. Every time in the last 50 years that students have gained anything, it has been through united actions and not the government."

Khadir's outspoken nature has not always served him well. In 2010 he supported a group called Palestinian and Jewish Unity during their boycott of a shoe store in his riding. As part of the economic pressure tactics to push Israel out of Palestine, the group boycotted the store because it carried an Israeli-made brand called Beautifeel.

The Quebec Solidaire leader's support of the action landed him in political hot water since the protest was seen as unfairly punishing the shop owner instead of the brand, which accounted for only two per cent of the store's business. He later apologized for his involvement in the protest but remained steadfast in his support of boycott and divestment measures.

Perhaps Khadir's biggest contribution to provincial politics is the notion that alternatives to Quebec's traditional political battle lines exist.

"As long as people keep voting simply based on language issues we'll be stuck with the same problems," he said. "Now, sure my party is a sovereigntist party but there are other options. The Green Party, for instance, is a federalist party. Right now, it just seems like there are too many problems with the Liberals for someone to come along and reform the party to better suit its core values. People need a new choice."



PHOTO LAURA BEESTON



To watch the video of *The Link's* interview with Amir Khadir, scan this code with a smartphone

MCGILL SOCIETY PUTS OCCUPY IN PERSPECTIVE

• COLIN HARRIS

Spending a Thursday night in a crowded Plateau apartment living room may not sound out of the ordinary, until you hear the scope of conversation: radical, systemic change. A hand-written sign on the door read, "Global Cuts, Global Struggles: Perspectives for the #Occupy Movement, use back entrance, doorbell broken."

Hosted by the McGill Socialist Society, about 20 members and non-members alike shared their ideas and questions about a movement they argue is still necessarily in its formative stages.

"The corporate media is trying to discredit us, saying we have no direction," said Camilo Cahis, lead speaker at the talk. "I think the message is pretty clear, we just need to find our legs."

Cahis is the editor of *Fight-back*, a Marxist publication based out of Toronto. He's been a part of the Occupy Bay Street movement and sees this outcry from the 99 per cent as a positive force for discourse and eventual mobilization, particularly for young people just entering their political lives.

While ideas ranged from general strikes to nationalization, there was a consensus in the group that capitalism had entered a new, less equal, stage. Much of the discussion focused around how unions could retake their power within industry, and how the executive class could be rendered useless.

"The unions need to do a better job at engaging the young people," said Cahis, adding that some, like on Bay St., have done well to join the movement but need to do more.

Major debate points included whether to enact change through the existing political system or not, and when, if ever, will a defined hierarchical process be necessary to sustain the power of Occupy.

"There has to be discussion of goals. We cannot have this movement hijacked," said Farshad Azadian, another speaker at the talk. He warned of the results of the Arab Spring, most notably the current military rule by Supreme Council of the Armed Forces in Egypt.

The movement in Montreal will enter its second week of occupation on Saturday.

Zoo York



PHOTO STEPHEN CUTLER

Occupy Wall Street Becomes a Tourist Attraction

• AMANDA SIINO

New York, NY — The corner of Broadway St. and Liberty St. in New York City brings together diverse crowds these days. Since mid-September, ranks of stoic police officers have been standing in juxtaposition to the milling hive of verbose protesters. Lately, a third group can be added to the mix: crowds of picture-snapping tourists.

Catching on to the buzz around Zuccotti Park—the headquarters of the Occupy Wall Street protest—tourists are taking a chance to observe the protesters from the border of the park. The braver ones are even beginning to venture inside to get a closer look at the wild and woolly protesters in their natural habitat.

"I'm surprised at how many people are here just to spectate," said Kenard, a New Yorker who visited the protest for the first time on Saturday.

It's easiest to spot the tourists standing on the park's perimeter, a dead giveaway being the cameras in their hands and jaw-dropped expressions. Many stopped to pose with protesters, the most conspicuous

and out of place being those wearing suits.

Inside the park itself however, the distinction between the watchers and the watched is less obvious. It takes snatches of overheard conversation in foreign languages and some stereotyping—think fanny-packs—to distinguish the protesters from the observers.

The protest's combination of celebrity and infamy has made it an alluring stop for curious people out to see the city's sights.

"There are a lot [of tourists]. The joke we've been saying is that people come to New York City for the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State building and the Occupy Wall Street protest," said Gary Raia, who's been with the movement since it started on Sept. 17.

"Now the movement has become so well-known that people want to see what it is about," said Bill Dobbs, a press agent for the movement, who's also been a part of OWS since its inception.

The location of the protest hasn't hurt, either.

"The tourists already come to this area because of the World Trade Center, and further down there is Battery Park," said

Kenard.

"We went to visit the 9/11 memorial, passed by and decided to check it out, but [the protest] was not a priority for us," said Kathy Gash, who was visiting from San Diego with her husband.

Given this, there are a few groups of tourists who happen on the protest unprepared.

"There are some people that walk out of the subway very confused, but if you don't know about this, you must be blind," said Raia.

The protesters are definitely capitalizing on the influx to rally support, or at least incite more dialogue. Pamphlets in English and Spanish, buttons and t-shirts are circulated throughout the park. Various groups have set up tables in and around the park to raise interest in their specific issue and to collect donations.

It hasn't always been this way, though.

"I've been here since the first day when people were shy about coming into the Plaza. There was almost an invisible line between the people and the protesters," said Dobbs.

The spectators may be more willing to observe the protest as of late, but they adamantly maintain their non-protester status; some tourists didn't even want to be interviewed to avoid association with the movement beyond their observations.

Meanwhile, many protesters seem aware that the site has turned into a spectacle. An Occupier in a monkey costume carried a sign saying, "This is a goddamn circus," while another toted one that read, "If you're gonna treat us like a zoo, at least give us money."

While humorous, the signs are evidence of a growing frustration at how tourists are treating the OWS site.

"I wish people would get involved instead of walking by, taking pictures, and smiling," said Raia.

It's this strange dance of police officers, monkey suits and business suits that makes the protest such a fascinating spectacle. But for the people trying to change the world, it's not enough for people to just watch from the sidelines; it won't be mission accomplished until the tourists are in on the act.

Help Across Borders



PHOTOS ADAM KOVAC

Kahnawake Community Extends Helping Hand With Clothing Drive

• ADAM KOVAC

Winter is coming to South Dakota, and that means a hard few months are approaching the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

It means power outages that last up to a week. It means no heat if you don't have a propane heater or wood-burning stove. It means winter jackets and blankets that are a necessity, not a luxury. It means others are reaching across borders to help.

The Kahnawake Reservation is not a wealthy part of the Montreal region—unemployment has on occasion reached as high as 50 per cent. However, when members of the Mohawk reserve's community heard about the Rosebud Reservation, they decided that something had to be done.

Over the past week, donations started pouring in for a clothing drive meant to help those in Rosebud get through the cold months ahead.

On an overcast Saturday, Kahnawake's Golden Age Club, a small building surrounded by a stretch of asphalt was working overtime to get the clothes, toys and blankets folded, boxed up and loaded onto the cargo trucks that will take them across the border.

As packing tape guns noisily sealed the boxes shut, Roxanne Whitebean talked about solidarity.

"We're doing well [in Kahnawake], so we want to help sister communities," she said.

"We think it's important that people know how the indigenous

people are living throughout Turtle Island [North America] because a lot of them, I'd say about 90 per cent of them, live in third world conditions. The public doesn't know that, they don't realize that, so it's very important and we just really want to help people."

If there's any community that needs help, Rosebud is it.

Neighbouring Lakota reservation Pine Ridge, Rosebud belongs to the Sioux tribe and was the subject of a recent piece on ABC's *20/20* With Diane Sawyer news magazine program. The episode showed shocking levels of poverty, including some families that live in trailers with leaky roofs, no heat, and with five or more children sharing a bedroom.

Dropout and alcoholism rates are high, each topping 70 per cent. Government aid, except for welfare and unemployment checks, is almost non-existent, as there is no profitable agreement allowing the government to drill for oil like there are in some other reservations in the U.S.

Although Rosebud is home to a casino, it provides little money or employment to the community at large, and conditions are similar to Pine Ridge. With no major industry on the reservation, and most of those who are employed working directly for the tribe, unemployment levels can be as high as 80 per cent.

"It got bad because when they were removed from their lands, they were put in territory which was the badlands," said White-

bean.

"There isn't fresh drinking water, they can hardly plant. It's basically a death sentence. Along with that, they also had residential schools. They can't find work; people don't want to hire them. If people think that things have changed much, they haven't."

Cathy Young is a resident of the Rosebud Reservation, and has been helping to coordinate their side of the clothing drive. She expressed gratitude at the donations, saying the level of poverty and lack of government aid has made living conditions dire.

"Most of [the people on the reservation] are tribal members," she said. "They're mostly on a fixed income. A lot of their money goes to their bills at the first of the month, and they don't have much left to get their kids clothes or shoes."

She explained that Rosebud gets their electricity from a town 60 miles away. During snowstorms, power lines tend to get knocked down once or twice a winter, and the outages can last for up to three weeks.

While this is bad for everyone, it's the older residents, who live far from the more populated areas, who are hardest hit.

"We're going to get a list of the elderly and we have some that live way out in the country," she said. "It's hard for them to get around in snow time, and I think they're the ones that really need the help. It can be 10 to 15 miles away from the nearest town."

What makes the clothing drive so remarkable is almost no assis-

tance was given by Kahnawake's band council, other than helping to obtain papers to get the trucks across the border.

Once there, more stuff will be picked up from the Aquasasne reservation in New York, which will be distributed among four other reservations on the way to Rosebud.

"We're just really trying to help each other," said Whitebean. "We're doing it for the kids, to help them feel uplifted and show support and let them know that they're not alone."

While the effort would be heart-warming enough if this was just a one-shot deal, Whitebean said she is looking forward to further strengthening the tie with Rosebud and support them in the future.

"We are looking to set up a foundation, we just have to get everything in order. It's very new to us, we're overwhelmed a little bit, but it's looking really good."

While she looks ahead to the years to come, this year, winter is coming to South Dakota.

It means help can't come soon enough.



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ZOMBIE FUNERAL

The CSU held a zombie walk/funeral to mourn the impending death of accessible education, which featured students dressed as zombies to symbolize the mindlessness of these increases.

CUTV ON THE BALLOT

Concordia University Television is seeking to increase their fee levy from 18 cents per credit to 34 cents per credit—the third attempt at upping student contribution to the club in as many years. CUTV's ambition for the increased funding is to create broadcast quality programming that will ultimately end up on television, which itself comes with many additional objectives to meet. As of right now, its content is available only on its website and on television sets set up on campus.

JMSBOOST

Concordia's MBA program climbed 16 spots to 80th out of the 100 best business schools in the world, according to *The Economist*.

TRUDEAU FELLOWSHIP

Concordia history professor Ronald Rudin was one of four winners of the award, getting \$225,000 for his research on the economic and cultural histories of the Quebecois and the Acadians.

DRUGS, DRUGS, DRUGS

Author Robert HWhitaker spoke at Concordia on Oct. 26 as part of the Low-Beer Lecture Series. He cautioned that society needs to take a critical look at the potential misuse of psychotropic drugs due to the alarming lack of information on long-term side effects.

To Wild Frontiers

Wooden Shjips Ride the Open Road



PHOTO ANDREW PAYNTER

• ALEX ST-LAURENT

"Are there any record stores in the area?," asks Dusty Jermier, bassist of San Francisco outfit Wooden Shjips. The man wants to make the best of what little free

time he has before the show.

He also wants to know if there is any truth to all the Montreal bagel hype. I tell him that, yes, the bagels are very good and that there is a great record store just a few blocks away on Mont-Royal Ave. E., but

that I can't think of the name. And then we talk about music some more.

Wooden Shjips are what most folks would probably call psychedelic, but that umbrella tag should be discarded immediately. Their

music exceeds your classic stoner rock; this stuff is unembellished exploration.

It's simple drumbeats, minimalist bass lines, a droning organ, haunting vocal, bareness of the west in waves of spacey low-fi guitar, though Jermier prefers mid-fi.

Listening to Ripley Johnson wail lyrics that explore sex, death and violence, one can't help but eventually think of Jim Morrison, and yet again let the doors of perception open.

"Keeping it simple has always been the foundation of the band," Jermier says, calling the music primitive and admitting that he often plays very few different notes.

West is Wooden Shjips' first studio record, having produced all their previous work out of their practice space. It is also their first collaboration with an engineer, allowing the band to focus on their playing.

Staying true to the band's founding principles, *West* was recorded in an all-analog studio, expanding to eight-track recording instead of the three they were used to.

Though Jermier is careful to avoid calling it a concept album, he admits that halfway through the writing process, the band recognized a recurring theme of the open west.

They found themselves contemplating the sweep of the desert, exploring the concept of the frontier

as an area that functions outside of the law and the restraints imposed on societies. At the core of the album, the band seeks to redefine manifest destiny as an expansion of the mind.

"It's been a good time," Jermier answers when I ask how the live shows have been going. He tells me about a San Diego gig where he watched groups of concertgoers dressed in extravagant costumes ride away into the night on their bicycles after the show. He talks about staying in a nunnery while touring in Berlin with nuns who spoke no English at all.

The band has seen venues of all sizes, and Jermier tells me he's excited to see Sala Rossa. Their upcoming shows will feature the video projections of Sanae Yamada, which Jermier describes as geometric to the music and an integral part of the performance. He also assures me that if the venue has a disco ball, they are likely to make use of it.

"So I can definitely walk to the bagel place from the venue?" he asks.

"Yes," I say, and I apologize for forgetting the name of the record shop. He tells me to watch the 1973 Clint Eastwood Western *High Plains Drifter* and to make sure to say hello after the show. And we hang up.

Dang, I think. It was *Paul's Boutique*.

The Call of the Wild

Concordia's Co-op Bookstore Nurtures Nature

• ALEX MCGILL

Living in the mostly urban mecca that is Montreal, sometimes the concept of nature and the other creatures that inhabit it is hard to imagine. However, for Montreal-based writers JP King, Ashley Opheim and Mark Ambrose Harris, the animal kingdom is a major source of inspiration in this concrete jungle.

The three writers will be presenting their wild and woolly works at Creature Feature, a literary event being held at the Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore. It is a love letter to the earth; a celebration of the natural world and where we fit within it.

"Nature is a subject that is an inevitable inspiration for a writer," explained Opheim. "It is in nature where we find truth, beauty, and honesty. We find a rational world

that is not based on a system of economics, but rather a system of balance."

Opheim, a Saskatchewan native and creative and professional writing student at Concordia—who, full disclosure, is a former editor of *The Link*—finds that the theme of nature is one that often makes itself present in her writing.

"I feel a deep connection to the natural world, as we all do," she said. "The theme of nature versus unnatural occurs a lot in my writing. Lots of my current work is driven by my paranoia and has roots in my dislocation from the natural world."

It's a divide that many feel, when moving from a rural area to an urban one, said Opheim.

"Growing up in Saskatoon, it was easy to access the natural world and separate myself from the city. This is a nice feeling, one

that makes me happy," Opheim said. "We spend so much time in traffic or surrounded by walls and artificial light—it's important that we take time to reflect on things that make us happy."

Taking time to escape our urban environment is not only something that is freeing, but also crucial, in a sense.

"There is a tension in Canada right now between us wanting to preserve the earth but also wanting to further 'develop' the land. And so if our current concept of 'developing' looks something like the Alberta Tar Sands, well, then we really need to rethink development," said Opheim.

As humans we often see ourselves as the only creatures roaming this planet. Fellow writers and readers JP King and Mark Ambrose Harris agree that it's important for humans to get back to our natural roots and each reader will



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

pay homage to the natural world in their own way.

"The poem I will be reading is a love letter or ode to my favourite animals," Opheim explained.

"It's a funny, light-hearted piece. I've never read at the Co-op Bookstore but I'm really excited to. Public reading is something

that can be very empowering, not only to the writer but also the listeners. I want my writing to please the reader sonically, but also affect them in a deeper way."

Creature Feature: A Reading / Co-op Bookstore (2150 Bishop St.) / Nov. 2 / 7:00 p.m.

Reaching Out & Reaching In

Lara Kramer Premieres *of good moral character* at the MAI



PHOTO BEN PHILIPPI

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

Concordia grad Lara Kramer works to touch the unspoken parts of our relationships in *of good moral character*, her latest choreography, which examines the intimacy of domestic relationships with the themes of obsession, instability, isolation and violence at the Montréal Arts Interculturels dance and theatre centre.

“Initially I was thinking, ‘I want to show the series of events that happen at different periods of time in a relationship,’” said Kramer. “[But] I wasn’t married to it being linear when I put those sections together. They became cohesive to a story that I didn’t set out to tell. It became its own life.”

Kramer started developing the piece as a solo nearly a year ago. “I worked in three periods where I was in the studio and then took some time off, and then went back,” she said. “I wanted to let

the piece breathe.”

Since receiving her BFA from Concordia in 2008, Kramer has toured Canada and trained internationally.

In creating *of good moral character* she began working with another dancer, Lael Stellick, and received mentorship from Catherine Tardiff courtesy of Circuit-Est, a Montreal choreography studio founded in 1987.

“Circuit-Est was pretty exciting because they sent an established choreographer to work with me,” said Kramer.

“And I knew at some point I was going to need a strong set of outside eyes looking at my work. [Tardiff] came in at the halfway point. [...] I just wanted her honest reaction to my material—to see if I was conveying what I hoped I was conveying. And if not, then how could I push that further.”

Kramer worked to explore the oppression and isolation that can

come out of a conventional home, and she focused on making her movements understood.

“Each section had a specific tone that correlates to a clear intention. [...] I’m motivated in creating work that has a strong narrative that I hope the audience can relate to, and that [they feel] they’re part of the story and not just sitting back,” says Kramer.

Working as a choreographer in Montreal has made Kramer feel like a bit of an outsider. She says a lot of shows here are “just going for the rock n’ roll, nudity, shock-value.”

Although she admitted that at first she thought this sort of dance was exciting, now “it feels daunting because I really don’t fit into that,” she confessed.

“And for me, I love going to shows and having work be meaningful or touch me in a profound way. So often there’s more of this entertainment value... It’s making me question my place in the scene

because it’s not my values or what motivates me.”

Kramer added that there is room for these types of creations. “Some have real craft and quality, but it can get so insular.

“I think the Montreal dance community is very rich. [But] sometimes it feels like we’re creating work for the same audience, the same critics, the same dance community. So are we making our work accessible?”

Kramer created *of good moral character* to connect with its audience. She says that some of what she’s showing may make people uncomfortable, but in a piece that truthfully demonstrates the condition of our modern human relationships, the audience should expect no less.

of good moral character / M.A.I. (3680 Jeanne-Mance St.) / Nov. 3 to 6 / \$20.00 regular, \$15.00 students / m-a-i.qc.ca / larakramer.ca/



THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

FRAME TO FRAME

“Based on true events in a small South Australian town in the ‘90s, *Snowtown* provides a close look at Australia’s worst serial killer, John Bunting.



LOYOLA CREATURES

Shawn Mackniak’s *Art* is now showing at Vanier Library. Look for our photo essay online.



NATURAL HISTORY

We filmed a mini-concert & interview with local instrumental post-rock quintet *Sweet Mother Logic* this weekend. Scan the code to watch! Catch them at the release show for their new record *Natural History* Thursday at La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)



Screaming at a Wall

The Strange Relationship Between Montreal and Its Graffiti



The walls of the Under Pressure studio are covered in graffiti done during the annual festival.

“The battle isn’t necessarily to regain wall space, because in reality, nobody can really stop us from having these walls. So instead we’re just trying to build these bridges, and mend the gaps between our culture and what the citizen thinks.”

— Kris Wilk aka Fluke

• COREY POOL

Known worldwide as one of the main veins for the arts in North America, Montreal and its well-established graffiti subculture have endured a long and arduous history.

From industrial train yards to the underground metros, from the alleys of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce to the so-called outdoor museum of the Plateau, from the infamous Turcot yards to the various busy highways that streak across the island, graffiti has left its mark on this city. It is an undeniable, unavoidable part of our culture, whether you like it or not.

A lot has changed since the mid 1980s when graffiti was first starting to really take hold in Montreal. The culture, as well as its relationship with the city, has changed dramatically.

Since the advent of legal walls, the commercialization of muralism and the evolution of graffiti events like Under Pressure, public opinion has become more open to the art form—or at least to interpretation of it.

Regardless of this newfound tolerance, the relationship between the city and its graffiti culture remains a strange, convoluted mess, and it might be entirely possible that neither side really knows how to deal with it.

► A MURAL, A BYLAW & WEIRD POLITICS

She is unavoidable—five stories tall, ethereal, dripping with Czech painter Alphonse Mucha’s turn-of-the-century Art Nouveau style and wrapped in a golden gown, she stands poised atop an unmistakable cityscape. She exudes strength, and is a symbol of beauty and optimism against her otherwise gentrified and graying surroundings. She is Notre Dame de

Grâce—our lady of grace.

Situated on the large open wall of an apartment building at the corner of Madison Ave. and Sherbrooke St. W. (and on the cover this week), she is the newest mural installation by local graffiti company A’Shop.

“The city had a budget that was meant to be used in the context of graffiti prevention, though that can be done in many ways,” explains Kris Wilk (aka Fluke), veteran Montreal graffiti writer, and the man behind A’Shop.

“We decided to propose this mural and, surprisingly, it got accepted. So we took the idea of prevention as fuel, and we flipped it. Instead of preventing graffiti, we wanted to show an alternative. This is what can be done.”

Through funding from the city of Montreal and the borough, Prevention N.D.G.—a local not-for-profit that works with the community—hired A’Shop to do the mural. After agreeing on a location, the artists designed an image and the mural went up in under two weeks.

Though it has received plenty of praise from the community and significant attention from various media, the idea of a large-scale, legal, outdoor mural is nothing new.

However, the mural on Sherbrooke St. does come at an interesting time.

Just as the artists were spraying Our Lady’s final touches, NDG city council was busy finalizing a bylaw that, as of Oct. 20, will see large property owners (upwards of 300 m2, or apartment buildings larger than a six-plex) fined into the thousands of dollars if they fail to remove graffiti from their properties.

“[The mural] was completed just before our bylaw was put into effect,” said Susan Clarke, NDG city councillor at the helm of the borough’s anti-graffiti commission, and major proponent in seeing this new bylaw through.

“All that would have happened [if they had-

n’t completed the mural in time] is that they would have applied to the borough council, and it would have met all the criteria.”

Odd as it may seem, the timing of this mural in light of the new bylaw might not even be a coincidence. After all, politicians, multinational corporations, and advertising agents have been using graffiti as a promotional tool for years.

“You can’t just applaud one side of something without understanding the rest of the culture—that’s very hypocritical,” said Wilk. “They only use what’s good for them politically.”

Sterling Downey, a legendary local graffiti artist, owner of *Under Pressure* magazine, and self-appointed/unofficial spokesperson for Montreal’s graffiti culture—who also mentored Wilk as a young graffiti writer almost 20 years ago—agrees with him, but adds that politics can serve both sides.

“That mural is part of a political campaign for specific graffiti writers who have grown in their careers to promote ‘this is where we are now,’” explains Downey.

“These things become promotional and educational tools to wake people up and say, ‘You love this mural, it represents the neighbourhood, and yeah, it’s done by a bunch of graffiti writers; but don’t forget that we used to be the same little shitheads that used to fuck up your stuff.’”

Though this pseudo-confession may raise eyebrows, Downey makes sure to add, “However, those little shitheads could grow up to be like this, and wouldn’t you want people like this around to mentor other youth, to work with them, and educate them?”

At a time when city council is making clear efforts to curb the ‘graffiti problem,’ a project like this mural, which was done by well-known graffiti writers, and sponsored by SubV, a con-



PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

troverisal NDG graffiti supply shop, could be sending a mixed message.

▶ ART VS. VANDALISM: THE OXYMORON OF LEGAL GRAFFITI

As legal walls go up and simultaneously get taken down, and as the city allows murals to be painted by graffiti writers on designated private property, laws are put in place to fine the owners of similar properties for mismanagement.

Meanwhile, with graffiti festivals like Under Pressure, now into its 16th year, continuing to flourish, the definition of graffiti gets more and more confusing.

"Graffiti was and always will be illegal, or else it wouldn't be graffiti," says Wilk. "It has to remain that way and it will, because if you take it out of its illegal context, it's not graffiti anymore."

"What we do is sell a derivative of that culture," he explained. "When I do graffiti on a canvas for example, I'm not selling you graffiti—I'm selling you an imitation. Even if it's a 'Fluke' piece, what you're getting is a copy, or a derivative of what I would do in the streets; it will never have the same essence of pure, illegal graffiti and that's very important."

Some may think of graffiti as a senseless, unorganized pastime for minors with a mischievous bent. In reality, the graffiti community runs on a strict code of ethics and there are some things you just don't do. The concept of mainstreaming graffiti is a touchy topic amongst writers.

"A lot of artists won't agree with making money off graffiti," Wilk admitted. "I completely understand that, but I'm not making money off the graffiti culture—I'm making money off my own artwork."

Downey is in the same boat as Wilk, in that he owns a magazine that has its roots in the graffiti culture and gets paid to do

contracted murals.

He also agrees with Wilk that legality is a non-issue. However, Downey stresses that we should be cautious of using words like 'legal' because they inadvertently empower "the wrong people."

Similarly, Downey warns of using heavy concepts like free speech and public space in regards to the graffiti community as a whole.

"There is no issue of free space here; people take it if they want it," says Downey. "We have to keep in mind that a 15-year-old kid who's going around tagging isn't necessarily fighting for free space, or freedom of speech."

Though he admits that there are some politically-minded writers who are active in promoting their beliefs, Downey believes that labeling a whole culture with these ideas would be dangerous, and incorrect.

"Public space, freedom of speech—all these things—it's a very grey area," he says. "I don't really believe that graffiti has ever truly been about any of that."

While it may come as a surprise to many people, much of the graffiti culture is based on the idea of education, mentorship and community. Many progressive artists like Wilk and Downey are taking these values and extending them out to the wider public in various forms.

"The battle isn't necessarily to regain wall space, because in reality, nobody can really stop us from having these walls," explains Wilk. "So instead we're just trying to build these bridges, and mend the gaps between our culture and what the citizen thinks."

▶ DEVELOPING A DIALOGUE: EDUCATION WILL SAVE THE RELATIONSHIP

"We still have to lead by example," says Downey. "As a graffiti writer, and someone

who is proactive in graffiti, and who did it illegally for a long time, I'm also active in educating about the culture."

The corner of Hotel de Ville Ave. and St. Catherine St. E. in Montreal is the legendary location of the annual Under Pressure festival. The surrounding blocks are entirely consumed with some of the city's best graffiti, and on the corner of the block, inside a large historic building, is the nerve center of Under Pressure.

The Under Pressure studio is two floors and thousands of square feet of high ceilings and concrete floors. The entire space is covered in ongoing graffiti projects. The studio space also functions as a public graffiti gallery.

"The goal of a space like [Under Pressure] isn't to promote the culture of graffiti," explains Downey. "The goal is to educate people on the fact that it exists, it's a big deal, and you need to understand it."

Both Downey and Wilk are deeply involved with the community, doing workshops, talking with youth and, most importantly, educating people on a culture that is otherwise elusive.

Downey stresses that more than anything, what is needed is a good dialogue and proper education in order for everyone to understand one another. Most importantly, this has to come from both the graffiti community and the city.

"All these walls [that divide the community] will come down as soon as there is communication and information," says Downey. "We have to consider where everybody fits into the bigger picture of responsibility, of learning, and setting examples—graffiti writers included."

"These [murals] become promotional and educational tools to wake people up and say, 'You love this mural, it represents the neighbourhood, and yeah, it's done by a bunch of graffiti writers; but don't forget that we used to be the same little shitheads that used to fuck up your stuff.'"

— Sterling Downey

The Health Mobsters

This Montreal Business is Changing How You Work Out

UPCOMING MOBS

1

Strength and conditioning: Monkey bar gym training. 60 minutes, 550 Beaconsfield Blvd. \$10.00, Nov. 1, 10:00 a.m.

2

Running: Hump day run. 50 minutes, 1394 Greene Ave., Free. Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.

3

Bootcamp: Beat the clown bootcamp. 60 minutes, 8400 2e Ave. \$10.00, Nov. 3, 12:00 p.m.

4

Boxing: One-on-one high performance studio: one-week free class pass. 60 minutes, 5475 Pare St. #106. Free. Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.

5

Yoga: Yoga flow with Tania. 90 minutes, 429 Viger St. E. Free. Nov. 5, 11:30 a.m.

6

Dance Fitness: Pole fitness with MC & Cami. 45 minutes, 6815 Transcanada Highway. Free. Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m.



Training Mobs founder David Sciacca (far right) leads a weight lifting exercise at a military facility in Montreal.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

• DAVID MURPHY

Finding the motivation to work out can be difficult when you take into account the cost of a gym membership and finding the willpower to lift weights or run on your own. There's one way of getting around these problems though and it's gaining momentum.

Training Mobs has been described as the social media of workouts, a website where anyone can join and locate a group of people wanting to get their sweat on, whether it be running, cross-fit training, practicing yoga, weight training or more.

"Training Mobs came from flash mobs. We thought, 'We're going to be flash mobs for fitness.' And that's more or less how we're trying to push this," said Training Mobs founder Dave Sciacca.

Here's how it works: people, organizations or facilities sign up on trainingmobs.com and start a workout event. Much like a Facebook event, members can click 'Attending.'

One of these events is the military boot-camp hosted by an army

regiment in Montreal, where the training mobsters are put through a series of weight training exercises, sprints and an excruciating pushup sequence.

The dozen people that showed up for the mob took advice from military host Laurier Chabot. As a representative from the army, Laurier gives the military training for free because he's a believer in health.

"You're all champions," screams Chabot as he walks around, giving advice and encouragement to dead-lifters raising dumbbells from the ground to above their head in one continuous motion.

It's clear Chabot's in the military from his stern attitude and eye for perfection. He's in exemplary shape, as are the other 12 participants.

Francis Laforest, 24, thought the workout was great, but some of the training was a bit too much for him.

"It was a little different than what I usually do," said Laforest. "There was a lot of strength [training], which is not my strength. But it was something I need to work on

anyways."

Sciacca stresses Training Mobs isn't just for underwear model look-alikes, however.

"Some workouts are intense, but it's intense at all levels," said Sciacca. "There's workouts generally for all—18-year-olds to 72-year-olds, Olympic athletes to people going for their first 5 km jog ever."

Training Mobs hasn't turned a profit as of yet, but the business is growing. There are now Mobs starting up in Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto, and even Austin, TX.

"The idea is that if we get more cities involved, if you go on vacation in New York and don't know where to work out, you can very quickly tap into the mobster community," said Sciacca. "You say, 'Oh hey, I'm from Training Mobs in Montreal,' and they'll greet you with a big high-five."

Although the majority of mobs were free to begin with, there are more venues offering their services at a low rate, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, according to Sciacca.

"You've got gyms and studios, that are not always operating at

full capacity. If you've got a yoga instructor there and you have 30 spots but only 10 are taken, why not post it on training mobs?"

"You fill [the gym] up at \$10.00 [instead of] \$15.00; now it's full, you get exposure for your studio, you get exposure for your gym and people fall in love with it."

One of those charging a fee is Mike Deboever, owner and operator of Reebok Crossfit. He's seen a major influx of people heading to his gym because he hosts and encourages his gym at Training Mobs sessions. One of the sessions is training for the Spartan race—an obstacle course for the elite of the physical world.

"People needed to have trainers to prepare them for the Spartan race. So we created workouts outside; they met and became friends. Now," said Deboever, "they will come to your gym."

The social aspect is something Sciacca adds to promoting health in the community. He says people start to meet and get to know each other through training mobs, and that camaraderie is what keeps people coming back and encouraging friends to show up.

Doing More for Movember

Get Ready to Groom That Upper Lip Landscape



Peter Raimondo is one of over 450,000 people worldwide growing 'staches in support of Movember's cause.

PHOTO MATTHEW HOOD

• CAMILLE CHACRA

Rocking a moustache is not for the faint at heart—it's a duty that only the selfless grab by the handlebars in the name of Movember.

For the entire month of November, men—and even some women—from near and far proudly don coiffed moustaches to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer.

The main goal is to educate the masses about the deadly disease that affects one in six men—a terrifying number that has compelled over 450,000 people worldwide to join the movement by sporting a smile and a 'stache.

Marketing entrepreneurs Jake Sutherland and Peter Raimondo started a city-wide Movember promotion campaign last year, called Team Five One Four, which raised over \$13,000. This year, their goal is higher—they've expanded the team in the hopes of putting Montreal's unique mark on Movember and have hopes to raise \$30,000 for the cause.

"We've made the jump to orchestrating a network of teams within our culturally diverse city," said Sutherland, explaining how these teams fundraise themselves. "So far, we have 15 teams that are registered and we hope that it will grow exponentially."

Both Sutherland and Raimondo have been especially successful at recruiting

young Montrealers to join the movement. Little to no convincing is ever necessary, as the twosome aim to make fundraising an exciting initiative.

"I look at Movember as an extension of Halloween—you can dress your moustache into a persona and make it your own," said Raimondo. "It's a fun way of raising awareness, which makes the movement that much more awesome."

"Last year, we produced popular YouTube videos and threw club parties to encourage participation," added Sutherland. "Young people need to set an example. These issues have been overlooked by the generations before us. We need to take action now."

Although the month of Movember is dedicated to prostate cancer awareness, there are no limitations on who can sport a moustache.

Raimondo says that initially, his girlfriend wasn't a fan of his "Mo" look.

"Now that she understands why I've chosen to wear a lip warmer for an entire month. She has been recruited: success."

Amanda Varano, captain of 'The MObeauties' of Five One Four, a team within the greater Five One Four network, believes that ladies should slap on their faux lip rugs without hesitation.

"I've had family members who were diagnosed with prostate cancer," she said. "The men in our lives believe in this initiative and we should stand behind them."

Team Five One Four has impressively encapsulated a diverse set of teams that are collectively proud and eager to make Movember a memorable month.

With the support of numerous organizations including the Concordia Student Union, these Mo-bros and Mo-sistas are making a profound statement that will resonate within the community.

"It's such a great feeling to spot a fellow Mo-bro on the street. You give each other that acknowledging nod and feed off of each other's pride," said Moosetache team leader Angelo Esposito. "At times, the 'staches looks creepy, but it's inspiring to see my dedicated Mo-bros wearing them for the 30 days of Movember. The moustache brings people together."

Getting involved with the ever-so-innovative Five One Four network is as simple as shaping a pencil moustache. It all starts with a little hair growth and the desire to be a part of something remarkable.

Funds collected by the Movember movement benefit Prostate Cancer Canada, as well as research funds and support programs around the world.

To join a team, contact movember@five-one-four.com. Five One Four's Movember kickoff party will take place Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at Pinq Taco on 3612 St. Laurent Blvd. Donations and sign-ups are graciously accepted.

WELLNESS FOR A CAUSE

• KATRINA TORTORICI

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, the Exercise Science Student Association is hosting Wellness Week, an event aimed at raising money for Movember.

Anyone who wishes to participate can take spinning, yoga, pilates, and zumba classes taught by volunteer instructors.

For a donation of \$10.00, students can sign up for any class of their choice, and for a \$20.00 donation, they can sign up for an unlimited amount of classes.

In addition, relaxation massages will be offered throughout the week.

Those donating \$20.00 have the option of a 30-minute massage given by an athletic therapy student.

"Students are stressed these days with exams right around the corner, and we're offering two great ways to loosen up: exercise and massage, all the while contributing to a great cause," said Alexandre Elhalwi, an exercise science student and ESSA's president.

Wellness Week officially came about last fall following two successful exercise science student initiatives: Spin to Save Haiti and the Athletic Therapy Helping Hands Fundraiser, which raised money for the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

"So far, the Wellness Week group has raised money for organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation and the Tony Proudfoot Fund," Elhalwi said. "Since it all started, we've raised approximately \$20,000 for these charities."

This year, the main organizer for Wellness Week is Stefania Nudo, a third-year exercise science student. Elhalwi is also assisted by five other fellow exercise science students.

"Our student association and independent student groups have done a great job in raising money and awareness during the past few years," said Sarah Casquinha, a first-year exercise science student volunteer. "I'm happy and proud to be part of a program that has and continues to make a difference."

In previous years, Wellness Week has been funded entirely by the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, the Concordia Council on Student Life, the Concordia University Small Grants Program, and the Corporation des thérapeutes du sport du Québec.

This year, it is being funded by ASFA.

"It's a great opportunity for people to try new activities and see if they like them, especially for people who might not like to jog or go to the gym," Elhalwi said. "I can't think of anyone off the top of my head who doesn't like massages."

Those interested in signing up for a class or a massage can visit exciwellnessweek.com and for further information or questions can contact exci.wellnessweek@gmail.com.



THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Concordia's women's rugby team will not be making their third straight appearance at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport nationals. This comes after being mauled 43-27 to the top ranked Laval Rouge et Or. Stingers head coach Graeme McGravie is now recruiting players for next season.

SOCCER

It was the last run for ConU's men's and women's soccer team at Sunday's double-header.

The McGill Redmen got the best of the men in a 2-1 battle, while the women were kept out of the crease in a 3-0 shutout by the Martlets.

The soccer teams finish their season placed sixth and seventh in the standings respectively.

FOOTBALL

Last Saturday's game couldn't have gone any better for the Stingers. They outplayed the McGill Redmen in a 58-30 blowout. They took home the 43rd annual Shaughnessy Cup. More importantly, they've clinched the last playoff spot. But before they can start thinking of the Vanier Cup, they must face the Laval Rouge et Or, the No. 2 ranked team in the country. The action gets under way Nov. 5, at 1:00 p.m. in Quebec City.

MEN'S RUGBY

The Stingers showed the Bishops University Gaiters they were worthy of being playoff contenders last Friday as they came from behind to upset them in a 13-10 victory. ConU now heads to the championship game where they'll take on the McGill Redmen. Kickoff is set for 1:00 p.m. this Sunday at Percival Molson Stadium.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

In their first meeting since their Feb. 25 semi-final loss, the Stingers played their hearts out over the Université de Montréal Carabins, winning 5-4 in overtime last Friday. ConU's next challenge comes Nov. 6 when they face the top ranked McGill Martlets. The puck drops at 2:00 p.m. at McConnell arena.

Oh, The Places You'll Run



PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

TEN AWESOME PLACES TO GET YOUR JOG ON IN MONTREAL

• SOPHIA LOFFREDA

Running releases growth hormones, reduces the risk of heart disease, burns more calories than almost any other physical activity, boosts metabolism, kick-starts energy levels, leads to an endorphin high—and it's a great way to see the city.

Winter won't hit for real for another few months, so now's a great time to grab those beat-up sneakers, a mp3 player and head outside

for a run.

Many runners take to the treadmill once the weather gets colder. But Camille Usher, marathon runner and employee of The Running Room on Sherbrooke St. W., says that with the right gear and trail, you can run all year long.

"In the winter, I really like to run in the graveyard on Côte-des-Neiges," she said. "They keep it salted all year; they need to keep the roads clean, and there's no

traffic. It's all just winding roads."

Montreal boasts some of the best places in Canada to pound pavement. Plan out your own run beforehand using sites like mapmyrun.com, Google Maps, and the Google Map Pedometer. Tech-savvy athletes with iPhone or iPod touches can track their distance and calories with the Nike+ chip or the Nike+GPS app.

More low-tech runners should just go outside and get exploring. Either way, Usher gives a few

pointers.

"I make all my routes around parks because, generally, all the parks in Montreal have water fountains."

She also points out, "You always need a good variation of flat and hills."

We've compiled a list of Montreal's most popular running routes. In a city with gorgeous skylines, a killer hill, and a multitude of waterways to run by, there's a route for everyone.

1 THE MOUNTAIN

The mother of all running routes and Montreal's favourite trail (9-12 km). The roads are winding and the climb is steep, but it's a beautiful run. Start at the statue on Parc Ave. and continue all the way up to the chalet near Beaver Lake.

2 LACHINE CANAL

Declared a national historic site, the canal offers a great view of the Montreal skyline. Start at Atwater Market and follow the water (around 14.5 km, one way).

3 MAISONNEUVE PARK

A winter favourite, the east-end park is always bustling with people and makes for a relaxed run. Take the road around Olympic Park, the Olympic Stadium and the Botanical Gardens for some great sightseeing.

6 LASALLE RAPIDS

An off-the-island option, the rapids offer another gorgeous waterway to run by. Lasalle Blvd. boasts some of the city's cleanest and smoothest paths, making for a good, flat, long-distance trail.

5 LAFONTAINE PARK

Another relaxed park but in a more central location (on Rachel St. E.), this run has a gradual hill midway but is mostly flat. The lake in the centre, however, can make for a great loop. Overall, it's an easy and quiet 3 km run.

4 GOUIN BOULEVARD

Perhaps the greenest run on this list, the grand houses, river and tree-lined bike path make for a stunning route. Start where Gouin Blvd. meets Christophe Colomb Ave. and run along the water and through the Regional Nature Park.

7 LONGUEUIL REGIONAL PARK

This is a shorter off-the-island option (5 km loop). The park includes the usual greenery and has a few water fountains. You can also run up the hill for a little variety (and an extra 2 km).

8 SUMMIT CIRCLE

An advanced Westmount run that winds up all the way until the lookout. If you're looking for a thigh-burning run, this is it. The Running Room recommends starting from Prince Albert Ave. or Sherbrooke St. W. They organize group runs around the area regularly.

9 CÔTE-DES-NEIGES CEMETERY

A safe run for the winter explorer, this trail definitely has an eerie cool factor. The graveyard is a large one and you have a lot of terrain to work with. Start at the main entrance on Côte-des-Neiges Rd.

A somewhat-easy but scenic place to run before sunset, although runners with weak ankles should beware of the cobblestone roads. The Tourisme Montreal website suggests starting at Square Victoria, heading up McGill St. until de la Commune St., and coming back along St. Paul St., which it describes as "charming and European."

10 OLD PORT

**There are 1980
ways to join**

THE

LiNK

#1271: Plank the Bar at Reggie's

**or, come to our
friday meetings.**

4 pm, H-649

To Beer or Not to Beer

GRAPHIC ERIC BENT



6 a.m. Bar Closing Prone To Problems

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Your best friend is un-gracefully draped over a toilet seat while your boyfriend is throwing up in yesterday's grocery bag. Your stomach is filled with two-dollar peanut butter noodles—its four a.m. and after enjoying a solid night of debauchery, you're home-sweet-home and triumphantly calling it quits.

I doubt you felt pressed for time during your evening filled with over-indulgence, chatter and unfortunate dance moves, but a new proposition suggests you could have had an extra three hours to get your drink on.

Gilbert Rozon, Just For Laughs founder and potential candidate for Montreal Mayor, recently suggested that bars in a downtown "night-life zone"—located from Guy St. to Papineau Ave., between Sherbrooke St. and Rene-Levesque Blvd.—should stay open until 6:00 a.m., as part of an initiative to re-brand Montreal as a "Fun City."

As a proud Montrealer, I take offense—as if it's not fun enough!

Montreal's bars are currently closing the latest in Canada, tied only with Vancouver—serving a 3:00 a.m. last call. There's only a handful of cities worldwide that keep their tap's flowing later, such as Atlantic City, Miami and several towns in Germany. But being the "Vegas-of-the-North" is not something we should be striving for.

The logic behind Rozon's suggestion is that closing bars later would increase Montreal's touristic appeal and be financially beneficial to the city's economy. But would an extra three hours really change anything when our city is already the latest closing drinking hole for miles? Not to mention the appeal our 18-year-old drinking age has to our neighbors down south, combined with Quebecers' reputation for having ragingly vibrant joie de vivre that's difficult for visitors

to keep up with.

Not to mention, if you really want to keep partying after last call, there's no stopping you. Montreal hosts a slew of after-hours venues—clubs like Circus, Stereo and Centre Fractal—not to mention a host of underground venues—are all readily available to keep your night going as long as you'd like.

While in theory, the "more business hours + more booze = more money" equation makes sense, it does not come without problems. Bars are going to need to increase their staff, and likely security, to keep their establishments bustling through the night—a feat even Steve Siozios, Head of the Crescent Street Merchants Association, predicts would be trying.

"It's going to be very difficult to staff bars until six in the morning and besides that, I don't think the demographics allow for people staying up until six," Siozios said in a CJAD report.

With a 6:00 a.m. last call, bartenders, waitresses and managers will all potentially be working well past 8:00 a.m. once they've finished cash-outs and cleaning duties. This would make it impossible for a bartender to work just an eight-hour shift—requiring managers to schedule staff for constant (and dreaded) double shifts, or tack on an entire extra flight of servers to finish the end of the night.

Safety is another issue that arises with this "fun city" venture. While one could argue that drunk-driving would decrease because drinkers would have more access to public transit, is it really smart to have highly inebriated stragglers trudging home at the same time as business morning rush hour? Probably not.

Montreal is a fantastic city—and is widely known as a great place to party, and we don't need a later last call to prove it.



Later Last Call Could Boost City's Economy

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Just for Laughs co-founder Gilbert Rozon recently proposed the idea of keeping bars in Montreal's downtown core open until 6:00 a.m.—three hours later than the current province-wide 3:00 a.m. closing time.

Let's get the basics out of the way: more drinking = more awesome. Pretty basic math; I don't think I need to convince any of you when it comes to that. Nevertheless, there's more to this idea than meets the eye—or liver, as the case may be.

For instance, it's worth considering that it has the potential to be pretty fruitful when it comes to our city's economy.

This law would be effective year-round, meaning the city of Montreal would likely see a spike in tourism outside of the summer months—extending the attraction of the city's nightlife through the off-season and boosting the economy during the traditionally slower months.

According to Tourism Montreal's 2009 annual report, American tourism has declined due to the high Canadian dollar and the required passport law. If Montreal alters their drinking legislation they could potentially see more cross-border visitors, especially coming from the U.S., where the drinking age is 21.

Not only would this altered legislation draw in foreign visitors, but it could also attract Canadians living in a cities like Toronto, where the last call is currently 2:00 a.m. Though they might not have been willing to make the trek for one measly extra hour of boozing might

be a bit more willing for a full four.

With that in mind, this move is evidently a smart one for bar owners. Longer hours of operation would result in more profit from alcohol sales, benefiting not only the local club-and-bar economy, but also the provincial government, which collects a share of the income.

Not to mention the bartending, bus-boy, waiter and waitressing jobs that would open up—offering a slew of new opportunities for the university-aged people who tend to fill these jobs.

Another benefit coming with this delayed last call is that it would eliminate large crowds of drunken maniacs pouring into the streets after watering holes close their doors at 3:00 a.m. At times this outpour leads to drunken "incidents" breaking out, but the 6:00 a.m. last call would lead to a more dispersed, controlled exodus from bars.

This decision is good for business, but also in the best interests of those coming into the city from the suburbs—especially those who want to do some extra drinking. Those commuting from off-island will no longer have to cut their nights short needing to catch the last metro, which leaves anytime between 12:15 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., depending on the day of the week.

This added option when it comes to getting home could result in fewer drunk drivers, because with the Metro restarting again at 5:30 a.m., even West Islanders could take public transit home.

Above all, being able to drink past 3:00 a.m. will see fewer partygoers staying in for the night and more into Montreal's already vibrant nightlife.

Can't Always Get Fresh at Tim Horton's

Couple Kicked Out for Kissing

• LAURA BEESTON

Oh, the queer, religious, coffee shop politics of small-town, southwestern Ontario...

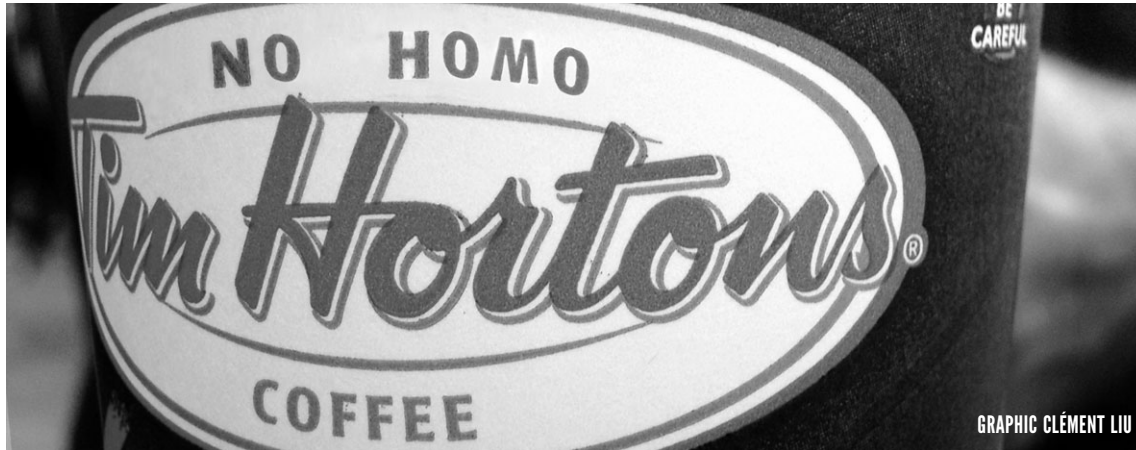
In late September, Riley Duckworth and her partner Patricia Patten exchanged an embrace outside a Blenheim, ON Tim Horton's window and were promptly asked to leave the premises.

The person who was "uncomfortably distracted" by their kissing—which, it should be noted, was done in the presence of Duckworth's parents—was Eric Revie, a Pentecostal assistant pastor at the Glad Tidings Community Church.

Revie told Canadian queer magazine *Xtra* that the women were "being disgusting [...] tongues locked [...] grabbing genitals," while the women denied anything lewd went down in front of their folks.

They told the CBC the incident was a manifestation of the "rampant homophobia" that occurs in Blenheim and that the queer community was "feeling the chill."

Upon Revie's complaint, a Tim Horton's manager asked the couple and Duckworth's parents to leave, saying that the coffee chain was a



"family friendly" establishment.

Despite the irony of the situation—that is, the girls were frequenting the coffee shop with their family—they left, told their story, and an "Occupy Timmie's" sprung up on Facebook, resulting in the staging of a 'kiss-in' against the coffee-brewing corporation.

This isn't the first time Tim Horton's has felt the heat for questionable queer politicking—in 2009, they came under fire for nearly providing 250 cups of free coffee for a "Marriage and Family Day," in Rhode Island, which was organized by an anti-gay National Organization for Marriage group. Canadians weren't happy with it.

For many, kicking out the Ontarian lesbians confirmed that Tim Horton's—and, by extension, the very cultural fabric and values of this nation (if we are to believe their commercials, anyways)—is no homo.

On Oct. 24, nearly a month after the original incident, the company apologized, and the reverend has since said he didn't know the orientation of the couple.

So hold the Timbit: you're telling me an incident was perhaps blown out of proportion because a member of the church was being judgmental? Shocking.

What's interesting about this story, however, is that when the

LGBT community of Blenheim—which is said to have only three or four "out" members, but many allies—rallied behind the women and created an "Occupy Timmie's" sit-in, the local Chatham-Kent LGBT community group said, while they supported the women, they weren't interested in attending.

A man who only would go by 'Randy' came out in full force, however, holding a sign that read: "It's not gay, it's not straight, it's GET A ROOM."

Despite the national press coverage and the homophobic heat this particular story generated, the incident in question may actually have nothing at all to do with the

sexual orientation of the women.

Perhaps this is why Pride Chatham-Kent gracefully bowed out of the spotlight and Randy may have actually got it right: this has everything to do with said Pentecostal brother being a prude, and the unspoken rules of public displays of affection.

Keeping lesbian love—or love in general, if we are to believe the Reverend didn't know the girls were girls—"behind closed doors" seems to be what this issue boils down to.

In what spaces, in 2011, is it acceptable to show affection with your partner?

Does PDA warrant banishment from a fast-food chain? What are the 'rules' of public affection? Does it depend on whether or not there's a Holy Man in the building? How much tongue, or how little, necessitates denial of a double-double?

While the women hope their story will start a necessary conversation about homophobia in Blenheim in particular, until we know more than this "he said, she said," a dangerous precedent has been set: the only French acceptable in Tim Horton's is a French Vanilla.

You've been warned, Canadians.

✉ Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

MUNACA, McGill and Misconduct

I am writing to express my distress at the way that McGill University has treated the membership of the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association since they started their strike on Sept. 1, 2011.

I was prompted to write this letter by the arrest of Ms. Joan O'Malley, a 63-year-old strike captain—and my mother—on Oct. 14 during a peaceful demonstration.

While I cannot comment on the legality of her arrest, what troubles me most is that she was not detained in any confrontation with the Montreal police, but handcuffed and forcibly removed from the premises at the behest of McGill security staff.

As her daughter, I am shocked that my mother was slandered by McGill security, physically intimidated by the police and abandoned by her employer.

I believe that my mother's arrest is indicative of McGill's heavy-handed tactics throughout this strike: using injunctions to keep its staff silent and isolated; being vague and dismissive in official communications; setting an adversarial tone in dialogue with the union.

A university, by its very definition, is meant to be a community. I feel profoundly embarrassed that McGill has taken the heart out of this collegiality, rather than promoting it. I can no longer support my cherished alma mater.

Instead, I am writing to support

my mother and others on strike and encourage all other alumni to join me in withdrawing support from the university—financial and otherwise—until this conflict is resolved.

We must hold the university to account for its misconduct during this labour dispute. Universities are supposed to be about dialogue and challenge. Let us return to those values.

—Emily Claire Poupart
BA McGill 2001

MA University of Victoria 2003
LLM, Oxford Brookes 2004

Violence and OWS

The Occupy Wall Street movement has caused such a strong reaction from people, and it is to this that I would like to speak.

The system as it is currently constituted engenders all kinds of violence. This is not to say that violence is a by-product or symptom of the system alone, but that the system itself produces violence the same way a General Motors factory produces cars.

Outside of centres of global power, violence is explicit and visceral—consider Gaddafi, Hussein, and Bin Laden's bloody fates—as well as all the millions of innocents who just happen to have been born in a less privileged country.

In richer nations, this violence is sublimated in property relations and labour, but most curiously it is reified in our everyday existence. It

is present in our everyday social relations; we are constantly violent towards one another and animals.

We can observe how, when overt violence erupts, it is often coming from inequities and relating to the struggle for recognition and attainment, or in the suppression of this attainment by those who are lacking it.

The reason OWS is so powerful is because it poses a threat to the existing order. This, in part, is the reason we have seen such vehement derogations of the movement.

OWS represents a moment in recent human history—inspired by Tunisia, Egypt and the Arab Spring uprisings that continue to this day—where those outstanding socioeconomic inequities (such as poverty, homelessness, or war) can no longer be suppressed and sublimated into violence tolerated by the system.

OWS is a liberated space where human relations are being refashioned and reconfigured. OWS is what direct democracy looks like—diverse, cacophonous, ongoing, negotiated and loving, even amidst conflict.

In order to discern where someone is coming from in their reaction to OWS, one must ask: what stake do they have in it?

Often, it seems detractors feel threatened personally because they know that on some level OWS represents the potential end to sys-

temic greed and inequality, and that is a great threat to all who only know how to exist in a world built on greed, in a world built on division, oppression, and inequality.

The system as it is currently constituted is a threat to Earth and all humanity. When push comes to shove, what will you do?

—Wes B. Colclough
MA Art History

Contaminating the Board

Reducing the number of undergraduate students on the Board of Governors from four to one is a slap in the face to the student body.

What makes this decision worse is to keep Baljit Chadha on the board.

Not because he sells asbestos—which is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths worldwide each year—but because of the tactics he uses to sell this deadly product.

In a recent *Globe and Mail* article, Mr. Chadha claimed that chrysotile asbestos is not deadly. Mr. Chadha knows this is not true and he even acknowledged as much in a 2010 *The Gazette* article in which he conceded that chrysotile fibres can cause deadly diseases when inhaled.

In another *The Gazette* story Mr. Chadha claimed that the World Health Organization had a safe exposure level of one fibre per cubic centimetre, a level met at the Jeffrey asbestos mine he is trying to re-open.

The problem is that this statement is also false. Mr. Chadha is aware of this fact and has been asked to correct his misstatements in the past, yet has failed to do so.

The error was so egregious that Dr. Ivan Ivanov from WHO took the rare step of publicly rebuking Mr. Chadha and clarified the position of WHO: "There is no safe threshold of exposure to all forms of asbestos." Ivanov also stated, "All forms of asbestos including chrysotile cause cancer in humans."

If a Concordia student made similar claims in academia, they would be in violation of section 12 (k) of the Academic Code of Conduct and proceedings would be initiated to deal with the misconduct.

As a person in a position of leadership at the university—and who has repeatedly demonstrated a disregard for the truth—Mr. Chadha should be held to a higher standard of behaviour, not a lower one.

Instead of reducing the number of student seats on the board, Dr. Lowy should ask Mr. Chadha to resign and give his seat to a deserving undergraduate student.

—Gannon McCauley
Founder, stopasbestos.ca

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



Busting Nuts

Getting hit in the crotch is pretty much a universal comedic gag, but obviously the reality of being the receiver isn't so fun. How bad can the consequences really be? Is it true a hit can kill you?

—Bieber My Balls

I really want to start this column off by saying that hitting someone in the groin really isn't funny and should never be done unless it's a method of self-defense in a dangerous situation. It is in no way a demonstration of "girl power," as I've heard some women call it and can actually be quite dangerous.

I also want to say that I'm not a medical professional, so the most important information I can pass along is that if you're experiencing extreme testicular pain that lasts over an hour without getting any better and is accompanied by nausea and vomiting, get yourself to a doctor for examination. (In case that wasn't obvious.)

So, let's talk about blunt testicular trauma. It's pretty rare, but if you suspect it, it's always better to be safe than sorry, especially if you ever plan on having little ones.

Blunt trauma can happen when force is applied to the testicles, like when you receive a kick or hit to the balls. In the majority of cases your testicles will absorb the shock, it'll really suck for a bit, and then you'll feel better.

A more rare occurrence from blunt trauma is testicular rupture. Okay, so it has the word rupture, which is pretty intimidating, but keep in mind that it takes about 50 kg of pressure to actually rupture a testicle. Testicular rupture happens when the layer of tissue that surrounds the testicles tears and bleeds. Even if you do suffer testicular rupture, while I'm pretty sure it isn't fun, it isn't the end for your boy parts, although prompt medical attention is pretty important.

If you aren't erect when you get hit in the dick, you're most likely fine. If you're erect, while you can't "break" your dick because there's no bone, you can fracture it. Penile fractures most commonly happen from a bad move during sex, tripping, or turning over while sleeping. What physically happens? A penile fracture is when you rupture (there's that word again) the *tunica albuginea*, which is tissue that surrounds the canals that contain the blood during an erection.

Sounds like fun right? It's usually painfully obvious when this has occurred, but in case you somehow missed it, there's a popping or cracking sound, you immediately go soft, your penis may look a little bent and will likely bruise up pretty quickly. Oh, and did I mention it *really* hurts? Because it does.

Some guys get really embarrassed when this happens and don't go to the doctor, but that's pretty much the worst thing you can do. Penile fractures almost always require surgical repair and ignoring it could mean erectile dysfunction, damage to the urethra (your pee-hole), pain during sex, or a permanent curve to your dick.

As for whether you can die from a particularly pain-inducing hit to the groin, I'm not going to say it's impossible, but it would require a very specific and extreme situation. For example, if your scrotum tore and you basically let yourself bleed out for a few hours without medical attention, then yeah, you could probably die. Is it likely? Absolutely not, and I've yet to find a reported death linked to it.

So, bottom line: if you get hit in the groin, don't ignore the pain if it doesn't go away. If you have reason to believe something is wrong, there's no harm in getting a check-up. Also, don't make friends with people likely to "soup can" you in the balls. Seriously.

—Melissa Fuller

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

The Oakland Moment

The Protesters, the Press and the Cop with the Kitten



PHOTO REGINALD JAMES

• ALEX MANLEY

Up until last week, here's what I knew about Oakland: It's in California. It's across the Bay from San Francisco. And it's the home of Major League Baseball's A's, aka the Athletics, whose team colours are green and gold.

That's it.

In light of what went down at Occupy Oakland's headquarters in the city's downtown Oscar Grant Plaza on Oct. 25—I can now add how brutal Oakland's police force is to the list.

Last Tuesday, Oakland police decided they wanted to make a name for themselves. After New York's police tried and failed to evict Occupy Wall Street from Zuccotti Park, the title for "Toughest Police in America" was up in the air, evidently, and the OPD stepped up to the plate with a look of grim determination on their faces.

The stakes were high, but these guys were swingin' for the fences. Starting around 5:00 a.m., a 500-officer police force razed the Occupy Oakland camp to the ground, evicting everyone, arresting 70, and destroying and appropriating property as they saw fit. Problem solved, right?

Wrong. These insidious Occupy protesters didn't know what was good for them. They maliciously insisted on attempting to 're-take' the square only a few hours later, by organizing a non-violent protest march towards it. The cops congregated. It got ugly.

These people—whose ranks included children and seniors—got fucking wrecked. The OPD opened up with an entrée of tasty tear gas and grenades, injuring the protest-

ers, who hadn't done *anything* violent.

But the cops obviously overlooked that when they shot Scott Olsen in the face. Olsen is a 24-year-old Iraq war veteran who is currently recovering in an Oakland hospital from a fractured skull after being shot in the head with a projectile fired by Oakland police.

He still cannot speak as a result of damage done to the language centre of his brain; he communicates primarily through gestures and short written notes, often consisting of a single word. He has little energy, and often asks his visitors for time alone to rest.

It's worth pointing out at this juncture that this terrifying and threatening march, which involved approximately 1,000 people with a legitimate cause for dissatisfaction, was not generally anti-police. Nor was it anti-Oakland police specifically.

It wasn't even, à la G20 in Toronto last year, a protest against who the cops were there to protect. Rather, it was a protest against a system that impoverishes millions while rewarding a select, greedy few.

It was a protest that included, by its very mathematical nature, the police within its scope.

That's right. If you think about it, the protesters were actually on the same side as the cops that were brutalizing them.

Of course, one of the most frustrating aspects of all this is not what happened on the ground, but how it got treated in the mainstream media. The next day, for instance, the photo that ran with the Occupy Oakland story in the *Wash-*

ington Post was of an Oakland cop petting a kitten. Let me repeat that: A cop. Petting. A kitten.

Though the *Post* explained it away by claiming that when the violence was going down, the issue was going to print and, let's be honest, it's a good photo. But the fact remains that the Oakland police were guilty of some pretty serious, unprovoked anti-citizen brutality that morning.

This cop-pets-cat photo, with its narrative of the policeman showing kindness to a poor innocent creature cruelly left behind by the callous hippies, should not be the main photo to describe that moment for any major paper.

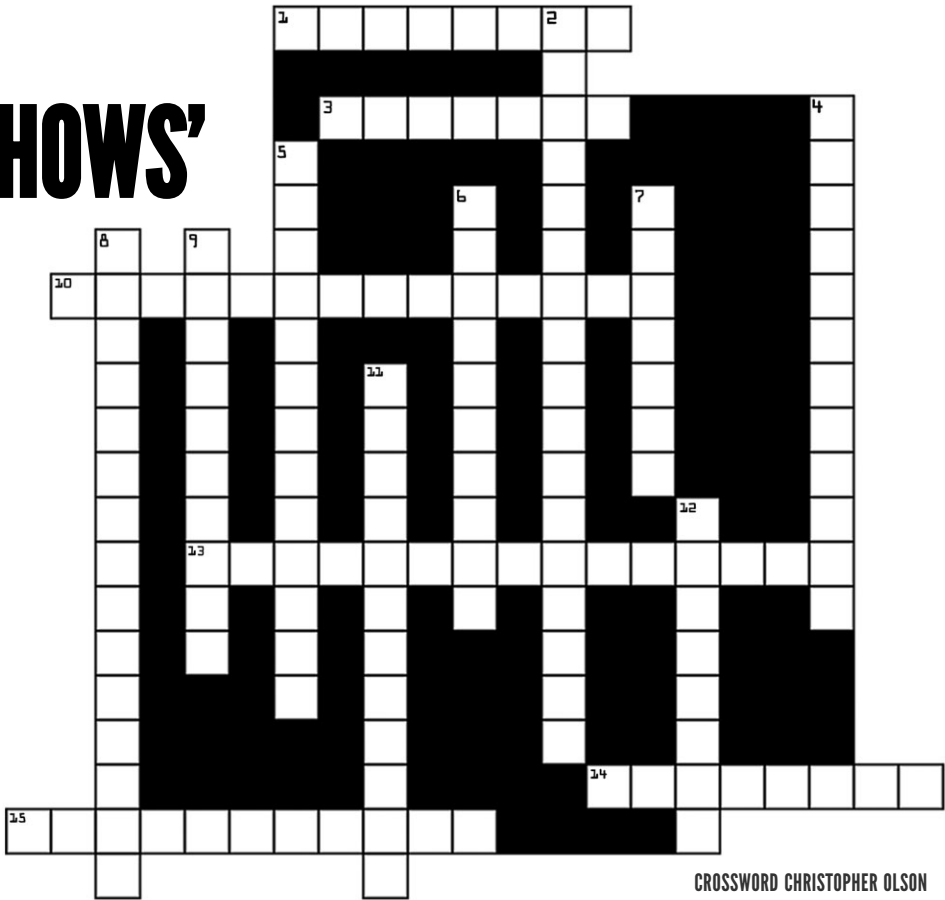
It exhibits an extreme and willful dishonesty about what was going on in Oakland and, really, what is going on in American and Western society as a whole at the moment. The journalists who make up the American media, like the Oakland police, are part of the 99%.

They are being paid to protect the interests of an elite that doesn't care about them, and their continued bowing and curtsying to the rich will only serve to de-legitimize them in the eyes of anyone paying attention.

Traditional print media has enough to worry about right now given the rise of citizen journalism, Twitter, bloggers, YouTube, and every other manifestation of the Internet that leaches away the once-mighty power of the traditional press.

You'd think they'd cop to that and start to pander to the people—but if they had that kind of foresight, they wouldn't be in this position to begin with.

'REALITY SHOWS'



CROSSWORD CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Across

- 1. Like a key party, minus the sex. So, not really a party. (2 words)
- 3. Chefs compete to create succulent meals that I can't smell or taste, yet I'm unable to look away. (2 words)
- 10. This show is just like taking a vacation comprised almost entirely of time spent finding a cab and solving baffling cultural riddles. (3 words)
- 13. Overshadowed by its almost entirely unrelated spinoff, this show rewarded bad luck cases with plastic surgery to correct often cruel and unfortunate birth defects and such. (2 words)
- 14. Somehow, the subject of cannibalism has never been broached on this deserted island simulation show.
- 15. Kind of like speed dating, only stretched out over a dozen

episodes. (2 words)

Down

- 2. Who better to judge which Americans have talent than two British people and a Canadian? (3 words)
- 4. Hiding in the bushes and filming people's reactions to lighthearted pranks wasn't invented by *Just For Laughs* gags. Technically some pervert invented it, but it was also a reality show that began in 1948. (2 words)
- 5. The high concept premise of this show is that Donald Trump possesses financial wisdom that others seek. The more popular spinoff features a frantic Meatloaf and an unusually sedate Gary Busey. (2 words)
- 6. While the title of this game show may owe something to Orwell, I don't think he had placing cameras in an apart-

ment inhabited by good-looking people in mind. (2 words)

- 7. Technically all journalists cover "reality," but once upon a time Anderson Cooper hosted a reality show—this is before he got the talk show. (2 words)
- 8. Depending on your interpretation of the title, you're a loser whether you win or lose. But if you lose lose, it's REALLY sad. (3 words)
- 9. Apparently people hate filling out surveys, but love guessing what other people wrote on their surveys. (2 words)
- 11. One of the first "reality" shows. Heck, it's even in the title. (3 words)
- 12. One day you're preventing your family from throwing out your old *National Geographics*, the next your filming a television show about how you can't throw out your old *National Geographics*.

THE BENEFITS OF BILL 33

Construction Unions Shouldn't Oppose Proposed Legislation

•ALEX WOZNICA

Quebec's construction unions ought to rethink their efforts in combating Bill 33.

The proposed legislation is attempting to curb corruption within the industry, but this new legislation is in the interest of the union's own job security, as well as beneficial to both the general public and infrastructure in Quebec.

Bill 33 seeks to correct the current reality, in which unions have the power to control which companies get hired to work on construction sites.

This situation has lent itself to corruption, and has often resulted in those favoured by union leadership receiving contracts, rather than those best able to complete the job in a timely and efficient matter.

Bill 33 also seeks to transfer the selection powers to a government commission and promises to help transform Quebec's construction industry so it is

far more efficient, much less costly, and, most importantly, free from corruption.

Quebec construction unions have reacted to the proposed legislation in an understandably negative, but unfortunately violent, manner.

Opposition to the bill took the form of illegal walkouts on construction sites around the province, as well as manifesting in violence against construction workers who were seen as cooperating with the government. Threats of physical harm were also issued against the Minister of Labour.

However, if the unions were really concerned with the welfare of their members, they would support Bill 33.

As it currently exists, largely because of union domination, Quebec's construction industry is far more costly than it needs to be.

Union corruption adds millions of dollars to the cost of public and private construction projects every year, costing Quebec businesses and

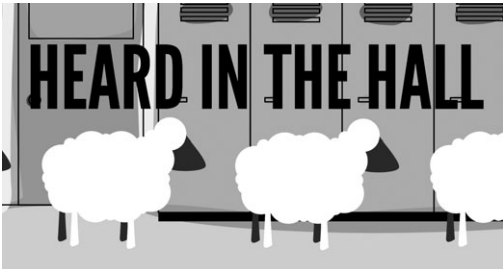
tax-payers far more than they should be paying.

We live in a world where the job market is both increasingly competitive and increasingly mobile. While the union-based system used to populate construction sites has been in place for some time, nothing is set in stone.

Unless the unions cooperate with the province's attempt to create a more honest, efficient, and less costly construction industry, the unions and their members may very well find themselves shut out of that industry, and out of their jobs.

The reality is that there are many workers, both in the domestic and international labour markets, who would be more than willing to fill Quebec's construction needs for a fraction of the current cost.

Unless Quebec's construction unions go along with efforts to reform that industry, the people of Quebec might eventually force them to.



Concordia on: Artists or Vandals

• SANAZ HASSANPOUR

This week *The Link* decided to take to the halls of Concordia to find out what students think about graffiti murals. We asked them whether they view graffiti as a public art form or as an act of vandalism. Here's what they thought:

"I currently live in NDG where there is a lot of graffiti art going around. It's predominantly around community buildings. There is a brand new graffiti painting on the corner of Madison Ave. and Sherbrooke St. [Graffiti] really brings NDG together; it brings all these images together. So, I find it to be more community art than vandalism."



—Philip Creamer
BA Communication Studies

"I think it's very beautiful. Last night, I was walking outside Atwater Metro and there is a lot of graffiti on the walls. It is very interesting."



—Hanqing Peng
Masters Computer Science

"I think it is great to have those places for people to express themselves in the city. For example, I am in contemporary dance—I could do contemporary dance in the street. Is it vandalism? Or, is it a piece of art? My intention is to create a piece of art."



—Marie-Christine Boucher
BFA Contemporary Dance

"I mostly view it as community art just because usually people work together—all contributing to a certain image. When people work together or go around together and give a certain political message or some artistic view, it is definitely nice community art."



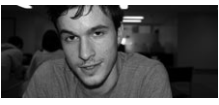
—Shannon Walker
BFA Art History and Studio Art

"I don't think it is art if you go around spray-painting your name somewhere, but if you are doing something that makes somebody think or see something more beautiful, it's good."



—Alicia Segura
BFA Studio Arts

"[I view] graffiti as a community art and tagging as scribble, as vandalism. Graffiti, I think is beautiful. It's very vibrant and it speaks to a lot of people. It's something that colours up your community a little more. But tagging your name on something I don't find artistically pleasing or necessary, and I find that vandalism. I think there is a strong line between the two."



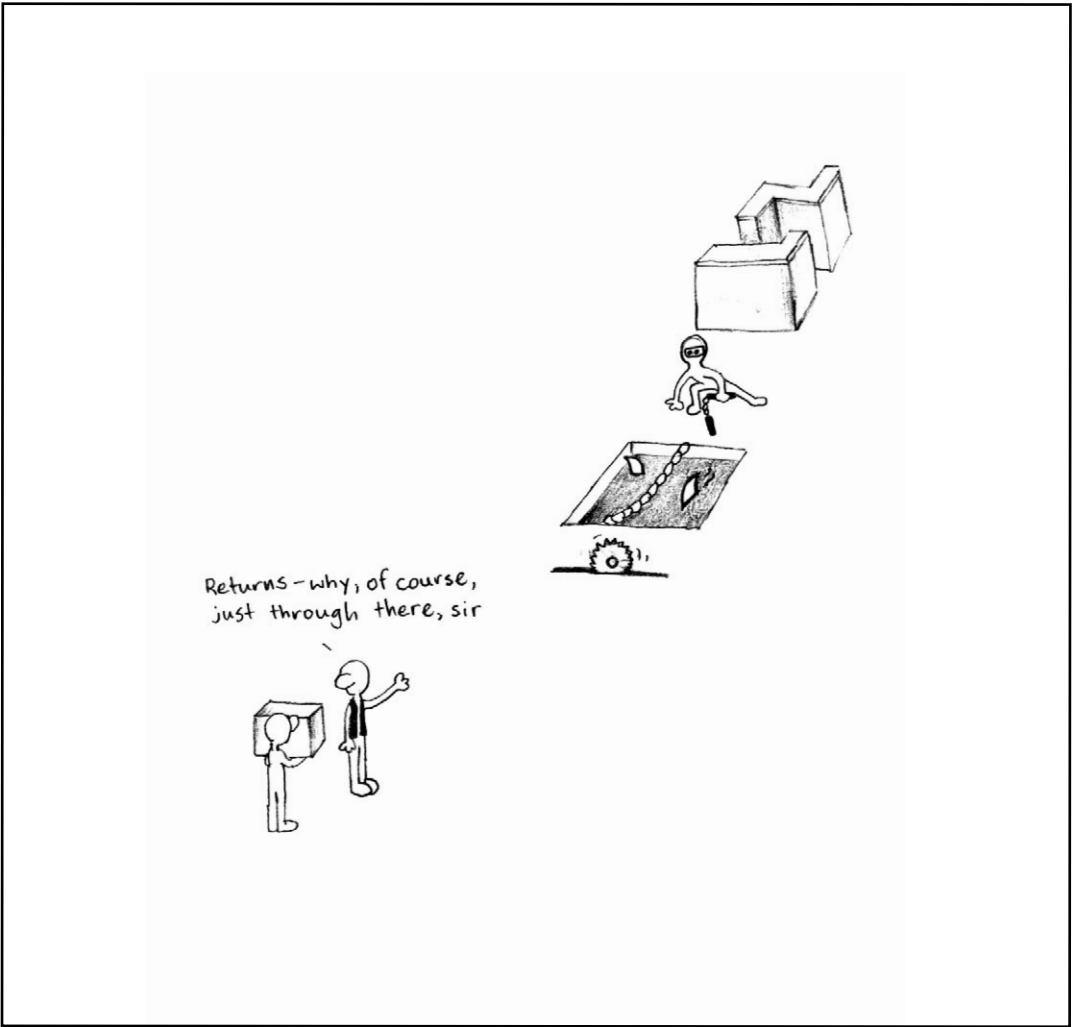
—Matt Dawson
BFA Theatre Performance

Tremendous Tales
by Christopher Olson

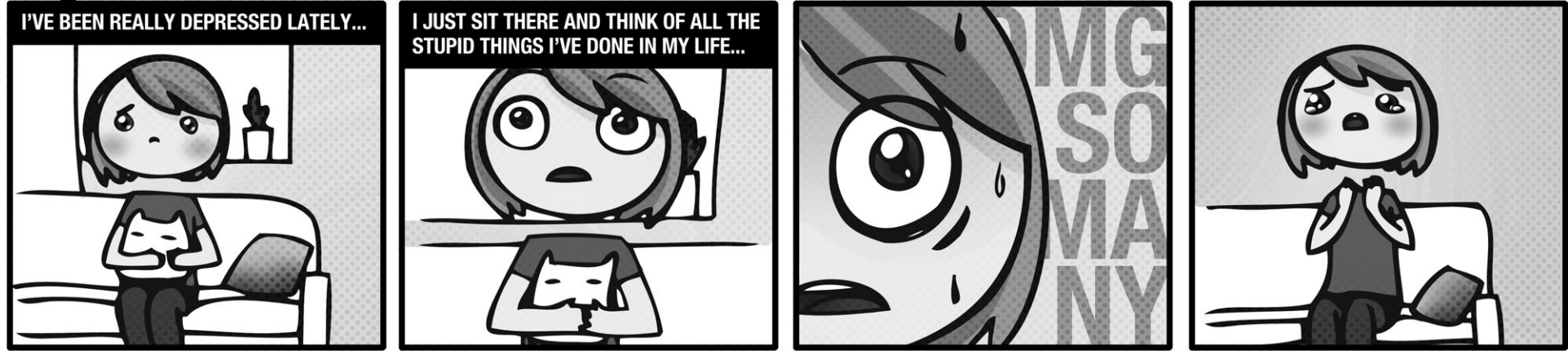


As with most kleptomaniacs, Kyle's habit started small. It wasn't until he stole the moon, however, that it started to get him into trouble.

Barton Flats
COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Living The Life
COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



Nah'msayin?

Accosted On Guy

So I was walking from the Hall to the EV building the other day, going to class, just thinking about how broke and awesome I am, and in that not-even two blocks, I had to awkwardly fend off the weird, too-friendly advances of, I swear, like, 20 people.

Among them there were three granola-eaters hitting me up for cash to help endangered voles migrate safely across the A-20 or whatever; two shiny-suited, fresh-faced and just-out-of-business-school employees of that big green bank trying to give me another goddamn credit card; one earnest, empty-eyed dude in a robe trying to press into my hands a glass of Kool-Aid and a book about Pilates and a whole table of those fucking Obama-Hitler-United-Nations-Black-Helicopter people.

This will not stand, man—I'm just trying to go to class.

It occurred to me on that brief walk that this situation has really gotten out of hand. This school I give all my money to is like some weird preview of a

not-so-distant, post-Great-Recession, *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome* future where packs of wild dogs and loosely-confederated, leather-clad bands of marauding ruffians set upon unsuspecting travelers and beat 'em till the coins come out.

At least in that future I get to be something cool—like Mel Gibson before he turned out to be an anti-Semite. But right now, I'm still just a broke-ass student.

So I guess what I'm saying is, I don't know whose jurisdiction this is, but the CSU, the admin, the city, the good Lord—I don't really care—someone's gotta set things right.

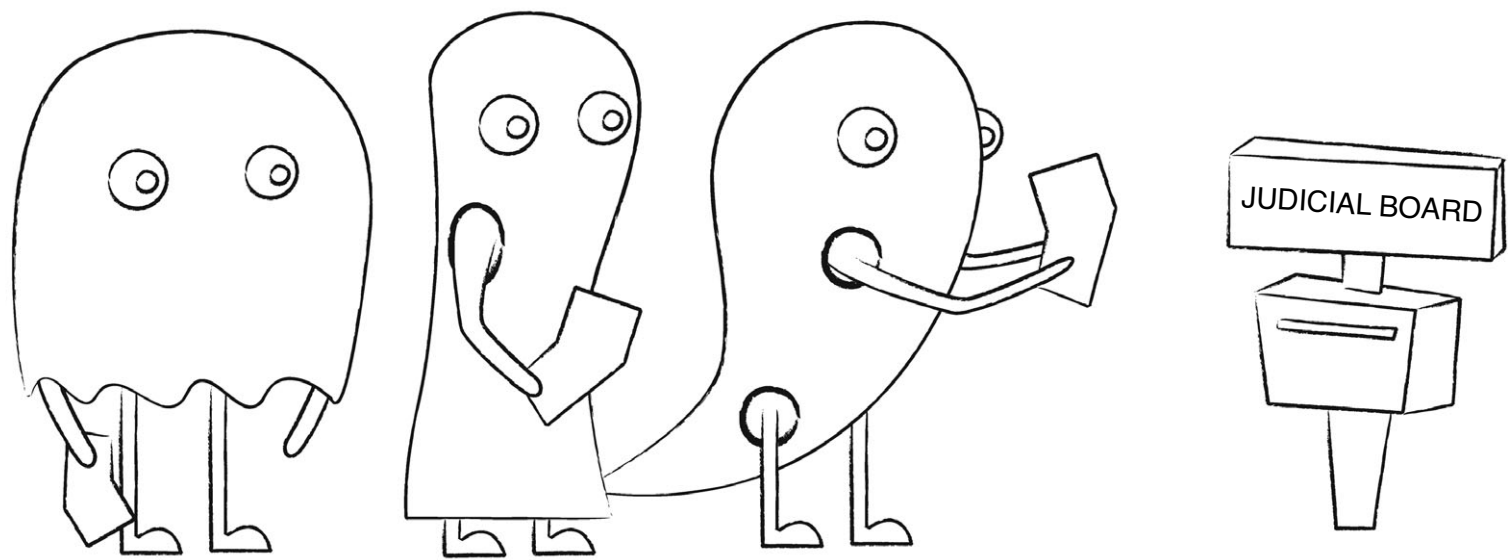
If this is the way it's going to be, I swear, I'll get all Judge Dredd and take the law into my own hands. I just want to walk to class in peace, for goodness' sake

—Riley Sparks



GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial cartoon



Just in time for Halloween, the Ghosts of CSU Council Past line up to haunt the JB hearings.

Breaks in the System

The way that student governance at this school is supposed to work—on paper anyway—makes sense:

You have your council, your chair, your secretary and your student media informing students about the politics of the day. Together, everything runs smoothly and above-board. This is how the democratic process works, theoretically.

But when a cog breaks down, students lose. And when all the cogs break down it becomes the boondoggle we saw last week.

The first cog to break was the union.

For starters, some councillors appear to not be doing their jobs. With five spots on a 27-person council unfilled, students are already under-represented. Then, when another four councillors don't bother to show up to the meetings, or decide to simply sign the roll call, grab a slice of pizza and take off without even saying goodbye, you have to ask: how seriously are they taking this job?

A healthy council features a balanced representation of students. Currently, an entire faculty at Concordia—the John Molson School of Business—is not being represented. Right now there are three JSMB mem-

bers on council who are one missed meeting away from being ejected. If they miss one more before the byelection rolls around at the end of November, there will be nine empty seats.

That's one-third of council gone.

Another broken cog involves the executive team that came into power on a platform of transparency—yet can't manage to get their minutes or numbers online. It's been four months and counting since students got their last update.

The student union documents are notoriously unkempt, undermining the students' ability—and their right—to easily access what has happened at the highest governing student body.

This week was a prime example of how important good documentation is. When the union searched for proof of the legitimacy of the Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein and his predecessor Oliver Cohen, they came up empty.

No record of Cohen's resignation can currently be found on paper, and this document is necessary to legitimize Goldstein's role—as well as the entire byelection slated to take place at the end of the month.

Also, it's worth noting that there must have been a better way to handle

what has become a CEO-gate.

If, a few months ago, there had been any indication whatsoever that the appointment of Goldstein was questionable and didn't follow procedure—which CSU President Lex Gill admitted—the CSU should have given him a heads up.

Goldstein deserved the courtesy of knowing his job was on the line. It's quite simply the decent thing to do. Finding out three weeks before a byelection is shitty timing for everyone.

Finally, it's imperative that students are aware of all of the shenanigans going down on council. One of the best ways to access the meetings is the online live-stream provided by CUTV—well, it used to be.

The stream promised to offer students unfettered access to council meetings, giving them the ability to keep both councillors and the executive accountable, in addition to keeping the union technologically up-to-date.

And if somehow, the minutes go missing, having a record of the meetings on the CUTV website becomes even more crucial to democracy at this school.

The initiative started as a 'pilot' but the live broadcasts need to continue if

editorial

CUTV deserves any more student money for their fee levy.

CUTV has stated that training their volunteers and creating programming is their number one priority, but it is imperative they film these meetings. It is fundamental to the democracy at Concordia and should also be fundamental to their mandate.

Let's not forget that CUTV had to fight hard for permission to air live broadcasts of council in the first place. They cannot take their duty to students for granted in this regard.

While CUTV claims that filming council is a "side project," that their equipment is burnt out and that their funding goes to programming, they need to prioritize filming the meetings—their live-streams were an essential service for our democracy and has revolutionized the accessibility of student governance.

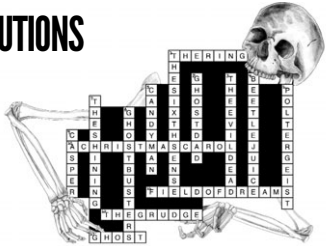
What it comes down to is that the public record should be more than just in-session tweets from our Editor-in-Chief.

The cogs are broken, but it's still early enough in the year to deal with these issues before the machine breaks down entirely.

—Jacob Roberts
Assistant News Editor

ISSUE 9 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

'GHOST'



Corrections

In Vol. 32, Issue 9, *The Link* incorrectly reported that the CASA president earns \$4,000 a year and that the VPs earn \$2,000, when in fact they earn \$2,000 and \$1,000 per year respectively. *The Link* regrets the error.

In Vol. 32 Issue 9, *The Link* incorrectly presented some facts about holistic medicine in "Drug-Free Stress Solutions." *The Link* apologizes for the misunderstanding.

THE LiNK

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