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Striking Up a Debate

ASFA and GSA Hold Symbolic Vote in Advance of Nov. 10



Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott leading a protest outside Education Minister Line Beauchamp's office. Walcott was on hand for ASFA's strike vote on Nov. 3.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

• BRIAN LAPUZ

Graduate students and students in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations voted for a one-day strike on Nov. 10, joining 140,000 students across the province also confirmed to be on strike for the Day of Action against tuition hikes.

"I think this is a historical day for Concordia University," said Nadia Hausfather, a Councillor in the Graduate Students' Association. "It's not very common for Concordia students to go on strike or to show up in big numbers to general assemblies. Hopefully this will be a change in the way student politics is done at Concordia."

During a joint Special General Meeting on Nov. 3, over 500 students from ASFA and the GSA congregated in room H-110 of the Hall Building, opposing the tuition fee increase of \$325 per year from 2012 through 2017.

Over 98 per cent of ASFA members who turned out voted in favour of the strike, while the GSA students who voted were unanimously for it. The unions represent 14,825 and 6,000 students, respectively.

"This is a clear, legitimate and democratic statement from the ASFA and GSA

students," said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. "They are against the fee hikes and for a strike. They could have said this before, but now they have a binding vote. It's powerful. It means something."

"The buzz in the school was at an all-time high," said ASFA President Alex Gordon. "Even students that were approached to come to the meeting knew about it, regardless of whether or not they could come."

With 2,500 Timbits being passed around, ASFA students waited nearly an hour for the 371-student quorum to be attained, which was necessary to make the vote binding.

GSA VP External Holly Nazar was scheduled to give a short presentation on successful student strikes in Quebec history—instead, students yelled, "Vote!" until ASFA members proceeded to the vote without discussion. Six members voted against and one abstained.

"I think people were pressed for time and getting antsy," said Conor Murphy, a Political Science major. "They just wanted to get it over with and I think most people were fairly informed. Those who weren't [informed] learned the way to access the in-

formation."

The 80 graduate students briefly discussed the strike and voted 20 minutes before ASFA reached quorum. GSA's quorum was 60 members.

Erik Scanlon, an ASFA member, voted against the strike and called the meeting undemocratic due to the lack of discussion. He also said that the arguments made in favour of the Day of Action were false.

"A bunch of students are going to be out on the streets on Nov. 10," said Scanlon. "But they are not going to represent the majority of Concordia students."

GSA President and Mobilization Squad member Robert Sonin said he was surprised with the turnout. He also expected more questions from the undergraduate students, but then figured that they were near unanimous with their decision.

"The issue is pretty obvious from a student's point of view," explained Sonin. "Very few students, especially those who pay for their own tuition, want to see their bills go up."

The vote was largely symbolic, as striking will garner students no special privileges. Though they won't be granted academic amnesty from Concordia University, Con-

cordia Dean of Students Andrew Woodall has recommended that faculty be lenient with students walking out on Thursday.

While the CSU did not hold its own strike mandate vote, citing the difficulty of mobilizing the 900 students necessary to reach quorum, Gill did say that the Nov. 10 Day of Action will set the tone moving forward.

"[All the student unions] in Quebec are looking at a strike mandate in January and February, depending on what happens on Nov. 10," said Gill.

"Engineering students, business students, Fine Arts students, [etc.] are mobilizing. It's just not strategic for the CSU to duplicate efforts by calling a strike mandate when [the associations and the Mob Squad] are already organizing thousands of people to walk out of class."

According to the event's Facebook page, students will meet at 11:00 a.m. on the Reggie's Terrace for music, sign-making, free food from the People's Potato and information. Students at the Loyola campus can board buses to the downtown campus at 12:30 pm. The march begins at 1:10 pm.



Former CEO Bram Goldstein's hiring last spring was ruled to be in violation of the CSU Standing Regulations.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Judicial Board Rules

Impending Appeal After CEO Switch

• LAURA BEESTON

The search for a Chief Electoral Officer continued last week as the Judicial Board—an independent ruling body of the Concordia Student Union—voted unanimously on Nov. 2 that the appointment of the former CEO by last year's Council was conducted in violation of the standing regulations, and nullified his position.

The ruling was on an appeal filed by former CSU councillor Tomer Shavit, on behalf of last year's Council.

After successfully appealing on the grounds that proper procedure was not followed when hiring Bram Goldstein last spring, the CSU then appointed Ismail Holoubi to conduct the November byelections, taking place Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1.

Despite the ruling and appointment, this may not be the final decision on the matter, as an appeal will be filed with the JB in the next few days.

"You guys should know we will be appealing based on procedure," Shavit told Council at the Nov. 2 special CSU meeting. "If you guys try to hire a CEO now, you should be informed that this is still under dispute."

Shavit explained he would be filing a complaint to the JB concerning the hiring process of Holoubi.

"It did not follow due process of the Appointment Committee, [...] which is the precedence that has been set by the Judicial Board [after terminating Goldstein]," he said, a reference to his allegation that the AC had not met to discuss the candidates before passing their CVs to Council.

He has until Friday—five days from the written JB decision—to file his appeal.

CSU VP Services Melissa Fuller explained that the Appointments Committee met the night before the Council meeting, where they decided to invite every applicant to come to the special

CSU Council meeting on Nov. 2. The committee has the power to vet candidates and decide which ones will be considered by Council.

To "ensure the upcoming election would not be compromised" as they were filing the original appeal, Council moved to simultaneously open a tentative hiring process on Oct. 26, to which 11 applicants applied for the position of CEO.

After over two hours of closed session, Holoubi was chosen to replace Goldstein.

Even if another procedural contestation is filed, the decision of the JB stands until their ruling is potentially overturned, according to JB Chair Cassie Smith.

Shavit also stated that he has proof of "non-verbal communication" between the plaintiffs and the JB during the hearing, and called into question the possibility of collusion and a lack of impartiality on the Board.

He said he expects the JB member to resign, or for council to remove her with two-thirds majority vote after viewing his videotape footage.

Smith admitted she was aware of "the issue of 'collusion [and bias],'" and said she hasn't "seen evidence that [Shavit] purports to have. I am waiting for him to submit a formal complaint to Council in this regard."

It is unclear whether or not this week's regular CSU council meeting will hear Shavit's argument, however, as President Lex Gill stated the JB is the appropriate place to submit his complaints concerning impartiality on the Board.

"If he has evidence that could be relevant to his appeal or a hearing, it needs to be presented at the JB," she said. "It's not council's job to remove a JB member, as it is supplemental to his appeal; it should be presented as evidence in that appeal."

The next council meeting is Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Stay tuned.

Call Me Ismail

New CSU CEO Already Prepping for Elections

• ADAM KOVAC

Confusion over the hiring, and firing, of the Concordia Student Union Chief Electoral Officer last week overshadowed the position's immediate responsibility—organizing the byelection taking place in three weeks.

With former CSU councillor Tomer Shavit promising to appeal the recent Judicial Board ruling, which ruled the hiring of CEO Bram Goldstein invalid, Ismail Holoubi, the man hired to replace Goldstein, is stepping into a volatile position.

In an interview with *The Link*, he expressed an awareness of what will be going on behind the scenes as he tries to coordinate the byelection, which will take place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

"I [already] have access to the [CEO's] email address, so I get all of the updates about that situation," he said.

"I know [Shavit has] five days to file an appeal to the Judicial Board's decision, but I'm not going to concentrate on that right now, because I have the [byelection] to coordinate and run. So I'm trying to just work on doing the job I have to do."

A former polling clerk in both CSU and Arts and Science Federation of Association elections, Holoubi said he had also organized elections for the Arab Students' Association and Syrian Students Association, using the CSU bylaws.

The controversy surrounding the

CEO position forced the delay of the byelections by a week, but Holoubi said that, at the current rate, things will be ready to go by Nov. 29.

"[I am] booking locations, reserving the tables and chairs, talking to security and making sure everything is going to run smoothly, coordinating with the CSU staff," he said.

"We're currently hiring the deputy electoral officers, there's a job posting on the CSU website and that's basically it. We're trying to get the team on board to actually run the elections."

Holoubi says he has no plans to consult with any past CEOs, and that he was trying not to get involved in any of the procedures surrounding Goldstein's termination, saying, "Council explained why that happened, and that's it. I just asked why."

He acknowledged he was aware of problems with last year's end-of-year elections, which were run by former CEO Oliver Cohen.

During those elections, there were rampant accusations of foul play by the two opposing slates, which ended in the disqualification (and eventual reinstatement) of both sides. Hoboudi said he planned to avoid those kinds of controversies by following the electoral rules as closely as possible.

"I like to work independently if I'm taking the job, and that's what I explained to the Councillors. I know it's a lot of pressure, but it's manageable, as long as you follow the rules and regulations of the CSU."

OCCUPY MONTREAL BUBBLES OVER



A protest popped up, as the denizens of Occupy Montreal marched through downtown and into the old port on Saturday.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Part Time Faculty Backs Strike

CUPFA Calls out “Bad Management,” Supports Students

• LAURA BEESTON

The teachers are with us. Well, most of them.

Concordia University’s Part-time Faculty Association released a statement last week officially supporting students on the Nov. 10 Day of Action, calling for us to “Occupy [the] Government” and “defend accessibility to a university education.”

Part of a constellation of professors and teachers across Quebec demanding a public debate on the broader issue of university funding, CUPFA joined the Fédération québécoise des professeurs et professeurs d’université—a province-wide faculty group—that also affirmed its opposition to the increase on Oct. 25.

Saying the hikes have been “falsely presented by the government as the only way to ensure adequate funding, and [are being] imposed unilaterally,” FQPPU also took the Liberal government to task for the lack of “specific consultation of faculty [that] preceded the decision to increase tuition and its inclusion in the Quebec budget.”

Closer to home, CUPFA took aim at the corporate and government ideology that “prevent us from seeing education for what it is: a right and essential good for not just the individual, but for the public interest of society as a whole.”

“I think it’s important [teachers] give the support we can, even if it’s just stating a public position,” said CUPFA Chair and Communications Liaison Dave Douglas.

Having been on the university scene since 1983, Douglas described the ways in which

he’s seen “education being transformed and short changed.”

“It’s not simply tuition for [CUPFA],” he said. “It’s about pedagogy and philosophy. The neo-liberal agenda out there has been dominating a discourse about the value of educations. [...] Where small classes are replaced with the ‘small class experience’—while my class sizes have literally doubled.”

Calling the funding argument “increasingly skewed,” Douglas said tuition has become “the easy scapegoat” for policymakers to divert investments from the public good.

“You look at how much the government throws in support of all kinds of industry—into aluminum, shipping, development projects—if you look at the total of that money, it dwarfs what’s being spent on education,” he argued. “Yet when they get around to talking about funding for the future, they say they have no money and have to cut.”

The alternatives, according to CUPFA, are about management.

“We could certainly slim down administration,” Douglas said with a laugh. “Over the last decade Concordia’s administration has multiplied rather fantastically. [...] The cost of administration and bureaucracy eats up a lot of our budget.”

“We found out [at last week’s Senate meeting] that Concordia spent over \$14 million in dismissals over the last decade—that’s a lot of money.”

Calling the system “a picture of bad management,” CUPFA argues government energies should be spent towards achieving a

progressive tax system that would tax corporations and captains of industry, while ending corruption and eliminating bail-outs and paying for bonuses and severance packages.

“The issue is not the problem of funding universities, but rather how those funds are being spent by our universities,” the statement continued.

Explaining that the CUPFA never forgot how Concordia students expressed solidarity with them as they were striking four years ago for improved teaching contracts, Douglas stated that the more organizations jointly recognize the importance of sharing good living and working conditions, the more others are willing to fight in solidarity with them.

“Your education is our working conditions—it’s that linked,” said Douglas. “When you guys have the best opportunities for learning, we have the best opportunity for teaching. You are not our clients—you are our students.”

“If students are in debt and working four jobs, can’t come to class or finish that paper, [teachers] can’t just walk away at the end of their class, say, ‘See you next week,’ and not be concerned about their quality of living.”

“Over time you see the effect these increases have on the system as a whole.”

Hopeful about the Nov. 10 Day of Action, Douglas encouraged students to “show everyone that you’re being good citizens. That you’re coming out and talking about the future, about equality, and you’re living it.”

Check out thelinknewspaper.ca for CUPFA and FQPPU’s full statements.

FA\$A

Fine Arts Executive Honorariums Officially Up

• ALEX MCGILL

The Fine Arts Student Alliance budget, which includes an increase in executive honorariums, was officially passed at the FASA meeting on Nov. 1.

A preliminary budget had been passed at a meeting on Oct. 4, and was pending final approval by Council. That preliminary budget included an increase from \$750 a semester to \$3,000 for VPs, as well as doubling the current \$1,500 per semester paid to the president.

In a bit of confusion, attendees were not given a copy of the budget five days prior to the meeting—a violation of FASA bylaws—nor was there an agenda topic to approve the budget.

“The FASA exec was going through the meeting under the idea that their budget had already been approved,” said former FASA councillor and current Board of Governors representative AJ West, who was at the meeting. “Legally, that wasn’t the case.”

The bylaw stating the budget must be provided five days in advance was suspended in order to approve the budget.

The FASA executive chalked this up to a miscommunication. Councillor Ali Moenk proposed an amendment to the agenda that would add a vote on the budget, which was passed.

West called the presence of the executive during the debate and vote “a conflict of interest,” due to their stake in the budget being approved.

During discussion, FASA President Paisley Sim stated that if the budget was not approved, there would likely be some resignations.

“The nature of FASA is that clubs get funding directly, so nobody wants to piss off the executives,” said West, who opposes the increase. “People think, ‘If I vote for this then that’s a good thing because the executives will [remember me when] they’re considering people for applications.’”

“This isn’t to say that I disagree; I think everyone should be paid for their work. It just seems like an unreasonable increase.”

West blamed apathy on the part of Fine Arts students who don’t realize where their money is going. “If Fine Arts students want to give their executive \$36,000 [in total honorariums over the year], then I guess that’s that,” he said.

“People need to show up to these meetings and demand that more be done for the students with their money.”

When contacted, Sim declined to comment.

CURRENTLY CONCORDIA KICKS OFF

• JULIAN WARD

A new radio show on CJLO is hoping to hit home with Concordia students.

Currently Concordia, an hourly broadcast that will air every Friday at 11:00 a.m., aims to be the go-to show for all things Concordia.

"I was listening to a lot of CBC Radio, a lot of Jian Ghomeshi's *Q*, and I thought it would be great to do a Concordia talk show; to get interviews with clubs and students and leaders and basically create a dialogue on campus," said Joel Balsam, co-host of *Currently Concordia* with Melissa Mulligan.

"There are a lot of great clubs and great projects [at Concordia]," said Balsam. "People will listen because they want to have a sense of identity with Concordia."

The show will discuss student politics, social media, and Stingers' sports news. Every episode will also have a 'feature chat' with someone in the news; last week's inaugural episode featured guest was Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott, who spoke about the fight against tuition increases.

Students interested in getting involved with the show are encouraged to attend the Monday meetings at 3:00 p.m. Balsam says students can come by to pitch ideas, prepare a package for the show, do research or even come into the studio to speak on current issues.

The launch of *Currently Concordia* comes as CJLO is also stepping up their fee levy campaign for the November referendum. CJLO is seeking a nine cent per credit increase to their current fee levy, which would bring them up to 34 cents per credit.

"We just really want Concordia students to get their voices heard," said Stephanie Saretsky, CJLO's station manager. "With this fee levy we would be able to go into the process of getting [an FM] signal downtown so that CJLO can be heard everywhere around the downtown campus."

"We're basically just being very present on campus," Saretsky said of CJLO's campaign strategy.

"We've done a lot of live broadcasts over the past few months, and we're just going to keep doing those. We've been broadcasting at the People's Potato on Fridays, we did one from the library building, and we're going to try and hit as many buildings as we can."

"[We want] students to see what CJLO does and that they have the opportunity to join the radio station and use our services."

Saretsky noted that everything the station does is free for students, whether it is advertising for student groups or training sessions for students, thus making the fee levy all the more necessary.

Charting a New Academic Course

Senate Approves Five-Year Plan Despite Student Objections



In a close secret-ballot vote of 26 - 19, Concordia's Senate approved the five year academic plan.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

• ADAM KOVAC

After an hour of debate, Concordia's Senate voted by secret ballot to adopt a new five-year academic plan for the university, despite rampant student opposition.

In total, 26 Senators voted in favour of the plan, and 19 voted in opposition.

"I understand that the great majority of those who chose to vote against the plan were doing so not so much because they disagreed with the plan as a whole, but because they may have disagreed with portions of it [and also] particularly because they wanted further discussion," said Provost David Graham.

Most opposition came from student representatives who, following a presentation from Graham at a Concordia Student Union Council meeting last week, had been mandated by Council to oppose the plan, citing concerns regarding financing for graduate students and a possible veto of the plan by Concordia's next president.

Last week, in an interview with *The Link*, Graham expressed his disagreement with those concerns, saying of the graduate student issue, "I think it's good for all of us

if we could attract more good students for all kinds of reasons.

"Not just because they attract good faculty, but because they provide great role models for other students."

Graham also dismissed the possible veto of the plan by the new president, a possibility that had concerned some, saying, "The idea that the next president would come in and just veto or jettison the plan seems absurd to me."

Graham addressed a few comments to Senator Andy Filipowich, who had addressed the CSU Council following Graham's presentation.

"I attended that meeting in good faith," Graham said. "I was staggered to learn via Twitter, within moments of my departure, that a fully crafted motion, elaborate and obviously drafted before I ever set foot in that room, proposing that the CSU oppose the plan, was immediately presented."

Early in the meeting a motion proposed by students to table the plan for further consultation was voted down by administration and some faculty members.

"We were really hoping to get [the plan] tabled to January, but I think we managed

to make our point," said Chuck Wilson, a Senator and student in the Engineering and Computer Science faculty.

While students had some support from faculty members, they did face opposition from administration members, including interim Dean of the John Molson School of Business Alan Hochstein.

"In a way, I take offense to the students' belief that the faculty would make a plan that is counter in any way to the students," he said. "I think it's probably very difficult for students now to change their vote. I'm sure you're sort of bound by the vote. If I was a student, I would vote wholeheartedly for the plan."

Hochstein was rebuked by graduate student Senator Holly Nazar, who asked that he refer to the student members of Senate "as Senators, and not student Senators."

While the next step for the plan is for it to be voted on by the Board of Governors at their meeting on Nov. 17, Wilson said that students will be "hugely" involved in the implementation phase, should the Board approve the document.

"It's going to be up to us to make sure that things go through properly. That's going to be a big challenge for all of us."

HOLLER AT YOU



Journalists for Human Rights asked Concordia to scream it like they mean it on Nov. 4, as they hosted an event they dubbed Holler Day. The event featured live broadcasts from CKUT and CJLO, a free brunch in the CSU lounge, a women's rights workshop and self-defence club workshop. Speakers include Kenyan Parliamentary candidate Flora Terah (above) and Zuzia Danielski. Holler day ended with a 'Ladies Night' Dance Party at Reggies.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Exit the Eatery

Brochetteerie Rodos to Be Replaced by Condos

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO ENOS

The landmark Côte-des-Neiges restaurant Brochetteerie Rodos was still operating, as it had for 30 years on Queen Mary Rd., when the wrecking ball came for it in the early morning of Oct. 17.

Rodos' owner Christina Yotis was awaiting a judicial hearing concerning her eviction by condo developers, Allprime Property Inc. The hearing had been scheduled for October 28.

"I was surprised our federal MP, Mr. [Irwin] Cotler, didn't do anything here," said Yuri Bogole-

poff, a representative for the Snowdon Committee, founded to protect businesses facing eviction. "Businesses were destroyed. People lost a lot of money—they lost their way of existence."

Although the Snowdon Committee organized a petition against the demolition and collected 1,200 signatures, Bogolepoff said the petition "was received [by the borough office], but it was ignored."

Yotis was unable to comment on the situation because of current negotiations between lawyers on both sides of the issue. Developers refused to comment

and the city did not return phone calls by publication time.

Bogolepoff was at a borough meeting to discuss the changes and said it was "ridiculous, because they gathered all supporters [of the condo project]. I think it was [coordinated] by the gentleman who is in charge of Allprime."

A demolition permit was issued to the condo developers from the urban planning committee based on their argument that the building was falling apart and needed to be destroyed anyway.

Côte-des-Neiges resident Brianna McGrath said that the build-

ing did look a little run-down.

"I can't say that I'm supportive of putting up a gigantic condo, who is? But I'm all for improvements to the area," McGrath said.

Neighbouring businesses sympathized with the owners of the long-standing building. "For the people in business there, I feel sorry for them," said a man who asked to be identified only as Stanley of Toujours Fleurs, which has been in business next to Rodos for 14 years.

Bogolepoff warns that what happened to Rodos may only be the beginning for small businesses in the area.

"There are rumours that they are going to demolish other blocks too," he claimed, pointing to the city being able to make more money on taxes from condos as the cause.

The Snowdon Committee is calling for a boycott of the Pharmaprix and Subway restaurant that will open inside the condo building. They are also seeking to make preserving multiculturalism an election issue.

"Before the elections we will call on people to vote for politicians who care about them, and not just about developers," said Bogolepoff.

2010 Oct: Business owners at 4963-5019 Queen Mary Rd. told by Allprime Properties Inc. they need to leave in order to make room for condos.

2010 Dec: Russian language periodical, Nasha Gazeta, quotes the Régie du bâtiment as saying Allprime has no license for commercial activity on that section of Queen Mary Rd.

2011 April 30: Eviction Day!

2011 June 6: An official from the Urban Planning Committee says the condo project has been rejected. It failed to conform with by-laws and regulation.

2011 July 12: Last day the public can oppose demolition to the borough secretary.

2011 Aug 2: Demolition Committee meeting. Allprime secures demolition permit by showing pictures of a deteriorated 4963-5019 Queen Mary Rd. Snowdon Committee says the visible deterioration only happened after the evictions and that the structure is still sound.

2011 Oct 5: Director of the Urban Planning Committee, Daniel Lafond, okays demolition.

2011 Oct 17: Early in the morning 4963-5019 Queen Mary Rd is demolished with Christina Yotis's belongings still inside her restaurant, Rodos.

2011 Oct 28: Scheduled date for Yotis's judicial hearing to oppose demolition.

2012 May: Projected delivery date of new condos.

2013: Expiry of Rodos lease.





OCEANS IN '11

Climate change and exploitative harvesting of the oceans are causing declining levels of oxygen, fluctuating levels of plankton and depleting fish stocks—a serious blow to Canadian marine biodiversity. Jeffrey Hutchings, a marine biologist with a plan, spoke at the Concordia Science College Lecture Series on Nov. 3 to remind people that something isn't right under the sea. Out of the 635 species on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada "Species at Risk" list, one out of five live in our oceans.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE 101

"Understanding the [Israeli] occupation through the concept of [apartheid] is minimal," said Concordia professor Meir Amor, as he spoke alongside professor Julie Norman at Introducing Israel/Palestine on Nov. 3. The lecture was organized by Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and attracted an audience packed with both Concordia and McGill students. Rights. Amor is an Arab-Israeli originally from Morocco and a peace spokesperson who refused to serve with the Israeli Defense Forces.

BEST OF COMMENTS

"So... Who hired this guy? How come the CSU just noticed this now, weren't some of them on council/involved in student politics last year?" — NorthAmerican90 on the hiring of CSU Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein

BEST OF TWITTER

Concordia Provost David Graham liked our article about him, "Graham Gets Crackin'," tweeting at author and Current Affairs Editor Adam Kovac "@AdamJKovac Accurate and balanced reporting gets access. Nahmsayn? Good story."

Organizing an Occupation
The Nuts and Bolts of Victoria Square's Protest City



Rick Zaidi cooks up a storm in the Occupy Montreal kitchen, using all donated ingredients. PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

• ADAM KOVAC

At first glance, Occupy Montreal is a ramshackle series of tents, people and supplies. Chaotically spread out in Victoria Square, the center of Montreal's financial district, it appears to have no rhyme or reason. Of course, first glances can be deceiving. Like anthills, beehives, and the Montreal Canadiens' defence corps, what appears to be random insanity belies the structure underneath. Over the past three weeks an infrastructure has begun to take shape in Occupy Montreal. Although the movement challenges many of society's established principles, they are still governed by similar organizational ideas—there's a daily schedule that's posted on a large, white bulletin board, a sign that time still holds sway in the square. The Occupiers realize that in order to achieve the change they want, organization is a must, and to that end, a widespread assortment of committees has sprung up, including, among others, a Security Committee, an Action Committee, a Propaganda Committee—even a Philosophy Committee. When movements happen in a public place and encourages the free exchange of ideas and dissent against the status quo, argument is unavoidable. Thus was created the Occupy Montreal Security Committee, whose job is to deal with confrontations between Occupiers, which on a few occasions have resulted in violence. "There's a difference between liberty and respect," said Security Committee member Felix St-Laurent. "A lot of people in the camp don't understand that. [...] For a lot of people, liberty means doing whatever you want, even

if it doesn't respect the environment of someone." The Security Committee's work is compounded by the fact that some who take refuge in the tents at Victoria Square suffer from mental health issues. St-Laurent said that while most conflicts have been resolved peacefully, severe cases are proving more difficult to deal with. "Now, we're stuck with a couple of cases that are kind of difficult to move. We've got a couple of schizophrenics and [people with] psychosis that are not taking their medication. "We're going to ask the population, if you have any kind of [background] in psychology, can you come and help us out, because we're not [trained] for that. Even in our ideal society, you still need people to deal with that," said St-Laurent. It seems counter-intuitive that a protest movement largely based on the rejection of top-down authority would require committees to run things. But while there are anarchists in their ranks, according to St-Laurent, Occupy is not solely based on anarchism, but about finding a new philosophy and way of living. Committees alone can't run the camp, however. There is another important element: the willingness of people to give. Much of the necessities are donated, from the generators that run the lights and kitchen, to the Wi-Fi that keeps them updated on the Occupy movement worldwide, to the ingredients that make up the free meals that feed them. Even dessert is on the house. As his young children Joey and Sophie distributed free cookies near the General Assembly, Lawrence Oberfeld explained that it's important for people who can't stay at the camp to come help

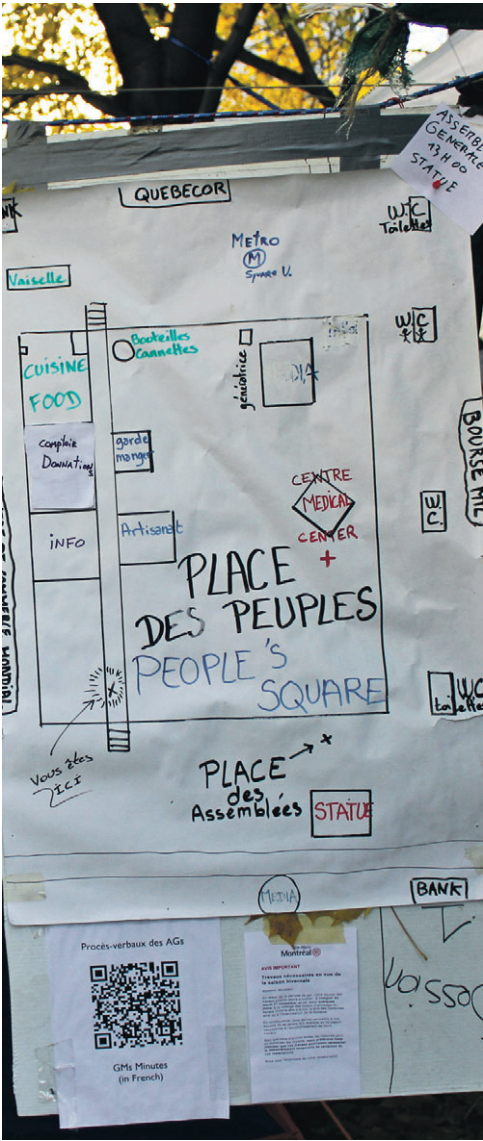
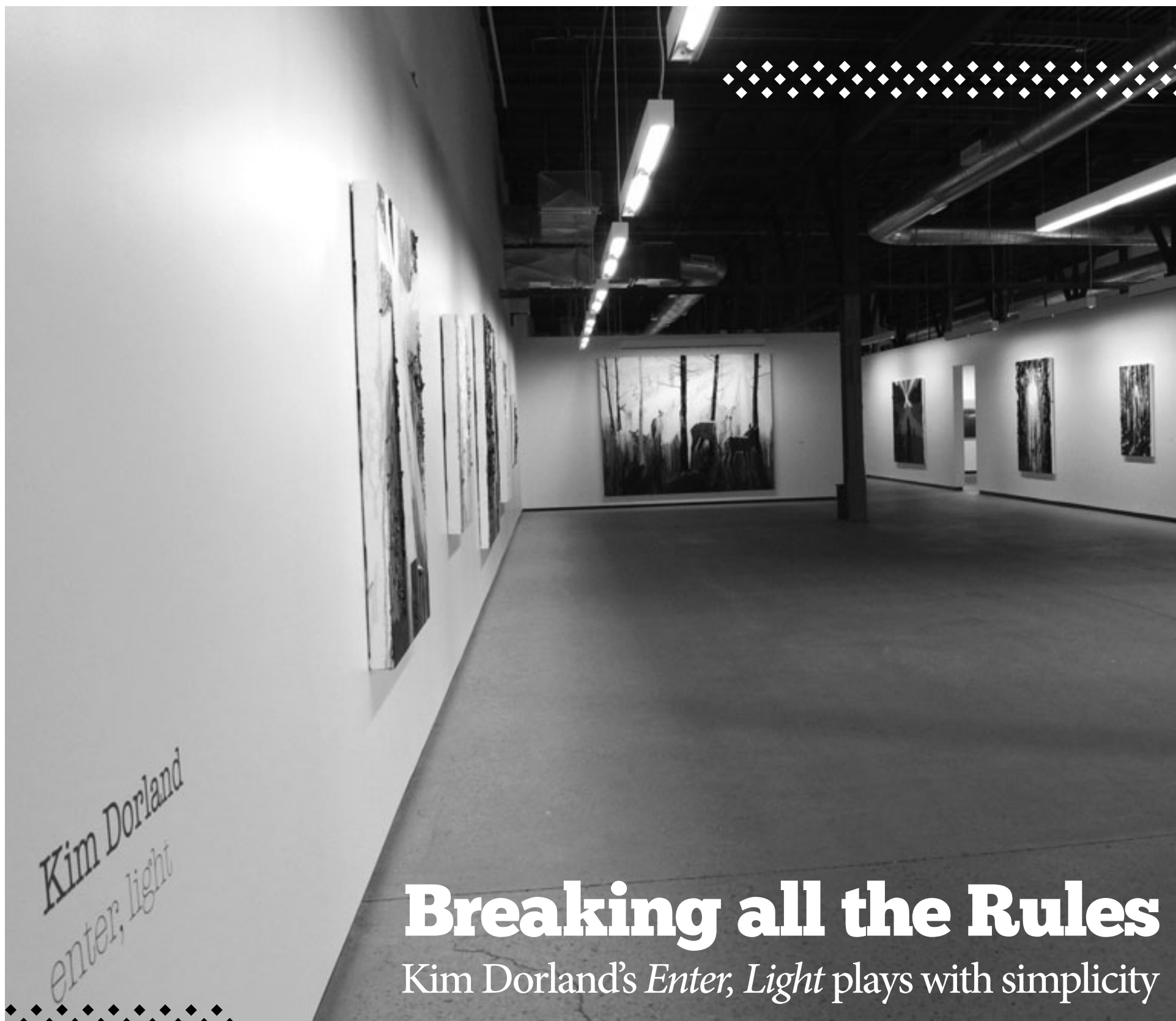


PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

out. "These people are doing good stuff. This is what we can do to express our appreciation." As he chopped an enormous amount of garlic, volunteer Rick Zaidi explained that food is prepared by whoever wants to help out, though he noted that there were four or five regulars. As for where it comes from, he said it's all donated. "It's different every time," he said. "We get food throughout the entire day. Some people bring just a small bag with a jar of peanut butter, some people bring boxes of fruits and vegetables. It can really be anything." When asked about a recent report printed in *The Gazette* that food was being diverted to Occupy Montreal from food banks, Zaidi's colleague William Ray jumped in and called the article "absolutely untrue." "That's a bunch of horseshit. We give food to food banks. You can see our storage facility here," he said, pointing at the messy stacks of appliances, spices and ingredients. "Not exactly hi-tech. We get more food than we can use, so we give it." Cookies and spaghetti sauce are a necessity for survival and for keeping the morale in the camp high as temperatures drop. They are not the point of the camp, however. All the infrastructure and organization that's going on doesn't count unless it's coming from a collective mentality. "People view the committees at the moment as a form of authority, but as I've said to people, if you get in the movement, you should be in a committee, so you can have your say," said St-Laurent. "If you're not in a committee, you're not implicating yourself. That's the problem, that's what we're saying to society."



Breaking all the Rules

Kim Dorland's *Enter, Light* plays with simplicity

• NATALIA LARA

A baby deer is looking at me, hidden behind a tree. He stands on the left side of the painting while four adult deer seem to disappear, invaded by light. Standing in front of Kim Dorland's *Clearing*, I ask myself whether the deer is waiting for something, or is he simply contemplating the human?

The notions of humans, wild animals and nature appear. Nature is more present than animals, and animals more than humans. In fact, there is something even more powerful than nature in his work: light. Bright light spreads from the back of the paintings, seeming to transform, absorb or vanish the subjects.

Is this a notion of the smallness of human beings in front of life itself?

Dorland illustrates Canadian wilderness in a personal and contemporary way. Although his paintings are about forests, we don't see a specific one. In an interview given to Robert Enright in 2007, Dorland said, "I think there are limitations in dealing with the space formally. For me it's about getting into the psychology of the place."

In his work there is a connection between location and experience, hearken- ing to childhood memories in Alberta. He reflects a Canadian identity in his work, past and present.

Applying a limited palette of black, white and saturated bright colours—fluo- rescent yellows, greens and some notes of red—the background is monochromatic and bright, thinly coated, whereas the foreground is thick and dark.

There's an uncertain spatiality,

background light reaching to the front, and trees seeming to go backward, almost existing in silhouette, strongly embodied in the thickness of the paint.

The process of painting is visible; the spectator can even see nails holding some masses of paint on the wood surface, like in *Yellow background Sunset*. There is a visceral quality in the way Dorland paints, but at the same time one can see that a careful and constant reflection is present throughout all his work.

Dorland's method goes against many rules. As painting students we're told not to use the colour of your paint right out of the tube and to mix it first to have a wide range of tones; create a dynamic composition, have a clear notion of the space in the pictorial plane.

If Dorland doesn't follow any of these rules, why then are his paintings so capti- vating?

The pictorial plane is inhabited by a *push and pull* of the space, background and foreground shifting continuously. This phenomenon creates dynamism al- though the composition is extremely sim- ple: parallels, verticals and central figures predominate.

Dorland puts into conflict our actual intuitive perception and pursuit of equi- librium and stability in the image. All his strokes are calculated, fighting against the impulse to seek perfection, with an "inter- est in disrupting the surface in some way [to give] a sense of restlessness."

Enter, Light / Runs until Nov 12 / Division Gallery 9 (2020 William Rd.)

Songs in the Square



Even Gumby thinks the current system is untenable.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Occupy Montreal Gets Musical

• ADAM KOVAC

Take it from me—playing a steel-stringed acoustic guitar when it's cold outside really sucks.

The skin on your hands dries out and becomes brittle. The knuckles on your right hand chafe pretty badly if you miss the strings with your pick. Hit those suckers hard enough, and it'll feel like you just banged your fingers into razor wire.

On your left hand, the steel bites into the tips of your digits. If you haven't played in a while, you don't have the calluses you'll find on any self-respecting axe-wielder. On a really cold day, the skin on your fingertips can peel back like an orange.

You have to be getting paid a pretty decent amount to make it worthwhile. Or you must have some pretty damned good reasons to be sitting in the dark on an early November night in Canada, strumming along and singing about peace and understanding.

And yet, as the sun set on Oc-

cupy Montreal on Saturday, as volunteers washed a motley assortment of dishes in soapy water, and others hunkered down after a lengthy march through downtown, frozen fingers bashed out chords in Victoria Square.

Numb palms tapped bongos, one guy took the 'more cowbell' meme and ran with it, and somehow, a PA got rigged up, and an electric mandolin was plugged in.

Welcome to Occupy Montreal: The Musical.

It would be trite to tell you about the long history of music in protests and social justice. If you think that Bob Dylan's "Hurricane" and "Blowin' in the Wind" are about the weather, bless your soul, but put down this newspaper and get back to your copy of LMFAO's latest tour de force.

Music has been playing an important role at Occupy sites around the Western hemisphere, from a rumored Radiohead Concert at Occupy Wall Street (which never materialized) to Rage Against the Machine guitarist

Tom Morello popping up at locations on both coasts (New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles).

It's keeping up morale, but also giving people something to rally around.

"Well, there's never been, in the United States, a progressive, radical, or revolutionary movement that hasn't had a great soundtrack," Morello told ThinkProgress.org. "The Civil Rights movement, the workers' rights movement [and up to] the anti-war movement."

While Morello has been working for the past few years under the name The Nightwatchman, performing folk-styled protest songs in the vein of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie, the music coming out of Occupy Montreal can be a bit less traditional.

"It's a song that everyone knows. Of course, there's some lyrics in there that can define a little bit why we're here," said David Lazcano of his spirited rendition of "Hotel California," which had people swaying and dancing in the

chill fall air.

"It's talking about plenty of room, plenty of places and beautiful faces. It's everything you see here."

While the connection between Don Henley's addiction to the Los Angeles high life in the '70s and the people huddled in the square seems nebulous at best, it's important to remember the first part of what Lazcano said—"It's a song everyone knows."

Essentially, the medium is the message. It's not the words that are important, it's the act of sitting around, singing songs we all know together. Other songs that night were equally apolitical. For instance, one woman sang a medley of "Stand by Me" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Okay, maybe there's a subtext to, "I'm just a poor boy, nobody loves me." Maybe Freddy Mercury was decades ahead of this whole 99 per cent business.

But I doubt it, and I'm not even going to guess at the political message of the bongo player dressed

like Gumby, or the guy who banged on a trash can during a march earlier that day in full Batman regalia.

That's not to say that the music of Occupy is going to be all Kum-baya, impromptu jams and half-rehearsed covers. When I told my friend Steve I was heading down to the site, he sent me the lyrics to a song he'd written after his own visit, entitled "Our Fellow Man." Turbulent times inevitably inspire good music.

While it's unlikely the Occupy movement is going to crack the Top 40 the way Hendrix, Marvin Gaye and Bob Dylan did with their proactive and pro-activist songs, that's not the point.

As Lazcano said, "This is going to bring some warmth to everybody. Everyone can stick together and sing for the evening."

It's dedication. It's passion. And when you're talking about fundamentally changing society, what's a few blisters when weighed against a more equitable planet?

Home Is Where the Beat Is

Adam and the Amethysts Light Up Their Sound



PHOTO CELIA PERRIN

• CAITLIN LEROUX

Fresh off what they lovingly call a “patchy string of fun Canadian tour dates,” local psychedelic pop-folk quartet Adam and the Amethysts will be returning home to celebrate the launch of their latest album, *Flickering Flashlight*.

The project, led by singer-gui-

tarist Adam Waito, is back to properly commemorate their second effort with a Montreal show after promptly hitting the road upon its release in early October. Released on Kelp Records, *Flickering Flashlight* is a three-year-long cumulative project of eclectic influences, recorded in Waito's home.

The album holds a dozen

sounds and stories of simmering nostalgic remnants, brimming with tales of new journeys through collaborative invention. The band started as a solo recording project, but has increasingly become a full-sized band.

Waito began working on the project in 2008 and has been weaving in new influences ever since. The band is constantly

reinvigorating their songs, so whether you hear them live, on wax or online, you'll find several sides to the evolving singer/songwriter.

“My influences are pretty eclectic,” he said. “The most recent album is informed by a lot of music from the ‘60s and ‘70s of various genres... like pop music, psychedelic music but not just that, the ‘80s, the ‘90s, now. Basically just trying to make music that I like, [and] all of these influences seeped in.”

The band's debut LP *Amethyst Amulet* was released in 2008 and reflected on Waito's hometown of Thunder Bay, ON. It captured what it was like growing up in Northern Ontario, what it felt like leaving home and then returning to it.

When asked about the overarching theme of *Flickering Flashlight*, Waito said, “It's more about being from a small town, being in a new strange city and struggling to find community and finally being successful at that goal. It's about getting through rough times with the help of your friends.”

Although Adam does most of

the writing himself, band members are later invited to reinterpret his work, creating a collaborative final product.

“Musical collaboration is really important to me and I think the future holds a lot more of that than historically has happened with Adam and the Amethysts.”

The band in its current form consists of cellist/keyboardist Rebecca Lessard, bassist Scott Johnson Gailey, drummer Jordan Robson Cramer and Waito.

Lessard “breathed a little bit of new life into [the songs],” said Waito, with her vocal harmonies and string performance.

Gailey contributes mainly to the live incarnation of the band and “has an interesting sensibility,” playing bass and drums in some songs on the record, while Cramer has previously worked with Waito in psych-synth poppers Miracle Fortress, his percussion skills making their way onto a few tracks on *Flickering Flashlight*.

Adam and the Amethysts / Nov. 10 (with Elfin Saddle) / La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)

What's Up, Doc?

Local Film Festival Moves to Its Own RIDM

• KELLY HEWITT

You think you're a film nerd? Talk to Charlotte Selb. In the course of the year, she said, she'll see about 900 films.

For Selb it's business, not pleasure—she's the director of programming for the Montreal International Documentary Film Festival, aka *Recontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal*.

RIDM was founded in 1988 with the goal of fostering a creative space for filmmakers to showcase their work, and the festival has since founded Doc Circuit Montreal, an organization that seeks to stimulate documentary production and distribution from Montreal, the continent's only bilingual market.

“We have a very important tradition of documentary in Quebec,” said Selb. “It's a pretty exciting area to make a documentary festival because it's very active and very dynamic.”

Running from Nov. 9 to 20, this year's festival will open with *Crazy Horse*, a 2010 documentary by Frederick Wiseman and close with *Tahrir, Place de la Libération*, a film shot in Cairo during the uprising in January

and February 2011. Roughly 120 films representing 32 countries will be screened over the course of the 12-day festival.

“We do a lot of programming trips throughout the year going to other festivals like Berlin [Globians Doc Fest], Cannes, Hot Docs, Cinéma du Réel. [...] We meet filmmakers, producers, we see a lot of films in that process. Then we open a call for submissions and we receive about 600 to 700 films,” said Selb—hence her heavy workload.

The festival is presented in three categories: the International Competition, the Panorama Series and the Retrospectives.

The official competition includes International Feature Competition, Canadian Feature Competition and International Short and Medium Length competitions, while the Panorama is separated into four series.

The Special Presentation features the biggest documentaries of the year outside of competition. The Horizons series includes films with political and social issues at the forefront. The films in the Eco Camera series deal with environmental issues. Finally, the Against the Grain series features films about underground culture.



GRAPHIC SEAN MCCLURE

“We focus on author point-of-view documentaries that have some artistic qualities, that show some innovative views in terms of craft and ideas,” Selb noted.

The Retrospectives will feature the work of Frederick Wiseman, Czech filmmaker Helen Trestikova and Danish filmmaker Jorgen Leth.

There will also be a number of tribute screenings, including *Salut, Richard Leacock*, a tribute to groundbreaking documentary

filmmaker who recently passed away.

Though the festival is a growing powerhouse on the international documentary circuit, it remains accessible—and innovative. This year, one of the juries will be comprised of female inmates from the Joliette Institution, Quebec's only women's prison.

“It's not a VIP, red-carpet kind of festival,” Selb emphasizes. “The type of filmmakers that are mak-

ing documentaries are really easy to approach. [...] Everybody can feel comfortable to meet people.”

Screenings are free for students on weekdays before 5:00 p.m. and all of the Master Classes and roundtable discussions are free (with the exception of the Frederick Wiseman Master Class).

For a full schedule of festival events, tickets and venues visit ridm.qc.ca.



YOUNG CIRCLES



Miami's Young Circles have their single "Ninety-Nine Percent" on Bandcamp, with all donations going to Occupy Wall Street. We chat with the band about their genre-bending fuzz/soul/folk sound and the power of protest music.

FRINGE FOODIE



"Its bright adjoining walls are adorned with buoyant graffiti, its main entrance nestled amidst overflowing vegetable planters, and its front patio bubbling with local school kids. Why the sudden outburst of life? Why here?" This week, Fringe Foodie checks out the NDG Food Depot.

WORDS MATTER

"We need to look locally or regionally for our own definition of Canada. Writers have not failed as they write from their own experience. Margaret Lawrence and W.O. Mitchell defined the Canadian West as Richler or Gabrielle Roy define Montreal, but neither duo defines Canada in its entirety; they can't create an ethos out of something that doesn't exist. Huckleberry Finn appeals to every American brought up on the idea of rugged individualism. We can't quite compete with that."
—Paul Oloff

WEEKLY SPINS



We review the latest from Coeur de Pirate and High Places.

A Metra Hive of Slush and Villainy

Get Lost in *Metraville's* Footnotes & Alleyways



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Jamie Popowich's *Metraville* is overrun with strange characters—and mysteriously proliferating banana peels..

• ALEX MANLEY

The modern city is a confusing, dangerous and ultimately illogical place—and the modern Canadian city, doubly so.

That core belief is the motor driving Toronto author Jamie Popowich's *Metraville*, which was released in October by Insomniac Press.

Though Popowich has refused to identify *Metraville* as a fictionalized Toronto—indeed, the city lacks the pointed Rob Ford-esque mayor that would really cement the send-up in the minds of readers—seemingly no aspect of modern Canadian city life goes un-mocked.

Crime and justice, city spending and budget cuts, politics, public opinion and even the weather are all absurdified to Kafkaesque degrees. *Metraville's* city court in particular sees a beloved judge dishing out strange punishments and banning offenders from owning shoes or pockets, or consigning their mothers to forced labour.

Kafka's not the only *auteur* that *Metraville* calls to mind, as the proliferation of footnotes, which often run onto a second or even third page, suggests

Popowich is familiar with the works of David Foster Wallace.

Closer to home, the strange, haphazard chronicling of a tragic city's bumbling feels like a spot-on prose take on filmmaker Guy Maddin's excellent 2007 fictiumentary *My Winnipeg*.

The sad tale of Tavis Stiker, *Metraville's* famous astronaut son trying to adapt to the infinite horrifying boredom of life post-space, meanwhile, recalls Jonathan Goldstein's *Lenny Bruce Is Dead*, with its deft balancing of wry humour and all-encompassing depression take up the bulk of the book's first half.

Popowich doesn't stay too long with any one character, location or narrative until the second half when we meet Julian Baxter, a failed, unionized criminal who gets the book thrown at his mom in Judge Stone's absurd, moralistic court.

Free to go despite his guilt, Baxter gets mixed up in worse and worse crowds as he stumbles around the city, looking for answers.

A roving gang of pickpocket children taunts him for having lost his mummy. His old crime boss offers him a severance package—and then steals it from him.

He narrowly escapes the wrath of a sidewalk meat vendor and a sadistic bus driver. And then he falls in with a ventriloquist and Armbruster, his dummy.

The pair are a darkly comic duo that Popowich treats so much like two separate people that it is easy (and pleasant) to forget that they are simply one man named Pokey throwing his voice and moving his hand inside a wooden puppet.

The dynamic between them is beautifully acerbic—a love pickled in the kind of hatred that can only come from years and years of failure on the local ventriloquist circuit—a place where critical and commercial success are, one imagines, hard to come by.

Their interactions, dependence and resentful, overwhelming friendship becomes indistinguishable from act, and is like Abbott and Costello doing Vladimir and Estragon by way of an old couple married 20 years too many.

Indeed, Armbruster survives Pokey's plot to get Baxter to help him kill his dummy once and for all, and the only means Popowich has to end the book is to have Baxter leave the two to their own devices, wandering off alone into

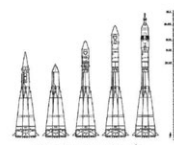
Metraville, looking for answers, missing his mother.

This city that Popowich has constructed is at once sprawling and personal, and everything in it is falling apart. The ground is covered in water and garbage. The alleyways harbour criminals and a man who has indefinitely prolonged his youthful appearance with a mysterious facial cream. Even the buildings are getting suicidal.

With its amusingly ironic font choices, at times haphazard multimedia approach and willingness to introduce you to concepts like "Ham the Metrachimp" and buses that are active repositories of various forms of human waste, *Metraville* is rarely pleasant, but if you're feeling like city life is getting the better of you, Popowich understands.

Metraville
Jamie Popowich
Insomniac Press
209 pp.
\$19.95

Metraville
Jamie Popowich





THE **LiNK**

le délit

NOV.

10

SPECIAL JOINT ISSUE

NUMÉRO COMMUN **SPÉCIAL**

Facts and Figures Behind Tuition Hikes / Faits et chiffres derrière la hausse des frais de scolarité

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the budget

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Un mot:

Le 10 novembre 2011, *The Link*, *The McGill Daily* et *Le Délit* se réunissent dans un effort de solidarité pour rejoindre les milliers d'étudiants québécois qui manifesteront dans les rues. Lors de la manifestation, les trois journaux universitaires distribueront le cahier spécialement conçu pour l'occasion.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que les journaux étudiants produisent ensemble un numéro spécial. La dernière collaboration a eu lieu en réponse au massacre de 1989 de l'École Polytechnique, lorsque les étudiants se sont réunis pour coucher sur papier leurs émotions et leurs pensées.

Cette semaine, encore une fois, nous joignons nos forces alors que les étudiants du Québec vont écrire leur histoire dans le long combat qu'est la lutte pour l'accès à l'éducation.

Le nombre d'étudiants en grève et dans la rue en fait foi: la jeunesse d'aujourd'hui n'est pas la foule apathique, non-participative et manquant de solidarité que les politiciens espèrent.

Demander une meilleure accessibilité à l'éducation entre dans la ligne de pensée d'un investissement publique à long terme. C'est un combat pour un système de financement juste et pour un investissement dans le futur. Les étudiants ont compris qu'ils ne peuvent plus jouer les bouc-émissaires d'un système en déroute plus longtemps. Un vrai dialogue est requis.

Le 10 novembre pourrait être le coup d'envoi des actions contre la hausse des frais de scolarité et le partage d'information et la collaboration étudiante, qui à ce point, représente un pouvoir essentiel.

Nos journaux encouragent chacun de se tenir informé au sujet de ces enjeux: lisez, apprenez-en davantage sur vos droits et parlez en autour de vous. Cela n'est que le commencement dans les négociations étudiantes pour un meilleur avenir.

En toute solidarité en ce 10 novembre,

The Link, The McGill Daily & Le Délit

** La position prise dans cet éditorial ne fait pas l'unanimité au sein du conseil de rédaction du Délit.*

A Word:

On Nov. 10, *The Link*, *The McGill Daily*, and *Le Délit* will come together and take to the streets in solidarity with thousands of university students across Quebec to distribute a copy of the special insert you're holding.

It's not the first time our student papers have been compelled to put out a joint paper. Our last collaboration was in 1989, after the Montreal Massacre at the École Polytechnique, when students "came together to put their thoughts and feelings on paper."

This week, we're joining forces as Quebec students are facing yet another historic moment in the ongoing fight to keep education accessible.

The sheer number of us declaring strikes and taking the streets on Nov. 10—over 100,000 were anticipated at press time—proves that youth today are not the self-interested, apathetic and non-participatory citizens policymakers hope we are.

Calling for accessibility to education recognizes the long-term public good. It's a fight for a fair funding model and for an investment in the future. Students have realized we cannot afford to be the scapegoat for a set of broken systems any longer and that real dialogue about alternatives at this point is mandatory.

Nov. 10 could very well be a tipping point in student action on tuition hikes. Sharing information and student collaboration at this moment is real and tangible power.

Our papers encourage everyone to get informed about the issues, understand your rights to strike and talk to each other. This is only the beginning of negotiating a better future for students.

In Solidarity on Nov. 10,

The Link, The McGill Daily & Le Délit

** This editorial does not have unanimous support among the members of Le Délit's editorial board.*

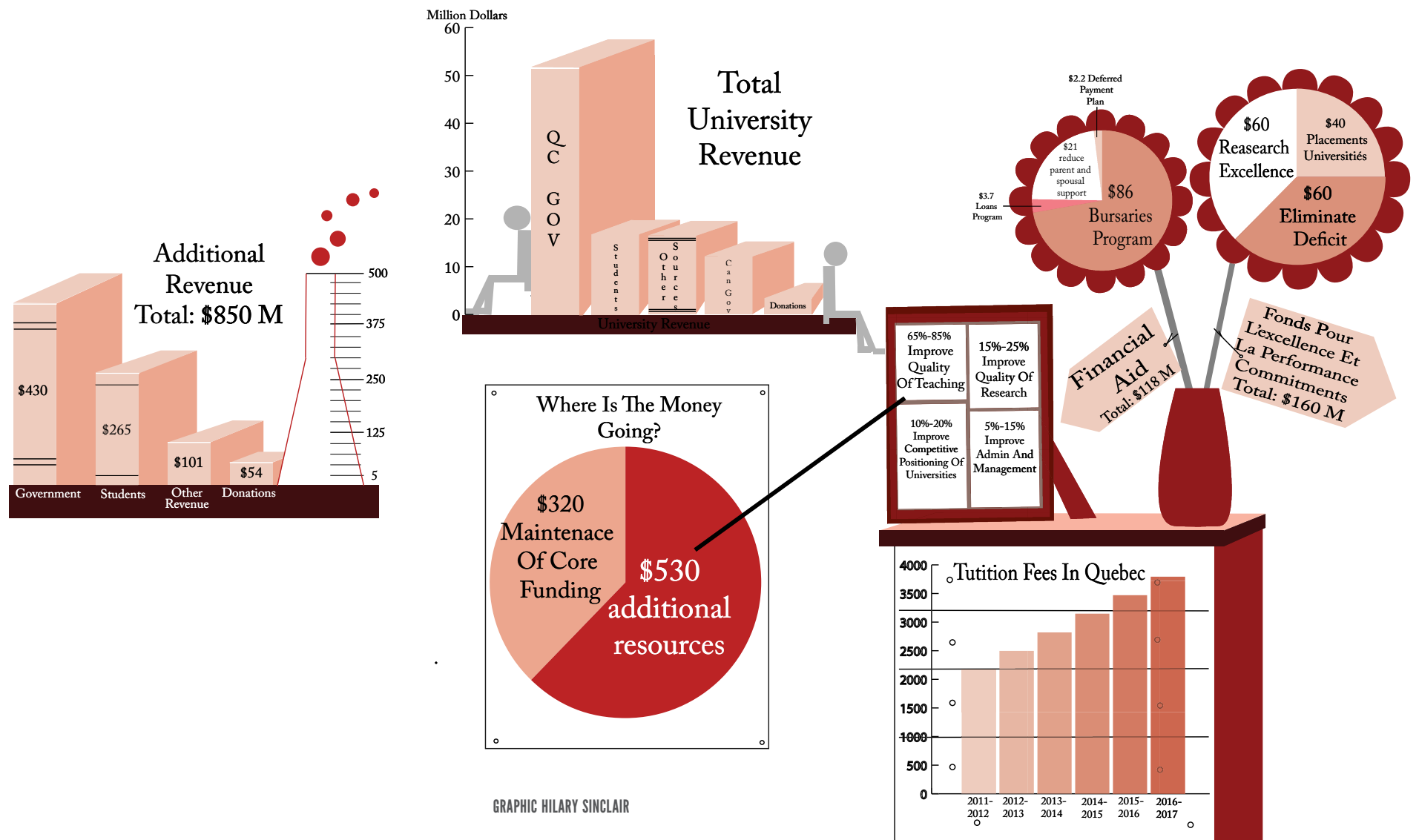
STATUS OF THE STRIKE

Université/University

Manifestation/Protest

Grève/Strike

UQAM	OUI/YES	OUI/YES
UDEM	OUI/YES	30 associations facultaires sur 82 ont voté pour la levée des cours. Certaines doivent voter la semaine prochaine.
CONCORDIA	OUI/YES	The Arts and Science students and the Graduate Students voted for the strike at their General Assemblies.
MCGILL	OUI/YES	No, but there is going to be a strike vote at the Faculty of Arts' (AUS) first GA, on November 8th.
UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE	OUI/YES	3 associations facultaires ont approuvé une levée de cours, 2 associations facultaires doivent encore voter, sur 11 associations.
UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL	OUI/YES	3 des 80 associations facultaires et départementales ont voté pour la grève (AEEH, AGEEPP-UL, AEEA-UL).
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À TROIS-RIVIÈRES	OUI/YES	Non (Leurs membres ont voté non lors de l'Assemblée générale)
BISHOP	PAS DE RÉPONSE/NO ANSWER	
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE	OUI/YES	Non (Il y a eu une journée de grève régionale le 12 septembre pour protester contre la hausse)
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À RIMOUSKI	OUI/YES	Levée de cours votée et approuvée
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À CHICOUTIMI	OUI/YES	Levée de cours votée et approuvée
CÉGÉPS/CEGEP	OUI/YES	20 CÉGÉPs, sur les 48 du Québec ont déjà voté pour la grève. 6 CÉGÉPs doivent voter le 7 ou 8 novembre.



Breaking Down the Budget

How the Government Plans to Spend Our “Fair Share”

• HILARY SINCLAIR

—THE LINK

There are a lot of numbers flying around when it comes to the debate about tuition fees in Quebec right now—numbers like \$1,625 and \$325 and \$850 million.

But what do they actually mean? Before asking an entire province to go on strike against tuition hikes, it's important to understand what the numbers are saying. What does almost doubling our tuition get students?

In March, the Quebec government released “A Fair and Balanced University Funding Plan,” a document that called for students to pay their “fair share” of education costs.

To “give Quebec the means to fill its ambitions,” the 58-page budget outlined four key goals required to meet university funding needs, “fairly redistribute” the cost of education, ensure accessibility and “introduce performance commitments to improve quality of education.”

Crunching the Numbers

Tuition fees in Quebec have gone through two ice ages. From 1968 to 1991, fees were frozen at just over \$500 per year for full time undergraduate students. They rose to \$1,630 until 1994, and then remained frozen until 2007.

While restructuring tuition, the government also wants to close the province's \$483 million deficit. To do that, the government plans to raise more money from students and individuals. This arrangement hinges on “access to additional revenue of \$850 million in 2016-2017.”

How are they going to spend all this extra cash? The plan details \$530 million worth of programs slated to improve the quality of teaching and research.

More Money = Higher Quality?

Meant to keep universities accountable to the government, each school will develop and publish its own targets. In 2014, the province will conduct an in-depth review of the results. If targets have not been reached, the university is required to draft an action plan to help reach these goals... for a second time.

The budget also outlined “performance commitments”—five-year agreements between the province and universities that allow Quebec City to oversee how the new money is being spent.

The government expects schools to double donations by 2016 but hasn't come up with a plan to stimulate fundraising—except to match donations to individual institutions.

The province can only reach its goal of providing universities with \$850 million in extra money if \$54 million of that comes from donations. For that to happen, universities must increase the amount of donations they receive by eight per cent annually until 2017.

Currently, the government gives universities \$0.25 for every dollar donated, up to \$1 million per institution, and with a province-wide cap of \$10 million. The new plan will eliminate this ceiling.

But according to Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec President Martine Desjardins, universities in Quebec—and particularly francophone institutions—are already struggling to raise donations.

“When you ask for 20 per cent for each university, you know the

big universities can raise that from different groups, but in other regions, you cannot even raise 10 per cent. I think they won't be able to do it.”

In 2010, Concordia received \$8.9 million in donations.

The plan will give \$0.50 per dollar to universities with 15,000-plus students and will match smaller universities dollar for dollar. If they fail to reach the eight per cent goal, however, universities only get \$0.25 per dollar.

Target Taskmaster

The budget also established the Fonds pour l'excellence et la performance universitaire, a body which is intended to make sure that funds are spent properly and targets are met. With a \$160 million mandate to ensure universities raise donations by eight per cent annually, the Fonds has a lot on its plate.

Despite clear purposes to match donations, eliminate deficits and support research excellence, the budget doesn't detail the body's administrative costs or explain who will oversee its operations. Without someone to keep an eye on things, how can the province guarantee how student money will be spent?

A Fair and Balanced Plan?

While some features of this budget could benefit students and improve the quality of post-secondary education, many questions remain.

There are questions like why the tuition levels of 1968 were so optimal that we should return to them, questions about who is going to oversee the distribution of funds and questions about what real motivation universities have to make performance deals with the province.

When a budget is drafted that directly affects students and is supposed to help students get a better education, it would not be unreasonable to assume the government would be eager to defend and promote its plan.

That is not the case, however. Despite numerous interview requests, the Ministry of Education and Finance Ministry were unwilling to clarify aspects of the budget.

It is your choice to strike on Nov. 10. Consider the numbers and make an informed decision. At the end of the day, are we getting what we are paying for.

—with files from Andrew Brennan

Tuition Timeline

Student Mobilization Against Quebec's Tuition Hikes

— Compiled by Erin Hudson,
The McGill Daily

**Feb.
2007**

The Charest government announces an end to the historic freeze on tuition fees in Quebec, and announces a \$100 increase per year for the next five years, at increments of \$50 per semester, for a total of \$500.

**Sept.
2008**

Concordia's Board of Governors succeeds in raising tuition for international students by \$1,000 a year, after four failed meetings, including a meeting of questionable legality in June. Concordia students gather to demonstrate outside the meetings in March and September.

**Aug.
2009**

About 50 student protesters calling for free tuition occupy the office of the Vice-Chair of Quebec's parliamentary committee on Labour and the Economy. The three-hour occupation of the office of Gerry Sklavounos, Liberal MNA for Laurier-Dorion, is one action in the day of economic disruption organized by the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante.

**May.
2010**

Concordia's Graduate Students' Association founds Angry Week, a seven-day festival that aims to inform the community of the implications of tuition fee increases for Concordia students.

**Jan.
2011**

Led by ASSÉ, students at Université du Québec à Montréal, Université Laval, Université de Montréal, and Université du Québec à Chicoutimi stage sit-ins at their rector's offices due to prospective tuition hikes.

**Dec.
2010**

Over 60,000 university and CEGEP students from across the province demonstrate in Quebec City against the second Rencontre des partenaires en éducation, a meeting of provincial government ministers, university administrators, and student and labour unions.

**Nov.
2010**

Students at CEGEP du Vieux Montreal are locked out of their college for five days starting on November 20. The lockdown comes as students prepare a week of mobilization against the Charest government's planned tuition hikes. The week of student action included strikes, sit-ins, and an outdoor bed-in.

**Sept.
2010**

Accompanied by demonstrators, Concordia's Graduate Students' Association, in protest of tuition hikes for international students, presented two motions to the Board of Governors along with a 2,700-signature petition.

**Mar.
2011**

55,000 protestors gather at Place du Canada to demonstrate against Quebec Finance Minister Raymond Bachand's provincial budget. Riot police surround and arrest ten people on charges of conspiracy and possession of weapons. After 55 hours of detainment, nine are released without bail, and one on a bail of \$500. Conspiracy charges are dropped.

**Mar.
2011**

Bachand announces the 2011-12 provincial budget, which includes tuition fee increases of \$325 per student every year for five years starting in September 2012, for a total increase of \$1,625.

**Mar.
2011**

Dozens of students, led by ASSÉ, occupy the Montreal office of the Quebec Ministry of Finance, while approximately 100 students demonstrate in the building's entrance to protest impending tuition increases. Thirty students affiliated with the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec occupy the Minister for Natural Resources' office in Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean on the same day.

**Mar.
2011**

Student and student-faculty associations at 11 Quebec post-secondary institutions participate in a provincial day of action organized by ASSÉ, FEUQ, and FECQ. The one-day strike includes over 2,000 students marching, with seventy demonstrators staging a sit-in at the Montreal offices of the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec. The demonstration ends in five arrests and a police riot squad firing stun grenades and pepper spray at unarmed protestors.

**Oct.
2011**

Hundreds of students protest in Quebec City outside of the Quebec City Convention Centre where 2,000 Liberal party delegates are gathered for the Liberal Party Convention. The protest's theme is "rouge de colère"—red with anger. Some students dressed in red and tomatoes were thrown at a poster of Charest's face.

**Oct.
2011**

Starting in Square St. Louis, 400 university and CEGEP students march through the Université du Québec à Montréal campus. The demonstration ends in front of the Arts building on the McGill campus.

**Oct.
2011**

Three-hundred students within the Coalition régionale étudiante de Montréal, a group including many Montreal universities and CEGEPs, demonstrate outside the Montreal offices of the Minister of Education.

**May-Aug
2011**

A group of between five and fifteen students affiliated with FEUQ and FECQ pitch tents outside the Montreal offices of the Quebec Ministry of Education, camping on weekends throughout the summer. Notable action at the campsite includes a dramatization in which the federations rented a bulldozer, dressed one student as Quebec Premier Jean Charest, and bulldozed over graduation caps. The hats had been filled with paint, staining the driveway outside of the Ministry.

Another Way to Pay

Student Groups: University Price Tag Doesn't Have To Rise

ANDREW BRENNAN—
THE LINK

With students energized and united by student unions and lobby groups against the Charest government's proposed tuition hikes, funding alternatives—like free education, or at least reasonable fees and better governance—are being proposed.

But adequate funding alternatives will require a major overhaul, as well as an ideological one, to make this happen.

"It is a question of political will," said Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, communications secretary for the student lobby group L'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante.

"[The province] has the money to do it, but must decide where [they're] going to take it. From students already paying? Or, [from] where it is: big corporations and rich people."

Holly Nazar, of Free Education Montreal, similarly said there are "a bunch of places where taxes are practically non-existent, or actually are."

Citing figures from research think-tank L'Institut de recherche et d'information socio-économique, Nazar indicated that increasing taxes on the financial capital of banking institutions from 0.98 per cent to 1.5 per cent would generate

\$271 million in revenue—\$6 million more than the funds to come from increasing tuition fees.

According to IRIS, the provincial government lost \$950 million in potential revenue by cutting household taxes in 2007 that "especially favoured the most affluent individuals."

Since 2000, the Quebec government has implemented over \$5 billion in tax relief for corporations and individual incomes. A free-education model, according to IRIS, would cost \$700 million annually in funding to implement.

This is in addition to maintaining core funding, which the Quebec Government has valued at \$320 million in their proposed university-funding plan.

FEM calculated the cost to implement free education and maintain core funding to be \$1.22 billion annually, a mere two per cent of Quebec's annual budget.

More Accessible to Whom?

Nazar explained that policy in *la belle province* has recently shifted towards catering to economic interests rather than the public good.

"There is a perception that Quebec is socialist," said Nazar, "but we are looking out for the concerns of corporations and the rich, and we're even rewarding private money infiltrating into universities by offering them incentives to do so."

Though proponents of the tuition fee increase promise to maintain accessibility in attaining higher education training, this is double-peak, according to Nazar. Increasing tuition fees lowers enrollment, she said bluntly—no matter what.

"Just repeat the lie. Repeat over and over that accessibility won't suffer. Where's the evidence?"

In late October, the British Broadcast Corporation reported that following a £6,000 raise in tuition by the government for 2012, applications to English universities dropped nine per cent.

Desjardins said she also believes lower fees will result in a more-accessible education system, but that we must know all the facts before proceeding in any direction, which is why the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec is lobbying to continue the tuition freeze, so that policy makers, advocates and students alike have time to see the implications of changing tuition fees.

As she prepares for Thursday's province-wide demonstration, Nazar ultimately wants students to be more aware and united. If not, accessible education will not be possible.

"Concordia students need to realize that it's not about \$325 a [semester], it's about getting fucked over. I imagine many people can pay the increase, but that's not the point—many more cannot."

>>THREE OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

These propositions from FEM would have the wealthy help fund free education through higher taxes, while accounting for necessary funding. This would cost \$1.22 billion annually.

01

Immediately start taxing 100 per cent of capital gains, or the profit a company sees from their own assets such as stock and property acquisition, instead of just 50 per cent, which is the current policy of the province. This could create \$346 million in potential funding. Further, return income tax to pre-2007, yielding \$950 million.

02

Tax Quebec's \$346 million in capital gains and raise \$702 million from raising taxes by 1.4 per cent on the financial capital of banks to 2.4 per cent. In the second year, increase taxes on highest-income earners from 24 to 25.4 per cent, generating \$294 million.

03

Increase financial capital taxes from 0.98 per cent to 2.4 per cent, raising an additional \$702 million. Raise the taxes on the highest-income earners in this province from 24 per cent to 26 per cent—which would make for an additional \$420 million. This leaves \$100 million to be accounted for by other government funding plans already in place.

Les Échos du Passé

• ANABEL COSSETTE
CIVITELLA

—LE DÉLIT

Les manifestations qui débutent le 10 novembre 2011 n'ont rien d'une révolution. Il suffit de se rappeler la mobilisation étudiante de 2005 pour y entendre des échos familiers.

L'année scolaire 2004-2005 reste marquée d'un X dans le calendrier des manifestations étudiantes.

En réplique à une coupure de \$103 millions dans les programmes de prêts et bourses, l'insurrection étudiante ne s'était pas fait attendre: une grève de sept semaines et 230,000 personnes dans les rues avaient finalement eu raison de la tentative du gouvernement libéral qui avait rendu les armes et les \$103 millions en mars 2005.

CONTEXTE À COMPARER

Simon Grandjean-Lapierre, à titre de Président de l'Association des Étudiants du Collège Lionel-Groulx, était monté aux barricades durant l'année scolaire 2004-2005 pour contester les coupures.

Il se souvient du contexte politique de l'époque: «Le gouvernement était fraîchement élu de 2003, il n'y avait donc pas de grogne comme en ce moment, et certainement pas autant de protestations.»

Quant au contexte médiatique, l'une des plus grandes différences perçues par Laurent Gauthier, actuel Vice-Président aux affaires universitaires à la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, demeure dans la présence des médias: «En 2004, le sujet sortait moins dans les médias parce que le mouvement étudiant publiait moins de recherche».

En effet, en publiant des rapports chiffrés sur l'endettement étudiant, la FEUQ s'attire plus de partisans qui peuvent fonder leur engagement sur des faits tangibles.

L'influence des gains du passé

Récupérer les \$103 millions demandés, après sept semaines de grève, Simon Grandjean-Lapierre qualifie cela de «gain symbolique».

En effet, si les \$103 millions n'ont finalement pas été déduits du programme de prêts et bourses, «on ne faisait que récupérer l'argent qui nous appartenait, nuance-

t-il. De plus, le total en jeu était minime sur le budget du gouvernement».

Toutefois, d'après l'ancien président du collège Lionel-Groulx, le message était clair: la solidarité fait bouger les choses.

Pier-André Bouchard St-Amand, président de la FEUQ en 2004-2005 soutient qu'il y a eu autant de gains positifs que négatifs suite à cette grande manifestation. Le retour des 103 millions était évidemment très important, puisque c'était le fondement de la campagne. «Il y a aussi eu une prise de conscience collective. Les étudiants avaient l'impression de participer au débat civique.»

Par contre, la conviction d'avoir accompli une grande avancée s'est dissipée avec le temps. L'ancien homme fort de la FEUQ avait notamment l'impression que la jeunesse qui s'était levée allait prendre des mesures pour changer le paysage politique après 2005.

«Après huit ans avec les libéraux, on voit que ce n'est pas vrai. Les circonstances ne sont plus les mêmes.»

Les acteurs du changement

Si la communauté universitaire restera toujours contre toute forme de hausse des frais ou de coupures budgétaires, qu'en est-il de ceux qui ne sont pas directement touchés?

Le corps enseignant, par le biais de la Fédération Québécoise des professeurs et professeurs d'université s'insurgeait contre les coupures en 2004-2005 et s'inquiète encore aujourd'hui des conséquences de la hausse des frais.

À l'opposé, traditionnellement, la Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec, suit les décisions du gouvernement en place.

Le citoyen moyen, quant à lui, réagit différemment en fonction du combat mené.

«La société civile n'était pas impliquée de la même manière en 2005, puisque les coupures dans les prêts et bourses, soit l'aide aux plus pauvres, bouleversaient toute la société» tient à souligner Laurent Gauthier, Vice-Président actuel aux affaires universitaires de la FEUQ.

«Aujourd'hui, c'est un combat plus idéologique qui rallie les étudiants» souligne-t-il.

Pier-André Bouchard St-Amand

voit plutôt la hausse de \$1625 en cinq ans comme une stratégie en défaveur des libéraux en comparaison avec les coupures de 103 millions: «Lorsque le gouvernement a touché aux prêts et bourses, il a seulement atteint une parcelle de la population.

«Maintenant qu'il touche 100 pour cent des gens, il suscite un potentiel de mécontentement bien plus grand».

Et maintenant...

Pour ceux qui manifesteront cette année, Simon Grandjean-Lapierre y va d'un conseil: ne pas avoir peur des mythes et médisances politiques.

Par exemple, le gouvernement menaçait les étudiants en grève de retenir leur diplôme, de faire payer les sessions supplémentaires, etc. «Évidemment, ce ne sont jamais des choses qui se concrétisent» assure-t-il.

Il ne faut tout de même pas oublier qu'il y a toujours des limites à ne pas dépasser. «C'est correct de manifester, mais il faut faire la part des choses; l'acharnement des manifestants n'apporte jamais rien de plus».

Know Your Rights

The International Student Perspective on Prolonged Strikes

• JULIA JONES—
THE LINK

Being an international student in Quebec means you are required to be a full-time student every semester except the year you're graduating in order to legally stay in the country—paying, by far, the highest tuition fees in the province.

As of next year, it could get even worse. If students decide to go on an indefinite general strike in 2012 over the winter semester, international students could stand to lose over \$10,000 in tuition fees.

If the union holds the vote for a strike early enough and students drop out of winter classes in preparation for a strike semester, international students in support of the strike can choose to either take the hit and lose the semester, or to take the semester off and go back home.

As Nov. 10 approaches and students prepare to fill Montreal's streets in protest of a \$325 yearly increase for the next five years, international students can say they've done less for worse.

At Concordia, international students' tuition has been increasing by 35 per cent a year since 2005-2006, including unannounced hikes for all international students. It increased by 50 per cent for John Molson School of Business gradu-

ate students in 2009.

Currently, tuition fees for undergraduate international students in Art & Sciences can be over \$20,000.

With numbers this high, you would think international students would be the first to speak up against tuition hikes. But with more at stake than other students, they might be shy to come out and protest for fear of the consequences.

According to Nadia Hausfather, a Concordia graduate student and member of Free Education Montreal, a popular concern for international students is the loss of their study permits in the event of a prolonged strike.

"The only risk in terms of [losing their study permit] is if by chance a student had to renew their study permit during a strike," she said, however. "If that happened they'd have to prove that it wasn't their intent to join the strike, which they could easily do, so that's very minimal."

Another common misconception is that during an indefinite general strike, students wouldn't be registered for classes.

"[Being registered] is the power that [students] have—if they lose a semester, the whole entire system would be delayed by one semester," explained Hausfather.

"The whole point of [striking] is threatening the government with the risk of losing a semester. They will always threaten back that students will lose a semester. But of course neither students nor the government want to lose a semester."

This means international students can keep their jobs if they have an off-campus work permit, but in terms of on-campus jobs, it would be up to each student and the general assembly voting for the strike to decide whether students want to keep working.

Another misconception about student strikes is that since students have a union, they have academic amnesty and their transcripts will not be affected.

"Other than a democratic vote and a resolution, there is nothing that legally protects students who are on strike—at all," said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill.

"A binding mandate from an accredited student association puts a significant amount of pressure on the university administration to accommodate that, but there's no specific legal status to a student union that goes on strike."

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said that a student strike, even if prolonged, would not

change the university's routine.

"It will be business as usual at Concordia. Professors will continue to teach and students will be expected to attend classes; all academic requirements of a course remain valid and students are expected to fulfill them."

The same will apply for international students, even though the administration has not looked into the issue of legality of study and work permits.

Even more common is the misconception that students don't have to pay student fees while on strike. For very pragmatic reasons, students are not asked to refrain from paying fees. "It's hard to get everyone to not pay their fees, and then there is a huge consequence in terms of having to pay interest," said Hausfather.

To international students afraid of losing a whole semester's worth of fees, it can be helpful to look at Concordia's participation in previous strikes. Hausfather said that losing a semester is not something students should worry about.

"In the history of general unlimited strikes, students have never lost a semester," she said. "Students who had flights booked [made] arrangements with their professors to be able to take their flight home and still finish their work. Usually

the semester is prolonged for a little bit for people to catch up."

Despite international students paying higher fees than Quebecers and Canadians, the proposed increase of \$1,625 would be a much smaller proportion of international students' tuition.

"I can understand the argument that [a general unlimited strike] would be perhaps less convincing to international students," said Hausfather. "That being said, I know from international students that any increase—even \$30—is really difficult, partly because they're already paying so much extra."

Concordia administration, however, isn't buying the possibility of a prolonged strike come wintertime.

"There won't be a prolonged strike," said Mota. "From my experience, that has never been an issue at Concordia. When students do participate in a strike, it's usually a one-day strike, in solidarity; I've been here for 18 years and I've never seen a prolonged student strike."

Hausfather said she'd like to challenge students to prove Mota wrong. "Things are looking up," she said. "It depends on Concordia students and their ability to not only think about their own education, but the role of education in the rest of society."

Tuition, Participation Linked After All

Finance Minister Relies on Incomplete Figures for Arguments

• ERIN HUDSON—
THE MCGILL DAILY

Since the end of the province-wide tuition freeze in 2007, the Quebec government has held a strong position on tuition fees, stating that students must pay more to "their fair share" towards university funding, while maintaining accessibility to universities will not be compromised as a result of the increases.

On Sept. 22, the Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité financière aux études released an opinion on the increases, stating they were "worried about the possible negative effects of the hikes on the financial accessibility for current and future students to university studies."

Under the Loi sur le Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, the Minister of Education must consult CCAFE whenever changes are

made to student financial aid or tuition regulations.

Prior to the CCAFE's concerns, Finance Minister Raymond Bachand addressed accessibility concerns in a March speech when he announced the impending hikes.

"To those who fear this adjustment will act as a deterrent on university participation, I have this to say: there is no evidence of a link between university participation and tuition fees," said Bachand.

"In fact, in 2008-2009, the Canadian province with the highest university participation rate of students 20 to 24 years old was precisely the one with the highest tuition fees—Nova Scotia."

Philippe Lapointe, secretary of academic affairs for l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, spoke regarding about the government's denial of the relationship between university participation and tuition hikes.

"The principal argument used by the government to say there is no link between [tuition increases and student participation] is that they show the post-secondary statistics.

"They say, 'Look, in Quebec, we have the lowest tuition and there are fewer students at the university, while in the rest of Canada, there are higher tuitions and there are more post-secondary students,'" Lapointe explained. "Where this is wrong is that they do not include the CEGEP students."

Research conducted by the Montreal-based Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économiques challenges the numbers that show that Nova Scotia has higher participation rates while also charging the highest tuition fees.

Asserting Bachand's claim does not account for differences be-

tween the provinces' education systems, the IRIS believes the numbers "render ineffective comparisons that focus only on university participation rates."

Removing CEGEP students from the university participation figures disregards students seeking a vocational diploma and who opt for a college education rather than go to university, as they would have to in Nova Scotia, according to the research.

The IRIS also noted that Quebec's bachelor degree programs last three years, while the rest of Canada's bachelor programs last four, "artificially [raising] their university participation rate compared to Quebec's."

Mathieu Le Blanc, press attaché for the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, confirmed that the university participation rate in Nova Scotia is overstated.

Le Blanc also explained that research shows a large number of students attending university in Nova Scotia are from other Maritime provinces, thus raising the province's university participation rates.

IRIS researcher Éric Martin said that the relationship between tuition hikes and enrolment "has been confirmed in several different scenarios" and that Quebec's rate of postsecondary participation is 9 per cent higher than the rest of Canada's.

According to IRIS, the province's tuition fees—among the lowest in North America—have allowed 85,000 more students to pursue their education than would have been possible if Quebec's fees had matched the Canadian average.

For more information, consult tuitiontruth.ca.

Oui à l'excellence

• FRANCIS L.-RACINE—*LE DÉLIT*

La hausse des frais de scolarité n'est pas un objectif en soi. C'est plutôt un moyen pour que les institutions postsecondaires québécoises atteignent des standards d'excellence. L'enjeu essentiel reste donc de conjuguer la hausse des frais de scolarité avec le principe d'accessibilité des études postsecondaires pour tous les Québécois.

Le problème du sous-financement des institutions postsecondaires ne pourra pas être résolu uniquement par l'effort des étudiants. L'augmentation de la contribution étudiante fait partie de la solution dans le plan gouvernemental de financement des universités qui vise \$850 millions en 2016-2017.

Ainsi, le gouvernement libéral demande la participation des étudiants universitaires, mais aussi de l'ensemble de la société. Présentement, la contribution des étudiants à leur formation dans les provinces du Canada est en moyenne de 25 pour cent du coût réel; elle est de 12,7 pour cent au Québec.

La volonté du gouvernement du Québec de hausser les frais de scolarité est fondée sur une plus grande participation des étudiants à l'investissement dans leur avenir.

À la suite de la hausse des frais de scolarité, les étudiants contribueront à 16,9 pour cent du coût de leur formation, loin derrière la moyenne canadienne de 25 pour cent et loin derrière le pourcentage de la contribution des étudiants québécois en 1964-1965 avec 26,4 pour cent de leur formation.

Cependant, pour mettre un terme aux querelles «gèle-dégèle», le gouvernement du Québec et les acteurs de la société devront s'asseoir ensemble et décider d'un taux de contribution socialement acceptable de manière à ce que, dans l'éventualité d'une nouvelle hausse, elle soit absorbée proportionnellement au niveau de contribution fixé, sans désengagement de l'État.

Toutefois, il est primordial que tout argent supplémentaire versé par les étudiants soit réinvesti dans le réseau afin d'avoir un réel impact sur la qualité de la formation offerte. Prenons le plan de financement des universités de \$850 millions en 2016-2017. Le gouvernement investira plus de la moitié du montant à hauteur de \$430 millions.

Avec la hausse des frais de scolarité, l'effort

étudiant se chiffrera à \$332 millions; de ce chiffre 35 pour cent seront retranchés pour être directement investis dans le programme d'aide financière aux études, soit \$116 millions.

Ainsi, les étudiants contribueront à hauteur de \$265 millions au plan de financement des universités. Par la suite, \$101 millions proviendront des revenus additionnels des universités et \$54 millions des dons des entreprises.

Plusieurs nouvelles mesures seront mises en place pour accentuer l'accessibilité aux études.

Le gouvernement compte compenser la hausse des frais de scolarité pour les étudiants bénéficiaires du programme de prêts et bourses notamment par plus de bourses, une augmentation de l'aide financière, en révisant à la hausse la contribution demandée aux parents et au conjoint, et par l'actualisation du programme de remboursement différé.

Cependant, une autre solution d'accessibilité peut être envisagée. Celle de la Commission-Jeunesse du Parti libéral du Québec vise à s'assurer du respect du principe d'accessibilité en se dotant d'un mode de Remboursement Proportionnel au Revenu accessible à tous les étudiants.

Il s'agit d'une forme de remboursement des prêts étudiants fondé sur la capacité financière d'une personne à s'acquitter de sa dette.

En fait, il permettrait à n'importe quel étudiant de rembourser la différence entre ses frais de scolarité actuels et ceux qui lui seraient facturés après une hausse, seulement au moment de son entrée sur le marché du travail.

Le système du RPR donne plus de souplesse dans le remboursement de la dette et il réduit le risque d'étudier dans un domaine où la rentabilité ou la réussite est incertaine.

Le RPR est une mesure plus progressiste que le système actuel de remboursement des prêts étudiants et qui assurera l'accessibilité aux études supérieures pour tous.

En somme, si chaque acteur y met du sien, nous assurerons la survie et l'accessibilité du réseau d'éducation publique pour les générations futures. En allant dans cette voie, on s'inscrit sans aucun doute dans un mode solution et pas en mode manifestation!

Tuition Hikes Shall Not Pass!

• PHILIPPE LAPOINTE—
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY, ASSÉ

Great Britain, Chile, South Korea, the rest of Canada, and now Québec. The flood of tariffs threatens to drown every single island of knowledge accessibility to please the rising tide of knowledge merchandising.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the G20 and the right wing think-tanks join up to promote the ideology of private, student-financed education.

The concept of user as payer is described as a solution to the lack of funding for universities. However it's never pointed out that repeated tax cuts and the "income reduction" strategy used by neoliberal governments is responsible for the state disengagement in public university funding.

They also fail to address the reorientation of our universities. Universities are currently split between two models: one dedicated to teaching and academic research, and another dedicated to applied corporate research.

If the first model lacks funding and suffers from overcrowded classrooms, lack of teachers and aging libraries, it's because the second model overflows with income.

Before reinvesting massively in the universities, we should secure the use of the funds toward free public education. If it is essential that university education be accessible for everyone, it is crucial that it respects its original mission: education. Not only do we refuse to pay for a right, but we will not pay to benefit corporations.

Education is neither a luxury nor an individual investment. It's a right and a social choice. This hike, as well as the whole concept of tuition fees, spoils the accessibility to public education by imposing a material barrier between knowledge and students. It cannot and shall not pass.

Organize. Your student association is yours. Take it, participate in the general assembly, and if there is none, petition for one. Whatever your association is, make sure it is a democratic arena for discussion and decision-making.

Once this is done, get your association to work. A Mob Squad, an Anti-Tuition Council, or whatever name you want to give it. The important thing is that people hear what you have to say—and as often as possible.

Rise Up. On Nov. 10, stand up, walk to Émilie-Gamelin Park and join students from all over Quebec in an epic demonstration to express your opposition to the tuition hikes.

We have to be as numerous as possible. This is an ultimatum, the final notice to the government to say, "Hell, no!"

The demonstration needs to prove that we have the upper hand in the discussion. We need to prove that our potential for action is strong enough to flood Montreal's streets and overwhelm the government's policies. We need to show the population that we are resolute, that we are serious and that we aren't afraid to act to defend our rights.

Resist. Once we are organized and risen to send our ultimate message, we have to think about the next step. In the quite likely eventuality that the government does not bend, there's only one way to resist against tuition hikes—a general strike.

This winter we shall be prepared to occupy our campuses, disrupt the *status quo*, take the streets and reaffirm our opposition to the hikes. It is time to debate in your local general assembly if you are prepared to vote for a strike this winter and join thousands of students in a common cause for accessible public education.

Students, hear this call to organize, rise up and resist. This trend needs to be opposed everywhere. Facing this attempt to sabotage education, we have our answer—a general strike.

Probing the Propaganda

• JULIAN WARD & ANDREW SCHARTMANN—*THE LINK*

"With tuition rates expected to skyrocket, it's important for everyone to be informed about government cut-backs and tuition hikes," reads a pamphlet distributed by the Concordia Student Union.

We couldn't agree more, so we dissected the CSU pamphlet to test its accuracy. And it's a good thing we did! The document is fraught with informational errors—some vague, some misleading and others outright false.

The over 20 unsourced statements and statistics made for a difficult task, but this didn't stop us from unearthing many of the pamphlet's inaccuracies.

***EDUCATION IS A RIGHT! 30,000 STUDENTS WILL LOSE ACCESS TO EDUCATION DUE TO THIS TUITION FEE INCREASE.**

* If we stand together we can make sure that doesn't happen

This claim is supported by the following logic: If Quebec's tuition is raised to the national average, the province's participation rate will fall accordingly, thus eliminating 30,000 students. By the same logic, one would expect Ontario, which has the highest tuition rates in the country, to have the lowest rate of participation. This, however, is not the case.

***THE GOV'T ALLOCATES FINANCIAL AID UNDER THE ASSUMPTION A STUDENT CAN SURVIVE ON \$7 A DAY**

* Still today the program considers access to the Internet and transportation as a luxury expenses and does not cover it. Students are still graduating with massive debt.

This is entirely misleading. The statement reads as though the government is only giving out \$7 a day for all expenses when in fact the FEUQ document from which we believe this was taken says the government allocates \$7 per day for food only. This is also disingenuous because the source of this info is yet another FEUQ document, which itself isn't sourced.

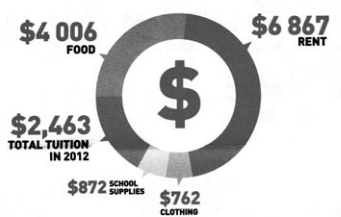
*** HIGHER TUITION FEES DO NOT EQUAL A BETTER EDUCATION.**

* In Europe, for example, tuition fees are low, but education remains excellent. Since 2007, Quebec students have seen their bill increase \$500. Is there a difference in quality of teaching, or class room sizes? No. On the other hand, presidents and upper management have seen a substantial increase in their salaries. Concordia alone has given out over \$2.5 million in severance packages over the past 5 years.

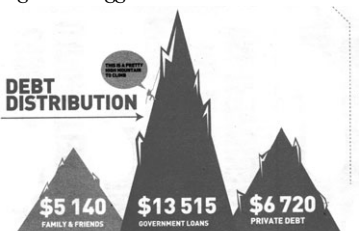
This \$500 increase affects ancillary fees, not tuition. Ancillary fees do not fund reductions in classroom size or improved teaching—to imply so is dishonest.

Also, tuition in Europe varies greatly from country to country; some provide practically free education, while others have quite high tuition fees (in comparison to the Canadian average). The sweeping generalization that a European education is "excellent" is also highly suspect. Prove it!

STUDENT EXPENDITURES BREAKDOWN (2012)



In 2010, the average yearly food budget for a student was \$3,294 according to the FEUQ. Even if the FEUQ's inflation rate of 4.8 per cent is applied over two years, the total is only \$3,618. And the price of tuition in 2012 is actually \$2,493. If the CSU cannot get the cost of tuition right, how can we trust the other uncited numbers? Also, who spends \$762 on clothing and struggles with tuition?



WTF do these numbers even mean?

For a full breakdown of the CSU pamphlet, go to thelinknewspaper.ca

To Strike or Not to Strike?

• COREY POOL—
THE LINK

The fight against tuition increases has finally come to a head, but a great divide still exists between students who understand the issue and those who don't.

Regardless of your political stance, in the next few days we all have to make a conscious decision on whether to join the movement or not.

Before we make that decision, we need to understand just where this movement is going, what our rights are as students, and what we can expect out of the next few weeks.



**Remember,
Remember, the 10th
of November**

On Nov. 10, tens of thousands of students from across Quebec are expected to descend upon Montreal to take part in what is shaping up to be a historical day of action against the provinces proposed tuition fee increases.

Students from nearly every university and CEGEP across Quebec will be rolling into town to march to Jean Charest's office

in a demonstration that intends to send a clear and unavoidable message to the Premier.

"This is a province-wide movement, a province-wide demonstration, and a province-wide campaign against tuition increases," said Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott. "Pretty much every post-secondary school across Quebec will be in Montreal [on Nov. 10]."

On Nov. 3, graduate and undergraduate members of Concordia's Arts and Science Federation of Associations officially joined the movement by voting in favor of a one-day strike mandate for the Nov. 10.

"[The strike mandate] is more of a symbolic gesture to the government to show that students really are starting to mobilize," said Nadia Hausfather, graduate student at Concordia and active member of Free Education Montreal.

"It's very practical because it encourages students to leave class on Nov. 10." Symbolic or not, a movement against tuition hikes carries no weight without student participation.

"Students need to understand that nothing can happen if they're not involved," said Haus-

father. "Any action and any general assembly that takes place will be nonsense without their support."

"Strikes are our strongest weapon," said Walcott. "They're really the only weapon we have as students to express our dissatisfaction with these issues. It's our means of applying pressure, and showing resolve."

It sends a clear message to the media, to the public, and even to politicians, saying, "Now we're pissed off, now we're missing out on school, and we're putting a lot of time and money on the line for change."



**Know Your Rights
(Or Lack Thereof)**

Earlier in the semester, a letter written by Concordia's Provost David Graham and approved by Interim President Frederick Lowy was circulated throughout various departments at the university. In it, Graham asks that faculty show "flexibility and leniency" toward students participating in the day of action on Nov. 10.

"[The letter] was not a request for academic amnesty," explains Graham. "I can't

authorize an academic amnesty, I can't demand or impose one, and the CSU is aware of that."

Graham points out that despite the letter, faculty are protected by their rights to academic freedom, which allows them full rights to refuse amnesty to students missing class for reasons that are not deemed legitimate by the university's standards.

"Individual faculty members have the right to decide what they're going to do, and how they are going to conduct their courses," said Graham. "As long as they are operating within university regulations I cannot, nor will I override that [...] It is [the faculty's] right to say no."

In short, this means that students are required to be in class on Nov. 10, strike or no strike. Unless you receive permission from your instructor that pardons your absence, you are responsible for whatever classes that are missed, and similarly responsible for the consequences.

"Students need to know that there is no official protection for them," said Graham. "They are free to behave as they wish, obviously within the limits of the law, with the knowledge that there may be consequences."



"Our Final Exam"

This Thursday is set to be a momentous event in the history of Quebec student movements.

With a head of steam gathered from successful movements like the student strikes of 2005, and rumors circulating that the government is already feeling the pressure of these movements, many are looking to the 10th as the stepping-stone to putting an end to these increases.

"Nov. 10 can be thought of as our final exam," said Walcott.

"If we pass it we go on to the next semester, and then more mobilization and more campaigning will follow. If we don't succeed on Nov. 10 then we fail, and that's it."

For Walcott, Concordia's reputation of activism and community engagement has been lost over the years.

"It's important that we bring that back," he said.

"The whole world is going through big changes, and this is a historical time, so why not get in on it? Things are happening."

Misallocation of Funds Not in Students' Interests

• HENRY GASS—
THE MCGILL DAILY

As tuition steadily increases, both the Quebec and Canadian governments are doing little to bolster student aid programs, with private and political interests converging at the expense of mounting student debt.

According to Students' Society of McGill University VP External Joël Pedneault, "There's no way to justify the current financial aid system in Quebec."

Pedneault argued the structure of Quebec's Aide financière aux études leads to the misallocation of millions of dollars of student aid.

Quebec students paying in-province tuition are eligible to take out loans from private banks and credit unions and have the Quebec government pay all interest on the loan until six months after the student's graduation.

"A huge chunk of the financial aid budget goes straight to banks, and when you think that the government could just be allocating that money straight towards universities to, for instance, lower tuition fees—which would mean that students would actually incur less debt—well, that means they wouldn't have to incur interest payments," said Pedneault.

According to a October 2009 study conducted by the Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économiques, in the 2007-2008 fiscal year the Quebec government spent 45 per cent of the AFE budget on interest payments to the tune of \$79.6 million.

Pedneault added that a large portion Quebec's promised \$118 million "reinvestment" in financial aid will come from new tuition revenue paid by students, 35 per cent of which the government is committing to financial aid.

The Quebec government's 2011-12 budget states, "Students must shoulder their fair share of the effort made in regard to university education. In addition, it is essential for the government that the implementation of the funding plan does not jeopardize students' access to a university education."

A Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec report published last month revealed that students will be financing 98 per cent of the government "reinvestment" by 2018, when this round of tuition hikes ends.

In turn, the report claims that Quebec's total contribution to the financial aid budget will drop from roughly 48 per cent in 2010 to around seven per cent in 2018.

"The provincial government is

currently trying to withdraw funding from the [AFE], as it preaches the importance of an educated population for the future of Quebec," stated the FEUQ report in French.

Another financial aid situation unfolding at the federal level involves the \$15 billion ceiling set by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act, which dictates how much money the federal government is allowed to distribute in loans to students.

According to Canadian Federation of Students National Chairperson Roxanne Dubois, the government did not expect to reach the ceiling until at least 2016. She said the expected date for passing the ceiling is now January 2013.

"It can only be assumed that some changes are coming down the pipes to the [act]," she said.

Dubois described three possible changes to the act: the cap could be increased, it could be removed, or the federal government could stop giving out student loans altogether. She said students would carry most of the cost for each option.

"If we're no longer giving out loans, [...] fewer students will be able to have access to that help to pay for their tuition fees," said Dubois.

"We also have to think about the

impacts of increasing the ceiling, lifting or removing the ceiling, because that money eventually is just passed on to the backs of students in the form of student debt," she said.

In an email to *The McGill Daily*, a spokesperson from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada stated that, "The Government of Canada will ensure that students continue to have full access to student loans, now and into the future."

The representative stated in October that regulation of the lending portfolio, as opposed to legislation, provides greater flexibility and makes it easier for the government to ensure students will have full access to loans.

"Obviously there's a more long-term solution, which is to recognize that the federal government has a role to play in guaranteeing a minimum level of access to post-secondary education," said Dubois.

One solution—the Canadian Post-Secondary Education Act—is currently being debated in the House of Commons.

"We would see [that act] as a framework that would give the federal government some guidelines as to where the provincial governments should invest the money that's going to education, to pre-

vent cuts to education from the provinces, and to ensure that we reduce tuition fees."

Dubois added she saw tuition fees as "the main barrier" to post-secondary education. "It's reason number one why people may decide not to pursue their [university] degree."

Both FEUQ and Pedneault claim that the province's recent allocation of federal funds relating to the termination of Ottawa's Millennial Scholarships Program in January 2010 is contributing to its withdrawal of AFE funding.

The federal government's decision entitled Quebec to \$70 million annually from the federal government. According to the same FEUQ report, however, the Quebec government has yet to allocate the funds directly to financial aid.

"The government's refusal to allocate the additional money paid by the federal government [...] has the effect of reducing its own contribution" to the AFE, stated the FEUQ report.

In an email to *The Daily*, a spokesperson from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada wrote that, "Since the province operates its own program, independent of the federal government, it is fully accountable for its spending."

New Club Going Off the Walls

Concordia Is Picking Up Racquets and Squash-ing Stereotypes



The Concordia Squash team practice their serves and hits at Club Atwater.



PHOTOS SAM SLOTNICK

• ERIC WHITE

Upon entering Club Atwater, with its mahogany staircases, carpeted floors and leather chairs, you would not expect to find one of Concordia's newest and most laid-back athletic clubs.

But this country club is opening its doors to the eager and curious players who have formed the Concordia Squash Club.

"People are surprised to find out how many people play and are interested in playing at universities," said Bernard Reid, a fourth year philosophy student and competitive squash player. Reid, who played for the Professional Squash Association and ranked 199th in the world in 2009, has thought about forming a club for the past few years.

It was not until he came together with Louis Marien, a long-time player, and John Fiset, who is new to the game but very enthusiastic about learning, that the club really came together.

For those who don't know what

squash is, it's somewhat comparable to racquetball, with many principals similar to tennis. Two players with rackets are in an enclosed court; one serves to the other and the ball can bounce off the walls, but if it bounces more than once, the other player gets a point. Games are up to 11 points, and sets are the best three out of five.

The club, which is technically not yet a club, has submitted a constitution and mandate to the CSU and is hoping to be approved within the next few months. That has not stopped them from playing though, as they already hold practices every Friday evening at Club Atwater from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The team has already competed in the Eastern Sectionals at McGill in late October in a tournament against Queens, Université de Montreal, and McGill.

The squad placed third, but had an exciting encounter with UdeM. Tied 3-3 on sets, Concordia edged 158-157 on points.

The Squash squad has definitely

been boosted by the arrival of Hussein Barakat—an international business student who was ranked in the top 10 at the under-19 level in Egypt, a country where squash is very popular.

Sadly, squash is no longer considered a varsity sport in Quebec, which is what has kept the club from obtaining the Stingers name. But this won't keep them from competing, with a crossover tournament in Toronto planned later this month and another tournament in January.

Despite squash's definite university following, the club's founders are still frustrated with the lack of awareness surrounding the sport. Even though the World Squash Federation reported that a whopping 20 million people in 142 countries play squash, people are still clueless.

"It's a great game and doesn't get enough exposure," said Marien. "You tell people you play squash and they're like, 'Is that that game with the walls?' It's somewhat frus-

trating but it's good. Everyone we've introduced it to so far loves it."

The club members are also fighting against misconceptions surrounding squash's preppy image. Reid said he grew up playing squash at his local YMCA, and that the sport is pretty relaxed. "The university scene itself is pretty indicative of it being a much more casual sport than people think it is."

For the club's founders, it's all about spreading awareness of a sport that they grew up with, and giving Concordia students a great opportunity to play squash. "We're really interested in anyone who wants to take it up and play," Reid said.

With over 15 people already showing interest, "hopefully that's indicative of people wanting to get involved with it."

Anyone is welcome to stop by the club's practices on Friday evenings, regardless of their squash experience, as the club's founders offer squash instructions at any level.

"We want to be able to offer some instruction and a way to meet other players and basically have more access to playing with more guys and more girls," said Reid.

Prospective members can come to two practices before deciding to officially join the club. Once a member joins, he or she will pay a highly reduced Club Atwater rate, special to the Concordia Squash Club. Members get full access to Club Atwater's facilities, in addition to discounts on food and drink.

And newcomers seem to enjoy squash pretty quickly. "I was told about [the club] and wanted to try something new and never played squash before," said Mackenzie Remington, a JMSB student attending his first practice. "I gave it a try, and had a blast. It's something really different. It's going to take a little while to get used to it but it's good."

Practice is every Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 at Club Atwater



Uproar in the Offseason

Twitter Fracas Calls for Football Head Coach to Resign

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

• ANDREW MAGGIO

With the season coming to an abrupt end at the hands on the Laval Rouge et Or this past Saturday, several Concordia Stingers football coaches and players are publically rebelling against long-time head coach Gerry McGrath.

According to the Twitter feed of TSN 990 radio host Moe Khan, a coaching change may be on the horizon for the football program as early as this afternoon.

Khan, who follows the team on a regular basis and commentates Stingers games on the radio station, revealed the first signs of discontent at around 2 p.m. on Monday.

"I just received word the exodus will begin with the #Stingers. There is a lot of toxic air right now surrounding the football team."

More tweets began to crop up on Khan's feed throughout the afternoon, as several anonymous sources informed him of the disturbances on the team.

"There are deep issues pertaining to the #Stingers. Some people have decided to move on," he wrote. "McGrath has burnt too many bridges with the #CEGEP teams. Coaches are sending the kids elsewhere."

"This is becoming something big," he later tweeted. "Another call I received from a player said 'if McGrath is back, I quit.'"

Another source allegedly wrote in, telling Khan, "No one can deal with McGrath anymore [and] it's time for a change."

While the Stingers season began with hopes winning a championship, the team was mired in a

long-standing quarterback controversy and was followed by consistently inconsistent play on both sides of the ball. This eventually led to a disappointing 4-5 record followed by an easy ousting at the hands of Laval.

Despite the reports, defensive coordinator Phil Roberts minimized the issue, stating other factors could have led to the player's frustration.

"The one coach I'm assuming that [Khan's] talking about [in his tweets] is dealing with some family related stuff," Roberts said. "That's why this particular coach is potentially resigning."

"Every year coaches leave," he added, explaining he'd spoken with another five of the coaches who anticipate to remain on staff next season. "You're working a job that doesn't pay all that much but forces

you to spend so much time away from your family."

Roberts also said that, while he's shocked about the controversy that's sprung up, he understands where some dissenting players might be coming from.

"When you lose, obviously changes have to be made, within the staff, within our method of coaching-the way we do things," he said. "We have to take all of that into account."

While he said he has no idea who Khan's Stinger sources are, he guessed "upset players" were likely the ones calling in.

"When you lose, young kids say things they may regret for a long time," he said. "[McGrath] is a huge family guy and he's there for the kids, big-time—he'll do anything for them."

"No one can deal with McGrath anymore [and] it's time for a change."

-Anonymous Football team member

When asked about the reports, some of the football players, who wished to remain anonymous, had some pointed comments on the subject.

"I can't confirm anything; we'll just have to see what the future holds," said one player. "Overall, [the controversy] is not good for the program. People will think we're a joke. I really don't like it."

"Everything has been speculation up until this point," said another. "We have a team meeting tomorrow and this will most likely come up. [...] No one is happy after going 4-5 in the regular season and then getting eliminated by a score of 33-7."

Coach McGrath and assistant offensive coordinator Bryan Chiu were unavailable for comment by press time.

Doggy Food Style

Montreal Business Follows Organic Fad

• MAUDE ABOUCHE

The gap between first and third world countries just got a little wider—organic food is now readily available for the dog world.

Growing concerns about the ill effects of processed food products and genetically modified organisms have consumers turning toward fresh and organic options for Fido.

For Montreal mutts, Nutrie-Balance is the answer. Offering an alternative to regular dog food is the mandate of Nutrie-Balance, a Montreal-based company whose products are made from regional meat and vegetables with as few processed ingredients as possible.

Owner and founder Liane Veronneau, 25, says her pet dogs Ruby and Luna are the inspiration behind the company, as their respective health issues prompted her to create her own homemade recipe.

"Ruby always gained weight very easily, so I started to make her food myself and I found that it became easier to control her weight and that her coat was shinier," said Veronneau.

Then came Luna, a Boston ter-

rier plagued with serious digestive problems. "Luna was very sick but when I started to feed her my own food, her health improved. I'd always wanted to start a business and I knew that was it."

The graphic designer-turned-entrepreneur consulted animal nutritionists and modified her original recipe to fulfill the nutritional needs of canines. The main product of the line is the dog pâté, which is sold frozen and can be fed to adult dogs of all breeds and sizes "as a substitute for canned dog food, as a supplemental feeding or simply as a tasty meal."

Scott Silverman, owner of pet supply retailer Nutri-Dépot d'Animaux, says customer response is great—and dog response is even better.

"Dogs love it. It's good for their health and we've had no problems with allergies," he said. Even dogs that stick up their muzzle at other food brands won't turn down the homemade-style cuisine, he added.

"It's wonderful for difficult dogs that sometimes don't even want to eat the high-quality products we carry. Maybe only one dog in 10 won't eat Nutrie-Balance, so we're

very happy about that."

While Veronneau admits getting her foot in the door wasn't easy, she's managed to quickly make a name for herself. Since the company was launched last October, it multiplied its number of partner stores from three to 26, located throughout the province.

Soon, the products will be manufactured, relieving Veronneau from the task of cooking enough pâtée and treats to supply these stores. A raw line, formulated to imitate what dogs would be eating in the wild, is in the making.

Concordia marketing students from the John Molson School of Business are collaborating with Nutrie-Balance to organize a fundraising event tentatively scheduled for Nov. 26 or Dec. 3, whose proceeds will be donated to an animal shelter. More details of the fundraiser will be posted on its popular Facebook page.

"We have a very active online community on our Facebook page, which has grown from basically my friends to more than 300 members," she laughs. "It's really fun and it's nice to see how people have been connecting with us."



Liane Veronneau poses with her miniature pinscher, Ruby, one of the inspirations behind Nutrie-Balance.

BEST OF THE
WEB

THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

CROSS COUNTRY

Sofiane Guend and Ryan Noel-Hodge of the men's cross-country team, along with Dominique Roy of the women's team, will be representing Concordia in the national championships this Saturday in Quebec City. With this upcoming race, Noel-Hodge is looking to receive All Canadian Honours from Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

FOOTBALL

The Stingers' postseason finished as soon as it began as the Laval Rouge et Or took a 33-0 lead into the final quarter of play. The game wasn't a total loss for ConU, though, as wide receiver Matt Scheurwater managed a touchdown before the game was over. Since 2003, the Stingers have gone 0-15 against the Rouge et Or.

MEN'S HOCKEY

ConU enjoyed a successful weekend, posting a 3-1 victory over Ryerson last Friday and a 6-1 victory over Queens Saturday. The Stingers will now take their winning record on the road to face the Nipissing Lakeheads and the Toronto Varsity Blues. The puck drops at 7:00 p.m. Friday, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Marie-Pier Remillard nearly stole a victory for Concordia's women's hockey team, stopping 38 of the 39 shots she faced last Sunday. She couldn't stop McGill Martlets forward Ann Sophie Bettez's shot, however, which proved to be the game-winner. The Stingers will start a three-game homestand beginning this Friday when the Ottawa Gee-Gees visit. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

Unreal but Unhealthy

Montreal Food is Great, But Calories are Costly



PHOTOS DAVID MURPHY

• LEAH BATSTONE

Montreal is known for its delicious, but unhealthy, treats from smoked meat, to poutine, bagels and crepes. The diversity of delicious food is what makes Montreal a prime location for gastronomy. But prior to fulfilling that poutine craving, it's important to consider the affect it has on a healthy body before scarfing it down. Raffi Marayan works at a supplement and vitamin store and encourages people to lead a healthy lifestyle. He said eating

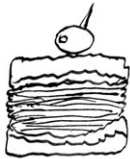
out is especially unhealthy for students, who tend to eat inexpensive fast food over pricey, more-nutritious meals. "The healthy amount of calories consumed depends on size and activity level," he explained. "A full-time female student who doesn't exercise regularly should consume around 1,300 calories a day. For males with the same activity level, it'd be around 1,700 to 2,000 calories." Other variables that affect healthy calorie consumption is your natural metabolic rate, the amount of energy your body needs to carry out

daily tasks and the calories needed for performing physical activities like running or lifting weights. "An average female student has three cans of Budweiser, three nights a week. That's conservatively drinking, but totals 1,300 calories. "Metabolism also decreases at night because your body's shutting down to prepare for sleeping. To burn those calories, this girl would have to exercise three to five hours weekly, doing intense, high cardio activity." Despite the irritating health facts, traditional Montreal meals

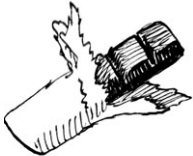
are supposed to be enjoyed sparingly, but enjoyed nonetheless. Sofia Shendi, from the website Food and Drinks in Montreal, believes eating out is important. "It breaks the daily routine and can send you across town just to try something special. I also think dinner parties at home are as important as eating out," said Shendi. "It's the joy of cooking and tasting with friends and family." Here are five locations that are guaranteed to satisfy your craving for grease or sweets at the expense of your arteries:



Another hotspot authentic to Montreal is La Banquise (994 Rachel Est). Open 24 hours, this restaurant has won awards for having the best poutine in Montreal and carries 28 varieties. It's a great place to get late-night grub. Unfortunately, a small poutine has over 700 calories and is nearly 50 per cent fat. The calories increase when meat or sauce is added to the gravy and cheese curds. However, La Banquise poutine is something everyone should try—perhaps just save it for special occasions.



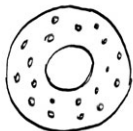
Schwartz's (3895 St. Laurent Blvd.) is Montreal's most famous smoked meat and steak house. It's been around for 80 years, which proves it's worth. Although a smoked meat sandwich with french-fries is high in sodium and cholesterol, a trip to Schwartz's is a must for anyone visiting or living in Montreal.



Juliette et Chocolat has three locations in Montreal to visit and indulge in sweet goodness. There are savory items on the menu, but everything else is chocolate based. With thick hot chocolate, alcoholic cocoa drinks, crepes, ice cream and rich brownies, it sounds too good to be true. Although chocolate isn't the healthiest option, it contains antioxidants and releases endorphins, so a trip to Juliette et Chocolat can easily be justified.



Cosmo Snack Bar (5843 Sherbrooke St. W.) is a legendary small diner. From the appearance, you'd never go inside, but after trying the food, you will not want to leave. Perfect for breakfast after a night out, Cosmo opens early every morning and serves omelets, toast, hash browns and more. Everything there is covered in saturated fat, but the flavor is worth every unhealthy bite.



For a taste of Montreal's famous bagels, try St-Viateur Bagel on St. Viateur St. in the Mile-End. Bagels are served 24 hours a day, seven days a week. According to the website, each bagel has 220 calories, which makes them less harmful than regular bagels. With plain, poppy seed or sesame seed bagels, St-Viateur Bagel is a perfect place to grab a breakfast.

GRAPHICS ERIC BENT

Getting Raped? There's An App For That

Government Should Fight Abuse With Legislation, Not Applications



“[These are]
powerful tools.”

—Vice President
Joe Biden

PHOTOILLUSTRATION CLÉMENT LIU

• LAURA BEESTON

Last week, the White House endorsed two new smartphone applications they've unveiled as part of “ongoing efforts to help better prevent and respond to sexual assault on campuses across the country.”

Hailing *Circle of 6* and *On-Watch*—“a new line of defence against violence,” the U.S. Department of Health & Human Resources, along with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, named both apps as the winners of their Apps Against Abuse contest held last July.

Offering a two-touch system for users to ask for help via text messages and GPS, as well as featuring “a pledge on Facebook to stop violence before it happens”—automatically sent to contacts upon download—the apps will be available for free in 2012.

“[These are] powerful tools to help women and men protect themselves and their friends,” said Vice President Joe Biden, adding the apps allow potential victims to

be “more empowered to prevent violence and sexual assault.”

Calling them “innovative efforts to address the issue,” U.S. Chief Tech Officer Aneesh Chopra was also hopeful that, with technological advances like these, “we will invent our way towards a safer society.”

Canned enthusiasm aside, it's understandable how and why these apps have been positively spun; young people thinking and communicating about their safety net is generally seen as a good thing.

However, some flagrant logistical problems suggest that White House has no damn clue what rape culture on campuses in North America actually entails, and what might be the most effective way of dealing with it.

If this is truly the most innovative effort from the White House to combat a culture of rape and sexual violence, I'm sorry, but it's just not good enough.

Seems to me that practical steps such as establishing a zero-tolerance campus policy that effi-

ciently processes cases of sexual assault, coupled with continued improvement to legislation and support for victims, might be a far better use of energy, time and money to curb this problem.

The data available on rape law in the U.S. also suggests historic gains have been made since a vigorous overhaul and update of sexual assault policy was implemented in the early 1980s. By 1994, incidents of reported rape declined by 60 per cent in the states, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network's data.

It's pretty clear the decline in reported rape has everything to do with a successful implementation of legislation—and *not* something as inane as an iPhone application.

The fact remains that 15 of 16 rapists will never spend a day in the legal system and, quite frankly, these apps aren't going to change that—but the White House, through better legal infrastructure, could.

If they were actually serious about these crimes, they'd get back

to the drawing board and make a freaking app to do something about their notoriously neglected rape kit backlog and get to work before declaring these dud-on-arrival bits of smartphone software the “innovative” winners.

The other thing it seems everyone in this project failed to consider is where rapes actually happen, and by whom. Can victims really be expected to or able to access their smartphones in time to prevent abuse? Moreover—considering who statistically commits rape in the first place—will they actually be willing to call in the perps?

According to RAINN, 60 per cent of reported sexual assaults in the US are committed by someone known to the victim, and 40 per cent of those are perpetrated by friends and acquaintances.

Is it realistic to assume victims are going to text their college friends if their college friends are the ones committing the sexual assault?

Probably not.

Most infuriatingly, though, is

the Vice Presidential rhetoric around “empowerment” of victims, which is based on the backwards logic that we should be teaching people to take additional measures to keep themselves from being raped instead of, you know, policy and education initiatives aimed at getting rapists not to commit rape in the first place.

This onus on the victim, not the rapist, is unfortunately nothing new and is prevalent in sexual assault policy across the world.

Instead of “empowering” people to prevent themselves from being harmed, the government ought to be disempowering those who rape—by getting rid of the loopholes in the legal system that allow rapists to walk free, ending victim-blaming and -shaming on trial, and getting serious about sentencing.

While the White House's application intentions may be good, it's about time that national policy about rape, violence and sexual assault be taken seriously.

There's no app for that.

No to Movember

Share the Funds, Shave the 'Stache

• ALEX MANLEY

The whole 'Movember' thing is cute and all, but can we stop and be real about it for a second? Movember is a movement to celebrate North American guys not practicing basic facial hygiene for a month in order to raise money towards saving a group of extremely privileged people—themselves.

Yes, if Movember was to raise money for people in third-world countries, for illiterate people, or homeless people, or for anything but what it is—which is privileged guys pretending they have it as hard as people with real problems—then it might come close to approaching something vaguely resembling worthwhile.

As far as I can tell though, the whole thing is just a really well-disguised tantrum that guys are content to throw to make it seem like prostate cancer research is as important as research towards curing women's cancers, or, say, getting food and clean water to starving people.

Let me be clear—I don't want anyone to get cancer. I don't think a man getting cancer is less tragic than a woman getting cancer. I think it's valid to want to raise money towards curing anything

that's killing human beings, and I appreciate the fact that the Movember movement is educating men with the intent to save lives.

But I'm realistic. Charity is often a bit of a zero sum game. People give a little money to one charity, and what's the result? They have a bit less money left over to give to others, and, perhaps worse, they feel good about their good deed—good enough that they don't have to feel guilty about not donating anywhere else.

The Movember people brag that their cause, fuelled by the Internet and well-meaning, well-to-do people, has raised \$176 million worldwide so far. Unfortunately, that's \$176 million taken away from more pressing issues in the world than prostate cancer, largely, I imagine, from individual donors, rather than governments or corporations.

It might not be much on the global charity scale, but ask yourself what that money could do to make a difference somewhere where people dying is a day-in, day-out matter of getting food and water or vaccines, rather than having a latex-gloved finger inserted gently into their rectum once a year.

Furthermore, it's worth mentioning that, as far as cancers go,

prostate cancer is not much of a cancer.

It's slow acting, and it has relatively low death rates. Men diagnosed with prostate cancer are more likely to die from something else than they are from prostate cancer.

It also affects North American men *way* more than anywhere else in the world, largely due to living and eating habits. Men in Detroit get prostate cancer at about 100 times the rate of men in Hanoi. One hundred times. That's not even close. Prostate cancer is a first-world problem.

Instead of not shaving, these Mo-Bros, if they were really concerned about the actual prostate issue, should consider exercising more and eating less red meat.

Perhaps Movember has become so popular because of the way we're treating it—like it's a cute little initiative worth supporting, like a child with a lemonade stand. It doesn't feel serious, because, let's face it, it isn't when compared to other problems.

Men, by and large, are doing okay for themselves. They're still out-earning women by significant amounts. Cancer doesn't exist in a vacuum—it affects the whole of a person's life. Disease aside, the



GRAPHIC PHIL WAHEED

richer a person is, the better their chances are, especially in countries where your cash inflow influences the quality of your care.

Men—or any privileged group—will have an inherent advantage when it comes to beating cancer and landing on their feet than more disadvantaged people.

So this November, let's not keep patting the Mo-Bros on the head and tolerating this childish self-involvement-fest disguised as selflessness and the propagation online and in the media of the inherent importance of North American men and their problems.

Guys—keep shaving. Educate

yourselves. Get checked. Be a man about it—don't act like you're hard-done-by.

There are a lot of people in the world who would trade your slight risk of prostate cancer for their serious risk of being raped, being killed, starving to death, or dying of preventable diseases. Prostate cancer is a hallmark of privilege. Deal with it.

And for everyone, if you're going to donate money somewhere this month—and I encourage you to—look around for a cause more worthy, that'll help some group that needs it more. I assure you, you won't have trouble finding one.

EGYPT AFTER THE ARAB SPRING

A View From Cairo

• MOHAMED HARFOUSH:
JHR CONTRIBUTOR

Almost nine months after Hosni Mubarak resigned, activists are saying that not much has changed in Egypt since the revolution. Human rights violations and the division of political powers are some of the main obstacles Egypt is facing during this period of transition.

"The army is mismanaging the transition stage and wasting precious time," said Said Sadek, a Political Sociology professor in the American University in Cairo. "Army generals want to secure their rights and interests in the future Egypt."

Immediately after ousting Mubarak on Feb. 11, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces took control of the country and pledged to hand over the power after six months to a democratically elected president.

However, the SCAF was reluctant to answer the demands of the protesters. Demonstrators thronged to Tahrir square almost every Friday, reminding the SCAF of its promises, eventually



urging it to step down.

On Oct. 9, armored military vehicles sped into a crowd of protesters, mostly Coptic Christians, to crack down on protests near Cairo's state television. At least 25 people were killed.

This was the worst violence seen since ousting Mubarak and fostered public doubt of the military's ability to steer the country peacefully towards democracy.

"The old regime is still controlling the state," said Mahmoud Abdelreheem, a political activist and freelance journalist. "The military council is composed of Mubarak's men who

do not want a radical change."

Abdekrehem is also concerned with the freedom of the media. "Media is still pursuing the same old regime's doctrine," he said. "Official media is controlled by the junta and private media is owned by Mubarak's loyalists."

Although political forces have become more active since Mubarak's ousting, they are fragmented, said Ashraf Rady, a political analyst and activist.

"The revolution did not lead to a substantial change in the political landscape," said Rady. "The political forces are still divided into four main political

camps: the national, the Islamic, the socialist, and the liberal, but new forces emerged in the last three camps."

The Muslim Brotherhood wants to assert their political domination but suffer from dwindling support after the emergence of these forces within the Islamic political camp.

Sadek said if the army generals, Islamists, secularists and liberal Copts reached a deal, "there will be a democracy. If not, chaos will prevail for some time before one force takes over."

Months after the world saw Egyptians joyously hoisting the red, black and white flag in the

air, they are still working to achieve democracy and stability in their country.

"It is very hard to forecast the future of political life in Egypt because of the lack of transparency," said Abdelreheem. "Indicators do not point to a real democratic change and the socio-economic base of the population may not change soon—which may lead to a deep disappointment."

This week, the interim government announced plans to draft the new constitution for Egypt, which would exponentially increase their political power.



Concordia on: Nov 10

• SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

It's finally (almost) here—the province-wide demonstration against the impending tuition hikes is slated for this Thursday. We took to the halls of Concordia to see if students will be out on the streets. Here's what they had to say:

"Yes, I will, because I think [tuition costs] a lot of money already. I would really like to fight against any tuition increase. I am from South Africa. [If tuition increases], it is pretty hard for me to be here."

—Celesté Jamneck
BFA Studio Arts

"Yes, I will. Well, first of all, just like anybody is going to say—education should be available for everyone. And, I also think that if you don't attend the protest, you are just going to leave the door open for the government to raise the fees more and more."

—Paul Gramatovici
BEng Mechanical Engineering

"Probably. I don't know for sure because class and school stuff sometimes gets in the way—but if I have time, I will go. I am almost done [with university]. [The hikes] won't affect me but some other people are going to be affected pretty badly by them. It's important for as many people as possible to go."

—Faiz Imam
BA Urban Studies

"Yes. Because I think [tuition increases are] a very huge deal. Maybe not for me but for other people. For some people it might make a big difference in that \$1600 could be used for something else—like food or housing, things that they usually need."

—Chyntia Sari
BEng Mechanical Engineering

"I haven't made up my mind yet, but I guess it depends if I'm really busy that day. If I have free time, most probably I will try to attend it—or, at least, try to get people to go instead of me. [The hike] probably wouldn't affect me that much but I'm sure there are a lot of people who will be really affected by the tuition increase, like people who have to work to pay their own tuition."

—Elena Porosnicenco
BComm Marketing

"Probably yes, because I don't want to pay more for college. I came from France because it was cheaper [in Quebec]. It wouldn't really appeal to me that much if tuition went up. I didn't go to England because they raised their tuition fees, so if they raise them here it wouldn't really work out for me."

—Eric Philippona
BEng Electrical Engineering

"I wasn't planning on attending but depending on if my friends are going then I'll be there. Personally, [the hikes] wouldn't affect me because I don't pay my own tuition, but I know some people who pay their own tuition and even a \$300 hike would affect them."

—Angela Burnatowski
BComm Accounting

Rationing Representation

SGM Strike Vote Excludes Students



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

• RILEY SPARKS

Since the recent Board of Governors bloodbath, it's pretty clear that the Concordia administration doesn't represent us—but as it turns out, neither does our student union.

Well, at least not *all* of us.

I was excited to vote at last week's Special General Meeting, where several hundred students called for a one-day strike on Nov. 10 in protest of the Charest government's promised tuition hikes.

But, as a fine arts student, I wasn't eligible.

As Concordia Student Union VP Advocacy Morgan Pudwell explained, only grad students and arts and sciences students would have their votes counted. The rest of us could "speak and participate," she noted.

We've heard that before. Like plenty of students, I was outraged when ConU President Lowy told us that Freddy-Kruegering student representation on the Board was no big deal, since "Having a voice [...] is more important than having a vote."

The admin—and Board Chair Peter 'We're Done' Kruyt in particular—seem to have more contempt for students in

their pinky fingers than the CSU on its very worst day. Still, the basic principle and misunderstanding of democracy is the same.

The CSU throws this word around a lot. But letting 48 per cent of undergrads speak for the other 52 per cent isn't even close to democratic.

CSU President Lex Gill explained that the decision not to call a CSU-wide strike was a question of logistics. "We've got six days left until Nov. 10 right now," she said. That's true, but it's not like the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante sprung this whole Nov. 10 thing on us. The fact that the CSU couldn't manage or be bothered to get organized and hold a general assembly over the past few months is worrisome.

The previous CSU, which included Pudwell, managed to do it with the WHALE back in February. They not only made quorum but also voted to lower it for future assemblies.

Look, it's not that I think the current CSU has just spent the past two months hanging out in their office, huffing spray paint fumes and obsessively re-watching the first season of *Game of Thrones*. They have done a lot of great work; the balloons were cool and the flood of posters around campus is

pretty impressive.

But a lot of that energy could have been directed towards calling a real, university-wide strike that would have raised awareness and gotten students stoked for Nov. 10.

And, for those of us in programs where we actually have to go to class—or fail—a strike would have put us on much more solid ground. In plenty of programs, students are heavily penalized for missing classes. It's ultimately up to individual professors to decide what to do with students who skip. So now, on Nov. 10, a lot of us will have a tough choice to make. We really could have used our union's help on this one.

I voted for Lex and Co. because I'm mad about tuition hikes and worried about the students who aren't going to be able to afford to go to this university, let alone complain about its Roman Senate-esque politics.

If I wanted to just party with the CSU and play beer pong until I puke my own body weight in Molson Ex, I would have voted for the blue slate last April.

But the way things are going, we're stuck with a pretty lame compromise. We're weak on the tuition front and I haven't puked once at a CSU-sponsored event.

What the hell?



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Keeping in Check

It seems like CSU presidents have historically felt a sense of dread on Tuesday mornings when *The Link* arrives on newsstands, but I kind of look forward to it.

The fact is, when we do good work, you report on it (thanks!)—and when we screw up, you call us out.

So I just wanted to say that we

appreciate keeping us in check in last week's editorial. Your piece mentioned that a bunch of our Council meeting minutes hadn't been uploaded to the website, and when I checked you were absolutely right.

The Council Chair and Secretary are both busy people, so it must've been one of those things that slipped to the wayside. Either way, they're

all uploaded now. A special thanks to Amir, our network administrator, for getting them up so fast. Happy reading, Linkies.

P.S. The proposed bylaw changes should be up by the time the paper comes up too!

—Lex Gill
CSU President

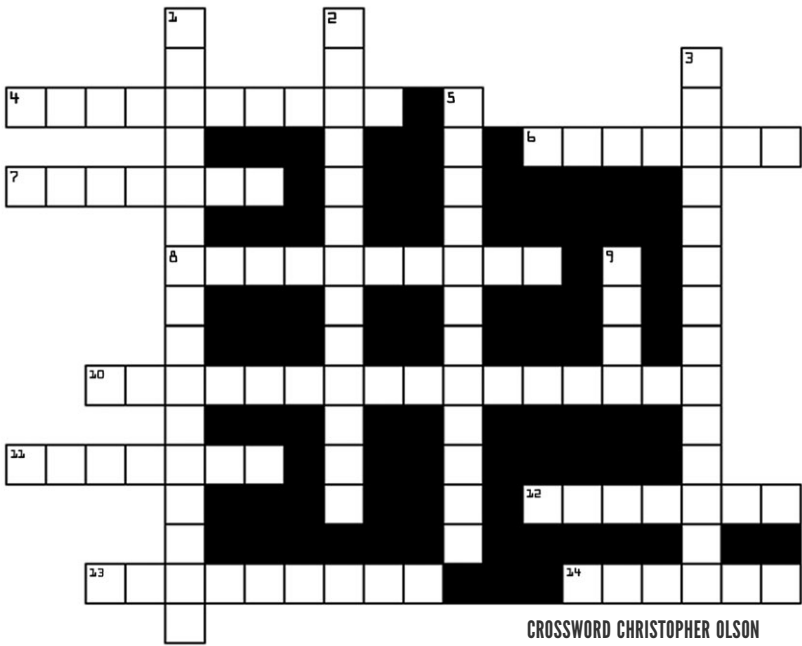
‘NICOLAS CAGE’

Down

- 1. At the risk of making this too easy, if you rearrange the letters in the title of this Cage flick you get ‘Torrential Nausea.’ I just had to share that. (2 words)
- 2. Cage plays a meteorologist. You know, a weather... er, guy. (3 words)
- 3. Cage raises a kid named after a state. That is the extent of what I know about this movie. (2 words)
- 5. Normally, seeing Nicolas Cage punch a woman in the face is funny, but him doing it in a bear costume makes it hilarious. (3 words)
- 9. Cage sees into the future—but only by a few minutes. I guess he can predict whether baristas will get his coffee order right.

Across

- 4. Nicolas Cage sells his soul to the devil, a familiar theme in his works, life. (2 words)
- 6. Cage sees into the future—via a close examination of a series of numbers.
- 7. Nicolas Cage totally escapes from Alcatraz prison. (2 words)



CROSSWORD CHRISTOPHER OLSON

- 8. Nicolas Cage plays the fictional screenwriter of the fictional movie he’s in, as well as the fictional screenwriter’s fictional brother.
- 10. The world’s biggest conspiracy-laden disaster meets the most conspiracy theory-loving director of all time and the result is... strangely patriotic. (3 words)
- 11. Cage shoots an 11-year-old girl in the chest. She learned an important lesson about body armour that day. (2 words)
- 12. Either Nicolas Cage is the best John Travolta impersonator in the world, or the screenwriter has a very poor understanding of what modern surgery can do. (2 words)
- 13. Cage illegally smuggles guns to foreign nationals. Look, he’s really deep in debt, okay? You would do it too. (3 words)
- 14. Either an airline decided to be cavalier about their intentions, or some prisoners hijacked a plane.

SHOOTING OURSELVES IN THE FOOT
Proposed Bill C-19 is Dangerous

• MEGAN DOLSKI

I’m having a bit of a déjà vu moment.

Three years ago I moved to Texas. On my first day at community college, my first class was public speaking and my first assignment was to give a persuasive speech.

So, of course, being the young lefty Canadian in a class of much older, very Republican, very Baptist, very western Texans, I gave a speech called “Shoot Tequila, Not Guns.”

I swear I wasn’t just being a shit-disturber—Texan gun laws actually scared me. I was utterly gobsmacked by the backwardness of the idea that my relocation had stripped me of the privilege of ordering a gin and tonic before I turned 21 and at the same time equipped me with the newfound ability to purchase, use and not register a gun.

But now, three years later, the Harper government has decided to take a walk down the Texan trail—so despite being back in Montreal, I’m about to reiterate a very similar sentiment.

The Conservative government has recently proposed Bill C-19, which, if passed, will terminate Canadian gun owners and dealers’ current obligation to register their weapon on a nation-wide database accessible to police.

Not only that, the bill will also permit the government to immediately destroy current gun-registra-

tion data—which apparently, they plan on doing in a hurry.

The Conservatives argue the registry was a \$2 billion waste of money—especially considering most gun crimes are not committed with rifles or shotguns, which the registry targets.

They further argue that of those firearms that were used to commit crimes, a significant majority was not registered to begin with. So, eliminating the possibility for them to be registered is the logical solution—duh.

The Gazette reported that 74 per cent of Quebecers and 60 per cent of Canadians are in favour of the registry.

According to Statistics Canada’s findings from 2006, firearms accounted for 31 per cent of all homicides in Canada, and 68 per cent of homicides in the US.

Oh, right, now I understand why we’re following the leaders on this one.

As of March 2007, nearly 2 million Canadians held valid firearms licenses for almost \$7 million registered firearms, according to StatsCan. I can’t even fathom why our government seems to think that \$7 million guns floating around should be treated as an “ignorance is bliss” type of scenario.

There is a small beacon of hope in that Jean Charest is opposing this bill. *The Gazette* reported if the bill were to become law, the premier would seek an injunction. For the first time, at least in print, I’d like to give the man some kudos.

The same *Gazette* article states the Quebec government hopes to maintain a gun registry, and is currently trying to get a copy of the database’s information from the Federal Government, before it’s too late.

But Charest, more than anyone, has reason to be concerned about gun laws—just look at Quebec’s history.

In 1989 Marc Lepine walked into École Polytechnique with a gun and shot and killed 14 female engineering students.

In 1992, Concordia professor Valery Fabrikant shot and killed four of his colleagues in the very building this article was written.

In 2006, Kimveer Gill shot and killed himself and 19-year-old Anastasia De Sousa at Dawson College.

Hopefully Quebec can use its past as incentive to lead the way in shutting down this bill—and incite other provinces to, at the very least, push for their own registries if the Conservatives manage to see this through.

I can honestly say I don’t know anyone that has ever been shot—not on purpose or intentionally, not in a mall, not in a grocery store, not in a school, in a war or on the street. I’d like to keep it that way—and I don’t think the Conservative Government’s decision to take away transparency surrounding guns is a step in the right direction.



The Tea Party

So, what’s the deal with teabagging? I mean, I thought I knew what it meant, but now I’m not so sure. Is it something people actually do?

—Tea Time

There are a few different definitions floating around and, although I never call it “teabagging” myself, whenever people use the term I assume it includes licking or sucking a male partner’s balls, placing them in the mouth or on the face depending on how you define it or like to do it.

Teabagging happens more commonly for sexual pleasure or, unfortunately, as a popular prank to an unsuspecting drunk/sleeping person. I don’t really get the humour in the prank version, but then again, I generally don’t understand most things 14-year-old boys find funny.

Since the prank is pretty self-explanatory, I’m not going to talk more about it and focus instead on the consensual act of teabagging, aka “givin’ the boys some love.”

So, yes, it’s something some people actually do. Like with any other sexual act, some people love giving it and receiving it, some people hate it, and you never really know until you give it a try.

For the receiving partner, the scrotum is packed with nerve endings that I’m told can make it feel really awesome. The easiest way for both partners to try this for the first time is during oral sex in whatever position.

Starting by giving the balls attention with your hands can be a good way to lead into it, since it will help give you an idea of sensitivity, enjoyment and make it a little less intimidating the first time around.

From there you can try licking, sucking, taking your partner’s balls in your mouth, pretty much anything. You can also alternate between your mouth and hand to gently massage during oral sex.

The most important thing is to be gentle in everything you do because not only is the scrotum extremely sensitive, but your partner is trusting you down there. (Remember last week’s column about rupturing testicles? Yep.)

It’s good to keep in mind that the same nerve endings that can make it great can also make it too sensitive for some guys, which is one reason some may not enjoy it. I think that this is all in communication between partners and how things are handled once down there.

I’ve also heard some people say that they feel it’s demeaning to take their partner’s balls in their mouth, but it’s my belief that sex acts are only demeaning if someone involved isn’t consenting or enjoying what’s happening.

It can also depend on how the act is performed, because for some people this comes down to power dynamics and mutual respect. It’s easy to assume that the partner taking the balls in their mouth is “letting it happen,” but I think that both partners can take on an active role and it’s all about how it’s done.

This is why I recommend it during oral sex with the receiving partner either lying down or standing up, as this gives both partners more control over the situation.

So while “teabagging” isn’t the best name, and teenage boys may have hijacked the meaning of it, the actual act isn’t really that odd. In fact, it’s a pretty common part of oral sex and many people enjoy both giving and receiving it. It may not be for you, and that’s your own choice, but I hope I was at least able to demystify it!

—Melissa Fuller

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

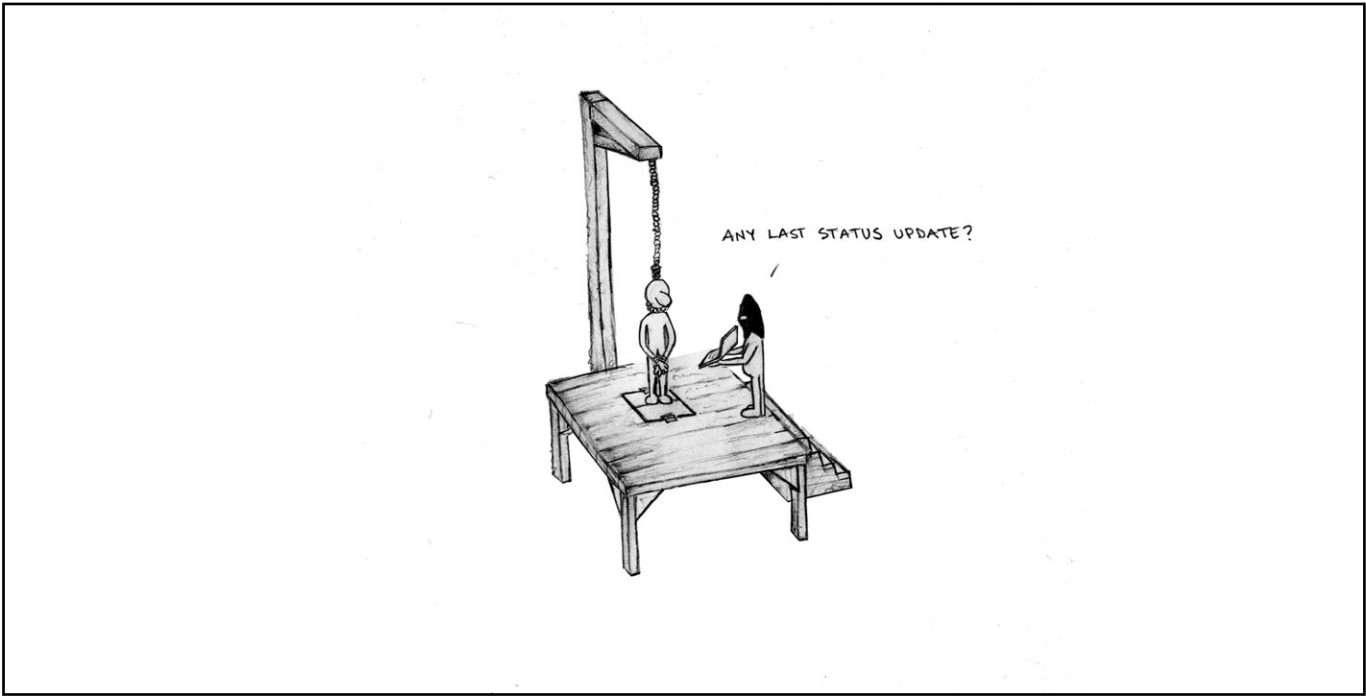
Tremendous Tales Barton Flats

by Christopher Olson

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Knowing he'd find it in the last place he looked, Dylan charted the earliest flight to Krakatoa in search of his missing watch.



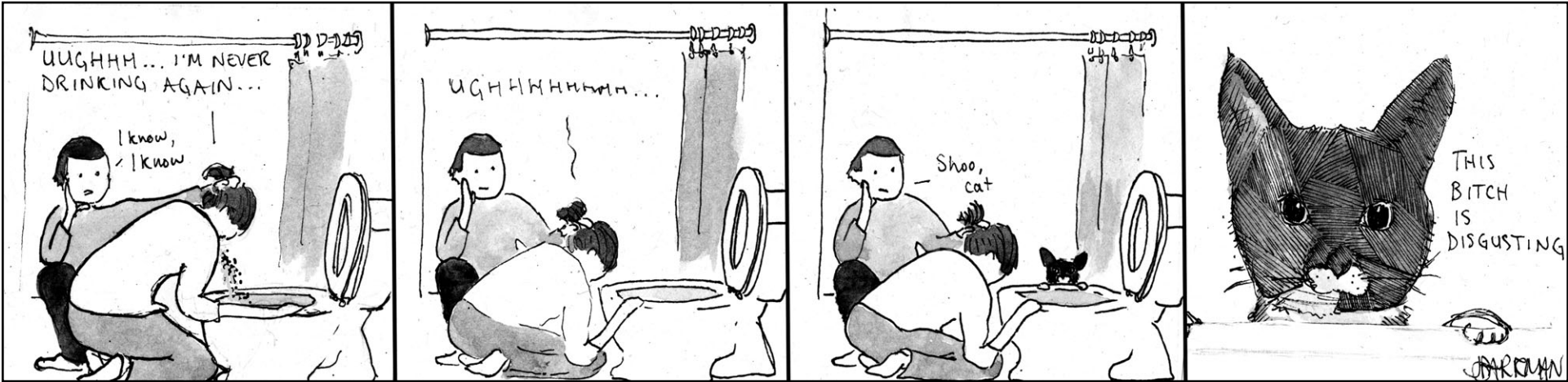
Living The Life

COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



False Knees

COMIC JOSH BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

Death-Hound

Forgive me if I'm pointing out the obvious, but the people who run Greyhound need to spend an eternity burning in hellfire while birds poke out their eyes and New York subway rats gnaw on their feet.

That may sound a bit harsh, but it would be a better fate than having to ride one of their buses.

Frankly, if the laws about this kind of thing weren't so damn strict I would have chucked quite a few infants out a bus window by now. Enjoy Interstate 93, baby!

To be fair to them, which is more than they deserve, I suppose Greyhound can't do much about that for the same reasons I can't, but don't worry—I can give you a slew of other reasons why the company sucks.

Take, for instance, the fact that their express buses take hours longer to reach their intended destination than your half-blind grandmother driving a furious 25 clicks per hour the whole way.

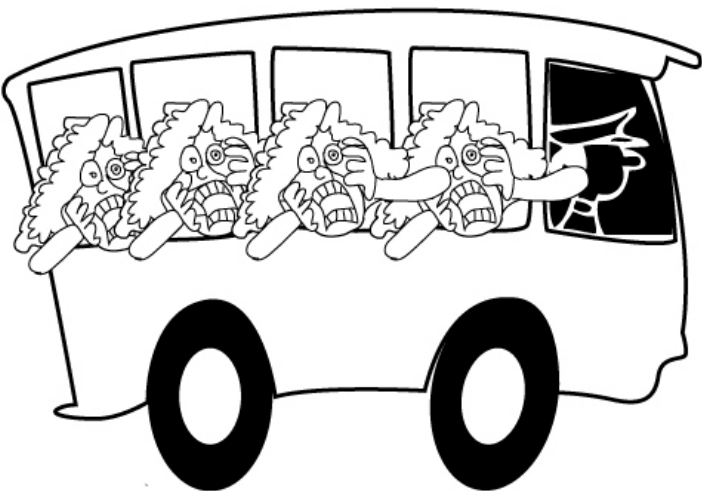
It's also their fault that the buses consistently smell of some sort of urine-blood-vomit-death milkshake. Seriously, even the Port-a-Potties at Osheaga smell better than a Greyhound.

But it's not until you enjoy one of their rest stops, particularly the lovely crack-den that is the Greyhound station in Albany, that you really feel your hatred for the company begin to fester.

It's as if they paid Eli Roth to design, build and cast the extras for the place and then said, "Nah, sorry. It just isn't quite as horrific as we wanted," and turned control of the project over to Eli Roth's evil twin.

Sorry, Greyhound, but I'll be walking out of this city from now on. After all, it'll probably take me just as long to get where I want to go.

—Julia Wolfe
Managing Editor



GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial cartoon

Gimme Your Money
And No One Gets
Hurt!



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Money Management

editorial

Let's put aside the philosophical principle that post-secondary education should be a universal right for a moment, since it's one of those things that you either agree with, or you don't. There's another side to this debate, one that's beyond ideological bickering. There is a blatant lack of logic, accountability and prudence in our province's financial management—or rather, mismanagement—of funds. It seems that, no matter where money goes in this province, public investments are coupled with chronic corruption, collusion and bad execution.

We could be talking about Quebec's infrastructure or construction projects, of course. Or, closer to home, we could be talking about Concordia's \$14 million in severance packages and \$1.4 million interest-free loans.

Money is wasted left and right in this province. So why is it surprising that students are unwilling to hand over any more cash, as our governments continually prove that they are incapable of adequately using it, keeping their promises or producing anything beneficial in the long-term? As long as Charest is in power, based on the precedent the Liberals have set for themselves, it's understandable that students don't think tuition should be raised—we simply don't trust the people that are asking for our money. Is it unreasonable we don't want to be paying "our fair share" when the system at large is one where, despite high taxes, the roads are crumbling and corruption and dishonest governance run rampant? Rather than confronting our skepticism, though, the government hasn't

exactly made itself available to clarify or defend its position. Though three student papers requested interviews with the Ministry of Education and Finance to explain their side of the story, none were granted. We did our research and still have outstanding questions about the numbers, logistics and implementation of these hikes. (Call us back.) If the government is asking us to fork over our money, again, isn't it justified we ask for some clarification as to where it's going and why? There's a lot of misinformation flying around on both sides of the tuition debate, which is why access is so paramount to understanding this budget and the rationale behind it. To start a dialogue about "fair" ways to

fund education, we need to be open to at least engaging with each other. To the provincial government, prove us wrong. Answer our questions. Give us good numbers. And let's start this dialogue. To students, this Thursday is strike one. Get out on the streets, and when you do, make sure not to forget your end of the deal. Know what's at stake, what you want, and what we stand to lose. Get informed about the issues, crunch some numbers, follow the money, get your facts in order—and prepare yourself for a proper public debate. Don't make us out to be shit-disturbers on Nov. 10. We're here to start something constructive. Someone has to.

—Megan Dolski
Opinions Editor

ISSUE 10 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

'REALITY SHOWS'

W I F E S W A P

T O P C H E F

H B I C H

T F

E M A Z I N G R A C E

B I P T R G O L

I L R H O O L

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S U R V I V O R

THE LiNK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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