



TENS OF THOUSANDS PROTEST TUITION HIKE • 4

PROTEST: THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS MARCH AGAINST HIKES • PAGE 04



McGill University students outside the occupied James Building were greeted with pepper spray-wielding riot police on Nov. 10.

PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Building Occupation Ends in Violence for Those Outside

Mayhem at McGill

• ADAM KOVAC

While the Nov. 10 Day of Action march wound its way through Montreal's downtown, action of a different sort was developing on the McGill University campus.

Tear gas, pepper spray and other physical tactics were used by members of the Service Policière de la Ville de Montréal during a several-hour-long occupation of the James Administration Building, leading to allegations of police brutality.

At around 3:45 p.m., 14 students entered the building, which houses the academic offices. Once inside, they made their way to the fifth-floor office of Principal Heather Munroe-Blum, hanging a banner from the window reading "10 NOV - OCCUPONS MCGILL!"

When security approached, some left the office for the reception area. Those who refused to leave were removed by security—via excessive force, according to the students.

While the Day of Action was exclusively about the proposed provincial \$1,625 per year tuition hike, the students in the James Building had additional concerns.

They said they were fighting corporate dominance of the institution, a lack of student and faculty representation in the school Senate and Board of Governors, and the school's drawn-out fight with their striking non-faculty employees.

In a document entitled "Letter from the Fifth Floor Occupiers," the group denied accusations that they had pushed staff members in the building, saying that the only violence that occurred was on the part of McGill security personnel.

"At no point did we ever threaten, injure, or intimidate anyone," the letter stated. "Everything you have heard about our violence is a lie."

In a message posted on McGill's website, Munroe-Blum said that employees were prevented from leaving the building.

The confrontation ended after a meeting between the occupiers and Deputy Provost Morton Mendelson. It was agreed that all involved would be given amnesty by the school, including not having any legal charges pressed.

While the occupiers avoided the riot cops outside, others on campus were not so lucky, including some who had wandered over from the Day of Action protest outside the nearby office of Premier Jean Charest.

Most of the marchers had dispersed, but some made their way onto the campus, where they were soon met by riot police. The SPVM had been called by McGill security. While only four officers were dispatched originally, they were soon followed by several dozen bicycle police, and then over 100 officers in riot gear.

Mendelson told *The McGill*

Daily that the riot squad had been called in by their colleagues, and not by the university. Four people were arrested, including two individuals confirmed to be McGill students. The arrests weren't the only fallout, however.

"I got a text saying that the James building was being occupied," said McGill graduate Sasha Dyck. "I came down, I joined in and I was very surprised to see police in full riot gear on my campus, and all of a sudden I got pepper sprayed in the face."

The McConnell Building, which is located close to the James Building and is situated near the school's entrance on University St., was flooded with students seeking relief from the pepper spray. Dyck helped one student who had been sprayed near the James building flush his eyes out with water from a fountain.

"I noted that we had pushed them back, they actually came back further, and then I saw this guy get pepper sprayed right in front of me," he said, adding police had tossed at least one flash-bang grenade at the students.

Many other students on the scene were just as incredulous, some of whom were not part of the march or occupation. Josh Redel is the head of McGill's Engineering Undergraduate Society, and got into a confrontation with several members of the police force outside the McConnell Building.

"This is where [the Society's offices] are, I have an event going on downstairs, and our offices are down there," he said.

"It's inappropriate that there's innocent people literally walking by trying to go to class, getting beaten with bikes [and pepper spray]. I yelled at them to get off our campus, which probably wasn't the smart thing to do, and they started hitting me with the back of their bikes."

"Then one cop took out his spray and sprayed it near me. They wouldn't let me into this building. I said, 'This is my building, let me the hell in.' They wouldn't let me until I pushed through, and then one [officer] was taunting me to come back out, because he had his pepper spray out."

Student Society of McGill University President Maggie Knight said police blocked off some buildings in the area, and they were not letting people in or out.

"There was a lockdown on a lot of the buildings around [the James Building], including the major engineering and arts buildings," she said.

"We had to help coordinate people getting the medical attention they needed for pepper spray, and trying to make everybody who has any physical injuries gets the help they need."

In her letter, Munroe-Blum tried to distance the university from any violence on the part of the

police, saying, "The situation outside, and the presence of the riot squad, which dispersed the protesters by its usual means, was entirely directed by the Montreal police service."

However, in a letter to the administration written by the McGill Faculty Labor Action Group, and delivered by its members and students on Nov. 11, the group accused the university of fostering a hostile environment that makes it complicit in the actions of the SPVM.

"We see these events as yet another move this academic year by the McGill administration that fundamentally dismantles the University as a safe space for non-violence, democratic practices and intellectual debate and that undermines academic integrity, freedom and scholarship."

"They follow on the treatment of the MUNACA strike and its supporters amongst workers, students and professors."

The letter went on to call for an inquiry into the incident, "Formal University and criminal reporting procedures for all faculty and students abused by McGill security and police," as well as the resignations of and legal action against members of the McGill administration who had approved the SPVM's presence.

Munroe-Blum promised a review of the incident, to be conducted by McGill Faculty of Law Dean Daniel Jutras.

▶▶▶▶▶ Students Out en Masse for Nov. 10 Tuition Protest ◀◀◀◀◀

Students United



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK



PHOTO RACHELLE FOX



PHOTO VINCENT YIP

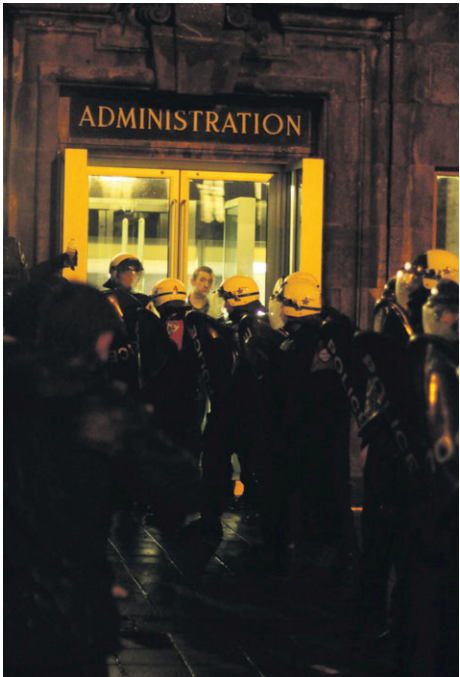


PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Students from all over Quebec, including Rimouski and Saguenay Lac-St-Jean, converged on Montreal for the Nov. 10 Day of Action.

• JACOB ROBERTS, ADAM KOVAC
& JULIA JONES

Red paint stained the flagpole and the ground. Vapour from a discharged fire extinguisher made the rainy darkness even gloomier.

Lightbulbs filled with more paint, smuggled into the crowd in emptied-out Pringles cans, sailed over the heads of those closest to the HSBC building on McGill College Ave., shattering against the ground.

A firework, shot from somewhere in the massive crowd, exploded inches away from an upper-level window.

The few cops who dared stand and face the onslaught retreated to the safety of the building, home to the office of Quebec Premier Jean Charest. All that protected the building from the crowd were a few student organizers, arms linked, yelling at the minority of people hurling objects.

A peaceful protest against the increase of tuition fees now teetered on the brink of violence.

Earlier that day, despite the rain, Concordia Student Union executives had gathered students from all corners of the campus onto the Reggie's terrace.

The Hall Building at Concordia was filled with students in face paint sporting the small but recognizable red felt squares that meant one thing: No Tuition Fee Increases. Protesters in the halls warned students in no uncertain terms that if they continued on

their way to class they'd be crossing a picket line.

The mezzanine and Java U grew packed with students seeking shelter from the rain and waiting for the procession to start because they simply could not fit outside.

As volunteers from the People's Potato distributed falafel sandwiches, the numbers swelled into the hundreds.

Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill and VP External Chad Walcott spoke to the crowd, preparing them for a day of francophone slogans. "People from Rimouski and Chicoutimi are coming," said Gill. "It's gonna be epic. We're all gonna practice our French today!"

"Qu'est-ce qu'on veut?," shouted Walcott to the anglophone crowd. "Le gel!" they shouted back.

As students swarmed down Mackay St. and then eastwards, the crowd grew bigger and stronger—and their French grew clearer.

By the time the Concordia contingent merged with their McGill counterparts at the corner of McGill College Ave. and Ste. Catherine St. W., the number of protesters had grown to somewhere between 6,000 and 7,000.

At around 3:00 p.m. the mass of students took over Berri Square. With more free sandwiches and music, they joined the full demonstration of roughly 20,000 protesters.

Although speculation on the real number varies, protesters from across the province were in attendance,

spilling out of the park on all sides and flooding the streets. University and CEGEP students alike touted the party line: no tuition increases. Not in this province.

"We're here to support the students, we're here in solidarity with them and we're here to fight for accessible education," said Deputy Chairperson of the Dawson Student Union, Amira Katz.

After rousing speeches and music blasted from speakers to encourage the army of protesters, the assembled mass departed from Berri Square and continued north towards St. Louis Square.

When the crowd crossed the Berri St. overpass, it was possible to see the full scope of the protest as it stretched all the way back to Berri Square. Roughly one kilometre of people packed the streets, chanting and parading clever and elaborate signs, including a vampire-esque caricature of Charest.

Turning around at St. Louis Square and proceeding along de Maisonneuve Blvd. E., the front of the procession eventually made it to Charest's office at around 5:00 p.m. As the crowd appeared at the corner of McGill College Ave., the six police in riot gear present drew their batons at once.

One demonstrator climbed the facade of the building up to the front balcony, but came back down as the crowd was busy trying to figure out what the next step was. As people

grew impatient and cold, the momentum started to die off, but the crowd's frustration remained evident.

That's when the paint began to fly, signaling the beginning of the end. In the brief period between the cops' retreat and the arrival of their riot squad brethren, nothing stood between the few Black Bloc protesters and the home of their enemy but a few student organizers, determined to maintain the non-violent ethos of the day.

"When you are organizing something of that scale, nothing ever goes according to plan. I am incredibly proud of the organizing team and the security team. These people worked with what they had," said Gill, who had been among those attempting to defend the HSBC building.

A few speeches remained, but the momentum was gone, lost somewhere along the way, due to exhaustion and the collective knowledge that they had done something big, maybe even started the process of accomplishing a goal.

Some in the crowd began wandering to the nearby McGill campus. "Occupons McGill!" yelled people in the crowd.

A general sense of confusion took over. People weren't sure if this was an official next step or just a rogue group's decision. The events that followed at McGill, though only experienced by a minority of the protesters, still ended up colouring Nov. 10 for most.

Aftermath of a Mutiny



Students Condemn University Actions at “We Are All McGill”

•PIERRE CHAUVIN

An estimated 1,000 McGill students participated in an open-air discussion and general assembly on Nov. 14, designed for members of the community to talk about the recent altercation between students and riot police on campus.

The event was a follow-up to a meeting on Nov. 11, the day after 14 students occupied Principal Heather Munroe-Blum's office in the James Administration Building, while police outside the building clashed with students.

At that meeting, students and faculty members drafted and delivered a letter to the administration, but were barred from entering the James Building.

The title of the Friday gathering is a reference to a quote from a communiqué Principal Heather Munroe-Blum sent on Oct. 18 to all students, staff and faculty of the university, stating, “We are all part of the same community. We are all McGill.” The event brought together students, professors, and community members.

“The organization that took place for this event was a communal, non-hierarchical effort undertaken by a lot of people who were either part of the committee on Nov. 10, or felt strongly about how horrible it was,” said undergraduate student Galen Macdonald, who was involved in the event's organization.

Ariel Prado, an international student who was one of two McGill students arrested by the Service Policière de la Ville de Montréal during the confrontation—two other people who do not attend the university were also arrested—spoke about his experience, during which he faced a possible charge of assaulting a police officer.

“After a minute of walking [the police officer] turned to me and said, ‘You know, you don't seem like you throw rocks at police offi-

cers. You don't seem like a bad guy. Maybe you even seem a little like a good guy.’ And then he slammed the cell door, locked it and walked away.”

As an international student, Prado could have faced deportation.

“The officer looked at me and said, ‘Well, you know we will call a lawyer and after we will call customs and they will probably revoke your student permit,’” he recounted.

“Two hours [later], a woman came to the door [and told me], ‘Okay, here is the deal. We're gonna suspend the sentence. We know that you assaulted an officer, but we can't find the report at the moment. We will suspend the charges. You're free to leave.’ I haven't heard from them [since] and hopefully they dropped the charges.”

Munroe-Blum attended the discussion Friday, and while she was initially on the list of speakers, she left the meeting before her turn, as numerous students and faculty members addressed the crowd for over three hours.

McGill history professor James Krapfl drew a comparison between Thursday's event and his experience with students in the former Czechoslovakia.

“Those who are close can see that I'm wearing a pin [from] 23 years ago, from the demonstrations that took place in Czechoslovakia.

“It was a civic movement in reaction to police brutality called ‘Public Against Violence,’” he said, referring to a political movement that formed in Bratislava in 1989 and helped to overthrow the Communist government.

“One of the reasons for their success was that they organized students,” he continued.

“They fought very hard against provocation. It's important to be on guard not just against physical violence but [also] against symbolic violence, the violence of words and gestures. We should make sure there is ab-

solutely no violence whatsoever from our side as well.”

Workers from the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association, which is engaged in an over two-month-long strike, were also there.

The union members had to remain at least 50 metres away from the meeting because of a legal injunction set last month by the Quebec Superior Court that prohibits them from coming any closer to the campus.

They were not absent from the meeting entirely, however, as one student read a letter signed by MUNACA President Kevin Whittaker commenting on the Thursday night confrontation between police and students.

In the statement, which can be found on MUNACA's website, Whittaker called the events of Nov. 10 “a dismal and disturbing display of authoritarian, violent tactics.”

Matthew Crawford-Appignanesi, a McGill student and Senate representative who identified himself as one of the 14 occupiers of the James Administration Building, addressed his fellow students during the discussion and read a letter from the occupiers.

“In general we were all students that felt that the state of discourse at McGill was insufficient, in the sense that we were fed the same line, the same argument over and over again and that our presence in representation and on campus was simply being ignored,” said Crawford when asked about the motivations of the occupiers.

“We believe that direct action should be taken. In the speech that I made [I said] I wanted to see a change in governance and more representation for students.”

As the discussion turned into a general assembly, a motion was passed to hold an event on Nov. 16, before a meeting of McGill's Senate. Many students pointed out the need for governance reform, and said they felt that attending the Senate meeting was the first step.



Students who oppose the police actions at McGill received support from faculty and MUNACA members at an assembly on campus on Nov. 14.

PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

Strike Zone



CSU President Lex Gill said that if Concordians go on strike, they will do so in conjunction with other universities, such as UQAM.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

CSU: General Strike “On the Table” for Winter Semester

• ADAM KOVAC

Concordia students have seen a first strike.

It was made official, in part, by the Arts and Science Federation of Associations’ vote for a one-day strike on Nov. 10.

Now that the Day of Action has passed, it’s possible the university will see a strike two and three. There’s no indication when we’ll be out, though.

What is clear is that if the provincial government doesn’t change its stance on the planned \$325 per year tuition hike, a strike of some sort will definitely be discussed at Concordia.

“For us, the question is, are we talking a one-day strike? A three-day strike? An unlimited general strike?” asked Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. “These are the questions where we won’t really know how students are feeling until January or February.”

During the Day of Action, ASFA had been the only faculty association to vote for a one-day strike.

CSU VP External Chad Walcott

said he would like to discuss with all the faculty associations the possibility of each voting for their own general strike, rather than having the CSU acting on behalf of all undergraduate students at the school.

This would include opening a dialogue with the Engineering and Computer Science Association, which has maintained a neutral stance on the issue.

“I’d like for each faculty association to call their own strike and then that would be kind of striking by general strike as well,” said Walcott. “In the event that the ECA is not interested in taking any stance, if we have at least three faculty association on board, it will be clearly representative of the student body, in that case.”

Individual strike mandates by the faculty associations would require more mobilization of students than a general CSU mandate.

ASFA required a quorum of 371 students to participate in their strike vote for it to be binding. Under proposed new bylaws that students will vote on in a byelection at the end of November, quorum for

a CSU referendum to be binding will be dropped to 450 students. Currently, quorum consists of 2.5 per cent of the over 35,000 undergraduate students at Concordia, or roughly 875 individuals.

Should Concordia vote to strike, it won’t be alone. Gill promised that striking is only an option if other universities feel the same way.

“One school going on strike isn’t effective. The only reason you go on strike is because everyone else is. That’s why normally when you get a strike mandate, you have a motion that’s worded something like, ‘We will strike as soon as 150,000 other people have strike mandates.’”

Walcott noted that a strike vote, either at the CSU or faculty association level, is not a sure thing. On the November ballot, there will be a question asking students how they feel about tuition increases, the results of which will play a role in determining how the CSU will proceed.

“In the winter semester, depending on how the referendum goes, how the talks with the faculty associations go, we’ll have a better un-

derstanding of what lies ahead. If people are in favour of going on strike again, we’ll discuss that. If not, we’ll discuss other options we can take to keep up the pressure.”

What those other tactics might be is still up in the air. Walcott said that there are no major demonstration plans for the rest of the semester, but that this would change as early as the beginning of the winter term.

Gill said that efforts would still be underway to educate students on the tuition issue.

“Classroom speeches won’t stop. A lot of the things we were doing leading up to the [Nov. 10] demo aren’t going to stop. Keeping a presence in the mezzanine, talking to classes, looking for more public support.

“We’re looking at a number of education campaigns, public panels, things like that,” she continued. “Possibly some action around January, during tuition-paying season.”

When asked to elaborate, Gill remained coy. “I’m not tipping off the university this early in the game. I’ve got two months.”

No Olive Branch for Amnesty International Concordia

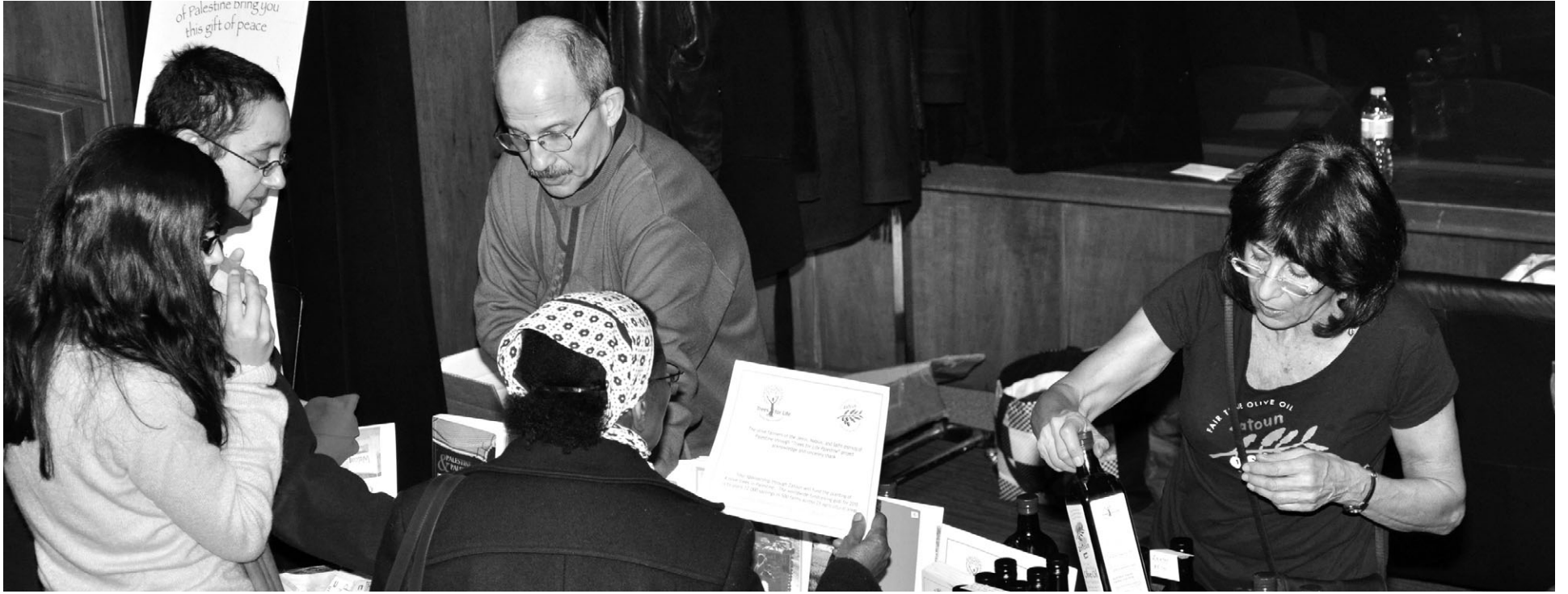


PHOTO HILARY SINCLAIR

Surprise Security Costs Prompt Petition

• HILARY SINCLAIR

Two days before Amnesty International Concordia was set to hold an event at the DB Clark Theatre in the Hall Building, they were told that they would have to pay an extra \$120 for security guards at the event.

Let My People Grow, the Nov. 6 “evening of art and activism” was a fundraiser for Project Hope, which aids Palestinian farmers in the village of Jayyous who have been separated from their olive farms by the controversial Israeli separation wall.

This wall is the issue, so with canvas, silver wire and wood, members recreated a small section of the wall to stand at the door of the theatre. They planned to have students dressed in mili-

tary attire taking the tickets that were designed to look like the permits that farmers would receive, while playing the role of soldiers.

The purpose of the recreations was, “just to give the people entering the auditorium a little push in their chest,” said Andrea Portugal, Canadian coordinator of the long-term action group on Israel-Palestine from Amnesty International. “Actually make them feel a little bit what it must feel like to have a permit checked every time just to enter your own land.”

Portugal said that had they known of the security requirement when they requested use of the theatre, they might have budgeted for the cost in the beginning of their planning stages. It

was not originally mentioned by the administration that security would be required.

The lack of notice has driven the club to draft a petition that is circulating around other clubs at Concordia to protest the article in Concordia’s Security Policy that “reserves the right to impose additional Security requirements as he or she deems necessary.” The clause also says that if requirements are not fulfilled then the event could be shut down.

AIC was not the first club to have experienced last minute security requests, which could make the petition popular.

Concordia Student Union VP Student Life & Sustainability Laura Glover also said, “Something that the CSU events committee is working on right now is

a policy request from security. I think that it is really important that security develop a policy that is available to student groups before they organize an event, that basically outlines what would require security [and] how are they assessing risk.

“During orientation it was really unclear, even from a budget planning perspective as to how many agents would be required at what event and why,” Glover continued. “There just doesn’t seem to be any available documentation from security.”

This lack of information from the school changed the whole tone of the Amnesty event, said Portugal.

“[Not being able to have soldiers] detracted from the mes-

sage,” she said. “Instead of military attire, [the students] decided to have shirts that said ‘I am not a soldier’ to highlight the fact that we weren’t allowed to have the military attire.

“In a way, it brought up another issue which is censorship in Concordia and censorship in Canada in general on the topic of Israel-Palestine.”

Concordia’s spokesperson Chris Mota said that anything deemed intimidating or frightening is not allowed on campus. She said she understands why having soldiers at this event was not allowed.

The university was unable to comment by print time on why it took so long for administration to inform AIC of the security requirements.

CUTV SEEKS TO REINSTATE FULL-SCALE LIVE-STREAM PROJECT

• JULIAN WARD

Students looking to live-streamed Concordia Student Union meetings lately have undoubtedly noticed a decline in the quality of service.

“We’ve scaled down the live-streaming temporarily, so that, at least for the time being, we still have a record [of the meetings],” said Laura Kneale, CUTV station manager.

Kneale and CUTV program director Laith Marouf said that live-streaming CSU meetings has taken an extensive toll on their volunteers and equipment since the project started in January. Because of the live-streaming, two of their cameras and a video

mixer burnt out and had to be replaced—an expensive cost to incur, they said.

CUTV is currently in negotiations with the CSU to obtain both funding to continue the project and exclusive rights to film CSU events.

The Link obtained a copy of CUTV’s proposal to the CSU.

The document states that CUTV wants “exclusive rights to film and live broadcast all CSU council meetings following the rules of decorum of parliamentary coverage,” and exclusive rights to “[film] and [archive] all CSU organized events including but not limited to, orientation events, lectures and conferences.”

It is unclear if students in at-

tendance at CSU events would be barred from filming on their cell phones because of the exclusive filming rights sought by CUTV.

Marouf and Kneale said that students filming on their cell phones for a short duration of time do not concern them. Instead, they are worried about losing their audience if other professional companies are allowed to film as well.

The document also outlines the \$15,000 CUTV sought from the CSU budget to fund “equipment maintenance, devaluation, wear and tear, and costs of the live-streaming service.” Volunteers would continue to work for free.

“If we were charging at the

cheapest street value, it would be \$65,000 [for the one-year contract],” said Marouf, explaining that CUTV is providing an incredibly inexpensive service.

The CSU has, for the most part, rejected CUTV’s proposal.

“I just don’t think that a contract is really an option right now,” said CSU VP Advocacy Morgan Pudwell. “I think that partnerships and seeking funding for the projects together are more sustainable for the Union and CUTV.”

Regarding the exclusive aspects of the proposal, Pudwell said, “I think that they understand that exclusivity is not what the CSU is interested in.”

“The CSU, last year, adopted a

policy specifically against exclusivity contracts,” which she said was in response to a contract Concordia’s administration gave PepsiCo., in which the corporation would remain the sole vendor of soft drinks on campus.

CUTV has not given up in its search for funding, and is currently drafting a proposal for \$15,000 from the Library Project, a \$1.00 per credit fee levy collected from all students, which Marouf said is not being used to its full potential.

He also assured *The Link* that if CUTV receives the money he says is needed, the live-streaming project of CSU meetings will resume, regardless of any exclusivity contract with the CSU.

Back to the BoG



Board of Governors reps Erik Chevrier, Cameron Monagle, Laura Beach, AJ West and Lex Gill want to see more transparency from Concordia's highest governing body.

PHOTO JULIA WOLFE

• LAURA BEESTON

The Board of Governors—Concordia's highest body, which has final authority on all university affairs—will meet this week, and while motions from the Graduate Students' Association have been added to the agenda, the undergraduates' motions have not.

Undergraduates Cut Out Again

In two motions sent to the BoG's Executive Committee on Oct. 18, the Concordia Student Union BoG reps—who are ambassadors for the over 35,000 undergraduate students on campus—expressed their wish to revisit their recent proportional reduction after a vote was passed to cut their representation.

The motions resolved to amend the BoG bylaws to include two internal undergraduate members instead of one, as well as to request the Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee "issue a report outlining the motivations behind targeting student representation on the board for the most drastic proportional decrease of any faction."

Undergraduate representation was cut on Sept. 28, when the BoG voted to adopt recommendations put forth in a report written over the summer to reform governance at the university.

The report, written by a committee chaired by former McGill principal Bernard Shapiro, had recommended reducing the size of

the Board from 40 voting members to 25.

Undergraduate students are to go from their current four members to one, plus one non-voting "alternate" governor, while the graduate students maintain the sole governor they currently have.

The undergrad reps received word on Nov. 10 that their motions were not added to the Board agenda, which was set at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Nov. 8.

"Members of the Executive Committee were unanimous in pointing out that at the September Board meeting, the concerns of the undergraduate students regarding their representation on the Board were fully conveyed, heard and acknowledged," said BoG secretary Danielle Tessier in an email to the undergrad governors.

"The Executive Committee has determined that this matter has been duly deliberated, debated and voted upon, and that the Board as a whole would not wish to revisit its decision arrived at this meeting."

"It's boiled down to one of those things where they've never given us any adequate justification so we at least know why it is we're looking at a 36 per cent decrease proportionally," said undergraduate BoG rep Laura Beach.

"The single, unresolved issue that remains is [that] of representation, and there was in no way a unanimity on a decision on this

decrease at that meeting. The reason that we're still talking about it is because it is still an unresolved issue."

While Beach said the undergraduate reps do have a "backup-backup plan" in the works, they were mum on the details.

"As far as actually amending the bylaws, the fact that the Executive Committee has not even allowed those motions to be put on the agenda demonstrates how closed the board is to reconsidering this issue," Beach said.

"It's sad, it's frustrating, but it's also painfully clear that no one cares about student representation on the board except for students. [...] Within the parameters that we're working in, we've done what we can."

After the cancellation of the October meeting, Thursday will be the first time that the BoG will meet since voting to cut undergrads from the board table at a contentious meeting on Sept. 28.

Beach encouraged students who are concerned that the Board is "disempowering students without giving any justification for it" to come to the meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Nov. 17 in the EV Building, room EV-2.260.

Motion for Transparency

The last point to make it onto the Board agenda, however, are the Graduate Students' Association's three motions for "audience accommodation at Board meet-

ings."

Approved by the GSA earlier this year, the clauses on the motions come straight out of the External Governance Review Committee report.

The report, often dubbed "The Shapiro Report," was issued after last year's controversy surrounding the Board's unexplained dismissal of former president Judith Woodsworth.

The motions cite a passage in the EGRC stating that Concordia suffered "a substantial degree of misunderstanding, blatant deficient internal communications and a lot of distrust, often bordering on mutual contempt between the various communities of the Universities."

"The problems arose [from] a lack of transparency [due to] the BoG's misunderstanding of the special nature of a university and its roles and responsibilities within it."

The three motions from the GSA resolve that BoG meetings be recorded and made available to the general public, and broadcast by the Concordia University Broadcasting Corporation.

"The Board seems to have the intention to want to adopt the Review Committee guidelines—at least that's what they were saying when they cut student representation and told us they were just applying the [EGRC] review," said Erik Chevrier, the GSA rep and internal Board member.

"So now we're saying [trans-

parency] was also in the review, and if you're going to take it seriously, this is what we're asking."

The motions also propose that since there are only a limited number of seats available at the BoG meetings, they "accommodate no less than 50 seats for members of the community who wish to attend in the same room that the meetings take place."

The motion goes on to also open up a 20-minute question period where members of the university and community at large may ask questions or make comments.

"I think that's reasonable," said Chevrier. "Senate has this, Montreal Borough council meetings have them, and they're very common—especially in political arenas."

Arguing that these motions are reasonable approaches to answering the transparency issues that have historically emerged on the BoG, Chevrier is hopeful that the resolutions will be taken seriously.

"The main message is that, if you're going to apply the Shapiro Report, apply it," he said. "Here it is."

Chevrier also encouraged students to come out to the meeting on Thursday.

For live Tweeting of the Board of Governors meeting on Nov. 17 at 8:00 a.m., follow @AdamJKovac and @Jake_theSnakeR



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

MONTREAL REMEMBERS

Politicians, religious leaders, veterans, and well-wishers came together on a bright Sunday morning to commemorate Canada's fallen soldiers for Remembrance Day at Montreal West Cenotaph. Approximately 150 showed up and paid their respects during a moment of silence.

PROBLEM, GOVERNMENT?

In response to the new Provincial Government website, quebectionfees.com, a group of students countered by launching quebectionfees.ca—a students take on the hikes and information on tuition fees. The website claims “at least 7,000 students are going to lose access to education” because of the expected hikes.

REDEFINE REALITY

This was the theme of McGill's third annual TEDx talk, where Morgan Wienberg, a 19-year-old activist working in a Haitian orphanage, spoke with other delegates. “In order to redefine reality we have to open our eyes and minds to look outside of our own lives...we're so connected to so many other people.”

PUB SAYS GOODBYE

During the Ice Storm of 1998, which saw most of Montreal lose electricity for several days, Clydes was one of the few places to retain power. It became a haven for nearby residents looking for a hot meal and a comforting environment. Today, Clydes management is not renewing its lease and is closing its doors at the end of the month, with a new pub opening up in the same building shortly.

PLAN NORD DENOUNCED

Juno Award-winning Cree band Ceremony launched their first eponymous album on Nov. 10 and took the opportunity to voice their dissatisfaction with Plan Nord, the Charest government's development project for Northern Quebec. They are worried about a projected 120,000 people planning to move into their territory in six years time.

BOOK FAIR



Concordia students perusing new and used books during the Nov. 9 and 10 sale to raise funds for the school's Centraide fundraising program.

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

CEO-Gate Continues

After Appeal, Judicial Board Chair Resigns

• LAURA BEESTON

The ongoing controversy surrounding the position of Concordia Student Union Chief Electoral Officer took another turn last week, as the Chairperson of the CSU Judicial Board resigned, citing personal reasons and a “toxic environment.”

Cassie Smith, who had presided over the hearing that nullified the position of former CEO Bram Goldstein on Nov. 2, sent her letter of resignation on Nov. 10.

“To preserve my health, my sanity and my grades,” Smith took the “difficult but necessary decision” not to commit “academic suicide” by remaining on the JB, an independent ruling body of the CSU. The resignation came as an appeal to overturn the Goldstein decision was being drafted.

In her letter of resignation, Smith explained that the “stress [...] in the face of repeated personal attacks and harassment from some of the parties involved in this complaint,” also motivated her decision.

“I feel like this entire affair has been underpinned by a fundamental lack of respect and it is simply not worth it for me to remain in such a toxic environment,” she wrote to the CSU Chair.

Smith explained to *The Link* that, “unsolicited [...] messages sent to my Facebook account aggressively berated me on a personal level.”

“In a larger sense, I feel like the parties involved in the complaint have at various points treated each other with clear disrespect,” she said. “I understand that this has been a contentious issue, but I feel like that makes it even more important that people conduct themselves with civility and professionalism.”

In her letter of resignation, Smith also recommended that fellow JB member Ceejay Desfosses step in as Chairperson. Desfosses was voted into the position by the rest of the JB members on Friday.

The role Desfosses will play in the future has been called into question, however.

Respondent and former CSU councillor Tomer Shavit filed an appeal of the JB's decision citing a “lack of impartiality” on the part of Desfosses for “acting in a hostile manner,” “possible collusion [with the Plaintiff],” requesting she “re-cuse herself from any future proceedings on this matter.”

Shavit also cited CUTV footage from the JB hearing Nov. 1 as supporting evidence.

“The problem is that I've accused [Desfosses] of not being im-

partial, and now she's the new chair of the JB,” said Shavit.

Desfosses told *The Link* on Nov. 14 that she was aware of what Shavit has formally accused her of.

“Even though I understand that the source of his anger is the disappointment of the outcome of the final decision, it does not mean he is any less accountable or responsible for his unprofessional exparte communications [...] in addition to making unfounded and serious accusations,” she said.

The CSU Bylaws state that the “Council of Representatives may, at the request of a party to proceedings, annul a decision of the JB by a four-fifths majority vote [...] should it conclude that the JB decision was manifestly unreasonable or motivated by racism, sexism, collusion, bribery, homophobia or a conflict of interest.”

“The accusations against [Desfosses] in the appeal have to be dealt with before the Board can move forward since it is a conflict of interest for the JB to preside over a case that questions the conduct of its own members,” agreed Smith. “The Board has contacted the Council Chair in an effort to find an appropriate way to proceed.”

Shavit told *The Link* that while he has “no problem with the other three members [of the JB] not

mentioned in [his] appeal to preside over the [process],” he did take issue with the amount of time the possible conflict of interest might take to be resolved.

Desfosses told *The Link* that, as of press time, the treatment of the appeal is suspended “until the appropriate course of action is decided,” adding that she believes an independent body should be called in to handle the matter.

With the November byelection weeks away, Shavit said he “would like to see the JB change their decision and not accept the complaint filed by the CSU, to see Bram [Goldstein] re-appointed as CEO and the matter of [Desfosses] be taken care of.”

Goldstein's dismissal on came after JB concluded on Nov. 2 that last year's Council did not follow proper hiring procedure, and would thus imperil the legitimacy of any elections held under Goldstein.

While Smith preferred not to comment on the appeal, she said she has “personally never seen [Desfosses] exhibit any behaviour that would point towards collusion.”

The next CSU Council meeting will take place Nov. 23 in H-763. The political action starts at 6:30 p.m.

Moving Landscapes

Trailer Obscura Takes the Photographer Inside the Camera



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• ALEX MCGILL

Concordia Fine Arts students Daniel Paterson and Bella Klein travelled from New York to Prince Edward Island this past summer with their camera literally hitched to the back of their car—a utility trailer that they converted into a five-foot by 10-foot camera obscura.

“The two of us have experimented a lot with pinhole cameras,” said Paterson. “We were both really drawn to pinhole because it’s a primitive form of photography and its outcome is not as certain as regular photography. Interesting things can happen each time you shoot.”

“I originally wanted to make my mom’s old car into a pinhole,”

added Klein, “but her car was totally broken and I couldn’t get it over the border, so I bought the trailer.”

Klein and Paterson then took the trailer on a road trip, using the large-scale pinhole camera to capture their journey. The results, which they’ve called *Trailer Obscura*, are on display at Concordia’s VAV Gallery.

“The trailer is exciting,” admitted Paterson. “We wanted a big enough pinhole that we could be inside of during an exposure and be able to manipulate the paper and the image.”

The process is time-consuming and intricate. “We would decide on what we were interested in shooting, and stop the car,” Paterson explained. “Standing in front

of the hole we would frame the shot we wanted. Then we would light-meter the scene and chose the appropriate hole-size for the exposure.

“We would go inside the camera and wait for our eyes to adjust to the darkness until we could see a projected image upside down and backwards, on the wall opposite the pinhole. Then we decided on the framing, and how big we wanted to make the photo.”

After covering the hole, they’d “cut the piece of photographic paper and staple gun it to the wall,” he continued.

“We’d open the hole, sit and watch the image expose on the paper, and would burn and dodge if necessary. When we decide the

exposure was complete, we’d cover the hole and roll up the paper and put the exposed image into our ‘film canister,’ a big light-safe tube.”

The process of developing the prints came after the two returned from their trip, in a classic dark-room atmosphere with oversized troughs. “On the trip we didn’t see or develop anything we shot,” said Paterson. “We just added to our tube until the end when we developed 200 feet of photo paper negatives!”

The process was a learning experience for both of them. “We only had three completely unusable black prints, but in terms of getting exactly what you expected, it rarely happens,” Paterson said. “It’s not the kind of photography

you can 100 per cent plan.”

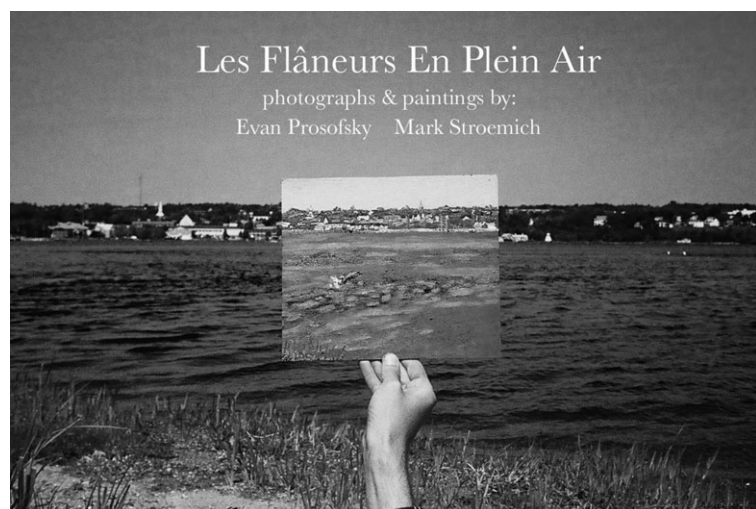
The duo is far from done with this experience, and already planning future photo adventures. “We’ve also built a new studio camera, fixed in one place, to experiment with portraits,” said Paterson. “We’re looking forward to experimenting with different types of photo paper.”

The show displays the actual trailer that Klein and Paterson used, as well as some of their large-scale photos and a book that the two compiled of their images. It’s landscape photography as many of us have never seen before, and definitely worth checking out.

Trailer Obscura / Nov. 7 to Nov. 18 / VAV Gallery (1395 René Lévesque Blvd. W.)

A BICYCLE TRIP BUILT FOR TWO

Les Flâneurs en Plein Air Captures Canadian Landscape



• ANTONELLA VICTORERO

It took five weeks for Evan Prosofsky and Mark Stroemich to get from Montreal to Halifax. The convenience of modern airplane travel has reduced the trip to about an hour and a half, but travelling by bike, with a camera and painting tools, takes a little longer.

“We wanted to see Canada,” Prosofsky said. “And we figured that travelling by bicycle would be the easiest way.”

Aiming to explore the Canadian countryside, *Les Flâneurs en Plein Air*, an art show debuting at the Red Bird Gallery on Saturday, presents the diverse landscapes Prosofsky and Stroemich saw on their journey.

The artists based their work

around the French concept of the flâneur, which refers to someone who strolls through a city in order to truly experience it.

Prosofsky captured the panorama they passed through with a 1931 wooden camera, which he kept as part of the exposition in order to emphasize the vintage inspiration. Influenced by artists such as John Singer Sargent and Tom Thomson, Stroemich recorded the trip through paintings.

They worked on location, taking from thirty minutes to an hour to take down their surroundings, and the paintings remain unmodified to preserve their realism.

The two didn’t see their dual representations as in competition with each other to more accurately

depict the landscape, though.

“It is not a competition, but a comparison of landscapes in both photography and painting,” Prosofsky said. “Perhaps they will reflect different views on the places, but in the end it will be the exact same place.”

Both artists want to tell a story through each image, and more importantly they want the viewers to see landscapes not only as a background, but also as a source of artistry.

“Artists are usually conceptually driven. We wanted to leave that aside and experience the sight through a more natural point of view,” said Prosofsky.

Les Flâneurs en Plein Air / Nov. 19 to Nov. 30 / Red Bird Gallery (135 Van Horne Ave. W.)

Forty Years of Cheap Thrills

Montreal's First Used Record Store Throws Birthday Bash

• KATIE MCGROARTY

Generally, any event where mingling is encouraged in a room full of strangers has the potential to be awkward. They often seem reminiscent of the scene teenage movies where the protagonist gets invited to the “cool” party, but eventually realizes they would have rather stayed home with their friends.

Luckily, Wednesday night was nothing like that awkward movie moment. Cheap Thrills, a staple of the Montreal record store community, turned 40 and threw a celebratory bash at Casa del Popolo, inviting all of the store's fans and supporters out to celebrate.

Despite having three bands and two DJs, the event felt surprisingly intimate, as if it could have just as easily been in someone's living room. That is, if the party went off without a hitch and three members of Arcade Fire happened to be at your house.

Throughout the night, local acts Pigeon Phat, The Hidden Words and Mozart's Sister played an energetic tribute to a record store that has been supporting local musicians for decades.

It was a night of celebration for the first store, in fact, to sell used records in Montreal. Cheap Thrills has survived the rise and decline of vinyl, 8-tracks, cassette tapes and CDs.

Though vinyl has been enjoying a significant resurgence as of late, Cheap Thrills has been

around long enough to remember the time when vinyl was the only way to listen to music—literally.

It's a tale of modest origins. Cheap Thrills started as the byproduct of money from a car insurance claim, founded by Janet Dawidowicz in 1971. Though it was first located in an apartment on Bishop St., it moved to its current location in 1984 and has been a Montreal institution ever since.

Although current manager Guy LaVoie denies that there's some kind of trick to their success, Caila Thompson-Hannant, who played on Wednesday under the moniker Mozart's Sister, was impressed with the store's staying power. “It's amazing for any store to be open 40 years,” she said. “Let alone a record store.”

Cheap Thrills is located at 2044 Metcalfe St., next to Peel Metro. They not only have an impressive selection of new and used CDs and vinyl, but tickets to almost every event in the city, which will save you from those pesky Ticketmaster charges. They're open until 9:00 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, perfect for an after-class vinyl hunt.

For those feeling left out from the birthday proceedings, McGill radio station CKUT captured most of the night's audio. Check it out on music.ckut.ca by searching for “Cheap Thrills.”



40 years of Thrills.

PHOTO KATIE MCGROARTY

SYNAPSE CANDLES

Concordia Reading Series Turns One



Canadian author Sheila Heti will read at Synapse this week.

• JULIA JONES

The Concordia-based Synapse reading series is back in action this Wednesday, celebrating a first birthday of sorts.

Although the one-year anniversary of last year's fall reading isn't until Nov. 24 and the reading on Nov. 16 will be the second Synapse of the semester, this reading will mark the beginning of the project's second year at Concordia after its creation in 2010.

Spearheaded by creative writing professor Sina Queyras, and curated by creative writing students Steph Colbourn and Lizy Mostowski, the series aims to feature local, published and developing writers.

For Mostowski, who's written for *The Link* in the past, the series has grown significantly since its birth. “I'm proud of what it's become,” she said. “I'm proud the word ‘synapse’ has a new meaning in the community's vocabulary, and that established writers want to read at the series we've started up, and of the reputation we've built.”

She credited the project's success to Queyras, however, saying, “It's all Sina.”

But Synapse is not growing alone. From hosting events and staying poised when something goes wrong to choosing appropriate line-ups, Mostowski said she's also learned a lot as a curator. “Curating, I think, has made me a stronger editor,” she said. “It seems to be all about intuition most of the time, and we know that when we all come to a stomach-settling agreement, that we've made the right decision.”

Each reading advertises approximately

four authors, often including Concordia creative writing students, and a mystery author or two, revealed during the course of the evening.

“We always know ahead of time who the special guest readers are,” said Mostowski. “And try to make it so that the people reading ahead of them give a good feeling [or] introduction to their work.”

This upcoming reading will see a mix of two different styles, opening with Colin Fulton and Concordia creative writing grad Celyn Harding-Jones. “[They] are, in my opinion, more conceptual,” she said. Then, Mike Chaulk, Editor-in-Chief of Concordia's *The Void* literary magazine, will read a “series of sonnets,” followed by “Linda Besner and Sheila Heti, who are not conceptual at all.”

Synapse will go forward as a quarterly event and the February edition will be completely dedicated to conceptual writing—the first of the series to have a theme.

Colbourn sees this as an opportunity for conceptual writers. “I think that as writing continues to change we need to change with it,” she said. “And there are not enough opportunities for conceptual writers to display and read their work.”

After that, the spring edition will have a different focus. “We plan on asking for translations—this means translations between languages, genres, etc.,” said Mostowski. “We have a secret pre-determined schedule. Shhh.”

Synapse / Nov. 16 / 7:00 p.m. / VAV Gallery (1395 René Lévesque Blvd. W.)

Movement That Matters

ENSEMBLE Takes Women's Issues On-Stage



PHOTO COURTESY OF SBDC

"It isn't about feminism, it's about breaking the poverty cycle. There is such power in educating a girl. If you educate a mother, you guarantee that both her children—boys or girls—will be educated."

• MEGAN DOLSKI

The show will feature guest appearances by dancers from Macdonald High School and Collège Sainte-Anne, as well as performances from local composer David Hodges, and singer/songwriter Jeanette Arseneault.

In addition to being SBDC's primary liaison with the foundation, Dépatie also helps the company with all things business- and marketing-related. She takes pride in how far the dancers have come in terms of learning how to write letters for grants, asking for help and

Kara Friesen is currently in

Friesen acknowledged the challenge of portraying a reality through dance that she, as a North American female university student, has never faced—but addresses this struggle by connecting the emotions to a reality she can relate to.

ENSEMBLE / Nov. 19, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. / Collège Sainte-Anne, Pavillon Marie-Esther, Salle Jean-nine-Serres (70 12th Ave.)



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

LIVE SESSION #3

Local singer/songwriter David Simard will be releasing his new album *Slower, Lower* at Casa del Popolo on Nov. 28, with Toronto's "intimate indie-songstress" Loom as a special guest.

Simard gave The Link a sneak-peek of his track "One Coffee, Two Coffee." Check it out:



STORI YA

The story of Maria, an East African woman facing the repossession of her home, and her journey from Tanzania to Canada, is playing at the Black Theatre Workshop Mainstage starting Wednesday.

MIRANDA JULY

Writer/filmmaker Miranda July was at the Ukrainian Federation on Monday to celebrate her latest book, *It Chooses You*, a look at the people who use the PennySaver classified ads in Los Angeles.



WEEKLY SPINS

We spin the latest by Youth Lagoon and Ganglions before they come to town.



FRAME TO FRAME

Rouge Parole portrays the most human side of the Tunisian Revolution.



It's Business Time

Lil' Biz Seminar Schools Young Artists on Money Matters



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

• DAVID MACINTYRE

Puces POP will be holding its second Lil' Biz conference of the year on Saturday. The difference between this seminar and the last? This one is free.

Introduced in 2008, Lil' Biz is a conference for independent artists and artisans to brush up on improving their small businesses. The conference is put on in various artist-run spaces throughout the city (though mostly in the Mile-End), and has been part of POP Montreal's Puces POP Craft Fair since 2008.

"It came out as a way to take some of the people who are involved in the community already," said Puces POP co-di-

rector Tessa Smith.

"People who are involved in it [who] have become quite established or have been able to have success through their businesses are kind of reinvesting their skills back into the community and sharing what people have taken out of their experiences.

"People who are in different places in their business can use that, and hopefully grow and then come back and talk at Lil' Biz in the future."

Those attending the conference on Nov. 19 will get a chance to see presentations from Amber Goodwyn, found of *Lickety Split* smut zine, Angie Johnson, founder and designer for Norwe-

gian Wood clothing, Myrite Rotstein, a holistic health coach, and Becky Emlaw, a co-owner of Arterie Boutique and co-founder of Citizen Vintage.

It's also just general business-savvy stuff that applies to a lot of different fields,"

—Tessa Smith

Puces POP co-director

It's a great opportunity for anyone who "wants to either bring their creative practice to the next level or pick up a couple of important skills. It's also just

general business-savvy stuff that applies to a lot of different fields," Smith said.

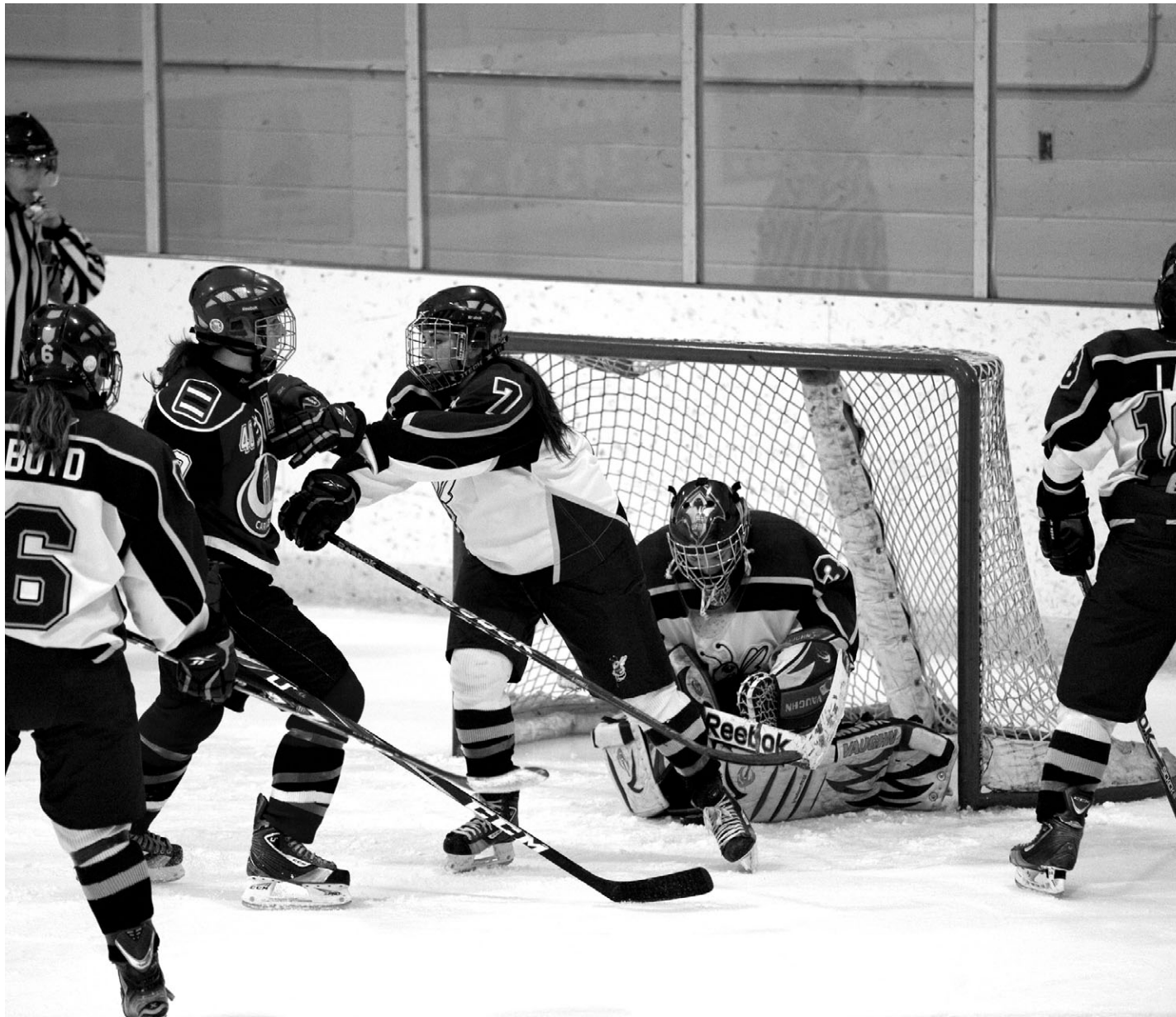
"It's really practical stuff, and it can be as basic as having to file your taxes as a freelancer.

"For students who are maybe involved in the liberal arts or other fields [and who aren't] necessarily put in that institutional role, this kind of information [...] isn't necessarily readily available.

"It's just the really practical, real-world experience from learning from your peers."

Lil' Biz / Nov. 19 / 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. / The Plant (185 Van Horne Ave.) / RSVP at puces@popmontreal.com

HOCKEY



Goaltender Marie-Pier Rémillard smother a shot during Sunday's 2-1 loss against Université de Montréal.

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

ConU Runs Out of Luck

Winter Conditions Slow Down Stingers Runners in Nationals

• TYLER FINIGAN

A snow-covered course limited Concordia to a middling performance at last Saturday's national cross-country championships in Quebec City.

"The athletes all performed within the expected range," said coach John Lofranco. "I'm proud of all of them."

Leading the Stingers was Dominique Roy, a conference bronze medalist, and Ryan Noel-Hodge, a top-ten placer at provincials, who placed 34th and 47th in their respective races.

For the women, Elizabeth Mokrusa placed 111th and former Stinger's soccer player Molly Howes placed 123rd. There were 137 finishers in the women's race.

For the men, Sofiane Guend

ended his Stinger career on a high, achieving his best placing in a national championship by finishing 78th, and 32-year-old Simon Driver placed 85th despite vomiting as he crossed the finish line. There were 134 finishers in the men's race.

"They did their best against one of the most competitive fields the Canadian Interuniversity Sports has ever seen," said Lofranco.

The University of Guelph dominated the competition, placing five runners in the top ten of the championship, a feat that earned them the national title. This year's showing marked Guelph's seventh consecutive win by their women's team and the sixth by their men's.

Kelly Hewitt ran for Concordia this year, but just missed

out on nationals, although she still travelled up to the capital to cheer on the team. She said running in the snow is just something you have to deal with as a runner.

"This weekend the weather definitely slowed down times a little, but we train outdoors all year 'round, so I doubt any of the runners were phased by it," Hewitt told *The Link*.

"Our goal is always to finish at the top of the conference. Obviously, that didn't happen this year, but I stand by us making big goals [...] regardless of whether it happens or not," she said. "The team as a whole has no intention of abandoning that goal next year."

Echoing coach Lofranco's opinion about the strength of the field at the event, Hewitt said cross-country is not a

dying sport, but rather a growing one due to successful Canadian cross-country competitors.

"With great Olympic qualifying performances by Reid Coolsaet and Eric Gillis—professional distance runners—at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Canadian distance running is experiencing a resurgence," said Hewitt.

Lofranco said the runners who competed last weekend will take a two-week break. Then the Stingers will commence a base building season in which they will gradually increase the amount of daily running that they do.

Fans of cross-country can also catch Concordia's best at the Ottawa Marathon in May and the provincial and national track and field championships during the summer.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

A late third-period goal from Université de Montréal Carabins forward Cassandra Dupuis was the decision-maker in Concordia's women's hockey team's 2-1 loss last Sunday. The Stingers will get their chance for revenge next Sunday when the Carabins visit again. The puck drops at 3:00 p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The Stingers' two-game winning streak came to a crashing halt last Friday at the hands of the Nipissing Lakers, who drubbed them 11-6. Their weekend wasn't a complete loss, however, as they rebounded Saturday with a 4-3 overtime victory against the Toronto Varsity Blues. The Stingers will face both teams again at the Ed Meagher arena this coming Friday and Saturday. Games are at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. respectively.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

As the defending provincial champions, the Stingers started off their season on the right foot last Thursday, ousting the McGill Redmen in an 80-66 decision. ConU will try to make it two in a row when the Laval Rouge et Or visit on Saturday. Tipoff is set for 4:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ConU took their late pre-season success and brought it to McGill's Love Competition Hall last Thursday, defeating the Martlets 75-66. While they proved to be easy competition, the Stingers' first real test will come this Saturday with the Laval Rouge et Or in town. The action begins at 6:00 p.m.

▶▶▶▶▶▶ Debunking the NCAA-CIS Soccer Gap ◀◀◀◀◀◀



PHOTOS DAVID MURPHY

SCISSOR KICK

• DAVID MURPHY

Nothing sums up American soccer better than a crowd of 25,000 rowdy college fans taunting the opposing goalkeeper with a chant of, “Hit the weight room, skinny.”

It's a scene from Red Bull Arena, home of the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer, which opened its doors to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Big East tournament this year, where the University of Connecticut played St. John's University for the conference title Sunday afternoon on national television.

The last game to be played at the stadium before the tournament was an MLS semi-final starring French star Thierry Henry and none other than Mr. Posh Spice himself, David Beckham.

Red Bull Arena features an interactive press box, customized university pressroom décor and two massive jumbotrons—the pitch

even has scrolling team advertisements around it, like richer, successful European professional clubs have.

It's a stark contrast to what's happening on the other side of the continent, at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, hosted at the University of Victoria's Centennial Stadium.

The pitch in Victoria is lauded as one of the best in the land, but a lone grandstand the size of Loyola Campus's sits behind a racetrack. No ads, no fancy décor, and no big screens. The biggest match played at this stadium might have been in 1994 when the Commonwealth Games were held in British Columbia's capital.

In comparison, the Big East Championship isn't even the most coveted trophy in NCAA competition. So one can't help but wonder which league, and country, takes soccer more seriously—the NCAA or the CIS?

Head of the Canadian Coaches' Association Patrick Nearing thinks there is a widespread assumption

that there's a big gap between the talent on the CIS pitches and the NCAA's.

He believes the two leagues are on par in that regard, however, and notes that Canadians even have it better when it comes to education and healthcare, the difference being the U.S. has money to glamorize the sport, making it seem like it's the best option in university sport.

“The quality of the players, in my opinion, is equal. But for the quality in education, people stay in [Canada],” said Nearing. “The spectacle that's put on by Division One [NCAA] athletes, the money involved, the facilities, the way the universities are branded in terms of athletic excellence, I still think there is quite a big gap.”

One example of the spectacle Nearing was referring to is the NCAA Super Draft—a selection of the top graduating players from NCAA to the professional North American league, the MLS. This only happens in the NCAA, and as of now, there is no draft option for graduating players from CIS to a

professional team.

During the Super Draft, which is televised on ESPN, families and friends of the best in NCAA soccer are invited to watch their graduating loved ones walk across a stage fit for the Oscars once their name is called by managers and owners of a MLS team.

This kind of show is definitely not put on by Canadian universities. Money isn't poured into student scholarships like the NCAA, where plentiful scholarships are available, and recruiting from other countries is made virtually impossible due to inflated international student rates demanded by Canadian universities.

“The NCAA has probably more depth of players in quality because of international students,” admits Nearing. However, he thinks this might not be such a bad thing.

“I don't know if we actually would want to bridge that particular gap. I know a lot of the programs all over Canada are student-first athletes.”

Nearing, who is also the head

coach of the University of Dalhousie men's soccer team, wants student-athletes to be successful in life after university, and not be stuck when their dreams of pro stardom don't materialize.

“Kids who actually get drafted, like, from St. Pats, 10th overall, none of those players are going to stick [in the MLS],” said Nearing.

He says they might bounce around in the squad for a while, but won't have much of a shot with the grade of other talent being tempted into the MLS from other professional leagues around the world. And when throwaway players eventually get cut from the team, they might not have a decent enough degree to fall back on.

However all the free healthcare, quality education, and Tim Horton's couldn't keep University of Connecticut forward Allando Matheson in Canada.

The Canadian freshman said he had to one day move onto fulfill his dreams of playing professionally. Matheson moved to Ontario at a young age and was a late bloomer—



Canadian startlet Allando Matheson fends off a St. John's defender in the NCAA Big East Championship final in New York Red Bull Arena.

Senegalese University of Connecticut forward #23 Mamadou Doudou Diouf dives for a header in the box. He is one of many international students tipped to make it to professional soccer after his NCAA career.



he only started to play soccer at age 15. But he had to go south to compete at the highest levels, he says—something that wasn't available to him in Canada.

In fact, when asked about the CIS, Matheson couldn't even say

“Canada didn't really provide me with the option to go to school and play [soccer]. So it's the best I can do for myself.”

—Allando Matheson,
University of Connecticut forward

what it was.

“The move to NCAA was definitely beneficial,” said Matheson after losing in extra time in the finals at Red Bull Arena. “Canada didn't really provide me with the option to go to school and play [soccer]. So it's the best I can do for my-

self.”

Players aren't the only ones jumping ship from Canada either. Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. is currently in the NCAA Division Two from CIS, the first non-U.S. post-secondary to join the league.

They did so to “challenge our students and student athletes to be the best,” according to former SFU athletics director Lorne Davies.

Moreover, other major Canadian talents have migrated south to compete at a higher level, and have now made it big—the most-known case being Owen Hargreaves.

Hargreaves was born in Edmonton, but moved to the soccer promised land of Germany at age 16.

He now plays for the top team in England, Manchester City, and has played internationally for England, as his English-born parents qualify him to play, thus not being eligible to play for Canada. He was even voted the best English player in the 2006 World Cup.

And there is still undeniable skill coming from, and then out of,

Canada. Associate head coach of the UConn Huskies John O'Donohue always shops around up north—there are currently three Canadians on his squad, including Matheson, and O'Donohue says he's looking for more.

“We're aware of the [CIS]. We go up for a couple showcases there, and we have a couple contacts there to look at their players,” said O'Donohue. “We've got some excellent players from Canada.”

He even suggested two of his players might have a shot at going pro, particularly Matheson.

“I think they have bright futures. [Matheson] is one of the top freshmen in the country, so he's got a bright future here,” said O'Donohue.

As for international play, Matheson was born in Jamaica and can still choose to opt out of playing for Canada in favour of the Caribbean nation, which is ranked 33 places higher in FIFA's men's world rankings.

Nearing is well aware of this soccer brain drain. In order to main-

tain his claims that CIS soccer is on par with NCAA, a clear route to the pros has to be made for Canadian talent to keep them in the Canadian system until they graduate.

According to him, a plan may be in the works with the United Soccer Leagues—a collection of associations of varying degrees of talent that was home to the Vancouver Whitecaps and Montreal Impact before their jump to the MLS.

“We're working on floating ideas informally on how we can get to step one of getting some spots in the USL combine, so that our top CIS student athletes might get an invite.”

In the USL, players can grow in a professional environment to become better, according to Nearing. But this isn't the only option. Getting ‘seen’ and getting a trial is easier for more serious soccer players motivated to make it, now that three top-tier soccer teams—the Impact, the Whitecaps, and Toronto FC—are established in Canada.

It's not clear how many Canadi-

ans have gone this direction as of yet, but Nearing is confident it's just another route to make it pro. MLS has even has a rule stating Canadian teams must have at least three Canadian players on the team, and scouts won't have to go far to find competitive Canadian talent.

“It was never like this 10 years ago,” said Nearing. “It was—someone gets a break and makes it in Europe.”

“Now they're looking for opportunities in MLS [...] there's ambition in coaches and playing rank, and there's a pathway people can see that is fuelling the ambition of MLS and USL.”

There's no official ranking that compares both leagues, but for the near future the NCAA will continue to focus on hitting weight rooms and dazzling spectators in the off-season, and Canada will focus on their student-first method of education.

But with the sport growing in popularity up north, perhaps CIS and its universities might have to dip into their pockets to ensure the

HEARD IN THE STREETS

Students On: Their Education

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

As an estimated 20,000 students marched in solidarity through the streets of Montreal, *The Link* was there to ask them why they thought it was important to be out fighting tuition hikes. Here's what they had to say:

"The more [the Quebec government] takes money from us—[the more] we just want them to understand that we're not going to give it."



—Caroline Lapointe
Université du
Québec à Chicoutimi

"Le gouvernement Libéral a décidé de créer un point tournant dans l'éducation au Québec. Nos parents se sont battus dans les années '60, et aujourd'hui mettre ce choix là en doute. Ce n'est pas mets pour rien que le Québec n'a presque pas été touché par la récession; parce qu'on a des penseurs et des têtes qui ont instauré des systèmes qui nous ont protégé de la récession mondiale."



—Marlot
Cégep de Sainte-Foy

"I'm definitely here in solidarity with a lot of people who are facing these tuition hikes. Even if this issue isn't hugely impacting my life, I know that it's going to be a big problem for people around me."



—Hans Krause
McGill University

"On est venu [avec deux autobus pour montrer au gouvernement que cette hausse là, on ne veut pas qu'elle passe, et même si ce n'est pas nous qui vont être généralement brimé, ce sont aussi les générations futures, mes enfants. On a des bas frais de scolarité, on est mieux d'en profiter que de les hausser. Avec le plus haut taux de fréquentation post-secondaire au Canada, je pense que c'est cet éducation là qu'on veut garder."



—Stéphanie Paulin-
Gagner
Cégep de Sainte-Foy

"I'm on the street now because Quebec is the only place in North America with relatively low tuition rates in comparison to the rest of Canada, and certainly the United States. Allowing people of all economic backgrounds to access a high quality of education is good not only for the individual, but for society. Quebec can be an example to the rest of North America in showing that tuition doesn't have to be high if there is a different option."



—Erin Weisgerber
Concordia University

Critique of the Cops

The Time They Almost Did a Good Job



What came first, the violence or the riot police?

PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• RILEY SPARKS

I don't really like the cops in this city.

It's not that I think they're bad people. Or, as the various crusty, squat-dwelling, dumpster-diving activist types suggest, that they're a bunch of racist, baby-killing sociopaths in uniform, hell-bent on destroying freedom, sunshine, poutine and all that is good about Montreal.

They're just not that good at their jobs.

But for a few hours during last Thursday's massive protest against tuition hikes, my faith in Montreal's finest was almost restored.

Despite the terrible weather, the day's mood was cheerful. After months of planning, students proved that we weren't going to take these tuition hikes lying down. The crowd was happy, and the handful of cops policing the demonstration seemed to be picking up on the good vibes.

Still, with so many people in the streets, some conflict was inevitable.

Leaving only about 20 bicycle police with batons between a crowd of thousands and Premier Jean Charest's office, the police seemed to be making a risky but smart tactical decision.

At most protests I've been to, the presence of imposing and armoured riot cops gives people a focal point for their anger and almost always seems to escalate the situation. It's as if people see these guys in their bulky black riot suits and think "Ha! This appears to be a riot! Hand me that brick, comrade—it's time to smash the system/the window of this SAQ!"

Maybe the cops were hoping the celebratory mood would last. But after a few minutes, a couple of masked hooligans started chucking fireworks, flares and paint-filled light bulbs at Charest's office.

Despite being attacked, shouted at and spat on, many of our own Concordia Student Union executives tried to calm the situation by placing themselves between the rioters and police.

Unfortunately, the scene got ugly quickly. One bold would-be rioter discharged a fire extinguisher at the police, prompting them to retreat inside.

They were replaced by a line of riot cops.

Montreal's riot police have a bit of a reputation, and it's not for being gentle, cuddly guys. But these cops did something surprising: nothing.

Clever strategy. Without really hurting anyone, the police de-escalated a pretty nasty situation. Not bad. Maybe, I hoped, they'd figured out that cracking heads wasn't always the best way to get results.

Nope.

A half hour later, eyes streaming pepper-spray tears, we shivered in the rain outside McGill's James Building and watched in shock as the police savagely beat anyone they could lay their hands on.

When about two dozen bike cops showed up, students formed a human chain around the James Building. A few in the crowd pelted the police with water bottles, sticks and whatever came to hand. But as the cops retreated, the

situation cooled down.

We now know the students inside were negotiating their way out. It seemed like, as before, the situation was winding down. Then the riot cops showed up, and it was game on.

As McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum explained, the riot squad "dispersed the protesters by its usual means." That meant batons, boots and pepper spray, which the flics deployed like silly string at a middle school birthday party.

The situation rapidly became very unpleasant for all involved, including the police. Different groups of cops tried to move people in different directions. Officers wandered into the fray and batoned students, professors and passersby seemingly at random.

Riots are always chaotic. But the fact that the cops didn't seem to have any kind of plan didn't improve the situation. Their use of pepper spray was similarly ill-advised. People hit with the spray reacted in one of two ways: they dropped to the ground in pain, or got fightin' mad. Both reactions were counterproductive from the cops' perspective.

With a few over-eager blasts of mace and baton blows, the SPVM took a peaceful demonstration and created a riot. Watching the police at Charest's office, I thought maybe they'd learned something.

Clearly I was being overly optimistic. The situation at the James Building proved that they're still handling protests like some kind of medieval battle.

There's got to be a better way.

Gated Coverage

The Gazette's Take on Hike Strike Lacking Something: Students

• JULIA WOLFE

As a university newspaper, *The Link* regularly reports on topics with a very specific readership in mind. Students pay for these pages, fill them with content, pick them up, and read them.

The paper in your hands is Concordia University's Independent Student Newspaper. It only makes sense that the content that fills its pages is largely geared towards this school's student body.

Having a focus on students is something that *The Link* is fairly forthright and definitely unapologetic about. *The Westmount Examiner* should be comfortable being open about gearing its coverage to Westmount residents. *The Gazette* should strive to cater its coverage to Montreal's anglophone community.

Yet the paper's coverage of recent student affairs has proven that *The Gazette* caters to one sole portion of its demographic—that of wealthy, middle-aged suburbanites.

Despite describing itself as “the dominant medium for reaching Montreal's large English market,” *The Gazette's* recent content suggests that they really only have one reader in mind—which is a shame, since last time I checked, the city was a little more diverse than that.

The Gazette, like a few other media sources, previewed the Nov. 10 student protest prior to the actual protest.

La Presse ran a piece on Nov. 3 that covered the specific reasons for the strike and in-

cluded quotes from the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, as well as union leaders who supported the students.

On Nov. 7, CJAD radio hosted our Editor-in-Chief, alongside other young media leaders, where they discussed, among other things, the historical importance of Nov. 10.

But *The Gazette's* story took a slightly different angle. Its headline? “Drivers beware: students to demonstrate in Montreal on Thursday.”

The paper's coverage of recent student affairs has proven that *The Gazette* caters to one sole portion of its demographic—that of wealthy, middle-aged suburbanites.

It's as if the editors decided, “We'd love to run something about this, but only if it affects the average Beaconsfield resident—wait! The protest will be annoying to drive through. Perfect.”

Both the lead and conclusion of the piece focused on how the protest would affect traffic. And while this fact is relevant to readers in the Montreal area, it certainly didn't deserve the prominence it received

in a story that gave little attention to the fact that over 200,000 students were on strike that day.

It's not just that *The Gazette* covered this angle of the story; it's that they left out other, arguably more important ones.

The protest affected traffic downtown for a day, but the issues being protested are far wider reaching. They could have serious implications for residents all over Quebec for years to come—and not just students.

Though *The Gazette's* readership may not include many university students, many of their readers will be sending their children to Quebec universities in the coming years.

As for the traffic disturbance? Between 20,000 and 30,000 people marched in the rain on Nov. 10 to show their support for the student struggle.

The McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association was there, among other unions. Faculty from a variety of schools showed up as well. And I noticed more than one parent walking with their child.

The day was a huge success for the cause, and got the attention of national media sources such as *The Globe and Mail* and the CBC.

While these media sources used language such as “marched,” “stormed” and “staged a massive protest,” *The Gazette* told us that 20,000 kids “skipped class.” Ouch.

For the number of students who voted for a strike mandate that day, or even walked-out (many with the support of their professors),

it's a huge slap in the face to use a term that puts their concerted political effort in the same context as a high school kid ditching first period to go to the mall.

The Gazette's other student coverage, such as the story following the slash to undergraduate representation on Concordia's Board of Governors, was just as bad.

While the piece almost chastised students for having “jeered, heckled and protested” the decision that day, precious little of the article looked into why that might be.

I was at the meeting when the motion was passed, and was amazed at how *The Gazette's* university reporter had to be told prior to the meeting that Concordia has two campuses.

If even basic research isn't required to be a *Gazette* reporter, how could they hope to have a piece that touched on the complex relationship students at this school share with their Board of Governors?

Obviously, *The Gazette* is tasked with a hugely difficult job. Adequately representing the entire Anglo community in this diverse and vibrant city verges on impossible.

But students are a sizable part of that community. We have the highest number of students per capita in North America. So, you'd think that would make us part of their target market. Each of us are potential customers and at Concordia alone, that's 45,000 people

Right now though, *The Gazette* just doesn't seem like a paper that's written with this in mind.

MOVING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK

Students Fighting Tuition Should Use Their History

• NADIA HAUSFATHER

On Nov. 10, Concordia and McGill students joined hundreds of thousands of across Quebec for a one-day strike. But until all students are clear about our history and unity, we won't fully reap the benefits from student strikes.

Last week *The Link's* joint special insert misleadingly stated that if we “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.” Such inaccuracies are detrimental and disrespectful to students, and our history.

Let me clarify: international and out-of-province students have never lost a semester in the history of unlimited general student strikes in Quebec.

In 2005, student unions made it clear to the government that if even one school lost a semester, they would return to the picket lines. When necessary, the semester was extended and evaluations were re-negotiated.

No one lost \$10,000 in tuition fees. Rather, we collectively gained \$103 million per year in bursaries. International and out-

of-province students directly benefited from that strike as soon as they became Quebec residents.

The more students look out exclusively for their individual interests, the greater the risk to all students. Focusing on differences between us only benefits the government.

The Minister of Education already justified her intransigence on Nov. 10 by saying “we can't describe the totality of university and CEGEP students as being part of a monolithic group.”

I'm not an out-of-province or an international student, but we all pay taxes. We all face the same base Quebec tuition increase, we all benefit from attending a university of economically and culturally diverse students, and so will our friends and family.

We all seem to take Quebec student history for granted.

It's about time for us to accurately commemorate our student predecessors who brought us accessible education. Take 1986: After five days of unlimited general strike, the Liberal government retracted on tuition increases and ancillary fees, and opened negotiations about loans and bursaries.

Then in 1996, an unlimited general strike yet again prevented tuition hikes.

This time, in the upcoming strike, we have to include international and out-of-province students' perspectives and their experiences of strikes from back home.

International students, in 2010, you made it clear to Concordia's administration that you would tell folks back home not to study in Quebec because of disrespectful tuition increases. In doing so, you managed to improve the new graduate fee structure.

You are an indispensable part of the future of Quebec and Canada and you have more power and more rights than you think.

The government will continue to increase your tuition by thousands of dollars unless we stand together as a united student body.

The same goes for you, out-of-province students. Your home province won't pay for this tuition hike, nor the supplemental fee increase that Quebec will soon make you pay. Instead of comparing provinces, join your concerns and national perspective to the movement you've inherited here.

I worry about the quality of our education when we talk about diversity, democracy and

social justice in heated Sociology seminars, yet we don't put it into practice in our university.

If there was a time to start, it's now. Join the Concordia student mobilization committee. Better yet, start a mobilization committee with a few friends from class, organize a general assembly in your departmental student association or pressure your student representatives to do so. Historically, it's what has worked in this province.

If part of the purpose of higher education is to think critically, that includes looking at our current situation as a student body with a historical eye. And that eye tells us that when united, student strikes make history.

Nadia Hausfather is doing her PhD thesis on the history of student strikes at Concordia University and is an elected Graduate Students' Association Councillor and a founding member of Free Education Montreal. To get help or get involved, go to concordiastudents.ca and freededucationmontreal.org or email info@concordiastudents.ca and info@freededucationmontreal.org.

An Apology

When the initial draft of the article “No to Movember” published in Vol. 32, Issue 11 of *The Link* wound up in my inbox, it didn’t sit well with me.

I had an uneasy gut feeling about it, but nonetheless proceeded to do what I do when I read every opinions piece submitted to me—push my personal feelings aside.

I do this because as the editor of the opinions section I think it is crucial to retain the ability to publish articles that argue a point-of-view other than my own—my job is by no means to be a gatekeeper who exercises the authority to determine which

opinions are “good” or “bad.” Whether or not an article jives with my ideological standpoint is an irrelevant factor in determining whether or not it makes it to print.

That said, it is my job to ensure that anything and everything printed in my section is well written, structured and factually accurate. My job is to hold my writers to high standards—just as it is the job of all of the other section editors to do the same.

This past week, I let an article go to print that fell short of those standards and should not have allowed “No to Movember” to be

published—at least, not as it appeared on the page last week.

For that, I apologize.

While the emotions and opinions expressed in the piece are evidently unpopular and may be controversial, they are not the reason I am writing this apology. They are not libelous, defamatory, or considered to be hate speech, and therefore do not provide sufficient basis for a retraction. But I acknowledge that the article itself was not fit for print, due to the way in which it was written.

A newspaper opinions piece should be factually based and complete with substantiated evi-

dence in support of the author’s viewpoint. In this respect, the article was more rhetorical than it was journalistic—a shortcoming I should have caught and either stopped or fixed.

Additionally, prostate cancer is a sensitive subject and one that has personally affected a lot of people. I should have ensured this was taken into consideration when I approved the words and tone used to discuss it.

I would like to extend an apology to anyone, especially those affected by prostate cancer, who was hurt by this article. I would also like to apologize to our readers who hold *The Link* to

a higher standard and were disappointed in the quality of content they received last week.

I assure that neither myself, nor *The Link’s* editorial staff, had any malicious or hurtful intentions in publishing this article.

I can also assure you that this has been an educational experience for all of us, and that something like this does not happen again.

Sincerely,
Megan Dolski

—Opinions Editor
Endorsed by The Link’s Masthead
More online from Alex Manley



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

No, Bro

I’ll admit it: I am a brave man. I am consistently blazing new frontiers in my area of expertise: inaction. I am all about not doing things, especially things that could potentially help others. I’m just a handsome rebel that way and there’s nothing society can do about it.

That’s why Alex Manley’s insightful article “No to Movember” published in Vol. 32 Issue 11 of *The Link* struck such a powerful chord with me. It’s not often that someone is brave enough to tell people to wake up, smell the tulips because roses are too popular, and stop donating to a charity. Even more impressive is that he managed to do this without using any facts.

It’s as simple as this: prostate cancer is the good kind of cancer, and anyone who has it is probably a hedge-fund manager, sitting in an ergonomic chair made of cash. We should all be so lucky! Prostate cancer is this century’s gout, affecting only kings and noblemen.

Now, some of you what Alex so cleverly dubbed Mo-Bros (Seriously, fuck you guys!) might be saying “but wait, the American Cancer Society has found that prostate cancer is most common among Black men, and low-income people generally lack the means to exercise or get a nutritious diet, which in turn increases their risk.”

Oh, I hear you, bro. You’re saying prostate cancer is most likely to affect the most entitled people on earth: low-income Black Americans. I mean, can you name one current president that isn’t black?

The important thing is that Alex Manley’s writing has sparked painfully unnecessary conversation. From the people who claim white women are more entitled than men, to the folks that say prostate cancer patients should just walk it off, they all have important things to say, and, like Alex, they won’t be stopped by rational

thought or credible evidence.

So the next time you see the name Alex Manley, don’t think “bizarre distortions of reality” or “the absurd ramblings of a syphilitic brain.” In fact, don’t think at all. Just remember: Charity is a zero-sum game in which various organizations viciously fight for your money. Donating to UNICEF is basically like taking away money from AIDS research, and donating to AIDS research causes the SPCA to put down dozens of the cutest puppies.

In conclusion, in the spirit of Alex Manley, I humbly say to you, dear reader: HEY EVERYBODY, LOOK AT ME!

—Brett Perlman
BA Creative Writing

Wrong Focus

The article “No to Movember” published in Vol. 32 Issue 11 of *The Link*—despite having a great headline—commits a big fallacy by stating the idea that suffering can be measured and compared.

While it is obvious that starving to death is a terrible thing, I am opposed to give it a rank on a suffering scale and lining it up against suffering from prostate cancer, to see which is truly worthy of the term suffering.

This is what the article does, despite that suffering is always a subjective experience that cannot and most importantly, should not be measured to make its existence a worthwhile one. Following through with this fallacy would lead to a point where one would have to justify the offered help, despite that helping to overcome suffering is always justified within itself.

Now my point is not to make a relativistic statement about suffering, but to show what the article actually should have focused on. If charity is indeed a zero sum game, due to the fact that a person can only give so much to charity, the real question to ask

is not “is prostate cancer a worthy cause?” but, “Why is Movember so successful in promoting its cause?”

And I do think here lays the real crux of the dissatisfaction of the author: “Why is it that Movember gets people organized, whereas providing people with clean drinking water is not?”

Probably unknown to the author the answer to his question is in his own article: “People give a little money to one charity [...] they feel good about their good deed—good enough that they don’t have to feel guilty about donating anywhere else.” Guilt is not just a bad motivator for charity it has the contrary effect of alienating one from the cause (remember the “Nah’m-sayin?” from Nov.1).

So the answer to the question “Why is Movember so successful?” is simply that it does not alienate people from the cause by pushing towards guilt, but rather fueling the joy people can have while helping.

This should have been the real focus of the article: “How can we make charity an event where people joyfully embrace the cause and help overcoming suffering?”

To answer this question, Movember is and should be an excellent example to orientate on.

—Jonas Streicher
Exchange Student

A Disappointing Read

Alex Manley’s piece “No to Movember” published in Vol. 32, Issue 11 of *The Link* was a very disappointing read.

Patriarchy oppresses everyone, including the (white, western) males it claims to empower. Harmful patriarchal attitudes surrounding prostate examinations and assumptions about the kind of people who get genital area cancers do no favours to men who need to be regularly screened for these things to prevent illness and death.

Instead of critiquing the campaign in an intelligent and curious

way such as the “pinkwashing” awareness campaigns have done surrounding controversial breast cancer awareness and research, Manley’s piece takes the incredibly insensitive at best and belligerent at worst position that this kind of cancer is a privilege because it affects males.

Never mind that men of colour have a far higher rate of prostate cancer, or that economically disadvantaged men are at far greater risk to die from prostate cancer thanks to lack of timely screening and treatment.

Such opinions are uneducated and uninformed, and serve to do nothing but create divisiveness, pitting groups against one another instead of empowering us through working together.

Gender issues such as this arise in a culture governed by patriarchy and as gender advocates we believe in the empowerment of all genders to be free from harmful patriarchy. To the family, friends, children, and parents who lost fathers, husbands, lovers, brothers, sons, and buddies to prostate cancer, it’s hardly a privilege.

—Wendy Kraus-Heitmann,
2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy
Board of Directors

The Secret CSU

Our Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein was fired last Tuesday at no fault of his own. I defended Mr. Goldstein in the Judicial Board hearing where his fate was decided.

President Lex Gill filed the complaint to the Judicial Board, on behalf of the Concordia Student Union.

The CSU’s case was weak and it opens the CSU to litigation, setting a very dangerous precedent (that Gill can fire anyone she wants by questioning the hiring process that she oversees).

The case made no sense, suddenly appearing seven months

after Mr. Goldstein was hired, and right before the November byelection. We lost. And Bram was fired.

How come you may ask? Was my respondent’s brief sloppy? Nope. It was almost quoted word for word in the Judicial Board Decision. Did the CSU manage to find some crazy evidence that can prove that the hiring process was faulty? Nope. Not even close.

I watched the video footage multiple times to see where I went wrong. At one point I saw what seemed like collusion between a JB member and the CSU.

Last Wednesday I came to council to bring up my concerns. Council’s response was to go into closed session and mock me.

Council decided to discuss the matter in closed session—while the JB are allowed to stay in closed session, I am not. In the closed session JB Chair Cassie Smith presented personal emails I sent to her, allegedly attacked my character, mocked me and joined the ranks of the councillors in publicly humiliating me and even attempted to pass a motion to call me “the Troll of the CSU.”

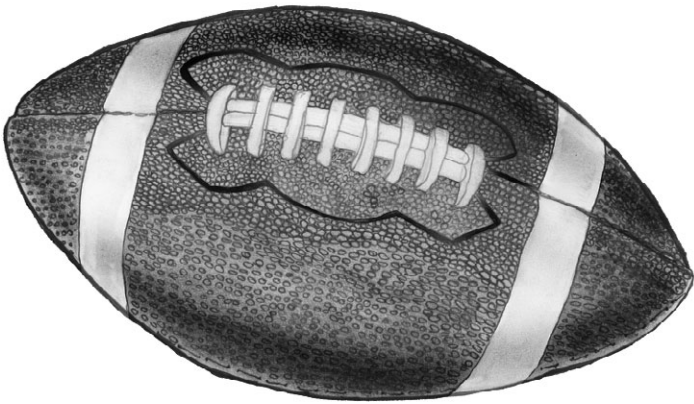
I would like to specify that such disrespectful behavior is not the fault of council. Such behavior comes from the top, from the President.

It seems that our president lacks the basic compassion and respect that all the members of our union should share. To mock a member of the union in a closed session meeting without that member present to defend themselves is cowardly, and we deserve a president who is not a coward.

I would also like to mention that not all the people in that closed session shared in the mirth. VP’s Chad Walcott, Morgan Pudwell and Laura Glover all requested that this disrespectful and childish act be stopped immediately, and for that they have my gratitude.

—Tomer Shavit
BFA Computation Arts

'SPORTS'



CROSSWORD CHRISTOPHER OLSON

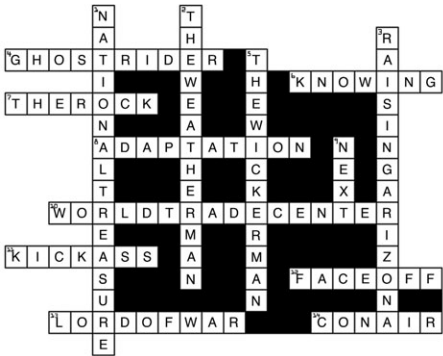


Across

2. Sometimes called “the world’s game.” Somebody forgot to inform North America.
5. One of the few professional sports in which a beer belly isn’t an impediment to becoming a world champion. Now that I think about it, I can’t really imagine someone playing this sport while in peak physical condition.
6. While some sports eventually resort to fisticuffs, this sport rarely devolves into playing hockey.
8. Where would we go for all our sports-related sex puns without this sport? Golf? I don’t think so.
10. As a Canadian I am inclined to like this sport, as per Canadian cliché.
12. This sport has yet to earn “professional” status, probably because it requires you to tuck a broom between your legs for no discernible reason.
13. The game of rich hedge fund managers and old people of practically any income.

Down

1. My knowledge of this sport is limited to my awareness that it does not refer to an insect.
3. A sometimes-competitive, very physical sport that is by definition relegated to the sidelines. Think more end-zone dance, less actual scoring.
4. First they steal Native land, now they’re stealing the name of Europe’s favourite sport?
6. According to those Canadian Heritage Minute commercials, this sport is Canadian. You will be reminded of this again shortly.
7. One of the few sports where a wrong move can mean a fiery blaze. And by “one of the few” I mean the only one.
9. As in volleyball, this is one of the few sports where getting the ball into the net is precisely what you don’t want to do.
11. Like American football, only somehow more manly. And European. And no shoulder pads or gear.



ISSUE 11 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS 'NICOLAS CAGE'



Entry Denied

I think my boyfriend wants to have anal sex. Lately before we have sex he’s been doing this awkward thing where he pushes against my asshole with his dick for a bit before moving down to enter my vagina. The first few times I thought it was dark and he just missed the mark but now I’m pretty sure it’s on purpose. I don’t really know if I want to try anal but I think we should be talking about it if it’s on the table. How do I bring it up?

—Anal-ytical

Has he been giving you any other sort of anal attention? Does he maybe slip a finger by when fingering you or linger down below when giving you head?

Like you assumed, I think it’s pretty clear he’s testing the waters to see what you think about anal because he either wants to do it or is just experiment with that part of you.

The specific testing he’s doing is called “door knocking”—he’s knocking on your door to see if you’re going to let him in.

Before we get to his intentions and what they mean in the context of your relationship, we need to address a very important safer sex note, though. You shouldn’t be moving things—in this case, his dick—between your ass and vagina, regardless of whether he’s got protection on.

I don’t think I need to remind you what your asshole is primarily used for, and even if it’s only touching the opening, you’re still moving bacteria from the ass into the vagina and possibly the urethra, which can cause a variety of extremely painful and annoying infections. So switch condoms any time you switch openings.

Now that that’s covered, let’s get back to your question. Has the topic of anal ever come up? If so, how did the conversation go?

I’m thinking if he knows you’ve never had anal sex (which I’m assuming you haven’t, based on your question) he might think he has more of a chance testing out some anal play when you’re really turned on than just asking you when you’re not.

While this may in fact be the case, first-time anal isn’t something to treat lightly. While it may be really great for some people to just go for it when trying anal for the first time, it can also be pretty damn intimidating, not to mention dangerous if neither of you know what you’re doing, or one person doesn’t want to actually be doing it.

Regardless of whether you want to or not, I agree that you should be talking about it if it’s something he’s hinting towards. I’m also a firm believer that if you can’t talk about something, you probably shouldn’t be doing it.

In terms of bringing it up, you can approach the topic one of two ways—casually or straight to the point. You can strike up a conversation about anal sex generally and feel him out. Maybe ask questions like whether he’s ever done it before, if it’s something that turns him on, etc.

Straight to the point would be telling him you’ve noticed what he’s been doing and asking if it’s because he wants to have anal sex. I would personally suggest a mix of both styles; try being casual at first, but eventually lead into what you think is going on.

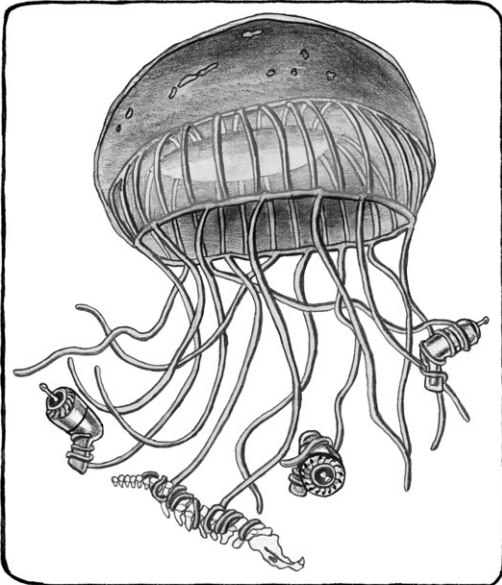
I don’t know how the situation is making you feel, but I would imagine there’s at least some sense of pressure on you to go along with it, on top of the awkwardness you described. The good news is since it seems like this has happened a few times it doesn’t look like he would just go ahead and try anal without clear indication from you.

So talk about it, figure out what you both want and if you ever need a guide to easing into anal, write in again!

—Melissa Fuller

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

Tremendous Tales
by Christopher Olson

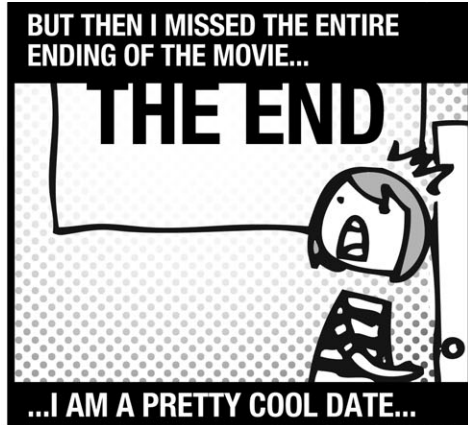
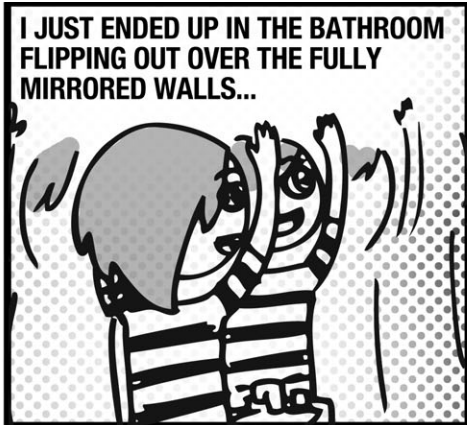
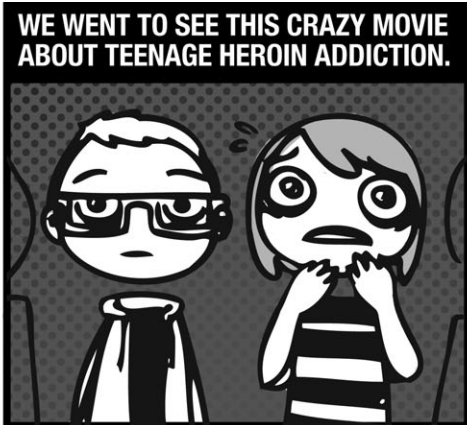


Though most remember it as the summer of the great alien invasion, for Johnny, it was the summer he realized he wanted to be a spinal surgeon.

Barton Flats
COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Living The Life
COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



False Knees
COMIC JOSH BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

Passing Gas

Just imagine—you've been working for hours on a paper in the library, you're exhausted, your eyes are bleeding from caffeine intoxication, and the deadline is drawing ever closer.

Then, all of a sudden, your train of thought is disturbed by a sneaky, near-lethal gastric emanation: your neighbour has farted.

Just because libraries are usually seen as boring does not give you permission to casually cut the cheese like that.

Books have feelings too, you know, and while trees do absorb carbon dioxide very well, their smaller, more rectangular book-cousins are incapable of absorbing methane emissions.

For the safety of the students, I believe the librarians should, like hostesses and stewards on airplanes, be required to make security announcements.

"In case of an intestinal depressurization,

washrooms are located on the east and west sides of each floor of the building. Please take the time now to locate the washroom closest to your seat."

Or maybe just create a new section. After the blue and orange zones, why not create a red one, where all the students who don't know how to control the sphincter muscles in their bodies could gather and share winds?

Whatever means the admin takes to address the situation, it simply can't go on unchecked. Having to wear a full hazmat suit every time I go to the library does get me a lot of strange looks, and I must admit, it's very impractical to wear when reading books. You try turning pages with those giant rubbery fingers.

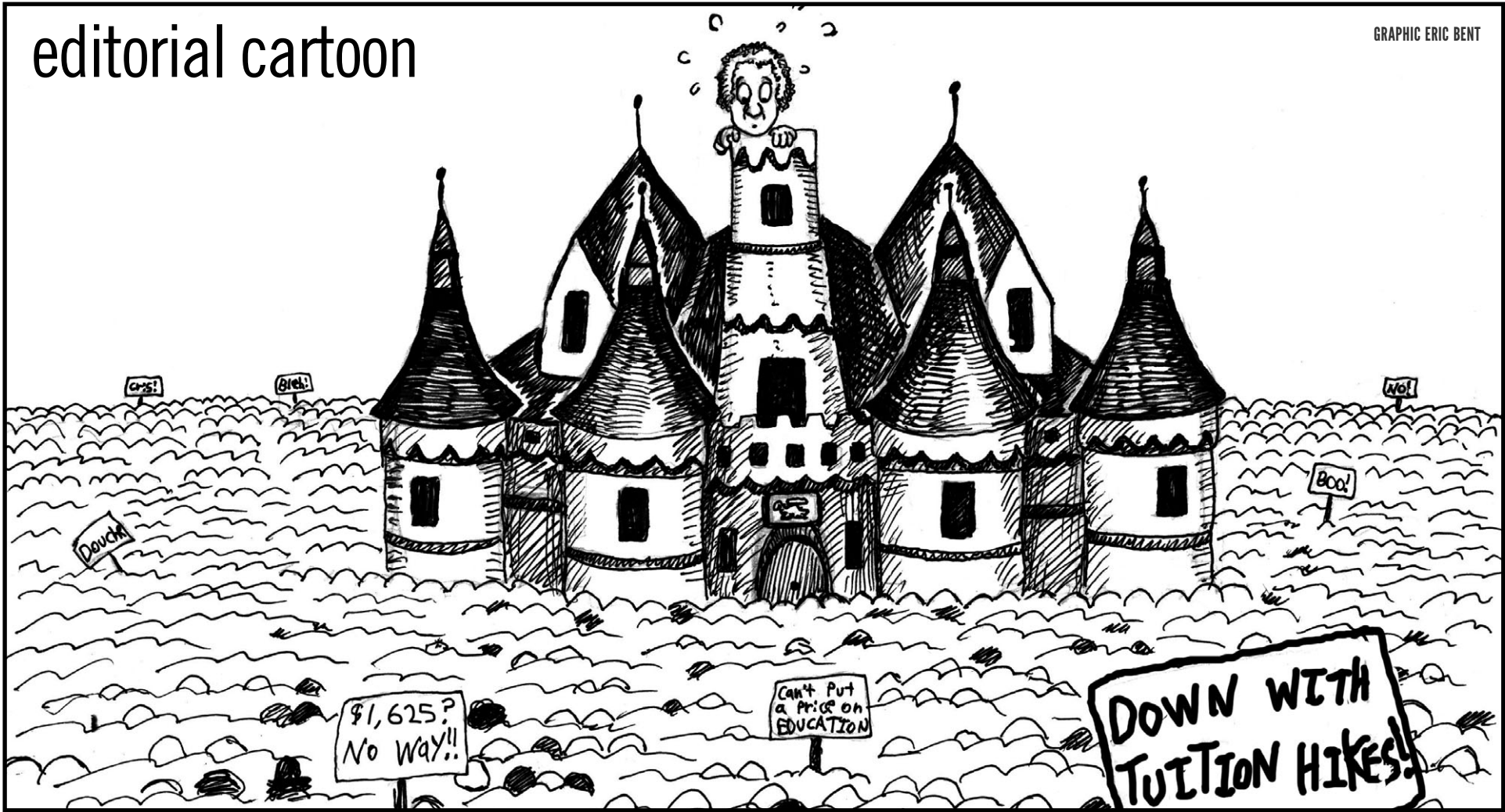
—Pierre Chauvin
Community Editor



GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial cartoon

GRAPHIC ERIC BENT



Keep To the Streets

editorial

For those of us invested in the fight against tuition hikes, Nov. 10 was an amazing day. Tens of thousands of students and allies marched, despite abysmal weather, to show Premier Jean Charest and the Liberals that we're not going to take this without a fight.

But now it feels like we're in a weird sort of post-Day of Action limbo.

While Nov. 10 posters still cover the school, students who were persuaded to care and take to the streets are no longer sure of how to contribute to the cause.

The Concordia Student Union has promised to continue educating students about the increase through tabling and classroom visits. They even hinted at a few more stunts like the helium balloons released in the Hall Building Sept. 28.

And while that's great, it's sort of a letdown if that's all we've got planned for this semester.

Thursday—hopefully—served as a real wake-up call for the Liberal government in this province. Charest was

forced to look out of his ivory tower at anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 voters calling for his head.

As someone who was only elected with 46 per cent of the popular vote, and whose approval ratings hit the 33 per cent mark in October, that number should scare him. A lot.

But if students back off now and wait until the winter to try again, we're going to have to start from scratch.

Phase one, the Day of Action, is over and it was, in many ways, a huge success. Now we have the numbers, and people are aware of the cause, so I hope the CSU doesn't retain their focus on handing out pamphlets and putting up signs pointing to just one specific date.

Instead, we should start seeing different information that pertains to this new phase. Things like their tear sheet listing a student's rights should they get arrested during a protest, and a clearly outlined plan of how we will force this hike off the table.

It's time for everyone's reps to meet again, and organize a way to capitalize on the power we have here. If that happens, there's no way we can lose.

After all, it's not just students that want to fundamentally change the way this province is run. Several unions, such as the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association, walked alongside us on Nov 10.

This march helped all of us get our voices heard.

But without regularly blocking the streets and costing the province money, time and public appeal, nothing is going to change.

Only through frequent and continued demonstrations—coordinated with groups like the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, the Students' Society of McGill University and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec—will force lawmakers to change this legislation. And while

that sounds like a totally impossible goal, it doesn't have to be.

Think about it this way. By some estimates, there were over 30,000 people at Thursday's protest. If you could get every one of those people to march just one day a month, we'd have a thousand people on the streets every day.

How long could the Liberals withstand that volume of discontent?

That might be a little optimistic, but it's not so unreasonable to think we're capable of elevated levels of protest. Our Day of Action proved that.

So if such manifestation does happen, and the CSU starts coming around to your classrooms with a protest sign-up sheet, make sure your name gets on there. Don't forget that, despite the incredible events of Thursday, we've only just begun.

If Nov. 10 was strike one, I can only imagine strike two.

—Julia Wolfe
Managing Editor

Corrections

In the article "Shooting Ourselves in the Foot" published in Vol. 32, Issue 11 of *The Link*, it was reported that "As of March 2007, nearly 2 million Canadians held valid firearms licenses for almost \$7 million registered firearms, according to StatsCan." The statement should have read almost 7 million registered firearms, not \$7 million. *The Link* regrets the error.

THE LINK

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