

THE

LiNK

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The End of the Quebec Model? • Page 4 & 25



# CSU SGM Fails to Meet Quorum

• HILARY SINCLAIR

The latest Concordia Student Union Special General Meeting was a forum with no quorum on a frigid Reggie's terrace March 26.

The meeting's agenda included votes on CSU participation in the minimum agreement between Quebec student organizations, as well as deciding whether to renew the undergraduate strike, which had ended on March 23, until March 30.

Neither of those decisions were made, however, as total voter turnout was only approximately 348 students. Quorum to begin an SGM and vote on binding resolutions is 450 students.

"It was a tough call," said CSU Chair Nick Cuillerier, who was also one of the chairs at the first GA. "After waiting 45 minutes to an hour, it appeared that the amount of people coming in and registering was not equal to the amount of people that were leaving the premises. I waited as long as I reasonably could. [...] There were a lot of people waiting in the cold, and I had to make the decision."

The SGM was called after a petition signed by 294 students was submitted to the CSU.

Part of the purpose of the SGM was to discuss the minimum agree-

ment, which is a contract that binds student group signatories to three clauses.

The provisions bar signatories from speaking out against the actions of other groups; call for the refusal to negotiate with the government if any student group is excluded, and prevent umbrella groups from taking a side with the government position on the hikes.

While three national student groups in Quebec signed the minimum agreement, it has not been signed by the the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, which is the group that the CSU belongs to.

The motion also stipulated that weekly General Assemblies be held by the CSU to decide on continuation of the strike, while respecting and supporting individual faculty association GA decisions.

The SGM was originally slated for March 23 but was pushed back due to the province-wide rally that saw Montreal streets flooded with some 200,000 students.

"We didn't have the adequate amount of time to advertise [the SGM] given March 22 and then [there was] the university's email on Friday and everything leading up to that," said CSU VP External Chad Walcott, referring to an email sent to students by Concordia ad-



The scene on Reggie's terrace during the CSU SGM

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

ministration.

The email denounced strike actions and threatened legal action for those who attempt to block entry to buildings and classrooms.

"There is going to be another petition signed soon," Walcott said, "so we'll just have to try again and hopefully find out when it is earlier."

When the meeting was adjourned, the microphone passed from CSU to student hands, with calls for immediate action.

The biting wind forced students to regroup on the seventh floor of the Hall Building where CSU VP Advocacy Morgan Pudwell facilitated an informal discussion on further action against the hike.

Initiatives ranging from blocking buildings and exam rooms, economic blockades, creative protests and action outside of Premier Jean Charest's office were

brought to the agenda.

Some students were vocal about loss of momentum in the student movement due to mounting separation, misinformation and fear; there were various calls to "stop talking and do something."

Geography students three floors below were taking action by forming a picket line outside of a GEOG 318 class. Those holding the line would not provide their names in light of the firm stance taken by the university. They said that they were letting students into the classroom, but not professors.

This action facilitated the low attendance that lead to the cancellation of class by lecturer Julie Podmore, after consultation with the Concordia security guards who faced protesters.

"A lot of faculty feel like they're out of ideas because the university has said they are not extending the

semester," said Podmore.

The need for discussion between students and professors is essential, she said, as many professors are unsure which students are actually involved with strike action.

Following group discussion on the seventh floor, students broke into smaller groups for dialogue.

The conversation addressed three main concerns: alternative Concordia actions such as picketing classrooms and buildings, ways to participate in a broader week of economic action with other student groups like L'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante and networking with contacts that could aid the movement.

While CSU President Lex Gill admitted that executives were "burning out," it seems that other student leaders are beginning to mobilize.

## HARD LINE FROM ADMIN WITH A BAN AT MCGILL, ALLEGED ASSAULT AT CON U

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Concordia Security is under fire after one of their personnel allegedly hit a student Monday morning.

The incident occurred in the Faubourg Building where geography classes were being picketed. A video was released later that day showing security agents watching picketers.

"He hit me across the face, pretty hard," said Amber Gross, a student at McGill University who was filming security guards.

Around 40 seconds into the video a security agent tries to hide his face and says, "Don't film, it's not allowed," before the camera falls on the ground. Gross claims this was when the agent hit her.

"I heard a clack [and] I saw the girl who was hit, her face was down," said the Geography Undergraduate Student Society VP Finance Trevor Smith.

"I wasn't at the right angle for it, but I just remember this security personnel lifting his arms and it looked to me like it might have been punching towards the student—a right hook towards the student, but I don't think it was a punch," Smith said.

Smith was organizing picket lines when the alleged assault occurred, "the student union having voted on a strike mandate on Feb. 29. Picketers were met by security guards who filmed them and asked for their student ID numbers.

Gross explained she was video-

taping the agents because they did not identify themselves.

"We wanted their ID card, which they are required to have under Quebec law."

Smith confirmed the agents refused to identify themselves.

These incidents happened a few days after Concordia released a statement announcing it would charge students under the Academic Code of Conduct if they were blocking classes.

"Those unable or refusing to identify themselves will be photographed and charged once they have been identified," the statement read.

Incidents involving picketing also happened at McGill University March 26, and several students were banned from campus.

One of the banned students, who wished to remain anonymous, explained that he joined a group of students picketing a class.

"Some people started doing a hard picket to let students but not professors in. I was standing about five feet away from that.

"The Dean of Arts called me over and said that [I] was not allowed on campus for five days and that I had to leave immediately," said the student.

*The Link* came into possession of confidential documents notifying the students of their temporary expulsion.

"I have reasonable grounds to believe that your continued presence on campus is detrimental to good order," reads the letter signed by Associate Dean of Arts

André Costopoulos.

McGill University responded by updating their "Demonstration FAQ" later that day.

"No students have been suspended from the University for participation in demonstrations or student strike-related activities.

"Most circumstances that lead to exclusion from campus under Article 21a involve allegations and reliable preliminary evidence of repeated and systematic infringement of the rights of others in one form or another," the statement read.

A spokesperson for Concordia University was not available for comments at press time and Concordia Security did not return *The Link's* calls.

—with files from Julia Jones

# A BETTER CONCORDIA IS ON ITS WAY

\*All numbers are approximate. Unless otherwise noted, votes counts refer to the presidential candidates only.

## WHEN WE VOTED

Laforest felt that the strike had a very large and very necessary role to play in these elections.

"The elections weren't as out-there and in people's faces as they are notoriously known to be," said Laforest. "However, that doesn't bother me because I really think that this strike dialogue is the most important dialogue that needed to be happening, something that Concordia students needed to address."

"It was hard to campaign because often times we'd go to do classroom speeches and

the classes would either be empty, or there would be no class, or hard picket lines. We really had to adapt to the climate."

As a CSU Councillor candidate last year, Hotchkiss received almost twice as many votes than she did this year while running for the presidential position.

"Looking at the results of this election, not in terms of who got elected but in terms of the actual numbers, I think it's really sad to see the low voter turnout this year," said Hotchkiss. "It's completely unacceptable, as far as I'm concerned."

## WHERE WE VOTED

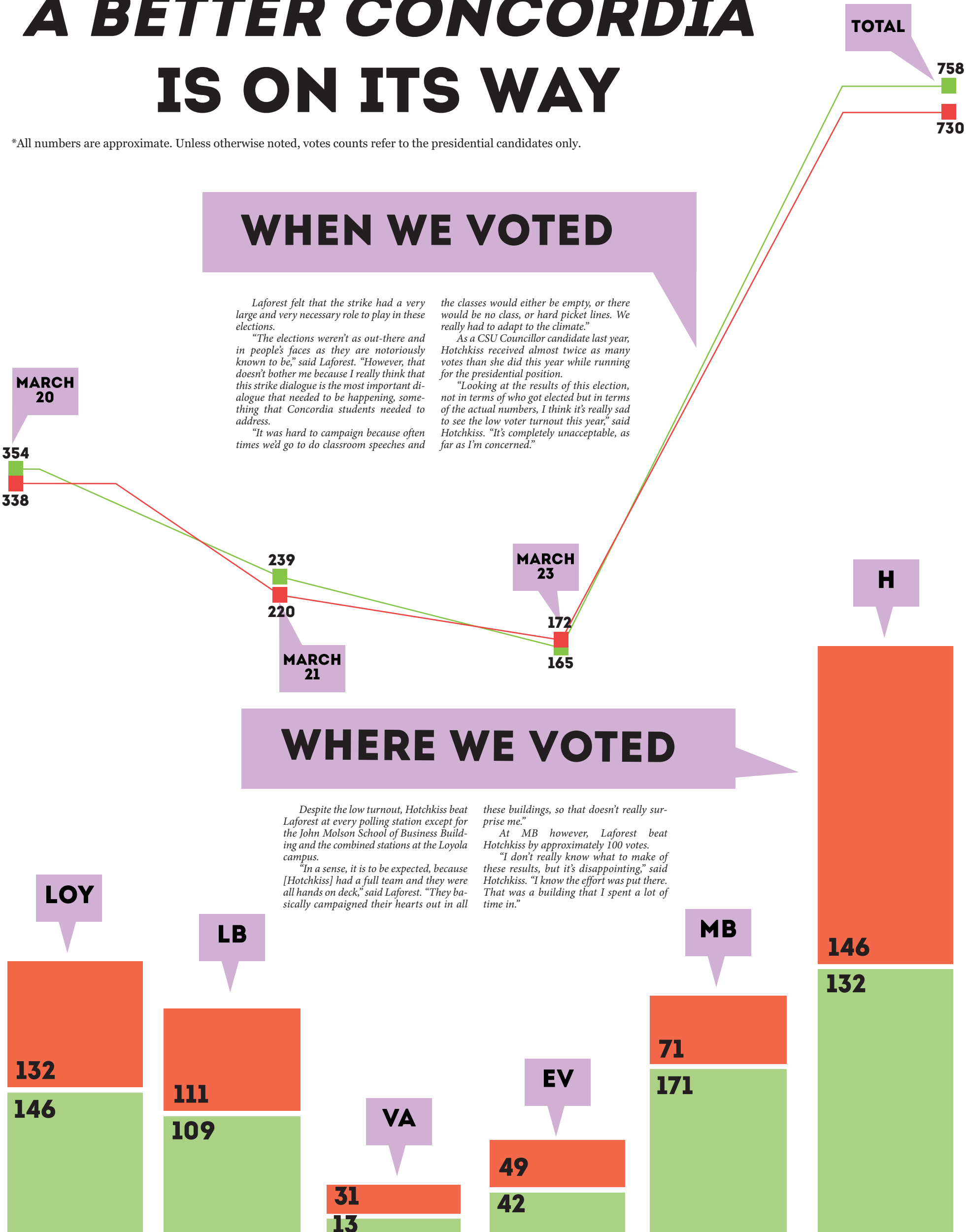
Despite the low turnout, Hotchkiss beat Laforest at every polling station except for the John Molson School of Business Building and the combined stations at the Loyola campus.

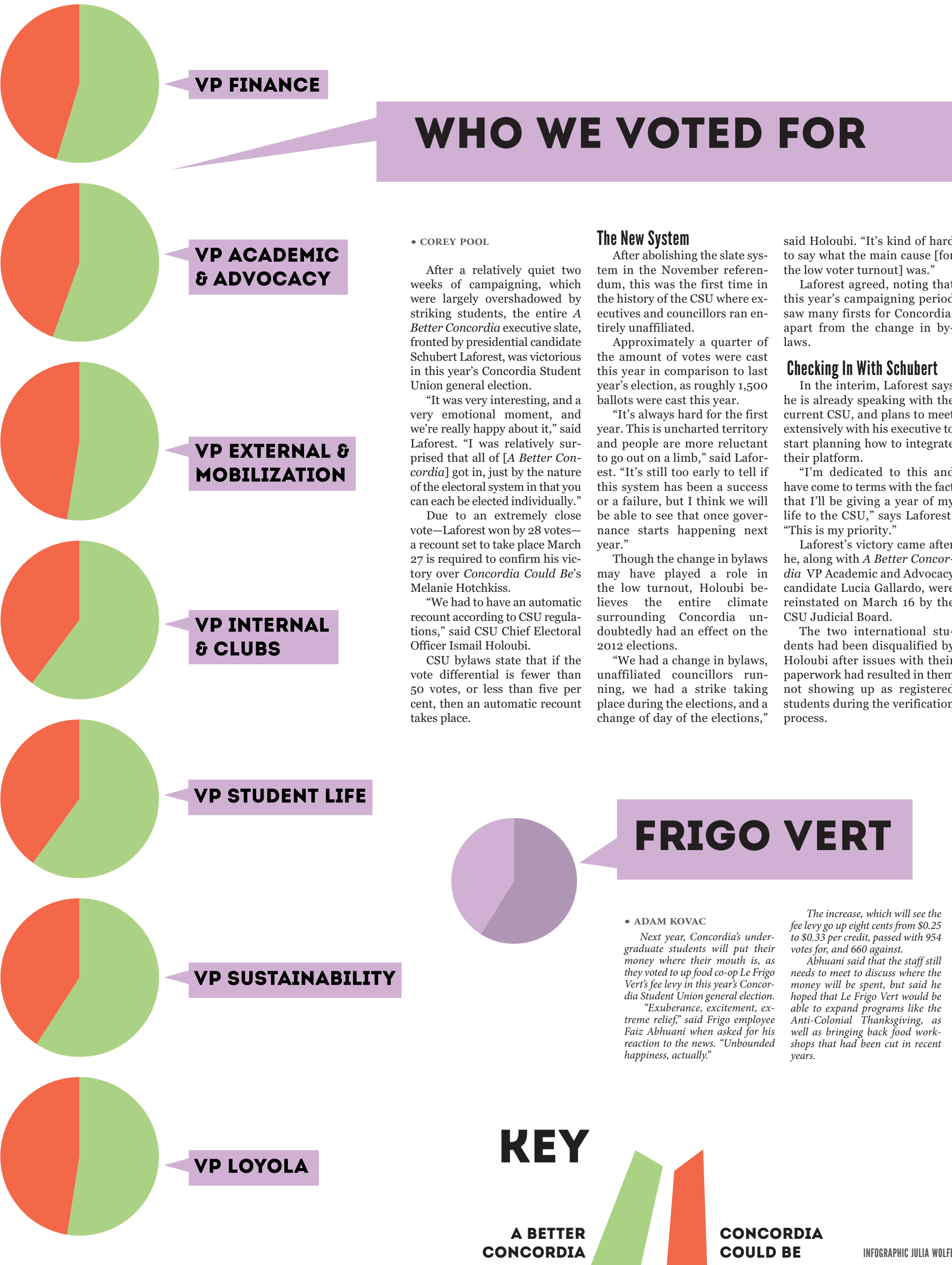
"In a sense, it is to be expected, because [Hotchkiss] had a full team and they were all hands on deck," said Laforest. "They basically campaigned their hearts out in all

these buildings, so that doesn't really surprise me."

At MB however, Laforest beat Hotchkiss by approximately 100 votes.

"I don't really know what to make of these results, but it's disappointing," said Hotchkiss. "I know the effort was put there. That was a building that I spent a lot of time in."







06 current affairs



An estimated 200,000 people, including students, union workers and professors marched last Thursday against the proposed tuition hikes.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



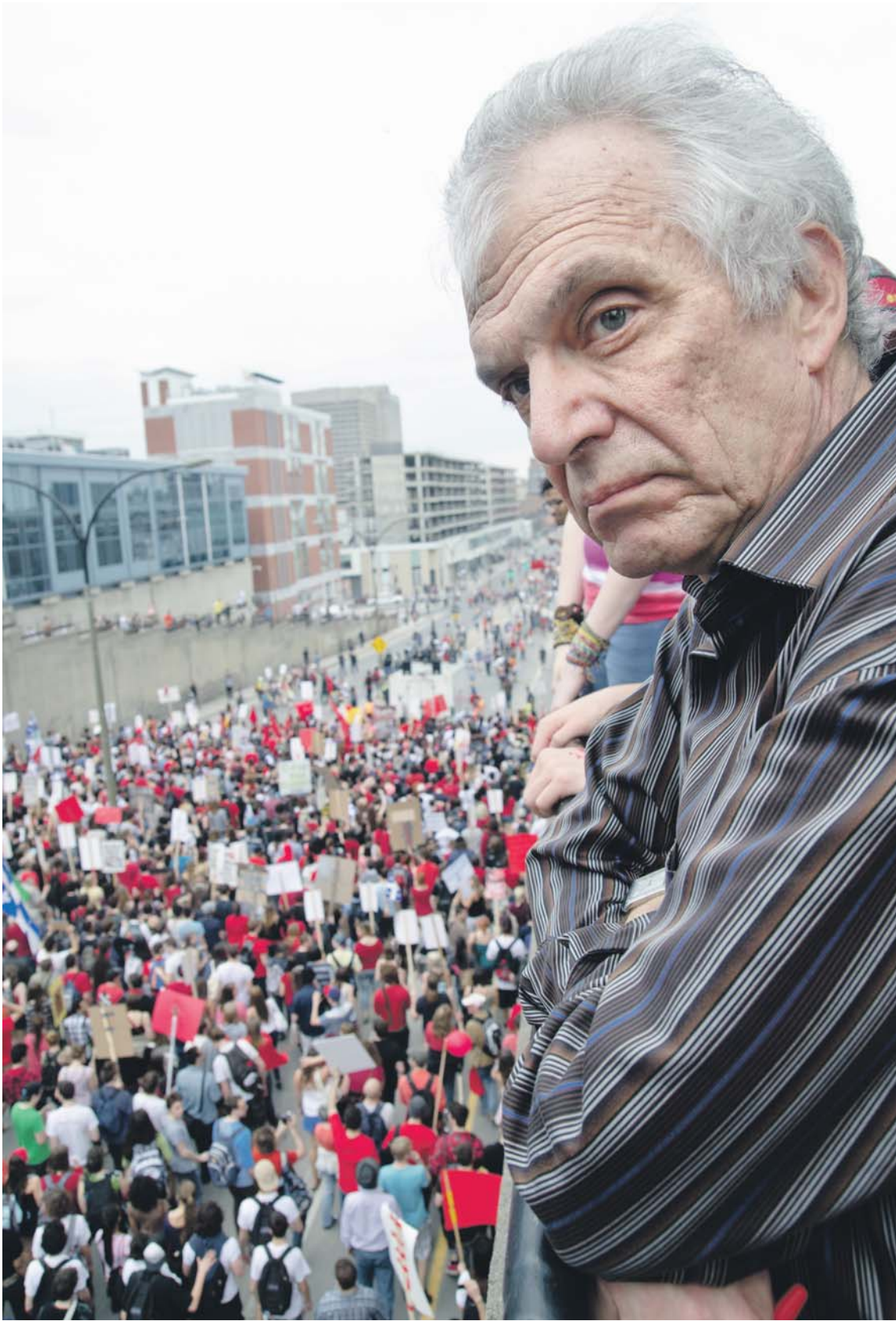
Multiple papier-mâché Charest heads were seen during the march.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



Onlookers wave red squares as students march down Berri St.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



A man watches from above as a five kilometre stretch of students passes below him.

PHOTO VINCENT YIP





A protestor sits at the base of the statue of Monseigneur Ignace Bourget in Place du Canada.



PHOTO RODRIGO LOZADA

# Red in the Streets

## Two Hundred Thousand Students Peacefully Make History

• COREY POOL

An estimated 200,000 people flooded downtown Montreal on March 22 as part of a now-historic demonstration against impending tuition hikes, shutting down upwards of 50 city blocks to traffic throughout the afternoon.

After a month of intensifying student mobilization and protests that featured moments of violence, this demonstration remained peaceful, with police presence remaining relatively low.

Despite tweets from the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal's official account noting protesters with "pyrotechnic devices" and sticks, there were no arrests, and no reported cases of injury.

"It was amazing," said Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott. "Even we didn't think that the day would go off without any kind of incident, but it did. The student movement was able to show that we can demonstrate in a massive, peaceful way."

The Concordia Emergency Response Team was on the ground making sure that everything ran smoothly, ensuring the safety of students and fellow

demonstrators alike.

"Originally we heard that there would be no medical intervention on the scene at all, and that the other organizations were told that they weren't allowed to be within the protest for fear that there would be violence of some sort," said CERT organizer and Concordia journalism student Arndell Florent LeBlanc.

"That's why we were certain that we had to go in."

Roughly 20 volunteers from Concordia, 40 volunteer ambulance students from the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, as well as a dozen or so security kept a close eye on the peaceful demonstration.

"We were trying to herd one of the largest groups of people with the smallest staff," said LeBlanc.

Contingents of students from the major Montreal universities converged on Ste. Catherine St. W. between de la Montagne St. and Bishop St. around noon to rally before the march.

By 1:00 p.m., buses from various universities and CEGEPs across the province—including some Ontario students—had unloaded thousands more to take part in the demonstration.

"We didn't know how big it was until we got to Berri and they announced there were 200,000 and the last of the people were leaving Place du Canada," said Walcott. "It was incredible, and something I don't know if I'll witness again."

After converging with another small group on Berri St. and René-Lévesque Blvd., a brief confrontation between protesters occurred after a group of university students attempted to block the van leading the demonstration.

"There are still slight issues of petty politics that happen even at the provincial level with student associations," said Walcott. "Frankly, I don't think that Concordia needs to be a part of it, I don't want Concordia to be involved in it, and I'll do my best to keep the peace."

After moving through the streets for roughly five hours, the march finally halted at Viger Parc in the Old Port, where student groups held a rally involving several speeches from student leaders.

By 6:00 p.m. there were still large groups of people occupying Viger Park and much of the surrounding streets, but most of the crowd had dispersed peacefully.

On March 26 the CSU held a Special General Meeting to decide on whether or not to continue the strike, as well as to vote on the minimum agreement in solidarity with three other national student groups. Unable to make quorum, the SGM was adjourned without any votes being cast.

Despite the lack of an amended strike vote, Walcott says the CSU has not run out of steam and will continue to encourage departmental mobilization and working with other schools to put pressure on the Charest government.

Despite the annual Liberal budget being released on March 20 without any revisions concerning the issue of tuition, student groups promise to continue actions, planning to focus their tactics on putting pressure on the economy next.

"I think March 22 was a good way of getting public opinion on our side and to say, 'Students don't need to be violent, we don't need to smash windows to get what we want, we can just demonstrate in massive numbers,'" said Walcott.

"However, if the government [still refuses to listen,] I hope that it won't change too much."



PHOTO VINCENT YIP



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



# “This Is All We Have to Give You.”



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

## A Look at Concordia's Growing Labour Pains

• RILEY SPARKS

It's been a rough few weeks for unionized workers in Canada.

Montreal police tear-gassed workers picketing outside newly-bankrupt aircraft maintenance firm Aveos.

Mass layoffs at printing company Transcontinental wiped out 500 jobs in Montreal and Dartmouth, NS.

The House of Commons denied Air Canada workers the right to strike.

But Concordia's unionized workers say they've had more than a few rough weeks.

"Whether you're formally at the table or not, one never stops negotiating around this joint," said Maria Peluso, president of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association.

She was chief negotiator for CUPFA during a record-setting seven-year period of negotiations that finally ended in 2008 after the union began rotating strikes.

"Concordia has a reputation of delaying negotiations, protracting negotiations, seemingly forever. It's extremely unprofessional," said Peluso.

Bob Sonin, president of the Graduate Students' Association and VP Bargaining for the Teaching and Research Assistants of Concordia, agreed.

"They delay and delay and delay. It's become a joke that they delay one union because they're too busy delaying the other unions."

### "Delay and Delay and Delay"

"We have the distinction of having the largest period of negotiations," Peluso noted wryly. But many other unions have similar stories.

Almost three years after their collective agreement expired, the Concordia University Library Employees Union is still negotiating with the university. CULEU deposited their demands in January 2010, but negotiations have been moving slowly since then, explained union president Irene Fernandez.

"We'd like to do this in six months, a year, max. And we said that when we made the deposit. We said it the last time we negotiated. This institution just isn't moving," she said.

"We're told by our technical advisers [from the Confédération des syndicats nationaux] that nowhere else do negotiations take as long as they do at Concordia. But we're told by Concordia, 'Well, you know Concordia; this is how long it takes here.'"

Concordia's 96 maintenance workers are in a similar situation. Represented by the United Steelworkers Local 9538, they have been embroiled in an acrimonious and much-publicized dispute with the university for years.

Workers at the downtown campus have been without a collective agreement since June 2008, and their colleagues at Loyola haven't had one since June 2009.

"We've been at it since 2009, and [Concordia] couldn't care less,"

said Eddie Ginocchi, vice-president of the USW Local 9538. Ginocchi said his members are underpaid and need more staff to keep up with an increasing workload, but the university has so far refused to consider the union's demands.

"We haven't ever seen such long negotiations," said USW Quebec spokesperson Clairandree Cauchy.

The Concordia University Faculty Association's current collective agreement won't run out until this May. But their last agreement took two years to negotiate, and they're already predicting that this round, which began in November 2011, could be just as lengthy.

"Your guess is as good as mine. More than four months have passed and we have not signed a single article that we have agreed on," explained Ian Rakita, CUFA's chief negotiator. They still have more than two dozen issues to discuss, he said. "At the rate we're going, it could very well take two years plus. We're not at all happy with that."

*The Link* contacted Concordia two weeks prior to publication to ask for a comment. Concordia Associate VP Human Resources Carolina Willsher told *The Link* that the university was negotiating with several unions and that "negotiations are proceeding well."

Willsher referred *The Link* to Concordia's website and Frequently Asked Questions section for more information. Further interview requests were directed to the university's media relations, but were not returned by press time.

### More Delays

Unless any major breakthroughs are made, all but two of Concordia's unions will be negotiating with the university by this August. This backlog won't speed up the already-slow bargaining process, said Sonin.

"You just get fed into the hopper. So if it's a first-come, first-served kind of thing, [admin] can always say, 'This other union here, they've been negotiating for five years.'"

It's not an encouraging sign for unions like TRAC who have yet to begin their negotiations.

"I don't really have any confidence that the university will do anything but delay," said Sonin. "That's what they've done with all the other unions."

Fernandez noted that her colleagues in the Concordia University Professional Employees Union had even considered holding off negotiations because of the backlog.

CUPEU could not be reached for comment, but Fernandez explained that "they knew everybody else was negotiating, so what time would they get? And they don't want to spend two, three, four, five years negotiating."

To avoid delaying their negotiations, CUFA offered to set aside all non-monetary demands. Their previous collective agreement wasn't "all that bad" according to Rakita, so the union was prepared to leave it as-is.

"We really need to focus on what is really important," he explained, adding that Concordia Provost David Graham, who was present for

initial discussions with CUFA, had expressed support for the idea.

But the university's negotiation team has been less interested, instead insisting on "the change of a word here, a word there, wording that has been present for many agreements."

"Change for the sake of change" was the university's response when asked why these issues were only being raised now, Rakita said.

Other unions noted that such long negotiations meant that they often had to restart discussions or go over the same issues again.

"We saw four different university presidents, three different directors of human resources," said Peluso. And the university's negotiators also keep changing, according to several union reps.

"There's always new people, so most people find themselves training the very people they're negotiating with," Peluso said.

CULEU is also dealing with a new negotiator and there's been a significant learning curve. "Someone who has just come in will not know the culture and how things are done here," said Fernandez.

### Toil and Toilets

"The money is the main demand," Ginocchi explained.

"The university has the same old story: there is no money and we can't pay [...] Yet we see plenty of money being thrown out the window," he said, referencing the millions of dollars Concordia has spent

# 12 CONCORDIA LABOUR UNIONS

8 in indefinite negotiations over their Collective Agreements

## CUCEPTFU

Concordia University  
Continuing  
Education Part-time  
Faculty Union

expired 2007

## USW SGW

Maintenance workers

expired 2008

## USW LOYOLA

Maintenance workers

expired 2009

## CULEU

Concordia University  
Library Employees' Union

expired 2009

## CUUSS-TS

The Concordia University  
Union of Support Staff  
Technical Sector

expired 2009

## CUPEU

Concordia University  
Professional Employee  
Union

expired 2010

## CUSSU

Concordia University  
Support Staff Union

expired 2010

## ACUMAE

The Association of  
Concordia University  
Management and  
Administrative  
Employees

expired 2010

1 in limbo

## PSAC

The Public Service  
Alliance of Canada  
negotiations not  
started

3 have Collective  
Agreements that will  
soon expire

## CUFA

The Concordia  
University Faculty  
Association

expires May 2012

## CUPFA

The Concordia University  
Part-time Faculty  
Association

expires August 2012

## TRAC

Teaching and Research  
Assistants of Concordia

expires April 2013

GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

on severance packages for departing senior administrators in recent years.

He also noted that in 2010 the university gave a 2.5 per cent raise to senior administrators, whose average salary—not including benefits—is almost \$200,000. The university hasn't been so generous with the unions, Ginocchi said.

"Well, we can't have it. We're not allowed."

CULEU has asked for a two per cent wage increase, plus cost-of-living adjustments.

"Things have gone up tremendously cost-wise, from bus fares to gas to whatever, and our salaries have not gone up in the past three years at all," explained Fernandez.

It's been five years since the Steelworkers had a raise, and the university hasn't budged on salaries during the current negotiations, Ginocchi said.

"This is all we have to give you. This is all we have to give you. This is all we have to give you." No matter how many examples we bring in, "This is all we have to give you."

In the meantime, the university campus has grown hugely, and his members can't keep up with the work.

"We do pride ourselves. We do want to work hard. We strive to do our best," he said. "But [we're told,] 'You're being paid for the thirty-eight-and-three-quarter hours—if the toilets are broken today, screw it! Do it tomorrow!' But we don't do that, because we have the students at heart."

Hiring more maintenance

workers would help, but it's difficult to find people because qualified workers can usually earn more elsewhere. A unionized electrician making \$23 per hour at Concordia would be paid about \$34 per hour for the same job at Bombardier, Ginocchi said.

The university has so far refused to compare the Steelworkers' wages to their colleagues' wages at other universities.

"When McGill's tradespeople got a certain amount, [admin] told us, 'Well, they're gonna go broke, because they cannot afford to pay that much,'" Ginocchi recalled.

He noted that the McGill maintenance workers now report to Concordia's former VP Services, Michael Di Grappa.

"Well hang on, Di Grappa found the goddamned paper, and he was our boss before!"

## "There's No Respect"

Shortly before the Steelworkers left the table after years of unproductive bargaining, the workers' representative "used colourful language toward the spokesperson at the university," Ginocchi remembered.

"I removed myself from the negotiation table," he said, "because it gets to the point that they aggravate you, they drive you crazy, you want to jump over the table and use your fists."

Many other union reps stressed the need for a more conciliatory, less adversarial approach to negotiations. CULEU tried interest-

based bargaining—which encourages parties to present broad interests, rather than demands, in order to find a win-win solution—but quit in November 2011 after the provincially-appointed conciliator decided the sessions weren't going anywhere.

"You can't negotiate on interest-based bargaining and have Joseph Stalin across the table," said one union representative. The tone in the Steelworkers' negotiations has been similarly difficult, according to Ginocchi.

"It's gotten to the point that no matter what we say, they have a stone face, they couldn't care less," he said. "There's no respect."

## Radicalization

Many union representatives claimed that the less-than-amiable tone and slow pace of negotiations have pushed them to consider other options, including striking.

The Steelworkers were supposed to meet with the university on March 30, but that meeting has since been pushed back to April 17. Ginocchi expressed hope that they will make some progress at the next meeting, but the union still has a strike mandate and could stop work if things don't go well.

"We have to make a decision—either we go ahead or we blow up again," he said, alluding to his union's one-day strike in September 2011.

It took rotating strikes to break the stalemate in CUPFA's seven-year-long negotiations. An agree-

ment was finally signed, but the bitter dispute didn't help employee-employer relations.

"It simply cemented our resolve, that's one thing that it did, which I don't think is very productive," said Peluso.

"Negotiations lasting over two years are definitely the exception in Canada, not the rule. And we don't want to follow that tradition," explained Rakita.

At other universities, he noted, some faculty associations take a strike vote before negotiations begin, in case discussions drag for too long.

"Maybe something like that does force the hand of administrations to come to a conclusion in short order, rather than to talk for years on end."

CULEU is facing similar problems.

"There will come a time when people will be fed up, and... who knows?" Fernandez said. "I'm hoping that doesn't happen [...] I'd like to be able to reason and do things in a normal fashion, because there's nothing in our demands that's astronomically different."

But after almost three years, it's becoming increasingly difficult.

"I keep hearing now, every time I see someone, 'Do we have an agreement, do we have an agreement?' What can I say?"

## Validation

"A collective agreement should be implemented. It's not a contract that's either/or, but a contract of

mutual agreement. There should be harmony. That's not the case with any of them," said Peluso.

Ideally, she said, a collective agreement should be positive.

"You've arrived at an understanding. Inevitably conflict will always be there, but it should be minimal, it shouldn't be a chronic pattern."

"Certainly we feel that the salary and benefits that we pay to all of our employees are fair and comparable to other universities and similar institutions," Concordia's VP institutional Relations Bram Freedman told *The Link* in November.

"We feel that employees are paid comparably [and] we feel that administrators are paid comparably."

But the issue isn't specific demands, Peluso explained.

"It's not, 'Okay, what is it the library workers want, and what do the maintenance workers want, and what do I want?' I can give you a list—we can all give you a list—but there's something fundamentally wrong with how Concordia handles labour relations."

"An employer should be validating their employees. There are great people at Concordia. Great secretaries, labour workers, teachers, maintenance workers, professionals, managers."

"There are really great people. That's the soul of the community. We make it happen. So you should be validating these people. None of us feel validated."



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# ACCORDIA MEOW



## Letter From Flowy

To the Rascallions Standing Outside My School,  
You think I don't see you every day with your transistor radios, your ragtime music and your dope? Well, I know who you are and I'm hip to your game. I'm just here to tell you that the party's over.  
Starting today, you either go to class or you get off my lawn. Think I'm bluffing? Why don't you try your little commie strike tactics this afternoon and see what happens. Let me just paint a picture for you: packs of rabid junkyard dogs, greasy Irish policemen with thick sideburns, crate after crate of agitated bees. Did I mention we're building a moat?  
Now I know what you're thinking: 'Have a heart Flowy!'

Well, I do have a heart—thanks in part to the miracles of modern science (remember that Michael Bay movie where there's a colony of clones that exist for the sole purpose of having their organs harvested by old rich guys? Let's just say it might have been based on a true story.)  
The point is I care, I'm "down" with the student movement. I used to be a student myself. In my day, one semester at the Ecclesia cost three heads of cattle and 20 gold pieces. If you complained about it the Kaiser's men would beat you with a bag of wooden shoes. Two complaints and you'd be sold into serfdom. I miss the dark ages.  
Where was I going with this? Corn muffins? Why am I thinking of corn muffins?

I remember, now you're probably upset about those millions of dollars Accordia has wasted on severance packages, government fines and the purchasing of a condo for one Frederick J. Flowy. My response to that is simple... I'm old... and confused... is it time for the Jack Benny show yet? (Hahaha Fooled 'em again Flowy! Don't write that down.)  
Am I really that much worse than my predecessor, Trudy Lumbersworth? You know she's back teaching at Accordia. It's been awkward. In fact, I'm pretty sure she's been following me around, calling my house at night, breathing heavily into the receiver then hanging up. Wait a second, I think I can hear her breathing now... No Trudy, get back! Get ba...  
Just wanted to conclude by

saying that I, Frederick J. Flowy, will be resigning as President of Accordia University. In the event that my body mysteriously disappears or that I'm never heard from again, I just want everyone to know that I think the university should re-hire Trudy and elect her Imperator for life.  
Now let me lead the school and those ungrateful bastards at the Board of Governors (who totally shouldn't have fired Trudy to begin with) in a toast to our new president. HAIL PRESIDENT LUMBERSWORTH, who was born under a double rainbow, who sank five holes-in-one during her first round of golf and who will never ever leave this university under any circumstances. Not even if the building is on fire.  
-Frederick J. Flowy

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BEAUCHAMP: \$2  
MIL FINE "FOR  
LOOKING SO  
GOOD."

EAST END: STILL  
RUN BY PACKS  
OF WILD DOGS

STINGERS SIGN  
SOCCER LEGEND  
SAADI GADHAFI

FARTS MATTER



# Long Live ASFA King

• ALAN ZHEITERVAC

In a stunning move, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations has gotten rid of the presidency, and installed a new leader: ASFA king.

“Look, we know this is going to take some getting used to,” said Alejandro Bordo, the last-ever president of ASFA. “With the ASFA king, you need to ease into it.”

Bordo also said that the ASFA king would be about really getting inside the student body and getting to know parts of it that had previously been ignored by ASFA leadership.

“With the ASFA exec, it seems like there were always limits to the things we could do. But with ASFA king, we feel like there are ways to get involved in the student body in new and interesting ways. It might be strange at first, but we think that eventually people will loosen up, and everyone will enjoy the ASFA king.”

However, such a drastic shift will entail logistical problems. Bordo dismissed these notions by saying that the change is just a metaphorical two inches south of where we currently are.

“We’re very concerned about the logistics of this. In fact, you could say that we’re going to be downright anal.”

Bordo said that there are certain things to look for in a good ASFA king.

“Look, ASFA king isn’t for everyone,” he said. “Let’s face it, you need to be open to some pretty deviant things. ASFA King is not for pussies.”

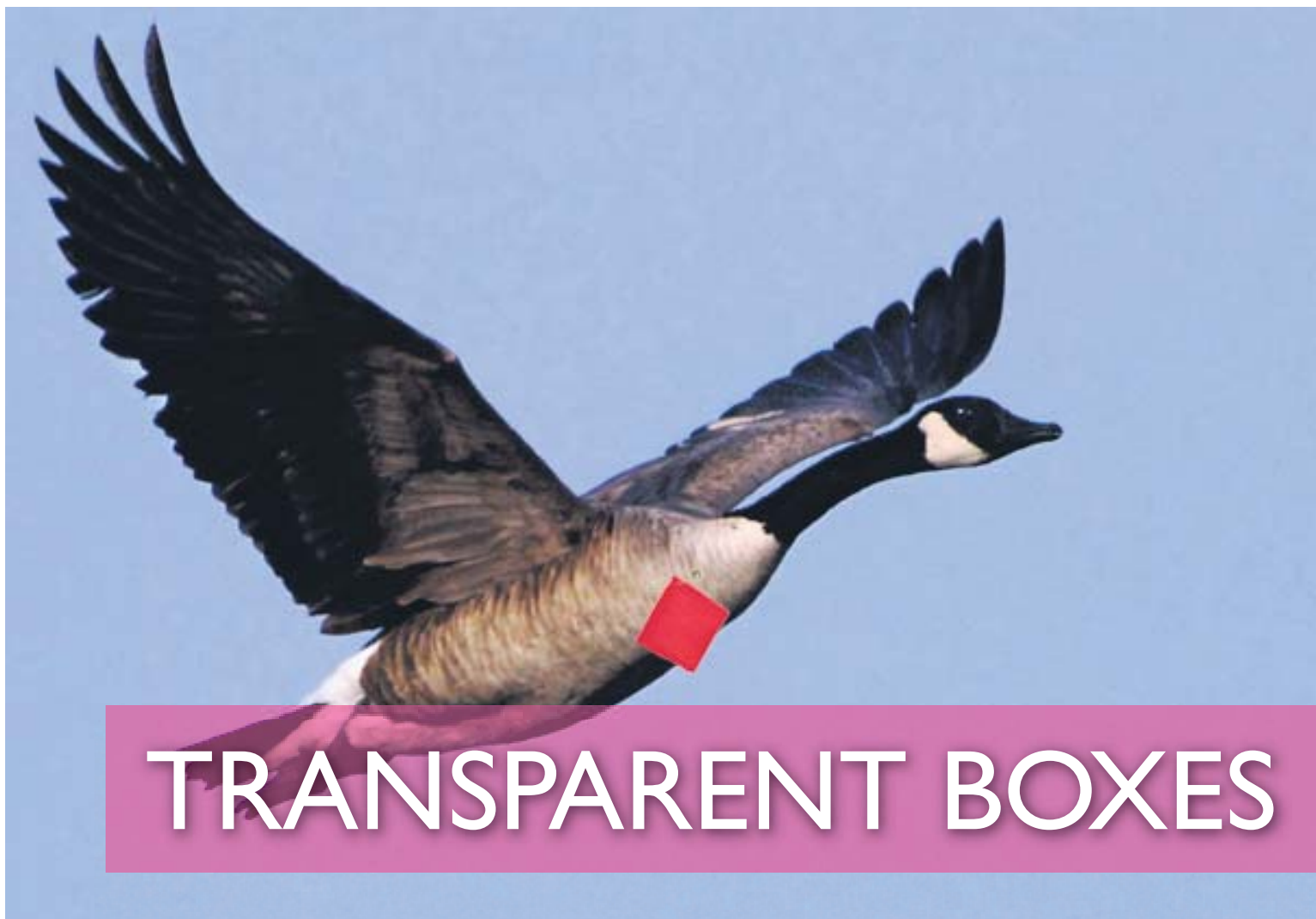
The position is still open, but Bordo expects it to be filled before long.

“We have some people we’re looking at, but you never know. Someone else might just come out of nowhere and come from behind.”

Not everyone is pleased with the new system. One student had heard about similar experiments at other schools, and said things have never been the same there afterwards.

“I’m just really uncomfortable with this,” she said. “Something about ASFA king seems unnatural. It seems like we’re going places that we’re not meant to go.”

“In the end, ASFA king is just really going to be a huge pain in the butt. It’s a really shitty thing to do.”



## Student with Actual Canada Geese Against Hikes

• VAJULIA FOX

There’s a new face of the growing student movement, and that face has a beak.

Jacques-Henri Laplume, impoverished student and Canada goose farmer, feels it’s time someone stands up against the “unwarranted bigotry” towards Canada Geese and those who care for them.

“Canada Geese are noble and kind. But now, my decision to foster and raise orphaned and injured birds has come under attack,” Laplume said, referring to

the recent comments that students who own a Canada Goose should not oppose tuition hikes.

This makes no sense, argued a confused and frustrated Laplume. Caring for his geese is a huge financial burden, and that burden will only get heavier as he watches tuition rise.

“I love my geese, but let me tell you,” he said, “this orphanage is not some magical fucking goldmine. Mostly, it’s just a lot of goose shit.”

It’s hard making this case to fellow students who tend to giggle at the mention of goose excre-

tion. While hilarious to some, the birds’ bowel movements are no laughing matter for geese caretakers like Laplume.

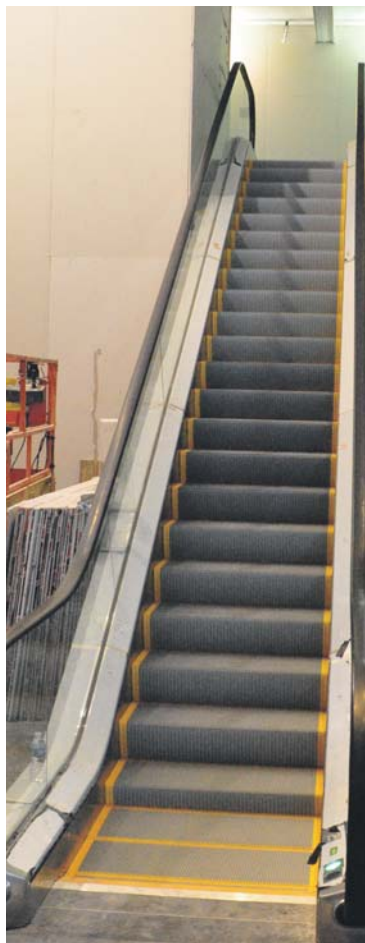
“Do you have any idea how much the Canada Goose shits?” he asked. “A lot. They shit everywhere and all day long, and that takes time and money to clean up.”

Add that cost to food and general equipment for the birds, and Laplume is looking at over a \$1,000 a month in expenses. For this reason alone, Laplume said his birds should only give him more reason to oppose the hikes.

On bad days, Laplume said he feels he’s fighting a PR battle he lost before it really began. “Why me?” Laplume sighed.

“Someone feeds a couple of baby sloths and suddenly they’re a goddamn saint. Meanwhile, I’m committing myself everyday to our nations greatest air-bound allies and I’m the target? You’ve got to be kidding me!”

Laplume’s geese were unable to be reached for comment as it’s mating season and they were busy going at it like 17-year olds left alone for the weekend.



## Escalator Bloodbath

### Student Amputee Rate Rises

• SCOTT MACTARTANPANTS

Students need walk no longer with the replacement of Accordia’s Hall Building escalators. The university has employed the skills of hyper-modern Danish experimental designers CUTEM, allegedly giving Accordia a killer deal on the project—just as long as the firm had total creative control.

“It’s pretty scary,” says Lauren Ipsum, who suffered from disorientation and dizziness from the new high-speed escalators. “I mean, stairs are pretty slow and annoying and I’m a little sweaty in class, but this is just ridiculous.”

Ipsum was referring to the new motors put in place that can reach speeds immeasurable by university odometers. A team of engineering students has been tasked

with mapping the velocity of technology allegedly bought at a NASA auction. There have been “an acceptable number” of casualties so far, according to University spokeswoman Christina Moto.

“First I thought Reggie’s was putting on a weird-ass promotion to get students to buy more beer,” said Charlie Blair, a witness to the ongoing carnage. “But then I realized the screams and the blood and detached limbs were way too real. It was some *Saw VII* shit.”

Accordia is now looking into the profitability of hosting an extreme reality show on campus, tentatively titled *The Hall of Hell*.

Praised by tech blogs and sado-masochists alike, the ultra-efficient escalator contract as signed by ConU after reading about its obesity-reduction features.

“The bristles on the side of the moving stairs slow things down,” reads a description on the designers’ website [www.cut'em.net](http://www.cut'em.net).

“But when you replace them with inwards-facing knives, the whole operation works a lot faster.”

*Accordia MEOW*’s investigative prowess has discovered that recent Google search histories of Accordia executives included terms such as “fast escalators no safety precautions required” and “definition of liability.”

The students whose feet were affected by the tragedy are now looking to form a new student group, FEETSA, and are currently looking at acquiring a fee levy from students to support projects including robotic limbs and counter-escalator weaponry.





## CEO of Diesel Appointed to Board of Governors

Members' Asses 'Never Looked So Good'

• C. GOONE

Accordia's Board of Governors continued its rapid descent into anarchy Thursday as Joette Sadler, CEO of Diesel Canada and newly appointed governor, handed out her company's newest line of high-waisted skinny jeans.

"I'd like to give her my fair share and then some," said Board of Governors Chair Peter Kraut, who pointed at one of his fellow governors before demanding a high five from this reporter. "I'll tell ya, we were pretty damn transparent last night!" he added.

According to an agenda distributed before the meeting, the board—which meets once a month—had intended to discuss the university's academic plan and to finally vote on Graduate Student Association President Erik Goatié's proposal to allow filming of the board meetings.

The meeting quickly went off the rails in a storm of cat-calls and lewd gestures.

Despite Provost Dave Grahamcracker's efforts to steer the conversation back to the university's academic plan, productivity ground to a halt as months of built-up sexual tension exploded into relentless flirting and what would almost certainly be considered sexual harassment.

"I'd like to see your Anthony Wener, if you know what I mean," said Geeta de Shmantis to a colleague. "I mean that I want to see your penis," added de Shmantis, a 13-year-veteran of the board and senior partner of Toronto-based law firm Bavies, Bard, Hillups and Wineberg.

Goatié, disappointed that his filming proposal would likely be tabled yet again, slumped at his desk. "It's been months," he said, his majestic mane of hair drooping noticeably. "And I'm still getting nothing out of this."

"And yeah, that's what she said," he added, grimacing.

## 20 Llamas Found in "Quiet Zone"

### Some Debate as to if they are actually Alpacas

• PRINCE HAUVIER

Much mystery surrounds the discovery of 20 llamas in the library on Saturday night. The llamas, all from Durham, ON, were found in one of the library's quiet zones on the fourth floor, chewing on a pile of books.

"I was doing my usual late night patrol when I found them," Accordia security guard Adrien Smith told *Accordia MEOW*. "I have no idea how they entered."

Smith added that the library cameras were not functional at the time due to maintenance work that has been ongoing since 1870.

The mysterious appearance

happens in the midst of escalating incidents involving animals. Last week the University decided to deny access to student's pets in classrooms. The Student Association for Community and Knee-Jerk Services (SACKS) had been very vocal in the fight.

"I believe that bringing your pet to class is a right," said Jim Ball, a member of SACKS. "If you can bring your favourite pen or notebook, why not your pet?"

This enthusiasm did not, however, gather unanimous support.

"At first it was ok, you know, dogs and cats," said part-time professor Radaniel Tatouialle. "But then, have you ever tried to lecture

while a cow is having breakfast? These animals have very little attention span and chew very loudly."

Safety concerns were also cited as two students had to be rushed to the hospital after a giant salamander, which had started attending anthropology classes, gained a taste for human fingers.

"It's unfortunate but hey, they still have five fingers each, so what's the big deal?" said Ball.

The University announced it would set up an external committee to review the situation. "These llamas are the sign of a larger culture of contempt," said eighth-year Philosophy student Rob Mackenzie. "We need to make this univer-

sity more accountable."

The Committee is expected to report back sometime in 2020. Reports will be available with a \$500 deposit and the successful completion of a pop quiz involving ferret rights.

Accordia is no stranger to animal incidents, the student union delivering a white whale to the Small Building mezzanine amidst confusion regarding a student protest.

Upon seeing the whale from his control centre in the JB Building penthouse, Interim President Freddy Flowy vowed not to step down until he caught the great fish.

## 'Silent Majority' Found in Warehouse

### Silence Induced by PTSD

• JERRY C. LEWIS

Thousands of pale, shivering undergrads were found in a warehouse in Montreal North early Sunday morning. The students, all coincidentally wearing green articles of clothing, seem incapable of speaking for the time being, having been exposed to activist propaganda for weeks on end.

In a *Clockwork Orange*-esque fashion, the students were found strapped to chairs bolted to the floor of the massive warehouse, forced to take in loops of anti-tuition hike propaganda, projected

onto a large screen on the roof of the warehouse.

A recording of the chant "So, so, so, solidarité" played on infinite repeat at ear-splitting volumes.

Gordon Ollison, the security guard in charge of the oft-deserted industrial park, found the warehouse Sunday morning after noticing the sounds weren't coming from inside his head. Supervisor of the area for over 40 years, the lot has been rarely used following the Asbestos bust of '84.

"I was shocked," said Ollison. "I haven't seen this many young people together since they legalized

ether." [For fear of legal actions, *Accordia Meow* decided not to print the rest of the interview] Let's just say there's no surprise the held students went undetected so long.

While there is no evidence as to who herded these bewildered, trickle-down enthusiasts into this trap, we feel it's safe to assume the Red Square Crime Syndicate is at fault. The organization has been causing Montrealers grief since November, blocking streets, bridges and provoking the police at every turn.

A red felt fist, the gang's calling

card, was found on the scene.

Along with the students, who are mostly enrolled at McDowell and Accordia University, there was also a contingent of severely dehydrated men dressed in leprechaun regalia and stinking of stale beer. It can only be assumed the abduction-happy activists saw green and immediately struck, vision impaired by their plausibly drug-induced stupor.

Some of the victims could be heard mumbling, "Education is a right," staring blankly into space while being loaded onto ambulances.



Mo Money  
No Problems

• JIBB RONNI

In a downright ballsy move, the Commerce and Administration Students' Association and high-ranking members of the John Molson School of Business exercised their financial prowess in a bid to buy out the Accordia Student Union.

"Eh bro, you know what they say," said CASA VP Academic Jonny Shakiman. "If you can't beat 'em, buy 'em."

Growing tension between the CSU and CASA is not new news, however the situation came to an ugly head this spring after nearly a full year of non-existent correspondence.

"While they were out coloring signs, holding potlucks and playing hacky-sack on de Maisonneuve Blvd., we were busy taking 'their people' out for lunch," said CASA President Mary Lucy.

Though the change of hands might be awkward at first, CASA says next year will be business as usual, only with a little more swagger.

"In a way, you could say that JMSB is going green," said Lucy. "Really, we're doing the entire student body a service by buying out those hippies. This will be great for our image."

Some improvements include a Reggie's makeover to allow for a semi-formal dress code to be put into effect, as well as erecting a stage for the in-house jazz ensemble.

In an attempt to "purge the 7th floor" of the Hall Building, JMSB also bought out the People's Potato.

"It was just gross and attracted the, um, wrong kind of people," said Lucy.

CSU executives were unable to be reached for comment. It appears they have been sent on an all-inclusive vacation to an undisclosed location.



This Is the End, My Only Friend, the End  
Kraut: "Fuck It, Let's See How Fast This Baby Can Go."

• C. GOONE.

Students in the EV building lobby had some unexpected company yesterday afternoon: two albino pygmy giraffes wearing diamond-encrusted collars, which had apparently wandered downstairs from Board of Governor Chair Peter Kraut's office.

"Aren't they beautiful?" says Kraut, who will be retiring from the board this July. He agreed to speak to *Accordia Meow* on the condition that this reporter refers to him only as 'Freeway' for the duration of the interview. Reclining in a huge, red leather chair, his feet up on a mahogany desk and with a white fedora perched jauntily on his head, Kraut peers out his office window, surveying his domain. He sighs.

"We were sitting around the board room the other day, killing time. Jon was idly pitching rocks out the window. Someone was passing around a joint. You know.

And I had a bit of a revelation." He pauses and takes a massive puff on a cucumber-sized Cuban. "This is it. After I don't know how many years, we're done. We're really done," said Kraut, a wistful, slight grin on his face. "This is last days of Rome, fall-of-Saigon shit. I'm halfway tempted to hire a bunch of helicopters, napalm the shit out of the VA building—I love the smell of that stuff in the morning—blast Ride of the Valkyries, and go surfing in the St. Laurence."

Gripped by a sudden sense of urgency, he says, he knew he had to seize this opportunity. "I was 17 again, my parents were gone for the weekend and they'd left the car keys," he explains. "Big mistake."

The \$2 million fine from the Ministry of Education for Accordia's staggering spending on severance packages for departing administrators was a wake-up call. "We have so much money!" he ex-

claims. Rummaging under a massive pile of \$20's, he digs out a 40 oz. bottle of Hennessy and offers this reporter a glass, before pouring a generous measure into a crystal goblet for himself.

"First I just bought a whole bunch of stuff. The giraffes, some llamas—I've just been letting them loose in the library at night, I don't know—I found a bunch of those tiny hippos from that commercial. A couple cases of Moët. We're covering the entire floor of the EV lobby in spirit bear fur tomorrow. I hunted them myself."

He charged a Maybach to the university's card—"Obviously," he says—just to throw it off the roof of the Hall building. Every al-Taib franchise was next, then gender-neutral bathrooms in the EV and MB, made out of solid gold. "Then I got kind of bored and just started paying people to do stuff," he says, which would perhaps explain a bizarre scene yesterday when Mc-

Dowell University president Holly Bunroe-Mum was spotted wearing a Buzz costume and selling hotdogs at a Stingers men's rugby game.

"I paid Allie Attack \$5000 to eat a rib eye steak. \$1000 to one of the JavaU guys to swap [Acordia Student Union President] Lex Fish's coffee for decaf for the rest of the year. \$15,000 to Mick Muillerier to sit in my office as an actual chair for a week. That kind of stuff," he says, buckling under the weight of a ludicrously oversized fox-fur jacket.

"Let me give you a piece of advice, kid," Kraut says, as he steps astride a gleaming vintage 1915 Cyclone motorcycle. He takes the keys from Graduate Student Association president Erik Goaté, handing the man \$100 in exchange.

"Take the money and run. And drive that shit like you stole it," he says, before gunning the engine to a mighty roar and tearing west, toward the sunset and Cote St.-Luc.

MORE  
ONLINE AT:

[thelinknewspaper.ca/concordia/meow](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/concordia/meow)

BUILDING THAT  
SUSPICIOUSLY RESEMBLES  
LIBYAN PRISON APPEARS  
ON CAMPUS

ACCORDIA STUDY:  
LEAPING FROM 14TH  
FLOOR OF HALL BUILDING  
CORRELATES NEGATIVELY  
WITH GRADUATION

GHOST OF TRUDY  
HAUNTS UPPER FLOORS  
OF THE MB BUILDING  
"I HEAR IF YOU LOOK IN  
THE MIRROR AND SAY HER  
NAME THREE TIMES, SHE'LL  
APPEAR," SAID ONE WIDE-  
EYED STUDENT. "THEN SHE  
TAKES ALL YOUR MONEY"

WHAT WILL SHOMER  
TAVIT DO NEXT?

TO PAY FOR GOLDEN  
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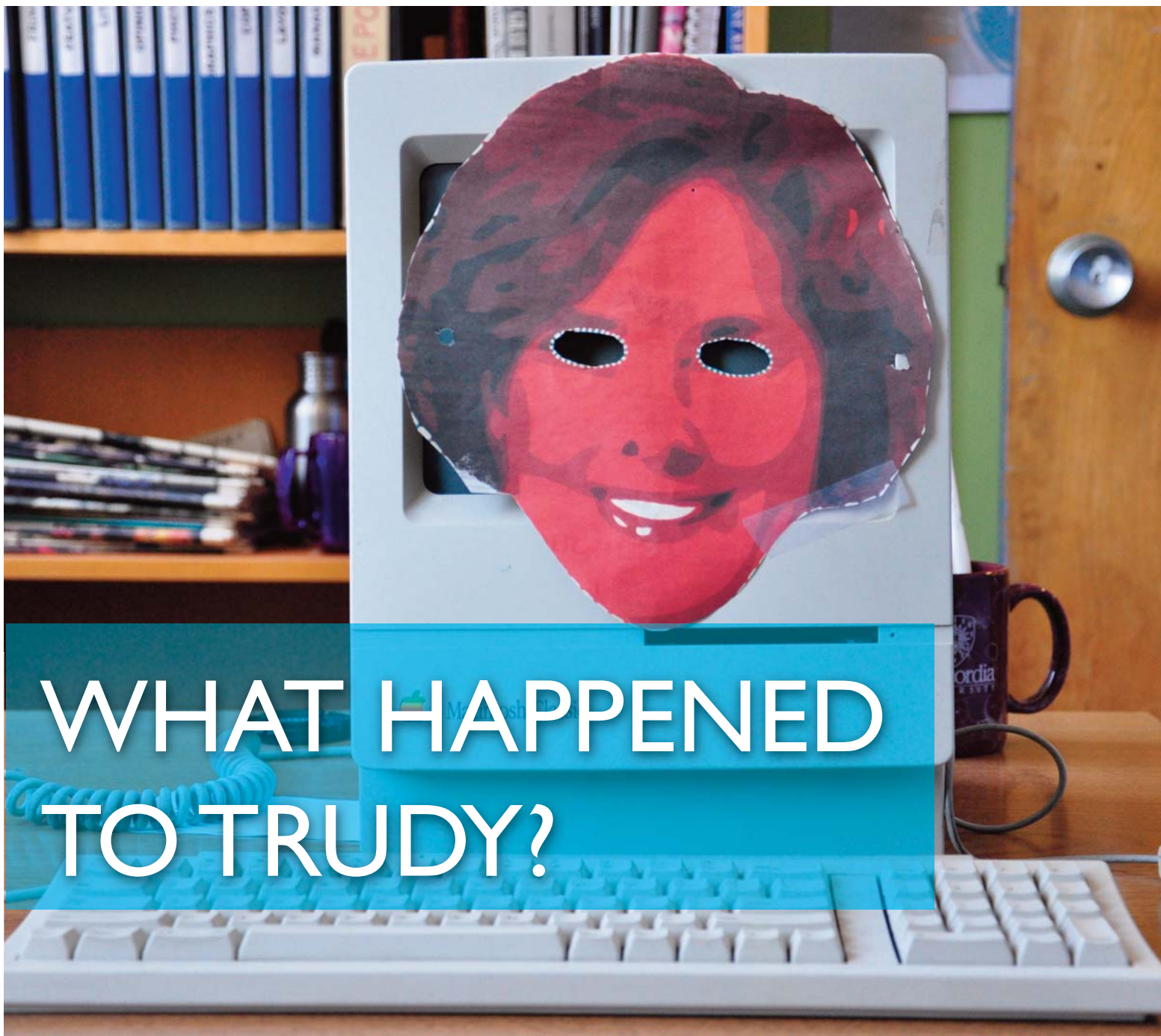
FACILITIES: NEXT  
ACCORDIA BUILDING TO  
BE CONSTRUCTED  
ENTIRELY OF ASBESTOS

IN COMPROMISE, HABS  
AGREE TO HIRE ONLY  
WELSH-SPEAKING PLAYERS

FAUBOURG IS SELF-AWARE,  
VOWS REVENGE

CSU JUDICIAL BOARD:  
NO ONE AT CONCORDIA  
IS A STUDENT





# WHAT HAPPENED TO TRUDY?

## Former ConU President Not Dealing Well With New Job

• CRAY-CRAY POODLE

In January it was announced that deposed former president of Accordia would be returning to the university to teach, though recent reports suggest the situation is more complicated—and much creepier—than previously thought.

“I didn’t really know who she was, but she was really freaking me out,” said a second year psychology student close to tears. “She was just following me down the hall, breathing really heavily and carrying a dirty mop. Next thing I knew, she snatched my

purse with both hands, shrieked and took off down the stairwell.”

Trudy Lumbersworth was rehired by Accordia to return to the academic life of teaching French translation—at least that was the official story. In recent days, many at the university have suggested that the once healthy woman has deteriorated since losing her job and expense account—an account she was overheard calling her “precious.”

“Really, she just wouldn’t leave,” said Accordia spokesperson Christina Moto. “She would just lurk about the MB, carrying lots of bags and yelling at stu-

dents. Eventually we decided to give her a custodial position. We figured she’d sort of blend in, work mostly nights and at least she would stay busy. And hell, with all the money we threw at her, the least she could do is unclog the frigging toilets on the eighth floor of EV.”

Though Lumbersworth managed to keep her cool for the first few months of her new employment, in recent weeks stories of her purse snatching have become rampant. Some say that her devotion is the result of money madness, in which the sufferer cannot differentiate between money stu-

dents’ pay to the school and the money they carry around in their pants and purses.

“She bumped into me in the stairwell, snarled at me, called me Peter, and asked me to sign a piece of paper that just read ‘Snack Time,’” said a third year advertising student. “I said that I didn’t know what she was talking about. She just screamed, grabbed my backpack and threw me to the ground.”

Moto says that security is warning students to keep an eye out for Lumbersworth, avoid eye contact and report any altercations.

## Admin Goes Lyrical

• ALAN ZHEITERVAC

In a stunning revelation, Interim Accordia President Freddy Flowy has announced his plans to launch a hip-hop career following his upcoming departure from the university.

“The hippety-hop music has always been close to my heart,” said the 78 year-old. “Even back when everyone was doing the Charleston and listening to Charlie Parker, that young scamp, I was thinking in my head ‘I could write some real gangsta shit over this.’”

The self-proclaimed MC Flowy, then busted out some impromptu rhymes, asking Accordia Spokesperson Christie Moto to “drop a beat.”

“I got rhymes cuz I come from Austria/around here they call me the boss-tria,” he rapped. “I tried to kill Reagan to impress Jodie Fosteria.”

“Hmm... yeah, that’s pretty good. Moto, write that down.”

Flowy’s music career has gone through various stages, including a stint in the Greatful Dead following his time working on project AKUL-

TRA for the CIA in the 1960s.

“That Jerry Garcia was a hell of a dude,” said Flowy. “We used to just fuckin’ blaze and jam and blaze and jam. Then that pussy couldn’t handle the drugs anymore.”

Flowy then poured a stream of Colt 45 onto the carpet of his office.

Following Garcia’s death in the early 90s, Flowy went through what he called “a bit of a lost decade. I was smoking a lot of hash, doing a lot of MDMA, which I should mention, I helped to invent.”

When he regained consciousness, Flowy began returning to his first love of hard-core rap, but soon found himself sidetracked when he was hired for his first turn as Accordia’s rector.

“Back when I was rector, I had so many rhymes going through my head, but no time to lay them down,” he lamented, adjusting the du-rag on his head. “I hated that they changed the title to President. It made my sickest rhyme obsolete.”

When asked to demonstrate, Flowy smiled, held up the wall

## eAccordia On Strike

• MARSHA DOPPELHEIM

Despite the fact they did so via livestream, Accordia’s online students have decided to enter the tuition protest fray, boycotting their video lectures and blog posts indefinitely.

Due to each eAccordia class having an average of approximately 500 students, this contingent believes they can really turn the tide on the tuition issue by enforcing hard pickets, despite their lack of physical classes.

The first installment of a 10-part investigative report, *Accordia Meow* is on-location at the home of one of these dissatisfied e-learners. West Island native Terry Fitzpatrick has been picketing his computer all week, much to the dismay of his grandmother, who owns the house.

Having earlier this year discovered the plethora of food blogs available on “the Internet,” Mrs. Fitzpatrick is now baking tuna casserole for every meal in protest of her grandson’s blocking her computer access, a situation bound to escalate if things aren’t resolved before Easter dinner.

“I threw away all my cook books when I learned you can just ask Mr. Google,” said Mrs. Inkwell. “He’s such a nice man, now I learn about new holidays all the time.”

After staving off numerous attempts by Mrs. Fitzpatrick to introduce this blogger to “Mr. Google,” Mrs. Fitzpatrick showed me to the computer room—the heart of this radical demonstration.

The smell of Cheetos and cream soda was nearly overwhelming, as Fitzpatrick, wearing an ill-fitting Land of the Giants t-shirt held a sign saying “No Justice, No Peace, Fuck Tuition Fees,” blocking access to the household desktop computer.

“This is a sacrifice for everyone,” said Fitzpatrick, twitchy from the lack of forum communication. “But I feel we’re really making a difference here.”

clock he had stapled to his tie and performed a brief beat-boxing routine before laying this nugget.

“Overseeing a riot, Accordia’s never quiet, I’m looking for a condo, so my Board of Governor’s just buys it. If you see me, no need to hector, I’m so golden you can call me a prospector. Something something something rector? Damn near killed her!”

As of press time, Flowy was negotiating a new record deal with Suge Knight, whom he called, “my homeboy who owes me for that whole killing Tupac thing.”





*It's official: I'm on a sex strike! The only problem is, I'm not completely sure what that entails and how to make sure I get what I want from my boyfriend... any ideas?*

—Feeling Touchy

Ahhh, the good ol' sex strike/boycott/hold out—does it *really* matter what it's called?

Some people will tell you holding out is enough, but I'm not one of those people. You're suffering in this strike too, so you need to make the most of it to make sure he suffers more.

I'm going to assume you've already made demands. After all, how can this strike ever end if he doesn't know what you're doing it for in the first place? Get him to the negotiation table and go easy in the beginning. Suggest solutions and ways you can work together, but when that doesn't work, the gloves need to come off.

First things first, *never* leave the house when he's home. If you're always home, always in his face, it's going to be pretty hard to masturbate, and masturbation is your greatest enemy in the sex strike. If he has masturbation on his side, it'll take a lot longer for him to crack.

Speaking of masturbation, you need to get into his porn stash. Find out what his favourite porn sites or videos are by going through his saved bookmarks and downloads. Got 'em? Good.

Now change the bookmarks to something you don't want to see when you're feeling horny. Oops, you just got redirected to your mom's Facebook page, a lame recipe, or a baby monkey on a pig (Seriously, YouTube "baby monkey on a pig." Do it.).

As for teasing—sleep naked, preferably next to him. Also add at least 15 minutes of rubbing lotion all over your body in front of him to your nightly bedtime prep routine and be sure to 'accidentally' brush up against him often in bed.

Occupy the shower whenever you know he's heading there. This will do several things like give him visuals that he'll never be able to actually masturbate to with you around, keep him from masturbating in the shower, and leave him sexually and just generally frustrated all day.

And finally, the phone-call tease. A favourite when it comes to sex strike tactics, this may anger him after a few times so be ready for it.

Any time his phone rings, get ready to tease him by suddenly acting like you're going to give in for the duration of his phone call. Then as soon as he hangs up, you're no longer interested. He will hate you, but want you so bad at the same time.

Through it all, remember your goals. It's easy to get lost in the tactics, so as a fun reminder, leave your demands everywhere you (and he) go. His pillow, computer, bathroom mirror... especially his Facebook wall. This gets other people involved and if there's one thing you need, it's allies.

Now you're probably going to be struggling and wanting sex too, so remember, self-care is key in a sex strike. You don't want to accidentally have really hot angry make-up sex, so masturbate twice as much as you normally would just to keep things in check.

Also, do things that just make you feel good about yourself. After all, feeling great about yourself will really just make the whole taunting him thing more fun.

—Mel Emptyler

*Disclaimer: this is all one big stress-relieving strike joke*



## Accordia Meow Sits Down With the Prez

• SALVATORE MANDIBLE

On March 23, I sat down with Accordia Interim President Freddy Flowy to get his opinion about the peaceful anti-tuition hike protest the day before, the state of Accordia and any and all things he finds notable about this year.

Although the interview may have, in journalistic terms, 'gone off the rails' a bit, it was still a very illuminating experience. Here is a transcript of our interview.

**Sal Mandible:** First things first: How did you feel about the march yesterday?

**Fred Flowy:** A hundred-thousand people! Some say two, even. And no arrests. Remarkable, remarkable. In my day, people got shot and killed! Have you ever heard of Kent State? What a time that was.

**SM:** You were there for the Kent State Massacre in 1968? Wow.

**FF:** Yes, I was part of the National Guard at the time. I was a Sergeant, as I recall. It was near the end of my stint with the United States military.

**SM:** Near the end? When did you join up?

**FF:** Oh, now you're going to make me have to think. Well, now,

the First World War was, let's see, '14 to '18, so I guess... 1912?

**SM:** You joined up with the forces in 1912?

**FF:** Well, yes, after hemming and hawing about it for a few years. You see, my first experience with the army didn't go so well. This would have been... Hm. Are you a history student?

**SM:** English lit, actually.

**FF:** Well, do you know when the Hundred Years' War was?

**SM:** Wasn't that... No. Never mind. That doesn't make any sense. You know what, let's move to the second question. So what are your thoughts about the state of Accordia right now?

**FF:** Good question. Why don't you have some tea? Well now, let's see. Accordia is a wonderful institution. Probably the best library since Alexandria's if you ask me.

**SM:** This tea is something else. Wow. That's a kick. What is it?

**FF:** That's my own special brand! Drink about six cups a day, every day. Been doing that since my time with the agency.

**SM:** The agency?

**FF:** You know, Central Intelligence, m'boy. The CIA, to you kids. They called us "spooks" back in the day. [Laughs.]

**SM:** Should I ask? Gosh, I feel funny. CIA tea. Huh?

**FF:** Well, we were testing out this new substance. I think it's called LSD now. I'm not very "street-wise," I suppose. Anyway...

**SM:** There are small animals running around in my brain.

**FF:** Yes, that'll happen. Watch out for the badgers, they can be quite vicious. Now, as I was saying...

**SM:** This is incredible. I never knew you were made entirely of colour and sound. Can I try to touch you? It feels like my hand would just pass right through.

**FF:** No, you're touching me. That's my arm. Ouch! You're quite strong for one so young.

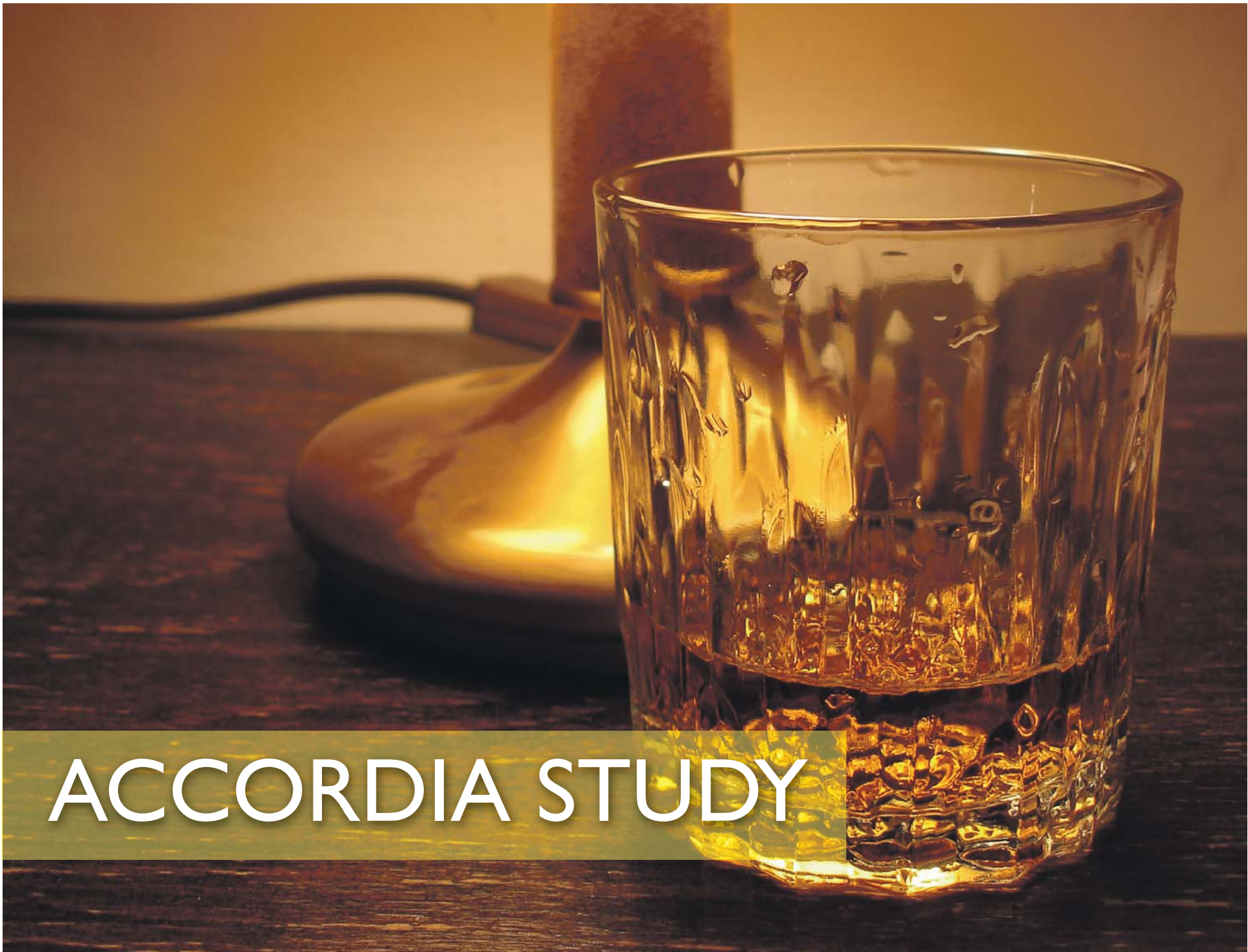
**SM:** I'm not that young! I'm 22. No, 23. I don't remember how old I am. I can't concentrate with all these clouds coming out of my skin. The paint on the walls just changed shape.

**FF:** Well, and this is strictly off the record, mind, but I'm an infinite, ageless being. So you seem much younger in comparison.

**SM:** Like the Highlander? I think I just peed the speed of light. Why are my wrists trying to escape? Don't they know how much I love them?

**FF:** Oh dear. What a terrible host I am; I forgot to offer you milk and sugar in your tea.





# ACCORDIA STUDY

## Depressing Situations Make You Depressed, Says Scientist

• ALEX CONCORDIA

Accordia psychology professor and director of the Centre of Research on Bad Behaviour Stanislav Kozlowski has dedicated the entirety of his 40-plus-year career to studying situations that have an adverse effect on our psy-

che.

Kozlowski's research includes how "bad" activities have a bad effect on us mentally.

In a new and insightful study, Kozlowski has found that sitting in a dark room alone with a bottle of whiskey and a handgun is detrimental to your mental health.

"People don't even realize how seemingly harmless behavior can have dire mental consequences," said Kozlowski. "While whiskey and a handgun may seem like fun and games, it can lead to intoxication, depression, and even—in extreme situations—death."

Kozlowski's research sheds

new light on what, exactly, makes people sad. It focuses on situations that are depressing, and the link between situations that are depressing and depression itself. Kozlowski has been hailed by some in the scientific community as a genius, and his research has been called "eye-opening."

Kozlowski's research is generally funded by already broke and overcharged students, as well as grants from the Completely Ridiculous Research Council and the Useless Council of Canada.

Among his key findings: drugs are bad, don't play with knives, and drinking will get you drunk.

## FASA Pres Gives Self 'All the Money' Performance Art Goes Awry

• ALAN ZHEITERVAC

In an extravagant piece of performance art, Fine Arts Student Alliance President Pastel Simulation has given herself a raise, which totals the entire yearly budget of the student association.

"It's a commentary on capitalism" said Simulation, as she draped a fox fur boa around her neck. "It's meant to symbolize how we're all oppressed by the system."

Simulation and her co-executives had faced criticism earlier this year when they gave themselves hefty honorariums.

Though at the time she said the increases were necessary to ensure

that Fine Arts executives show up to do the jobs that they volunteered to do and that students elected them for, she now says that this was merely part of an earlier project with the same themes that she felt just didn't go far enough.

"Yeah, I doubled my salary, but you know, I wanted this to be a really realistic artistic experience," she said, as she took a single sip of ultra-rare 1945 Dom Perignon, then smashed the bottle and laughed.

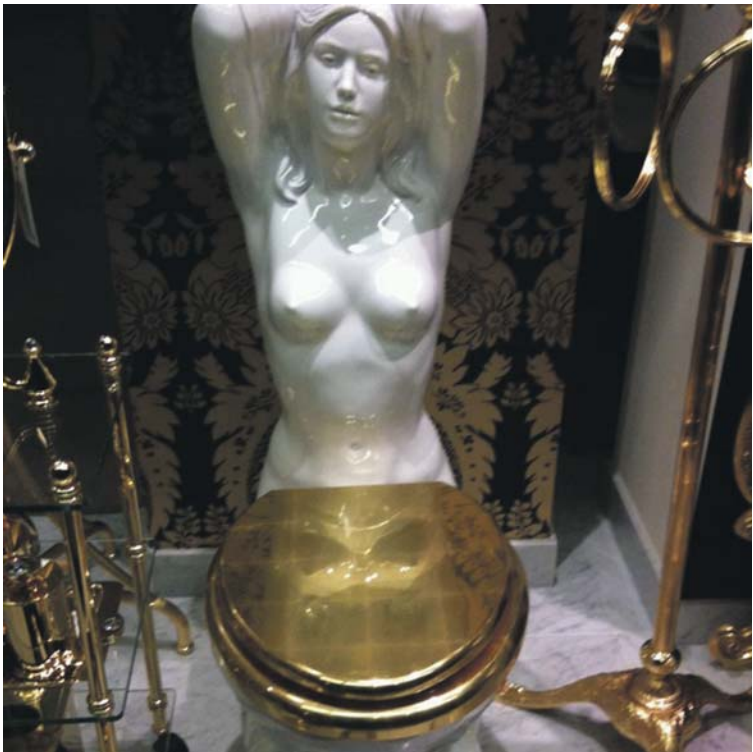
As she oversaw the construction of a soundproof painting studio in which she plans to make artwork out of the blood of bald

eagles, she said that she hoped people appreciate how unpleasant the experience of making this creation is.

"Do you think I like wearing shoes made out of pearls?" she asked, nibbling on a piece of foie gras mixed with beluga whale caviar. "All this self-indulgence is really hard on me and I hope that FASA students appreciate what I'm going through for them."

Some students have criticized Simulation for wasting their money, a concern that she dismissed as she stroked her new pet ocelot, Baboo.

"All great artists," she said, "are persecuted in their time."





# ACCORDIA UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28

Things White People Like Cultural Night at the Hive, 8:00 p.m.

March 29

How to read and write *Meow!*

March 30

Loyola Awareness Day: There is, in fact, another Concordia Campus.

April 1

Bake Sale to raise money for the Liberal Government's \$2 Million fine against Concordia University.

April 2

Drink with the Board. Drink specials: \$50 martinis.

April 4

Backpack to Briefcase: Step-by-step to filling out Quebec chômage application form.

MORE ONLINE @

[thelinknewspaper.ca/concordia/meow](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/concordia/meow)

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### GazaU:

#### The loss of a Canadian institution

After the events of 2002's Discordia, the slide of Montreal's Accordia University continued.

A look at the Zionist-French Canadian-Mohawk conspiracy that took down our last great hope:

Fluoride  
Flowy the First  
Severance packages  
Mandatory shaving  
Online dating  
Tooth fairy?  
Air conditioning  
The Old Spice Guy  
Parking Spots  
Taste of asbestos  
Larry David  
Lana del Ray  
Smart meters

Directed by  
Lain Marfotte

Education Minister  
Mean Bellechamp  
can't hear you.





# PITCHING IN

## Tournament Makes Gains Playing the Beautiful Game

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

• ERIC WHITE

Despite the vast diversity of people and cultures in the Concordia community, it's not often they are united under the common banner of a charitable cause.

The second annual Unifying Concordia Charity Soccer Tournament, however, used the world's most popular sport to do just that.

"It's the only event of its kind that does what it does," said Marvin Coleby, chairman of the International and Ethnic Associations Council at Concordia, who organized the event. "It literally gets student organizations to participate through a common medium, soccer, for a good, neutral cause."

The team representing the Syrian Student Association emerged as the winners of the tournament, which took place last Saturday in Loyola's sports dome. The IEAC ran the event along with the Concordia Caribbean Student Union. All proceeds went towards Share the Warmth—a nonprofit organization based in Montreal.

Share the Warmth, whose mission is to "awaken hopes and dreams by overcoming hunger and poverty" by using different social programs to help youth in underprivileged communities, was the perfect organization for the tourna-

ment to donate the money raised to.

"We always try to choose a cause that is apolitical and not religious because there are religious and 'cultural associations participating and we don't want bias at all,'" Coleby said.

After donating to the Montreal Children's Hospital for last year's tournament, Coleby estimates that \$1,000 will be donated to Share the Warmth, with the money coming from each of the 20 teams' entrance fees.

"Donations received from the soccer tournament will go towards supporting our youth programs, which focus on combating the alarming 51 per cent high school drop-out rate in the southwest borough of Montreal," said Fiona Crossling, executive director of Share the Warmth.

"These programs serve 200 young people in youth group, tutoring, mentoring, scholarship, and music programs."

Each team, which was made up of at least seven members of a Concordia student association or club, had the option of either paying \$80 or \$95 to register. The 16 teams that chose to pay \$95 received shirts customized by Erke, the tournament's sponsor.

"We had a very good mix of associations that don't necessarily

ever interact," Coleby said.

From the third-place National Society of Black Engineers to the fourth-place Francophone Student Association to teams from the Concordia Dodgeball League and Sustainability Action Fund, there were many playing levels among the wide variety of teams.

"There were teams that play together all the time and then other teams were kind of just for fun that didn't necessarily come to win so it was a good dynamic with a fun and competitive environment," Coleby said.

"There were a lot of cheers and exciting plays from players who play all the time but at the same time, there was a lot of laughing and joking from players who don't play all the time," said Coleby.

Even if some games were quite competitive, with tense moments where players were upset with certain refereeing decisions, Coleby noted that players were always aware the event was more about the cause than the game.

The final game, which featured the Syrian Student Association versus the Lebanese Student Association, pitted friend against friend in a jovial atmosphere. The score was about as close as the friendships, however, as the SSA edged their opponents 2-1.

"Winning this tournament was [in] our eyes, when we registered our team," said Fares Jandali Rifai, president of the SSA, who cheered on his team at the event.

In addition to spreading awareness about the SSA at Concordia, Jandali Rifai said winning the tournament this year had extra importance for his team, given the ongoing conflict in Syria between government and rebel forces.

"Most importantly, [we want] to raise awareness for what's happening in our beloved country and to stand with the heroes that are fighting for our dignity," Jandali Rifai said.

The significance of supporting an organization like Share the Warmth is not lost on Crossling, either.

"Concordia students are powerful role models for our youth who are faced with critical decisions regarding their futures: to stay in school and follow their dreams, despite the challenges of poverty," said Crossling.

Coleby, who is graduating this year, is confident that after two successful years, there will continue to be an annual soccer tournament that unifies Concordia.

"We're hoping it will become an annual event and a staple in the university," said Coleby.

**"Concordia students are powerful role models for our youth who are faced with critical decisions regarding their futures: to stay in school and follow their dreams, despite the challenges of poverty."**

- Fiona Crossling



# Fencing for Glory

## Concordia Fencer Takes Second Shot at Olympic Gold By Andrew Maggio

**“You are completely focused,” said Philippe Beaudry, discussing his mental preparation for a fencing match.**

**“You can practically feel the adrenaline dripping from your ears. You feel like a bull and all you can think while looking at the other guy is, ‘I’m going to beat you. There’s no way I’m not going to beat you.’”**

An incredible fierceness overcomes Beaudry when he speaks about the experience of getting focused for a bout. His intensity in conversation only amps up for the real thing, and he’ll have the chance to bring his determination to the world stage four months from now.

That’s when Beaudry, a part-time Concordia finance major, will be participating in his second Olympic Games in London. Currently ranked 20th in the world by the Fédération internationale d’escrime, he will be representing Canada in the men’s sabre competition—the fastest of the modern fencing weapons.

Beaudry is already a decorated fencer despite his young age. He’s won the Pan American Games twice and has been a Canadian fencing champion a whopping seventeen times.

Beaudry, who just turned 25, was well-served by his first Olympic experience in Beijing in 2008, where he got a taste of what it’s like to compete against the best fencers in the world.

“Beijing was an awesome experience, I have to say,” said Beaudry. “I finished 30th out of about fifty people, so I was pretty happy about

that. I definitely didn’t have as much experience as I have now. I had a different coach then, the coach I have now has more experience and we’ve worked on a lot of things the past four years.”

His current coach, Dmitry Ronzhin, was brought over from Russia as head national coach in 2009 as a result of increased funding from Canada’s Own the Podium campaign. Beaudry credits a lot of his recent success to Ronzhin’s vast experience and fencing knowledge.

“He’s a very qualified coach; it’s been three years I’ve been working with him now,” said Beaudry. “The hardest part is the adaptation, but then the results start coming and this year was a good year for me.”

This time around, however, the expectations are much higher—Beaudry is going for gold.

“We always want to win,” said Beaudry. “It’s a dream of mine to make a podium. The highest Canada has finished in fencing at the Olympics is fourth, so definitely hope to get to the podium [this year].”

Beaudry lists his father, Paul Beaudry, as his biggest inspiration. The elder Beaudry was a prominent fencer for over a decade, hav-

ing been a national team member and Olympic athlete in his own day. Unfortunately for him, the 1980 Moscow Olympics he was slated to participate in were boycotted.

“I’m extremely proud of Phil, there’s no question,” said Paul. “He’s doing extremely well, and for me and my wife it gives us the feeling of being part of an Olympic Games. It’s incredible to be able to live through something like the Olympic Games with my son.”

While being able to call oneself an Olympic athlete is well worth the effort, the challenges of staying at the peak of any sport while balancing a regular life are certainly taxing.

Throw in the issue of financial aid and funding, and the life of an Olympian doesn’t sound as glamorous—but Beaudry has managed to persevere through all of the obstacles he has been put up against.

“Because there is less recognition for amateur sports, it is harder to get financing,” said Beaudry.

“This year I had to finance all of my tournaments myself, it was very hard. There is some money from the government, and luckily Quebec has the best funding program for amateur sports in the country.



## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

DAILY COVERAGE AT  
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

### WRESTLING

Concordia Stingers wrestler David Tremblay has earned a berth in the freestyle wrestling competition at the 2012 London Summer Olympics. The 24-year-old from Stoney Point, ON won the 55 kg weight class at the 2012 Pan American Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Kissimmee, FL, yesterday. He defeated Brandon Escobar of Honduras 4-0 and 7-0 to earn a spot in the Olympics.

### WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Second-year Stingers guard Kaylah Barrett became the first Concordia women’s basketball player in 35 years to be named to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport’s first all-Canadian team last week. The last Stingers to be named to the team were Sylvia Sweeny and Liz Silcott in the 1977-78 season. Barrett was also named MVP of the Quebec conference in late February.

### MEN’S HOCKEY

The Concordia Stingers men’s hockey program will be the first Canadian university team to use IntelliGym, a cognitive-training system for athletes. IntelliGym technology is a revolutionary program that has improved the performance of thousands of athletes. The goal is to focus on important skills such as awareness, reading plays, anticipation, decision-making, and execution. The program’s training sessions last up to 30 minutes. Computer data is then sent to the IntelliGym servers, which then tailor the training program to each athlete based on individual strengths and weaknesses.

### INDOOR SOCCER

Two members of the Concordia Stingers women’s soccer team were on the honour roll when the Quebec university women’s indoor soccer all-star team was announced earlier this week. Defender Shannon Travers and Elizabeth Allard were named to the second all-star team. Travers, a second-year student from Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC, led the Stingers in scoring with a goal and four assists in six games. With five points, she was tied for second place in Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec scoring. Allard, a second-year mid-fielder from Drummondville, QC, was also on the second all-star team. She had one assist and one game MVP honour in six games.





PHOTO SERGE MORNEAU

## Tears of a Clown

### Clown School to Showcases Latest Crop of Performers

• AUDREY FOLLIOT

They are gymnasts and they are theatre performers, and after hundreds of hours of training, they'll have earned their red noses.

If you think being a professional clown is all fun and games, go spend a day at Francine Côté's Clown and Comedy School and you will never see it the same way again.

"We offer an intensive *à la carte* program which consists of different workshops lasting approximately 30 hours each," explained Geneviève St-Denis, pedagogical coordinator and the school's beginner clown teacher.

"This program takes from two to three years to complete, but we now also offer a full-time program which lasts approximately a year."

With the end of training comes a year-end show. From March 29 to March 31, the Clown and Comedy School will present its final

showcase at Théâtre au Cube.

The cast is composed of 11 professional artists, some from the Cirque du Soleil, some from Dr. Clown, and professional dancers who have successfully completed their 600 hours of training.

The artists have been rehearsing and meeting with professors for a year to prepare their eight-minute acts with the help of Côté. These clowns are contemporary performers that still work with the traditional red nose, as there are certain traditions that the school wishes to keep.

The school offers training programs for professionally trained clowns who may want or are required to improve their technique; both of the programs it provides consist of almost 600 hours of training in bodily disciplines such as physical theatre, buffoonery, gymnastic and, most importantly—clown art.

Though the school trains over 200 students per year, members

of the general public who want to give clowning a try can take part in the bi-annual workshops the school puts on.

Côté, the owner and founder, has been the artistic director of Dr. Clown, a company that specializes in therapeutic clown art - a style she developed - and works in hospitals to cheer up the ill and elderly.

In order to be allowed to audition for Dr. Clown, artists have to follow training workshops at Côté's school.

Considering that those who receive training at the school are already professional clowns, the age of those taking part in the full time program varies between approximately 25 and 30 years old, but the general clientele at the school is more between 25 and 50 years old.

Clown art is still unbeknownst to most people, but St-Denis said she has seen an increase in people's interest in the past few years.

"With the Cirque du Soleil and the Cirque Eloise, I think more and more people are starting to develop an interest for that kind of art," said St-Denis. "In Quebec we often have artists from Europe performing, while our artists here leave to perform in Europe. It takes a while before our local artists actually get integrated in the local scene."

However, St-Denis thinks that most people still often confuse clowns with comedians, something that she says, is completely different.

"Being a clown comes from within," she says. "It is not a character that you create but some part of your own personality that you express."

**Clown / March 29 to March 31 / 8:00 p.m./Théâtre au Cube (4852 de Lorimier St., in the church basement) / Tickets \$15.00 / For more info, call 514-815-3269 or visit [formationclown.com](http://formationclown.com)**

**"Being a clown comes from within, [...] It is not a character that you create but some part of your own personality that you express."**

- Geneviève St-Denis



[illegible]

**Occupy Theatre! / March  
31 / 8:00 p.m. / Copacabana  
Bar (3519 st. laurent blvd.) /  
by donation.**

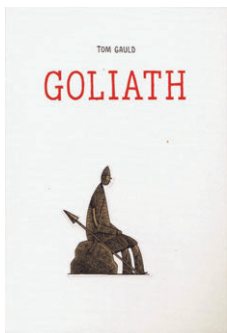




DAILY COVERAGE AT  
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

## GRAPHIC GOLIATH

The Bible's burly villain Goliath finally gets his story told. Scottish cartoonist Tom Gauld delivers a stripped-down David and Goliath story, published by Montreal's Drawn and Quarterly.



## DANCING ZOMBIES



There have been three Butoh walks in the past week to protest tuition hikes, but Wednesday's was the first to have zombies. Butoh, the slow Japanese dance form, is a favourite of Concordia's contemporary dance department.

## WEEKLY SPINS



Ruckus — “#Swag”

John Coltrane once said you can play a shoestring if you are sincere. Logically, then, a band playing standard gear can be infectious—if they've got the heart.

# The Rule of the Fittest



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

## Pitchfork's Mark Richardson on How to Survive as a Music Journalist

• DEMI BEGIN

In a world where even the red, flowing *Rolling Stone* emblem is having trouble moving magazine copies off the rack, Mark Richardson is feeling optimistic about the future of music journalism.

Editor-in-Chief of the world's best-visited independent music writing website, Richardson's at the helm of a ship that is retaining many tricks of the old media's trade, while succeeding in the new.

Pitchfork maintains tight editorial control, doesn't have comment sections on its articles, and doesn't tweet back at its followers. In many ways, it's still a magazine, rather than a website.

And yet it's the de facto taste-making music site of the 21st century. A Pitchfork review can make—or break—a musical career. Pitchfork is at the top of its game.

Even though it now all seems rosy, it has not always been that way for Richardson. When he started out as a freelance writer, the Brooklyn resident couldn't afford to be picky.

"I would write about whatever I could for money," he admitted.

Despite living and breathing music and music journalism, it took him several years to refine his writing style. Then, in 1998, he went from odd writing jobs to writing steadily for the then-three-year-old website.

When Richardson talks about it, it seems as if he can't believe

himself how much time has passed.

"You know it was very, very small back then, it was just this tiny thing," he stressed. "So when I talk about writing for Pitchfork in the '90s, it was just a really different world."

Fast-forward through the last decade and newspapers and magazines are now in precarious financial positions, while the Internet has taken over. Pitchfork itself is getting more than 200,000 visitors a month.

Still, for the head of such a depended-on news source, the cultural addiction to a no-cost, 24-hour news cycle has some drawbacks.

"I don't really love the second-by-second, chit chat commentary. If someone is a reporter [...], they might be excited at, like, 10:00 p.m. that something happened, and they have to sit down and write a story. I get a message at 10:00 p.m. when something happens and I'm like, 'Huhhhh.'"

Richardson added that having to be constantly connected is probably the element he dislikes the most about his job. Pitchfork, for its part, doesn't update on weekends.

As much as the site has become a staple of the web for many media-minded netizens, its social media cousins Twitter and Facebook are not on his list of favourites.

"I don't crave the 24-hour cycle stuff. I would rather sit and stare at the window for an hour," he admitted.

"In my dream life, I'm in a quiet study, thinking and writing and undisturbed. I don't really love having to be plugged in all the time,"

Although the non-stop flux of information can be overwhelming for some, it's also undeniably affecting the way print journalism is perceived. In a society where information is instantaneously updated and accessible, print media slowly losing its relevance.

"I think print still has some advantages visually, with tactile experiences and longer pieces and those type of things," Richardson said. Still, he acknowledged that the newspaper's heyday is unlikely to return, but he held out hope for the industry, explaining that it simply has yet to figure out a new, more profitable, business model.

"I feel like there's a possibility that there's something looming that we haven't quite envisioned yet, that will be of higher quality than things are now... At least, I hope so."

Whatever the situation for the publications themselves, the reality for the people who hoping to break into them is something else entirely. It can be difficult to hold out faith in your craft when you can't seem to find any work.

Journalists are the new actors; many people want to do it, but only a few, either the hardest-working or most talented, will make it. Pitchfork's success story is certainly refreshing to

journalists hoping to find some work—preferably paid—in an industry of temporary gigs and unpaid internships.

To them, Richardson has only one bit of advice: Patience.

"If you love to write, and especially if you love writing about art and culture, there's nothing wrong with doing that part-time, for months or years," he said, pointing out that publications will be willing to pay writers money for their writing when they're good enough to get noticed.

That being said, the one question every journalist is looking for an answer is simple; what does one have to do to get a job in the business? The answer, according to Richardson, isn't all that surprising.

Every year, Pitchfork, like countless other publications, puts out a call for interns. And, putting things simply, those interns who succeed and stand out will eventually move up the ladder, paving the way for the Mark Richardsons of the future.

"It's not too much of a mysterious process, other than we're looking for people that want nothing more than to be involved in the world of music journalism, and also seem like they are going to work really hard," he noted.

"Making it clear that you want to do whatever you can to help is the best thing. Those are the interns you tend to notice more, pay attention to, and then eventually want to help out."

—with files from Alex Manley



# THE BARE MINIMUM

## Voting on Minimum Agreement a Bad Idea

• ADAM KOVAC

Sometimes a fail is a blessing in disguise.

That was the case on March 26, when a less-than-overwhelming amount of students turned out for a General Assembly on a wind-blown Reggie's terrace. After over an hour of noses getting redder and feet getting number, the whole shebang was called off due to a lack of quorum.

While tensions ran high as accusations flew that the Concordia Student Union and the students who petitioned to hold the GA didn't do enough mobilization, I'd argue that we dodged a bit of a bullet on this.

We all know where we stand on the strike at this point. So if the 450 students necessary for quorum had shown up, it's fair to say that whether it was decided to continue the strike or not, the people there would have been making a decision with at least a modicum of knowledge about the issue.

But what worries me is that another part of the agenda was about something fairly obscure. I can't help but feel that calling for a GA to vote on the CSU adopting a minimum agreement was an effort to push through an agenda point whose specifics are only really known to one side—those who support it. But let me back up a second here.

Do you know what the minimum agreement is? Because I'll admit it, up until it was brought up at a CSU Council meeting back in January, I had no idea.

So just as a primer on this, it's an agreement, signed by three out of the four student lobby groups in Quebec (the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, the Table de concertation étudiante du Québec), but not by the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, the group to which the CSU belongs.

It comprises three elements: that all signees refuse to nego-

tiate with the government without the other groups, that the organizations not make recommendations to their members on any negotiated agreements, and that all signees refuse to denounce any tactics used by other organizations or associations.

The CSU Council has so far voted not to accept the agreement twice. The first time was at the aforementioned meeting in January.

A few weeks ago, three students began circulating a petition calling for a GA to vote on the agreement. They were persuaded to set aside the petition, but Council agreed to revisit the issue, which they did on March 14.

At that vote, they elected not to sign on again. Another petition by three different students was started up that same week, collected the 250 signatures necessary to call a Special General Meeting, and here we are.

I'm not going to tell you whether adopting the minimum agreement at Concordia is right or wrong. I am going to say that I think a GA is the wrong forum for it.

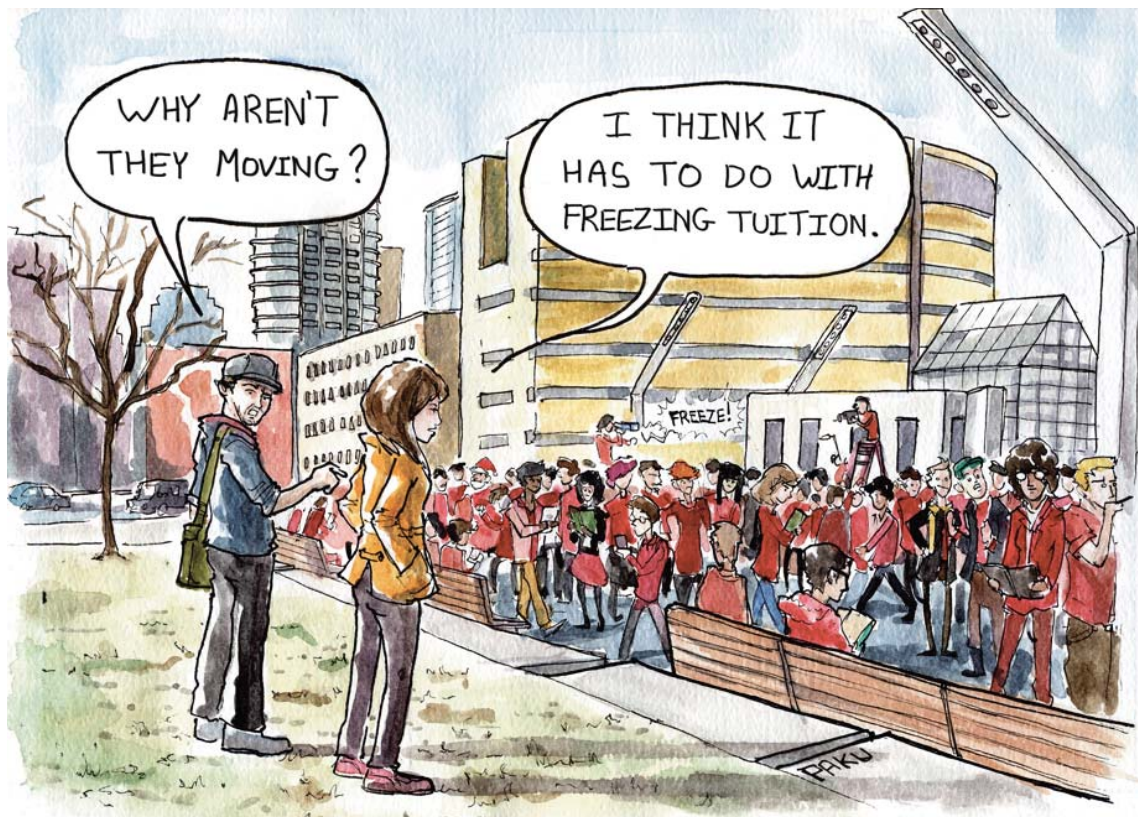
It's pretty clear that the people who show up for a vote are pro-strike. Add a motion for the minimum agreement, and without knowing the history or repercussions, they will probably vote to adopt it.

Will they know that adopting it will mean that we are tied to the most militant demands of other groups, since we cannot negotiate without them, and they've made it clear that they are not so much for negotiations as just making demands, with no willingness to budge on their own positions?

Will they know that even if other groups' tactics get militant, or even violent, Concordia will not be in a position to condemn them?

Bringing the minimum agreement to a GA is an effort to use "democracy" as a shield to get one's own way. Let's hope that after Monday's display of utter apathy, it's an idea whose time has come—and gone.

# CREATIVELY ENGAGED



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

## How Successful Is Artistic Activism?

• ALEX MCGILL

The hardest assignment you can be given at Concordia right now is finding ways to keep students who are on the fence about a strike engaged and involved in the cause.

For the Faculty of Fine Arts, finding new and creative means to up student participation and engage students of all faculties in the strike has been priority number one, but it's a task as daunting as any finals study marathon.

The Fine Arts Student Alliance has unanimously been voting to continue the strike action week after week since early March; after the Women's Studies Student Association, theirs is the second-longest student strike at Concordia.

Whatever your opinion on the success of the strike so far—student apathy, minimal participation and lack of organization from the Concordia Student Union were a few problems vocalized early on—it has to be said that many students are successfully activating their peers within the movement.

This strike has been polarizing, pitting students against students and friends against friends in the vocalization of what they think is right. I've argued with my own friends about our stances on the strike, and I've seen the arguments get ugly.

I began checking out some of

the creative protests that were happening around campus for the Fringe Arts section, and the results were, at first, kind of disheartening.

While I appreciated and commended the feeling behind many of the events organized, it appeared to me that a very small number of students were actually making it out to the events.

However, after speaking with several involved students, as well as Nicolas Martel, a member of the fine arts platform Artists Working to raise Awareness & Knowledge about Education—who have been responsible for organizing and getting word out about the numerous creative strike events—I can recognize the good behind the artistic efforts.

Activism is visualized in many ways, and since their original vote on March 2, fine arts students have been proving that there are many ways to tackle this issue.

Groups of FA students have been coming together for the entirety of March, organizing theatre and dance performances, zombie marches and street parties, and other faculties are starting to follow their lead.

The English department held an open mic on Wednesday afternoon in the sunshine on de Maisonneuve Blvd. Other students are hosting workshops in their apartments or in other public spaces. The strike continues,

but that doesn't mean that the learning has stopped.

In the divisive atmosphere of this strike, creative efforts have been bringing students back together, and making us realize that no matter our opinion, we are all in this together. We all still want to learn and create, and we want our education environment to be accessible.

"Creative forms of protesting are creating vitality and dynamism in the public environment around the university. Most of the involved people I've spoken with have said that they are creating lasting bonds and friendships with each other that will last throughout their degrees," said Martel.

"The learning and sharing process that most of us are going through is something very precious. I don't think that the same level of exchange and friendship between fine arts students of all horizons has ever happened in the faculty before."

With the success of last week's peaceful student march, which saw hundreds of thousands of Quebec students take to the streets, it's obvious that students aren't backing down.

Wherever you stand—pro- or anti-strike—creatively protesting has opened up a dialogue, and has created an engaging way for students to come together and to let their voices—and opinions—be heard.



# Pungeance & Flagons

# THE TOFU OF CANADA

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

Students are being so *selfish*.

They are standing in the way of something so beautiful—Quebec becoming more like the rest of Canada. As everyone knows, students in the rest of Canada pay higher tuition and la belle province should catch up.

Quebec has a history of looking over its shoulder when it comes to policy-making. There's a reason no one's ever called Quebec "a unique nation within Canada." It's because we are the tofu of Canada—we absorb the guiding principles of everyone else.

On the heels of matching school funding with our neighbours, Quebec will finally be able to complete the rainbow connection in other financial matters.

Charest is telling us that the government can't make it work within the constraints of the current budget while citizens struggle to pay the exorbitant taxes imposed by his government.

Where tuition is higher, taxes are lower. British Columbia's income tax is 5.06 per cent for anyone earning \$37,000 or less—in Quebec it's 16 per cent. We also pay 9.975 per cent provincial sales tax, but in Alberta, they pay nothing at all.

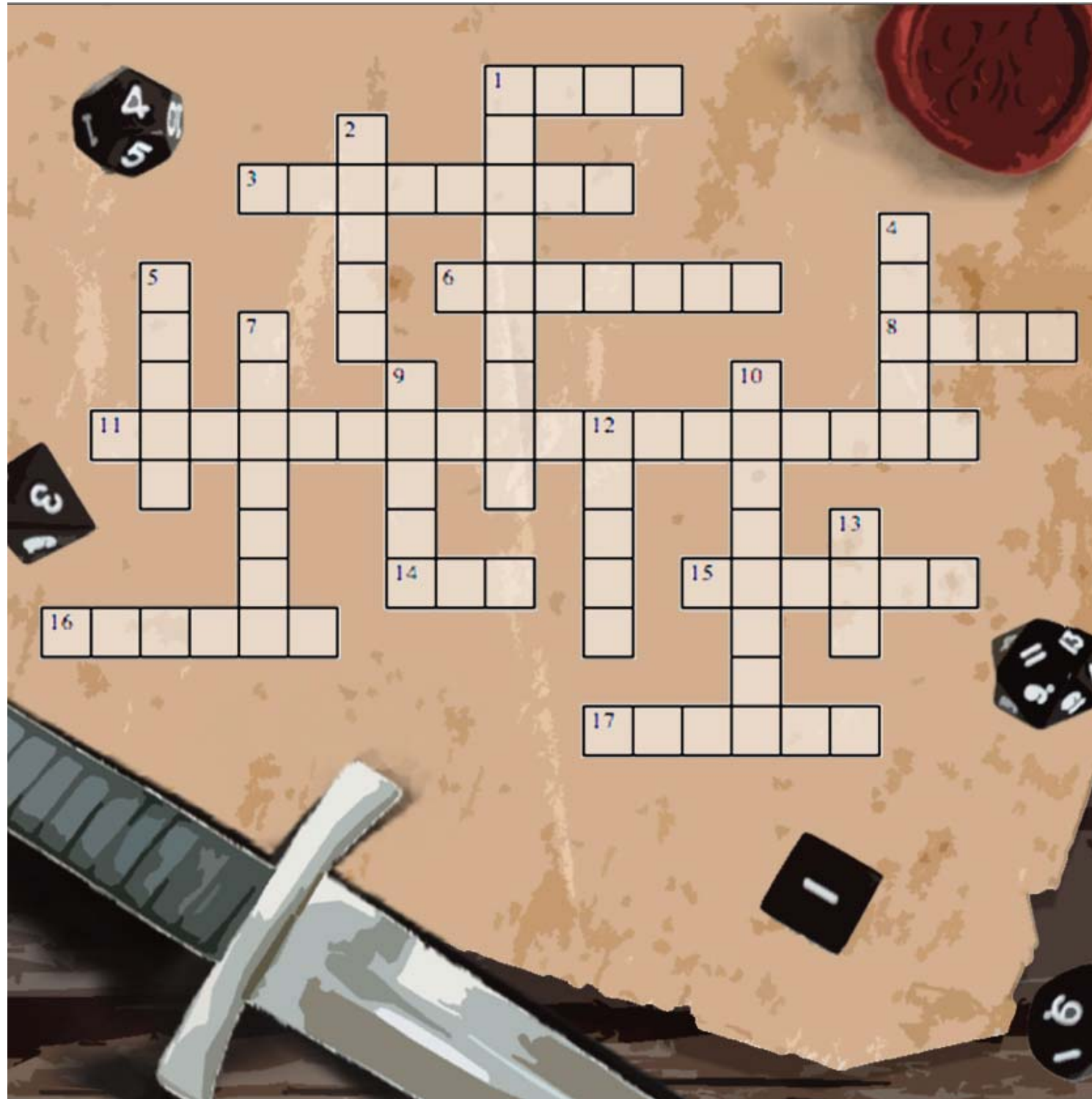
After tuition goes up, taxes wouldn't need to go all the way down to the levels of other provinces; they would just need to move in that direction. Quebec would just be doing its fair share to compensate for axing our services.

Students shouldn't strike, or rally, or do anything beyond joining a Facebook group to stop this progress. It's amazing how passionate they are, even though they clearly haven't looked into it. Do your research, students! Other provinces pay more in tuition, so that means other provinces function better than ours. Look it up.

We need to start aligning ourselves with the rest of Canada so we can start the shift away from being this outlier of a high-tax, high-service society, to the much more desirable low-tax, low-service society.

Everyone having access to the same opportunities, regardless of what family they were born into or what lucky breaks they've had is so passé.

So let's be like the rest of Canada and equalize our social and budgetary policies with them. And while we're at it, maybe one day we'll notice that, just like Quebec is part of Canada, Canada is part of America. Canada seems like a unique nation, but as we know, there's no such thing...



BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

## ACROSS

1. Hands down the most influential writer to have ever lived, William Shakespeare is often referred to as England's national poet—or by this title.

3. Allegedly, Walt Disney's look of disapproval was used as inspiration for this guy, when Mickey Mouse apprenticed him in Fantasia.

6. These knights from Charlemagne's court were exemplars for Christian martial valour. Gotta love the Dark Ages, where you could stand for Christian values and, at the same time, literally be a killing machine—no questions asked.

8. This 2000s police drama features detectives working with someone whose quirky personality disorder causes friction with their co-workers but helps them solve the case every time. Too bad this

hint hardly narrows anything down. Enough of these shows already!

11. Since its first publication in the mid-'70s, this table-top RPG created by Gary Gygax has had an estimated 20 million players. (Nerds.) It is also the theme to this week's puzzle. (3 words)

14. In his 2003 holiday film, Will Ferrell believes himself to be one of these titular creatures, when in reality, he is merely a 4-Down.

15. Westerners often refer to Muslim mullahs by this word, but Islam doesn't technically have any clergy in the sacerdotal sense.

16. Can you believe it's been 15 years since young readers first opened the pages of Harry Potter

and journeyed with him on his way to become one of these?

17. Members of the only New York hockey team in the Original Six, these guys were the first American team to win the Stanley Cup.

## DOWN

1. Though the word conjures imagery of a brutish, warlike people, it was originally simply used to describe any non-Greek.

2. According to Roman records, these ancient Celtic priests were practitioners of human sacrifice. Allegedly, they would fill a giant wooden effigy—known as a wicker man—with people and then set it ablaze. Somehow, this hasn't been turned into a Nic Cage film yet.

4. No matter whether wizard, witch or warlock, we are all still this.

5. Before she starred in HBO's *True Blood* Anna Paquin graced the silver screen as this member of the X-Men.

7. This 2010 boxing drama starred Marky Mark as Mickey

Ward. It won the Academy Awards for both best supporting actor and actress, a feat that hadn't been accomplished since 1986.

9. Originating in Europe, these tacky garden guardians have been around since the Renaissance.

10. This diminutive race is commonly referred to as hobbits, but for legal reasons 11-Across had to stick to using this name rather than risk a lawsuit.

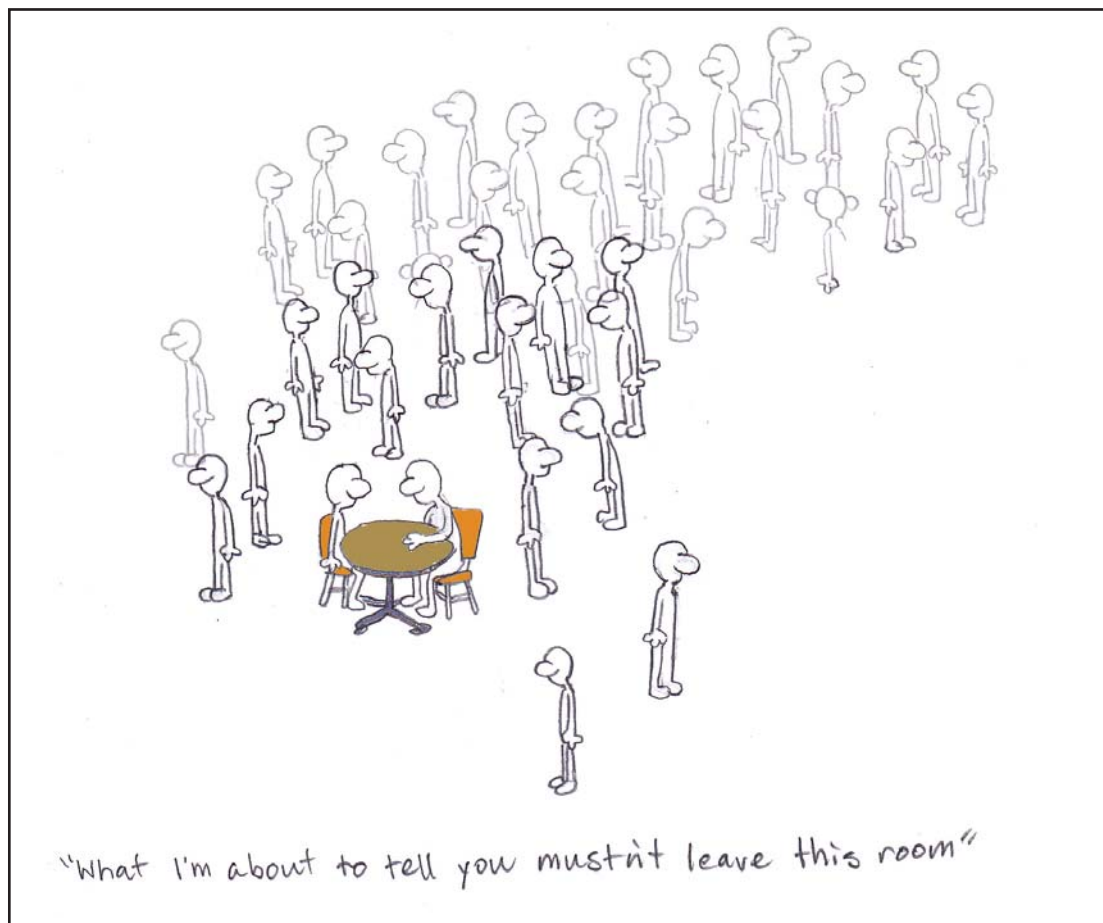
12. While it may be caused by a variety of issues, all adult persons under the height of 4'10" are often referred to as this word, since the eschewal of the term 'midget.'

13. These green-skinned brutes may not have originated from J.R.R. Tolkien's work, but after the success of his trilogy, they have become a fantasy staple.



# Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



## False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

TO MY BROTHER... THE JERK



# Nah'msayin?

## The Future of Weather

Maybe it's because I've been listening to too much Nost-orious D.A.M.U.S. lately, but I can't help but start to worry about the future—specifically, the future of the weather.

I did some research on Wikipedia last year, and it turns out that Al Gore actually does have credible claims to having played a role in the birth of the Internet. (Spooky.) On the other hand, however, he also played a role in the birth of people freaking out about climate change.

Don't get me wrong—I hate talking about the weather just as much as anyone else. It's a weapon in an arsenal that you use to deal with awkward moments with strangers you don't want to offend, but don't have any friends in common with.

These people rank somewhere

between “child” and “yeti” on the human-being scale, and their intelligence tends to occupy a pretty similar rank. The weather is a good, simple concept that basically everyone can offer an opinion on. But talking about it used to be, first and foremost, low-key.

These days, that sweet, child-like innocence is a relic of a distant, ancient past we will never see again, like the concept of re-winding, or phone booths. Al Gore, however right or wrong the future will prove him to be, has turned us all into weather hypochondriacs.

What previously could have been written off as a fluke, or a lucky warm streak, is now stressed over.

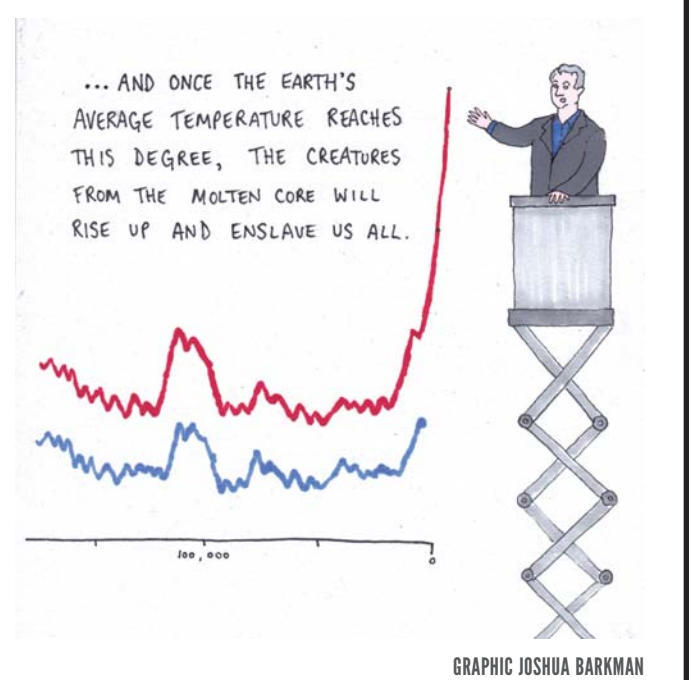
Case in point—last week's beautiful, unseasonable warmth was hard to enjoy without guiltily thinking a) Oh god, what have we done to

the environment, b) How freaking hot is it going to be in July, or c) Both, kill me now, I don't want to drown in a puddle of my own sweat and melted skin during the summer of 2014.

The worse outcome, of course, was that the cold snap that followed the warmth was somehow reassuring. If this is what the future is going to be like—if we're going to be enjoying bad weather because it makes us feel less bad than enjoying good weather—then I'm out.

Call up Roland Hemmerich and John Cusack. Pat the Mayans on the back. It's 2012. The end of the world might as well be nigh. I don't think I can handle another spring this nerve-wracking, and it's not even finals week yet.

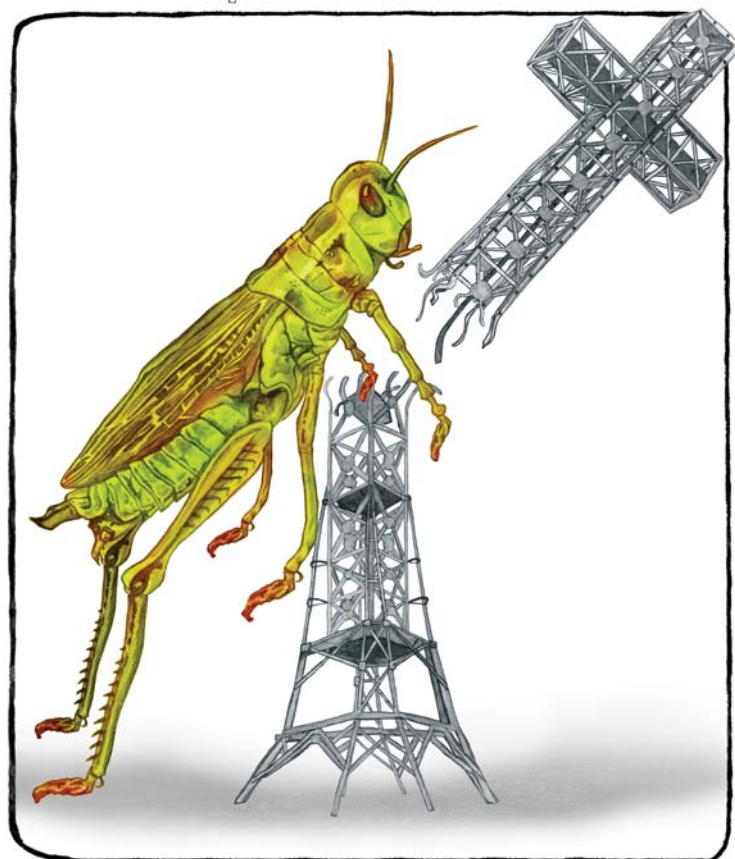
—Alex Manley  
Copy Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

# So So Stories

by Christopher Olsen



The way god figured it, he could either send a plague of locusts, or just one.



