



THE LINK

concordia's independent newspaper
dangerously clever since 1980

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

MESSAGE

Date MAY Time

To STUDENTS

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From THE BOG GAVE LOWY A \$1.4 MILLION LOAN TELEPHONE INTEREST FREE

Telephoned	Please call	
Called to see you	Will call again	
Wants to see you	Returned your call	

MESSAGE

CON U IS PAYING THE INTEREST. IT'S \$35,000

Operator

URGENT

NEWS • 4

MESSAGE

Date MAY Time

To THE VILLE OF

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From \$108 WAS BI

TELEPHONE

Telephoned	Please call	
Called to see you	Will call again	
Wants to see you	Returned your call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE

THE ADMIN MOVED ON THE FAUBOURG

Operator

URGENT

MESSAGE

Date JUNE Time

To STUDENTS

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From THE CSU HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH TO DECIDE

TELEPHONE

Telephoned	Please call	
Called to see you	Will call again	
Wants to see you	Returned your call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE

Operator

URGENT

MESSAGE

Date

To BOARD OF GOVERNORS

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From INTERNAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

TELEPHONE

Telephoned	Please call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Called to see you	Will call again	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wants to see you	Returned your call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE

Operator

URGENT

MESSAGE

Date

To POLICE

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From SEEMS TO HAVE A COLD

TELEPHONE

Telephoned	Please call	
Called to see you	Will call again	
Wants to see you	Returned your call	

MESSAGE

Operator

URGENT

MESSAGE

Date

To PLEASE RESPECT YOUR TERM LIMITS

TELEPHONE

Telephoned	Please call	
Called to see you	Will call again	
Wants to see you	Returned your call	

MESSAGE

Operator

URGENT

LOWY'S \$1.4 M CONDO LOAN UNDER THE RADAR • OPS 19

WHILE YOU WERE OUT: A SCANDALOUS SUMMER, ON AND OFF CAMPUS

November 10: Tuition Day

Concordia Student Union Launches Tuition Campaign



PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

\$2,220

what a Quebec post secondary student currently pays in fees.

\$3,800

what a Quebec post secondary student will pay next year.

61%

the number of students who graduate with debt.

41%

the increase in tuition countrywide since 1998.

• LAURA BEESTON

Don't like the idea of paying even more for your already-expensive post-secondary education? Then mark your calendars for Nov. 10, where a massive, province-wide mobilization of students against tuition increases is set to take place in Montreal.

Recently announced by Quebec's largest student lobby group, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, thousands of students are expected to turn up and show the provincial government their disapproval.

In conjunction, the Concordia Student Union officially kicked off their own campaign against tuition hikes on Aug. 21, and

CSU VP External Chad Walcott spoke with *The Link* about the union's plans moving forward towards November.

"Our goal is to get as much information out as possible, so students can make an informed decision with regards to demonstrating and the possibility of striking to fight the increased tuition—which is coming," he said.

Walcott explained he spent most of his summer finding solid facts about the impending increases to prepare for "classroom speeches, flyering, and just making students aware of the issues and consequences of these tuition increases, and aware of their rights."

Last March, the Quebec government, under the leadership of

Liberal Premier Jean Charest, announced that tuition fees are set to increase \$325 a year for five years beginning in 2012.

With an anticipated total increase of nearly 75 per cent, students can expect schooling to cost an extra \$1,625 annually by the end of the five-year period.

The CSU, in collaboration with McGill University and the FEUQ are hopeful that increased student presence might put pressure on the government, curb the increases and help find solutions to what many have called a funding crisis. Walcott noted that unyielding student activism in Quebec has benefited of students historically, citing student strikes in the early '90s and '00s.

HALL RENO ON TRACK

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Students can finally say goodbye to the unpredictable escalators in the Hall Building as the first of four phases of renovations is set to wrap up by Sept. 12.

"We are right on target, and I'm extremely pleased with how it's going," said John Fisher of Concordia's Facilities Management department.

After 18 months of planning, initial work on phase one of renovations began about six months ago. The first phase involves the installation of a new escalator and staircase from the ground floor to the second floor of the Hall Building. It also includes a total revamp of the 10th, 11th and 12th floors, complete with new escalators, ceramics, sprinkler and lighting systems.

While students will be heading back to school amidst renovations, Fisher says the first phase shouldn't cause much of a disruption. "Students are going to find [phase one] more accessible than any other phase that we are doing," he said. "They are going to have an extra escalator, a thick staircase, and we won't be removing the other escalators at this time." The new escalators on the upper floors will also be up and running by the time students return to class.

Fisher says that the new escalators will be substantially smarter and safer than their dated and dysfunctional predecessors. He says they will be 20 to 40 per cent more energy efficient, making them not only beneficial for users of the Hall Building but for the university itself.

In hopes of not letting history repeat itself, the new escalators are designed for effective troubleshooting. Escalators will be directly linked to both the building's security and electrical departments, in order to pinpoint the exact timing and cause of any technical issues instantly.

Once phase one of the project is complete, the 7th, 8th and 9th floors will be closed in preparation for the next phase. Fisher expects this phase to be slightly more inconvenient for students, but manageable nonetheless. The last phase of the renovations is scheduled for completion by March 29, 2013, but Fisher is optimistic that the project might still finish earlier than expected.

—with files from Laura Beeston

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED AT CONCORDIA:

DISQUALIFICATION OF BOTH ACTION AND YOUR CONCORDIA SLATES

At midnight on April 13, two weeks after one of the most competitive elections in recent Concordia Student Union election history, former chief electoral officer Oliver Cohen disqualified both the *Your Concordia* and *Action* slates.

After *Your Concordia* won by a margin of nearly 400 votes, and after the victorious slate vowed to work together with *Action* candidates to reform the CSU electoral bylaws, the former CEO issued both parties notice—listing a wide variety of almost identical transgressions that totaled over a dozen broken rules on each side, as well as several directives from the CEO that were disregarded.

The candidates were informed that they had also broken the rules of fair play and that they would not be reimbursed for their electoral expenses.

News of the disqualifications tore through the #CSU2011 Twitterfeed, and former CSU president Heather Lucas called the ruling “a huge shocker.”

In a statement read at a CSU Council meeting on April 13, Lucas said, “It is unfortunate that the CEO has made the decision to disqualify both slates, as it makes a

mockery of the CSU, and ultimately does a disservice to the most important people at this university, the students.”

Your Concordia and *Action* filed appeals to the CSU Judicial Board April 17. Both teams cited Article 246, Section D of the CSU standing regulations, which states, “To disqualify a candidate, the [Chief Electoral Officer] and/or their agents must clearly demonstrate evidence both that a serious breach of electoral regulations has taken place, and that the party to be disqualified was responsible for the breach. Neither circumstantial evidence nor imputed interest shall be sufficient to justify disqualification.”

On April 27, the Judicial Board upheld Cohen’s decision not to reimburse both parties and not overturn Cohen’s ruling for team *Action*, but threw out *Your Concordia*’s disqualification.

As a result, the status of *Action*’s winning candidates—six councillors representing the John Molson School of Business—was thrown into question. They were later reinstated at a special Council meeting May 11, along with their election expenses.

—Laura Beeston and Adam Kovac

LOWY LOAN

In early May, *Le Journal de Montréal* was the first to report that Concordia University provided an interest-free loan of \$1.4 million to interim President Frederick Lowy.

When approached to serve his second term as president after the unexplained dismissal of former President Judith Woodsworth, Lowy had plans to leave Montreal and sell his condo on Doctor Penfield Ave. He had already purchased property outside the city.

“As a courtesy to Dr. Lowy, and rather than force him to have to move his stuff into storage or live somewhere else, the university said we would lend him the money,” said university spokesperson Chris Mota, explaining that Concordia also agreed to pay the interest—“an amount that was not prohibitive”—which, according to *Le Journal*, is expected to cost up to \$35,250.

Lowy, who reportedly makes \$350,000 a year, is projected to remain interim president until July or August of 2012—or until a new president is found—and was given the loan in good faith.

“Dr. Lowy had a situation, [but] the university felt that we wanted him to stay,” Mota continued. “We obviously did not want him to have to go through undue hardship [...] and this seemed the best and most secure way of doing things.”

—Laura Beeston

EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE REPORTS ON CONCORDIA'S LEADERSHIP CRISIS

Following an academic year of unprecedented administrative shakeup, Concordia University released a report that made recommendations for university governance on June 15.

After the controversial and unexplained discharge of former president Judith Woodsworth Dec. 22, the report was initiated after nearly all student and faculty associations on campus demanded a drastic restructuring of the university’s Board of Governors—Concordia’s highest governing body.

The Board also came under fire after it was discovered that its

many members had stayed well past their term limits

Created by an independent, three-person External Governance Review committee, the 39-page report listed 38 recommendations of the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Governors, the Senate and the President.

Advocating for a smaller Board, the report recommended a “reasonable balance” of members with experience in the business, non-profit and public sector. The committee also proposed the term limits be embedded in the university’s bylaws and be strictly enforced.

After the report was released, Concordia Interim President Frederick Lowy—who was appointed by the Board of Governors after their dismissal of Woodsworth—hosted an open discussion on the governance report June 28.

At the forum, students and faculty addressed Concordia’s “culture of contempt,” and many in attendance complained that their concerns were rarely replied to by Lowy. There are currently no plans from the administration for more open dialogue on the report.

“Later, the appropriate bodies of the university will make deci-

sions as to the changes we will adopt that will help us improve our governance culture and facilitate the pursuit of success,” Lowy said in Concordia’s *NOW Magazine*.

As for plans for implementing the recommendations, there is no set procedure in place as of yet, according to University spokesperson Chris Mota, adding that once the recommendations have been reviewed and revised, there still remains the task of figuring out how to go about transitioning from plan to reality.

—Laura Beeston,
with files from Adam Kovac

LE FAUBOURG (WHETHER WE WANT IT OR NOT)

Concordia’s controversial relationship with the Faubourg shopping centre is far from over.

Though 69 per cent of students voted against a series of fee levies that would go towards the purchase of a \$43 million project last November after *The Link* revealed that the Faubourg was the forerunner in negotiations, the newly-elected CSU learned when they took office in June that they would have until September to decide if they want it anyways.

“[This] puts us in a really difficult and unfortunate situation,” CSU President Lex Gill told *The Link*. “Not only did we run on a campaign of meaningful [dialogue with students], but we mean to do it.”

The administration has given the CSU a September deadline in order to file the proper paperwork in time, as the university’s option on the building expires in April 2012. Gill said the CSU plans to release

their decision during the last week of the month, if not sooner.

Following the November defeat, former CSU VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns said the next phase of the project would see more active student involvement in its planning, and that members for a “Student Space and Student Centre Committee” would be appointed at a CSU Council meeting by March 9. The committee was never realized.

During the November campaign, the undisclosed location of the Student Centre, the contract between the CSU and the administration, a detailed operating budget and the loss of existing student space on campus were among the concerns students raised about the project.

More recently, the current CSU has had to wait all summer to obtain a copy of the pro forma, detailing the financial activities of the retail site. Initially told they would see it at the end of July, the current

executive was given the document last week.

“There is very little time between getting the numbers and needing to make this decision,” said CSU VP Clubs & Space Gonzo Nieto.

Nieto also told *The Link* that he was recently informed the down payment of the building will not be paid proportionally and will fall under the CSU’s portion of the payment scheme.

“It doesn’t mean the students are paying more, just putting more up front. It seems, from what we’ve been told, that the university doesn’t have the money for a down payment [and] we will need to take out a loan on the building.”

The administration have allowed for “a lot of weird flexibility” in their negotiations, he continued. “Though the contract stipulates the CSU needs to have \$10 million for the down payment by Sept. 2012, we won’t have \$10 million by that time, and the response we got was,

“That’s fine, we can do [it for] \$9 million.”

Concordia students now pay \$2 per credit towards the purchase of a student centre, and have banked over \$7 million towards the project since 2006. The \$2 fee is set to expire in 2014, but the administration and CSU are still under contract for the joint purchase and operation of the project—an agreement that could last up to 70 years.

When running in last spring’s election, Gill’s *Your Concordia* slate promised students they would be consulted on any plans regarding the new centre, and ran on a “good deal or no deal” platform. They planned to put the student’s input to a vote in the November referendum.

“It’s a tricky spot [we’re in],” said Gill. “If we don’t make it a student centre, [the administration] plans to buy it anyways.”

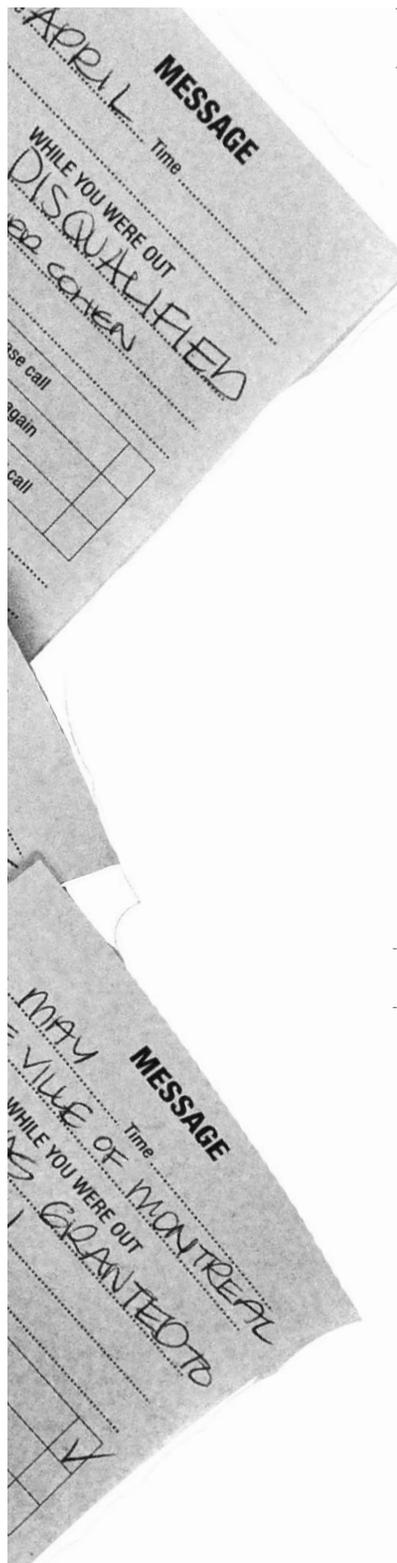
—Laura Beeston with files from
Julian Ward and Christopher Curtis.

CONCORDIA'S ISRAELI INSTITUTE

Back in May, the Arts & Science Faculty Council voted to create a new institute at Concordia. Funded by a \$5 million donation from the Azraeli Foundation—a Canadian organization that supports Jewish communities, educational institutions and opportunities—Concordia will now host its own Institute of Israel Studies.

According to the minutes from the Faculty Council meeting where it was created, the institute will incorporate professors from different faculties and programs, and funds from the \$400,000 annual budget will go towards encouraging undergrad exchange programs, holding public symposiums, lectures and book launches. There will also be funding for post-doctoral fellowships, and Phd and MA scholarships. The institution also plans on bringing in guest academics, eventually creating an Israel Studies Minor at Concordia.

—Adam Kovac



WHILE YOU WERE OUT

NOTABLE NEWS STORIES OF SUMMER

HERE'S WHAT WENT DOWN IN THE GREATER MONTREAL AREA:

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT ON THE SHUTTLE BUS

While Montreal has long been known for its less-than-perfect roads and disruptive construction seasons, this summer the city's infrastructure managed to take its already deplorable reputation to a whole new level.

June 14 marked Transport Quebec's impromptu closure of half of the Mercier Bridge. The Quebec-owned side of the bridge, used by commuters headed towards the South Shore, was quickly shut down after an inspection report declared ten of the bridge's gusset plates to be unsafe. Quebec and Ottawa jointly own and maintain the bridge. While the federal government began repairs on the federally owned side in 2008, Transport Quebec neglected to do so.

On July 31 a concrete beam and section the roof of one of Montreal's busiest tunnels collapsed. No one was injured, despite the fact that the Ville-Marie is used by up to 100,000 motorists daily. A week later, the tunnel reopened.

The Turcot Interchange, Louis-

Hippolyte Tunnel, Lafontaine Tunnel and Champlain Bridge are also in need of major repairs.

Despite many of the city's structural faux pas being visibly evident to the public, the inspection reports on the state of many of this summer's crumbling structures, including the details surrounding the state of the Mercier Bridge and the constantly changing Ville-Marie reports, have been shrouded in secrecy.

All of the above led to Transport Minister Sam Hamad's Aug. 25 announcement of a \$110 million plan on to minimize the traffic congestion caused by the ongoing repairs throughout the city.

Components of the plan include increasing the number of available seats on buses and on the metro, adding express bus lines to and from the West Island, the creation of additional reserved bus lanes, the offering of free monthly train and bus passes and the speeding up or cancelling of unnecessary roadwork projects.

—Megan Dolski

THE BIXI BAILOUT

The bike-sharing BIXI program came under fire early May after the City of Montreal agreed to give the non-profit company \$108 million in loans.

The program was given an immediate \$37 million to cover existing deficits, to be followed by \$71 million in loans to help the company expand in the future.

The City of Montreal's auditor is currently looking into the finances of the program, with an investigation expected to last several weeks. According to *The Gazette*, the company is running a \$31.7 million deficit, and is still 4,000 season passes short of reaching its goal of 32,000 Montrealers subscribing to the program to break even this season.

Despite the losses, BIXI continues to expand internationally, bringing the bike-share system to Toronto, Ottawa, New York, Chicago, London, Melbourne and Minneapolis.

—Laura Beeston,
with files from *The Gazette*.

RIP RUE FRONTENAC

On July 1, the editorial staff of *Rue Frontenac* collectively decided to shut down the news website, created as a result of a labour dispute with *Le Journal de Montreal* in 2009, in which the newspaper locked out its reporters.

Discussions on how to maintain the site, held between the

staff and Marcel Boisvert, a Quebec businessman and shareholder of *RueFrontenac.ca*, failed partly over staff concerns about Boisvert's consultant, Michel Strecko and his judicial history.

Rue Frontenac had been looking for new investors as a consequence of financial problems.

—Pierre Chauvin

JAGGI AVOIDS JAILTIME

On June 21, longtime Concordia anti-globalization activist Jaggi Singh was given a suspended sentence after pleading guilty to counseling to commit mischief over \$5,000 and urging people to tear down a security fence during last year's G20 summit.

Singh was given a 69-day credit for the six days he spent in pre-trial custody and 11-and-a-half months spent under restrictive bail conditions, as well as 12 months of probation, reported the *Toronto Star* following the hear-

ing. He was also given 75 hours of community service. The Crown had sought a six-month jail term and two years' probation.

Earlier that month, the Concordia Student Union sent a letter openly supporting Singh to the Ontario Court of Justice.

At the G20 protests in Toronto, Singh urged onlookers to "take down those walls that separate us," while gesturing to the fence behind him that was part of the \$664 million security apparatus erected for the G8 and G20.

—Laura Beeston

SPVM SHOOTING SCANDAL

Four Service de Police de la Ville de Montreal officers were involved in the fatal shooting of two people on June 7 in the heart of downtown Montréal.

Mario Hamel, a 40-year-old homeless man, was allegedly wielding a knife and cutting through garbage bags when he was pursued and shot dead. An innocent bystander, 36-year-old Patrick Limoges, was also fatally wounded by a stray bullet to the neck on his way to work.

The following day, 200 of Limoges colleagues from St. Luc's Hospital held a silent vigil on St. Denis St. where he was killed, laying flowers near the spot where his blood still stained the sidewalk. Later that night, nearly 300 demonstrators met to protest police brutality and impunity at the site both men were killed.

The investigation was then swiftly transferred to the Sûreté du Québec, a provincial police organization, which is the protocol when a Montreal police officer is involved in shooting a civilian.

It was reported that the SQ waited nearly a week before interviewing the officers involved in the altercation. Guy Lapointe, an SQ spokesman, told the CBC News "it was normal practice to wait a while before interviewing such witnesses."

According to the *National Post*, Quebec's National Assembly received a report last year from the Quebec Ombudsman recommending a change to the way police shootings are investigated—citing that the current system does not ensure impartiality of the investigations as well as a lack of public access to the results.

The report also concluded that "police solidarity" has been used to prejudice investigations in the police's favour, recommending the creation of a Special Investigations Bureau to be chaired by civilians.

Nearly three months later, the SQ has remained silent on the status of the investigation.

—Laura Beeston



Remembering Layton



Mourners pay tribute to the late Jack Layton at Toronto's City Hall last Friday, Aug. 26 PHOTOS SAM SLOTNICK

Montreal Members of the NDP Move on After Leader's Death

• ADAM KOVAC

Though his death has sent shock waves through the federal government, former New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton's death was equally shocking to those who supported the NDP at the grassroots level.

"We in the NDP Concordia are heartbroken to hear that Jack Layton has passed away," said Natalie Bocking, chairperson of the student group. "The NDP is lucky to have had him as leader for the time that it did."

Charmaine Borg—one of the young university students known as the "McGill Four" who made headlines after winning seats in Parliament in the last federal election—is a former president of the McGill chapter of the NDP, and currently sits as the MP for Terrebonne-Blainville.

Borg said she took the news of Layton's passing harshly, but would remember Layton for his ability to lead and politically invigorate Canadians.

"He was definitely was a man who inspired many people and gave hope to many people, especially young people, because he believed in the youth and he really believed in a better Canada for the future."

Both Bocking and Borg noted the popularity that Layton had among Canadians youth. He addressed young Canadians in his final letter published shortly after his death, writing, "I believe in you. Your energy, your vision, your passion for justice are exactly what this country needs

today."

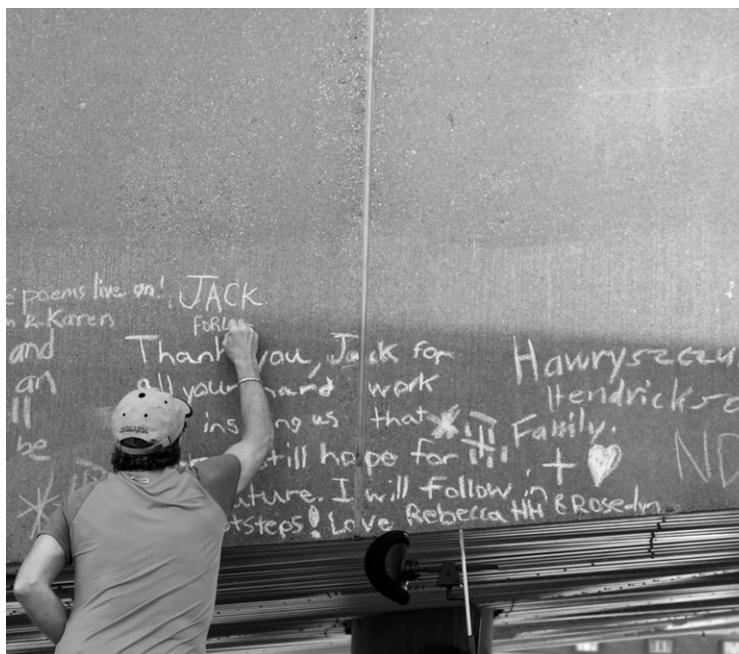
"For me, because I am younger, he was always the face of the NDP, and he was always the man who inspired me and gave me hope in politics," said Borg. "I don't think I would be here if it weren't for him. He restored hope in politics and that we really could make a difference."

The 21-year-old Borg and two fellow McGill students, as well as a recent McGill graduate, are but a few of many young, first-time NDP candidates set to head back to the House of Commons Sept. 19. Although much of the NDP's success in Quebec during the last election was credited to the charismatic Layton, Borg feels that Layton's loss will not set the NDP's agenda back.

"We're a very strong family, we've been through a lot since May 2," she said. "I think we're all going to get back there in September and try and kick butt and try and really bring forward the Canada that he wanted."

Bocking said that while there would be no formal memorial on the part of Concordia NDP, several members of the club made the trek to Toronto for Layton's funeral. She said Layton's memory would be best upheld by upholding the principles for which he stood.

"I believe the best way for students to memorialize Jack is to continue the work that he dedicated his life to by getting involved politically and supporting the progressive movement in Canada."



BEER BUZZ

Reggie's to Diversify Their Beer Portfolio

• ADAM KOVAC

In years past, students' ability to get their drink on at our campus watering hole was tragically limited, as Reggie's Bar had an exclusive contract with Molson. With the expiry of that contract earlier this summer, samplers of suds may see a long due diversification in their choice of chilled chugging beverages.

"There was a contract with Molson for two years; it expired on July 1," explained Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill, who also sits on the board of CUSACorp. CUSACorp, which operates Reggie's, is the profit-making wing of the CSU.

"Basically, if we want to switch to another beer company, we have to show that contract to Molson, and they have the right to match it. We have been looking at other companies, but either way, we won't be signing a contract with full exclusivity on tap. We'll have at least two other options on tap, hopefully, for non-Molson products, at the bare minimum. No contract that we sign will have full exclusivity on tap or in the fridge."

Not only will there be a large array of potent potables, but the new brews will appeal to those looking for something beyond a cheap buzz. Part of the goal is to offer some lesser-known beers that will appeal to the beer connoisseurs around campus.

"We've been talking to every major and minor beer company," said Gill. "The goal behind all this is that we'd like to start selling local microbrews, organic, maybe a gluten-free beer, or vegan beer. We want to be able to have those options, and right now we don't."

If the new menu sounds a bit pricier than the fare you've come to expect from Reggie's, it may be. But Gill was quick to allay fears that Reggie's might soon price itself out of the average student's meager bender budget.

"We're not saying we're not going to offer the cheap beer of the world, but we'd like to integrate the social justice and sustainable mentality of the Hive Café more into Reggie's, and start transitioning to more local beers or an organic option. I think we could bring in a different clientele. No one's going to sell 100 cases of organic beer on Thirsty Thursdays, but for other nights like open mic nights, we think there's a market there."

Blowin' Up the Budget

Where the Concordia Student Union is Spending Your Money

**TOTAL SALARIES, BENEFITS AND HONORARIUMS TO CSU
EXECS AND CSU EMPLOYEES - \$742,610**

ORIENTATION - \$150,000

BURSARIES (APPLY!) - \$16,000

**TOTAL LOYOLA LUNCHEON EXPENSES
& SALARIES - \$26,282**

GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

• ADAM KOVAC

If you think running the Concordia Student Union comes cheap, you might want to take a look at this year's CSU budget.

With a preliminary budget of almost \$5 million, most of which comes from student fees, your money gets spent in a lot of ways.

The upcoming Orientation Week festivities, which include concerts, a scavenger hunt and a whole lot of food and drinks, will run an estimated \$150,000. That's down from over \$250,000 last year, a result of more thorough budgeting and a general

trend towards tightening the financial belt, according to CSU VP Finance Jordan Lindsay, who pointed towards an almost 20 per cent reduction in executive discretionary funds.

"There's this general trend happening at the CSU of financial constriction," he said. "You have the same amount of fees coming in, but our [expenses] are increasing [due to inflation]. The books haven't been closed yet, but we're expecting a deficit from last year. As a measure to show our own goodwill, we decreased our own expense accounts."

Another pricey item is the an-

nual handbook and agenda. Costing \$65,000, this year is one of the first times that ad revenue has allowed the project to turn a profit. The handbook is expected to result in a surplus of \$20,000.

"It actually has fewer ads this year than it did last year, but it brought in way more revenue," said CSU President Lex Gill.

Supplies are limited to the first 14,000 students to pick one up.

You might also notice some things with budget lines last year have been cut off. The Concordia Women's Caucus has been dismantled, and there is no longer

an Outreach budget line.

"I think a lot of it is that last year, and sometimes in previous years, budget lines were made because of portfolio names—like, 'Well, we have a VP Outreach, therefore we must have an outreach budget line, which isn't necessarily the case," said VP Advocacy & Outreach Morgan Pudwell.

The CSU is not only your student government, but also has the most employees of any non-administration group on campus, with a total salary, benefit and honorarium budget of \$742,610.

All told, the CSU is projecting

a surplus this year of \$10,992. Of course, you might be asking, "How can I hold the CSU to these numbers?" One of Lindsay's campaign promises was a real-time update on the CSU's spending, a development he said will hopefully be launching soon.

You can show up at the monthly CSU meetings and give your reps a piece of your mind if you have questions, or if you're just not happy with how they're spending a piece of your wallet.

More information: You can view the entire CSU budget at www.csu.qc.ca



Watch out for *The Link's* Orientation Issue, on stands next week

Welcome Back.

Buzz Kill

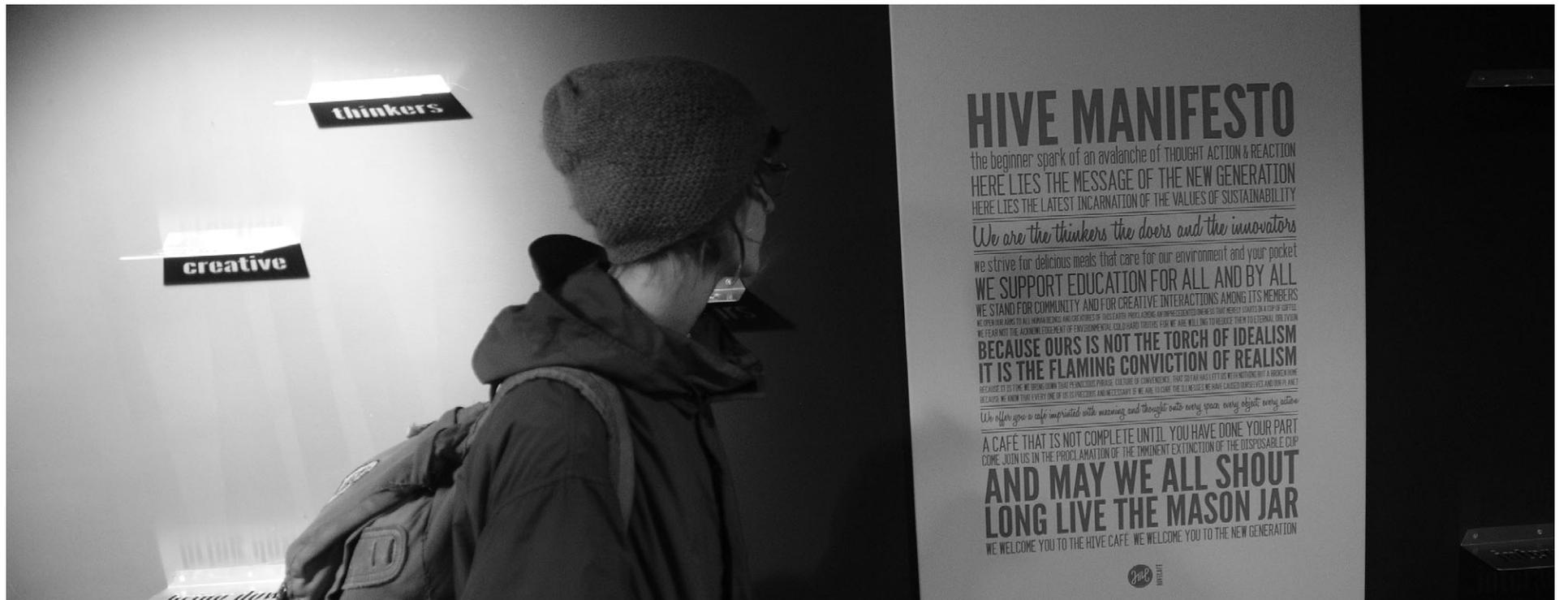


PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Hive Opening Delayed by Electricity Deficit

• ADAM KOVAC

Despite hopes that the long-awaited Hive Café would be ready for Orientation Week, Concordians will have to wait a little longer to use the only student-run food service on the Loyola campus.

Despite over a year of planning, it was discovered that the electrical consumption of the café would exceed the capabilities of the building and would therefore prevent it from opening until at least

October, according to Concordia Student Union VP Services & Loyola Melissa Fuller.

"We came in [and] found out that it was a problem, so there was an assessment done on the building," said Fuller. "We figured out how much electricity was needed to run this café and then an assessment done on how much power was actually available to the CSU for the café. They don't match by a long shot."

Fuller added she was given two possible solutions—a short-term

answer that would see the installation of a new electrical panel that would cost \$50,000, which she said the university would pick up, and a longer-term remedy that could run about \$500,000.

After a meeting on Aug. 24, both parties determined the short-term solution was best moving forward, while plans for the future would include using students' expertise and sustainable power sources such as solar panels.

"There will be an engineering class this year presented with a

green roof project for the SC building, where they will have the opportunity to research, plan, eventually present their ideas on the best way to create a green roof," said Fuller.

Fuller acknowledged that the people in the administration she's worked with have been helpful, singling out Facilities Management and Andrew Woodall, the new Dean of Students. Fuller said she was confident that a solution will be worked out that will make The Hive a sustainable student re-

source into the future.

"It's something we really need the university's support on. It's a very positive thing to have a [student-run] café at Loyola. It's something students have been waiting for a really long time. We expect the university to be co-operative because it will benefit everyone."

Fuller also said she hoped to have a set date for The Hive Café's opening by Sept. 6.

Concordia Facilities Management could not be reached for comment.

Take Up Thy Stethoscope and Walk

Medical Residents Announce General Strike

• ADAM KOVAC

Quebec's hospitals are facing a 10 per cent reduction in services from their medical residents after the union representing the young doctors held a general assembly to announce a strike, set to begin Sept. 12.

"[Our salaries] are 32 per cent behind the Canadian average," said Charles Dussault, president of Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec in an interview with *The Link*.

"If we look back 10 years, we were on par with the Canadian average. The gap gets bigger every year, and we're extremely worried that if the situation keeps getting worse, at some point we will have a hard time recruiting and retaining [medical professionals] in Quebec."

While the audience of almost 3,000 residents applauded throughout Dussault's speech and the general consensus

seemed in favour of a strike, there were voices of dissent. One resident at the Children's Hospital pointed out to Dussault that any reduction in services would adversely affect patient care. Dussault acknowledged that patient care could be affected, but that the strike has become necessary, as the residents have gone 18 months without a collective bargaining agreement.

"It's easy to say we're taking patients as hostages, but [...] that's the end result," he said. "The reason we need to put pressure tactics is because this government doesn't want to negotiate."

Others objected that staying home would further tax those already overworked residents who were in the hospitals on any given day. As a vital service, the residents must maintain 90 per cent of their usual capacity, but that reduction will put even more stress on a system that already

suffers from a lack of personnel and over-capacity hospitals.

"I guess we'll have to work harder to cover the duties of the people that won't be there," said Sean Doherty, a resident at the Jewish General Hospital.

Doherty, a Newfoundland native, is among the few residents attracted from out of province. Quebec has had difficulty in recent years bringing in doctors from the rest of the country and internationally, due to the lower pay. While he said he personally opposed the strike, he acknowledged that something would have to be done to change the current shortage of doctors in Quebec.

"Newfoundland used to be the worst paid in the country, but they got a huge raise," he said. "I knew coming here that I would be [paid less] by about \$7,000, but it's a choice I made knowing that. It's true that there's very few of us that chose to come here, and there's a lot of people from

Quebec that chose to leave."

The inability of Quebec to attract residents from out of the province is one trend that Dussault is convinced the strike will be able to reverse. He cited one statistic that shows Quebec has a net loss of 40 residents per year, which the Quebec medical education system and taxpayers "paid a great deal of money and spent a great deal of time and energy [to train]."

Aside from overworked residents and underserved patients, there is another group that is already suffering because of the current dispute. Since July, the residents have refused to teach medical students who normally follow them on their rounds. The residents receive no extra pay for their time teaching.

"As of now it's not going to delay graduation," said Eric Peters, president of the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec. "[But] we get less exposure, we

get less teaching. The staff [doctors] try to compensate, but unfortunately they don't have as much time, [and] they're not as accessible, so they're nowhere near to able to compensate enough to cover for the teaching that the residents do.

"While we can understand the residents' demands, and most of my students will end up being residents afterwards, I cannot support a teaching strike," Peters continued. "Our students want to learn and this doesn't serve us."

Negotiations are still ongoing between the FMRQ and the provincial government. The strike may be averted if the two sides reach an agreement before Sept. 12.

"We profoundly and sincerely hope we can resolve the conflict without a strike," said Dussault. "But am I optimistic that we will be able to do so? I cannot say I am optimistic at this point."



PHOTOS NICOLE DAWKINS

Heir/Looms

The Formation of a Tangible Trail of Nostalgia

• CAITLIN LEROUX

We all have that materialized memory of a family member, friend, or story. Something that we hold on to, appreciate and value greatly for its seemingly everlasting existence, its sentimentality. Something tangible that prompts us to remember.

Heir/Looms is an exhibit that features the connection made from an individual's present to their past, linked to memories, heirlooms and inheritances.

The show, curated by Nicole Dawkins, featured the works of 12 Canadian contributors who, each in their own way, created a fibre-based link from their present to some element of their history. The artists, crafters and designers worked with embroidering, hooking, weaving and the use of small accessories like buttons or pieces of jewelry.

The exhibit's vernissage was held on Friday, Aug. 26 at Studio

Béluga.

"What was really great about the opening, while not all artists were able to be here, [was that] what brought them together in the first place was the nature of their fibre arts.

"The theme reached out to a relatively small niche, bringing people together who otherwise may not have met or even had their work together," she continued. "New connections between the artists and people involved with contemporary textiles allowed them to get to know each other, as well as each other's work."

Dawkins also explained how the idea for the show changed from the first submission call. Originally, people were asked to submit work placed before an inherited piece, creating an explicit connection to an artifact.

Feeling that this would have limited or simplified the show., Dawkins opened it up for interpretation, though some contributors did conform to the original idea—as was seen in work by

Samantha Purdy, who cross-stitched a Ukrainian Easter egg, and featured it alongside an original egg that had been in her family for generations.

The less-constricting version of the exhibit allowed featured works like Karl Stuart's weaved portrait of his brother who had passed away as a young child.

Stuart, who was a witness to his brother's tragic death, created a woven portrait based on a family photograph of his brother, to honour his memory for what would have been his 40th birthday.

Heir/Looms recognized that nostalgia can include and be inspired by both tangible and intangible fragments of personal history. Textiles were featured not only as art to be interpreted by its viewer but also as history interpreted by its successor.

Catalogues of the work featured at the show can still be purchased on Etsy: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/HeirLoomsExhibit>

Creative Thinking

CO-LAB Offers a Forum for Artists to Share

• ANTONELLA TENORIO

As a student in Montreal, do you ever wonder what your peers in other creative fields are working on? Ever dream of a collaborative space where you can share ideas and art of all kinds? The organizers of CO-LAB are on the same page.

CO-LAB is an idea-sharing platform that works in collaboration with The Plant, an informal venue based in one of the Van Horne lofts. It is a collection of personal projects made by people in search of an audience that would not only act as spectators but also as critics.

"We rarely hear enough about what friends in other fields are working on. This is a chance to share knowledge that we have gathered, to learn from others, and to provide a forum for new collaborations," said Debbie So, one of the event's organizers.

The events bring together an assortment of people with different interests who are not afraid to expose their work to the

public. The exhibit's structure consists of a ten-minute presentation of each work, followed by a ten-minute discussion, in which everyone participates and gives their personal insight.

There are several panels where the main discussion points throughout the day are written.

"It is almost a school format-like exposition. Some people even decide to include PowerPoint presentations," said So.

The inspiration came mainly from graduate students who wanted to share their extensive knowledge on their thesis topics, but who instead were isolated in classroom settings.

"One of the motivators came from casual conversations between interesting people we knew and [we] wanted to hear more," said So.

The project gives students the chance to come out of the typically individualistic structure of school to validate unnoticed work through sharing. Students don't usually get the opportunity to find out what their peers think of the work they accomplished. This is a

chance to get some recognition and insightful criticism.

So states that the "presentations don't need to be school-related, thought they can be. You don't need to plan what you'll say in advance, though you can if you want. You don't need to be a student to participate, but you can be."

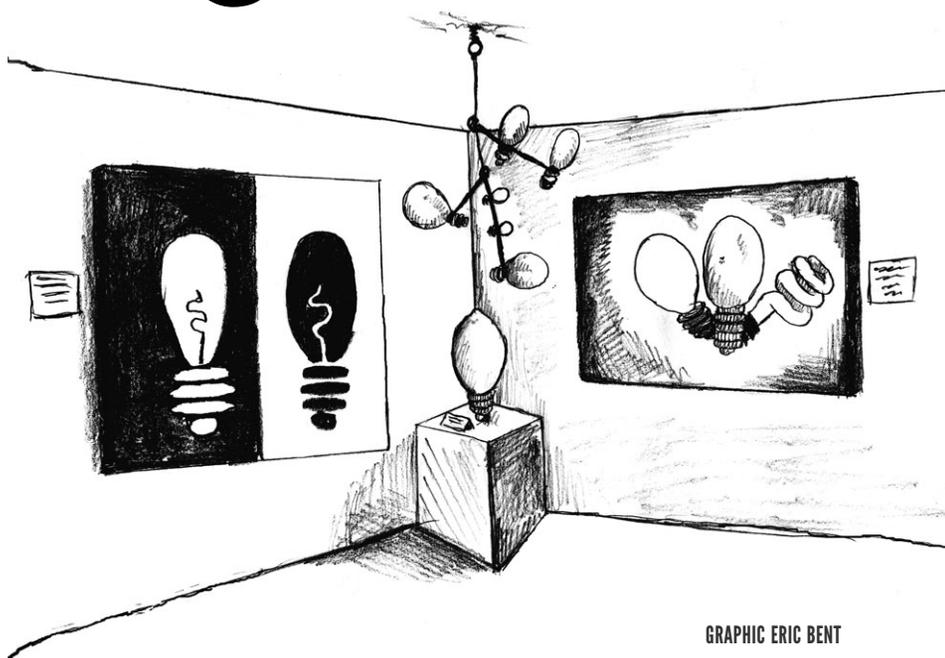
The submissions can differ in topics and are usually separated

according to themes. These can go from something that excites you or troubles you about your field or job, to a creative project you have worked on, to a paper you have written or even a film you have made.

The field is open to any type of creative or scholarly project. If you seek an appreciation for your personal work, CO-LAB is accepting submissions until Sept. 2. Inter-

ested participants should send a title and a few lines about what you'd like to present, along with any audio-visual needs, to colabmtl@gmail.com.

CO-LAB will open its doors Friday, Sept. 9 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at The Plant located on Van Horne corner Esplanade.



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

The Antidote to Netflix

NDG Off the Wall Brings Community Together for a Good Cause



• REBECCA HISCOTT

Minor technical difficulties couldn't slow the momentum of the second annual NDG Off the Wall film festival, which took place on Friday, Aug. 26th in Girouard Park at the corner of Sherbrooke and Marcell.

Curator John McKay designed the event "to shine a light on NDG and the media talent that lives here."

The 20 short films presented at the screening were diverse in form and content, from professional film trailers, including *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* producer Kevin Tierney's latest picture, to a charmingly viral recreation of *A Hard Day's Night* starring four young schoolgirls as The Beatles.

Hundreds of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce residents gathered in Girouard Park to witness the media talent the borough had to offer.

The crowd was a picture of the diversity NDG is known for: residents young and old, families with their children seated comfortably alongside groups of young friends bearing cases of beer and boxed wine.

McKay's aim with the NDG Off the Wall screening was twofold: first, to reveal the breadth of media and musical talent that exists within the borough and second, to remind the community of the enormous cultural resource that sits abandoned just across from the park on Sherbrooke St.—

the Empress Cinema.

Built in 1927 in Art Deco style with Egyptian architectural flourishes, the Empress was a majestic Montreal landmark for many years. NDG residents will best remember it as the Cinema V repertory theatre, which shut down when the interior was destroyed by a fire in 1992.

"It's sat there ever since, locked," says McKay. "It's a tremendous resource, it's a cultural centre, and it sits at the centre of our community."

Although NDG Off the Wall uses a white truck bed as its primary screen, a second projector bounces the images "off the wall" of the Empress Cinema's still-impressive facade.

"I wasn't trying to be strident about [saving the Empress]," McKay said. "I just thought that if I bounce these images off the outside wall, some people will make the connection that this place used to show films, and perhaps it still could, or could have some other cultural purpose in the community."

The opening film, a music video entitled *Empress Blue*, part of Concordia alumnus and Communications Department professor Tim Schwab's "Imagining NDG" project, provided many residents with their first heartbreaking glimpse inside the ruins of the once-lavish Empress Theatre.

But not every piece in the festival had an agenda. *Hillbilly Night at the Wheel Club* documented



PHOTOS JOHN MCKAY

one of the quirkiest entertainment venues NDG has to offer, while two hip-hop music videos produced by NDG-based film collective Labnoise featured a number of familiar locations, including the Decarie Autoroute and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau airport.

"The Pipe," a clip from the full-length documentary *Concrete Angels*, combined archival and contemporary footage to record the history of Montreal's skateboarding community, specifically through its efforts to save the "Pipe," a whistle-shaped tunnel on the Olympic Stadium's grounds that was named one of the ten best skateboarding destinations in the world.

By far the most touching offering was the 13-minute documentary piece Youth Development

Through the Arts. Five members of international hip-hop collective Nomadic Massive travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake and held a week's worth of musical workshops to heal the youth of a devastated community.

The footage was as beautiful as it was heartrending, illustrating the necessity of creative self-expression through the healing process. The film touched a nerve with the audience, who sat spellbound through the credits and exploded into applause as it ended.

McKay also hopes to use the festival to promote awareness within the community as well, and made a point of publicizing the NDG Food Depot, which provides food to 700 needy NDG residents every week.

"[This event] goes beyond just a public screening," he explains. "It really does spread out into the community."

The festival was an enormous success, and went a long way towards what McKay calls "the antidote for Netflix," emphasizing the solitary nature of streaming video on a home computer. "Here, it's an entire community gathering together to watch videos that reflect themselves, and they're watching it together as a group."

This combination of lofty ideals and humble execution is just what the Netflix generation is missing—an authentic connection in an increasingly impersonal digital age. It will be a pleasure to see what McKay has to offer at next year's screening.

MONTREAL, WHILE YOU WERE OUT

A Summer of Festivals and Fun

• ALEX MCGILL

If you are a student here and have yet to spend a summer in Montreal, you've been missing out. The semester months are often chilly and spent indoors covering in fear from the snow amidst schoolbooks and caffeinated beverages.

While Montreal is truly a beautiful city all months of the year, it really comes alive in the summertime, thanks mostly to the multitude of music and arts festivals the city hosts. There is something to go and see all summer, no matter where your interests lie. Here is a quick recap of the biggest and the brightest:

The Fantasia Film Festival ran from July 14 until Aug. 7, celebrating its 15th anniversary as one of the front-running film festivals in North America. Fantasia had something for everyone, from the horror-film fanatic to the indie kid searching for the next under-the-radar gem. The festival was comprised of 130 films, including more than 15 world premieres. The Best Feature Award, called Le Prix du Cheval Noir, went to Danish

film *Clown*, a spin-off of a Danish television comedy called *Klovn*.

For all you theatre lovers, the Montreal Fringe Festival ran from May 30 until June 19. The festival embraced a block-party vibe in Montreal's Plateau, and featured music, comedy, dance and theatre from over 500 performers. The bilingual festival featured local, national and international artists, and really was open to anything.

Arguably the largest and most anticipated festival to hit Montreal in the summer was the Osheaga Festival Musique et Arts, which took place from July 29 to 31 in Parc Jean-Drapeau. This year saw the addition of a third day, with previous festivals having taken place just over the Saturday and Sunday.

The 2011 version involved over 30 hours of music, 92 acts on 5 stages, and a record-breaking 81,000 sweaty music fans in attendance. The beauty of Osheaga is not only in its literal, but also in the wide variety of acts and musical genres. Folk heroes like Timber Timbre and Beirut shared a bill with the likes of out-there rockers

The Flaming Lips and hip-hop act Cypress Hill, as well as the mainstream rap stylings of Eminem.

Providing the perfect marriage between indie and mainstream, set on the beautiful background of Ile Sainte-Hélène, Osheaga is the music festival of the summer not to be missed.

Fashion and art lovers found their passions intertwined at The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk, held at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts from June 17 until Oct. 2 (That's right: you can still check this one out!). This is the first international exhibition devoted to the French couturier. Set in the style of a contemporary installation, the exhibition features 140 ensembles and numerous documents in a true representation of fashion as art. A parade in honour of the designer and his work also took place July 23 on Ste. Catherine St.

The accessibility of art and culture in Montreal in the summer is abundant, and these photos demonstrate just how much this city embraces the arts, and its festivals.



PHOTO OKSANA CUEVA



Fantasia brings the katana to Canada



PHOTO MIRA SHARMA

While You Were Out: Osheaga

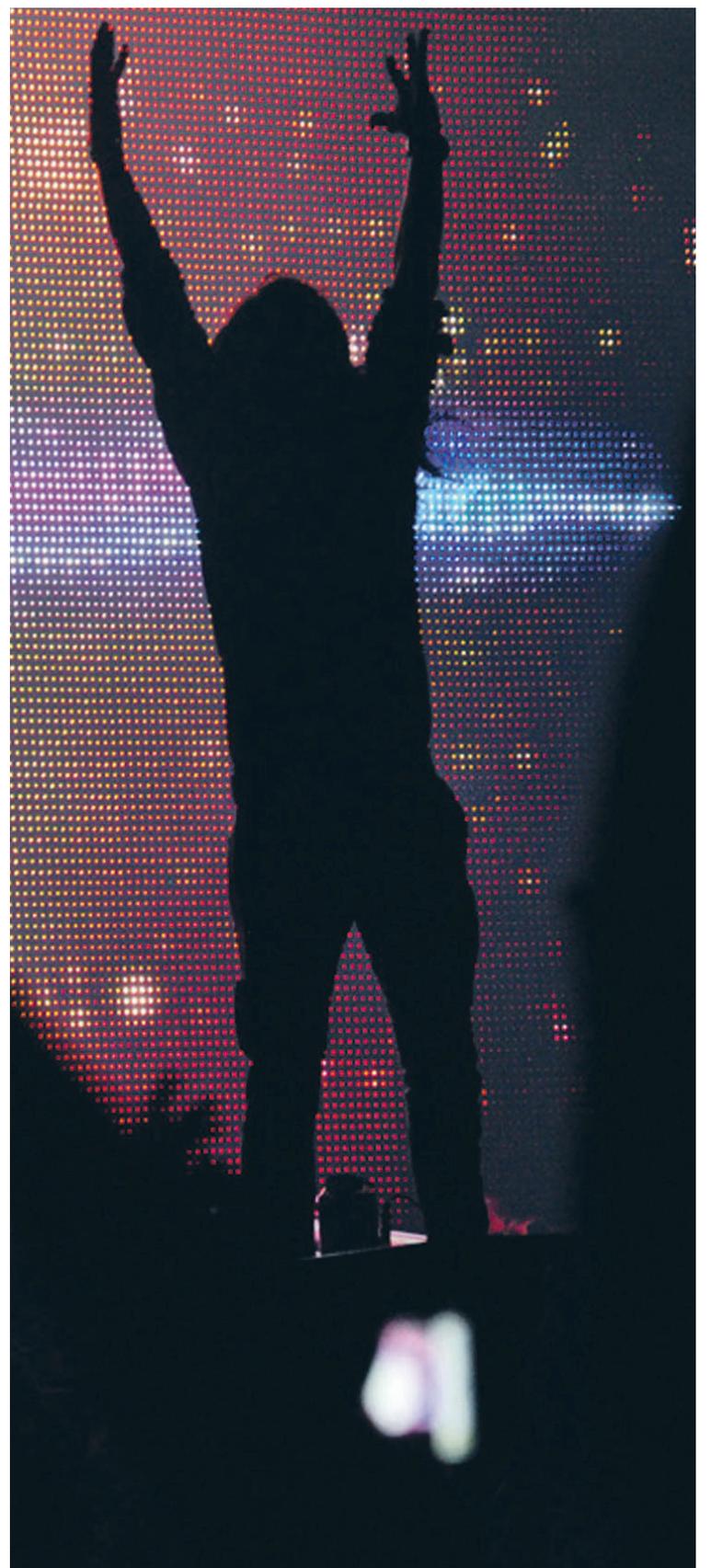


Death from Above 2011: Following a six year absence, DFA1979 returned to Montreal

PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS



Shad flies above the crowd



The Flaming Lips closed the festival to record crowds



Face paint: not just for kids



**There are 1980
ways to join**

#503: Get our logo tattooed on your body

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

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BIKE CURIOUS: BIKE THEMED FILM FEST HITS MONTREAL



Stinger hopefuls try out for Concordia football team at Loyola campus.

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

Show Me Whatcha Got

Stingers Brave Rain, Look to Upcoming Season

• ALLAN MORAIS

The atmosphere at the men's rugby tryouts last weekend was focused yet calm. Having fallen just short of their goal to take home a championship last year, the Stingers are intent on cleaning up this time round. With a lot of returning players and some talented rookies, the team is confident that they will be contenders once again.

Veteran players Jonathan Dextras-Romagnino and Jimmy Bang were pleased with the first practices of the season, despite having to endure heavy rain on Sunday.

"We expect to win the championship! Last year we finished one

point shy of first place in the standings and lost in the finals for the championship. This year we want to make sure that doesn't happen again," said Stinger centre Dextras-Romagnino.

Head coach Clive Gibson and his staff were all business this weekend. They believe that the team has the potential to improve from last year, despite some strong players having graduated.

Gibson also believes that some talented rookies will fill those spots very well, and thinks they may even push some returning vets even further, as the new faces look to prove themselves on the roster.

Though Coach Gibson has a

great relationship with his players, he won't be playing favourites with the returning ones. Gibson warns players who don't work their hardest that they won't enjoy riding his bench.

"I don't provide cushions," he said. "So they get splinters."

Since the expectations are as high as can be this season, Gibson and his team need to perform at their best in order to reach them.

With a good mix of veterans and rookies, Concordia has a great chance of winning the championship this year.

After coming so close last season—the Stingers lost to McGill in the provincial finals—the players

know what needs to change in their game this time around.

The players and coaching staff also agree that one big change needs to come from the fans, and feel that increased support could give the team the extra edge that they need to win a title.

Bang echoed the sentiment, adding that the team hopes to see more Stinger fans come out in higher attendance to the games this year.

"The team has spent a lot of time locked away in the training facility preparing for the season and we feel somewhat isolated from the rest of the school," he said. "We want to see more of our fellow stu-

dents at home games this year."

That support may be coming. This year, students are organizing a group for passionate fans called the Swarm.

Consisting of Concordia students, community and athletes, the Swarm focuses on cultivating Stinger pride. More information about the group can be found on Facebook.

The Stingers travel to the Royal Military College in Kingston for a couple of non-conference games, before opening their season in Sherbrooke on Sept. 11. Kickoff is at 3 p.m.



Bike Reels

Still from *With My Own Two Wheels*, a film scheduled to screen at *The Bicycle Film Festival Montreal*



Cycle-Centric Film Fest Rolls Into Town

• JULIA JONES

In 2001, Brendt Barbur was hit by a bus while riding his bike in New York City. Instead of protesting or starting an advocacy group, he founded the Bicycle Film Festival, a channel for cycle lovers to exchange their experiences through music, art and film. Since then, the festival has expanded from one to 39 cities worldwide, kicking off its third year in Montreal this Sept. 1 to 3.

“It really empowers communities around the world. It changes people’s lives,”

—Jen Whalen
BFF Producer

For Marissa Plamondon Lu, this year’s BFF Montreal organizer, the festival brings people together, regardless of their differences, for the love of cycling.

“What makes the BFF Montreal interesting is what makes Montreal interesting. Anglo and Franco communities coming together with one common interest: the bicycle,” she

said. While most festivals strive to be fully bilingual and cater to both communities, the linguistic barriers are being ignored, in a constructive way, at the BFF.

“A lot of the movies we are showing are not subtitled,” said Lu. “It’s more about what the riders are experiencing on film, it doesn’t matter what the narration is or what the riders are saying. It’s about the feeling. It’s a story of transportation or the bike as an art form, and that can be expressed in English or in French.”

Jen Whalen, a producer at the BFF Headquarters in New York, believes that these feelings can make change happen from the inside out.

“I think that [the BFF] has already changed the world,” she said. “It really empowers communities around the world. It changes people’s lives.”

But as a festival, BFF takes upon itself to celebrate, and not necessarily advocate.

“BFF is not in it for advocacy as much as we are in for arts and culture,” said Whalen. “We decide to remain more as an arts and culture event than an event with a political agenda. There are groups involved that do, but we are more a celebration of a love for the same thing.”

To participants, this celebration becomes a strong bond with a community that is both local and universal.

“I hope people come out and realize that when they go to BFF it’s not just any film festival,” said Lu. “You are with people in your community and extending your family. You can go anywhere in the world and make a call [to another BFF attendee], and you will have a place to stay and someone in Amsterdam or Tokyo might lend you a bike. It’s a good time and a way to extend your community to the world.”

The festival will kick off with this Thursday with the exhibit, *Invented: The Work of Giuseppe Marinoni*, on one of the most famous Canadian frame builders.

“This is very special moment on Canadian and Quebecois bike history,” said Lu. “Just getting people to say thank you for what he has done. He’s never been a Gary Fisher [one of the inventors of the mountain bicycle] or anything; he’s just a hard worker.”

Invented: The Work of Giuseppe Marinoni, will open on Sept. 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 180 Ste. Catherine St., 2nd Floor.

Angels in the Outfield

• DAVID KAUFMANN

The Concordia Community Softball tournament went the whole nine yards—er, innings—to fight hunger last Saturday as they raised over \$850 for the NDG Food Depot, a non-profit organization that provides food and nutrition workshops to residents of western Montreal.

This fourth edition of the event took place at Kirwin Park in Cote St. Luc counted five teams that participated, having each raised \$120. The Food Depot also collected funds through a barbecue at the event, as well as the generosity of others.

The tournament was born from organizer Joanne Beaudoin’s passion for softball.

“I love softball, and I look for opportunities for people to be able to play it. I think it’s a wonderful team sport,” she said.

Beaudoin also took into account the absence of a Concordia intramural league.

“Concordia used to have an intramural softball league that they’re not able to have anymore because they no longer have a field, so a lot of the people who used to be in the league are still in touch,” she explained.

This gave her the idea to reunite the former league players.

“I just thought that it would be a good opportunity to get together and play,” she said.

At the same time, Beaudoin wanted to make a contribution to a food shelter at a time when they needed it the most.

“I know that food banks on the whole have a very difficult time in the summer because everybody donates food at Christmas,” said Beaudoin.

The choice of the Food Depot was made largely because of its proximity to Loyola campus and the Concordia community presence in the area.

“The food bank was chosen quite arbitrarily, because this is something I decided to organize a few years ago, and Loyola campus is in the core of NDG,” Beaudoin said.



Lowy's Loan: How Many Interest-Free Bursaries Can \$35,000 buy?

Graduating Students to Inherit Harsh Economy

Our Generation Must Instigate Change

• ADAM ABERRA

So far, our generation has had it pretty easy. We have been relatively untouched by the negative effects of the recent recession and conventional wisdom has it that we should be finishing our studies at the perfect time, entering the job market just as a recovering economy begins to pick up steam. But three years later, at the start of another school year, that “perfect time” might not be as ideal as it once seemed.

With the sovereign debt crisis, the weak economic growth plaguing Europe and uncertainty surrounding the health of the US economy, the threat of another recession has now become very real.

There is a growing sentiment among some economists that this decade could be a painful one for the world's wealthiest economies.

The current economic uncertainties have highlighted the shortsightedness of past generations. Two cases in point: reduction in public spending and our reliance on fossil fuels.

It has been known for decades that fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, natural gas) are non-renewable sources of energy and will one day be exhausted. With decreasing supply and increasing demand, an explosion in price was inevitable and has been predicted since the 1960s.

It is doubtful whether the short-term gains of reduced budget deficits justify the long-term losses in productivity by a less educated population years from now.

Politicians, and, arguably, society as a whole, refused to accept this reality, opting for an economy reliant on cheap but finite sources of energy. Of course, there is no free lunch, and the real costs associated with using these forms of energy were passed along to future generations rather than

being acknowledged and confronted.

In recent years the price of oil has exploded, contributing to the 2008-09 recession. Now most of these costs will be borne by our generation. Any blueprint for future economic prosperity needs to not pay lip service to cleaner, renewable sources of energy, but rather clearly outline how our society and economy will make the transition away from dirty fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Seeing as the world's richest nations are currently focused on deficit reduction and austerity, it is doubtful that such a discussion will take place any time soon. It will most likely be us, as the engineers, leaders and innovators of tomorrow that will face the burden of not only healing a planet scarred by decades of degradation, but also developing extremely cost-effective clean sources of energy for manufacturing and transportation.

Instead of discussing how to tackle longer-term problems, North American and European leaders have focused much of their attention on budget deficits—often slashing public spending.

The idea behind this concern with the debt and the deficit is the notion that heavily indebted governments create a climate of uncertainty and impede business investment. In this obsession with austerity, education has been a favourite target.

The Quebec government's plan, outlined in the 2011 budget delivered by Minister of Finance Raymond Bachand, proposes raising university tuition by \$1,625 over the next five years.

Similarly in the UK, parliament passed a series of austerity measures last fall, including the tripling of the tuition fee cap for university students, upping it from £3,290 to £9,000 in a span of less than two years.

The state of California tried to resolve their budget crisis by cutting spending on higher education for 2012 by 23 per cent; it also raised tuition 9.8 per cent for the University of California's 150,000 undergraduates.

Such measures are myopic and serve only to pass the buck to fu-



JMSB graduates will be part of a generation that undertakes large-scale economic transformation. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

ture generations. It is doubtful whether the short-term gains of reduced budget deficits justify the long-term losses in productivity by a less-educated population years from now.

One need only look at Japan, a nation with few natural resources, to understand that an educated, productive population is a country's most valuable asset.

Our generation now faces a higher cost of living, fewer lucrative job opportunities and a whole lot of uncertainty in the near future. But if human history to date is any indicator, the greatest crises produce the greatest opportunities.

As we graduate, enter the workforce, and start making important decisions, we will have the opportunity to ensure that previous mis-

takes are not repeated. I believe that, in the decades to come, it will be our generation that undertakes the large-scale transformation from an economy reliant on dirty fossil fuels to clean renewable energy sources.

Hopefully, we'll factor in the long-term cost implications of our decisions, along with their short-term profitability.

Nah'msayin?

Up, Up and Out of My Way!

Summer in Montreal means festivals, picnics, parties, street sales, and... an influx of tourists. Our city is fabulous in the summertime, and others should totally come take part in the fun. That said, as a local there is the occasional downside to sharing your city with copious amounts of foreign visitors.

Coming from all corners of the globe, tourists often are obliged to use public transportation to get from touristic site A to touristic site B in order to avoid the hefty cost of renting a car. The thing is, most of them are unfamiliar with some of the basic courtesies involved in riding our system.

Case in point: metro escalators. If you are from around here, you are more than familiar with the etiquette that accompanies these moving staircases. Standing, chatting, or not moving means you are on the right, and hauling ass, walking, or moving in the direction of traffic-flow means you are on the left. Simple system,

works brilliantly.

That is, until you encounter a human road-block.

Whether you choose to walk up the escalators because you have to pee, are late for work, or simply want to burn off the granola bar you just consumed, it is incredibly frustrating to find oneself barricaded sedentarily behind a couple who are casually chatting about how delicious the "poo-teen" they just tried was.

People, please come visit, just remember that one of the most important part of traveling is observing your surroundings and understanding the customs of a new place. If you want to use the escalator ride as a time to ogle at the multi-coloured floor at Lionel-Groulx, go for it—just keep to the right. Or else.

—Megan Dolski
Opinions Editor



GRAPHIC SHOSHANNA EIDELMAN

Notice something that just doesn't make sense? Got an axe to grind? Send in a rant to Nah'msayin? 300 words max.
opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca

Tremendous Tales

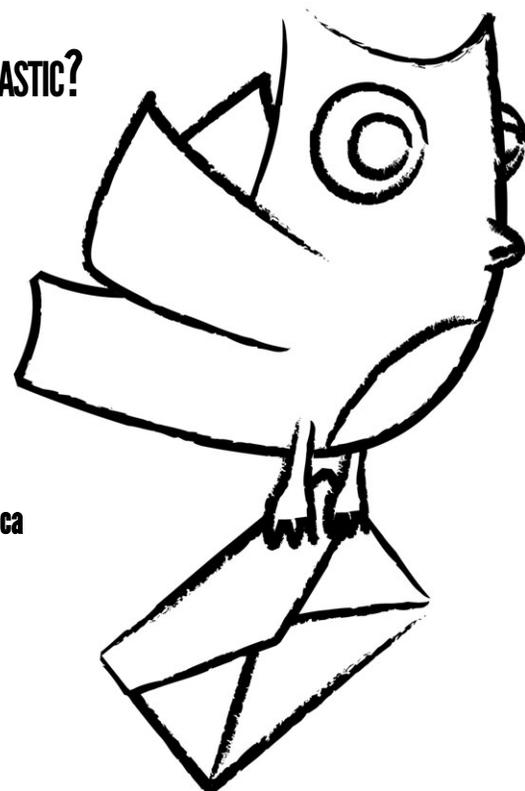
by Christopher Olson



Lance used to say "life is a gift." One day he cashed-in the receipt. The note he left behind said, "Tis better to give than receive."

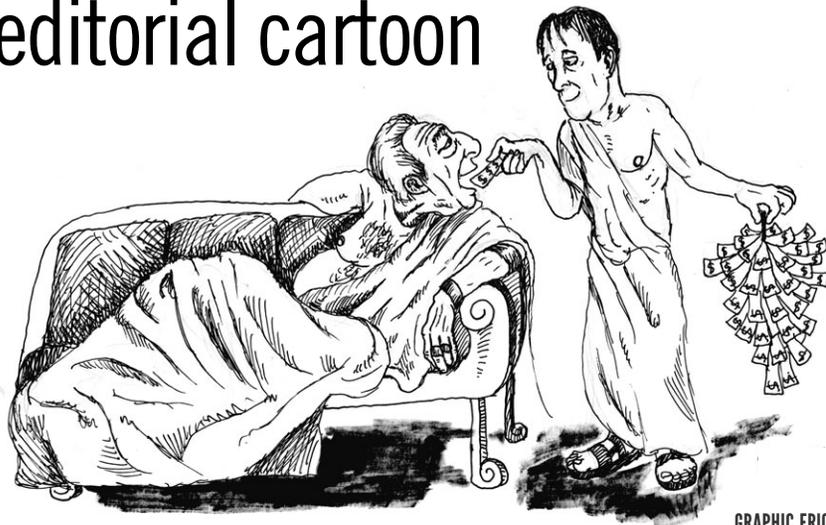
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Max 400 words.



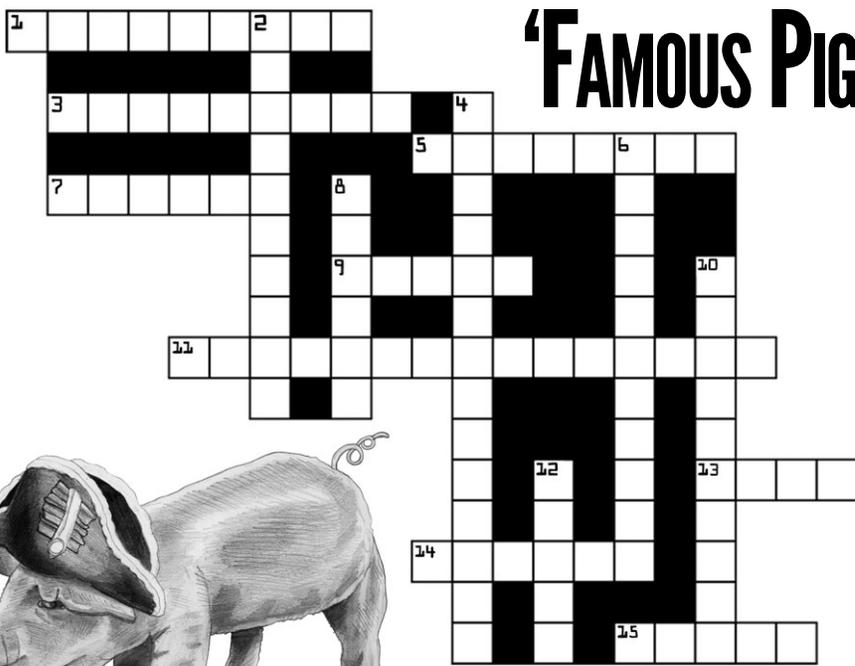
The Link's letters and opinions policy: The deadline for letters is 4 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. *The Link* reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libellous, sexist, homophobic, racist or xenophobic. The limit is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

editorial cartoon



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

'FAMOUS PIGS'



CROSSWORD AND GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Across

- When people say it's time to "break the bank," they usually mean taking a hammer to a porcelain piggy. This happens more in cartoons and episodes of *Leave it to Beaver* than in real life. (2 words)
- We've spoken about the improbability of this interspecies union before, but how could her wedding night not end up with a horribly squished frog being scraped off of some hotel bed-sheets? (2 words)
- If *The King's Speech* can be summarized in a single sentence, it's that a crippling stutter is very, very funny. Apparently someone from Warner Bros.' cartoon division put this information to good use. (2 words)
- A flatulent warthog, and don't ask, "Which one?"
- Link's arch-nemesis in *The Legend of Zelda* series, after taking possession of the Triforce of Power, took on the form of a pig to reflect his true spirit. Apparently he makes a loyal pet and shits a lot.
- You remember the story: big bad wolf comes to test the architectural designs of some swine. Two of them fail horribly. (3 words)
- While his owner said, "That'll do," the executives who owned the character rights said, "Greenlight a sequel by the direc-

tor of *Mad Max*, and make sure it alienates fans that liked the first one."

14. An unremarkable pig gains international fame and recognition simply for having an arachnid friend who understands English. Sounds like my boss.

15. Garfield didn't have a lot of friends, so when he got a TV show called "Garfield and Friends," they brought in this pig from Jim Davis' short-lived U.S. Acres strip. They were never seen together.

Down

- Oh, look at that— a farm where all the animals can talk and are friends. The pig seems to be their leader. He seems to be... hurting the other animals. I feel like Orwell is touching me in a bad place. (2 words)
- Seminal novel in the English canon depicting animal cruelty, particularly where pigs on pikes are concerned. Oh, and some human cruelty, I guess. (4 words)
- Spider-Ham's mild-mannered alter-ego and the star of one of the weirdest Marvel Comics spin-offs ever—and they had a spinoff where Wolverine eats Howard the Duck's brain. Wolverine was a zombie in that one. (2 words)
- A name for a young pig, or Winnie the Pooh's pal. No, not Roo. Is "Roo" a name for

a young pig? No, it's not. Next time, read the clues more carefully, Mom.

10. Of course, pigs are the natural enemies of birds, pigs being, uh, famous for always leaving the toilet seat up, and birds being female stereotypes and crap. (2 words)

12. If you weren't paying close attention, you might have thought that the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' enemies included Jazz—rather than this half-human half-warthog who was named after a style of jazz, characterized by a fast tempo and improvisation. It's hard to tell with those mutants named after Renaissance masters, though.

Students Could Use \$35,000, too.

The process of raising children is one fraught with opportunities for disaster. Milk gets spilled, swear words get learned and occasionally, the wrong lessons get taught. When your kids catch you telling them to do one thing, while you yourself are doing another, you may have to pull out the trusty buffalo gun of hypocritical parenting: "Do as I say, not as I do."

It's a tired catchphrase and any school-aged child can see the inherent contradiction. So it's hard to blame Concordia students—most of whom are no longer living with their parents—for questioning their dear old admin on perceived discrepancies between policy and action.

Especially when it comes to fiscal policy.

Imagine if your parents lectured you extensively about how "a penny saved is a penny earned" when explaining why you weren't getting an allowance anymore, before telling you they're heading out for a night on the town to blow a couple grand on frivolous and frankly absurd expenditures.

Not only is that a really hypocritical stance, it also should be clear that the two sides of the issue are connected not only in moral terms, but also in basic fiscal ones.

Unfortunately, this hypothetical situation isn't hypothetical at all—it's a pretty spot-on metaphor for what Concordia's been saying to its students about moolah lately.

While silently supporting the Quebec government's plans for staggered (and staggering) tuition hikes and telling students that they'll have to pay, as Finance Minister Raymond Bachand put it, their "fair share," Concordia hasn't exactly had the best track record when it comes to its own finances.

On the heels of firing two separate presidents and sending them off with six-figure severance packages, Concordia gift-wrapped a \$1.4 million, interest-free loan to current Interim President Frederick Lowy last May so he can maintain a condo on Doctor Penfield Ave and purchase property out of town.

Concordia had to borrow the money for that loan from a bank—a bank not in the business of handing out interest-free loans, incidentally. The interest on that loan runs north of \$35,000—which could buy us kids a whole bunch of bursaries—

and Concordia's spokesperson isn't even totally sure which budget line it came from.

What Lowy needs with a \$1.4 million condo that's going to cost student tuition-payers in excess of 30 grand is not for you or I to determine, evidently, as news of this friendly deal only came out only after someone leaked it to *Le Journal de Montréal* and the paper confronted Concordia about it.

It's hardly surprising that they wouldn't release something like that in a press release—it might look bad for an institution whose last president was telling students that a province-wide tuition hike, though it would represent a major increase for students and only a negligible relief for indebted institutions, was necessary and would be "a good thing."

That president, Judith Woodsworth, was let go in December without explanation and with \$700,000 of—you guessed it—public money. It's still not clear how students benefited from the presidential bait and switch, though, since Lowy evidently has no intention of siding with the students against tuition hikes and his tastes seem to be twice as expensive as Woodsworth's.

Concordia claims they gave the interest-free loan "in good faith," as they didn't want Lowy to "endure any undue hardship" after he agreed to regain his \$350,000-a-year post at the head of this institution—because, God forbid Lowy endure the "undue hardship" of, you know, paying his own way to get the Lowy mansion on-track. (Undue hardship?! The man's standards of living required \$1.4 million!)

Some serious, internal fiscal mismanagement needs to be addressed, made transparent and remedied at this school before any administrator playing with public money has the audacity to turn around to tell us students we ought to reach even deeper into our meager bank accounts to pay more.

Or, at the very least, our administration should get serious about financial aid solutions for students as we await impending tuition hikes. I'm sure a bunch of us could use an interest-free loan, too.

editorial *Alex Manley*
Copy Editor

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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