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This isn't the first time CUTV's gone off the air, learn the history in our new blog. From the Archives.



FRINGE BINGE

Our reviewer Zoey Baldwin takes on 35 wines at La Grande Dégustation.

CHINESE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT



PHOTO KEITH RACE

More of Concordia's Chinese students came forward last week with allegations about bad experiences in homestays and shady dealings with a recruiter employed by the university.

A crowd of about 20 Concordia students, including several international students from China, gathered for a press

briefing outside a conference for the Canadian Bureau for International Education at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Montreal on Wednesday.

Lydia, a management student at Concordia who asked that her last name be withheld, said she lived in a homestay earlier this year organized by Peter Low,

Concordia's recruiting agent for Chinese students.

Although she didn't want to live in a homestay, Low told her the homestay—and its \$900 monthly rent—was required for at least “a few months.”

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CORB LUND & MAC DEMARCO

Alberta Bound: Corb Lund & Mac DeMarco bring prairie sounds to the city.

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HTMLLES

Gird your lady loins for digital art—feminist style

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OPENFILE ... ?

“When you owe people money and they’re expecting it and they are your freelancers—that’s your reputation, that’s your whole game. Its paying your freelancers and paying them well for good work, and if you stop being able to do that them or they stop believe you’re able to pay them in the future, I don’t know what you have left.”

—David Topping, Former OpenFile City Editor

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2110 CENTRE'S OPEN LETTER TO THE DEAN OF ARTS & SCIENCE

“We are asking for action from Concordia University administration—specifically, the dean of Arts and Sciences—to ensure the Political Science department is a place where social justice issues can be explored and taught alongside other courses without fear of political retaliation, academic hierarchical intimidation or political discrimination.”

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KEEGAN TRELOAR

After graduating from high school in 2011, Keegan Treloar would not have expected that marketing and football could go, well, hand in foot.

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Shahrzad will be presenting her photography and will speak on both the practical and creative process that goes into her projects. She will also discuss and offer insight on some of the challenges and advantages of working independently.

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CUTV in Legal Limbo

Station Imperilled Following Resignation of Emergency Board Member by Corey Pool @coreyriver



Sometimes, when the going gets bad, the bad gets worse.

Following yet another week of name-calling, finger-pointing, conspiracy theories and general tumult, Concordia University Television has come to a grinding halt with the sudden resignation of another member of its Board of Directors.

On Monday night, Wendy Kraus-Heitmann, one of two members of CUTV's emergency provisional Board of Directors, sent out a letter to members and staff simply titled "Resignation."

"I have thought long and hard about this and all that my actions entail, and at this point I think the kindest and most sensible course of action I can take is to figuratively shoot the puppy," read her resignation letter.

CUTV, a mostly student-run community television station operating out of Concordia gained international recognition for their live coverage of Quebec's student protests this spring. But they have tripped and fallen hard on difficult times over the past few months.

Earlier this year, a transitional agreement was set in place between CUTV and its umbrella organization, the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation, which oversees CUTV and CJLO, Concordia's radio station.

The transition, effective June 1, would see all of CUTV's assets and management transferred to a new and independent not-for-profit organization—Community University Television.

A provisional Board of Directors was put in place to oversee the transition, but as of Oct. 20, all three members had resigned, followed

quickly by the resignation of then-station manager Laura Kneale.

According to a CSBC motion, Kneale resigned following "increasing tension with staff members," which led to a loss of financial control that, according to the motion, imperiled student funds—\$0.34 per credit from each undergraduate student at Concordia.

The station was locked down for several days and its account—which holds student fees—was frozen.

Despite being frozen by the university, the account remains open for payroll. From it, CUTV has been paying out roughly \$1,000 per day to approximately 10 paid employees.

An emergency Board was appointed, composed of Kraus-Heitmann and CUTV and CSBC member Sabine Friesinger, and took control of the station, with a mandate to mend the it and get it back on the transitional track.

In recent weeks, however, the situation at CUTV has completely unraveled.

"I feel that things have gotten to a point where we can't agree on a course of action on how to solve the problems at CUTV," said Kraus-Heitman in an interview with *The Link*.

Tensions amongst staff, members and the Board have been steadily rising over the past two weeks.

In many ways, the situation has become unbearable.

"Just shoot it, start it over and if people want to start a new CUTV, let them," said Kraus-Heitmann. "I'm not going to let this thing keep limping along any more."

Despite repeated attempts to

contact Friesinger, *The Link* was unable to reach her by press time.

Legal Limbo

The resignation of one of two Board members leaves CUTV in a sort of legal void, and a way to move forward is at this point unclear.

"This is an extremely disturbing situation for the CSBC," said Justin Giovannetti, president of the CSBC and of *The Link*'s Board of Directors. "In many ways it is an unprecedented situation. They're operating without a roadmap of what to do from here on in, and there are definitely a lot of question marks hanging."

According to Giovannetti, as it stands, CUTV is an organization left with no functioning Board of Directors, no clear bylaws, no standing regulations and no real procedures going forward.

Friesinger and Executive Director Laith Marouf are the only members with keys to the station.

With only one Board member, no real decisions can be made. CUTV's members cannot necessarily vote in a new Board, either.

The transition process was supposed to see the new CUTV draft a set of bylaws, elect a proper Board and hold a referendum to allow students to vote on the absorption of the former CUTV's student fee levy.

Since the transition to independence was incomplete, CUTV's finances are still in the trust of the CSBC. However, the situation is further complicated by the amount of parties technically implicated in

"I would say the process is severely stalled; I would say that the engine fell out on the highway. I think it's time to start it all over, to start from scratch."

—Wendy Kraus-Heitmann, Ex-Provisional CUTV Board of Directors Member

the situation.

"Most of their assets are within property that is owned by Concordia University," said Giovannetti.

"To make matters worse, most of their funding—which is not theirs, but is in the trusteeship of the CSBC—is actually collected by the university from Concordia students. So Concordia has some additional obligations that have never really been brought up, until this time.

"To muddy the waters even more, you have the Quebec government that could in some ways have a certain level of interest in the situation, because you have a Board of Directors that is at this point, illegal."

Quebec law states that a not-for-profit corporation should have a minimum of three members on its Board of Directors.

The Way Forward

The fate of CUTV in the coming days is ultimately unclear, and by the time this story hits newsstands it's entirely likely that things may have changed.

For now, Giovannetti says that a large number of decisions will have to be made by all parties in the very immediate future.

"I will be meeting with Concordia University in the near future and we're going to have to discuss where to go now," he said. "I can start speculating, but frankly, I don't know where I'd start, because I honestly just don't know."

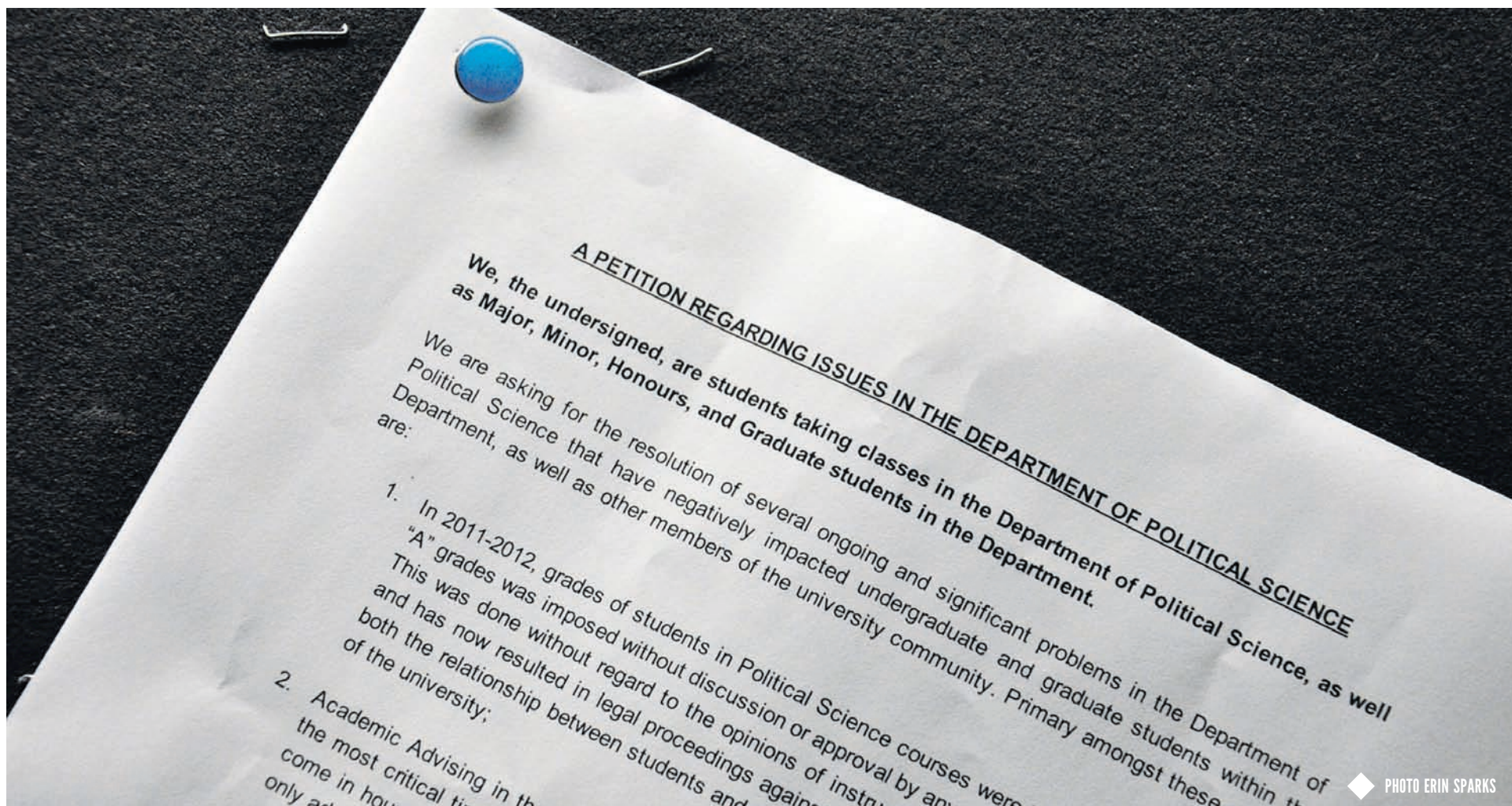
He added that the safety of assets and the protection of student funds are of utmost importance.

"At this point, that is one of the most important things. We're talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars of student money," said Giovannetti.

Despite all the mudslinging and confusion, Kraus-Heitmann still believes CUTV—that is, the people, the spirit and the heart of the station—will live on. Only how that will happen, and in what form, is still unclear to her.

"I would say the process is severely stalled; I would say that the engine fell out on the highway," said Kraus-Heitmann. "I think it's time to start it all over, to start from scratch."

Petition Addresses Poli Sci Departmental Issues



Grades Curved, Courses Cut Among Students' Complaints

BY COREY POOL @COREYRIVER

Two weeks ago, news broke that political science student William Groombridge was suing Concordia because he had a final grade curved down from an A-minus to a B-plus. Now, the underlying issues in the case appeared to have snowballed.

Groombridge isn't the only one to have been affected by grade curving, and for the past few weeks, students in Concordia's Political Science department have been circulating a petition to address the practice, as well as other unwelcome trends in the department that have been identified by students and faculty.

The six main points on the petition include the lowering and capping of grades despite an apparent lack of a clear or official policy, a loss of academic advisors and reduced advising hours.

Political science student Gene Morrow brought the petition to the Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations at last week's council meeting, after it had garnered approximately 250 signatures.

"I had the agenda modified to include the petition because I thought it would be a good opportunity to bring it up with other students," said Morrow, who also sits on Concordia's senate. "It turned out to actually spark a very interesting conversation within council."

ASFA council unanimously voted to endorse the petition.

According to Morrow, the petition is the result of many conversations he and other students have been having with various parts of the university, including undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and teaching assistants.

"I've been talking with them and getting a sense of the frustration that they've been feeling about not only the decisions made within the department, but more fundamentally the way that these decisions have been made recently," said Morrow. "A lot of people have been telling me about how alienated from power they feel."

The petition requests immediate intervention from Arts and Science Dean Brian Lewis, who was presented with the document following last week's faculty council meeting.

"He seemed very open to discussing the petition with me, and seemed sympathetic," Morrow said, noting that they have set up a meeting this week.

It also addresses an apparent shift in the way that teaching assistants are being hired within the department, claiming that qualified candidates and undergraduates are being denied the opportunity for employment.

"This is what we're told. It's changed from hiring anybody to just hiring MAs—only people from the master's program," said Bob Sonin, president of the Teaching and Research Assistants of Concordia. "The collective agreement basically says that you're supposed to post these positions and hire from qualified applicants."

"From our point of view you should not be limiting your choice of TAs," he added.

According to Sonin, however, the confusion around the hiring of teaching assistants stems from a greater issue within the university.

"The university doesn't talk to us about those things at all—it's been a major problem," said Sonin. "We have very poor communication with the university, and that's not something that we would likely be told about. It's a general problem with [human resources], that we don't have proper channels of communication."

TRAC has not received any official complaints on the issue, but Sonin said they are looking into the matter nonetheless.

One of the other larger points the petition addresses is the modification of courses and curriculum without the consultation of students or faculty.

"Many of the most popular courses [have been] cut from the course list—especially those in gender, equality and law—to the detriment of students who wish to pursue studies in those fields," states the petition.

The petition adds that professors and other departments involved in these courses seem not to have been contacted about the

changes.

"I am unfamiliar as to the reasons why courses are there or not there," said Maria Peluso, part-time political science professor and president of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association, adding that she has been away from the department for some time this term.

"However, I do sit on the curriculum committee, and no such meetings were called," she said.

The last point on the petition addresses problems with the chair of the Political Science department, Csaba Nikolenyi.

"These problems have been further compounded by reports of the chair's inability to be contacted in a timely manner, and a proven unwillingness on the chair's part to engage in transparent and collegial governance," reads the petition.

It also points at the hiring of an assistant chair, which has apparently reduced access to the chair even further.

Nikolenyi refused to comment on the petition, saying that that it includes information that is currently part of an open legal case.

The president of the Political Science Student Association refused to comment on the petition, because it came from political students, but not from the association itself.

"Many of the most popular courses [have been] cut from the course list—especially those in gender, equality and law—to the detriment of students who wish to pursue studies in those fields."

HOMESTAY STUDENTS REPORT MORE CROOKED DEALINGS WITH RECRUITER

by Riley Sparks @sparksriley

Continued from Page 3

Concordia's administration has emphasized that the school does not run homestays and is not responsible for where students end up.

"This is not a Concordia residence that they're going into. It's a private arrangement," Concordia's VP Services Roger Côté told *The Link* in an interview last week.

That arrangement is made between students and Low's Vancouver-based company, Orchard Consulting. Orchard works with at least two companies that operate homestays in Montreal.

In a statement released on Friday, the university said Low "receives no remuneration from homestay providers" for referring students.

Côté explained that the university does not require that Chinese students stay in homestays.

"It's not a requirement at all. Students decide to, they elect to do that," he said. A briefing document prepared for the media by Côté's office also noted that homestays are an "optional service."

However, emails Lydia provided to *The Link* show that Low told her otherwise.

In an email sent on June 4, 2012, Low told Lydia that she must live in a homestay when she moved to Canada. "You have to stay at the homestay first and after a few months you can apply for a campus dorm," he wrote.

In a second email, also sent on June 4, Low told Lydia that living in a homestay was necessary, "because you have to be in Montreal before you can apply for the dorm." He added, "You cannot apply from overseas even if you pay for it."

To apply for residence, Concordia's residence life website explains that students must "live more than 50 kilometres outside Montreal and surrounding areas."

Like Canadian students, international students can apply for residence as soon as they receive a letter of acceptance from Concordia. Lydia received her letter of acceptance in an email from Low on Feb. 17.

Miscommunication

In a press release sent last Friday, the day after the first version of this story was released on *The Link's* website, the university said that Low had provided Concordia with "key correspondence with Concordia students placed in homestays."

In the press release, the university explained that this correspondence "and other evidence gathered to date suggest that the complaints reported on by the media are likely the result of miscommunication."

When contacted on Monday morning to clarify the university's explanation, Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota reported that after reading the article, Low had spoken with the university to explain "what the language in those emails said."

"There's a lot of ways of interpreting stuff. And what he basically did was he took a look at each point that was raised in your article and responded to our satisfaction," she ex-



About 20 students gathered to protest the condition of international students' homestays on Wednesday.

PHOTO KEITH RACE

plained. "We haven't seen the exact stuff that you're referring to, but he took every single quote from your article and explained the context."

A few hours later, when provided with a direct quote from the relevant section of the email, the explanation shifted.

"We now have a record of that same email from Peter Low. The information in that email is erroneous," Mota said, after consulting with university administration. "That is an error. That has been brought to his attention, and going forward, that mistake won't be made again."

"Effective immediately, he will be providing information on residence and the options for students from China in residence, with deadlines, dates and some reality about how many spaces there are," added Mota.

Low is also now drafting a letter to be sent to students he recruits that "clarifies what a homestay is, and also the responsibility and the legal relationship between the student and the agent," she explained.

"I Trusted Him"

Lydia said she completed her application to Concordia while still in China, but before submitting it contacted Peter Low for help. Low had visited her high school to talk about Concordia, and Lydia said she had hoped that, as the university's Chinese recruiter, he could make sure her application was in order.

Lydia paid Low \$12,100 in late May. He explained in an email sent on Feb. 17 that this amount included \$9,000 for one semester's tuition, health insurance and registration fees and a \$2,200 "program fee."

But when she arrived in Canada, Lydia was surprised to find that this \$2,200 did not count toward her tuition, and was instead paid directly to Low. She said she had to ask her parents to wire her an extra \$1,700 to cover the bill.

Unhappy with her homestay experience and short \$2,200 in fees for a service she didn't need, Lydia says that she is disappointed with Low.

"His name is on the school website. I trusted him," said Lydia.

After *The Link* published a story on Sept. 25 detailing allegations about poor conditions in homestays, Concordia removed all references to the homestay program from the university's website.

"It's a kind of nightmare," said Gloria, a Concordia finance student who said she lived in a homestay provided through Orchard last year. She also asked that her last name not be published.

"When I first came here, I don't know anybody, I don't know who I can trust. I think maybe I can trust the homestay," she said.

Gloria left the homestay after a month, she said, because she wasn't happy about the amount of food she was receiving. For her \$900 monthly rent, Gloria said every day she was given two pieces of bread for breakfast and pasta for dinner.

Gloria said she paid \$1,800—two months' rent—in cash to a representative of a homestay provider who picked her up when she arrived at the Montreal airport. She said she asked for a refund when she decided to move out before the second month, but the home-

stay company and her landlord refused.

"I would tell my friends to never go to homestay," she said.

Contract Under Review

"Our contract with [Low] has expired. In the interim, until we settle all of this, he continues to recruit for us," said Mota. "We are moving to a point where we have to make a decision about how we proceed moving forward."

The university has not yet decided whether or not to renew Low's contract, but more student input would help inform the university's decision, she said.

"The students can help us here as we assess our relationship moving forward with this recruiter," said Mota.

The university's investigation into allegations brought forward by students about homestays and recruiting continues, but few students have contacted the university directly so far.

"Everything that we hear in connection with this file, we investigate," said Mota.

"We need to see what is legitimate, what isn't legitimate. As far as I know, nobody is willing to speak to us at this point, or feels comfortable enough doing that. We still hope that will happen. The dean of students' door is wide open."

"We now have a record of that same email from Peter Low. The information in that email is erroneous. That is an error. That has been brought to his attention, and going forward, that mistake won't be made again."

— Chris Mota, Concordia University Spokesperson

“WE NEED TO GET PAID”

MAY 10, 2010:

OpenFile is born in Toronto. Founded by Wilf Dinnick, the organization seeks to embrace citizen journalism by working under a new model, the first of its kind—story ideas are generated by readers, approved by editors and then assigned to reporters.

JAN. 25, 2012:

Wilf Dinnick is named the 2011 J-Source Canadian Newsperson of the year for his innovative contributions to the field of journalism.

Dinnick is praised by the jury for his groundbreaking approach to “engaging citizens with local, public service journalism in an independent environment, without the backing or safety net of working within an established news organization.”

SEPT. 28, 2012:

OpenFile announces it will be temporarily “on pause” to undergo some major changes. The announcement says to stay tuned for news on the project’s “next phase.”

OCT. 1, 2012:

J-Source publishes an article featuring an interview with Dinnick discussing the OpenFile hiatus. Dinnick says the biggest change to OpenFile will be an increase in user participation—and that he has not run out of money.

NOV. 7, 2012:

J-Source publishes an article featuring an interview with Dinnick addressing the fact that OpenFile’s accounts have been frozen and freelancers still remain unpaid. Dinnick says, “Don’t count us out.”

Freelance Journalists Publish Letter to OpenFile CEO

BY MEGAN DOLSKI @MEGANDOLSKI

Late Monday night, an open letter addressed to OpenFile Chief Executive Officer Wilf Dinnick was published online by a group of Montreal-based freelance journalists.

The message was simple: pay us, please.

It has now been over a month since OpenFile announced it would temporarily cease publication.

Despite vague updates from Dinnick made public via two separate interviews with Canadian journalism website J-Source, both the freelancers and the public have remained largely in the dark in terms of what’s been happening with the community news organization and its finances over the past month.

“We are just clueless and are wondering why we’ve been so mistreated through this whole thing—now we are at the point where we really want our money,” said Justin Ling, one of the OpenFile freelancers who worked on drafting the letter.

“I’m not the only person that has had problems paying rent that month when the OpenFile cheque didn’t show up.”

The letter says that many of the undersigned are owed upwards of one thousand dollars, and prompts questions as to why the organization has offered so little in the way of direction.

At the time *The Link* went to print, six freelancers had signed the letter.

Though it addresses concerns, Ling says that the open letter is by no means meant as an attack on Dinnick, or OpenFile.

“This is not us denouncing Wilf [Dinnick], we are not slamming him or anything like that. We just want our paychecks,” he said. “We don’t even need an apology—just recognition that we’ve put all this effort into the organization and that we were valued in the end and got paid.”

The letter concludes by reiterating that the freelancers have no intention of burning the bridge with OpenFile.

“Once we’re all square, we would be glad to go back to work and get OpenFile on its feet again,” it says.

Though there is still much goodwill towards OpenFile, the sentiment coming from freelancers, made explicit in the letter, is that before anything moves forward, cheques need to be signed and sent.

David Topping, former OpenFile Toronto City Editor, is working on compiling the numbers, in hopes of figuring out the lump sum owed to freelancers by the organization. He was unable to release this number by press time, though says that it is in the thousands.

Topping left OpenFile in spring of 2011, with no ill feelings. He is not owed a penny by OpenFile, saying his motivation for working on the math is to put pressure on the organization to pay its freelancers, and is completely free of adversarial intentions.

Topping thinks that OpenFile not paying its dues is dangerous for its reputation, and exemplifies a different reality than the one he knew from his experience as an editor there.

“This is disheartening to see, especially for an organization that has done so much to try and have a good relationship with its freelancers,” said Topping.

“They paid competitively and—when I was working there—people were always working hard to make sure they were on top of financials. You got the impression that they understood what it was like to be a freelancer.”

Still, Topping thinks that the freelancers are in the right for publishing a plea for their paycheques.

“I think it’s really brave to put your name on a document that says, ‘You owe me money,’ and to be a freelancer,” he said, addressing the risk of turning off potential employers. “I think that sometimes as freelancers, there is this expectation that you will sort of just take it a bit and not really talk about it too openly.”

The Link obtained a brief email response sent by Dinnick to freelancers in response to their letter.

“Let me say again how sorry we are that we could not pay you sooner,” he writes. “This is inexcusable and frustrating. I freelanced for years and understand your stress.”

Dinnick assures the freelancers that they will be paid, and that there should be more clarity surrounding matters by the end of the month, adding that he can be contacted by email.

The Link was unable to reach Dinnick for comment before press time, despite multiple attempts. In his email addressed to freelancers, Dinnick says he will no longer be taking calls from the media on this issue, “because it has only created confusion.”

Topping believes that perhaps even more so than being a question of communication, this is becoming an issue of time for OpenFile.

“I think it’s entirely possible for OpenFile to come back and learn from the things they didn’t do well the first time around and be stronger and better for it—but the time on that is running out,” he said.

“It could come back in five years and be fine, but it can’t come back in five years after not paying people for those five years. The paying people is what has to come first at this point.”

“This is not us denouncing Wilf [Dinnick], we are not slamming him or anything like that. We just want our paychecks. We don’t even need an apology—just recognition that we’ve put all this effort into the organization and that we were valued in the end and got paid.”

—Freelance Journalist and OpenFile Contributor Justin Ling

Café X Wants to Compost



Café X hopes to bring composting to its location in Concordia's VA building.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Campaign Attempts Dialogue After Repeated Refusals

BY ANDREW BRENNAN
@BRENNAMEN

After years of failed attempts to bring compost to Concordia's Visual Arts complex, managers from the student-run Café X have started a petition to pressure the university to bring compost collection bins to the building.

"Students and faculty alike ask us where our compost is at the VA," said Café X Manager Laura Hudspith, who started the petition last week.

"That's telltale enough, which is why this petition is now in place—because it's coming from the students who are paying for their education."

An entirely not-for-profit enterprise, Café X actively tries to minimize waste in the daily operations of their two locations, in the VA and EV Buildings respectively, purchasing 100 per cent biodegradable cups and utensils made from renewable resources.

According to Hudspith, the student-managed café's unofficial mandate is to maintain a small ecological footprint, and "composting is definitely a big part of what we're interested in doing."

Concordia restricts its compost

collection downtown exclusively to the Hall, MB and EV Buildings.

Since beginning her tenure as manager, Hudspith says she has been trying to bring a compost bin into the VA, still without success.

She tried reaching out to the Fine Arts department's administration, working with student coordinator Tricia Middleton to find a solution.

That didn't work out.

Middleton said she was unable to comment when contacted by *The Link*, and Hudspith is unsure who Middleton tried coordinating with.

Hudspith also tried partnering with the Fine Arts Student Alliance, and started talking with Sustainable Concordia, the university's environmental arm, over the summer.

Eventually, the latter request was also denied.

"Their final thing was, 'You can buy [a compost] from the university for \$50 and then your staff would have to bring it over every night to the EV Building,'" she said.

To Hudspith, getting staff to take care of it was out of the question, and former manager Lindsey Fryett agreed.

"Compost is heavy when it's

wet coffee grounds. It just didn't seem appropriate to ask them to carry it three blocks," Fryett said.

Hudspith thinks the refusals might be motivated by money.

"I think, because the university is a business, it must be financially related," she said. "A compost bin isn't expensive—but maintenance could be."

Lack of Able Bodies

Facilities Management, which oversees all custodial and maintenance services on campus grounds, took over collection and operation of compost from Sustainable Concordia last year.

The Link was unable to reach Custodial and Grounds Services Manager Marc Champagne prior to press time, but supervisor Brad Poapst said there were no plans by Facilities Management to enlarge compost collection from current levels.

"Right now, only one guy or girl is doing the entire VA Building," said Hannah McCormick, member of the Sustainable Concordia working group R4, which is responsible for auditing waste on campus.

"I think they're a bit overwhelmed and so Facilities Management did not want to add to

their already large task list."

Compost at Concordia is treated at the Loyola campus, where the university houses a mid-size industrial composter—the first for any university in Quebec.

All of the compost from the downtown campus is transported to Loyola from the loading dock outside the Hall Building, explained McCormick.

"For the annexes and the Hall Building, it's quite easy because it's not a far walk at all to get it down [to the loading dock]," said McCormick.

"But, when you start thinking about having to pay someone extra to cart it all the way from the VA Building it gets a little more complicated, especially since that part of the job isn't written into the contracts yet."

"It's really an issue of just not having the human resources to do it right now for the buildings who are further away," she said.

Meeting in the Middle

The petition, which has collected over 200 signatures, will soon be delivered to the dean of students for the faculty of Fine Arts.

Before that happens, however,

Hudspith said she needs to draft a written plan, which she will present to Associate Dean Ana Cappeluto.

"It's kind of an action plan, but also a history of who we've spoken to [...] and that we are aware that Concordia has the infrastructure for composting," she clarified.

But according to McCormick, without a contractual agreement with custodians to collect compost, buildings like the VA will need to do it themselves.

"The thing is, anyone can get composting if they put a lot of time and energy into moving it around themselves," she said.

"If a volunteer from the VA Building would just walk the compost down to the Hall Building, then it would be easy."

On the other hand, Hudspith said she believes maintenance staffs are more equipped to handle the waste.

Unlike custodial staff, Café X baristas are not equipped with dollies or vans to carry compost bags over to another building, said Hudspith.

"Essentially, we're just asking to incorporate the VA Building into the composting infrastructure the university already has in place."

A New VP on the Horizon?

Campaigning Begins for CSU Byelection

BY JULIA WOLFE @JURUWOLFE

During the Concordia Student Union general elections, the race to executive is contentious, cantankerous and damn difficult. But Hajar El Jahidi is poised to avoid all of that—and walk right in mid-mandate.

Jahidi is the only candidate running to fill the open executive position, VP Academic and Advocacy.

If elected, she'll replace Lucia Gallardo, who resigned as a result of her questionable student status. She'll potentially inherit the salary, title and power that that comes with joining the eight-student CSU executive.

Jahidi, who is currently the VP External of the Muslim Students Association, said she hopes to improve the CSU bursary program, run awareness campaigns for student services and facilitate conver-

sation between students and governing bodies.

In the very likely event she is elected, Jahidi said she would resign from her position at the MSA in order to focus on the demanding CSU executive job.

CSU President Schubert Laforest was a little taken aback by a candidate he called "a little out of left field."

"I don't even know how to take it, I haven't really interacted with her that much," he said.

But Jahidi said her goal is "to be an asset to the [current executive] and not hinder any of their goals and objectives."

"I'm also looking forward to meeting the executive team very soon to get to know them on a more personal level," she said. "That way, in the event that I do join the team, we will all be comfortable enough to be able to work efficiently with each other."

There are also 10 students running to fill open council positions, seven from Arts and Sciences and three from the John Molson School of Business. All ten are running for uncontested positions.

With no referendum questions, it should be a relatively quiet byelection.

All candidates, along with their candidate profiles, can be found at csuelections.wordpress.com, a site temporarily set up to allow the CSU to circumvent the current IT issues on their own website.

But even as the byelection looms, more seats are opening up. Arts and Sciences Councillors Charlie Brenchley and Adriana Farias resigned this week, both citing other time commitments as their reasons for leaving.

The byelection will be held from Nov. 27 to Nov. 29. All undergraduate students are eligible to vote.

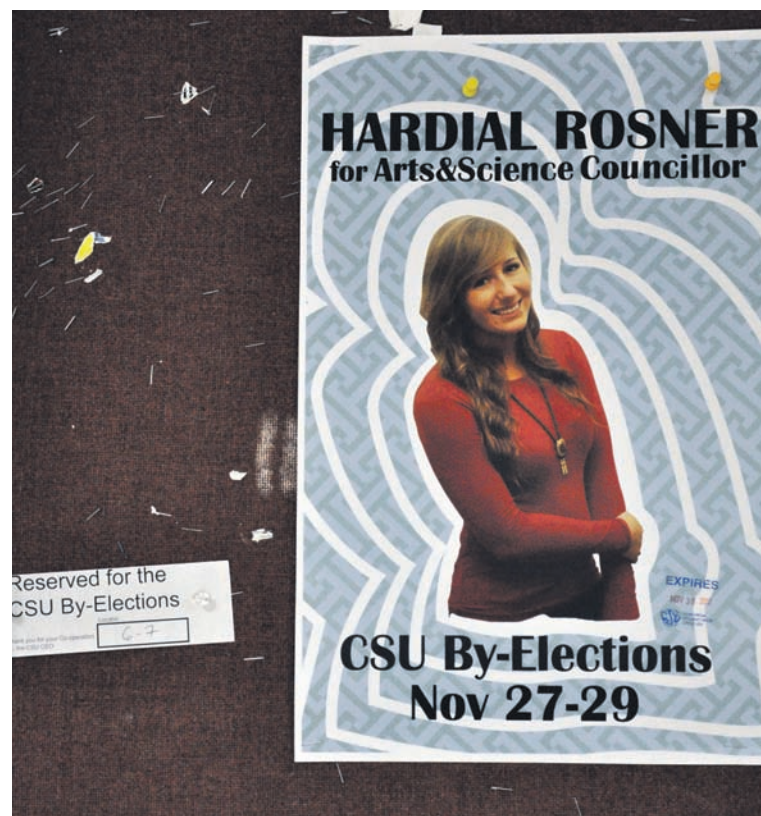


PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

TICKET GIVEAWAY

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Plants and Animals and Leif Vollebekk are playing this Friday at Corona Theatre.

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PRESIDENT SAYS CONU NOT PREPARING FOR STRIKE

Alan Shepard Optimistic About CUPFA Negotiations

BY HILARY SINCLAIR
@HILARYSINCLAIR

Concordia President Alan Shepard isn't yet worried about the unlimited strike mandate passed by the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association.

On Nov. 4, CUPFA approved the mandate with 95 per cent support. In the event that contract negotiations with the university collapse, between 700 and 900 part-time teachers could be stepping out of the classroom and onto the picket lines.

"We're not sitting here making plans for what we're going to do for a strike because we're hopeful on both sides that there won't be a strike. [...] Negotiations are a always complex dance for both parties," said Shepard.

CUPFA Communications Chair David Douglas, who's been present at the meetings, echoed Shepard's sentiments.

"I think the idea that we would do everything we can to avoid a strike is positive, provided that what we're actually doing is seeking a solution," said Douglas. "I think that what's really needed here is to listen to each other to bring some new initiatives to the dynamic and to work together."

The current collective agreement between CUPFA and the university expired in August—after taking seven years to negotiate. Some of the clauses stemming from that contract have still not been met, says Douglas.

"We have a number of issues that have been kicking around the labour management discussion going back about two years [...] that have yet to be resolved," said Douglas.

"These are things involving deferred salary leave, pension, questions of what a course is worth in terms of contact hours. There's been a lot of discussion and differences of opinion over what the faculty should be paid. The problem with universities is that across different faculties it's very hard to have absolute equivalents."

Douglas is optimistic that Shepard can offer a new dynamic to the strained talks, however.

"When we talked to our membership at our special annual general meeting, we were quite clear that we hope the president would bring some new initiatives into the arena of negotiations," said Douglas.

"We anticipated being able to meet with him and to talk to him about his ideas and, in fact, tomorrow morning [CUPFA] President Maria Peluso and myself are meeting with him to hear directly what perspective he can bring."

Nov. 29 is the next time the two negotiating teams will come together. It will be their last meeting day of the fall term. Douglas says that the two sides will be setting up all their meeting dates for the winter term then.

"Obviously, we want to see things turn in a more positive way from what we've seen thus far—you have to keep talking with people," said Douglas.

"We have a responsibility to our membership to pursue their interests as vigorously as we can, but as educators we also have to do our jobs for the people we're there for: the students. We have to weigh those responsibilities all the time."



◆ PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

Communications Chair David Douglas (centre) stressed that union negotiators would do everything they could to avoid a strike.

CITY BRIEFS

BY MICHAEL WROBEL, @MICHAEL_WROBEL & FLORA HAMMOND, @FLORAHMD

Hacking the Hall

This weekend, tech-savvy Montrealers joined forces to participate in Quebec's first anti-corruption hackathon. The aim was to develop software that enabled citizens to check data and monitor the happenings at city hall, in hopes of keeping the municipal government in check.

The idea of creating an app linking donors and businesses to political parties was discussed. The event was sponsored by *The Gazette* and organized by Québec Ouvert, a group aiming to foster collaborative politics through increased data transparency.

Demo for Public Housing

Last Thursday, roughly a hundred people marched downtown Montreal calling for more public housing from Pauline Marois's Parti Québécois government, *La Presse* reported.

The demo was organized by the Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain, a national collective of groups promoting the right to housing. The protesters stopped in front of companies they thought could fund such a projects—including construction firm SNC-Lavalin and Rogers Communications.

Political Intrigue Continues at City Hall

The fallout continues over Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay's resignation last Monday. In a closed-door meeting last Thursday, his party, Union Montréal, selected Richard Deschamps to act as choice interim mayor.

Passed over for the top job, Michael Applebaum quit Friday as chairman of Montreal's executive committee due to disagreements with Deschamps over the city's budgetary policies. Meanwhile, rumours continue to swirl that Liberal Member of Parliament Denis Coderre might throw his hat into the mayoral race.

School Board Elections Delayed Yet Again?

According to *The Gazette*, the provincial government announced late Friday that school board elections originally scheduled for last year will instead be held in autumn of 2014—no less than seven years after the last vote.

The Quebec English School Boards Association said that it's disappointed with the postponement, while the PQ wants to hold school board elections on the same day as municipal elections, which could increase voter turnout. Only 18 per cent of eligible voters participated in the 2007 English Montreal School Board election.

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SATELLITE RADIO & SADDLIN' UP

"The difference between the stuff I do and the stuff on the mainstream is that I write all my own songs—other guys don't. Even when they do, it tends to be kind of schlocky."

—Corb Lund

Corb Lund's Cabin Fever Mixes Old-Fashioned Whisky and Subversive New Country

BY HILARY SINCLAIR
@HILARYSINCLAIR

Today, Corb Lund has settled on "subversive country" to describe his music. While most country musicians wouldn't even attempt using a word like that, "subversive" joins "ulterior" and "dissident" in the rope of adjectives that he pulls out to lasso his sound.

"Our stuff is old-fashioned country and our audience is really fragmented," said Lund. "It's got enough of that old-school, Johnny Cash/Hank Williams feel to it that I think people who like old-school country like it."

But if it's clear now from Lund's lyrics that his roots are buried deep in the mythology of the Albertan prairie soil that raised him, it was a decidedly un-country sound that first tugged him away from the ranch—hard-core punk.

The 12-year stretch with his '90s hardcore band, The Smalls, instilled in him an indie-rock mentality that the country can't buck, and which allows him to use terms like "subversive country" in his slight cowboy drawl without sounding absurd.

"The difference between the stuff I do and the stuff on the mainstream is that I write all my own songs—other guys don't," said Lund. "Even when they do, it tends to be kind of schlocky. There's definitely an underground, bubbling subculture."

Lund's subculture seems to be populated with urban cowboys and their parents—classic country crowd.

His last three albums; *Hair in My Eyes Like a Highland Steer*, *Horse Soldier! Horse Soldier!* and *Losin' Lately Gambler* are stylistically diverse, running from the themes of gambling addiction to the tales of cavalry soldiers.

Lund says the range is a result

of his boredom with the familiar and his goal of making every record a little different than the last—not better, just different.

With tightly-wound lyrics and raw recordings void of what he calls "studio trickery," *Cabin Fever*, Lund's seventh album, flirts with apocalyptic themes and makes ample use of firearm metaphors. It's been touted as an album that pushes the boundaries of his style, but Lund doesn't agree with that insinuation.

It took three years to write—three years peppered with restless travelling in an attempt to kick his writer's block. Lund finally settled in his cabin west of Edmonton—a cabin he built with an uncle who passed away during the making of the album.

Emotional fuel from this—and the disintegration of a long-term relationship—contributed to a desolate, lonely tone in songs like "One Left in the Chamber" and "September," about a love being

lured away from "1,000 acres in the Rocky Mountains" by the hustle of the big city.

While clearly his darkest work to date, Lund manages to blend suicide ballads with swing-country tunes. Tracks like "Cows Around," in which Lund lists off a litany of cattle breeds, and "The Gothest Girl I Can," both evoke his traditional brand of quick-witted barn-raisers.

Lund and his band, The Hurtin' Albertans, recorded the album in a whisky haze at Riverdale Recorders in Edmonton.

"I want to be [Pendleton Whisky's] spokesperson, but they won't take me up on it," said Lund.

He adds this niche style was—somewhat counter-intuitively—propelled out of cities into rural locales by satellite radio and the Internet.

"It's interesting, because years ago when I started, ironically, the

people most into it were in the city, because they had access to it," said Lund. "Out in the country you don't have many choices. You can listen to CBC, or the rock station, or the country station and that was about it. But now everybody can do exactly what they want."

Lund's label, New West Records, is putting its weight behind *Cabin Fever* in a push to capture the country music market in the United States. Debuting at number one on Billboard's Canadian charts in September, it has yet to crack the Top 50 in Country albums south of the border.

"It's tricky, because none of them can believe we're from Canada; they think we're from Texas. I have to explain to them that we have cattle in Alberta."

Corb Lund and The Hurtin' Albertans / Nov. 19 / Petit Campus (57 Prince Arthur St. E) / 8:00 p.m.

XX on the WWW

Feminism and Digital Art Collide at Montreal's HTMLles Fest

LINK PICKS



FACES, BIOMETRICS, AND THE AESTHETICS AND POLITICS OF RECOGNITION: A MASK-MAKING WORKSHOP

Nov. 12 / Oboro (4001 Berri St., Suite 301) / 2:00 p.m.
/ Suggested donation \$15.00 to \$25.00

This workshop proves mask-making isn't just for preschoolers. Zach Blas will explore the idea of making masks as a resistant practice against facial recognition as well as discussing with participants the social and political impact of biometric technologies.

The workshop will also produce a "collective mask," a combination of all the facial data of participants in the workshop—which sounds super neat.

BEFORE THE LAW: ART, RISK AND PUBLIC INTERVENTION

Nov. 12 / 5:30 p.m. / Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.) / Free

The Montreal Artists Legal Clinic is presenting a workshop on something tricky that isn't often talked about—the legal aspects of art, especially in cases that involve interventions in public and on the Internet.

FEMHACK: AN EVENT FOR WOMEN AND FEMINISTS HACKING TECHNOLOGIES

Nov. 17 / Foulab (999 College St.) / 10:00 a.m. / Free

Feminists, self-identified women and kids—learn to craft and hack. Open to all skill levels; the only requirement is curiosity. Hosted by Fouem, a woman and feminist hacker group in Montreal, who will guide participants through a day of diversity-friendly tech activities for everyone.

THE HTMLles CLOSING

Nov. 17 / Royal Phoenix (5788 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 10:00 p.m. / Free

Say so long to HTMLles for another year with an all-night dance party. Take in a whole bunch of performances, mingle with like-minded people and maybe meet some people you didn't get a chance to see during the week.



BY KATIE MCGROARTY
@KATIECMCG

Get ready to learn what the oft-used but rarely defined term "digital art" really means.

HTMLles started in the year 1997, when the Internet was still dialing up and asking Jeeves; when even the term digital art was in its infancy and new media didn't exist yet.

"Even in Montreal, or worldwide, this festival is very different from what you can find elsewhere," said Geneviève Godin, communications director of HTMLles, the feminist festival of media arts and digital culture held annually in Montreal.

"Obviously there are a lot of media arts festivals elsewhere in the world, but the thing is that HTMLles is very different because it's artwork made by women. We promote the feminist perspective combine with the new media aspects of creation, so it makes it very secular."

HTMLles was created to give women a voice in the often male-dominated field of technology—while combining feminist ideals and cultural

critiques in their art.

Held over eight days and in 14 locations around the city, the festival is presented by Studio XX, a feminist artist-run centre used for technological exploration, creation and critique.

"It started originally because of [the lack of female voices in the digital art world]," explains Godin. "In the 1990s, more women were taking their place in the new art world, going towards digital art but also towards new media."

After going through a record 100 applications from female-identified artists looking to participate, the judges were tasked with picking which projects would best represent the theme and mandate of the festival.

Unlike many recurring events, the team in charge changes every year at HTMLles in order to ensure that a variety of voices are being expressed.

"The festival is evolving with society," says Godin of the yearly changeover. "The theme will always be reflecting the artistic director's vision, how she relates to the new media art world. With activism and feminism and a different theme, there's a

different way to see things each year."

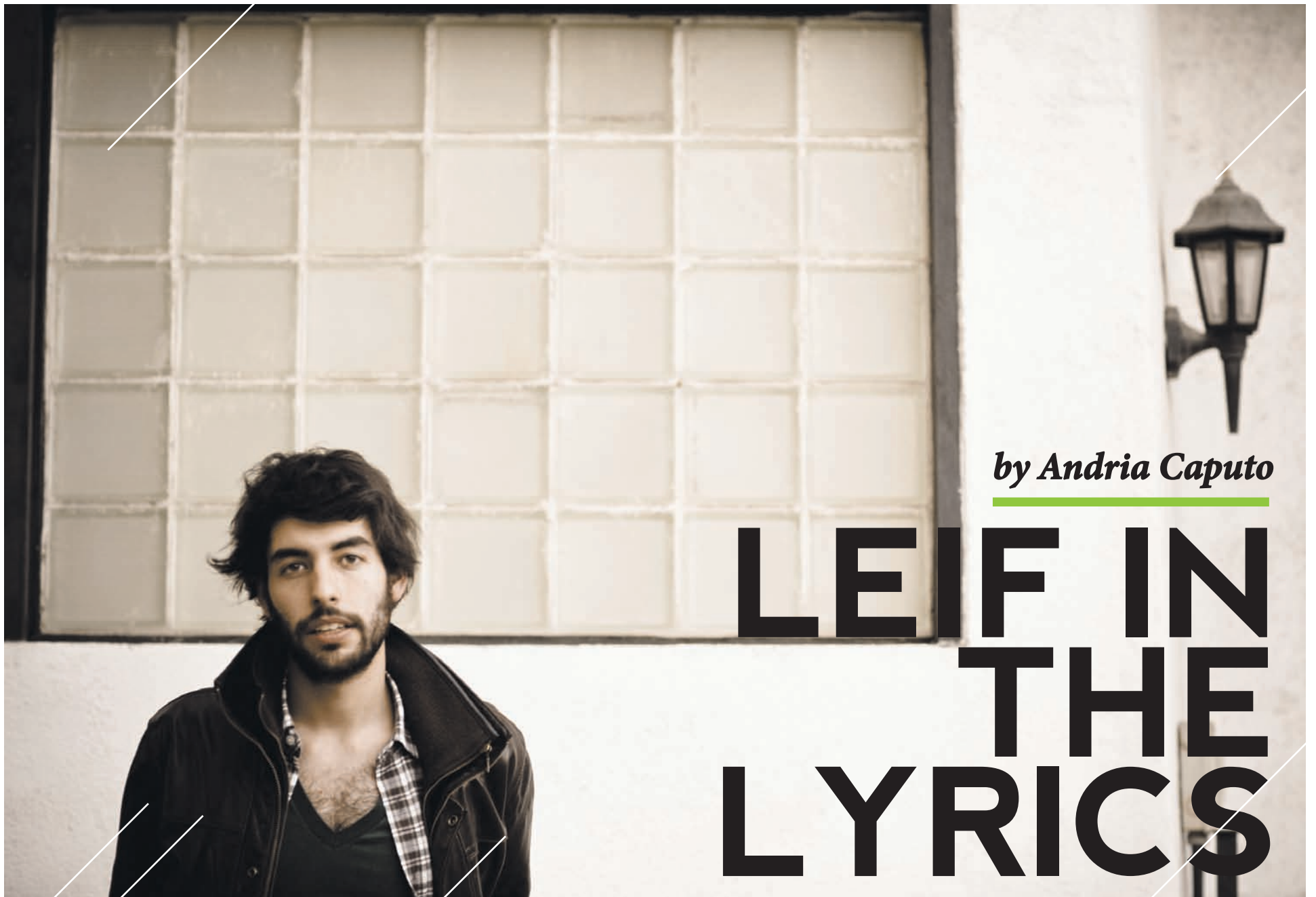
Spearheaded by current Artistic Director Sophie Le-Phat Ho, this year's festival's theme is risky business—explained as "to expose oneself to a possibility... Risk is a potential."

The term "risk society" was coined in the '80s to refer to how society organized around the idea of taking risks, explained Le-Phat Ho about the idea's cultural relevance.

Since its incarnation 15 years ago, HTMLles has had to take into account not only the progression of technology, but also the evolution of women's social roles and the constantly changing definition of feminism.

"HTMLles is dedicated to showing work that is very accurate about new technology. Obviously when it started in 1997, the works were done with the technology that was available at the time, but through the evolution of the festival came also the evolution of technology."

HTMLles / Nov. 10 to Nov. 18 / Various Locations / Passes \$40.00, Tickets \$10.00 (low income pricing available)



by Andria Caputo

LEIF IN THE LYRICS

Leif Vollebekk on Songwriting and Keeping It Fresh on Stage ♦

Sometimes people just stumble into music; other times they seem born into it, music in their blood and in their bones. For Leif Vollebekk, an Ottawa-born, Montreal-based musician, the latter is probably the most fitting description of his entrance into the music world.

"My grandfather played music," he said. "Whenever I saw him, he'd always be playing and when he died, I started playing all of his instruments. I learnt them one by one; I started with the violin, then the guitar, the piano and the harmonica."

Vollebekk started out humbly—playing gigs in local bars.

"I did little shows that weren't really shows. They were mostly casual," he said.

It wasn't until he recorded and released his debut album, *Inland*, in 2010 that Vollebekk started what he described as "properly" performing live. After the release of his first album he quickly went global and toured in North America, Europe and the U.K.

Looking back on his shows on two different continents, Vollebekk admitted that his experiences, as well as the crowds, were different all over the world.

"Quebec is different from the rest of Canada," he said. "Ottawa

is different from Toronto, but in the U.K. it's just totally different. The more north you go, like Scotland, it's amazing.

"Especially in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, people will come and talk to me after the show. They would say something like, 'You said this, this specific line' and they really got [my music]."

Vollebekk welcomes fan feedback—especially after a show. Vollebekk said people will tell him how much they loved a song, how it made them cry or how they connected with it.

"When someone remembers a line from a song, it means a lot," he admitted.

Lyrics are an important part of Vollebekk's work. When he was

younger, he listened to a lot of songwriters like Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

"At the time, I didn't understand why people were listening to them," he said. "[Then] I realized that the lyrics had a lot to do with it. It made me realize the songs are always better if the lyrics are strong."

When you're as invested in your songwriting as Vollebekk is, the frustration of a blank page staring back at you can be your greatest enemy.

"I usually wait to have something pop into my head, it's really frustrating," he said when asked about his songwriting process. "I wish I had a method. I wish I could go to an island like Leonard Cohen and just write a book."

Vollebekk left his hometown of Ottawa four years ago, and has been living in Montreal ever since.

"One of the biggest reasons for moving to Montreal was because there are good musicians here," he said. "I knew I would get my butt kicked and learn something. I was hoping to find some good players and I think I found some of the best musicians in the world here."

Speaking of the musicians he works with, Vollebekk added, "I wouldn't trade them for anything. They're the best people in the world, and I'm really glad I found them."

After roughly two years of touring, Vollebekk has just finished recording his next, as-yet untitled album. The release date has not yet been settled, but he says it

should come out this coming winter. From Vollebekk's perspective, he feels his new album is a significant shift from his first one, which was released nearly three years ago.

"The only record I have out there is quite old, so I feel like I've changed a lot," he said. "It's not like I've become an entirely different person on this new record, but it does have a bit more emphasis on the songwriting."

Once the album is released, Vollebekk plans to continue touring. Like every other artist dedicated to their craft, Vollebekk puts a lot of himself into his live shows.

"When I play a song live, I need to play it in a way that's still fresh to me," he said. "As long as the lyrics are there, the song is still there."

However, Vollebekk admitted that he has upset fans at times who've felt like his live performance differed too far from the album versions.

"If they heard me play it as close to the record as possible, they would have been really disappointed, too," he said. "Because then I wouldn't have been into it."

Plants and Animals + Leif Vollebekk / Nov. 16 / Corona Theatre (2490 Notre-Dame St. W.) / \$24.90

"The only record I have out there is quite old, so I feel like I've changed a lot. It's not like I've become an entirely different person on this new record, but it does have a bit more emphasis on the songwriting."

—Leif Vollebekk



MAC'S BACK

Mac DeMarco on Rebecoming Himself for His New Album

BY ALEX MANLEY @ALEX_ICON

Mac DeMarco has a certain ambivalence to modern rock 'n' roll stardom.

After playing for years in Vancouver under the moniker Makeout Videotape, the gap-toothed, 22-year-old Edmonton native settled here in 2010 and started working under his own name this year. He didn't choose Montreal because it was an indie music mecca, though—it's just cheaper than Vancouver.

"I don't even think it matters where you're living nowadays," he admitted.

"There's so many different bands now that live in the suburbs, like—in Vancouver, for example, there are all these people getting super huge and famous all of a sudden, and they live in the suburbs and have never played a show in their life before, which proves to me that you don't have to play in the local scene to become an Internet phenomenon."

For DeMarco, his upcoming show at the M for Montreal festival this Thursday night would be a hometown show like any other, but he recently put out his second release of 2012, 2.

It has garnered rave reviews, including the coveted Best New Music status from Pitchfork, a surefire sign that the many days he spent toiling in rock-star obscurity are at an end. It's been something of a surreal experience.

"When I shifted to *Rock and Roll Nightclub*, that's the first time that anybody, you know, on the larger Internet scale paid attention to my music," he said, referring to the EP he released in January, which was a stylistic shift for him.

"Like, 'Oh, he's on Pitchfork now, I'll check this out,' or bla bla bla. So people were like, 'You're a weird rock 'n' roll crooner/weirdo lipstick guy.' For me, that was pretty weird and funny that people thought I was a cross-

dresser. People had a great time throwing that around."

Still, where the *Rock and Roll Nightclub* cover art featured DeMarco applying lipstick, 2's cover is a shade less artful. It's just the singer and his guitar, giving the peace sign—and the songs, which he calls a return to his Makeout Videotape sound—reflect that simplicity.

He's straightforward when it comes to the name change, describing it as a situation where he'd used the name to lend to his solo project—featuring "a rotating cast of people who would come learn my songs and play shows with me"—the weight of a band.

"I think the main reason for the switch is that I'd always hated the name Makeout Videotape. It feels like a really stupid name," he said.

"I released [*Rock and Roll Nightclub*] under my own name, and it sounded way different than any of the stuff I'd done before. It kinda seemed like a good transition point.

"Now that I've gone back to more or less what my music's sort of used to sound like—I mean, it's definitely new, but it's more along the lines of how I used to write songs—now people are like, 'Yo, he's changing it up!' But I'm actually just going back to [my old sound]."

The 11 straightforward catchy tunes, which lean heavily on his unpretentious structuring and jangly finger-picking, also call to mind one of 2011's best-received records, Kurt Vile's *Smoke Ring for My Halo*, and 2 seems like it might be poised to crib from that record's success, too.

But where Vile's lyrics meandered down semantic cul-de-sacs, seeming more fit to be mumbled to oneself on a city bus, listening to a Sony Walkman, than sung along to at a concert, DeMarco's are like a little short story collection.



2 (2012)

"Like, 'Oh, he's on Pitchfork now, I'll check this out,' or bla bla bla. So people were like, 'You're a weird rock 'n' roll crooner/weirdo lipstick guy.' For me, that was pretty weird and funny that people thought I was a cross-dresser."

—Mac DeMarco

In fact, there's an air of Heather O'Neill's Canada Reads-winning novel, *Lullabies for Little Criminals* to 2, and not just because both feature narrators whose fathers are into drugs.

There's a sense of one's neighbourhood, of hopelessness, of the unremarkable passing of days, of bad choices made with resignation rather than regret.

One of the standout tracks, "Ode to Viceroy," is a quirky love song to DeMarco's favourite cigarette brand, a British American Tobacco bargain name that's smoked primarily by crusty old-timers.

"When I was recording, I'd been in the States and I bought a carton of really, really cheap cigarettes at the duty-free—I think they were called Sheriffs," he recalled.

"They were really shitty 100s and I had like 100 million of them on hand at any time; I bought so many. And you know, right around the time I finished off all the Sheriffs, it was time for me to go back to Viceroy. So it's kind of like, 'I'm sorry I cheated on you. Here I am.

Don't worry."

Still, the DeMarco that appears in his lyrics isn't the DeMarco that's put out such a solid album. There's no sense on the album of the ambition that produced it.

And for a newfound Montrealer making a name for himself and the city, he deserves some kudos for opening up a third way of sorts.

He's no Arcade Fire, and he's no Grimes. Heck, he wasn't even mentioned in *Maison-neuve* magazine's summer 2012 cover story on the future of the Montreal music scene. And yet here he is, a 2012 EP and LP to his name, garnering critical acclaim, a goofy grin on his face.

To DeMarco, the world must appear as one big joke right now—one to which he already knows the punch line.

Mac DeMarco + PS I Love You + Young Galaxy + No Joy / Nov. 17 / La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 8:30 p.m. / Sold out

HUMANIZING THE CITYSCAPE

CCA Looks at Montreal From the People's Perspective

BY VIVIEN LEUNG
@VIVIEN_LEUNG

The 20th century gave rise to myth of the architect hero—someone who swoops in and cures social woes through their buildings.

But after architects cut the ribbons on these so-called architectural marvels, the public is left to deal with the flaws. This issue is what the newest Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibit *ABC : MTL* aims to explore, starting Nov. 13.

"Sometimes even architects are not aware of some of the consequences, even positive consequences, [of their work]," said Fabrizio Gallanti, associate director of public programs at the CCA. "It's more interesting to see people who are working or living very well outside of architecture."

Two-dimensional images fail to take into account the people who inhabit these buildings.

While the mainstream media obsesses about the Bilbao Guggenheims and Bird's Nest Stadiums of the world, the CCA swivels the discussion towards the impact of Montreal's local architecture, highlighting the stories of those who live in and contribute to shaping the city.

Last June, the CCA put out a call for project proposals that would eventually form *ABC : MTL*. Locals and foreigners, regardless of background, were encouraged to propose projects across a range of media—from research to illustration to multimedia.

The CCA recognizes Montreal as "a complex overlapping of identities and spaces," said Gallanti.



ABC : MTL opens at the CCA on Nov. 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CCA MONTREAL

The resulting mix of multimedia installations exposes both personal and analytical accounts of Montreal's urban landscape. The applicants to the exhibit showed interest in describing the city in their own way, pushing the idea of multiple realities, said Gallanti.

"I think one of the premises was, rather than look at the iconic monuments of the city and the architectural development, to [focus on] the everyday fabric of city," said Curatorial Coordinator Simon Pennec.

"You have to acknowledge that you don't know everything. There

may be local conditions that escape your knowledge," said Gallanti. "These [projects] are coming quite often from people that we never would have been able to find ourselves."

Of the 100-odd proposals received, at least 70 were chosen for *ABC : MTL*, and all applications, including those not accepted, will be made available to the public.

As well, the exhibit will change throughout its run, with some projects coming down and others being installed in their place.

"The city changes, so the exhi-

bition would be changing all the time," said Gallanti. "Compared to other endeavours in the past, [*ABC : MTL*] is a much more fluid, spontaneous, self-organized way of working."

The exhibition is backed by a robust public programming; speakers, debates and educational events will play an integral role in generating a truly comprehensive vision of the city.

"Ideally [the exhibit] will be a forum of discussion for the city. We want people to be stimulated to see 'darker' sides of [Montreal]," said Gallanti.

With exhibition and programming already in place, whether the potential is fulfilled depends largely on visitors realizing their roles as active participants—not only in *ABC : MTL*, but also in shaping their home city.

According to Gallanti, "Whether [the public is] against the exhibition or in favour of it, the more [*ABC : MTL*] generates dialogue, the more it's a success."

ABC : MTL Vernissage / Nov. 13 / Canadian Centre for Architecture / 1920 Baile St. / 6:30 p.m. / Free

FRINGE CALENDAR

NOV. 13 - NOV. 19

ARTS

1. Annual Concordia MFA Art Auction & Sale
Nov. 14
VA Building (1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.)
6:00 p.m.

MUSIC

2. The Helio Sequence • Ramona Falls • Small Teeth
Nov. 13
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)
\$12.00 advance / \$14.00 door

3. Hip-Hop Karaoke Montreal

Nov. 15
Le Belmont (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.)
10:00 p.m.
Free / \$10.00 after 11:00 p.m.

4. Cadence Weapon • Karneef

Nov. 17
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)
\$12.00 advance / \$15.00 door

FILM

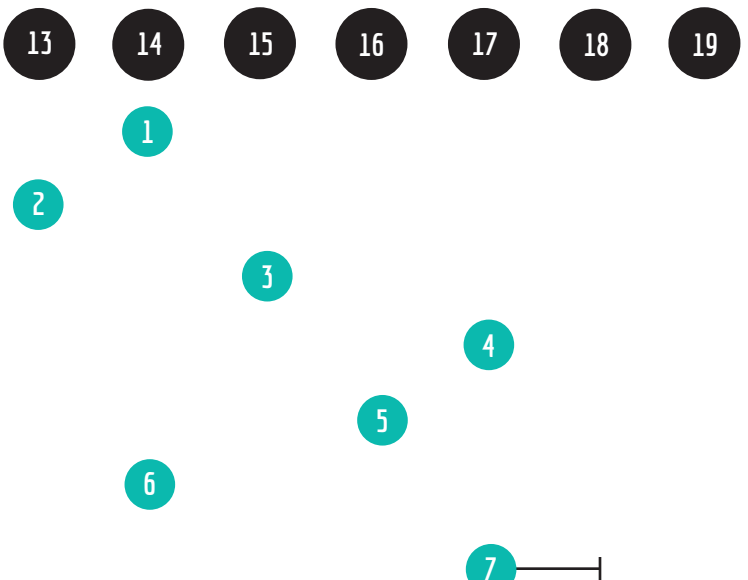
5. Cinema Politica: Herman's House
Nov. 16
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-110)
7:00 p.m.
PWYC

OTHER

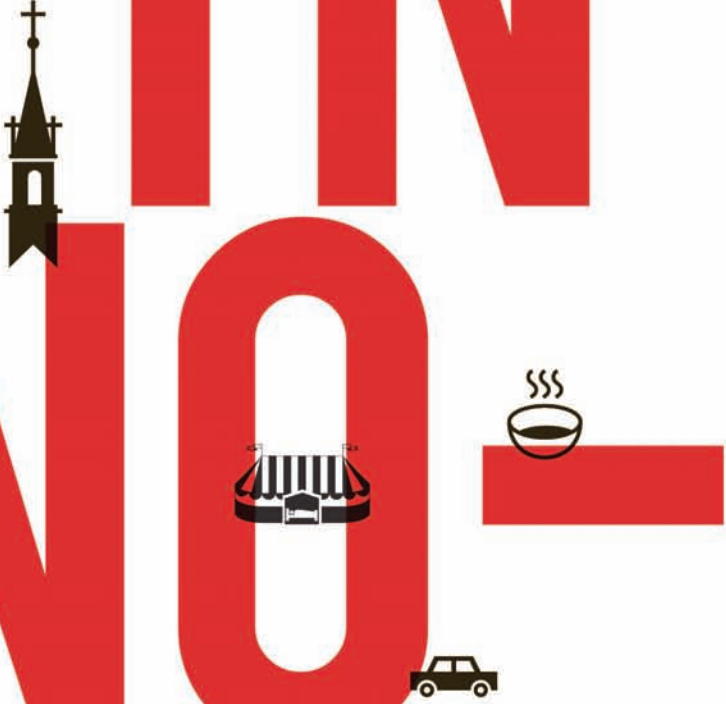
6. Speak4Rights #5: Photojournalism
With *The Gazette* Photojournalist Phil Carpenter
Nov. 14
Café 92 (6703 Sherbrooke St. W.)
6:00 p.m.
\$3.00

7. Expozine

Nov. 17 and Nov. 18
St. Enfant Jesus Church (5035 St. Dominique St.)
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



FIN NO VEMBRE



NOVEMBER 16 TO 25
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+CIRCUS+ SPEECHES

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• CAFÉ SANDWICH Sandwiches, Salads

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GREAT SPECIALS FOR STUDENTS!

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RIGHT AROUND
THE CORNER!



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Concordia women's hockey team gave it their best but fell short 3-1 to the top ranked McGill Martlets.

PHOTO LESLIE SCHACHTER

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF NOV. 6 TO NOV. 12

SATURDAY, NOV. 10

Men's Hockey – Concordia 4, Wilfred Laurier University 7
Women's Hockey – Concordia 2, McGill University 3

FRIDAY, NOV. 09

Women's Hockey – Concordia 3, Université de Montréal 5
Men's Rugby RSEQ semifinal – Concordia 31, Université de Sherbrooke 17
Men's Hockey – Concordia 0, York University 5

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 07

Men's Basketball – Concordia 74, Université du Québec à Montréal 69
Women's Basketball – Concordia 77, Université du Québec à Montréal 72

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

15

6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Concordia Gymnasium)
Men's Basketball vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Concordia Gymnasium)

16

7:30 p.m.

Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)

17

2:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Men's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)
Women's Basketball at Bishop's Gaiters
Men's Basketball at Bishop's Gaiters

18

1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.

Men's Rugby RSEQ championship vs. McGill Redmen (Concordia Stadium)
Men's Hockey at Ottawa Gee-Gees
Women's Hockey at Montréal Carabins

THE END OF AN ERA

Stingers Captain Tittley Looks Back on Spectacular Career

BY DAVID KAUFMANN
@DAVIDKAUFMANN85

Last weekend's Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championships didn't only mark the end of the season for Concordia's women's rugby team—it also marked the end of an era for Stingers captain Jackie Tittley.

"She is a one-of-a-kind talent on and off the field, and we don't get players like that ever," said Stingers head coach Graeme McGravie.

Tittley was the driving force behind her team's three appearances at the CIS national championships, leading her team to a silver medal in 2010.

Seen as a mentor and leader by her teammates, Tittley earned high praise from Stingers centre Bianca Farella.

"She did a great job as our captain. She kept us focused when we were turned off, and she led us in the right direction," said Farella, the 2012 CIS rookie of the year. "Growing up in my rugby career, you hear certain names of certain people and Jackie's name always came up in conversation when talking about rugby superstars."

Tittley is departing the Stingers organization after her fifth year with the club, the maximum allowed time, according to CIS regulations.

"To come out on top in my last year was a golden moment," she said of the Stingers' Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec championship title.

Over the years, she's had her fair share of success, including



Graduating Captain Jackie Tittley makes a play during last year's Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup against the McGill Martlets.

◆ PHOTO SEAN CELESTRIN

three consecutive CIS All-Canadian honours from 2008-2010. But her favourite moment came on Oct. 27, when she and the Stingers narrowly defeated the Laval Rouge et Or 35-34 in this year's RSEQ provincial final.

"It was one of the best games that we ever had in that rivalry," said Tittley.

Meanwhile, she is still trying to get over her team's 2010 loss to the St. Francis Xavier X-Women at Nationals.

"That game in [Peterborough,

ON] was rough. At the same time, I never want to forget that experience," she said referring to the gold-medal game, where the Stingers' opposition scored a try in the game's second overtime.

With her Stingers career finished, Tittley wants to focus more on her coaching career—with hopes of doing it professionally.

"I always want to be a part of the game; it's a big part of my life," she said.

Tittley currently serves as head coach of the St. Thomas Cavaliers

Juvenile Girls, a team she's coached for six years, and the team she started her rugby career with 12 years ago at her high school in Pointe Claire, QC.

As for her playing career, she's uncertain if she wants to continue playing professionally.

"In terms of the elite level, I haven't made any definite decisions on that note yet," she admitted, who's also had stints playing rugby for the John Islanders, and the Montreal Barbarians.

But as Tittley prepares her fu-

ture, the Stingers will be left hoping for someone fill the void.

"I'm not sure you can replace what she brought to this program and to the teams she played on, but I'm going to keep looking and we're just going to have to see what the future holds for our program now that she's graduated," said McGravie.

"I think everyone is going to have to step it up a bit, and the natural leaders on our team will emerge once Jackie is gone," said Farella.

STINGERS ADVANCE TO RUGBY FINALS IN PENALTY-FILLED VICTORY

CONCORDIA 31 - SHERBROOKE 17

BY DAVID KAUFMANN
@DAVIDKAUFMANN85

Concordia's men's rugby team were lucky the Sherbrooke Vert et Or choked harder than they did in Friday's semifinal. That's because their lack of discipline nearly cost them the game.

"They didn't come close to following a game plan, they were all over the page and that wasn't even rugby that they were playing," said Stingers head coach Clive Gibson. "If we play that way next week, we might as well not show up."

One of the reasons the Stingers came out of this game victorious is because they were able to get on the board early and often, as Frederic Kakou, Paul Bouet and Joseph Fulginiti each scored within the first 15 minutes to put

the Maroon and Gold up 19-0.

But then the Stingers started to lose focus, repeatedly giving up penalties. This careless playing allowed the opposition to spend a lot of time at Concordia's goal line, and at the 30th minute the Stingers paid the price when Sherbrooke forward Mirco Robert found an empty spot on the goal line to get on the board.

Just before halftime, Sherbrooke scored another try to come within seven points of tying it up.

"When were [up] 19-12 and we kept on giving away penalty kicks, I thought the game was in doubt," said Gibson. "I had no idea if we'd pull it off or not because we kept giving them the advantage at our end."

Fortunately, the Stingers started the second half camping

out in the Sherbrooke zone, paying off in the 46th minute when hooker Kim Haze Vuong powered through the goal line to go up 24-12. But soon after they were back to their habit of taking bad penalties, allowing the Vert et Or to close the gap within a try once more.

Luckily, Haze Vuong had some last-minute fight in him, scoring the insurance-maker in the game's dying minutes.

Haze Vuong said he was sitting on the edge of his seat in the game's final minutes.

"At the end, we were definitely shaking our own knees," he said. "We weren't in the right mindset, but eventually we turned it back on."

"They were very opportunistic, and if you give them a metre they

take it," Sherbrooke head coach Jean-Michel Diorio said of the Stingers. "[We made] just small mistakes, but they just capitalized on them."

When the Stingers take on the McGill Redmen—winners of the other Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec semifinal—they may have to do it without their fly half Yan-

nick Fortin, who left the field early in the first half.

"He was complaining of a bad back and opted to throw himself out," said Gibson. "We'll get more assessment as week wears out."

The Stingers will host the McGill Redmen in Sunday's RSEQ final. Kickoff is at 1:00 p.m. at Concordia Stadium.

"They didn't come close to following a game plan, they were all over the page and that wasn't even rugby what they were playing. If we play that way next week, we might as well not show up."

— Clive Gibson,
Stingers Head Coach



YouTube Vid Brought Stingers Kicker Keegan Treloar to ConU by Kurt Weiss

HERE'S THE KICKER

After graduating from high school in 2011, Keegan Treloar would not have expected that marketing and football could go, well, hand in foot.

But today, the second-year marketing student thanks his cherished role as the Concordia football team's place kicker to a fun night of marketing some two years ago—marketing himself, that is.

Treloar, a native of Brandon, MB, was a standout for four years at Montreal's Vincent Massey High School, a school that has produced such football stars as defensive lineman Israel Idonije of the National Football League's

Chicago Bears, as well as Chris Bauman, a receiver for the Canadian Football League's Calgary Stampeders.

On a September evening in 2010, during his last season of high school football, Treloar and his father, Doug, went out for a casual night of kicking.

Along with a couple of coaches, they teamed up to record 20 minutes of footage of Treloar kicking field goals, punting and doing kickoffs at Vincent Massey. It was a "goof-around" night, according to his father, who is a registered physiotherapist.

At the time, none of them considered using the video for recruiting, his father said. It was made to show family in the United States, according to Keegan.

"I just did it as a fun thing, and then one thing led to another," he said.

Keegan brought the camera home, and within an hour, he had condensed the footage into a two-minute video.

"After that, it was truly history," said his father.

In January 2011, the video had circulated throughout the Brandon online community. After sending the video to various universities, the phone started ringing, and Treloar found himself in recruiting databases.

The University of Manitoba and York University contacted Keegan before Concordia University came calling in mid-February 2011.

"I still recall when coach [Gerry] McGrath called the house," said the elder Treloar. "You hear a man's voice asking for your son and you kind of go, 'Hmm.'"

After a recruiting trip to Montreal in March alongside teammate and mentor Rene Paredes—who now kicks for the Calgary Stampeders of the CFL—the Treloars were impressed with how they were treated during their stay.

"Concordia was by far the most professional of all the groups and they had a really solid recruiting program," Doug said.

When Keegan officially signed to play for the Stingers, Paredes had not yet signed in the CFL. He

could have played another year of Canadian Interuniversity Sport football, which was one of the main reasons for choosing Concordia, according to Treloar.

"I was going to have a great person as a mentor to play underneath for a year," said Treloar.

However, Paredes ended up signing with the Stampeders, making Treloar the de facto number-one kicker for the Stingers.

"I come here and it's another step above," he said. "Everyone here is a high school all-star and you just have to put it into perspective and know your place."

Treloar's first place kick in his first CIS game was a memorable one. It was Concordia's home opener last season against Université Laval, where he was good on a 46-yard field goal, only to see it immediately called back due to a penalty.

The coach kept the field goal unit on the field for the second attempt, a 52-yarder, which went a little differently than planned.

"The long-snapper snapped the ball directly in my hands, and I had to run with the ball. I realized I wasn't as fast as I thought I

was and got tackled pretty quick," he said.

Still, Doug Treloar said his son was the leading rusher on the Concordia football team for some time after his two-yard gain on the play.

His best performance came this season on Sept. 15 against St. Francis Xavier University, when the second-year kicker was good on six of six field goals, plus three converts, accounting for 21 out of the team's 41 points.

At the time, that put him in a four-way tie for the third-best single-game performance of all time in Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec university football. He was also named the Concordia player of the game and the RSEQ special teams player of the week.

"Like any proud father, it's just exciting," said Doug.

While the Stingers wrapped up their season two weeks ago with a loss to Université Laval, Treloar says he will continue to chase his dream until his university career is done.

"I'm also getting a pretty good degree at the [John Molson School of Business]," he said.

"Everyone here is a high school all-star and you just have to put it into perspective and know your place."

—Keegan Treloar,
Concordia Stingers Place Kicker

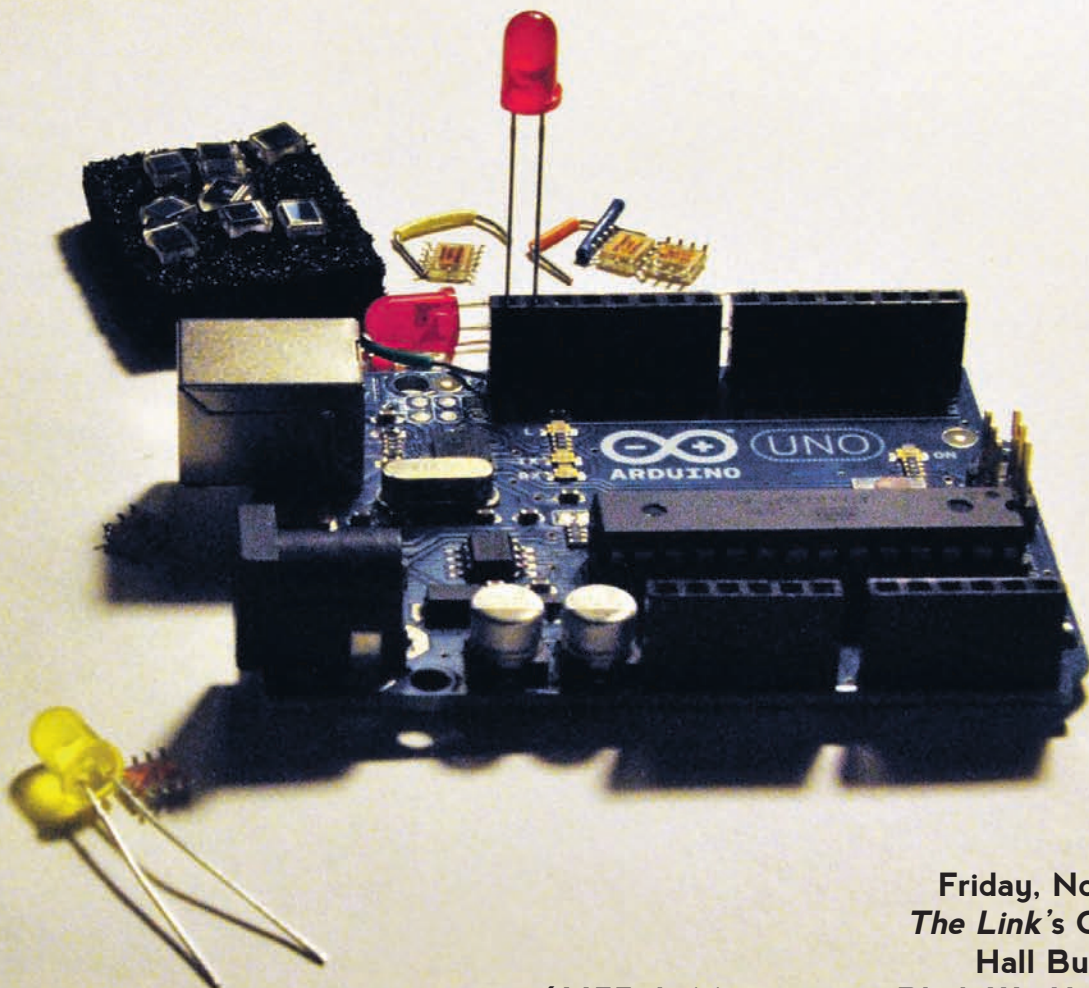
SCIENCE & TECH SPECIAL ISSUE BRAINSTORM

Got an idea cached? Join *The Link* to help us brainstorm for our upcoming Science & Tech Special Issue!

From the Mars Exploration Rover to the Higgs boson, exciting things big and small are happening in our universe.

But what can we do a little closer to home? Can ingenuity solve real, human problems like loss of farmland, rise of global temperatures or find new—if obscure—sustainable resources?

Let's find out.



Friday, Nov. 17
The Link's Office
Hall Building
(1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)
5:00 p.m.

Blogs on Blogs on Blogs

Our blog page has just undergone a major facelift.

Have a hankering for some science and tech? Want to know which arts events you can't miss? Love photography? Wish our comics were online? All these needs and many more are met with our 10 new blogs, including weekly installments of the Sex and Pancakes and That Transsexual Guy columns, plus monthly live sessions featuring local musicians and bands playing around Montreal.

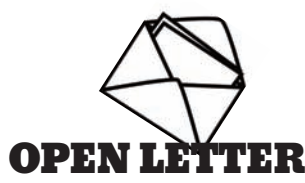
Take a look—there's something for everybody.

thelinknewspaper.ca/blogs



**THAT
TRANS-
SEXUAL
GUY**





POLI SCI COURSE CHANGES UNACCEPTABLE

Department Cuts Courses Addressing Sexism, Oppression

To Dr. Brian Lewis, Dean of the Arts & Sciences Faculty,

The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy is a Concordia student fee-levy organization that promotes gender equality and empowerment, particularly as it relates to marginalized communities. Given this mandate, we are concerned about recent changes to curriculum in the Political Science department.

Concordia's Political Science department has long had a reputation for providing challenging and relevant course content.

This letter is in response to significant changes in the list of courses offered for the current academic year.

Long-standing and popular courses such as Sexuality, Identity, and Politics—POLI 398T—have been cancelled abruptly for the 2012-2013 academic year without consultation with faculty representatives on the Curriculum Committee or students.

POLI 398T in particular consistently reached high enrollment and was a mainstay of the Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality minor program.

It is disturbing to us that a high proportion of the courses cancelled were aimed at a better understanding of sexism, oppression or marginalized communities. These include: Feminist Ethics and the Law, Women and Politics in Canada and Public Policy and the Politics of Equality.

When these courses were cancelled, students not only lost out on valuable education, but also lost irreplaceable insight from provincial and federal political policy advisers, sitting judges, community activists, respected labour organizers and feminist philosophers.

Students further lost what was seen as a strong opportunity to bring a feminist lens to the political sciences.

In light of high enrollment for many of these courses, their cancellation raises questions, considering previous chairs not only approved but requested and encouraged these courses.

It is important that the spirit of Concordia's former motto, "Real education for the real world" is not lost in favour of the sentiment of our new motto, "Well-being through harmony."

Indeed, harmony at the cost of political diversity would go against the very spirit of intellectual education and debate, and—one would assume—the discipline of political science as well.

In response to concerns about the direction of the curriculum, the 2110 Centre was informed that part of the rationale for cutting these classes was their status as "slot courses," a segregating category they had been listed under for numerous years.

Using this argument to justify their cancellation

seems to imply they were of lesser academic value or relevance than others. What the standards are for making this determination is unclear, but this seems to be a subjective value judgment at best.

This move is also rather insulting to the academic integrity of the professors and former chairs who developed the courses and other departments within our university who saw the value for students to engage in these learning experiences.

Further, while the original intent of the "slot" system may have been to give a trial to courses, at one time Concordia's Political Science department was so rich and diverse that these slots became necessary in order to offer the highest possible number of courses.

It's important to remember political science courses are not only for those majoring or minoring in the subject, but are a popular option as electives for students in a wide variety of other departments and faculties.

These students benefit greatly from rounding out their education in this way, and may not traditionally find such subject matter in their faculties. Therefore, it is to the benefit of the majority of students in the university to have a wide range of choice of political science courses to attract the most diverse members of the student body.

In another recent change, Associate Chair James Kelly was hired by the department and assigned to handle student complaints. This has reduced access to the Department Chair Csaba Nikolenyi for students as well as direct accountability for the policy changes made to the department.

Rather than engaging with the chair directly, students are obliged to first meet with the assistant chair—an additional level of bureaucracy that means more time out of students' busy schedules.

It is imperative that student concerns are dealt with openly and accessibly, and by the person originally paid to do so as per their job description and normal university structure.

In addition to sitting on various committees for his university administration roles, it is critical that Nikolenyi prioritize the duties assigned to the chair of the Political Science department and demonstrate that his first concern is students.

We are asking for action from Concordia University administration—specifically, the dean of Arts and Sciences—to ensure the Political Science department is a place where social justice issues can be explored and taught alongside other courses without fear of political retaliation, academic hierarchical intimidation or political discrimination.

—The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy

WHAT'S CHANGING?

SOME OF THE COURSES CUT:

POLI 309 Women and Politics in Canada

POLI 328 Public Policy and the Politics of Equality

POLI 398 Religion and Politics

POLI 398Q Political and Legal Accountability in Canada

POLI 398T Sexuality, Identity and Politics

POLI 398V Discrimination in Canada

POLI 487T Canadian Multiculturalism

POLI 488E Canadian State and Societal Relations

COURSES ADDED:

POLI 361 Advocacy Group and Public Policy

POLI 411 Gender and Public Policy

POLI 431 State-Social Relations in Canada

POLI 488M Quebec, Canadian Class and Identity

CURRENTLY OFFERED:

POLI 326 Women, Ethics and the Law in Canada



LETTERS@THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

On Movember and Prostates

Ah, November. The time of the year when the leaves burst in vibrant colours as they begin to fall. Out come scarves and sweaters, and, for many men, the moustaches for the cause: the fight against prostate cancer.

Now, in my community I'm what you would call a 'power bottom'. To the power bottom, there is no greater friend and treasure than the prostate. So can you can see I have a vested interest in Movember.

Not just because it is corridor after corridor of guys looking cute sprouting their manliness, as they strut about with a sense of pride over their awareness for *the* cause. Nothing gets my juices flowing like Movember, where we men all get along in an orgy of brotherhood of joy and pleasure for our prostates.

Except Movember does not unfold in this way. Rather, Movember is a celebration of hegemonic, patriarchal, heterosexist masculinities.

Movember, which has so much potential for educating men regarding not just sexual health but also sexual pleasure, could become something all-inclusive, but it is not. It serves the purpose of reducing men back to their rigid roles as pawns of patriarchy.

Firstly, it should be noted that prostates are not solely the province of men and masculinities—women have them, too. Second, that thing called the prostate can be the source of great sexual pleasure.

As a gay male who is also permanently disabled with spina bifida, I find very little information and very little that appeals to me about Movember, in spite of how many questions I have regarding it, and indeed, concerns.

In fact, I feel alienated from the whole thing. Most likely because, rather than serving as informative and inclusive, Movember becomes just another all-heterosexual male club. Just its semiotics alone, the moustache is in itself a reproduction of exclusive masculinities.

While I am one who knows the benefits of facial hair as a means of accessorizing, I would not suggest that this is an inherent trait of all men. Indeed, not all men can grow moustaches. And when was the last time, for example that Movember made outreach to transwomen?

I will be sporting my moustache this November, and when asked if I am a supporter of Movember, I will reply "Yes. My prostate is my best friend, and it can be yours, too. Let's dismantle patriarchy together!"

—Hector Villeda-Martinez,
BA Women's Studies

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.

**REGARDING THE CUTV SITUATION****Dear members of CUTV,**

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that I am resigning as news director at CUTV, effective as of today.

First and foremost, I just want to say how much of an honour and pleasure it was to work with some of you and to get to know you over the last few months. You are all truly inspiring, and I feel like I learned a great deal from you all.

As is becoming evident to many of you, CUTV has been wrapped up in a difficult work conflict over the last few weeks. This conflict has led to the resignations of quite a few staff at the organization. We have a new transitional Board of Directors until we can have a proper Annual General Meeting.

I don't feel that it is necessary to get into the specifics of the conflict here, or to lay blame, because ultimately it is not about individuals, but about how our organization is structured and functions on a day-to-day basis.

You are all extremely intelligent people—journalists, no less—so I would encourage you to talk to other people about the changes that have been happening at the station. Talk to different people with different

perspectives, and I'm sure you will all be able to draw your own conclusions.

One thing is painfully obvious, and many of you have expressed this to me in many ways—we need a more transparent, open and democratic CUTV, where members are involved and consulted at every level of the decision-making.

Clearly, this cannot happen overnight, but it can and must happen. In membership-based organizations, the members are the highest authority. The staff works for you, and never the other way around. That should never be forgotten.

You deserve democracy, accountability and transparency. These words used to be the motto of CUTV, and we always have to hold ourselves to these standards.

Much of the tension at CUTV was based around the management structure of the station, and it became clear to many of the staff that a collective management structure will be necessary for the station to be viable in the long term.

A collective management structure would include committees that oversee the day-to-day operations of the station where everyone has an equal say, and—importantly—these committees would also include sta-

tion members, for more democratic oversight.

The membership of the station should have the final say over the general vision and direction, major expenses and budget, and management structure.

Whenever the AGM happens at CUTV—hopefully it will be in January—it is crucial that anyone concerned about the station attends, and I really hope that some of you run for spots on the Board of Directors.

The Board is the highest authority at the station, and I really hope that the people who get elected to the Board are committed to values of social justice, feminism, solidarity and egalitarian organization. I know some of you would be great as directors on the Board.

Lastly, I really hope that the current conflict doesn't discourage you, because people are working to change things for the better. I hope that you continue to volunteer at CUTV, to continue producing amazing, grassroots radical news and I hope that you can make this organization flourish.

Thanks, everyone. It's been a slice.

Love and solidarity,
Aaron Lakoff

BY SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

Heard in the Hall: TO STRIKE OR NOT TO STRIKE

THE CONCORDIA PART-TIME FACULTY ASSOCIATION HAS VOTED 95 PER CENT IN FAVOUR OF A STRIKE MANDATE—MEANING THAT IF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY BREAK DOWN, PART-TIME PROFESSORS COULD WALK OFF THE JOB. THEIR LAST CONTRACT TOOK SEVEN YEARS TO NEGOTIATE, AND EXPIRED THIS AUGUST. ARE YOU IN SUPPORT OF A POSSIBLE STRIKE?



"Yes. I think I would be in support of it. Because I feel like teachers have the rights too—the same way students have rights. So, it makes sense that for the teachers to want to go out and strike to show that they want their rights for themselves."

—Victoria Hall,
BA Philosophy



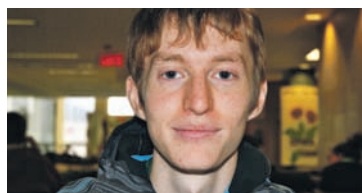
"I am not. Well, I am not completely informed on the topic, but just from what happened last year and seeing everything on the news for the student [tuition hike] strike, and how it interfered with the studies, I wouldn't really want that to happen again. I wanna get my studies over with, go out, find a job, live my life."

—Alex Hall
BEng Civil Engineering



"Yes. Because, I think the professors have the right to obtain what they want [...] As I am a French student, I know how to strike, as it is really common in France to express ourselves through striking. But I think the strike should be with peace and no violence. For me, a strike is a good way to be listened to, to be heard."

—Myrtille Bécourt,
BComm International Business –
On Exchange at John Molson School
of Business



"No. Because I don't think that it benefits the situation for anyone. I'm sure [CUPFA's] demands will be met eventually. They don't have to go on a strike for their demands to be met."

It might take some time, like you said before seven years, to negotiate, but they don't have to go on strike in order for that to happen. They could just hope that the [university] takes more efficient time than seven years this time around."

—Christopher Bahen-Tait,
BEd Teaching English as a
Second Language



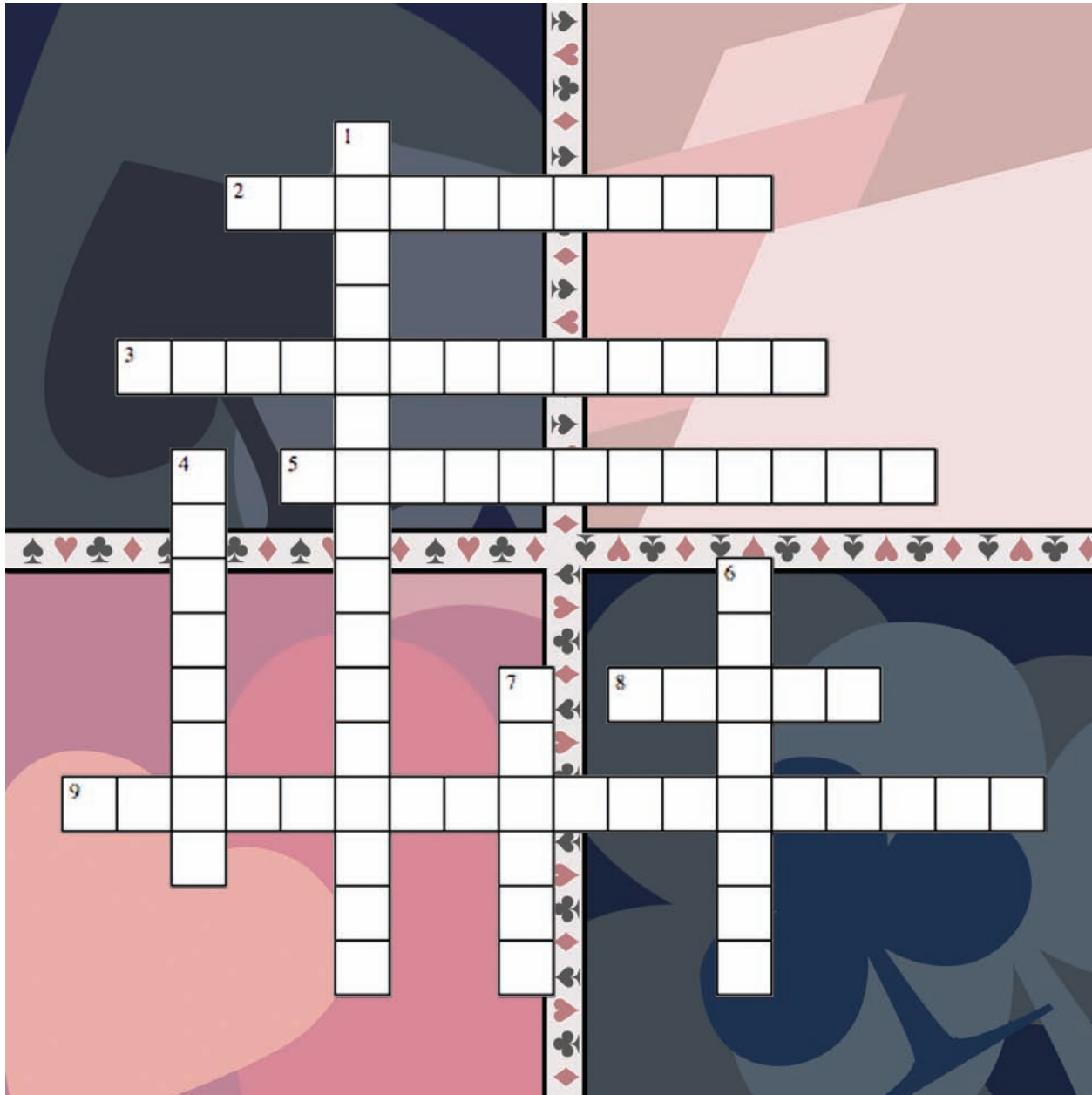
"Yes, I think striking is a completely valid form of protest. Regardless of if I support the demands of the strikers or not, I think they definitely have the right to do that [...] I hope it would be [beneficial] for the strikers."

But, yeah, like I said, I can't make that assumption; I am careful about that kind of thing. Thanks for telling me about this, cause I'll go find out what's going on now."

—Sylvain Paradis,
BA Philosophy

IT'S IN THE CARDS

BY CHRISTOPHER TAN @CHRISVTAN



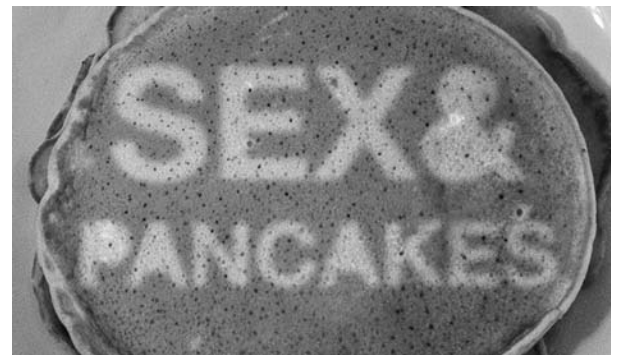
Visit our comics blog for the answers <http://thelinknewspaper.ca/blogs/comics>

ACROSS

2. The role of this pet detective—as well as starring roles *The Mask*, and *Dumb and Dumber*—launched Jim Carrey's career. All three films were released in 1994. (2 words)
3. Although technically credited with only five murders, this Victorian-era serial killer is still one of the most infamous slashers. Due to the modus operandi of the murders, it's been speculated that the killer was a doctor or surgeon. (3 words)
5. Due to the nature of their intent, this type of social organization often came under fire during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The high membership fees and homogeny it promoted were seen as implicitly favourable towards the wealthy white upper class. (2 words)
8. According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, "Bohemian Rhapsody" by this band is the United Kingdom's favorite song. A quick stop in any karaoke bar will confirm that its popularity is universal, though.
9. This James Bond film was Sean Connery's final appearance as the dapper MI6 agent. The next installment, *Live and Let Die*, saw Roger Moore take up the mantle. (3 words)

DOWN

1. This documentary about the troubles encountered during the filming of *Apocalypse Now* holds a perfect 100 per cent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes—one per cent higher than the film it was about. (3 words)
4. After the Restoration, the ending of this Shakespearian tragedy about a maniacal monarch was changed to be less depressing. Since the 19th century, the original ending is the one used—and is seen as a triumph of the Bard's literary expertise. (2 words)
6. Heath Ledger's portrayal of this character would win him an Academy Award posthumously. The actual character is ranked number one on *Wizard* magazine's list of greatest comic book villains of all time. (2 words)
7. As a fierce proponent of animal welfare, Bob Barker would end episodes of *The Price Is Right* with the line, "Help control the pet population. Have your pets — or neutered."



PROTECTION PROTECTION

I keep a condom in my wallet—just in case, you know? But I heard that the heat from my butt can cause the condom to melt, which obviously isn't good. Is this true? Where else can I put my spare rubber?

—Just in Case

You're right that it isn't a good idea to store condoms in your wallet. A lot of people still do it because it's really convenient and they'll likely always have their wallet on them.

It's not that the condoms will necessarily melt, but that over time the friction and heat from your body will break down the latex and make it more likely to tear.

It's recommended that condoms be stored at a temperature no higher than 37 C and no colder than 0 C. It's hard to tell exactly how hot your wallet can get, but given our wide range of weather temperatures, you can imagine that a condom would go through quite a lot hanging out in your wallet.

Aside from heat, you probably use your wallet a lot. You open and close it several times a day, overstuff it, and probably sit on it while it's in your back pocket. Most people don't really consider their wallets fragile, so they can take quite a beating, which means any condom inside is getting moved and rubbed around a lot.

Condoms are strong and durable, but depending on factors that are hard to measure, like your body heat and wallet friction, your "just in case" condom might be torn before it even comes out.

I don't really have a genius alternative for you that will be as convenient as your wallet, but there are really easy ways to reduce the risks of condom breakage.

Day-to-day, keep your condoms in your wallet if you must, but switch them out about every two weeks when they go unused.

Some people will hit dry spells and have the same condom in their wallet for months or even years, which is really taking a chance if it finally gets used. If you tend to have a bag on you for school or whatever, your best bet is to pick up a condom case.

Cases, which tend to carry up to three condoms, are discreet, reduce friction and some of them are small enough to fit in your wallet. Just be sure not to get a metal one, since it will definitely heat up more.

If you're going out, put a fresh condom in your wallet or case that night. If there's going to be drinking involved you'll be less likely to think about protection, so it's better to have a condom on you ready to go.

The wear from a night or a few nights in your wallet isn't likely to cause a significant amount of damage and it's much better than not having one at all. While not ideal, it's also good to remember that most bars have condom machines in their washrooms, if ever you're really stuck or unsure about the condom you have.

There's no strict formula to follow to ensure that a condom in your wallet is safe. Condoms are pretty cheap and available for free in many places, so I personally prefer to switch them out as often as possible and not take chances.

It may not be as convenient, but your best bet is really to keep a condom case elsewhere, like a bag, and consider these options when you have no other choice but your wallet.

—Melissa Fuller, @mel_full

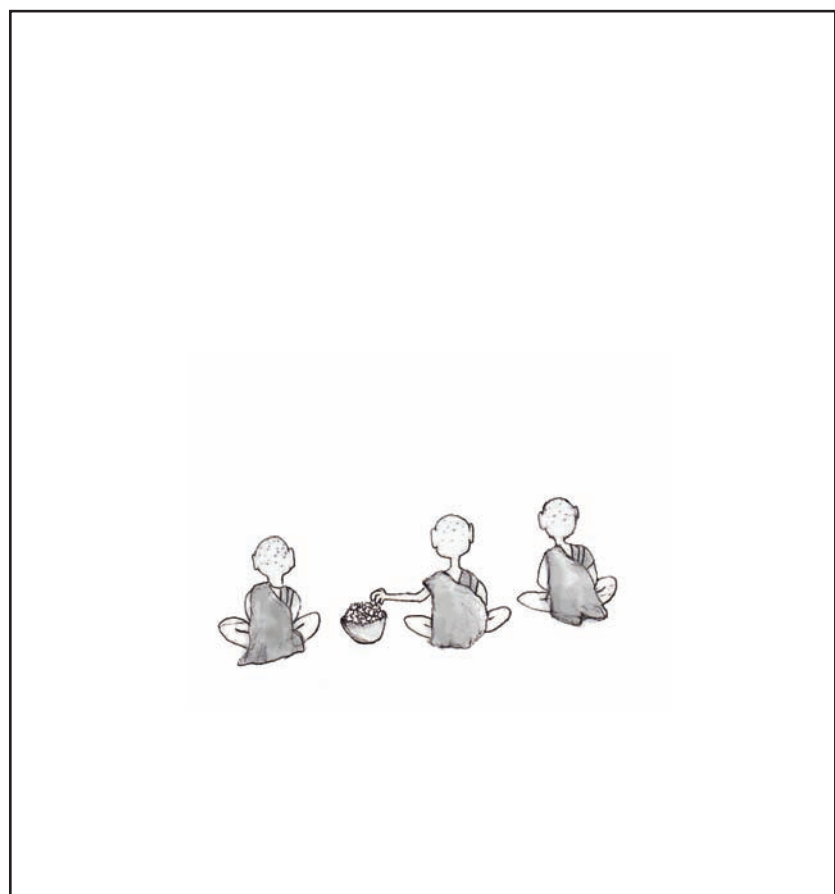
Submit your questions anonymously at sex-pancakes.tumblr.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Need some extra help? You can always contact Concordia Counselling & Development at 514-848-2424 ext. 3545 for SGW and ext. 3555 for Loyola.

Got a quick health question? Call info-sant  at 8-1-1 from any Montreal number.

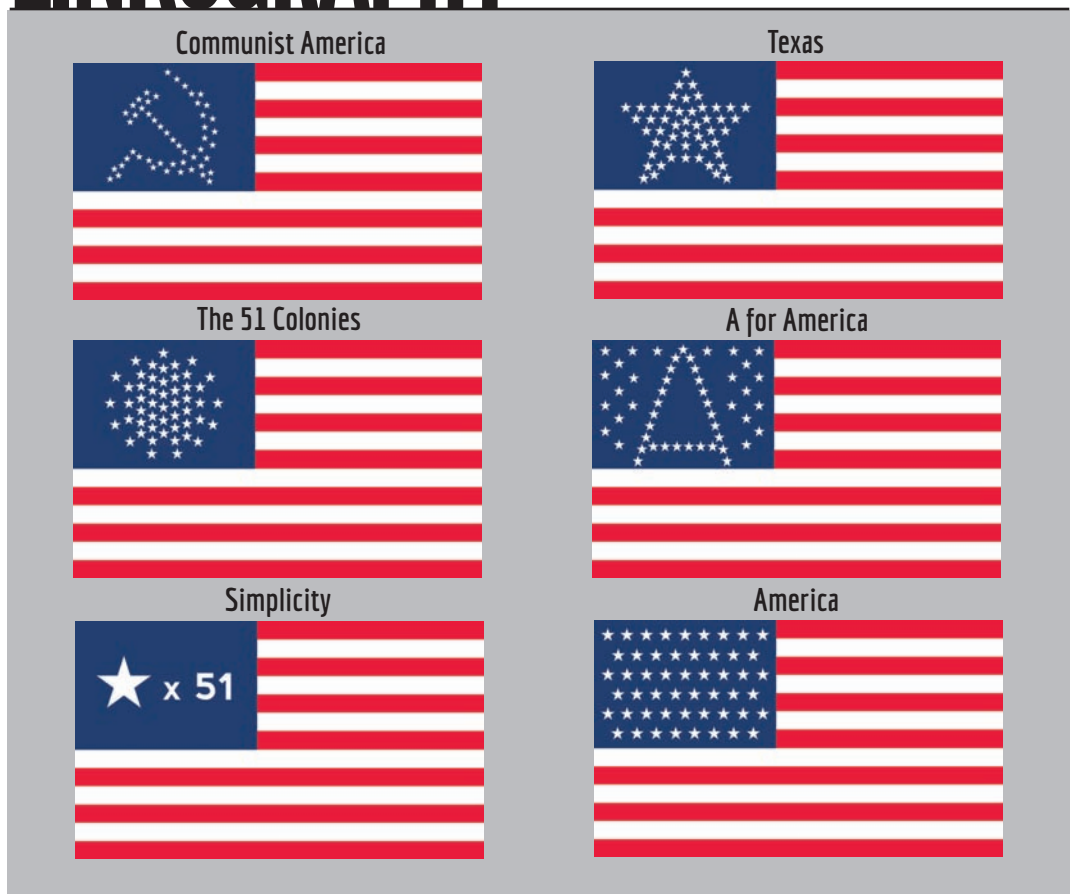
BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



LINKOGRAPHY

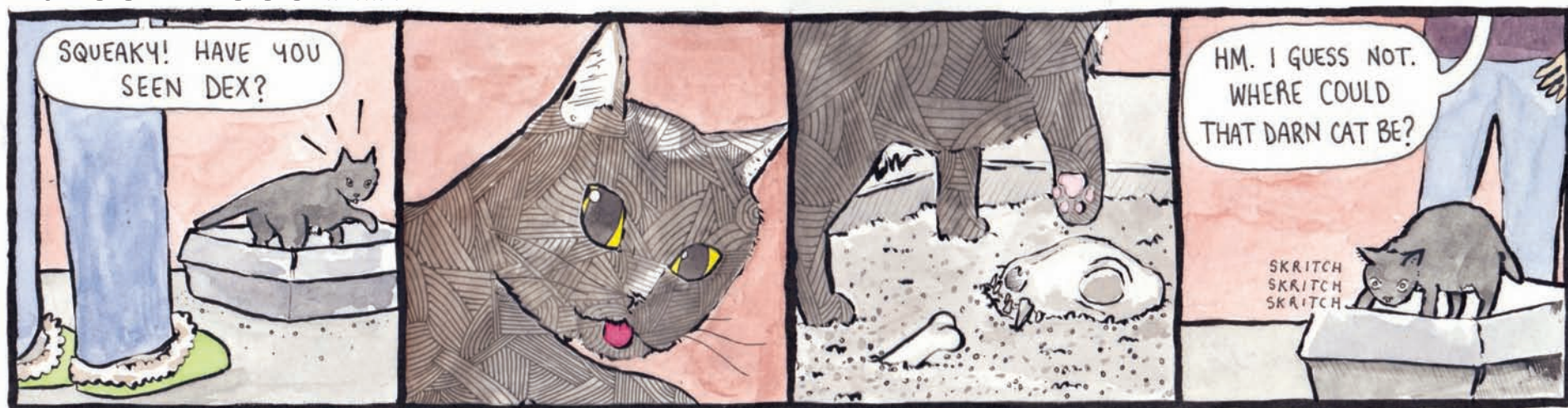
IF PUERTO RICO BECOMES A STATE



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

...Stupid Midterms

Can we talk about midterms for a second?

Yeah, I know—they're pretty balls.

If you were to guess the etymology of midterm—without knowing all the sleepless and over-caffinated marvels it entails—I think you'd expect what I did: that a midterm was a test around the middle of the semester, not quite as hard as the final, but enough to get you to digest the material.

Little did I know that instead, I would find myself with two midterms, dividing that single class into three.

I would be more than cool with that. But there is simply no logic as to when they fall. Faculties and departments are all over the place in terms of dates.

How can I be encouraged to explore and then expected to juggle conflicting midterm schedules that leave me a slave to a library cubicle throughout most of the fall?

So, to the profs of Concordia I say: C'mon, yo.

Sure, it's rather easy to rant and complain about midterms, but with all of my study areas so divergent and demanding—usually, at least; you need a bird course to bump your GPA somewhere—I just want to not have all of October and November be one giant, unwavering midterm season. That, practically, is my term.

Now, some of you may say, "Well, Andrew, you should just plan better." And I would pretend you said nothing.

Hmm. I'll stop talking to myself now. I think we took a little bit of a Clint Eastwood-and-an-empty-chair route at the end there.

So let's finish off strong: Hillary 2016! Get out and vote!

— Andrew Brennan
Assistant News Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

Editorial



ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND MISCOMMUNICATION

The Link's grievances with Concordia have historically been about policy. Now, they're about morality.

We've fundamentally disagreed with their methods and priorities, but we had an understanding that we shared a mutual goal—the goal of improving this university.

On Friday, that idea of that common purpose was shattered.

A press release sent out by Concordia—titled, “Concordia responds to homestay allegations”—proved that the administration is more engrossed with its own image than the wellbeing of its students.

The university is defending Peter Low, its recruitment agent for Chinese students, the man multiple foreign students allege set them up in deplorably expensive living situations.

In the statement, the university refers to “complaints reported on by the media.” These complaints, made by Chinese students recruited through Concordia's program, are not detailed in the press release. But as the publication that broke the initial story, we're happy to do that for them.

There was the complaint that the students were given meagre

meals that would have disappointed *Oliver Twist*.

There was also the issue that Low charged students exorbitant amounts of money, typically in cash. And don't forget that these students—who were placed in homestays by Low—never got to sign leases.

Concordia, however, wasn't releasing a statement to address these month-old issues.

The day before the statement was released, *The Link* published excerpts of emails sent by Low to a student in which he claimed homestays were a requirement and that residences were reserved for Montreal-based students only.

It's an outrageous lie, and leaves no room for ambiguity or “misunderstandings.”

But the university is confident that “written exchanges [provided by Low] and other evidence gathered to date suggest that the complaints reported on by the media are likely the result of miscommunication.”

Surely they're joking.

While the university claims it hasn't found enough students to suggest a systemic problem, no one else who touched this story has struggled with that.

The Link referred to six students in the original article and quoted two more in a follow-up this week. Based on what we've heard off the record, we're confident that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Concordia Student Union's legal clinic and the Housing and Job Bank have spoken with more. The Graduate Students' Association managed to find students to speak to the public at a rally organized to support them.

But somehow, Concordia says they're not hearing from the students themselves. Well, the way they're going about things, they won't.

Concordia, stop touting an email as a grand attempt at getting in touch.

Mass-emailing 5,200 international students is not “gathering evidence.” It's a weak attempt at contacting a group of people who will probably ignore one more university message in an inbox filled with International Student Office newsletters—if they can even read them in the first place.

These are students specifically in this situation because English is their second language. Trying to get in touch with them exclusively

in a language you know they're not proficient in is as tactless as it is unproductive.

But let's assume for a moment that the students in this situation did open, read and understand the implications of the email.

Put yourself in their shoes. These students come from a country that gives them good reason to be skeptical of putting their names on the line and sticking their necks out. There's a reason so many of them have insisted we not use their last names.

In some cases, their families have spent everything they had in order to allow them to pursue a Canadian education. Now you're asking them to take the initiative of starting a conversation with the university, after we referenced students whose parents specifically instructed them to not do that.

Concordia seems to think that these students walked in to our newsroom and opened up about their life stories. That's not how it went down.

Our reporters spent four weeks reaching out to individuals and gaining their trust.

It would have taken longer if not for the large volume of re-

search already done by the CSU and HoJo.

There is absolutely no reason that, with all its resources and connections, the university can't seem to take the time or make the effort to do the same work our two reporters did. There is no excuse for their lacklustre “evidence-gathering” efforts.

Concordia, next time there is a rally for these students—send someone.

Call up as many current and former homestay students as possible and just let them talk. Call the Concordia Chinese Students Association for help. Visit these students in their classes in the School of Extended Learning. There are plenty of ways to get the word out.

More importantly, don't brush off these very real experiences as “misunderstandings.”

Don't tell these students they don't understand what happened to them.

And please do not email the press to say that Peter Low—the man at the centre of this web of deception—“adhered to the highest standards.”

That just tells all of us how low you set the bar.

◆ GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

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