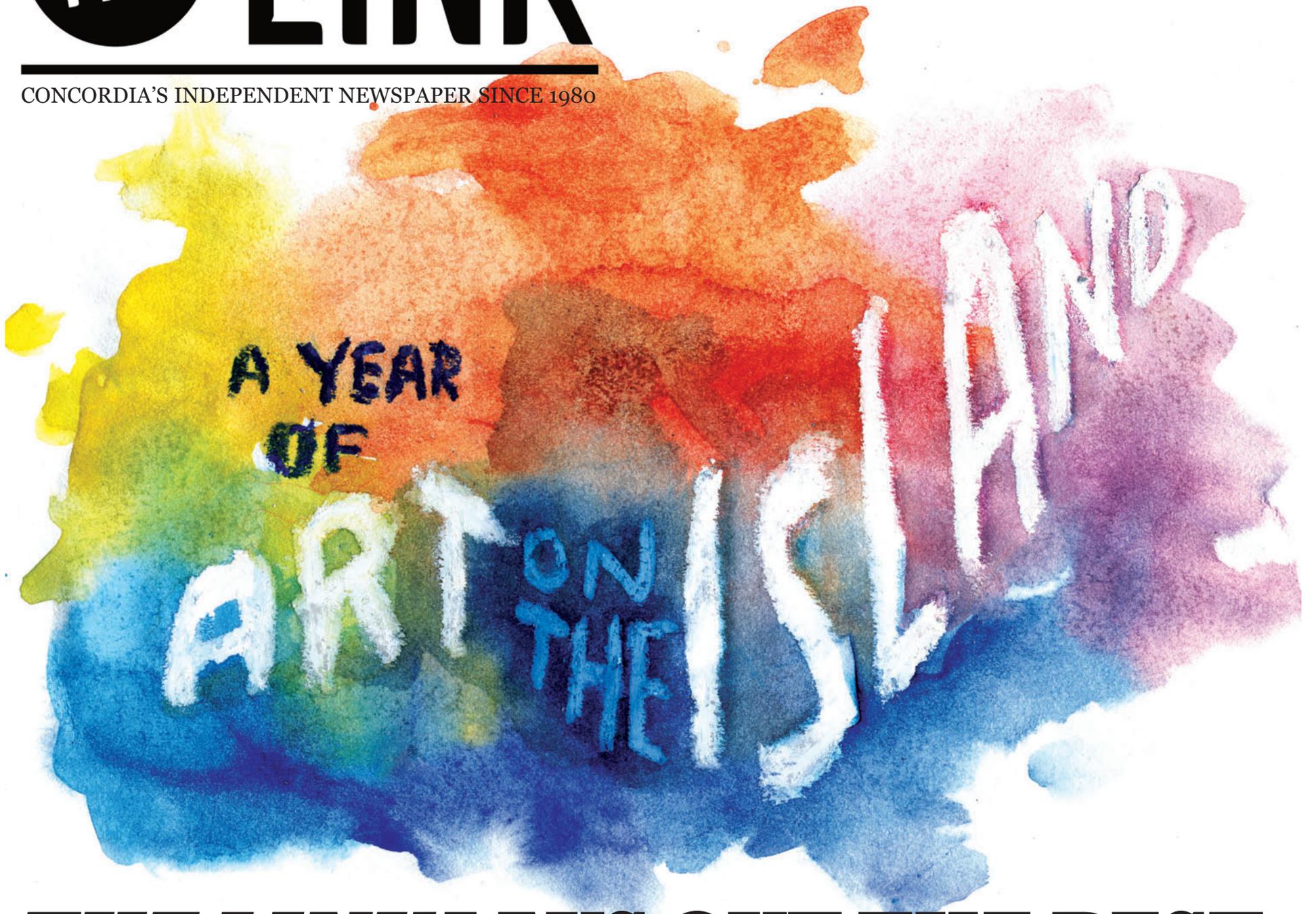


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PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

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# TRAIN STANDS STILL, MEETING MOVES FORWARD

*by Andrew Brennan*

**For the second** time in less than a week, a trackside Idle No More protest closed down the most popular commercial rail line in the country.

The demonstration, which started around 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening, halted all traffic on the Montreal-Toronto train corridor just east of Bellevue Station.

Members from the surrounding Tyendinaga Mohawk community, in conjunction with the growing Idle No More movement, joined the protest.

The movement aims to protect land and water treaty rights proponents say are being threatened, as well as advocate for other indigenous people's issues.

*Continued on Page 5*

## THE LINK ONLINE



PHOTO COREY POOL

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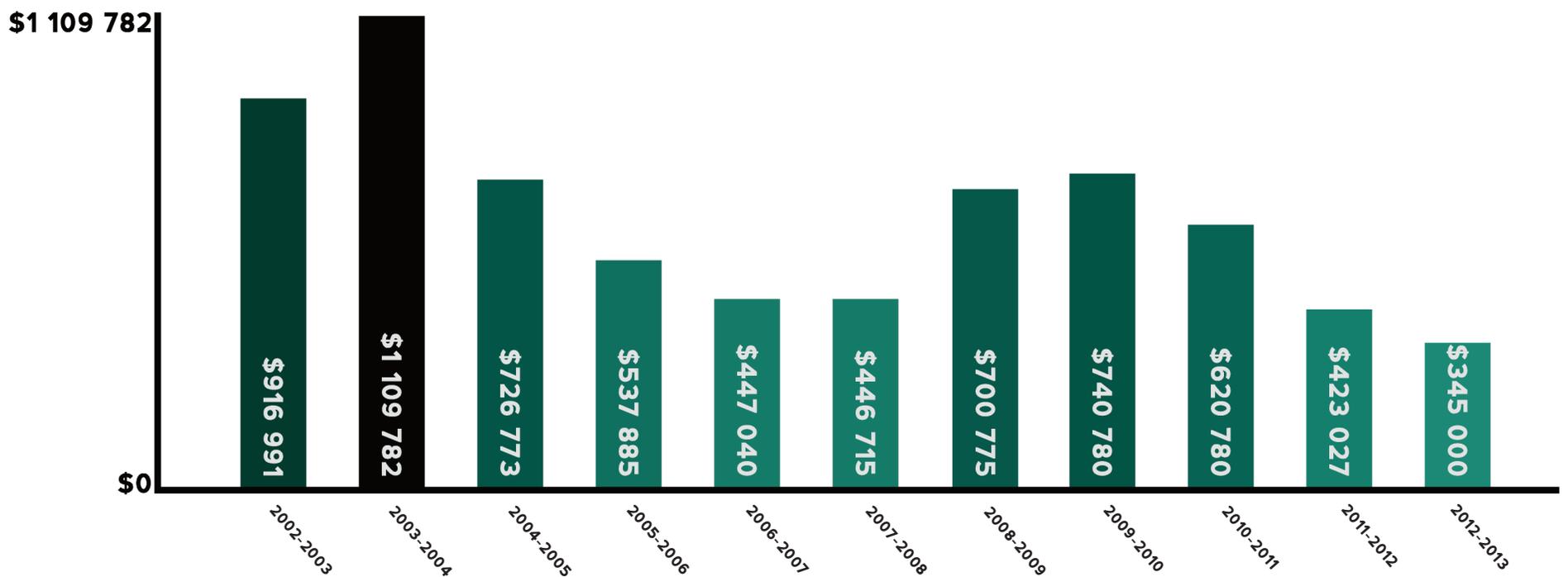
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# PROVINCIAL CUTS THREATEN RESEARCH AT CONCORDIA



The infographic represents the research funds Concordia has received in the past 10 years. It remains to be seen how the recent cuts will affect the university's 2013-2014 funding. GRAPHIC JAYDE NORSTRÖM

## Quebec Science and Technology Funding Cut by 30%

BY JANE GATENSBY  
@JANEGATENSBY

University researchers and administrators are rattled by the provincial government's decision to cut their support of scientific research through the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies from \$50.1 million to \$35.2 million in the next fiscal year.

Announced Dec. 6, the cuts follow \$124 million shaved from university operating budgets.

In an interview with Radio-Canada, Pierre Duchesne—the head of the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche, de la science et de la technologie—said the cuts to the FRQNT come as a consequence of the terminated Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation.

New funding will come with a new national research policy, to be announced sometime in 2013-14. In the meantime, Quebec's scientific community is worried

about how the cuts might affect their work. A petition against the cuts, launched by a group of Quebec researchers, assistants and technicians, has gathered over 9,000 signatures online.

Guillaume Lamoureux, an assistant professor in Concordia's department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is among those who signed the petition. In an interview with *The Link*, Lamoureux called the cuts an "inexplicable and unwise decision."

He explained that the FRQNT is instrumental in setting up strategic clusters for research that "bring people together to work on transdisciplinary questions, [...] things that cannot be investigated from the point of view of only one specialist."

Lamoureux said that if any of the clusters could not get their funding renewed because of the cuts, the FRQNT would "pull the plug" on research already in progress.

"If your budget goes to zero,

you stop existing," said Lamoureux.

He added that the clusters "take a long time to build," and that they are "the envy of most researchers outside Quebec."

"Scientists don't sign petitions that quickly, usually," said Lamoureux about the scientific community's protest to the cuts. "We're a more reserved bunch. To see so many people sign that petition in a matter of a few days—it's quite surprising."

Robert Sonin, president of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, said that the cuts would "hit individual researchers directly."

He added, "the government's strategy toward higher education and research in general seems to be precisely the opposite of what a rational person would do to improve the university sector."

Concordia currently hosts six research teams that receive FRQNT funding, amounting to \$285,000 in total. The FRQNT also allocated \$60,000 for the hiring of three new researchers at Concordia in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Xiupu Zhang, a professor in Concordia's department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, researches broadband and high-output power photodiodes and optical receivers for millimetre-wave wireless and

coherent optical communications.

He has been receiving \$48,000 from FRQNT for this project for the past two years. He told *The Link* that it would be very difficult to find other sources of funding if the cuts go through.

"We have something like a 20-per-cent success rate [in getting grants]," he said.

Zhang said that his team's research is crucial because it contributes to important technological advances.

"Right now, we have a big gain for high-speed information technology. Why do you have high speed? Because we have developed [this] technology."

The Fonds de recherche's two other sub-funds, FRQ - Santé and FRQ - Société et culture will also be cut, but by only 13 per cent. Concordia received over \$1.5 million from the FRQ - Société et culture in 2012-13. The Fonds de recherche also offers substantial research scholarships for students.

The cuts were referenced in a Dec. 19 *Concordia NOW* article published online, pointing out that "funding reductions at Quebec's granting agencies could affect Concordia's research activities."

Dominique Michaud, associate director of research develop-

ment at Concordia's Office of Research, said her office had not yet received any information on how the cuts might impact Concordia.

"We know that it's in the air, but we don't know yet what will be the specific impact on the budgets," she said.

As Michaud explained, Concordia will have to wait until each of the Fonds de recherche Boards of Governors meet and decide how the cuts will be distributed.

Although many of Concordia's research teams are on the first of a three-year contract from the FRQ, Michaud said that funding for the remaining years is not guaranteed in light of the cuts.

"It has been seen in the past that basically, they would honour the grant—but they would revise the numbers," she said.

When asked whether research projects would have to be abandoned because of the cuts, Michaud said, "We would have to look specifically into each project. [...] The Fonds de recherche du Québec is an important source of revenue, but there are other agencies out there that we can apply to."

Still, Michaud said that grant money from the FRQ has a "powerful impact on research at Concordia," and that "roughly 50 per cent of grant money goes to student support of some kind."

"If your budget goes to zero, you stop existing."

—Guillaume Lamoureux, Assistant Professor in Concordia's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

# IDLING ONCE MORE

## Rail Blockades Stall Travellers as Harper's Meeting With First Nations Chiefs Approaches

"We're here to show the First Nations leadership and the government of this country that our leaders can go to the table next week in a position of power instead of a position of pity, and knowing they have the people backing them. We can shut the goods down east to west, north to south."

—Dan Doreen, Tyendinaga Protester

BY ANDREW BRENNAN  
@BRENNAMEN

Continued from Page 3

**A meeting between** Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and chiefs from the Assembly of First Nations is scheduled for this Friday—and Tyendinaga protesters say the native leadership needs leverage.

"We're here to show the First Nations leadership and the government of this country that our leaders can go to the table next week in a position of power instead of a position of pity, and knowing they have the people backing them," said Tyendinaga protester Dan Doreen to the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

"We can shut the goods down east to west, north to south."

Four VIA trains were stopped en route until past midnight Sunday morning.

According to VIA Rail spokesperson Jacques Gagnon, around 1,000 customers were affected by the stoppage, though that number could have ballooned to over 8,000 if the blockade had continued throughout the weekend.

"Sundays are very busy travel days during the holiday season," explained Gagnon, with people returning to work or studies in greater numbers "at the last minute."

At least 2,500 travellers were delayed during the previous stoppage, which occurred Dec. 30, though that blockade lasted for two fewer hours than the demonstration this Sunday.

Gagnon said VIA personnel were more prepared this time around, with the Ontario Provincial Police informing them beforehand of the possibility of a protest.

Passengers left stranded trackside around Ontario and Montreal were redirected to chartered buses

to get around the blockade.

This was in contrast to last Saturday, when buses only arrived after three and a half hours and weren't ultimately used—travellers were advised just before boarding that the tracks had finally been cleared.

However, passengers had to wait almost another hour before embarking once more.

During the blockade, information was sparse—both to passengers and internally to VIA personnel.

According to a VIA train supervisor wishing only to be identified as Luke, emails explaining the situation to personnel only arrived at 6:50 p.m.—ten minutes before the blockade was originally slated to end.

### Sarnia Blockade

The Montreal-Toronto train corridor was not the only railway blocked, as Idle No More and its tactics continued to grow.

In Sarnia, ON, a 13-day ordeal only ended last Wednesday after the Canadian National Railway Company filed multiple court injunctions to remove the blockade.

Other transport arteries have been blocked, including border crossings in Sarnia and Cornwall, ON.

CN Rail also owns the tracks between Montreal and Toronto used commercially by VIA Rail.

According to CN spokesperson Jim Feeny, both blockades near Bellevue Station triggered sensors on rail crossing signal devices.

Tampering with signal devices is a federal offence, Feeny said, and trains cannot legally run while the alarm is raised.

"CN will seek to prosecute anyone who tampered with the signal," he added.

But according to reports from APTN and Tyendinaga Mohawk

Chief R. Donald Maracle, the protests were never on track lines to begin with.

The exact location of signal devices in reference to train tracks could not be divulged "for national security reasons," said Feeny—but he says VIA personnel did see demonstrators on the tracks.

### Chugging Forward

Though the train blockade ended on Sunday, proponents of the Idle No More movement say they will continue demonstrations as a meeting between Harper and First Nations leaders is set for this Friday.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11 in support of the grassroots movement, says she plans to attend.

Since she began her campaign for a meeting with the prime minister and a representative of the Crown to discuss treaty rights on water and reserve land as well as poverty, loss of reserve funding and other indigenous issues.

"There are a lot of issues that have to be talked about: the right to education, the right to tax immunity, the right to health care and to have a proper and fair share of the resource well in this country, which fuels the entire Canadian economy," said Maracle.

The major concern from the evolving Idle No More movement is the omnibus Bill C-45 implemented last month by the Conservative government, which dissenters argue makes it easier for reserve land to be exploited for its natural resources.

After weeks of dismissing calls to meet with Spence and other First Nations leaders, Harper announced on Friday that he would meet with the AFN.

Though dialogue is a good sign, Idle No More supporter and originator of the Twitter hashtag #idlenomore Tanya Kappo says she isn't expecting much progress.

"I hate to seem like such a cynic," said Kappo, "and looking ahead to Friday I don't see anything different at all [resulting from the meeting]."

"I'm not aware at this time of any 'grassroots' people getting invited to meeting," said Tanya Kappo. "Even the statement that the prime minister made in announcing the meeting made no mention of Chief Spence or Idle No More."

## IDLE NO MORE TIMELINE

- **Late October:** Jessica Gordon, Sheelah McLean, Sylvia McAdams and Nina Wilsonfeld begin discussing concerns with Bill C-45 via email. They deem the legislation detrimental to indigenous land and water rights.
- **Nov. 10, 2012:** Styled as a teach-in, the first Idle No More meeting is organized by Gordon, McLean, McAdams and Wilsonfeld in Saskatoon. Similar events pop up in Regina, Winnipeg and Prince Albert, SK in the following days.
- **Dec. 2, 2012:** "#idlenomore" enters the social media lexicon after first being used by movement organizer Tanya Kappo.
- **Dec. 6, 2012:** During a second reading of Bill C-45, Assembly of First Nations chiefs attempt to enter the House of Commons in protest. Proposed amendments to the bill, put forth by the New Democratic Party opposition, are blocked by the Conservative majority.
- **Dec. 10, 2012:** Billed as a national day of action, thousands of Idle No More supporters take to the streets in a slew of cities across Canada. Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence announces her hunger strike.
- **Dec. 11, 2012:** Spence begins a liquids-only hunger strike to pressure Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Crown representatives and other First Nations chiefs to discuss economic development for reserves.
- **Dec. 17, 2012:** Canadian National Railway Company lines in Sarnia, ON are blocked by Idle No More protesters. The occupation lasts 13 days, eventually removed after CN Rail files two injunctions against protest spokesperson Ron Plain for contempt for not having disbanded the blockade.
- **Dec. 30, 2012:** Protesters from the Tyendinaga Mohawk reserve halt trains along the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto corridor for over four hours, with trackside banners calling for solidarity with Spence and her campaign to meet the prime minister. Leaders of Idle No More issue an online statement distancing the movement from band council chiefs, saying the movement has "a clear mandate [...] to work outside of the systems of government and that is what we will continue to do."
- **Jan. 4, 2013:** Harper agrees to meet with First Nations leaders. Spence says she intends to attend, but will continue her hunger strike until then.
- **Jan. 5, 2013:** Supporters block several border crossings, including the Seaway International Bridge in Cornwall, ON and a crossing in Sarnia. Another train blockade is set up outside Belleville, ON—this marks the second stoppage on the line in a week.
- **Jan. 6, 2013:** The Quebec arm of Idle No More organizes the first teach-in in the province.
- **Jan. 11, 2013:** Chiefs from the Assembly of First Nations, along with Spence, are scheduled to sit down for a "working meeting" with Harper on this date. Representatives for Spence have said her hunger strike might continue past this date, if progress is not made.

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# CSU TO BEGIN CAMPAIGNING TOWARD EDUCATION SUMMIT

*Online Process Will Allow Student Ideas to Be Heard*

BY COREY POOL @COREYRIVER

With about a month left before the long-awaited provincial summit on education takes place in Quebec, the Concordia Student Union is making a move.

Seeking student input, the CSU is launching a new campaign that aims to create a multi-purpose document to establish a set of priorities, policies and propositions to bring to the Fédération étudiante universitaire de Québec, the student federation that will represent the union at the summit in February.

The CSU postered around campus advertising for student involvement with the summit and has been working with the FEUQ internally, but is now hoping to take a more affirmative role.

“There’s been a buzz about all of this on campus for a while,” said CSU VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon, who is spearheading the campaign and who represents the CSU at the FEUQ. “This campaign is just the crunch time—the really serious period where it’s going to be more visible than in the past.”

According to Lauzon, the FEUQ has been meeting to formulate propositions to bring to its meetings with the government based on its own research and the core positions that the FEUQ has held for some time.

Individual members and other universities have always been able to bring their own motions to the FEUQ to have them voted on and brought to the table, but Lauzon says the CSU hasn’t been doing this.

“We don’t have any documents to speak of in terms of very specific academic issues,” he said. “We had



Concordia Student Union VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon is hoping to get students involved in the upcoming summit on education.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

a mandate to be against the tuition increase last year and we’ve been pushing that at the FEUQ. [...] But we’ve never had a document or policy booklet to bring to the FEUQ to lobby them to represent our point of view.”

To this end, the document or policy book that the CSU hopes to create has two main purposes.

The first is to fulfill the consultation process with the government at the summit by way of guidelines brought to the FEUQ, and to make sure the opinions of Concordia students are represented at that level.

The second aim is more self-serving.

“The second purpose is to have a medium- to long-term document

to work with at the CSU level—not only with the FEUQ, but with Senate and other academic bodies at Concordia,” said Lauzon. “It’s basically a set of priorities for future VP Academics and senators to base themselves on and work with.”

While Lauzon and a crew of volunteers are working to compile specific priorities for the document, one of the main points of this campaign will be to get the student body involved in the process.

“The idea of adding new things from the student perspective is to keep the door open for anyone to come in with their own propositions and add it to the document,” said Lauzon. “Then we’ll let the people decide if they want that to be

the priority of the CSU.”

Students who wish to add positions to the document can send their ideas, backed by three research articles, to Lauzon by email, where they will be reviewed and added to a website to be voted on.

All of this needs to be completed in time for the FEUQ congress being held between Feb. 6 and Feb. 8.

## Going Digital

Lauzon has decided that an online survey is the best way to allow students to vote on the propositions that will be added to the finalized document.

Over the next few days a website will be created to facilitate the en-

tire process and will include student-proposed positions, comment sections and a survey that will allow students to vote on which points should be included in the final document.

The CSU will be hiring a company to create the website from scratch. They’ll also be using Survey Monkey, a company that provides survey elements to the website.

The funding for this project will come from the CSU’s campaigns budget line. The CSU will also hold an informational general assembly, or a town hall meeting, on Jan. 24, where students can debate and add ideas or positions to be considered for the final document.

## OFFICIAL ASFA EDUCATION SUMMIT POSITION DELAYED

### MAs Say Missing Information Slowed Process

BY ANDREW BRENNAN  
@BRENNAMEN

Arts and Science students are at risk of not having their voices heard at the upcoming summit on education.

In September, member associations of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations were each mandated to determine and submit a position on the upcoming summit, though many have yet to do so.

The idea was initially put forth by The School of Community and

Public Affairs Student Association and was accepted unanimously by ASFA council members.

“The information about which issues would be discussed at the Education Summit, as well as the different solutions and options that would be available in regards to said issues were late in coming,” said Rosalie Di Lollo, Co-President of the Applied Human Sciences Student Association.

The education summit subcommittee was set up by ASFA in October and tasked with providing information to MAs as well as

aiding them in holding general assemblies or referenda.

According to Di Lollo, it was “not until late October that AH-SCSA obtained the information it deemed necessary in order to hold a GA from ESSC.”

ASFA VP Academic Eric-Moses Gashirabake, Sr., who sits on the ESSC, says that with no more delays trickling down to stop them, he is hopeful that GAs will be conducted by mid-January.

VP Internal of the Student of Philosophy Association Ian Borsuk says that SoPhiA has planned

to assemble its members in January, but does not have a specific date.

Similarly, Di Lollo explained in an email to *The Link* that the AH-SCSA will hold a GA sometime this month.

Though he says a vast majority of MAs have already conducted assemblies, Gashirabake Sr. was unable to provide an official list to *The Link*.

Once MA positions are in to the ESSC, Gashirabake Sr. says questions will be formulated and posed to ASFA members. From

there, he says the answers will be tabled into unified views to pass on to the Concordia Student Union.

The CSU is expected to give positions from its faculties as part of a policy booklet for the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

The FEUQ, which lobbies on behalf of the CSU and other student university associations, will present students’ concerns next month at the highly anticipated higher education summit hosted by the provincial government.

# CON U CATCH UP



## What You Missed While You Were Out

BY MEGAN DOLSKI @MEGANDOLSKI

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

#### ConU Space Case Continues

Despite promising to do so prior to the holidays, the Concordia Student Union has not yet distributed a survey to students at large, requesting input on their school space needs.

CSU VP Internal and Clubs Nadine Atallah said students can expect the survey to appear in their email inboxes in the coming days. She said that by the time the survey was prepared and ready-to-go, there was not enough time to send it out en-masse before the break.

Otherwise, Atallah says that the CSU—alongside contracted project management company MHPM—is on track and should be able to meet all future deadlines set out in their projected timeline.

The CSU is currently beginning

talks with student and fee levy groups concerning their space wants and needs. Atallah says that MHPM met with the ad-hoc student space committee prior to the break to update them on all progress made to date, and that the executive is becoming increasingly involved in the student space project.

#### CUTV Staff Remain Unknown and Unpaid

On Dec. 13, Concordia University Television's provisional Board of Directors held its first official meeting. The provisional BoD established several working groups to divvy up tasks, in an attempt to streamline the process of getting the station back on its feet.

Prior to the holidays, the admin-

istrative working group was tasked with investigating CUTV's existing staff contracts and asked to report back with findings by Dec. 20.

This report has yet to be approved by the provisional BoD. Until it has been, exactly who will be paid—and when—cannot be determined. Former *The Link* news editor and provisional-BoD treasurer Julian Ward said the body will be meeting soon to address the matter.

#### Another Contentious Night at Council

In what became a saga plagued with procedural confusion, a fair share of shouting and perhaps too many tweets referencing crack cocaine, the Concordia Student Union met on Dec. 12 for the last time in 2012.

The meeting saw a few unfamiliar faces joining the table—as councillors elected in the November byelection attended their first regular council meeting since stepping into their roles.

Topics of discussion included questions and criticisms concerning VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki's post-mortem Orientation report, and the timing and quality of her currently incomplete Orientation how-to guide.

The feasibility of upcoming byelections was addressed; the executive spoke out against the idea due to the finances required. In lieu, council created a committee to discuss options relating to the lack of Fine Arts representation on council, recognizing that that faculty is currently unrepresented.

Additionally, council agreed to support the implementation of a Student Refugee Program at Concordia, brought forth by the university's branch of World University Services Canada.

#### ECA Seeks Accreditation

The Engineering and Computer Science Association is seeking accreditation—a step that ECA President Ali Talhouni deems crucial to the future of the organization. Campaigning starts Jan. 14 and goes until Jan. 25.

The polling period is set to run from Jan. 28 to Feb. 15. Talhouni says the far-reaching faculty association needs to band together in order to be successful, saying, "We're engineers, and engineers can do anything."

### CON U NEWS

#### Scenes From Senate

Concordia's Senate met Dec. 7 for their final meeting of 2012. While they managed to discuss everything from curriculum changes to the possible effects new budget cuts could have on the academic plan, the meeting itself lasted only an hour. Watch closely, CSU, you might learn something.

The body's next meeting is slated for Jan. 18.

#### A Bit More Broke Than Before

On Dec. 11, Concordia University received some unsettling news—the Quebec government will be docking the school's operating grant \$13.2 million this

fiscal year.

Concordia Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelley and interim Provost and Vice-President Lisa Ostiguy will be talking to the Concordia community to address concerns and seek input before moving forward with a plan of action.

Students can expect to find an e-newsletter in their inboxes on Jan. 10 with details on how to register for the discussion sessions, which will be capped in size, and kept small. As a result, pre-registration is probably the best bet for those interested in being involved.

#### Damn, We're Movin' on Up

For those of you coming back to school dragging your heels, you're

in luck—ascending the Hall Building just became a little less labour-intensive. You can now ride functional escalators all the way up!

The last of the building's new escalators were installed over the university's winter break. The new escalators are currently undergoing final tests and last-minute alterations—so minor service interruptions can be expected in the coming week.

Still, Concordia spokesperson Cléa Desjardins says that this completes the building's escalator renovation project—bringing it to a close four per cent under budget and three months ahead of its scheduled termination date.

"Should be smooth riding from here on in," she said.

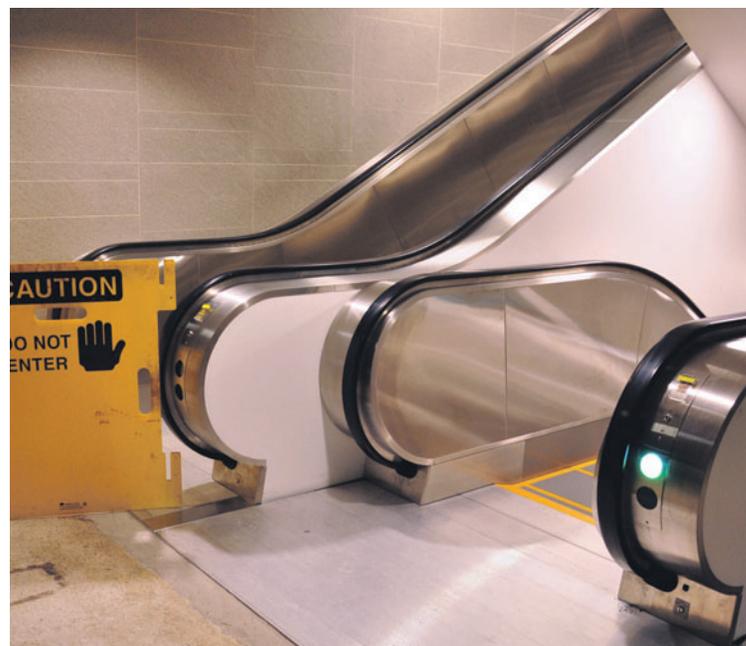


PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

## CITY BRIEFS

BY MICHAEL WROBEL @MICHAEL\_WROBEL

#### UQAM Building to House Students?

Seven students at the Université du Québec à Montréal have asked the provincial government to help them transform the unfinished Îlot Voyageur building—located at the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. E. and Berri St.—into a student housing cooperative.

UQAM began construction on the building in 2005 in a public-private partnership with real estate firm Busac, but \$300 million in cost overruns led the provincial government to take control of the project in 2010.

The government announced in 2011 that it would sell the building and build a new medical school on the remaining land, but the plan disappointed students concerned with rising rent in the neighbourhood.

#### Ambulance Workers on Strike

Thirty strikers held a protest outside of Urgences-Santé's Montreal headquarters Sunday after about 2,500 ambulance workers province-wide began an unlimited general strike on Dec. 24, demanding that Quebec's health ministry return to the bargaining table.

The paramedics have been without a contract since March 2010 and have been negotiating with the province since Feb. 2011.

As a pressure tactic, workers will no longer be warning emergency rooms when bringing in non-urgent cases, making work harder for hospital staff. This tactic is being used since, as an essential service, paramedics cannot withhold emergency care during a contract dispute.

#### Local ERs Overwhelmed

Montreal-area emergency rooms are overwhelmed with people experiencing flu-like symptoms, according to *The Gazette*, as the number of flu-like cases reported across Quebec has risen to 1,800 a week.

Lakeshore General, St. Mary's, Lachine, Verdun, Maisonneuve-Rosemont, Jean Talon and the Jewish General are among the hospitals overwhelmed by greater numbers of ER visits. Public health officials are asking people to only visit a hospital if cold or flu-like symptoms persist for more than a couple of days.

#### Ice Hotel Opening Slowed

The Village des Neiges opened in Parc Jean-Drapeau this weekend, but the ice hotel is not ready to welcome visitors just yet.

The hotel's construction was delayed by the Dec. 27 snowstorm that dumped a record-breaking 45 cm of snow on the city, as equipment needed to build the village was instead used to clear the city's streets.

The official opening of the site has been delayed until Jan. 18, by which time the ice hotel will be completed. In the meantime, the bar and ice restaurant are open, and admission is free until Jan. 9.

# URBANIA GOES ANGLO

by Jane Gatensby @jagatensby

## —And Finds Some Love West of Papineau

Sometimes, as a reader, you come across an idea that has been bouncing around your head for so long, it's as though the author was reading your mind when they wrote it. "Yes!" you say. "That's exactly what I was thinking!"

For the English-speaking Montrealer, *Urbania's* latest issue contains a million of these moments.

Take, for example, a piece by Aleksis K. Lepage that proclaims that if an anglo wants to understand and be understood anywhere east of Papineau Ave., they must be able to speak not just French, but *joual* as well.

"Well, of course!" you exclaim, while rushing to look up the precise meaning of *crisser son camp*.

*Urbania*, a French-language glossy, publishes four issues a year. Each takes

on a new subject, with past issues tackling sex, Parisians and the student strike. The magazine says its mission is to "make the ordinary extraordinary."

With a hundred pages devoted exclusively to our misunderstood solitude, its *Spécial anglos* is a strange hybrid. Part anthropological exposé of English Quebec for its habitual francophone audience, part platform for anglo angst and part plea for mutual understanding, it is simultaneously tender and brash, apologetic and accusing.

Somewhere in between, it hits the right notes. Which is not bad for a magazine "made by frogs," as the cover states.

Shielded by humour and sheer ridiculousness—the cover photograph features two pounds of pickled pork tongues—the issue delves into the heart of Quebec's linguistic divide with a fearlessness that

makes for fantastic reading.

What's most appealing are its tidbits of personalized honesty, like when West-Islander Jesse Toufexis confesses that he's only at ease with French after consuming too many drinks. Or when comedian and writer Kim Lizotte confesses that the main downside to dating an anglo man is that he takes forever to say, "I love you."

The issue also features reporting you simply wouldn't see anywhere else, like profiles of famous anglo-franco couples or "*Anglos et séparatistes*," an interview with three anglophones who want Quebec to be independent.

Taken with a thick skin, it's a not-bad representation of anglos—and likely a way for francophones to understand us a little better.

All we want, after all, is a little recognition. Or something.

## The Link talked to *Urbania's* rédactrice en chef, Catherine Perreault-Lessard, to find out how it all went down:

### ► Where did the idea of doing an issue about anglophones come from?

At *Urbania*, we like to tackle subjects that are a bit prickly or a bit taboo, like lesbians and obesity, for example. And one of the most contested subjects in Quebec is its anglos. It forced us to come out of our comfort zone a bit, to rock the boat.

### ► Why do you think that anglos are such a delicate subject in Quebec?

Language is a very emotional subject. Whenever we wrote articles about language issues on our blog, they always got the most comments, the biggest reaction.

We published an article called, "Sorry, I don't speak French," and years later it's still one of the most-read articles on our blog.

So you'd have to say it's a good subject! It took on a new dimension after the shooting at the Metropolis—it's as though it's become even more delicate.

### ► What sort of reaction has the issue gotten?

The reaction has been *super-bonne*! I have to say, when I started production, I said to my-

self that if francophones and anglophones aren't happy, it means I'll have done a good job. At the moment, both are happy, so I'm a bit destabilized!

### ► Was the reaction any different among anglophones vs. francophones?

No. It's almost an issue about francophones, about the perception that francophones have of anglophones.

For francophones, it's a chance to discover who Quebec anglos are [...] it seems that today, we sometimes downplay the role they had in building Quebec, their past... it's

as though we're giving back their *lettre de noblesse*, to say, "Yes, we built Quebec together, Quebec wouldn't be the same without that dichotomy."

### ► What did you learn about anglos while making this issue?

I realized for the first time that the anglophones' struggle was the same as that of francophones... *les anglois* also want to live here, to protect their language, their history.

It took me three months of working on this theme to understand them better. I put myself in

the shoes of an anglo who lives in Quebec. When you live in the West Island, your parents sent you to an English school and you went to CEGEP and university in English, it's normal that you wouldn't feel completely integrated into Quebec society.

### ► Were there any special challenges to putting out a bilingual issue?

It was easier than I thought it would be. It was fun to work with anglophones [...] they're better at respecting deadlines! They work really hard. There was a big difference with francophones

in that respect.

It was a challenge to edit in English, but I thought that all the articles were good, maybe because I didn't understand them as well [laughs].

In general, we got along great. There aren't a lot of publications where anglophones can write in Quebec [...] and there are so many anglophones who can write well, who want to express themselves. What's more, storytelling culture is very engrained in anglophone culture, whereas francophones don't know it as much.

### ► Do you see the *Spécial anglos* as bringing francophones and anglophones closer together?

Yes, totally! The issue extends a hand to anglophones. I think that in 2013, we need it more than ever especially after what happened in the fall. [...] We still have wounds that haven't healed.

I think that the Maple Spring built bridges, because we went out into the streets together, there were no language barriers. I think things will continue to go in that direction.

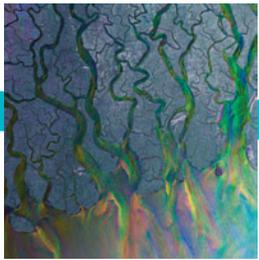
—Catherine Perreault-Lessard, *Urbania's* Editor-in-Chief

I realized for the first time that the anglophones' struggle was the same as that of francophones... *les anglois* also want to live here, to protect their language, their history.

# A + YEAR + OF + ART ON + THE + ISLAND

The Link's Masthead Brings You Their Favourite Sights and Sounds of 2012

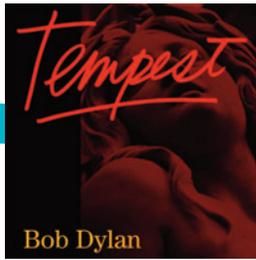
## ALBUM OF THE YEAR



### Alt-J - *An Awesome Wave*

They've been around since 2007, but Alt-J only just released their first album. Thankfully, it was well worth the wait, with the band delivering thirteen solid tracks that sound like the best possible combination of art rock, experimental and psychedelic music. Check out the track "Fitz-pleasure" for a good introduction to the band.

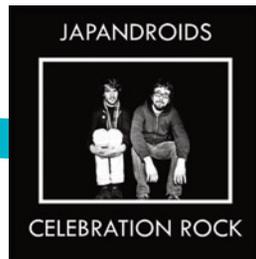
—Erin Sparks



### Bob Dylan - *Tempest*

No, your eyes are not deceiving you—and no, it's not 1966. Bob Dylan is like the good version of chronic bronchitis—in that he never really goes away. *Tempest* features a fourteen-minute single verse-structured effort (the titular track) while exploring Dylan's own ethos through the mythical figure of John Lennon.

—Andrew Brennan



### Japandroids - *Celebration Rock*

The music industry needs bands like Japandroids to make it big. You could call it goofy when Brian King sings, "We yell like hell to the heavens," but it's also pretty goddamn triumphant. This band pulls me back into my carefree high school self; those 'oh yeahs' on "Evil's Sway" carry me into the centre of the pit. And when that pure adrenaline passion comes in, there's no way it's simply nostalgia.

—Colin Harris



### Kendrick Lamar - *good kid, m.A.A.d city*

In a world long dominated by rap albums trying to appeal to as many different fans as possible with a panoply of sounds, *good kid, m.A.A.d city* is a return to a singular sonic aesthetic. There are great cuts—"Backseat Freestyle" and "Swimming Pools (Drank)," among others—but the album's story-based form demands that you listen to Lamar unfold the whole tale.

—Alex Manley



### San Cisco - *San Cisco*

Do you like Vampire Weekend? Well, you'll probably love San Cisco. This band from the land down under has been doing great in the Australian charts. The catchy tunes on their self-titled debut album will have you humming for all of 2013. Also, their drummer's a hottie. I'd ask her out.

—Clément Liu

## MUSIC TO LOOK FORWARD TO

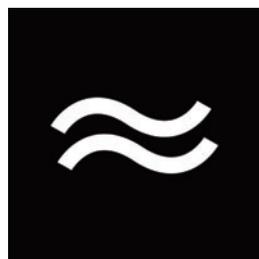


### Foals - *Holy Fire*

Foals will always be a favourite of mine. Lead singer Yannis Philippakis has one of the most enjoyable voices out there, and their instrumentals aren't too shabby either.

Foals' last album was amazing, and if the singles that have been released so far are any indication, this album will be just as good. Luckily, *Holy Fire* is slated for release in February, so there isn't long to wait.

—Erin Sparks



### Swim Deep - *The Sea*

Their singles "King City" and "Honey" have playing on repeat in my brain for months. They released their debut EP in 2012 and ever since I've been waiting to hear news about a full-length album.

Barely out of the womb, these Birmingham, UK boys are set to deliver more of the catchy, idealistic pop songs on their upcoming album *The Sea*, set to be released March 4.

—Clément Liu

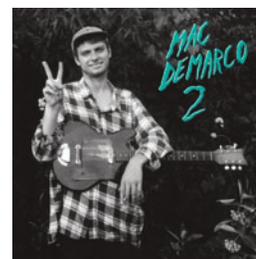
## BEST LOCAL RELEASE



### Godspeed You! Black Emperor - *Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!*

It's a pretty rare thing that a band can pick up where they left off a decade later and sound like they've never left. The Montreal post-rock pioneers once again enveloped us with four dark, sprawling tracks recorded with the current lineup. Here's hoping there's less of a wait for the next one.

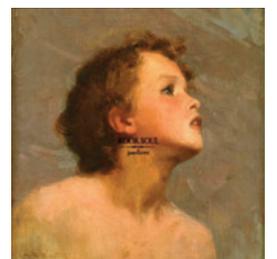
—Colin Harris



### Mac DeMarco - *2*

Originally an Edmontonian, DeMarco has been calling Montreal home for the past few years, so we can claim this masterpiece of sweet, blissed-out jams as one of our own. Listen to "Freaking Out the Neighborhood" and tell me you don't want to re-live your teen years—just less awkwardly than an episode of *Freaks and Geeks*.

—Alex Manley



### Parlovr - *Kook Soul*

Ever since I saw them perform for Blogothèque a few years ago I was hooked. The video for their single "You Only Want It 'Cause You're Lonely" was a Vimeo staff pick as well. This band is easily my favorite Montreal band, so just listen to them, *câlîne!* Plus, they slip in a good ol' "tabarnak" in their music video for their single "Holding on to Something."

—Clément Liu

## BEST SONG

### David Byrne and St. Vincent - "Who"

David Byrne clearly could turn atomic sludge into a British Music Award. "Who" is arguably the best from the Talking Heads frontman and grunge chic solo act St. Vincent; it features a boisterous sax/brass combo and a reminiscing Byrne, with St. Vincent's choppy guitar licks an added bonus.

—Andrew Brennan

### Metric - "Youth Without Youth"

Metric broke new old ground with this one, ditching the Zeppelin-meets-lady-with-a-synth sound they'd been rocking on *Live It Out* and *Fantasies* and going '80s, hard. The mathematical purity of the beat and the austere lyrics make this a smashing success.

—Alex Manley

## MOST DISAPPOINTING RECORD OF 2012



### Ben Gibbard - *Former Lives*

Once upon a time, Death Cab for Cutie made great, sad, indie rock music. Then, Ben Gibbard got sober, got married and got happy—which meant all sorts of disappointing songs were recorded. Not even a divorce from his wife Zoëy Deschanel could save his most recent release, which sounds like a bad lullaby album for Al-bertan toddlers. Tragic.

—Katie McGroarty



### Iggy Pop - *Après*

With his most recent release, *Après*, Iggy Pop proved once again that washed-up old punk rockers can still put out full-length albums of complete and total trash. Virgin EMI even shot Iggy down, forcing him to self-release the record.

*Après* is 10 tracks of Iggy covering mostly French songs by the likes of Edith Piaf and Serge Gainsbourg in an offensive French accent. That's it—just a sad, sad record by a strange, tired old man.

—Corey Pool

## BEST FESTIVAL



The Barr Brothers performing at M for Montreal.

PHOTO SARAH BRIDEAU

### M for Montreal

Montreal is, without a doubt, unique for its year-round festivals. Now in its seventh year, fall music fest M for Montreal is perfect for discovering great shows from local acts, but is also awesome for local bands to learn how to make it in the biz.

Their line-ups have only been getting better each year, so be sure to make it to a few shows in 2013.

—Katie McGroarty

### Nuit Blanche

When you've had just about enough of Montreal's bitter cold, Nuit Blanche is there to woo you back. The entire city lights up for a night of free fudge, sprawling art shows and a giant slide through Place-des-Arts. Make a plan though, or the sheer amount of shiny things could knock you over.

—Julia Wolfe

## BEST LIVE SHOW

### Corb Lund at Petit Campus, Nov. 19

With a country-style "O Canada," three encores and a half-ton of whisky, Corb Lund transformed Petit Campus into a twangy paradise in November. Opening act the John Evans Band featured a stand-up bass player with the most perfect stand-up bass hair I've ever seen who handsomely awed the crowd. It was a li'l piece of the prairies in the 514.

—Hilary Sinclair

### Tim Hecker's POP Montreal show at Church of St. John the Evangelist, Sept. 21

As the first notes of *Ravedeath, 1972* vibrated through the dark church, I felt immediately foolish that I had ever doubted the power of seeing Tim Hecker live. Lying on the ground in front of the altar, floorboards shaking under the intensity—there must be nowhere better to experience it.

—Colin Harris

## BEST ART VENUE

### The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

#### Eastern Bloc

With a multi-media leaning and a mandate to focus on new artists, Eastern Bloc is about as student-friendly as a gallery gets. Whether you're looking to show your own work or impress a date with someone else's, this loft-style studio has you covered.

—Julia Wolfe

Conveniently located in the Quartier des Spectacles, this beautiful museum brings contemporary interdisciplinary works from around the world to Montreal. Paintings, installations, photography and videos are all common.

The best part for students is that admission is free Wednesday nights between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The current exhibitions have recently ended and their new offerings will open at the beginning of February. Until then, the permanent exhibition is still open.

—Elysha del Giusto-Enos

## BEST LOCAL ACT



Timber Timbre—one of our picks for best local act.

PHOTO VINCE KMERON

### The Unsettlers

The last time I saw the Unsettlers was after the Montreal Canadiens had gone an hour into overtime and the bar would have faced a riot if it turned off the TV to start the show. Then there were still two opening acts to get through.

But when a dozen people got on stage, the energy that multiple drinks had drained came back. The band dresses like a bunch of classy steampunks who blend classical and rock instruments for a dark and rhythmic sound. It's always a good show.

—Elysha del Giusto-Enos

### Timber Timbre

OK. So Timber Timbre isn't technically from Montreal, but rather some unimportant town in eastern Ontario. That being said, their ties to MTL are tight. Colin Stetson lives here on the island and blows a monstrous baritone saxophone for the band. Listen to the haunting "Lonesome Traveler," where I swear they sing about Mount Royal.

Known for performing in small or off-kilter venues—specifically, churches—Timber Timbre brings a cryptic, swamp-like haunt to every intimate set they play. Their shows are part black magic, part musical performance. Next time they're close, make the effort.

—Corey Pool

# CONCORDIA ART OFFERINGS

## A Breakdown of On-Campus Art Groups and Facilities

by Elysha del Giusto-Enos @elyshaenos

With performances, galleries and arts-related research projects, Concordia is a hotbed of creative activity—even though a lot of it may go unnoticed by many non-fine arts students.

The problem of the insular art scene is as much a problem at Concordia as it is in the larger Montreal artistic community.

But that doesn't mean the work isn't around us at all times, and the benefit of these shows being at Concordia

is that the artists producing work are supported by an incredible amount of guidance and resources, while the cost of seeing these pieces is minimal for others.

With the semester barely started, many faculties and galleries still haven't hammered out exact schedules. But here's a breakdown of some of the places you can go to see work by the Concordia arts community, as well as websites to keep an eye on as the semester progresses.

PHOTO BENJAMON ATLARD

### Campus Venues

**D.B. Clarke Theatre:** Used for larger theatre department shows and by the Montreal indie theatre community  
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., basement)

**Oscar Peterson Concert Hall:** Preferred venue of the music department  
Vanier Library Building (7141 Sherbrooke St. W.)

**J.A. de Sève Cinema:** Various film-centric events  
LB Building (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., LB-125)

**Cazalet Theatre:** Small subterranean theatre used by the theatre department on Loyola campus  
FC Building (7141 Sherbrooke St. W., basement)

**Studio 7:** The dance department's main venue  
MB Building (1450 Guy St., MB 7.265)

**York Amphitheatre:** Multimedia lectures  
EV Building (1515 Ste. Catherine St. W., EV 1.605)

### Galleries

**The Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery**  
LB Building (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)  
ellengallery.concordia.ca

This gallery features Canadian and international contemporary art with about half a dozen exhibitions yearly. Currently showing *the particular way in which a thing exists* by Martin Beck, which draws together art, design, architecture and history. The exhibit lasts until Jan. 26.

**The FOFA Gallery**  
EV Building (1515 St. Catherine St. W., EV 1-715)  
fofagallery.concordia.ca

The Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery has a wide range of artistic work as produced by its students and faculty. From Jan. 10, it will be showing *Grow Apart*, which merges sculpture and oil painting with supernatural themes.

**Communication Studies Media Gallery and Mobile Media Gallery**  
CJ Building (7141 Sherbrooke St. W., CJ 1.419)  
mobilemediagallery.org

Opened in 2009, this gallery showcases media art and is the only art gallery on Loyola campus. It features works by artists within the communications department. The next exhibition is in February.

**The VAV Gallery**  
VA Building (1395 René-Lévesque W., VA-033)  
vavgallery.concordia.ca

The VAV Gallery is a space run by students out of the visual arts building on René-Lévesque Blvd. W. It helps emerging artists from Concordia and the public get the kind of gallery credentials that help them break into the art world. Programming is on a bi-monthly basis. The winter exhibitions have not been announced yet.

### Ongoing Art Projects

HEXAGRAM-Concordia is a decade-old research-creation group that supports initiatives that bridge art and technology. HEXAGRAM is an umbrella institute that artists/researchers from the faculties of Fine Arts, Arts and Science and Engineering and Computer Science use to launch their research creations.

One HEXAGRAM-Concordia organization of note is Fluxmedia. Led by Tagny Duff, a bioartist and assistant professor in the department of Communications Studies, Fluxmedia bridges biology and art.

Works include the Cryobook Archives, small books made partially of human tissue that have been infected with a virus and are displayed frozen—in a suspended state.

Another HEXAGRAM initiative is Matralab, a performance-based research group that seeks to incorporate art forms that are usually kept separate. Works include video, performance and text-based projects.

Research in performance art and installations has led to theatre shows and books—such as the recently released *Dialogues fantasques pour causeurs éperdus* by Louis Patrick Leroux, an associate professor of playwriting and drama in the Department of English.

### Free Upcoming Events

#### Studio 7

The dance department hosts six shows during the year in its studio. The events bring together artists, potential collaborators and the public.

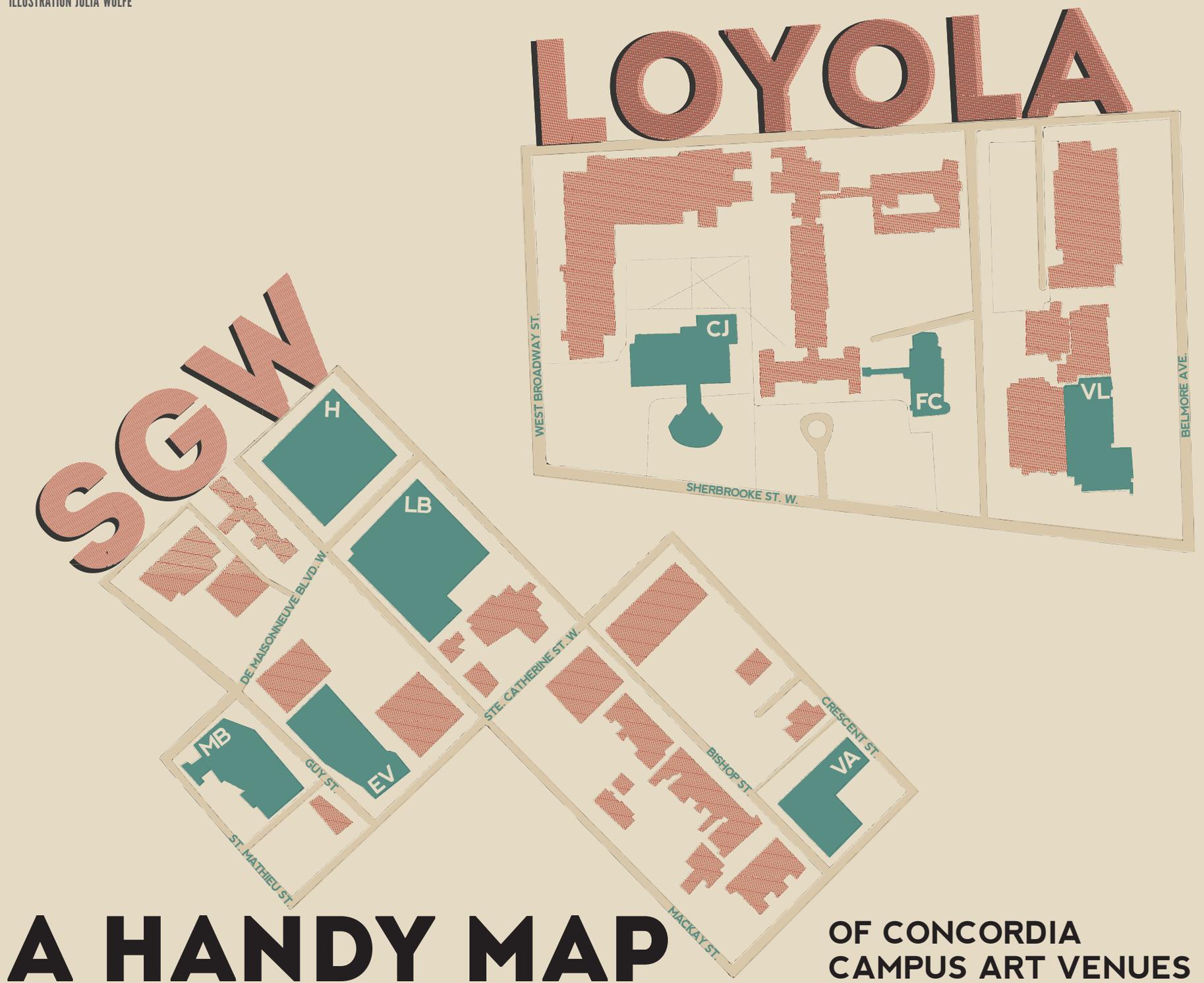
MB Building (1450 Guy St., MB 7.265) / Jan. 25 at 8:00 p.m. / Feb. 15 at 8:00 p.m.

#### Writers Read presents Madeleine Thien

A literary night that brings well-known and emerging writers to Concordia to read and discuss their work with students will feature Thien, a multi-award-nominated Vancouver-based author.

J.A. de Sève Cinema (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., LB-125) / Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION JULIA WOLFE



# FRINGE CALENDAR

JAN. 08 - JAN. 14

## MUSIC

**1. Salinas + the Steady Swagger**  
Jan. 8  
Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
8:30 p.m.  
Free

**2. Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute band)**  
Jan. 10  
Club Soda (1225 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
9:00 p.m.  
\$12.00

**3. Motown & Disco Inferno with Jason Lee Jackson**  
Jan. 11, Jan. 12 and Jan. 25  
Le Balcon (304 Notre-Dame St. E., #201)  
8:30 p.m.  
\$25.00 show / \$59.75 show and dinner

**4. Notre Dame de Grass + the Unseen Strangers**  
Jan. 12  
Petit Campus (57 Prince Arthur St. E.)  
7:30 p.m.  
\$20.00 door / \$10.00 student

## LIT

**5. The Next Wave of Montreal Writers**  
Jan. 11  
Drawn & Quarterly (211 Bernard St. W.)  
7:00 p.m.  
Free

## FILM

**6. Second Best + I Wanna Be Your Sleater Kinney (screenings and music)**  
Jan. 11  
Le Cagibi (5490 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
7:00 p.m.  
\$6.00 to \$10.00 sliding scale

## THEATRE

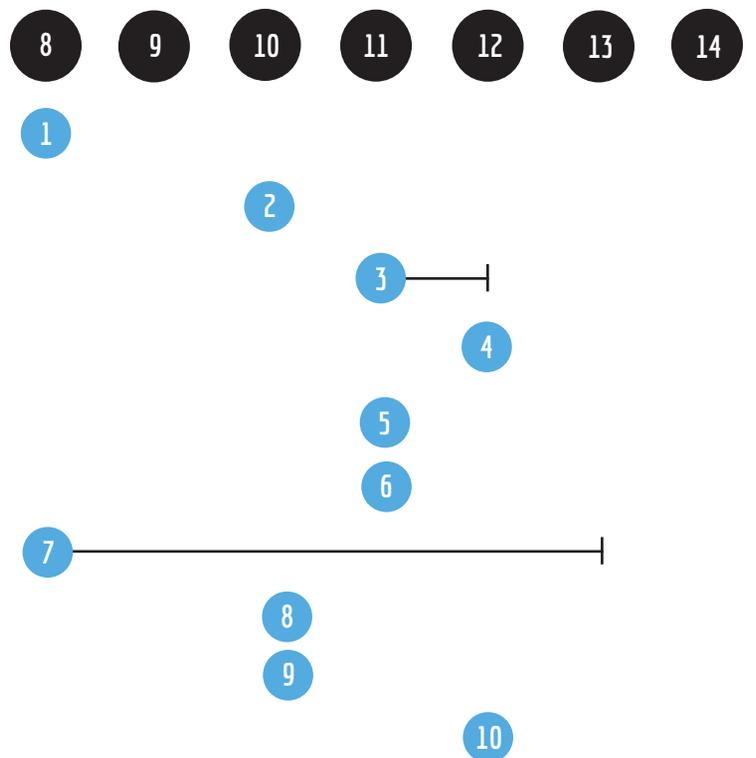
**7. Wildside Theatre Festival**  
Jan. 3 to Jan. 13  
Centaur Theatre (453 St. François-Xavier St.)  
1 show \$12.50 / 4 shows \$40.00 (students)

## VISUAL ART

**8. Meow Mix Retrospective**  
Jan. 10  
Galerie Rats 9 (372 Ste. Catherine St. W., #530)  
6:00 p.m.  
Free

**9. The Main Presents: Nothing Lasts Forever**  
Jan. 10  
Citizen Vintage (5330 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
6:00 p.m.  
Free

**10. Interfold Magazine Launch: Transparency**  
Jan. 12  
The Nomads (129 Van Horne Ave.)  
9:00 p.m.  
\$5.00



## Explore an MS in HUMAN GENETICS



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To learn more, please visit [www.sl.c.edu/human-genetics](http://www.sl.c.edu/human-genetics), call (914) 395-2371, or email us at [grad@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:grad@sarahlawrence.edu)

**Retro Tuesday**  
**Pitcher 5\$**  
**Hits-Moi Thursday**  
**Beer 2\$**  
**Drink 4\$**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**5 SHOOTERS/10\$**

8:30pm/10pm

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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A bike sits locked up at the Loyola campus. Despite freezing conditions, many Montrealers continue to brave the wintry roads on two wheels.

◆ PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

## BOXSCORES

### WEEKS OF DEC. 3 TO JAN. 6

FRIDAY, DEC. 28 Women's Basketball (Concordia - Reebok Tournament) -  
Concordia 60, Carleton University 57

SATURDAY, DEC. 29 Women's Basketball (Concordia - Reebok Tournament) -  
Concordia 75, University of Windsor 74 (OT)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2 Men's Basketball (exhibition) - Concordia 54, Warner University 83

THURSDAY, JAN. 3 Women's Hockey (Concordia - Theresa Humes Tournament) -  
Concordia 3, York University 2

FRIDAY, JAN. 4 Men's Basketball (exhibition) -  
Concordia 87, Palm Beach Atlantic University 83 (OT)  
Women's Hockey (Concordia - Theresa Humes Tournament) -  
Concordia 2, Ryerson University 3

SATURDAY, JAN. 5 Women's Hockey (Concordia - Theresa Humes Tournament) -  
Concordia 4, Queen's University 5  
Men's Basketball (exhibition) -  
Concordia 74, Northwood University 79  
Men's Hockey - Concordia 2, University of Ottawa 0

SUNDAY, JAN. 6 Men's Hockey - Concordia 3, Carleton University 7

## UPCOMING GAMES

### THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

9 7:00 p.m. Men's Hockey at McGill Redmen

10 6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball at McGill Martlets  
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at McGill Redmen

11 7:30 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. Montréal Carabins (Ed Meagher Arena)

12 2:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gym)  
2:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. UQTR Patriotes (Ed Meagher Arena)  
4:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gym)

# WHY ARE THE STINGERS

◆ by Justin Blanchard @jblanch6

1

The Stingers men's hockey team have gone a combined 108-129-26 in the last 10 years.

PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY

2

Concordia's men's soccer team haven't had a winning season since losing the provincial final to Montreal in 2003.

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

3

The Ed Meagher Arena is set to be renovated with a \$6.5 million joint investment from the Quebec government and Concordia.

PHOTO MATTIAS GRAHAM



1



2



3

# STRUGGLING?

## ConU's Sports Teams Are Having Trouble Finding Success. Here's How the Athletics Department Plans to Make Strides. Sort Of.

Concordia's varsity sports teams are struggling nearly everywhere you turn.

The football team hasn't cracked the top three in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference since 2008. The men's soccer team made the playoffs last November for the first time in nine years. The women's hockey team hasn't had a winning season since 2005, when they finished 8-6-1.

And yet, a mere two-and-a-half-hours northeast of Concordia, another school's sports teams are experiencing just the opposite phenomenon.

Quebec City's Université Laval, once unknown in the interuniversity sports scene, stormed back bigger and better than ever in the '90s with a model for success that has it dominating virtually every sport in the RSEQ.

According to a report published by Queen's University's *The Journal* in November 2011, Laval, facing a financial deficit in the '80s, turned to the community for private funding and to entrepreneurs for guidance.

It would be the prelude to what Laval's athletics department boasts today: an operating budget of \$5 million, only \$500,000 of which comes from the department itself; with varsity teams treated like individual clubs, each with their own president, Board of Directors and head of fundraising, according to *The Journal*.

The result: 11 RSEQ women's basketball titles in the past 13 seasons, five RSEQ men's basketball titles in the past 12 years, four RSEQ women's rugby titles in the past eight years.

The list doesn't end there. The Rouge et Or also boast vaunted soccer and volleyball programs and a football team coming off its 10th consecutive RSEQ football title and

a record-setting seventh Vanier Cup victory last year.

And it's all made possible thanks to Laval's businesslike approach to sports.

So why has Concordia's athletics department—with a budget nowhere near Laval's, a front office with far fewer suits and sports teams winning far fewer games—yet to implement the same sort of approach?

The short answer is it doesn't want to—not yet, anyway.

### A Space Apart

"Each university determines within its own mission where it's going to place emphasis," said Recreation and Athletics Department Director Katie Sheahan.

At Concordia, that emphasis is placed firmly on creating space.

"My mandate upon coming here was to help the university address the facility development needs, because the population of the school was completely booming and had already outgrown the facilities to support recreation for students in general," said Sheahan.

"The notion was building recreation and athletics facilities for the larger student body, but making sure they're at interuniversity calibre."

Since Sheahan assumed her position nine years ago, this mandate has led to projects like the creation of Concordia's outdoor playing fields in 2003, fitness centre Le Gym in 2005, the Stingers Dome in 2009 and the opening of the PERFORM Centre health research facility in 2011. Concordia also plans on renovating the Ed Meagher Arena this year with money from the provincial government.

"These are key milestones in not only

supporting interuniversity sport, but also in ensuring that these kinds of spaces also provide the backdrop for Concordia students and the external community to be part of this university's larger experience," said Sheahan.

"The university has had to make some decisions about how to stay true to the mandate of getting those spaces created, and deepening and broadening our resources in some of our sports," she said.

That differs from Laval's top-down fundraising approach, which, according to *The Journal*, uses "the football team's popularity with sponsors to benefit other sports programs [via] a policy stipulating that sponsors of the football program must also sponsor all other Laval sports."

Once Concordia has quenched its thirst for facilities and program development, Sheahan says perhaps then the department will look into shifting its focus and budget to providing more resources for the university's varsity programs.

"Is it possible down the road that the university might decide to explore the delivery of this in a different way? It's possible," Sheahan said. "The door hasn't been opened for discussion on that as of yet."

If ever it is opened, there will be multiple factors to take into consideration.

"In the case of Laval [...] when you think about where they are, in a community with very few other high-profile sports teams, I think [their model] was an equation that was very thoughtful and very reflective of what would work in that context," said Sheahan.

Indeed, Laval's location in Quebec City, a city with only about a third of Montreal's population, allows for a centralization of sponsorship to the Rouge et Or sports programs.

That's a tougher task in Montreal, where three professional sports teams—the Canadiens in hockey, the Impact in soccer, the Alouettes in football—and four universities—the Université de Montréal, the Université du Québec à Montréal, McGill University and Concordia—are constantly battling for attention.

And that's aside from the disadvantage Concordia faces as an English university in a predominantly francophone province.

"The cost to travel and meet student athletes from across the country—it's a math and financial resources question," said Sheahan.

### A Way Forward

To help answer that question—and many others—the department created the position of associate director of student athlete services last September and hired John Bower, former director of university sport for the RSEQ, two months later.

While the position's mandate is still without an official definition, Bower is to be responsible for the administration and supervision of interuniversity sports.

"I will be working with the director to develop the scope of the job over time, but it involves providing leadership in the delivery of a variety of programs and services to Concordia's varsity students and teams," he said.

His first task is taking notes.

"Since I'm coming into the organization from the outside, my primary objective in the short term is getting to better know all members of the team by listening and observing," said Bower.

Over the long term, however, Sheahan hopes Bower can become a key contributor to the athletic department's improvement.

"I would expect that once we have our associate director in place, we'll set the stage for perhaps where we might want to take things going forward, but we don't have an official mandate to do that yet because we're still working on delivering the one we have," she said.

The current mandate has the support of some Stingers—among them, rookie soccer player Shauna Zilversmit.

"The decision to build a good foundation for all teams is what I believe is the right thing to do," said Zilversmit. "The [athletics] department is looking out for the best interests of everyone—their athletes, their coaches and the school."

"Sure, we have teams that struggle, but we also have teams that are succeeding," she added, the latter being the men's and women's basketball and rugby teams. All four made their respective conference finals in the 2011-12 season.

"I don't think that by getting sponsors and money, it will change the teams' outcomes—you can be a team that is well off and still have little success," she said.

Well-off or not, there's no doubt Concordia wants to see the Maroon and Gold succeed across the board—but right now, that simply means taking it one mandate at a time.

## BY THE NUMBERS: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TEAM SPORTS SINCE 1990



# 'TIS THE SEASON (FOR WORKOUTS)

## Check Out Montreal's Indoor Fitness Options

by Elysha del Giusto-Enos @elyshaenos

During this city's winter freeze, the streets fall silent and the sidewalks become narrow paths carved out by footprints laid down since the most recent snowfall. Montrealers seem to hibernate around this time of year, building up their reserves and waiting for the coming terrace season.

The rest of the year, the city thrives on summer activities, with Montreal being consistently rated by cyclist magazines as one of the best biking cities in the world. It's also a city with expansive urban parks and green spaces. Joggers on Mount Royal and yoga classes in Lafontaine Park are common sights in summer.

So it's no wonder that by January—when Montreal's outdoor fitness goodies are wavering between distant memory and far-off dream—that gyms fill up. Not many people turn to ice skating in the Old Port as a daily exercise regiment.

As students, it may be tempting to think that we can just dive into a new fitness program after clicking around on YouTube for a few minutes. But Micaela Whitworth, the personal training coordinator at Montreal's Mansfield Athletic Club, said that expert advice is highly recommended—even for 20-somethings starting out a fitness routine.

"You hire an accountant for your finances, a doctor for your general health, and a plumber for your plumbing," said Whitworth. "Exercise is not a do-it-yourself type of activity. For maximum and lifetime results, invest in some professional expertise."

She said that most gyms will offer a free fitness consultation with a certified kinesiologist for new members. It's worth asking before signing up though, as personal training sessions can be very pricey otherwise.

Whitworth added that, along with an increased risk of injury, doing exercises incorrectly could prevent newbie exercisers from seeing the results they're looking for. This kind of discouraging outcome probably contributes to the way the January rush thins out by mid-February.

Below are a few Montreal gym options. Despite best intentions, it's good to keep in mind that out-of-the-way gyms are just one more excuse gym-goers use to avoid getting what they paid for—so try to think locally when you're acting aerobically.

### The Mansfield Athletic Club

(1230 Mansfield St., near McGill Metro)

Named after the location of its flagship gym on Mansfield St., Club Mansfield offers a refined and luxurious gym experience. Where else does the conditioning floor have mood lighting and a beautifully painted fresco overhead?

The gym is divided into alcoves and different tiers, depending on the equipment. It's very open and never crowded. There are no sign-up sheets on the cardio equipment, since there are always plenty of free machines. The changing room features saunas and amenities like free towels, hairdryers and assorted toiletries.

When you take into account the free Wi-Fi, it's such a relaxing environment that it's difficult to leave this little oasis.

**Freebies:** Free trials (call 514-390-1230 to book a tour first)

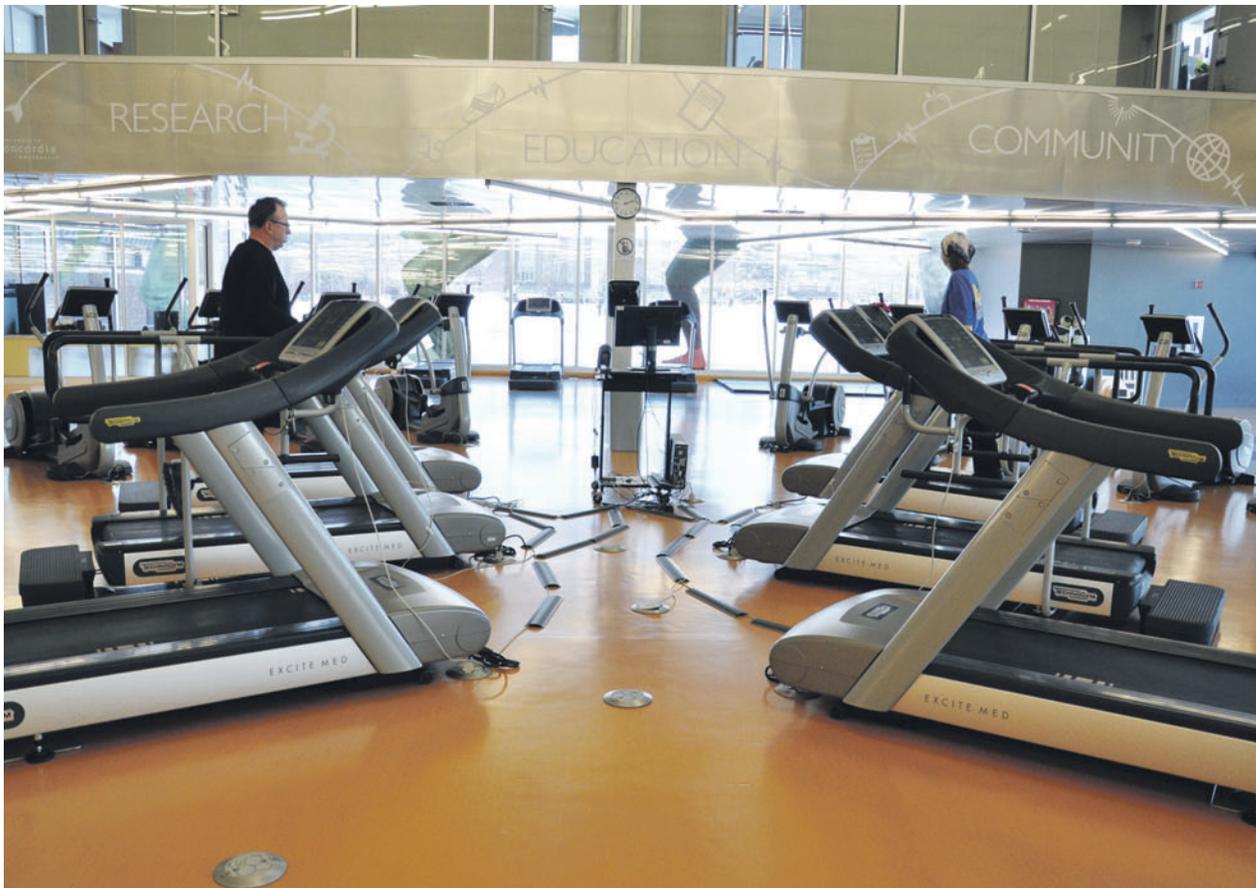
**Cost:** Under 30 years old: \$85 a month  
Regular: \$120 a month (special rates for groups)  
Plus registration fee: \$25

**Web:** clubmansfield.ca

**Pros:** Feels like working out in a spa.

**Cons:** Pricey, like a spa.

**Notable features:** The eucalyptus sauna is a godsend in the sub-zero months.



The PERFORM Centre boasts many new machines that Concordia students can use for a reasonable price.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

"Exercise is not a do-it-yourself type of activity. For maximum and lifetime results, invest in some professional expertise."

—Micaela Whitworth

### The YMCA

(Main: 1440 Stanley St., also in Westmount, Outremont, and other locations)

The YMCA is a not-for-profit, community-based organization and its mandate matches its gym-floor mantra. Management took the sign-up sheets down from the cardio equipment a few years ago and the bustling Stanley St. location now runs on an honour system.

Each gym-goer can use a machine for half an hour, or until someone asks them to get off that machine after that half-hour is up.

With many floors of equipment suited to different workout levels and styles, the YMCA really tailors its offerings to the needs of the Montreal community. The vibe inside the gym feels a bit like a multi-floor, decked-out high school gym class.

**Freebies:** None

**Cost for the Y on Stanley:** Students: \$43 a month (tax included) for a one-year membership. Cancel anytime. No annual fee. Bring proof of enrolment to register at student rate.

Regular: \$60 a month and a \$60 registration fee.

**Web:** ymcaquebec.org

**Pros:** Central location and lots of fitness variety.

**Con (or 'Pro' depending on what you like):** Tons and tons of people.

**Notable features:** A pool, a basketball court and squash courts.

### Le Centre at PERFORM

(7200 Sherbrooke St. W. - across from Loyola Campus)

The state-of-the-art Technogym equipment at the PERFORM Centre still hasn't started showing signs of wear. Concordia's research and training centre offers the best deal for Concordia students at \$60 per semester and no registration fee.

It's also quiet and has plenty of machines. There is a good variety of cardio and new weight machines which are designed so well that using them on high settings won't result in the pressure-point bruises and discomfort gym-goers usually deal with.

Even though this gym is run through Concordia, memberships are not transferable with Concordia's downtown Le Gym.

**Freebies:** Free trials and free group fitness classes Jan. 7 to Jan. 11

**Cost:** Student: \$60 a semester  
Concordia staff and alumni: \$120 a semester  
Regular: \$150 a semester

**Web:** athletics.concordia.ca/lecentre

**Pros:** Unbelievably inexpensive—the semester-long prices rival the cost of a single month at the other gyms.

**Cons:** Location. Those who don't have classes at Loyola or live in Notre-Dame-de-Grace might not be able to make it work.

**Notable features:** New, advanced equipment, including four Technogym Kinesis machines.

by Oliver Leon @oliverdandylion

# THAT TRANSSEXUAL GUY

## Ryan Kai Cheng Thom on Writing and Dreams Coming True

Ryan Thom, local spoken word poet, has many names.

At birth, Ryan—who prefers to be referred to by third-person plural pronouns—was given an anglophone name, as well as Kai Cheng, their Chinese name. Only Ryan made it to the birth certificate, however. Recently, they have started performing under their drag name, Lady Sin Trayda.

Ryan told me about the Greek myth of Artemis, who was bounced on the knee of Zeus and asked what gifts she wanted. One of these requests was to be given many names, in case she ever got bored with one.

“A lot of older people in my family were dying, and my name, Kai Cheng, was dying too—a whole self!”

So Ryan uses all three names.

“‘Sinful’ is always involved in my stage names,” they said. “I started as ‘Sinfully Gaysian’ at Sinfully Asian,” a restaurant on the McGill University campus.

“I love the imaginary royalty in the rap world and the spoken word world. Lady Sin Trayda is a play off of ‘skin trade.’ Skin trader is a reference to sex work, or prostitution, because that is how people are using that expression.

The reference is more than skin-deep, however; Ryan sees a parallel with their spoken word work, too.

“People often make analogies between sex work and art. You give and the audience takes, pays for it, the audience uses you for emotional catharsis.”

Ryan told me about how their process of growing up was shaped by another area of aesthetics—

beauty.

“When I was little, I thought I was ugly. I hated mirrors. Being beautiful was all I ever wanted,” they said.

“If people liked me, had sex with me, they got to decide if I was beautiful. It took me a long time to know I can be pretty. Three years ago, I started wearing make-up and writing things. [...] I always wanted to be beautiful when I grew up—and I am beautiful. That’s why I am a grown-up!”

It’s a powerful claim to make, according to Ryan. They believe that “narcissism and self-love have revolutionary potential. Marginalized bodies are seen as unlovable. Beauty is an infinite process. It is a world that you explore and make that is often denied to people. I want to show it to people. Sometimes you have to re-learn it and come back.”

I asked Ryan to describe themselves. They challenged me to say a word, and they would reply with a word, and we would go back and forth describing our respective identities.

They started with “smooth.” We listed feelings, book titles and sensations.

I finished the list with “exasperation,” a reference to our earlier discussion about educating others about our identities.

Ryan is studying at McGill University, getting an undergraduate degree in social work. On Nov. 8, 2012, they opened for internationally celebrated Jamaican-Canadian dub poet D’Bi Young at La Sala Rossa.

Originally from Vancouver,

B.C., in April, Ryan will be heading west to be an artist-in-residence at The Banff Centre in Alberta, where Young will be teaching.

“A dream come true!” Ryan said. “She’s an inspiration to me and I’ve been following her for a long time [...] she pushed me to go beyond myself and deeper into myself. I always thought, ‘I will learn poetry on the streets and nowhere else!’ And then I found out that D’bi is teaching at Banff and I decided to learn in the classroom.”

Despite an upcoming performance Jan. 20 with the Throw Poetry Collective at Le Divan Orange, Ryan’s hoping to edge away from poetry a bit.

“There is magic in the stories of dislocated people of colour. I want to write a sense of legacy and placehood for people of diaspora. People of colour, freaks, monsters,” they said.

“[Salman] Rushdie writes in *Imaginary Homeland* about a homeland of not having one, an India of the mind, between minds for me and people I know. [My] homeland exists between people and not necessarily rooted in the land in the world. It belongs to a story instead—a story I, my sister, my parents and friends created.”

**The Throw Poetry Collective featuring Ryan Thom / Jan. 20 / Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.) / Doors 7:00 p.m., show 8:00 p.m. / \$5.00 students, \$7.00 general / Twelve spots for poetry slammers / Four open mic spots available**

## A poem by Ryan Thom:

**CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK,**

**WE LEARNED FROM THE FOOTPRINTS  
OF FAMILY HISTORY**

**TO SPEAK WITHOUT SAYING A WORD,**

**HOW TO SWALLOW WITHOUT MAKING  
A SOUND:**

**FIRE-EATERS, CARNIVAL FREAKS,  
THERE COULD BE BLADES IN OUR  
BELLIES**

**AND YOU’D NEVER KNOW IT**

**EXCEPT FOR THE BLOOD LEAKING  
FROM OUR NAVELS.**

**LIPS/LEGS/LIPS SPREAD APART,**

**WE LEARNED HOW TO TAKE IT,**

**AND SLIDE OFFSTAGE, VANISH INTO  
THE WINGS**

**UNDEMANDING AS DUST**

# Quebec Undercuts Innovation



Concordia researchers developing ways to reduce fuel consumption during flight.

PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

## Cuts to Research Detrimental to Future of Universities

BY HILARY SINCLAIR  
@HILARYSINCLAIR

When the Quebec government announced on Dec. 6 that it would be slashing \$31 million from the Fonds de recherche du Québec, they decided to cut the legs from under a sector that is essentially the lifeblood of universities.

The fund was initially created in 2011 to promote and enhance research in the province.

Research is the vacuum that sucks in money and prestige and attracts those at the top of their fields to schools that can provide them with the greatest opportunities. The brightest researchers will attract more qualified professors, leading to more students paying those highly sought-after tuition fees.

Three separate funds make up

the Fonds, separated into the categories of Nature et technologie, Santé and Société et culture. The biggest cuts come at the expense of the Nature et technologie fund, which will be losing 30 per cent of its \$50.1-million-dollar budget. The other categories are faced with 13 per cent cuts to their budgets.

Concordia has six research teams receiving large amounts of money from the Nature et technologie fund—their futures just became much less stable.

Research that makes headlines, like when a team of Concordia engineering students won the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge and are waiting to have their project launched into space, is free publicity that can only mean more interest in the university.

The cuts are a staggeringly

counter-productive way of making Quebec's universities more competitive, a concept that is always being paid lip service by the province's politicians.

On Nov. 20, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec released a statement addressing the budget that was tabled by Pauline Marois's government.

They said, "The Quebec budget includes no measures associated with research in the context of spending on universities. As with the previous Liberal vision, investments in research are always in a context of public-private partnerships rather than as part of an overall vision for the development of knowledge within higher education institutions."

It seems that universities are slowly shifting the focus of research projects to topics that are more marketable, and thus prof-

itable.

In 1999, the provincial government began the Valorisation-Recherche Québec, "to improve the innovative capability of Quebec businesses in priority sectors by banking on partnerships between universities, companies, government research centres and college technology transfer centres."

Under this program, four companies were formed to forge partnerships with universities to market their research out to corporations. Concordia partnered with one of these companies, Valeo Management, which it pays to commercialize research results.

In the 2012-13 budget, the university reported that 0.1 per cent of its gross revenue, or \$450,000, comes from contracted research that originates from partnerships like this.

And it's just these types of partnerships that are threatening the sovereignty of research at Quebec universities.

A petition addressed to Quebec Lieutenant Governor Pierre Duchesne that is over 9,000 signatures strong is currently circulating amongst the province's researchers.

The petition calls for the government to "defend the integrity of scientific research in Quebec," and denounces the cuts, as they "irreparably undermine the foundations of research and advanced training."

Each step the government takes in the direction of research corporatization is chipping away at independent innovations in universities that attract the best and brightest—and the money that comes with them.

—with files from Jane Gatensby

**THE LINK**

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

**Byelection**

The following editorial positions will be open:

**SPORTS EDITOR, ONLINE SPORTS EDITOR & OPINIONS EDITOR**

**February 8, 2013 3:00 p.m. H-649**

**Applications must be posted in *The Link* office by February 1 at 4:00 p.m.**

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues during Volume 33 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples

For more information email [editor@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:editor@thelinknewspaper.ca)

# TAKING SEXUAL STOCK

# SEX & PANCAKES



I suck at New Year's resolutions so this year I've decided to scrap them altogether and start a new annual tradition: a sexual inventory. I'm writing about it to convince you to give it a try too!

A sexual inventory is an inventory (points for stating the obvious) of your thoughts about your sexuality and boundaries.

The one I did was created by an awesome sex positive website called Scarleteen and is pretty comprehensive. It covers topics like body boundaries, words and terms, relationship models and choices, safer sex, sexual responses, physical and/or sexual activities, non-physical sexual activities and reproductive choices.

I especially love this inventory because of the options you have for answering—yes, no, maybe, I don't know and fantasy—

which acknowledges that sometimes we fantasize about things we never actually want to do.

That's kind of what made me want to do this inventory in the first place. I get a lot of questions from people worried about the things they fantasize about, the porn they watch or what turns them on, and it's usually because their turn-ons don't match what they think or have been told is normal.

So what the hell is normal? And why are we censoring and worrying about our fantasies and turn-ons? The beauty of fantasies and sexual thoughts is supposed to be that they're completely private if you want them to be, so there's no need to censor yourself or feel guilty, however dirty you may think they are.

When it comes to doing things with other people, as long as everything is consensual, then the sky should be the limit.

It should be obvious that a universal normal doesn't exist, but many of us still struggle with it.

Since sexual acts are often so taboo, we

tend to grow up with strong ideas of what's acceptable or "normal," and forget to revisit those ideas and consider if they're actually our own.

And since these ideas play a big role in determining our boundaries and what experiences we open ourselves up to, it can be good to take the time to think about them completely on our own and take a self-inventory of what we really think.

All these thoughts about "normal" got me wondering if there are things I unknowingly censor about my own sexuality, which is why I finally did a sexual inventory.

If you're thinking of doing this inventory (yay!) you should do it completely alone first, and in a way that makes you confident that no one else will see your answers, so that you're completely honest and free of pressure or influence.

In the end, there might be answers you'd like to share with a partner to open communication on certain topics, but there will likely also be some you'll never want anyone to know.

I've decided to do this inventory annually to compare changes, but it can really be done as often as you like—or even just this once. Either way, I'm sure you'll learn something new about yourself or at least have some interesting thoughts when you come across questions you've never considered. But best of all, you'll create your own normal.

Wishing you a happy and sexy new year!

—Melissa Fuller, @mel\_full

Submit your questions anonymously at [sex-pancakes.tumblr.com](http://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-santé at 8-1-1 from any Montreal number.

# RINGING IN 2013, POP CULTURE-STYLE

BY KATIE MCGROARTY AND MICHAEL WROBEL, @KATIECMCG AND @MICHAEL\_WROBEL  
GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-CLOUTIER

## ACROSS

2. ABC's *New Year's Rockin' Eve* paid tribute to this recently deceased American TV personality this year, since he created and then hosted the network's New Year's special for over 30 years. (2 words)

3. This trade-union movement, whose leader would later become president of Poland, was the inspiration behind Irish rock band U2's "New Year's Day."

7. In this 1999 film—whose cast included Ben Affleck, Dave Chappelle and Kate Hudson—the host of a New Year's Eve bash wakes up the next morning to find many unknown individuals passed out on her floor. (2 words)

8. Many editorial cartoons personify the start of the New Year using a representation of this tot with mythological roots. (3 words)

10. You might be inclined to refer to Jan. 1 as this, given the headache you were sporting after a night of celebration. (2 words)

11. Someone always starts belting this Scottish folk song at midnight, followed by drunken attempts to remember the lyrics. (3 words)

## DOWN

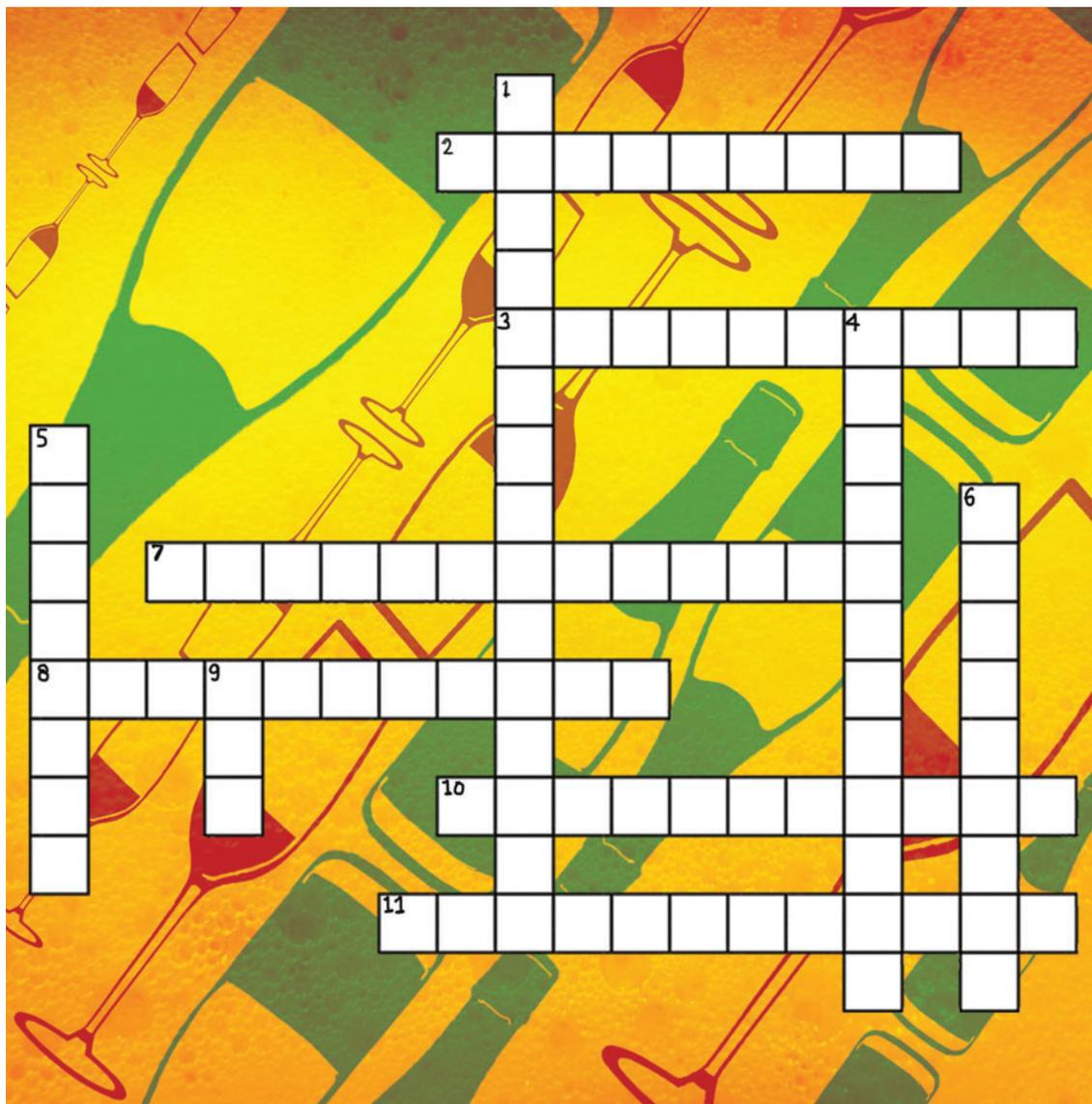
1. In the heart of the United States' largest city, an estimated one million onlookers gather every New Year's Eve to watch this 11,875-pound behemoth consisting of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles drop down a flagpole. (3 words)

4. IMDb describes this New Year's Eve host as the "heart and soul of television and radio for many years," but we're convinced this TV idol may have written his own bio. (2 words)

5. Made up of a series of islands, one of which is commonly referred to as Christmas Island, this country that straddles the International Date Line gets to be the first to ring in the New Year (and also the first to be hit with a Jan. 1 hangover).

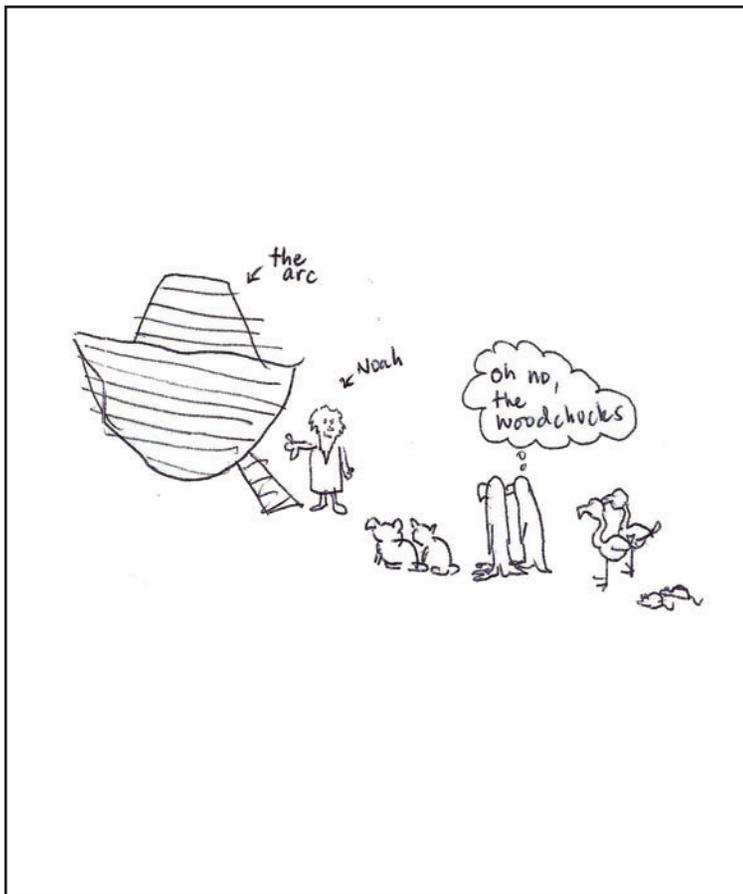
6. This wine can pack a punch, with its cork usually escaping the bottle at 40 km/h. As the bad guy in *Wayne's World* will tell you, it's named after a region in France.

9. We may laugh about the phenomenon in retrospect, but the dawn of a new millennium led to a lot of apprehension (and water bottle purchases) due to the hysteria related to this computer glitch.

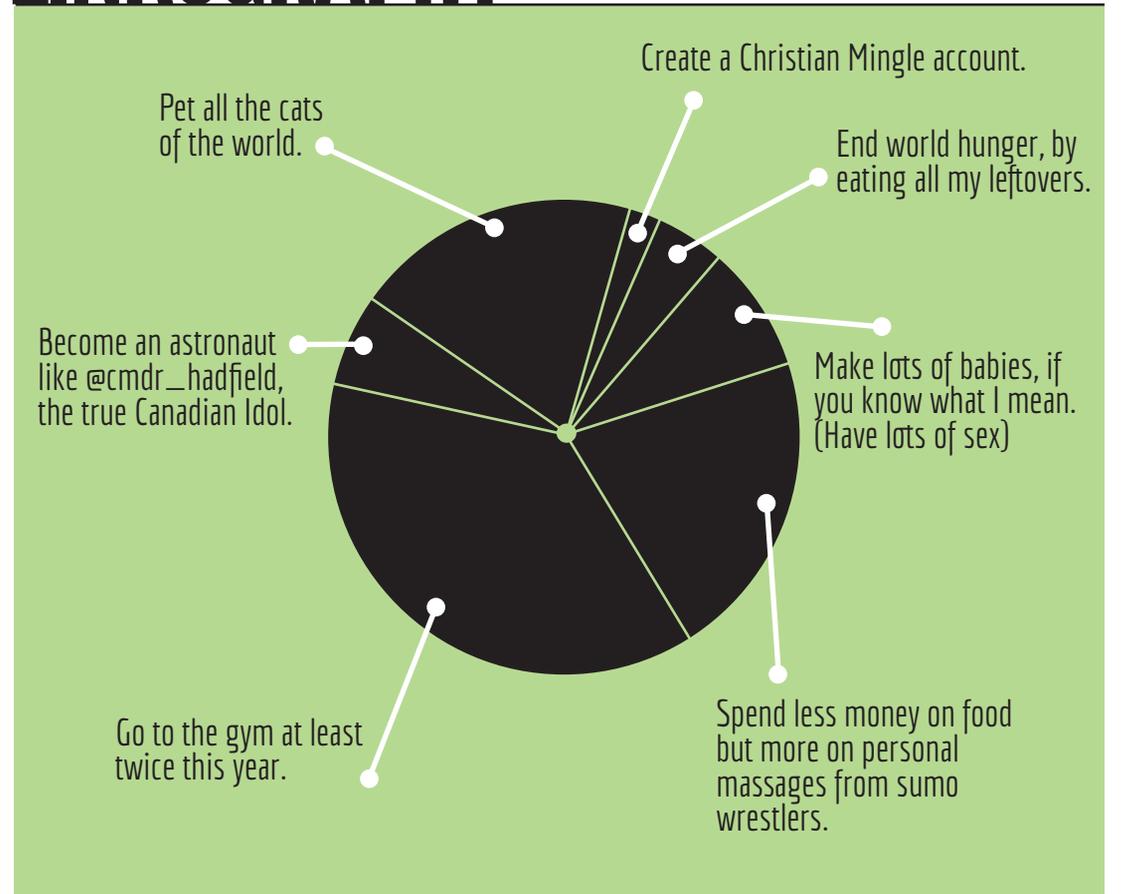


# BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



# LINKOGRAPHY ANONYMOUS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS POLL



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

# False Knees



COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

# NAH'MSAYIN?

## This Is Just Not Working Out

Shaun T., I despise you. Jillian Michaels, I don't like you either. I'm sure neither of you are terrible people—you might even actually be lovely human beings. But I just can't help but hate anyone who's a fitness video instructor.

It's not the fact that your abs are more clearly defined than the lines in my high school math book that bothers me. Nor is it your ability to actually articulate words throughout the entirety of a lung-wrenching cardio saga.

No, I just hate the way you speak to me, like the experience we are sharing via my laptop, awkwardly propped up on my windowsill—so I can follow your instructions, while doing pushups—is in any way pleasant. Please, just recognize you are a last resort. You are far from a first-choice method of fitness training.

Look, I love working out, sweating, endorphins and all that jazz. But I sure as hell don't think forgoing all pride jumping around in my bedroom, on my slanted floor, constantly dodging my desk/wall/lamp to avoid being seen by all of St. Denis St. through my window is any kind of enjoyable.

Stop telling me how great I look while being an obstacle-dodging, out-of-breath buffoon—we both know it's a lie.

Also, you completely disregard the fact that I have roommates. Yelling, "Mmmmm, love the pain!" or "So, close!" as I'm heaving doesn't sound great from the other side of my door. C'mon, you're just making it worse.

—Megan Dolski @megandolski,  
Current Affairs Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

## Editorial



# IDLE NO MORE

While we were out, there was something of an awakening across Canada.

People all over the country have been gathering to voice their dissent with the status quo when it comes to First Nations poverty and shrinking environmental regulation. The push for a more multilateral and just approach to First Nations policy has inspired thousands to learn more and have their voices heard—and the headlines have followed.

By the time we were all back in Montreal however, a shocking amount of stereotyping and ignorance had begun to fester in the online commentary sections of our country's largest news providers. Frankly, they reached a whole new—and downright racist—low.

In a recent *National Post* Full Comment article, Barbara Kay pointed out what she claims is “what-everybody-else-was-thinking”—that Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence is actually on more of a detox diet than a sacred fast.

While Kay opted to focus her criticism nitpicking the criteria of a health cleanse vs. a starvation diet, she completely missed the point,

and overlooked the cause.

The *Post* columnist's ignorance aimed to reduce the hunger strike to an isolated, unimpressive event, but hundreds of people around the country have joined Spence in her fasting.

Last month, 10 women spent four days fasting in solidarity with Spence, some traveling for days to spend time at her camp; several chiefs and members of First Nations communities have done the same. A national 24-hour fast is planned for Jan. 11—the one-month anniversary of Spence's campaign.

*The Globe and Mail's* Jeffrey Simpson, meanwhile, dismisses that there is any real social movement happening at all. Simpson wrote in a Jan. 5 column that First Nations people are living in a “dream palace” if they think they can hold onto the culture of their ancestors.

He wrote that the only communities that have any hope of surviving must join in the exploitation of nearby natural resources, which he argues should be “the driving thrust of all public policy.”

The article condescendingly put

“rights” and “nation” in quotes, the tone throughout implying First Nations should consider themselves lucky that Canada has allowed them to continue existing in any capacity. His suggestion was that they must assimilate and destroy their land or get lost in the shuffle.

Simpson disregards the movement, consequently missing out on the educational component of Idle No More. The teach-ins are at least as integral to this whole thing as the widely publicized blockades are, and present this movement as a time for learning.

The more that Canadians embrace this opportunity, the more we'll be able to do away with the hateful responses from all those self-described responsible taxpayers gracing the comment sections at the bottom of our national newspapers' online articles.

Bill C-45's changes to both the Indian Act and the Navigable Waters Act can be seen as the breaking point in the First Nations community, but both follow the federal government's other failings in environmental stewardship.

A notable example is the Conservatives' other omnibus bill this

year, the “budget” bill, which allows cabinet ministers to disregard the recommendations of environmental assessments, shrinks the number of protected waterways and relegates development decisions to provinces that lack the resources to test their potential environmental impact.

But this environmental discontent is about more than a couple (giant) pieces of legislation.

The federal government's policy reflects a desire to move petrol out of this country as fast as possible, yet it is blind to the Arctic ice sheet—which is decaying at a rate more rapidly than anyone expected—and First Nations downstream from oil sands developments being poisoned.

The impacts of climate change have become more and more apparent; no one can say this is “just a Native thing.”

As much as this is a movement for everyone, however, it's extremely important to remember it's being driven by First Nations peoples: those affected day-to-day by disproportionate poverty, levels of incarceration and unsolved cases of missing or murdered women.

How do these communities fit in today's “settler” world? How do you combat institutionalized corruption, which no one can argue is exclusive to First Nations band councils?

These are issues that have only become more strained with Bill C-45 and other legislation—more so because, so far, the federal government has avoided including Native peoples in the decision-making process.

The living conditions of First Nations peoples are a complex problem of historical persecution, cultural disconnect and abuses of power. Little can be done when placing the blame solely on one side, and no one thinks the current situation is doing any good.

Therein lies the power of Idle No More: to lay bare these systemic issues of poverty and environmental degradation while ensuring ignorance becomes a political impossibility.

Come Friday, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with First Nations leaders, the coinciding global Day of Action will be outside in the streets—readying the push for change.

◆ GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

## THE LINK

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Concordia University  
Hall Building, Room H-649  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8  
editor: 514-848-2424 x. 7405  
arts: 514-848-2424 x. 5813  
news: 514-848-2424 x. 8682  
fax: 514-848-4540  
business: 514-848-7406  
advertising: 514-848-7406

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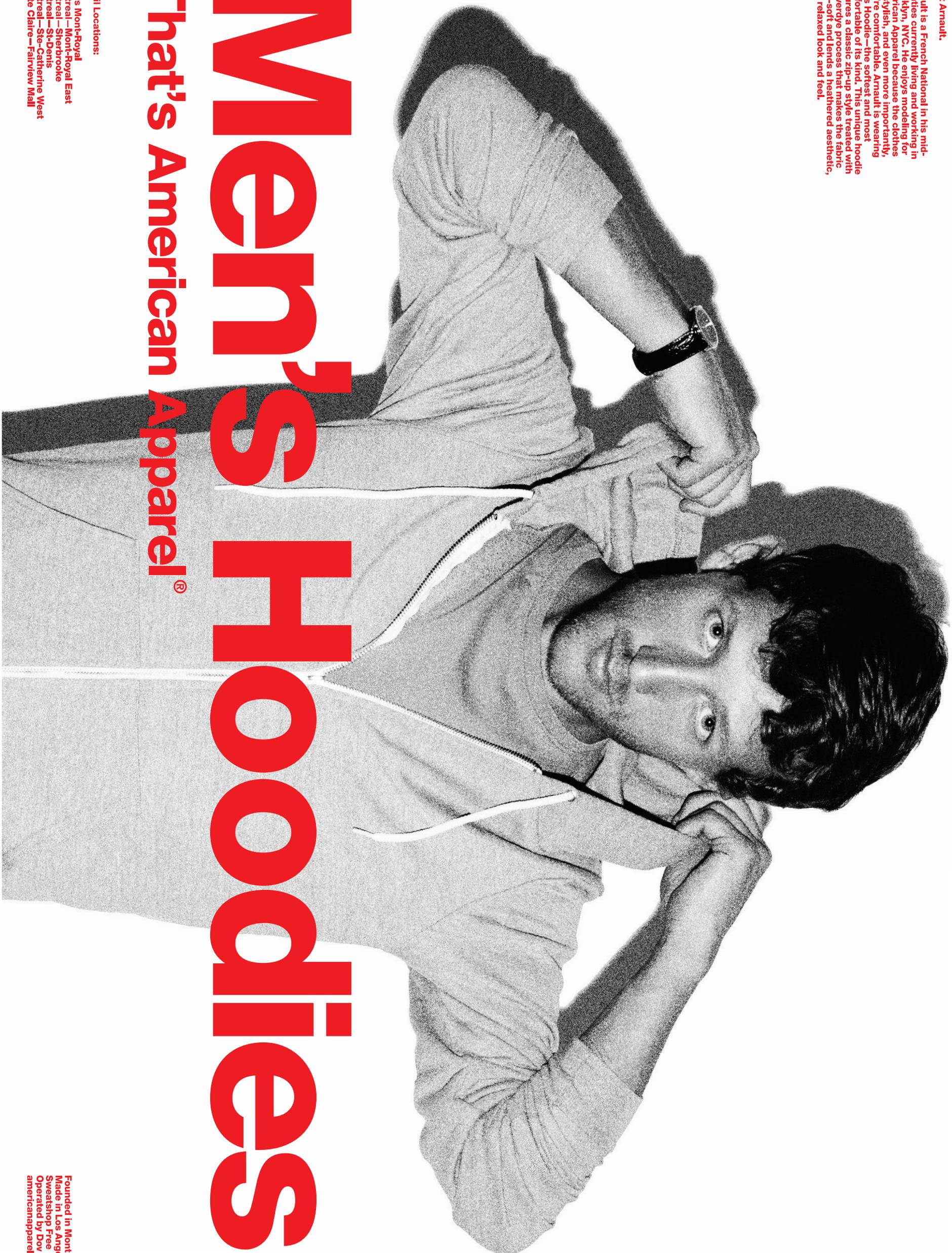
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**Meet Arnault.**

Arnault is a French National in his mid-twenties currently living and working in Brooklyn, NYC. He enjoys modeling for American Apparel because the clothes are stylish, and even more importantly, they're comfortable. Arnault is wearing Dov's Hoodie—the softest and most comfortable of its kind. This unique hoodie features a classic zip-up style treated with an over-dye process that makes the fabric ultra-soft and lends a heathered aesthetic, for a relaxed look and feel.



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