

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980



A New Direction

CONCORDIA IS CHANGING ITS APPROACH TO STUDENT RECRUITMENT IN CHINA. P7

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CHANGING CYCLES

While the federal government snubs not-for-profits, The Otesha Project sustains itself. P3



POWDER POWER

Yes, Concordia has a ski team. P11



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MONEY MATTERS

ConU reaches out to the community, seeking solutions to recent budget cuts. **P4**

IDLE NO MORE

Scenes from the #J11 day of action. **P6**

THE BARD ON YOUR POD

Shakespeare Podcast Makes Plays More User-Friendly. **P8**

GETTIN' DOWN IN THE UNDERGROUND

STM Offers Free Dance Classes at Place-des-Arts Metro. **P9**



NEW YEAR, NEW SEASON

Concordia Ski Club Hopes Offseason Work Pays Off. **P11**



SILENCED VOICES

Atleo and Harper Meet—while First Nations Community Leaders Are Left Out in the Cold. **P12**

STANDING UP TO COLUMNISTS

ConU Admin Makes the Case for Maintaining the University's Research Funding. **P12**



POWER TO THE PEDAL

by Colin Harris

PHOTO ADIS DUMAS

When the federal youth volunteer program Katimavik had its funding cut last year, Canada lost its go-to for directionless high school grads.

However, there's a lesser-known not-for-profit trying to fill the void, celebrating its 10th year of cross-country volunteering.

While travel costs were one of Katimavik's biggest expenses, The Otesha Project takes a different approach as to how to cover that cost—one that is at the heart of their mission.

The Otesha Project moves on two wheels as a troupe of over-18-year-olds trekking around

provinces in the warm months of the year. Participants use their own bikes, travelling at a pace dependent on the skill level of the cyclists.

Each tour member raises their own contribution to cover the costs of insurance and supplies, raising awareness about the project along the way.

To keep costs down, Otesha trades work for food and lodging, and sometimes relies on the generosity of strangers.

"We were supposed to be a rest stop, but they ended up performing a play at a local high school," said Frances Darwin, who hosted an Otesha tour in her Newmarket, ON home last year after receiving a request from Otesha through the popular floor-crashing website couchsurfing.org.

The group staying with Darwin was the 2012 Phenomenal Food Tour, focused on the path the food you eat travels from the farm to your plate. Otesha has increasingly applied themes to their growing number of bike tours, a trait they share with Katimavik. All of Otesha's bike tours focus on an element of sustainable living on a local level.

Continued on Page 5

THE LINK ONLINE

ULTIMATE ART PARTY

Preview of Friday's visual art and performance night at Brasserie Beaubien

YOUR UNION / CSU

Follow online for coverage of this Wednesday's Special Council Meeting.

THE LINK BLOG

Check out our blog. We dabbled in debauchery and learnt cool stuff while winning four awards in Toronto.

CINEMA POLITICA

Previews of January film screenings: Haiti, Attawapiskat and porn star Lara Roxx

▶ THE BURDEN OF BUDGET CUTS

ConU Prepares for Cuts, Consider Options.
By Jane Gatensby, @janegatensby

In response to recent cuts made to Concordia's operating budget, the school's administration has reached out to the ConU community in search of solutions to its newfound financial woes.

At a "campus conversation" in the EV Building—one of four held on Jan. 14—Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelley and interim Provost Lisa Ostiguy outlined the challenges that lay ahead.

Concordia's budget, they explained, is currently being re-written for the fourth time this fiscal year, as tuition fee battles and a new provincial government resulted in repeated unexpected changes.

With \$124-million-dollar cuts to Quebec universities announced in December, Concordia is now faced with \$13.2 million in reductions, to be absorbed in the remainder of its 2012-13 fiscal year, which ends April 30.

Dealing With a Deficit

The possibility of running a deficit—the university's first in three years—looms large.

Kelley explained that Concordia is still waiting to receive an additional \$3.4 to \$4 million, promised by the provincial government to compensate for the loss of increased tuition fee revenues when the hikes were abolished in September.

"We have yet to see their money," said Kelley. "The biggest issue we have today is uncertainty."

Kelley did not downplay the severity of the cuts for Concordia.

"We will have a deficit this year," he said emphatically. He also forewarned of a "massive increase in pension fund costs," set to bring further challenges to budgetary planning.

Also in sight is the possibility of addi-

tional cuts in 2013-14, which the administration learned of during a recent meeting with the government.

"There's an expectation that there's [going to be] a cut next year," said Ostiguy.

She called December's cuts "completely unreasonable," but also noted they were "a reason to rally together."

Something Has to Give

"We can easily find some places where we could be a little more efficient," said Ostiguy.

"Everything's on the table," she continued, mentioning that academics, research, graduate studies and student aid were areas in which Concordia would try its best to maintain stable funding.

The 20 or so people in attendance were invited to give suggestions as to how the university could bridge the gap.

The most vocal attendees were mainly administrative workers, who suggested efficiencies such as reducing new hirings and instating a voluntary four-day workweek policy.

While more than one participant attributed an overall lack of efficiency to rigid hierarchies within administrative departments, participants also outlined possible sources of additional revenue, such as increased advertising sales—a suggestion that generated debate among attendees.

"We have to make sure we're not selling our soul to make short-term gains," said Ostiguy in response to a question about the issue.

In addition to the conversations, which were open to all, Kelley and Ostiguy are also consulting with faculty councils, the libraries, the School of Extended Learning and the School of Graduate Studies to find possible savings.

Moving Forward

Concordia President Alan Shepard told *The Link* that the revised budget, likely including a deficit, will be presented to the university's Board of Governors at a special meeting on Jan. 22.

"I don't like deficits, but I don't see any other way to cut that much money this late in the game without causing a lot of difficulty," he said.

In an interview on Jan. 14, Kelley said that due to changes within the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche, de la science et de la technologie concerning university deficits, the consequences of running one were "unknown at this point."

Kelley admitted that there were "small reserve funds" that could help, but that he had no clear idea as to the magnitude of a possible deficit.

When asked about long-term approaches and possible future cuts in 2013-14 and beyond, Kelley said, "A university is a university—in order to maintain itself, and stay relevant, it has to change, and it has to keep itself up. You just can't automatically stop just because you've got reductions to deal with," he said.

"We have to be very judicious and very prioritized in the use of our resources going forward," Kelley continued. "We have to continue to support the opportunities of faculty hiring wherever we can, and our projects that are of great priority."

Ostiguy told *The Link* that "the main reason for the conversations was to reflect our concern and commitment as an administration to getting the word out [and] taking a close look at our priorities."

Ostiguy said she found many ideas put forth at the talks to be promising—specifically mentioning proposals for reduced workweeks, changes in purchasing contracts and services, revenue-generating ideas and fundraising ideas.

"We have to look at [these ideas] in terms of the feasibility, in terms of what's gained by them," she said.

◆ GRAPHICS PAKU DAOUST CLOUTIER

▶ BUDGET BY THE NUMBERS

\$124 million: Total amount cut from Quebec university operating budgets this fiscal year.



\$13.2 million: Amount cut from Concordia's operating budget this fiscal year.



~\$3.4 to 4 million: Estimated amount Concordia expects to be reimbursed by the provincial government to compensate for the cancellation of expected tuition fee hikes.



~\$10 million: Roughly how much "missing" money Concordia will have to find, somewhere, as a result of the budget cuts—or be forced to run a deficit.



4: Number of times Concordia has had to reinvent and reinstate its budget this year—as a result of successive changes in tuition and the recent cuts.

SHEPARD LOOKS AHEAD TO THE SUMMIT

BY MEGAN DOLSKI
@MEGANDOLSKI

Despite recently receiving some bad news in the form of last-minute budget cuts, Concordia President Alan Shepard has high hopes for ConU and the province's university sector in the upcoming year.

With the Quebec summit on higher education slated to take place next month, Shepard feels that constructive conversations surrounding universities and their funding models are on the horizon.

Having attended one of four pre-summit thematic meetings as a delegate of the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities, Shepard left noting that the tone of discussions on education in Quebec had become more civil and respectful.

He hopes for the dialogue at the summit to transcend the debate on whether tuition should be higher or lower, and delve into greater forward-looking ideas about why universities matter.

"There is a sophisticated conversation to be had about what the future of higher education is," he said. "What is its function—socially and personally—and how can we maximize opportunities for people? How can we contribute to Quebec's prosperity culturally, economically and how can we contribute to its future?"

Shepard said new models of both education and funding are important topics that need to be explored.

"The models we are operating on are pretty old," he said. "Quebec has a long tradition of progressive thinking that gets exported to other jurisdictions—a lot of new ideas in Canada have started right here, so I'd love to see the summit be a place where there is kind of a fervent of ideas."

He'd also like for the summit to reaffirm the fundamental value and integrity of universities.

"They are really important places where amazing things happen—people's lives get transformed and society gets changed and strengthened by the work that happens in these places."

Shepard hopes positive progress from the summit will alleviate some of the disrespect that the university sector has been receiving, as of late.

"It is difficult to be the leader of a place that is said to be mismanaged," he said of Concordia. "I don't find that to be true. I think this is a really good place that has a lot of strengths. I hope that we can tell our story about what a terrific place it is and that people are proud to be here."

"We can easily find some places where we could be a little more efficient. Everything's on the table"
Lisa Ostiguy, Interim Provost.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF YOUTH PROJECTS

The Otesha Project Offers Direction and Sustainability. By Colin Harris, @colinnharris

► Continued from Page 3

The Katimavik Connection

Otesha regularly holds presentations and workshops in schools and community centres along the route, and is far more education-based than Katimavik, which provides volunteer work to not-for-profits—but their working philosophy for community engagement and respect for the environment is shared.

Upon hearing that the Conservative government was axing 100 per cent of Katimavik's funding, Otesha Director of Operations Elly Adeland knew she had to do anything she could to keep Katimavik "on the radar for groups and individuals."

Along with various other Ottawa-based groups, Adeland is working to keep some small form of Katimavik alive for volunteers this summer.

"All of us came together when we found out about the Katimavik cuts and worked with Katimavik's national headquarters in Montreal to make sure that Katimavik could still thrive and prosper in our community in Ottawa," said Adeland.

"We've been searching for different ways to help support Katimavik in Ottawa, hopefully to have a program in 2013."

This effort has so far included funding requests to the City of Ottawa and working to get the participation of private sponsors.

The Water Cycle

Recent Concordia grad Mérika Martel-Bryden was part of the Waterworks tour last summer, looping around southern Ontario from Kitchener to Ottawa. The Waterworks tour was all about education, both for those on the tour and the people they visited.

A memorable stop for her was Sarnia, ON, the city with the highest air pollution levels in Canada and famous for its Chemical Valley, which Martel-Bryden, who graduated last spring with a major in Design for Theatre, says is "a huge landscape of industrial plants. Really beautiful at night, but kind of a scar that Sarnia is known for."

While visiting, her tour heard

several opinions about the city's attempts to clean up their reputation, including a city official at a water treatment plant and those at a local fishery.

"There was a spokesperson for the city of Sarnia who was saying the water was crystal clear now, and that they had reversed all the damage," said Martel-Bryden.

"But then we speak to the people at the fishery and they have a different story, how upstream the water isn't so great, and that it's affecting the fish life. They were doing a lot of work to restore the fish in the water near Sarnia."

Educating Well

Every Otesha volunteer learns the prop-free play *Cycling Through Change*, which they perform on the many stops of their tour. In exchange for the service provided to the community or school, they ask for a donation to help cover costs.

At some of the schools on the Waterworks Tour's route, they held workshops about water; afterward, the group would hold discussions and brainstorm. The aim was to think about water conservation and pollution from the personal level to the municipal, agricultural and industrial levels.

The knowledge levels of the students varied, but they often shared the revelation of how much water was used in factories to make the products they use every day, that conservation meant more than turning the tap off.

"A lot of them had no idea that you need hundreds or thousands of litres of water for coolants, or mixing chemicals. A lot of them needed us to nudge them to get their mind there," said Martel-Bryden.

Travelling from urban to rural areas was a lesson in what concerns different populations have over their watersheds, and that there's no one-size-fits-all approach to conservation. Sustainable use of water has different implications on a well system than in cities, as Martel-Bryden learned during her tour.

"When we were talking about

using as little water as you can, they're saying, 'We have to use our wells because if we don't, it dries up.' Running into that was a realization that you can't just apply one rule to anyone," she said.

Growing Knowledge

Depending on where they're biking, the tours often stay at farms. Martel-Bryden and her group planted, weeded and pruned to earn their room and board at farms during their trip.

For La Ferme Girouette, a little farm in Vars, ON that has twice hosted Otesha tours, the impact was greater than they ever expected.

"Otesha showed up in July, during the dry spell, when weeds were a sight to be seen," said the farm's co-owner Josée Boulanger, who last year expanded her farm to work with families with mentally disabled children.

"They showed up just in time to save the corn, the peas, a bunch of little areas that we might have had to just hope for the best," she said.

Boulanger first agreed to host the tour to make contacts with fellow environmentalists, but when she saw the amount of work they could provide to the little farm, which mostly consists of vegetable gardening, she knew she would have them any time.

The Otesha tour helped support the initiative at La Ferme Girouette—which Katimavik was instrumental in helping to start—by constructing 12 large boxes that allowed for indoor farming. This year, tours will reach British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

"The highlight of my time is when we were standing around the kitchen and all of a sudden all the members started singing this beautiful song that they use in high schools to teach students about food, but then they started improvising and made up this crazy awesome song about staying with us and my family," said Darwin.

"I ended up drumming on the compost bin while they sang in beautiful harmony," she recalled. "That moment was compassion right there."



PHOTO ADIS DUMAS

The Otesha Project bikes from city to city promoting sustainable mobile communities.

2110 CENTRE & MISSING JUSTICE TO HOST TEACH-IN

Education on Systemic Violence Against Native Women. By Michael Wrobel, @michael_wrobel

The number of native women reported to have gone missing or been murdered in Canada over the past three decades varies greatly—depending on who you ask.

The federal government believes the number to be roughly 600, whereas activists put the figure closer to 3,000.

“The higher number is very likely the more accurate one,” said Maya Rolbin-Ghanie, member of the advocacy group Missing Justice and the Concordia-based 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy.

According to Rolbin-Ghanie, the federal government’s numbers are largely based on incomplete research done by Sisters in Spirit, a Native Women’s Association of Canada initiative.

That research project saw its federal funding cut in 2010, despite the fact that it was “nowhere near done [its] work,” according to Rolbin-Ghanie.

She also noted that, regardless of the discrepancy, both numbers remain worthy of our attention.

Students and members of the community are invited to meet on Jan. 16 to learn about the roles the media, police and justice systems have in perpetuating violence against Native women in Canada.

The teach-in will be presented by the 2110 Centre, in partnership with Missing Justice, a grassroots campaign based in Montreal seeking justice for the hundreds—possibly thousands—of First Nations women who have gone missing or been murdered.

The event will begin with a presentation, followed by a brief question-and-answer period.

“I hope that people will [acquire] a deeper, broader understanding of the wide range of issues that go into creating an environment that is so unsafe for one particular sector of the population,” explained Rolbin-Ghanie.

According to her, First Nations people often distrust the police, while the police often delay the search for missing native women if they have reason to believe they may have been promiscuous or have used drugs in the past.

She believes institutionalized racism and “victim-blaming” might also be responsible for the failures of the police and justice system.

While corporate news organizations have been getting better at humanizing native victims, Rolbin-Ghanie said, there still has been a lack of in-depth analysis of the root causes of the violence in the media.

“The media have generally not been the best at helping to counteract the stereotypes and helping to get the word out,” she said.

Although the teach-in was planned well before the rise of the Idle No More movement, Rolbin-Ghanie definitely sees the event as having a role to play in the larger protest movement taking place across the country and, increasingly, around the globe.

“We’re trying to create an understanding that the violence against native women is completely and utterly linked to what the Canadian economy is based on, which is natural resource extraction,” she said.

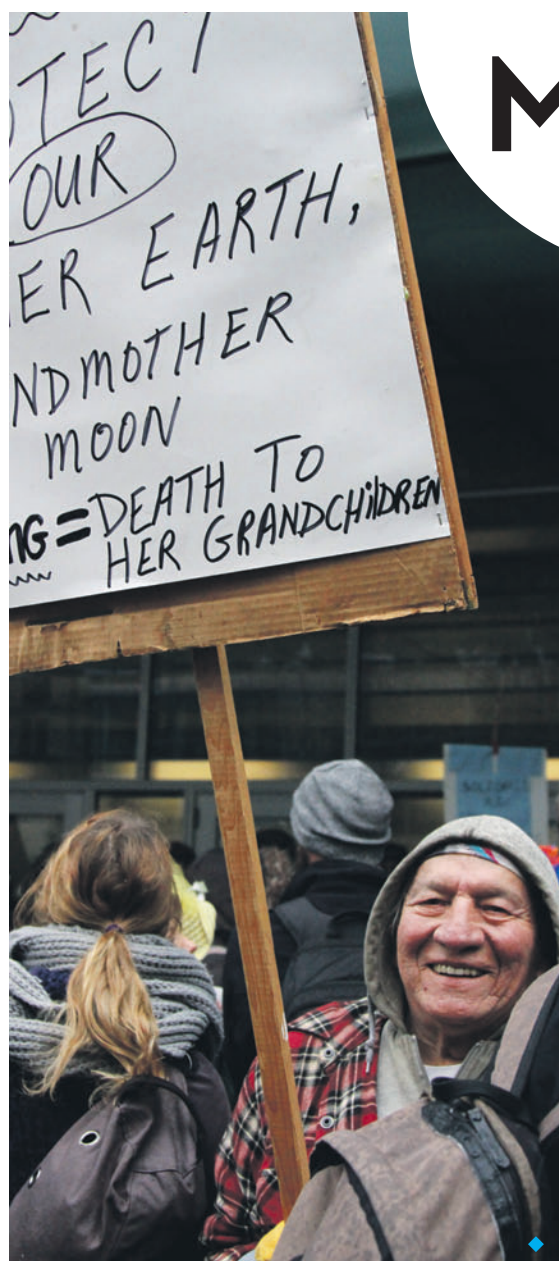
“I don’t think you can have this level and type of violence against native women and native communities without a certain kind of violence against the Earth [...] and against native communities in order to gain that so-called ‘natural capital.’”

It’s a concern that is likely to gain some traction in the weeks to come; the environment, resource extraction and the relationship between First Nations communities and the federal government are among the principal concerns of Idle No More protesters.

The Dragonroot Project: A Workshop Series on Gendered Violence & Radio-Making / Jan. 16 / (1500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., #404) / 6:00 p.m.



IDLE NO MORE



On Jan. 11, almost a thousand native and non-native Montrealers took to the downtown streets to participate in a global day of action, held in solidarity with the rising Idle No More movement.

The movement opposes the Conservative government’s omnibus budget bill, Bill C-45, which it calls detrimental to Canada’s land and water rights, and seeks to improve relations between the government and First Nations people.



PHOTOS ALEX BAILEY

University Begins Severing Ties With Recruiter After Controversies. By Corey Pool, @coreyriver

▶ CONU TAKES NEW APPROACH TO STUDENT RECRUITMENT IN CHINA

After a few months of sobering reflection, Concordia University is taking several steps toward improving its recruiting practices in China.

In September, *The Link* published a story examining poor homestay conditions experienced by some Chinese students recruited through Orchard Consultants Ltd., the company used since 2007 to recruit Chinese students for the university.

The story prompted an internal investigation by Concordia of its student homestay program, as well as its recruiting practices, particularly with regards to Chinese students.

On Friday afternoon, the university announced that it would end its contract with Orchard.

The contract between Concordia and Orchard was up for negotiation this fall, but after receiving a list of recommendations from a working group tasked with reviewing questionable homestay conditions, the university has decided to issue a Request for Proposals to seek out a new recruiting company in February.

According to Concordia, the relationship with any new company will be different.

In order to prevent similar issues from happening in the future, the university said in a press release on Friday that it intends to use “a blended approach to student recruitment in China” that will combine “in-house and third-party” involvement in the process.

“By this we mean building our capacity and our outreach ourselves in China, as well as seeking the assistance of a third-party service provider,” said Concordia VP Services Roger Côté in an interview with *The Link*.

“The emphasis is really on get-

ting closer to the student applicants, and I think the general perspective was that we shouldn’t be over-relying on the service providers to be doing that.”

The current contract with Orchard will continue until Feb. 28, at which point the company will stop taking on applications from new students for Concordia.

So as to support the students who have already applied for the fall, and to ensure a smooth transition, however, Orchard will continue to work past that date to close any active applications.

“Their role will be considerably

“The emphasis is really on getting closer to the student applicants, and I think the general perspective was that we shouldn’t be over-relying on the service providers to be doing that.” Roger Côté, Concordia VP Services

diminished and there will be no additional outreach or recruitment for new applicants beyond Feb. 28,” said Côté. “It will be a gradual retrenchment as those files are received and processed at Concordia.”

The Link was unable to reach Orchard for comment by press time.

The Request for Proposals process will begin in February,

and Côté said that transparency will be key.

He also added that he will be looking to several parties for help with the process, including the Concordia Student Union and the Graduate Students’ Association.

“We will be asking student leaders and national organizations that are involved in international education to give us some input on the specification of the RFP before we finalize it,” said Côté. “It will also become a public document for everyone to see.”

According to CSU VP Clubs and Internal Affairs Nadine Atallah, the ability to be involved in this process “is one of the most exciting parts about the relationship going forward.”

“It seems like the university is willing to put its resources towards making this situation a bit better and making sure it doesn’t happen again,” said Atallah, adding that the union’s relationship with the university had changed in recent months.

“There is more cooperation, and we’re working in good faith.”

Atallah has been part of a working group established to look into homestay practices that include representatives from several groups including the CSU, the GSA, Concordia’s Housing and Job Bank and the Dean of Students, among others.

She says that they have yet to see any concrete results, and is cautious to give too much credit to the administration, but she’s hopeful that this new process is a step forward.

“I think we’re seeing the university moving in the right direction, but it’s still in the process of moving, and we haven’t arrived at the results that we need yet.”

—additional reporting by Julia Wolfe

CHAOS CONTINUES ON COUNCIL

Procedural Setbacks Shut Down Progress at CSU



CSU President Schubert Laforest, head in hands before council at a meeting last semester.

BY MEGAN DOLSKI @MEGANDOLSKI

On Jan. 9, starting more than half an hour late—due to the delayed arrival of pizza—the Concordia Student Union met for the first time this year.

Despite several comments from councillors and the chair indicating that they had reviewed Robert’s Rules over the break, procedural issues proceeded to plague the majority of the meeting.

Chair Jean-François Ouellet began by announcing that councillors were only permitted to speak twice per motion. Once enforced, this new regulation was met with earnest opposition.

“I feel as though I am being censored,” said councillor Melissa Kate Wheeler, after Ouellet—on grounds that she had exhausted her speaking rights on a subject—had silenced her.

The meeting eventually erupted into disarray, separating into clustered conversations, as the chair left in order to verify that he was, in fact, correct.

Ouellet returned, clarifying that Robert’s Rules states councillors are only allowed to speak twice per motion, though this limit could be extended by a two-thirds majority vote from council.

Councillor Gonzo Nieto took advantage of this rule to motion to extend the number of speaking rights to twenty per motion; the motion passed.

The meeting was further bogged down by council’s dissatisfaction with certain executive reports, a lengthy debate over the necessity of a job posting that was ultimately left open and the need to revisit and rectify a motion passed erroneously at council’s last meeting.

Furthermore, on Jan. 13, the CSU’s chief electoral officer, Justin Holland, resigned from his position, as he said he will not be a student next semester.

Other News

In more productive terms, VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki outlined the upcoming Winter Orientation, citing mulled wine, an ice bar, DJs and line dancing as things to look forward to.

Councillor Patrick Lefebvre discussed the creation of a fund to ensure that disabled students have access to the CSU services they pay for, just like everyone else, and council moved to bring this issue to the financial committee for further discussion and research.

Another issue raised was the hiring of the Judicial Board’s legal advisor and budget. It was revealed by councillor James Tyler Vaccaro that the union’s standing regulations put the JB’s budget at \$5,000, though it is currently receiving \$500—one-tenth the amount.

This issue was sent to the financial committee and the policy committee for further investigation.

Council appointed Vaccaro to Concordia’s Senate, Caroline Bourbonnière to the CSU’s sustainability committee, and Anja Rajaonarivelo to its events committee.

MACBETH ON YOUR MACBOOK

Shakespeare Comes to Life in Montreal Group's Podcast

BY ZOIEY BALDWIN @ZOBALD.....

Imagine what it might have been like to sit around a table in the 16th century reading Macbeth with friends. Flagons of ale at the ready, candles flickering as wax gathers in pools on the table. A friend cries, "Out, damned spot!" and clutches at an invisible dagger in the air in a rendition of Lady Macbeth's famous speech.

That's what the men behind the Bard Brawl are trying to recreate. Well, maybe with bottles of beer instead of flagons. And, you know, electricity.

Almost every Tuesday since 2009, Daniel J. Rowe and Eric Jean—who met in a Shakespeare class during their undergrad at Concordia—have met and read an act from one of the Bard's plays aloud.

By word of mouth, what began as a partnership expanded. The BB has accumulated over 15 members to date, though on any given week Rowe said there are usually somewhere between four and six people reading together. Most of the "brawlers" are either current Concordia students or alumni.

Jean and Rowe's main goal with the project is to make Shakespeare accessible to anyone.

"It's not just for Shakespeare nerds, because everyone who reads it likes it," Rowe said. "Once you get into it, you get hooked."

Rowe and Jean are always accepting new members, but it's a low-pressure environment.

"There's no commitment, you don't have to come and promise to be there every Tuesday for the rest of your life—although you should," Jean joked.

Based on Jean's first exposure to Shakespeare, it's hard to believe he's writing his Masters thesis on the Bard.

"In Grade 10, my English teacher gave me a D on my paper on *Macbeth*, and I vowed to show him," Jean said, laughing. Shortly thereafter, Jean sought out a Shakespeare anthology and began reading. He hasn't stopped since.

Both Rowe and Jean said that over time they've managed to memorize a fair bit of Shakespearean verse.

"I've read so much of it now that entire sections of plays sort of get stuck in my brain and lines



Daniel J. Rowe and Eric Jean hope to make Shakespeare accessible with their Bard Brawl podcast.

PHOTO ZOIEY BALDWIN

spontaneously come out," Jean said, and when prompted, he recited an impressive Marc Antony speech from *Julius Caesar*.

The brawlers have gotten through nearly 20 plays to date, including some of Jean and Rowe's favorites: *Julius Caesar*, *King Lear* and *Troilus and Cressida*. They recently finished recording *Henry VI, Part 1*, are now reading *Timon of Athens*.

Despite the dusty-tome nature of the material, the group has kicked into high gear recently thanks to relatively recent technology.

This past summer, the BB started a blog and a biweekly podcast. Each podcast is comprised of the reading of one act of a play, plus a bonus sonnet. The blog includes film critiques of Shakespearean adaptations, such as the 1996 film *Looking for Richard*,

which Rowe was particularly inspired by.

In the film, Al Pacino goes through *Richard III* and attempts to make sense of what can sometimes be seen as a convoluted play. With the help of historians and theatre experts, Pacino makes the play more accessible to a modern audience.

It's an ideal that Rowe holds dear to his heart.

"[Shakespeare's] meant to be taken, and dissected, and looked at and read. It's supposed to be fun," said Rowe.

Rowe's wife and fellow brawler, Stephanie Coleman, does the artwork for the posters and website, and the group meets in the couple's apartment in the Gay Village. Coleman emphasized the laid-back nature of the BB.

"We always ask questions and stop. We try to be inclusive.

There's no snobbery," she said.

But the group has room to grow. Coleman is donating 10 per cent of the proceeds from her painting sales at her next art show to the BB, and Rowe has set up a "donate" button on their website. The group's first goal is to purchase better sound equipment; right now, they record everything on an iPhone.

Rowe and Jean also hope to be able to pay the people who lend their voices to the podcast in the future. That way, they could spend five or six hours recording an entire play instead of coordinating five separate meetings. This would allow the voice actors to get to know their characters better, as well.

"It's good for people, especially those who haven't had much exposure to the work, to see where their character goes," Rowe said.

Jean has also come up with the idea of pitching their vision to high school students as a way of giving young people a comfortable foray into what can be a daunting subject.

"If kids get to read it together without someone like a teacher there to tell them they're doing it wrong, they'll get it. They'll work with each other," Jean said.

But no matter the setting or equipment, Rowe said, "It's just, at a very rudimentary level, exploring language, stories, themes and characters and appreciating it without making any grandiose statements about what it means. We laugh our way through it."

Check out the Bard Brawl blog online at bardbrawl.com and find the podcast by searching for "The Bard Brawl" under Podcasts in the iTunes Store.

NEW MOVES IN THE METRO

STM Brings Free Dance Classes to Place-des-Arts

BY MEGAN DOLSKI
@MEGAN_DOLSKI

If you happened to be riding the metro this Sunday afternoon, you might have noticed a little more movement than usual happening underground.

In an effort to promote arts and culture throughout the city, the Société de transport de Montréal has begun offering free dance classes in Place-des-Arts Metro, the first of which was led by local swing dance studio Cat's Corner, on Jan. 13.

The classes will become a bi-monthly staple in the station—scheduled on the first and last Sundays of the month—and continue until spring.

Classes, which will run from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., will vary in style from week to week.

The STM initiative, called Les beaux dimanches dans le metro, is part of the larger Métro Arts project, which seeks to make the Montreal transit experience more enjoyable by adding a little culture to the daily commute.



PHOTO LESLIE SCHACHTER

UPCOMING DANCE CLASSES

Date:	Jan. 27	Feb. 3	Feb. 24	March 24	April 7
Dance Style:	Flamenco	Salsa	Haitian	Oriental	Tango
Dance School:	Académie Ballet Flamenco Lina Moros	École San Tropez	Mapou Ginen	Studio Sharqui	Air Tango

FRINGE CALENDAR

- FILM**
 - 1. TIFF Canada's Top Ten Feature and Short Films
Jan. 14 to Jan. 27
PHI Centre (407 St. Pierre St.)
Full schedule online at phi-centre.com/en
Free
- LIT**
 - 2. Argo Bookshop Featured Reading #13
Jan. 17
Argo Bookshop (1915 Ste-Catherine St. W.)
7:30 p.m.
Free
 - 3. Official Slam feat. Ryan Thorn
Jan. 20
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
7:00 p.m.
\$7.00 general / \$5.00 with student ID or QWF membership
- MUSIC**
 - 4. The Walkmen + Father John Misty
Jan. 15
Corona Theatre (2490 Notre-Dame St. W.)
7:30 p.m.
\$24.50 advance / \$28.00 door
 - 5. TUPI Collective
Jan. 17
Le Bleury-Bar à Vinyle (2109 Bleury St.)
8:00 p.m.
Free
 - 6. Hip Hop Karaoke
Jan. 17
Le Belmont (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.)
10:00 p.m.
\$5.00 before 11:00 p.m. / \$10.00 after
 - 7. Peace by P.E.A.C.E. Montreal Benefit Show
Jan. 18
Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.
\$10.00
- THEATRE**
 - 8. In Denial
Jan. 16 and Jan. 18
Tuesday Night Café Theatre (Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish St.)
7:00 p.m.
\$6.00 students / \$10.00 regular
- VISUAL ART**
 - 9. CKUT Presents: Art's Birthday 2013
Jan. 18
Brasserie Beaubien (73 Beaubien St. E.)
Vernissage 5:00 p.m. / Performances 9:00 p.m.
Vernissage \$5.00 or PWYC / Performances \$7.00, or \$10.00 with cake
 - 10. Hub Session: Multimedia Art Residency and Performance
Jan. 18
Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St., second floor)
7:00 p.m.
Free

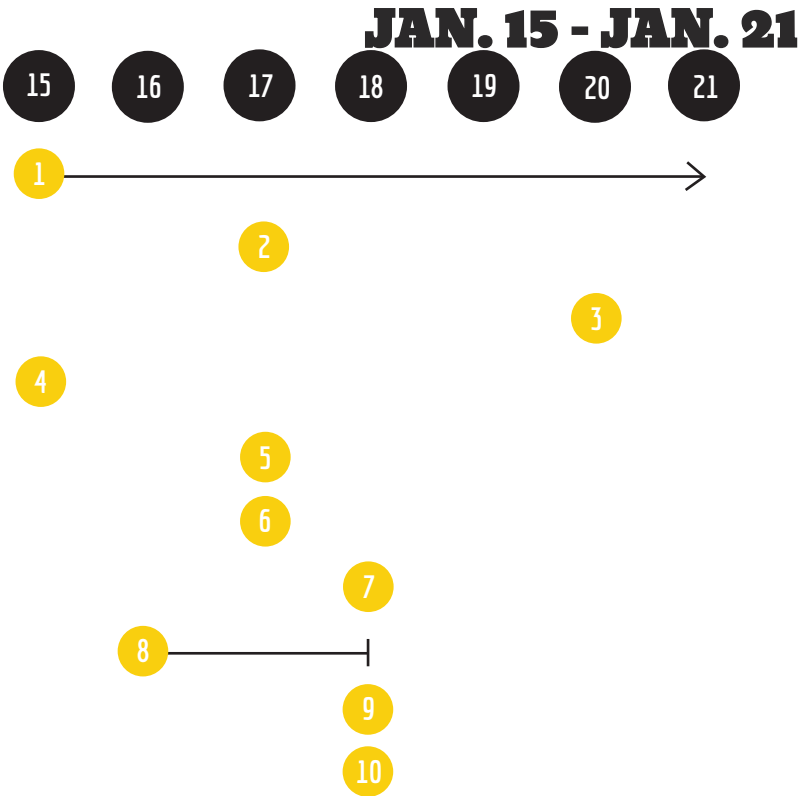


PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Back from an injury that sidelined him for five months, Concordia's Kyle Desmarais rebounds the ball in the Stingers' 83-65 win over the McGill Redmen last Thursday, Jan. 10. PHOTO ALEX BAILEY

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF JAN. 7 TO JAN. 13



Wednesday, Jan. 9	Men's Hockey – Concordia 2, McGill University 3 (OT)
Thursday, Jan. 10	Men's Basketball – Concordia 83, McGill University 65 Women's Basketball – Concordia 44, McGill University 75
Friday, Jan. 11	Women's Hockey – Concordia 2, Université de Montréal 7
Saturday, Jan. 12	Men's Basketball – Concordia 69, Université du Québec à Montréal 71 Women's Basketball – Concordia 67, Université du Québec à Montréal 57 Men's Hockey – Concordia 3, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières 5

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Friday, Jan. 18	7:30 p.m.	Men's Hockey vs. UQTR Patriotes (Ed Meagher Arena)
Saturday, Jan. 19	2:00 p.m.	Women's Basketball vs. Bishop's Gaiters (Concordia Gym)
	2:30 p.m.	Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)
	3:00 p.m.	Men's Hockey at Carleton Ravens
	4:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball vs. Bishop's Gaiters (Concordia Gym)
Sunday, Jan. 20	2:00 p.m.	Women's Hockey at Montréal Carabins

Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports.



PHOTOS COURTESY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SKI CLUB



"No one goes into a race telling themselves, 'I'm going to win this race.' We go in with the goal of improving ourselves and breaking through our own plateaus." **François Pagé**

Concordia University's Ski Club might not have the experience, funding or prestige of their adversaries—but don't think that makes them any less determined.

"It's a competitive sport," said first-year member François Pagé. "We're absolutely trying to win."

Winning isn't what the club had been doing much of in the past, with their last championship coming in the women's category in 1991.

Their struggles continued all the way until last season, when the team finished the 2012 season ranked last in the men's, women's and overall categories.

But it's a new year, a new season and a new mindset for the club.

"We're trying to become more serious and more official," said Pagé.

It started with a more rigorous training program. The team first started hitting the gym four times a week in the fall, then the slopes twice a week in the winter. They even attended a training camp at Mont Saint-Anne during the first week of January, where they filmed their runs and watched them together to give and receive feedback.

Despite all the work it's put in, the team remains realistic in its prospects for this season.

"No one goes into a race telling themselves, 'I'm going to win this race,'" said Pagé. "We go in with the goal of improving ourselves and breaking through our own plateaus."

UPHILL BATTLE FOR DOWNHILL TEAM

Concordia University Ski Club Looks to Improve in 2013. By Justin Blanchard, @jblanch6

It's an understandable position, considering the team's situation.

"We can't compete with teams that have 10 skiers that have participated at the international level when we have just one or two," said team captain Paul Blanc-Paque.

That's the case, he said, for Université Laval and Université de Montréal. Both schools have the luxury of a choosing from a bigger pool of recruits as the only francophone universities with ski teams in Quebec.

"Laval and Montréal hold selection camps," he said. "We had just 26 requests to join the team this year, so we took them all."

The fourth team in the league, McGill, is a popular destination for some of Ontario's best skiers, ac-

cording to Blanc-Paque.

Meanwhile, Concordia's ski team struggles to even earn recognition among its own students.

"I had to present myself in a class this year, told them I am captain of the ski team and everybody looked up," he said. "No one knows we have a ski team."

But the team earned just the amount of recognition it needed.

"We had 25 members last year," said Blanc-Paque. "Rarely were there more than 11 or 12 before then."

And, more importantly, the team now has the structure it needs to train those members.

"Last year, there was one coach for 25 skiers," said Blanc-Paque. "Usually, teams will have one coach for five to seven skiers."

This year, the team boasts three coaches and two team captains—Blanc-Paque included—who have already helped instill a new mentality within the team.

"We have girls on the team who had never been to the gym before, who now go five or six times a week," he said.

"This season, I expect those who were there last year [to] show us that they're real skiers, that we start to get serious and improve our results," Blanc-Paque said, quickly adding that there's more to the club than winning, however.

"We're not trying to become professionals—everyone who's here just wants to have fun," Blanc-Paque said.

Unfortunately, that fun doesn't come with the overseas training

camps and expensive ski suits that Blanc-Paque says are offered at the likes of UdeM.

But one thing Concordia's ski club prides itself on is its welcoming environment, which favours individual development over the expectation of podium finishes.

"We won't promise that we'll win a championship, but we promise that at the end of the season, each of our skiers will be in shape, will have become better skiers and will leave university having had a positive experience as a member of the ski team."

The Concordia Ski Club will officially hit the slopes for the first time this year Jan. 19, when they'll slalom down Mont Saint-Sauveur in the opening race of the 2013 season.

STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS

ConU Admin Says No to Two-Track Tuition. By Ian Stobber

Over the years, Concordia University has developed a knack for finding its name in headlines and articles loaded with words like “corruption,” “mismanagement” and “controversy.”

As a student journalist working to hold this university’s administration accountable, I can’t say that its reputation for shady dealings and shifty business is all that undeserved. If you are looking for scandals, Concordia has proven itself to, unfortunately, be the gift that keeps on giving.

Historically, the school’s administrators have had little choice but to go into media interviews with their heads bowed low. They have often been the ones in the wrong, and have found themselves having to answer to criticism that is frankly, both deserved and valid. But not this time.

In a *The Gazette* opinions piece published on Jan. 12, Concordia administrators stood up for this university, its research and its students.

And they made some valid points.

The piece—written by Concordia President Alan Shepard, Concordia

University Faculty Association President Lucie Lequin and Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association President Maria E. Peluso—came as a response to an article published a few days earlier by columnist Henry Aubin.

In his article, Aubin proposes the implementation of a two-tiered education system as a means to solve Quebec’s complex and highly contentious tuition-fee debate.

Aubin addresses the stalemate between students—who want low, or no, tuition fees—and universities, which require large amounts of funding to obtain prestige and success.

Aubin creates a dichotomy between Montreal’s four major universities.

He pairs Concordia with the Université du Québec à Montréal as the duo that “would not aim for stardom” and would “perform relatively little research,” whereas McGill and the Université de Montréal “would be more research-orientated and actively pursue excellence.”

To that, Concordia’s administration called bullshit. And as a student here, I appreciated it.

The response piece calls out Aubin for basing his theory on two false premises.

The ConU administrators criticize Aubin for falsely assuming that learning and research are two entities independent of one another, and for taking the *Maclean’s* magazine rankings as a relevant source of evidence.

While it’s crucial to recognize and report on this institution for its faults and failures—it also deserves notice for the things it does right.

Research at this school is damn impressive.

A flight simulator exists in the depths of the Hall Building. A team of engineers recently brought home the winning prize at the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge.

Hexagram, Concordia’s Centre for Research-Creation in Media Arts and Technologies, has worked alongside the likes of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And the Research Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics is currently housed in a \$30-million Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified building.



PHOTO COREY POOL

This school has grounds to hold the importance of research and its funding close—it matters. It’s important for them, in fighting for us.

As they said, “Our students demand and deserve a first-rate ed-

ucation, with access to the creative ideas and leading-edge tools that will allow all of them to pursue excellence and succeed not just locally but globally.”

Thanks, you guys.

MISREPRESENTED AT THE MEETING?

National Native Chief Atleo Likely to Face Anger

After Sick Leave. By Andrew Brennan, @brennamen

After the largely ceremonial “working meeting” between First Nations leaders and the federal government last week, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo is feeling sick—but for the wrong reasons.

He’s stepping aside from his duties and is expected to return in about 10 days, reportedly nursing a flu-like ailment that has been affecting him for weeks.

Many are wishing for his speedy recovery—but there are others who don’t want him coming back, either.

As an organization, the AFN represents over 600 communities across the country. The delegation that attended the “working meeting” with the Prime Minister amounted to what could be described as a handful at best.

In the buildup to the meeting, many chiefs were concerned with the meeting format proposed by the Harper government, which limited involvement to a select few commu-

nity chiefs beyond the AFN leadership and also barred Governor General David Johnston from attending.

Of course, Johnston was later directed to hold a ceremonial meeting with AFN leaders following their sit-down with Harper, but he was still not present for the real conversation.

Having too many people in a single room would have been too challenging, according to a government official who was at the meeting and told the Canadian Press that the restrictions were put in place so the meeting “was small enough that you could have a real discussion.”

“We’re the ones responsible here, we’re the ones that can act and have to act. Not the Governor General. There’s nothing he can do, constitutionally, so we didn’t want to give that impression,” he added.

Fair point. But the problem remains that too few people were invited to come sit at the table.

Community chiefs were underrepresented at the meeting on Jan. 11, with AFN executives largely making up the First Nations delegation.

Chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Atlantic region and the Dene Nation boycotted the ceremonial pageantry—and representatives from Ontario and Manitoba have called for a non-confidence vote against Atleo for going ahead with the meeting.

They demanded more chiefs be in on the discussion and Johnston be included as well.

It should be noted that many of these dissenting communities signed treaties with Crown representatives—something some First Nations never did to begin with.

From their standpoint, these treaties are meant to be historically binding, extending beyond the scope of a single government, thus requiring a Crown representative when being under

negotiation—as they believe to be the case in the federal omnibus bills C-45 and C-38, which they contend are threatening these agreements.

Though indeed devoid of much power, Johnston’s attendance at the working meeting would have been a sign of good faith.

Last-minute efforts by Misi-pawistik Cree Nation Chief Ovide Mercredi to include Johnston and extend invitations to more community chiefs were bucked by the Prime Minister’s office.

Thirty people an accurate delegation does not make. To put it mildly, many indigenous people were not represented. Even worse: they were misrepresented.

For that, we can thank Atleo just as much as Harper. He side-stepped the concerns of his caucus and went along with the meeting anyway. He now has to answer to a divided AFN and the wider community that has banded together

under the banner of the Idle No More movement.

True, many behind Idle No More are also not satisfied with their band council chiefs, calling them corrupt or part of the problem and only representative of First Nations peoples because of the Indian Act.

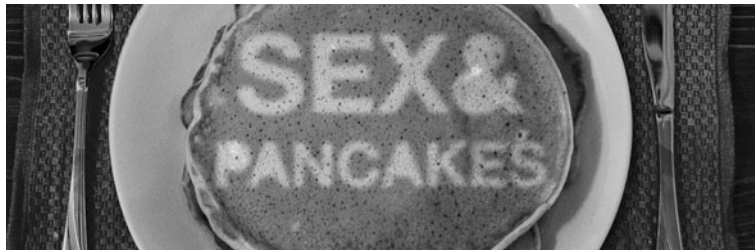
However, the movement is far from homogenous. Others believe band chiefs are needed to advocate officially on behalf of the grassroots.

Either way, restricting dialogue to a few members won’t satisfy anyone.

Ironically, Atleo said to the CBC that the grassroots movement “forced” new dialogue between First Nations and government leaders and that they “will not be silenced.”

But by condoning the government’s shutting out of the wider First Nations leadership, he ensured they would be.

Rest up, Shawn. I imagine you’ll need it when your push comes to shove.



◆ DISCOVERING NEW FORMS OF PLEASURE

I'm a male Concordia student, and since I was 17, I've been experimenting with anal toys. I usually use them when masturbating, but have recently included them in my relationship with my girlfriend. We got a strap-on and she fucks me, which is even better. So my conundrum is, I want real anal sex. I like it, but I'm not into men and can't get a hard-on around them. Even when I had a four-way, I ended up sitting out 'til the other couple was gone, only then was I able to get it up. What would your advice be?

—Hard to Tell

Well, I guess the first question would be this: what constitutes “real” anal sex to you? What is it that you're looking for that you're not currently getting?

In my experience, people's definitions of sex acts vary wildly on a personal basis, with their definitions often influenced by what genitals they happen to have, what their sexual orientation is and so on. My impression is that real anal sex to you involves being penetrated by a real penis rather than a strap-on, with the problem being that you're not actually into men.

So when you imagine having real anal sex, what exactly does it consist of and who is fucking you? If it's a man, are there things about this man or situation specifically that turn you on?

I'm not sure how you see your own sexual orientation, but it could also be a psychological barrier, as there are a lot of taboos surrounding men who don't identify as gay being penetrated by other men, and sometimes we don't realize the ways we're affected by these ideas until they become a problem.

Maybe a certain type of man would turn you on? Or maybe you're subconsciously not letting yourself be turned on by men?

If that's not the case, is it possible that this is a fantasy-only turn-on? Sometimes our fantasies turn out to be things we don't actually want in reality, despite how hot they are in our heads—which can be confusing when we try them out.

It seems like being able to get hard is a big concern for you, so I'm making the assumption that you typically use anal play as a complement to stroking your dick. Some men prefer to not stimulate their penis when receiving anal pleasure, and can orgasm simply from anal stimulation.

This may not be the case for you, but it's something to consider if you do want to be penetrated by a man and are turned on but just don't get hard.

On the other hand, maybe the issue isn't about needing a real dick, but about feeling mutual pleasure with your partner. Many people say they don't enjoy sex acts that are focused more on their own pleasure (like oral sex) because they're more turned on when they know their partner is getting off too.

This can be complicated in your situation because your girlfriend doesn't have the equipment for what you need—and while men do, they don't turn you on. A strap-on with a built-in vibrator might help in that area, or you could try taking turns pleasuring each other to keep things reciprocal. It's also good to remember that your girlfriend is likely getting real pleasure from getting you off, too.

I recognize that this was mostly me asking questions, but sometimes a problem is so specific to someone's own personal experiences that the best thing to do is ask questions in hopes of triggering a solution. Explore your thoughts on all of this more, and feel free to write in again if you still find yourself confused!

—Melissa Fuller, @mel_full

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

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

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



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust CLOUTIER

WINTER ACTIVITIES

BY MICHAEL WROBEL @MICHAEL_WROBEL

Across

- 1. At the end of a long day shovelling the snow, there's nothing better to warm you up than this drink. Tip: add marshmallows. (2 words)
- 4. It's worth discovering this sweet and hot alcoholic beverage traditionally served at the Quebec Winter Carnival.
- 5. It'll take a lumberjack's appetite to get you through the hearty meals served at one of these establishments, which pop up as seasonal Quebec staples. (2 words)
- 6. This village in New York State, a two-hour drive away from Montreal, hosted the Winter Olympics twice—first in 1932 and again in 1980. (2 words)
- 8. This is a form of off-trail downhill skiing in which extreme sports lovers use an aircraft, as opposed to a ski lift, to access natural, untouched powder snow.
- 9. You can careen down the side of a mountain at high speeds aboard this quintessentially

Canadian type of sled—originally created by the Innu and Cree.

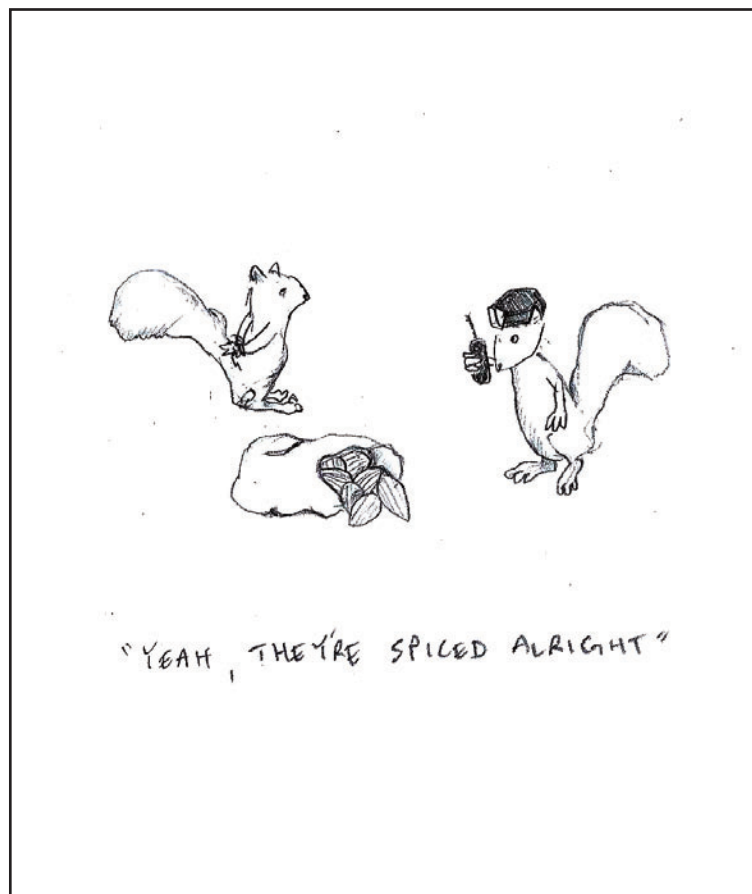
- 10. In hockey, this is the way in which the game commences at the start of a period or after a stoppage of play.
- 11. This Swedish-inspired winter tourist attraction may turn you into a Popsicle overnight, but it'll undoubtedly be an unforgettable experience. (2 words)

Down

- 2. If you really dislike the cold, you might be inclined to join the countless bears and couch potatoes throughout northern climates in slowing down your metabolism in this winter “activity.”
- 3. These clothing accessories seem to go in and out of fashion, but they'll keep the sides of your head toasty-warm out in the cold.
- 7. In this type of dense blizzard, blowing snow reduces visibility considerably, making the horizon difficult to discern and driving close to impossible.

BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



LINKOGRAPHY

THE THINGS YOU FIND
WHEN THE SNOW MELTS

- ◆ DOG POOP
- ◆ TIM'S CUPS AND EMPTY BEER BOTTLES
- ◆ A SINGLE MITTEN
- ◆ SAD ABANDONED TOYS
- ◆ THE BIKE YOU THOUGHT WAS STOLEN
- ◆ MUMMIFIED ANIMALS
- ◆ ??!*\$&##@%^&?!

GRAPHIC JAYDE NORSTRÖM AND FLORA HAMMOND

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

Hashtagging: #You're #Doing #It #Wrong

Social media is pretty awesome.

I can chat with my friends on Facebook, talk to people I've never met in my life on Twitter and look at insanely filtered selfies on Instagram.

What's not awesome is when social media isn't used properly.

Like using hashtags on Facebook.

The whole purpose of a hashtag is for Tweeters and Instagrammers to categorize their tweets and posts, as well as to provide context for them. On Twitter. And Instagram. Where there's a character limit.

You'll note I didn't say Facebook, where you can't search for trending statuses and where your status update can be as long as a Tolstoy novel.

So why, avid social media user, must you put a hashtag in your Facebook statuses?

A hashtag-less sentence gets the message

across just fine.

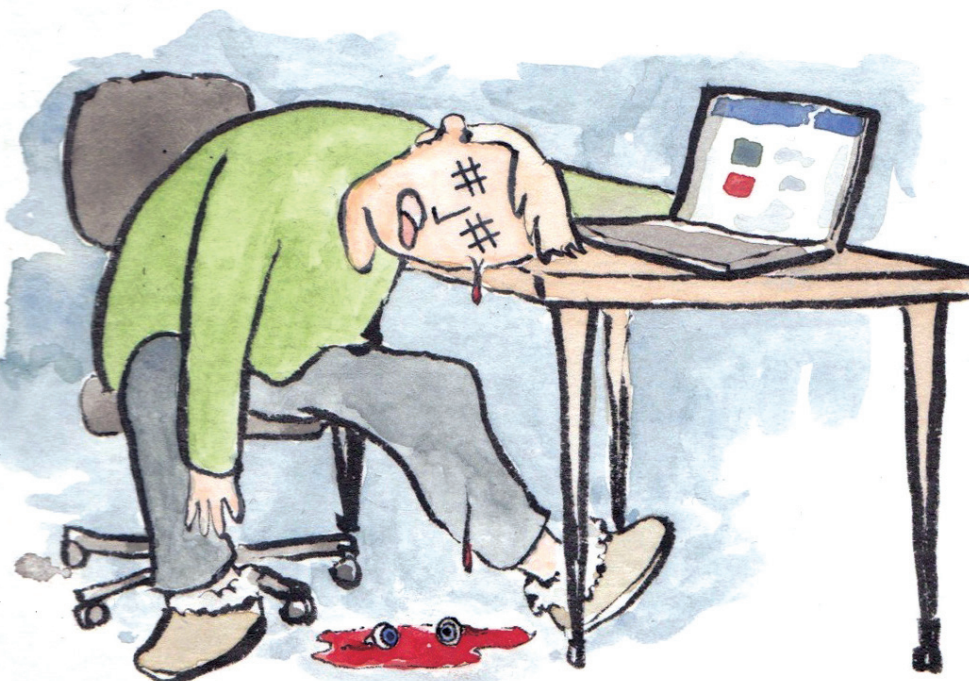
Speaking of sentences, why must you #use #a #hashtag #with #every #single #word #in #your #status #update?

It makes you look as ridiculous as that one guy in every nightclub who struts in wearing sunglasses. He's not cool. Neither are you with all of your hashtags.

Just because you just uploaded a picture of yourself driving in snow doesn't mean you have to put #snow #snowing #happy #winter #driving #december as the description. I can see all that for myself.

And so, dear avid social media user, here I am, begging you to stop using hashtags on Facebook. Please. Before I rip my eyes out.

—Justin Blanchard @jblanch6
Acting Sports Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

Editorial



THE SLUMBERING, BLUNDERING COUNCIL

A few councillors have complained that we are not covering the Concordia Student Union enough. It's not our job to make the council newsworthy, but they probably have a point.

There are certain aspects of the CSU that certainly deserve more coverage: months of negligence, incompetence and mind-boggling immaturity.

Let's start with negligence.

So many basic administrative tasks have fallen through the cracks with the CSU that it would be laughable if it weren't so damned sad.

Executive reports come in late or unfinished. Job postings struggle to surface, if they're posted at all. Important motions are tabled for weeks because of procedural delays. The list goes on.

By far the biggest blunder—and the source of many other, later blunders—was how long council has waited on training. Scheduled for the end of January, most councillors will have spent an embarrassingly long part of their mandate without really understanding how to do their job.

Imagine if you showed up for your first day at a restaurant job and the chef tossed you a copy of the menu, said, "Good luck, kid, figure it out."

Being a councillor is not supposed to be guesswork, but that's what most of our councillors have been doing for the past five months.

They waste hours arguing about procedures that no one—not even the chair—understands. To solve exactly this problem, these

rules have been codified in a handy book, Robert's Rules. There's even a *For Dummies* version, if the 816-page original is too taxing.

Sometimes they seem to just forget these things. Other times they're just incapable of doing them correctly.

This week saw some talented and bright new councillors. So bright, in fact, that they had to direct some of their fellow councillors who have a relatively large amount of experience to their own standing regulations.

To all councillors and especially the executive: please read and understand your own standing regulations. After putting on pants and showing up, it's the absolute bare minimum you can do.

All of this might be somewhat excusable (well, probably not), if

all of the councillors and executives acted like adults.

Acting like an adult means not delaying an important council meeting for almost an hour because the pizza hasn't been delivered. It means not dressing like you're ready to eat popcorn in bed and have a *Gilmore Girls* marathon. And it certainly means not routinely falling into hissy fits and communal tantrums.

And it's not just in meetings. Executive reports, which should be the guiding hands for unions to come, are so poorly written they would fail a CEGEP English 101 course.

We keep sending different editors to help cover CSU meetings, and every time we've sent one to their first CSU meeting, they've consistently been blown away by a council that can't even behave it-

self as well as a high school senate.

If our first impressions are so poor, then what impressions are the student leaders making on our administration?

For the first time in nearly a decade, we have some leaders at this university we can be proud of. University President Alan Shepard and Board of Governors chair Norman Hébert are not perfect, but under their guidance, Senate and BoG meetings have become a place of useful and respectful dialogue.

It's just particularly unfortunate that the first student leaders they were introduced to are just so embarrassing.

We've taken note, councillors who want more coverage. But be forewarned: you might not like what we have to say.

See you Wednesday.

◆ GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

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SIDE A

SIDE B

⚡ I think I have Bed Bugs!
 ⚡ Do I have to accept a Rent Increase?
 ⚡ Um, I don't speak French, can I work in Montreal?

☞ Oh Canada... I think I want to Immigrate.
 ☞ Help! I've been stopped by the Police! Discrimination.
 ☞ I'm a victim.

🍷 Professor! So unfair!?
 🍷 I've been charged with Academic Misconduct!
 🍷 Can you Spell Harassment?

The Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank can help! We're your source for information on tenant and working life.

The CSU Legal Information Clinic is free and here to help. We can help you navigate through these issues and more, with information & referrals.

CSU Advocacy Center to the rescue! Representation, Advice & Information for problems you may face in your Academic Life.

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