

THE HABI-WHAT?

*The CSU put up posters suggesting we have a student centre. Literally everyone is confused. **Page 04***



CSU LEAVES OUT DISABLED STUDENTS

*Nearly 900 students are without union services—services they pay for. **Page 08***



EDITORIAL: HOW NOT TO LEAD THE CSU P19

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

CSU PRESIDENT

?



RESIGNS

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OUTSIDE

THE

BOX



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GENERAL ELECTION

VOLUME 34

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

Friday, March 8, 2013

4:00 p.m.

The Link Office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)

All of *The Link's* editorial positions will be open.

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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 related to the position. Candidates for editor-in-chief must submit at least eight (8) samples of work from at least three (3) different sections.

For more information, send an email to editor@thelinknewspaper.ca

THE CONTENDERS
Eligible to Run: Graeme Shorten Adams, Alex Bailey, Natalia Lara Diaz Bernio, Yacine Bouhali, Brian Lapuz, David Murphy, Alice DuLac, Jane Gatensby, Flora Hammond, Sanaz Sunnie Hassanpour, Oliver Leon, Jayde Norström, Michelle Pucci, Riley Sparks and current *The Link* Masthead.

One More Contribution Needed
Brendan Adams, Josh Dixon, Mattias Graham, Brandon Johnston, Daniel Rudnicka-Lavoie, Adrian Sousa.

Two More Contributions Needed
Anne Myriam Abdelhak, Christopher Curtis, Luciana Dykstra, Jesse Feith, Alex Giardini, Caity Hall, Alex Jeffrey, Michelle Meiklejohn, Audrey-Anne Ross, Celia Ste Croix.

Applications must be posted in *The Link's* Office by March 1, at 4:00 p.m.

THE LINK ONLINE

A LACK OF INTEREST

The CSU's Education Summit Campaign is winding down, but did anyone notice?

BETWEEN LIGHT & DARKNESS

We filmed the Sonia Bala-zovjeh Dance Company's final rehearsal for their latest show! Watch the video on our Fringe Blog.



NEW CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM EXHIBITS

French and Brazilian artists show their work at the MAC.

CSU: REPLACING LOST RANKS

Council has a new president and CEO to elect this week after another resignation. Check online for our coverage.

STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT RESIGNS



◆ Photo Erin Sparks

by Corey Pool @coreyriver

With less than three months left in the school year, the Concordia Student Union has lost its elected president.

Last Thursday night, Schubert Laforest quietly stepped down from his position as CSU president with a letter to students, CSU council and student media.

"It is with great sadness that I am hereby resigning from the position of President of the Concordia Student Union," reads the letter.

After several weeks of being absent from the office and from council, Laforest has cited his health as the reason for his resignation. Blood tests have confirmed that he has been diagnosed with mononucleosis, strep throat and another viral infection.

"The combination of those three make it so that I'm basically physically incapable of completing my duties," said Laforest in an interview with *The Link*, adding that the extreme fatigue and other symptoms associated with mono were "not sustainable."

"There were times that my body would fail me, and I'd be out for hours," he said. "Once I got the results, it was pretty much game over. This wasn't something that I'd just be able to tough out."

"I sat with the team, and we decided this was the best course of action."

► Continues on Page 5

EXTRA GRAVY FOR CON U ADMIN

Three senior administrators get 20+ per cent salary bumps to stay at Concordia. P4

MISSING & MURDERED

Women leaders of Idle No More speak up for their murdered sisters. P6

V-DAY VAGINA MONOLOGUES

McGill organization raises money to combat gender-based violence. P4



DOWN TO THE WIRE

ConU men's hockey team playoff hopes dashed in season finale. P11



NEXT STOP, SHERBROOKE

We profile ex-Hab and current scout's son—and 2012 QMJHL No. 1 draft pick—Daniel Audette. P9

SEX & PANCAKES

The health benefits of orgasming during flu-and-midterm season. P18

HAVING A DISABILITY AT CON U

Speaking out against elevator passes for differently-abled students. P18

A SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO STICK AROUND

Three ConU Administrators Get Combined 113K in Salary Increases to Stay at University

by Riley Sparks @sparksriley

Concordia's maintenance workers say they're calling up retirees to fill gaps in the schedule. The university doesn't pay enough, they explain, and they can't hire new people because good workers can make more at another job.

But for three senior administrators who took home salary increases of 20 per cent or more last year, Concordia's pay is just right.

These increases, which the university calls "retention adjustments," were paid as incentives to keep the administrators at Concordia after they had received other job offers elsewhere.

The three increases were paid on top of the 2.75 per cent pay hike given each year to all senior administrators.

The three administrators are head librarian Gerald Beasley, chief communications officer Philippe Beauregard and vice president of institutional relations Bram Freedman.

Beasley's salary increased by \$33,812 to a total of \$182,437 in 2012, while Beauregard's increased by \$35,000 to a total of \$206,670. Freedman received the

largest increase—\$44,782, which brought his salary to \$260,000.

The past academic year was "sort of an unusual year, in terms of the numbers of increases that were above the norm, the 2.75 per cent that all the senior admin people got," said Freedman.

Retention adjustments are paid as permanent salary increases and count towards an employee's pension.

Employees who have received a job offer would talk to their immediate superior about any possible retention adjustment, Freedman said.

For VP-level employees like Beauregard and Freedman, that superior was former president Frederick Lowy. Beasley's superior at the time of his retention adjustment was former provost David Graham.

Several other administrators who moved to new positions, or whose job descriptions changed, also received salary adjustments. Russell Copeman, for example, is paid five per cent more as VP External Relations than in his previous position as VP Government Relations.

Freedman noted that the current fiscal year would not include as many large adjustments.

"In the fall coming up, I can only think of one large adjustment that would be there," Freedman said.

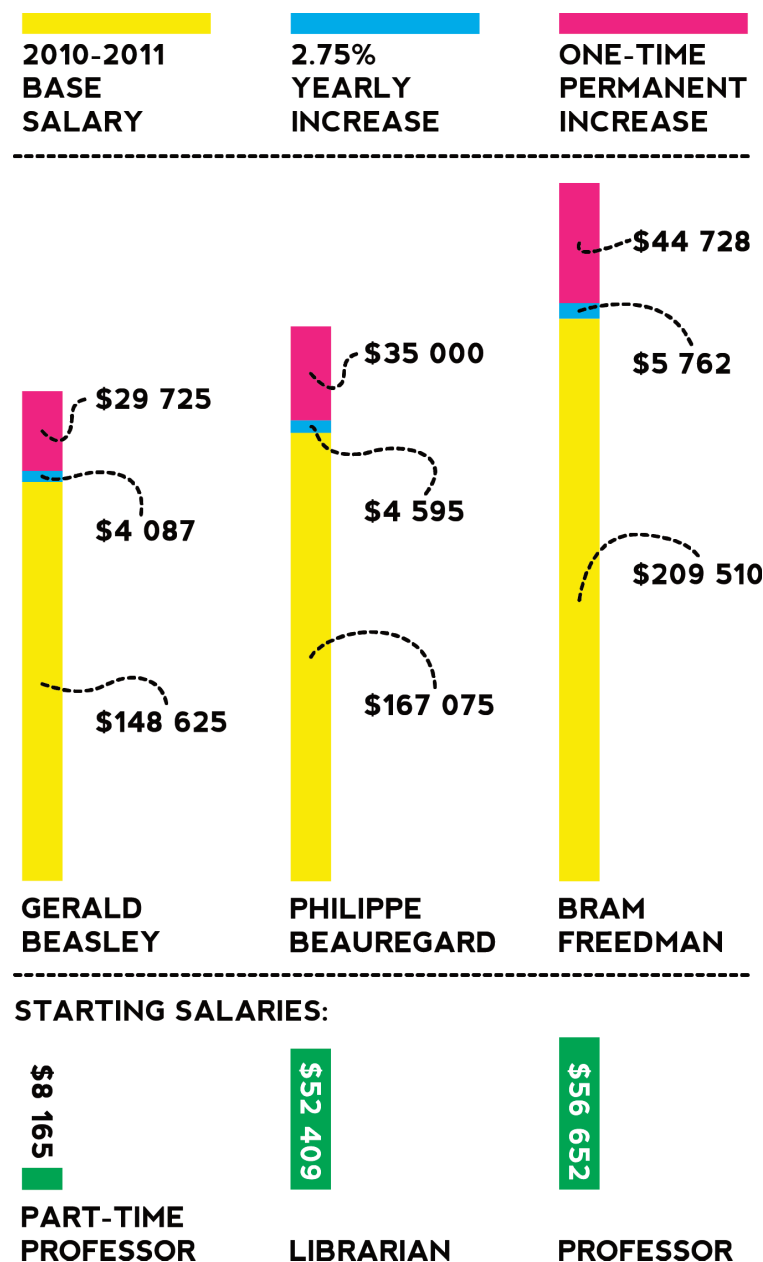
That adjustment, he said, will be for Graham Carr, who was appointed VP Research and Graduate Studies after several months as an interim VP in that department.

Full-time faculty members are also eligible for retention adjustments, but those adjustments are capped at \$15,000 and are not permanent—after five years, the adjustment may be changed or removed entirely. And unlike retention adjustments for senior administrators, they do not count toward an employee's pension.

There is no cap on retention adjustments for senior administrators, but any increase must stay within salary guidelines for each position as set by the provincial government.

Current Concordia President Alan Shepard told *The Link* last week that retention adjustments might sometimes be necessary, but that they are "not something you do every day."

"We're here trying to explain decisions that I wasn't a part of—what I would say is they should be used sparingly," he said.



Graphic Jayde Norström

A "FRESH FACE" FOR STUDENT SPACE

CSU Attempts to Re-Brand the Concept of a Student Centre

by Megan Dolski @megandolski

According to posters currently lining the university's walls, a student centre is finally coming to Concordia—and it's called The Habitat.

But if you ask the Concordia Student Union, what you're actually seeing is the first phase attempting to re-brand the stigma-wrought, contentious concept of student space at this school.

The new brand aims to turn over a new leaf, moving forward from a history replete with two consecutive failed referendums seeking fee levy increases and a highly controversial contract, which almost led to the inking of a \$54 million deal that would have seen the union jointly purchase the Faubourg Building with the university.

"You can't really talk about space if you are talking about a centre—which is why we re-

branded it," explained CSU VP Clubs and Internal Nadine Atallah, who has been actively working alongside project management company MHPM to define Concordia students' wants and needs when it comes to student space.

"This project is still really abstract and there isn't a site that we've picked out yet; there is nothing to see and nothing tangible for people to touch, so it's difficult for us to explain," said Atallah.

"But we wanted to give a visual for people to see without implanting an idea of what this would look like—we want them to tell us what this would look like, not the other way around."

She said the posters' written and graphic ambiguity is intentional, as it depicts a space that has yet to be identified or created.

The posters, appearing this past Friday, are the first—a teaser—in a series of two, leading

to a launch party on Feb. 28. The aim was to pique students' curiosity and rejuvenate interest and awareness concerning student space at the university.

Atallah said the idea for the campaign, which was spearheaded primarily by herself, and the campaign's designer, Katie Brioux, surfaced during a brainstorming session attempting to outline a promotion strategy for the union's ongoing online student-space survey.

"I just wanted to give it a fresh look so people say, 'Hey, we really don't have a student centre and The Habitat sounds fun and cool and I do want that,'" explained Brioux.

Gonzo Nieto, CSU councillor and member of the ad-hoc student space committee, said he'd heard little of the campaign before it was largely drafted and ready to go.

"I don't think that the messag-

ing is clear, and I feel like there is a lot more that needs to be made concrete and be decided upon on the whole organizational side of this project before this kind of step is taken," he said.

Funding for both the poster campaign and for the launch party will come from one of the CSU's budget lines, and is not included in the \$97,500 in fees they are paying project management company MHPM.

Patrick Goodwin, the CSU's primary liaison with the company, said that, while MHPM was almost entirely uninvolved with the campaign's creative side, they very much approved of both the concept and the design.

"We were always trying to get a definition for the space that didn't necessarily come from its address or anything like that—but that came from what it was and what it should be," he said,

adding that when it comes time for the company to present tangible options to students, they will ensure they "fulfill the definition of the habitat."

Atallah emphasized that while they remain on the same page, the re-branding strategy and the union's work with MHPM are two very separate projects.

"It's more to do with the fact that we've lost sight of what student space means, and where we are with this project, and it's gained this really heavy past and that's really not in line with what we see as student space and what we are working on right now."

The CSU intends to present several student space options to students by the end of the month, having taken into consideration the responses to the research they've conducted alongside MHPM over the past months.

YET ANOTHER RESIGNATION AT THE CSU

Citing Health Issues, President Laforest Resigns From Council



Schubert Laforest, centre, resigned last week from his position as CSU President. Photo Corey Pool

by Corey Pool @coreyriver

► Continued from Page 3

Laforest was missing from the last CSU council meeting—his absence explained by other councillors and executives who vouched for his condition, saying then that he had the flu and was not doing well.

Also missing from council was VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki, who was also apparently ill. Still, the resignation ambushed some.

“It was a big surprise. We didn’t really see that one coming,” said councillor James Tyler Vaccaro. “We had been told at the last council meeting that he had been under the weather, but we hadn’t been given much information about it.”

Vaccaro is one of several new councillors at the CSU, elected in a byelection last November. However, he wasn’t alone in feeling left in the dark.

“I knew he had been sick, but I didn’t know that this was on the table or was being considered,” said councillor Gonzo Nieto.

The shock of Laforest’s resignation was compounded by the fact that the majority of council found out about it through the student media, which apparently sparked some tensions between councillors and the executive.

According to the executive, there was a problem with their email server, and council didn’t receive Laforest’s resignation letter until some time after the media had reported it.

“I still feel like there are ways they could have safeguarded against that,” said Nieto. “I can’t deny that it really frustrated me a lot.”

Unlike some councillors, the executive seems to have seen the resignation coming. Laforest had been sick for some time, and unable to fulfill the tasks outlined in his mandate as president.

“I wasn’t that surprised when it happened,” said VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon. “On a personal level, I kind of entertained the idea of what we’d do if this kept going on. When it did turn out, we had already had a conversation and we all kind of knew that it could happen.”

Who’s Next?

In his resignation letter, Laforest ensures that he will not simply up and leave his position at the union—he also names his hopeful successor, and insists he will stick around to help facilitate the transition.

“I have already begun finalizing all the critical files I have been working on, after which I hope Nadine Atallah, current VP Clubs and Internal Affairs, will take over my position and all my responsibilities with council’s approval,” reads the letter.

CSU bylaws state that in the event of a vacancy in the presidency that council is to appoint a new president from the remaining vice-presidents to serve out the remainder of the term.

“We chose Nadine because she’s the one that’s worked with me closely the most,” said Laforest. “I’m bringing her up to speed.”

The executive’s proposal of running Atallah as the union’s new president was met with some concern from council, due in part to the fact that the executive seems to have already begun to act on their decisions, and because the issue has not yet been brought to council.

“I would have really rather that instead of having this initial pressure from the executive to make these moves, that it would have been open to council to discuss without any pressure,” said Nieto.

In an interview with *The Link* on the night of Laforest’s resignation, Atallah initially said that the executive had also chosen and begun training Museb Nabil Abu-Thuraia, former Muslim Students Association president, to replace Atallah as the new VP Clubs and Internal.

Abu-Thuraia ran against Atallah for the same position in the March 2012 elections, but lost. In a recent interview, however, Atallah retracted the statement, saying that, though they had proposed Abu-Thuraia, he hadn’t begun any formal training.

According to Vaccaro though, the lack of communication from the executive on important decisions is most problematic.

“It’s annoying in a way that we’re supposed

to be there on council to hold them accountable, but time and time again decisions are being made and we’re just supposed to sit there and say, ‘Oh yeah, that’s already been done. Let’s ratify those decisions,’” said Vaccaro.

Despite the initial concern from council, however, Lauzon seems fairly confident in the executive’s decision.

“We need to finish our year from a strong position, and at this point it’s about an objective conversation about the best way to do that,” said Lauzon. “We talked about it as a team and we all feel like she has the best number of advantages and the least number of disadvantages to bring to the position.”

Moving on Without a Leader

Laforest’s resignation comes less than three weeks before the increasingly controversial Quebec summit on education, and four months before the end of this executive’s mandate.

“It’s clearly a blow to the organization,” said Vaccaro. “He was leading the entire executive. He was at the top, so he should have been managing and organizing the entire plan going forward. So you can’t say it’s not a major setback for the CSU.”

Looking toward the summit, Lauzon—whose mandate this year has centred around preparing for the summit—doesn’t seem worried about Laforest’s absence.

“I think it’s a blow, but I think we’ll be fine,” he said. “In terms of having the power to represent the CSU in a single voice, that concept will be completed when Nadine will hopefully get the position.

“In terms of damages, they’re rather mitigated in that Schubert is going to be replaced by Nadine, hopefully.”

Whether council appoints Atallah as the new president or not, she seems confident that the union can pull it together to finish the year.

“I think it’s a big moment of upheaval, and we have to make sure that we’re on the ball and that nothing falls through the cracks,” said Atallah. “We’ve been doing that already, and the team is ready to take that on.”

CITY BRIEFS

by Flora Hammond, @floraHmd

The Vegetable Peel Conspiracy

Last Tuesday, Montreal approved plans to build a compost-treatment centre in Saint-Laurent. The city now has four centres to build; according to *The Gazette*, this could allow the city to provide compost services to the whole island by 2017 and would treat some 200,000 tons of compost each year.

However, some Saint-Michel residents raised concern over the compost-treatment slated for their neighbourhood, complaining about possible noise and augmentation of traffic, and mentioning it would lower the recently restored reputation of the neighbourhood.

Polar Trade Capped

There is a chance that Canada will lose its unique trade right to sell polar bear parts internationally when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meets at the beginning of next month, said the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Countries that voted in favour of Canada at the last vote might revise their position this time around, forbidding any cross-border sale of polar bear hides.

Environmental groups, however, estimate that today’s bear hunting in Canada isn’t endangering the species. Any sales are largely the result of traditional Inuit hunting that would take place with or without trade—and for the Inuit, it constitutes important revenue.

Are You Kidding Me, Canada?

While Uganda is thinking about introducing the death penalty for homosexuals, the Canadian federal government has been funding a homophobic Christian association that works in the African country.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, Crossroads Christian Communications’ website described homosexuality as a “perversion” and a “sin.” The phrasings were removed shortly after the group was contacted for comment.

The Canadian International Development Agency has allocated the organization \$544,813 through 2014.

Even though he first dismissed the case, Minister Julian Fantino—responsible for CIDA—suspended the transfer of funds while it is examined.

PASSING THE TORCH... TO NO ONE

Aging Mining Industry Workforce Leads to Hiring Challenges

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

As natural resource extraction ramps up in northern Quebec, mining companies are finding it difficult to find employees with adequate levels of education and experience to fill positions.

According to a Canadian Chamber of Commerce report published on Jan. 30, a shortage of skilled workers could hamper the competitiveness of Canada's mining industry moving forward.

This comes alongside a rising global demand for minerals due to the strong economic growth in India and China.

Spokespeople for the mining industry present at the Salon des ressources naturelles said the employment situation isn't approaching crisis levels in Quebec just yet, but that it is a challenge to find people with particular skill sets.

"At the moment, there are certain posts for which it's sometimes harder to recruit people, such as mining engineers," said Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium communications department head Nathalie LeMay.

"However, what we know is that within five years, 25 per cent of the workforce is going to retire. We therefore expect, over the course of the next few years, a big recruitment challenge."

"The openings can get very specific, and it's sometimes hard to find that type of person," said Martin Le Blanc of The Employment Solution, a company that provides staffing solutions to engineering firms and the mining sector.

As part of their recruitment efforts, many mining companies are working with CEGEPs and universities that have mining-related technical and undergraduate programs, offering internships to students in the hopes of later hiring them.

With Quebec looking to rapidly expand its mining sector as part of its Plan Nord northern development plan, job prospects seem very promising for geologists, trained mine workers and mining engineers and technicians.

Many recent graduates were at the Salon looking to submit their applications for job openings.

"I've already been on an internship and I'm seeking another one for this summer," said Ghita Touzani, a student in mining engineering at École Polytechnique de Montréal, who saw the Salon as a great networking opportunity.

"I came to look further into my career in welding, and I don't really mind travelling outside of Montreal," said Marcus Bailey, a recent graduate of the Aviron Institute of Technology.

The job fair also attracted younger job seekers with educational backgrounds not typically associated with the mining industry.

"I really want to find a job opportunity that's far away from Montreal and closer to nature," said Elisabeth Lefebvre-Courteau, 24, a Bishop's University graduate who works in marketing. "I feel like this is the right place to come for that."

According to the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, which hosted the event, 2,500 people made their way through the Palais des congrès de Montreal during the two days of the employment fair.

THE UPSIDE OF PLAN NORD

Spokespeople Defend Quebec Mining Industry at Employment Fair

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

While protesters rallied passionately outside Montreal's convention centre in opposition, business leaders inside the Salon des ressources naturelles defended the mining industry's practices and protocol in northern Quebec.

The convention—held Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal—was met with two days of rowdy demonstrations that saw hundreds speak out against Plan Nord.

The View From Inside

"Of course, in Quebec, we have freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and this is an interesting opportunity for those who are concerned about social causes to come out and make their points of view known," said Jean Carrier, president and CEO of the Institut national des mines, a government agency that oversees mining education and training programs in the province.

"[But] often, the people who are demonstrating against the mining industry or the principle of royalties don't perhaps have all the information needed to arrive at conclusions that are objective."

The mining industry has come a long way in terms of environmental restoration and sustainability, according to Guylaine Beaupré, the communications manager at the Comité sectoriel de main-d'oeuvre de l'industrie des mines, an organization that brings together business leaders and workers' associations.

"Everything has been organized even before the beginning of exploration in terms of what will be done to restore the site," she said. "It's not like 40 years ago when we'd leave mines open to the sky and the site would be completely contaminated by chemicals."

Beaupré says that such negligence is

no longer tolerated, and that now, prior to any construction, a restoration plan must already have been drafted.

She said mining companies do a lot to make sure that their projects are socially acceptable to the communities in which they operate.

"The mining companies that have upstart projects do a lot of public consultation," she said. "They are very implicated on the community level, on the level of their immediate environment."

A Constructive Collaboration

Beaupré thinks a misunderstanding of work being done is responsible for the negative perception people have of the mining industry.

Beyond restoring the environment and providing funds to community projects, she said, mining companies also provide employment, create wealth and extract the minerals that go into the products we use every day.

For this reason, Beaupré objects to the notion that mining companies are simply "depleting resources" without benefiting local communities.

"[Mining companies] put in hundreds of thousands of dollars in foundations, in the infrastructure of the towns. If we spoke to people in Matagami or in Fermont, these people aren't opposed to the mines," she said.

Céline Dorval, a spokesperson for Xstrata Nickel, said the company's Raglan mine in northern Quebec has a good relationship with nearby Inuit communities.

Xstrata signed the Raglan Agreement in 1995 in order to guarantee a "close dialogue" with affected nearby communities and to make sure that the mine is a win-win for all involved.

"Among other things, we have a profit-sharing clause, which means that each year we give a percentage of our profits in benefits to the neighbouring Inuit communities and to the Makivik Corporation, which is responsible for the socio-eco-



A protestor confronts a conference attendee as he tries to enter the Palais des congrès during Friday's demonstration. ■ Photo Erin Sparks

Check out our coverage of the two-day Plan Nord protest on our website, at thelinknewspaper.ca/news

conomic development of Nunavik."

Dorval also says that Xstrata offers a two-year training program and employment opportunities to residents of the Inuit communities of Salluit and Kangiqsujuaq.

"Around 18 per cent of our employees are Inuit," she said. "We're very proud of that, though we're always looking to reach the 20 per cent mark."

Demystifying Mines

Nathalie LeMay, the communications department head at Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium, said increasing the "social acceptability" of a project requires far more than a mere public relations exercise.

"It's about working collaboratively with the milieu, or of finding ways for both parties to benefit from the development of a new mine—or even from an existing mine," she said.

"If I give the example of our Havre-Saint-Pierre mine, which has been operating for 60 years, we've noticed that there are new ways of working with communities that are near the site, to understand their needs, as well as those of the company, and to see how we can work together."

LeMay said that Rio Tinto tries to put in place structures that ensure communities continue to benefit even after a mine has closed.

As for the protests against the Plan Nord, the provincial government's plan for northern development, Beaupré said that more could be done to "demystify" the benefits of mining development among the public—but that the protesters' positions constitute a minority view.

"They're marginal, the people who protest against [the mining projects]," she said.

"I can understand that there are people who will be repulsed, but if tomorrow morning we told them that they no longer had their smart phones and their computers because we can no longer explore the mines—I'm not sure that these people would want it to go down like that."



1 A man is stopped by the police on the corner of René-Lévesque Blvd. and University St. Friday's demonstration against Plan Nord saw no arrests, though at least three police cars were vandalized and a window at the Palais des congrès de Montréal smashed, according to the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.

2 Friday's demonstration was swiftly broken up by police. Here, riot police push protestors north on University St., telling them to leave before they are arrested.

3 Saturday's demonstration saw a more hostile confrontation between police and protestors after a window was smashed at the Palais des congrès. After a few hours of weaving through the streets, police declared the demonstration illegal and moved in to make arrests.

4 According to the Montreal police, a total of 36 arrests were made on Saturday—32 for illegal assembly, three for assaults against an officer, and one arrest for handling of stolen goods.



Photos ■ Erin Sparks & ■ Corey Pool

THE DOWNSIDE OF PLAN NORD

Environmental Concerns Plague Northern Quebec Development Project

by Jane Gatensby @janegatensby

On May 9, 2011, then-premier Jean Charest launched the Plan Nord, an ambitious \$80 billion development project aiming to build infrastructure in Quebec's northern regions. Nearly two years later, the project's still a magnet for controversy.

The plan proposed to find and extract mineral resource deposits, and to develop tourism, energy, forestry, wildlife and bio-food industries north of the 49th parallel.

The Plan Nord promises to generate \$14 billion in revenue over the next 25 years, according to government estimates, during which time it will create or consolidate an average of 20,000 jobs a year.

The project has attracted significant backlash since it was announced, however. Last April, a protest at the first Salon du Plan Nord caused general mayhem in and around the Palais des congrès de Montréal, with close to 100 protesters arrested.

Since then, the project has managed to cause outcry among environmentalists and anti-capitalists—and everyone in between.

"Northern Quebec is a fragile place," said Greenpeace Quebec director Nicolas Mainville in an April 2012 press release.

"Greenpeace has identified two virgin forests, la Vallée de la Broadback and les Montagnes Blanches, as priority areas for protection, but

the government is going ahead with plans for mining in these areas.

"The exploitation of natural resources will have irreversible effects on the environment, populations and their way of life," echoed a May 2011 petition from the group Innu Power.

"The Plan Nord aims to exploit a maximum of resources over the short term, thereby neglecting the respect and rights of future generations."

Despite widespread outcry and a change in government, the Plan Nord survived Jean Charest's exit and is now in the hands of the present Parti Québécois government.

In December, Premier Pauline Marois announced her intention to proceed with natural resource negotiations with the Atikamekw

First Nation, expecting to come to an agreement by July 2013.

"Hydroelectric development in the Great North should be done with the respect of residents and their environment in mind," reads the PQ website. "The Charest government, however, didn't hesitate to announce its 'plan' (which wasn't one) before even having consulted those it affects the most."

While the Plan Nord has been updated, dissent has held firm.

"The pillagers are gathering," proclaimed Anti-Capitalist Convergence Montreal on its website, in preparation of the demonstration on Jan. 8.

"Sponsored largely by mining

(Osisko) and tar sands (Enbridge), the profiteers are preparing the assimilation of indigenous communities into their industrial framework, and into their large-scale destruction of the wild," the message continued.

The union federation Confédération des syndicats nationaux has also come out in opposition to the project.

The CSN said that, while northern development is important, it must also "be done in a perspective of sustainable development that assures the respect of aboriginal rights and of local communities, and that protects biodiversity and the exceptional ecosystems found in Northern Quebec."



by Megan Dolski @megandolski

Undergraduate students at Concordia pay \$1.85 per credit in membership fees to the Concordia Student Union. In return, the CSU claims to represent all of its members by defending their rights, offering resources, promoting student life and providing support to the university by way of sustainable initiatives and accessible education.

While this deal might hold true and fair for the majority of Concordia's roughly 35,000 undergrads, the school's nearly 900 disabled students find themselves shortchanged of services provided to others, yet inaccessible to them—despite paying the exact same membership fees as everyone else.

Exemplifying the Problem

This reality became blatantly apparent recently as an effort to rectify and improve accessibility issues through the CSU is currently sitting at a standstill—in part, due to the exact challenges it seeks to eliminate.

At a Jan. 9 CSU council meeting, a motion was put forth by councillor Patrick Lefebvre, requesting that the union establish a Disabled Students Attendants Fund.

"The university informed me that any matter outside of academic assistance needed to go through the CSU," said Lefebvre, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

Lefebvre explained that the creation of such a fund would allow disabled students to attend and participate in CSU activities by providing them with the financial means to hire an aid.

Council then moved to have the idea brought to its Finance Committee, to further look into details, establish criteria and potentially arrange meetings with the university. It was then decided that Lefebvre should be present to provide suggestions and input.

Now, over a month later, no such meeting or discussion has taken place.

The CSU's VP Finance Keny Toto says that the reason no progress has been made is because "unfortunately, Patrick [Lefebvre] was unable to come" to the scheduled meetings.

Lefebvre confirmed Toto's statement, but elaborated on it.

"Keny Toto has advised me of two recent meetings, one on Jan. 16 and one this past week," he said. "But he informed me literally 12 hours before the meetings were set to take place."

As VP Finance, Toto is responsible for calling and chairing Financial Committee meetings.

Lefebvre says that the short notice made it impossible for him to attend either of the two meetings.

"I can't just pick up the phone and say, 'I need to be somewhere in two hours, come pick me up'—that is just not how adapted transportation works."

Lefebvre added that even adapted taxis, which he would have to pay for, require at least 24 hours notice to arrange.

"The planning of the meetings was really last-minute," explained councillor and former VP Finance Jordan Lindsay. "Patrick [Lefebvre] was often being told the day before, and then because of that he couldn't come."

Lindsay added that, to his knowledge, no preliminary research looking into the fund has taken place.

Both Toto and Lindsay said a third meeting was called in which the committee tried to reach Lefebvre via a Skype video call—but couldn't get through. Lefebvre says when he tried to return the call, no one picked up.

Who Can('t) Help

Concordia's Access Centre for Students with Disabilities describes its role as facilitating access to educational opportunities and services for disabled students, in addition to fostering a healthy and active integration into university life.

Due to funding limitations, the organization has been forced to prioritize, and currently only offers aid pertaining to academically related activities.

The centre falls under the larger umbrella of Student Services at Concordia—a sector that all students currently pay \$10.26 per credit to.

Though it hasn't seen cuts, the group hasn't seen its funding increase since 2009, despite a steady increase in the number of disabled students using their services over the years. Between 2008-09 and 2011-12, the number of students using the centre increased from 754 to 882.

"This makes it hard for us to implement any kind of new initiatives," said Brigitte St. Laurent-Taddeo, director of Concordia's Advocacy and Support Services.

In addition to funds collected from a student fee levy, students with certain disabilities are eligible to receive funding from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

"The funding received from the [Ministry] is strictly for academic activities," said St. Laurent-Taddeo. "They don't fund for anything outside of the classroom except for group projects."

While she said the centre is unable to afford stretching its services to extra-curricular activities, St. Laurent-Taddeo said there is certainly a need for those kinds of resources to come from somewhere.

"The activities surrounding student life are something the university really values, and if there are ways to offer access to students who currently don't have it, that would be wonderful," she said.

"I know the CSU has been approached concerning this sort of thing, and I'm not sure if it's something they want to look into and possibly get involved with, but if that's the case, I think that would be good news."

She said that the centre has yet to be approached by the union with any questions or concerns relating to the matter—though she, alongside ACSU's new manager Gordon Dionne, are both happy to provide support and guidance.

"[The CSU] will have to have establish criteria, and some kind of framework," she said. "If they'd like to hear our comments, or advice—we'd be happy to do that."

Not Giving Up

Despite being frustrated at the lack of progress towards realizing the fund, Lefebvre remains optimistic that it will eventually materialize.

"The only thing I want to do before I graduate is to have a fund set up," he said.

"So that many more disabled students can go on, say, the New York trip, or can go to the Orientation concert. But we need to have a fund, because what people don't realize is that these aids cost a lot of money."

In addition to funding, Lefebvre says that education and awareness are other obstacles obstructing access. He says many disabled students "have no clue" that they need to go to the CSU for help outside of Concordia's Access Centre.

"Part of the reason is that many of us [...] are very shy about our disability. We don't like to be a bother to people. It is embarrassing to, you know, ask for help."

Lefebvre hopes that, through his involvement on CSU council, he can set an important and lasting precedent.

"I hope other students see me on the webcast and say, 'Hey, this guy is in a wheelchair, and look what he's doing. I can do that too, I want to get involved.'"

Despite the common misconception, Lefebvre emphasizes that disabled people are more than capable of becoming involved.

"My hope is that all students are aware—that even though we might be in a wheelchair, many of us that are disabled lead very active lives," he said. "We do not let our disabilities stop us."

He intends to bring the creation of the fund back to council at this Wednesday's regular council meeting.

"I just want to be treated like everybody else—nothing more, nothing less—but also that people understand that special accommodations have to be made, and it's not always easy for us."

IDENTICAL FEES, UNEQUAL ACCESS

No Progress Towards Fund for Disabled Students at ConU

IN THE MARGINS NO MORE

Idle No More's Female Leaders Stand Up for Native Women

by Andrew Brennan
@brennamen

Tanya Kappo received a Facebook message in late January from a woman she had never met, confessing that she had once not felt strong enough to leave her abusive husband.

The author of the message had heard Kappo speak at a teach-in days before, a solidarity rally for the grassroots Native rights movement, Idle No More.

The movement had changed her, she divulged. And she had finally left her husband.

According to Kappo, one of the founders of the Idle No More campaign and the creator of the #idlenomore Twitter hashtag, the movement's largely female leadership is actively changing the lives of Native women across Canada—though perhaps unintentionally.

Unintended Matriarchy

Born in Saskatchewan out of discussions between Jessica Gordon, Sylvia McAdam, Sheelah McLean and Nina Wilson, Idle No More has evolved far beyond a simple teaching initiative in opposition of the federal omnibus budget Bill C-45.

By Dec. 10, 2012, the movement saw streets fill with massive round dances and bannered demonstrations across the country.

The following day, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence began her much-publicized 44-day hunger strike in support of the movement.

Spence demanded a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston to discuss Native land rights promised in historic treaties signed between aboriginal peoples and Crown representatives.

Roughly a month later, on Jan. 11, the prime minister and other officials met with members of the Assembly of First Nations.

Kappo, who studied law at the University of Manitoba, became involved in the movement in November after organizing a teach-in on the Louis Bull reserve to break down Bill C-45 and its predecessor, C-38.

She noticed that as the movement spread, a similar quality was underscoring the leaders of the movement.

"Although there are a lot of really excellent male organizers, the trend still remains to be that it's still the women who are taking the lead on this," Kappo said.

In Quebec, two women—Widia Larivière and Melissa Mollen Dupuis—co-founded the province's Idle No More chapter.

The consistent growth of Idle No More has allowed for many interests to join the movement's discussion and demands—but the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, Michelle Audette, says Native women are far from being forgotten within the movement.

"With Idle No More, we have two aboriginal women and two [non-native] women who decided one day to start a movement that was the

dream of many people," she said.

"I am proud to say this is a women's movement that's bringing a social movement, a social change."

Systemic Suffering

Though Idle No More is still only a few months old, its community-organized approach and female leadership is not new to aboriginal protest, explained Audette.

"Women walked all of Canada to denounce the murdered and missing native women, we marched from Quebec to Ottawa [to oppose Bill C-31]," she added. "It's always women marching, so Idle No More has existed in a way that is consistent with that, because it was women who mobilized to denounce [Bill C-45]."

According to the NWAC, over 600 indigenous women have gone missing or been killed since 1990.

Aboriginal women are also five to seven times more likely than other women to die from violence, according to a special report produced by Amnesty International titled No More Stolen Sisters.

Bridget Tolley is all too familiar with this reality, having lost her mother Gladys, who was struck by a police vehicle in 2001.

When seeking answers and attempting to open an inquiry to explain why a relative of the officer who had struck her mother was supervising the investigation, Tolley said she was largely dismissed by authorities.

In 2005 she founded the Sisters

in Spirit organization to push for a full public inquiry into the deaths and disappearances of native women in Canada.

The organization was in the midst of compiling a database of cases of missing or murdered aboriginal women in the country—as well as variables detecting patterns or similar factors—when it lost its federal funding in 2010.

"[The government] doesn't want to have a public inquiry," Tolley said. "There's no bills saying anything about the missing and murdered women."

Slow Progress

To Ryan Bellerose—an Idle No More organizer in Calgary, whose father, Mervin Bellerose, co-authored the Métis Settlements Act granting land rights to the Métis in 1989—the obstacles still facing aboriginal women are daunting.

"When you look at the history of the way aboriginal women have always been treated—they may actually be the most marginalized group in Canada," he said.

"I think that it's actually an outstanding thing that not only are Native people finding their voice, but the fact that [the movement] is actually being led by women—I think that speaks to the fact that the movement is a lot deeper than people think."

And Idle No More is still standing strong—at least it is in Quebec, according to Mollen Dupuis.

On Feb. 10, at least 100 demonstrators marched on downtown Montreal streets, donning red feathers and dancing to drums and rattlers.

At the front, holding the large red banner leading the charge, were women.

But for lost Native women, Tolley says the struggle is still hidden, as a large number of abductions and killings remain undocumented or unsolved.

A memorial march is planned for Feb. 14 in Montreal. The demonstration is sponsored by local organization Missing Justice, in tandem with Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy and CKUT, McGill's campus radio station.

This will be their fourth annual event, held in commemoration of the country's missing and murdered Native women.

Tolley will speak at the demonstration, following a vigil and luncheon in Ottawa with government officials planned for earlier that morning.

As for Kappo, however, she's unsure as to the extent that conditions are actually changing for Native women.

"There are these two extremes going on right now," she said. "All of these missing and murdered women, and now suddenly this movement, this resurgence being led by women."

"I'm not sure quite yet what to make of it, but I know it means something. I just don't know what."



600 missing and murdered Native women in Canada since 1990, prompting a vigil in downtown Montreal last year. ■ Photo Sam Slotnick

“COOL LADIES TALKING ABOUT VAGINAS”

The Vagina Monologues Hits McGill in Time for V-Day



Rehearsing for *The Vagina Monologues* at *The Plant*.

photo Elysha del Giusto-Enos

by Zoey Baldwin @zobald

The Vagina Monologues is comfortably into its teens by now, but the storied and infamous production is still attention grabbing. There's more to it than just the word in its name, though.

"*The Vagina Monologues* at the most basic level is about womanhood," said Simone Vieco, a performer in McGill's upcoming version of the play. "It reminds us all of the things that come with womanhood—and despite all the gritty sides of it, being a woman is a wonderful thing to be."

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the launch of V-Day, an annual effort on Feb. 14 to raise awareness about violence against women put forth by communities around the globe.

V-Day McGill, a campus gender advocacy group, has been participating in the event since 2002,

and it has since raised over \$130,000 for V-Day and other anti-violence groups. This year, the group is putting on its 12th annual performance of the show, directed by McGill alumna Rachael Taylor Benjamin.

With a cast comprised of nine young women, Benjamin has worked to foster a sense of community amongst the group. Her main goal has been to make the show, as she put it, "fresh and relevant to a university audience."

Vieco, a fourth-year McGill student, performs in three of the show's monologues, and feels humbled to be a part of it.

"Everyone in the cast is so talented and funny, and different, and we create a little culture that's very silly, diverse and loving," Vieco said.

She credits Benjamin's vision for making this production what it has become.

"She has put so much effort into making us a supportive com-

munity, and that has been integral to our success," Vieco said.

"One of the reasons this year's show is so special is the cast is on stage for the entire show. Instead of seeing one person on stage at a time, you're seeing all of us there, listening and reacting to what the person is saying."

McGill's Leacock Hall, where the show will be put on, is a major reason Benjamin decided to keep the whole cast onstage.

"Leacock is a pretty daunting room. I think having a strong support throughout the play is important," Benjamin said. "We've tried to make it a chatting kind of environment, that we're all there together talking about these issues. It's not just a performance, it's a discussion."

Benjamin said she was pleasantly surprised by the number of men in last year's audience, and thinks *The Vagina Monologues* is a great example of using theatre to affect a

change of perspective in the world.

"It's important that it's not just an audience of young women," Benjamin said. "Men have been affected by it in a different way too. It's a gendered issue, but it involves both [genders]."

For the 15th anniversary of V-Day, Ensler has launched a campaign called One Billion Rising, aiming to raise awareness to the alarming statistic that one out of three women falls victim to violence in her lifetime.

According to Ensler's calculations, that comes to about one billion women, and the organizers are extending an invitation to the "one billion women and those who love them to walk out, dance, rise up and demand an end to this violence."

In addition to production, McGill students are organizing a flash mob on Valentine's Day in support of the One Billion Rising campaign.

The notion is reiterated in a poem Ensler wrote this year after

visiting India to address recent issues of gang violence against women. Benjamin has chosen to include the poem in McGill's production, which the whole cast will perform hand-in-hand, with their eyes closed.

It may be an unorthodox way to spend Valentine's Day—sans dinner dates or moonlit walks—but Benjamin said that it might be a good idea to forgo tradition.

"There are probably a lot of guys who wouldn't think this is their ideal way to spend Valentine's Day," said Benjamin. "But you know what? It's a lot of cool ladies talking about vaginas. There could be worse things."

The Vagina Monologues / Feb. 14 to Feb. 16 / McGill University Leacock Building (855 Sherbrooke St. W., #132) / 7:30 p.m. / \$10.00 students, seniors and youth, \$15.00 adults and non-students / Tickets: tickets.vdaymcgill@gmail.com

FRINGE CALENDAR FEB. 12 – FEB. 18

by Michelle Pucci
@michellemucci

COMEDY ■

- 1** Stand Up/Strip Down
Feb. 15
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
8:30 p.m.
\$12.00
- 2** Family Entertainment Presents: Where's the Dep?
Feb. 16
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
9:30 p.m.
\$10.00 advance / \$15.00 door

VISUAL ARTS ■

- 3** Eric W. Champoux: Vernissage
Feb. 13
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
5:00 p.m.
Free

THEATRE ■

- 4** *Sword and I* by Bruce Fauveau
Feb. 12 and Feb. 13
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
8:30 p.m.
\$8.00 students / \$10.00 regular
- 5** *Hosanna*
Feb. 13 to Feb. 16
Tuesday Night Café (3485 McTavish St.)
8:00 p.m.
\$6.00 students & seniors / \$10.00 general

- 6** The Third Annual Mainline Gala for Student Theatre
Feb. 14 and Feb. 15 (8:00 p.m.)
Feb. 16 (2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.)
Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)
\$12.00

CONFERENCE ■

- 7** Créativité + Identité
Feb. 13
PHI Centre (407 St. Pierre St.)
7:00 p.m.
Free

MUSIC ■

- 8** Elephant Stone Album Launch + First You Get the Sugar + The Backhomes + DJ Sunny
Feb. 15
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
9:30 p.m.
\$10.00 advance / \$12.00 door

VALENTINE'S DAY EVENTS ■

- 9** Make Out With Stuff: A Valentine's Day POP-Up
Feb. 13 (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
Feb. 14 (12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Espace POP (5587 Parc Ave.)
Free
- 10** UN's CD Release Party
Feb. 14
Venue TBA on Feb. 12
8:00 p.m.
PWYC

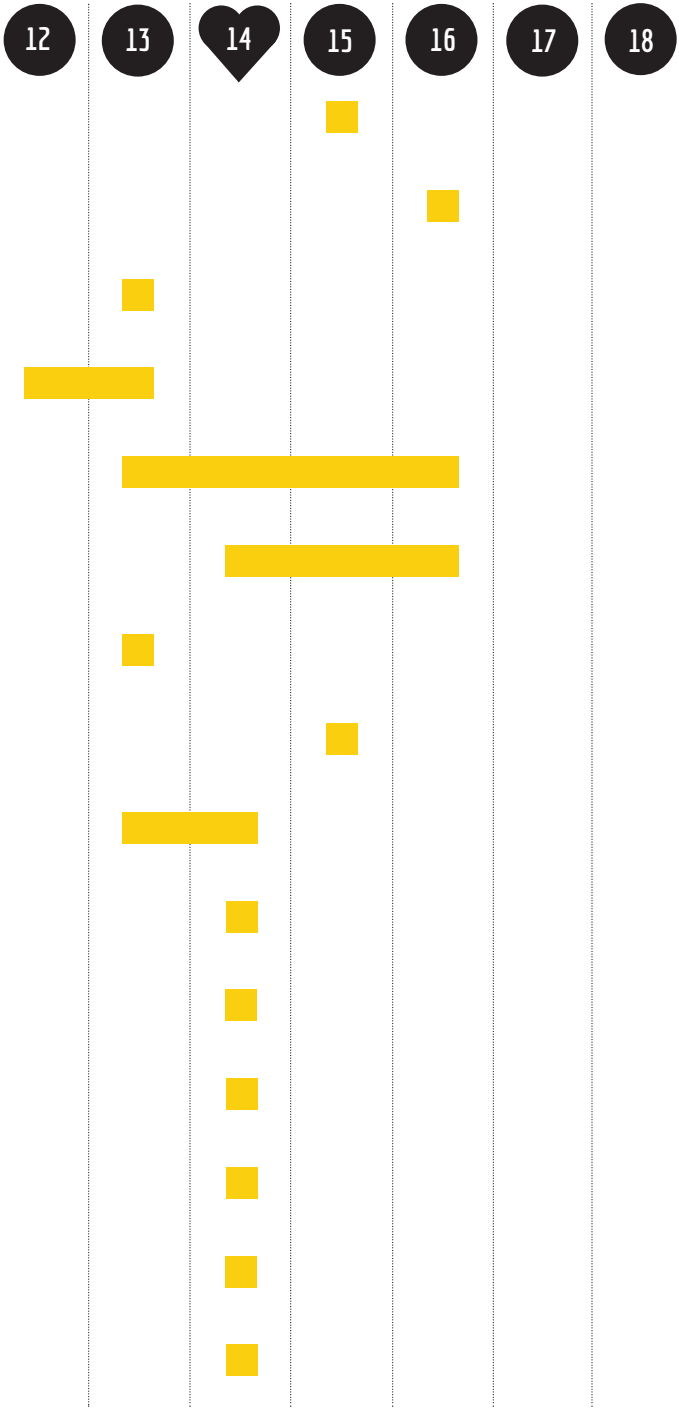
- 11** Rock Against Racism MTL #2
Feb. 14
Katakombes (1635 St. Laurent)
8:00 p.m.
\$6.00 to \$10.00

- 12** Ear Candy: A CJO Listening Party
Feb. 14
Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Free

- 13** Arbutus Records Presents Valentine's Day at La Sala Rossa
Feb. 14
La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:00 p.m.
\$5.00 advance / \$8.00 door

- 14** Crayon Party
Feb. 14
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
8:30 p.m.
\$8.00 regular / \$12.00 for couples

- 15** Young Rival + The Damn Truth + Guest
Feb. 14
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
9:15 p.m.
\$10.00 advance / \$12.00 door



FRINGE GIVEAWAY

CINEMA L'AMOUR + FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

We have two pairs of tickets to give away this week! Take a break from midterm studying/Valentine's Day lamenting and enter to win on our Facebook page.

Cinéma L'Amour + Smokes + Zula (Feb. 16)
Intense drumming and ambient sounds will, without fail, help you get over any sort of missteps Cupid delivered this year at Quai des Brumes.

Indecent Xposure Presents: Friends With Benefits (Feb. 15)
Billed as the "Wildest Post-Valentine's Day Party," five Montreal-based bands will be DJing and playing live throughout the night at Cabaret Underworld.

We'll be drawing the winners on Facebook, so like *The Link's* page at facebook.com/thelinknewspaper for more info!

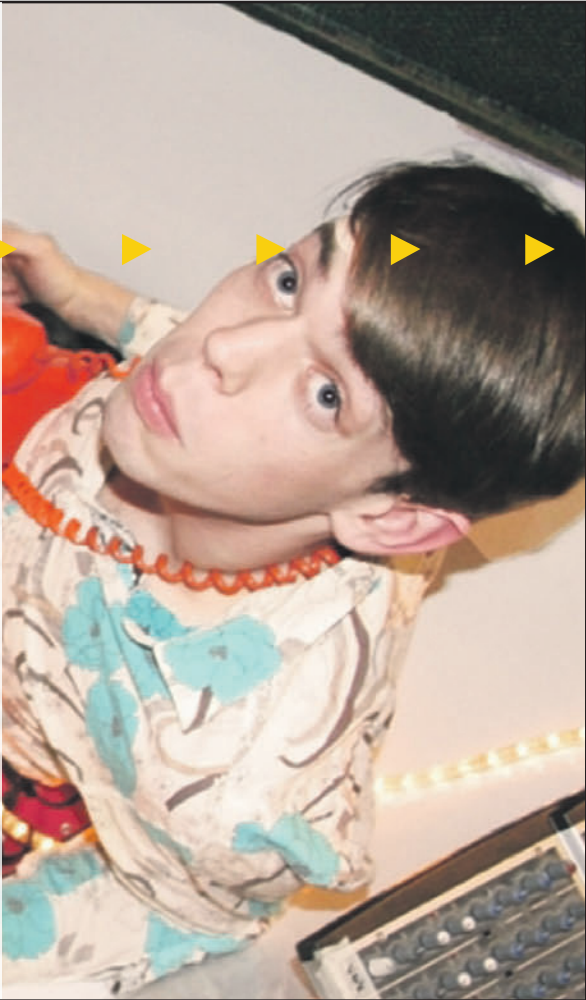




PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Queen's forward Corey Bureau scores on Concordia Stingers goalie Antonio Mastropietro in last Friday's game. The Stingers won 3-2, but lost to the Toronto Varsity Blues in their season finale the next day, eliminating them from playoff contention. ■ Photo Natalia Lara Diaz Berrio

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF FEB. 4 TO FEB. 10



Sunday, Feb. 10	Men's Basketball - Concordia 71, Bishop's University 84
	Women's Basketball - Concordia 69, Bishop's University 45
Saturday, Feb. 9	Women's Hockey - Concordia 2, Carleton University 4
	Men's Hockey - Concordia 1, University of Toronto 2
Friday, Feb. 8	Men's Hockey - Concordia 3, Queen's University 2 (SO)

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Thursday, Feb. 14	6:00 p.m.	Women's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gym)
	8:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gym)
Saturday, Feb. 16	4:00 p.m.	Women's Hockey at McGill Martlets

Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Stingers Fall to Varsity Blues, Narrowly Miss CIS Playoffs



Concordia's Olivier Hinse takes the puck down the ice as Toronto's Ernesto Valente gives chase in last Saturday's Stingers-Blues game. Concordia lost 2-1 to finish three points shy of the Ontario University Athletics East division's last playoff spot. ■ Photos Dylan Maloney

by Alex Manley @alex_icon

With 41 seconds left in the third period, Concordia's men's hockey season was on the line.

They lined up for an offensive-zone face-off against the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, down 2-1. Without a win last Saturday afternoon—the last game of their season—coupled with a regulation loss by the Ryerson Rams to the Carleton Ravens later in the day, the Stingers would miss the playoffs.

The linesman dropped the puck.

It came back to the far point. Defenceman Youssef Kabbaj bobbled the puck; a Toronto forward swatted at it and it bounced just past the blue line. As the Stingers headed for the neutral zone to regroup, the Blues managed to force the puck deep into Concordia's end.

Though the Stingers managed one last rush, the clock ticked down to zero with both teams battling for possession in the corner of the Toronto end. And just like that, it was official. The Stingers finished ninth in a 10-team league this season.

They aren't going to the playoffs.

"We came out hard, we played hard," said team captain left winger Kyle Kelly. "It's definitely a tough game to lose, especially by one goal. You know, a lucky bounce here or there could make all the difference."

The game, like the season, had started terribly for Concordia's men's hockey team; in both cases, a late surge was too little, too late to secure them a playoff spot.

After missing a fantastic chance in the opening seconds, the Stingers ran into serious penalty trouble as centre George Lovatsis was given a game misconduct for a check to the head near the three-minute mark. Fifty-five seconds later, assistant captain left winger Corey Garland took a 10-minute misconduct of his own.

Though the Stingers managed to kill the

penalties, they were still down three of their strongest players for most of the opening frame, said head coach Kevin Figsby, as Kelly was forced to serve one of the misconducts.

"We lost George Lovatsis, Kyle Kelly's in the box, Corey Garland... That's three of your top players—your captain and your two assistants—all in the first five minutes of the game," said Figsby.

He said he thought Kelly had ended up in the penalty box to serve one of the misconducts because of a refereeing error.

"It's frustrating from a coaching perspective," Figsby continued. "You can't even get upset because then you change the tone and mood of your bench. I think I got a few verbal shots in there. I think the word 'horseshit' came out a few times."

Not long after that, the Blues struck. Two seconds past the halfway mark of the first, forward Cassidy Preston passed the puck to teammate Michael Markovic, who sneaked it past Stingers goaltender Antonio Mastropietro.

A little under two minutes later, defenceman Lane Werbowski pounded a shot past the Concordia netminder from just inside the blue line to double the Toronto lead. From that point on, Concordia teased the sparse home crowd with a series of close calls and blown opportunities.

After Toronto forward Kevin Deagle got a double minor for head-butting Garland in the final minute of the first, the Stingers were unable to capitalize on either side of the first intermission.

In fact, despite having the game's final six power plays, the Stingers weren't able to turn any of them into a goal; their lone tally came at even strength at 3:54 of the second period, when left winger Dany Potvin banged in a rebound following up on a deke-filled rush by right winger Jessyco Bernard.

The best chance for a tying goal for the Maroon and Gold came around the midway point of the third, when right winger Alexandre Monahan rang a shot off the post behind Blues goaltender Brett Willows.

Keeping the Stingers' comeback hopes alive throughout the final two periods was Mastropietro, who absorbed nearly every shot directed his way without allowing a rebound and finished the game having saved 31 of 33 shots.

It was a praise-worthy performance given the Stingers' unfortunate luck at the position this season. After losing starting goaltender Nicholas Champion to injury in the early stages of the season, it went from bad to worse in the Stingers' crease when back-up Loic Boivin also suffered an injury in December.

"We had a young goaltender who was our third goalie last year who had to step up into the number-one role [and] a first-year guy who had to step up into the number-two role," said Figsby. "Loic Boivin stepped up and right before Christmas he tore his hip abductor."

"He shouldn't even be in the lineup," the coach continued.

"The doctor told me he didn't [even] want him on the bench and I didn't have an option. We had to dress a goalie who's got a torn hip abductor, who's waiting on an operation, and he was our back-up and people are figuring out—because he's not taking shots in the warm-up—[that we're playing a] number-one goalie who should be our rookie number-three."

Bowing Out With Their Heads Held High

Despite the tough season—more than half of which was swallowed up by two lengthy losing streaks, one of which reached 10 games—Figsby is looking forward to next year. He has great reason to, given the team's strong play to end the season—they went 3-1-2 in the final six games—and the

wealth of rookies returning in 2013.

"If you take a look, we got Olivier Hinse, Jesse Bernard, Dany Potvin, you got the two big studs on the back end with Kabbaj, with [Alex] MacDonald; we got Antonio Mastropietro, the Great Antonio, in the pipes... You come back looking at those six kids, that's a foundation you can build around."

Kelly, who played his final game as a Stinger, was optimistic about the team's future as well.

"We faced a ton of adversity this year," said Kelly. "It only brought us closer together, in the end, and we were able to battle through, and that builds character, you know, and that character is going to help this team be successful in the future."

It's success Kelly expects to see sooner rather than later. "We got 14 rookies this year and all of them are just great additions to the program," Kelly said. "We're going to be getting stronger moving forward; the next two, three years you're definitely going to see this team accomplishing some serious goals."

For now, the Stingers will have to content themselves with setting the goal of nailing down one of the top eight spots in the Ontario University Athletics East Division next year.

An hour after the final horn, the stands of Ed Meagher were empty of all but a few friends and family. At the time, in Ottawa, the Ryerson Rams were wrapping up a 5-2 win over the Carleton Ravens, giving the Rams 24 points on the season to the Stingers' 21.

Even if Concordia had tied the game and won in overtime, they wouldn't have made the playoffs.

"I gotta look back and say, 'Hey, we peaked at the right time, we did all the right things when we had to do 'em,'" said Figsby. "We just had that..." He trailed off.

"You know, we came up [just] shy. [Just] shy."

MAKING IT ON HIS OWN

Daniel Audette, Son of Habs Scout, Looks for Own NHL Path



16-year-old Daniel Audette was the first overall pick in the QMJHL last year. ■ Photo Jaime Leiva

by Marilyn Santucci

Being the first overall selection in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League draft is enormous pressure for any teenager. Even more so for the son of a former National Hockey League player.

That's the pressure facing 16-year-old Daniel Audette, who in June of last year's QMJHL draft was chosen No. 1 overall by the Sherbrooke Phoenix, a significant step toward the young centre's dreams of following in his father Donald's footsteps all the way to the NHL.

It's a dream long in the making for the future star born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Blainville, QC.

"I started skating at three years old, trying to do what my dad was doing back then," said Daniel. "He was pretty much the reason why I started playing hockey."

"Seeing the life he was living playing the sport he loves everyday really made me want to become a

hockey player," he continued.

His father remembers the exact moment when he realized his son was a gifted athlete.

"When he first grabbed a hockey stick, it was natural," said Donald. "Everything was natural for him—baseball, golf. And later on, you could see that he had talent."

As a former 14-year NHL veteran and current scout for the Montreal Canadiens, Audette does have a degree of insight into the matter.

The expectations that come with such talent might lead many to fold under the pressure, but not Daniel.

"I try not to think about it as pressure," he said. "Hockey is a game and it's rather fun because [my dad] gets to tell me tips and tricks, which help me a lot."

Donald's help led Daniel to make Quebec's team at the Under-17 World Championships in 2012. But upon his son's selection in last year's QMJHL draft, Donald had to help Daniel with one more

thing—moving.

Having been picked by Sherbrooke, Daniel had to leave his home in Blainville, where he lived with his father, mother Manon and sister Katherine, which he admits was difficult at first.

"It's a big change, but I got used to it over time," he said.

As for being drafted first overall, Audette calls the experience a humbling one, and a moment in his career that he will never forget.

"It was an amazing feeling, something that I won't live twice for sure," he said.

Hearing Daniel's name being announced on the speakers inside the Colisée Pepsi in Quebec City was a proud moment for the entire Audette family.

"We were really proud of him because he worked so hard to get there," said Manon. "When we heard his name being announced, we were just so proud. It was like, 'Wow, this is unbelievable.'"

Added Donald, "It's a great feeling. It's very special and we're honoured to have a team put the confidence in our kid like that."

It's easy to see why Sherbrooke did so: In his final season with the Collège Esther-Blondin Phénix, Audette recorded 25 goals and 35 assists, making him a high-priced prospect for the upcoming draft.

While the Collège Esther-Blondin Phénix have only been around since 2010, the Sherbrooke Phoenix are even newer; as an expansion team, they began their first season in the QMJHL this past fall.

The team has had a slow start, still adjusting to the new league as they currently sit in last place of the QMJHL West Division, but Audette remains optimistic and feels that he has learned a lot in his first season.

"So far it's been great," he said. "Although we have had a rough start, I still learned a lot and things are getting better and better."

Phoenix head coach Judes Val-

lée has had nothing but praise so far for his young star in the making.

"He has a lot of speed and he is the type of player who can change a game in one shift," Vallée said. "He is a danger to the opposing team."

Vallée believes that next season Audette will come back more experienced, stronger, and have an even bigger impact with the Phoenix.

"He will arrive here stronger physically," Vallée said. "He is still young. I am sure he will come back here with even more maturity."

Donald hopes his son's future will be filled with many more successful moments. With the right mindset, he believes Daniel will achieve whatever goals he sets.

"Many things can come in and disturb your plan, but you only have to take it one day at a time and do your best," said Donald. "It's going to take him as far as he wants it to. There are a lot of sacrifices to be made and if he is willing, good things will happen."

HOT FEET, COOL HEAD

Montreal's Capoeira Community Teaches More Than Street Fighting



Capoeiristas of the Fundação Internacional de Capoeira Angola Montreal study group train on Feb. 7 at the Montréal, arts interculturels on Jeanne-Mance St.

■ photo Leslie Schachter

by Elysha del Giusto-Enos
@elyshaenos

At the surface, capoeira appears to be nothing more than a game—a “war dance” that flows to a series of non-verbal cues to music.

A circle of people clap and play instruments around two fighters who try to fake each other out to the beat with call-and-answer kicks and takedowns until someone from the circle tags out one of the fighters and takes their place. The cycle continues until the music dies out.

Behind the dance, however, is a martial art rooted in African tradition via Brazil—and its practice is as much about combat as it is about music, philosophy and community.

“You don’t want to make your movements obvious,” said Ron Scott, one of the leaders of the Fundação Internacional de Capoeira Angola’s Montreal study group; he also teaches capoeira Angola at Concordia.

“Unlike Asian martial arts, it’s not just about punch-punch-punch, strike-strike-strike, kick-kick-kick,” Scott said. “You are seeking to be as vulnerable as you can and in that vulnerability still remain unfazed. We don’t say ‘Let’s go fight,’ we say, ‘Let’s go play.’”

Scott calls capoeira a “physical discourse” where a kick is a question and evading is the answer.

These physical conversations test capoeiristas in terms of cunning and resourcefulness.

“They try to use everything, from intuitive to physical—anything they can to survive,” he said.

Capoeira has multiple styles. The one Scott teaches, Angola, seeks to stay as close to its roots as possible.

While other capoeira styles evolve and have incorporated elements of Asian martial arts such as practicing barefoot, those who practice capoeira Angola wear shoes. Capoeiristas in the Angola style do so as a symbol of freedom and to reference capoeira’s passage through slavery, as slaves weren’t allowed to have footwear.

“You can’t live in the past. [You have to] be anchored in the present,” Scott said.

“But know that everything that happened in the past is going to affect the way things are going to unfold. In order to know where you’re going, you need to know where you’re coming from.”

That means knowing that the African diaspora manifested in capoeira. It appears in the call-and-response element rooted in African oral traditions and also in the music and traditional instruments that are so integral to the practice.

It also means knowing the environment that gave birth to capoeira. Brazil received more

slaves from Africa than any other country in the Americas and had to free itself from slavery, then fight for independence from Portugal.

In post-slavery Brazil, capoeira was stigmatized and people who were found out to be capoeiristas could have their Achilles tendons cut, ensuring they would never play again.

“Brazil was a very violent place, and some places in Brazil are still very violent. But that’s reflected in the game,” said Scott.

Despite the echoes of a deeply troubled time and place, capoeira has compelled many of its students to study Portuguese and travel to Brazil to learn about it from the source.

Samantha Abdallah is a student with Scott’s FICA study group and she hopes to one day go to Brazil to see where it’s from. She started practicing capoeira when she was an art history student as a way to get some exercise, but it has become much more than that.

“Even though it’s a very hard physical training, it centres me,” Abdallah said. “It puts me in such a good connected space—with my body, with other people.”

A lot of the moves in capoeira require the capoeirista to be close to the ground and use their upper body in what look like break dance-style evasive maneuvers and handstands. For some stu-

dents, the number of moves that rely on upper body strength can be especially challenging.

“You just work on it,” Abdallah said. “You work on your own level and being respectful of your body. If you learn a bunch of the other kinds of moves that don’t require you to be upside-down then you can still play interesting games and have a really great time while you develop your upper-body strength.”

In capoeira, there are no levels, so even the most advanced members of a group are practicing with beginners. Scott said that this is because everyone has something to learn from everyone else.

“It’s one group, it’s one mind, it’s one movement,” he said. “It’s inclusive, it’s not exclusive.”

Abdallah, who has been practicing for a few years, said that when she sees a new member come to the FICA group, she makes a point to tell them about the community; promoting the practice to future generations is one of the ways established capoeiristas show their commitment.

“What you get out of it is directly proportional to what you put into it,” Scott said.

“Not just physically, but energetically, emotionally, musically. For me, personally, it is a spiritual catalyst.”

“Unlike Asian martial arts, it’s not just about punch-punch-punch, strike-strike-strike, kick-kick-kick. You are seeking to be as vulnerable as you can and in that vulnerability still remain unfazed. We don’t say, ‘Let’s go fight,’ we say, ‘Let’s go play.’”
—Ron Scott, Capoeira Teacher

DON'T DISABLE OUR ACCESS, CONU

Being Outed as a "Differently-Abled" Person

by Erika Couto @erikalikesart

While I can never really forget that I have rheumatoid arthritis, the winter serves as an extra-special reminder of the fact that I have to do things a little differently than most people.

For the record, I'm not a dinosaur—I am 23 years old.

I've had arthritis since the age of one, so I know how to work around the day-to-day management of my disease. Most of the time, you probably can't even tell that there's anything different about me, aside from my usual oddball weirdness—and I like it that way.

But occasionally, my joints decide that they aren't going to cooperate with me and so I have to hobble around campus, trying to ignore the stares and comments. Unfortunately, Concordia doesn't make my life any less stressful on these days.

I walked into the MB Building recently and, given that my left knee couldn't bend, climbing the stairs to the second floor for my tutorial seemed like a silly idea. So I limped to the elevators—only to find that none of them stop on the second floor anymore, only on the third or higher.

There is nothing worse than wanting to chop off your own leg and finding out that your university is adding insult to injury by preventing you from using an accessibility tool because "it's just one floor."

I should be upfront about the fact that the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities offers an electronic card that disabled students can use in elevators to access all floors. But the reason that I haven't taken

the Centre up on that service is for the following reason: I don't want to 'out' myself as a differently-abled individual.

When people realize that there is something "wrong" with me, it changes their perception of me. They walk slower, they constantly ask me if I'm okay and they unintentionally make my arthritis the core component of my identity.

It's like if you have a sunburn and someone continually asks you if you're in pain. Of course you are. You don't want people reminding you of it every five minutes.

There is nothing that irks me more than being the "disabled girl" in somebody's eyes. I realize that coming forward to write an opinion piece for *The Link* may seem contradictory to that, but the majority of Concordia students don't know who I am, and those people who do know me will hopefully keep my previous wishes in mind.

I don't want to have to have a big internal debate about whether or not I can tolerate stairs on a particular day because I don't want to have to use a key that makes people stare at me and whisper as if I can't hear what they're saying in the often sardine tin-esque elevator situation that I find myself in.

We all deserve the right to feel safe within our educational environment, and I don't feel comfortable swiping an elevator key—nor worrying about whether people are watching me struggle to hop up the stairs because my knee won't bend.

Allowing students to maintain the same sort of anonymity that they enjoy when they walk into the ACSD office is not too much to



Graphic Caity Hall

ask. I deserve the right to use the elevator to go to whatever floor I need to without making a big deal of it.

Every student at Concordia should be able to get around in an elevator without restrictions. While using the stairs may be more health-conscious and is an option that I advocate for when I'm feeling fine, the option to use the elevator to get to every floor should still be there.

People regularly cart trolleys, heavy sound

systems, and other items that require them to have access to all floors at Concordia without needing key cards or special permissions.

Perhaps the elevator service would slow down a little for the extra floors, but if Concordia can be easier to navigate for all students by allowing elevator access on all floors, I think that it's something that the administration should consider.

Erika Couto is the VP Clubs and Services for FASA.

AVOIDING THE FLU AND SURVIVING MIDTERMS—WITH PLEASURE



In case you've somehow missed it, we're in the midst of a full-blown flu-and-midterm season—a dangerous combination. If you're one of the few healthy ones left with everyone around you dropping like flies, it's time to do whatever you can to save yourself.

If you're anything like me, you may have already started trying every immune system-boosting method people throw at you. Well, I've got one more for you to add to that list: an orgasm.

Orgasms are your best friend on the path to self-care and prevention. Seem crazy? Maybe, but just like the latest lemon juice/green tea/Echinacea germ-fighting concoction, orgasms have special healing powers of their own. So here's why you owe it to yourself to go have one (or several) right now!

1. It'll give your immune system a boost.

A study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania found that people who had one to two orgasms a week had, on average, 30 per cent higher levels of Immunoglobulin A (IgA).

IgA is an antibody that's largely responsible for mucosal immunity, so it helps protect you against microbes that multiply in bodily fluids, like the cold and flu!

For this immune boost, I recommend the solo orgasm, since the more partners you swap fluids with, the more you expose yourself to germs of the cold, flu and sexually transmitted infection variety.

2. It's the ultimate stress-buster!

This one's a two-part benefit, because not only is stress bad for your mental health, but it can also take its toll on your physical health, too.

When you're stressed, your body releases the hormone corticosteroid, which can lower the effectiveness of your immune system, making it easier for an infection to knock you down.

But orgasms are proven to lower stress levels through the release of endorphins and they don't have to take long, so even if you

barely have any time to spare, you probably have time for one.

If the relaxation itself isn't enough, lower stress levels will also make it easier to put your stressors into perspective and find solutions.

3. For its natural painkilling powers!

Next time you have a migraine from studying too hard or cramps from the crappy food you're eating while studying, I dare you to have an orgasm and not feel slightly better.

Many women have praised orgasms for their powerful ability to relieve menstrual cramps, and the hype is justified. Orgasms serve as a completely natural pain reliever, and have the added benefit of keeping us from abusing meds to the point of immunity. So next time you're reaching for aspirin, opt for an orgasm instead!

4. To catch up on some ZZZs.

Getting enough sleep is essential for maintaining good health and immunity, but if you're like the majority of students, you probably aren't getting as much as you need.

How can orgasms help? If you're having trouble sleeping, an orgasm is a healthier and more enjoyable alternative to reaching

for sleeping pills. The deep relaxation that comes post-orgasm can be just what you need to doze off for a full night.

5. Because you deserve one.

You're working hard, so don't forget to take some time for yourself. It's easy to throw all personal happiness and self-care out the window when you have a pile of work to get through, but sometimes that can keep us from actually doing our best.

Unlike cigarettes, energy drinks and alcohol, there are no negative side affects to the miracle method of orgasms—so go ahead and rub one out for you.

Stay healthy and happy this flu-and-midterm season!

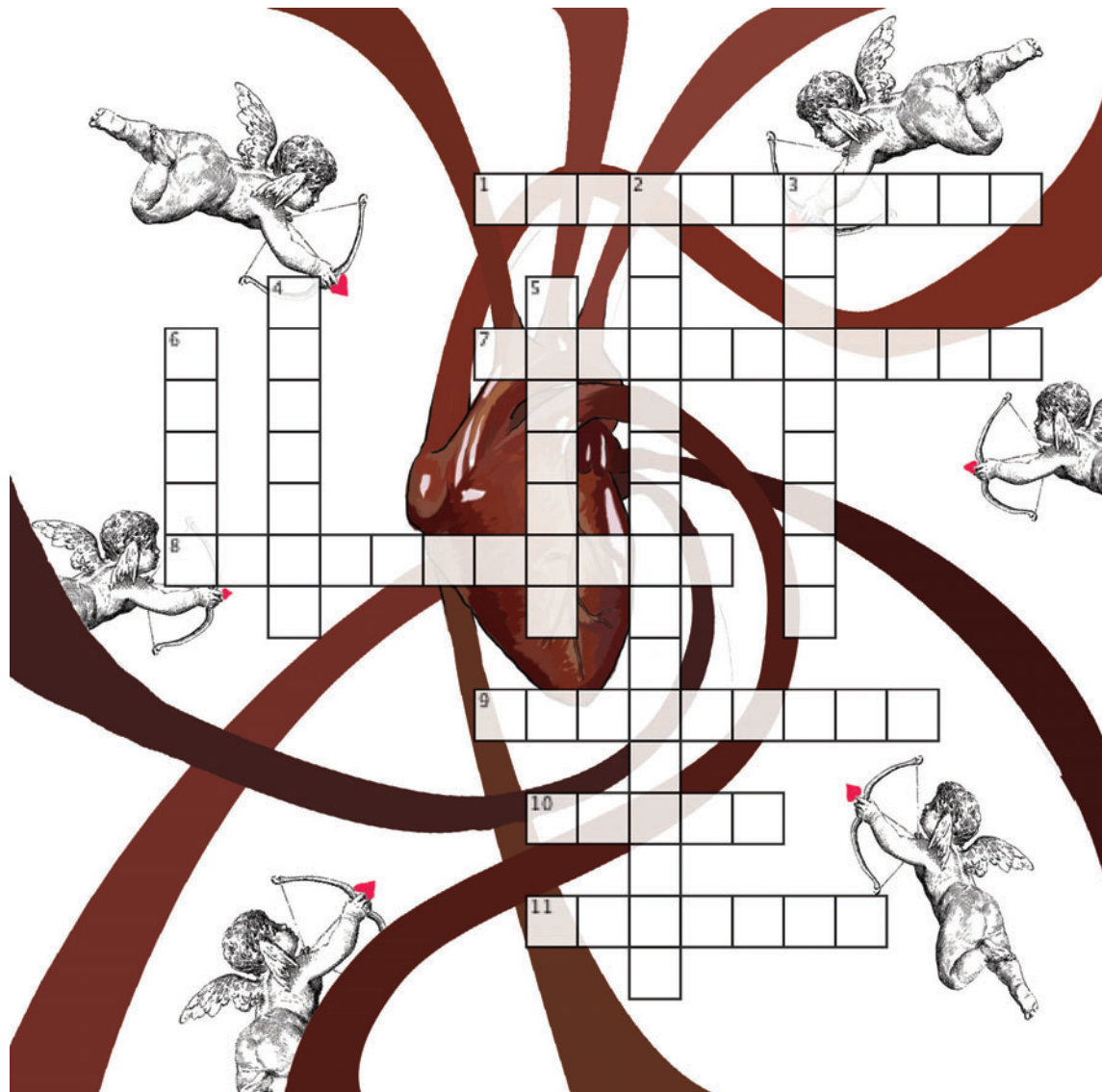
—Melissa Fuller, @mel_full

Submit your questions anonymously at sex-pancakes.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.

CROSSWORD VALENTINE'S DAY



Graphic Felipe Castañeda

by Liana Di Iorio @msberbtoyou

Across

1. This notoriously single songstress has dated John Mayer, Taylor Lautner, Joe Jonas and, most recently, Harry Styles. How ironic that she made her film debut in a movie about Valentine's Day. (2 words)

7. This Valentine's Day go-to sobfest made Ryan Gosling the movie star and hipster god that he is. If you're a bird, I'm a bird, right Ryan? (2 words)

8. This ABC show has been on for eleven years. *Eleven!* The concept: one man and 25 women hoping they'll have a valentine come Feb. 14. (2 words)

9. Forget Nirvana, the only thing anyone wants to find in a heart-shaped box is this sweet treat.

10. How the god of desire, affection and erotic love became this winged baby/diapered angel is beyond me.

11. On Feb. 14, 1929, Al Capone

and his South Side Gangsters committed the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre in this American city.

Down

2. This Hollywood bachelor is famous for being single, though he owes his fame to some of the most romantic movies of all time. *Titanic*, anyone? (2 words)

3. Single? Spend Valentine's Day with Josh Duhamel and Julianne Hough in this recent film adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks novel. (2 words)

4. Feb. 13 is also an awareness day for this sad-sack group, a Valentine's Day alternative for the lonely among us.

5. Though most famous for his *Canterbury Tales*, this poet from the Middle Ages is credited with helping to establish the concept of courtly love.

6. "Be Mine," "XOXO" and "Let's Kiss" are some phrases on the candies of this shape—though they should probably add "I'll Give You Diabetes."



LETTERS@thelinknewspaper.ca

Run for Council

Have you ever heard of the Concordia Student Union?

That's your association, which represents all undergraduates at Concordia University.

As undergrads, we all pay into the CSU, as well as to our respective faculty associations on campus.

These associations organize events, provide services, fund special projects, run campaigns and finance clubs, associations and societies.

In addition to their contributions to student life on campus, they also are responsible for appointing representatives to the important university bodies that make decisions regarding curricula and other academic matters that affect students directly.

One example is the university Senate, the highest decision-making body of the school, where I have had the privilege of holding a seat for the past year-and-a-half.

Unfortunately, this year hasn't been the best for student representation at our university. To be specific, I am referring to the CSU.

I haven't been shy over the past months to criticize the actions of our student representatives (or the lack thereof), whether it be on council or on the executive.

I can completely understand students being disillusioned by the pertinence of the union, considering the way many things

have played out this year.

However, I am not writing this letter to criticize our student union. I am writing this letter because I believe that students deserve better and because I know that the CSU has the potential to improve and grow over the course of the next year.

Elections are just around the corner, polling starts at the end of March and the CSU needs fresh new faces to sit on council.

If you want to learn more about your university; if you want to contribute to student life, then you should consider getting involved with the CSU next year. If you are willing to criticize, question and share your ideas to make the CSU better for students, you should consider running as a councillor in the upcoming elections.

For more information about how the CSU works, and the possibilities for your involvement, send me a tweet @melhotchkiss.

—Melanie Hotchkiss,
Undergraduate Senator

Enbridge Engaging in Whitewashing at Montreal Cancer Benefit

Enbridge? Enbridge is promoting a concert against cancer?

Isn't this the same multi-billion-dollar pipeline company that spilled more than 20,000 barrels of tar sands crude into

Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010, pouring—among other things—carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons into the environment? And wasn't that a spill that has never quite been fully cleaned up?

I mean, if you want to polish your name, cancer research fundraising would be the way to go. But everyone knows you can't polish a turd.

We are talking about the same company that, along with rival TransCanada Corporation, wants to pass these very same diluted tar sands via pipeline through Quebec, across the island of Montreal, right on through to eastern Canadian and European markets without so much as a "thank you" for absorbing the risk.

We aren't just talking about a company that is merely complicit with the tar sands, but one that is downright dependant on and inextricably linked to the continued exploitation and growth of the Alberta tar sands, an industrial megaproject that counts among its major emissions known and suspected carcinogens like benzene and toluene.

Has anyone else seen photos of that tumour fish from Fort Chipewyan, AB, downstream from the tar sands? How is this acceptable?

I'm all for research into treatments for cancer, don't get me wrong. But I think it's equally important to recognize that fighting cancer, or anything for that matter, also

means addressing the root causes.

So help me head-butt cancer in its proverbial gender-neutral gonads and deal with one of the root causes. Speak out about industrial megaprojects that make the rich richer and the poor sicker. Fight back against tar sands pipelines coming to Quebec. Advocate a tar sands-free Montreal.

And let's not let Enbridge think we don't notice what they're up to. We see what you've done here. And we still don't want your dirty oil.

Enbridge and the Institut du cancer de Montréal are holding their Concert contre le cancer on Friday, Feb. 15, at the Maison Symphonique, located at 1600 St. Urbain St.

—Mike Finck

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

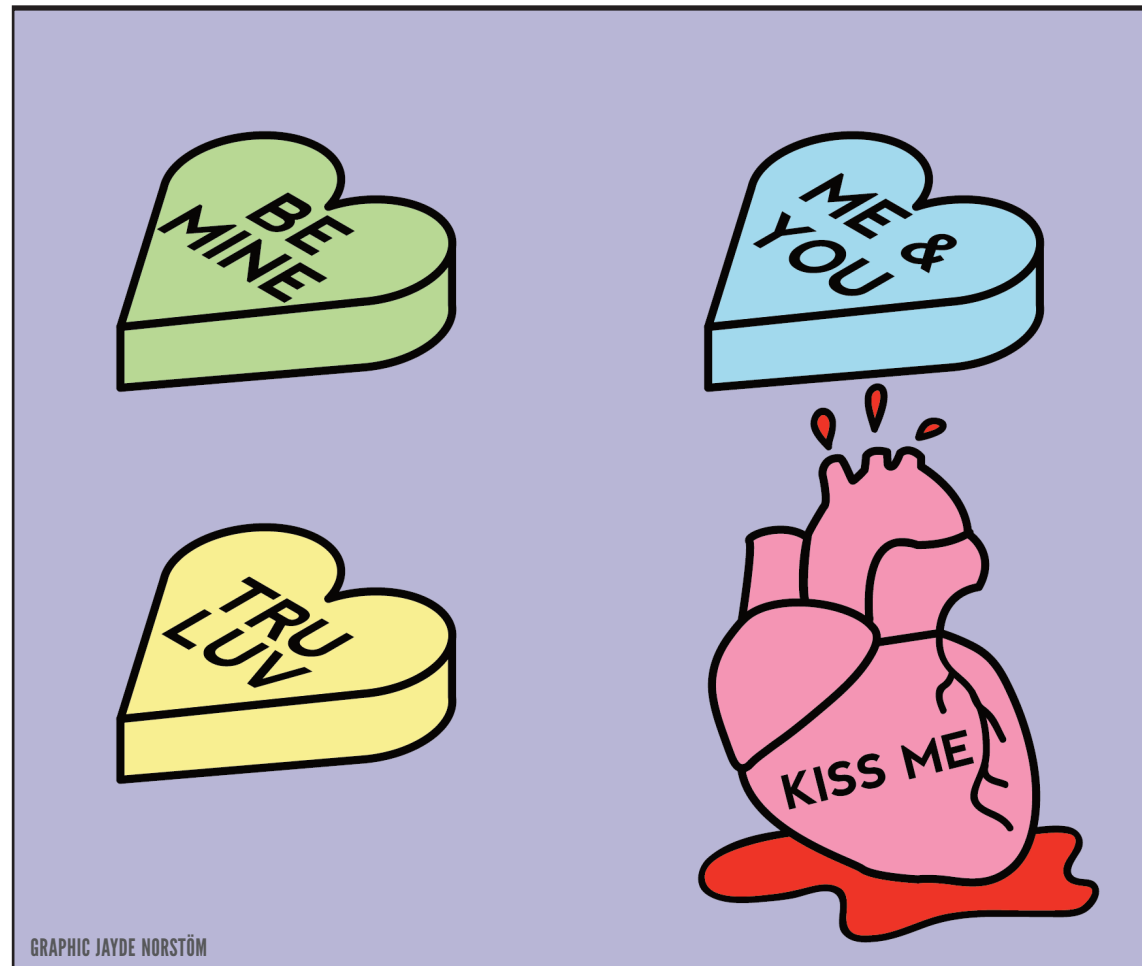
BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



LINKOGRAPHY

I <3 U



FALSE KNEES

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

I'm Older Than Yesterday. Yay?

I've never understood birthdays.

I turned 22 the other day. I'm often told (and I believe it) that that's still quite young—to some, like liquor store clerks, I'm practically a baby.

But what's the point of all the pageantry and celebration?

In grade school, we bought cake and had parties on the weekends at the movies, playing laser tag or running through shopping mall food courts like packs of wild dogs.

Gifts were extravagant; we dragged our parents along to Toys 'R' Us for the latest and greatest bazooka Super Soaker (with scope and Nerf gun attachment, obviously) and if not that, then a half-dozen packs from the current nerd-crack monster card game du jour.

As long as it sounded cool and made your parents go broke paying for it, you knew

you'd made a good choice.

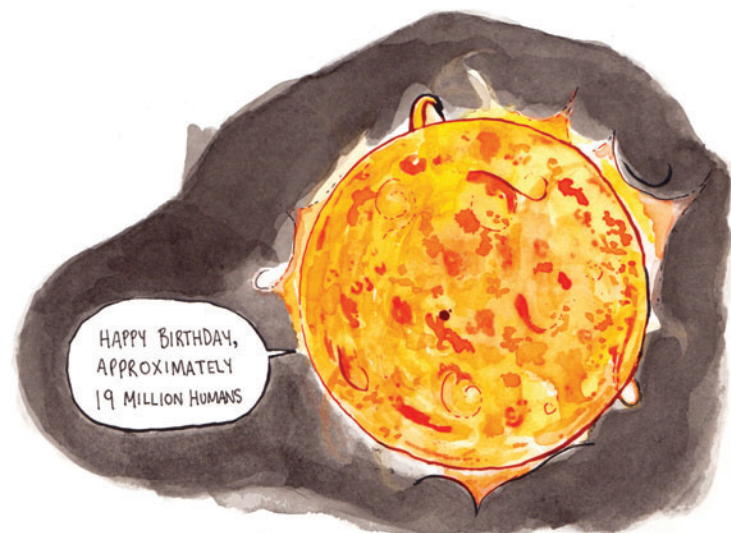
Today, I just feel weird being the centre of attention.

Sure, I'm a rather social and outgoing dude, so that may not seem in character, but besides recognizing an arbitrary marking of Earthly revolutions around a giant pile of flaming nuclear gas, I honestly don't get what monumental thing we've all decided is worth celebrating here.

I've come to treat my birthdays reflexively, thinking about where I am going and where I've been, who I've become and what I want to be.

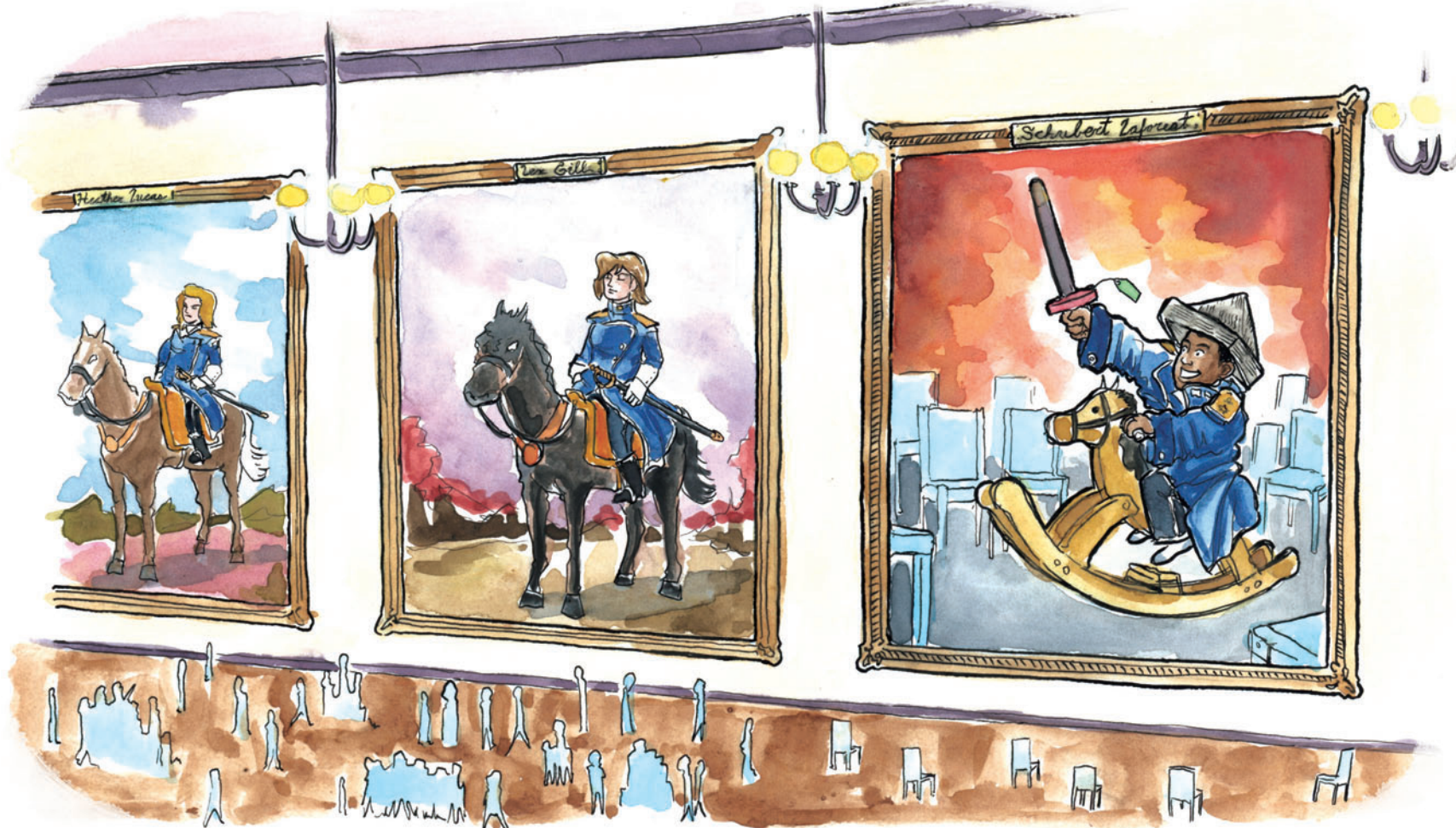
That being said, it's been so goddamned cold outside I'll take any excuse to leave my house at this point. Party on, bro.

—Andrew Brennan,
Assistant News Editor



Graphic Joshua Barkman

Editorial



CSUSELESS

The Concordia Student Union is on the hunt for a new president.

CSU President Schubert Laforest's resignation is effective Tuesday night, as contracting mononucleosis forced him to step down.

But with the way our student union has been acting all year, we doubt anyone will notice much of a change. Unless he's been sick since last March, there is no excuse for our president's lacklustre—albeit consistent—performance.

Laforest's presidency was, in some ways, already over before he resigned. Even if he had stayed on, we sincerely doubt he would have turned around what has been at best a series of unfinished projects. His legacy, mono or not, may be a series of mistakes for future presidents to avoid, rather than successes to emulate.

Looking back over his term, there's not a lot of positive work to speak of.

We remember a president who had constant communication issues, with students and with the media. Even his own council complained of being a metaphorical rubber stamp for the executive.

Tech trouble was cited as the reason for

the breakdown in communication between the union and its students. Fair enough, but it's hard to blame IT for the Orientation posters appearing only days before major events and little to no advertisement for job openings. Lack of foresight and no initiative cannot be swept under the rug.

Let's also not forget how we needed to publically call Laforest out in order to get our phone calls returned. And even after that, things didn't really improve much.

Given the lack of leadership we saw over the course of his mandate, we expected Laforest's resignation much earlier—for reasons unrelated to health. Frankly, we expected it because he just wasn't suited for the job.

Like the disappointing end to a J.J. Abrams television show, his finale comes with many unanswered questions.

Students never got a straight answer as to why the president was never able to represent them on the Board of Governors, the highest decision-making body at Concordia, nor on the university's Senate, despite those responsibilities being important elements of his job.

Allegations of his questionable student status have been rumbling ever since his disqualification—and subsequent reinstatement—in the running for president during last year's general elections.

Further, Laforest's stepping down marks the 12th resignation on council this school year, and the second of his executive after Lucia Gallardo was virtually forced to resign after council discovered she was not a registered student.

This is a very different CSU than the one we voted in. With CSU VP Clubs & Internal Nadine Atallah slated to take over for Laforest, her proposed replacement is precisely who we didn't vote for in March—last year's losing *Concordia Could Be* VP Clubs & Internal candidate Museb Abu-Thuraia.

And while Schubert's inaction could be seen as a waste of resources, having another member of this merry gang take his place could actually cause some serious damage.

After working all year on student space, Atallah doesn't intend to hand over her student centre pet project.

But seeing as she's already confused us with seemingly sporadic schedules and timeframes, we're wary of what's to come with this changing of hands.

In an effort to finish what she started, it's imperative the current stage of the student centre development—what exactly students want out of their space—isn't rushed in the process.

Are we the only ones irked by the poorly thought-out poster propaganda campaign plastered throughout the schools hallways? It seems counterintuitive that an effort to give student space a fresh face at this school manifested itself in the form of a statement seemingly serving students with a ready-made version of what we want.

And if Atallah is going to be the new face of our student union, she needs to be ready for the public scrutiny that comes with it.

We wish Laforest a speedy recovery, and acknowledge his need to step down as a valid one. Above all else, his health is most important.

But a virus alone can't be blamed for the sorry state of our student union.

◆ GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

THE LINK

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