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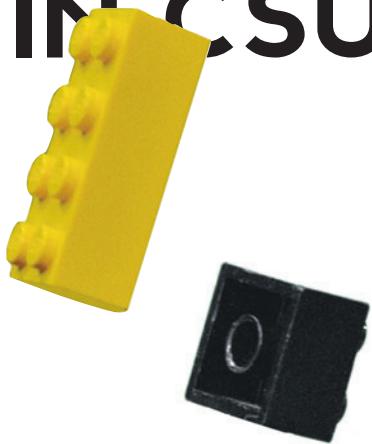
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UNPRECEDENTED GAP IN CSU PRESIDENCY



by Megan Dolski @MeganDolski

On Feb. 7, Concordia Student Union president, Schubert Laforest resigned from his position, citing health reasons. On Feb. 13, at around 10:15 p.m., after sitting in a conference room for nearly five hours, the Concordia Student Union council reached the agenda point in which they were tasked to collectively pick a new president.

The room then launched into a vivid, spirited debate between councillors and executives—which lasted until past 4:00 a.m.

After hours of back and forth, of bickering, of councillors leaving and re-entering the room, the meeting finally ended. The CSU's new president? Yet to be determined.

That was nearly two weeks ago, however. And the union still doesn't have a president at the helm.

► Continues on Page 5



◆ Photo Erin Sparks

THE LINK ONLINE

SUMMIT COVERAGE

Keep up-to-date on what's happening at the Summit on Higher Education. We're inside the summit and on the streets.



CHAOS ON COUNCIL CONTINUES

Keep refreshing our homepage for updates. Something might break.

JUST ONE NEEDED

ConU women's basketball team dominate first period en route to season finale win.



BREAKING DOWN EDUCATION IN QUEBEC

How nearly 50 years of reform are shaping a two-day Summit on Higher Education. **P7**



A CASE OF COMPETITION FEVER

The world's top business schools come to ConU for the annual John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition. **P8**

POST-ORIENTATION WOES CONTINUE AT CSU COUNCIL

CSU VP Alexis Suzuki's Orientation Report called into question again. **P4**

A WHITE MALE-DOMINATED POLITICAL CLASS

Making the case for more representative student organizations, governments and businesses. **P18**

SUMMIT ON HIGHER PRICES?

The need to go beyond a discussion on university tuition fees. **P19**

ARE YOU A BETTING PERSON?

Until the Concordia Student Union's judicial board issues its decision concerning the accurate interpretation and implementation of Bylaw 7.4, progress towards picking the union's next president stands at a halt.

All anyone can really do for now is wait.

But, while doing so, *The Link* decided to do some research, ask some questions and try to determine the likeliest and least-likely contenders that could potentially find themselves in the union's head leadership role.

The Link surveyed councillors and executives, compiled some statistics and did our very best to give you a sense of the odds at play here.



Keny Toto, VP Finance:

- Odds: **Slim to none.**
- Pros: Now that Laforest is gone, Toto is absolutely the best-dressed member of the executive.
- Cons: No tangible reason for him to be appointed, with neither the appropriate experience nor the support of the union.

Nadine Atallah, VP Clubs & Internal:

■ Odds: **5:2**

- Pros: Her executive is absolutely confident she is the best one for the job. So sure, in fact, that they even threatened council with legal action should they not elect her. As VP Internal, she worked very closely with outgoing president Schubert Laforest, and knows the job well.

■ Cons: Council unanimously spoke against her candidacy.

"The president is the face of the CSU. At times I've seen [Nadine] not be that face," said councillor Paul Jerajian, as the executive pushed for Atallah.

If elected, Atallah would be ineligible to represent the CSU at Senate or on the Board of Governors, the university's highest governing bodies, meaning she'd be unable to fulfil two of the fundamental duties of the president.



Andrew Roberts, VP Sustainability:

■ Odds: **4:3**

- Pros: With the most support from council and reluctant support from some of his executive, Roberts would probably provide the union with what it needs most right now—a little unity. Also, as the current Board of Governors alternate student representative, he would be able to fill that governance role without much red tape.

■ Cons: He clearly doesn't want the job and made the case against himself, saying, "I don't dig the politics stuff, I like what I'm doing." Also, as VP Sustainability he doesn't necessarily have the most relevant experience for the job.



Stefan Faina, VP Loyola:

■ Odds: **Slim to none.**

- Pros: He hasn't been vocal enough to significantly offend his council.

■ Cons: He hasn't been vocal enough to stand out and impress them.

Simon-Pierre Lauzon, VP External:

■ Odds: **4:3**

- Pros: The executive's top choice after Nadine, Lauzon's backed by council's hesitant support. Lauzon himself admits that he's a likely choice. As VP External, he's also worked closely with Laforest and already has experience representing students as a senator.

■ Cons: Vacating the VP External position right now could prove tricky, as it's one of the most labour-intensive portfolios. Also, council would rather VP Sustainability Andrew Roberts, given the choice. He's also hinted at a burnout—concerning, considering the increased workload the presidency would inevitably result in.



Councillor to Be Determined:

■ Odds: **4:1**

- Pros: It might be a good for the current executive's public relations to get a new face in the mix, and the vast majority of councillors surveyed said they would consider voting in favour of it.

Also, this option would mean none of the current executives would have to leave their position, thus opening up yet another spot on the executive.

■ Cons: The executive has spoken out adamantly against this, and no councillors have expressed interest. Plus, it would be difficult for a newcomer to work productively with a new the team so late in the game.



Alexis Suzuki, VP Student Life:

- Odds: **Slim to none.**
- Pros: She might possibly be related to renowned Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki.
- Cons: Council has thrown a lot of criticism her way. Read below to find out why.

Hajar El Jahidi, VP Academic & Advocacy:

■ Odds: **Slim to none.**

- Pros: The newest member of the team, El Jahidi is the least associated with the current executive, something that could have worked to favour with council right now.

■ Cons: After threatening them with legal action two weeks ago, however, council is probably less than amicable to the idea. Also, there's absolutely no evidence that she or her executive think it's a good idea.



CSU TO SUZUKI: PRODUCE THE POST-MORTEM

Council Demands Orientation Report From VP Student Life

alternative, rather than a supplement to the traditional post-mortem report outlined in her job description.

At council, she expressed that she thought focusing on a post-mortem was "a big waste of time," adding that she would rather create a document "that would actually help people."

Suzuki's decision came after several councillors voiced disappointments concerning her post-mortem report for the fall Orientation, noting that it was submitted weeks late, and that it neglected to appropriately address the event's shortcomings.

"It's great to gloat about how great things went, but [addressing] less successful or negative aspects [is] important to be accountable to students," said councillor James Tyler Vaccaro.

"It's the money that all students have contributed to the CSU so it's something that has to be done."

"It's great to log your achievements, but you also have to know when you've made mistakes."

Suzuki originally proposed to have her how-to guide finished on June 1—one day after her mandate as VP Student Life ends.

At council, both executives and councillors voiced concerns that keeping the June 1 deadline would restrict them from being able to provide Suzuki feedback on the report—seeing as she would no longer be occupying her position as an executive.

"It's problematic because [Suzuki] would have no responsibility to the work once she handed it in," said CSU councillor Gonzo Nieto. "Then we would have to get someone who

comes in after her to finish the work she didn't complete."

To address this, council passed a motion to move the deadline for Suzuki's report from June 1 to May 1.

Additionally, multiple councillors at the meeting noted a general lack of communication within the union. Councillor Melissa Kate Wheeler said she felt as though the lines of communication between council and the executives had been broken down for some time.

"I think that [Suzuki] doesn't want to do it because she thinks it's a waste of time, but I can't help but feel that if she really understood why we were asking for the post-mortem [...], she wouldn't see it as that," said Wheeler.

To make things explicitly clear, council mandated Suzuki to have the

report in by next council meeting, specifying via a separate motion that it include both the strengths and weaknesses of winter Orientation.

Regardless of the quality of her next post-mortem, Nieto feels as though Suzuki is not the one who should be writing a how-to guide for future generations of the CSU—considering the way the two Orientations of this school year have gone.

"Everyone in the years before her has done it, it's what her boss—council—is asking her to do and she thinks that it is a waste of time," Nieto said. "If we ask her to do something, I would expect for it to get done."

Despite numerous attempts to contact Suzuki for comment, *The Link* was unable to reach her by press time.

by Katie McGroarty
@KatieCMcG

The presidential vacancy wasn't the only sore point at the last Concordia Student Union council meeting.

Though the meeting clocked in at approximately 10 hours, and despite the urgency of the points that followed, council dedicated a good chunk of the first half of the meeting to discussing the mandate and portfolio of one specific member of the executive.

VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki's decision to create a "how-to guide" for future executives tasked with organizing Orientation sparked concerns from a variety of councillors.

Suzuki proposed the guide as an

STANDSTILL AT THE TOP

Union Still Without a President, Nearly Three Weeks Later

by Megan Dolski @MeganDolski

► Continued from Page 3

The issue saw a fierce clashing of opinions between the executive and the rest of council.

The conflict centered on the interpretation of Bylaw 7.4, which outlines the protocol of how to fill a presidential vacancy.

In keeping with this procedure, the executive presented council with the VPs—or in this case, the only VP—willing to take over the position.

The executive unanimously and wholeheartedly endorsed Nadine Atallah, current VP Clubs and Internal, as their chosen president, and put forth her name as the sole candidate interested in taking over the presidential portfolio.

When brought to a vote however, council unanimously voted down Atallah for president.

"I am trying to figure out a rational reason why Nadine is not the best for the job," said VP Academic and Advocacy Hajar El Jahidi. "We know what's best for us and we know the ins and outs of this team better than anyone else—why has no one asked us what we want?"

To this, council adamantly responded.

"This is not about the feelings of seven out of 35,000 people," said councillor Melissa Kate Wheeler. "[Atallah] does not have the confidence of the [council], and this is the first time council has united on anything all year long—that says something."

Several councillors echoed Wheeler's sentiments, and furthered them with concerns of being presented with a single option. But, while the opposition to Atallah's presidency was made loud and clear, the executive stood firm.

"The bylaws are clear. If no one from the exec is willing, we go to council. Nadine is the only one willing," reiterated El Jahidi. "Technically, we sought legal advice, and the only choice is Nadine. If council doesn't do this, we are breaching bylaws."

Councillor Jordan Lindsay reacted by breaking down the illegitimacy of the executive's threat of legal action, calling their threat "so empty."

Lindsay was backed up by councillor Gonzo Nieto's assurance to council

that they should not feel as though "their hands are tied."

Council poked around for alternatives, and VP Sustainability Andrew Roberts and VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon emerged as favourites—though at the time, neither expressed interest in the role.

Roberts said he "wasn't a politics kind of guy," while Lauzon said, "I think me becoming president to the CSU would be a blow to the union, and a damage to us all."

Since then, Lauzon told *The Link* that he has changed his mind, and would now consider accepting the position as president—though he still feels Atallah would be the better candidate.

Roberts could not be reached for comment prior to press time.

After arriving at an evident stalemate, it was decided that the bylaw be brought to the union's judicial board, for legal interpretation. The complaint was officially received by the JB on Feb. 22. According to the motion passed at council, the body has five days from this time to seek advice from a lawyer.

Until JB issues a ruling, the executive, council and student body at large are stuck at a relative standstill, with no option but to continue to function to the best of their ability, without a president.

A First for Everything

This is the first time in CSU history that the union is being forced to function for an extended period of time without a president.

The last time a president resigned was in 2010. That year, Prince Ralph Osei resigned on Aug. 23 to take a full-ride scholarship to a master's program abroad. Then-VP Services Heather Lucas replaced him three days later, following her unanimous appointment by council.

"The fact is that the CSU is not designed to not have a president," said outgoing CSU president Schubert Laforest. "The bylaws do not have a fail-safe mechanism for a situation where you only have VPs and no president."

It's a fact that is already proving to be problematic for the current executive, he continued to explain, as they don't have the power they would have had with a president.

"People are still contacting me, but I don't have the legal authority to make decisions anymore, and—to a certain extent—neither does the exec," Laforest said.

Projects Laforest was working on, such as hiring a general manager and fixing the union's deplorable IT situation, have essentially been paralyzed.

Additionally, added Laforest, the union is without a face to lead them into important events, such as the ongoing Summit on Higher Education.

Lauzon agreed with Laforest, reiterating that the union's ability to do its job has been hindered by the vacancy.

"We had an option that was fitting with our bylaws and council chose to make the CSU dysfunctional for a certain amount of time."

When Hindsight Is 20/20

While their reasons for feeling so may vary, all parties involved seem to agree that the current leaderless state of the union is far from ideal.

Several members of the executive and council have expressed that, in hindsight, the process of filling the presidential vacancy should probably have been handled differently.

"I think we should have been less retaliatory, less angry. We should have kept our cool more," said VP Loyola Stefan Faina, of his executive's tactics at the Feb. 13 council meeting. "We should not have jumped right in with talking about lawyers and lawsuits, and other such unpleasant items."

He said his team should have focused more on having a discussion with council and highlighting Atallah's assets as a leader, rather than behaving in a manner that led council to feel forced into a decision, which, he said, was never the intention.

Atallah said the executives could also have done a better job communicating with councillors beforehand.

Councillor James Tyler Vaccaro says he would have appreciated more of a dialogue between council and the executive.

"It was frustrating. I think it could have gone much better than it had, had people had the tact and foresight to handle it better," he said.

Regardless of whether the executive

had done things differently, Lauzon expressed frustration with his belief that, in terms of their relationship with council, the executive is in a place where they can't win.

"Our criticism during first semester is that we came to council unprepared, and that we gave too much leeway to council," he said. "So, we corrected it by making decisions ourselves—but now we are getting flak for that."

Laforest said, had he known things would have materialized the way they have, he would have "taken care of more things" before he left office.

"There should have been a contingency plan presented to council," he said.

"Whoever council chooses, I will pour my knowledge into them and try and make the transition as smooth as possible," Laforest said. "But right now it is a question of having a person being chosen, and them having the power to lead the CSU."

"This is not about the feelings of seven out of 35,000 people. [Nadine Atallah] does not have the confidence of the [council], and this is the first time council has united on anything all year long—that says something." **Melissa Kate Wheeler, Concordia Student Union Councillor**

► Concordia Student Union Bylaw 7.4

"Should there be a vacancy in the Presidency, the Council of Representatives shall appoint a President from among the remaining Vice-Presidents for the remainder of the term of office. Should no Vice-President remain in office or be willing to be appointed, the Council shall appoint a President from among its members by two-thirds majority vote, at a meeting duly called for purpose, who shall thereupon be deemed to have resigned from the Council of Representatives."

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN QUEBEC

by Colin Harris @ColinnHarris, with files from Pierre Chauvin and Justin Blandchard

1964

Education as we know it in Quebec begins to take shape during the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, when power shifted from local and church authorities to the provincial government.

For schools, this means the creation of the Ministry of Education in 1964, whose main directives include narrowing the gap in quality between learning in English and French.

1967

Bill 21 passes, which brings about the creation of the first 12 CEGEPs. These colleges are to be free to attend and are to serve as both a place for pre-university education and advanced technical training. The following year, there are 23 CEGEPs, with a total of 38,000 students.

1979

As university financing becomes increasingly reliant on government funding, the Conseil des universités is created—made up of university officials, working professionals and government representatives.

The council is charged with duties including coordination between schools, studying budgets and advising the education minister. The council lasts until 1993, when the Loi sur le Conseil des universités is repealed.

2000

The 2013 Summit on Higher Education is not unprecedented in this province. In February 2000, Lucien Bouchard's Parti Québécois government organizes a Youth Summit on Education in Quebec City. Just like the currently ongoing summit, funding is a prime issue.

This event was marked by an eruption of violence between police and demonstrators. Police allege that students initiated the mayhem, whereas footage suggests that tear gas was dispersed before crowds became hostile.

Students critical of the summit perceived it as a political PR stunt. Two months later, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec leaks a document revealing government plans to allot university funding relative to their performance.

1986

Following cuts to university operating grants by the Liberals, the Conseil des universités asks to double tuition fees to make up for the lack of funding. However, there is concern from some university officials that the increase would go directly to reducing the province's deficit.

"All the fat is gone," Lucie Beauchemin, an advisor to Concordia's rector tells The Globe and Mail at the time. "Now we're dealing with skin and bones."

McGill institutes a \$100-per-student "photocopy fee" and Concordia follows suit with an \$84 "academic excellence" fee.

The current Parti Québécois government hopes to lay the framework for a similar council, the proposed Conseil national des universités. Part of this council's job would be to ensure accountability from universities, an oft-repeated demand during the "printemps érable."

2012

The "printemps érable" (a pun on the Arab Spring, which translates as Maple Spring) carries over from the previous year when the Liberals announce their intentions to raise tuition fees by 75 per cent over five years.

Monthly Days of Action begin

on March 22, which see hundreds of thousands in the streets—many of which are on strike—contesting the increase. By mid-May, it's the biggest student movement in the province's history. There are demonstrations nearly every day and night, some of which end in

violent clashes with riot police.

In response to the growing unrest, then-premier Jean Charest puts the emergency Bill 78 to a vote in the National Assembly—a move that eventually contributes to the end of his political career.

Bill 78 put restrictions on the

right to protest, galvanizing the student movement into a greater fight to protect freedom of expression. Demonstrators of all ages flood streets across Quebec, banging pots and pans (known as the *casseroles*) throughout the summer.

A provincial election is called

to resolve the crisis, and the Parti Québécois is elected. Before even being sworn in, then-Premier-elect Pauline Marois vows to cancel the hikes passed by the Liberals—and to hold a "national discussion" on the topic of higher education.



Photo Alex Bailey

SUMMIT ON HIGHER EDUCATION KICKS OFF IN MONTREAL

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

With the Summit on Higher Education unfolding behind closed doors Monday, roughly 1,000 student protesters returned to the streets, decrying funding cuts and plans for indexation of tuition fee rates by three per cent.

Beginning in the late afternoon outside Atwater Metro, clashes between protesters and police were largely civil—until the demonstration was declared illegal.

Pepper spray and sound grenades were utilized to disperse the large crowd, while volleys of snowballs were aimed at police by a small contingent of protesters.

The demonstration made several attempts to reach the Arsenal Art Gallery in the Griffintown neighbourhood, where the provincial Summit on Higher Education was taking place.

All told, two people were arrested over the course of the evening, according to the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.

A smaller gathering of about a dozen university professors also took place outside the summit's location earlier that morning.

Day two of the summit is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, with rolling protests slated throughout the day.

For coverage of what went down inside the Summit and coverage of Tuesday's protest, check out our liveblog at thelinknewspaper.ca.

BACK TO BUSINESS AT JOHN MOLSON

Fifth Annual Case Competition Brings International Crowd to ConU



by Milène Ortenberg
@Mc_Castafiore

The party was in full swing at the Hilton Bonaventure on Feb. 23, as glammed-up business students from around the world celebrated a week of hard work, following the fifth edition of the John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition.

The annual event is unique amongst its kind and has gained quite a reputation on the international competition scene since its inception.

This year, 24 of the world's top business schools—the most the competition has ever hosted—competed to solve real-world corporate cases put forth by a prestigious array of companies and sponsors.

According to Mark Haber, the coach of the Concordia team, the experience participants receive at JMUCC is “as close to the real world as they’re ever going to get without putting their jobs on the line.”

How It Works

The 24 teams of four are divided into six divisions. In the first round, each team has three hours to tackle a case and present its findings to the judges.

In the second and final round, the six division winners have 24 hours to deliberate their cases and present recommendations to a new panel of judges.

“I’m very proud of the out-

come of this year’s competition,” said organizing committee president Guillaume Leverdier. “It was a sleepless week for all of us, but when I see the positive effect it has had on everyone, it’s all worth it.”

Case competitions like JMUCC allow students across all business academic fields to apply their learning to real-life scenarios, showcasing their skills in front of potential employers and partners.

Making the Connection

At JMUCC, networking and employment opportunities present themselves both inside and out of the presentation room.

“I gained so much confidence in public speaking and networking with professionals in the workforce,” said Lori Defnet of Maryland’s Salisbury University.

“It’s about getting the opportunity to use your skills not only in the competition, but interacting with the business community. It’s a huge advantage to be in the field like that,” added Julianne Waxman, another member of the Salisbury team.

For Tarik Qahawish, digital marketing and communications director at Aeroplan Canada and JMSB alumnus, his first experience at the competition as a judge was a memorable one.

“I think [the competition] is a great idea. I hope it will continue

to expand and provide even more opportunities [in the future]. Presenting in class in one thing, but presenting in front of industry experts is a completely different ballgame,” said Qahawish.

“[These students] are very sharp; they really understand the business context and what it takes to move a business forward and solve strategic problems, especially with the short timelines they are given. I’m very impressed,” he said.

Sal Mariani, a representative from Scotiabank who has been involved with the competition for the last four years, agrees.

“What draws me back every year is the inspiration I get from these students. They come from all over the world and I am amazed at their level of engagement, their enthusiasm and creativity. It’s remarkable.”

The Future of the Field

Case competitions offer a unique chance for the next generation of business leaders to strut their stuff and take command of a room, a sought-after skill in the industry.

At JMUCC, it’s not just about having technical skills, but also demonstrating one’s ability to effectively communicate original ideas while making a memorable impression on the judges.

Jeff Talajic and Antoine Théorêt-Poupard, brand manager and acquisition manager respec-



An important aspect of the John Molson undergraduate case competition is networking. ■ Photos Adam Castonguay

tively for Frank and Oak, a Montreal-based online clothing shop, have both greatly appreciated the feedback from students on the case they provided.

“There are some ideas that came up that are very interesting, and they couldn’t have come from someone that was 45 years old. It had to come from someone who was 23 years old,” said Talajic.

“I took really good notes. A few of their ideas will most likely be implemented in the future,” said Théorêt-Poupard.

While the two-way learning street was bustling with traffic, the word on the tip of everyone’s tongue was networking.

In an increasingly globalized society, the competition made it clear

that one can never underestimate the value of connections made with peers—whether they’re from one’s home country or across the world.

“You’re building relationships with people who are in a similar time in their life, with like-minded goals and aspirations, and that’s the best part about it,” said William Hall of Concordia’s John Molson School of Business.

“In our division, there’s a member from another team we were heavily competing against who ended up becoming a lasting friend.”

This year’s competition was won by the University of South Carolina. Queensland University of Technology took second place, while the National University of Singapore came in third.

THE COST OF SPACE

How Construction Spending Is Eating Into University Operating Funds

At first glance, it seems paradoxical: if Concordia University is so constantly plagued by budget troubles, where does it find the money to keep expanding?

by Jane Gatensby @JaneGatensby

Examples of expensive real estate projects in the past 10 years abound: \$172 million to build the EV Building, \$85 million for the the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, \$120 million for the MB Building.

Add those costs to the dozens of smaller renovation projects and downtown real estate purchases that the university has undertaken in recent years, and you're running a serious bill—one that will take a long time to pay off.

And Concordia isn't alone: the Université du Québec à Montréal, Université de Montréal and Quebec City's Université Laval have all been expanding too, whether financing buildings to hold new classrooms, or whole new campuses.

While these additions have been in response to increased university enrollment, questions still remain: how exactly are we paying for all these projects? And how does spending so much on space affect other aspects of the university?

It's a question that worries the Fédération québécoise des professeur(e)s d'université, which this fall published a 426-page document outlining university expenditures from 1997-98 to 2008-09.

Its findings are alarming: faced with insufficient funding for capital assets (which include real estate, building development and renovations, as well as things like furniture, equipment and books), universities have been dipping into operating funds to pay for new spaces, thereby negating all the extra money they've been given by the government in response to the increased enrollment.

"[The government is] supposed to finance 100 per cent of all the [capital assets], but in the last ten years they have financed only 64 per cent," said Michel Umbriaco, president of the FQPPU's committee on university financing. "The number of students increased, so the management has an obligation to put the students somewhere."

According to the FQPPU's report, the total cost of constructing and acquiring new space over all Quebec universities more than doubled in the period of study, while government funding for these projects has increased only slightly.

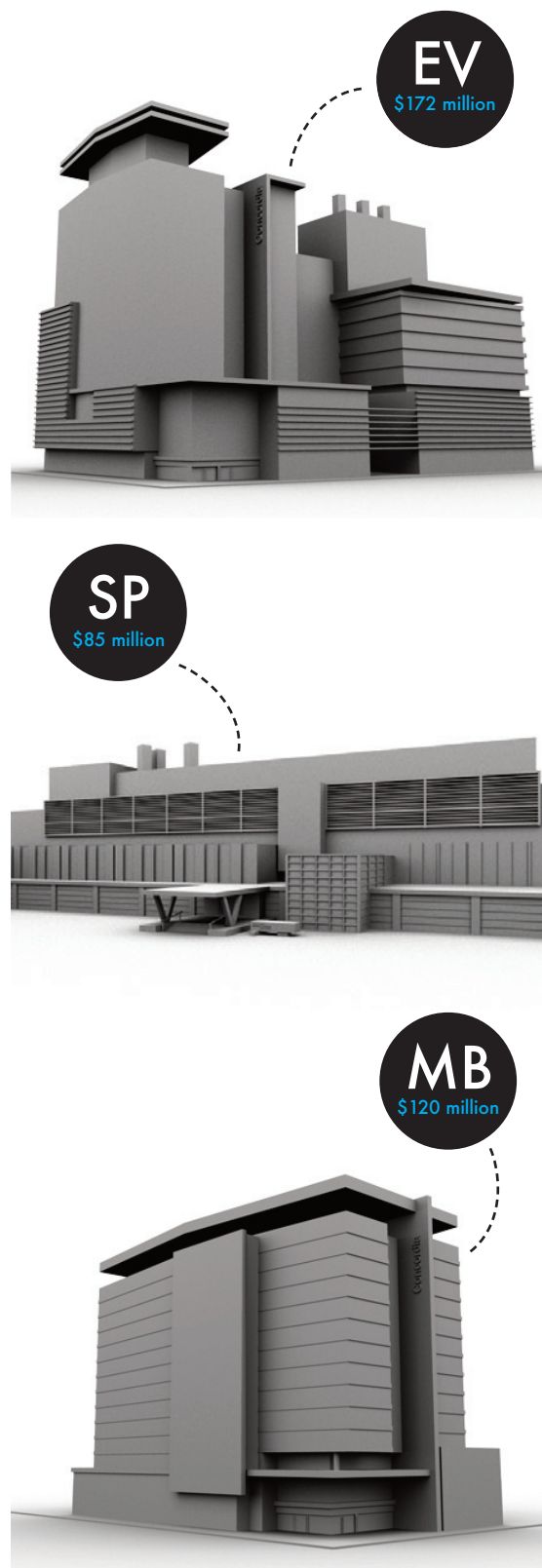
Private donations and special grants have, at times, helped to repair this discrepancy—Concordia's MB Building, for example, received \$25 million from the Molson family to aid its construction—but private donations for capital assets projects have largely decreased since 1997, according to the study.

In the meantime, the amount of capital assets operations being paid for with money from other university funds has risen by 162 per cent, taking \$270.5 million away from things like teaching, research and bursaries, even though increased enrollment meant more government funding for these areas.

The end result of this push for more new university spaces means less money per student for the day-to-day expenses of the university, like paying professors.

"Along the years, all the new money that

COST OF CON U CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



Graphics Clément Liu

came to the [operating funds] is diverted to the [capital assets funds]," said Umbriaco. Compared to the rest of the Western world, he thinks "we are lacking at least 800 professors right now in the Quebec system."

The main problem, according to Umbriaco, is that no one is thinking about the long-term implications of the situation.

"There is a lack of intelligence overall in the ministry," he said. "There are new people every two years; there is no such thing as an expert [civil servant]."

He said that for years, governments have been promising more money down the line, but never delivered.

"They say, 'Okay, we will underfund that for a year or two but [...] after that we will have more money.' It's the same thing this year with the cutting of \$114 million."

Umbriaco thinks that governments have been unrealistic about the amount of money needed.

"The government says that they don't have to support the capital expenditures because they are supposing that there will be a decrease in the number of students," he said. "But after 15 years of missing the target, the under-financing of the capital funding is becoming dramatic."

He agreed that the underfunding makes it hard for universities to plan for the future.

"Many administrations are caught in the spinning of the moment. Just to take the budget and try to balance it—that is a very hard task right now."

The Continuing Cost of Expansion

Construction at Concordia has slowed in recent years, mimicking the trend across other Quebec universities.

But the university will continue paying for its recent high-profile projects well into the future. Throughout the FQPPU's period of study, Concordia's long-term debt grew from \$188 million to \$442 million, and current liabilities (including interest on debt, bank loans and other borrowed funds) amounted to \$220,450 of Concordia's total funds in 2012-13.

This year's budget calls paying back "unfunded capital expenses" such as the MB Building and the Grey Nuns Residence a "challenge."

Additionally, Concordia spends \$20.5 million each year to maintain, clean, heat, power and deal with waste in its 60 buildings on both campuses.

The fact that so many of Concordia's buildings were built recently, however, keeps these bills lower than they might otherwise be. In fact, the university "has been ranked by the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche, de la science et de la technologie for the past 15 years as the most energy efficient institution," according to Cléa Desjardins, senior advisor of Concordia's External Communications department.

The Corruption Question

The cost of University construction deserves attention in Montreal, a city where corruption swells city building contracts by an estimated 30 to 40 per cent.

As revealed by the Charbonneau Commission, multiple companies contracted to build and engineer Concordia's recent projects have also been involved in collusion and corruption in their dealings with the City of Montreal.

The MB Building is a prime example of this. Its Electrical Mechanical Engineering firm Groupe HBA Experts Conseils (now EXP) was implicated in a municipal contract-sharing scheme by Michel Lalonde, president and director of Génies Conseil and orchestrator of the operation.

Lalonde also outed Dessau, an engineering firm tied to the MB Building's general contractor, Verreault. The building's project manager, Genivar, was raided in November by anti-corruption police.

Loyola's \$85-million Richard J. Renaud Science Complex can also be linked to an allegedly corrupt company—its general contractor, EBC, has been suspected by the SQ's Unité anticollusion of having taken 10 per cent in "extras" in its dealings with Quebec's transport ministry.

According to Concordia, each real estate decision is accompanied by a long list of checks and balances.

"Facilities Management is responsible for liaising with members of the University community to review space needs and from there develop space requirements and plans along with recommendations that meet institutional needs," said Desjardins.

"Recommendations to acquire space are reviewed by the VP Services, the senior management of the University, the Real Estate Planning Committee of the Board of Governors, the Finance Committee of the Board, and subsequently the Board itself. Government approvals may also be required for some initiatives related to real estate."

Concordia's construction contracts are awarded by public tender.

Like so much in Quebec universities today, the issue of capital assets is simply waiting to get dealt with. The FQPPU says they will be discussing the problem at next week's Summit on Higher Education.

One proposed solution is to do away with the per-student funding model and create a system of financing that corresponds better to universities' actual needs. Another is to create a council on universities that will provide financial guidance.

But it remains to be seen whether those at the table will be able to come together and find a solution that works, or if the system will continue to live year-to-year, with no clear picture of the money universities will have—or how they should be spending it.

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COMMITTED ENOUGH TO SIT ON SENATE?

Debate Over Eligibility of Independent Students

by Julia Wolfe @juruwolfe

While conflicts between students and administrators may be at an impressive low this year, the documentation governing them has been revealed to have some subtle, yet noteworthy, contradictions.

As it stands, Article 57 of the university's bylaws limits, among other things, student membership on senate to those registered in a major. The Concordia Student Union's standing regulations, however, reserve one seat on the body for an independent student.

Calling this an "institutional incompatibility," undergraduate student senator Gene Morrow brought this discrepancy to the attention of senate. He says he is considering bringing

forth a motion to change the university's bylaws to the body.

It makes sense, he argued, to leave the decision of choosing a capable representative in the hands of the student union.

"The CSU already has the responsibility to appoint its members to Senate," he said. "The student union ought to be the one who makes the decision regarding people's commitment to the institution."

Although if brought to a vote, Political Science Senator and Concordia University Part-Time Faculty President Maria Peluso would not be in favour.

Any body, Peluso says, needs to have rules regarding membership. She added that excluding independent students makes perfect sense because they are more like

permanent residents, where a majoring student is akin to a citizen.

While she's happy Concordia welcomes independent students, she said, "They can't expect to have to same privileges as a student who's committed to a major."

Peluso's wording is not unlike that put forth by the university. Morrow raised the question to Senate in a January meeting, and the official response provided at the following meeting was that previous senators felt that any student representative should be "fully committed to the institution."

For Morrow, however, that represents a misunderstanding regarding many independent students.

"There is the impression that independent students are new students, but as an actual fact, independent students are often students who have been at Concordia a long time," he said. "Many independent students are actually students who have graduated and became independent to stay on."

He added that this is particularly common among CSU executives, who would register as independent in order finish their term at the union.

This was partly the case for CSU VP Loyola Stefan Faina, who graduated last year with a degree in psychology. Faina was elected to Senate by council in September, but had to step down when he realized his status as an independent student rendered him ineligible.

CITY BRIEFS

by Andrew Brennan @brennamen

One Spicy Meatball

Quebec's so-called language police caused an international stir after word broke that they advised Buonanotte, a Montreal Italian eatery, that its dish titles couldn't include words like "pasta"—on the basis that the law requires menus be written in French. The decision was reversed last Wednesday by way of a loophole after the spokesperson for the Office québécoise de la langue française and Quebec Premier Pauline Marois both openly questioned the judgment. The incident sparked a flurry of hilarious online spinoffs under the hashtag #pastagate.

Sacré Popel

Pope Benedict XVI, the first pontiff to willingly step down in 716 years, will abdicate this week. But, while a Quebec cardinal is being considered to take his place, the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops is not backing him, according to the Canadian Press. Assembly president Bishop Pierre-André Fournier said Sunday that while he believes Cardinal Marc Ouellet—Quebec's former archbishop—is qualified to lead the church, the final choice of the cardinals' upcoming conclave next month must be the best choice for the world's estimated 1-billion-plus Roman Catholics.

Employment: 200 km Away

Thousands of unionized workers staged protests Saturday in Montreal and throughout the province, crying foul about changes to employment insurance that force laid-off seasonal workers to take jobs up to 200 km away. New salary requirements only have to be 70 per cent of the worker's former pay, further upsetting the Quebec Federation of Labour Construction branch, which organized the Montreal demonstration. According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Provincial Labour Minister Agnès Maltais will discuss the EI changes with federal Human Resources Minister Diane Finley this Wednesday.

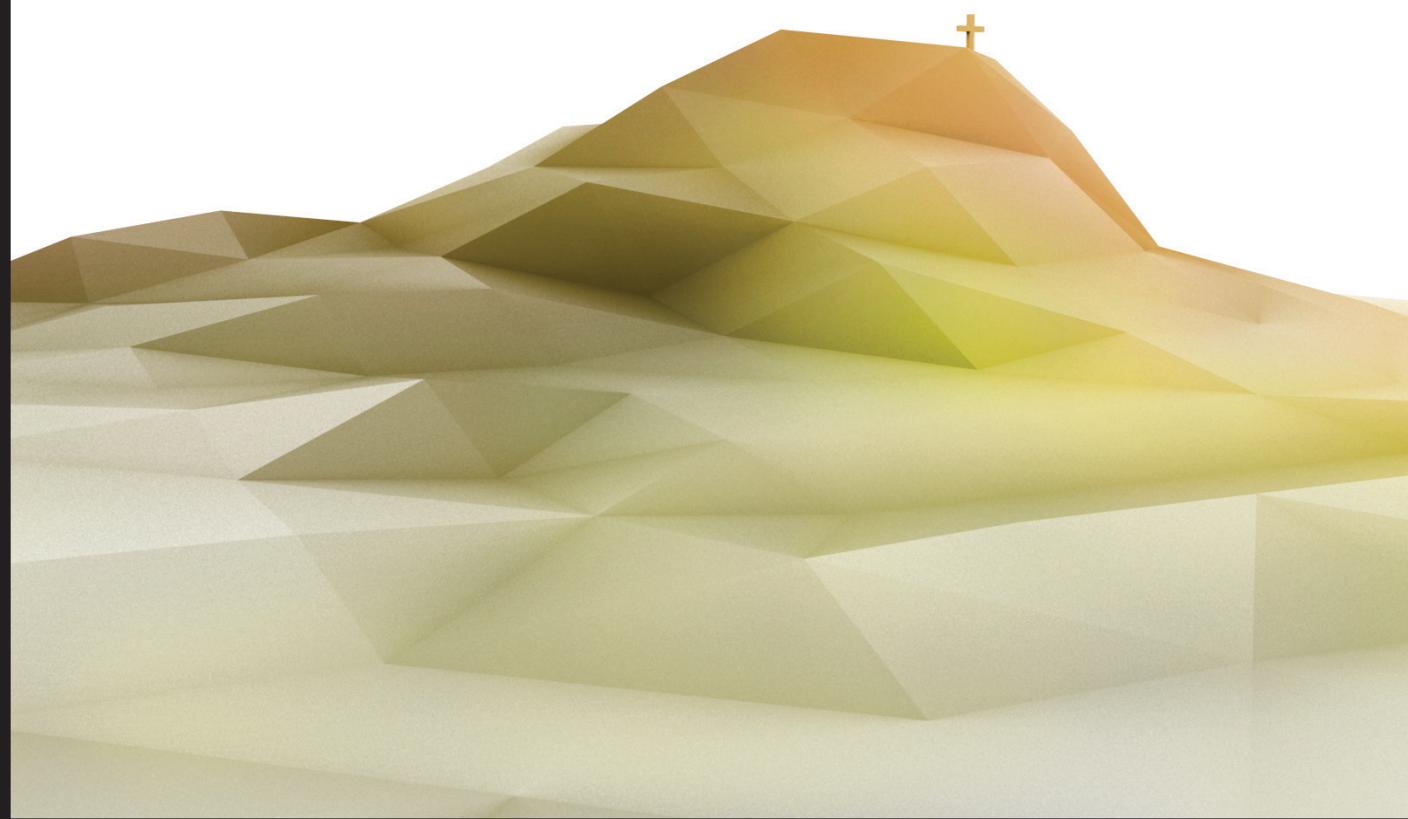
As Cold as Ice

On Saturday, Montreal and Pointe Claire police officers raised \$60,000 for Special Olympics Québec the coldest way they knew how—by jumping into the St. Lawrence River. Divers, paramedics and volunteers stood by, helping the roughly 200 participants at this year's "polar bear dip" into an ice hole in the river, according to the CBC. Participants included the chief of the Montreal police force, Marc Parent. The donated funds will help the provincial support organization with its coaching and special training programs for Quebec's Special Olympics athletes.

THE SPACE ISSUE

How and why are we changing, using—or in some cases, destroying—the space we have in our city? Visit our online-only Space Issue to find out.

thelinknewspaper.ca/space





MON ESPRIT DÉGUISÉ EN ART CONTEMPORAIN

Se perdre dans des ruines suédoises imaginaires au MAC

Photo Laurent Grasso

par Flora Hammond @FloraHmd

Mon cerveau et moi sommes allés au Musée d'art contemporain, errer dans l'exposition « Uraniborg » de Laurent Grasso, qui a ouvert ses portes au public le 7 février dernier. L'installation a été co-commissionnée par le MAC et le Musée du jeu de paume à Paris. Après un été fructueux en France, elle traverse l'atlantique pour se nicher à Montréal.

Uraniborg au XV^{ème} siècle, c'est le plus grand observatoire astronomique d'Europe, avant même que la lunette astronomique ait été inventée. Aujourd'hui, c'est un tas de ruines moussues, naufragées sur une île suédoise solitaire.

Grasso joue avec l'espace, ma perception, la votre, recréant un lieu mi-imaginaire, mi-historique, courant après les histoires mortes qui se sont un jour déroulées—ou non—dans des lieux fantasmagoriques qui semblent l'obséder.

La matinée du cerveau et la mi-enne ont fondu entre le labyrinthe Uraniborg et le jardin italien de Bomarzo, gardé par des gargouilles, monstres de granit et les fantômes de Duchamp

et Dali qui s'y sont un jour promenés.

Voilà un compte rendu presque-en-direct de nos divagations—griffonné, dans une obscurité quasi-totale, sur un cahier de 10 x 15 cm, avec un stylo dysfonctionnel, sans drogues. Reportage de l'extrême.

J'entre dans un couloir sombre. Une fenêtre, la mer et une île en vue. Une autre fenêtre, un oiseau, faucon. Des objets étranges. Sculptures, gravures chargées d'histoire brute.

« On air » en néon à ma droite. Une voix de femme, un humain! Je me sens appelée.

« Bomarzo » est inscrit sur le néon suivant. Je laisse mon cerveau s'engourdir—sur un banc sombre—par l'histoire d'un jardin aux monstres névrosés.

Au bout du couloir, de la lumière. Des oiseaux s'envolent mais je suis coincée, cul-de-sac.

J'erre un peu plus au hasard, reviens sur mes pas, emprunte un autre chemin. Des morceaux de mots néons s'asseyent sur des rebords de fenêtres éparpillées « VISIBILITY IS... ». Des masses fantomatiques microbiennes flottent dans un ciel orange. « VISI-

BILITY IS A TRAP », le secret du mot néon enfin dévoilé.

Un homme prend des photos au bout du couloir et je ne vois plus les mots que j'écris. « In silentio ». Livres, gravures, dissonances. Son retardateur bourdonne dans mes oreilles.

Une autre voix résonne dans mes oreilles. Une voix d'homme. Je la cherche dans le crépuscule, je la cherche dans l'eau indécise. Le photographe c'est Laurent Grasso. C'est l'artiste. Il se tient impassible et effrayant au bout du couloir de son labyrinthe et il prend des photos inlassablement. Machinalement. Bip, bip, bip. Clac.

Cette salle c'est l'apocalypse? Des soleils rougeoyants et des pierres volantes me scrutent.

« Uraniborg ». Lumière.

Je vais entrer dans le champ de l'appareil photo à nouveau. Je souris à l'artiste pour voir s'il est humain. Il me regarde en faisant semblant de ne pas me voir. Je suis peut-être devenue fantôme, errant au hasard dans ce labyrinthe.

Un point de lumière qui rétrécit sur du noir. Où est la voix? Quelqu'un parle en anglais mais les inflexions sonores sont trop lointaines. Ou peut-être suis-je en

train de m'évaporer?

J'assiste à mon propre requiem. Des visages de peintures flamandes me fixent intensément pendant que je m'efface dans le vide.

J'entends encore le retardateur. Je me noie dans le ciel gris. Dans l'eau grise. Dans la lumière tombe qui tombe en un trait vertical et diffus, du ciel vers l'eau. On essaye de me faire croire à Dieu? Les visages flamands, encore. Mes idées étouffent et tournent en rond avec les images.

Le photographe-artiste. Il s'est déplacé avec son appareil photo sur trépied. C'est une machine. Je le savais.

« In silentio ». Je tourne, avalée par un soleil brûlé. Le ciel orange de tout à l'heure. Des nuées microbiennes d'insectes? Bourdonnements.

Poste de contrôle.

Je ne vois personne ailleurs, derrière ces murs, mais je les vois eux, sur les murs. Ce sont tous des hommes d'église, ils examinent le monde travers leurs télescopes. Ils sont ici aussi, et ils vont devenir fantômes comme nous.

J'entends des pas mais je perds les chaussures auxquels ils sont

suspendus. Je suis seule pour cinq minutes.

Le photographe est encore là, à prendre des photos du monde. Tout d'un coup, il est de l'autre côté du couloir. Il parle à d'autres humains. Sont-ils robots eux aussi? Ou suis-je en train de réapparaître progressivement? Alors que je les écris, j'arrive à lire ces mots.

Il a une odeur d'artiste français imbibé d'eau de Cologne pas *cheap*, il est humain finalement.

« On air ». Cette fois le bruit m'enveloppe d'angoisse. Je ne veux pas disparaître à nouveau. Le ciel sans barrière-fenêtre. Un homme au loin sur la route sépia.

« The silent movie ». Pour un film muet, il fait du bruit. Le souffle du vent dans les feuilles et les vagues cassées sur la plage au loin. Et un bruit sourd indistinct.

Des bateaux glissent hors de mes yeux et de ma perception. Calme militaire.

Lumière jaune. Plus de néons fluorescents. Je suis sortie. L'artiste est délogé avec réticence de son château chimère. Jeté en pâture aux journalistes et chroniqueurs d'art qui sont partis à la chasse aux mots.

NUIT BLANCHE 2013

The Link's Tips to Make Your Night One to Remember

by Katie McGroarty @KatieCMcG

TIPS ON TIPS ON TIPS:

Thank god for those tips!



For anyone hailing from elsewhere, the concept behind this coming Saturday night may seem a little odd.

On March 2, for one night only, Montreal will be the venue for a whole slew of events, from performance art to free waffles; in every borough, something to do is only a metro ride away. Oh, and transit is open all night, so no one has to hail a cab to get from one side of the island to the other.

Original? Sure. Fun? Most definitely. A little overwhelming to plan? Without a doubt. When there are so many things going on for only one night, it gets a little difficult to organize your plan of attack—fortunately, we're here to offer a couple of suggestions.

Just remember, thanks to the grand tradition of cosmic unfairness when it comes to schedules, your two top choices will be at the same time—with one being in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and the other in the Mile End. Yep, it's tragic, but it will also force you to maybe discover something new!

Not into the idea of planning your whole evening with events back-to-back? Walk around the giant outdoor site that's going to be open all week, so if a giant slide, a ferris wheel or a 360-degree movie theatre is up your alley, stay downtown and check out what the outdoors has to offer.

■ **BYO booze.** Most places won't be searching you, plus putting a flask in your belt is never a bad idea. Seriously.

■ **Pre-plan!** There's a convenient smartphone app—search "Nuit blanche à Montréal"—to help you plan out your travels, because with every stop and every beer, I guarantee it will be harder to remember the address of where you're headed next.

■ **Stick it out.** Or don't. If you get somewhere with a particularly long line, it's time to decide quickly if that free waffle is really worth it.

■ **Avoid pesky ATM charges** and take out cash before you head out, as most places won't take plastic.

■ **Pack an extra pair of socks.** There's literally nothing that you could regret about that decision.



FRINGE PICKS FOR NUIT BLANCHE 2013:

CUTE ALERT

Antarctic Heroes
Outdoors at the Olympic Park
(4777 Pierre de Coubertin Ave.)
5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Free

The website promises that “a group of penguins will emerge from the Biodome to spend the evening outdoors with you,” which sounds like one of the cutest things slated for this Nuit Blanche.

So, if you find yourself spending too many Fridays in the front row of rock shows getting sweat on by an unwashed bassist, treat yourself to hanging out with a penguin for a night. However, it will be cancelled if the weather isn't suitable for the little Antarctic darlings to come outside.

Fascinating Birds of Prey
Outdoors at the Olympic Park
(4777 Pierre de Coubertin Ave.)
5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (performance every hour)
Free

Although owls sometimes have a menacing side (see *Twin Peaks*, *Macbeth*), in real life, they're downright adorable, so the show is bound to be a hoot. And you will be introduced to a great horned owl, the largest of its kind in Quebec! Yay, giant birds!

WTF FACTOR

10 Hours of Enchantment
Café Campus
(57 Prince-Arthur St. E.)
7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
Free

There is not much description of this event, other than a promise to “meet at the crossroads of the four elements,” which sounds like either something involving copious drug use, or ladies in faerie dresses. Either would be a-okay with us.

Body Painting and Chocolate Tasting
The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts—Pavillon
Jean-Noël Desmarais
(1380 Sherbrooke St. W.)
7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Free

No word on who will be doing the body painting and whether the chocolate that's being tasted is only the stuff being painted with, but this sounds intriguing nonetheless.

10 Feet of Edible Art
Carré Confiseries
(1502 Bleury St.)
9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Free

Armed with a 10-foot cake and a ton of decorating candy, Carré Confiseries is giving attendees the chance to “paint” the massive cake using candy as their paintbrush. At 2:00 a.m., they will be cutting the cake—so be sure to arrive around that time if you want a slice of dessert that has been most likely been man-handled by half the city. Yum.

HIP & COOL

Rock 'n' Roll Dancing!
Studio Bizz—Third Floor
(551 Mont-Royal Ave. E.)
10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
\$2.00

Rock Avenue is hosting free dance classes every hour, as well as hairstylists, photographers and DJs to help set the 1956 mood just right. So for the night, forget about the racism, sexism and generally terrible attitudes that dominated the '50s and focus on what's important—poodle skirts and Chuck Berry.

24 Hours of Vinyl
Le Bleury
(2109 Bleury St.)
7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Free

We all know that vinyl has made a comeback—but rarely does it make its way to the dance floor. However, for “24 hours” of DJing at Le Bleury it will be a vinyl-only affair. Also, it's now in its seventh edition, so they're bound to know what they're doing.

Cinema at The Palais
Le Nouveau Palais
(281 Bernard St. W.)
5:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Free

Restaurant, bar service and DJ to get you moving between films—what could be better? So far, no word on what movies will be shown, though, so have a back-up plan in case it turns out to be something you'd rather not spend your precious Nuit Blanche seeing and head elsewhere.



FRINGE CALENDAR FEB. 26 – MARCH 4

by Michelle Pucci @michellemucci

MUSIC ■

1 Collectif HodeKestra
Feb. 26
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
9:00 p.m.
\$5.00

2 Beach Fossils + Alex Calder + CTZNSHP
Feb. 26
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)
8:00 p.m.
\$12.00 advance / \$15.00 door

3 The Ruby Suns + Painted Palms
Feb. 27
Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:00 p.m.
\$10.00 advance / \$13.00 door

VISUAL ART ■

4 Transmissions: Sharing Indigenous Knowledge and Histories in the Digital Era
Feb. 28 to March 2
EV Building (1515 Ste. Catherine St. W.)
See finearts.concordia.ca for schedule.
Free

Transmissions: Sharing Indigenous Knowledge and Histories in the Digital Era is a three-day event covering workshops, film screenings and a public symposium all under the theme of indigenous knowledge in the digital era. Highlights include interactive art.

THEATRE ■

5 ¡Open La Puerta! by Martin Rodriguez
Feb. 28
Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:00 p.m.
\$10.00

CINEMA ■

6 Cinema Politica: *Winter, Go Away!*
March 4
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-110)
7:00 p.m.
PWYC

During Russia's 2012 winter, ten student directors kept their cameras rolling for two months to document the citizens rising up in protest against the Putin regime. An interesting look into Russia's current political culture.

LIT ■

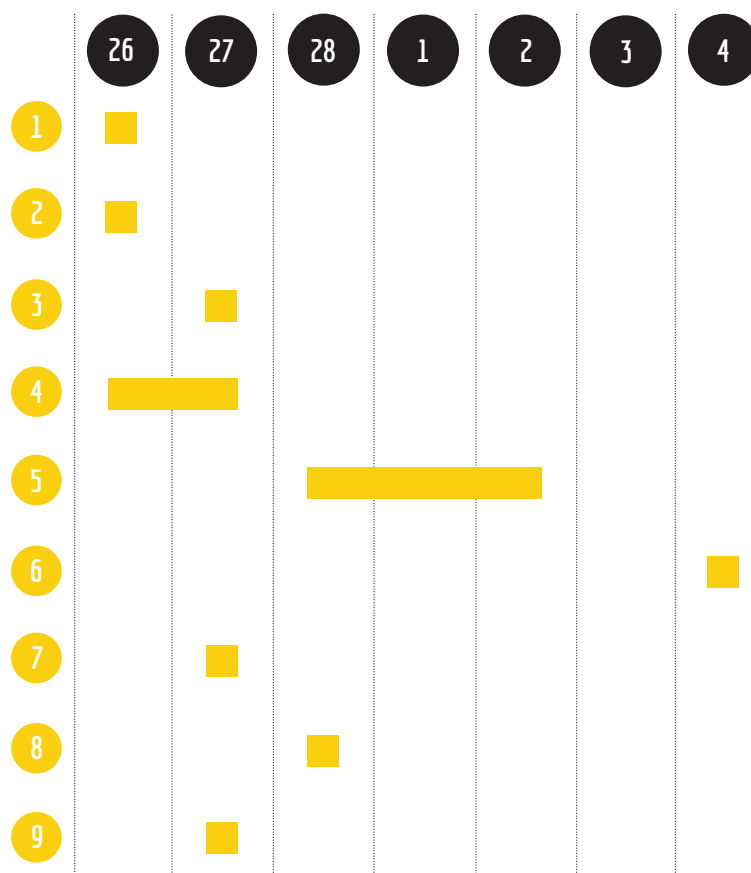
7 Found in Translation: Nicole Brossard and Jocelyne Saucier - Book Launch
Feb. 27
Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore (211 Bernard St. W.)
7:00 p.m.
Free

8 Argo Open Mic #14
Feb. 28
Argo Bookshop (1915 Ste. Catherine St. W.)
7:30 p.m.
Free

OTHER ■

9 Smut Slam V: Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda
Feb. 27
Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:00 p.m.
\$10.00, 18+

Crossed wires, missed connections and other stories of almost-sex are the themes of the upcoming Smut Slam storytelling evening at Mainline. Erotica + storytelling = guaranteed entertainment.



FRINGE GIVEAWAY

MAC + RA RA RIOT

You have Facebook (probably). We have free tickets (definitely). So like *The Link's* Facebook page for a chance to win them!

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents Friday Nocturnes

March 1
Featuring a set by Yamantaka // Sonic Titan, bar service and access to all exhibition galleries, this is as perfect an excuse as you'll get to go to the museum, get drunk and listen to great music.

Ra Ra Riot
March 7

Not for another week, but we've got a pair of tickets to this sweet indie band's upcoming show at Il Motore. Their first tour as a four-piece—meaning the same amount of awesomeness concentrated into fewer people. That's science.



 PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Stingers point guard Ashley Clarke is defended by Bishop’s guard Catherine Rondeau in Concordia’s 70-51 win over the Gaiters last Thursday.  Photo Natalia Lara Diaz Berrio

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF FEB. 18 TO FEB. 24



Saturday, Feb. 23 Men’s Basketball - Concordia 62, Université Laval 84
 Women’s Basketball - Concordia 62, Université Laval 67

Thursday, Feb. 21 Men’s Basketball - Concordia 72, Bishop’s University 63
 Women’s Basketball - Concordia 70, Bishop’s University 51

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Wednesday, Feb. 27 7:00 p.m. Men’s Basketball RSEQ semifinal at Bishop’s Gaiters
 7:00 p.m. Women’s Basketball RSEQ semifinal vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gym)

Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

OFFSEASON? WHAT OFFSEASON?

ConU's Baseball Team Stays Sharp With Year-Round Practices

● **When the Concordia Stingers baseball team's 2012 season** came to a screeching halt in the playoffs last October, there was little time to dwell over what could've been. *by Justin Blanchard @JBlanch6*



That's because not even a month later, most players were right back to work, bulking up at the gym and training in the Stinger Dome week after week.

Aside from a short break over the holidays, they haven't stopped since.

Team captain and pitcher/outfielder André Lagarde's reasoning behind starting so early is simple.

"Everybody wants to. Everybody here loves baseball and wants to keep playing," he said. "Our season only lasts a month and a half, and these guys just want to stay together and get their baseball fix."

Ironically, the one who would prefer the players take at least a little time off is team manager Howard Schwartz.

"I would prefer to start in January, give the guys some time to get back in their academics and recover from the long sacrifice that they make," said Schwartz. "But it's their call—they're the ones that want in. They enjoy being with this group [...] It keeps it in their head that there's no ending to the season."

It's nonetheless the kind of drive Schwartz enjoys seeing from his players, and one which he says starts with a unified vision.

"It's a matter of getting a good team philosophy and good program," he said. "All the coaches on the coaching staff—all six of them—are former [Concordia] graduates themselves."

Schwartz is quick to point out the off-season training sessions aren't full-out practices, however.

"I don't push hard," he said. "March and April, I go a little harder, but right now

we're working on some fundamentals, making mechanical changes."

"It's more relaxed [than an in-season practice]," added Lagarde. "It's basically just trying to stay in shape, stay together and work on some baseball drills throughout the winter."

That primarily means working to improve the players' weaknesses.

"I know I gotta work on [one player's] hitting, so we're working on getting him primarily to hit and perfecting his hitting technique," said Schwartz. "One of our pitchers, we're working on his delivery, and his ball is already going three to five miles per hour faster."

Schwartz says what he focuses most on in the offseason, however, isn't the physical improvements as much as ensuring good team chemistry.

"We do a lot of socialization," he said.

"They're always at my house for team meetings, we have Christmas dinner, Super Bowl—whatever excuse to get together and do something. It's just a matter of keeping the psychological and mental part of the game, which is my big thing, really up there."

Of course, his knack for recruiting doesn't hurt, either.

"I travel out west every year to go to different baseball towns; I go to Boston, Cape Cod and Toronto [...]. I go to these places anyway for family and friends, so I just turn it into some sort of baseball connection," said Schwartz. "We've gotten a number of players [this way] that have made a difference in the team."

"This team would exist, it would function if

we had nobody looking out for [recruits], just from the natural flow of guys coming to Concordia. But you can also push the envelope."

This year, Schwartz was notably rewarded for doing so with the addition of two key acquisitions in former Middle Georgia College third baseman J.C. Paquin, who is already practicing with the Stingers, and Alex Johnson, a Toronto native currently pitching for the Douglas College Royals, who is expected to start attending Concordia in 2014.

"I got him indirectly through a scouting trip in Toronto," said Schwartz of Johnson. "He had contacted me through the fact that I had distributed my information on the scouting trip and that's just what you do—you make 100 cold calls and one of them is going to land."

It was a similar case when it came to acquiring Paquin, who's from Quebec City.

"As soon as I found out J.C. was [back in Canada] I contacted him, I spoke to him, told him what his commitments would have to be [...]. He said he was very interested in playing ball and it fit."

It's the kind of dedication that has helped propel the Stingers from a little-known struggling team when Schwartz first founded it in 1999 into a perennial powerhouse today: The Stingers have made the conference playoffs in each of the past six seasons, reaching nationals in four of them and winning the National Championship in 2009.

Concordia's most recent trip saw them win the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association Northern Conference last year,

only to be stunned by the fourth-seeded Carleton Ravens in the conference semifinals.

"Going into the season we had lost five graduates, of which four were key starting players," said Schwartz. "We had 12 rookies on the team and I was really concerned, but as it turned out, these rookies were young, but they were a bit more mature than what I'm used to."

"We ended up in first when I didn't even think we would make the playoffs."

Once there however, it all went downhill.

"That's when the 'rookie-ness' came out," Schwartz laughed. "They were able to play in the big leagues, but then the big league playoffs seemed to be a bit different than anything else: Balls were dropped that were not dropped ever before, tentativeness in the outfield [...] and everybody else just didn't do what they could do."

As disappointing an end to the season as it was, Schwartz said the team's overall strong play last year, coupled with the fresh talent added to the team, makes for some high expectations this upcoming season.

"It was a struggle to [make first place last year]. We did it, we deserved it, but I was still a little surprised," Schwartz said.

"I think we're going to do better next year—I'm expecting us to do very well."

To try out for the Stingers, contact Howard Schwartz via telephone at (514) 944-2294 or via email at baseball@alcor.concordia.ca. Practices take place every Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. inside the Stinger Dome (7200 Sherbrooke St. W.).



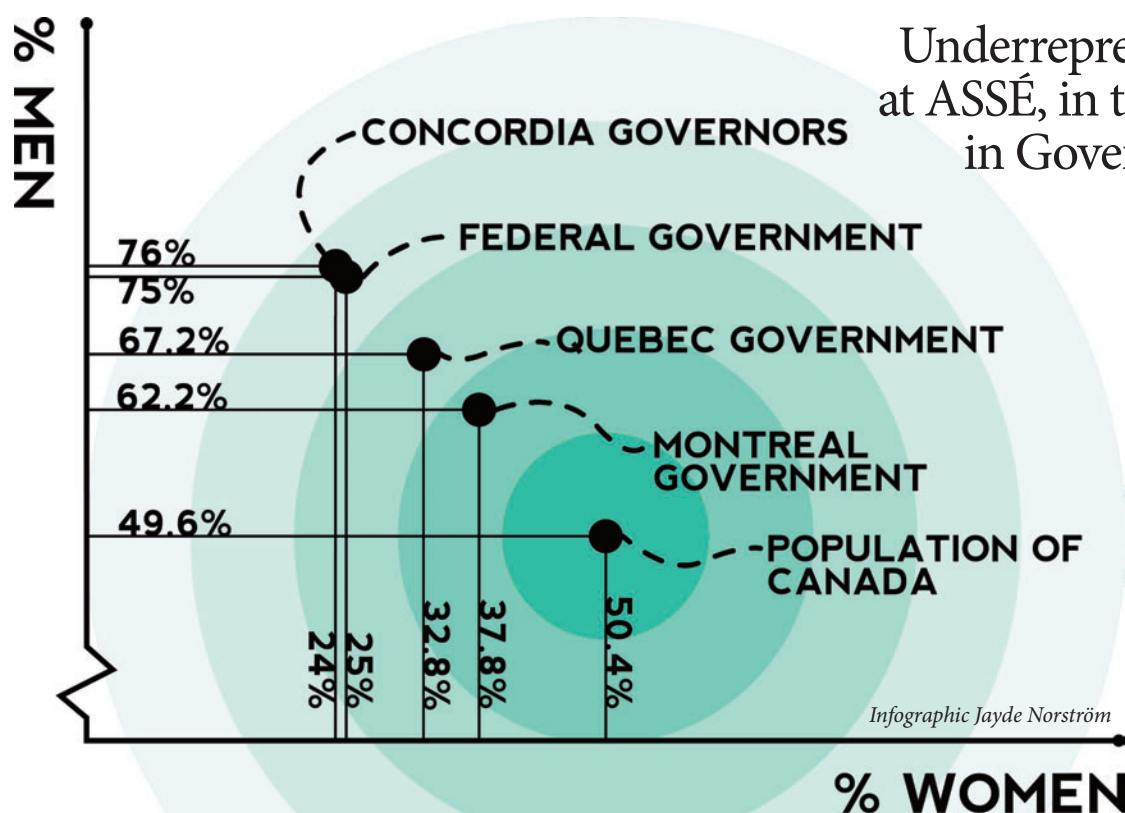
1. Team manager Howard Schwartz gives Kirk Lapointe batting tips.
2. The season may be over, but the Stingers baseball team continues to practice.
3. Schwartz and assistant coach Edwin Archer look on as Alex Pawulski performs a pitching drill.

Photos Erin Sparks



INVISIBLE MINORITIES?

Underrepresentation of Women, People of Colour at ASSÉ, in the Montreal Business Community and in Government an Unacceptable Phenomenon



by Michelle Pucci
@michellempucci

When Myriam Tardif, Rushdia Mehreen and Beatriz Munoz recently resigned from the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, they made sure everyone knew it was because of their minority statuses.

Tardif, Mehreen and Munoz made up the student association's three-member Comité aux luttes sociales, a committee that deals with social issues. They posted an open letter of resignation online on Feb. 1, describing their experiences working in an environment where minorities seemed less welcome.

"More and more, we noticed a kind of contempt towards students of different races, allophones or anglophones, as though their capacity to understand the stakes and debates were doubted [...] during coordination council meetings," the letter reads in French.

While ASSÉ might be considered one of the most mobile and radical student organizations in Quebec, these resignations indicate a need to re-evaluate whether all students are being properly represented.

"Some of us got the impression we were considered less intelligent, because of our language or the way we spoke," the letter continues. "Maybe these people don't have the same experiences as others in the French militant 'milieu,' but their accomplishments and experiences in terms of social involvement are also valuable."

The Comité aux luttes sociales is not alone. Just last week ASSÉ's women's committee, which promotes feminism within the association, revised an open letter on its Facebook page concerning issues of

domination and elitism within ASSÉ.

The letter specifically addresses the ways some delegates act during assemblies, such as using derogatory language, seeming indifferent or impudent and even pounding their fists on tables.

"The 'profile type' of a delegate who speaks in front at the assembly without shyness or apprehension is the white male university student from Montreal who studies at UQAM," the letter reads, pointing out the need for those who fall under that profile to realize their privileges and the significance of the situation.

Big Business and Politics

Meanwhile, things don't seem to improve much after graduation. The reality of Montreal's business community echoes ASSÉ's underrepresentation woes.

A study led by researchers from McGill University's Desautels Faculty of Management and Ryerson University's Diversity Institute has found that women and visible minorities are strikingly underrepresented in senior leadership roles in Montreal.

Women account for 31.2 per cent of senior leaders, while visible minorities fill 5.9 per cent of these positions despite making up 22.5 per cent of Montreal's population.

Still, organizations that promote diversity and make it a reality in the workplace outperform those that don't, writes Suzanne Gagnon, co-author of the study *Women and Visible Minorities in Senior Leadership Positions: A Profile of Greater Montreal*.

"Previous research has shown a clear link between diversity in leadership and a number of social and economic benefits," writes Gagnon.

"Diverse leadership improves or-

ganizational financial performance and stimulates innovation, among other well-documented benefits."

Women have come a long way since 1957, when only two members of Parliament were female. Still, even with 76 seats in the House of Commons (27 of which are in Quebec ridings), women are dangerously underrepresented in Parliament, making up only 25 per cent of our federally elected officials.

First Peoples fare only slightly better when it comes to representation in the federal government. Seven MPs (with 2.3 per cent of seats) are of First Nations, Inuit or Métis origins, although First Peoples make up 3.8 per cent of the population.

In 2011, visible minorities only won half of their fair share of seats in the House of Commons—29 seats, or 9.4 per cent—while making up 16.2 per cent of the population.

Closer to home, women make up only 37.8 per cent of Montreal's elected officials and 29.8 per cent of its public sector leadership; less than a third of Concordia's Board of Governors is female.

Contrast this to the rise of women leaders at the provincial level. With the election of Kathleen Wynne, Ontario's first female premier and Canada's first openly gay provincial leader, five provinces and one territory are now led by women.

While female provincial leaders are certainly changing the face of politics in Canada, women still make up at most a third of provincial legislatures. Quebec's National Assembly has a record 41 female MNAs out of 125.

That isn't to say women are doomed in Quebec politics. In 2007, former Quebec premier Jean Charest was praised for appointing the first gender-equal

Cabinet. The previous year, Charest successfully legislated gender parity on the boards of 24 of Quebec's Crown corporations.

Quebec's private sector and the rest of Canada's business world are lagging behind, however. Women make up only 14 per cent of Board of Directors members at Canada's largest companies.

Taking Action

Affirmative action—the legal act of positive discrimination—is meant to establish balanced demographic representations that do not naturally exist because of social and cultural bias.

Theoretically, if the number of hired racial minority or female candidates is representative of society, no one loses. The business flourishes, women and visible minorities are adequately represented and everyone stops blaming white men for the problems of the world.

One misconception is that women don't occupy these roles because none of them are qualified. But the reality is that there isn't a shortage of qualified potential candidates. Women post-secondary grads outnumber men in most programs, including those related to business, administration, social sciences and law.

Affirmative action works both ways, however. Canada's largest school board, the Toronto District School Board, sent out a memo last week stating preferences for racial minorities and male candidates to better represent increasingly racialized student populations.

Elementary and high school teachers are typically white and female, and students who are neither are lacking role models in a place where they spend most of

their childhood and adolescence.

Of course, quota laws that enforce absolute gender parity are excessive; to assume there will always be an equal participation rate between the sexes in federal, provincial and municipal politics and on every corporate board is wishful thinking.

It's normal that the number of women in politics and in corporations will fluctuate. Hopefully in the future, though, the number of women will occasionally surpass the number of men.

Affirmative action isn't as much about reserving places for women and minorities so much as letting them know there is a place for them in white male-dominated sectors.

While it's a stretch to demand that student organizations like ASSÉ enforce some form of affirmative action policy, these organizations should be conscious of how well they are really representing their student members if racialized and female committee members are calling out their leaders' behaviour.

However, in politics and positions of authority, such as corporations and governing boards, affirmative action should be enforced until the playing field is levelled and equal representation becomes a reality.

Gender parity and affirmative action do seem like contradictory solutions for discrimination in the workplace. If men and women and people from ethnically diverse backgrounds are equal, and if they are not be judged by their gender or ethnicity, then proportional representation will occur naturally.

But the simple truth is that equality doesn't just happen by itself. Sometimes, it needs a push to catch up.



Photo Corey Pool

A RESPONSE TO CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD

The Need for a Wider Debate on Universities' Missions and the Costs of Higher Education

by Audrey Dahl

Concordia president Alan Shepard recently wrote a piece for *The Globe and Mail* titled "Let's look at Quebec tuition fees—and create opportunities for all."

Great title! I agree, let's look at tuition fees and create opportunities for all.

In the piece, Shepard suggests that the debate on higher education in Quebec is centred on two issues. The first is "opposition by some to increasing what have long been the lowest tuition fees in Canada." The second is "the tough state of Quebec's finances after a global recession." I disagree on this diminished assessment.

While it may be true that the media narrowed the issues to as few variables as possible, the debate has always been both historical and complex. Quebecers believe that education is a right; that it should be well funded by the government; and that all efforts should be made to make higher education freely accessible to everyone.

These are not ideas that are just held by "some." These are deeply cherished values, embraced and practiced in Quebec since the Parent Commission first published its report in the 1960s.

Quebecers do not want to return to a time like the one before the Parent Commission—when education was managed by the church and when only a small elite class could attend university.

Many of the students who protested last spring and summer were the children of Quebecers who were the first in their families to attend and benefit from higher education.

It hasn't been that long since the days of the Parent Commission. People, especially women and mothers, noticed how their CEGEP and/or university attendance had opened doors for them and their families. This notion of the value of post-secondary education continues to be passed on to their children to this day.

When the provincial Liberal

government of then-premier Jean Charest decided to significantly increase tuition over five years, while at the same time diminishing government funding to higher education, the plan was deemed unacceptable to these students and their families.

They saw through the government's plans: the tuition fee increases would not resolve the main problem that the government used to justify them, because the government would continue to decrease funding to post-secondary education.

The media response was fierce, at times painting the striking students as spoiled brats and even going as far as equating them to "terrorists." Those characterizations were meant to discredit an otherwise very credible and peaceful movement.

People needed to ask themselves why is it that in Quebec, there has been so much opposition to the Liberal government's plan to increase tuition. Surely, the 400,000 people that became politicized can't all be spoiled brats? And surely 400,000 people cannot be characterized as just "some" people?

Like many others before him, Shepard, too, reminds us that Quebec has the lowest tuition fees in all of Canada. Well, we have the lowest tuition fees for a reason. I hope that I can begin to shed some light on this complex issue. Shepard concludes, "The summit [on higher education] should not get stuck in the push and pull of tuition fees. It should not be the end of the rethink on higher education, but the beginning of a reset."

I agree with him on two points: that the government is wrong to cut funding to universities, and that the summit held on Feb. 25 and Feb. 26 needed to go beyond the tuition fee debate.

However, Shepard's support for "differential fees" as a quick solution to rising costs is worrisome. A decision to employ such measures transforms an "education [that] serves the interest of all" to a consumer-based project in which a de-

gree becomes a personal investment for a future career.

Since the Parent Commission, Quebec universities were transformed for the collective good with the agreed-upon purpose that they would benefit the whole of society—not just those who actually studied there. It is costly, for example, to educate a physician, but the benefits to society are great.

But when Shepard suggests that "[tuition fees] could be balanced upward to reflect higher potential earnings for graduates of disciplines such as medicine and law, or downward to account for lower prospective earnings in other disciplines," the idea of the collective good is diminished.

It comes as no surprise to us that Shepard offers differential fees as a "solution." It follows the market model where the individual pays for the education they can afford.

It might be suggested that bursaries, scholarships and other grants can be made available for those students who cannot afford university, but let's be honest: grants and scholarships are great for those who get them, but not everyone who applies is accepted. In other words, they are not available to all.

Scholarships and bursaries are not a synonym for free education. This is our concern. Is it fair to admit students on the basis of their economic capacity? Differential fees seriously impede access to education for all.

I believe that the role of university revolves around learning, teaching, academic scholarship and research. It's also about providing an education that gives students both a broad critical understanding of the complex world as well as in-depth intellectual development in their subject area.

I see the role of higher education as supporting students—primarily as citizens who contribute to society in ways that go beyond simply joining the labour force.

Right now, universities are concerned with being competitive on the world stage by increasing their rankings through "innova-

tive" research and providing high-valued labour to the economy.

The market model in universities orients teaching, learning and research to market trends when universities should actually be taking leadership and shaping the standards of the market.

We cannot let the market decide, because the common good is antithetical to its very nature. You wouldn't ask a fox to be the gatekeeper of chickens. Who is left to care for the common good if not the university?

For example, universities should be able to say no to technological changes that do not respect society or the environment, even when markets pressure the institution to do this.

Universities should shape—rather than be shaped by—the market. Under these conditions, we can preserve academic freedom. It seems that the Quebec social crisis last year brought to the surface ideological disagreement about the fundamental aims of education.

Thus, it is fair to use the Summit on Higher Education to pose the all-important question: what are the fundamental goals of universities? Only then can we discuss the means that could be deployed to achieve the university's mission, a mission reflected and decided upon through a concerted effort in a society.

There is a great deal of scholarship on and about higher education in Quebec, Canada and internationally that could be drawn upon to inform and deepen this reflection. We wonder why it is that higher education thinkers have not been invited to the summit discussion.

Their absence is sorely lacking in an important public forum that is bringing together university administrators, politicians and economists.

I call upon the scholars who are not already involved to get involved, to unravel the complexities of higher education and to create a clear vision.

If the Summit on Higher Education is simply a chat about prices, then a reflection on the role of higher education has already been eaten by the fox.

LETTERS@
thelinknewspaper.ca

Disappointed by Plan Nord Coverage

I was incredibly disappointed by *The Link's* coverage in its Feb. 12 issue of the Salon des ressources naturelles conference and the subsequent Plan Nord protests that took place ["The Upside of Plan Nord" and "The Downside of Plan Nord," Vol. 33, Iss. 22].

The "Upside of Plan Nord" portion had twice as much text, while the "Downside" relied on photographic sensationalism. The format alone suggests that the Plan Nord is beneficial and that the protestors were few and misguided. Furthermore, the type of information included in both sections further perpetuated this myth.

The "Upside" portion basically served as a platform for the spokespeople of mining companies to spread misinformation about the environmental security and benefits to communities in the North. Meanwhile the "Downside" section stated commonly known facts; it had no depth, no eloquent speakers (and it's not because they don't exist).

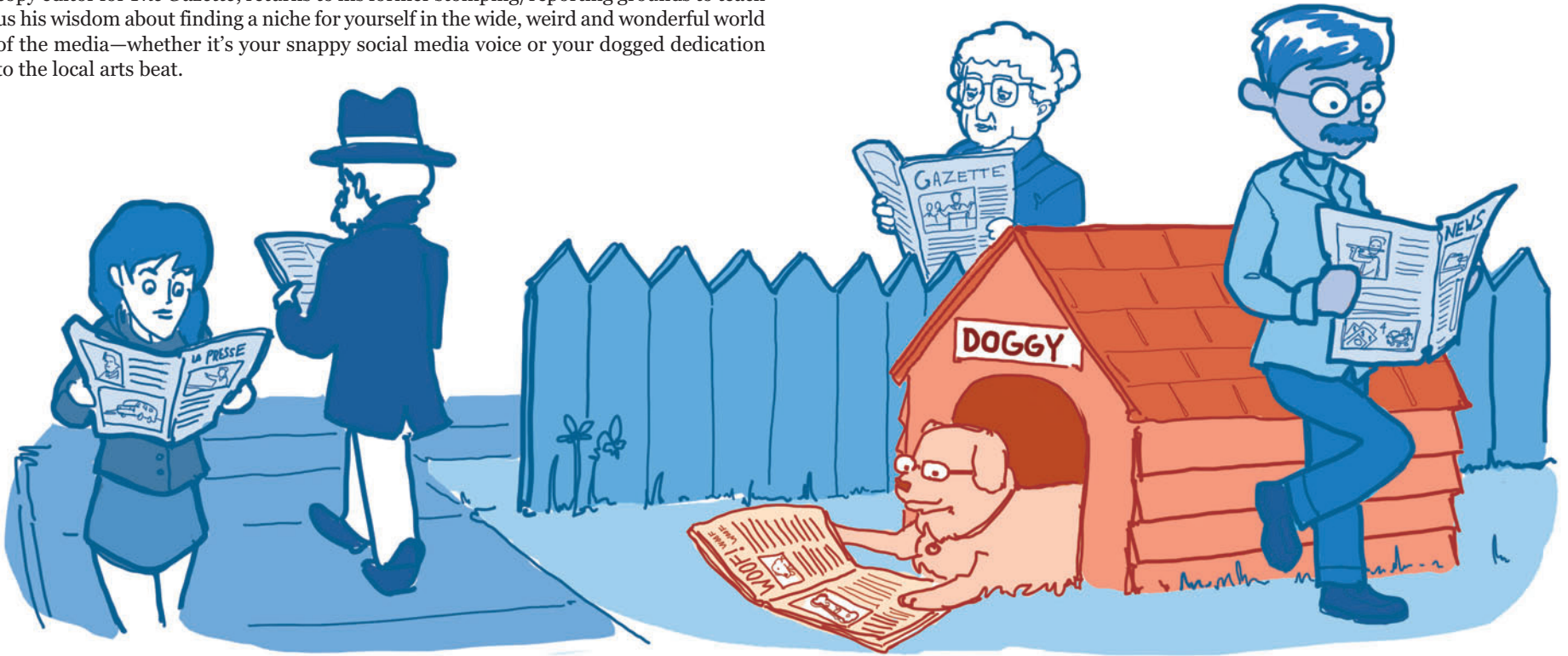
As someone from Sept-Îles, QC, I am quite frankly appalled that while attempting to provide both sides of the story, your publication actually managed to discredit opposition to the Plan Nord, giving the point to the multi-million dollar corporations that exploit our land, our people, our economy and, apparently, our student media.

—Michelle Moore,
BA Communication and
Cultural Studies

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

FINDING YOUR NICHE

Legendary Montreal blogger Fagstein, aka Steve Faguy, former *Link* editor and current copy editor for *The Gazette*, returns to his former stomping/reporting grounds to teach us his wisdom about finding a niche for yourself in the wide, weird and wonderful world of the media—whether it's your snappy social media voice or your dogged dedication to the local arts beat.



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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Head Honcho: You get to make the big calls, demand coffee from overworked underlings and appear in court for all libel lawsuits.

COORDINATING EDITOR

The Web 2.0 Captain: Direct the newspaper's online content, staying on top of the news, arts and sports cycles. 24/7/365. Sleep optional.

MANAGING EDITOR

The Line Boss: Conduct the paper's orchestra of ideas, quips and shouting. Make sure everything comes in on time and gets done on time.

NEWS EDITOR

The Reporter Extraordinaire: Direct the newspaper's online news content. Get to know the school's politicos, learn the acronyms, chase the truth, be ever vigilant.

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Robin: Help the news editor avoid insanity for as long as possible. Work hard on the small stories, work small on the hard stories.

CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

The Secret Weapon: It's your business to put your magnifying glass to the week's goings-on and dig deeper with long-form pieces that give context to the university's breaking news.

FRINGE ARTS EDITOR

The Art Smarts: From the written word to the dance floor, cover the hidden corners of Montreal's arts scene—explore the underground to let readers know about all that is cool and creative in Montreal.

FRINGE ARTS ONLINE

The Digital Artist: Tell Concordia and Montreal where the best shows and artists are to be found around town. You're online and daily. Short, dirty and fringy.

SPORTS EDITOR

The Starting Pitcher: Look for the stories behind the score sheet. Tell the athletes' tales, and look for new and inventive sports goings-on around the city.

SPORTS ONLINE

The Jock-in-Chief: Stingers Central. Get your game recaps, your stats and all the hard-and-fast information that Maroon and Gold fanatics need on the web.

OPINIONS EDITOR

The Pontificator: If there's one thing universities aren't short of, it's opinions. Your job is the pick out the brilliant from the babbling and deliver well-thought-out thoughts on what's happening in the news.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

The Don Draper: Make sure that the newspaper's print edition looks good. Lay it all out and get the photos hot and the graphics sharp.

PHOTO EDITOR

The Soul Snatcher: Click, click. Document the moments of victory, defeat, hope and embarrassment that go in the paper, and recruit some fellow photogs to help you cover them all.

GRAPHICS EDITOR

The Picasso: You're in charge of the drawings! Make the swirls, colours and lines that breathe some life into paper's pages—and get contributors to do some, too.

COPY EDITOR

The Wordsmith: Come up with snappy headlines, catch grammar mistakes and keep the articles out of synonym hell. Make all the words work; hard to do with so many.

COMMUNITY EDITOR

The Conversationalist: Make friends, make ads, organize events and convince everyone you meet to join the newspaper.

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: Alex Bailey, Natalia Lara Diaz-Berrio, Jane Gatensby, Flora Hammond, Oliver Leon, Dylan Maloney, Jayde Norström, Michelle Pucci, Jonathan Woods and current *The Link* Masthead.

One More Contribution Needed

Yacine Bouhali, Liana Di Lorio, Caity Hall and Riley Sparks.

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

BREACHING THE TOPIC OF NEW BEDROOM EXPERIENCES

I am a girl in a relationship with another girl. She's amazing in bed and I am being satisfied. I've been feeling a little exploratory and open to new experiences in the bedroom lately, and I really want her to fuck me with a strap-on.

However, every time I want to bring it up, I feel sort of ashamed and embarrassed about it. How can I get over this embarrassment, and how do I start this dialogue without feeling uncomfortable?

—Getting Comfortable



If you want to feel comfortable starting this dialogue the first thing you need to do is get completely comfortable with owning that desire. No shame, no embarrassment, because whatever your partner's or anyone's reaction might be, there is nothing wrong with what you want or with voicing it.

I'm not sure if this is the case for you, but it's not an uncommon thing for people to feel weird when they have desires for acts that aren't typically viewed as meant to take place in their relationship.

For example, you're in a relationship with another girl and you desire penetrative sex—something that some people take issue with or don't desire in girl-

girl relationships. These limitations suck because they're based on the idea that there's a right and wrong way to have sex depending on who you are.

I'm a huge advocate for total body sex, which is centred on the idea that people should feel free to explore and experience pleasure through any and every part of their body regardless of their gender, sexual orientation or identity.

Basically, regardless of who you are and who you like to fuck, you should feel free to use and explore any and every body part or act, because our entire bodies are capable of experiencing pleasure. Men who don't like other men can still enjoy being penetrated, and so can

women who like other women.

It doesn't always *need* to mean more than wanting the sensation and pleasure derived from the act itself. We live in a world where we have things like strap-ons to accommodate these situations, so that people can still choose to do these things with the partners they want to.

It's also, of course, fine if you don't want to explore some parts of your body—but it would be great if people got to create those boundaries for themselves.

Once you're ready to talk to your partner, that conversation can be easier if you keep it general at first. Maybe ask if there's anything she's interested in trying to-

gether, and lead into exactly what you wrote to me—that you've been feeling exploratory and open to new experiences and there's something you'd love to try with her.

She might or might not be into it, but hopefully you'll be able to have a responsive and respectful conversation about it together regardless.

There's no right or wrong in this situation, but even if you realize you aren't both into it, you might be able to find a compromise or alternative—or she might even bring up something great to try that you hadn't thought of.

It sounds like you're in an awesome, open, adventurous place, which is really the best attitude to have about sex. Open dialogue

about sexual desires between sexual partners is not only necessary for mutual fulfilment but can get really hot and exciting if you can both start sharing. So here's hoping your partner feels the same way!

—Melissa Fuller, @mel_full

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

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

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

THE OSCARS



Graphic Felipe Castañeda

by Liana Di Iorio
@MsBerbtoYou

Across

- ▶ 1. Seth McFarlane broke into the world of movies with *TED* and a hosting gig at the Kodak Theatre, but he owes his fame to being the many voices of this raunchy animated series. (2 words)
- ▶ 8. This British pop star has conquered stages and award shows all around the world, but this is her first *Skyfall* into "The Academy."
- ▶ 10. This latest Quentin Tarantino flick turns the conventions of the Wild West on their head. Hint: the D is silent. (2 words)
- ▶ 11. Rumours are already swirling that this *Saturday Night Live* alumni and *Bossypants* author will be hosting the show next year. (2 words)

Down

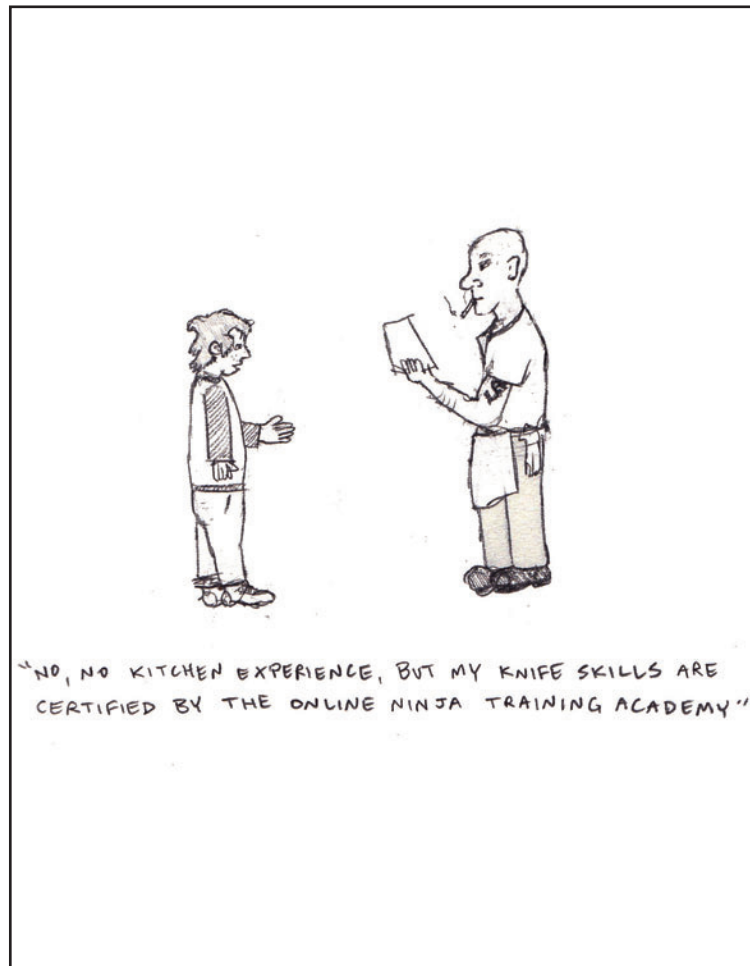
- ▶ 2. A period drama set in Revolution-era France, or a two-and-a-half-hour-long music video starring a very emotional Anne Hathaway. (2 words)
- ▶ 3. And the award for Least Enthusiased Host of the Academy Awards goes to... Safe to say this actor didn't spend 127 hours in rehearsal back in 2011. (2 words)
- ▶ 4. *The Lord of the Rings: The*

Return of the King, under the direction of this New Zealander is the only film to win each of the eleven categories in which it was nominated. (2 words)

- ▶ 5. Kathryn Bigelow made history with her win for *The Hurt Locker*, especially for the fifteen people who saw it. Her direction of this 2012 film was somewhat more of a commercial success. (3 words)
- ▶ 6. Nominated this year for *Silver Linings Playbook*, Robert De Niro's first win was for his entirely Italian performance in the sequel to this celebrated gangster film. (2 words)
- ▶ 7. The man who holds the record for the most Academy Award wins is also the reason that many '80s and '90s babies have romantic ideals about beasts, mermaids and magic carpets. (2 words)
- ▶ 9. At age 9, Quvenzhané Wallis is the youngest girl to be nominated for an acting award in a lead role for *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, a film set in this legendary city in the American south. (2 words)
- ▶ 12. This film marks a considerable step up from Ben Affleck's previous work in box-office flops *Daredevil* and *Gigli*.

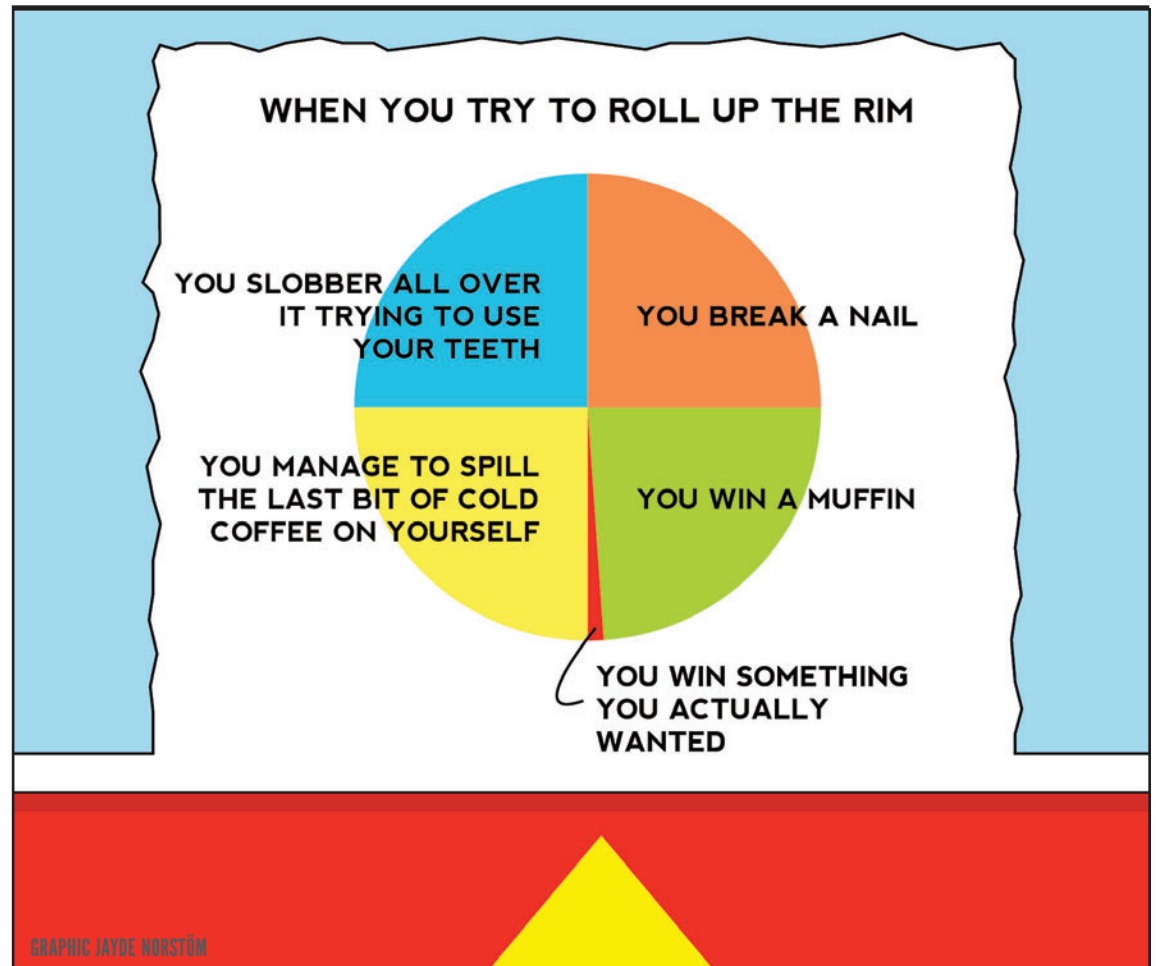
BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



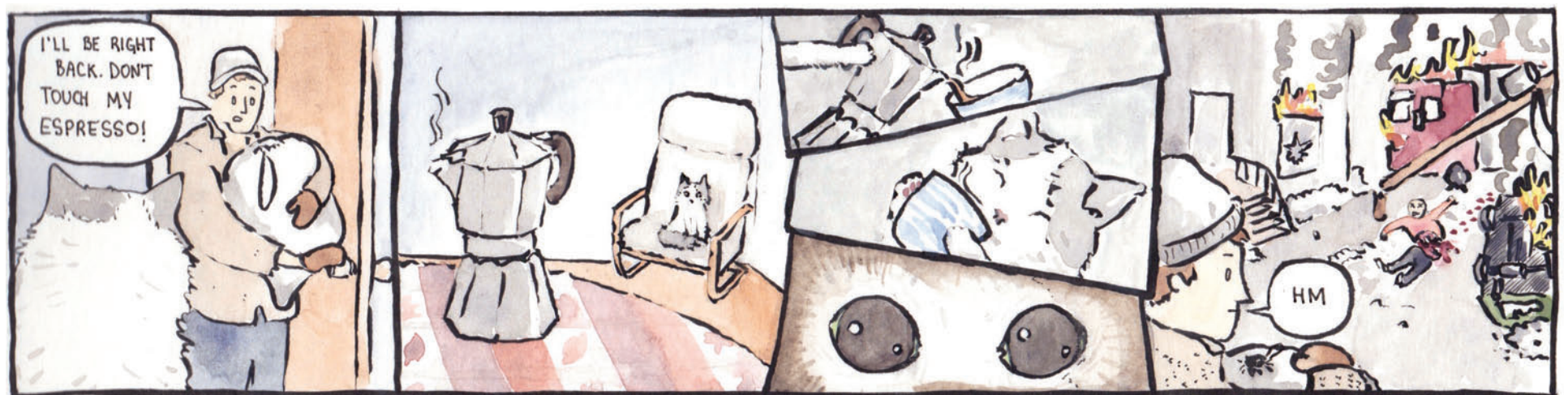
LINKOGRAPHY

THEY SEE ME ROLLING



FALSE KNEES

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

Prints of Darkness

Remember the good ol' days, when phone calls cost just a quarter, when people listened to Walkmans and nobody loled? While you're going down memory lane, remember when printers (wait for it...) actually printed?

Well, folks, the new printing system has officially taken over Concordia's campus! The machines can scan, retrieve jobs from across the country and do everything but order you pizza—except reliably print, that is.

The incredible backlogs, infuriating (and inexplicable) delays between print jobs and frequent breakdowns have made the system, well, somewhat not liked by both students and library staff. The irony that it's called "DPrint"—when that's precisely what it fails to reliably do—always cracks me up when my machine stalls for the umpteenth time.

Remember the old machines? Sure, they weren't flashy like these touch-screen marvels, but they were reliable, hardy and happily blinked "hello" at you. It was a nice, personalized touch.

What had been a rather mundane printing experience has now become an epic journey with no predictable outcome. Photocopying takes three times as long as planned. And as for printing, better bring a filled-up card and a snack to share, 'cause you're going to be there a while.

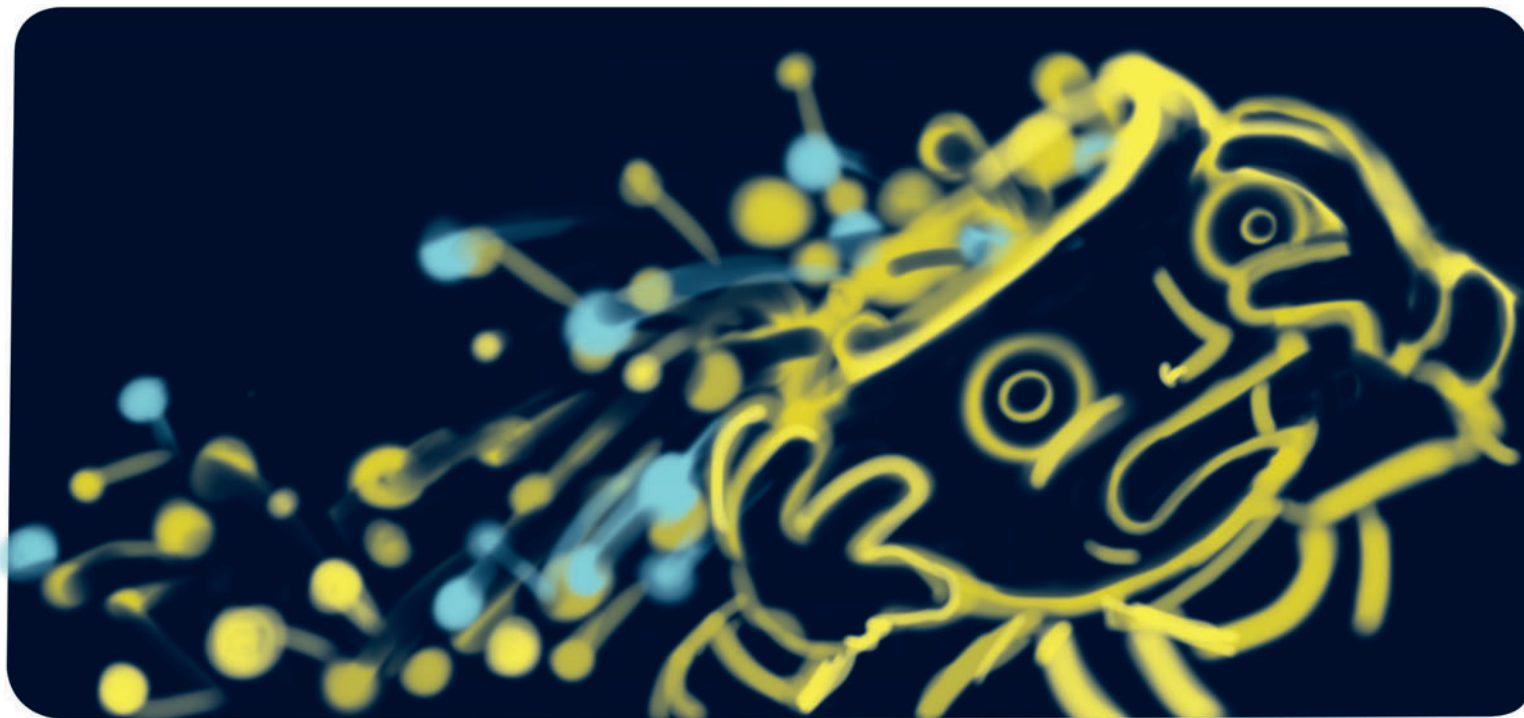
Flashy new systems might impress the tour groups of prospective students, but Concordia would do well to remember the old saying: the more the machine does, the more it can do wrong.

—Randy Pinsky,
Contributor



Graphic Joshua Barkman

Editorial



A UNION IN NEED OF SOME UNITY

The Concordia Student Union's executives have lost their marbles.

Rudderless, the CSU is having a hard time staying afloat. Since outgoing president Schubert Laforest resigned unexpectedly on Feb. 7, progress on several major projects has been halted, as there is no authority present to sign relevant documents and contracts.

Two weeks ago, the CSU executive had an opportunity to solve the union's leadership woes by working with council to fill the vacancy.

Instead, as if in a bad Western movie, they entered the council meeting on Feb. 13 guns blazing, threatening councillors if they didn't install their sole choice for CSU president, current VP Clubs and Internal Affairs Nadine Atallah.

In an ideal world, the executive would have consulted council before proposing a successor for Laforest. Negotiations would have ensued, with the result of council and the executive reaching a happy compromise in the form of a CSU presidential nominee they could both support.

The councillors, quite reasonably, wanted more than one candidate to be presented to

them; they wanted discussion and good-faith negotiation. That would have produced some semblance of a democratic process, not just an uncontested coronation.

But the execs were more comfortable threatening their own board with legal action, claiming that CSU Bylaw 7.4 required council to approve their choice for president.

The CSU council is all too often divided along ideological lines, but that wasn't the case this time. Councillors unanimously opposed the idea of Atallah assuming the presidency, which should have sent a clear message to the execs.

That the executive ignored this and acted so belligerently toward council is not only bad form—it's unacceptable and, arguably, undemocratic.

It's true that students democratically elect the execs. However, they are elected to specific portfolios, and as such are not meant to be direct representatives of the student body. Rather, it is the councillors who are elected to be the student voices within Concordia's undergraduate student government.

In a situation like this one, it's assumed that councillors represent the stance of the 35,000

undergraduate students they're accountable to. For the executive to entrench itself in its position and not negotiate with council to find an alternative presidential nominee can only be characterized as senseless.

The executive's desire for a president who is already a member of their team is understandable. That they'd rather Atallah be president than some outsider appointed by council isn't surprising.

What is surprising is that the executives are so adamant that Atallah become president that they are willing to bring down the whole student government rather than work out their disagreements with the councillors. If that does happen, though, it'll be the students they were elected to represent who will be most negatively affected.

There are good reasons why Atallah may not be the ideal presidential candidate. For one, she has admitted that she is ineligible to sit on Concordia University's Board of Governors or Senate.

How that doesn't bother her or any of the other executives is anyone's guess; the CSU president, as the face of Concordia's undergraduate student body, should sit on these

important decision-making bodies.

That Laforest didn't sit on the BoG or Senate this past year is hardly a good excuse for future CSU presidents not to do so, though.

Left to its own devices, council had no choice but to seek out its own alternatives to Atallah, but other candidates favoured by council were reluctant to toss their names into the ring.

And that's not a good sign for students. Given the stalemate between council and the executive, it seems the student government will continue to solemnly march toward this year's CSU election without a leader.

It seems CSU's council and executive need to be reminded that this is the first time ever that the CSU marched on without a president for weeks. That's left many of the union's plans up in the air, with no one having the authority to sign off on them.

Furthermore, it's left the CSU without a clear leader at a key juncture in Quebec history, with a summit on Higher Education in full swing and deliberations on the future of the province's universities ongoing.

The CSU needs to resolve its leadership problem soon. There isn't a moment to spare.

◆ GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

THE LINK

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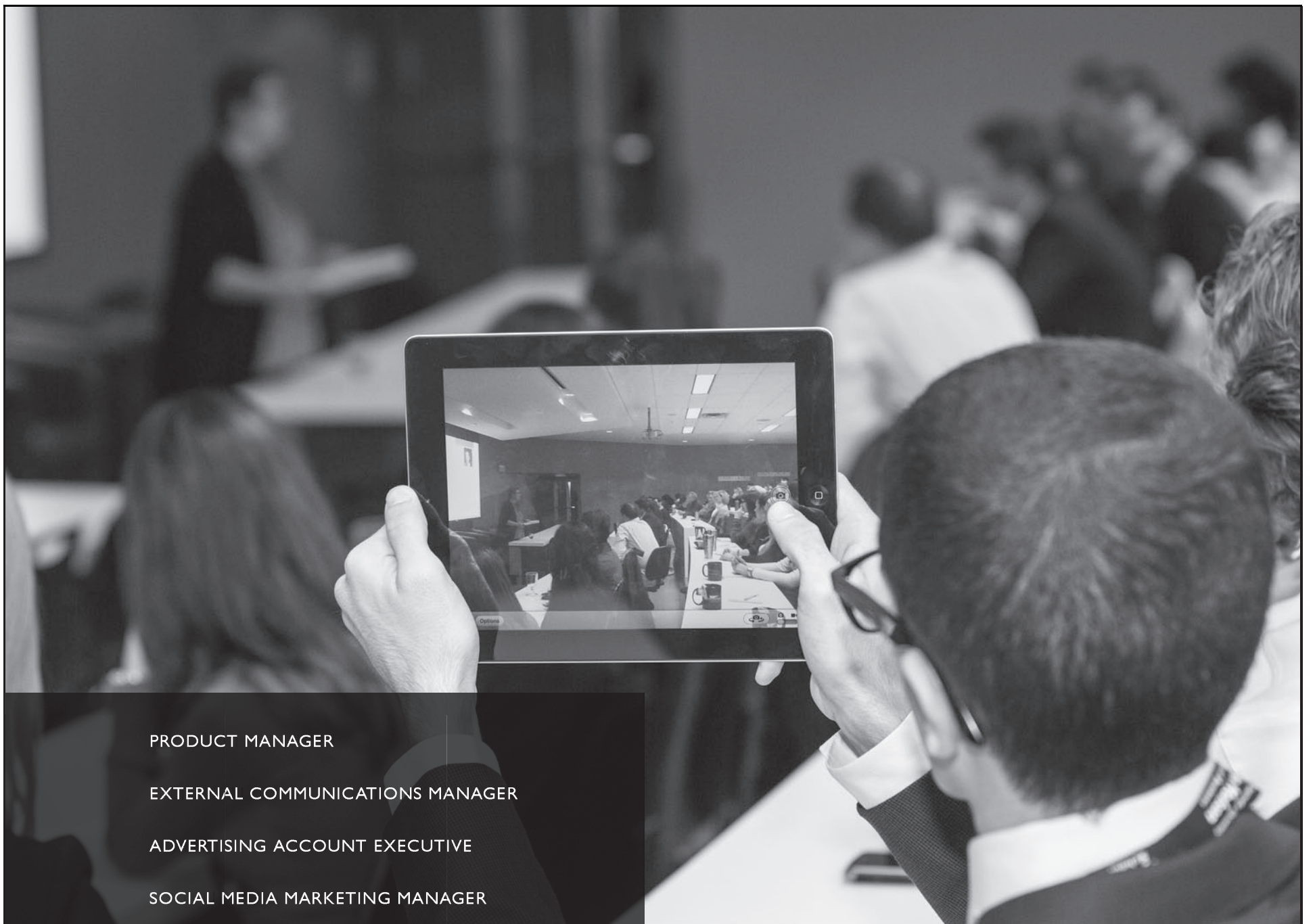
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