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# MAPLE SPRING 2.0?



◆ Photo Erin Sparks

by Pierre Chauvin @Pierre\_Chauvin

It's that time of year again, and the question is looming.

Is Quebec about to witness round two of what is now referred to as "the strike" or the Maple Spring—a series of student protests that made headlines worldwide, and quite literally rocked the province?

At first glance, the ingredients for another set of massive demonstrations appear to be present.

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois's recent announcement of her government's intention to

index tuition fees to the cost of living has visibly provoked anger and discontent amongst students.

Last year, Marois sported the red square of the student movement for a couple of months during the lead-up to the September general elections, receiving an extra boost by way of student campaigns opposing the Quebec Liberal Party.

Now, some students have voiced feelings of betrayal as a result of the plans for indexation—and "Parti Québécois, Parti Bourgeois" chants are increasingly shouted at demonstrations.

Last year's fight against the \$1,625 hike proved students right—contestation, appar-

ently, works.

The past two weeks have seen large turnouts at multiple demonstrations, most coming to a close with clashes between protesters and police, just like last spring.

This week is set to see two major demonstrations, likely to materialize in a similar fashion. But a closer look at the details of the current situation suggests that things are very different today than they were a year ago.

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## DIVESTING FROM THE OIL SANDS

Should universities pull their investments from fossil fuel companies? **P18**

## SLASHING BUDGETS AT CON U

Cuts to the Theatre department are threatening important aspects of the program. **P19**



◆ Photo Erin Sparks

## THE LINK ONLINE

### MANIF DE SOIR

There is a whole whack of protests planned for this week, including night demonstrations on Tuesday and Thursday, as well as the annual Anti-Police Brutality Demonstration on Friday. Keep an eye out for our coverage online.

### FULL-TIME FACULTY STRIKE?

For the first time ever, Concordia's full-time faculty has a strike mandate. What does that mean for students? Check out our timeline online.

### CSU ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again: CSU elections. Campaigning period starts Tuesday. We'll keep you posted with developments as they happen.

### LUDWIG & MAE

A preview of three "angry young plays" written by Concordia playwrighting professor Louis Patrick Leroux.

### SPIRALE

A preview of ConU's first-year contemporary dance student show: Spirale.

### ANIMAL COLLECTIVE AT METROPOLIS REVIEW

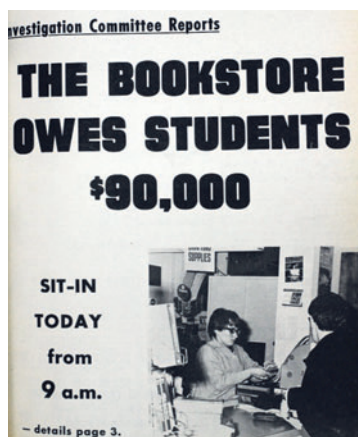
We're adorned in feathers and beads, at our own indoor Woodstock.



Photo David Jones

### STARRY-EYED STUDENTS

What on earth is a satellite? Space Concordia knows a few things about that. Warp on over to The Link's science blog, B I/O G, to get a sneak peak of their CubeSat-1 project—soon to be the first satellite to be sent by a Quebec university into space!



### LINK RADIO

This week on Link Radio we talk student space: the CSU has a new project, but can it overcome ConU's troubled history with the student centre? Tune in to CJLO 1690 AM Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and find out.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

We've picked out the 10 most memorable covers in the history of The Link. Look for the blog post on Wednesday!

Photo Corey Pool



## CSU2013

### Upcoming Student Union Elections to Feature Single Slate, Only Two Contested Positions

by *The Link*

Read 'em and weep, folks. This could be your next Concordia Student Union.

Late on Monday night, a small handful of Concordia student politicians shuffled about, whacking posters to cork boards around the downtown campus.

While “poster nights” of old gained infamy in years past, as mobs of students supporting competing slates swarmed the Hall Building fighting for poster space, the 2013 edition started calmly at around 9:00 p.m. on Monday, ushering in another season of CSU elections.

Students who have been around this university for a few years might notice a relative lack of posters on the walls. There is only one team running this year, and they've coined themselves *CSYou*.

Though the official slate system was abolished last year, candidates are still able to run together as a team. However, each candidate is elected on their own. There are only two independent candidates running head-to-head—for the contested positions of VP Finance and VP Student Life.

Let the games begin.

#### Melissa Kate Wheeler—President:

Wheeler, one of council's more outspoken members, will almost certainly be Concordia's next student union president as she's running uncontested. She has been a fairly vocal critic of this year's executive and was heavily involved in the “Love Doesn't Hurt” campaign against abusive relationships.

#### James Tyler Vaccaro—VP Clubs and Internal:

Vaccaro entered the student union much more prepared than most first-time councillors following last fall's by-election. Vaccaro is a political science major, currently in his third year at Concordia. He also served as VP Communications of the Political Science Student Association during this academic year.

#### Gene Morrow—VP Academic and Advocacy:

Two-time senator Morrow is an academic activist with an inscrutable Twitter handle (@Replqwtl). Morrow is one of the most talkative senators, and has championed topics such as online learning reform and independent students' (or lack thereof) representation on Senate. He was also an active member of the student strike movement.

#### Caroline Bourbonnière—VP External and Mobilization:

The outgoing Arts and Science Federation of Associations president, Bourbonnière is a first-time CSU councillor for arts and science. Bourbonnière double-majors in political science and the School of Community and Public Affairs. She also served as VP Communications of the Political Science Student Association in 2011-12.

#### Independent Candidates:

##### Pierre Tardivo Martin—VP Finance

Tardivo-Martin is an international business student and current CSU councillor representing the John Molson School of Business. He's running as an independent for VP Finance, one of only two contested positions.

Tardivo-Martin wants to make Reggie's profitable and CSU financial reports accessible; he's also seeking more direct funding to project grants and wants to promote “ethical investment.”



#### Katrina Caruso—VP Student Life:

Caruso was only recently appointed as an ex-officio CSU councillor for fine arts students. She also is the Editor-in-Chief of the Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History, and is double-majoring in fine arts and art history.

#### Scott Carr—VP Finance:

Running in one of only two contested positions, Scott Carr is pretty new to the Concordia student political scene. As a John Molson School of Business student, however, he's carved a name for himself with multiple awards to his name.

#### Krystal Harrison—VP Loyola:

Harrison is in communications studies and is currently VP Internal & External Affairs for COMS Guild. She lives in Notre-Dame-de-Grace, and as an NDGer, she wants to find ways to lure Sir George Williams students to the far-off land of Loyola.

#### Benjamin Prunty—VP Sustainability:

Prunty is currently the VP External for the Liberal Arts Society, elected recently in the December byelections. He's hoping to get more students to participate in undergraduate politics, and is also a board member for the Sustainability Action Fund.

#### Anja Rajaonarivelo—VP Student Life:

Rajaonarivelo is a commerce student and current CSU councillor representing the John Molson School of Business. He's running as an independent for VP Student Life, and is treasurer for the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

## CUFA VOTES “YES” ON STRIKE MANDATE

Full-Time Faculty Joins Concordia's Part-Time Faculty, Steelworkers as Unions Prepared to Strike

by *Megan Dolski @MeganDolski*

As of this weekend, forty-eight hours could stand to change a lot at this university.

After a week of voting that began on Feb. 28, the Concordia University Faculty Association, which represent's the university's full-time faculty members, spoke overwhelmingly in favour of a strike mandate—with 74 per cent of the university's roughly 1,000 professors voting “yes.”

The union is now in a position to go on strike, at any point, on the condition that they provide two days' notice. It's a state of affairs that's unprecedented in the union's history.

“Now that we have a strike mandate, I would hope that [the university] will reopen the negotiations and that we can come to some form of understanding,” said

CUFA President Lucie Lequin.

CUFA has been in negotiations with the university for 15 months, and as it stands there remains a substantial discrepancy between what the union is asking for and what the university is offering with regards to salary increases.

Negotiating teams from CUFA and the university have been working with a conciliator appointed by the Quebec government since December 2012.

While the newly adopted mandate provides the union with the ability to strike, that doesn't necessarily mean that they have to, or will.

“It's hard to guess in advance the behaviour of the employer's team,” said Lequin. “But I would think that Concordia as a university does not want a strike from its full-time faculty.”

She said she hopes discussions

can be reopened and bring the negotiations to a conclusion.

“Taking into account the current budget cuts and current political and economic situation of Quebec—because we do take it into account— if we can come to a fair and equitable deal with the employer, then we will not go on strike,” she said.

“But if we do not, then what choice to we have?”

Lequin says that the union recognizes that the repercussions of a strike are not ideal, but at times necessary.

“When teaching—especially in a university setting—it is much more difficult to just refrain from doing certain duties,” explained Lequin. “What can we remove? We have to give the grades, mark, we have to be present and there are no extracurriculars.”

“This makes it much more dif-

ficult for us to take any other type of action, beyond going on strike.”

Lequin said that the union is not unaware of the effect a strike would have on the university's students,

“At the end of the day, we have voted for a strike,” she said. “But it is also the employer's movement and attitude at the table that will decide whether or not we will go on strike.”

The Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association voted 95 per cent in favour of a strike mandate last November. That same month, members of the United Steelworkers Local 9538, which represents trade workers at Concordia's Loyola Campus, unanimously voted for a mandate that would also allow them to strike.

Lequin said that she doesn't think the fact that there are other unions currently in negotiations

with the school—specifically CUPFA, who is also in a position to go on strike—will change the tone around the table.

“There are so many unions at Concordia,” she said. “If a union goes on strike, the others have to continue to perform their duties.”

Lequin noted that there are twelve unions currently at Concordia, all sitting at different tables, negotiating independently of one another.

She added, however, that if all unions were to go on strike at the same time, the university would be severely affected.

CUFA is set to meet the university several times in the coming weeks, with meetings scheduled for March 18, March 21 and March 27.

“When we meet, we will assess the movement, and where we are at—but I cannot tell you ahead of time what will be the result of the assessment.”



# STUDENTS BACK IN THE STREETS

Indexation Seems Less Likely to Trigger  
Province-Wide Unrest, But Questions Remain



A police officer is hit by a snowball during a demonstration on March 5. Photo Pierre Chauvin

by Pierre Chauvin @Pierre\_Chauvin

► Continued from Page 3

## Not Again—For Now

The Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec and the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, which combined represent approximately 205,000 students, or almost 75 per cent of Quebec's post-secondary students, have already announced that going on strike isn't an option they plan on entertaining in the near future.

Last year's student strike was not a phenomenon that happened on a whim; it was the result of a campaign led by student associations that began in the spring of 2011, when then-premier Jean Charest first announced the hike in tuition fees.

"When you go on strike, there's nothing more you can do to put pressure on the government," said Martine Desjardins, president of the FEUQ.

"There are other ways to pressure them before we ask [students] to make the ultimate sacrifice—going on strike."

FECQ president Éliane Laberge echoed the sentiment that a strike isn't an option yet, and that there are many steps to go through beforehand, namely consulting member associations.

All three of the province's major student federations, the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, FEUQ and FECQ will be holding a congress for their respective members in the coming weeks.

## An Exhausting Strike

The strike was undoubtedly exhausting for all involved.

It was physically strenuous, encompassing hundreds of demonstrations lasting anywhere from two to eight hours, often ending in violent police interventions.

As a philosophy professor at the Collège de Maisonneuve, Julien Villeneuve witnessed the impact the strike had on students firsthand. Villeneuve is a member of Les Profs contre la hausse, an organization of post-secondary professors in Quebec who stood in opposition to the Liberals' tuition hike.

"Obviously, there was a certain fatigue. On the other hand, students were extremely moti-

vated to come back to class—there hadn't been class for a while," he recalled, adding that violence was not uncommon at demonstrations.

"Most students who were very mobilized suffered from violence or insults by policemen, or saw their friends suffer from it," Villeneuve said. "Sometimes, it's harder to see somebody we love being beaten than to be beaten ourselves."

On top of the daily wear and tear of the strikes, some students' educations were impacted, as their studies were compressed into shortened semesters to compensate for the lost classes.

"In a lot of cases, we were trying to [teach] twice the class materials in half the time—it wasn't easy," admitted Villeneuve.

The impact of the strikes was also financially trying. The uncertainty of the strike's outcome and its length prevented many students from earning the money they needed to afford both their education and basic needs; a fund was even set up at the Université du Québec à Montréal for a student food bank.

Most striking students did, however, resume their studies.

"We were surprised to see that at the college level, the drop-out rate wasn't drastically higher than for a regular session," said Laberge.

"Those who voted for a strike were aware of the impact that it had on their lives."

## The Not-So-Disastrous Summit

Despite the indexation, both the FEUQ and FECQ have been vocal about the fact that the provincial Summit on Higher Education did yield important results.

"Of course we're facing an indexation, we're very disappointed about that," said Desjardins. "But at the same time, we won several victories for the students."

Laberge went as far as to consider some of the summit's victories to be historic.

"For example, the major improvements in financial aid that we've been asking for for years," pointed out Laberge, though adding that she still is disappointed by the indexation.

The summit also resulted in the creation of a council of universities, something student associations had been asking for, and will now have the opportunity to take part in.

## Fondation 1625 on Alert

Strike or not, the Fondation 1625, a non-profit association created by Université Laval student Laurent Proulx dedicated to fighting legal battles during the strike, is ready.

"If there is some general strike and if some students need help because access to their courses is blocked, for sure Fondation 1625 will help them," said Miguël Bergeron, a member of the foundation.

"These are not the most costly affairs; you don't need a lawyer to have an injunction to attend your courses," he said.

The Fondation 1625 recently sent out letters to several universities and CEGEPs, stating that if they don't respect their obligations toward students, the Fondation 1625 "will put all the resources it has toward students who want their rights to be enforced."

Additionally, the letters state that the foundation will "encourage [students] to sue for contempt anybody who obstructs a possible court decision."

Since its creation last August, the Fondation's PayPal account has received over \$20,000 in donations to fight legal battles, according to Bergeron.

"We have a lot of support from students who basically had no one to defend them before," he said.

"They were stuck between their university administrations, their teachers and their student associations who weren't listening to them."

## To Be Continued...

While a new province-wide strike is unlikely, several demonstrations are already planned for the coming weeks.

Student associations are also taking part in working groups established after the summit.

But, according to professor Julien Villeneuve, remobilizing immediately isn't necessarily the most important thing for students.

"My perspective is to admire [students] for what they achieved," he said.

"Even if they can't mobilize in the short-term with the same intensity they did before, they already did so much. They contributed so much to bring back the topic of free education in the public discourse—something nobody dared do before."

## Upcoming Congresses

The Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante will convene for a regular congress on April 6 and April 7 and for an annual congress on April 20 and April 21. The organization's orientation congress, which is meant to be a forum for reflection on ASSÉ's structure following the experiences of the student strike, is to follow in May.

The Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, which represents 15 student associations, including the Concordia Student Union, will convene for a congress on April 7 and April 8.

The Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, which represents some 80,000 CEGEP students in the province, will meet for its regular congress from March 22 to March 24. The student association at the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue is hosting.

## Upcoming Protests

It's impossible to know just how many people upcoming student protests will attract given the fact that student associations FECQ and FEUQ are saying they will try to work with the PQ government before returning into the streets. However, several protests are being planned in Montreal nonetheless.

A protest is planned for March 12 at 8:00 p.m. at Place Émilie-Gamelin.

Some student protesters also plan to take part in Montreal's annual demonstration against police brutality on March 15, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the corner of St. Urbain St. and Ontario St.

A student flash mob is planned for March 19, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Protesters plan to wear red and suddenly freeze on the platforms at Berri-UQAM Metro station each time a train arrives.

Another nighttime protest is planned for March 22 at 6:00 p.m., continuing the tradition of monthly protests on the 22nd of each month that began last spring. Protesters will gather at Place Émilie-Gamelin.



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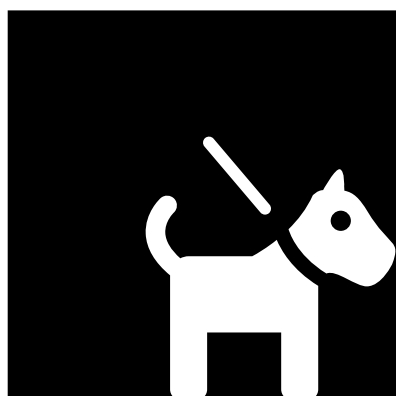
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# PROCEDURAL ISSUES STALL CSU PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

## Council Debates Proceedings in Private Facebook Group

by Corey Pool @coreyriver

The Concordia Student Union will have to hold off on taking another stab at appointing a president after a scheduled special meeting to resolve the issue was cancelled last week.

The unprecedented vacancy has run on for over a month after former union leader Schubert Laforest resigned on Feb. 7, citing health reasons.

The scheduled special meeting was set to take place on March 11. A regular council meeting, announced simultaneously, will still to take place on March 13.

A lengthy email from CSU chair Jean-François Ouellet explained that the special meeting had to be “[disregarded] as a whole on grounds of improper proceedings.”

According to the agenda, three members of the CSU executive had called the special council meeting—VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon, VP Loyola Stefan Faina and VP Academic Hajar El Jahidi.

In an interview with *The Link*, Ouellet admitted that he had called upon the executives to call the meeting because of the severity of the issue and the length at which the union has already gone without a president.

The union has held two meetings that aimed to fill the vacancy, though neither saw the appointment of a new president.

Ouellet was not in attendance for either meeting.

“Considering the matter was rather important to the whole student body itself, I deemed it appropriate to—on exceptional circumstances—allow the executive to call this special meeting,” said Ouellet. “Because it was easier to get in contact with them than three councillors in general.”

This idea was met with opposition.

In a private Facebook group that includes members of CSU council and the executive, as well as ex-officio members of council and student senators, councillor Gonzo Nieto pointed out what he saw as an issue with the chair’s decision.

According to CSU Bylaw 6.6.3, only the president of the union or three councillors are eligible to call a special meeting—never a member of the executive.

“I said that this meant that the meeting we called for Monday was not legal, by virtue of not being in accordance with our own rules,



The Concordia Student Union has been without a president since February 7. Photo Corey Pool

and therefore is not valid,” said Nieto to *The Link*.

However, according to members of the private CSU Facebook group, this caused an argument to break out online over the interpretation of the union’s bylaws and how to proceed with the special meeting.

Several members within the private group have said that Ouellet defended holding the special meeting, despite it being in conflict with the union’s rules.

Ouellet says that he knew about the bylaw requiring either a president or councillors to call the meeting, but he “deemed it appropriate to approach the executive since, in the absence of a president, they are sort of acting as a united front to replace his role.”

“I tried to bypass [the bylaw] in order to facilitate the process of appointing the president, but obviously this turned sour and created this huge conflict,” he added.

Questions have also been raised concerning the chair’s decision to take such an active role within council.

According to the CSU Bylaw

6.4.1, the chairperson of the CSU is elected to administer council meetings and to “act on behalf of the council when instructed to do so by the council.”

“[Ouellet] never asked council and he was never instructed by council to [suggest that a meeting be called], and then when council calls him out on it he argues with us about what his reasons are and why he thinks it’s a good idea,” said Nieto. “I told him that it wasn’t appropriate, and ironically enough, that caused an argument about it.”

Ouellet believes, however, that his intentions were misinterpreted. He was not entirely alone in his opinion.

Despite believing that council was legally “in the right,” Lauzon—one of three VP’s who signed off on the request to hold the meeting—agreed with Ouellet’s decision to bend the union’s rules in this case, hoping that council would “show understanding.”

“The bylaws and standing regulations are there for a reason, but our job is to act in the student’s in-

terest and to have a functioning CSU,” said Lauzon. “It’s within council’s judgment to choose to kind of look away for this specific instance seeing how little the consequences might be if we actually hold the meeting.”

But according to Nieto, this logic could be problematic, especially when dealing with such a contentious and important issue as filling the position of union president.

“This was a meeting we were calling to appoint a president,” said Nieto. “We can’t call it on illegal and invalid grounds because then any decision can so easily be contested just based on pure procedural fact that the whole meeting was invalid. That wasn’t coming across.”

Ultimately, the issue of picking a president has been moved to the regular council meeting on March 13.

Questions have also been raised about the validity of using a private Facebook group to hash out the union’s interpersonal dealings.

Lauzon left the group amidst all of this and has asked that the rest of the union’s executive do the

same. He cites, among other things, issues he takes with the Facebook group in terms of a lack of transparency.

“It’s not a good way to communicate and we end up being frustrated and very emotionally charged after spending a bit of time on that group,” said Lauzon. “It’s not helping our productivity or helping us do our job. It’s a poor use of our time, considering that it’s unofficial.”

This week’s upcoming council meeting will involve the task of picking a president, and according to his Executive Report, Lauzon has decided he’s up to it.

Despite what he has said in previous meetings about not having the time, or being too fatigued to take on the presidential portfolio, Lauzon says he’s feeling better, and is ready to take on the job.

“It’s exactly like I said—if it’s between me having the position and a random councillor, then of course I’m going to take the position,” said Lauzon. “It’s a question between a rock and a hard place, and I’ll choose the rock.”



# CONU WOMEN'S WINNING WAYS

## A Look at Three Women Making Things Move at Concordia

by Katie McGroarty @KatieCMcG

In last week's Gender and Sexuality Issue, *The Link* looked at, among other things, the gender breakdown of students and faculty involved at Concordia.

The results were disappointing, but not unexpected.

While the ratio of male to female students at this school is almost equal, it's statistically less likely for women to move ahead with their degrees to achieve the same high-paying jobs as their male counterparts, and, if they do, those jobs stand to be less high-paying.

However, that's not to say there aren't females at the top at ConU doing excellent work.

In honour of International Women's Day, which was last Friday, *The Link* profiled three ladies doing impressive work, here at Concordia University.

These are women making their gender proud—maybe the next time *The Link* has to breakdown gender stats, things will look a little different.

**Gabrielle Bouchard**



Title: **2110 Centre Peer Support and Trans Advocacy Coordinator**

Years at ConU: 3

Degree: Women's Studies, Philosophy and Sexuality

After coming to Concordia as a mature student, Gabrielle Bouchard has been working at Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy for the past three years.

"I was able to re-invent not the programs, but the way that they have been done," Bouchard said of changes that have been made to the centre since her hiring.

"Based on the way that they've been done previously and using that experience then finding new ways to do it. And to just have fun with that!"

Since she started at the centre, they have acquired a second space, a change that she said is a "very significant shift in the possibilities of the centre."

Bouchard also started the Damit! Project, a Concordia Student Union-sanctioned initiative to start distributing dental dams as freely as condoms, a case which they are currently working on with the objective to present it to the Minister of Health.

Although Bouchard is not headlining the 2110 Centre's initiative of pushing for a sexual assault centre at Concordia, she is optimistic about the steps that have been taken this year.

"A lot of sub-groups from the centre have been working on this for a very long time and now we're starting to see results. There's a very open line of communication with the university, and we're really hoping to see something happen pretty soon."

Photo Erin Sparks

**Chris Mota**



Title: **Director of Media Relations, Concordia University**

Years at ConU: 20

Degree: Political Science and English

Before coming to Concordia, Mota worked as a journalist in Montreal, filing and telling stories at "every radio station except the CBC."

She worked primarily on the news desk for various outlets, as well as producing radio, and did a talk show.

"I didn't have much confidence that there would be a lot of work [in journalism] at the time," Mota said about her move to switch careers in 1993.

"I don't regret it for a day, I still do media—I just do it on the other side of the phone now."

Currently, as the official spokesperson of Concordia University, Mota deals with media of all sorts on a daily basis, and even still uses her contacts from her days as a journalist because, as she said, "the media is very small."

**Joanna Berzowska**



Title: **Design and Computation Art Research Director**

Years at ConU: 11

Degree: Masters of Science, BA in Pure Math, BFA in Design Arts

Joanna Berzowska has paved her own path from the very beginning. Interested in the field of computation arts before it was even offered as an academic stream, Berzowska created her education to suit her interests by simultaneously taking a math degree at McGill University and a degree in design at Concordia.

"Because [the technology] was so new I had basically taught myself and found that everyone one was self-taught," said Berzowska.

"I worked there for a year developing interactive graphics, [then] went to grad school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's media lab, to invent new ways that technology can impact the world of communications."

Berzowska then moved to working at a start-up company in Boston that developed products like sneakers that changed colours depending on the wearer's running speed—all the while thinking about how we can use electronic textiles to make an interactive environment.

Then, after 9/11, as the economy began to plummet, her contracts began to drop, but she started getting phone calls from United States military sub-contractors.

"I did a little bit of work for the military [...] but I had some ethical and moral questions about doing military work," she said.

From working with the American army, she was then offered the "farthest thing imaginable" from her old job—a position at Concordia in the Computation Arts Department.

Photo Ronald Borshan



# SKY ROCKETS (ALMOST) IN FLIGHT

## Space Concordia's Winning Satellite Still in Need of Funding

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

It can be incredibly expensive to launch a satellite into space. Despite winning the inaugural Canadian Satellite Design Challenge last October, Space Concordia, a student-run engineering club with a few dozen members, still needs to secure at least another \$13,800 to complete its mission towards the final frontier.

The bi-annual competition, held by aerospace firm Geocentrix Inc., will cover launch and fueling costs for the project, but engineering and equipment costs are extra.

"The prize for the competition [was] getting our satellite launched, and so the competition organizers are the ones who essentially help find funding for us to get launched," explained Nicholas Sweet, president of Space Concordia.

The projected final cost of the satellite is expected to be roughly \$115,000, according to figures provided by Space Concordia. A request for funding from the Concordia Student Union is on the agenda for this week's council meeting, set for March 13.

Though the amount is yet to be decided, Space Concordia VP External Gregory Gibson says he believes the CSU's support could total \$15,000, based on funds available in past budgets.

Others are helping fund the project—both inside and outside of the university.

"There's a lot of internal funding available we're looking into," said Gibson. "But we're also going to the industries and asking for money in return for sponsorship opportunities."

Xiphos Technologies Inc. has already provided Space Concordia with \$16,000 for equipment, while AIG, PlanBox, Dassault and other companies have donated a combined \$4,000, according to documents provided by the club.

The team also received \$31,939.21 over 2011 and 2012 from the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty's equipment fund, and \$3,383.44 from the Engineering and Computer Science Association as of the Fall 2012 semester.

While the money is still outstanding, Space Concordia submitted a proposal for launch through the European Space Agency on March 1—but that's just the beginning of the process, according to Sweet.

"This is the first of many rounds of documentation being given to ESA," he said.

"It's going to be one of those mildly bureaucratic things; we just send long documents back and forth—but then the fun starts.

"Hopefully, if we pass every single checkpoint, we can get in with the ESA scientists and engineers," he added.

If accepted, the satellite would be launched by ESA some time this year, with a tentative timeframe of August, according to Sweet.

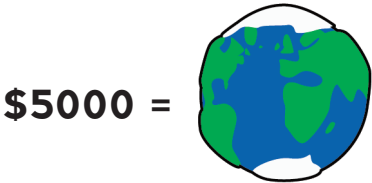
Known as a Cubesat—a low-cost cube-shaped miniature satellite typically 10x10x10 cm—Space Concordia's winning design plans to explore the South Atlantic Anomaly, an area of intense radiation in Earth's magnetic field.

A second design challenge was announced by the CSA last fall. With their second design, ConSat-2, and a projected \$80,000 in costs, Space Concordia hopes to test self-healing, plastic-like compounds in space, according to acting student team leader Mehdi Sabzalian.

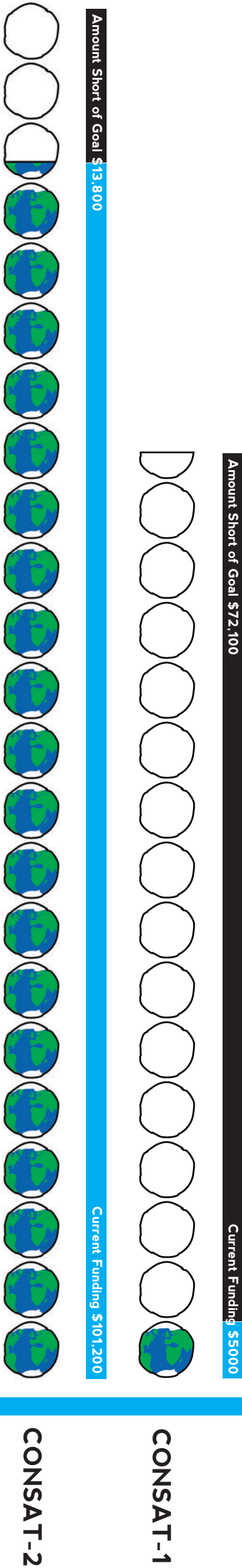
"It hasn't been tested in space yet, so that's where we come in," said Sabzalian.

The self-healing material was created and patented by Dr. Suong Hoa, director of the Centre for Composites at Concordia and ConSat-2 project leader.

Space Concordia was originally founded in November 2010 in order to participate in the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge.



\*Source Space Concordia. Infographic Clément Liu



# Remaining funding for ConSat Satellites

## BRIEFS

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

### First Victim of Pastagate

The president of Quebec's French language enforcement agency has stepped down following the international backlash from the so-called Pastagate scandal. Admitting a "crisis" exists and the agency must "modernize" itself, Cultural Communities Minister Diane de Courcy told reporters March 8 that Louise Marchand resigned from the Office québécoise de la langue française of her own accord. An audit was ordered on the OQLF and its activities on Feb. 25. The report recommends the creation of a "responder position" to intervene in language disputes.

### Re-Concealing Murder

The preliminary inquiry for Luka Magnotta, murder suspect in the 2012 slaying of Concordia Chinese exchange student Jun Lin, is finally expected on the court docket on March 11. Magnotta's lawyer has motioned to bar anyone except the accused, lawyers and court officials from entering the courtroom. The 30-year-old has been charged with first-degree murder in the case, which drew international attention last summer after pieces of Lin's corpse were discovered after being mailed to offices in Parliament and schools in British Columbia.

### Abuse Survivors Protest Catholic Church's Inaction

Several dozen members of the Quebec Association of Victims of Priests gathered on the steps of the Église St. Viateur d'Outremont on Sunday to protest what they consider to be a lack of action to address their allegations of sexual abuse on the church's part. Also supporting Cardinal Marc Ouellet, a Quebecer and possible candidate to be the next Pope, they said they hope Ouellet's position in the papal race will help shed light on their plight. The conclave to elect the next Pope begins in Rome on Tuesday.

### Bill 14 Won't Pass: CAQ

Unless they see some changes, the Coalition Avenir Québec will not endorse new language laws in the province, said leader François Legault to reporters on March 8. Legault confirmed that the party would not support Bill C-14, the Parti Québécois's pending new language bill, due to what Legault calls its restrictions on military families, bilingual towns and small businesses. The Quebec Liberal Party announced last year it would not support the revamped language charter, leaving the bill's survival in the hands of the CAQ.



**Retro Tuesday**  
**Pitcher 5\$**  
**Hits-Moi Thursday**  
**Beer 2\$**  
**Drink 4\$**  
**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**5 SHOOTERS/10\$**  
 8:30pm/10pm  
**OPEN BAR 6\$**  
**Tuesday/thursday on draft**  
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## The Link Publication Society Inc. - Annual General Assembly Friday March 22, 2013, 4 p.m. 1455 de Maisonneuve West Room H-649

### Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the 2012 AGA
5. Constitutional amendments
6. Board of directors report for 2012-2013
7. Presentation of the 2011-2012 financial statements
8. Appointment of the auditor
9. Presentation of financial statements as of February 28, 2013
- 10 Presentation of the preliminary budget 2013-2014

11. Election of the Board of Directors
12. Other business
13. End of the assembly

All Concordia undergraduated students are eligible to attend, vote at the meeting and run for a position on the Link's Board.

### Board of Directors

Two (2) positions are open to members at large (none of them shall hold an executive position within another university group) and 2 (two) positions are open to member of the community who have been members of the Staff within the last 3 years.

Candidates for the Board must present a letter of intent by Friday March 15, 2013 at 5 p.m. to the secretary of the board of directors : 1455 de Maisonneuve. W. room 649 or by email to [business@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:business@thelinknewspaper.ca)

Constitutional amendments are available at the Link office

## Business Beyond Tomorrow March 15 | JMSB

Get Your Tickets Online:  
[JSG-JMSB.ca](http://JSG-JMSB.ca)



Montreal  
 Sustainability Business  
 Weekend



## MBA Sustainability Challenge March 16 | HEC

Get Your Tickets Online:  
[SustainableHEC.ca](http://SustainableHEC.ca)



**HEC MONTRÉAL**

**DESAUTELS | McGill**



# THE LINK'S GUIDE TO ART MATTERS 2013

**Thirteen years ago**, Art Matters started as an answer to raise awareness to the oft-ignored Fine Arts Faculty at Concordia. Now, it's the largest student-run festival in North America; this year it will show work from 136 artists over a span of two weeks.

Although Montreal is a city filled with vernissages and art exhibits for every taste, Art Matters offers something unique that's not around for the rest of the year.

Part of the festival's mandate, along with developing the communication between every department in Fine Arts and bringing together the alternative and the well-established, is to make it known that art, in fact, does matter.

As well as making use of the art spaces that

already exist in Concordia, Art Matters will be taking over the city for the next couple of weeks, setting up shop in galleries, bars and studios from downtown to the Mile End.

My advice to you is this: make a plan and see as much as you can. It may turn out to be weird—or, dare I say, even unappealing—but you'll probably never get to experience it again.

Especially if you are not one to usually peruse the arts scene, Art Matters makes what can sometimes be daunting, if not a well-kept secret, open to everyone.

And did I mention it's all free?

—Katie McGroarty,  
Fringe Arts Editor

## menagerie for hair & wood

Curated by Heather Caplap and Erin Hill, *menagerie for hair & wood* combines live performance, video and visual work.

Juxtaposing human hair with traditional textile work, Caplap and Hill describe the linking of the two extremes of texture as being both welcoming and unsettling.

From creating temporary homes for squirrels and birds within outdoor art, to the collection of memories housed inside childhood objects, the exhibit will range from the organic to the experimental.

"What I find interesting is the relationship between the animal and the

human world—or the lack of one, where the connection should be rebuilt," said Jessica Sallay-Carrington, a self-described "ceramic artist inspired by the qualities of animals unique to each species," who will be displaying her creations at the exhibit.

**menagerie for hair & wood/** Until March 17 / La Baraque (928 Ste. Catherine St. E.) / Vernissage: March 13, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / Open House and Finissage: March 16, 6:15 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

—By Katie McGroarty



Photo Benjamin Allard

Photo Benjamin Allard



## Another F\*\*\*\*\* Exhibition About Identities

This March, Casa del Popolo turns into an Art Matters symposium of self-centred art. All the "who," "what" and "how" of 25 multimedia artists' egos will be hanging on the walls, floating in the air and screened to your brains.

Suggestion #1: Gulp down that beer/wine/alcohol, pretend you're going to the bathroom, grab your coat and just leave as fast as you can. Otherwise, you risk being swallowed by centuries of flowery-to-excess feelings, romantic poetry and sobering love letters.

Suggestion #2: Think twice. It might be worth a try, after all.

Contemporary dancer Pascale Yensen will be performing a solo dance. She will be moving around the randomness that assembled our atoms into a fragile, human body instead of a raw block of cement.

In one of her previous works, Yensen blended together dance, electro-acoustic performances and darkness and light, transforming herself into a cloud of red fireflies. Not bad for a mere mortal.

Concordia film student Alisi Telengut, for her part, plays with painting in her short animated film "Tengri."

The short touches on death and culture, evoking the centuries-old shamanist ritual of wind burying. If bathing in the Northern Lights was possible, it probably would accurately describe the feeling communicated by Telengut's use of colours and movement.

**Another F\*\*\*\*\* Exhibition About Identities** / Until March 30 / Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) / Open House: March 17, 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

—By Flora Hammond



**Nature/Culture**

*Nature/Culture* is about the fundamental dichotomies in our relationship with the planet. It explores the interactions between humanity and our lush, rotating home, in terms of conflict and respect. Do people admire nature or just seek to take from it and destroy it at their leisure?

Curator Cécile Charvet says that on scales both large and small, we are constantly forging a new relationship with the planet.

The six artists of *Nature/Culture* all “share an interest in this relationship and engage with it through different artistic practices and create new aesthetics and new dialogues around the issues of nature versus culture,” Charvet says.

Artist Ellen Leung contributes her pieces “Vessel #1,” “Vessel #2” and “Vessel #3” to the conversation in a collection of sculptures made of earthenware ceramics.

“My work explores my aesthetic fascination with decay and wounds,” Leung explains. “Organic matter in the process of destroying and building itself up again is in its most intriguing state.”

Fellow artist Elizabeth Brouillard’s work is fascinated by the beauty and strangeness of life and expresses it through the pieces of *Inner Eyes*.

“It drives me to explore the tree of life as well as the place that man occupies in it [...]. My work is characterized by its organic structure and carries the viewer in a poetic universe,” Brouillard says.

*Nature/Culture* / Until March 22 / Studio #427 (372 Ste. Catherine St. W., #427) / Open House: March 16, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. / Finissage: March 18, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

—By Jake Russell

**Youth Well Wasted**

*Youth Well Wasted* is an Art Matters exhibition all about the major milestones and minor thrills of being a teen.

Life has just started and it’s exciting. Curated by first-year Concordia student Lori Noel, the exhibition is centred on the idea of taking advantage of the present and is described as “young people living with wholehearted intentions of not wasting a second.”

Over a dozen artists make up the exhibit, which will include paintings, drawings and photography. An exposition by student Kerry Langlois called “Are We Having Fun Yet?” looks at the recent *Jersey Shore*-esque phenomenon of the “party culture” in today’s youth.

Langlois is fascinated by how much we idolize party culture and romanticize excess and the glamorously wasted. These themes are looked at through text and image.

Another artist, Todd Bolton, brings sensitive still moments to the show through his untitled photography. On the flip side, artists like Véronique Croteau highlight supercharged moments like the 2012 Quebec student protests in paint.

*Youth Well Wasted* / Until March 22 / BBAM! Gallery (3255 St. Jacques St. W.) / Open House: March 16, 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. / Vernissage: March 20, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

—By Jake Russell

**Erase and Rewind**

*Erase and Rewind*, curated by Bella Giancotta and Marie-Michèle Plante, is an exhibition about the kind of cycles we find in pop culture. Entertainment and visual culture repeats itself, and the curators are aiming to capture that in a playful way.

The 13 artists in the exhibition will be bringing together vintage and modern images to create a dialogue about the way we view media, and to drive home its cyclical nature.

Among them are self-described “failed porn director” Laura C. Ashley with her multimedia installation show “Make It Rain.”

Chris Drogaris and *The Link*’s Editor-in-Chief, Julia Wolfe, will bring retro gaming to *Erase and Rewind* with their game console “The Grid,” which will combine brightly

coloured lights and 8-bit beeps to make for a trippy, nostalgic experience.

Another artist is FONKi, a Khmer-French Montreal graffiti artist who will be showing off his spray-painted self-portraits.

Other installations include Caroline Steele’s “Urban Mandalas,” which places the ever-present QR codes of our smartphone culture within an artistic space, and Emilie Gauvin’s “It Makes me Wet & A Reaction Video - Reacting to Crayon by G-Dragon,” which explores how pop culture from the East influences North America.

*Erase and Rewind* / Until March 22 / Studio XX (4001 Berri St.) / Vernissage: March 14, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / Open House: March 17, 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

—By Jake Russell

**The Tactility of Objects: A Retrospective**

*The Tactility of Objects: A Retrospective* is for anyone whose mother ever scolded them for touching something in a gallery or fancy store. This exhibition wants its audience to recapture a lost intimacy we have with art by allowing visitors to touch its pieces at will.

The 12 artists of this exhibition use a diverse range of artistic mediums, including furniture design, live performance, art books and video.

In other words, this exhibition is a like a crash-course of sitting in the front row during the musical *Cats*. You must embrace the man in the cat costume sitting on your lap. The interaction between art and art-goer is the focus of these works.

Bianca St. Martin’s piece titled “Form” addresses how people perceive the world around themselves.

“In this book, the idea is that information is hidden within the body, just as it is within the pages of a book. In order to get to it, one must first open the book & then themselves to receiving it,” said St. Martin.

Other pieces include Dylan DiCicco’s pop-up book, titled “Montreal,” and Theresa Passarello’s mixed media piece called “Slip of Memory.”

*The Tactility of Objects: A Retrospective* / Until March 18 / Les Territoires (372 Ste. Catherine St. W., #527) / Open House: March 16, 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

—By Jake Russell



Ill Palette

The *Ill Palette* is a collaborative effort from curators, Jordan Davidson, Vincent Viezzer and Ashley Zver-Volel, which combines the talents of 19 artists in a plethora of mediums into a melting pot of pieces, all interacting with each other on some level or other.

*Ill Palette* artist Kyle Goforth describes his design process as being “informed by the emotional dimension of the user/object interaction.”

Fellow artist Adrien Fillion says his contribution explores the “breakdown of physical space into intermingling objects that hint at the daily data unseen.”

Curator Viezzer attempts to bring together works that collectively tell stories relating to “detailing the malaise of bodies, buildings and bureaucracy.”

Zver-Volel, for her part, notes that understanding the interaction between people

and their environments poses the question of how one understands oneself in space. Her curated works explore this concept, and each draw unique conclusions.

The open house, on March 17, will feature lectures aiming to delve deeper into *Ill Palette*’s themes. The event will involve several speakers discussing the making and meaning of displayed works, and help place them within the greater context of ongoing discussions relating to contemporary art.

From 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., swing by for several exclusive artist appearances.

*Ill Palette* / Until March 22 / Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St., second floor) / Vernissage: March 15, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / Open House: March 17, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

—By Megan Dolski

Lab 353 - Biologie Materialiste

Benjamin J. Allard explores the relationship between humans and nature in his exhibition, or laboratory, *Lab 353 - Biologie Materialiste*. More specifically, he wants to “reframe” the ideas that characterize how these two groups relate.

To help ensure the works and theme are properly understood and appreciated, Allard outlines a couple of prerequisites for attendees.

He notes that having a body is a must, and recommends taking note of both one’s past and surroundings before stepping into the space, cautioning that “passing oversight could bring the viewer to hasty conclusions.”

While “second sight is not required,” he adds,

visitors should assume the survival humanity. The lab requires meditation on “fields related to biology such as history, philosophy or aesthetics.”

The March 17 vernissage features a keynote speaker and a debate on materialistic ecology—and the buffet promises to push the boundaries of ideas surrounding food.

*Lab 353 - Biologie Materialiste* / Until March 22 / Espace Project (353 Villeray St.) / Vernissage and Open House: March 17, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

—By Megan Dolski



Photo Erin Sparks

Ruins

“The past leaves traces on our bodies and it informs the ways we construct our narratives.” The exhibition *Ruins* examines the relationships between history, memory, human experience and vestiges of the past.

Curated by Michelle Cantin-Reid, *Ruins* offers “a space to connect with histories, to construct them, and ultimately, if we choose, to deconstruct them, as revisiting is impossible and forgetting is as well.”

Six artists open up the dialogue and bring their interpretations of what “ruins” mean to them using a wide range of mediums.

Artist George Grant’s “Untitled” is a raw abstract composition of snow, salt, gravel and dirt on canvas.

“Engaging between the abstract and the lit-

eral,” Grant says, “my interests lie in the ephemeral qualities of memory and experience.”

Alexia Laferté-Coutu also takes a non-traditional approach with her piece, “Dans la solitude je meurs un peu, aussi,” a sculpture constructed from found wood and glass panels, velvet, silk and plaster.

Laferté-Coutu places emphasis on the artistic process itself, allowing her to break down the ritualized methods of creation and illustrate the balancing act of building and unraveling identities.

*Ruins* / Until March 22 / VAV Gallery (1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.) / Open House: March 16, 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. / Finissage: March 19, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

—By Jake Russell



Assumptions are not derivative of accepted facts but of distant tales.

*Assumptions are not derivative of accepted facts but of distant tales.* brings together thirteen artists seeking to collectively explore their surroundings.

By way of a variety of mediums—which include photography, video and painting—the group delves into relationships and discrepancies between the tangible and imagined aspects of their environment.

Curated by Julian Garcia and Emma Siemens-Adolphe, the exhibit begins on March 7 hosted at Galerie Espace.

The open house, set for March 17, will feature a silent auction, allowing participants to purchase the curated pieces.

Participating photographer Thomas Bouquin describes his thinking as “how ele-

ments such as memory, space and light can influence and modify our perception of the banal and common places of our everyday life.”

Another of the exhibit’s artists, Lisandre St-Cyr Lamothe, hopes to explore the “natural beauty” and “fragility” of the land—despite the fact that most humans live in urban centres.

The exhibit seeks to be an “extension of our cognition” and attempts to reinterpret reality, questioning and elaborating on established symbols.

*Assumptions are not derivative of accepted facts but of distant tales.* / Until March 19 / Galerie Espace (4844 St. Laurent Blvd.) / Vernissage: March 12, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / Open House: March 17, 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

—By Megan Dolski

Curio

We all have our own personal shrines and collections to those special objects that capture our interests, whether they are postage stamps, shells, dolls—or every issue of *The Link*. *Curio* is an exhibit that explores these collections that enable the mundane to transcend into something more, at least for those who collect them.

For this exhibition, ten artists “present a contemporary series of explorations into the unmonumental, the stuff that we collect, the sentiments we ascribe to our collections, and the rituals that surround the act of collecting.”

Artist Zoe Wonfor displays jars containing different objects and specimens, and says of her work, “I want my work to provide moments to think about Yellowstone

National Park, Gala apples, lunch time or lovers. I hope these works give a viewer a moment to pause.”

Artist Lianne Zannier’s lifestyle embraces the *Curio* theme to the fullest.

“I am an artist and amateur collector of collectables making worlds and strange dioramas with the curious curiosities I find,” said Zannier.

Her found sculpture, entitled “Friends,” will be on display for the exhibition.

*Curio* / Until March 22 / Coat Check Gallery (5180 Notre-Dame St. W.) / Open House: March 16, 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. / Finissage: March 21, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

—By Jake Russell



Ruins

Photo Erin Sparks



## ART MATTERS

## 2013 FESTIVAL MAP



**1**  
LaB 353 - BIOLOGIE MATERIALISTE  
Coat Check Gallery  
353 Villeray St.

**2**  
III Palette  
Eastern Bloc  
7240 Clark St.



**3**  
ANOTHER F\*\*\*\*\* EXHIBITION  
ABOUT IDENTITIES  
Casa del Popolo  
4873 St. Laurent Blvd.

**4**  
ASSUMPTIONS ARE NOT DERIVATIVE OF  
ACCEPTED FACTS BUT OF DISTANT TALES  
La Galerie Espace  
4844 St. Laurent Blvd.



**5**  
erase & rewind  
Studio XX  
4001 Berri St., #201

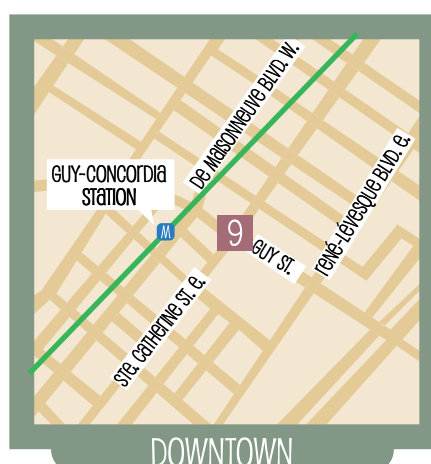


**6**  
MENAGERIE FOR HAIR AND WOOD  
La Baraque  
928 Ste. Catherine St. E.



**7**  
Nature/Culture  
Studio #427  
372 Ste. Catherine St. W., #427

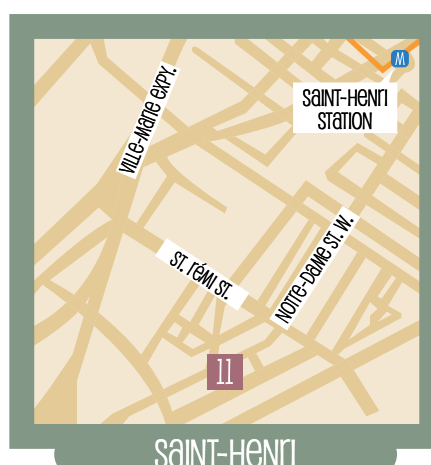
**8**  
THE TACTILITY OF OBJECTS:  
a retrospective  
Les Territoires  
372 Ste. Catherine St. W., #527



**9**  
RUINS  
VAV Gallery  
1515 Ste. Catherine St. W.



**10**  
YOUTH WELL WASTED  
BBAM! Gallery  
3255 St. Jacques St.



**11**  
CURIO  
Coat Check Gallery  
5180 Notre-Dame St. W.



# GET ON BOARD!

*The Link* would like to announce its upcoming elections for three members of staff to our Board of Directors.  
Staff members must have four contributions to *The Link* during the Winter 2013 semester to be eligible for the position.

Contact [editor@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:editor@thelinknewspaper.ca) for more information.

**Friday, March 15**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
***The Link* Office**  
**(1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)**

## THE LINK

### WELCOMING NEW LINK MASTHEAD

Following *The Link's* annual elections on March 8, here is the newly elected masthead for Volume 34. Congratulations to the incoming editors!



|                                                                    |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</b><br>Colin Harris @ColinnHarris               | <b>FRINGE ARTS EDITOR</b><br>Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell |
| <b>COORDINATING EDITOR</b><br>Corey Pool @coreyriver               | <b>SPORTS EDITOR</b><br>Yacine Bouhali @MyBouhali          |
| <b>MANAGING EDITOR</b><br>Erin Sparks @sparkserin                  | <b>CREATIVE DIRECTOR</b><br>Jayde Norström @N_Jayde        |
| <b>NEWS EDITOR</b><br>Andrew Brennan @Brennamen                    | <b>PHOTO EDITOR</b><br>Alex Bailey @alexfbailey            |
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| <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR</b><br>Katie McGroarty @KatieCMcG        | <b>COPY EDITOR</b><br>Justin Blanchard @JBlanch6           |
| <b>FRINGE ARTS ONLINE EDITOR</b><br>Michelle Pucci @michellempucci | <b>COMMUNITY EDITOR</b><br>Flora Hammond @FloraHmd         |

The following positions remain open: Sports Online Editor, Opinions Editor





 **PHOTOS OF THE WEEK**



Members of Concordia's dome ultimate frisbee intramural league go head-to-head in their last game of the regular season last Sunday, March 10.  **Photos Leslie Schachter**



**BOXSCORES**  
**WEEK OF MARCH 4 TO MARCH 10**



**Sunday, March 10**    Men's Indoor Soccer RSEQ quarterfinal  
Concordia 0, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières 1 (OT)

.....

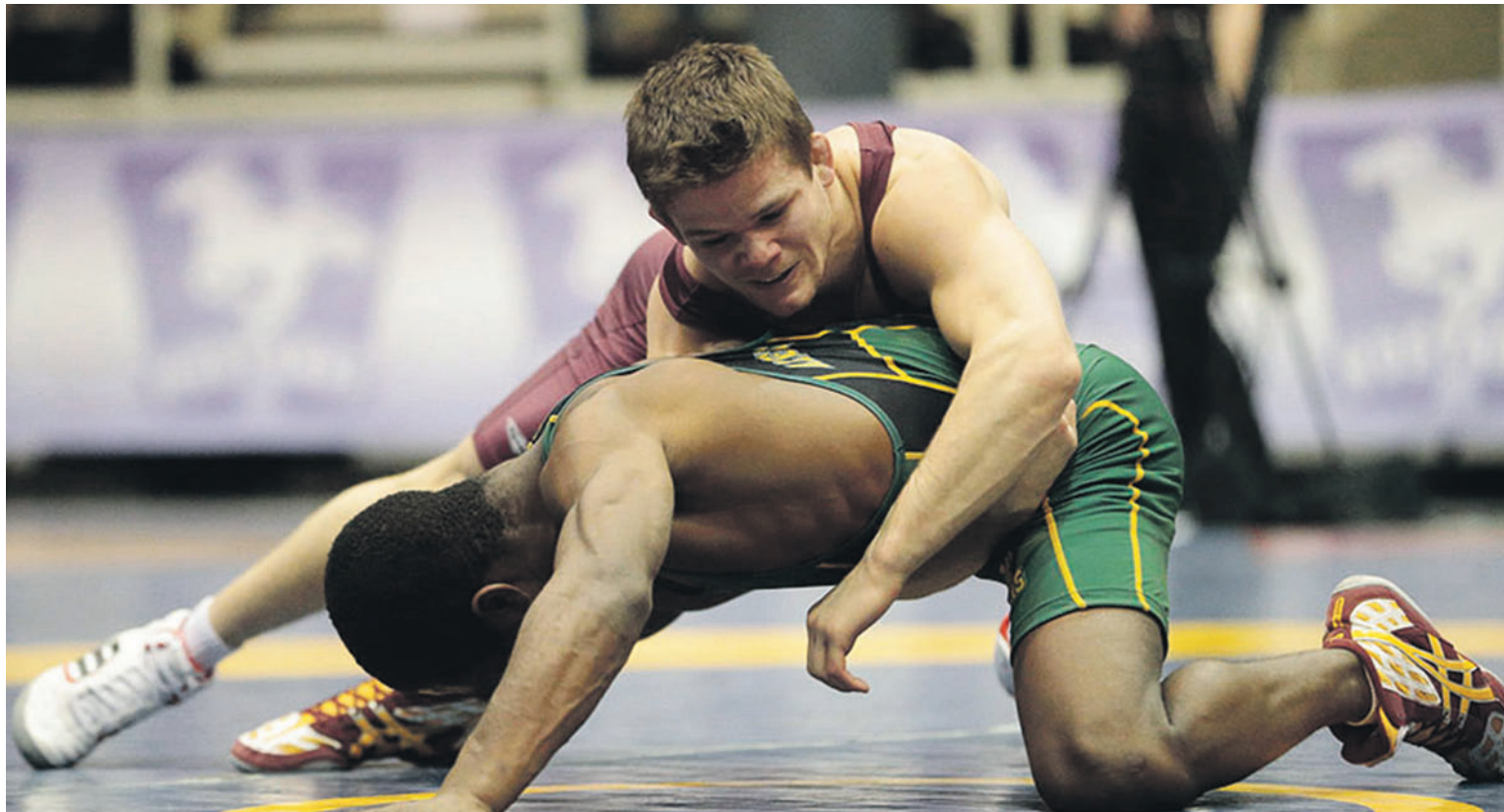
Women's Indoor Soccer RSEQ quarterfinal  
Concordia 0, Université Laval 3

Check out Stingers game summaries at [thelinknewspaper.ca/sports](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/sports)



# MAGIC ON THE MAT

## ConU Olympian David Tremblay Says Goodbye to University Wrestling After Half-Decade in Maroon and Gold



The Stingers' David Tremblay closed out his university wrestling career winning a record fifth-consecutive gold medal at the CIS Championships March 2. Photos Geoff Robins

by Geoffrey Vendeville  
@geoffvendeville

If you ask any wrestler on Concordia's varsity team about their teammate David Tremblay, the words "leader" and "role model" are never very far from their lips.

Now in his fifth year with the Stingers, Tremblay is one of the most successful wrestlers in the team's storied history.

Last summer, Tremblay represented Canada at the London Olympics, finishing 14th in his weight class after a difficult draw in the tournament.

Earlier this month, Tremblay won his fifth consecutive gold medal at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships in London, ON—making him only the third wrestler ever to win gold in each year of eligibility for the CIS. Tremblay was also named Outstanding Male Wrestler of the tournament.

Now, as Tremblay is finishing up his last semester at Concordia and his sparkling Stingers career comes to an end, his teammates and coaches are contemplating life after David.

"We'll have to find another David Tremblay—and that's not easy," said Rob Moore, assistant coach of the Concordia wrestling team.

"There's always a rebuilding period," Moore continued. "That's the nature of university and high school sports."

As it stands, Tremblay plans to take at least a year off competitive wrestling and to look for a job closer to his native Stoney Point, ON.

"It's definitely sad to leave, and I'm only 25 so everybody wants me to stay," Tremblay said. "How-

ever, I want to see what I can offer myself in different fields."

Tremblay isn't the only veteran wrestler graduating this year: two-time national champion James Mancini is also weeks away from moving on after a long and successful career with the Stingers.

At this year's CIS championships, Mancini came back from a defeat in the first round to snatch a bronze medal in the 65 kg category, scoring points that would help the team finish fourth overall.

Although the varsity team is losing two of its best wrestlers next year, a few of the younger wrestlers coming back look to have the potential to reach similar heights.

Completing his first year with the Stingers, Jordan Steen won every match in the opening rounds of the CIS championship—and inflicted a 4-2 and 7-0 bruising on his opponent in the finals.

Asked if he would be ready to fill Tremblay's shoes, Steen, who was named Rookie of the Tournament, replied humbly.

"Fill them? I don't know about that. I'll try. But Dave's great—you can't replace that guy."

"I'll definitely try," he added. "Somebody's going to have to."

### A Family Matter

If anyone is feeling the weight of expectations to live up to David Tremblay's success, however, it's probably his younger brother Noël.

Back in form after having surgery on his wrist in June and missing most of the season, Noël won his first match back at the CIS tournament, finishing sixth overall.

At the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association's junior national tournament before his injury, Noël just missed out on a place on the podium.

This season, he hopes to win the competition—taking place in Fredericton, NB from March 20 to March 24—which would mean a trip to the world championships.

After attending the Olympics last summer as David's training partner, Noël aspires to return as a competitor.

"It's tough, though," he said. "I realized how hard it is. I still have a lot of work."

Although he shows no sign of struggling under such high expectations, Noël says he feels a lot of hopes are pinned on him.

"My parents don't say there's pressure, but I kind of feel pressure," he said. "Even if not from my parents, but from the rest of the wrestling community. When you see a wrestling family, you say the family's good. And if one person doesn't do too good, he kind of sticks out, you know?"

Indeed, Noël and David's father, David Tremblay, Sr., was a nationally ranked wrestler in his day and has been coaching wrestling at L'Essor High School in Tecumseh, ON for 27 years.

Still, Tremblay says it's still too soon to tell who will take his place as the leader of the wrestling team after he graduates.

"It's hard to say who will be the next leader," he said. "Everybody's a leader because they all want success. I can't really say who will be a leader—I'd like to say my little brother."

### Coaching It Along

In addition to praising David Tremblay's performances on the mat, many of his teammates spoke highly of the guidance he provides them in training.

Linda Morais, the only wrestler from Concordia in the women's CIS championship this year and winner of the gold medal in her weight class, said she owed much of her success to her practices with Tremblay.

"All year I've been training with Dave and he's been coaching me completely differently than what I was used to last year," she said. "My practices are a lot more intense. That's all thanks to Dave, because he took me under his wing."

Morais has very high expectations to live up to herself, wrestling in the shadow of national champion Veronica Keefe, as well as Olympian Martine Dugrenier.

Tremblay's graduation won't change too much in the eyes of the varsity team's coaches, whose task has always been to get the most out of each wrestler.

Head coach of the team since he restarted Concordia's wrestling program in 1977, three-time CIS Coach of the Year, four-time member of the Canadian Olympic coaching staff and 2008 Canadian Amateur Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee Victor Zilberman has seen his fair share of talented athletes come and go—including a number of Olympians.

Alongside Moore, the pair has close to 100 years of coaching experience between them.

"[Moore] started helping me coach [in 1987] and we became best friends. We're the longest sur-

living coaching partnership in Canada," Zilberman said.

Asked how he would describe his relationship with Moore, Zilberman said, with a hint of a smile, "Annoying."

"Oh, he's a pain in the neck," Moore joked. "No, we have a good relationship."

For decades now, Zilberman and Moore have raised top-level wrestlers at the Snowdon YM-YWHA athletics club on Westbury Ave. The varsity wrestling team's practice sessions are open to a variety of athletes of different skill levels whose ages range from 12 to 45.

"Here we have people from world-class to beginners," Zilberman said. "That's very rare in the world, even." In addition to Tremblay and Dugrenier, the list of professional athletes who train at the centre includes ultimate fighter Georges St-Pierre, and Team Canada wrestler Cleopas Ncube.

For all they know, Zilberman and Moore could be training the next David Tremblay right now. Even coaches as experienced as they are, however, may find that replacing a wrestler of Tremblay's calibre will be a tough task.

As for Tremblay, he says there's no doubt that Zilberman has been one of the most important influences on his life.

"I say it over and over again: He's the only reason I came to university. He changed my life, and it's pretty crazy to think that somebody can have such an influence on someone else's life. Hopefully, I'll be able to do the same one day."

"We'll have to find another David Tremblay—and that's not easy." Rob Moore, Concordia Wrestling Team Assistant Coach



## DIVESTMENT A STEP TO ENDING CLIMATE CHANGE

Universities Should Withdraw Funds From Fossil Fuel Companies



Graphic Paku Daoust-Cloutier

by Hannah McCormick

During Concordia University's reading week, I made my way from frozen Montreal to the thawing state of Pennsylvania.

Four of my friends and I had been invited to attend a conference from Feb. 22 to Feb. 24 at Swarthmore College on the topic of divestment. In a university context, "divestment" specifically means the de-investing of the school's endowment funds from any shares in the 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies in North America.

The concept of "divestment" had been turning in the minds of many students since mid-October, when many activists attended the 2012 Power Shift Canada, an environmental youth conference held in Ottawa.

The conference included many indigenous speakers from front-line communities, as well as famous environmentalists such as Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein. The conference, which took place from Oct. 26 to Oct. 29, educated participants on the power dynamics inherent in the systems of modern North American life.

Participants learned how these dynamics affect efforts to further environmental justice. The conference culminated in a Halloween-themed protest urging the federal government to end its subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.

When contemplating power dynamics, the question of money quickly arises: where is the money and what is it doing? The answer partially has to do with a government that is heavily subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, but there are many other factors at play as well.

The focus of the conference in Pennsylvania was on the role of the university. The money subsidizing the fossil fuel industry is also coming from our schools' endowment funds.

There is precedent for the success of divestment campaigns. By 1988, 155 universities—including Columbia University, Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley—had removed their investments from businesses implicated in South African apartheid, and their message was heard.

UC Berkeley, in particular, with-

drew in excess of \$3 billion from businesses operating in South Africa; former South African president Nelson Mandela reportedly later credited the university's decision with having an impact on the eventual end of apartheid.

And if divestment campaigns have been successful before, there is a good chance they could be successful again.

Hampshire College in Massachusetts and Unity College in Maine have already agreed to divest from fossil fuel companies. McGill University also said on Feb. 28 that it would review a petition by students demanding that the university divest from the Alberta tar sands.

Some participants in the conference were challenging billion-dollar investments. Other students, including the Concordia students, were instead trying to tackle a few million. The conclusion was that the amount in question did not matter—the goal of divestment is not first and foremost to bankrupt the industry.

From personal research, the conference and extensive discussion on the topic, I have learned about the

significance of the support of academic institutions to industry.

The act of withdrawing universities' investments in an industry sends the message that the universities no longer believe that the industry is one that will continue. It is sending a message that the industry is dying.

Universities like Concordia are respected for the expertise of their faculty members, as well as for the potential in their student bodies. This combination of the existing knowledge of specialists and the flourishing young leaders gives tremendous importance to the decisions of academic institutions.

If the message is clear and united across the academic world, both the fossil fuel industry and the community at large will be affected.

It will become clear that the atrocities of the fossil fuel industry against the health and wellbeing of front-line communities, and against the environment in the impending climate crisis, are being taken seriously.

While returning to Montreal, I felt keenly aware of the power of the young and growing Divest

Concordia group and of all the divestment campaigns across North America. We have strategy, tactics, goals and a timeline all thoroughly discussed and noted in detail.

I feel prepared to open dialogue with senior administration and Concordia's Board of Governors on this topic. Most importantly, I have learned about the necessity for including those groups who are least heard and most affected by industry in the dialogue.

Having heard from Crystal Lameman—proud mother from the Beaver Lake Cree Nation—about how members of her community are sick and dying due to the environmental degradation caused by Northern Alberta tar sands developments, in an area the federal government claims to be uninhabited, it is hard not to react.

Those organizing and supporting divestment campaigns in our universities will be working tirelessly to make sure of it.

Hannah McCormick is the Zero Waste Campaign coordinator in Sustainable Concordia's R4 working group.



# GOODBYE, STUDENT PRODUCTIONS!

## Budget Cuts Put Disproportionate Pressure on Theatre Department



Theatre students watch as Jess Fildes and Hannah Morrow demonstrate an exercise during a clowning class. The theatre department is expected to be strongly affected by budget cuts. Photo Erin Sparks

By Ned Zimmerman  
@greatislander

Though not unexpected, the scope of the impending cuts to Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts came as a shock to me and many of my fellow students in the Department of Theatre.

We first learned of the cuts from a departmental meeting in early February. The facts are these: between 15 and 20 per cent of the Fine Arts faculty's \$3.9 million non-salary and non-permanent budget will have been cut when Concordia's 2013-14 fiscal year begins on May 1.

Access to theatre facilities will likely be reduced as a result of cuts to the staff who keep them open. There will be fewer opportunities for visiting artists to work with our students and less commissioned, original work on our stages.

Summer theatre courses have been suspended for re-evaluation and could be eliminated outright, and as many as 25 course sections will likely be cancelled throughout

the Faculty of Fine Arts.

For those of us in the performing arts, the impact of these cuts will be an exercise in a different sort of creativity. For example, studio classes in theatre rarely contain more than eighteen students, and there is no way to boost their enrolment without undermining the pedagogical goals of a studio environment.

Much of the department's core curriculum is delivered in this format; it seems to be well understood by faculty and administration alike that the integrity of these classes must be preserved by capping their enrolment at current levels, so the department is left trying to find savings elsewhere.

As a result, we will likely see fewer main stage and student-initiated productions, which will curtail opportunities for actors, designers, playwrights, directors, dramaturges and stage managers to hone their craft over the length of their degree.

We will most certainly see fewer visiting artists, which will narrow our exposure to a true diversity of theatrical practices in both the direction and creation of new works for Concordia's stages.

A particularly worrying development for many theatre students is the temporary suspension and possible cancellation of all summer theatre courses.

According to the Dean of Fine Arts, Catherine Wild, the administration's primary criteria for evaluating which courses are expendable and which are not lie in reviewing their levels of enrolment and determining whether the courses in question are electives or part of a program's core curriculum.

This crude logic offers a woefully inadequate measure of a course's inherent worth.

Two longstanding summer offerings, TDEV 498B (Designing an Acting Workshop) and TDEV 498C (Conducting an Acting Workshop) are likely targets for elimination based

on their status as elective classes with relatively low enrolment.

They are, however, widely praised by past students as having been both an indispensable part of their artistic development and instrumental in making the transition from undergraduate study to work in the field.

There is a case to be made for preserving both courses solely based on their demonstrable role in improving the employability of graduates, but I hesitate to frame the conversation in this way.

The increasing trend towards viewing post-secondary education as vocational training rather than as an opportunity to broaden one's horizons and critically engage with the world mirrors an increasing tendency to value the arts based on their economic impact rather than as invaluable expressions of the society we live in.

Likewise, rather than asking whether a course breaks even, we should be asking whether it changes the lives of those who pass through it.

Within the theatre department, we can be grateful for an engaged and active community of students.

In response to a strong theatre presence at the Feb. 15 Faculty of Fine Arts Council meeting and a petition calling for direct dialogue on course cancellations circulated by the Concordia Association of Students in Theatre, Dean Wild has agreed to meet with CAST's executives on Wednesday to address the concerns we have raised.

As a theatre student who cares deeply for the future of our department, I hope that we can find some common ground and work together to make sure that the impact of the cuts is reduced.

Ned Zimmerman is a second-year BFA student in Theatre and Development and treasurer of the Concordia Association of Students in Theatre. This article represents his own views, and not necessarily those of the Concordia Association of Students in Theatre.



# A PROBLEM WITH AUSTERITY

## Tuition Is Just the Beginning When It Comes to Belt-Tightening

by Adam Aberra

The voices in favour of austerity—higher tuition fees, reduced government spending, wage freezes and layoffs in the public sector—have failed to articulate where they see this finally ending.

The implication seems to be that after a few years of “belt-tightening,” things will somehow get better. Economic growth will pick up, budgets will be balanced and everyone will be happy.

Whether it’s higher tuition fees for students in Quebec, frozen wages for teachers in Ontario or draconian reforms to Employment Insurance for seasonal workers across Canada, the message from the mainstream punditry is clear: suck it up, pay your “fair share” and things will eventually get better.

But what if things don’t improve? In a world where national economies are more intertwined than ever, crises abroad can easily reverberate back here.

If we enter another recession—and the slew of gloomy economic data coming out suggests this a possibility—current federal and provincial targets for balanced budgets will get thrown out the window.

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

promises a return to budgetary surpluses by 2015-16, while his provincial counterpart, Nicolas Marceau, forecasts Quebec will emerge out of deficits as early as 2013-14.

As the recent surprise budgetary shortfall in Alberta—Canada’s richest province—shows, forecasts are only best guesses. And as we’ve seen, they often prove to be too rosy and optimistic.

Odds are, federal and provincial budgets will not be balanced by the dates promised by their respective finance ministers. If so, will the public be called upon to make even more sacrifices? Conceivably, yes.

Slashing deficits through reduced social spending and higher taxes and fees (tuition, for instance) would, on the face of it, seem a reasonable approach for any government looking to balance its books. Alas, as we have painfully witnessed in the still-unresolved European saga, this has proved much harder to implement in practice.

A vicious cycle soon ensues. The effects of government cutbacks (public sector layoffs and wage freezes, reduced social assistance) hinder any economic recovery, preventing anticipated increases in tax revenue, thus leaving budgets still in the red.

It is a conundrum faced by most governments in advanced capitalist nations.

Confronted with aging populations, tepid economic growth, and a less even distribution of wealth, the challenge of how to fund and maintain the welfare state has come to the fore.

While students are easy targets when it comes to passing on the costs of austerity, how governments address other looming challenges might prove even more problematic.

Take the ticking demographic time bomb, for instance. As baby boomers age and retire, a significant chunk of the population will move from being taxpaying workers to recipients of social insurance.

The numbers paint a bleak picture. Thirty years ago, there were six workers for every retiree in Canada. Today there are fewer than four, and two decades from now that figure is projected to dip below two.

Needless to say, an unprecedented strain will be placed on both public and private pension funds. This can already be seen in the increase in the minimum retirement age and in higher contribution rates.

In other words, we shouldn’t expect anything near the same retirement perks as our parents. A greying population will also place greater demand on an already financially strained healthcare system. It will be us (you know, that spoiled, entitled generation) that

will ultimately be left to foot the bill.

But my point is not to direct anger toward a generation that reaped the benefits of a social safety net won largely through bitter struggles of collective bargaining and organized labour. I am only pointing out the contradictions of a political and economic system that is starting to show some cracks.

The social contract between capital and labour that helped create a strong middle class throughout Western Europe and North America is slowly unravelling.

A more profound transformation is in order, as the current power structures of global capitalism need to be questioned.

Is it acceptable, for instance, that governments of all stripes be held at the mercy of bond-rating agencies and financial markets—who, incidentally, plunged the global economy into this mess five years ago?

Should indefinite economic growth—largely incompatible on a planet with finite resources—be the underlying assumption driving the decisions of policy makers?

There are no easy answers to these questions, but kicking the can down the road promises only a bigger mess to clean up later. These are questions that need to be tackled now.

Adam Aberra is in his fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Commerce in finance.



Photo Erin Sparks



## RADIO FREE CONCORDIA

The Link was live on the airwaves last Thursday. Did you hear us? What’d ya think?

C’mon. Please? Don’t be that way, you can say it.

If you didn’t listen to (and take notes on) all the news Concordia needs to hear, that’s okay—we’re on CJLO 1690 AM again this week, and every week!

Tune in Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., or check out thelinknewspaper.ca for the podcast in case you miss it.

Also, you can email your comments, pitches or general musings to [radio@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:radio@thelinknewspaper.ca).



# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PILL

I'm a 21-year-old female. I've been with my boyfriend for over a year now. I was a virgin before we became sexually active and petrified about getting pregnant. I took birth control pills, used condoms and, if I was ever nervous, I would get the morning-after pill—pretty neurotic, I guess.

However, once we hit 6 months, we tried without the condoms and honestly, it felt amazing—to the point that I only orgasm without the condom! Neither of us has any sexually transmitted infections, but how effective are the pills alone, really? My friends shame me for not using a condom anymore, but I'm very regular with pill dosage.

—Comfortable Condom-less

I'm not here to shame you, just to give you some facts. Safer sex practices are very personal decisions that only you can make for yourself. My goal is to provide you with accurate, non-judgmental information to help you make your own informed decision.

First off, I think it's important to understand pregnancy and how the pill works. Here's a simplified explanation.

Once a month, during ovulation, an egg is released from the ovaries and travels down the fallopian tubes. This takes several days, and this is when you're most fertile because fertilization happens in the tubes.

Meanwhile, ovulation triggers the building of the uterine lining in preparation for an egg to be implanted in the uterus and causes changes in vaginal mucus to make it friendlier to sperm.

If an egg doesn't get fertilized, the lining sheds itself, and you get your period. If the egg is fertilized, it reaches the uterus and implants itself in the lining, resulting in a

missed period and pregnancy.

Hormonal contraceptives, such as the pill, provide a daily dosage of one or both of the hormones estrogen and progestin. These hormones trick your body into thinking it's already released an egg so that you never release an actual one. No egg, no pregnancy.

Progestin also thickens the vaginal mucus and alters the uterine lining, making it hard for sperm to get past the uterus or for an egg to implant itself, if it does get fertilized. Depending on the pill's hormonal content, the process involves one or all of these steps.

While a condom is the only effective protection against both sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, the pill is considered up to 99.9 per cent effective against pregnancy when used properly. Proper use means taking the pill at the exact same time every day to maintain the hormonal dosage and prevent the release of a real egg.



Individual success and failure rates can also depend on how your body reacts to the pill's synthetic hormones. Other medications can also lower the effectiveness of the pill, so it's important to ask your doctor about medications they prescribe to you.

You mentioned that you're STI-free. However, you should know that it's extremely difficult to be certain about that unless you're getting regularly tested. Some STIs can take up to six months to show on tests; some won't result in any symptoms and can be present for years before someone shows a physical symptom.

It sucks, but people also sometimes cheat or lie about their sexual past. I would still recommend getting STI tests and pap smears regularly.

Generally, it can be hard to know the exact level of effectiveness, but taking the pill properly plays a major role. As with any safer sex practice, the decisions you make are personal and relate to how much risk

you are comfortable taking on.

The risk for pregnancy while on the pill is actually considered low. Still, someone has to make up that 0.1 per cent of women who do get pregnant, even though they are consistent with their pill popping. It's important to talk about it with your partner and discuss what you would do if you became pregnant.

I really hope this helped clear up some of your questions, and feel free to write in again if you have more!

—Melissa Fuller, @mel\_full

Submit your questions anonymously at [sex-pancakes.com](http://sex-pancakes.com) and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

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

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



Graphic Flora Hammond

# CLASSIC TOYS

by Liana Di Iorio @MsBerbtoYou

## Across

- ▶ 2. *Duck Hunt*, the original first-person shooter game, was released by this video game giant in 1984.
- ▶ 6. Thanks to a tie-in movie, actor Channing Tatum became the face of this franchise in 2009; now, this soldier-based toy is being advertised by none other than Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. (2 words)
- ▶ 7. These toys not only morph from cars into robots, but they also help Shia LaBeouf save the world. Which is probably more impressive.
- ▶ 8. Setting up the tracks for these high-speed toy cars was nearly impossible, but they made really fancy rides for your Polly Pockets. (2 words)
- ▶ 10. These digital pets would actually die if you didn't feed, clean and train them—which was likely to happen, since you played with them when you were six and should not have been responsible for a living thing yet.

- ▶ 11. Barbie turned 54 years old on March 9, which means 54 years of dating this plastic man.
- ▶ 12. Getting a shiny one of these trading cards automatically made you playground royalty. You just had to catch 'em all!

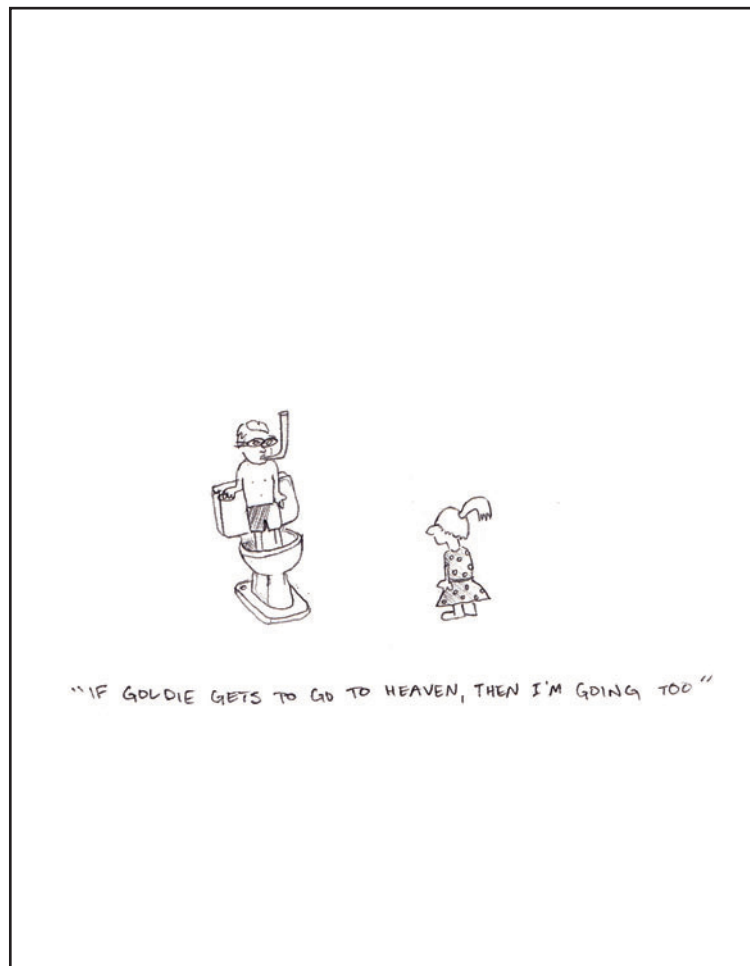
## Down

- ▶ 1. This ultimate vintage toy is really just a spring that's good at going down stairs.
- ▶ 3. "Is it water on the knee?!" This battery-operated game featured a patient with a red nose and several exposed body cavities. Both humorous and eerie!
- ▶ 4. This game was premised on war at sea, and guesswork. It is also a terrible movie starring Rihanna and Taylor Kitsch.
- ▶ 5. A cross between a gremlin and an owl, this furry, talking robo-pet was kind of cute, but mostly kind of creepy.
- ▶ 9. Rivals Playmobil and Mega Bloks just couldn't stack up to this Danish toy's bricks.



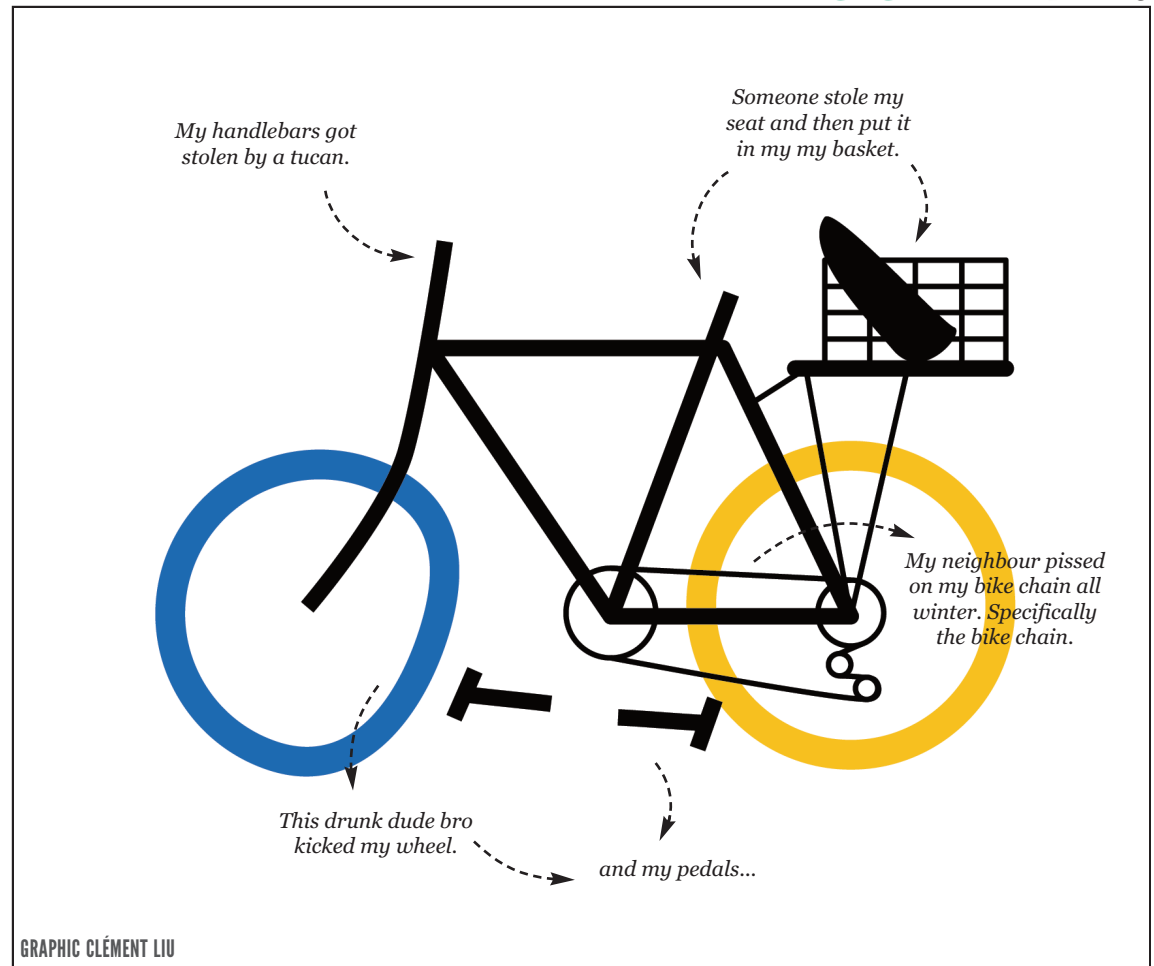
## BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



## LINKOGRAPHY

## BICICLE DIARIES



## FALSE KNEES

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



## NAH'MSAYIN?

### Cyclepathic Killer

It's March already, which means the number of new faces at Concordia's Le Gym is down significantly from the unrealistic high of the first week of January.

Still, if you, like me, make the mistake of wandering into the sweaty, muscley All-Star Game of the human body that is Le Gym in a non-January month, be on your guard.

Although the place looks like a normal gym—replete with the terror of being in a room with naked strangers, and did I mention their sweat—it actually conceals a dangerous, potentially deadly secret. A secret called the spin room.

To the naked eye, the spin room is just a bunch of stationary bicycles surrounded by glass walls, but to a connoisseur, the place is

pretty much just a palace of torture that would make the Spanish Inquisitors blush and the Central Intelligence Agency jealous.

Should you, like I, make the mistake of entering that hall of damnation, this is what will happen:

After you bike casually for 10 minutes, spinners will begin to enter the room and surround you. They will not address you, nor meet your gaze. Theirs is a code of cycles, and of silence.

Their presence will weave a strange, dulling web over your senses, by which I mean you may be too embarrassed to just leave outright. Pro-tip: This is the moment when you should leave.

Eventually, the dark leader of this bicycle-riding troupe will

enter and fill the room with an ominous music, mostly composed of songs like "Titanium" by David Guetta. Then the real dark magic will begin, as she will, smiling, compel you to commit suicide with your own legs.

"Stand up," she will tell you. Then, "One hand behind your back." Then, "Sprints!"

Half an hour later, when you flee, mid-class, on the half-formed, barely connected rubbery stumps where your thighs and calves used to be, remember to drink some water. It's important to stay hydrated when you're working out. Or dying.

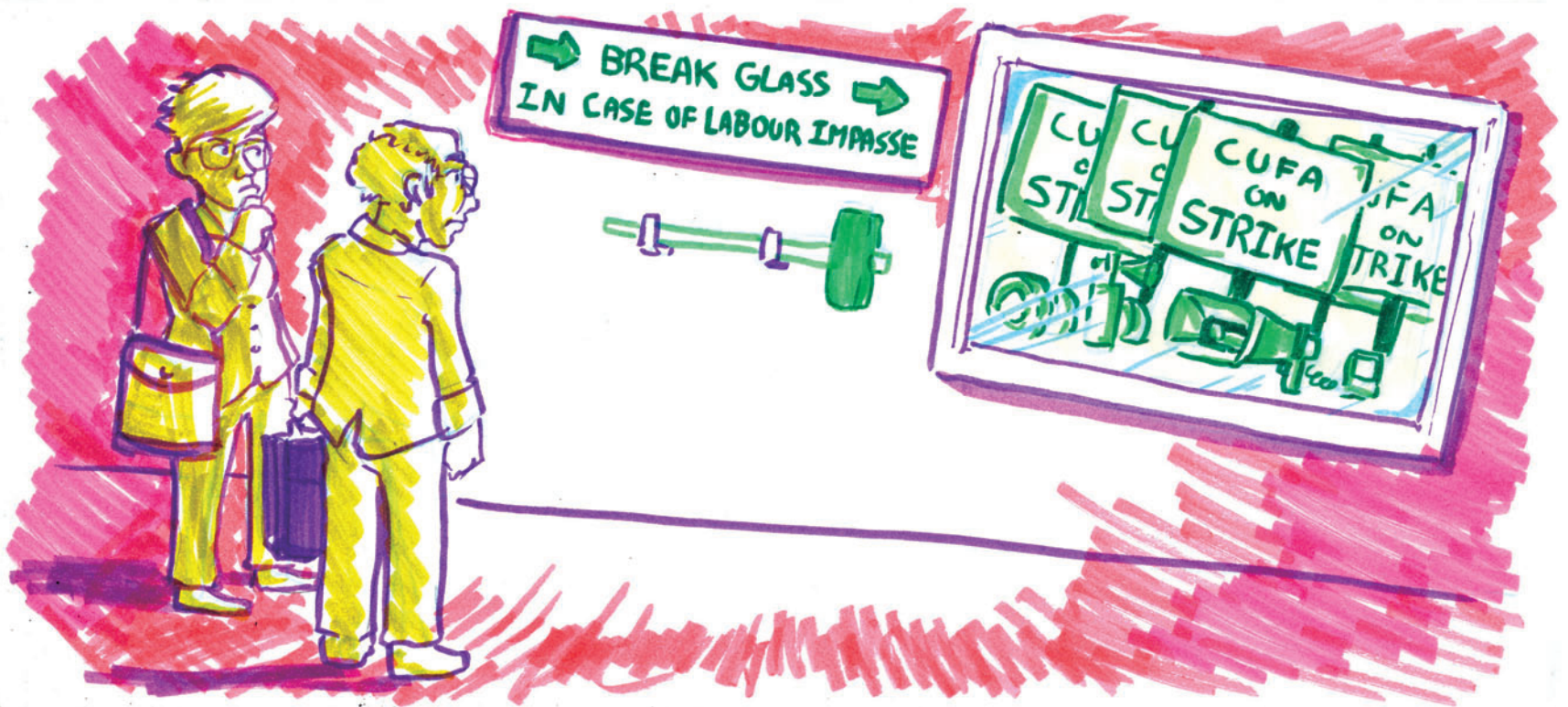
—Alex Manley,  
Copy Editor (Deceased)



Graphic Caity Hall



## Editorial



# STANDING WITH THE FACULTY

We're reaching a breaking point when it comes to labour negotiations at Concordia.

Last week, our full-time professors joined the ranks of our part-time faculty and steelworker unions by voting in favour of a strike mandate—a first for the Concordia University Faculty Association.

With this strike mandate vote passed, Concordia's entire faculty could legally walk out following a 48-hour notice. And while all three unions giving a strike notice at once is unlikely, it leaves Concordia's labour climate more tense than ever.

Despite fresh faces at the top of our administration, several of those at the table have told us that they are seeing little change.

And what's unfortunate is that the sorry state of labour relations at Concordia is nothing new. Concordia unions say they're fed up with the attitude of the negotiators they have to deal with; that meetings never amount to anything but arguments.

The Quebec union umbrella group Confédération des syndicats nationaux has told our library employees union that no one's

worse than Concordia when it comes to drawn-out negotiations. Our library workers are facing delays even with their collective agreement, which has been expired for over three years.

With Concordia's trade workers and both full-time and part-time faculty mandated to consider their most extreme option, it's time to look at what exactly causes such a climate on the administration's part, and why exactly it's common knowledge that painfully unfruitful labour negotiations are just business as usual at Concordia.

This becomes especially true when this year we have so many new administrators governing the university. If things are ever to improve, now is the time.

While upper admin get perks like luxury cars on top of their salaries, steelworkers aren't even offered increases comparable to the rising cost of living.

When justifying the salary increases to upper administration, the oft-repeated argument from the university has been that they're necessary to get the best candidates for the job.

It's a point, however, that largely seems to be skirted by the university when looking at anyone a few rungs down on the labour ladder. While Concordia can't comment on negotiations currently underway as a matter of policy, the contradiction in when and where the university sees the need for competitive salaries can't be ignored.

CUFA argues that they're making 13 per cent less than what other profs make at comprehensive universities. We find it hard to believe that competitive salaries are only important for upper administrators.

And, of course, this is coming from a university with a reputation for handing out hefty parting gifts to administrators on their way out—actions that resulted in \$2 million in fines from the provincial government for mismanagement of public funds.

When professors lose out, we lose out. Where is it more important to get quality employees than those responsible for designing courses and engaging students? After all, that's what we're here for.

The fact that our degrees are potentially in jeopardy shows just how bad things are getting.

Nobody wants a strike, but at this point our professors are being backed into a corner, told that money's tight. It's a hard pill to swallow when such number crunching only seems to come into play when we're talking about our worker's unions.

Concordia President Alan Shepard has said many times that his priority is improving Concordia's reputation. And with Shepard as the face of our university and with a very different Board of Governors this year, there is real hope that this is the end of our governance crisis.

However, the chance of our faculty striking derails all this—and as students, the stress mounts ever higher when we're not sure if we'll be able to get the credits we need to graduate.

If this emerging crisis isn't resolved, it's what we'll be known for—even outside of labour union circles. Forget the golden parachutes. We'll be remembered as the school that came to a grinding halt.

Graphic Paku Daoust-Cloutier

### CORRECTION:

In "Unprecedented Gap in CSU Presidency," [Vol. 31, Iss. 23], Concordia Student Union VP Academic & Advocacy Hajar El Jahidi was misquoted as saying, "If council doesn't do this, we are breaching bylaws." The quote should have read: "If council decides not to follow these procedures, we are breaching bylaws." The Link regrets the error.

## THE LINK

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