



# LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980



*Montreal's police  
and protest culture,  
and the 17th annual  
anti-brutality demo*  
[P12-13.](#)

# A HISTORY OF BRUTALITY

**EDITORIAL: POLICE STOMP OUT RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE. P27**

# #CSU2013

Elections kick off with a union in limbo. P4, 5, 8 & 9





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# GET YOUR STUDENT POLITICS FIX

Concordia student politics are currently in a state of flux.

This is the time of year when *The Link* stops reporting on one Concordia Student Union, and begins covering two—both outgoing and incoming.

As for the current CSU team that you've grown to (or, not to) know

and love all year—they've just elected a new president, after the previous one resigned due to health-related reasons in February. Turn to **Page 5** to meet your new CSU leader.

And while this year's union continues to trudge on towards the end of their mandate, the halls are newly lined with two-dimensional

smiling faces who—almost certainly—will become your student union leaders next year. Allow us to introduce you; turn to **Page 9**.

But if you're wondering about the comparatively measly number of posters and candidates running this year compared to years past, turn to **Page 4** to understand why.

THE LINK IS ON THE AIRWAVES EVERY THURSDAY AT 11 A.M. ON CJLO 1690AM.

*This week we'll be discussing the Concordia Student Union elections, what the upcoming greenhouse vote is about, how the Liberals are trying to work their way into Concordia and we'll update you on protests in the city.*

## FASA FIGHTING FUNDING CUTS

*Fine arts students say university budget cuts are affecting them disproportionately, but the university says otherwise. **P7***

## NEW LIBERAL LEADER WANTS STUDENTS

*New Quebec Liberal leader Philippe Couillard wants to bring out the student vote through social media—and indexed tuition. **P15***

## IN SHINING LIGHTS

*Concordia professor's grim plays get pick-up from ambitious local theatre company. **P17***

## JESUS CHRIST SUPER BAND

*This epic rock opera hits MTL this week. **P19***

## STINGERS DON'T SLEEP

*Three Concordia football players prepare for a chance at their dream. **P21***

## BUDGET CUTS ARE COMING

*A time for students to take action and have their voices heard. **P23***

## CSU ELECTORAL REFORMS

*The new system is beneficial to student democracy and governance. **P24***



## THE LINK ONLINE

### FEMINIST GAMERS

*Pixelles have a new incubator for women gamers. First time gamers unite! Check our arts page Friday for more.*

### ROCK FOREST

*Local band Rock Forest are the openers this Thursday at Divan Orange. Find out more about their intense and distorted sound this week.*

### SPIRALE

*Incorporating styles like hip hop and clown, Concordia's first-year dance students perform this week in the JMSB building.*

### ONE-SIDED DEBATE OR A QUESTION PERIOD?

*CSU candidates debate this Today and Tomorrow—but with all but one position uncontested, will potential executives be answering questions instead or just debating with themselves?*

### MORE NIGHT PROTESTS

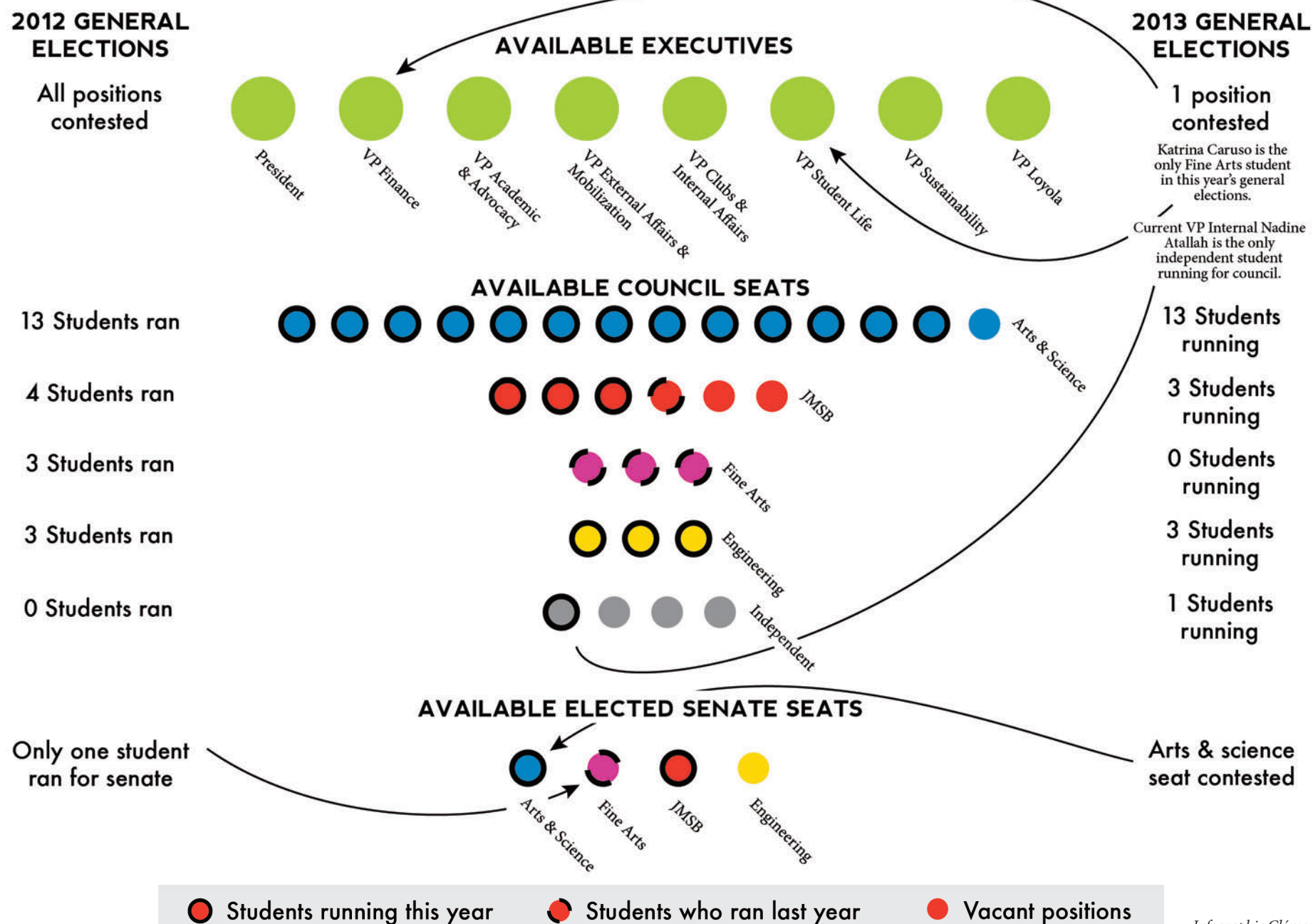
*Student protesters are thawing off from the winter and tensions are rising. Largescale night protests are scheduled for Tuesday and Friday.*

### REPAIRING THE CULTURAL DAMAGE

*An "Aboriginal debate" between Concordia's political party affiliates is coming up Thursday to try and hash out some answers. Read more online later this week.*



## THE GREAT SLATE DEBATE



Infographic Clément Liu

by Corey Pool @coreyriver & Colin Harris @ColinnHarris

While election season may be in full swing, the Concordia Student Union executive candidates have little to compete for, as VP Finance is the only one of the union's paid representative jobs that's contested.

Independent VP Finance candidate Pierre Tardivo-Martin is running against CSU's Scott Carr.

With VP Student Life hopeful Anja Rajaonarivelo forfeiting his candidature on Monday, the rest of the slate need only ensure quorum is met to secure their positions—representing over 35,000 Concordia undergrads.

Last year's ballot set a precedent—in which executives were voted for individually and councillors could not be affiliated with a slate, the political teams candidates would campaign under.

"Politics at the CSU has historically been a blood sport," said former CSU President Lex Gill, under whom the CSU electoral reform was passed. "To create a system where, even though you're campaigning against each other, you may have to work together—[that] creates an environment with less antagonism, less dirty politics."

With the 2012 election falling amid the student strikes, last year's voter turnout was only about a quarter of what it had been the previous year.

With no political crisis on our hands this year, however, some are wondering if the lack of participation in the ongoing campaign comes courtesy of the two-year old electoral reform. Still, this year's CSU executive doesn't necessarily see that as a bad thing.

"It's really about moving away from a system where you make your friends run for what you want them to do and then the students at large stay in the dark—and going towards a system where people feel they can actively participate in the CSU," said current CSU VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon of the reforms.

"That's going to be difficult, and that's going to take some time."

### Reasons for Reform

The reforms were designed by previous CSU committees alongside Concordia professor and lawyer Patrice Blais, under former CSU president Heather Lucas.

After being finalized the following year, the bylaw changes were passed in a referendum ballot during the November 2011 byelections under then-CSU president Gill.

A revamping of the CSU's electoral system meant that those seeking executive positions must run "individually" and councillors must run "individually and independently."

When the question was put to a vote, an unofficial "No" campaign was started, arguing that removing the slate system would cause confusion for students come election season.

However, Gill argues having students not under the figurative whip sitting at CSU meetings establishes a much-needed accountability mechanism for the executive.

With the slate system, council could be theoretically filled with placeholders that could win under their party's banner.

In some years, says Gill, councillors "would end up on council with the expectation they would vote for whatever the executive wanted."

Still, questions have been raised about how these bylaw changes could be affecting this year's election and the lack of candidates and contested positions.

However, many on the CSU agree with Gill.

"I think it's too early to blame the new system on the lack of participation," said Chad Walcott, current CSU councillor and former VP External under Gill. "I think we

need to probably take a closer look at what the CSU has done to draw students out and make them interested in running in the first place.

"This system may have dropped in participation, but I think it has more to do with the two rough years that we've had," he added.

### "Fed Up With the CSU"

Student politicians seem to unanimously agree that the combination of last year's polarizing student strike and this year's CSU's troubled track record have played a larger role in the lack of participation than anything else.

"Last year definitely didn't leave students with the best taste in their mouths at Concordia—it was kind of outside our comfort zone," said Walcott.

"And then you team it up with this year, where everything has gone to crap and students are a bit fed up with the CSU—I wouldn't be surprised if that has more to do with it than the system itself."

This year's student union has been plagued by resignations, as well as infighting between and amongst councillors and the executive.

"This year has been a lot of drama on council, and there has been a lot of internal politics that

has made it look really messy," said recently elected CSU President Andrew Roberts. "I think the numbers have lowered just because of the amount of drama that's been kicking up this year."

The CSU's chief electoral officer, Andre-Marcel Baril, pointed out that the CSU isn't the only union seeing a lack of participation in student elections—the Arts and Science Federation of Associations executive only saw one contested position, and the Commerce and Administration Students' Association only three.

The Fine Arts Student Alliance executive also only has one contested position in their upcoming elections.

"Student involvement and battling apathy in any audience is always going to be difficult," said Roberts. "I guess it's popping its head up a bit stronger this year, and it's going to be a hard struggle for the executives coming into any association next year to have to fight against."

Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., candidates will meet for the first round of debates at The Hive in the CC Building on the Loyola campus. The second round kicks off Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. on the seventh floor of the Hall Building in CSU lounge.



# AFTER TWO MONTHS, A PRESIDENT

Former VP Sustainability Elected as New CSU President



Andrew Roberts, was elected as the new CSU President after the March 13 council meeting. Photo Erin Sparks

by Katie McGroarty  
@KatieCMcG

This year, the Concordia Student Union set a record.

Unprecedented in the university's history, the union operated for over two months without a president.

Now, after an election at the March 13 council meeting, a new leader has been appointed. Former VP Sustainability, Andrew Roberts, will be leading the union as president until the end of their mandate.

Roberts will also maintain his Sustainability portfolio.

"I think the way that the conversation was going, it was a good thing that Andrew put his candidacy forward," said Nadine Atallah, current VP Clubs and Internal, whom the executive originally had unanimously endorsed following former president Shubert Laforest's resignation.

While the new campaign for next year's CSU is going relatively smoothly—with posters and candidates around the university spreading word on the upcoming election—the same couldn't be said for the nomination and election of the replacement president.

Replacing Laforest proved to

be anything but a simple task.

When the executives originally advocated for Nadine Atallah to take over the position, council unanimously voted down the decision.

In the beginning, Roberts expressed no interest in the job, stating that he "wasn't a politics kind of guy."

For the first half of the presidential discussion at last week's council meeting, Roberts' name was nowhere to be seen. There were to be three executives running—VP Academic and Advocacy Hajar El Jahidi, VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon and Atallah.

El Jahidi was absent from the meeting due to illness.

Then, after the majority of the 30 minutes allotted for discussion of presidential prospects was almost completed, the three candidates running turned into four.

Roberts put his name in for the position following a heated discussion over the particular attributes of each candidate.

"I've been speaking with a couple of councillors, and they're glad to see me in there and I'm just trying to alleviate some of the tension that often pops up," said Roberts in an interview with *The Link*, referring to the often-tense environment surround-

ing recent presidential discussions.

"If you ever step into a meeting towards the end of the night you can tell that there are tempers flying a bit—between the executives, between council.

"It's natural that relationships can get tense sometimes, but I'm just trying to smooth things over so that the next two months can go well and that the transition will go well," he added.

Councillor and current presidential candidate, Melissa Wheeler, expressed her concerns over Robert's original unwillingness to apply for the position, saying that the fact that he didn't really want the position did not sit well with her.

Roberts rebutted, saying he wasn't forced into making the decision.

"I'm feeling like I'm responding to the vibe in the room, which is more geared towards a healthy atmosphere," he said. "If that's what council wants, I'll throw my name in the hat."

What came as a surprise to many in the room was met with varying degrees of support from council. Many echoed Wheeler's concerns, and said they were hesitant to vote in favour of a presi-

dent whom they felt was being pressured into the job. While others commended his confidence and attested to the fact that he was, most likely, the best option.

Shortly after, council voted Roberts to take over the presidential mandate until June 1, when a newly elected union's term would begin.

"The first two days I was kind of wrapping my head around it," said Roberts. "This week I'll hit the ground running."

His original reluctance to run for president was influenced by the fact that three other members of the executive were also running.

"I'm confident that they could have done it—so I felt that it wouldn't really be necessary to [run.] They're incredibly qualified, so I didn't see it as imperative that my name go in, although I was prepared to do it," he said. "Then I saw that things were changing. I was bringing the cool head and a calming voice that was needed."

After council voted in favour of his presidency, it seemed as though many steps could have been saved if Roberts had volunteered to replace Laforest immediately after his resignation, instead of over a month later.

"It's easy to say that it would have gone a lot more quickly if he had put his name in [beforehand] but he hadn't originally wanted to do it," said Atallah. "The 'could have, would have, should have' scenario doesn't really stand here because, like I said, he was in a very different place a month ago than he was on Wednesday, and the team was in a very different place."

There are only two months left in his mandate, but Roberts says he is looking at the situation from an administrative perspective. He wants specific projects to be completed by the time he leaves office, such as the hiring of a general manager and getting the CSU's IT problem fixed.

"For right now, the projects I'm working on have very dedicated volunteers and I kind of communicated with them that my time will be split," Roberts says of how he will balance presidential responsibilities with his ongoing VP sustainability projects.

"There is nothing that's going to be pushed to the side," he added. "I'm very adamant that those things won't be thwarted, and I've communicated with people on the projects I'm working on as to how we can make that hap-



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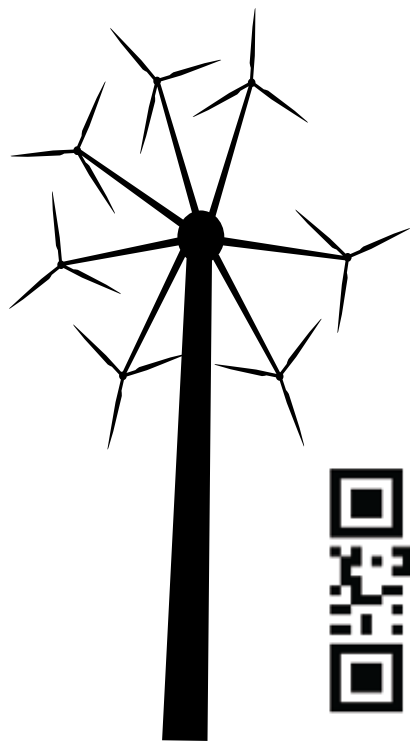


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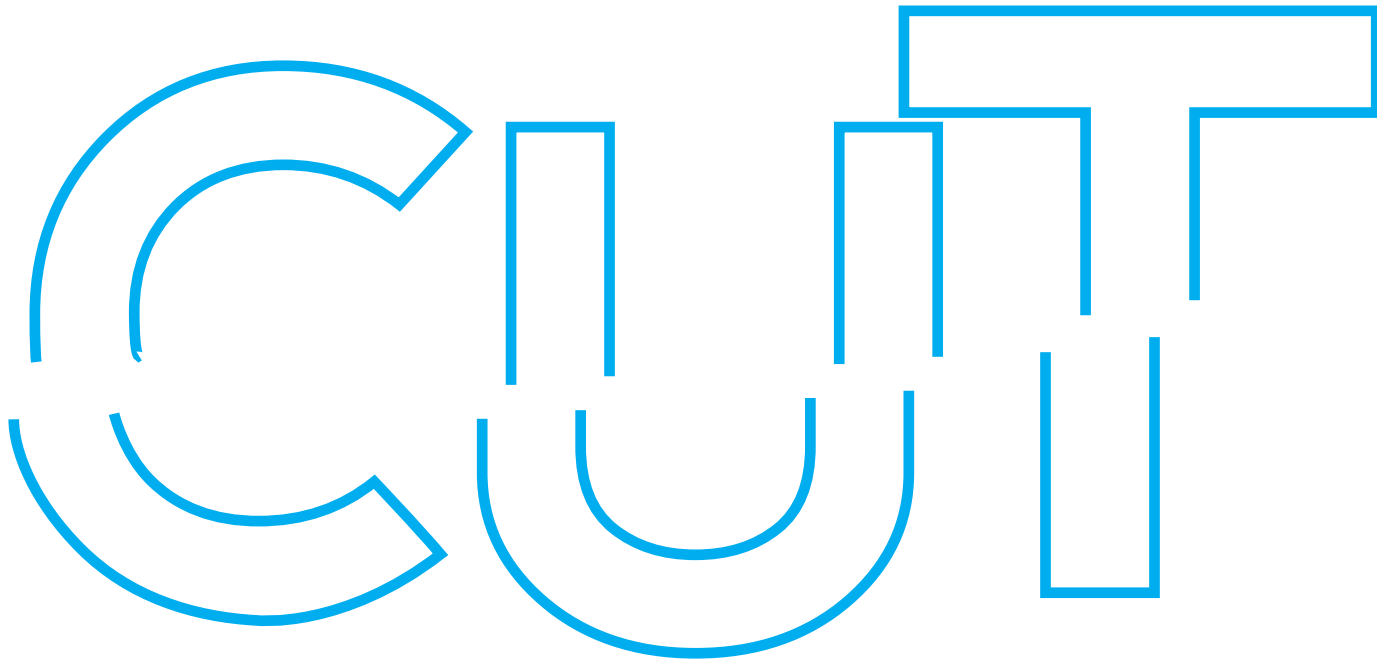
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# FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO



## Administration Seeks Least-Worst Solutions as Funding Woes Plague Concordia

by Megan Dolski @MeganDolski

It doesn't matter who you ask. Pretty much everyone agrees Concordia's current financial situation is far from ideal.

In December, the Quebec provincial government announced it would be cutting \$124 million from the operating budgets of universities across the province.

For Concordia, that amount translated into \$13.2 million in reductions this fiscal year, which the university was given no choice but to incur before an April 2013 deadline.

What the school's Board of Governors had initially calculated to be a \$600,000 surplus was unexpectedly transformed into what stands to be up to a \$7.5 million deficit—one of the worst in the school's history.

Since the announcement, Concordia has had to revise its budget for the fifth time this year.

Shuffling funds and reallocating resources to lessen the impact on the Concordia community has proven a trying affair for the school's administrators, faculty and students, but, while it might be difficult, they will all tell you—they're doing what they can.

### Protecting the Academic Sector

From the get-go, Concordia President Alan Shepard has assured students that the university would do its best to shelter the academic sector—as much as possible—from feeling the blow of the cuts.

"My instructions were to try and minimize the effect on the academic sector—and by minimize I don't mean take it to zero," he explained. "That wouldn't be fair to the other sectors that provide services to our community that are also needed."

Shepard says that regardless of the school's best efforts, negative repercussions are, to some degree, inevitable.

"It's a lot of money," he said of the cuts. "Every area of the university will feel something—you can't go through what we've gone through in the last year and a half and not have an impact."

In practice, this effort has manifested itself by way of the academic sector having to soak up only 2.4 per cent of total cuts faced

by the university, whereas cuts to administrative sectors will be much higher.

Interim Provost Lisa Ostiguy explained that, in terms of the academic sector, no one faculty was particularly targeted by way of disproportionate cuts in comparison to the others.

"Before the budget reductions, faculties had different budgets allocated to them, so the reductions were based on their current budgets," she explained.

Ostiguy said that she has been in constant communication with the deans of each faculty, working collaboratively to determine how each should allocate cuts.

"Deans, at Academic Cabinet, talked about all of the different ways that we collectively could make some choices around budget reductions, given that each faculty has specific and unique characteristics," Ostiguy explained.

"Instead of directing faculties to cut in particular ways, we listed a variety of options that faculty could use to make their reductions."

### Academic Plan B

The implementation and progress of the school's academic plan, which spans across all of the school's faculties, has also felt the sting of the newfound funding reductions.

Ostiguy assures, however, that it has by no means reached a standstill.

"I wouldn't say that we have stopped moving forward," she said. "But I would say that it has caused us to pause and really reflect on the priorities and really reflect on the commitments we can make to move us forward."

Those priorities, she identifies as contributing to "dynamic and innovative" undergraduate programs, libraries, and graduate recruitment.

But that's not to say that nothing's had to give.

"We are a little slower in handing out funding for initiatives," said Ostiguy.

She says the university hasn't been able to tangibly identify initiatives that will have to be postponed, since the news from the government is still constantly changing.

### FASA Speaks Out

On March 9, the Fine Arts Student Alliance

issued a press release in which they formally opposed any cuts to the faculty's operating budget, fee indexation or any sort of austerity measures.

Furthermore, FASA is currently circulating a petition asking students to sign in solidarity with its opposition to the cuts.

The petition and press release both state that the Fine Arts faculty will see 15 to 20 per cent of its operating budget slashed.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota, has clarified that the faculty will only see 15 to 20 per cent of its non-salary and permanent salary budget cut—an amount closer to 2.4 per cent of the faculty's operating budget.

In an explanation for the discrepancy, FASA's VP Internal and Communications Jessica Gilbert said in an email to *The Link*, it was because "the majority of salary budgets are interlocked in collective agreements with full-time and part-time faculty associations."

"These salaries make up the bulk of the budget and cannot be touched," she added.

Ostiguy explained that the portion of the budget that stands to be cut would include items such as printing and office expenses.

"For Fine Arts it would be the cost for any studio, non-technician oriented kinds of costs that would be involved, supplies—those sort of things."

Gilbert noted that, "Fine Arts is an expensive department to keep running as most of the operational budgets require depots, workshops, materials, people to run all of these things."

Ostiguy explicitly noted that no one faculty was being discriminated against.

To date, FASA is the only faculty association that has taken such vocal or formal measures in regards to the cuts.

"I think that [Fine Arts Dean] Catherine [Wild] is not making any choices that are different than in other faculties," said Ostiguy, in response to FASA's reaction. "I think the FASA group is an active group in terms of their involvement and connection to their program, and I think that's a strength."

According to an email response, Gilbert says the issue is not so much a question of fairness, but rather of "how and why these cuts are happening." She said any sort of cuts

to the university's funding are unacceptable.

Furthermore, she added that "the arts are not a sound monetary investment and—not unlike the humanities—these departments are getting smaller and smaller, which is why I think arts students fight so hard."

FASA is holding an informational general meeting on March 20 from 4:00 pm to 5:45 pm in the VA Building's lounge to address the issue.

### Funding Frustrations

For all involved, the cuts have been frustrating. For Ostiguy, the most difficult part has been the inconsistency of information coming from the government.

"It's constantly shifting and it's hard to make plans and work on comparing what needs to happen in different faculties," she said.

Shepard reiterated Ostiguy's sentiments, noting that the administration is trying to work with ever-shifting instructions, cuts and concessions from the government.

"We were counting on additional revenue that didn't come, then we had a mid-year budget cut—we are facing extreme uncertainty in the next year, year and a half," he said.

Shepard says the university has been promised reinvestment by the 2014-15 year—a promise he hopes is followed through with.

"It's very welcome and very necessary," he said. "But the fact remains that in Canada we are still underfunded relative to other jurisdictions and we are trying to compete against those jurisdictions in terms of faculty, for students, bursaries and all directions."

Ostiguy added, however, that she appreciates the cooperation she has seen on behalf of the Concordia community.

"The faculty staff and students have been extremely cooperative in terms of suggesting what makes sense in terms of our priorities in cutting," she said.

"If there is a silver lining to all of these budget cuts, I think that it is that there is a lot of goodwill at Concordia to work cooperatively to overcome challenges, and I've really appreciated that."

—with files from Julia Wolfe & Colin Harris



# MEET YOUR CSU EXEC CANDIDATES

## The Link Talks to Next Year's Student Union Hopefuls

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin and Julia Wolfe @juruwolfe

### Melissa Kate Wheeler – President

Fourth-year political science and theological studies major Melissa Kate Wheeler wants to be your next president.

"I have good intentions for the union; I don't have a political agenda, and I think that's what the union needs," she said.

Wheeler has been an outspoken member of the Concordia Student Union council this year, often criticizing the executive for what she feels is part disorgani-

zation, part bad attitude.

"[Council] has been vocal against [the executive] because there is a lot to be vocal about," she explained. As president, she says she wants to improve communication between meetings to help lead a more amicable and effective council.

She's also heavily involved with the Love Doesn't Hurt campaign against abusive relationships, so it's no surprise that Wheeler says creating a sexual assault centre at Concordia is a top priority.



### Scott Carr – VP Finance

A JMSB finance major, Scott Carr may not have held political office at Concordia but as the current president of Concordia's Entrepreneurship and Management Association, he says he can bring some efficiency to the CSU's financial management.

"One of the major [priorities] is appropriate money spending," said Carr.

With a handful of awards under his belt, Carr hopes to use his experience in various competitions and what he calls his "well-rounded view of business" to, as he puts it, "take the CSU to places it hasn't been before."

Carr will be running against the independent candidate Pierre Tardivo Martin for the position in the election's only contested race.



### Pierre Tardivo Martin – VP Finance

A John Molson School of Business international business student and current CSU councillor, Pierre Tardivo Martin is all about three things: streamlined funding, ethical investments and transparent reports.

Tardivo Martin says he wants to implement an electronic system for funding allocation, replacing a paper system he sees as inefficient and bulky. He hopes to make "Fin-Com meetings a monthly thing," where "for each month [...] we would allocate a budget." It's a

strategy he says will make sure funding is evenly available all year.

For Reggie's, Tardivo Martin said he wants to bring in a skilled business manager and sees institutional memory as key to keeping Reggie's in the black.

"Without the long-term strategy, I don't think we can be competitive [or] profitable," he said.

Tardivo Martin is the only candidate running for an executive position who is not a member of the CSYou team. He will compete with CSYou's Scott Carr for the job.



The only independent contender

### James Tyler Vaccaro – VP Clubs and Internal

James Tyler Vaccaro says he sees the huge potential of VP Clubs and Internal to do great things. Vaccaro wants to help clubs "get back into the CSU fold," something he'd do partially through creating a clubs council for club leaders to share common problems, as well as creating a single place for outside groups to approach clubs with opportunities for collaboration.

The issue of student space is one Vaccaro doesn't intend on shying away from, he said, but he also thinks it's key to figure out what students actually want "before just telling them a centre is coming."

Vaccaro plans to hold informal info sessions that will "tell students and everyone what's going on [and] what we need to do to move forward," all while ensuring students' voices are heard



### Crystal Harrison – VP Loyola

As a communications major, Crystal Harrison spends a lot of time at Loyola. A large part of Harrison's platform is her I Love Loyola campaign, a yearlong initiative to bring attention to events and everything else Loyola has to offer.

A big part of this is a facelift for the Hive Café, a space Harrison sees as hugely underused.

She aims to have a revamped version of the café by September, as a cheap, local alternative to Chartwells.

While Harrison doesn't have a specific alternative in mind, she emphasizes that she doesn't want corporations at Loyola anymore, because "there are so many other alternatives," and that she will seek input of students in residence.



Photos Erin Sparks

### Gene Morrow – VP Academic and Advocacy

Gene Morrow is a two-year student senator whose reputation is built on activism and representing the student voice on Concordia's highest governing academic body.

"I've sort moved into more of a leadership role," he said. "So it became sensible to try and take [VP Academic and Advocacy] on."

Morrow is taking over a portfolio that's spent the year somewhat in limbo. After her inability to register as a student, former VP Lucia Gallardo resigned in September. The position went unfilled for nearly two months, until current VP Hajar El Jahidi was appointed in late November.

Despite this, Morrow said he is "not too worried about" any gap in training.

### Caroline Bourbonnière – VP External and Mobilization

The current president of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and former VP Communications for the Political Science Student Association, Caroline Bourbonnière plans to develop a stronger voice for Concordia, particularly when it comes to the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

Bourbonnière highlighted the considerable amount of votes the

CSU has. "We should play a more leading role," said Bourbonnière. For her, this means reexamining the case for free tuition and ensuring that all voices of the debate are heard, as well as playing a bigger role in creating policy.

She said she already has plans to hold a referendum on the divestment movement by October, following a conference she aims to organize along with VP Sustainability hopeful Benjamin Prunty.

### Katrina Caruso – VP Student Life

For Katrina Caruso, VP Student Life can be just about anything, but it has to be "financially responsible [and] has to work with clubs and student groups."

Caruso, currently enrolled in a joint major in art history and studio arts, says she sees the position of VP Student Life as an opportunity to do what she likes to do: "organize events, manage people [and] plan great projects."

This means collaborating with

the Art Matters festival to promote art projects at Concordia, as well as strengthening inter-faculty ties.

Caruso hopes to boost fine arts representation on council (she's the only fine arts student running), by recruiting ex-officio reps and then holding a fall byelection. Caruso also hopes to put resources towards the Hive Café, and work with CSU presidential candidate Melissa Kate Wheeler to establish a sexual assault centre at Concordia.

### Benjamin Prunty – VP Sustainability

Benjamin Prunty is currently on the board of the Sustainability Action Fund, and is also the current VP External for the Liberal Arts Society. Prunty wants the Concordia Food Coalition to take off during his mandate; it's a project he's invested in, having worked on it for the past five months.

The Hive Café is another project Prunty said he intends to finally get on stable ground, citing support

from the administration "as well as [from] students and the Sustainability Committee" as a strong factor in ensuring its success.

Prunty says he has no intention of sitting back and waiting for the election results.

"The union's legitimacy still needs to be maintained," he explains. It's an exercise he said requires communication with students to make sure they are being properly represented.



# A CLOSER LOOK AT CSYOU'S PLATFORM PROMISES

## Deconstructing CSU Executive Candidates' Plans for 2013-14

by Julia Wolfe @juruwolfe

If you don't live and breathe Concordia politics, you might not understand a lot of the platform points being put forth by *CSYou*, the lone political group running for office this year.

To help you get through the buzzwords, and understand a bit of the context behind each initiative, *The Link* put together this handy guide of what, exactly, you're being promised.

Color boxes represent the executives who will likely be involved in each project.

### The Hive

Located just above the cafeteria on Loyola campus, turning The Hive into a functioning café/bar is sort of the Holy Grail for Concordia politicians. But while many have promised and none have achieved, this year's slate is taking it to a whole other level.

Promising to have a full café up and running by September, they are most likely setting themselves up for failure. But with such high expectations, they could actually get the place selling coffee and muffins by the end of their term, which most Loyola students would be ecstatic about.

### The Sexual Assault Centre

Since September 2011, the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy has been campaigning for a sexual assault centre on campus. Concordia President Alan Shepard has met with them a few times to discuss options, but the centre has been stuck in the early planning stages all year.

*CSYou* is promising one by the end of their mandate—a lofty goal, to be sure. In order to get there, they'll need to figure quite a few logistics. How the thing will be funded—maybe a fee levy from students or from university money—will be at the top of the list.

But where it is, who runs it and how it operates will certainly take quite a bit of discussion. The team is also discussing trying to implement a “safe space” that is open to students of all needs.

### Student Space

The push for a student centre at Concordia has been surprisingly contentious the past few years. Two failed referendums, both shrouded in secrecy, have left a bad taste in the mouths of many students. This year's executive muddled the waters even more with a half-baked launch of their student space concept, nicknamed “The Habitat.”

So it's no surprise that *CSYou* is taking a more cautious route this year. They've been careful to avoid promising a centre—or anything like it—within their mandate. Rather, they've said they'll spend the year exploring options and researching needs in order to build on the work for future slates.

### Canadian Federation of Students

In 2010, Concordia undergraduate students chose overwhelmingly to leave the Canadian Federation of Students, as 72 per cent of voters said no to the CFS. Several other student unions—including the Graduate Students' Association at Concordia—did the same that year.

The CFS refused to recognize the votes, however, and the CSU sued. A counter-suit followed closely, as the CFS claimed past dues of around \$1.8 million. The CSU and GSA have since joined forces, and are slated to head to court two years from now.

As such, the *CSYou* team won't be going to court, but they still want to make things easier for their successors. Wheeler has promised a CFS awareness campaign, which she believes is integral to galvanizing student support for 2015.

### Chartwells

If you or anyone you love has lived in residence, you're probably more familiar than you like with Chartwells. The company running most food options on campus, Chartwells is largely responsible for feeding rez students who must buy a mandatory meal plan to the tune of around \$4,000.

Concordia's contract with Chartwells is up for review this year, something that hasn't gone unnoticed by *CSYou*. They're hoping to lobby the school against renewing, hoping for more local options, preferably student-run.

But they're still unsure what should replace the infrastructure needed to feed hundreds of residence students three meals a day.

### Events

Orientation, cultural nights and most other school-wide events also fall under the mandate of the union's executive.

Current VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki has faced criticism this year for irregular usage of the Events Committee, sub-standard post-mortem reports and a poor attendance rate at council meetings.

If elected, *CSYou* Student Life candidate Katrina Caruso has some big ideas for events. She's promised the regular features: pub crawls, concerts and parties at The Hive.

But she's also trying to push a few more creative suggestions, such as a “build your own salad” event at the Concordia Greenhouse and business workshops put on in collaboration with the John Molson School of Business.

### Student Representation

When Concordia's Board of Governors was scaled down last year, student representation on the Board fell from four to one, plus a non-voting member. Meanwhile, independent students continue to be kept out of sitting on either the BoG or Senate, the university's highest governing academic body.

*CSYou*'s VP Academic and Advocacy Candidate Gene Morrow says he won't drop the case of independent students until Senate gives him an answer worth defending. Likewise, he says the fight to get a seat back on the BoG is far from over.

### E-Learning

Currently, Concordia's online classes run through KnowledgeOne, a for-profit company that operates eConcordia. Many of this year's Senate meetings have focused on improving and expanding e-learning at Concordia, but what that means specifically is still unclear.

Morrow is ready for this conversation after two years of sitting on Senate. He hopes to commission internal studies to compare against ones touted by the university. He's hoping Concordia will focus on improving online classes specifically for students here, as he doesn't see the merit in trying to imitate work already done by other schools.

### Divestment

Campaigns for universities to divest from fossil fuel companies have sprung up around Canada. Divest McGill has been petitioning their university since the fall, and current CSU president and VP Sustainability Andrew Roberts has been involved with a similar initiative starting up at Concordia.

If elected, the *CSYou* hopes to make divestment one of their main causes. Hoping for a referendum as early as October, the team is looking to get a question about divestment added to the ballot. That sort of mandate from students would empower them to put far more pressure on the university to divest.

### Reggie's Bar

Reggie's, Concordia's campus bar, currently owes the CSU about \$1.4 million. More often than not, the bar posts a deficit, which historically befuddles VP Finance candidates who ask how a bar with no rent and minimal overhead struggles so much.

*CSYou* VP Finance candidate Scott Carr is no different. He wants to turn Reggie's into a profitable bar and feels confident he'll be able to do so. He also hopes to draft and implement a repayment plan so that the bar can begin working off its debt to the union.

Alongside Caruso, he's looking to rebrand the space and advertise its use for student groups.

### Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec

Concordia shares the distinction as the largest voting member at the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec with FAÉCUM—the federation of students at the Université de Montréal. Each has eight voting members.

The CSU's VP External automatically sits on the FEUQ with the understanding that they will work with the external committee and council to bring to the table the wants and needs of Concordia students, who each pay \$2.50 a semester to the federation.

Caroline Bourbonnière, VP External and Mobilization candidate for *CSYou*, says the current executive was not enough of a leader on the FEUQ.

If elected, she would like to ask each member of the external committee to commit to researching specific topics prior to FEUQ meetings so that Concordia can present and lobby as more of a leader.



# 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.

The candidates for the two (2) Board positions open to members at large are David Murphy and Hilary Sinclair. The candidates for the two (2) Board positions open to community members who are former *The Link* staff from the last three years are Laura Beeston and Julia Jones.

Constitutional amendments are available at *The Link* office

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# TALKING SUSTAINABILITY

## The Many Definitions of a Sustainable Society at ASFA Talks 2013

by Michael Wrobel  
@michael\_wrobel

The diverse and seemingly unrelated disciplines of economics, international development, psychology, health sciences and agricultural studies share at least one common concept—the broadly defined, elusive idea of sustainability.

That's the message behind ASFA Talks 2013, a speaker series presented March 14 at Concordia by the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

"Sustainability is not only relevant within ecology," said ASFA VP External and Sustainability Carlotta Longo when opening the talks.

Longo noted that sustainability is at the back of our minds whenever we think about our well being or health, about the ways we organize our economy and produce our food or about how we might help others to recover from a natural disaster.

### Recalculating Growth

The economic growth we've enjoyed for decades is no longer sustainable in the long term, said Jeff Rubin at the talks.

Rubin is a Canadian author and former chief economist at CIBC World Markets. According to him, fluctuations in the price of oil have, in recent years, led many developed countries to look for alternative fuel sources for generating power. Most transport systems still rely on oil, though.

"And that's why every major global recession that we had in the last 40 years has oil's fingerprints all over it," he said. "The most recent recession, the devastating 2008-09 recession, followed on the heels of no less than \$147-a-barrel oil."

Oil not only contributes to climate change, but can also hurt the economy, he said.

Many economists believe the root of the last recession lies in the subprime mortgage crisis. However, Rubin argued that it was a rising inflation rate—the result of increasing oil prices—that put an end to the cheap credit that created the housing bubble in the first place.

So what has changed in the past few decades? We're no longer finding cheap, easily accessible sources of oil, said Rubin.

"Take the tar sands, for example, in Alberta. [...] At \$20 a barrel, you can't get the tar sands. At \$100 a barrel, all of a sudden, it's the world's third-largest oil reserve."

The global economy isn't growing at the same rate that it used to, Rubin said, and that's because oil prices are rising.

Rubin predicts that the future will bring an end to growth, resulting in a static economy that will generate fewer jobs.

"The notion that we would have one job [...] is in the rear-view mirror. I think that in the new economy, we're going to have multiple jobs and that job sharing is going to become the norm, not the exception."

Given the high rates of youth unemployment in much of the developed world, Rubin said many young people will choose to stay in post-secondary education and live at home with their parents longer than before.

### Sustainable Aid

A lot of good is being done around the world through humanitarian aid, but there's also mismanagement in the system, said David Tordjman.

Tordjman was the director of public works and urban planning for the city of Côte Saint-Luc until he decided to go to Haiti to help with the relief effort following the country's devastating 2010 earthquake. He started working for the United Nations Office for Project Services there.

He said developed countries often send heavy machinery and trucks to regions affected by a natural disaster because it looks good in photo-ops, but won't provide the funds to maintain the equipment in the long-term. In the receiving country, the equipment inevitably falls into disrepair.

The way the humanitarian effort has been managed in Haiti has created a dependency, he said, so that now the Caribbean country would struggle to get by without the constant infusion of foreign aid.

Different organizations started projects after the earthquake to provide employment to Haitians, but most of those jobs were un-

skilled make-work positions, according to Tordjman.

"A lot of them were very useless jobs," he said. For example, people were paid to move garbage from one side of the street to the other.

"There was no training involved. [...] These are not the jobs that people needed."

Tordjman said that helping to upgrade workers' skills would be more productive and would result in a more sustainable, lasting change.

"They don't actually need 50 [people] to come down and build a school. They know how to do that. If you sent down a couple of engineers to tell them how to build it better, that's a different story."

"If you help them, once they build the school, to make it sustainable—so that they can afford to pay their teachers and to train their teachers—that would be quite helpful."

### From Psychology to Agriculture

Alexandra Côté spoke about the pillars of a relatively new field of psychology, positive psychology. She explained that rather than just trying to treat mental illness, positive psychology examines how we can make our happiness and wellbeing sustainable and longer-lasting.

Côté is a recent Concordia graduate, having obtained a bachelor's degree with a specialization in human relations. She is now completing a professional coaching program at the Adler Graduate

Professional School.

Later, Robin Lim spoke about her charitable organization—Yayasan Bumi Sehat, or Healthy Mother Earth Foundation—which provides prenatal care and birthing services for free to women in Indonesia. According to her, disadvantaged women aren't treated very well in for-profit Indonesian hospitals.

Lim argued that the more supportive midwifing techniques that Bumi Sehat clinics practice—which include keeping the baby with their mother after birth and the somewhat controversial practice of delaying the clamping and cutting of the umbilical cord—are better for the mother and result in healthier and more intelligent children.

"A baby born without trauma is going to have an intact capacity to love and trust," she said.

Following Lim's presentation, Aaron Vansintjan, a graduate student in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences and the School of the Environment at McGill, spoke about the place of organic foods in our industrial food production system.

He said that healthier and more environmentally sound organic foods will continue to be an expensive niche product and inaccessible to the masses unless we completely rethink our entire food production system with a particular focus on local and community-based agricultural programs.



Economist Jeff Rubin speaks at ASFA Talks on oil and job creation. Photo Corey Pool





# POLICE, PROTESTERS TRAPPED IN CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

The 2013 Anti-Police Brutality March Ended Badly—Again. Here's a Look at How We Got Here.

by Megan Dolski @MeganDolski

Early last Friday afternoon, in a windowless fluorescent-lit basement on McTavish St., around 40 people attended a workshop advertised as Street Action 101.

"This is the street, this is the sidewalk," explained the tall, black-clad man at the front of the room, while drawing a diagram on the chalkboard.

"The crowd is walking down here, and the police will have a platoon-y formation over here," he said, taking a couple steps to his left. "And maybe another one, over here."

This formation is what the man called "a bad situation."

In addition to prepping the audience with a series of advisable running patterns, in the case of a riot police-line charge, the workshop included a lesson in items that should be brought to a major demonstration—including a bandana dunked in apple cider vinegar for pepper spray, granola bars, and a lawyer's phone number in case of arrest.

The advice then extended to items best left at home, such as any illegal substances, identifiable clothing and valuables.

This workshop was called in preparation for the Anti-Police Brutality March, set for later that evening.

The March 15 demonstration, coinciding annually with the International Day Against Police Brutality, has only ever been completely peaceful twice in Montreal since its inauguration 17 years ago, according to police spokesperson Ian Lafrenière.

Two years ago, more than 300 people were arrested at the march, and last year saw another 200 demonstrators end up in plastic zip-tie handcuffs.

Not surprisingly, 2013's demonstration didn't stray from the pattern—with over 200 participants detained, roughly 150 ticketed, and 12 arrested for criminal acts.

Especially in recent years, the event has garnered a reputation for being a media-drenched, vivid display of the exact type of violence it aims to denounce.

Police brutality is not a novelty in Montreal, nor are major demonstrations in its downtown core. Such happenings have become strangely normal here. But while there is no specific "Day One" that the history of police brutality in the city can be attributed to, there are several moments that have been pivotal in shaping the reality of today's police-protester climate.

## Creation of a Coalition

In April 1995, Human Life International, a pro-life religious organization, came to Montreal for a conference.

The event was greeted by a large-scale demonstration in opposition to it, with participants gathering outside the Notre-Dame Basilica, where HLI members were set to begin a candlelight walk.

Both undercover and riot police were called in to monitor the protest—a presence that was, at the time, much less common than it is today.

The rally of several thousand people came and went relatively peacefully—albeit noisily—recalled Alexandre Popovic, a demonstrator at the time. He remembers, however, that when things eventually dwindled down to the last of the demonstrators, violence erupted between them and the police.

Popovic said he attempted to help a fellow demonstrator from being unjustifiably beaten by a police officer, and in doing so was beaten himself. Later, he became so angry that he kicked a nearby police car.

An undercover officer later arrested him.

That day, at the police station, Popovic met fellow arrestee, Eve Marceau—and the two began discussing the need for collective ac-

tion against the problem of police violence at the event.

From there, an organization was born to contest arrests made at the demonstration, but it wasn't long before the group evolved to extend its scope beyond cases exclusive to the HLI protest.

"After two or three months, people found that we had an interest in other cases, in terms of shootings and police abuse in Montreal, corruption," recalled Popovic. "There was no organization that had a specific task or mission to respond to those police abuse cases. We found that there was need for that sort of organization."

Later that summer, the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality was born. According to their website, the organization now aims "not only to denounce the harassment, violence, intimidation, arrests and abuse of power by police, but to inform people of their rights and lend support to victims."

Today, the COPB remains the primary organizer of the annual Anti-Police Brutality March in Montreal.

Since last Friday's demonstration, the organization has put out a call to victims who were, "detained, kettled,"—referring to the police tactic of surrounding large crowds and holding them in place for hours at a

time before arresting them—"brutalized or arrested" at the march.

They intend to organize a meeting to arrange a way to collectively contest tickets and arrests.

## A Different Approach

Perhaps one of the most well-known cases of police brutality in recent history has been that of Fredy Villanueva.

In August 2008, Villanueva, an unarmed 18-year-old, was shot and killed in broad daylight by a police officer in Montreal North.

His death triggered a riot, many subsequent vigils and has since garnered much attention from the media, as controversy continues to surround the process in which the case is being looked into.

Quebec law states that it is the responsibility of a separate police force to conduct the investigation in the case of death or injury at the hands of an officer.

The two officers involved in the Villanueva shooting were not interrogated until days after it happened.

Now, four years later, the coroner's inquest has yet to be completed or made public.

Following the shooting, it was reported in *The Gazette* that Ontario's ombudsman had "zero







Photos Alexandru Petrosan Photos Brian Lapuz Photos Erin Sparks Photo Pierre Chauvin

faith” in the Sûreté du Québec to investigate the case impartially, while the then-public security minister of Quebec, Jacques Dupuis, reportedly had “full confidence” in the force’s ability to do so.

After Villanueva’s death, the Coalition contre la répression et les abus policiers was formed to ensure that debate surrounding issues of police brutality and impunity remain in the public eye, and continue to be acted upon.

“Politicians need to be pushed by public outrage to do reform,” said Alexandre Popovic, CRAP’s spokesperson. “[Villanueva’s] case has had a very big influence on putting back the public debate on police investigating police.”

Popovic, who is no longer involved with the COPB, said that while the CRAP is fighting for a cause similar to the COPB, their approach is different.

The CRAP opts not to associate with, or participate in the annual March 15 demonstrations. In lieu of taking to the streets, the organization attempts to address issues of police brutality by attending public discussion on forums—such as those held last week concerning Law 12.

When passed as law, this bill would see the creation of the Bu-

reau d’enquêtes indépendantes, a civilian body whose duty would be to oversee and review deaths and injuries at the hands of police.

This body would include civilian investigators, appointed to serve for five years, and would be led by retired judges or lawyers, a director and deputy director selected upon recommendation of the province’s ombudsperson, justice minister and a lawyer.

On March 12, Quebec ombudsperson Raymonde Saint-Germain officially endorsed the bill, saying that the proposed legislation “strikes a balance between the public interest and respect of the rights of all the ones involved.”

At the hearings, the sole opposition came on behalf of certain police union representatives.

#### The Student Protest Effect

Last year’s Maple Spring student protests saw thousands of students persistently take to the streets en masse in opposition to proposed tuition increases.

In response to the near-nightly demonstrations, the provincial government amped up its legislation, tightening its reigns on the public’s right to protest.

On May 18, 2012, the National

Assembly of Quebec passed Bill 78, which required any organized demonstration of 50 or more people to submit, with eight hours notice, the date, time, location and route of the planned demonstration.

The bill, which later became Law 12, stated that failing to do so stands to result in fines or court action.

The legislation further states that if an association or federation takes part in the demonstration, it will be considered the party responsible, and can be fined accordingly. Bill 78 is set to expire July 1, 2013.

Furthermore, the City of Montreal modified its municipal P-6 bylaw to include clauses that make it illegal to demonstrate with one’s face covered and without identifying one’s route. The modified bylaw also increases the previous fine for violating such regulations from \$100 to \$500.

This Friday, *The Gazette* reported that at least 150 people left Friday’s protest with a \$637 fine, as a result of their participation in a demonstration that was declared to be illegal.

#### This Year’s March

Perhaps with some of that in mind, demonstrators, civilians and police officers greeted March 15 this year somewhat differently.

In a press conference held March 14, police spokesperson Lafrenière said the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal was “hoping for the best, but getting ready for the worst.”

Police teams were brought in from Toronto, Peel, Ottawa, Gatineau, London and Longueuil to observe the SPVM’s now-honed techniques and strategy of controlling large-scale demonstrations. The SQ, and officers from Laval were brought in to help.

On the morning of the demonstration, police officers distributed over 600 leaflets throughout the downtown core, advising locals to steer clear of the area during the demonstration.

When it came time for the protest—announced to commence at 5:00 p.m., it appeared that police tried to shut things down before they could even start.

The demonstration was declared illegal almost immediately under bylaw P-6, due to its failure to submit a route.

As several hundred demonstrators gathered at the corner of Ontario St. and St. Urbain St., just north of the SPVM headquarters, the police moved in, blocking all exits.

The first arrest was made before the rally had even officially begun, and additional preemptive

arrests were made while demonstrators were still gathering.

Eventually, the police opened up one side of St. Urbain St., and the crowd moved south.

Before the protesters had traveled one block, the SPVM made their move, splitting the crowd in half down the center by charging down an adjacent sidewalk.

At the same time, garage doors on St. Urbain St. were thrown open as SQ officers in full riot gear poured out, splintering the crowd even further.

Once things got going, they weren’t able to go far. Different pockets of protesters throughout downtown were kettled, preventing the hundreds of protesters from ever regrouping.

The police used pepper spray and deployed rounds of sound grenades and tear gas as means of crowd-control. The fractured demonstration continued for almost three hours.

According to *The Gazette*, at least six people were injured—including two police officers. A police car was vandalized and two windows were smashed.

The demonstration came to a close with slightly more arrests than last year, though notably less property damage, by comparison.



# CONCORDIA'S GREENHOUSE IN NEED OF SOME GREEN

Sustainability Concordia's Project Seeks Fee Levy in Upcoming Elections



The Concordia Greenhouse is seeking a fee levy to keep growing. Photo Sam Slotnick

by Hilary Sinclair  
@hilarysinclair

Perched on the 13th floor of Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building is a sanctuary above the city, a safe haven of plants and quietude that features a vista that's perfect for studying or contemplating the city. It's also a sanctuary that's asking students for some money.

The Concordia greenhouse, which started as a space for the Biology Department, has morphed into a hub of innovative agriculture projects, education and research.

The transformation began in 2005, when plans to tear down the structure were thwarted by students and campus organization Sustainable Concordia.

Since then, the Greenhouse Project has existed as a working group under Sustainable Concordia—and working within their budget constraints.

Now, the greenhouse is looking to become an independent fee levy group with a referendum question on the issue to be included in the upcoming elections in March.

"We see this process as a graduation and not a split," representatives of the greenhouse told *The Link* in an email.

"The Concordia Greenhouse Project has been running on the dreams of passionate people, and on their drive to find the resources to make these wonderful things happen. However, in the past year it has reached a stand-still."

Having outgrown the organization that fostered its development, the collective is asking students to contribute \$0.12 per credit to keep its operations going.

Citing overreliance on grants, such as the Sustainability Action Fund and start-up funds, they say the current financial situation is unsustainable.

The last year was spent hunting down alternative options, the greenhouse's Jackie Martin said, so going for a fee levy was the last resort.

After six months and the presentation of approximately seven different budgets, it became clear that the effort to get long-term, annual funding from the administration was failing.

The majority of the administration funding came from the Office of the Vice-President, Services, which provides a large portion of the greenhouse's budget. Now, the fee levy remains their only option.

But confusion with the Concordia Student Union's regulations on the processes to get a referendum question for the fee levy put on the 2013 CSU election ballot almost cost them that option too. Councillor Chad Walcott said the group was sent on a "wild goose chase" by VP Internal Nadine Atallah to complete the proper procedure.

"[Atallah] should have guided them through the process. If nothing else, that's her job," he said. Since then, the issues have been resolved, however.

The financial squeeze is also being felt by Sustainable Concordia, which is going for an increase to their \$0.05-per-credit undergraduate fee levy.

"We really want to increase our capacity within our organization so we can make sure to have people there all the time to coordinate volunteers, to make sure that we

can always have really big community involvement," said Hannah McCormick, coordinator of Sustainable Concordia's Zero Waste Campaign.

McCormick said the organization is currently in the stages of reprioritizing its goals and developing a more concise vision of how sustainability should be defined. The next step in the reorganization of Sustainable Concordia is to hold a meeting with students, administration and other stakeholders to map out its goals going forward.

To access their own funds, both the greenhouse and Sustainable Concordia must send expenses up the chain through various administrators in the VP Services Office who oversee sustainability groups. Only then are they able to gain access to the funding they have already been granted.

"Depending on what new projects come along, it would be amazing to have more autonomy with student funds because you are more independent from the administration," said McCormick.

The greenhouse is prepared to

take on that autonomy, says Stefanie Dimitrovas, coordinator of the greenhouse's Tea Atrium. The biggest test of leaving the nest, said greenhouse representatives, is smooth transition.

"One of our challenges will be to make sure that our Board of Directors will be starting off on the right foot, and we have already started communication with the Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia group for support."

The fee levy, said Dimitrovas, will combat the underutilization of space in the greenhouse by adding the bodies needed to receive and implement projects. Since August, 1,000 people have attended workshops, events, participated in projects and volunteered—and they're hoping to increase that number.

"Public sustainability is such a huge topic to be under this one segment of administration," said McCormick of VP Services. "We want it to be way more integrated across the board, and that's something that will come with the autonomy of a fee levy."



# EDUCATION PIVOTAL IN QUEBEC LIBERAL RACE

## Liberals Choose Former Health Minister Couillard as Leader



Philippe Couillard was selected as the next leader of the Quebec Liberal Party following the leadership convention. Photo Michael Wrobel

by Michael Wrobel  
@michael\_wrobel

Philippe Couillard wants to make Quebec's brainpower his priority.

The former health minister and neurosurgeon was chosen on Sunday as the new leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, the official opposition in Quebec's National Assembly.

"Under our impetus, Quebec will become a leader in the knowledge economy," Couillard said in a speech, before the voting for the new leader began.

"Our future will come through education. [...] We're going to do everything we can to close the gap in Quebec in terms of the university graduation rate, as well as in technical and professional programs," he said, referring to studies that have shown Quebec is falling behind other provinces in terms of degree-holders.

Some 2,636 delegates were elected by their riding associations to be at the leadership convention held at the Verdun Auditorium. A third of the delegation was reserved for people under the age of 26.

A total of 2,377 votes were cast. Couillard won the race with 58.5 per cent of the vote, compared to former transport minister Pierre Moreau's 22 per cent and former

finance minister Raymond Bachand's 19.5 per cent.

### What About Funding?

Education figured prominently in the leadership race, which was set in motion by Jean Charest's decision to step down as leader of the party following the Liberals' electoral defeat in the September 2012 election.

That election was held at least in part because the Liberal Party was seeking a clear mandate from electors to move ahead with its planned university tuition hikes after a spring of student protests that drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets.

Bachand, Moreau and Couillard all agreed that Quebec universities need more funding to be able to strive for excellence. They also agreed on the need for students to pay more for their post-secondary education.

"I would start by saying no to free tuition, no to freezes," Couillard said in the leadership debate held at Concordia on Jan. 26.

But over the course of the leadership race, subtle differences emerged in the positions of each of the leadership candidates.

Moreau said that if ever he became party leader and then premier, he'd look at sources of funding other than students and

the government. Meanwhile, Bachand said he'd force all student associations to use a secret online ballot during strike votes.

Couillard seemed to be more amenable to the idea of indexing tuition fees, at least as a first step toward reducing the underfunding of universities while other longer-term funding solutions could be evaluated.

"I would start with a minimum of annual indexation," he said. "I want to know what is the real amount the universities need in the coming years to be excellent, and then I will adjust the tuition fee by determining the percentage of it that [should] be covered by students."

Those remarks drew criticism from both Bachand and Moreau.

"Indexation, Philippe, is not enough," Bachand said. "Indexation is a cop-out."

But Couillard also supported the idea of modulating tuition fees according to the cost of a student's program in the longer term—a position also held, in some form, by Bachand and Moreau.

Modulation means, for example, that students in medicine would pay higher tuition fees because their program is much more costly to run.

On his campaign website, Couillard also says he'd "ensure accessi-

bility to programs of study through an equitable and effective loan and bursary program and a repayment program that is proportional to [a student's] revenue."

If such a plan were implemented, it would mean that students who can expect to earn more because of their chosen area of study would have to pay back their loans faster upon entering the workforce.

It remains to be seen exactly how much of Couillard's platform will become party policy now that he is leader.

### Youth and Politics

A Quebec Liberal Party campus club may soon be coming to a university near you.

Federal political parties already have a presence on many university campuses, and Concordia is no exception. But Quebec's political parties have comparatively little presence in the province's institutions of higher learning.

Before the leadership candidates spoke on Sunday, interim leader Jean-Marc Fournier told the partisan crowd that the party needs to fight to prevent universities from becoming the Parti Québécois's ground.

That seems to be a message the party's Youth Commission is tak-

ing to heart. The youth wing says that, as the new Liberal leader assumes his position, one of its major goals will be to reach out to students and form campus clubs across the province.

"We'd like to go into university and college institutions with the new leader to do a tour, to make clear our ideas, because last year there were misunderstandings over what we wanted to put forward," said Madwani Nika Phanord-Cadet, the president of the Liberal Party's Youth Commission, referring to the Liberals' plans to increase tuition fees.

"It's really our priority to go get members there and to recruit students in their milieu so that they can start to become implicated in our party."

In an interview with *The Link* at the youth wing's convention on Nov. 25, Couillard said he'll reach out beyond the party base to young Quebecers by meeting with them in educational institutions, and by increasing the Liberal Party's online presence.

"You need to go to [students] and speak their language," Couillard said. "By speaking their language, I mean using social media much more, because this is the way [the new] generation communicates and interacts."



# NO “ONE-ISSUE PARTY”

Elizabeth May Shares “Green Perspective” at Concordia



Federal Green Party leader Elizabeth May stands with the executives of the Green Party campus club at Concordia. Photo Michael Wrobel

by Colin Harris@ColinnHarris

When Elizabeth May spoke at Concordia this weekend, she didn't hold back.

“From what I can discern, Stephen Harper is really good at destroying things,” she said to a nearly full auditorium in the EV Building. “He has shown no capacity to build anything new, but he's excellent at ripping things apart right down to their roots.”

The federal Green Party leader is approaching her second anniversary as a member of parliament. She came to the university on March 16 to discuss “the Green Party perspective.”

Her speech, hosted by the Concordia Green Party, summarized her experience as the sole elected Member of Parliament of her party.

Along with the free Green Party swag, a few “Stop Harper” pins were also floating around the event. With the Greens working to shake their “one-issue party” label, May spoke more to the governance and electoral reform she wants to see.

“I don't fancy myself a dictator,

and clearly [Harper] does. And I'm not kidding, he's destroying the mechanisms and the levers of responsible governance,” said May.

“I say this without a trace of hyperbole or exaggeration: the Prime Minister's Office is dangerous. It's unaccountable, it has now access to \$10 million a year for its budget.”

May highlighted the fact that the prime minister was by definition first among equals, and that American-style hyper-partisanship has been slowly creeping into Canadian politics since Pierre Trudeau's tenure as prime minister.

She stressed, however, the crucial line between civil service and politics that the Prime Minister's Office has crossed under Harper.

The Canadian government announced last year that they're halfway to their 2020 greenhouse gas targets, up from 25 per cent from the year before, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

An important change, however, is how the math was done.

The announcement was based on an emissions trends report by Environment Canada that used 2020

“business as usual” potential emissions levels, meaning emissions levels if the government had taken no action.

With the new math, the emissions trajectory exceeds the levels pledged in the Copenhagen Accord—instead expecting 113 more megatons of carbon dioxide.

It's this kind of “cooked books” that May argues Stephen Harper can get away with in a political climate of hyper-partisanship and influencing language and methodology used by government bureaucrats.

“You simply could not have gotten Environment Canada to put out propaganda garbage like that under any previous prime minister,” said May, who worked as the environment minister's senior policy advisor when Brian Mulroney was prime minister.

Along with environmental and economic reform, May also stressed the need for electoral reform—specifically a move to proportional representation which would have prevented a conservative majority and made Green Party votes across the country amount to more party representa-

tion in the House of Commons.

It would benefit parliament to see a party without a whip, said May, who claimed she was the only Member of Parliament who read through every Bill presented to the House.

On the environmental front, she's optimistic that a watershed moment is coming soon, with U.S. President Barack Obama increasing his talk of climate policy.

May pointed to the all-party climate caucus, chaired by Liberal environment critic Kirsty Duncan.

In coming weeks, the caucus is holding an information session open to senators and MPs, where top scientists will explain the significance of the two-degrees Celsius average global temperature increase—which many consider a threshold for manageable climate change.

“There are far more individual MPs than most Canadians would imagine on all sides of the House who think climate is a serious issue and want to do something about it,” said May in an interview with *The Link* after her speech. “At some point, I think the partisan spin has to wear off.”

## BRIEFS

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

### Jailbreak by Heli-Hijack

The freedom of the two men who escaped via helicopter from a jail in Saint-Jérôme on Sunday was short-lived—both are back in police custody. Benjamin Hudon-Barbeau and Dany Provençal have been apprehended by police, along with two other suspects believed to have hijacked the helicopter. The fugitives managed to break out of the prison by climbing up a rope attached to the helicopter, according to an article in the *Montreal Gazette*. The feat by Hudon-Barbeau and Provençal marks the first attempted jailbreak by helicopter in Canadian history.

### Goodbye \$7.00 Daycare?

Daycare operators are up in arms over \$56 million in cuts from the Parti Québécois government. Family Minister Nicole Léger sees the cuts as unavoidable, placing blame on the deficit left by the Quebec Liberal Party. Léger says the \$7.00-a-day daycare isn't going anywhere, at least for now, but operators still see the cuts as harmful and are threatening to close their daycares for a day in protest.

### A Downtown Facelift

The area around the Bell Centre will soon be home to condos and other assorted buildings. Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd. has proposed a \$2-billion-dollar, decade-long plan to develop along St. Antoine St., say real estate sources in the *Montreal Gazette*. The push to expand to areas outside of the downtown core comes at a time when previously industrial areas are being converted into residential spaces.

### Some Fine Swiss Trains

Canadian aerospace company Bombardier is facing at least \$497 million in fines for late delivery on 59 trains ordered by Swiss Federal Railways in 2010, according to European newspaper *Der Sonntag*. Bombardier spokesperson Marc Laforge denied the report, however, saying the delays were out of their hands and are the result of legal issues the Swiss company faced over accessibility for disabled passengers. Laforge went on to say that the *Sonntag* article was “highly speculative” and “unwarranted,” according to the *Globe and Mail*. Deliveries are slated to begin in 2015 and run until 2019.



## A BED, A BREAKUP, A WAREHOUSE, A PLAY

'90s Gen-Xers Overlap With Today's Young Adults in *Ludwig & Mae*



■ Photos Brandon Johnston

by Elysha del Giusto-Enos  
@elyshaenos

It worked in Berlin and Santiago, but are Montreal audiences ready for a grunge-era play trilogy about 20-somethings trying to figure out life?

An ambitious young theatre company made up of Dawson College graduates will find out next week when they transform a warehouse into a working theatre and bring *Ludwig & Mae* by Montreal-based playwright Louis Patrick Leroux back home.

Leroux, currently a playwriting professor at Concordia, wrote the plays during the '90s when he was a 20-something trying to work through the apathy that he felt consumed his generation.

The young Gen X-ers were overeducated and underemployed—a theme that he feels is resonating all over again. Baby boomers were acting like they'd done it all and weren't taking their kids seriously.

"I thought it was very strange that one generation would control both authority and protest," Leroux

said. "People that had been there for free love and communes had become the most bourgeois in recent history. They wanted to be cool and 'with it' and protest-driven, but at the same time they wanted the money and the privilege."

Meanwhile, 20-somethings had McJobs and a society that left them behind. He said that the need for independence and change is cropping up in this generation and can be seen through social shakedowns like the student protests of last year's Maple Spring.

*Ludwig & Mae* was written with Nirvana on the radio, Tarantino in theatres and nudity on the stage. He said the plays developed along those lines.

In the first play of the series, two 20-somethings decide that they need to break up.

"Tomorrow morning. After breakfast," Leroux said. "So they spend the entire weekend not having breakfast, not leaving bed. Basically, not splitting up."

The second play features the titular male character, Ludwig,

preparing his suicide. In the third, Mae is coming to terms with what's happened.

The theatre company producing the play, Title 66, liked that the story came full-circle. The director, Logan Williams, had picked up the play at a used bookstore during a break from his day job and got sucked in.

"Everything that was being said by the characters was something I've said or friends have said," Williams said.

But how close the characters came to the lives of the seven young actors meant that producing it was sometimes uncomfortable.

"The text deals with such relatable stuff that when you get up to do it you think, 'I don't necessarily want to go to that dark place,'" Williams said.

Title 66 contacted Leroux, a seasoned theatre director, to get the rights to the plays. Since then, there have been conversations over how to approach the production, but Leroux said that despite the urge to want to help the young

artists, he's conscious that this is their project and they need to make it their own.

"If I were to butt in I would just be working against the message of the plays, which was, 'Give us some space,'" said Leroux. "In society, the older generation can't constantly be saying, 'We've done that, yeah, yeah, that's so cute.' There's something absolutely dreadful about not giving 20-somethings space to live, to be."

Although members of Title 66 can work in established theatre companies, the safety of it isn't necessarily appealing to them, said Williams.

"When you're young you might as well take it by the horns and experiment," he said.

Part of that creative experimentation comes from the design they've put into the costumes and part of it from the space they are staging the show in, Les Ateliers Jean-Brillant.

The Saint-Henri warehouse doesn't have tech equipment or any traditional theatre furnishings.

Williams called the space "a big concrete slab, a young person's dream."

This is Title 66's third production since they graduated from Dawson in 2011. Williams said their first show "defied the odds" within the Montreal indie theatre community—and actually turned a profit, which encouraged them to keep going.

With *Ludwig & Mae*, the young company has found a play that fits their mantra. Title 66 is named after Shakespeare's Sonnet 66, which describes art being "tonguetied by authority." And neither Leroux's Generation X nor today's 20-somethings have any interest in that.

**Ludwig & Mae / Les Ateliers Jean-Brillant (661 Rose de Lima St.) / Preview Show / March 27 / 7:00 p.m. / \$5.00 / Regular Shows / March 28 to March 30 and April 2 to April 6 / 8:00 p.m. / \$15.00 / Matinee Shows / March 30, April 6 and April 7 / 12:00 p.m. / \$15.00 / For more info check out [title66.com](http://title66.com).**



CSU  
ELECTIONS

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLLS

*The Concordia Student Union's 2013 Elections and  
Referenda are underway!*

*Nominations: March 4 – March 9  
Campaigns: March 12 - 25  
Polls: March 26 - 28*

All undergraduate Concordia students are eligible and ENCOURAGED to participate, by running for elected positions, informing themselves about candidates and issues, and of course by voting!

## EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

### AVAILABLE SEATS

#### ***Council of Representatives***

14 Seats in Arts and Science  
3 Seats in Fine Arts  
6 Seats in John Molson  
4 Seats for Independent Students  
3 Seats for Engineering

#### ***Senate***

1 Seat for Arts & Science  
1 Seat for John Molson  
1 Seat for Independent Students  
1 Seat for Visual Arts  
1 Seat for Engineering

### REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

***Sustainable Concordia*** – Sustainable Concordia is a student run organization that offers environmental, social and economic services and products such as: composting, recycling, bike parking, sustainability assessments, internship opportunities, and events. It has operated for a decade on a contribution of 5 cents per credit. Do you agree to increase Sustainable Concordia's fee levy by 10c per credit, to a total of 15c per credit effective Fall 2013?

***Concordia Greenhouse*** – The Concordia Greenhouse Project is an initiative that uses several garden sites on campus, including the Henry F. Hall building roof-top, as all-organic spaces geared towards education, experiential learning and community building. Do you agree to a new fee levy of 12c per credit to maintain the operations of the Concordia Greenhouse Project effective as of Fall 2013.

***Concordia Food Coalition*** – Would you like to see the CSU actively support the new affordable, sustainable, student-run food service initiatives on campus?

### ***NOMINATION PERIOD: March 4 – March 8 (ending at 5:00 pm)***

All Concordia undergrads are encouraged to run in the 2013 Elections! Nomination forms can be obtained at the downtown CSU office, the Loyola CSU office or from the Chief Electoral Officer (H-462-3). Nomination forms must be submitted in person (by the nominee themselves) to the Chief Electoral Officer. Nominees handing in completed forms will be issued a receipt and candidates' information pack. The names of nominees will remain confidential until the closing of the nomination period. All nomination forms must be submitted by 5:00 pm on March 8. Any late forms will not be accepted. Further information, including CSU Elections 2013 campaigning policies, may be obtained from the Chief Electoral Officer.

### ***REFERENDUM COMMITTEES (deadline: March 8th at 5pm)***

All Concordia undergrads may participate in the "Yes" or "No" Committees for the above stated Referendum Questions. Committee participants will promote their respective platforms throughout the campaigning period. All individuals interested in participating in a referendum committee should contact the CEO before March 8<sup>th</sup> for instructions

### ***INFORMATION SESSIONS***

***Public & Nominee Information Meeting*** - A public information meeting will be held Tuesday March 12 at 6:00 pm in the CSU cafeteria

***Referendum Committee Information Meeting*** – The tentative date for the formation of referendum committees is Friday March 8 at 6pm in the CSU small lounge

***Executive Debates*** – Executive debates will be conducted in the CSU's large lounge on Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, and available online through CUTV

***POLLING INFORMATION*** - Polling stations will be open March 26, 27 & 28, from 10am to 8pm. All Concordia undergrads (who are registered for at least one class for the winter semester) are eligible to vote, and may do so at one of the following locations:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Hall Building Lobby        | 7) CC 4th Floor Lounge |
| 2) Hall Building 4th Floor    | 8) SP Lobby            |
| 3) Webster Library Atrium     | 9) CJ Lobby            |
| 4) EV Lobby                   | 10) Vanier Library     |
| 5) MB Lobby                   | 11) VL Lobby           |
| 6) Visual Arts Building Lobby |                        |

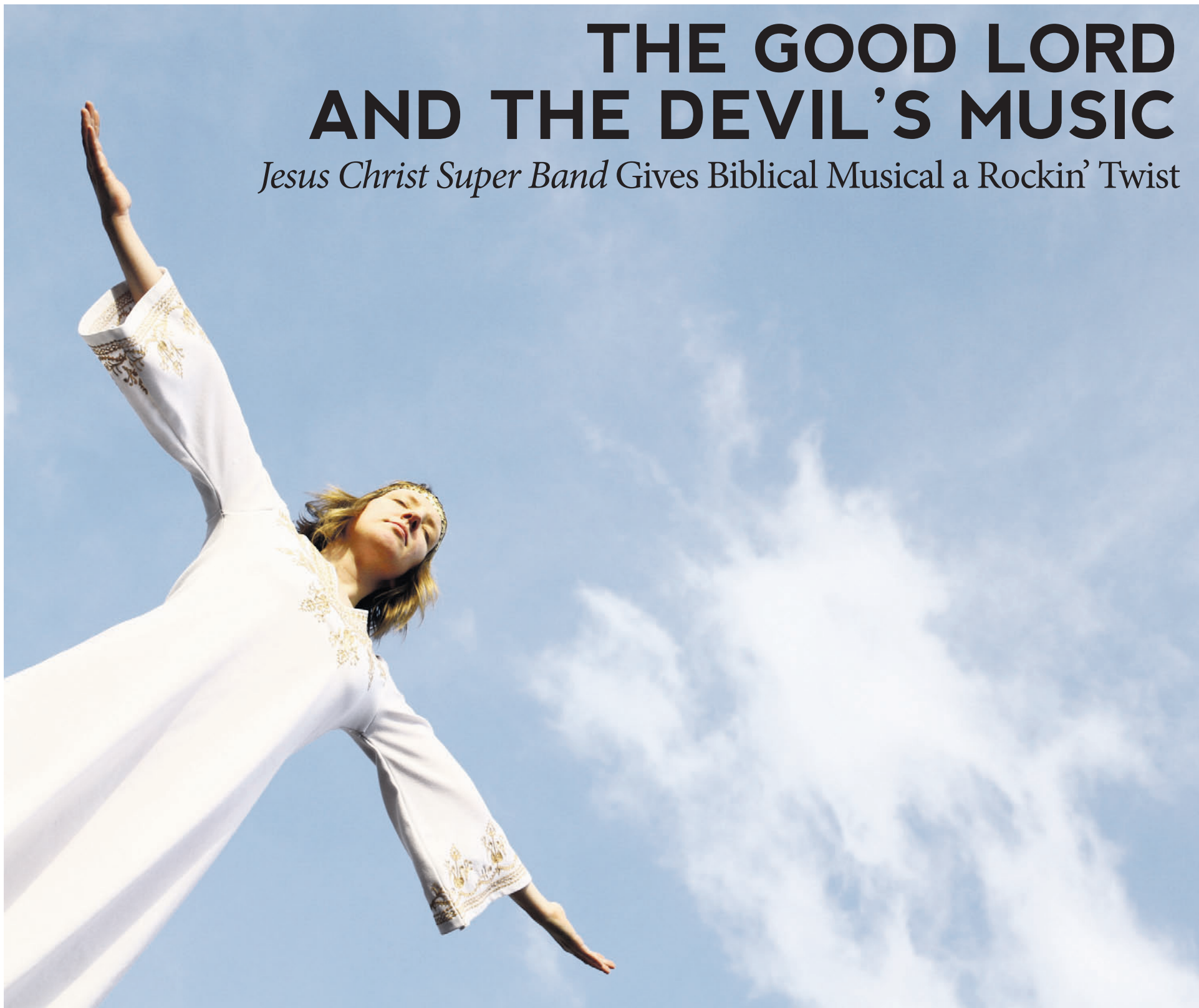


**For more information please contact Andre-Marcel Baril at  
ceo@csu.qc.ca, or visit the website: csuelections.wordpress.com**



# THE GOOD LORD AND THE DEVIL'S MUSIC

*Jesus Christ Super Band* Gives Biblical Musical a Rockin' Twist



Sandi Armstrong channeling her inner Jesus.

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

Sandi Armstrong has loved the sensational Broadway musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* since she was 12. Now, she's bringing that to the Montreal stage.

She plays a rockin' portrayal of Jesus in her epic rock opera, *Jesus Christ Super Band*, a week-long concert that celebrates the music of the original production paired with a bit of flair as well as a six-piece band of Montreal musicians to bring the theatrical energy to a whole new level.

The concert first premiered at Théâtre Sainte Catherine in June 2012 and is in its second year of production, spearheaded by Armstrong.

The Théâtre Sainte Catherine and *Jesus Christ Super Band* have a tight-knit relationship: Jeff Louch, the theatre's musical director, fills the role of Pontius Pilate in the show and Louch's brother, Mark, manages the theatre. Armstrong herself is a 10-year veteran working there.

The band members for the show

are all familiar as well, having a history of playing together in the Mile End.

While they are all in separate Montreal-based bands, including the innovative sing-along rock band uRockaoke and the indie-rock group Plants and Animals, they are coming together for a second time to make up the *Super Band* ensemble.

"We have a great cast, and it's so awesome to put on a show with close friends," Louch said.

The original rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and first hit the Broadway stage in 1971. Since then, it has had dozens of different adaptations and spin-offs, including a film, a one-woman performance by Canadian musician Peaches and a surf-rock version called *Jesus Christ Surferstar*.

The musical is a biblical narrative and is loosely based on the Gospels' accounts of the last week of Jesus' life, leading up to his crucifixion. It delves into the psychologies of Jesus, Judas and other characters.

*Jesus Christ Super Band* elevates the idea from a musical into full-fledged concert, performing the entirety of the songs as if Jesus and his disciples are international superstars touring the world, with a full band on stage to back them up.

"It's like a rock concert in costume," Louch said. "We're not just re-enacting the movie. This year we're performing all the songs from the musical, and it's super fun how much we get into character."

Before the show became reality, Armstrong knew all the musical's songs by heart, and would belt them out with her roommate in their shared apartment. Working at Théâtre Sainte Catherine co-ordinating improv shows provided a golden opportunity and sparked the thought, "Hey, why don't we do this onstage?"

And just like that, *Jesus Christ Super Band* was born.

"I like to think of our version of Jesus as Cal Naughton, Jr. described him in the movie *Tal-*

*adega Nights*," Armstrong said. "Jesus with giant eagle's wings, and singin' lead vocals for Lynyrd Skynyrd with an angel band, and I'm in the front row and I'm hammered drunk!"

Armstrong said it's only natural for her to play the lead role as Jesus, as she was the one to bring the adaptation to life. Her fellow *Superstar* enthusiast and roommate, Simon Alain, joins her onstage as Mary Magdalene.

With a female Jesus lead and a male playing Mary Magdalene, this show is not your typical church-choir production.

Armstrong said the gender-role reversal is not a focus of the show, and the concert transcends any boundaries religious taboo might impose to become something everyone can enjoy and relate to, no matter what their religious beliefs.

"We play it straight; there's no spoofing of any kind," she said. "It's all genuine."

Having run a number of shows at Théâtre Sainte Catherine, Armstrong

knows there's a power in music, and aims to touch people with the spirited performances in the show.

"We're not faking it. We're feelin' it up there, there's magic," Armstrong expresses. "This is our second year of doing this, and last year when I walked into the audience, their eyes were twinkling. A few people even cried."

Armstrong and Louch will be filming the upcoming shows for promotional purposes and hope to put on a series of performances at Parc Lafontaine's outdoor amphitheatre in the summer. Although Théâtre Sainte Catherine is the current home of the show, Louch would still like to branch out in the future.

"The response has been great. We're just seeing how far we can take it," Louch said.

**Jesus Christ Super Band / March 20 to March 23 / Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.) / 8:00 p.m. / \$15.00**



FRINGE CALENDAR MARCH 19 – MARCH 25

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

LIT

1 A Reading with Camille Martin’s Looms and Oana Avasilichioaei’s *We, Beasts*  
March 19  
Argo Bookshop (1915 Ste. Catherine St. W.)  
7:30 p.m.  
Free

2 *Serial Villain* by Sherwin Tjia: Book Launch  
March 21  
Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
7:30 p.m.  
Free  
  
A collection of eclectic and parodic illustrated short stories featuring B-movie noir plots, complete with mob bosses and femme fatales, serial killers and corrupt cops—and more. Montreal-based writer Sherwin Tjia brings us into his dark, stylish and often hilarious world with the launch of his book *Serial Villain*.

3 Writers Read presents Juliana Spahr  
March 22  
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-767)  
7:00 p.m.  
Free

4 An Afternoon with Raina Telgemeier  
March 23  
Librairie Drawn & Quarterly (211 Bernard St. W.)  
3:00 p.m.  
Free

MUSIC

5 Matt Mays + July Talk  
March 20  
Cabaret du Mile-End (5240 Parc Ave.)  
9:00 p.m.  
\$15.00

6 The Death Set + Rock Forest  
March 21  
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
9:30 p.m.  
\$12.00 advance / \$15.00 door  
  
The Death Set, an “art punk” band hailing from the East Coast of the United States, hits the Montreal scene partnered with locals Rock Forest, crossing genres from experimental to punk rock to electronica in what’s sure to be a high-energy show.

BOY + Joshua Hyslop  
March 25  
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
9:30 p.m.  
\$15.00

DANCE

8 *Spirale*  
March 21 to March 23  
MB Building (1450 Guy St.)  
8:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 student / \$10.00 regular  
  
First-year students in Concordia’s Contemporary Dance Department bring their A-game for the production *Spirale*, spread over three different nights with three different programs. Come support Concordia’s dancers!

THEATRE

9 *So-Called Outcomes*  
March 19 and March 20  
La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
8:00 p.m.  
\$2.00 students / \$5.00 regular

10 *Jesus Christ Super Band*  
March 20 to March 23  
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)  
8:00 p.m.  
\$15.00

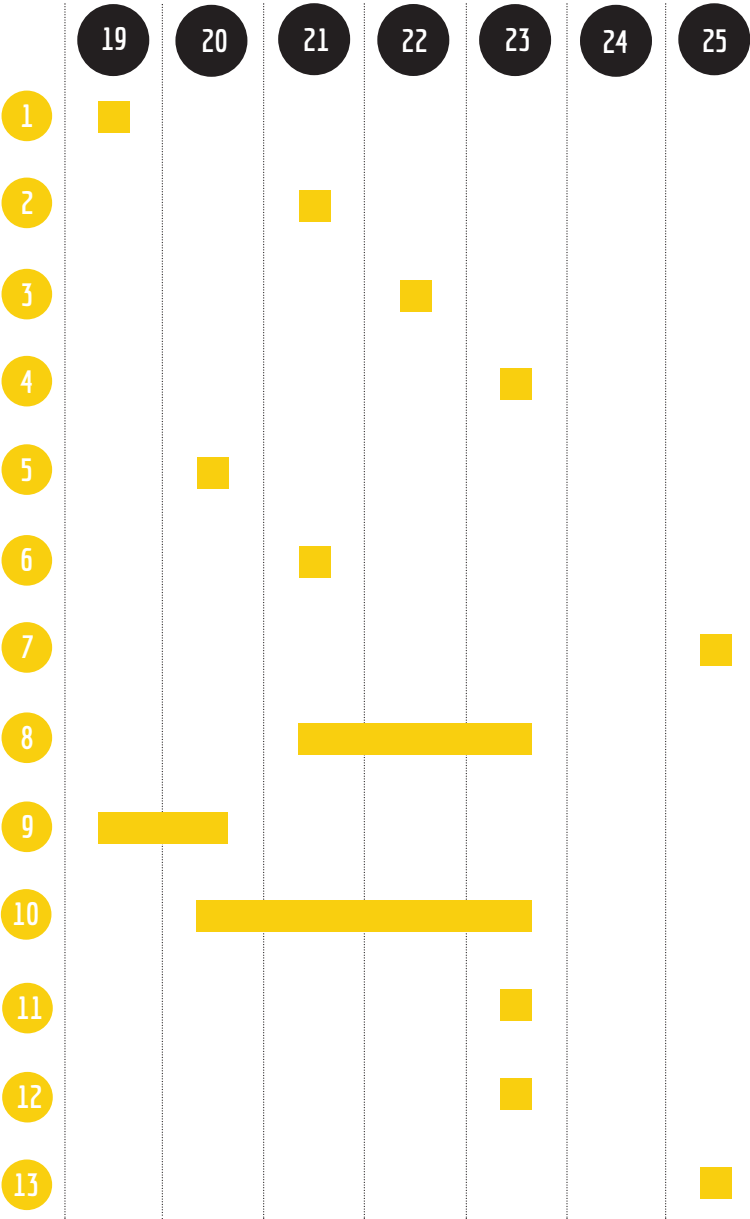
PARTY

11 No Pants No Problem  
March 23  
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)  
10:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 without pants / \$10.00 with pants  
  
A deliciously scandalous party put on by Glam Glam Productions, this no-pants event featuring kissing booths, dancing in your undies, games of spin-the-bottle and more. With a pant-check at the door and 50 per cent off the cover charge if you go pants-less, there’s never been more incentive to drop your drawers.

FILM

12 *Horse Palace* by Nadine Gomez  
March 23  
PHI Centre (407 St. Pierre St.)  
7:00 p.m.  
\$11.25

13 *Cinema Politica: Black Block*  
March 25  
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-110)  
7:00 p.m.  
PWYC  
  
Featuring testimony from police brutality victims (an issue all-too-fresh in Montrealers’ minds) from the 2001 G8 protests in Genoa, this documentary delves into human and civil rights, and how government repression in a democracy increasingly redefines what it means to be “free.”



FRINGE TALK

The Link’s Arts Writing Workshop

Have an artsy bent? Dig poetry, love painting, hyperventilate when you think about contemporary dance? Come by *The Link* to hear this year’s Fringe Arts editors, Katie McGroarty and Elysha del Giusto-Enos, talk about the highs and lows of arts reporting. Handy-dandy tips will be given, from how to interview artists to what to do after the fact.

Wednesday, March 20  
6:00 p.m.  
The Link Office  
(1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)



# KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

Three ConU Football Players Prepare for the Biggest Job Interviews of Their Lives



Kris Robertson (no. 23), Nathan Taylor (no. 31) and Corey Newman (no. 64) are hoping to turn some heads at the CFL regional scouting combine in Quebec City March 20. Clockwise from top: Player no. 23, Kris Robertson, photo by Dylan Maloney; player no. 64, Corey Newman, photo by Alice du Lac; player no. 31, Nathan Taylor, photo by Erin Sparks.

**7:00 a.m.:**  
wake up.

**8:00 a.m.:**  
eat breakfast and head to gym.

**9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**  
speed and agility training session.

**12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.:**  
lunch, then rest.

**2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.:**  
strength and power training session, followed by physical therapy session.

**6:00 p.m.:**  
dinner.

**10:00 p.m.:**  
bed

by **Yacine Bouhali @MyBouhali**

This has been Kris Robertson's schedule, six days a week, for the past seven weeks.

For most of the past two months, the Concordia Stingers defensive back and kick returner has been training at the TEST Football Academy in Miami, on the Florida International University Campus.

He didn't choose it at random: The academy is well known for preparing young football prospects for the National Football League Scouting Combine, a pre-draft evaluation showcase.

Notable NFL players who have attended the academy include Super Bowl-winning quarterback Joe Flacco, running back Ray Rice and cornerback Patrick Peterson.

But Robertson hasn't been invited to the NFL combine in April, nor to its Canadian Football League equivalent E-Camp, taking place March 22 to March 24.

He has been invited, however, to one of three inaugural CFL regional draft combines on Wednesday. In Quebec City, he'll join 40 other players who didn't receive an invitation to the E-Camp, but who will put their talents on display, hoping to be added to the list of players attending the national combine.

"This is without a doubt the biggest job interview of my life,"

said Robertson on the phone with *The Link* as he was on his way back from Florida. "All the blood, sweat and tears—everything is going toward Wednesday's combine."

Some players may have given up on their CFL dreams the moment they found out they weren't among those invited to the E-Camp.

But Robertson isn't one of them: He decided to take money from his own pocket to attend the TEST Academy and train alongside other professional football hopefuls.

"I had a great experience at Concordia but my goal is not to come back [with the Stingers]," said Robertson, who finished first in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec in interceptions with four for 127 yards and two touchdowns last season.

"I want to play professional football. I believe that's the next step I need to take in my life."

To help make his dream a reality, Robertson has been working hard to improve his speed and agility over the last few weeks, hoping it will help him stand out enough in Wednesday's combine to earn a ticket to the national event two days later.

"The regional combine is like a semi-final game to me, and I'm trying to make it to the championship game," said Robertson. "If I'm not picked up, I'll return to Concordia and then just grind to get to where

I wanna be. I won't stop 'til I'm a professional football player."

Robertson won't be the only Stinger making the trip to Quebec City, however. Fifth-year offensive lineman Corey Newman and fourth-year safety Nathan Taylor are also looking forward to the regional combine.

"I've been doing all kind of football drills, I even tried boxing to improve my hand speed," said Newman, who said that he's in the best physical shape of his life, but nonetheless remains realistic about his chances.

"If it's not meant to be, it's not meant to be," he said. "I'm working now at a trucking company in Dorval, so if I don't make it I'll go back there and hopefully go coach where I'm from, in Châteauguay."

As for Taylor, at the end of last season, the Stingers' 2012 MVP and most dedicated player began training weekly with former Winnipeg Blue Bomber and Montreal Alouette Steven Holness. This past month, Taylor went to North Miami Beach, FL and trained at the Bommarito Performance Center.

Going to the gym five to six days a week, Taylor hopes that the weight exercises he's been completing day in and day out during the off-season will give him the edge he needs to stand out among the wealth of talent he'll be sur-

rounded by on Wednesday.

"I wanna go there, show coaches what I can do and hopefully get a spot to the E-Camp and possibly on a CFL team," said Taylor, who is confident that he'll do well at the regional camp.

"I've heard through my coaches that there's a lot of good talk about me, my style and my ability to play the game. There's a few CFL coaches who want to see me at the regional camp, so that helps my chances to get to the E-Camp."

On top of just making the E-Camp, Taylor thinks he has what it takes to make it at the CFL level.

"I know guys who are in the CFL," he said. "They're good, but I feel like I'm just as good as them and if they made it and they can be successful in the CFL, I think I can do it too."

If not, Taylor said he wants to travel overseas and play football in Europe.

"I've heard there's good teams in Germany and France. I'd go play there for a year, get used to the pro-style system and hopefully come back and play in the CFL," he said.

But if one thing's for sure, it's that Taylor, like Robertson, will stop at nothing to fulfill his CFL dreams.

"I would play for any team, at any position," he said. "I would play corner, halfback or linebacker. I would even hold the ball for the kicker, I don't care."

"All the blood, sweat and tears—everything is going toward Wednesday's combine."  
**Kris Robertson**





## STINGERS TURNING THE PAGE

### Spring Football Camp Promises New Beginnings for Embattled Concordia Squad

by David Kaufmann  
@DavidKaufmann85

The Concordia Stingers football team began the process of turning the page on their tumultuous 2012 season as they opened their annual spring camp practice last Thursday at the Stinger dome.

"This practice is mostly just to get the rust off, and our goal each day is to get better and better, and to get to mid-season form by the time we're done," said Stingers quarterback Reid Quest, who threw for over 2,000 yards last season.

"Our goal is the same as every team in [Canadian Interuniversity Sport] and that's to win a Vanier Cup."

The Stingers have seen their fair share of adversity over the past year.

For starters, they finished last season in last place with a 1-8 record after having to forfeit two games they'd won due to playing with an ineligible player on their roster. They've also lost their receiving coach Dave Spence, who left the team to take on the same position with the McGill Redmen.

"They're paying him four times what I was able to pay him, and they've offered him a full-time position for next year, which I don't have the financial ability to do," explained Stingers head coach Gerry McGrath.

Also gone from next year's coaching staff is defensive coordinator Phil Roberts, who is leaving for personal reasons.

"Phil is a good friend of mine. He drives every day from Ottawa to coach, and he's been doing it for three years," said McGrath. Roberts' departure opens the door for the Stingers' 2012 linebacking coach Luc Pelland to take his old spot, however.

"That's not so much a coaching loss, just a situation that's better for everybody," said McGrath.

#### Stinger Struggles

If the coaching switch-ups weren't enough, the past year has seen numerous players leave the Stingers program.

Starting defensive end Louis Taillon and defensive back recruit Danny Tam left the team to join the powerhouse Laval Rouge et Or last August, while starting defensive back Kadeem Vaillancourt did the same earlier this year—joining a long list of players and coaches who have defected since the 2011 season.

"Some kids aren't happy with their fate in a certain program and they can leave. It's better they leave than be malcontent in the program they're in," said McGrath.

"If they want to go and play somewhere else, then we don't want them here," added Quest.

Despite their issues last year, McGrath says last season's record wasn't

reflective of the team's progress.

"If we had not lost those games due to an ineligible player, we would have made the playoffs," said McGrath. "In the situation we're in, being in a rebuilding mode, that would not have been a bad year."

Nonetheless, the team admits it didn't play to its potential.

"We weren't as cohesive as we could have been," said Stingers punter Keegan Treloar. "Now that we've bonded over the off-season, we've come together quite strong."

Last season marked just the third time the Stingers missed the playoffs since McGrath took over as head coach in 2000. However, two out of those three playoff absences have come within the past three seasons.

That being said, McGrath isn't concerned about his job should the Stingers miss the playoffs next season.

"I don't think about those things," he said. "I worry about taking care of my players and doing my job. And if that's not good enough, that's not good enough."

#### Welcome to the Fold

One thing the Stingers can look forward to in the season to come is a recruiting class that so far features three CEGEP players—two Division 1 offensive linemen and one Division 3 all-star defensive back—and five players from Ontario.

"Anytime you get a blue-chip



The Stingers' annual football Spring Camp began last Thursday. Despite struggles in the last season, the Stingers hope to make a comeback in 2013. Photos Natalia Lara Diaz Berrio

player, he makes your team better, so we expect them to come in and play at a competitive level right away," said McGrath of the incoming talent.

Leading the Ontario pack is Clark Green, a punter from Chatham-Kent Secondary School. In 2011, he was a member of Team Ontario West at the under-18 Football Canada Cup and was selected to be a member of the All Canada Gridiron all-star game, which features recruits from competing high schools, in 2011 and 2012.

"Having another guy to come and kick with me is always awesome," said Treloar.

The Stingers will also get some help on defence with the addition of defensive ends Rivver Griffith, from the Mississauga Warriors of the Ontario Varsity Football League, and Jonathan Langma, a transfer student from St. Francis Xavier University, along with safety Shaquille Davis from Rich-

mond Hill, ON.

They'll even have help on the scrimmage line with the addition of Jordan Oliver, a lineman from Scarborough, ON, who last played for Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School of London, ON.

"The CIS is a different game; it's bigger, stronger guys. Hopefully they'll come in and compete right away and push for a starting spot," said Quest.

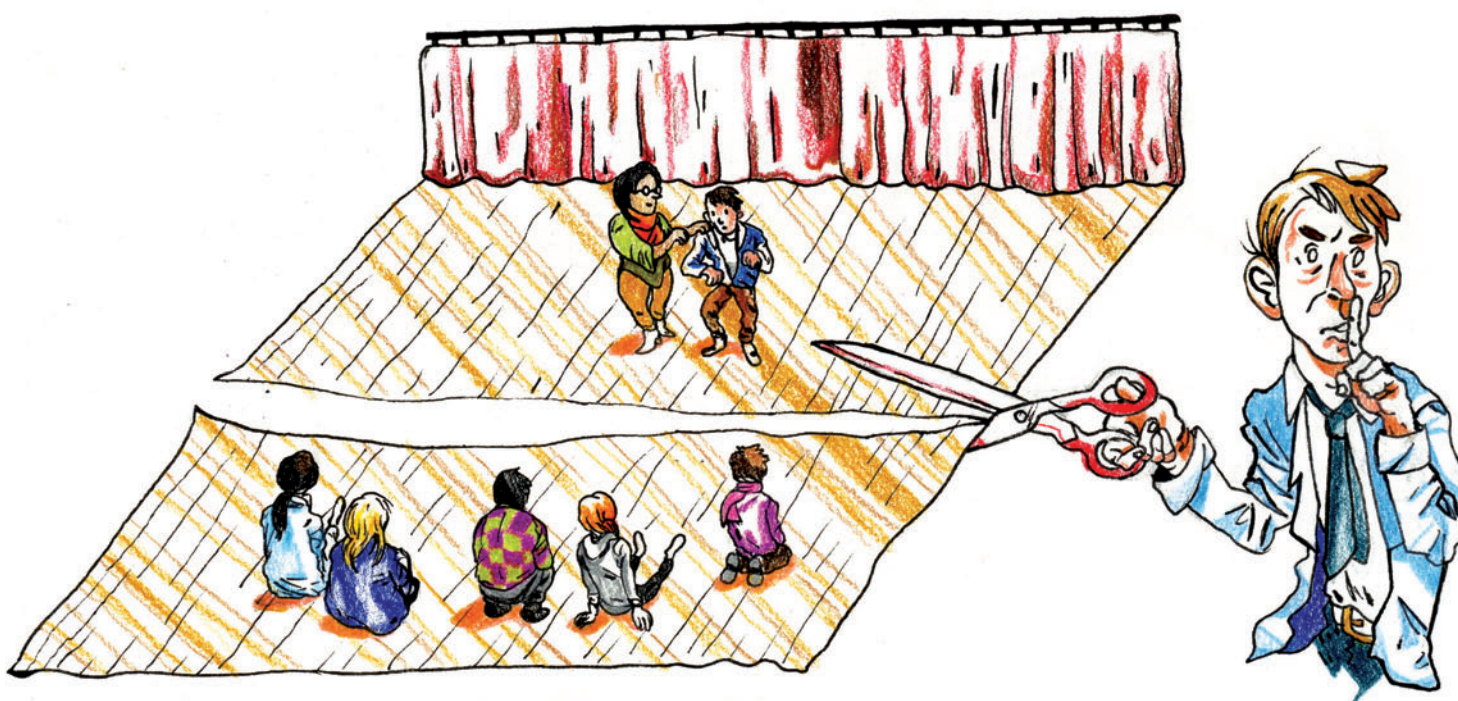
Former CEGEP de la Pocatière defensive back Nicolas Picard, along with offensive linemen Cédric Vinet and Sacha Jacimovic, from Champlain-Lennoxville and CEGEP du Vieux-Montréal, respectively, are also set to join the team.

The Stingers will get 10 practices within the next couple of weeks before welcoming their new recruits at training camp in August. They open their season on Aug. 31, when they'll welcome the Université de Montréal Carabins to Concordia Stadium.



## FINANCIAL CUTS THREATEN CONU'S FINE ARTS FACULTY

Arts Students Need to Get Involved, Be Aware



*a special to The Link by Erika Couto @erikalikesart*

When the Parti Québécois announced cuts to university funding, I knew the Faculty of Fine Arts would get hit. After all, all of Concordia's faculties were inevitably going to see their budgets cut.

What I didn't expect was for a 15 to 20 per cent reduction of the non-salary and non-permanent budget of the Fine Arts Faculty. This amounts to roughly \$500,000 to \$800,000.

I'm also a little angry—actually, I'm very angry—about the fact that the administration has mostly failed to keep students informed of the cuts.

Dean of Fine Arts Catherine Wild, for instance, sent a memo to faculty members about the budget cuts. She urged them to pass on the information to their students, but inexplicably never got around to directly sending the memo out to students herself.

I guess, to her credit, she did meet with Fine Arts Student Alliance executives to talk about the cuts—but meeting with six students out of over 3,000 seems like a really hollow gesture.

Given that I had already found out about the seriousness of the cuts from another student in another faculty two days earlier, this meeting seemed like it was already too little, too late. In fact, my source

proved to have more useful information for me than the administration.

What the administration now slowly seems to be realizing is that fine arts students don't take anything lying down. It's not in our nature.

What started out as two-minute class presentations quickly turned into full-on discussions about the severity of the budget cuts and how they might affect students in our faculty. The most prevalent response from students has been, "How did I not know that this was happening?"

Simply put, because information is not being disseminated to you.

From conversations I've had with my fellow student politicians in the Concordia Student Union, cuts to the other faculties have been kind of hush-hush so far.

A word of advice to students in other faculties: start poking the bear. And by bear, I mean Bram Freedman in the Office of the Vice-President.

He's the guy you email if you want to know stuff. You can send him Access to Information requests about the cuts going on in your faculty. It may take a while, but he is up for review this year, so it's in his interest to grant you your request.

As soon as I found out about the cuts, I went to go see the Concordia Association of Students in Theatre, since it appears that the theatre department will be hit the hardest in the Fine Arts Faculty.

CAST has started a petition to keep their summer classes, and I hope you read CAST treasurer Ned Zimmerman's piece for *The Link* last week [Vol. 33, Iss. 25], because I have the greatest respect and admiration for everything that CAST has been doing over the past month.

The FASA council unanimously opposed the cuts and we're circulating a petition in our classes for students to sign. If you're a fine arts student, I strongly suggest that you sign it, and if you'd like to help, feel free to stop by VA-025 in the VA Building between Monday and Friday to pick up copies of the petition to circulate around.

A university is supposed to be a place for learning. Money should be going to those who need it the most, the students. What I can't comprehend is the obvious lack of understanding on the part of the people who are deciding how much gets cut where.

By their very nature, fine arts programs are expensive to run. Studio and workshop classes have to remain small in order for teachers to be able to give feedback to students. Students also need resource labs to be able to complete their projects.

I understand that that makes Fine Arts less than cost-effective, but I think that there is a strong argument to be made for the prestige that our faculty brings to the university in spite of this.

Every year, people turn down

admissions offers with scholarship money from other universities to come to Concordia because our Fine Arts faculty is truly top-notch—because it's small and provides an intimate working atmosphere.

This format has produced Tony winners, official Cannes selections, Oscar nominees and world-class artists. Concordia loves to then wave those achievements in the public's face every chance that it gets—rightfully so, because our faculty is awesome.

Excuse me, though, for being a little baffled that those achievements are apparently meaningless when the university is asked to put its money where its mouth is and find ways to support its Fine Arts programs as much as it can.

The silver lining in this situation is that the administration is taking notice. CAST's petition resulted in a meeting with the Dean on March 13. And thanks to negotiations on the part of the Fine Arts faculty, the theatre summer classes are back on. I may or may not be singing Queen's "We Are the Champions" right now.

*Erika Couto is the VP Clubs & Services of the Fine Arts Student Alliance and an ex-officio officer for Fine Arts with the CSU. This article represents her own opinions, and not those of FASA or the CSU.*

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

 **LETTERS@**  
thelinknewspaper.ca

### Fine Arts Cuts Will Damage Program

There has been a flurry of activity regarding the funding cuts to Fine Arts programs. The Fine Arts Student Alliance stated that 15 to 20 per cent of funding will be cut from the faculty and its programs.

The most innovative moments in history come from ideas and creativity.

Someone had to think of a wheel before inventing it and then realizing its potential. A team of astronauts designed rockets and ships to explore the far reaches of our galaxy. Musicians create lyrics that make us question, explore or forget about our problems. All of these accomplishments required ideas and creativity.

Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts alumni are internationally recognized as some of the best in the world. Arcade Fire—which features three Concordia alumni, two from Fine Arts—won the Grammy for Best Album in 2011 and film graduate Édouard Lock is combining film with groundbreaking choreography.

I am excited to see what the next generation of alumni will give to the world. Unfortunately, the devastating cuts to Fine Arts will kill the creative potential of our students. There will be fewer mentorship opportunities, less exploration and fewer performance opportunities.

I hope every student and alumni of Concordia will help FASA in fighting against these cuts.

—Andy Filipowich,  
BFA Contemporary Dance, Class of 2012

### Melissa Kate Wheeler for President

Hello fellow undergrads, I would simply like to say a few words regarding our upcoming Concordia Student Union elections, and in particular about presidential candidate Melissa Kate Wheeler. She may be the only candidate this year, but I would challenge you to find a better candidate for the role.

While many of you are no doubt aware of Melissa's involvement in the Concordia community, including being one of the most vocal members of council this year, as well as heavily involved with the Love Doesn't Hurt campaign, there are some other important things that you should know about her.

Melissa is both a smart and driven young woman, who is unafraid to stand up and fight for what she believes is right. She is also one of the single most compassionate people I know and will drop everything to help someone in need.

This young woman cares enormously about Concordia, especially its students. I have no doubt in my mind that Melissa is going to do everything in her power to defend the rights of students, and to ensure that their uni-

Letters continued on page 24



# CSU'S ELECTORAL REFORMS HELP THE UNION

a special to The Link  
by Gonzo Nieto @gonzebo

It's election time again at the Concordia Student Union, and in case you hadn't heard, all but one of the executive positions are uncontested, as are most of the council and Senate positions.

This has led to questions about whether the electoral reforms made last year have resulted in lower student participation in the CSU elections.

The main policy change I'm referring to is the removal of an affiliation between the executive slate and council and Senate candidates.

The changes were put into effect in 2011 to respond to a highly polarized political culture that had developed, which had come to hinder councillors' ability to criticize the executives or hold them accountable, particularly because the councillors and executives had run on the same team.

Currently, executive candidates can form a team under a common slate name, such as this year's *CSYou*. But when it comes time to vote, they must each be elected independently instead of as a team.

Additionally, though councillors are free to speak for or against an executive slate or candidate, they are not permitted to affiliate themselves with a particular slate and run under their banner.

In contrast, the previous system saw executive slates elected in an all-or-nothing fashion, as students couldn't vote on executive candidates independently, but

only on a whole team. Additionally, council and Senate candidates could affiliate themselves with a slate, though they would still be listed and voted on individually on the ballots.

So, have these changes caused a drop in the number of students that run for elected positions at the undergraduate level?

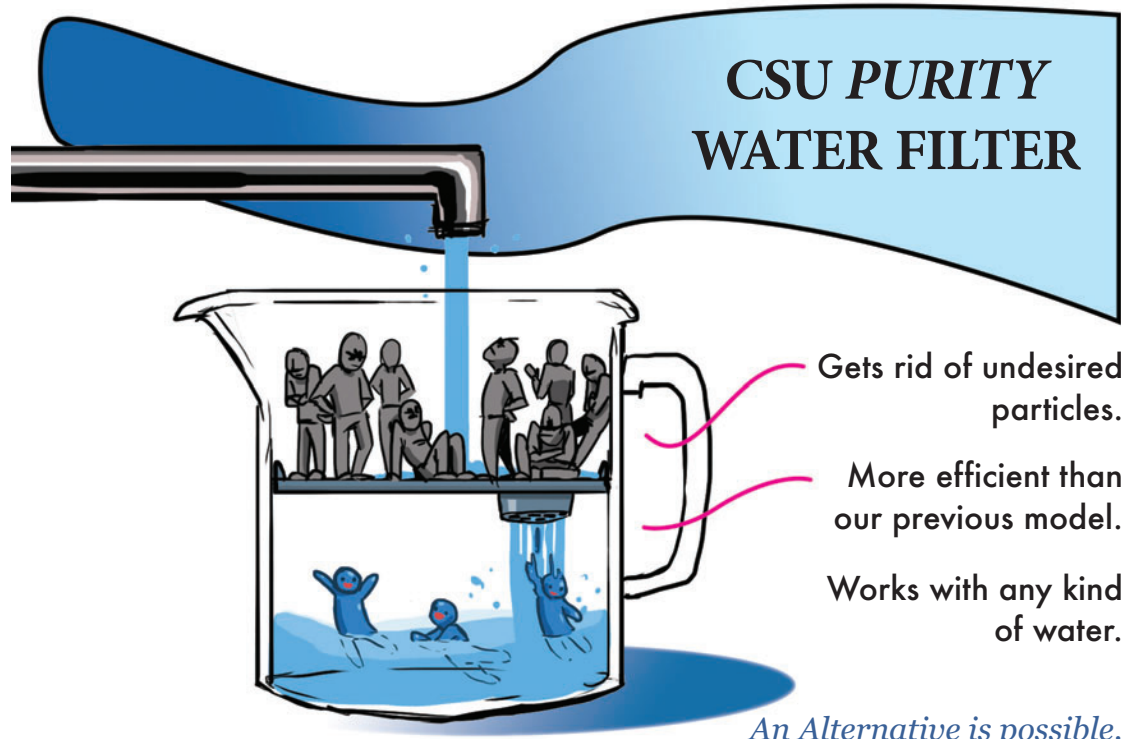
For executive candidates, there have only been two elections since the changes—including the current one. The first election had two executive slates, and the current election has one slate and two independent candidates.

Given such a small sample size, we simply can't tell whether a change in executive candidacy has resulted from the electoral changes in question. The coming years will allow for a clearer picture and will give us a better idea of whether the reforms should be left as is or further tweaked.

But with some wondering if we should do away with the reforms entirely and return to the slate system, it's worth considering other aspects of the numbers.

With regards to non-executive positions, the previous system gave a direct financial incentive to make sure that teams were running as many councillors and senators as possible. A team had \$100 more at its disposal to spend on campaign materials for each council and Senate candidate running with it.

This meant that if slates wanted enough money to properly run their campaigns and beat the competing teams, it was wise to



run as many candidates as possible, even if that meant recruiting people who didn't really care about the union beyond being friends with the people on the slates and supporting the fact that they were running.

Further, in the interest of having a supportive council for a given executive's year in office, slates would tend to recruit people friendly to their team, rather than those that might be critical or act as opposition.

Now that the system has changed and teams aren't granted extra campaign money for having more candidates, executives don't have nearly as much incentive to

recruit and make sure there's an abundant amount of councillors and senators lined up.

The current structure—instead of incentivizing the recruitment of friends and the perpetuation of political "camps"—is more conducive to attracting council and Senate candidates that are truly motivated by an interest in the union and in student representation.

In its first two years, these electoral changes do appear to be linked to fewer councillors and senators running for office in comparison to years past. However, they are also more likely to be better motivated to assume their positions.

It should also be pointed out that remnants of the polarized political "camps" still exist, and, in my opinion, the reputation of council as a body rife with petty political infighting remains the main reason that able and motivated students are dissuaded from getting involved.

Gonzo Nieto is a Concordia Student Union Arts & Science councillor and former CSU VP Clubs and Student Space. This article represents his own views, not those of the CSU.

Graphic Caity Hall & Paku Daoust-Cloutier



## LETTERS@thelinknewspaper.ca

versity experience is the best it can possibly be.

While I am certainly encouraging you to vote for Melissa and the *CSYou* slate in the CSU elections from March 26 to March 28, I would like each and every one of you to do more than that. Check out the *CSYou* slate, their ideas and their campaign. Get in touch with Melissa and voice your concerns about your university.

You are fortunate enough to have an excellent candidate in front of you; she wants to help you. Please, do not waste this opportunity; get involved, even if it simply means just asking her a quick question.

I would like to hope that we have learned, after this year, the importance of involving ourselves in our student government.

—Catherine Polson,  
BA Political Science

### Scott Carr for VP Finance

To the Concordia student body,

As the incoming president of the Commerce and Administration Students' Association at the John Molson School of Business and outgoing president of CASA Cares, I am glad to announce my support for Scott

Carr as the VP Finance of Concordia Student Union.

Scott is no stranger to me, seeing as both of our associations collaborated last year to organize a successful fundraiser benefiting Moisson Montreal and voted as the most innovative project at JMSB.

Scott has been actively involved ever since he walked through the doors of the MB Building because he understands the value of making an impact on people's lives.

Currently, he is president of Enactus Concordia, Concordia's entrepreneurship and management association, and sits at CASA's Board of Directors meetings as a voting director.

Many assume that JMSB students' main concern is the bottom line: profit. However, part of Scott's responsibility is to ensure that the triple bottom line is taken into account: people, planet and profit. He understands the effects that businesses have on the people in our community and the environment we live in.

His involvement with Enactus and various initiatives at JMSB has proven that not only does he listen to the people around him and under-

stand their needs, but that he can also implement a plan, which will ultimately make a difference.

Driven by results, Scott has not only excelled as a president, but in case competitions as well, which enabled him to acquire the analytical skills required to keep the Concordia Student Union and its projects financially sustainable.

As an active member of the JMSB community, I am positive that he will be able to bridge the gap between JMSB and the CSU and I am looking forward to working together with the union to make Concordia University a better place for the students.

With his clear dedication to the community, his ability to listen to students, and his solid business background, I can say with confidence that Scott Carr is the perfect candidate for the CSU's VP Finance.

—John-Michael Minon,  
Outgoing President of CASA Cares  
Incoming President of CASA JMSB

### Melissa Kate Wheeler for President

If I were on a desert island—I'm talking *Lost* here, not Bora Bora—I'd want two things: I'd want a Swiss Army knife and I'd want Melissa Kate

Wheeler. Okay, I'd probably also want sunscreen and my iPhone, but you can't have it all. Except for with a vote for Melissa and the *CSYou* team.

She is not only super fun to hang with, easy to talk to, and good to look at, she is a human Swiss Army knife. Seriously, girl's got everything. Mel is incredibly intelligent and could school most people I know on the ins and outs of Concordia Student Union policy and internal affairs.

She spent her first year being involved with the CSU as council secretary, basically soaking up all the information she could—and writing it down really really fast—so she could be an outspoken and knowledgeable member of council the following year. She is always fair, well-spoken and is respected by her fellow councillors.

Mel is also a passionate and committed individual. Having started the Love Doesn't Hurt campaign this year, she has dedicated herself to helping others recognize cycles of violence in relationships and provide a place for them to get help. She does these things because she genuinely just loves spreading the love.

One of the most huggy people I know, Mel really just cares about people. She genuinely sees the best in

everyone, and even in times of conflict or stress, she is able to make clear-headed decisions in the best interests of everyone, not just herself.

A vote for Melissa and her *CSYou* team is a vote for versatility, hugs, really fast typing skills—and a union that will work for *you*, represent *you* and respect *you*.

—Maddy Griffin,  
Arts and Science Federation of  
Associations VP Social Affairs

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

*Editor's Note:* Due to budgetary constraints, all CSU endorsement letters will be published online only as of next week.

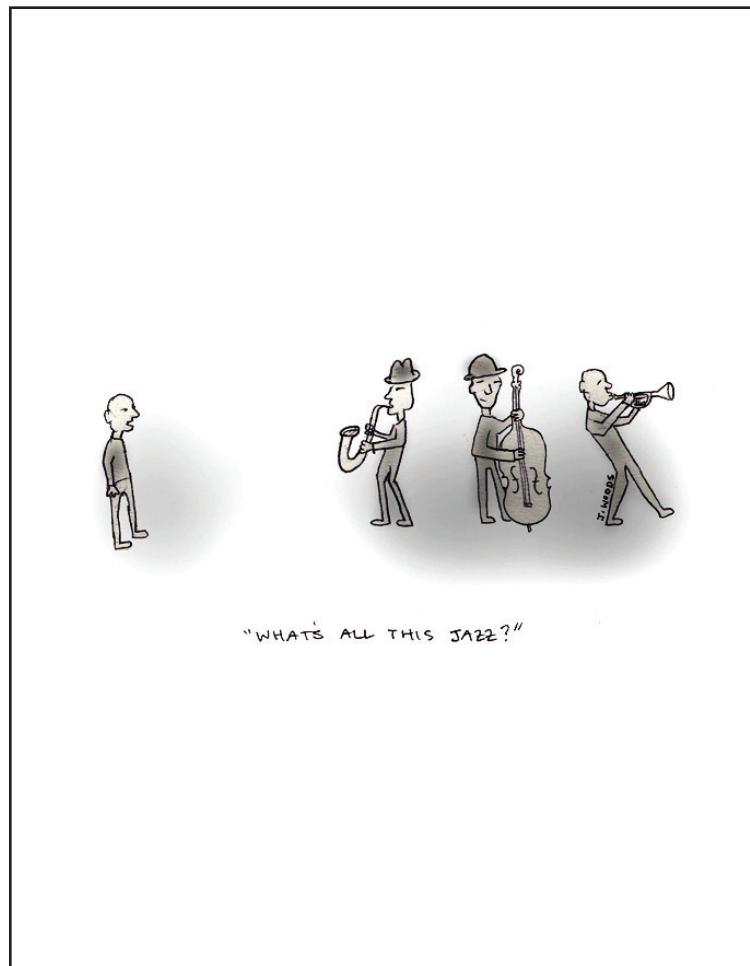






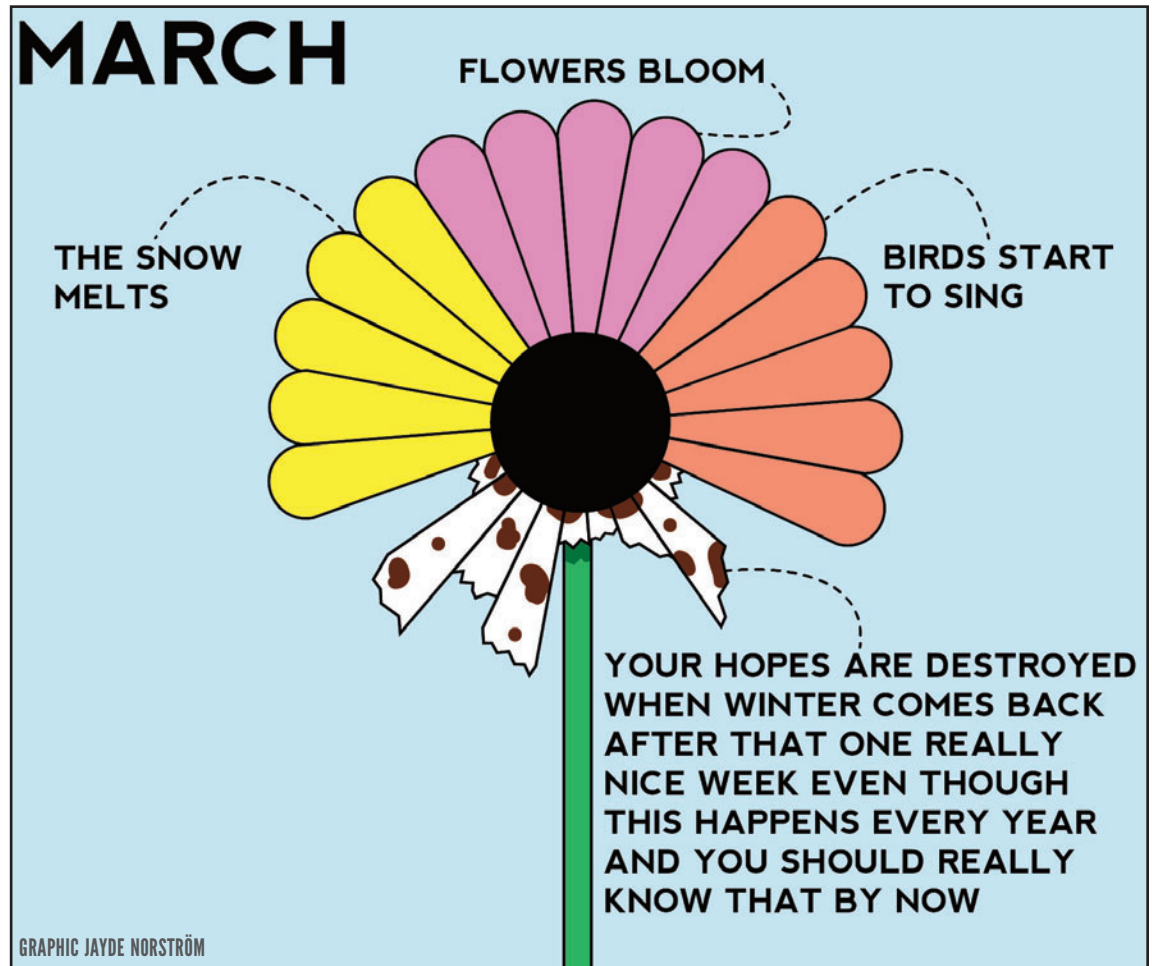
## BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



## LINKOGRAPHY

## THE LIES OF MARCH



## FALSE KNEES

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



## NAH'MSAYIN?

### Stir Crazy

When I started drinking coffee I'd chew on a teaspoon of my dad's Taster's Choice coffee crystals, chase them with a glass of water, and run out the door. Eventually I learned to manage my time well enough to boil the water first and then put the instant coffee in it.

Waiting for it to be a drinkable temperature and ingesting the caffeine through gradual sipping really slowed down the ultimate goal, though. I had an 8:00 a.m. class to get to, after all.

When I want coffee, I become the Veruca Salt of caffeine—I want it now.

These days, I buy a coffee and dump some milk into it until it looks a little paler and that's it. But all too often, I am blocked from executing that simple scenario.

I'm trapped behind someone who thinks this is eighth-grade science.

She stands in the middle of the little counter,

pours the cream, then slowly lifts the cup to her lips, sips, puts it down, thinks about it.

She looks around—where are the stir sticks? Ah, there they are. She stirs. She thinks. She takes a sugar packet. Shakes it. Rips it open. Throws the corner in the circular cutout in the counter. It doesn't go in. She brushes it a bit to push it into the garbage. She sips again. Thinks. Repeats.

How does an adult not know how they like their coffee? There are very limited options. And why is this moment being drawn out and savoured so much? There are parks to walk in for times of quiet reflection. I'm starting to overheat in my winter coat back here.

This is fourth-floor Hall Building coffee, after all—stop trying to fix it, that's just the way it tastes.

—Elysha del Giustos-Enos,  
Fringe Arts Online Editor



Graphic Joshua Barkman



## Editorial



# ON BRUTAL REPRESSION BY THE SPVM

It began as most Anti-Police Brutality protests do.

Demonstrators grew in numbers at a meeting place on March 15, this year facing the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal station at Place-des-Arts. There was heavy police presence, there were some people wearing masks and others distributing pamphlets. The usual chants of “No justice, no peace, fuck the police!” filled the air.

But that’s when things took a new turn—police moving in to block off all exits from the square. A handful of people were violently pulled from the crowd and arrested before anything happened.

An announcement was made—the demonstration had been declared illegal under a municipal bylaw which requires an itinerary be provided for any demonstration, but protesters were told they were permitted to march without police intervention, provided they marched with traffic.

At 5:22 p.m., the march began. At 5:23 p.m., Sûreté du Québec and SPVM officers swept in and began dispersing demonstra-

tors. They had marched roughly half a block.

The annual protest has a history of getting out of hand—15 out of the last 17 have erupted into violence and resulted in vandalism and mass arrests numbering in the hundreds.

But this year was different—demonstrators were given no chance to show that they could be peaceful. Police intervened immediately rather than allowing demonstrators to voice their message.

A single police car was vandalized and two store windows broken, which are not insignificant—but are also not reason enough to kettle, pepper-spray, tear gas and arrest close to 300 protesters, many of whom had done nothing violent whatsoever.

They were detained for simply showing up.

Friday’s protest did little more than demonstrate why there is a need now, more than ever, to voice concerns about police brutality. Police were aggressive, showing excessive force on numerous occasions when making arrests.

In contrast, protesters showed minimal amounts of violence and, short of yelling at police, the majority never really engaged in

anything aggressive at all. If it isn’t possible to protest against police brutality without police provoking violence, how are things going to get any better?

Maybe they were trying to show off; agents from several Ontario and Quebec police forces were there to observe the brutality.

Kettling, a tactic frequently employed by Montreal police, was used heavily on March 15. It’s the practice of making a wide perimeter and moving in—trapping anyone caught inside for hours at a time, and ending in mass arrests.

To put things in perspective, following the 2010 G20 riots in Toronto, city police there said they would abandon the tactic, noting that it violates Section 9 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a section which guarantees the right of individuals against arbitrary detention and imprisonment.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association has also denounced the tactic, calling it unconstitutional. The kettling that occurred in London in 2009 during the G20 summit there has been ruled illegal by the

British High Court of Justice, who decided that those who were kettled could sue for false imprisonment.

Despite all of this, on March 15, Montreal police kettled groups of people seemingly at random, scooping up many passersby who played no role in the protest.

Why have Montreal police yet to abandon this controversial and, quite frankly, unconstitutional tactic?

Is an exercise of muscle-flexing going to make anyone stop protesting?

In years past, neither party has been without blame, like last year when rocks were thrown at police before things escalated into a riot.

This year, however, it’s not on the protesters to justify vandalism or rioting. This year, it’s on police to justify the mass arrest of nearly 300 individuals after less than five minutes of actual demonstrating, all of which was peaceful.

Trying to snuff out protests before they happen only galvanizes the cause—especially when it’s exactly the kind of misuse of power people are protesting against.

Graphic Paku Daoust-Cloutier

## THE LINK

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

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# OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS FROM CUFA

12 March 2013

Dear students,

As many of you are aware, the Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA), which represents full-time professors, lecturers and librarians, was given a strike mandate on March 8th, 2013 by its members. Over the past 15 months, the CUFA negotiating team has met with the Employer over forty times in an effort to reach a fair and equitable Collective Agreement. Frustrated with the delay tactics of the Employer, your professors and librarians had no choice but to give the faculty association a strike mandate.

While we have not announced a strike deadline, we are presently in a legal position to call a strike after giving the Employer 48 hours' notice. This is not an action we will take lightly. Our students are our # 1 commitment and we will do everything we can to avoid disrupting classes and delaying the submission of grades. Unfortunately, given the bullying tactics of the Employer at the bargaining table and Concordia's poor history of labour relations in general, we may have no choice but to resort to job action. We sincerely hope this does not come to pass but it is a possibility.

We know our students have many concerns about how a potential labour disruption could impact upon them and we encourage you to send an e-mail voicing these concerns to the Office of the Provost and VP at: [lisa.ostiguy@concordia.ca](mailto:lisa.ostiguy@concordia.ca) or the Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor at: [president@concordia.ca](mailto:president@concordia.ca). We will also be posting updates on our website: <http://cufa.net>.

In solidarity,

The CUFA Executive

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