

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

**VP ACADEMIC & ADVOCACY
LUCIA GALLARDO HAS RESIGNED.**

ONE DOWN

**HOW INFIGHTING & PETTY POLITICS ARE
BRINGING DOWN YOUR STUDENT UNION.**



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A COUNCIL DIVIDED

Exec's Resignation Letter Sheds Light on Troubled Union



CSU VP Academic and Advocacy Lucia Gallardo, center, addresses council at last week's Special Council Meeting.

PHOTO COREY POOL

BY COREY POOL @COREYRIVER

Over the last six months, the Concordia Student Union has been marred by accusations, disqualifications, reinstatements, internal political turmoil and most recently, the resignation of a member of the executive.

Late on Sunday night, CSU VP Academic and Advocacy Lucia Gallardo resigned from the union by way of a letter that brought to the surface issues of division within the student union.

"I find the whole situation very unfortunate," said CSU President Schubert Laforest. "I lost a very good executive. It was a pleasure to have Lucia on the executive, and this is a great loss."

During this year's first regular council meeting on Sept. 19—which Gallardo was absent for—it was announced that she was not a student, following a Student Status Verification Report.

A majority of council voted to request her immediate resignation, yet Gallardo still applied for late registration, asking council to reconsider their decision.

Despite her attempts, the will of council remained firm on the decision.

"The manner in which this whole situation has played out has shown me a side to the CSU that I can no longer be a part of," wrote Gallardo in her letter.

Gallardo's letter is openly criti-

"It's not a matter of serving the students anymore; it's a matter of putting your friends in the right places. It's a disservice to Concordia University."

—Nadim Kobeissi, Political Science Student

cal of the union she's leaving behind—specifically, of a handful of councillors who fought to have her removed.

"What is currently happening at CSU Council is a disservice to students," the letter continues. "It is disappointing to see the blatant disregard for the student body and the money it pays its union, for weekly Special Council Meetings full of personal hidden agendas."

Less than 24 hours after Gallardo stepped down, another resignation was announced.

"After several days of thinking, I have finally decided that I am resigning from my current position as an Arts and Science councillor," wrote Juliana Ramos in a letter addressed to Concordia students.

A former president of the Latin American Student Organization, Ramos explains in her letter that she thought that being part of the CSU would help her close her

studies "with great pride."

"Unfortunately, what I have witnessed in the past several council meetings has really changed my view on the role of council and I have been tremendously disappointed by the games that are being played without really wanting a better university for us students," Ramos' letter went on to say.

Though Laforest says that Gallardo's resignation letter was her own and not necessarily the opinion of the executive as a whole, he agreed that it did illustrate the state of tension at the CSU.

"There is a very unhealthy atmosphere at council this year," said Laforest. "This is something that councillors have expressed to me, it's something everybody feels and it's something that this situation has accentuated."

Gallardo mentions several councillors in her letter by name,

including Chad Walcott, Gonzo Nieto, Laura Glover and Melissa Kate Wheeler, criticizing their handling of her situation while warning students of their involvement with last year's executive, alleging that they disregarded CSU Standing Regulations and conspired against her.

"You should pay attention, Concordia," wrote Gallardo.

"Because half of last year's executives sit on this year's council, and demand answers without asking questions, take up seats on committees that prevent newly involved students [from taking] up that chance, try to place their old president [Lex Gill] on the Board of Governors even after their year is over."

Though Walcott remains convinced of council's demand for Gallardo's resignation, he did lament the state of affairs left by such a contentious resignation process.

"We didn't want it to have to come to an issue of interpersonal conflict and, at least in my opinion, it's not," said Walcott. "There are pretty clear bylaws that outline what a member of the CSU is, and unfortunately Lucia doesn't qualify because she is not a student."

"The fact that she's coming out with accusations that are largely false and based on emotion, it's unfortunate that this is the way it has to end."

These back-and-forth argu-

ments, and the growing tensions between two sides of the union have raised concerns amongst students at large.

Political science student Nadim Kobeissi resigned from his position on the Judicial Board of the CSU last spring following Gallardo's disqualification from running in the CSU elections, and her subsequent reinstatement.

According to Kobeissi, both sides of this situation are at fault for the chaotic state of the union.

"The current CSU is very obviously formed of different little social groups of people who stick to each other and who are messing with each other so that their friends can have positions and others cannot," said Kobeissi.

"It's not a matter of serving the students anymore; it's a matter of putting your friends in the right places. It's a disservice to Concordia University."

Though Gallardo claims to have "mixed emotions" about what has transpired over the past few weeks, she thinks that this situation could be seen as a learning experience and an opportunity for the union.

"The CSU needs some drastic changes, and maybe people who wouldn't normally run should consider running now," said Gallardo.

"I think the CSU needs some new blood. I think that might be better for the student body than having us keep running."

THE CHARACTERS, COSTS AND CORRUPTION OF CON U'S ADMINISTRATIVE PAST

Compiled by Megan Dolski & Corey Pool

Questionable and contentious governance is neither a recent nor inexpensive phenomenon here at Concordia.

Over roughly the past 20 years, ConU has reportedly doled out a whopping \$10 million to 45 departing administrators.

In recent years, the school has watched an unusually high number of upper-administrators come and go—with many of the departed leaving with hefty and controversial severance packages.

Since 2005, two presidents have been given

the boot and five VPs have resigned.

In the spring of 2011, nearly all student and faculty associations—representing 7,000 university staff members and over 41,000 students—vocalized their lack of faith in the university's highest governing body and pushed for the complete restructuring and overhaul of the Board of Governors.

This loss of confidence and public uproar provoked the BoG to commission an External Review Committee to look into matters.

The Process

March 18, 2011

The External Governance Review Committee is announced.

Former McGill president Bernard Shapiro is named chair of the three-person committee, alongside André Côté, Quebec's first lobbyists commissioner, and Glen Jones, Ontario's research chair on post-secondary education.

The committee is given 60 days to investigate. Each member is paid \$1,000 per day to conduct the review.

June 15, 2011

The External Governance Review Committee's "Shapiro Report" is released, making 39 recommendations.

The report determines that a "culture of contempt" plagues Concordia's governance.

Recommendations include reducing the size of the Board's voting members to 25, enforcing term limitations and ensuring that the body is balanced with members from the non-profit, business and public sectors.

Sept. 28, 2011

In order to improve governance at the university in keeping with the recommendations made by the External Governance Review Committee, the BoG adopts recommendations of its Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee and Special Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on bylaw amendments.

An open discussion of the review is hosted by Interim President Frederick Lowy.

March 2, 2012

The Concordia community receives news that an external audit will be conducted concerning the human resources processes and practices used in reaching settlements with former senior management that departed from the university between Sept. 2009 and Dec. 2010.

The university announces that the summary of the findings and recommendations will be released to the public.

March 8, 2012

The BoG names PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP facilitators of the review concerning the decision to proceed with an early departure or an involuntary termination of a member of senior management.

The same day, the Ministry of Education serves Concordia a \$2 million fine due to its concerns with the increase in compensation the university has been giving to its departing senior administrators.

Concordia assures students that they will not be negatively affected by the fine, and confirms that the school agrees with and understands the government's concerns.

Sept. 28, 2012

After review, the BoG unanimously decides to adopt all recommendations made in the External Process Review.

The findings of this report are made public.

The Costs

SEVERANCE PACKAGES PAID TO ADMINISTRATORS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

\$605,000 to former Internal Audit Director Ted Nowak

\$639,000 to former Internal Assistant Audit Director Saad Zubair

\$700,000 to former VP Advancement and Alumni Affairs Kathy Assayag

\$332,000 to former Chief Financial Officer Larry English

\$129,000 to former Security Director Jean Brisebois

\$703,500 to former President Judith Woodsworth

The Characters

Meet Ted Nowak, Saad Zubair, Larry English, Jean Brisebois, Kathy Assayag and Judith Woodsworth: they were Concordia employees who left senior management positions during the External Process Review's 14-month review period.

These administrators were selected as the sample subjects because they came to financial settlements with the university while all leaving between September 2009 and December 2010.

Ted Nowak and **Saad Zubair** were employed by Concordia University as internal auditors under Judith Woodsworth. Both were fired from their positions by Woodsworth after they al-

legedly failed to disclose approximately \$250 worth of meal expenditures that had been charged to the Department of Auditing's expense account.

On Feb. 1, 2011, Concordia issued a statement clearing both of all charges, thanking them for their "exemplary service" to the school and offering them an option to return to their posts if they were so inclined. Nowak and Zubair both opted to exercise their retirement option, walking with \$605,000 and \$639,000 in severance, respectively.

Larry English quit his job as Concordia's CFO midway through his contract in December 2009. He had joined the uni-

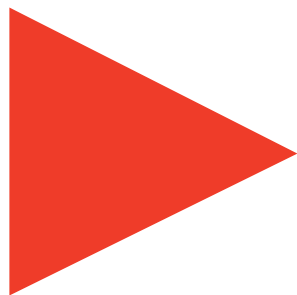
versity in 1996, worked under four separate presidents and was later named president of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers in 2010.

Jean Brisebois served as Concordia's director of security from 2001, until he retired from his post in December 2009.

Kathy Assayag was Concordia University's most successful fundraiser to date. She stepped down from her position of VP Advancement and Alumni Affairs in Sept. 2009 citing "personal reasons." Judith Woodsworth allegedly "pushed" her out, according to a student representative on the Board of Governors at the time.

Judith Woodsworth stepped down from her position as president in December 2010, citing "personal reasons." A month prior, she admitted to practicing similar behavior to that which led her to the fire of Nowak and Zubair. Additionally, she was later found to have expensed her husband's plane tickets to Concordia, while he accompanied her on business trips.

University sources claimed that the BoG gave Woodsworth an ultimatum, forcing her to choose between a public dismissal and resigning with a severance package. She chose the latter, and left with about \$700,000.



GOING FORWARD

Recommendations to Help Revamp the BoG's Rep



Former Concordia University President Judith Woodsworth is one of the six administrators whose departure is examined in the report.

PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

THE LINK

Concordia's Board of Governors may have just received the guidance it needs to begin moving forwards from its problem-plagued past.

It arrived in the form of The External Process Review of Settlements with Senior Management Personnel—a document that makes recommendations concerning the University's decision-making process as it relates to departing senior administrators.

Board of Governors Chair Norman Hébert, Jr. hailed the report as an important first step in revamping Concordia's public image. "Reputation is critical," he said.

In part, the report examines the "mutually agreed upon termination of contracts" of the six senior administrators who departed sometime between September 2009 and December 2010.

"It's not the people that were chosen, it's a timeframe," Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said. "There happened to be that number of people that left in a fairly short period of time, so it was decided to use the individuals that fell into that time frame."

Hébert noted, however, that there was a fringe benefit to the six departures that were examined. "Those names are names that have come up in different media articles. People were focusing on that," he said.

He also noted that "the issue of someone having a severance payment and then going back to a teaching role and having two forms of compensation has been dealt with as well," presumably in reference to previous president Judith Woodsworth, who came back following her resignation to teach in the translation department.

The process wasn't perfect, however. The report's initial

draft left the BoG feeling as though something was missing.

"We felt that there was a gap in terms of benchmarking other universities," Hébert said, adding that the BoG was particularly interested in Ryerson University where new President Alan Shepard hailed from.

"If we were going to have a good report, we should look at what other institutions are doing," he said.

Looking forward, undergraduate student representative Lex Gill is optimistic. "It's good that this happened, and it's important that it be implemented as soon as possible," she said. "I hope we never have another situation that instigates a type of report like this again."

For Hébert, it's just important to ensure that the university "does things the right way."

"There are some things when you go through the report that have already been implemented, and others that we will imple-

ment in the coming months," he said. "There have been a lot of great things done in the last 12 months, and we can't forget that. This is a continuation."

Hébert feels that now, more than ever, the BoG has the opportunity for reform. Following earlier recommendations, the Board scaled down in size and cleared out members who had over-stayed term limits. Hébert is a new chair working with a new president. It's a very different university.

"This is a good start," he said. "I'm confident that we're going in the right direction."

This report, he says, will be a guiding force for Concordia governance moving forward. But it's not meant as a way to linger on past mistakes.

"The past is the past, the future is the future. I think what is important in this review is that it looks to the future," said Hébert. "This is a new beginning for Concordia."

DECONSTRUCTING THE DOCUMENT

BY MEGAN DOLSKI @MEGANDOLSKI

Last spring, Concordia decided to do an external audit of the human resource processes related to its senior management following a slew of departures, resignations and costly buyouts over the past few years at the university.

"We asked a few firms to make us a proposal," explained Concordia Board of Governors Chair Norman Hébert. "The audit committee felt that [PricewaterhouseCoopers] had a good background in academia in terms of files and the prices were about the same—so we went with PwC."

The Audit Committee of Concordia University asked PwC to look into and analyze several aspects of the university's decision-making process regarding the departure of members of its senior management.

This meant looking into the communication process, as well as focusing on issues of confidentiality, responsibility, timing and control of information.

All told, the document makes 17 recommendations for Concordia.

These recommendations can be divided into three distinct categories: the decision-making process regarding the departure of senior administrators, the process for reaching a settlement and the control of information, communication and confidentiality.

Departures

PwC suggests implementing guidelines as to who should have decision-making authority in the cases of various levels of senior administration dismissals, and poses that the bylaws be updated to clarify the process of consultation with the BoG.

Settlement

When reaching a settlement, the review suggests that employment contracts be standardized and that severance amounts be subject to a third-party review.

Communication

Recommendations suggest that confidentiality of information be reinforced and that factual reasons for the administrator's departure be made public.

The report's findings are based upon both documents pertaining to and discussions with both current and former ConU employees and Board of Governors members.

PwC states clearly that they have not verified the completeness nor the accuracy of the information they were provided, nor did they perform their own computations in regards the severance amounts—they relied on Concordia's given information.

PwC also states that if any information is later brought to their attention that existed at the time of the report, they reserve the right to revise their findings.

BRIEFS

BY ANDREW BRENNAN
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ConU Out of This World

A group of students from Space Concordia have won the inaugural Canadian Satellite Design Challenge, a competition between a dozen Canadian universities to put a satellite in space.

The winning entry was designed by about forty engineering students and could be launched as early as 2013, *The Gazette* reported Monday.

The satellite will monitor the South Atlantic Anomaly, an area of dense radiation around Antarctica, which routinely thwarts experiments with skewed readings and system failures.

Corruption at City Hall. Again.

Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay vehemently denied charges of corruption Monday afternoon following allegations that construction companies had funded his political party based on the public contracts they were awarded.

In his second day in front of the Charbonneau Commission, a task force set up to combat public construction contract collusion, construction entrepreneur Lino Zambito said three per cent of every public contract his company won went to the mayor's Union Montreal party.

Despite the controversy, the mayor has ignored calls from the opposition to resign.

Sacrebleu! Great Scot!

More Quebecers support the independence of Scotland than of their own province, according to a Forum Poll for the *National Post* whose results were reported this week.

According to the findings, only 34 per cent of Quebec residents are in favour of separation from Canada, whereas 40 per cent support Scottish independence from the United Kingdom.

The nation-wide poll also found that support for separation outside Quebec was highest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (27 per cent) and lowest in Ontario (11 per cent).

Montreal 3, Toronto 0

Books by three Montreal authors have been shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize this year, one of the most prestigious awards in Canadian literature.

Novels and short fiction collections from 51 Canadian publishers were presented to the judges, who include Canadian author Anna Porter and Irish comedic wordsmith Roddy Doyle.

While Alix Ohlin, Kim Thúy and Nancy Richler—second cousin of Mordecai—represent Montreal on the five-author shortlist, this is the first year in the prize's history that a Toronto-based author has not been shortlisted.

TALKIN' 'BOUT OUR REPUTATION

"Why the hell didn't I know about this?"

—Governor Tim Brodhead

BoG Concerned With Concordia's Brand After Homestay Allegations

BY MEGAN DOLSKI
@MEGANDOLSKI

An article published in *The Link* on Sept. 25 concerning Peter Low, Concordia's recruitment agent for Chinese students, and the sub-standard living conditions faced by Concordia students living in homestays raised many questions at last Friday's Board of Governors meeting.

"Why the hell didn't I know about this?" asked Governor Tim Brodhead, referring to the fact that the first he'd heard of any issue involving Chinese students and homestays was brought to his attention by last Tuesday's edition of this newspaper.

This sentiment was echoed by several other governors, who seemed disgruntled by the fact that they had to receive news of this nature via the media.

BoG members were very con-

cerned with the effect the article would have on Concordia's reputation.

The fact that Peter Low uses a Concordia University email address and that the recruitment agency features Concordia's logo prominently were two concerns voiced by governors.

The wellbeing of this school's reputation and the use of its name is not a topic of discussion that's unfamiliar to the BoG.

Just prior to discussing the article, the Board approved the use of Concordia's name for a cycling team that wished to use be known as *Team Concordia U* in a charity bike race. Additionally, this past March, BoG discussed granting use of the Concordia name to the *Students for Israel* club.

When a governor asked whether the BoG approved the use of the school's name in the case of Low's email address and

the recruitment agency, VP Services Roger Côté explained that both had been in place for a long time.

Governor and former CSU president Lex Gill was less concerned about the school, and more about the students.

"Of course there is an institutional concern about the financial aspect, the legal aspect and about the reputational aspect," explained Gill.

"But what is shocking to me is that there are actual students who have had this experience and that we don't know the extent of how many have gone through this process."

Gill urged the university to deal with the situation actively and step up their communication with students, making sure they are aware of their resources.

President Alan Shepard responded, assuring the BoG that

he has a moral obligation to students and their safety, and that there is an investigation ongoing and housing arrangements are being looked into.

"I really do think the Board understands the gravity of the situation," said Gill.

In other news, Graduate Students' Association representative Erik Chevrier asked for a clarification of the university's implementation of the Quebec government's retraction of imposed tuition hike of \$8.74 per credit.

Shepard says the school is waiting for instructions from the ministry, but expects to hear from them by Wednesday.

Gill also clarified that the typical \$75 late fee will not be charged to students who had paid their tuition—minus the increase—by the deadline. The full amount must be paid for all other fees, however.

AFTER THE PRINTEMPS ÉRABLE THE AUTOMNE ARABE

Tuition Hike Protests Lock Down Cairo University



Students gather at the locked gates of the American University in Cairo during the student strike, which has been ongoing since Sept. 23.

PHOTO CHESTER DUGGAN

BY AMANDA SIINO &
CHESTER DUGGAN

CAIRO—The climate in Cairo this week felt much like that of the Université du Québec à Montréal a few months ago. Desert sun notwithstanding, picket lines and chained entrances enclosed the campus of the American University in Cairo.

Like their Quebec counterparts earlier this year, the Egyptian students are protesting tuition hikes. An administrative decision to increase tuition by seven per cent has sparked students to lock down the campus three times in two weeks, leading to a strike that's been ongoing since Sept. 23.

"We decided that discussions with the administration were useless," said AUC student Noaman Mohamad Khalid. "This is much more pressure."

The hike in question would bring the cost of a 15-credit semes-

ter to roughly 59,000 LE or \$9,500, resulting in students having to dish out approximately 4,843 LE or \$780 more per year to attend school.

In response to the student-imposed lockdown, the university has cancelled classes until further notice and is currently in negotiations with students.

Unlike Quebec, not all post-secondary schools in Egypt are public institutions. As a result, this student movement is specific to AUC, as a private, non-profit institution.

"There is no leader, this is a collective movement," said Khalid. The lack of an AUC equivalent to the Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante or Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec directing student actions and demands has made it more difficult for students to mobilize.

"Thirty people went the extra mile to do the radical thing and now we have many people behind us," said independent student activist Mohamed Hasan, known as Antak in the AUC community. He has been a key player in the protests.

After the first day of protest on Sept. 16, students opened an online petition to determine whether they would continue to block the school's gates. The petition received approximately 3,000 signatures; the school has only roughly 6,800 students.

The university alleges that non-AUC students have signed the petition and that names were duplicated.

"There is also a petition that started [on Sept. 25] with almost 500 names to open the gates," said AUC spokesperson Rehab Saad. "The problem is that both are online petitions that anyone can sign, so it's hard to determine how accurate they are."

The students have yet to hold an official vote to lock down the school. Unlike in Quebec, the suspension of classes has been forced onto the student population without any form of official consultation.

"If 3,000 students were in support, they wouldn't need to close the gate because 3,000 students wouldn't be attending [class]," pointed out Saad.

There is no firm sense of how the student body feels about these actions. The main means of gathering support has been through sharing the AUC Strike Facebook page, which jumped to over 3,000 likes in the past week.

The makeshift movement has also been criticized by the university and fellow students for having a myriad of reasons against the increase, in lieu of a focused one.

"Canadians pay \$12,000 at McGill University while Egyptians pay \$22,000 at AUC—McGill is the best university in Canada," reads one of the posters in Arabic.

While both figures are inaccurate, this echoes one of the main sentiments expressed by students concerning the disproportion between the cost and quality of the education they are receiving at AUC.

"It's not fair for them to expect us to pay this much," said mass communications student Norhane Kamal.

Kamal was one of several students who stood linking arms in front of the gates as a call for peace after a violent altercation between security and students took place early last Thursday.

"We all agree and sympathize with the students," said a member of the school's gardening staff, who did not wish to give his name. "The administration is increasing tuition to increase their salaries."

Since last year's strike, where AUC's student union supported the university staff in their protest for

salary increases, much of the staff and students have maintained a strong sense of distrust towards the school's administration.

This distrust, along with quality of education and unfairness, are the main concerns of the disjointed movement. Almost nowhere in the protest rhetoric is there mention of accessibility, which was the major point in the Quebec student protests.

"It's my father's decision how much he pays for my schooling," said freshman Yostra El Khalifa. "Parents pay for school in almost all cases here, I would say."

Almost all Egyptian students are financially dependent on their parents, typically living at home until marriage. For this reason, parents were a key party involved in negotiations over tuition increases during the budget meetings this summer.

This cultural difference means that many of the students are apathetic to university issues. However, others resent the patronization as well.

"This happened in Quebec," yelled Antak to the crowd. "Believe it or not, they did it in Canada."

But while picket lines and chained entrances may link both movements, appearances are insufficient to make AUC's student protest a microcosm of what happened in Quebec. The distinct cultural and social issues behind the movement make the desert sun far from the greatest differentiating factor between the two.

"We decided that discussions with the administration were useless. This is much more pressure."

—American University in Cairo Student Noaman Mohamad Khalid on the Lockout Protest

ABORIGINAL WOMEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST PLAN NORD

“When I was imprisoned, that’s when an immense anger came to me. I hadn’t killed anyone; I hadn’t stolen anyone’s land. It’s Hydro-Québec that destroyed the territory.”

—Élise Vallant



Ellen Gabriel, First Nations rights activist and former president of the Quebec Native Women's Association.

BY DANIELLE RUDNICKA-LAVOIE

Now that Pauline Marois's Parti Québécois government is in power, the growing uneasiness about what will come of former Premier Jean Charest's Plan Nord project is palpable.

Slated to take 25 years and \$80 billion in investments to complete, the Plan Nord was Charest's audacious and much-criticized economic plan.

The project boasts the potential to create 20,000 jobs in the province by industrializing the north of Quebec through ore mining, to be carried out on 1.2 million km² of area north of the 49th parallel—land occupied by First Nations such as the Cree and the Innu.

“I hope Mme. Marois will not follow the path of Jean Charest and see that the land is worth something more without a building on it

because within it are the medicines, the water, the fish, the purity of nature,” said Ellen Gabriel, First Nations rights activist and former president of the Quebec Native Women's Association.

Gabriel and two other panelists spoke on Sept. 28 at Defending the Land: Indigenous Women's Resistance to Plan Nord and Community Violence.

The forum was organized by Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy in collaboration with Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, a grassroots collective that aims to raise awareness about violence against First Nations women living in Quebec.

“The Plan Nord is going to affect women in the way that we raise our children, the way we transmit our values, our traditions and our history. If we have no land, how can we make references to

such things?” said Denise Jourdain, panelist and primary school teacher in the Innu community of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam in Sept-Îles, QC.

Jourdain was one of the 12 women imprisoned earlier this year during the Route 138 blockade protesting the construction of the Hydro-Québec Romaine dam in Havre-Saint-Pierre.

“It changes your perception of the question,” said Jourdain. “When you know that your ancestors went to prison to defend their land rights, it's nothing compared to what they went through.”

The Romaine dam complex is slated to be built on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, located north of Anticosti Island, and will pass through Innu territory.

“I was not consulted by Charest,” said Élise Vallant, mother of eight children also from the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam

who was also arrested and detained during the blockade of Route 138. “Most Innu people were not consulted directly.”

“When I was imprisoned, that's when an immense anger came to me. I hadn't killed anyone; I hadn't stolen anyone's land. It's Hydro-Québec that destroyed the territory.”

Mining strategies undertaken by the provincial government were highly criticized during the forum—and not just for environmental reasons.

“Mining activity is probably one of the worst abusers of human rights,” said Gabriel.

In the James Bay area, Quebecois workers were completely separated from First Nations communities by roadblocks in order to protect those living there.

“It's terror that we will leave to future generations by always saying, ‘Stay at home, because if you

go out you might get raped,’” said Vallant. “Worry is not a way of life to raise kids in.”

A 2005 paper published in *Pimatisiwin*, an Alberta-based aboriginal health journal, states that the stressful nature of mining jobs, often coupled with substance abuse, may result in violence towards women in those communities.

“Violence against aboriginal women happens five times more than any other group in Canada,” said Gabriel. “Mining companies come in and look at aboriginal women as if they can violate them. It happens today and happens all over the world. And it has to stop.”

Seventh Annual Sisters in Spirit Memorial March and Vigil / Oct. 4 / Place Émilie-Gamelin (Corner Berri St. and Ste. Catherine St. E.) / 6:00 p.m.

ABORIGINAL AWARENESS WEEK AT MCGILL

BY PIERRE CHAUVIN @PIERRE_CHAUVIN

The smell of burning sage, drums and a chorus of voices filled the Native Friendship Centre during the closing ceremony of McGill University's Aboriginal Awareness Week on Sept. 28.

The series of events, organized by the Aboriginal Sustainability Project, featured five days of talks, lectures and workshops with guests such as Ghislain Picard, regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, Ellen Gabriel, a well-known Mohawk activist and Jonathan Rudin, lawyer and co-author of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples' Report on Justice.

“It's about creating awareness for McGill students to understand aboriginal people in Canada—that could be First Nations, Métis or Inuit people,” said Allan Vicaire, project coordinator for the Social Equity and Diversity Education Office.



INTERNET KILLED THE VIDEO STORE

But NDG's Indie Rental Outfit Avenue Video Dodges a Bullet

BY ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS
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Whoever's been killing off the video stores missed one.

For this game of Clue, nobody's even asking to look inside the envelope. The Internet did to the movie rental place the same thing it did to record stores of the past.

But while Blockbuster Canada went belly-up in 2011, the video stores offering something more managed to cling on.

"People who love movies work here," said Chris Hagemeyer, the owner of Avenue Video on Monkland Ave.

Hagemeyer bought the Avenue Video in Notre-Dame-de-Grace a year ago. The 20-something leveraged the purchase with some money its former owner owed him.

He bought the store because he loves movies—he can't even get rid of the thousands of VHS tapes that have collected in the store's basement. But to anyone who asks, he will usually give them a box.

"They're like books—you can't just throw them away," he said.

A love of movies and knowledgeable staff are some of the reasons the store has managed keep its clientele base and stay open. But unlike the Plateau's highbrow La Boite Noire, there's something a little more unique to this independent video store.

Maybe it's in the Internet memes scotch-taped to the staff selection boxes, or the \$1 gumball machine full of classic video store prizes, like free popcorn.

Avenue Video's aesthetic could be mistaken for a movie set. It's *High Fidelity*—but with films. The Monkland location, its dark façade inestled between a hardware store and a closed cooking supply store, is the last of several Avenues Video.



Owner Chris Hagemeyer bought Avenue Video because he loves movies. On the VHS—"They're like books—you can't just throw them away,"

PHOTO ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

Hagemeyer said the big chain stores that boomed in the '90s ruined the market for smaller video rental outfits like Avenue Video.

"The way they did the rentals, they said it was a certain price and then when they rang it up, with taxes and fees it ended up costing more and making people think negatively of video stores in general."

He added that late fees were also a large part of the problem. At Avenue Video they can't afford to have people keep their videos indefinitely, as is becoming the policy for stores like Videotron, but for late videos, they won't "charge you a million dollars."

Hagemeyer added that people

will try to haggle over fees—and that some excuses work better than others.

"The ones that I'd say work easiest, is when someone says a relative has died. Fair enough."

"I wouldn't say there's a 'good' excuse," interjects Dominique Paul, one of the store's managers.

"It's just the same excuse over and over. The most common one being, 'Well, it didn't work, but I just kept it for 14 days anyway.' Or, 'It was in the car.' Or, 'My husband was suppose to take care of it.' Or, 'I never rented it.' But 'I never rented it' always turns into, 'Well, it didn't work anyway.'"

Satellite service companies offer their customers movies on de-

mand, and Netflix, although stifled slightly by copyright laws in Canada, is also taking the video rental market away from retail stores.

"There are a lot of reasons video stores aren't around anymore," Hagemeyer said. "Primarily, there's the Internet, and a lot of people just get their movies for free."

He said Avenue Video's collection of Blu-ray DVDs is one reason people visit the store, rather than just watch their films online. The files for Blu-ray are so big that they're not viable to download—especially given how expensive Internet is in Canada.

But that's a reality that might

not last. Hagemeyer said that in Japan, download speeds have increased to the point that downloading Blu-ray is perfectly reasonable.

"Technology outpaces security once again. But that's the story of our culture."

Hagemeyer said that the store is self-sustaining for now, but he's realistic about how much longer it can hold on.

"I'd like to keep the store open forever," he said. "I'll keep the place open as long as it's possible to."

Look inside Avenue Video at [youtube.com/thelinknewspaper](https://www.youtube.com/thelinknewspaper) or our webpage.

LINK LIVE SESSION #10 | DECLAN O'DONOVAN

Yukon native Declan O'Donovan, who's touring the country to promote his new alt-roots blues LP, will be in Montreal this weekend.

This blues-, jazz-, rock- and roots-inspired pianist and singer is releasing his debut self-titled solo album, which features his wicked, soulful vocals over his unique blend of genres.

"I don't consider myself specifically roots or blues, but when you throw in a word like 'alternative' in front of that, it gives you some imagination as to what you

can use those different genres for," said O'Donovan.

The tour kicks off at Divan Orange on Oct. 6 and features stops all the way to Vancouver.

Listen in the latest *Link Live Session*, filmed at old-timey jazz bar Gainzbar. Scan the code to watch his performance of "Crumblin," off his self-titled LP.

Declan O'Donovan / Oct. 6 / Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 8:00 p.m. / \$7.00



CLEAR-CUT AMBITION

Dan Handel's CCA Exhibit Sees the Forest—and the Trees

BY VIVIEN LEUNG
@VIVIEN_LEUNG

"You know these shows," says architect Dan Handel.

"You go into the thing and there's a thing with 500 words, and you get tired before you even finish reading it. Then you go inside. Next to each object you have again like 60 words or something. Then you get completely disappointed and you leave."

The use of text within architectural exhibitions, he argues, is a fine balance. "On the other side, you have the completely conceptual, more art-like exhibitions, where you have nothing."

Handel, whose own show *First, the Forest* opens at the Canadian Centre for Architecture on Oct. 4, thinks there is a space to explore in the middle of the spectrum, however.

He's not the only one who appreciates balance. For a well-established institution, the CCA is surprisingly willing to take risks with unorthodox display concepts and disseminating new ideas.

"If you try something new and different, you have no precedents, which is tricky, but also extremely exciting," says Junia Jorgji, assistant to the head of exhibition production. "It is a constant learning and inventing process."

Since its founding in 1979, the CCA has been an academic research center with a heavy programming emphasis on raising visitors' awareness of architecture as a public good.

They offer rich family-oriented programming, regular free talks, screenings and expansive library open to all by appointment.

CCA Director Mirko Zardini frequently emphasizes shows built around a theme in architecture rather than the more traditional monographic exhibitions in celebration of a star architect.

"These are the exhibitions which, when I was a guide, people would be extremely curious about, as they often related to the visitors—even when [the visitors] had little architectural knowledge. These exhibitions are often critical of our society and multi-faceted," explains Jorgji.

Jorgji recalls one of their thematic shows, entitled *Sense of the City*, that posed the idea that cities and architecture should be experienced with all five senses, rather

than just vision.

"Smells of the city," she says, "were bottled—to allow the visitors to experience [them]."

First, the Forests didn't come about by accident. Fresh off his architectural Master degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Handel was the 2011 recipient of the CCA Young Curator award, given to a student or young professional the opportunity to make use of their archive and counselling to create a show.

"From my conversations with people at the CCA, the reasons I was selected are not the same reasons for why they chose [me as the 2011 Young Curator] and probably will not be the same for the next one," says Handel. "It seems they are trying to challenge themselves. There is a healthy uncertainty."

The topic of forestry in architecture was indeed unconventional.

"There is no discourse on forestry in architecture. To me, that is a challenge. This research is trying to suggest there are links," he said. "It's not a topic that's aligned with the way the CCA collection works. If I were to go in with a proposal about [an architect], their collection is organized accordingly."

"But because I came in with this idea of 'forests,' I had to go through everything that has 'trees' or 'forests' in it. It was kind of dumb, but it allowed me to find things I wasn't looking for."

This exploratory spirit resonates in the way Handel first became inspired to pursue his unusual topic. He came across aerial photos of a forest in a checkerboard pattern.

"It looked Photoshopped," recounts Handel. "When I understood it wasn't, I looked into it and realized it had to do with the way land was granted to companies in the 19th century. Private companies were given land in a checkerboard pattern in order to keep them from owning huge chunks of land."

The result was an alternating pattern of clear-cut and forested land in perfect squares. "That leads to the creation of an ecological pattern. Animals can only go from one square to the next where they connect in the corners. Or imagine that you have to build infrastructure twice because half [the land] is federal and the other

private."

The idea that forestry can be understood as a design project is a hard sell. Handel makes a good case for it, however.

"You have a group of people controlling huge areas of land, foresters. The way they plan is a form of design," he says. "You have to have a certain logic for laying out infrastructure, the spacing in between the trees, the organization of space, everything is designed. The way it's been applied creates a very specific type of environment."

First, the Forests documents his research in four chapters, each representing a stage in the development and understanding of forestry design, across the globe and through history.

From the first notions that forests *should* be managed as a natural resource, 'bureaucratic forestry,' to 'scientific,' 'tropical' and the most recent, 'economic forestry,' which looks at how forests are defined by industrial enterprises.

Of course, there is the mandatory CCA twist. Montreal experimental sound cooperative Audiotopie was brought in to collaborate sonically with the exhibition.

"We worked with them in order to have this narration—it's not an audioguide," he says. "Basically, each chapter has a different sound concept. You can experience the exhibition without it but you can also hook into the thing and get different information. It's not [explicitly] about the materials, more about the concept."

A series of web features will also be available through the CCA's website, drawing from Handel's research in *First, the Forests*.

He says that there is definitely a leap from gathering his research materials to turning them into an exhibit. The CCA opened his eyes to the details required to curate a truly dynamic exhibit.

"I've been to the Venice Architecture Biennale and 80 per cent of things shown are panels on walls, it's kind of hard [to take in], even for me. I think [the CCA] really pushes forward the idea of what an architectural exhibition could be."

First, the Forests / Oct. 4 to Jan. 6 / Canadian Centre for Architecture (1920 Baile St.) / Vernissage / Oct. 4 / 6:00 p.m.



"You have a group of people controlling huge areas of land, foresters. The way they plan is a form of design. You have to have a certain logic for laying out infrastructure, the spacing in between the trees, the organization of space, everything is designed."

—Architect Dan Handel



COMPOSITE BROR L. GRONDAL

CINEMA POLITICA RETURNS TO CONCORDIA

DOC DAYS AHEAD



Above *The End of Immigration?* By Marie Boti and Malcolm Guy. Below *The Carbon Rush* by Amy Miller.

BY ANNE-MYRIAM ABDELHAK

British climate change activists, Syrian refugees, temporary immigrant workers in Canada and student strikers in Croatia. The people getting their stories told during this semester's Cinema Politica are a truly diverse group.

Since its founding in 2003 by Svetla Turnin and Ezra Winton, Cinema Politica has been dedicated to bringing a plethora of documentaries to Concordia. This semester, the docs being screened will explore the themes of memory, movement and mobilization.

The aim of the doc network is to educate and raise awareness about issues as diverse as environment, social justice and economic issues. But it is also to touch upon topics that are sometimes purposely ignored by the mainstream media, explains Turnin.

"The films that we screen are definitely marginalized. They often don't get commercial release and are hard to access anywhere else," said Turnin.

"We like to call ourselves an alternative exhibition venue for political documentary film."

Screenings are followed by discussions and debates. The group regularly organizes small doc festivals to provoke discussion on specific issues.

"Part of our mandate is to connect the worlds of documentary films, audiences and activism," said Turnin.

Cinema Politica's fall semester screenings kicked off Oct. 1, and will continue Monday

nights throughout the school year. Currently, the lineup is set to include docs on everything from feminist art collectives to Croatian student activism, tyranny and censorship to the recycling of electronics.

The End of Immigration? by Marie Boti and Malcolm Guy

Is Canada still the great land of refuge?

That is the question that the directors Marie Boti and Malcolm Guy investigate in *The End of Immigration?*

Boti and Guy, themselves children of immigrant workers, were drawn into the project when they started hearing stories about Costa Rican workers employed by transit services during the Vancouver Olympic Games.

"They were being paid half what the other workers were receiving," said Guy. "They were living in substandard housing. Actually, they had started work earning only \$3.50 an hour."

"Then other stories started to come up. Thai workers in a fish factory in Ontario were being charged up to ten thousand dollars to work. Not only that but they were facing sexual harassment, racial discrimination and exploitation."

This new category of temporary foreign workers is a result of new immigration rules implemented in 2003. In 2009, there were more of these temporary foreign workers coming into Canada than regular immigrants.

This shift in immigration policies has

devastating effects for those workers but also for the society that becomes divided.

"There are people living here with rights, and those other people working here with none. It creates this two-tier society that was not the case when my parents immigrated here."

Immigration not that long ago was also about integration into the Canadian society, becoming a citizen, raising a family. Circumstances now are totally different, with immigrant workers that are often separated from their families for a long time.

"Workers are no longer able to establish themselves in Canada. There is an elitist immigration policy that only allows people with money or a certain level of education to get in."

"It looks like immigration as we know it in Canada is coming to an end. Now, we use workers to release them when they're used and done. And is it really the kind of country we want to have?"

The End of Immigration? / Oct. 15 / Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-110) / 7:00 p.m.

The Carbon Rush by Amy Miller

The Carbon Rush explores the dark side of carbon credits.

Carbon-credits are tradable units that represent a certain amount of carbon dioxide that can be released in the atmosphere. This legislation created carbon markets in

industries that exceeded their gas emissions quotas—companies began buying and selling credits and investing in "carbon projects."

But this seemingly ideal solution to regulate gas emissions is a fallacy for director Amy Miller, who argues that these are only false solutions to the problem.

"What we actually see is that it doesn't reduce gas emissions, and actually has a really harmful impact for people who are living along with those projects," said Miller. "Their land is being stolen, men are being killed and their way of life is being destroyed."

"The problem cannot be the solution. If the problem is industrial capitalism, then we can't use a capitalist model to solve the crisis."

While the movie shows the failures and abuses of the carbon projects, it also seeks to change people's attitude toward environmental issues.

If there is misinformation around this issue, there's also a great deal of hypocrisy in our society.

"My goal after all is to make critically engaging documentaries, and trying to create educational tools that will make people able to connect the dots between them and what is happening in the world."

"I want to help people come to terms with the kind of 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' that we are stuck with in our society."

The Carbon Rush / Nov. 6 / Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-110) / 6:45 p.m.

PONDERING LOSS

Jason Collett's *Reckon* Takes Cues From Occupy

BY BRENDAN ADAMS

Jason Collett's fifth solo album, *Reckon*, was inspired by the trying political and economic climate that's left its mark on the past four years.

Reckon is Collett at his best, crafting thoughtful and catchy melodies that are accessible but not tired. These may not be strike-rallying anthems, but there is something more rousing to this album than his previous ones.

As the songs piled up during the writing process for *Reckon*, Collett began to notice they were all approaching a central theme of loss through a variety of angles.

"The writing was largely influenced by the economic collapse of 2008 and how much of that has permeated our culture," he said. "There's an undertone of loss that's related to that."

But using his music as a soap-box wasn't what he wanted, so he focused the record on the personal struggles of everyday people, living in trying times.

"I realized I was going down this road," he admitted. "There's a certain risk."

What remains isn't a shrill or preachy record, but one that talks about what it felt like to be one of the millions defaulting on their mortgages and losing their jobs.

It wasn't planned like this—the Occupy movement simply happened to storm North America right as he hit the studio in Toronto last year, catching Collett up in it, as it did so many.

"I felt like I was part of a larger movement," he said.

Just as he was taking a musical risk, so too were thousands of people across North America taking

risks trying to challenge a system run amok. But finding a way to speak his mind without being too blunt was a process.

"I had to figure out how to keep it personal and keep the rhetoric out of the songs," said Collett. "I like records that have layers, that reveal themselves over time."

Collett has revealed himself over time, too—whether working with Broken Social Scene or Hawksley Workman, Zeus or Bahamas, he's built an impressive resumé with a star-studded Canadian cast.

That's the reason for *Essential Cuts*—a bonus disc comprised of 11 songs and unreleased b-sides that comes with *Reckon*.

It goes all the way back to Collett's first solo album in 2001, *Bitter Beauty*, and uses tracks featuring musicians and producers he's worked with throughout his career.

Despite the diversity, to many he remains Jason Collett, ex-Broken Social Scene member.

"Everyone needs some kind of tagline," he said, when asked about how it makes him feel to be constantly referred to as such. And, he admitted, it's not a bad thing to have people associate with your name.

"There was a lot of cross-pollinating of ideas," he said of BSS. "I think any artform, when you work in a collective—they're very healthy environments to be in, because when you're inspired by your surrounding peers and their work, you work harder."

Jason Collett w/ Danielle Duval / Oct. 7 / Lion D'Or (1676 Ontario St. E.) / 7:00 p.m. / \$21.50



Jason Collett performs at Lion D'Or Oct. 7

FRINGE CALENDAR OCT. 2 - OCT. 8

FILM

1. Cinema Politica: *The Suffraging Grasses*
Oct. 4
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve W., H-110)
7:00 p.m.

MUSIC

2. Jens Lekman
Oct. 5
Le National (1220 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
8:00 p.m.
\$21.00 advance, \$25.00 door

3. Two Door Cinema Club
Oct. 6
Metropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
7:00 p.m.
\$34.20 advance, \$36.70 door

4. Declan O'Donovan
Oct. 6
Le Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.
\$7.00

OTHER

5. Seed Hunting in the City
Oct. 4
EV Building Atrium (1515 St. Catherine St. W.)
12:00 p.m.

6. Trivia Night
Oct. 7
Sparrow (5322 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:00 p.m.

LIT

7. An Evening with Jian Ghomeshi
Oct. 3
Ukrainian Federation (5213 Hutchinson St.)
8:00 p.m.
\$5.00

8. Local Legends Reading Series: Sherwin Sullivan Tjia
Oct. 3
7:00 p.m.
Concordia Co-op Bookstore (2150 Bishop St.)

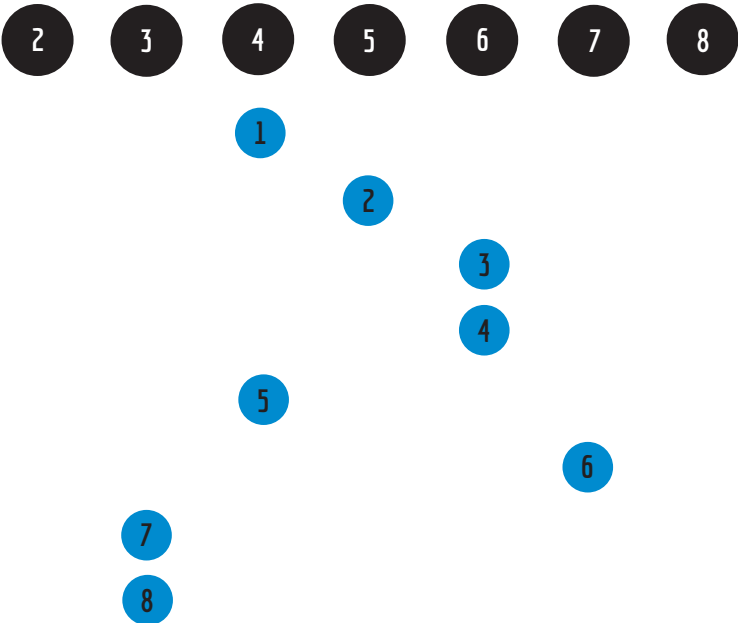


PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Daniel Goldberg and his son participate in the Concordia Shuffle, an annual walk from the downtown campus to Loyola. The Shuffle raises money for student scholarships and bursaries. This year it raised in excess of \$51, 000. PHOTO RODRIGO LOZADA

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF SEPT. 24 TO 30

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30 Men's Soccer - Concordia 1, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières 3
Women's Hockey - Concordia 4, York University 0
Women's Soccer - Concordia 3, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières 2

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29 Baseball - Concordia 1, University of Ottawa 8
Baseball - Concordia 6, University of Ottawa 5
Men's Hockey - Concordia 2, University of New Brunswick 4
Women's Hockey - Concordia 0, Ryerson University 1

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28 Baseball - Concordia 8, McGill University 10
Football - Concordia 0, Université de Montréal 38
Men's Rugby - Concordia 17, Bishop's University 8
Men's Soccer - Concordia 1, Université de Laval 3
Women's Rugby - Concordia 52, Bishop's University 0
Women's Soccer - Concordia 2, Université de Laval 2

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26 Baseball - Concordia 17, John Abbott College 7

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

- 3

7:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Men's Rugby at McGill Redmen
Baseball vs. John Abbott Islanders (Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Park)
Women's Soccer vs. McGill Martlets (Concordia Stadium)
- 4

7:00 p.m.

Women's Rugby at Montréal Carabins
- 5

7:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball at the Nike Tournament
Women's Basketball at Memorial
Women's Hockey at P.E.I. Panthers
Men's Hockey vs. McGill Redmen (Ed Meagher Arena)
- 6

9:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
3:15 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball at Memorial
Men's Basketball at the Nike Tournament
Women's Rugby vs. St. FX X-Women (Concordia Stadium)
Football vs. Sherbrooke Vert et Or (Concordia Stadium, TSN 990)
Women's Hockey at P.E.I. Panthers
Men's Hockey at Vermont Catamounts
- 7

12:00 p.m.

Women's Hockey at Moncton Aigles Bleues

CONCORDIA FOOTBALL



PHOTOS ALICE DU LAC

HOME CRUSHING

Poor Defense to Blame for Stingers' Homecoming Loss

BY DAVID KAUFMANN
@DAVIDKAUFMANN85

Concordia's homecoming game quickly turned to disaster as the Stingers football team were hung out to dry by the Université de Montréal Carabins on Friday, 38-0.

"We've got to come out there and play a little harder, a little earlier," said Stingers linebacker Max Caron. "We can't let them come out and dictate the pace of the game."

While this wasn't the result the Stingers were looking for, the game got off to a promising start as they managed to gain first-down possession five times in the first few minutes of play.

It was all for nothing, however. Midway through the first, Carabins defensive back Antoine Pruneau intercepted a pass thrown by Stingers quarterback Reid Quest. This led Ali Ndao to rush the ball 44 yards after connecting on a pass thrown by Carabins quarterback Alexandre Nadeau-Piuze. Moments later, Piuze was at it again when he found the Stingers' end zone to go up 7-0.

One of the reasons the Stingers struggled Friday night, according to head coach Gerry McGrath, was because the defense took a back seat.

"If you can't win the line of scrimmage, it's very hard to get anything done," he said. That was the case late in the second, when Ndao connected on another pass from Piuze to go up 17-0.

The Stingers nearly made a game of it with time running out in the first half when safety Nathan Taylor caught Carabins kicker Charles Bauer's missed field goal and rushed it 86 yards before being stopped by defensive linebacker Mathieu Girard.

"A positive thing on our side is that our kids fought. They didn't fold up their tent, and you can go from there," said Stingers offensive coordinator Bryan Chiu.

Yet that newfound momentum was quickly deflated come the third quarter, as UdeM had complete possession of the ball, leading to an additional three Carabins touchdowns, finishing the night off at 38-0.

The loss was so great for the Stingers that when they finally got

first down possession in the fourth, it was met with quiet cheers from the crowd.

"You've got to give Montreal credit, they're a great football team, they are to me the best in the nation," said Chiu.

While the Stingers would like to forget this game, the Carabins were savouring the victory.

"I think I was satisfied with our performance," said Carabins head coach Danny Maciocia. "We were able to get some positive scores on mixing it up between the run and the pass, and that paid in dividends for us."

The loss leaves the Stingers below .500 for the first time this season, following their defeat at the hands of the Bishop's University Gaiters Sept. 22, but McGrath isn't worried about the rest of the season.

"We just have to make sure that we win three of our last four games and we'll be fine," said McGrath.

The Stingers will begin that quest Saturday when the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or visit Concordia Stadium. Kickoff is at 1:00 p.m.

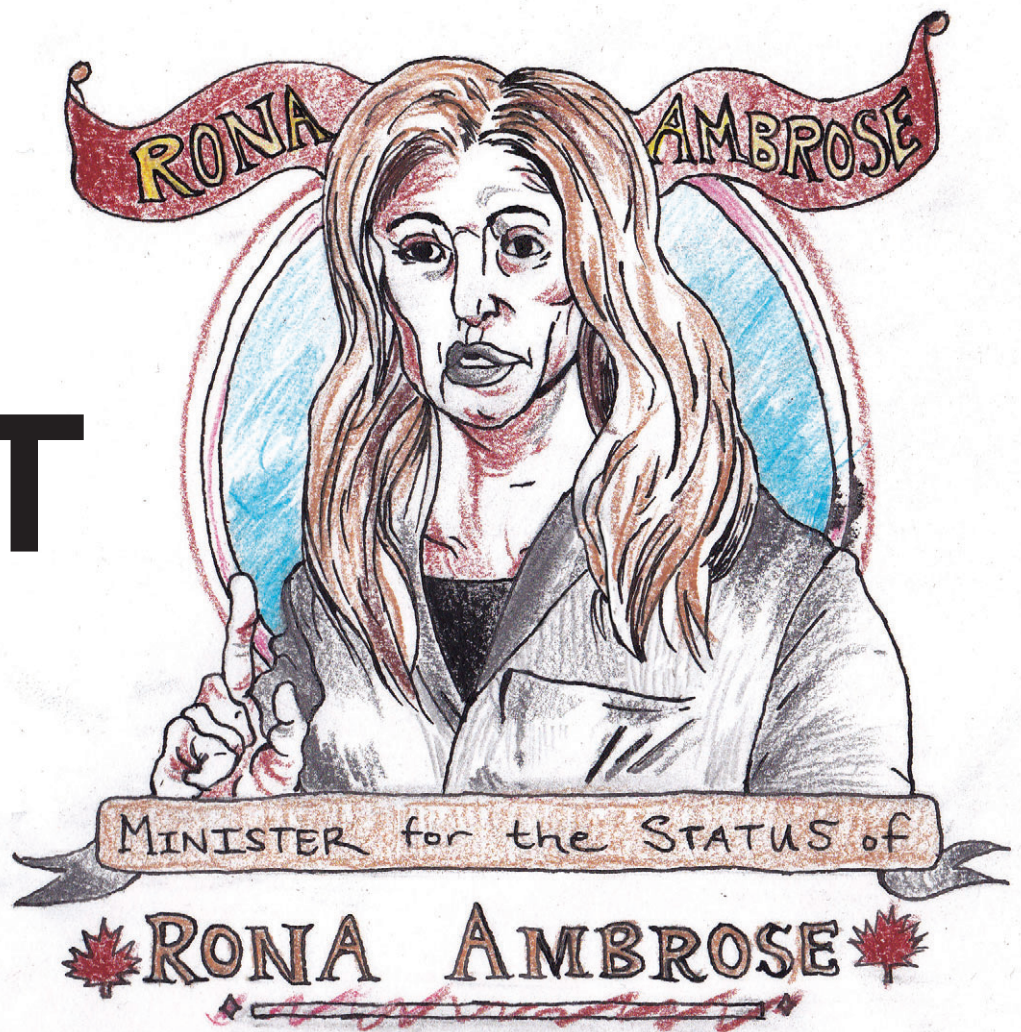


Concordia's homecoming game ended poorly for the Stingers as they were defeated by the Université de Montréal Carabins to the tune of a score of 38-0



Scan the code for more pictures from the game.

RONA: DOING IT WRONG



The Vote of Conscience and the Status of Women in Canada

GRAPHIC GRAEME ADAMS

BY LAURA BEESTON @LAURABEESTON

The year may be 2012, but an abortion debate in this country seems far from over.

As the topic received a fresh round of press last week, you may have noticed the name Rona Ambrose flying around too.

Ambrose is the Conservative Minister for the Status of Women and in a vote of conscience (as opposed to just voting the way Prime Minister Stephen Harper tells her to), she took a decision in favour of a private members' bill that would see a parliamentary panel examine when life begins for a fetus, and what—if anything—that may mean under the Criminal Code.

This did not go over well.

Though MP Stephen Woodsworth's Motion 312 was handily defeated by a vote of 203 to 91, the conversation surrounding the

giant vacuum in Canadian legislation on abortion—in that we have no legislation whatsoever—along with the allegedly back-door ways and reasons Conservative MPs are attempting to get it back on the parliamentary table quickly turned.

The debate on abortion became a debate about Ambrose—specifically, whether or not the minister was doing her job properly.

So-called “militant feminists” from the Abortion Coalition of Canada and the Quebec Federation of Women were quick to criticize her conscience, for example. Then an online petition calling for her resignation began to circulate, garnering over 10k signatures on the weekend.

And you better believe Canadians squawked en masse on social media about a loss of confidence in Ambrose's ability to carry out her duties, arguing the vote was proof the minister responsible for women's issues is fundamentally at odds with their most basic reproductive rights.

Perhaps worst of all, Ambrose herself did little to explain her vote, offering “no comment” to reporters and a single, somewhat beside-the-point tweet on the matter.

“I have repeatedly raised concerns about discrimination of girls by sex-selection abortion,” she said on Twitter. “No law needed, but we need awareness!”

Awareness is great, but awareness on what exactly? Abortion in

general? Sex-selective abortion? And, um, where did this come from, and how is it relative to M-312?

And if Ambrose believes no abortion legislation is necessary, why would she welcome a panel to determine when the life of the unborn is defined in the Criminal Code?

Perhaps most importantly to the “militant feminists,” many are left wondering how Ambrose reconciles her conscience with a duty to serve her constituents—that is, the very women's organizations from coast to coast who recognize and advocate this very basic tenet of maternal health?

We might never know. As of Monday, Ambrose continued hiding. But right or wrong, it's too knee-jerk easy to vilify Ambrose for her vote, even though goodness knows she's not helping herself by remaining silent. But the fact remains that she is currently serving as a distraction to the actual issues.

Just as quickly as M-312 died, for example, another bill—M-408—was born. All to limited press or personality fanfare.

Canadians should also remember that both of these abortion bills were similarly preceded by C-510, C-291, C-338, C-484 over the last decade alone.

Most importantly, perhaps, was the dangerous assertion made by those in opposition to Ambrose, among others, that suggested her work itself was useless.

The only upside to the heat is perhaps,

ironically, what Ambrose was calling for: awareness. Maybe now people will start paying closer attention to her dossier and track record with greater scrutiny.

Indeed, the CBC reported that the last time the Minister on the Status of Women fielded a question on her file was April.

This little gaffe could change that, as it would be refreshing to see her answer not only to abortion, but to major federal government cuts to women's programs or the shocking number of missing and murdered aboriginal women, which remains a national shame under her watch.

Let's hope the scrutiny Ambrose faces acts as a catalyst for policymakers and citizens to take a serious stock of the status of women in this country. But it's kind of troubling that it suddenly feels like Ambrose is the sole focus of the debate instead of those issues.

What it means for our ambiguous abortion legislation that nearly half of the backbenching Conservatives were willing to defy the PMO's position that there is “no political will to reopen the issue” of abortion, and vote in favour of this bill, also remains to be seen.

If nothing else, the bizarre defeat of M-312 and its backlash clearly displays the political need for Canadians to stay vigilant, keep watch over our legislation and political leadership (or lack thereof) and continue to press for dialogue about women and maternal rights in this country and abroad.

Even if it is 2012.

“it's kind of troubling that it suddenly feels like Ambrose is the sole focus of the debate instead of [women's] issues.”

THAT TRANS- SEXUAL GUY

Where are the Gender-Neutral Bathrooms?

BY OLIVER LEON
@OLIVERDANDYLION

In my last semester at Dawson College, being in an androgynous in-between state got to be too much.

I came out to select classmates and professors as Oliver. I used the men's bathroom sometimes.

It was dangerous for a few reasons. I wasn't always perceived as male. I could've run into a classmate who only knew me by my birth name, who only knew me as female.

At the same time, I was regularly asked, "Sir, do you realize you're in the women's bathroom?" Someone of any gender could have called security to ask why I was in their bathroom.

There is one gender-neutral bathroom in Dawson College. It is specifically for students with disabilities. You need a code to get in.

I asked a friend to come with me to the Student Access Ability centre to get the code. With my permission, they outed me to the secretary, who demanded to know why I, as an able-bodied person, wanted to use this bathroom—probably rightly so.

I blushed and felt humiliated. I was given the code. I used the bathroom for the rest of the semester, despite the fact that most of my classes were on the fourth floor and the bathroom was on the main floor. I never had a problem from other students.

It was inappropriate for me to be using a bathroom utilized by

students with disabilities, but there was nowhere else for me to go.

Coming out to my classmates was something I was not ready for at the time (nor should I feel obligated to). Not coming out meant being the subject of stares, double-takes and awkward questions every time I went to the women's bathrooms. Thankfully, I experienced no violence.

Concordia has around 100, often unmarked, gender-neutral bathrooms that are frequently inaccessible to students with disabilities. Some are locked, staff-only or under renovation.

At the beginning of last summer, a volunteer from the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy and I found every single gender-neutral bathroom on the downtown campus.

2110 has that list, available upon request. It is also available online at centre2110.org under the heading "Trans Health Advocacy" in the Campaigns and Projects section. The centre is currently looking for someone to make the list more accessible and user-friendly.

"My dream would be to have an interactive map where the gender-neutral bathrooms are," said the 2110 Centre's Trans Health Advocacy and Peer Support Coordinator Gabrielle Bouchard. "Making the ones on the list available and easy to recognize would be the first step, because I don't know if the ones already there are truly available."

"Not having gender-neutral bathrooms continues to add to an unsafe campus for transsexual, transgender and gender-variant students."

The last articles in *The Link* specifically about gender-neutral bathrooms date back to 2010. Former Editor-in-Chief Laura Beeston wrote about "an anonymous guerilla sign maker" who put up handmade gender-neutralizing signs on twelve single-stall bathrooms.

The Link's current Copy Editor, Alex Manley, wrote an editorial on Oct. 26, 2010, which reminded Concordia administration that since 2005, Queer Concordia has been calling for gender-neutral bathrooms.

On Feb. 15, 2012, ConU spokesperson Chris Mota announced that students could have their preferred names on all university records—except their transcripts.

As of this fall, transsexual, transgender and gender-variant students are not being outed by their professors when being called at attendance, or when required to

show their ID cards to authority figures.

As someone who has had to deal with accidental outing, and having to email or speak to professors about preferred names and pronouns, this is a huge relief. The university has done well.

However, not having gender-neutral bathrooms continues to add to an unsafe campus for transsexual, transgender and gender-variant students.

As Manley wrote, "Bathrooms have a long history of being sites of struggles against discrimination, as racial minorities, the disabled and women have historically been kept out of certain spaces under an exclusionary rationale." This is not a new issue.

The university promised that the bathrooms with gender-neutral signage would be ready by fall 2008.

Where are these friendlier bathrooms?

"I must have been six or seven when I tried to tell the girl across the street that I was different from her. She didn't understand. Nor did I. All I knew was the pervading sense of loneliness I felt when the boys in the neighborhood refused to play rough when we played street hockey—even though I was often the only one brave enough to rescue our ball from the cranky old man's lawn."

Oliver Leon writes *The Link's* That Transsexual Guy column, which appears weekly on our website and monthly in print. To read more of this tale, featured in "Storytime," originally published Sept. 26, head to thelinknewspaper.ca.



For the positions of Current Affairs Editor, Opinions Editor, Sports Editor, Online Sports Editor, Fringe Arts Online Editor, Community Editor and Assistant News Editor

To run, this is what you need to do:

All candidates must submit a letter of intent not exceeding one single page and three samples of work, to be posted in the Link's office on Oct. 7 by 4 p.m. This letter will explain the candidate's reasons for running, goals and any relevant experience for the position.

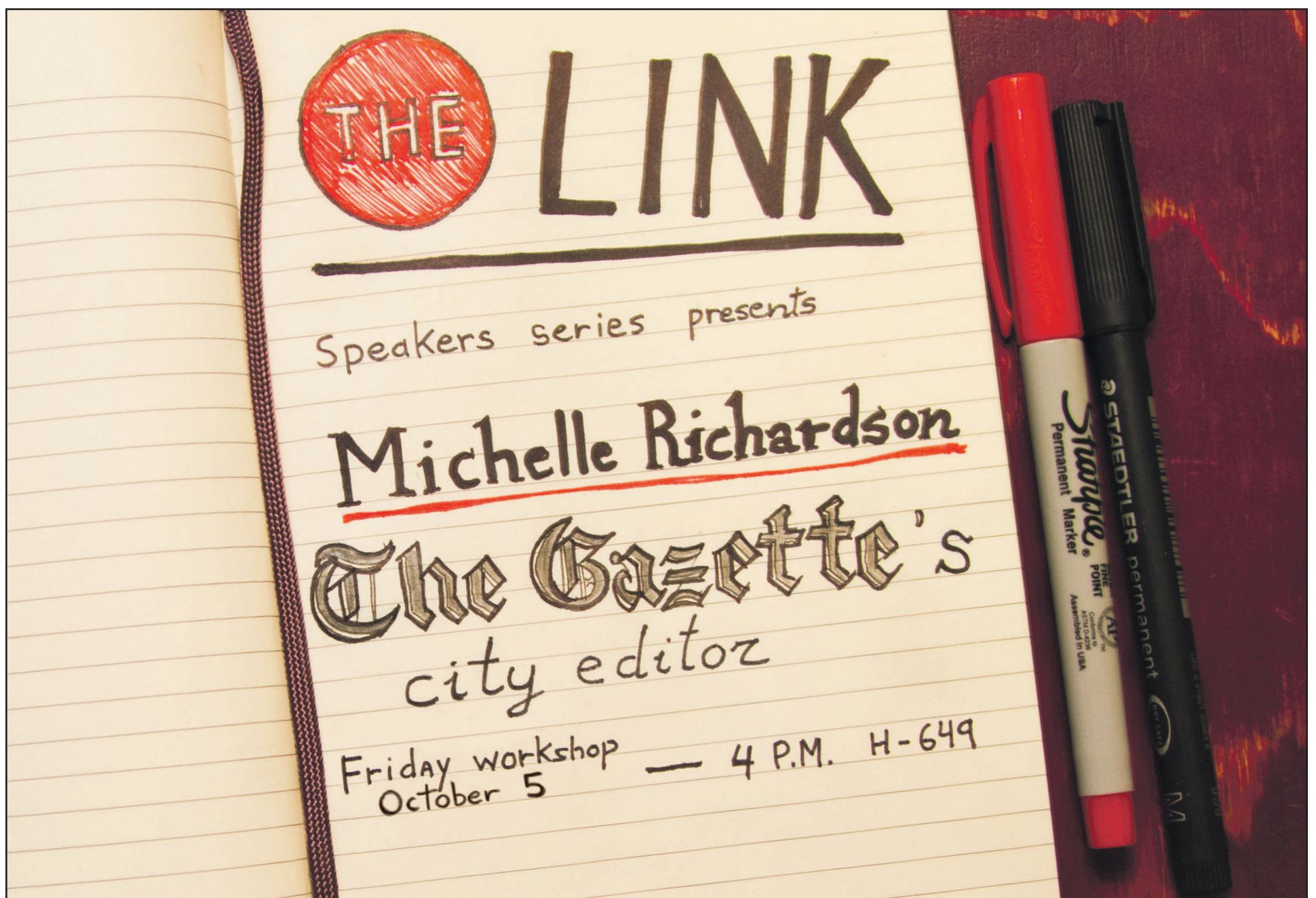
Elections will take place at *The Link* office, Hall Building, room H-649. For more information, email: editor@thelinknewspaper.ca or call 514-848-2424 x7407

The following contributors are **eligible** to run for a position: Josh Barkman, Laura Beeston, Andrew Brennan, Pierre Chauvin, Elysha Del Giusto Enos, Megan Dolski, Melissa Fuller, Nick Laugher, Sam Slotnick, Christopher Tan, Jonathan Woods.

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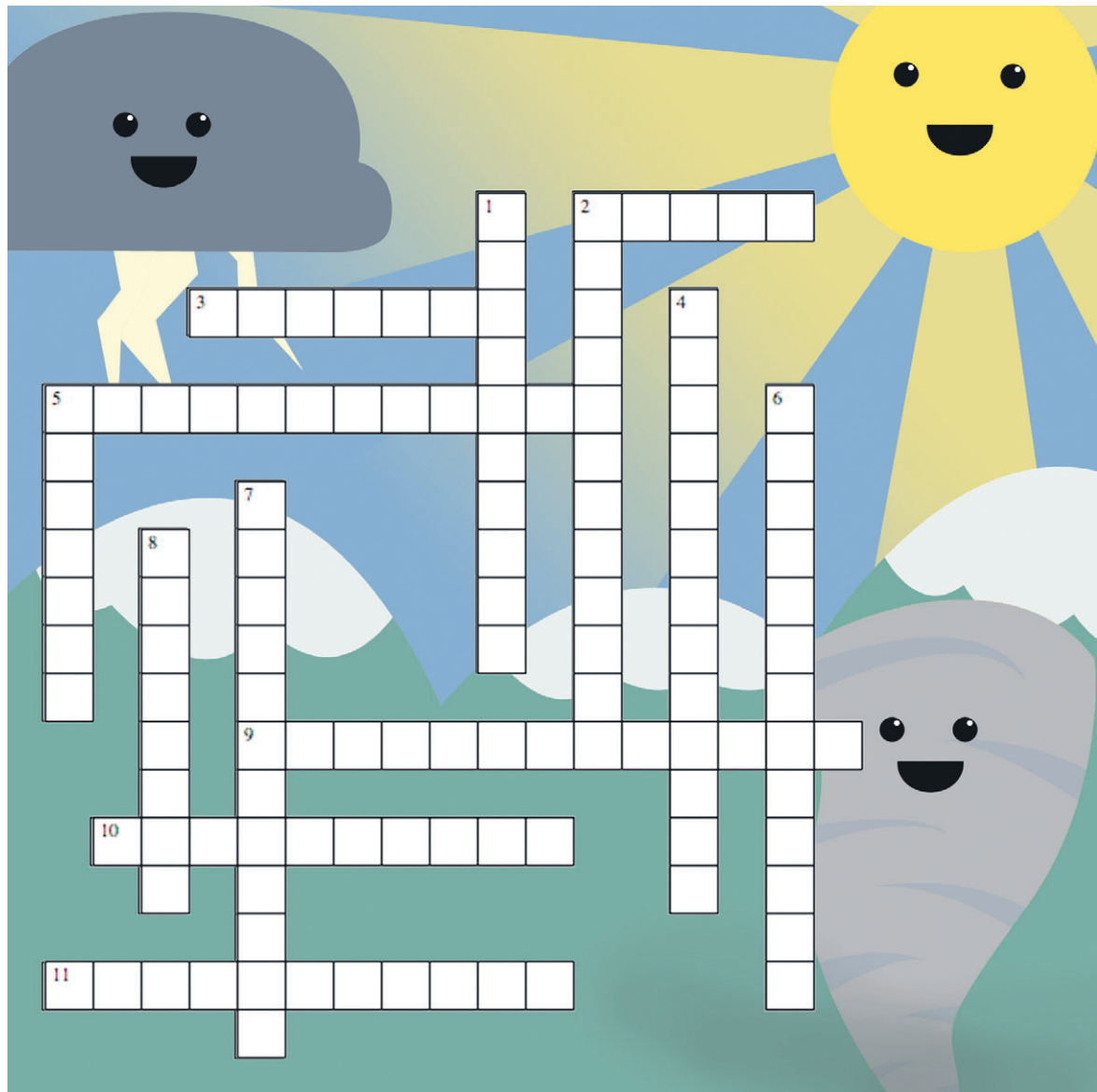
The following contributors **require two** more contribution: Celia Ste Croix, Rebecca Ugolini, Anne-Myriam Abdelhak, Amanda Siino.

Oct. 12, 2012
4:00 p.m. H-649



RIDE THE LIGHTNING

CHRISTOPHER TAN @CHRISVTAN



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER TAN

Across

2. This X-Man was the first black female character to have a major role in a comic series from either Marvel or DC Comics.

3. Pick up this game from Milton Bradley for a fun night of what is essentially colour-coded dry-humping.

5. Chicago has hardly earned this nickname. Brockton, MA is actually the place to beat in the United States, with gusts averaging 14.3 mph. (3 words)

9. Some stay dry and others feel the pain of this Internet-famous song about confectionary condensation. (2 words)

10. Radiohead brought major awareness to the "pay what you want" style of pricing when they released this album in 2007. (2 words)

11. This American poet boasts the highest number of Pulitzer Prizes won for poetry, having taken home four of them in his life. Not too shabby. (2 words)

Down

1. Formerly the New England Whalers, this Carolina hockey team took their current name in 1997—and won their first Stanley Cup nine years later.

2. Though it's been around since the '60s, this orange-flavoured drink was so successful in 2004 (generating \$450 million in revenue) that it was spun off into its own brand the next year. (2 words)

4. This AC/DC hit is said to be inspired by lead singer Angus Young's experience of being on a plane while it was hit by a bolt of lightning.

5. This 2007 film marked the third time that director Frank Darabont worked on an adaption of a Stephen King story. Filming took only 37 days to complete. (2 words)

6. The highest-ranked hit from the appropriately named Weather Girls, this campy anthem was most recently featured in Joseph Gordon-Levitt's opening monologue for *Saturday Night Live*. (3 words)

7. This recently canceled Discovery Channel show featured the adventures of crews driving Tornado Intercept Vehicles, modified 8-ton armoured cars used to film the inside of a tornado. (2 words)

8. Director Danny Boyle found working on this 2007 film so exhausting that he vowed to never again work on a sci-fi film.



Dammed If You Do, Damned If You Don't

I'm a 22-year-old woman who was infected with type 2 herpes a few years ago. I recently began a new relationship with a beautiful partner who wants to go down on me, but I don't want to pass anything on. How can we make using a dental dam sexy so we can both get the oral arousal we crave?

—Seeking Some Dam Solutions

I'm really happy you wrote this question in, because sometimes I focus so much on prevention that I leave out the what-ifs and how-tos of actually living with an STI.

But this isn't because they aren't common—while Canada isn't the greatest at compiling herpes-specific stats, it's estimated that at least 1 in 4 Americans are currently living with genital herpes, and that 80 per cent of people infected are unaware because they have no symptoms.

So let's start with some quick herpes info: Type 1 herpes involves oral sores while type 2 herpes is focused more around the genital and anal regions. There is a risk of oral herpes transferring to the genitals or other parts of the body, and vice versa, so safer sex practices are necessary during oral sex and touching.

The virus is still active and can be spread even when an infected person has no visible sores or symptoms, through a process called viral shedding.

It sounds like you're off to a good start, but I'm definitely with you on the difficulty of making dental dams sexy, because I get asked this question a lot and still have trouble answering it!

To a certain extent, it's up to you to make dams sexy, if you want them to be. Dams give you, a person living with genital herpes, another concrete safer sex option, and to me, that's fucking sexy.

It may be awkward at first, or feel a little clinical to use dams, but hey, all sexual experiences are a little awkward at first and that doesn't stop us. Just remind yourself of the role they play in protecting you and your partner, and they'll eventually just become another part of sex.

More practically speaking, latex on its own isn't the best feeling—but throw in some water-based lube and you're in for a good time. You actually just might forget it's even there.

Someone once told me she liked to cut the crotch out of a pair of underwear and secure the dam inside it to create a hands-free dam situation. I don't think that's for everyone, and you definitely need to be careful about it, but that's just one creative example that I've come across, so try to find one of your own!

I think that at this point a major barrier (pun intended) in making dental dams sexy is really normalizing them.

While male condoms may have the added appeal of pregnancy-prevention, they didn't catch on as a norm overnight either, so I'm holding on to my hopes that peace of mind and freedom of safer sexual expression will prove to be powerful motivators.

On a related note, I'd like to congratulate Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy on their *Damit!* project, promoting the need for dental dams to be included in the safer sex products currently offered free of charge by the Quebec Ministry of Health.

This is a step in the right direction towards normalizing and encouraging dam use and I hope you'll all help them out by picking up some free dams, and filling out a survey to help them in their research!

For more info on *Damit!*, visit 2110centre.org.

—Melissa Fuller
@Mel_Full

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

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

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

BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Want to help turn the best of the first two years of Barton Flats into a book? Visit <http://www.indiegogo.com/bartonflats> to show your support

LINKOGRAPHY



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

False Knees

GREAT FOR COMMUTERS!



COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

NAH'MSAYIN?

The People's Kafuffle

Every day at the People's Potato, announcements are made. The seventh floor of the Hall Building rings out with very useful information about workshops, lectures, services and—most importantly—the menu of that day's free vegan meal. And sometimes, on special days, people sing.

But not once have I heard these announcements properly.

People will literally talk throughout the entire speech. I know that a full minute can be an unmanageable amount of time to pay attention, but please people—shut the fuck up. Be respectful.

I hate shushing people. I am a loud person myself, and in my experience, being shushed feels like a personal attack from a silence-fascist. But every day, without fail,

I am at the People's Potato, and I am shushing. And not passive aggressively shushing, either. I look you in the eye and demand silence.

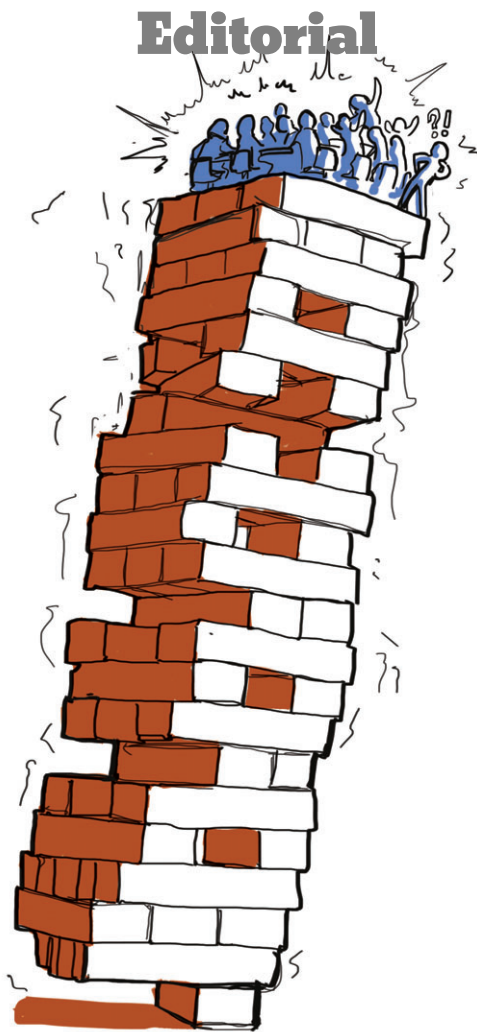
I seriously do not understand. Some people have allergies; they need to listen to the ingredients list. Isn't respect one of the first things you learn about in preschool? The concept is quite simple! The announcements are there *for you*, about interesting things that can help *you*, so *you* should listen up.

And even if you don't care about the free lectures and workshops, have some respect for the people who have busted their asses to provide you with the free meal you are about to enjoy. It's the *People's Potato*—and there's no I in 'people.' (Or 'potato.').

— Kaitlyn Ramsden



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



A COLLAPSING UNION

Concordia Student Union Council meetings have a long history of being political minefields—any meeting might blow up without warning.

But this year it isn't what's happening in the boardroom that's worrying.

The forced resignation of VP Academic and Advocacy Lucia Gallardo through an overzealous enforcement of bylaws by the council signals the beginning of the end for this CSU executive.

An end that is, surprisingly, not entirely due to the incompetence of this slate. Schubert Laforest and his team have, after all, racked up a long list of mistakes in their short time in office.

There were the posters and website missing in action during

their bid for office. Then there was the botched Orientation concert. Then they tried to take credit for Concordia President Alan Shepard dropping security charges against students, despite a pitifully poor approach to advocacy.

For "academic" reasons he won't disclose, Laforest can't sit on the Board of Governors. And now Lucia Gallardo turns out not to have been a student this whole time.

All this, and it's only Oct. 2.

Given this track record, it's understandable why some would call for the impeachment of *A Better Concordia*. But there's a way to approach the issue with civility and respect for the student body.

The past few council meetings have disintegrated into self-indulgent disasters as some councillors tried to push through motions seemingly intent on punishing Laforest and Gallardo in as embarrassing a manner as possible.

After Laforest admitted he could not serve on the BoG, some of the councillors put forth a motion to instate Lex Gill as the primary student representative on the BoG rather than current exec member VP External Simon-Pierre Lauzon.

Gill, who at the time already sat as the alternative governor, gains no extra powers from this switch, and without appointing an alternate, the move seems needless.

It accomplishes little other

than furthering the embarrassment of Laforest and his team.

While Gill's experience makes her vastly more qualified than Lauzon, appointing them both could have been the olive branch council so desperately needs right now. Not to mention, there would have been one more student sitting at Friday's BoG meeting.

At the same time, this council, which has a lot of executives from last year's slate, is ignoring certain skeletons in the closet of the previous year.

Morgan Pudwell was getting paid to be VP Advocacy and Outreach in 2011-12 despite probably not being a registered student; she only resigned (to little fanfare) at the end of the spring semester, citing health reasons.

In comparison, Gallardo's been tarred and feathered by the same people who stood by Pudwell all along.

So it seems that what was disregard for bylaws last semester has all of a sudden morphed into a strange lust for enforcing them—but this sure as hell isn't being done for students.

There has been a disappointing lack of transparency from both the exec and the council. They are both at fault for the circus our union has become.

Ultimately, Gallardo's resignation feels like the first piece being pulled out of the bottom of a teetering Jenga tower. This year's CSU is certain to topple before long if these shady motives continue. Who will be the next to go?

GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST CLOUTIER

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

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