



LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

BREAKING THE LEVIES

A petition submitted to the Concordia Student Union seeks to fundamentally change how fee levy groups get their funding. The decision is now in the hands of voters. P6

Rolled Over by Big Red Machines

McGill put an abrupt end to Concordia's men's and women's hockey seasons. p16-17

Up All Night

The Nuit Blanche 2014 fringe calendar highlights some of the unique spectacles and events to be experienced city-wide. p13



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Debate Stirring on the Future of Fee Levies at Concordia

Just as taxes are a source of tension outside university, fee levies are proving to be a politically divisive issue on campus.

Among those unhappy with the fee levy status quo are John Molson School of Business students. At the Concordia Student Union council meeting on Feb. 12, JMSB representatives presented two petitions asking that referendum questions on the fee levy system be included on the ballot in the CSU general elections in March.

One seeks an end to business students being charged fee levies for six campus groups and the other looks to change the way that fee levies are voted upon and charged to students, asking

that votes be held on a per-faculty basis.

"Once we were made aware of the deadline to submit the petitions and had the questions drafted, we were left with less than a day to collect the signatures," said JMSB councillor Michael Richardson. "The fact we received such overwhelming support from students in less than a day shows how strongly they feel about the issue."

Concordia students are automatically charged fee levies on a per-credit basis that go toward different campus groups—including the Centre for Gender Advocacy, the People's Potato and campus media such as *The Link*.

Students can individually opt out of each fee

levy and request a refund, however.

The JMSB students' petitions won't be put to a referendum in the upcoming CSU elections because they are improperly formulated, according to the CSU's chief electoral officer, Andre-Marcel Baril. But, during the general elections, Concordia undergraduates will get to vote on a CSU-approved question about introducing per-faculty voting on fee levies.

Worried about how such a change would affect their funding, fee-levy groups intend to make a stand when the election campaign revs up.

► Continued on page 6.



Photo Brandon Johnston

NEW FINANCIAL CONTROLS FOR THE CSU

The Concordia Student Union is making changes to its financial policies after last year's executive held a \$9,300 end-of-year party using student funds. **P4**

THE DEBATE SURROUNDING IRAQI-JEWISH ARTIFACTS

The Iraqi-Jewish diaspora is fighting to keep hundreds of artifacts and personal effects belonging to their community from being returned to the war-torn country. **P7**

PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON TODAY'S ISSUES

The Philopolis conference gets students, professors and the general public talking philosophically about the Charter of Values and gentrification. **P9**



OPTICAL DISILLUSIONS

New York trip-hoppers Phantogram hit Montreal on a worldwide tour for their new album *Voices*. **P11**

NATIVE LANDS

Week-long exhibit *Native Immigrant* brings together First Nations and Canadian immigrants. **P12**

ONE SECOND LEFT ON THE SHOT CLOCK

In her last season as a Stinger, point guard Ashley Clarke has one goal in mind: lead Concordia to its first RSEQ title since 1999. **P15**

COURAGE IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSION

A student perspective on ongoing protests in Venezuela. **P19**

THE LINK ONLINE

REVIEW: MAKING ROOM FOR THE BASSOON

Indie opera outfit Sidney York hit a high note at their *Divan Orange* show.

BONUS ROUND

What are you doing this weekend? Take your pick of weekly events around the city with our online *Fringe Calendar* listings!

ASSÉ OPPOSES CHARTER

Quebec's more militant student interest group has come out against the Charter. Wondering why it took them months to do so? Head online for the answer.

FRENCH IN NORTH AMERICA

McGill's French newspaper *Le Délit* offered insights into the North American context of the French language Monday night. Find out why the discussion was called "The Mean Language."

LINK RADIO

Tune in to CJLO 1690 AM from 11 a.m. to noon every Thursday to hear our newest episode of Link Radio. Missed our last show? Check out thelinknewspaper.ca.

CSU Alters Financial Policies in Wake of Newtown Incident

‘Terrifyingly Insufficient’ Rules Given First Major Overhaul

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

Roughly five months after last year’s executive was formally reprimanded and asked to pay back the Concordia Student Union for a \$9,200 end-of-year party using student funds, policy changes are being made at the CSU to prevent future excesses.

“This is a great start, but far from the end. There’s a lot left to do, but our policy and financial processes have made huge strides [this year] in terms of making things more transparent,” said CSU VP Finance Scott Carr, who consulted on the original report authored by councillor Chuck Wilson recommending the changes to council.

A May 29 party at Newtown bar on Crescent St., which was organized in part with the Concordia International Students Association and attended by an estimated 40 people, has received plenty of criticism since last summer from multiple former and current CSU councillors, who said in September that the party amounted to frivolous spending of students’ money.

Renting out Newtown bar and the bill for food and drinks cost \$8,062, according to a CSU requisition document from May 30, 2013. A second requisition signed by Alexis Suzuki, the former CSU VP Student Life, also included an extra \$1,143 in expenses, including \$300 solely for shisha tobacco and its delivery.

The finalized student life budget line for last year was \$6,560.33 over its allocated budget, according to Carr.

Wilson told *The Link* Monday his report was ready for earlier this month, but the months it took to prepare the recommended changes were necessary to ensure any safeguards put in

place were thorough and effective.

“It really needed to be in-depth, because I could see years down the road [new CSU members] having no idea why a bunch of financial policies were changed or put in place and there needs to be that explanation,” he said.

In his report, Wilson made no secret of his belief that the union’s financial policy was in desperate need of an overhaul.

“In case you missed the undercurrent of this entire report, let it be stated here unequivocally: the CSU’s financial policies and procedures are terrifyingly insufficient,” he said in closing.

But particular policy changes were made only to discretionary and non-discretionary spending, the specific areas of focus in Wilson’s report. All recommended changes were adopted by the CSU last Wednesday at a special council meeting.

However, the report also classified the CSU’s financial dealings under seven categories: discretionary and non-discretionary, along with orientation-related budget lines, asset purchases, investments, CSU-operated fee levies and employee wages and benefits.

According to Wilson, other financial categories will be addressed in a subsequent report.

While Wilson admitted in the report most of the conversation around the Newtown incident focused on avoiding a similar situation in the future, the resulting recommendations had to be larger in scope.

“Any recommendations we make must be considerably more general and nuanced if we are to avoid similar outcomes instead of simply preventing carbon copy instances,” the report stated. Wilson offered 17 recommendations in total, all of which were adopted by council.

All discretionary spending—which would include CSU events, speaker series and student life initiatives similar to the Newtown party—would require at bare minimum signed approval of the executive or committee deemed to be in charge of the specific budget line by council at the beginning of their mandate.

Committees would also have to include detailed minutes where they outline the events they are holding.

“The only documents you have [access to] right now are requisitions. Now, there will have to be minutes to say this was approved,” said Wilson. “It will be very clear where things started and ended.”

According to current members of council, members of last year’s event committee were unaware they had approved the funding of a party at Newtown, despite Suzuki refuting those claims to council. Suzuki was unavailable for comment by press time.

Any discretionary spending under \$1,000 would only require the approval of the applicable executive or committee, but above that threshold subsequent approvals would be required.

Spending between \$1,000 and \$10,000 would require the approval of the CSU Financial Committee, and any amount above \$10,000 would have to be approved directly by all of council.

Similarly, non-discretionary spending—outlined in the report as “regular, yearly expenses related to the CSU’s operations”—would require the financial committee’s approval for any amount from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and council’s for spending over that margin. Amounts under \$10,000 would have to be approved by the VP Finance.

These three-tiered threshold levels are sim-

ilar to the current CSU regulations surrounding the signing off on contracts and cheques.

According to CSU Standing Regulation 103, the two CSU signing officers must sign off on all contracts, cheques or other legal tender on behalf of the CSU and have approval over those under \$10,000. FinComm has authorization on spending between \$10,000 to \$50,000 and council is the only authorizer of contracts above that amount.

Despite the changes to discretionary spending, any contracts or cheques associated with an event or initiative under a discretionary budget line will still have to be approved separately and then signed off by two signing officers.

Signing officers can no longer be a member of the CSU executive and now can only be chosen from council representatives and the CSU president.

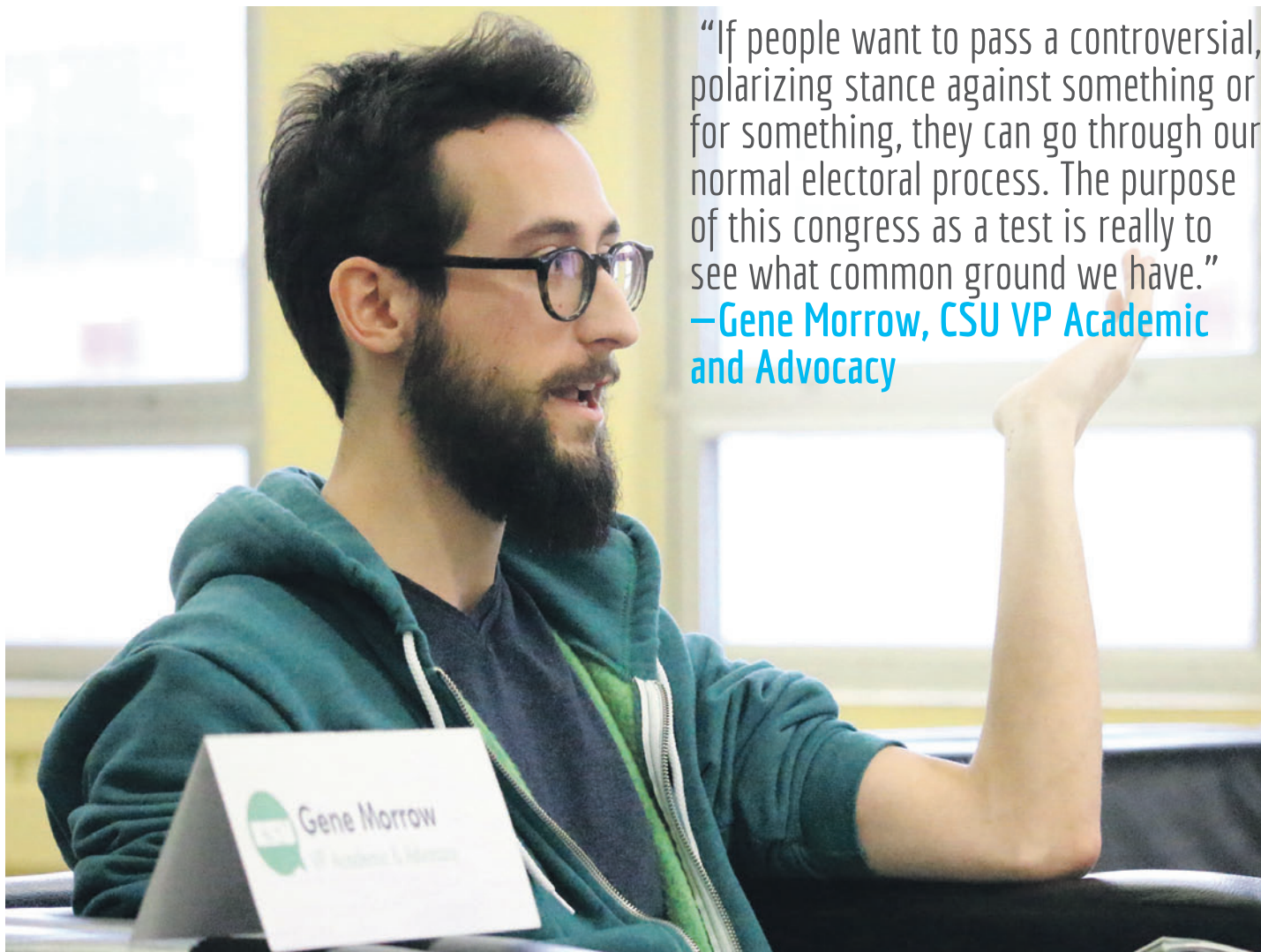
“Signing authority can be, and historically has been, concentrated within the executive offices,” outlined Wilson in his report, adding this can be problematic if it hinders transparency and puts too much power solely in the hands of the executive.

Yet despite the changes made by council last week, Wilson says his Newtown report is ultimately just one step toward fixing the union’s financial situation.

“The way I talk about this report,” he said, “is it’s really just the foundation for a bigger report which hopefully would be done by the end of this year [...] so there will be this longstanding document that explains why these things were done, not just that they were done.”

Infographic Jayde Norström





"If people want to pass a controversial, polarizing stance against something or for something, they can go through our normal electoral process. The purpose of this congress as a test is really to see what common ground we have."
—Gene Morrow, CSU VP Academic and Advocacy

Concordia Briefs

by Jayde Norström @n_jayde

Shuttle App Project Launched

Concordia biology student Marc Posth has created an app, the Shuttle App Project, to help keep track of Concordia shuttle bus schedules and practice developing in Java for Android. However, Posth has had to remove all references to Concordia University, including its logo, from the app, its title and description so that it is not mistaken for an app officially sponsored or run by the school. The Android app, which does not require an Internet connection, is available on the Google Play store for free.

TRAC Creates Strike Committee

The Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia have formed a strike committee following Concordia's denial of the pay and benefit requests at a bargaining session held on Feb. 11. The requests stemmed from the large workloads and low pay of teaching assistants, but were denied due to a clause from a previous agreement that all union group wages must be raised by the same amount if one receives a raise of over two per cent. In an interview with *The Link*, university spokesperson Chris Mota said the school is "working diligently to reach an agreement" with TRAC.

Concordia Launches Sexuality Major

In a Senate meeting on Feb. 14, a motion was passed for the creation of a new 42-credit BA Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality to begin in the 2015-2016 academic term. The program is a collaboration between the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and the Faculty of Fine Arts that aims "to foster students' understanding of the role of human sexuality in society and behaviour [and to] encourage a recognition of sexual culture, social organization, and identity in all aspects of our world, as well as providing a strong preparation for various careers and academic programs," according to the program's proposal. Seven new courses will be created along with the program.

Centre for Gender Advocacy and CUTV to Be Featured on CSU Ballot

The Centre for Gender Advocacy and Community University Television will both present ballot questions in the upcoming CSU elections. The Centre is looking for an increase in their fee levy—from \$0.29 per credit to \$0.37 per credit—to cover the cost of the services they provide, including confidential peer support and work on sexual assault prevention. CUTV is seeking to have control of their \$0.34 per credit fee levy officially transferred from the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation back to the station. The transfer aims to clarify the relationship between the two groups, as CUTV already has de-facto control of the funds and the amount of the levy would not change. The date of the elections has not been announced, although they take place at the end of March.

Congress Is in Session

New Concordia Student Congress Seeks to Do Politics Differently

by Colin Harris @ColinnHarris

As the university community consists of some 35,000 undergrads in dozens of departments, within four faculties and on two campuses, sharing ideas with the entire Concordia student body is no easy task. The Concordia Student Union council can come off as little more than a crash course in Robert's Rules, making decisions that will take effect in a year or five.

To help open up the discussion to more than student politicians, the union is trying an experiment next week—the Concordia Student Congress.

The congress will look to provide an even playing field to student associations of all sizes—each with a single vote to pass non-binding resolutions to bolster political discourse on campus.

"That's the goal, to reach out beyond the executive branch of the member associations, and reach the student membership itself," said Terry Wilkings, a volunteer who is organizing the congress with CSU VP Academic and Advocacy Gene Morrow and President Melissa Kate Wheeler. "The goal is to bring many localized political units into one setting."

Morrow got the idea for the congress while learning how other student governments work in the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, the provincial student federation that the CSU is part of.

He saw other associations had mandates from their membership to lobby for at federation meetings—stances they could truly say were representative of their students.

"I've found that's something that the CSU tends to be lacking," said Morrow. "I thought that it would be really useful to try and get together a really representative body of Concordia students to try and figure out what these common positions [are] that the CSU could go out and defend authoritatively."

Morrow says this could allow the union to then lobby for these causes both internally with the Concordia administration and externally with governments and other members of the FEUQ.

The congress could also help mend the breakdown in communication between the grassroots, departmental level of student action and what gets the attention of the CSU.

"We're very excited about it. I think it's a great opportunity to reach out to others," said Ned Zimmerman, president of the Concordia Association of Students in Theatre.

CAST, as a departmental association in the fine arts faculty, has not had elected representation on CSU council since 2012. No fine arts students have run for council in over a year.

Zimmerman says this congress will allow students to discuss common problems, such as budget cuts, which have led to more crowded classes and some course cancellations.

"The more ways that students can get involved in politics at the general undergraduate level the better," said School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association executive secretary Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis. "[The] congress is an initiative that the SCPASA can especially get behind, since we are a very small faculty, with a lot of involved, interested and vocal members."

The congress also has the support of larger groups on campus; Arts and Science Federation of Associations President Paul Jerajian has been encouraging the federation's member associations to attend its first meeting, which is taking place on March 6.

"It's rare that you have a forum where the entire diverse student body gets together to discuss topics that are common amongst them," said Jerajian.

A two-thirds majority is required for the congress to adopt a position. Once that happens, Wilkings hopes the position can be made official at individual council meetings.

"They could go back to their individual political units and see if in a more binding setting they can adopt the position," he said. "That's where I feel there's a strong mobilizing agent, where you can get even more voices than the participants of the student congress."

The real measure of success for the congress is if it manages to do politics differently at Concordia.

"If people want to pass a controversial, polarizing stance against something or for something, they can go through our normal electoral process," said Morrow. "The purpose of this congress as a test is really to see what common ground we have and not get bogged down in the same discussions that tend to cycle around."

The first meeting of the Concordia Student Congress is taking place March 6, from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Location T.B.A.

Photo Michael Wrobel



Councillors vote on a motion at the CSU special council meeting on Feb. 19.

Divided Along Faculty Lines?

Concordia Undergrads To Vote on Fee Levy Changes in March

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

► Continued from page 3.

JMSB-led Petitions Rejected as Referendum Questions

Both petitions were presented to council by Richardson. The first proposes that only faculties that vote in favour of a fee levy be subject to it, instead of votes on fee levies being binding for all faculties.

The second petition asks that the members of the CSU registered in JMSB no longer be required to pay fees to the Art Matters Festival, Cinema Politica, Community University Television, the Concordia Food Coalition, Le Frigo Vert and the Quebec Public Interest Research Group-Concordia as of April 1.

"The underlying issue of this initiative—[rising] fee levies for services underused by JMSB students—has been a preoccupation at JMSB for quite some time now and we were trying to find a way to address that," Richardson said.

According to JMSB councillor Maylen Cytryn, funding fee-levy groups on a per-faculty basis would be "a positive change for JMSB students."

"When signatures were being collected, an overwhelming amount of students were surprised that they pay these fees and agreed that they've never used their services," she said. "By having faculty-specific fee levies, students will have the choice to support initiatives that they truly care about."

Baril informed council through a statement read aloud at the Feb. 19 meeting that the petitions could not become referendum questions in the CSU general elections because they were improperly worded and too complex.

"I have no choice but [to] inform council that I will refuse to put these on the ballot or on the announcement of polls in their current state and I recommend that they are

reviewed by council and the Judicial Board," he wrote in the statement.

"There are no questions posed in either of the petitions; rather they are resolutions or statements. If they would have been phrased properly, they still would have had more than one question posed per petition."

According to Baril, students would have to vote individually to rescind each of the fee levies of the six groups mentioned in the second petition, not collectively in a sort of omnibus question as was proposed.

A Reformulated Referendum Question

With the CEO having rejected putting the petitions on the ballot, councillors debated the merits of moving forward with the issue of per-faculty funding.

"Right now, [the process for opting-out] is horrible, and I don't even want to go through the troubles of trying to opt-out because it's not even worth my time, to be honest," engineering and computer science councillor Kyle Arseneau told council.

"But for some people it might be and the way it's done right now is not acceptable, and it's something that should be tackled [...] by the end of this year."

Fine Arts Student Alliance Clubs and Services Coordinator Jeremy Blinkhorn disagreed with those councillors who said it's currently difficult to opt-out of fee levies.

"I don't know if the people who signed this petition or have organized this petition have actually contacted these associations or [fee-levy groups] to opt-out, because in my experience, it's a simple process," he said at the meeting.

Several councillors said fee-levy groups aren't effectively communicating with students and that this is partly to blame for why students may have qualms about funding them.

"[Fee-levy groups] need to do a better job on outreach, community outreach, not just to their core constituencies but outside their bubbles," said arts and science

councillor Nikos Pidiktakis. "Students in JMSB need to equally inform themselves on these issues, inform themselves on what these services actually do."

After 25 speakers had voiced their opinions, engineering and computer science councillor Chuck Wilson put forward a motion to place a referendum question on the ballot asking students whether they want fee levies to be voted upon in a per-faculty manner, in keeping with the spirit of the JMSB-led petition.

Council voted in favour of that motion, but VP Academic and Advocacy Gene Morrow said the question was "incomplete."

"I just want to point out haste does not help," he said. "I really want to reinforce that fact, the fact that we're just rushing to try to get answers to things. We're not doing things carefully."

Deciding to give the ballot question a sober second thought, council later voted to reconsider the question that was passed.

The final, reformulated question approved by council asks students whether they want votes on fee levies to be "asked on a per-faculty basis" and the results of votes on fee levies to be binding only along faculty lines, as well as whether they want the CSU to "take whatever steps are needed" to implement such changes to the fee levy system.

The motion passed also states that independent students will be considered a faculty for the purposes of faculty-based questions.

Consequences of Changing Fee Levy System Unknown

During the debate on the referendum question, arts and science councillor Alanna Stacey asked Richardson what the consequences of per-faculty funding for fee-levy groups would be.

"I'll be completely honest, the consequences of the long-term implementation of this [change] are not something that we considered," he responded.

"We brought this petition saying that [for]

six fee-levy groups, JMSB students—or 500 of them—don't want to pay for this anymore, so we should be asked on a per-faculty basis whether or not we want to pay for these.

"People are considering this as a huge middle finger. It's not the case at all," he continued. "In fact, we've been forced to pay these fees from the beginning, so we're trying to correct a wrong, if anything."

Christina Xydous, the administrative and volunteer coordinator at QPIRG Concordia, told *The Link* that the university's fee-levy groups feel such a question "undermines a lot of the work that we do and undermines our ability to do our work effectively."

"It could [impact] everything from the ability to secure financing to how [we] manage our membership," she said.

"Certain fee-levy groups operate crisis service centres, for instance, for people who are going through a very difficult and hard situation," she continued. "Are we going to be carding people before being able to offer them services, to see whether or not they're entitled to that service? It's awkward to say the least. It could be quite complicated and, in fact, might not be practicable in other cases."

Asked whether it's a coincidence that a petition initiated by business students is targeting fee-levy groups that could be seen as more left-wing, Xydous said she "would shy away from those kinds of black-and-white characterizations of the divisions."

"I happen to know that there are a lot of students that are part of the JMSB that do appreciate and that take part in fee-levy groups," she said. "It's no truer that the petition that was brought forward by JMSB [students] would speak on behalf of all JMSB students any more than anything that the CSU does would be speaking entirely on behalf of all undergraduate students."

Photo Michael Wrobel

Discovered and Recovered

Montreal's Iraqi-Jewish Community Pieces Together Fragments of its History

by Leah Balass

As she glides her fingers along the delicate corners that shape the elementary school diploma she received in Baghdad, Lisette Shashoua nods her head concernedly.

"We're never going to go back there; it's an era that's finished. But this is all we have left," she says.

She reaches for a photocopy of her

schoolmate's diploma and places it next to her own. They are nearly identical.

Both were handwritten, stamped by the Frank Iny School in Baghdad, date back to the 1960s and are irreplaceable symbols of Iraq's once thriving Jewish community.

There is only one difference between the diplomas. Shashoua's diploma belongs to her—she can hang it in her living room or keep it tucked away underneath her bed.

Her former schoolmate, Olivia Basrawi, on the other hand, does not own her original diploma. Like most Iraqi Jews, Basrawi was forced to leave all her personal belongings behind when she and her family fled the country to avoid persecution.

Shashoua also left everything behind when she escaped in 1970. But as her parents were among the two-dozen or so Jews who remained in Baghdad after much of their community fled, they managed to send her a few family photos and school diplomas over the years. Today, these items are all that Shashoua has left of her life in Baghdad—very little, but far more than most.

An active member of Montreal's Iraqi-Jewish community, one of the largest in North America, Shashoua says fellow members of her community should have access to and ownership of their personal belongings just like she does.

Today, Shashoua is among the thousands of Iraqi Jews in Montreal, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Jews around the world, expressing opposition to the return of their community's historical artifacts to Iraq.

The artifacts, some dating back 500 years, were rescued during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when a group of American soldiers stumbled upon tens of thousands of documents and objects belonging to Iraq's Jewish community.

Although the country's Jewish population was over 150,000 in 1947, there are fewer than five Jews remaining in all of Iraq today, according to the National Archives in Washington, which was involved in restoring, preserving and digitizing the artifacts over the last 10 years in a process that cost \$3 million.

The rescued materials, which include children's quizzes, personal photographs, rare religious commentaries and sacred Torah scrolls dating back to the 1700s, were looted from the community in the '70s and '80s and carted off to Saddam Hussein's military intelligence headquarters, where they were later found floating in a flooded basement.

Twenty-four of the artifacts and some reproductions were showcased to the public for the first time at the National Archives last fall, providing a rare peek into the oldest Jewish community in the world, a community that was once an integral part of Iraqi society, from government to culture and commerce.

Running from Nov. 8 to Jan. 5, the exhibit, titled "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage," attracted over 16,000 visitors, a record number for a temporary exhibition. The exhibit re-opened at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York on Feb. 4.

As the recovered documents are gradually being made available online, Iraqi Jews around the world have been discovering personal remnants of their lost history.

But their reaction is bittersweet—the archives are scheduled to be returned to Iraq in June, the result of an agreement between the U.S. State Department and the Iraqi government.

Shashoua reacts with passion after finding her schoolmate's diploma on the digital database of the National Archives.

"I have my diploma, why shouldn't she have hers? Why should the Iraqi government get this diploma back when it belongs to her?" Shashoua asks.

"Imagine you have a diploma from elementary school or secondary school and you leave Canada to live somewhere else and Canada

says, 'No, it's ours.' Imagine—can you?

"This is our heritage, our religion, it belongs to us," she continued. "We were ostracized, people were hanged on the street, we were stripped of our dignity and we left these things behind because you just wanted to leave with your life intact."

Irwin Cotler, the Liberal MP for the riding of Mount Royal and a former federal justice minister, says the agreement to return the archives to Iraq is based on a flawed premise.

"There is a fundamental legal principle which states that no one can profit from the commission of an illegal act," Cotler said. "The Iraqi government should not be able to profit from looting these stolen assets—assets of the Iraqi Jews."

Cotler says there is "no justification in law or in logic" to return the archives to Iraq.

"[Iraq] is a place that has no [Jewish community], no willingness to protect Jewish heritage, no capacity to provide access to Jewish scholars who are the descendants of those who once possessed [the archives]," he said.

"The archives represent the heritage and patrimony of the historic Jewish community that was displaced from Iraq and it is not something that belongs to the Iraqi government."

The Iraqi government claims the archives demonstrate their country's diversity and represent the contribution that Jews made to the development of the country.

Iraq's ambassador to the United States, Lukman Faily, said at a press conference in Washington in early November that Iraq might be open to discussing a loan agreement with the United States, which would delay the return of the objects to Baghdad. Faily made it clear, however, that the artifacts ultimately belong in Iraq.

"The agreement is for these artifacts to go back home," Faily said.

The Iraqi consulate in Montreal refused to comment on what their government plans to do with the archives once they are returned to Iraq, a major concern voiced by Iraqi Jews in Montreal and around the world.

Maurice Shohet, president of the World Organization of Jews from Iraq and a member of the Iraqi-Jewish community, has been involved in discussions with both the State Department and the Iraqi government to keep the archives in the United States.

"It is emotional when everything you left behind comes so close to you when it was once so far away," Shohet said.

Shohet visited Baghdad for the first time in 2004 since he left the country 35 years ago. He is one of the few Iraqi-Jews that have returned to Baghdad after fleeing the country.

"Even if [the archives] will be saved and protected in the best place in the Iraqi National Library, the issue is that they don't belong to Iraq in the first place, but to the Jewish community that these materials were confiscated from," he said.

Shohet says that like Germany, which acknowledged that property stolen from Jews during the Nazi period must be returned to its heirs, "the same exact principle applies here: Property stolen from Iraqi Jews must be returned to Iraqi Jews."

The Iraqi-Jewish Archives will be on display at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City until May 18.

Photos Leah Balass



Lisette Shashoua looks at her elementary school diploma and family photos from when she lived in Iraq.

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Panellists discussed the philosophical implications of the Charter of Values on Feb. 23 as part of the Philopolis conference.

Looking at Society through a Philosophical Lens

Charter of Values, Gentrification Among Topics Discussed at Three-Day Philopolis Conference

by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

The City of Saints became the City of Knowledge over the weekend when Montreal was home to Philopolis, an annual three-day conference that brings together members of the public as well as students and professors from Montreal's four universities to discuss societal issues.

Issues ranging from a post-capitalist economy to breakdance culture, as well as their philosophical implications, were topics of discussion at this year's edition.

"I think Philopolis, now that it's reached its fifth year, is definitely here to stay," said Gabriel Larivière, a Philopolis organizer and philosophy student at McGill University. "I think for a lot of students, especially for undergraduate students, it's a good opportunity to do a talk or presentation similar to what graduate students and professors usually do."

The conference began at the Université du Québec à Montréal on Friday before making its way to the Université de Montréal on Saturday. The closing event of Philopolis, held on Sunday at McGill, was a panel discussion on secularism and the state.

The event focused on the philosophical and practical ramifications of the proposed Charter of Quebec Values, also known as Bill 60. If passed, the legislation would ban public sector employees from wearing conspicuous religious symbols including turbans, hijabs and large crucifixes.

Marc-Antoine Dilhac, a philosophy professor at U de M, started off the discussion by saying that *laïcité*, or secularism, is an ideological practice used by those in power as a manner of social organization.

He explained that secularism, established after the French Revolution as "liberty of conscience," was a way of protecting the state from the Church and the Catholic majority.

Therefore, the idea that "the state protects secularism, the state protects religious minorities" is inaccurate, he said.

"It's in this context that secularism takes a defensive form; [it's] certainly not

when it involves dealing with the issue of religious minorities who don't have institutionalized power," he added.

Panellists agreed that the charter's effect on women who wear a hijab or burqa would be not only detrimental but contradictory to its supposed intention to affirm equality between men and women.

"It's a bizarre conception of equality which excludes women from the workplace while telling them, we're giving you equality," said Daniel Weinstock, law professor at McGill.

Yara El-Ghadban, an anthropology professor at the University of Ottawa, drew attention to Article 12 of the charter, which protects the right of doctors to refuse to perform medical services that contradict their personal convictions, such as abortion.

El-Ghadban said that this is in opposition to the struggle of women to have the rights all people should have, especially the right to control their own fertility. There is an inconsistency between the purpose of the charter as stated by the Parti Québécois and the effects it would actually have, she said.

Michel Seymour, another philosophy professor at U de M, added that forbidding women from wearing a hijab while performing a public function with the justification that the veil is a symbol of female oppression is counterintuitive to the empowerment of women studying law or medicine who wear it.

"The charter, rather than helping religious minorities integrate, creates a division between the Catholic majority and religious minority, between 'us' and 'them,'" he said.

Experiences of Gentrification and Resistance

A talk about gentrification on Saturday at U de M took on minority rights from a different perspective. The talk's first speaker, Marie-Ève Desroches, is an urban studies student at UQAM and spoke notably of "the right to the city."

"The objective which drives the right to the city is that the city again becomes a reflection of [the people's] needs and not a simple instrument of the capitalist system," she said.

Desroches explained that globalization led to "the neo-liberalization of space." This neo-liberalization took the form of gentrification, the phenomena which inevitably begins with artists moving to a neighbourhood for the cheap rent and ends in gluten-free cafés and expensive condo buildings.

The idea of public space was brought into question in the talk. Desroches said that while a large portion of the population in central neighbourhoods such as Ville-Marie are homeless or in other ways marginalized, their access to public space is very different than that of powerful people who often don't even live in the neighbourhood.

"There's a deficit of democracy for the population which lives in the periphery, and have less influence in the central neighbourhoods," she said. "The central neighbourhoods become a global issue, and the populations that live there have very little influence in Montreal—for example, the mayor of the borough of Ville-Marie is equally the mayor of the city."

Desroches added that although there are people developing good initiatives to ensure they are better represented politically, they often lack resources and aren't sufficiently supported financially.

The second speaker, UQAM student Denis Carlier, said that "public space" had disappeared and that the very concept of public space was institutional and discriminatory.

He gave the example of an ambitious project in 1989 to put a municipal park in Berri Square with the official objective of revitalizing the neighbourhood but which had an underlying goal of pushing out the many homeless people there with rules that restrict people's access to the park at night.

"What's interesting in this example is that in the end, the exclusion was a relative failure, in spite of the police presence, because the dominant population in Square Berri is still the homeless population," he said.

Photo Michael Wrobel

Briefs

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Train Derails in St-Henri

A CN train that derailed on Sunday in Montreal's St-Henri neighbourhood led to no injuries or any serious problems, CBC Montreal reported. The train went off the tracks following what seems to have been a fuel leak, though according to CN spokesperson Louis-Antoine Paquin the cause of the accident remains undetermined. Most of the 3,500 litres of diesel fuel that was estimated to have spilled was recovered, and the derailment did not affect the water supply or the sewer system in the area.

Covering of Ville-Marie Expressway a Priority, Says Coderre

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre announced Friday that the covering of a portion of the Ville-Marie Expressway would be a priority for his administration. According to the *Montreal Gazette*, Coderre has charged opposition leader Richard Bergeron with the task of covering the stretch of expressway from Hotel-de-Ville Ave. to Sanguinet St. Despite the move, provincial authorities were quick to say that the Parti Québécois government—which is in charge of the expressway—would not pay for it. The cost of the project has not yet been determined.

Côte Saint-Luc Fire Being Investigated

An overnight fire in Côte-St-Luc is being investigated by the city's arson squad, CBC Montreal reported. Montreal firefighters said propane bottles might have been the cause of the fire, which reportedly spread to nearby buildings. However, according to Radio-Canada, witnesses to the fire saw an incendiary device thrown at the building. Police have yet to confirm this, and officials have not yet determined the exact cause of the fire.

Rosemont Bar Apologizes for Sexist Tweets

Nacho Libre, a bar in Montreal's Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie borough, has apologized after a series of sexist tweets sparked outrage, CBC Montreal reported. Tweets posted by the bar include one that read, "Pick up line of the day: Does this handkerchief smell like chloroform?" The bar initially stated that the tweets were references to a film and were intended to be humorous, but later apologized for what they called a lack of judgment. Critics of the tweets called them sexist, saying they promoted violence against women.



Mental Health Microsite

Many of our lives will be affected by mental illness in some way, if they haven't already. Over Reading Week we released our first-ever, web-only Mental Health Special Issue; head to thelinknewspaper.ca/mentalhealth to explore it.

Graphic Sophie Morro



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

*Photo by Natalia
Lara Díaz-Berrio*

Indian dancers wait their turn to perform at Discover Tibet, an event held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at McGill University.

*Submit your photos to
photo@thelinknewspaper.ca*



Phantom Rhythms

Experimental Duo Phantomogram to Play Laval After Releasing New Record *Voices*

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

A “phantogram” is an optical illusion in which a two-dimensional image appears to enter our realm in the third. It should come as little surprise, then, that a band by the same name creates experimental genre-blending music that reaches far beyond the sum of its parts.

The band, composed of New Yorkers Josh Carter and Sarah Barthel, grew from Carter’s solo project, which he said was the “blueprint for Phantomogram.” He used to toy with recording techniques and mix various beats and samples before he became partners-in-music with longtime friend Barthel.

“In a lot of the original tapes, I was just singing in this kind of weird falsetto,” Carter told *The Link* over the phone from California, where they are on tour.

“I asked [Sarah] if she wanted to sing on some of my stuff, and she did and it sounded really cool, so I asked her if she wanted to start a band and the rest is history.”

While Carter writes most of the lyrics for the band, both he and Barthel take turns doing vocals for tracks, going on a song-by-song basis to determine who performs the vocals in an organic recording process.

“I think about Sarah’s voice a lot when I’m recording and writing songs. There’s some songs on the record that I originally sang but [...] we’d have Sarah re-do it,” he said.

“But there’s no specific way to divide up who sings, it’s just that on this record we used Sarah on the majority of them, which I’m totally cool with. I prefer her voice, I think it’s great.”

Hearing Voices

Phantomogram has released two EPs and two full-length albums since their beginning in 2007. Their most recent album, *Voices*, was released on Feb. 18.

While they’ve been known to mash-up styles and genres of hip-hop, trip-hop, indie rock, electronica and more, the duo’s latest record has unified their sound into a specific Phanto-brand that’s totally unique to them.

“I would call [*Voices*] experimental pop,” said Carter. “We experiment with so many different styles and sounds and sonic textures, there’s no specific derivative to where we get our influence.”

The duo have recorded all of their albums in their stomping ground of rural upstate New York at different “barn slash studios,” according to Carter.

Their latest effort was mostly written and recorded there but was completed in Los Angeles with the help of producer John Hill, who has worked with the likes of Snoop Lion, Wavves, Rihanna and Shakira.

The songs on *Voices* display the group’s versatility: tracks like “I Don’t Blame You” exude loneliness and despair, with its titular

one-line chorus calling out like a desperate cry for help, while other tracks such as “Bill Murray” are dreamy, synthy rides through twinkling xylophones and swirling, lazy guitar riffs.

But Carter says most of his musical inspiration comes from the heavier, more somber side of life.

“A lot of songs sort of come from a dark place; it’s where I tend to gravitate when I write. I don’t know why that is, I just find it a little more inspiring,” he said.

“Our songs are about existence, really. Like, what does all this mean, and life, living, love and death. Really just the basic human feelings that are universal.”

“We experiment with so many different styles and sounds and sonic textures, there’s no specific derivative to where we get our influence.”—Josh Carter, guitarist/singer of Phantomogram

Keep On Growing

While the band is only made up of Carter and Barthel on the songwriting side, they bring in reinforcements for their onstage presence—you won’t find any iPod drummers at a Phantomogram show.

“We have two other members for our live shows: we’ve got a guy playing drums and samples and another guy who plays guitar and synth. They help balance out our sound live and it’s a lot of fun playing with them,” Carter said.

Carter himself plays guitar and sings onstage, while Barthel plays the keyboard and sings as well.

The band is currently touring North America supporting their new album, and will head over to Europe in May to continue their tour. Carter says he and Barthel are looking forward to playing Laval and that they’ve been astounded at the response to their tour thus far.

“I’m super inspired; all these shows have been sold out, and I feel so inspired to just write music,” he said, adding that he’ll be writing while on the road this tour.

“I feel very grateful that I get to do this. The plan is to just keep writing music, tour, keep getting better and just grow as artists.”

Phantomogram + Foreign Diplomats // Feb. 28 // Salle André-Mathieu (475 Avenir Blvd., Laval) // 9 p.m. // \$23.50 advance



“Roots are not that important—people give too much importance to culture, roots, your origins. They don’t really matter, it’s irrelevant. What’s more important is what’s happening to the tree.”

—Carolina Echeverría, *Native Immigrant* curator

Planting New Roots In Paint

‘Native Immigrant’ Art Exhibit Represents the Power of Displaced People in Canada

by Alejandra Melian-Morse @AMelianMorse

In 1986, Carolina Echeverría left Chile for Canada in search of the opportunity to follow her dream of studying art at Concordia, bringing with her a passion for social justice. But she quickly found it difficult to conform to what it meant to be an artist in Canada.

“When I left Chile, I really believed that to be an artist was to be a soldier. I had to fight for a cause—we were the tools of society, the canary in the coal mine,” she says.

“When I came here my experience of art was that art was for art’s sake and they couldn’t understand why I wanted to [fight for a cause].”

Refusing to accept the passive and purely aesthetic role of the artist, Echeverría has since used her art as her method of expressing social activist viewpoints.

“I don’t think that the experience of gazing [in art] has brought us anywhere and I think we’re living in the most repressive years ever as a society,” she said.

“I think as artists it’s our time to do something, because art is something that’s not suspect yet. I think that artists need to be taking that role of leading and showing the vision of where we want to get.”

The Untapped Power of People

With the second edition of her art exhibit *Native Immigrant*, opening Wednesday, Echeverría hopes to lead such a charge—specifically, helping immigrants to Canada discover their power and agency.

“I think that immigrants are not aware of the incredible political power they have here in Canada. We can totally create the future that we want and we just see ourselves as isolated,” she said.

“Look at what the Idle No More movement did. They gathered all the First Nations of North American into one group regardless of their differences [...] and they found one common cause, which was to protect the land.

“I think if we joined them, we could all become a very powerful group of people that could actually have a say as to how we want to be living in this country,” she continued.

Echeverría says she sees many connections between the position of recent immigrants in Canada and that of First Nations peoples.

“It’s an unlikely pair but we’re both displaced,” she said. “Natives are displaced on their own land and immigrants are displaced by their own choice or the choice of life itself.”

She feels that if immigrants allow them-

selves to reject the foundations of colonialist ideologies and instead embrace those of this land’s First Peoples, they will find their home in this new land and welcome the opportunity to embrace it and nurture it.

“My project aims to join immigrants with First Nations so we can share and we can learn from their deep environmental knowledge,” she explained. “They know how to live in this land better than anyone else.”

To Echeverría, it’s important for immigrants to deeply establish themselves in their new home.

“I wish I could tell immigrants out there that they need to start re-rooting as fast as possible,” she said.

“Roots are not that important—people give too much importance to culture, roots, your origins. They don’t really matter, it’s irrelevant. What’s more important is what’s happening to the tree.”

She also emphasized the need to acknowledge and value the immigrant identity, and hopes to give this identity a face through her artwork.

“When we had the show in November a lot of people were seeing what they wanted to see. They said ‘Oh, this is so Mexican,’ or

this is so this or so that, and they were all seeing parts of themselves there and I thought that was a real success,” she said.

But *Native Immigrant* won’t only feature art to be appreciated from afar—there will also be moments wherein exhibit-goers will be invited to help create the art.

“We will be doing two collaborative art pieces. One is ‘Native Immigrant Dress,’ which is a naked mannequin and we dress it with objects that immigrants bring and then we collect the native history of the stories behind the objects,” she explained.

“The second one is the ‘Charter of Immigrant Values’ [...] where people write their values in a tongue-in-cheek kind of way. A lot of interesting conversations happen.”

Following the vernissage there will be an event to benefit Idle No More, in which artists and performers will contribute to raise money for the movement.

Native Immigrant // Feb. 26 to Mar. 5 // Complexe du Canal Lachine (4710 St. Ambroise St.) // 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily // Free admission

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Fringe Calendar Nuit Blanche Edition March 1

by Riley Stativa @wileyriles

MUSIC

1 24 Hours of Vinyl: 9th Edition
Le Bleury-Bar à Vinyle
(2109 Bleury St.)
7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Feeling the need to rock around the clock? This event has 15 different Montreal DJs taking a turn(table) on the vinyl platters at Le Bleury for an unforgettable music set that goes right round, like a record baby, right round until the early hours of the morning.

2 Broadway Café
Segal Centre (5170 Côte-Ste-Catherine Rd.)
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Do you have a swing in your step and a song in your heart? Head to this event in Côte-Des-Neiges for an evening of musical comedy. The event looks to bring together Broadway fans to perform or enjoy show tunes accompanied by a live pianist in the Segal Centre's ArtLounge Bar.

FILM

3 Theatre Night: Best Black and White Comedies!
Crabhouse Serafim
(393. St. Paul St. E.)
6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Calling all cinephiles! Make it a Nuit Blanche et Noir with these screenings of classic black-and-white comedy films, featuring the comedic genius of Charlie Chaplin and more. Grab your bowler hat and get ready for a laugh!

4 Kino Kabaret
Grande Bibliothèque
(475 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.)
8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

"Kino" is a filmmaking movement that began in Montreal in 1999 and has since grown onto the worldwide scene, focusing on the collaborative nature of movie-making as well as spontaneity. This screening will show off 30 three-minute-long Kino flicks, many inspired by Quebec cult classics, on loop for the entire evening.

ART

5 Art.Démolition
Theatre Sainte Catherine
(264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
11 p.m. construction,
3 a.m. demolition

There is an old saying that what goes up, must come down. The Theatre Sainte Catherine invites the public to spend the night building up an art installation and to stick around and watch the once-in-a-lifetime art exhibit be destroyed once 3 a.m. rolls around.

6 Painting With Light
Galerie MX (333 Viger Ave. W.)
6 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Prepare yourself for a freakadelic art presentation with a curious new medium. Think of the neon paint splatter masterpieces, reminiscent of the galaxy bowling alleys of your youth, teaming up with world-renowned light painter Patrick Rochon. This live demonstration and projection of previous projects might just light up your life.

SPORTS

7 Sugar 'N' Ice,
And Everything Nicel
Patinoire Atrium Le 1000
(1000 de La Gauchetière St. W.)
5 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Showing off your inner winter Olympian has a tasty payoff. This event offers free skating at the indoor rink accompanied by the live music of folk musicians—and when you need a break, enjoy some free maple taffy and snacks. Sweet deal!

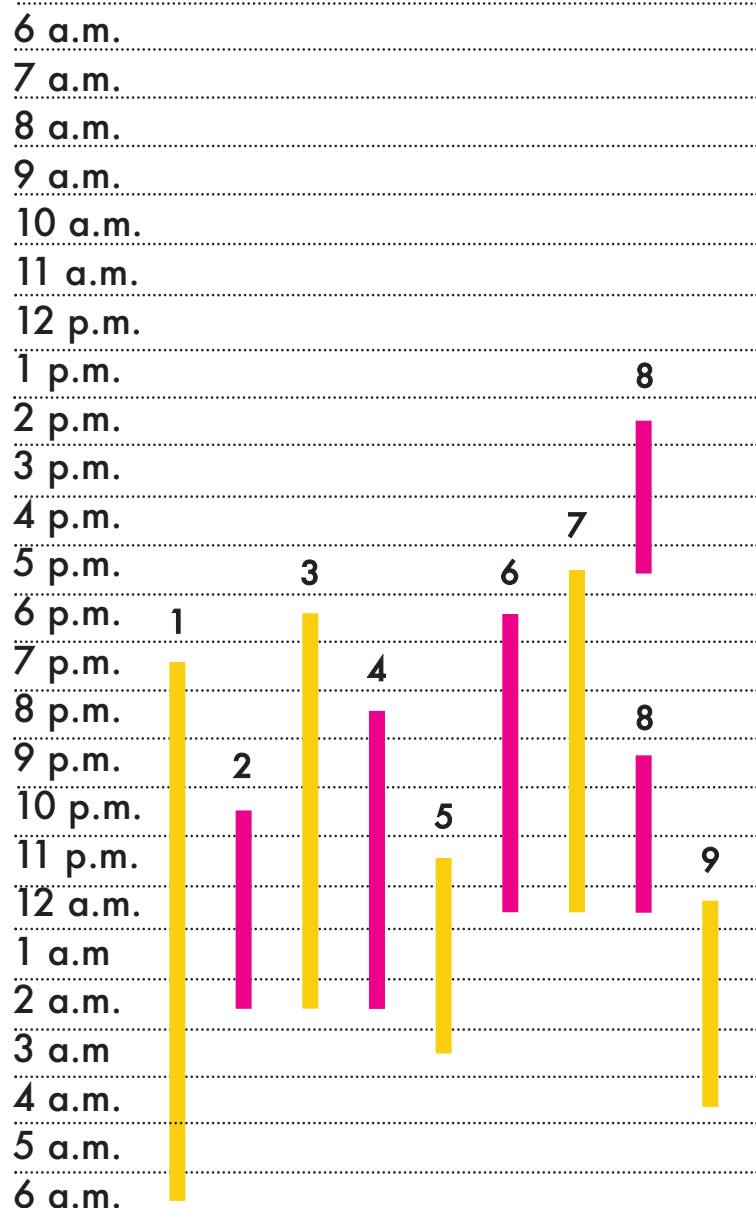
8 Kilo-Beat: Interactive Bikes
Complexe Desjardins - La Grande Place
(150 Ste. Catherine St. W.)
2 p.m. to 5 p.m., 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

With a hint of spring in the air, it will soon be time to once again break out the bicycles. In the meantime, this exhibit will get you back in pre-season cycling shape with a whole different groove. With bikes that function as musical instruments and VJ consoles, you can compose tunes with a sweat, multitasking art and exercise.

PARTY

9 Rum, via Sea Chanties,
Legends and Tastings [18+]
Le Cabaret du Roy
(363 de la Commune St. E.)
12 a.m. to 4 a.m.

Free admission, drinks additional
If you find yourself weary and need to warm up in the wee hours of the morning, shiver your timbers down to Old Montreal, where you can play at fancy piracy with a tasting of six different rums for \$30. There will be plenty of music and merry-making at this pirate party, so get your booty on down!



For the rest of the week's listings check out our online calendar at thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar

Fringe Giveaway

TWO TICKETS TO SEE TRUST AND MOZART'S SISTER

On Friday, March 7, the Société des Arts Technologiques will be hosting Toronto synth-pop group Trust and Montreal's Mozart's Sister, presented by Blue Skies Turn Black and High Food—and you're invited to join the fun!

We have two tickets for one lucky reader to go to the show (18+) at 10 p.m. at the SAT (1201 St. Laurent Blvd.). To enter, like *The Link* on Facebook and like our official giveaway post.

We'll announce the winner on Monday, March 3 with our usual shenanigans. Good luck!



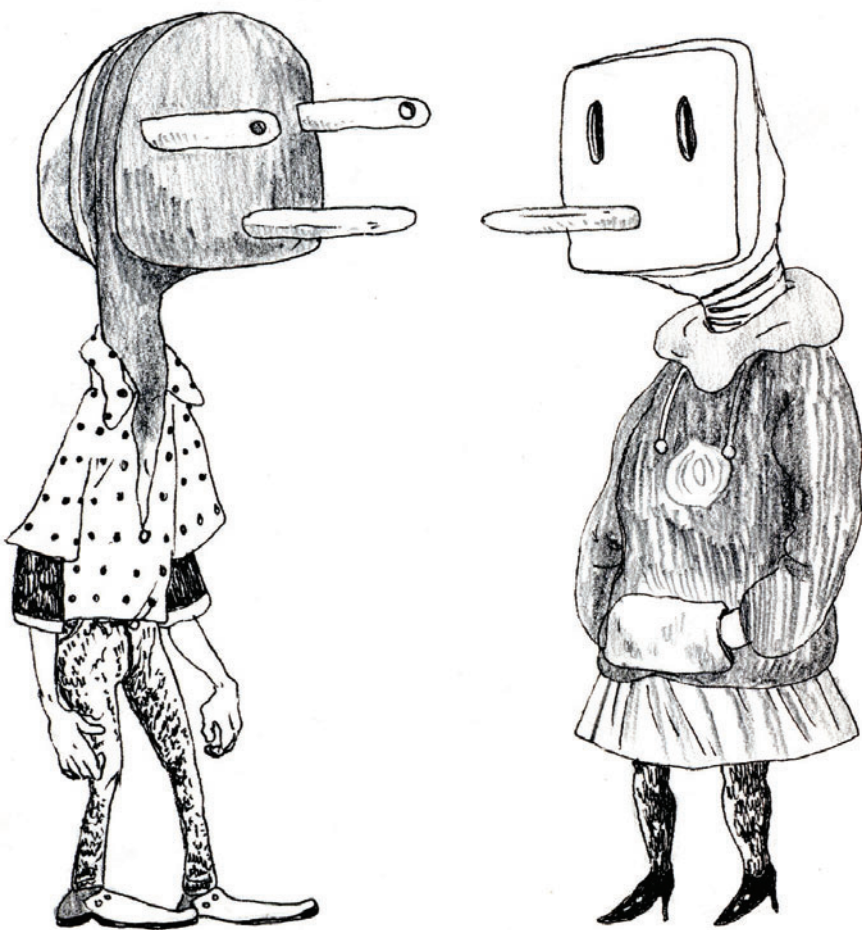
Gender and Sexuality Brainstorm

Everyone experiences gender and sexuality differently, and technology continues to impact how we define and explore our identities and relationships—from recounting your personal journey of gender transition in the form of a video game, to Craigslist casual encounters and relationships between people who may never meet.

If you've got a story to tell, now's your chance. Come discuss gender and sexuality and all that comes with it at our special issue brainstorm this Friday, Feb. 28, or email managing@thelinknewspaper.ca for more details.

Friday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m.
The Link's Office
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Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



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

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Make the big calls and represent the paper. Through rain, snow and sleepless nights, you lead the troops of this paper to greatness.

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Keep articles out of synonym hell and catch all the mistakes, big and little. Make the boring stories exciting, and the exciting stories even better.

COMMUNITY EDITOR

Organize events, plan parties, get people in the door and make sure they stay. Be outgoing, approachable and love *The Link*.

In order to be eligible, candidates must be current Concordia students who will be returning in the fall. Applications for the positions must be posted by Feb. 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the *Link* office, H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues during the winter semester of Volume 34 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

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

THE CONTENTERS

Alex Callard, Liana di Iorio, Ion Etxebarria, Matt Garies, Caity Hall, Julian McKenzie, Alejandra Melian-Morse, Verity Stevenson and all current *Link* masthead.

One More Contribution Needed

Noelle Didierjean, Jane Gatensby, Flora Hammond and Shaun Michaud.

Friday, March 7, 2014
4:00 p.m.

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

A Change of Guard

Graduating Stinger Ashley
Clarke Leaves Team with
Big Shoes to Fill



Stingers point guard Ashley Clarke has one last postseason to get the Concordia women's basketball team to nationals.

by Julian McKenzie
@therealestjmac

The end of the Stingers women's basketball team's season will be a bitter-sweet moment for graduating guard Ashley Clarke, bringing a decorated three-year career with the team to an end on one hand and marking the first step towards hopefully bigger and better things on another.

But from the team's perspective, there's nothing sweet about it—Clarke's graduation will leave the team with a big hole at the point guard position heading into next season.

As for Clarke, the realization she won't be returning to the team next season hasn't sunk in just yet.

"Once playoffs are over, maybe that's when it's gonna click," she said after her last regular season game in the Maroon and Gold.

"It's going to be a life-changer."

Before Saturday's game the Stingers honoured Clarke, who's in her third season with the team after playing a year for Ryerson University in Toronto.

Clarke made a name for herself with ankle-breaking ball handling skills and making clutch shots week after week.

Perhaps no game was more memorable than the one versus the University of Windsor Lancers, ranked no. 1 overall in the Collegiate Interuniversity Sport, during the Concordia-Reebok Tournament last year. Clarke provided the game-winning shot with 1.3 seconds left in overtime to give the Stingers a 75-74 victory.

"That's definitely one of my biggest moments," said Clarke. "I'll never forget it."

"It was a huge shot," added

Stingers head coach Keith Pruden. "It was an NBA three."

Clarke averaged 5.5 points a game and shot 23 per cent from the field this season—one she admits didn't meet her expectations.

"I thought this would be my best year," Clarke said. "I wanted to show the league that I can prove myself."

"But I had a lack of confidence midway through the season," she continued. "I didn't have a good offensive game, and then I just stopped trying to produce offensively and just tried to do other things."

With her less-than-perfect regular season behind her, Clarke is focusing all her energy on the postseason, as she aims to take the Stingers to a provincial championship for the first time since the 1998-1999 season.

"[In] past years we've lost in the finals, and we don't want to repeat that this year," Clarke said. "Hope-

fully I can go out with a bang and at least go to nationals. We're that good of a team. We're ranked. We should be getting out of here and going to nationals, playing higher-ranked teams."

When the winter semester ends, Clarke says she'll be taking summer classes to graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting and will either be looking to pursue graduate studies in taxation or enter the certified public accountant program, which is offered at the John Molson School of Business.

While a world of finance awaits her, the only numbers that Clarke currently has on her mind are those of the teammates she's bonded with since joining the Concordia basketball team.

"I spend more time with [my teammates] than with my own family," Clarke said. "Basketball got me away from all my stress,

now I'm going to have to find another stress-reliever."

Making matters worse for the Stingers, Clarke isn't the only guard leaving the team—fourth-year shooting guard Alex Boudreau is also graduating at the end of the year.

Pruden will certainly miss having both Clarke and Boudreau as guards next season, but acknowledges that the two will have to be replaced.

"The sad undertone of university sports is that nobody's irreplaceable," he said. "Teams are always in the process of replacing people."

"We're not going to have another Ashley and Alex," he continued. "My job is to go out and find somebody different. The two of them have contributed so much to the program, this year especially, and of course I'll miss them. I'm not sure they'll miss me, but I'll miss them."

Photo Ion Etxebarria



Gone in a Flash

McGill Redmen Put a Swift End to the Stingers' Season

by David S. Landsman @dslands

It took 26 games for the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team to clinch the sixth spot in the Ontario University Athletics East Division and their first playoff appearance since the 2010-2011 season. It took only two games for that appearance to end.

Facing the Canadian Interuniversity Sport no. 6-ranked McGill Redmen in the opening round of the playoffs last week, the Stingers were eliminated after losing 3-1 on Wednesday and 8-4 on Friday in a best-of-three series.

"It's disappointing that our season is now over," said Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby. "But I can tell you I thought our kids have competed hard and represented our university very well."

The first game on Wednesday night at McGill's McConnell Arena was a tight seesaw battle. The game was scoreless after the first period, but McGill took the lead just over six minutes into the second.

Less than a minute later, however, Stingers sophomore centreman Olivier Hinse tied the game up at one-apiece as he batted the puck in mid-

air off a shot by teammate George Lovatsis for the power-play goal.

"After [Lovatsis] took the initial shot I saw the puck rise in the air," said Hinse. "And then I did like when I was younger and played baseball, and gave it a good solid swing and it went in."

Late in the period, Redmen forward David Rose potted his second of the game on a big rebound, getting the puck past Stingers goaltender Antonio Mastropietro, before centreman Marc-Olivier Vachon gave McGill the much-needed insurance just over a minute later.

Friday night's game at the Ed Meagher Arena was as tight throughout the first two periods as the first one.

McGill opened the scoring, but backed by an electric crowd and a packed house, mostly there to cheer on the Maroon and Gold, Concordia answered with two back-to-back goals to put them ahead.

First, defenceman Gabriel Bourret finished off a swift passing play by the Stingers with a wrist shot that eluded Redmen goaltender Jacob Gervais-Chouinard on the power play. Then, five min-

utes later, Stingers Dany Potvin and Hinse broke out shorthanded with a give-and-go passing play finished off by Hinse to make it 2-1 at the 16:34 mark.

"I can tell you I'm very proud of each and every one of our guys," said Figsby. "I'm proud of the way they competed, it may have gotten a bit frustrating at times, but they hung in there and really battled hard."

However, the wheels started to come off as McGill scored three straight goals in just over two minutes to make it 4-2 McGill at the end of the first period.

But once again the Stingers answered, getting two quick goals by alternate captain Kyle Armstrong and Lovatsis respectively to tie the game up at 4-4 just over three minutes into the second period.

"It was nice to get the goal and to tie the game up," said Lovatsis. "Unfortunately it didn't last very long, but what can you do. I'm still very proud of our team and how well we did. Nobody expected us to get this far."

The roof came off the building after Lovatsis's goal, as the Stingers were back into the game with 37 minutes left.

The feeling was short-lived however, as just 26 seconds later, Redmen forward Neal Prokop scored his second goal of the game after finding an open spot in the slot right in front of Mastropietro.

By the end of the second, it was 6-4 McGill, and the shots were a commanding 32-15 for the visitors.

A lack of discipline hindered the Stingers, whistled down for a total of 12 minor penalties in the game compared to the Redmen's nine.

It proved to be the difference, as McGill forward Cedric McNicoll would go on to score two power-play goals in the final frame to end any hope of a Concordia comeback.

The final horn sounded and with the Stingers' season over, a sentimental moment happened by the Concordia side—each team member took a moment to hug and say their goodbyes to their leader, Lovatsis.

Friday's game was the 24-year-old captain's last in a Stingers uniform, something that took a very emotional toll on him both during and after the game.

"I have no one else to thank but all the great teams I've been a part of,"

said Lovatsis. "Kevin gave me all the opportunities in the world; he's been amazing to me and I really appreciate all the things he's done for me."

Lovatsis was the last one to leave the ice and the last to leave the dressing room following the elimination, taking in all the memories from Concordia.

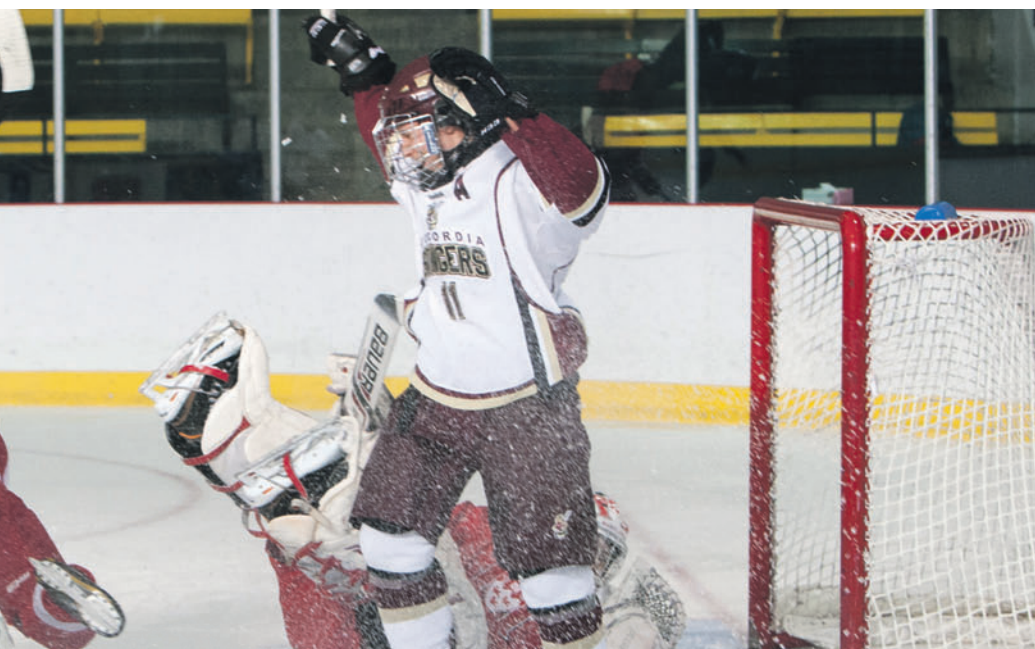
"At this point all I can do is look back and reflect on all the great memories I've had," said Lovatsis following Friday's game. "Honestly, the last five years have been amazing for me, and an incredible experience. I think I've matured a lot as a person for being here."

Everybody here at Concordia has been great to me, and I'm in debt with them forever."

Coach Kevin Figsby said that the game that evening was for Lovatsis, regardless of the outcome.

"Tonight was a night for George Lovatsis," said Figsby. "He's a fifth-year guy, and he's been a team leader. I can't tell you how proud I am of Georgie tonight. What he's brought to our program the last five years, he can't be replaced."

Men's hockey photos Matt Garies



Saving Their Worst For Last

Stingers Fall Apart in Second Game of Playoff Series Against McGill

by David S. Landsman @dslands

Marking the first time the Stingers qualified for the playoffs in three years, Concordia's 2013-2014 women's hockey season was one to remember. The way it ended, however, was one to forget.

Concordia Stingers women's hockey team weren't only swiftly eliminated from the playoffs over the weekend—they were humiliated, losing 10-2 to the McGill Martlets in front of their home crowd Sunday afternoon at Ed Meagher Arena in the second game of a best-of-three series.

"It really just sucked that the final score was 10-2," said alternate captain Mary-Jane Roper. "It obviously wasn't our best performance, but we can't be mad at ourselves, because it certainly isn't a reflection of how we played against them all year."

Only two days earlier, the first game of their opening round series against the Canadian Interuniversity Sport no. 2-ranked Martlets went down to the wire. McGill snuck by and came back to win 3-2 with a late third period goal by

Jordan McDonnell with just over seven minutes left in the game.

"I really thought we had the game in our pocket Friday night," said long-time Stingers head coach Les Lawton. "We really lost the opportunity; it was really tough and devastating."

But nothing was more devastating than Sunday's loss. As the final game of the season, it was an emotional day for the Stingers' leadership core, with captain Erin Lally, alternates Roper and Jaymee Shell, and defender Gabrielle Meilleur all graduating from the team.

"That's probably the biggest disappointment for me today, having them go out the way they did," said Lawton. "They provided just fantastic leadership this year, it's not an easy thing to do and they did."

Despite the rough ending to her CIS career, Calgary-born Lally, who had played all five years of her eligibility with the Stingers, had only positive things to say in retrospect.

"Coming into this team I knew there was a lot of work that had to be done," she said. "I came in knowing that and committed myself to developing myself as a player, and

also help develop this team and this program. Looking back from my first year through to my fifth year, the strides we made were huge."

The Stingers lost 15 regular season games this year and 19 overall including exhibition heading into the playoffs, but none was as one-sided as Sunday's eight-goal loss against the Martlets, who haven't lost to Concordia since February 2006. More than half of those 15 losses were by two goals or fewer.

"Usually the hockey gods take care of things in the hockey world," said Lawton. "It just seems we lost too many close games this year."

As far as the Sunday game was concerned, Concordia did get on the board first when a long breakout pass by Shell banked off the boards and found its way onto fourth-year alternate captain Alyssa Sherrard's stick. She went in alone and beat Martlet goaltender Andrea Weckman with a top corner shot 14 minutes into the opening period.

But towards the end of the period, defender Danielle Scarlett took an interference call, which led to a McGill power-play goal with

just 40 seconds left in the frame.

But what was an evenly-played first period quickly deteriorated into a blowout, with the Martlets scoring on their first two shots of the period en route to taking a whopping 7-1 lead heading into the third period.

"We got behind early in the second and lost all emotion to our game," said Lawton. "I don't know why it is, if we lose our focus or not, we're a young team and have to learn from our little mistakes."

Lawton switched goaltenders after McGill's fourth goal in favor of back-up Briar Bache, but it didn't change the outcome as the Martlets kept pouring on the offense, adding three more goals in the third period before Concordia got one back with just under eight minutes left to play for a final score of 10-2.

Moncton-born Roper took some time after the game to reflect on what it meant to be a Stinger for the past five years.

"Mostly friendship and family. Not many athletes can compete and play away from home for five years and graduate, most leave, I couldn't do that," she said. "The only thing

that helps you get through is the support system. Being a Stinger is that close family and [Les] is always there if you need something."

Shell, who's from the West Island, also looked back at her career with a smile.

"I have come a really long way since I started at Concordia; both as an athlete and as an individual," she said. "It was always my goal to play university hockey and I'm really glad that I was able to do it wearing the Maroon and Gold."

"I have had an amazing four years and am eternally grateful for having had the opportunity to be a Stinger," she continued. "I think the leadership group this year was great, and I was privileged to be a part of it. We're a young team and I think we helped lay out the foundation for future successes."

Many of the departing players vowed they'd be back to watch their former teammates take the ice next season.

"Once a Stinger, always a Stinger," said Lally.

Women's hockey photos Ion Etzebarria



Point guard Adam Chmielewski hopes to lead the Stingers to victory in their semi-final match-up against Bishop's this Saturday in Quebec City.

A Week to Forget

Stingers Lose Two Straight Heading into Playoffs

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

The Concordia Stingers men's basketball team is heading into the postseason on a cold streak after dropping their final two regular season games this past weekend. The Stingers first lost their final road game to the Bishop's Gaiters by a score of 78-76 on Friday before losing 63-56 in their season finale at home against the McGill Redmen the following afternoon. The losses give the Stingers an 8-8 record and a third-place finish in their conference in an up-and-down season: the team lost its opening three games before going on a six-game winning streak followed by another three-game losing streak. The Stingers have now won only twice in their last seven games, an ominous sign with the playoffs up next. However, centre Zach Brisebois is still optimistic about his team's chances at

winning the RSEQ title. "We had a lot of new guys so we started off slow," Brisebois said. "But I think we've really come together and we finished probably better than a lot of people expected. "Next weekend, we'll try to make some noise and surprise some more people." Before Saturday's game against McGill, the Stingers honoured Brisebois, forward Taylor Garner and guard Jean-Andre Moussignac, who are all set to graduate after the season. The trio will be in search of their third RSEQ championship, after winning it in 2011 and 2012. "All three of us, finishing with three championships is going to be pretty good," said a confident Moussignac. The Stingers will face Bishop's University in the RSEQ semi-finals on Saturday. The winner will take on the victor of the Laval-McGill matchup in the RSEQ final on Sunday. All play-off games will take place at Université Laval.

Heading into the Playoffs with Confidence

Stingers End Regular Season with Back-to-Back Wins

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

The Concordia Stingers women's basketball team ended their 2013-2014 regular season on a positive note, winning their final two regular season games to finish 11-5 on the year. The Stingers got their weekend started with a win on the road against the Bishop's Gaiters on Friday night by a score of 63-43 before edging the McGill Martlets at home on Saturday by a score of 61-54. The wins allowed the Stingers to finish a game ahead of the UQAM Citadins in the standings, as the Stingers will take the second seed in the RSEQ. In the Stingers' final home game of the season, the team honoured guards Ashley Clarke and Alex Boudreau, who are graduating from the team. But while Clarke and Boudreau are set

to play in the postseason, the Stingers might be without star guard Kaylah Barrett, who sprained her ankle after making a game-saving block. There is no official word yet on whether Barrett will be able to play against UQAM next weekend for their semi-finals matchup, but head coach Keith Pruden remains hopeful. "The fact that she was able to get up and basically walk off on a pair of crutches is a positive sign," Pruden said. "[We've] got a great therapy staff so we'll see." The Stingers will face the UQAM Citadins this upcoming Friday in Quebec City in a semi-final game. The winner of that game will face the winner of Friday's other semi-final game, between McGill and Laval, in the provincial final on Saturday.

Photos Matt Garies



Center Serginha Estime scored 22 points and 10 rebounds against the Gaiters on Friday. Concordia will be hoping for another win this weekend as they continue the fight for their first RSEQ title since 1999.

BOXSCORES

WEEK OF FEB. 17 TO FEB. 23



Sunday, Feb. 23	Women's Hockey—Concordia 2, McGill University 10 (RSEQ semifinals – Game 2, best-of-3 series)
Saturday, Feb. 22	Men's Basketball—Concordia 56, McGill University 63 Women's Basketball—Concordia 61, McGill University 54
Friday, Feb. 21	Men's Basketball—Concordia 76, Bishop's University 78 Men's Hockey—Concordia 4, McGill University 8 (OUA playoffs – Game 2, best-of-3 series) Women's Hockey—Concordia 2, McGill University 3 (RSEQ semifinals – Game 1, best-of-3 series) Women's Basketball—Concordia 63, Bishop's University 43
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Men's Hockey—Concordia 1, McGill University 3 (OUA playoffs – Game 1, best-of-3 series)

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Friday, Feb. 28	6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (RSEQ semifinals)
Saturday, Mar. 1	1:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Bishop's Gaiters (RSEQ semifinals)

Check out Stingers game summaries and our weekly sports podcast, The Buzz, at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

Oil Rich or Dirt Poor

The Real Reasons Behind Venezuela's Student Protests

by Henry Foxworth

Imagine for a second that you lived in a city plagued by violent crime.

In this city, the likelihood of being kidnapped, robbed or murdered is ever present. You can't be outside your house after dark. You always have to be looking over your shoulder, just to make sure you're not being followed. And even then, there's always that chance you might be robbed while stuck in traffic or at the movies.

As if that wasn't enough, add war-like living conditions: constant food shortages, frequent power outages, busted water services and an absolute lack of toilet paper.

If this sounds like something straight out of a horror movie to you, then bear with me, because what I've just described was my normal day-to-day life living in Caracas, Venezuela.

Don't believe me? The Venezuelan Violence Observatory, an independent organization, reported there were about 25,000 violent deaths in Venezuela in 2013, while the country's inflation rate topped 58 per cent in December.

By comparison, nearly 9,000 Iraqis died last year according to the United Nations—one of the bloodiest years since the Iraq War started—while the country's inflation rate was 2.7 per cent heading into January.

Politically, the situation fares little better. The legacy of the late Hugo Chávez is one of immense corruption, coupled with state intervention in all public affairs and shortsighted economic planning.

His successor, former bus driver and union activist Nicolas Maduro, has only worsened this situation, the main difference being that Maduro lacks the charisma that Chavez used to cover his bad decision-making.

However, I won't try to describe the entire Venezuelan political scene here. To do so would be to plagiarize George Orwell's *1984*.

In Venezuela, people are finally fed up with the deplorable living conditions. There is the widespread feeling that the country's current political system has long expired and no longer represents the interests and aspirations of Venezuelans. The main group taking these concerns to the streets and protesting are university students, just like you and I.

Nationwide protests started on Feb. 12 and have continued day and night since then. However, even before that, students in other parts of the country were holding protests sporadically—Táchira, a Venezuelan state close to the Colombian border, was the first to begin the protests and has since become the centre of the protests's most intense activity.

The student-led protests being held across the country are inherently peaceful, but government response to these demonstrations was not what you might expect. On Feb. 12, the afternoon of the first protests in Caracas, two students were shot dead by members of the Bolivarian Intelligence Service while marching towards the downtown area.

The National Guard was also called to control protests around the country that same day, leading to reports from Venezuelan

newspaper *El Universal* of over a hundred protesters imprisoned and a dozen missing students. Armed militia groups, loyal to the current government and members of the ruling party, also responded to the protests by shooting live rounds at students they perceived as a threat to national security.

Meanwhile, President Maduro has done very little to actually calm the situation and prevent bloodshed. He has stated that the protesters are "fascist groups in pursuit of a political crisis in the country," who wish to rob people of their peaceful lives, but simultaneously calls for peace and understanding between both parties.

Nevertheless, the government issued an arrest warrant for Leopoldo López, the opposition leader who has been calling for continued peaceful demonstrations. López, a Harvard graduate and former presidential candidate, was arrested on charges of terrorism, murder and inciting anti-government protests. He is being formally charged with arson and conspiracy and could face up to 10 years in jail.

López presented himself to authorities on Feb. 18, but his detainment has not calmed the situation. In fact, it has quickly deteriorated since.

On the eve of Feb. 19, during a nighttime demonstration in all major Venezuelan cities, protesters saw a combined attack of the National Guard, national police and armed militias.

What was particularly heinous about this episode was the violation of private property: as protesters sought refuge in homes of nearby residents, state security forces invaded apartments—without a warrant—to find protesters and drag them out. Reports of systematic torture of the detainees have been widespread.

At this point, you might be asking yourself how it's possible that this has not been extensively covered in the news. The truth is that the Venezuelan government has direct influence over every news media outlet in the area. They've also taken steps to prevent international media, like Colombian television station NTN24 or the American channel CNN in Spanish, from covering the protests or transmitting nationwide.

The Internet is, of course, also being actively censored since Twitter and Facebook are used to upload photos and videos in real time. At first only images were blocked, but now entire states within the country are experiencing Internet blackouts.

To explain how Venezuela, the oil-rich Latin American country, got to this point is another story in and of itself (which I encourage you to look for). The truth is that students are seeing the country for what it truly is: politically, economically and socially bankrupt. But more importantly, they're taking concrete action to steer it in another direction and start a road to recovery.

Venezuelan expatriates like myself can only express our support and hope for the world to know what's truly happening. With 10 confirmed dead, it's taken these students great courage to face such violent oppression.

.....
Photo Milo Gonzalez Nava



Demonstrations like this one in Munich have been held to show support for Venezuelan protesters.



Engineering a Culture of Respect

Faculty History No Excuse for Inappropriate Chants

by Jayde Norström @n_jayde

The surfacing of ugly, degrading chants that encourage sexism and violence against women on university campuses is nothing new. In the last academic year alone, there have been multiple instances of these chants across the country, from the University of British Columbia to Halifax's Saint Mary's University.

After the inevitable—and deserved—backlash from those who see the sheer inappropriateness of the chants, the student association deemed responsible for the chants usually issues a half-hearted apology, and things move on from there.

In an effort to promote safety and inclusivity at Concordia, the Engineering and Computer Science Association decided at their last council meeting on Feb. 10 to ban certain chants from all events hosted by the faculty of Engineering and Computer Science or its societies.

"I wish that all the ladies / were bricks in a pile / and I was a mason / I'd lay 'em all in style" are a common version of the lyrics to one verse of a chant traditionally

sung at ECA events such as Frosh or the Engineering Games. Other chant lyrics mention sexual assault, rape and physical violence—mostly against women—and others are racist, homophobic or glorify necrophilia and pedophilia.

At the meeting, it was mentioned that, to many senior students and alumni, these chants are a part of engineering culture—a culture that seems to exist across the country—and will be difficult to stamp out.

The recent outrage over chants encouraging sex with minors sung at UBC and St. Mary's has sparked a discussion on the some of the more questionable traditions of students. In an interview with *The Globe and Mail*, Jared Perry, who resigned as president of Saint Mary's student association amid the controversy, said, "We didn't see the message. As odd as it sounds we didn't see the message."

The songbooks detailing the lyrics of these chants shed light on how horrifying they truly are. A McMaster University engineering student spirit group, the Redsuits, was suspended for publishing a

book containing the lyrics to commonly sung chants.

One of the songs printed in the booklet was specifically mentioned in the proposal at council. A disclaimer before the song reads, "We must warn: there is no good place to sing this. People will be offended. The content of the next page includes: bloody rape, murderous incest, child mutilation, and fetal ingestion at the very least. Proceed with caution."

An ENCS student who partook in the EngGames said that a lyric booklet had been printed for the event some years prior, and that senior participants had shared them around so that freshmen could learn the chants.

"The songs are wrong," he said. "But that's why they are funny. We're all smart enough to differentiate jokes from reality."

While students should be capable of understanding the difference between song lyrics and real life, the reality is that women aged 18 to 24 experience the highest rates of sexual violence in the country.

These chants are much more

than mere jokes or satire for many people. In engineering classes, men tend to greatly outnumber women, and it's no surprise considering the sexism that is supposedly part of the engineering "culture."

It isn't a question of being smart enough to distinguish lyrics from reality, as the ENCS student suggests, it's a question of understanding the implications of gleefully chanting about sexually assaulting minors.

As Perry said, it's easy to overlook the deeper message in the heat of the moment, but a critical eye—or ear—should be taken to the activities one participates in. Just because something is tradition, or the groups it affects participate as well, or they are not done with ill intent, does not mean that it is not harmful.

Originally, the motion presented to the ECA by the Concordia chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers, Women in Engineering and Engineers Without Borders, would have had those who break the ban on the chants and any other sexist, homophobic or

racist behaviours immediately removed from the event.

After a lengthy discussion, council agreed to warn anyone participating in such behaviours before kicking them out. While this could create confusion, as supervisors cannot keep track of infractions in any easy manner, it gives supervisors an opportunity to explain to offenders why their actions are not welcome, allowing a chance for the offender to hear exactly why the chants are utterly inappropriate.

Additionally, the motion mandates that "all executives, councils and leaders, including frosh leaders of the ECA, attend a mandatory training workshop pertaining to the issue."

Such a motion is a positive step forward for Concordia's engineering and computer science community. But it's going to take a lot more to ensure students no longer see sexual assault, racism and physical violence as a laughing matter, and to truly create a culture of learning and respect out of one of exclusion and degradation.

Graphic Ekavi Beh

Irritation Situation

When I have sex with my girlfriend I always have small sores the next day on my penis. We're both free of any STD. Could the skin on my penis be reacting to her vagina? I've never had this problem with other girls. She uses NuvaRing for birth control, could that be the cause of anything?

—Sore Penis

The only way to know the real cause of this is by consulting a doctor, so I recommend going to a walk-in clinic, preferably the next time the sores are present. I'll try to give you some ideas of what might be going on, but please don't let what I say substitute for a visit to the doctor.

If you have sensitive skin, then her vaginal fluids could be irritating the skin on your penis. However, if this has never been an issue for you before and your skin doesn't typically irritate easily I would be surprised if this were the case.

There's also an easy way to test this, which you should already be doing. After having sex, you should always clean your penis and re-

move any residue of fluids. If you're uncircumcised, take care to pull back the skin and clean well.

If your girlfriend keeps her ring in during sex, it's possible that contact with it is irritating you. This would probably show sooner than the next day though, and you'd probably feel this during sex.

If this is the case and it bothers you, it might help to know that the ring can be removed for sex for up to three hours in a day—just don't exceed this time period. However, it's unlikely that this is a reaction to the contents of the ring, as it only releases a low dose of slow-acting hormones.

Another possibility is irritation from friction. If there is a lot of fric-

tion during sex, it can cause blisters or irritations the same way rubbing anything against the same spot of skin would do so. More foreplay to make sure your girlfriend is naturally lubricated enough during penetration or adding some lube to the mix could help with this.

Although you said that you are free of sexually transmitted infections, consider that a lot of tests don't check for every possible STI—for many clinics, getting tested for "everything" isn't actually everything.

Ask the clinic to list the things you're being tested for and take the opportunity to ask for the ones missing from that list. Generally for men there should be blood drawn,

a urine sample or a swab sample taken from the urethra and a visual examination of the genitals.

I would suggest both you and your girlfriend get checked for yeast infections. Standard STI testing doesn't always check for it unless one of you is presenting with symptoms, which can come and go.

Some men experience bumps, irritation and sores as symptoms when they have a yeast infection. Making sure both partners are tested for it will prevent it from getting passed back and forth in the event that you're having unprotected sex.

While some possible causes mentioned here wouldn't require treatment, I can't stress enough

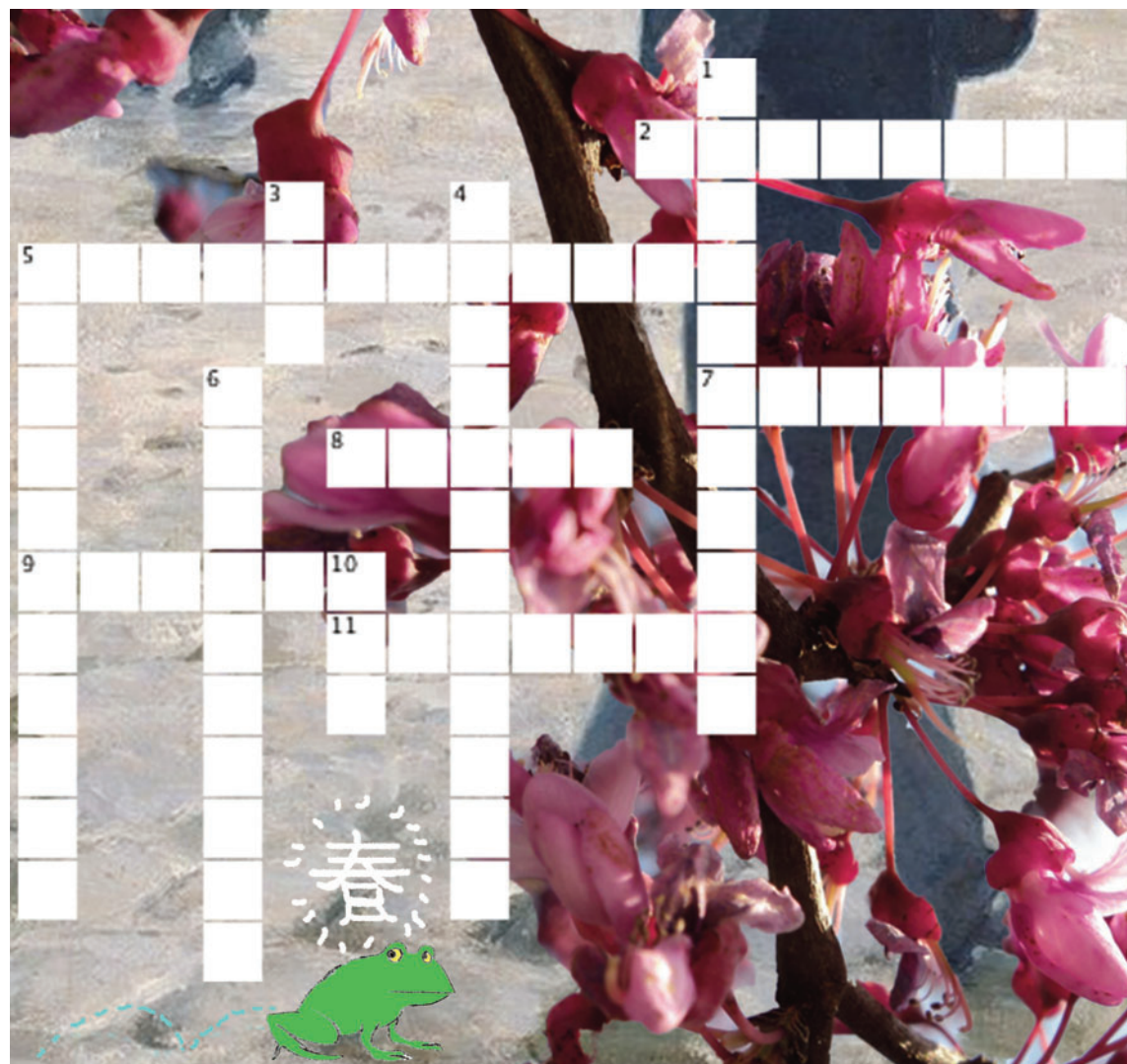
how important it is to see a health professional in your situation. You can do this at the Concordia Health Services clinic without an appointment weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or you can dial 811 from any Quebec phone number to reach Info-Santé and find a walk-in clinic nearby.

—Melissa Fuller, @mel_full

Submit your question anonymously at sex-pancakes.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook. Got a quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SexEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!



Out With the Old, In With the New



by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

ACROSS

► 2. We're ready to say goodbye to salt stains on our boots and store away our shovels at the end of this month and give a big warm hug to March.

► 5. Amanda Bynes is on the path to recovery, but her position as mayor of Hot Messville seems to have been taken over by this notorious Canadian pop star. (2 words)

► 7. *House of Cards* returned recently, and it's now the show everyone is binge-watching through this online streaming service. Adios, Walter White!

► 8. Let's bid farewell to those polar vortexes and try to make 2014 more like this colour, the international symbol for conscious and sustainable actions.

► 9. François Hollande, the prime minister of this *république*, broke up with his long-time girlfriend after he was reported to have been having an affair.

► 11. As temperatures warm up, the snow and ice on the streets will melt, revealing a winter's worth of this smelly refuse.

DOWN

► 1. Brace yourselves, *Space Jam* 2 is on its way, and while rumors temporarily circulated that this Miami Heat player would be featured, they have since been shot down. (2 words)

► 3. So long, Sochi—soon it will be time for the warmer Olympic games in this Brazilian city.

► 4. This hockey star grew up in Nova Scotia, plays for Pittsburgh, has spent the last two weeks in Sochi and was nicknamed "The Next One." (2 words)

► 5. After Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien, it's now this man's turn to sit in *The Tonight Show's* chair. (2 words)

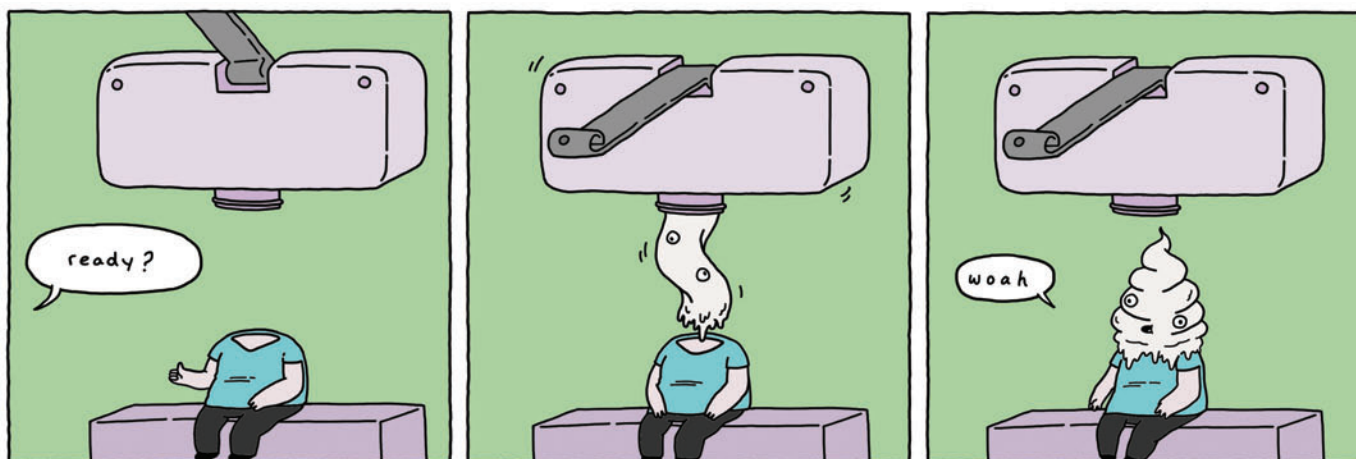
► 6. Less than two years after ending his 14-year relationship with actress Vanessa Paradis, this actor decided to put a ring on his 27-year-old girlfriend's finger. (2 words)

► 10. Now that we have all had our fair share of lame candy hearts, it's time to indulge in mini, sugar-coated chocolates that come in this Easter-appropriate shape.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Power Theatre

COMIC ALEX CALLARD



Québécois 101

COMIC PAKU DAoust-CLOUTIER



Pitoune (Pea-tune): “Une pitoune” may refer to two things. In the popular Québécois French it is used to describe a beautiful young girl or a promiscuous girl depending on the tone and context. Since it can hold a pejorative meaning it is not recommended to use the word outside of colloquial conversations. Pitoune may also describe a log. Back in the day, a “drapeur” or raftman would hop on the “pitoune” drifting down the rivers to the paper mills.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN? Can't Get That Baby Taste Out

Lately I've been plagued by disturbing visions. As nights deepen and I finally crawl into bed, my neighbour's baby, almost without fail, begins reciting its screaming libretto. And, hands clamped over my ears, I fantasize about biting it.

Like, a big chomp. A definitive chomp. A chomp that brings silence.

It's not always biting. Sometimes it's a swift punt through a window, or blunt-force trauma, or—worst of all—a three-step scheme involving a barbecue. I don't like thinking these things, but something about that baby's cries has a direct line to the darkest parts of my soul.

I'm probably just projecting, but it really sounds like the damned infant is positively indignant. No one has as large a sense of entitlement as a baby. It might be a single hair in its diaper, or else a toy dropped just out of reach of its useless arms. But to hear it go on, you'd think the apocalypse was at our doorstep. I just can't take the melodrama!

I know, I know, that's just how babies are. Everyone was a baby once, etc. etc. And it just goes to show that our parents deserve our respect, if for no other reason than not murdering us after the first diaper change.

I'm not evil, really. Things get better the closer babies get to the age of two. Sure, new problems come up, but at least the child starts to look like a real child instead of a disgruntled Republican Party backer, and the tantrums develop at least some discernible logic.

Toddlers are the heartbreakingly adorable Gyarados to the infant Magikarp: the trick—and the trial—is in staying with the floppy, useless thing to level 20.

I know I'm not alone in my deranged baby-desecration fantasies, and I would never act on them. But they do contain an awful grain of truth. It takes a village to raise a child, and to not murder it at three in the morning.

—Graeme Shorten Adams, Graphics editor



Graphic Caity Hall

Editorial



All for None, None for All

At the Feb. 12 Concordia Student Union meeting, two petitions were presented by John Molson School of Business councillor Michael Richardson that would see the fee levy system at Concordia dramatically restructured.

The first question sought to have business undergrads opt out of funding fee levy organizations including Le Frigo Vert, the Art Matters Festival and Cinema Politica. The second question mandated that future funding of fee levy groups should be decided on a per-faculty basis, essentially allowing entire faculties to opt out of funding certain organizations.

Concordia Student Union chief electoral officer Andre-Marcel Baril ruled that the first question

was illegitimate and therefore could not continue to referendum vote. Unless this ruling is contested, this question will not appear on the ballot. The second question, however, will show up on the ballot in this spring's CSU general elections in some form.

If the question passes—it needs a “yes” from a majority of voters to do so—the very structure of how fee levy organizations get funding will be altered. If a faculty decides, through a vote, to discontinue funding a certain organization, that organization will lose an important part of the funds that they depend on.

How much will individual students gain in deciding to stop funding the organizations? In

most cases a few cents per credit—the annual total less than a cup of coffee at Café X.

Fee levy groups are effective in their mandates because everyone gives a little to create something meaningful, something that provides important services—be it affordable food or access to thought-provoking documentaries—to a variety of students.

Fee levy groups should not be looked at as a financial drain, but rather as an important resource, a place where students can find employment, build their portfolios, meet like-minded individuals and gain insight into careers they may wish to pursue, all while attending university.

Automatically opting out every

student in a single faculty would cripple these groups.

Faculties should not be conceived as monoliths made up of a single type of person; they're made up of thousands of different people with different interests and needs.

The current process for opting out is not complicated, either. A Google search of the organization you don't wish to fund, followed by the words “opt out,” reveals that most of the organizations detail exactly how to get your money back. If you really want a refund, you can get it. Without incentive to manually opt in, a de facto opt-out would leave students free-riding on a defunded group.

Students should be made more aware that these groups exist for

their use—and have clear opt-out instructions—but allowing entire faculties to skip out on the bill is not the solution.

Just because a student refuses to peer outside the confines of their cozy building does not mean an entire organization should suffer. These groups, including this paper, rely on some of your pocket change each semester to make this community a little better.

Next month, students must decide if fee levies remain a service to all students, or if they get splintered by faculty. It's a matter of whether we are stronger together, or apart—and whether the split is worth some change in your pocket.

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Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

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Personal Credits Notice



If you received a Common Experience Payment, you could get \$3,000 in Personal Credits for educational programs and services.

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The healing continues.

Since 2007, almost 80,000 former students have received a Common Experience Payment (“CEP”) as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. CEP recipients are now eligible to receive non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3,000, for either themselves or certain family members, for educational programs and services.

What are Personal Credits? Personal Credits may be used for a wide range of educational programs and services, including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning, or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services related to Aboriginal identities, histories, cultures or languages.

How much are Personal Credits? Adequate funds are available for each CEP recipient to receive up to \$3,000 in Personal Credits, depending on your approved educational expenses.

CEP recipients have the option of sharing their Personal Credits with certain family members, such as:

- **Children**
- **Spouses**
- **Grandchildren**
- **Siblings**

Which educational entities and groups are included? A list of approved educational entities and groups has been jointly developed by Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives. If an educational entity or group is not on the list, please consult the website for more information.

Will I receive a cheque? No. Cheques will be issued directly to the educational entity or group providing the service.

Who can use Personal Credits? CEP recipients can use the full amount themselves or give part or all of their Personal Credits to certain family members such as a spouse, child, grandchild or sibling, as defined in the terms and conditions.

Personal Credits of multiple CEP recipients can be combined to support a group learning activity.

How can I get Personal Credits? Each CEP recipient will be mailed an Acknowledgement Form. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement Form by the end of January 2014, please call 1-866-343-1858. Completed Acknowledgement Forms should be returned as soon as possible and must be postmarked no later than **October 31, 2014**.

How do I redeem my Personal Credits? Once approved, you will be sent a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using Personal Credits at each educational entity or group. Once the Form is received, provide it to the educational entity or group listed. The educational entity or group must then complete and mail back the Redemption Form postmarked no later than **December 1, 2014**.

What happens to unused Personal Credits? The value of unused Personal Credits will be transferred to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund and Inuvialuit Education Foundation for educational programs.

For more information, including how Personal Credits can be redeemed by certain family members of CEP recipients that are deceased, visit www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca or call 1-866-343-1858.

The IRS Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

1-866-343-1858 • www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca