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A CHANGING TIDE FOR LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS?

Two more unions now have labour contracts with the university, but two-thirds of Concordia's unions continue to work without one. **P4**

STUDENT GROUP WANTS CONCORDIA TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Divest Concordia holds a workshop to discuss the arguments in favour of divestment. **P9**

(NOT-SO) LIGHT READING

Canadian author Norm Sibum throws a launch party for his new 700-page novel. **P11**

WELCOME TO THE SINNER'S LAIR

Local rapper and former Concordia student Simon ST talks about his latest projects. **P13**



CURVING BULLETS

The 60+ artists and performers that make up 2KSquad hold their first annual show Wanted. **P14**

GONE IN 60 SECONDS

The 60-second film festival M60 is going six years strong, with 2013's theme of "revenge" **P15**

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

After missing last season to injury, Stingers rugby star Hughanna Gaw is back with one goal in mind: a national championship. **P17**

THE NEED TO DIVEST

Concordia claims to be sustainable—so why does it support the fossil fuel industry? **P20**

RALLYING FOR RIGHTS

Thousands of protesters took to the streets of downtown Montreal on Saturday to denounce the provincial government's proposed Charter of Quebec Values.

If passed in Quebec's National Assembly, the charter would ban public sector employees—such as those working for government departments, state-subsidized daycare centres, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and municipalities—from wearing "ostentatious" religious symbols like turbans, hijabs, niqabs, kippas and large crosses.

The proposed charter would not, however, affect the crucifix

currently hanging in the National Assembly, as well as the large cross atop Mount Royal, which the governing Parti Québécois says are part of the province's heritage.

Organizers said 40,000 people attended the protest.

Not A Feminist Charter?

On a website promoting the charter, the provincial government has billed its proposal as a way of preserving the religious neutrality of public institutions and protecting equality between the sexes.

But Julie Michaud, an administrative coordinator at the Centre for

Gender Advocacy, disagrees with the assertion that the proposed charter is taking a feminist stance by prohibiting Muslim women working in government institutions from wearing headscarves.

"Telling women what they can or cannot do with their bodies is not feminist in any way," said Michaud, who attended the protest. "Muslim women have their own right to self-determination, and they are perfectly capable of deciding what the right choice is for them."

► Continued on page 6



Photo Brandon Johnston



Photo Mohammad Reza Parhizkari

The Cycling Grand Prix hit Montreal on Sunday and The Link was there! Check our photo blog for pictures of the event.

THE LINK ONLINE

REGGIE'S BAR CLOSING FOR THREE MONTHS

The Link has learned renovations will close Concordia's campus bar until at least January.

Find out the whole story at thelinknewspaper.ca.

BITE ME, CONCORDIA

From the People's Potato's lack of fire insurance, to the mapping of cheap Montreal food, we've got all the latest on the Concordia Food Coalition's Bite Me! workshop series coming at you online.

PRO-CHARTER OF VALUES PROTEST

A protest in support of the proposed Charter of Values is scheduled for Sunday, at the same place and time as an anti-Charter protest was scheduled and subsequently cancelled. We'll have the story for you later this week.

OPINION: THE PQ DOESN'T GET MULTICULTURALISM

The proposed Charter of Values doesn't protect freedom of religion, it just says some can be observant while others cannot.

FRINGE CALENDAR

Live your social life according to our fringe-y calendar, and you'll do just fine.

LINK RADIO

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



Both the Concordia University Union of Support Staff-Technical Sector and the Concordia University Library Employees' Union recently reached an agreement with the university. Photos Erin Sparks

FORWARD MOMENTUM ON THE STATUS QUO

No End in Sight For Concordia Labour Negotiations Despite Recent Agreements

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

The deals may not be ideal, but the leaders of Concordia's library support staff and technicians unions say their respective new labour contracts are acceptable given the situation at Concordia.

"I believe that in these circumstances, the circumstances being the cuts to funding at the university level and the tough [financial] position for universities in general, that this was the best deal we could get for our membership," said Alex Macpherson, president of the Concordia University Union of Support Staff-Technical Sector.

"I'm glad that I will be able to get a settlement that I know my technicians can live with."

According to Macpherson, negotiations for ancillary benefits were largely dropped and the new agreement for CUUSS-TS is largely focused on salary.

Both CUUSS-TS and the Concordia University Library Employees' Union agreed to a 10 per cent wage increase over six years, according to a press release for the Confédération des syndicats nationaux, Quebec's second-largest trade union federation, which contains five local unions at Concordia including both CUUSS-TS and CULEU.

A Long and Windy Road

According to both Macpherson and CULEU President Irene Fernandez, negotiations between their respective unions and Concordia were dragged out extensively.

The last labour agreements for CUUSS-TS and CULEU both expired in May 2009. Negotiations for CUUSS-TS took over 42 months.

CULEU began its first round of

negotiations with the university in January 2010, but Fernandez says talks stalled repeatedly throughout the process.

Fernandez says the union originally was asked by the university to enter new contract discussions using an interest-based bargaining format, a negotiation process that first identifies both sides' primary issues and then looks to address them by consensus.

CULEU was told at first by the university that IBB negotiations would last six months to a year, according to Fernandez, but it became clear both sides were unable to come to an accord in that timeframe.

"Even the person who was conducting the interest-based bargaining decided there was just no way that this was going to work, and she left," Fernandez said.

"We were back to again being at the table [...] in conciliation, and even that broke down."

A New Philosophy

Speaking to *The Link* in August, Concordia President Alan Shepard said some of the duties of upper administration were reshuffled over the summer. VP Services Roger Côté was then made responsible for human resources.

In a meeting with Côté in August, Fernandez says the new supervisor of human resources had a more receptive philosophy to her union's issues.

"I presented what our issues were, what our problems were as far as negotiations go. [I said] we really need a contract to create a new atmosphere, and he seemed to understand," she said.

"He seemed to be more open; he wants to go that route for the future, and I hope that's true."

Within two weeks, CULEU and Concordia were back at the bargaining table, according to Fernandez. But while the university was more open to negotiation and had dropped most of its demands, the union was expected to drop any ancillary concerns its membership had and to discuss only salary, Fernandez continued.

For Macpherson, the university changed gears at the bargaining table before Côté became involved. "I think the change started happening in the spring, so I'm not sure it was directly [a result of] Roger Côté," he said.

"But there was a great willingness from human resources [to make a deal]. They came to the table [in the spring] willing to talk about other solutions that had been there previously," he continued.

"We saw real movement in the spring, but we didn't come to a resolution [...] I believe that momentum just carried over to the fall."

Like Fernandez, Macpherson says he did feel the university was trying to end the years-long conflict swiftly.

As for CULEU, Fernandez says an agreement was inevitable as the union was tired after the many years of negotiation.

"What can I say? I mean, in terms of [the amount of] time it was so frustrating and so difficult," said Fernandez.

"We spent so many months, so many sessions, building up certain articles that were not necessarily even union demands, but were from the university side [as well], and all that sort of went out the window," she added.

"But we wanted to finally finish and come to an end of this, so here we are."

Onward, Together?

Including CUUSS-TS and CULEU, four of Concordia's unions now have labour agreements in place. Full-time faculty ratified a new accord in March and part-time faculty teaching at Concordia's Centre for Continuing Education have a contract in place until September 2015.

But over two-thirds of Concordia's 13 unions are still without contracts, many working for years without an agreement.

Most notably, the union of trade employees for the Sir George Williams campus has been working without a contract since May 2008.

While CUUSS-TS and CULEU's agreements indicate some progress is being made to address the gridlock, Danièle Berthiaume, president of the Concordia University Support Staff Union, says the university is offering similar deals focused solely on salary to every support staff and trade union.

The next round of negotiations for CUUSS begins on Wednesday, but Berthiaume says the union will not be bound by what she refers to as a "settlement" rather than an agreement.

"This settlement proposal is stating, 'Let's close the conversation, let's just address the cost of living and we'll pick it up after the next agreement,'" she explained.

"We still have discussions with the university on items that are not monetary, not cost of living related [...] They haven't given any concessions at all."

Incoming president of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association David Douglas says CUPFA's experience is a little different than that of the support staff and technical unions. Negoti-

ations with academic unions, including CUPFA and the Concordia University Faculty Association, were moved into the Office of the Provost earlier this summer.

As for Douglas, he says the university's new approach seems so far to be more open to new agreement options.

"We rejected their vision of our collective agreement 10 months ago, and it took 10 months to finally say, 'Yes, we're changing this tactic and going to something different,' which is a positive sign, but of course, we would have to see what the new approach will be," he said.

According to Douglas, there is reason to be hopeful for a resolution, though tepidly so.

"I think I'd be cautiously optimistic, but I think I would also say the things we need to resolve are significant and they're not particularly easy, so we have a lot of work still to do," he said.

Echoing the sentiment, Berthiaume added she hopes the standstill on labour relations isn't permanent.

"I'd like to be able to believe in Concordia, where there's a better atmosphere; it shouldn't be all 'us' and 'them,' it should really be we, for everything," she said.

For Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota, the intention is for both sides to find something that works.

"Collective bargaining by its very nature is difficult and can become confrontational, though it shouldn't be," she said.

"I think that if people around the table are acting in good faith, and both working for something that comes out positively both for the university and the union, you get through that."



A LAUNDRY SERVICE ON A MISSION

StreetSuds Looks to Help People Struggling with Mental Illness, Homelessness and Addiction

by Geoffery Vendeville
@geoffvendeville

Pass a metal gate, walk through a back parking lot, look for the big blue door and listen for the rumbling of washers and dryers. Located in a former garage off Parthenais St. and Ontario St., La Buanderie, or StreetSuds, is the only industrial laundry service in the city with a social mission.

The laundromat's workers all receive welfare and struggle with mental illness or a recent history of addiction, as well as homelessness. Open since May 2012, StreetSuds is a one-year program linked to the St-James Drop-in Centre, which aims to prepare those at high risk of homelessness to return to the workforce.

If all goes well, the program will have its first graduate this winter, Kevin. The 30-year-old, who moved to Montreal from Thetford Mines, has schizophrenia and was unemployed for six years before joining StreetSuds early this year. The work has become routine for him, but it's a welcome relief from life on the street.

Although StreetSuds is a relaxed environment, Kevin says it was difficult to re-adjust to the pace of working life.

"It's strange," he said. "Having not worked for years, it's a little scary."

The idea of graduating and get-

ting a job still worries him.

"I'm afraid of returning to the street—it's the stress of doing something new. I ask myself, 'Will I be capable?'"

Kevin hopes to continue in the laundry business. Each graduate of StreetSuds is given a \$1,000 bonus to help them get on their feet. Emploi-Québec pays participants a monthly allowance of \$130.

In addition, the St-James Drop-in Centre provides them with a bus pass.

"I'm lucky," Kevin said. "I'll have a good opportunity to work after. It's valorizing to work [...] If I'm the first to graduate, it'll be fun to be the first to have a job."

Kevin's choice of words said it all: not *when*, but *if*.

Stigmas

It's hard to estimate the number of homeless people in Montreal. They are not accounted for in the census and do not leave a statistical trail unless they visit a shelter.

A 2005 federal study cited by the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal estimates that 150,000 people nation-wide found themselves homeless at some point during the year, 30,000 of whom lived in Montreal.

Of course, even once a person finds stable housing, their troubles don't necessarily end there.

"We found that members who

found housing and became more stable with their mental illness and addiction were expressing the desire to get back to work," said Sivan Havusha, a caseworker at StreetSuds. "But for this population it's really hard to do so because of the stigma around mental illness, homelessness, and around the kind of people living in these volatile conditions."

Unlike many other pre-employment programs, which focus on the nitty-gritty of landing a job such as CV writing, StreetSuds also offers counselling and life-skills training.

Once a week after their four-hour shift, employees meet one-on-one with a caseworker to discuss their goals. Twice a month, the program organizes life skill workshops, on subjects ranging from creating a budget to healthy living.

Building Confidence

StreetSuds isn't only about combating the stigmas of homelessness. The program also tries to help participants rebuild their confidence after years of unemployment.

Some of those who walk through StreetSuds' door have been out of work for as long as 20 years.

"When you're not in the workforce, you're constantly being told you're useless," said program coordinator Alyshia Wagstaff. "It has a really big toll on people's self-esteem and their confidence."

"Here, they have responsibilities

and tasks they have to get done," she continued. "We have rules. It really gives them a sense of pride to say, 'Look, I'm getting up in the morning, and I'm able to get there on time, and I'm able to be proud of the work that I'm doing.'"

Nicolas, 42, burst into the laundry room carrying a 50-pound bag of linens.

"Woah, ça travaille fort ici," he says to his co-workers, with a smile. In an interview, he explained that working at the laundry helped restore his sense of purpose.

"It gives me a reason to get up in the morning," he said. "When you don't work it's a lot harder to get up. I appreciate the routine."

His colleague, André, who suffers from mental illness and is recovering from a cocaine addiction, agreed.

"It's a change from drinking alcohol and not thinking about tomorrow," he said.

A Social Enterprise

Like many new businesses, StreetSuds is still in the red. It gets most of its funding from the Quebec government via the Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires, or the province's community organization support program, and through private donations.

By 2016-2017, however, StreetSuds director and recent McGill University graduate Wagstaff hopes the program will be earning enough

money from sales to be self-sustaining.

"We're not against relying on donations; it's just that it creates a bit of an unstable situation," she said. "You're always having to re-apply [for grants] that can be cut at any moment."

"This program is a real way to create change that's sustainable."

For now, the laundry service counts three small hotels and a women's shelter, the Old Brewery Mission's Patricia Mackenzie Pavilion, among its clients. StreetSuds has left its short list of customers satisfied.

"Some people are hesitant to go with us, but the comment that we consistently get is that our quality is really good even compared to the big organizations," said Wagstaff.

StreetSuds has partnered with the non-profit entrepreneur association Enactus Concordia for help on the business end. This year, a Concordia student is interning at the laundry service as part of the MBA program in Community Service Initiative.

Enactus has also helped with fine-tuning StreetSuds' marketing strategy and improving its sales package.

On September 23, StreetSuds is hosting an evening of social entrepreneurship, a discussion on fundraising and strategic management for social enterprises. The event is open to all. For more information, visit street-sudsworkshop.eventbrite.ca.

Photos Erin Sparks



Photos Erin Sparks Photo Brandon Johnston

MONTREALERS MARCH AGAINST CHARTER OF VALUES

Thousands Protest Proposed Ban on Religious Symbols

by Michael Wrobel @Michael_Wrobel

Continued from page 3.

“They don’t need white Western feminists to tell them how to be liberated,” she continued, adding that “many of these Muslim women were born and raised right here [in Quebec].”

“They are as Québécois as anybody else here. They can make their own choices,” Michaud said.

Concordia Student Union arts and science councillor Hajar El Jahidi, who acted as the union’s VP Academic and Advocacy last year, was also in attendance Saturday.

“As Canadians, it’s important for us to come down and show our values of inclusivity and tolerance, mutual respect and multiculturalism,” El Jahidi said, noting that she—as a Muslim woman—would be one of the people affected by the charter.

El Jahidi said the hijab represents different things to different people. To her, it represents “being a better person, being modest,” she said.

“It’s one of the ways that I can reach higher ideals as a human being,” she said. “I feel that my way of accomplishing these ideals and these values as a human person are being taken away when I see these kinds of pieces of legislation [being brought forward].”

Effects on Public Institutions

Robert Green, who served as the CSU’s president from 1999–2001, said staff members at Westmount High School, the public secondary school where he now teaches, are concerned about the effects such a charter could have on students.

“We feel strongly that students of diverse ethnic backgrounds should have just as much a right to have role models in front of them in the class [who share their cultural identities] as any other student,” he said. “We worry that this is going to stigmatize groups that are already marginalized in Quebec society.”

Green went on to say that Westmount High School values the diversity of its student body and that teachers and students are mobilizing against the charter.

“This [charter] is making a mockery of the Quebec curriculum, which in a number of different subject matters presents Quebec society as an open society that’s respectful of diversity, respectful of people’s fundamental rights,” he said.

“This is a curriculum that was first presented in 1997 by [current Premier] Pauline Marois, when she was Minister of Education. One of the things that we’ve been saying is that Pauline Marois needs to go back to high school and learn from her own curriculum.”

Taking a Stand

Deana Ghazaly, who wears a hijab and attended Saturday’s protest, said she shouldn’t have to choose between her religion and a job in the public service.

“I feel like this whole [charter] is to cover up larger issues,” she said. “There’s so much going on right now, the economy [is] going really badly.”

“I feel like [Marois] is just looking for something to make a lot of noise and cover up [other issues]—it’s purely political,” she continued. “I don’t think she even believes in this, honestly.”

Naam Singh, a 30-year-old practicing Sikh, attended the protest because he feels the proposed charter is discriminatory and fails to represent what Quebecers actually believe in.

“We just want to live our lives, work, go to school, feed our families, and by [Marois] doing this, it’s playing games with other people’s lives and livelihoods,” he said.

After a few speeches by the protest’s organizers, the march left Place Émilie-Gamelin shortly before 1 p.m. and proceeded down de Maisonneuve Blvd., eventually ending up at Place du Canada.

Along much of the protest route, protesters chanted slogans demanding an end to

discrimination and likening the PQ’s values to “racist values” and the proposed charter to a simple “vote-getting” effort. Recent opinion polls suggest that a majority of Quebecers support the Charter.

Under the PQ’s plans, municipalities and other government institutions could get a renewable five-year exemption from the charter.

The four perceived frontrunners in the Montreal mayoral race—Richard Bergeron, Denis Coderre, Marcel Côté and Mélanie Joly—have all said they oppose the charter and have vowed to use the exemption clause, according to Radio-Canada.

The mayoral candidates’ position reveals a political schism between Montreal and other regions in Quebec.

The proposed charter has not yet been tabled in the provincial legislature, though ads purchased by the provincial government to promote it can already be seen in Montreal’s metro stations. Bernard Drainville, Quebec’s Minister for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, explained the idea behind the charter at a press conference on Sept. 10.

An online petition against the charter proposal has collected over 10,000 signatures so far.

—With files from Andrew Brennan



CHARTER OF QUEBEC VALUES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONCORDIA?

by Maxellende Pycke

Concordia won't reveal its official position on the new Charter of Quebec Values until the National Assembly makes its final decision.

Still, if it's approved, many at Concordia fear the ban on conspicuous religious symbols for public workers—which includes university employees—would affect the quality of learning, limit students' career opportunities and create tension inside the university.

A Secular School?

Under the proposed charter, teachers and staff members would be forbidden from wearing a hijab, turban, kippa, large crosses or any other "ostentatious" religious symbols. The rule would not apply for students, however.

Both government employees and users of government services also wouldn't be allowed to cover their faces in public institutions—in other words, both professors and students would be prohibited from wearing religious face-covering headscarves, such as the niqab and burqa, inside the university.

If Concordia chooses to oppose the policy, it can apply for a five-year renewable exemption, in which case employees would be able to wear religious symbols while working.

Threatening the Quality of Education

Philippe Bastien is a Concordia finance student who believes having professors from other cultures or countries is essential.

"One of the things that sets Concordia apart is our multiculturalism, and it adds to the richness of our learning experience," Bastien said.

According to political science professor Francesca Scala, the ban on religious symbols would make recruitment of professors and researchers from within Canada and abroad extremely problematic.

"It would be an obstacle to hire the best and the brightest," she said. "How are we going to sell it? Saying 'We think you're excellent, that your research is wonderful, but by the way, you can't wear a veil, or a turban?'"

Scala recognizes that in-class religious proselytizing does exist, however.

"I think the problem would come in if you go to class and you're trying to impose your religious beliefs," she said. "In that sense neutrality is very important."

Still, Scala says she believes showing religious affiliation doesn't affect a professor's capacity to teach, nor is it an attempt to impose certain religious views.

"Just because a teacher wears a turban doesn't mean he is biased," said Cristine Flynn, another Concordia student.

Bastien, however, said that some religious symbols, such as the burka, could affect a professor's capacity to teach.

"Having the face covered might not be the best to communicate with your students," he said. "But it would be for a practical reason, not for a religious reason, that students would be affected."

Choose a Career, Just Not in Public Service

Many Concordia programs, like education, public affairs, political science or economics, can lead to careers in public institutions, where the ban on religious signs would be implemented.

But unlike Concordia, for many of these institutions, the possibility of applying for an exemption would not be possible.

"You are not allowed to be equally committed to your religious beliefs and to your career," said Scala. "So you can be a student, work in the private sector, pay taxes, but you cannot be in a position of power or authority."

Creating Tensions Between Students

Aaishah Karim is one of the executives of the Muslim Student Association, and says she wears the hijab by choice, not because she is forced to.

A few days ago, Karim says she was leaving the Hall Building with a group of friends, who were also wearing hijabs, when a group of students started mocking them.

"They kept laughing and saying as-salaam-alaikum! As-salaam-alaikum!" she said, referring to the Arabic greeting meaning "peace be unto you."

According to Karim, the proposed Charter of Quebec Values will only exacerbate those tensions by creating division within Quebec society.

She also says the ban points out differences instead of unifying the cultures of Quebec, and as a result creates fear of "the other."

"We could blame ignorance, but Concordia students are educated people, exposed

to different religions and ethnic backgrounds," she said. For her to experience racism at the hands of other Concordia students "shows the kind of 'unity' the Quebec charter is bringing," she continued.

What's Next?

"We're told to act in a positive manner," said Karim. For MSA members, this means developing a dialogue with other students to explain why religious symbols are important to Muslims.

"It can help with the notion that we are not the 'others,' that we are not different," she said.

A petition, asking for the withdrawal of the ban on the basis that "agencies of the state and public institutions such as universities should embody tolerance toward all members of our diverse society," is currently being circulated among Concordia professors.

Paul Allen, associate professor of theological studies, started the petition.

It will be submitted to Quebec's Secrétariat aux institutions démocratiques et à la participation citoyenne, the province's assistant to the Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, on or after Oct. 15. As of press time, the petition has 67 signatures.

But with the future of the charter yet to be determined at the National Assembly, Concordia is still in a state of uncertainty.

Should it pass, the university will ultimately have two options: apply for an exemption or require employees to adhere to the charter's rules.

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Anthony Garoufalís-Augér spoke at a workshop on the topic of divestment last Thursday. Photo Alexandre Hureau

DIVEST CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS CONCORDIA'S INVESTMENTS

Initiative Wants University to Stop Investing in Fossil Fuels

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

According to Anthony Garoufalís-Augér, one of the organizers of Concordia's divestment campaign, there are some inconsistencies between the university's branding and its actions.

Concordia markets itself as a university with a sustainable campus, yet it continues to invest some of its endowment fund in companies that extract and transport fossil fuels, he said.

Of the \$49.9 million of the university's endowment fund invested in Canadian stocks in the 2010-2011 financial year, \$9.1 million was invested in oil and gas, and another \$2.6 million was invested in pipelines, according to publicly available financial statements. The total value of the university's endowment fund that year was almost \$116 million.

More recent financial documents see the label changed to "energy" investment.

The student-led Divest Concordia campaign held two workshops last week exploring the arguments in favour of divestment. Organizers say the campaign is seeking to have the university sell any investments it holds in the fossil fuel industry within three years.

"What we want to see Concordia adopt [...] is sustainable and responsible investing," Garoufalís-Augér said. "For [Concordia's] image of being a sustainable campus [...] it would be in their best interest to adopt this type of investing."

The campaign wants the university to adopt a social and environmental responsibility policy that would serve as a set of ethical guidelines for Concordia's investments, according to Garoufalís-Augér.

He says another goal for the campaign is for there to be student representation on any committees that would be tasked with writing such a policy.

"Without a policy, a few years down the road, [the university] can just reinvest in those same [polluting] companies, because there's nothing that binds them to investing ethically," said Garoufalís-Augér.

Rather than invest in the fossil fuel industry, Garoufalís-Augér says he'd like to see the university make investments in renewable energy.

Another possibility, he continued, would be to invest in a so-called Green Revolving Fund. The fund would bankroll sustainability initiatives on campus—for example, upgrades to Concordia's buildings to make them more energy efficient—that would ultimately make the university more environmentally friendly, while also allowing it to save money in the long term.

The financial consequences of divestment are somewhat unpredictable; many people are concerned that divesting from the fossil fuel industry would mean lower market returns for universities' endowment funds.

But Trevor Smith, another organizer of the

divestment campaign and a graduate student in geography, urban and environmental studies, told *The Link* there are many ways for universities to make money by investing in environmentally responsible companies. He said that Concordia's John Molson School of Business even offers a professional certificate program in sustainable investment.

"There's a lot of innovation in the renewable energy industry, and there's a lot of ways that we can be looking into making these investments," he said, adding that Divest Concordia wants to involve financial professionals and professors in the discussion of how to invest the endowment fund in a more sustainable way.

Smith said the divestment campaign isn't just trying to get the university to divest from fossil fuels, but is also trying to educate students and the wider community about the issues surrounding climate change.

"There's been a lot of misinformation going around about [climate change]," he said. "What we want to do is to send a message that we are concerned about this."

The Divest Concordia campaign is part of a larger international movement demanding that universities stop investing their endowment funds—and, in some cases, their pension funds too—in companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuels such as oil and coal.

BITE ME! CFC FOOD WORKSHOP SERIES BEGINS AT CONCORDIA

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

The Concordia Food Coalition's week of workshops and events about food politics—dubbed Bite Me!—kicked off on Monday with a tour of the People's Potato, a collectively-run soup kitchen that offers free meals every weekday on the seventh floor of the Hall Building.

A student group that wants there to be more sustainable and student-run food options on campus, the CFC is currently involved in discussions with Concordia about on-campus food services. The university's contract with food service provider Chartwells ends in May 2015.

For more info, head to thelinknewspaper.ca.

BRIEFS

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Protest Planned Against Use of English in Montreal

A protest has been planned for Sept. 18 against an alleged increase in the use of English in Montreal. Organized by *Partenaires pour un Québec français*, around 400 people are anticipated at the event, according to the *Montreal Gazette*. The organization comprises the *Mouvement national des Québécois*, the *Société St-Jean-Baptiste*—a group that tries to preserve francophone heritage and interests in the province—and a number of labour unions.

One Dead after Apartment Fire

A 73 year-old woman has died following a fire that broke out on Parc Avenue Monday morning. The fire, which was put out in approximately 30 minutes, occurred in an apartment building between Bernard Street and Van Horne Avenue, CBC Montreal reported. The apartment did not have a working smoke detector, but investigators are still unsure as to what caused the blaze.

Charter of Values Losing Support

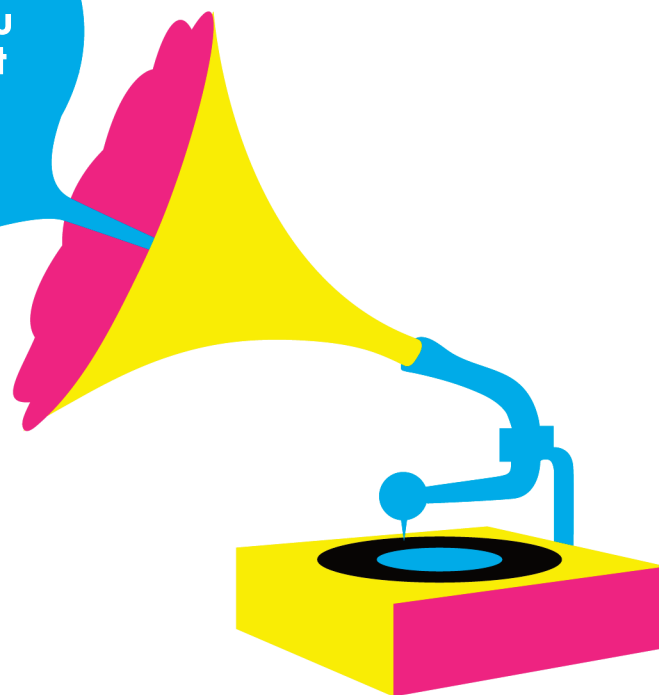
A recently released poll by Léger Marketing shows that Quebecers are divided on the Parti Québécois-proposed Charter of Values. The poll, released on Monday, reveals that 43 per cent of respondents support the charter, while 42 per cent oppose it. Sixteen per cent reportedly have no opinion either way. A similar poll by Forum Research gives slightly different data, with 49 per cent disapproving of the charter while six per cent are undecided. Support for the charter is highest among PQ voters.

Fire Prevention Week Begins at Concordia

From Sept. 16 to Sept. 25, Concordia will hold its annual Fire Prevention Week. Throughout the week there will be both fire and evacuation drills held in every building on campus. For information on which buildings will hold drills, follow @Concordia911 on Twitter for 15-minute warnings prior to evacuations.

POP Montreal

is upon us once again, and *The Link's* POP special issue will be out just in time. Next Tuesday, Sept. 24, we'll bring you the ultimate guide to ditching classes and seeing sweet art and music shows. Happy POP-ing, dearest readers!



Friday, October 18, 2013
4:00 p.m.

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

Love *The Link*? Love it so much you want to be an editor? Now's your chance! We're holding by-elections Friday, October 18th at 4 p.m. in our office, H-649.

Here are the great positions you can run for:

COORDINATING EDITOR

Direct the online content of the paper all day, every day, and use social media to make sure stories get the attention they deserve.

CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

Commander-in-chief of the print news section, the current affairs editor is in charge of all things long-form and newsy.

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Helping keep the news and current affairs editors from blinding madness, the assistant news editor fills the cracks and keeps things moving.

OPINIONS EDITOR

Separate the crazy from the on-point. The opinions editor handles the heated debates and the controversial thoughts, rounded out with some nice comics.

PHOTO AND VIDEO EDITOR

Soul-snatcher extraordinaire, the photo and video editor curates all of the photographic goodies the paper has to offer, and puts together videos for online.

FRINGE ARTS ONLINE

Online and daily, the fringe arts online editor gets to tell Concordia what's hip and with it in the arts community.

SPORTS ONLINE EDITOR

If the Stingers are your *raison-d'être*, sports online editor is the position for you. From game summaries to profiles, this is your jam.

To be eligible you must have a total of four contributions in separate weeks in Volume 34, whether online or in print. The contributions must be published before 4 p.m. on Oct. 11.



"When you get into writing something this long, you get into an intensity, the writing tends to take over—it's like *you're* not thinking anymore, *it's* thinking."
—Norm Sibum, author of *The Traymore Rooms*

Montreal-based author Norm Sibum reflects on *The Traymore Rooms*, the novel he has spent seven years writing. Photo Leslie Schachter.

A MODERN-DAY EPIC

Canadian Writer Launches New Maximalist Novel *The Traymore Rooms*

by Riley Stativa @wileyriles

What does it take to complete a novel of nearly 700 pages? Stephen King, J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K. Rowling know. And now, Montreal-based author Norm Sibum knows too.

After dedicating over three decades of his life to writing poetry, Sibum has made the switch to prose with his debut novel *The Traymore Rooms*.

Already receiving attention from literary web magazine *The Millions*, making their list of most-anticipated books of 2013 in July, the novel is set to make a heavy impact, and not just because of its formidable size.

Based in downtown Montreal and set in the era of the George W. Bush administration, the novel centres around Randall Q. Calhoun, a Vietnam War draft dodger and a "closet poet, steeped in Roman mythology," who feels his life has hit a dead end.

He moves into the Traymore Rooms, a timeworn walk-up apartment, where he is accepted into the community of colourful tenants who occupy the other apartments.

The story unfolds through their interactions, handwritten notes slipped under doors and philosophical conversations in their local bar. Things take a turn when new

tenants move in but fail to blend into the small, intimate world of the other occupants.

The story also briefly takes Calhoun to America, the place he once called home, as well as Rome. Despite the global locations, it remains an intimate work, where important plot points are based around the characters simply talking amongst themselves.

"I didn't want to write a point-by-point plotline, [or] an experimental novel," Sibum says. "I wanted to keep it all open-ended, but maintain some sort of impetus, a reason to turn the page."

By setting the novel in the city where he lives, Sibum brings an intimate realism, leaving the reader wondering what's fact and fiction in the story.

"Everything and nothing," he intones. "The characters are all based on real people that I know, but it's fictionalized. I take liberties to build these characters. Otherwise, nothing in my life parallels that much."

Picking Up the Craft

Sibum was born in Germany, and his father was an American army man, which led to a lot of time spent in the United States in his youth.

Sibum then moved to Canada in 1968, settling in Vancouver.

It wasn't until 1994 that he relocated across the country to Montreal, following a woman who he was in love with, and he's been here ever since.

His love of the written word, however, began very early on in life.

"I've been writing ever since I was a kid," he says, adding that he fondly remembers writing stories while living in Germany, fictionalized accounts of World Series games that he would show to his father, who praised him for his work. "That felt good, getting that commendation. I think that's what really started it."

Sibum has a love for literature, everything from Proust to Steinbeck and the Russian classics, but the writer has spent his career up until now penning poetry.

Writing a novel was not something he thought he would ever undertake.

"I wasn't looking to make the transition. I'm still not sure I understand what happened," he says. "There was something I was trying to write in poetry and the poetry just wasn't working. So I tried to write it out in prose. At first it was bewildering as hell, it really was."

That was back in 2006, when he initially began the novel. It was a far

from smooth shift into the new territory, with many false starts and an overall lack of confidence holding him back.

He says that in the beginning, those were not the only troubling aspects of the project.

"I was frightened of it," Sibum confesses. "I knew it was going to take over my life."

Go Big or Go Home

For the next seven years, work on the novel proceeded to do just that.

"When you get into writing something this long, you get into an intensity, the writing tends to take over—it's like *you're* not thinking anymore, *it's* thinking," Sibum said.

He overcame his initial anxiety about the world of prose by writing an original draft that was twice the size of the final project, clocking in at around 1,400 pages. Cutting it in half was an editing endeavour he handled personally. "I'd take it out every three or four months and try to revise it with fresh eyes," he said.

Far from trying to rail against modern minimalism, Sibum insists that overwriting is just part of his process.

"I don't think I was trying to make

a statement, that's just the way I work. I'll write maybe a 20-page poem, then boil it down to six, then expand it again, then boil it down," he says. "I'll go through that process 50 times."

Sibum is unfazed by the praises of those who favour his work for its maximalist nature, saying it was never his original intention to write such a lengthy novel.

"I just figured the book would be as long as it needed to be, until I felt satisfied that everything I wanted to say had been said," Sibum explained.

The book does seem to have plenty to say, and it's already being heard, earning a fairly warm reception from early reviewers who praise it for its creative prose and subtlety.

Regardless of whether his book's a hit or not, Sibum says he likely won't be writing another one. He's already working on his next project, an epic poem—a style of poetry categorized for its extensive length.

"I'm primarily a poet who happens to have written a novel," he said. "I don't get up in the morning thinking, 'novel.' I get up in the morning thinking, 'poetry!'"

The Traymore Rooms Book Launch
// Sept. 18 // Bar CFC (6388 St. Hubert St.) // 7 p.m. // Free admission



THE THUG LIFE CHOSE ME

Hip-Hop Karaoke Collaborates with Concordia for Back-to-School Special

by Margie Ramos

Got some post-Frosh or back-to-school blues? Drop the books and spit some rhymes: Hip-Hop Karaoke Montreal is inviting all Concordia students to attend a no-cover slammin' hip-hop show—and to take the stage if they're feeling brave.

HHK MTL is a monthly hip-hop/karaoke hybrid event that's far from your typical Friday night karaoke experience. Participants are encouraged to try and impersonate the rappers whose song they are performing, making gangster and often goofy get-ups onstage the norm.

Performers and audience alike are quite diverse, with a wide range of ages and various ethnic backgrounds, making the experience more inclusive for everyone. And the shows are all in good fun—you won't find any *8 Mile*-esque rivalries, rap battles, and Glocks at an HHK show.

It's also unlike regular karaoke in that participants are expected to memorize the lyrics beforehand. Crib notes aren't allowed, and there's no TV screen telling you what comes next.

This week's Back to School edition is sponsored by the Concordia Student Union, CJLO and the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, which means the show is free for all Concordia students who show up with their student ID. The event is also part of CJLO's Orientation.

Olivia Benaroche, event organizer for HHK, told *The Link* what makes Hip Hop Karaoke exceptional.

"I think what makes Hip Hop Karaoke so fun and unique is that it's very community-oriented," she said. "When people perform, whether it's their first time or 10th time, they're very well received."

"We like to see people get up there and do their thing, and it's almost even more fun when the person isn't naturally good at rapping. It makes it more interesting for everybody," she added.

IT manager Navid Vafi, also known as Boih, will be performing for his fifth time at the Back to School HHK. From his onstage experiences, he describes the crowds as "alive, rowdy, energetic, loving, supporting, believing, positive and

all-around amazing."

Performers typically sign up in advance to prepare their set, but signing up on the night of the show is allowed.

A song list is provided on HHK's website, but special requests can be made as well.

HHK also hosts a hip-hop trivia game called What You Know About That!, which allows anyone in the audience to participate onstage, show off their knowledge of the ins and outs of hip-hop culture and win some prizes. Local chef Enzo will also be serving up his \$3 "biscuits and BBQ."

In the Limelight

HHK is open to local hip-hop lovers, karaoke aficionados and party-goers alike, so don't be surprised if you see a friend onstage rapping their heart out, leading a double life in a Ron Swanson/Duke Silver scenario.

Matthew Chain, whose stage alias is Scoops, is one of HHK MTL's regular performers, and has many memorable experiences, like "that time I pulled a flute out and fluted,

the time I did Danny Brown's 'Witit' super drunk and got maybe 17 per cent of the lyrics right, and the time I did a 'Forever' remix with Fuego and MC Snorlax," he said.

At HHK, no one is booed offstage for choking or making mistakes—organizers pride themselves on a tolerant environment where nobody gets humiliated and amateurs are encouraged to finish their chosen songs.

"We've had people screw up," says Benaroche. "They forget the lyrics and they get discouraged, but the audience will pump them up, will cheer them on, and we give them a couple of tries to re-do the track."

"We've had girls who have gone up and completely screwed up three times in a row and then the fourth time we re-do the track, they get it perfectly," she continued. "We really like to create that warm and encouraging environment."

For Boih, HHK is all about the love. "As corny as it sounds, it feels like the 'hippiest,' most 'peace and love' environment imaginable, especially when you realize that this is, in essence, a hip-hop event," he said.

"It's a great change of scenery from the usual hip-hop event."

For first-timers, Scoops has a few words of advice.

"Learn the track at least two days before the show. That is, have it fully memorized by Tuesday night if the show is Thursday," he said.

"You need that one-day gap to let the words sink into your brain. The worst kind of nervousness is the fear you don't know the words."

According to Benaroche, Concordia students can expect to experience "an unforgettable evening where they can merge their love of music, partying, good drinks, good food, good community and good conversation."

To sign up, send your contact info, alias and the title of your chosen song to hhkmtl@gmail.com.

Hip Hop Karaoke Montreal: Back to School edition // Sept. 19 // Le Belmont sur le Boulevard (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 10 p.m. // Free for Concordia students / \$5 regular, \$10 after 11 p.m.

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Photos Leslie Schachter

GET *INSIDE THE CIRCLE*

Former Concordia Student Goes from Journalism Student to Hip-Hop Artist

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

Few students can say they've made the transition from journalism to hip-hop artist, but that's precisely what Simon Tousignant, better known by his rapper alias ST, has done.

A member of a tight-knit group called Trust the Team, ST has released two projects over the past year with friend and beat-maker Liam Meilleur under the name ST x Liam.

Born and raised in Montreal, ST has had a passion for hip-hop since he was six years old, when a neighbour gave him his first taste of the genre—a cassette tape of Tupac's *Me Against the World* album.

"He said, 'Do you want the cassette where they swear more, or the cassette where they rap faster?'" recalled the now 24-year-old ST. "Obviously, I was six years old—I wanted swears and curse words," he laughed heartily, sitting in *The Link* office with Meilleur.

"It blew my mind," said ST.

Although French is his mother tongue, ST says that when it comes to songwriting, he has a better way with words in English. Part of that is due to studying in Concordia's journalism program.

"I'm a perfectionist, I'm probably my biggest hater," says ST.

"For a long time, I felt like my grasp of the spoken English lan-

guage wasn't good enough to go with what I was able to write. Then I started journalism at Concordia, which forced me to speak in English.

"To be put in that environment with only English-speaking people, and to be comfortable in front of crowds and cameras really gave me that bump to be fully comfortable with what I was doing," he continued.

But ST eventually realized journalism wasn't his calling, and after two years he decided to leave Concordia and dedicate his energy to his true passion of music.

"I'll come back [to school], but I really want to give this a shot," he said.

"It's been a constant rise since I stopped going to school and focused on music. We've done about 20 shows now, and we've released two full projects for free. I see it as a positive thing; we'll see how it goes and so far it's going well."

#Trusttheteam

Through networking in Montreal's hip-hop scene, ST met Meilleur in 2012.

The two hit it off right away.

"I really believe that when you're making music, you have to form genuine bonds with people," says ST. "If you work with people you don't have a chemistry with, you're gonna hear it [in the music]."

Last November, the pair put

out their debut album titled *Fresh Crops*, which features a photo of the infamous former U.S. president Richard Nixon holding a large bundle of cannabis up to his nose.

After releasing singles and collaborations with hip-hop producer and close friend Gabriel Cyr—nicknamed Fruits—the trio coined the term 'Trust the Team,' an inside joke that ending up sticking for the group.

"It's funny because it started as a Twitter hashtag," said ST. "It's the rap community—sometimes you have little riffs with people, especially in the culture of Twitter. So I was like, 'you know what, trust the team.'"

Meilleur added, "We created the term, 'Trust the Team,' for trusting the people that we work with," he said.

"It's the strength of what we try to do."

Just Being Real

ST x Liam's latest effort is *Inside the Circle*, an EP they released in May.

It begins with an intro of Morgan Freeman's rich baritone voice describing the wonders of the universe.

"The songs on *Inside the Circle* have a more philosophical twist," ST said, explaining the mindset behind the duo's second EP.

"I talk a lot about how I see life and my opinions on politics and reli-

gion. It's not self-righteous, it's just letting people know what I believe in," he continued. "So to say 'get inside my circle' means to enter our circle and understand what we mean."

Lyrics venture fairly deep in terms of meaning and significance—ST raps about Fukushima and food that tastes "like fuel intake," and songs have an overarching message against war and for humanity to work together "towards a common goal."

Among them is "Realness," the EP's debut single.

"I just wanted to give what I felt was a portrait of society and reality right now," he said. "We're fucking up this planet pretty badly—we have nuclear plants that kill the ozone layer, we have food that gives us cancer."

"Realness' is a grim portrait of reality, but I think it's accurate right now."

Like the origins of Trust the Team, the song has an unusual backstory.

A team of journalists, doing a story on ST x Liam wanted to get some supplemental footage of Meilleur mixing beats in the studio after filming one of their shows.

"Instead of faking making a beat, he just made an actual beat and in 15 minutes he had made the 'Realness' beat," ST said.

"You could see my eyes light up. That same night, he emails me the beat, and two days later I was just sitting high as hell off Moroccan hash in the French Alps, put my headphones on, and didn't stop writing until I was done."

Looking Ahead

But ST x Liam aren't only about heavy themes when it comes to their music.

"We're working on 'Real Cats,' it's a song about cats," ST laughed.

"People love cats; we love cats. They're cute and adorable by nature."

But the 'Real Cats' project will be a smaller one—the duo doesn't want to get labeled as the "cat rappers" if they come up with a full album on the topic.

ST x Liam will be playing at POP Montreal on Sept. 26 at the Royal Phoenix, and are also opening for Oddisee on Sept. 22 at Le Belmont.

ST says they are re-structuring their live show to prepare for the upcoming gigs, as an engaging live performance is crucial for building a fan-base.

"We're just constantly evolving," ST said.

ST x Liam and Oddisee // Sept. 22 // Le Belmont sur le Boulevard (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 9 p.m. // \$15 advance (\$10 first 50 tickets), \$20 doors



Liam Meilleur and Simon Tousignant make up the hip-hop duo ST x Liam



2KSquad members throwing up their crew's symbol at a "family reunion." Photo Eddie Augustin.

SO GOOD IT'S CRIMINAL

2KSquad Puts on First Annual Show *Wanted*

by Meghan Overbury @xxfearless

Montreal is well known for its thriving performing arts community, with everything from concerts, to plays to dance recitals. Rarely, however, can a show successfully bring together all of those elements.

2KSquad is a 67-member collective of performers, and they're up to the challenge.

Featuring an array of talent, including dancers, singers, martial artists and filmmakers, the group will be performing their first annual show *Wanted* this week, with the theme of criminals and fugitives on the run.

A little over a year ago, 2KSquad was nothing more than a glimmer in Eddie Augustin's eye.

"We've been involved in shows before, [and] always felt this sadness when the show ended," Augustin said.

Wanting to create a more permanent crew, Augustin called up friend David Lieu to discuss an idea he had. The two met at a restaurant to talk, and three hours later 2KSquad was born.

Armed with knowledge about planning shows and social media, Augustin and Lieu assembled an initial crew of 13 members before holding open auditions to round out their group, and around 100 people came to try out for the squad.

"We never expected that many people,"

said Augustin. "We just had some performances here and there."

Lieu, a dancer as well as a 2K executive, credits a lot of the initial interest in the group to word-of-mouth and their strong social media presence.

With members ranging in age from 14 to mid-20s, 2KSquad looked for dedication and personality as well as talent. The management team also wasn't restrictive about what kind of talent they were searching for.

"We have to search for different talents," said Augustin. "No matter your age, if you can bring something to the crew with your personality and talent, jump in."

"Why not have a martial arts team? Why not have musicians? Why not do films? Let's just do everything," he continued.

Augustin, a filmmaker and martial artist himself, lights up when talking about the group's promotional videos. He produces videos himself for the squad, and believes in maintaining a strong YouTube presence to keep up interest for both fans and performers alike.

The group has a strong Korean pop influence, also known as K-pop, though they don't limit themselves to one genre in particular.

"You have to appeal to the people that like to watch what you do," said Lieu.

Augustin agrees that K-pop is a large draw for them, but is quick to point out that that's not all they do, and hopes that their audience will leave their shows loving the other acts as well.

Catch Me If You Can

Nearing the one-year anniversary of their creation, the group is getting ready to pull together their biggest show yet. *Wanted* was based off an idea that Augustin had been thinking about since his first meeting with Lieu.

"It all came from the idea of having everyone's profile picture as a wanted poster," says Augustin.

Lieu describes the concept as a "badass, western-ish concept." On a larger scale, the theme sees the performers posing as criminals running from the FBI.

Acts are created with the theme in mind, though they're not restricted by it—the theme merely acts as an anchor to tie the show together cohesively, but allows for creativity.

Members suggest act ideas and management chooses them, with inspiration often drawn from fans' popular demand.

"We put a post on the 2K Facebook page, a suggestions list," says Lieu. "We go through the list one by one. We do that until we have a set number of acts we like."

Practice schedules vary depending on

different acts, but collectively the group gets about 20 hours of practice in a week, with occasional impromptu meetings.

Whether they're working on a show, a video, or practicing, it's clear that 2K have become a very tight-knit group. Both Augustin and Lieu describe the group as being a sort of family, with their shows and group evaluations serving as family reunions.

It's a safe space for their performers to have fun and meet people who share their interests.

For Lieu, dancing with 2K isn't necessarily something he sees turning into a professional venture.

"I personally enjoy performing," he said. "If something comes out of it, that'd be great, but if not, I'm still happy with it."

Augustin agrees, and hopes that 2K is something that'll live on even if he and Lieu have to step away from the project at some point.

"No matter what happens with this, we want to pass it on to other people," he said. "As long as there's music, and people to dance well, why not have 2K to dance?"

"Whatever happens, that's just a cherry on top."

2KSquad: *Wanted* // Sept. 21 // Pavillon Judith-Jasmin (405 Ste. Catherine St. E. // 7 p.m. // \$12 advance, \$15 door

A MINUTE TO WIN IT

60-Second Film Festival Reaches 6th Year in Montreal

by David Santerre @SanterreDavid

Short films are a staple of modern film festivals, but M60, “Montreal’s littlest festival,” celebrates the art of short-shorts—films that clock in at one minute or less.

M60 has been presenting 60-second films for six years now, each with a different theme that is “broad enough so we get as many interpretations as possible,” says Toby Harper, one of the founders of M60.

The theme for this year’s festival—set to be its biggest edition to date—is revenge. Harper slyly describes this year’s edition as “our least family-friendly.”

The 98-film program is divided into four nights and the screenings are hosted at Cinema Excentris, one of the pillars of the art-house cinema community of Montreal.

Despite being thrust into marginality by its unusual format, M60 sends a thoughtful and powerful message on the evolution of cinema—on the form itself, but also on the film theatre as an “agora,” a social space where discussions fuse with ideas, creating a shared experience.

About the non-competitive nature of the event, Harper said, “People already take the risk of creating something and being confronted by direct feedback.”

A unique feature of M60 is the freedom

it allows its filmmakers, excluding the time constraint. There were 98 films submitted this year, all of which will be screened.

None of them have been altered in any way—viewers will see the purest expression of the artist’s ambitions onscreen.

“There’s no real censor or jury,” said Harper.

The mix of professional award-winning directors with first-time filmmakers in the same program creates a level playing field for all of the artists’ works.

For the most part, M60 is a festival made by the people, for the people.

“You are sitting with the people that made the films,” Harper said.

The four different programs are edited so that the films speak to one another in a way that is entertaining and logical for the spectators and creators.

With the immense popularity of YouTube and apps like Vine, it’s possible M60 could be the future of cinema.

“Cinema is an industry and an art that is evolving, so it’s fun to watch and be a part of it,” Harper said.

M60: Montreal 60 Second Film Festival // Sept. 19 – Sept. 22 // Cinema Excentris (3536 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 9 p.m. // \$8

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Graphic Graeme Shorten-Adams



FRINGE CALENDAR SEPT. 17 - SEPT. 23

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

MUSIC

1 The In & Outs acrobatic set
Sept. 21
Zéro Gravité (4519 Papineau Ave.)
8 p.m.
Free admission
Local Montreal three-piece The In & Outs will be performing a flying acoustic set for the opening of rock-climbing centre Zéro Gravité, suspended high above the crowd.

2 Grails + Lilacs & Champagne + Wrekmeister Harmonies
Sept. 17
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)
9 p.m.
\$13 advance, \$15 door
Lilacs & Champagne is a side-project of two musicians in Grails, who are also playing the same show. A night of psychedelic post-rock tunes is guaranteed.

3 Rae Spoon album release show [18+]
Sept. 22
La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)
7:30 p.m.
\$10-\$15
Folk-pop artist Rae Spoon will release their new album *My Prairie Home* at La Sala Rossa. Spoon was also the subject of a recent musical documentary of the same name by the National Film Board of Canada.

FILM

4 Bidder 70
Sept. 23
D.B. Clarke Theatre (1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)
7 p.m.
Free admission (donations accepted)
Cinema Politica Concordia is back for the school year, resuming their screenings of activist documentaries. *Bidder 70* tells the tale of a climate activist who struck a blow to the U.S. oil and gas industry in 2008.

COMEDY

5 Darryl Lenox (reservation required)
Sept. 19 – Sept. 21
Montreal ComedyWorks (1238 Bishop St.)
8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
\$5 students, \$10 regular Thursday // \$10 students, \$15 regular Friday // \$15 Saturday
A recent guest on Conan O’Brien’s show, Lenox originally entered stand-up comedy on a dare and is now making the rounds in high-profile comedy shows across the globe.

LITERATURE

6 Poetry Night
Sept. 17
Kafein (1429A Bishop Ave.)
8 p.m.
Free admission
Have a few drinks at this classic near-campus spot and enjoy some of Montreal’s best up-and-coming poets.

OTHER

7 14th Annual City Hall Championship Poser Game
Sept. 18
Veterans Park (Papineau Ave. & Logan St.)
8:30 p.m.
Free for spectators, \$5 entry for competitors
Following his successful documentary screening and skate contest at Peace Park, David “Boots” Bouthillier is bringing Montreal’s skateboard community together again for the annual S.K.A.T.E. competition, where the beer on tap is free and the winner takes all.

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				1		
2					3	
		5				4
6						
		7				

Check out more listings online at
thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar



**Aloha good
citizens of
Concordia
University!**

Join us in the Brutopia
basement (1219 Crescent
St.) this Friday, Sept. 20.

We'll be waitin' for ya from
9:30 p.m. 'till the last one
of us crawls home.

You are cordially invited to
the very first Drink with the
Link of the year. Don't
hesitate—there's lots of beer
and fun to be had, and
friends to be made! You've
been waiting all summer, so
don't miss this once-in-a-life-
time opportunity to get drunk
with some of the finest
student journalists around!



A TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Stingers Star Rugby Player Aims for Nationals After Missing 2012 Season to Injury

by Yacine Bouhali @mybouhali

Everyone's been told at least once in their life: it doesn't matter that you fall, it matters that you get back up.

Most use it as a metaphor. For Hughanna Gaw, it's a saying that carries a literal sense.

Making her debut with the Concordia Stingers women's rugby team in 2009, Gaw quickly established herself as an elite player, earning rookie of the year honours in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport that year, becoming the first ever rugby player from the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference to do so.

Gaw's individual success was soon followed by team success, as she helped lead the Stingers to a silver medal at the 2010 Nationals—the team's best finish in its history.

The Stingers looked poised to return to nationals for the second straight season, making it all the way to the 2011 provincial final against the Laval Rouge et Or.

That's when Gaw's—and the team's—fortunes took a turn for the worst.

"Probably 20 minutes into our game versus Laval I heard a crack," said Gaw.

She had no idea she'd just fractured the lower part of her left kneecap.

Her coaches didn't know the gravity of injury either, and asked her if she could play through it. She said yes.

"It's maybe not the best decision I've ever made," said Gaw. "I was injured; I should've probably come off the field, but I'm stubborn sometimes."

"I didn't want to get off the field and leave my team in the finals."

The Stingers lost the game 43-27.

To make matters worse, Gaw paid dearly for her stubbornness, as her fractured knee forced her to sit out the entire 2012 season.

Prior to the provincial final, Gaw suffered a stress fracture on her left knee in the first week of the season. A few weeks of rest would've been enough to heal that minor damage, but Gaw's injury went undiagnosed, leading her to aggravate it until it grew into a full fracture.

"I went to see doctors, did MRIs and X-rays and [the doctors] found nothing wrong, so we didn't look further," said Gaw, explaining why she kept playing even though she knew something was wrong.

"I guess stress fractures are easy to diagnose, but I guess you have to know what you're looking for to diagnose it. If I'd went

back a couple weeks later, they probably would've seen it."

Life on Crutches

After undergoing knee surgery in August 2012, Gaw had to adapt to a new lifestyle, using a walker to move for eight weeks before finally starting rehabilitation the following November.

"I had never been on crutches before, so it was more difficult than what I'd expected," she said. "I had to crutch to school and I had to crutch around everywhere, so everything took 20 minutes longer."

It was even harder for Gaw to watch her teammates winning the RSEQ finals that season, which earned them a place at Nationals in Nova Scotia.

"I was so happy for them when they went to Nationals," she said.

"It's hard to watch your team and know that there's nothing you can really do for them, but they played well and made it easier to watch."

Gaw's rehabilitation lasted nearly a full year, having been cleared to play just this past August.

"I missed playing rugby a lot, it's exciting to be back on the field and a little nerve-racking at the same time because I've been gone for so long," she said.

Starting Over

Gaw is ready to turn the page on her injury and is confident that she can play without fear of reinjuring her knee.

"I've put a lot of time into rehab, I feel confident that my knee will hold up," she said.

Team head coach Graeme McGravie is equally confident.

"The first two games she played are an indication that there's no lingering effects from the knee injury that she had two years ago," he said. "She's been by far our best player so far in our two league games."

Even if the Stingers made it to Nationals last year without her, Gaw's return to the team is nonetheless a welcome one.

"Losing her on and off the field, just [being] without her was difficult," said McGravie.

"She's a massive impact player, she doesn't miss any tackle, [it feels] amazing to have her back," he added.

"She's just an outstanding player; she's a leader by example, and every time you have somebody of her quality out there it definitely makes you a better team."



Hughanna Gaw has returned to the Stingers following a stress fracture that left her unable to play in the 2012 season. Photos Brandon Johnston



by David S. Landsman @dslands

Men's Hockey

Coming out of the gate, the Stingers men's hockey team appeared to be headed for a promising 2012-2013 campaign, winning their first two games of the season.

But time slipped up and nipped them hard as they lost their next 10 games in a row before finishing second-to-last in the Ontario University Athletics East conference with an 8-15-5 record.

Goal-scoring seemed to be Concordia's biggest issue as they trailed everyone but Royal Military College in the category. The team found the back of the net only 73 times in their 28 games, while allowing in a whopping 108 goals.

In hopes of boosting their goal production, the Stingers will be counting on first-year forward Kieran O'Neil. A Calgary native, O'Neil tallied 10 goals and 15 assists in 47 games for the Alberta Junior Hockey

League's Calgary Canucks last season.

Returning winger Etienne Archambault, who led the Stingers last season both in goals and total points, with 11 and 21 respectively, will also play an important role on the Stingers offense.

As for leadership, the Stingers will look to newly appointed captain George Lovatsis. The fifth-year forward finished second in scoring on the team with 19 points, and he'll be expected to help lead the Stingers to their first playoff appearance since 2010.

That may prove to be a difficult challenge for the Stingers going by their exhibition performances this season. The Stingers dropped their two preseason games of the year, losing the first one 6-4 to the McGill Redmen and the second 3-1 to the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes.

The Stingers will play their first game of the season on Oct. 9 against the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Ridgebacks. Their home opener will be on Oct. 25,

when they'll host the Royal Military College.

Women's Hockey

The 2012-2013 season for the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team was supposed to bring forth a new era.

Nine rookies, combined with the addition of a new assistant coach in the form of Olympic-gold medalist Caroline Ouellette, gave hope for a changing of the guard.

That hope was quickly dashed.

Losing six of their seven exhibition games last season was tough, but dropping their season opener 8-1 to the McGill Martlets at Ed Meagher Arena was an even tougher pill to swallow.

In his 31st season with the team, head coach Les Lawton tried to get his girls going, but they struggled to make the wins happen.

In the end, the Stingers paid dearly for their inexperience, finishing with a 2-17-1 record.

But all that's history for the Stingers.

The new season is fast approaching, and despite having lost their playmaker Emilie Bocchia, top scorer Véronique Laramée-Paquette, and leader in captain Mallory Lawton, there is promising new blood in the likes of centre Jesse Keca and defender Marie-Joëlle Allard, both of whom have strong resumes.

The team will also be losing Ouellette, who will be training and preparing for the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia beginning in February 2014.

Looking to pave the way for a few more wins will be seasoned veterans defender Mary-Jane Roper and wingers Jaymee Shell and Erin Lally.

Concordia will play their first preseason game Friday, Sept. 20 against the Queen's University Gaels in Ontario. Their home opener is on Oct. 20, when they'll host last year's national champions, the Université de Montréal Carabins.

Photo Mattias Graham

BOXSCORES

WEEK OF SEPT. 9 TO SEPT. 15



Sunday, Sept. 15	Women's Soccer — Concordia 1, McGill University 3 Men's Soccer — Concordia 2, McGill University 4 Baseball — Concordia 1, University of Ottawa 4 Men's Rugby — Concordia 9, Université de Sherbrooke 3 Baseball — Concordia 11, University of Ottawa 0
Saturday, Sept. 14	Football — Concordia 18, St. Francis Xavier University 35 Women's Rugby — Concordia 17, Université Laval 5
Friday, Sept. 13	Women's Soccer — Concordia 4, Université du Québec à Montréal 2 Men's Hockey — Concordia 1, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières 3 (Preseason) Men's Soccer — Concordia 2, Université du Québec à Montréal 1
Thursday, Sept. 12	Men's Hockey — Concordia 4, McGill University 6 (Preseason)
Wednesday, Sept. 11	Baseball — Concordia 8, McGill University 1
Tuesday, Sept. 10	Baseball — Concordia 10, John Abbott College 0

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Wednesday, Sept. 18	7:00 p.m. Women's Rugby at McGill Martlets (Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup) 7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)
Friday, Sept. 20	6:30 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Concordia Stadium) 7:30 p.m. Women's Hockey at Queen's Gaels (Preseason) 8:30 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Concordia Stadium)
Saturday, Sept. 21	12:00 p.m. Baseball at Montréal Carabins 1:00 p.m. Football at Bishop's Gaitsers 2:00 p.m. Baseball at Montréal Carabins 4:00 p.m. Men's Rugby at McGill Redmen 7:30 p.m. Women's Hockey at Brock Badgers (Preseason)
Sunday, Sept. 22	1:00 p.m. Women's Rugby at Sherbrooke Vert et Or 1:00 p.m. Men's Soccer at UQTR Patriotes 2:00 p.m. Women's Hockey at York Lions (Preseason) 3:00 p.m. Women's Soccer at UQTR Patriotes

Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

DIVEST NOW!

Concordia Must End Support for Fossil Fuels



by Jess Kenwood @JessKenwood

Climate change is happening, we can all feel it.

As the generation that will control this country, we know that we have to reduce our carbon footprint and lower our greenhouse gas emissions. We know that we need to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, stop fracking and start relying on cleaner sources of energy.

This should not come as news to anyone. What is new, however, is the knowledge that Concordia has invested in fossil fuels, specifically in the Alberta tar sands.

Our university markets itself as a socially progressive institution, yet it relies on old sources of energy, with seemingly little desire to switch to cleaner, sustainable alternatives.

Divest Concordia is an organization trying to stop the hypocrisy of tar sand investment from a university that claims to be sustainable. The university's 2010-2011 financial statements reveal that Concordia has invested \$11.7 million in the fossil fuel industry, a figure that includes pipeline investments.

The highly controversial Keystone XL pipeline gives some perspective on the dangers of fossil fuels and their transportation.

Keystone is wrought with problems. While the United States is still debating whether the

negative effects on our climate outweigh the thousands of jobs the pipeline will create (we now know that these jobs would be temporary), Prime Minister Stephen Harper has supported the project since the first application was filed in Sept. 2008.

Many environmental experts have warned that the pipeline, which would run from Fort McMurray, Alberta to Patoka, Illinois, and Houston and Port Arthur, Texas, would be one of the worst environmental disasters yet.

The most obvious reason for that is its size. The Keystone pipeline is set to be one of the biggest pipelines in North America, and the chances of a pipe bursting are increased by its size alone.

And the result of that could be devastating.

Remember the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the photos of dead animals and the sheet of oil that lay over the water in the Gulf of Mexico? Even though the spill happened over three years ago, the effects are still being felt.

Aside from the estimate that only about two per cent of dead marine species have been uncovered, those that survived have become part of the food chain, after having absorbed the chemicals from the oil.

The most significant of these chemicals is methane, one of the greenhouse gasses that climate scientists have been warning us

about for decades.

But animals living in the Gulf or people living around it—many of whom are now sick from toxic chemicals—are not the only ones being affected by the spill.

Think about the mass production of fish. The marine life taken from the Gulf and consumed is packed full of chemicals, and those chemicals go straight into the bodies of people who eat them.

What's worse, only about two-thirds of the spill has been cleaned up to date.

Like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a burst in the Keystone pipeline would have devastatingly negative effects, including infecting the public's drinking water, soil and air, as well as a significantly increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Considering the spike in natural disasters like tornadoes and hurricanes as a result of climate change, the chances of the pipeline being damaged are only further increased.

In short, the pipeline could embody the vicious cycle that makes the cause of climate change also the effect of climate change.

Although the pipeline is currently under debate, it remains a topic of concern. A quick Google image search of Tar Island, Alberta, further illustrates the damage the tar sands cause.

Upon searching it, all you'll find is a

whole lot of nothing. The tar sands destroy almost everything found in nature.

So, knowing this, how is it possible that Concordia University, our university, a university that has made visible steps to be greener, is involved with something so detrimental to the environment?

Like so many others, I've felt powerless when it comes to trying to reverse climate change. Amidst all the propaganda and rhetoric from corporate-owned climate scientists, I've felt frustrated and defeated.

When it comes to climate science, it seems one step forward has always been followed by two steps back.

Now I feel re-energized. It may not seem like much when considering the whole picture, but taking part in stopping the university from investing in fossil fuels is a step in the right direction. It is abhorrent that the place where we learn can be so hypocritical and so deeply flawed in its position on climate change.

Now we finally have a chance to make some sort of difference. Divest Concordia and other campaigns like it have opened the door; now it's time to step forward.

Concordia needs to know that what it's doing is not right, and it's time we told them so.

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Graphic Flora Hammond



FOUR WHEELS GOOD, TWO WHEELS BETTER

Make Space for Bikes in City Hall Race

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

As the Nov. 3 municipal election draws closer and closer, more candidates have begun to outline their promising-yet-possibly-unattainable campaign promises.

Meanwhile, cycling advocate group Vélo Québec has hopped onboard the election bandwagon, issuing a 16-page report detailing what they wish to see change over the period from 2014 to 2021. Broken down by major cities, the report gives suggestions on what to build upon in an attempt to create a set of realistic goals that could reasonably be achieved over a two-term period.

In a study conducted by Vélo Québec, 70 per cent of Quebecers stated that if streets were safer and more bike-friendly they would be more likely to use their bikes for transportation. The fact that well over half of the population would seem to be willing to pick up a bike (or use theirs more often) if they felt safer on the road is reason enough to promote cycling and effective bike infrastructure.

In 2010, 53 per cent of Montrealers reported using their bicycles for transportation. That places us nearly 20 per cent above the Quebec average, which currently rests at 37 per cent, according to Vélo Québec.

With such a significant proportion of the

Montreal population relying so heavily on their bikes, it makes sense that multiple mayoral candidates have come out in support of the cycling community.

What's troubling, however, is that no mayoral candidate, with the exception of Projet Montréal candidate Richard Bergeron, has specifically detailed what this support would actually mean.

Short of a few buzzwords, candidate Denis Coderre and his team have yet to say anything substantial with regards to what he aims to do to improve the cycling experience in the city.

Coalition Montréal candidate Marcel Côté and his party have outlined similarly vague goals.

The same goes for candidate Mélanie Joly.

Cycling infrastructure has to be ingrained in the design of new neighbourhoods, rather than be something added in as an afterthought.

Of course, this isn't possible for neighbourhoods that already exist, but the fact remains that the likes of bike lanes or proper signage need to be carefully integrated into urban design, rather than just plunked down.

The recommendations that Vélo Québec is pushing are by no means radical. They are, for the most part, relatively easy to achieve and could likely be accomplished if more effort was put into simply maintaining the existing infrastructure.

Repainting the lines on bike lanes to clearly show the separation of bike space and car space, for example, is not a particularly arduous task. It does, however, reinforce the fact that dedicated space is still there for cyclists.

The group has also proposed an increase in parking for bikes, and has suggested that there be five to 20 spaces for every 100 metres of commercial space. Projet Montréal has indicated that they wish to place greater importance on cycling and public transport, and that one of the ways they see this happening is through the reduction in parking spots around the city.

This campaign point is promising, but ultimately fails to mention anything about whether or not this reduction in car parking would be matched by an increase in bike parking.

Other parties have yet to indicate whether or not they have plans to increase or improve the parking situation for cyclists on the island.

While a decent number of bike lanes in the city are reasonably well-maintained (though given the condition of the average Montreal road "reasonably well-maintained" is still well below the standard of other cities), there are several key areas that are in need of drastic repair, like the stretch of de Maisonneuve Blvd. west of the Vendôme Metro station.

A recent report by the Montreal auditor-

general revealed that, between 2010 and 2011, the city under-spent by as much as \$100 million in the amount dedicated to keeping roads and sidewalks at a level of minimum repair.

This fact alone shows that there is a serious need for greater upkeep of Montreal's main roads, and it is troubling that mayoral candidates have yet to outline anything specific regarding it.

The reality is while potholes may affect cars, driving over a hole in the road in a two-tonne vehicle made of metal is not going to hurt the driver.

For a cyclist, meanwhile, riding on a street riddled with potholes can mean serious injury or death—whether from falling over upon riding through the hole, or swerving around it and being hit by a car.

The fabled tramway up Côte-des-Neiges Road would be an incredible investment, and one that would improve the commute of thousands of Montrealers. But it's important that mayoral candidates not forget that the cycling community is also in need of better commuting conditions.

When such a significant portion of the city's population relies on their bikes for everyday tasks, mayoral candidates should be working harder to make cycling part of their plan.

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Graphic Graeme Shorten-Adams

TOYING WITH IT

I easily masturbate on average twice a day, once if I'm really tired. Unfortunately I haven't invested in toys yet, but I'm wondering if I will eventually lose sensitivity. Does masturbating too much have any harmful side effects on my sex life?

-Touched by Doubt

When people ask about sensitivity loss, they're generally asking one of two things: if the subjective pleasure they experience will be reduced over time or if they'll eventually require more stimulation to reach orgasm.

Generally speaking, you shouldn't lose sensitivity simply from masturbating.

However, it is likely that you'll become accustomed to certain kinds of stimulation and therefore be able to handle more of it before reaching orgasm, which can create the impression of less sensitivity.

When people claim to lose sensitivity from masturbating, it usually has more to do with their technique than with how often they're mastur-

bating. Most people start masturbating long before they're comfortable talking to anyone about it, so it's common for childhood or adolescent masturbation techniques to continue into adulthood.

The "death grip" is a popular and somewhat common example of this, where some boys grow up stroking themselves with a very hard grip, only to find that once they have partnered sex it's difficult for them to reach orgasm through oral, vaginal, or anal sex since the grip is unlikely to be as hard as the grip they use when masturbating.

This isn't so much an actual loss of sensitivity as it is becoming accustomed to a certain amount of pressure. The good news is that, with

enough effort and practice, they can also train themselves out of it.

If you're concerned your technique will eventually lead to sensitivity loss, you might consider adding some variety to the way you masturbate. Experiment with applying less pressure or less speed, and maybe start by committing to doing this one of the two times you masturbate daily to work yourself up to needing less to achieve orgasm.

In terms of negative effects on your sex life, masturbation usually has a more positive effect since it gives you opportunities to get in touch with your body and learn what you like, which you can then communicate more effectively to your partner.

It can be problematic if you be-

come too used to a specific way of reaching orgasm that makes partnered sex more difficult (see above). But barring extreme cases, you can usually show partners what you like and direct them to get what you need.

It's also good to keep in mind that while you won't lose sensation just from masturbating, this doesn't mean that you won't become less sensitive over time for other reasons. The body changes a lot as we age and it can become harder to orgasm, to lubricate and to hold an erection, and masturbation isn't necessarily the cause.

Between now and then there are more subtle changes on both the physical and mental levels where people, techniques, and

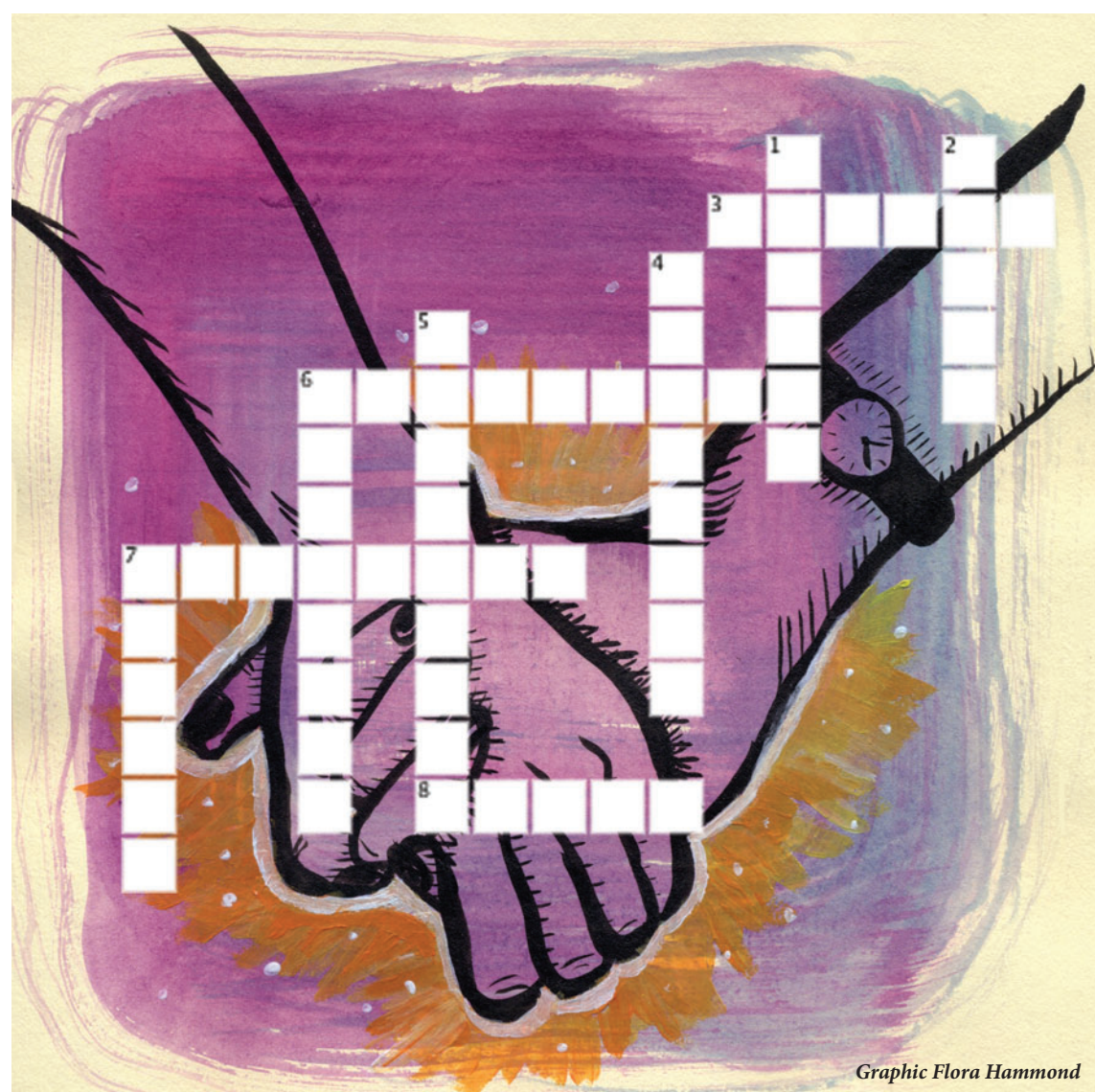
things that used to turn you on might not do so anymore.

These changes offer opportunities to rediscover your body and to further explore your sexuality, and masturbation can be one of the best tools for both of those things. So you shouldn't worry about doing it twice or even more each day; just consider mixing it up a bit.

—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 SextEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!



DYNAMIC DUOS

by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

Across

▶ 3. This talking tiger was equal parts philosopher and friend to a boy named Calvin.

▶ 6. Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney are the men that make up this American rock band, perhaps best known for their single *Howlin' for You*. (2 words)

▶ 7. This electro-dance music duo collaborated with Pharrell Williams on one of the biggest hits of the summer. (2 words)

▶ 8. Italian brothers, plumbers, and Bowser-beaters Mario and _____ have a place in every Nintendo kid's heart.

Down

▶ 1. Buds Thelma and _____ have prompted some to do their own drive through the American desert in a red convertible.

▶ 2. Walter White's sous-chef and partner on TV's *Breaking Bad*.

▶ 4. Fueling many a scorned lover post-breakup, Ben and Jerry have created over 100 flavours of this delectable delight. (2 words).

▶ 5. Paul Simon's former musical partner and, not-really-but-kind-of, equal contributor, Art _____.

▶ 6. Beavis and this cohort developed a cult following on MTV, not to mention a trademark laugh.

▶ 7. Before he played a serious news anchor, Jeff Daniels starred alongside Jim Carrey in the 1994 film *Dumb and Dumber*.

POWER THEATRE COMIC ALEX CALLARD



QUÉBÉCOIS 101 COMIC PAKU DAoust-CLOUTIER



De valeur: (deh-vah-lehr) Used in colloquial Québécois, "c'est de valeur" means, "it's too bad."

FALSE KNEES COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

The Impossible Computer (Don Quixote Revisited)

So it's the beginning of the semester, and everyone is experiencing the same shtick.

People are running to get books and staring, mouth agape, at the (completely humourless) bookstore cashier as they rattle off the grand total, equivalent to the mortgage of a nice cottage by the lake; trying to get accustomed to class schedules and new professors (while the professors try to get accustomed to you), and all of the—what's the word again? Oh yeah, homework, amidst everything else.

We frequent the library, hoping the industriousness of everyone else (updating their Facebook accounts, watching foreign films, etc.) will inspire us, and then we're confronted with the search for the elusive computer (Dun-Dun-DUUUUUN).

Move aside Don Quixote, with your "Impossible Dream!" Searching for an unoccupied computer in a library is something far more fearsome and infuriating, even though the library has redone its reserves desk four times in the past year, and have even installed a flashy yet incredibly maddening new printing system!

But somehow there still aren't enough computers for we paupers who don't have slick laptops and tablets.

So you can imagine my frustration when I go to

the library in the hopes of working, only to find that the little lab near the reserves desk has been taken over by a library workshop.

Now I know these are critical skills to impart on impressionable new students, but there is nothing more infuriating than knowing you have tons of work to do, and the one reliable haven has been usurped from you.

To add insult to injury, the lab full of 35 tempting computers is blocked from your grasp solely because of three eager beavers, madly scribbling notes as they listen in rapture to the beauty of RefWorks and Google Scholar.

And these workshops don't just take an hour, mind you. Oh no, sir, the lab is blocked for the entire day.

Does this set a dastardly tone for the new school year? I sure hope not. But something has got to be done—put these workshops in the Library Director's cushy office! Hold them in the janitor's closet!

But I beg you, hear our fervent pleas. Don't take away the few computers that do exist. Those three students are the ones that should be inconvenienced—not the rest of us slobs, trying to eke out our degrees.

—Randy Pinsky



Graphic Flora Hammond

Editorial



LABOUR RELATIONS NEED GOOD FAITH

It's no secret that the labour climate at Concordia leaves much to be desired. But if things are to ever get better, now is the time.

The university is seeking to improve its image, and the move is more than superficial. In the past year we've had a new president, Board of Governors chair and provost completely change the face of Concordia. Governance reforms have made clearer what can and can't be done in severance packages—a much-maligned part of Concordia's history.

Longtime Concordia Part-Time Faculty Union President Maria Peluso, who this year moves to the Board of Governors, has told us she has reason to be optimistic for the future of Concordia's labour relations—in part due to the new

faces leading the administration.

Considering she also says she's seen things get progressively worse in her more than 20 years at the university, there are real reasons to hope for the beginnings of a changing tide here at Concordia.

With two unions having reached agreements with the university after years of working without the security of a contract, we feel optimistic too, albeit cautiously so.

Those unions, the Concordia University Library Employees' Union and the Concordia University Union of Support Staff–Technical Sector, have come to an agreement with the university that was ratified by its membership last week. It amounts to a six-year contract for these workers.

Since negotiations went so long however, the contracts will expire in just 2015. The four years it took to get here are being applied retroactively.

According to CUUSS-TS President Alex Macpherson, his union got the best deal they could've hoped for given the circumstances. It's something they're willing to live with, and job security is nothing to scoff at amid funding uncertainty for Quebec universities.

For CULEU President Irene Fernandez, years of negotiations were the union's demand down to focus solely on salary adjustments.

And when we're hearing that over 200 grievances have been filed by workers against the university for not honouring existing agreements, it's clear that there is

still much to be done.

While these two unions have reached collective agreements, the vast majority of unions are still in contractual limbo, in negotiations with expired agreements.

Reaching a collective agreement isn't the endgame here, but these agreements are a step in the right direction— inching closer to building good faith between the university and its unions.

For good faith to truly exist over Concordia's labour climate, it's going to take time. It means that consistent care needs to be put into choosing who the university will send to the negotiation table, making sure that people who have worked under the contracts in question are included in their team.

CUPFA is set to begin their next round of talks, and have held an unlimited general strike mandate for close to a year. Their new president David Douglas has told us they're not willing to take six years to reach an agreement, like it did for its last contract.

There's no easy fix for the administrators to meaningfully impact Concordia's labour climate. We understand that. For norms of good faith to be built, both sides must work carefully and be willing to move.

But Concordia's strategy of "delay, delay, delay," as union leaders have told us before, is one that must certainly disappear.

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Graphic Graeme Shorten-Adams

THE LINK

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In "We Don't Want Your Representation" [Vol. 34, Iss. 3], Nicholas Di Penna was stated as being a member of the Dawson Student Union Executive. He is a former member of the DSU Executive. In "ConU Alum Sets Her Eyes on Council Seat" [Vol. 34, Iss. 3], Ste-Dorothée electoral district city council candidate Yana Lukashev's name was misspelled as Yuna Lukashev. The Link regrets the errors.

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