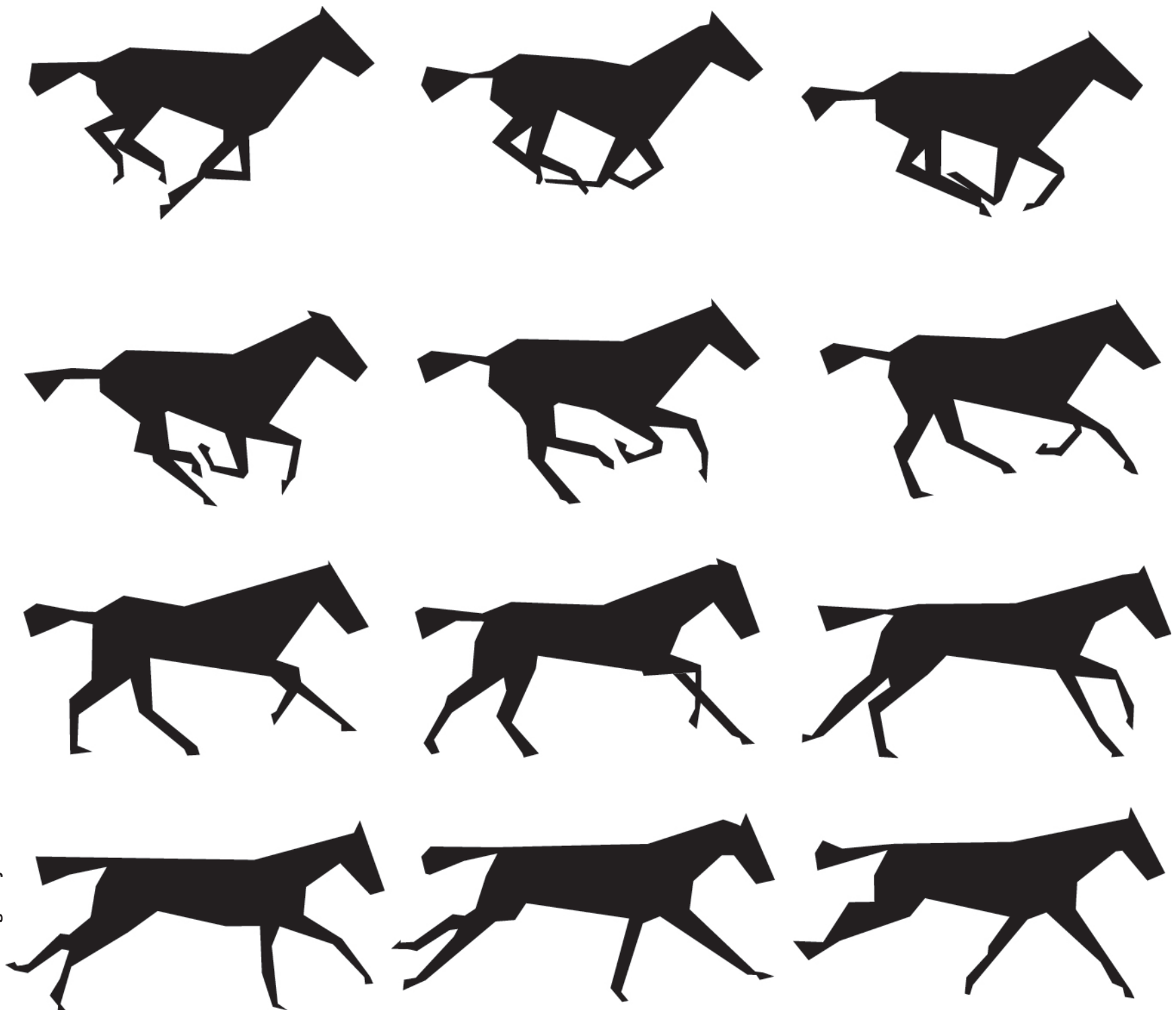


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CSU COUNCIL GETS HEATED OVER FOOD TALKS

The Concordia Student Union was divided on a few issues at their last council meeting Oct. 9, but a dilemma on whether to break the union's own standing regulations has resulted in a special council meeting being called this week in order to resolve the dispute.

Concerns arose surrounding the Concordia Food Coalition, a co-operative of food groups at Concordia looking to replace global conglomerate Chartwells as the major food service provider on campus. The food coalition is seeking approval to be included on the CSU's by-election ballot to ask undergraduates to increase the fee levy they give the group per credit.

"I think we should do whatever we can because they are highly prepared," councillor Alanna Stacey told council.

But according to CSU Standing Regulation 138, any "non-CSU

group seeking a new fee levy must submit an application to the policy committee for review and approval at least two months before the first day of the nomination period of the Fall by-elections [...] in order to be considered by council." They must also present the group's constitution and a petition signed by at least 750 undergraduates asking for the question to be included on the ballot.

VP Academic Gene Morrow, who serves as chairperson of the CSU's policy committee, says he was approached by CFC member Gabriel Velasco in late September about including a referendum question on increasing the fee levy the CFC receives from undergraduates in the CSU's upcoming fall by-election.

"I told [Velasco] that he was obviously outside the prescriptions of the standing regulations, but that

given they had collected more than enough signatures in the time before they came to see me, that it was in their best interest to come and address council directly," elaborated Morrow to council.

CFC members came with their constitution in hand, as well as a petition including 970 signatures—which VP Sustainability Ben Prunty was quick to point out is more students than the voting turnout for any councillor or executive in the last CSU election.

Despite not meeting the timeframe requirements of S.R. 138, some members of council—including Prunty, who is a member of the CFC—were open to the idea of allowing the food coalition to put their fee levy question to students.

▶ Continued on page 6.



Photo Andrew Brennan

ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Looking at Concordia's connection to a company named in the Charbonneau Commission. [P4](#)

IMAGINING MONTREAL IN 2023

Mayoral candidates discuss what the city would be like after 10 years of their administration. [P8](#)

HARDCORE SKANKING

Montreal SkaFest celebrates the genre's blending of reggae, punk and lots of horns for a fifth year. [P10](#)

NATIONALS ON DECK

Stingers baseball club heads to nationals after winning the CIBA Northern Conference title. [P14](#)

CONCORDIA'S SHADY PARTNERS

Genivar has been named in the Charbonneau Commission, so why is Concordia still working with them? [P15](#)

A SYSTEM IN NEED OF FIXING

The way harassment is dealt with isn't working. How can we make it better? [P16](#)

THE LINK ONLINE

CSU GIVES COMMITTEES MORE FINANCIAL CONTROL

Despite some dubious spending choices in past years, standing committees are now allowed to sign for expenses under \$1,000 without being approved first.

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TO ASK THE QUESTION IS THE QUESTION

The Concordia Food Coalition wants to get on the CSU byelection ballot; a special council meeting decides their fate Wednesday, and we'll have the story later this week.

CONU ALTERS POLICY FOLLOWING SEXUAL HARRASSMENT INCIDENT

Concordia has a prevention program and new procedures with police following an alleged case of sexual harassment in the Webster Library.

LINK RADIO

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CONCORDIA'S ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH GENIVAR

Company Continues to Manage University Construction Projects Despite Collusion Allegations

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

In March, François Perreault quit his job as the vice-president for western Quebec of engineering firm Genivar Inc. The following week he spoke before the provincial public inquiry currently examining corruption and collusion in the awarding of public contracts.

He told Quebec Superior Court Justice France Charbonneau and members of her commission that between the years of 2004 and 2009 his company was part of a cartel of firms rigging bids on public contracts.

During that same time, the firm was awarded about \$12.5 million in contracts in downtown Montreal alone, according to an access-to-information request filed by *Le Devoir*.

Genivar received public contracts by providing a three per cent kickback to now-defunct municipal party Union Montréal, said Perreault on March 12.

The following day, Perreault testified that Genivar gave an undisclosed donation of \$200,000 at the request of Union Montréal financial official Bernard Trépanier.

Perreault told the commission he learned later that acquiring the money was an extensive process.

"In February 2010 there was a report on Radio-Canada and CBC and it was announced that bogus invoices had been discovered within [the] Genivar firm," he said.

"This led to a crisis, quite a lot of internal audits resulted within Genivar. And we found a lot of bogus invoices, dubious invoices, from companies that just didn't exist for all practical purposes," he continued.

"This scheme with these bogus invoices, well that was a scheme to try and get cash to make those payments."

In a press release a month earlier, Genivar had said its internal probe had discovered

"inappropriate conduct" in the province of Quebec, and had placed one of its employees on a leave of absence until a proper review had been conducted.

Genivar continues to provide project management services on public contracts, including at Concordia.

Continued Partnership

The global firm is currently coordinating the multi-million dollar renovations on the Hall Building's H-110 amphitheatre, and performed the same project management duties in the installation of new escalators throughout the whole building between 2011 and 2013, completed at the cost of roughly \$16 million.

According to university spokesperson Chris Mota, Genivar acts as project manager for most of the university's major undertakings.

"Genivar's been with us for many years; they were project managers for many of our major buildings like the Molson Building," said Concordia Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management Peter Bolla.

Concordia has its own internal project management group, but with the upswing in renovations, outside overseers have been brought in, he continued.

"We have a small project management group, so we always have to supplement our project management services with people from the outside, with external professionals [such as Genivar]," he said.

Genivar has multiple offices at Concordia, located on the third floor of the GM Building. The company had overseen the recladding of the GM building's exterior and lobby renovations, which took place in 2011.

It also managed the construction of the MB Building, completed in 2009 at the cost of \$118.5 million, according to a Concordia Uni-

versity press release.

Mota told *The Link* it would take more than Genivar being named in testimonies at the Charbonneau commission for Concordia to rethink its relationship with the company.

"If there is any kind of indication of wrongdoing, the university always has opportunities to review its working relationships with any of our suppliers," she added. "but simply having somebody named, well, that's all it is at this point."

Future Reimaging, Renovating

According to Bolla, the \$4.25 million re-vamping of H-110, which began in the summer, is on schedule to be completed for January 2014.

He says students can look forward to a completely rewired space plug in-ready for laptops and other devices, and will also include a new projection unit, sound system, energy-efficient LED lighting and better seating.

Genivar concurrently managed the renovation of the Ed Meagher Arena at Concordia's Loyola campus, expected to be completed by year's end.

The company is also managing work on the Grey Nuns building, which Concordia acquired in 2004 from the order of nuns. The west wing was retrofitted into a residence, with the Grey Nuns set to vacate the building completely by 2022.

But with the sisters deciding to vacate the building nine years earlier than they had outlined in their agreement with Concordia, the Grey Nuns motherhouse and the rest of the building is being converted into more student housing.

New allegations against Genivar surfaced at the Charbonneau commission in September following a 10-week summer hiatus.

Testimony from Marc-André Gélinas,

who worked at engineering firm Tecsalt, alleges that between 2003 and 2009, Genivar, his firm and two other contractors would negotiate bids for the Gatineau region in advance, and also agreed to split up the funding accrued from public contracts.

Former Genivar employee François Paulhus subsequently stepped down from the National Capital Commission's board of directors, which oversees real estate holdings in the Ottawa-Gatineau region.

Genivar has announced it's undergoing a global rebranding. In an April press release, the company indicated it would gradually be renamed WSP Global, a process set to be completed by 2014.

The Montreal-based company acquired the British firm WSP Group PLC on June 7, 2012 for \$442 million.

According to Genivar President and CEO Pierre Shoiry, the allegations facing the company did not affect the rebranding decision.

"WSP's strong presence around the world and its global recognition in a number of market segments has led us to make the logical choice of changing the Genivar name to WSP," he said.

Despite the allegations, Genivar's profits have increased every fiscal quarter this year. In the second quarter, revenues jumped from \$181.2 million in 2012 to \$516.4 million, an increase of 185 per cent.

While multiple company employees are alleged to have colluded with other firms to rig bids on public contracts, Mota maintains that is not Concordia's concern and not applicable to the university's relationship with Genivar.

"Our contracts are publicly tendered, it went through a legitimate process," she said.

"They were the best option for the job, and until someone tells us otherwise, that relationship will continue."



Concordia's GM Building. Photo Brandon Johnston.



Police surrounded a group of protesters during a demonstration against the National Energy Board hearings. Photos Erin Sparks

A BREAKDOWN OF THE HEARINGS ON ENBRIDGE'S LINE 9

National Energy Board Hearings End in Montreal

by Geoffrey Vendeville @geoffvendeville

The National Energy Board just wrapped up four days of hearings in Montreal on energy delivery company Enbridge's proposal to increase the capacity of the Line 9 pipeline and reverse its flow to transport oil from Western Canada to Quebec refineries.

If you happened to cross Victoria Square on Oct. 9, you may have seen the protest against the project—or maybe not. The demonstration was declared illegal as soon as it started and smothered by police less than two hours later. The hearings will resume in Toronto on Oct. 16.

If you find all this confusing, you're not alone. The issues are as murky as a gallon of heavy crude.

To make some sense of it, here is a basic guide to the debate surrounding the controversial project.

What is the National Energy Board and What Does It Do?

The NEB is a quasi-judicial federal agency with headquarters in Calgary, established by the National Energy Board Act in 1959.

The NEB oversees 71,000 kilometres of pipeline and 1,400 kilometres of international power lines. It also sets tolls and tariffs for pipelines under its jurisdiction.

The NEB doesn't make energy policy—that's a job for Parliament—but it enforces the rules.

According to its official website, the core of the NEB's mandate is to promote environmental safety and protection, as well as "efficient energy infrastructure and markets in the Canadian public interest" following the standards set by Parliament.

For major project applications, the NEB

issues a public hearing order and holds public consultations, such as those just held in Montreal and continuing in Toronto on the proposal by Enbridge Inc.

Participants at the hearing include the company making the proposal (such as Enbridge), and other parties with expertise or that are directly affected by the project (the environmental coalition led by Équiterre, for example).

The NEB also has a team of specialists to lead environmental assessments of a project, and keeps a record of oil companies' emergency plans in case of a spill.

What is Enbridge Inc.?

Enbridge is an energy delivery company based in Calgary. Originally incorporated as the Interprovincial Pipeline Company in 1949, Enbridge has grown into one of Canada's largest corporations, transporting two millions barrels of oil per day.

The company ranks 12th on *The Globe and Mail's* list of Canadian businesses with the biggest revenue for 2013.

What's their Proposal, in a Nutshell?

Enbridge filed an application in November 2012 to reverse the flow of Line 9B and increase its capacity. In service since 1976, the 639-kilometre pipeline runs from Sarnia, Ont., to Montreal East.

The pipeline's capacity would increase from 240,000 barrels per day to 300,000.

The line flows east to west, but Enbridge is trying to reverse the line to carry oil from Western Canada, including Alberta's oil sands, and the Bakken formation in the U.S. and Canada to Quebec's two refineries, one in Montreal East and another in Lévis, Quebec.

What Are Some Common Pro-Pipeline Arguments?

In addition to Enbridge, the Conseil du patronat du Québec, the Association of Canadian Petrol Producers, the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec and the Manufacturiers et exportateurs du Québec support the project.

They argue that the reversal will create a reliable energy source necessary for Quebec's economic development. Douglas Crowther, a lawyer acting for Enbridge, said at the hearing on Wednesday that the pipeline could lead to refinery cost-savings of about \$23 billion over 30 years.

An Enbridge spokesperson, Ken Hall, told *The Link* that the project would also breathe life into Quebec's faltering refinery industry.

What's the Catch?

Depending on who you ask, the risks involved are either huge or minor. Locally based environmental group Équiterre said the pipeline—which crosses the Ottawa River and other tributaries—endangers the water supply of 2.1 million inhabitants in the Montreal region.

Équiterre also argue that the reversal would lead to an increase in dependence on tar sands oil and greenhouse gas emissions.

The cities of Montreal, Toronto and Kingston also have safety concerns.

An August 2013 report by the consultancy group Accufacts puts the pipeline at "high risk" of corrosion and rupture. At the Montreal hearings, Crowther said the Accufacts study was misleading.

The project might also harm First Nations communities. The Mohawk Council

of Kahnawake, which participated in the hearings at the Palais des congrès, opposed the proposal on the grounds that it might interfere with the exercise of Aboriginal rights on land near the pipeline.

Chief Clinton Phillips said the pipeline runs roughly three to 40 kilometres from all Mohawk reserves, stretching from Six Nations to Tyendinaga, Akwesasne, Kanestake and Kahnawake.

"Of particular importance to the Mohawks of Kahnawake are the fishing and spawning sites of the wildlife in the Bay of Quinte area, which is in very close proximity to the Enbridge Pipeline 9 right-of-way," he said.

What Would Be the Consequences of a Spill?

It's impossible to say for certain what the impact of a spill would be, but critics of the reversal point to an Enbridge spill that occurred in July 2010 as an example.

A pipeline cracked in Marshall, Michigan, and thousands of litres of crude oil flowed into the surrounding wetlands and Kalamazoo River.

A National Transportation Safety Board report stated that the "the rupture occurred during the last stages of a planned shut-down and was not discovered or addressed for over 17 hours."

Originally, it was thought that 843,000 gallons of oil had spilled, but this number was later revised to 1.15 million gallons. Hall told *The Link* the company is still cleaning up after the spill and has spent close to a billion dollars so far.

In addition to new precautionary measures, Enbridge has hired spill teams as part of their emergency preparedness plans.



CSU council met on Oct. 9. Photo Andrew Brennan.

CSU TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND ITS OWN RULES

Special Meeting Called to Address Ignoring Standing Regulations

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

► Continued from page 3.

"If we are approached with 970 signatures from students saying that they would like to be given the opportunity to vote on something, saying they want to be directly consulted, then it is our job to listen to those 970 students and facilitate the process," Prunty told *The Link*.

In an interview with *The Link* on Monday, Morrow said he erred by not properly vetting the required material from the CFC beforehand with the policy committee, so as to prepare council on the CFC's organizational structure.

He also said the language used for the Standing Regulation article requiring two months' notice was adapted from regular election requirements, not by-elections without a set date.

"Part of the issue that I see [...] is that the general elections have a fixed date, so you can really work backwards from when they're going to be and figure out what else the delays are," he said.

He also told *The Link* he would personally prefer a set cut-off date for a fee levy question request rigid to the calendar year, or one that

would follow the announcement of a by-election.

In order to supersede CSU Standing Regulations, council must ratify the motion in question with at least a two-thirds majority.

This allows for an ordinary motion to be "adopted with a clause stating that the motion operates regardless of the Code of Standing Regulations," according to Standing Regulation 303.

With less than 50 per cent support, the motion to allow a referendum question from the CFC—regardless of the CSU's own regulations—was defeated.

Velasco had told council he hoped the CFC would not have to wait until the spring general elections to put the coalition's fee levy question to students.

But arts and science councillor Wendy Kraus-Heitmann—who did not vote for the motion—says council needed time and information to fairly evaluate the CFC's request.

"The truth is, all fee levies are a charitable donation to someone's not-for-profit corporation, and if you want Concordia students to be obligated to give you a charitable donation indefinitely—like forever, it's not like at McGill where it gets renewed every five years—then can you really tell me that two months is really that long for us to look over your stuff?" she said.

Kraus-Heitmann added this was not the first time she can recall council ignoring Standing Regulations in order to get a referendum question on an election ballot.

In 2011, campus television station CUTV was able to get a fee levy increase question on the ballot of the November byelections despite petitioning students in September.

The referendum question was successful, but managerial trouble and infighting among members led to staff being locked out of the offices, multiple resignations and the station's accounts being frozen by the university one year later.

The station was attempting to expand into cable broadcasting, and included a transitional agreement where CUTV would transfer its assets from its parent organization, the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation, into a separate not-for-profit entity.

According to Kraus-Heitmann, who served as an emergency provisional board member for the station following the resignations of the transitional board members, what happened with CUTV should serve as an example for what happens if things are done hastily.

Engineering and computer science councillor Chuck Wilson echoed the need to be

methodical and follow procedure.

"I still think [regulations] should be followed because it's just the way we run things, and I'll go out on a limb and assume that the reason that things are like they [are] for a reason," he said.

"When we're talking about big questions of student money, I think it becomes a different issue and we have to use more due diligence than we do with other decisions," he added. "So I think when we're talking about fee levy questions we probably should make sure we're doing everything by the book."

For Prunty, however, student support for the CFC and its initiatives is already clear. During the CSU general elections last March, a question to students asking if they would like to see the CSU "actively support the new affordable, sustainable, student-run food services initiatives on campus" passed with 89 per cent support.

"There are a multiplicity of reasons why we should put this question on the ballot, but only one possible reason why we shouldn't," he said, referring to Standing Regulation 138.

"I don't consider a personal inclination against fee levies as a valid reason to deny students the right to decide on that for themselves."

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MARIE-EVE BRUNET ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

29-Year-Old Candidate Running for Borough Council in Verdun

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

Marie-Eve Brunet, one of the younger candidates seeking election in Montreal's upcoming municipal election, says culture and the place of young Montrealers in the community are key campaign issues in the Verdun borough she's running in.

The 29-year-old mother of a 10-month-old is running with political party Équipe Denis Coderre pour Montréal, looking to win one of two borough councillor seats in the Champlain-L'Île-des-Soeurs electoral district.

"I'm an action girl, so I have to have people around me who don't just want to do politics on paper," Brunet said, explaining that what initially drew her to mayoral hopeful Denis Coderre's team was that she didn't want to join a political party which would make campaign promises without a clear understanding of how to deliver on them after the election.

"[The team of candidates running for Denis Coderre] had stars in their eyes and believed what they were talking about," she said. "They asked me what I would like to do [...] for Verdun and for Montreal."

Improving Nuns' Island for Residents

Nuns' Island, a part of the electoral district Brunet is running in, has only one elementary school, which is becoming overcrowded.

A second primary school was to be built in Verdun's De la Fontaine Park, but the lo-

cation chosen for the new school stirred up sufficient opposition among residents for the project to be abandoned.

A second plot of land at the extremity of the park was then proposed, a location that the city's public consultation office threw its support behind in September after holding six meetings with residents.

"We have to make sure that young people have a role during the construction [of this school]," Brunet said. "There was squabbling between adults over where the school should be situated. Now that it's been decided, we have to make sure that children [...] feel like they're welcome in the community and are a part of it."

Nuns' Island has seen considerable residential and commercial development in recent years. When asked how to strike the right balance between development and setting aside enough room for parks and public spaces like schools, Brunet said there's a need to look beyond the short term.

"We have to look at the long term, and make sure that, yes, we allow development, but also that it's in harmony with [public] spaces," she said. "We also have to make sure that there are sufficient city services."

She said residents would like more local activities to be organized on Nuns' Island. According to her, the waterfront isn't being utilized as fully as it could be.

Brunet said that the water's edge could easily be used for day camps or kayaking classes,

among other activities, and that the team of candidates running under Coderre's banner in the borough would work to "reclaim" the waterfront.

On Montreal's Youth and Culture

Brunet said she's aware that the city's youth council—the Conseil jeunesse de Montréal, which advises Montreal's mayor and executive committee on matters related to the city's youth—has recommended the creation of new educational programs similar to Calgary's City Hall School in order to teach young Montrealers about their city's governance structures.

In an interview with *The Link*, CjM President Michael Ryan Wiseman said a lot of the city's younger residents lack the knowledge needed to understand how their municipal government works and how they can engage in the political process.

"I think we [as city or borough councillors] have to go into high schools and talk to teenagers and make them realize how important [their municipal government] is," Brunet said.

Brunet also said other Montreal boroughs have city-operated cultural venues where different types of community events can take place—dubbed *maisons de la culture*—but that Verdun doesn't have one.

The Verdun borough needs such a venue, and the candidates with whom she's running would work to make one a reality, Brunet said.

Photo Michael Wrobel

WHAT WOULD MONTREAL LOOK LIKE IN 2023?

Mayoral Candidates Discuss Visions of the Future

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

Ten candidates in the race to become Montreal's next mayor, including the four frontrunners, outlined their visions for the city over the next decade in seven-minute speeches at Megaphone Montreal on Friday.

The candidates were asked to imagine what Montreal would look like in 2023, after 10 years of their administration, assuming they'd be re-elected twice more after the upcoming Nov. 3 election.

Megaphone, a project presented by the National Film Board of Canada and the Quartier des spectacles, is an open-air platform for public speaking that invites newsmakers and regular citizens to take to a microphone at Place des Arts to express their thoughts.

Richard Bergeron, Projet Montréal

Urban planner Richard Bergeron promised Montreal will have "regained its confidence" by 2023 if he's chosen to govern the city, as he'll make public the contracts and data of the municipal administration. He also said that there would be fewer street-level parking lots and more housing and businesses in the downtown

core after 10 years of a Projet government, a tramway network will have been built, and a new Maritime Gateway neighbourhood will have been developed on St-Helen's Island.

Marcel Côté, Coalition Montréal

Economist Marcel Côté said Montreal will be a city that "defines what is modernity, defines what is well-being" by 2023 if he is elected mayor. He said the city would remain a "francophone city" while also being open-minded and multicultural, as well as become a university city that attracts twice as many students from abroad as it currently does. After 10 years of his administration, Montreal would be a more beautiful and better-managed city, he said.

Denis Coderre, Équipe Denis Coderre pour Montréal

Denis Coderre, a former Member of Parliament for the Montreal riding of Bourassa, promised an "intelligent" city where citizens would have access to various city services on the Internet. He also said he would appoint an inspector-general who would investigate allegations of corruption. In addition, Montreal will have stopped "flagellating" itself over corruption scandals, having re-

gained its confidence, he said.

Coderre was dismissive of Bergeron's plans for a tramway. "We already have a public transit system that is extraordinary, a public transit system that is accessible to all," he said, adding that the planned extension of the metro's blue line to Anjou would give residents in the northeastern part of the city access to the subway by 2023.

Mélanie Joly, Vrai changement pour Montréal

Lawyer Mélanie Joly, the youngest of the four frontrunners at age 34, said Montreal will have built a bus-rapid-transit system that links the east and west of the city after 10 years of her administration. She said such a BRT system would allow new neighbourhoods to be developed and would help the city to become the "capital of the fight against climate change." Like some of her opponents, Joly promised to make public the data held by the city, and also said she will make Montreal greener by planting 300,000 more trees.

Visit thelinknewspaper.ca to find out what the other mayoral candidates at the event had to say.



Radio-Canada journalist Michel Désautels acted as host and moderator for the event. Photo Brandon Johnston



STOP! MOTION TIME

5th Annual Montreal Stop Motion Film Festival Looks Back at Gumby and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

Stop motion animation is a tricky craft, requiring ingenuity and a steady hand of surgeon-like precision. Indeed, manually animating puppets (or clay characters) frame by frame is like a big game of Operation on a three-dimensional scale.

The technique has been used for such well-known feature-length films as *Coraline*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *ParaNorman* to name but a few.

Celebrating the way of the puppet is the Montreal Stop Motion Film Festival, taking place for the fifth straight year this month. Coordinated by part-time Concordia professor and alumnus Erik Goulet, the festival will be hosted on campus at the J.A. de Sève Cinema from Oct. 18 to Oct. 20.

As the only one of its kind in the world, the festival is a blessing for stop motion animators everywhere.

"The original idea came to me back in 2007," said Goulet. "I was driving home from a film festival that was presenting animated films, but I felt like something was missing. I didn't have my stop motion fix."

"My wife said to me, 'Well, maybe you'll have to do your own festival,'" he continued.

"That's when it started creeping into my mind."

The festival's number of submissions has risen substantially since it debuted in 2009, importing films from all over the world—one year saw as many as 350 submissions from 35 different countries.

The festival accepts around 70 films

every year to be entered into its competitions, dividing them into the categories of Professional, Independent and Academic.

Goulet says first-time festival-goers are often surprised at the quality of the films they see in the competitions.

"It's like, do you think we'd show films that were done by somebody with a webcam in their garage, with everything shaking and it's awful?" he said with a laugh.

"No, we're showing you the crème de la crème, the best films from around the world, in one weekend."

The prizes for the jury-selected winners are handcrafted statuettes called Little Henrys, which Goulet has been personally making since 1988.

"The Little Henrys are armatures that are what you find inside the puppets. Every stop motion artist dreams of working with a ball-and-socket armature," he said.

"It's my way of recognizing the work that they've done, by constructing those armatures."

Paying Tribute to the Classics

Each edition of the festival hosts different esteemed guest filmmakers and animators to speak and screen their work. One of the big draws this year is director Henry Selick and his 1993 cult film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Goulet says the release of *Jurassic Park* that year had audiences heralding the death of animation and glorifying the advent of CGI—but he says *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, released a few months later, just

as quickly revived the art.

"*The Nightmare Before Christmas* opened the door to the big studios, proving that stop motion feature-length films could be done," he said.

The special screening marks the 20th anniversary of the classic stop motion film, and will be the opening feature of the festival on Friday night.

Selick will be bringing along one of the original Jack Skellington puppets from the production, giving hardcore fans attending the festival major bragging rights for having seen it in person.

Another classic stop motion icon taking centre stage at the festival is Gumby, with Joe Clokey, son of Gumby creator Art Clokey, giving festival-goers a look at the green-coloured clay-based character's development through the years in *Gumby: A Retrospective!*

"Everyone loves Gumby," said Goulet. "He's a legend, he's a landmark."

Goulet says that Clokey will talk about the genesis of the character and his dad as well as play short excerpts of Gumby TV episodes and movies.

"It'll be about all those things that make Gumby the icon that he is, and also the recognition of his contributions to stop motion animation," he said.

Goulet and friends went to this year's Comiccon in Montreal with a big Gumby costume to promote the festival, and were surprised not by the reactions they got, but by who they were from.

"It was actually the parents that were

coming up to us," he said. "They were like, 'He was my idol when I was a kid!' Parents were asking their kids, 'Can you take a picture of me with Gumby?'"

"He's charming, he's funny, everyone remembers him," Goulet continued. "I think it's going to be great to go back into the world of Gumby and re-discover him, and see some of the best episodes that were ever done of the character."

Other events at the festival include a technical presentation by Jamie Caliri on his Dragonframe software, which streamlines the stop motion animating process.

"It's an eye-opener for people who want to know how it's done, behind the scenes," Goulet said.

There will also be a retrospective of the Estonia-based animation studio Nukufilm, as well as free family-friendly stop motion films screened for children. These will be followed by small workshops to show kids how stop motion animation works, allowing them to animate toys themselves.

The result is a festival Goulet is proud to call his own.

"I'm the first one in line [for the shows]," he said. "All the films coming from all over the place, they're just pure gems. I wish everyone on the planet could come down to the festival."

Montreal Stop Motion Film Festival // Oct. 18 to Oct. 20 // J.A. de Sève Cinema (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) // 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. // \$10 a screening (\$15 *Nightmare Before Christmas* screening), \$65 VIP pass



K-Man and the 45s in action in Montreal. Photos Mihaela Petrescu.

SKANKING THE NIGHT AWAY

Montreal SkaFest Brings Together the Upstroke Community for 5th Year

by Alejandra Melian-Morse
@AMelianMorse

Dig up those old Hawaiian shirts and dust off that goofy fedora—Montreal's premiere ska festival, SkaFest, has hit the city once again.

Ska music is an attractive hybrid that blends the upbeat intensity of punk, with the fun and laidback attitude of reggae. But it originated before either of those genres even existed—by Jamaican musicians trying to emulate the British pop music they heard broadcasted on the radio in the '50s.

Horns such as trombones and trumpets are also often thrown into the mix, making live shows a grand spectacle.

"Skanking" is a type of dancing popular at these shows, a mix between a silly chicken dance and moshing, which embodies the goofy fun spirit of ska music.

Popular ska bands today include Reel Big Fish, the Aquabats and Montreal's The Planet Smashers, among many others.

Valerie Desnoyers, president and executive director of the festival and the Montreal Ska Society, is determined to keep the scene alive.

"Being at the festival and seeing how happy the bands are and how happy the crowd is [...] makes it

worth it. It's just a big party," Desnoyers told *The Link*.

"When you bring the whole community together and see that Montreal has something to offer, it works out."

Ska fosters a vibrant core community, and while the genre's popularity has dwindled over the years, solidarity among the die-hard skankers has only strengthened.

"The ska community is timeless," said Desnoyers.

"There are people that were there 30 years ago, since the beginning [...] and there are also the young people coming from the punk scene. They're playing faster music that's more energetic, but it's still part of the scene."

"There's people of every age, every origin," she continued. "I think ska can appeal to anybody. It doesn't go with certain values or beliefs or religions so it's really accessible."

Kristin "K-Man" Daniel, singer and guitarist of Montreal-based K-Man and the 45s, agreed, saying it's easier to make friends at a ska show than nearly anywhere else.

"You're just interested in having a really good time and you'll meet people who want to have a really good time as well," he said.

K-Man and the 45s have had two cross-Canada tours in the past six months, making friends and building their fan base all over the country.

"On the first tour you see all these people at your show, then the next time you come around town you see all the same people but you see their friends too," K-Man said.

"It just grows, you just watch it expand."

It's that growing number of fans that the band has in mind when making new music.

"I try to write songs thinking about how it's going to go over live," said Daniel. "Live, you have people in front of you sweating it out and you want to be able to have that energy and songs that will deliver on that level as well."

But as well written as a song may be, it's nothing without a good performance.

"I think you have to give it everything you have every single time you play," Daniel continued. "If I'm not drained at the end of a show I feel like I've ripped somebody off."

But Daniel says ska shows have a way of energizing you, with the crowds and bands playing off each other.

"Sometimes the audience will give you that energy when you start feeling tired. They give it back and you take in their energy and mirror it right back on them," he said.

The band's latest album, *The Ska-mones Vol. 1*, is a tribute to American rockers The Ramones.

The album re-appropriates the

classic punk anthems into ska jams, all while trying to stay true to its original intent.

According to Daniel, being respectful to the music means feeling it as if it were your own.

"Make it as real as possible to yourself," he said.

"Do it with as much intensity as they might have done it when they wrote these songs. Treat them as fresh."

Ska music today is indeed all about taking classic sounds and making them new—mixing reggae, punk, orchestral elements and even jazz opens up endless possibilities in music writing.

"The more things that you're into, the more open-minded you'll be. You'll be touched by more cultures," Daniel said.

"I grew up with a lot of older musicians that kept me grounded in the roots of the music, but then the street culture made a nice layer on top of that."

Defending Ska-Punk

With constant blending and renewals, it seems the genre is perpetually moving forward—which is why both Daniel and Desnoyers reject the claim that ska is a genre that's dying out.

"I think maybe we're going to-

wards something new [...] but it's definitely not dying," said Desnoyers.

"We're seeing more and more bands picking up the style and wanting to do ska so it's in movement. It could be bigger, but I think it's always going to stay underground," she continued.

"I think the next few years are going to bring us some good stuff from Montreal."

Daniel said that Montreal "is known as one of the best ska scenes around," and that it's the city's dedication to the music that keeps SkaFest going.

"Montreal has a lot of talent [to offer]," said Desnoyers.

"I think everybody's willing to put aside their own personal goals to make it work together."

"People are joining forces, putting the Montreal scene more on the map," she continued.

The result is a festival that benefits everyone involved and strengthens the tight-knit community.

"As long as the community wants it to happen, we're going to keep doing it," Desnoyers said.

Montreal SkaFest // Oct. 16 to Oct. 20 // Club Soda (1225 St. Laurent Blvd.), Café Campus (57 Prince-Arthur St. E.) and others // 8 p.m. // \$5 to \$25

FRINGE CALENDAR OCT. 15 - OCT. 21 by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

MUSIC

1 Hip-Hop Karaoke: East Coast vs. West Coast Edition
Oct. 17
Le Belmont sur le Boulevard (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.)
10 p.m.
\$5 before 11 p.m., \$10 after
Which coast do you represent? This month's HHK will pit the Pacific vs. the Atlantic, Biggie vs. Tupac and more in a friendly rivalry, bringing the good times of karaoke performances and on-stage contests along with it.

2 What Comes to Life + Adam's Always Late
Oct. 18
Reggie's Bar (1455 Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)
8 p.m.
Free admission
With Reggie's closing for the foreseeable future due to renovations, local bands are throwing a free farewell concert in homage to Concordia's go-to on-campus drinking spot. A night of fast punk, hard rock and funky melodies is in store.

3 Ab-Soul + Joey Bada\$\$ + Pro Era
Oct. 19
Arena Montreal (2313 St. Catherine St. W.)
7 p.m.
\$30 Early Bird, \$60 VIP
Part of the Smokers Club Tour, this pro-420 show features almost a dozen "one love" rap artists, with tickets available at your local High Times head shop.

FILM

4 Bike Smut 7: The Porny Express [18+]
Oct. 17
Café Cléopâtre (1230 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8 p.m.
Free admission (pay what you can)
Blending sex-positive attitudes and beloved two-wheeled transportation, this international travelling film festival is a celebration of all things "bike-sexual." It features DIY short films from all around the world, making this underground film fest truly one of a kind.

THEATRE

5 Spring Awakening: The Musical
Oct. 17 to Oct. 27
Centre culturel Calixa-Lavallée (3819 Calixa-Lavallée Ave.)
8 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
\$20 student, \$30 general
Based on the legendary 19th-century play Spring Awakening, the Tony Award-winning musical adaptation features contemporary music and 21st century themes, making the old tale relevant once again.

COMEDY

6 Yarn, Rocktoberfest Edition
Oct. 16
Le Cagibi (5490 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8 p.m.
\$5
Yarn is a live comedic storytelling show, put on by a collection of young writers, improvisers, comedians and more. They describe their act as being like a "live buddy movie." Think Jim Carrey's *Dumb and Dumber*, but onstage.

LITERATURE

7 Fall Fiction Feast
Oct. 17
Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore (211 Bernard St. W.)
7 p.m.
Free admission
A collaborative book launch for four new literary works, this fiction feast will feature quirky short stories, haunting novel tales, and a range of other sweet fiction dishes that will tease your publication palate and satisfy your craving for the written word.

OTHER

8 Les samedis soirs du patin libre
Oct. 19
St. Louis Arena (5633 St. Dominique St.)
7:30 p.m.
\$8 advance, \$10 door
Ice rinks in Europe are often bursting with spontaneous, carefree dance by ice skaters—and Le Patin Libre, Montreal's first contemporary skating company, wants to spread those vibes to Canada. Their skating extravaganza will feature a DJ and seek to re-appropriate the ice rink as a space for dance and artistic expression, not just cold toes and falling down.

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Check out more listings online at
thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar

FRINGE GIVEAWAY—
ADVANCED SCREENING
OF *BAD GRANDPA*

GET YOUR PRUNE JUICE AND VODKA READY

If you're a fan of Sacha Baron Cohen's mockumentaries and ridiculous characters, or of *Jackass's* hijinks, then *Bad Grandpa* is the comedy for you. Outlandish prankster and stuntman Johnny Knoxville goes undercover in full prosthetics and makeup as an 86 year-old grandfather and raises hell across America—turning himself into the badass senior we all hope to become one day.

We have five prize packs with two tickets each for you and a friend to attend the advanced English screening at Scotiabank Theatre (977 Ste. Catherine St. W.) on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. To enter, like us on Facebook and like our *Bad Grandpa* sweepstakes post. We'll choose the winners at random next week, so stay tuned!



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VIDEO MASTERCLASS

Want to be a visual journalist?

We'll be going over the finer points of *The Link's* video content with a workshop led by former Coordinating Editor Julia Jones, who is now working in film production.

Learn what steps to take when setting up a shoot, and avoid common mistakes. Get acquainted with our new video team and lend a hand with a Live Session or two.

Friday, Oct. 25

4:00 p.m.

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



UNBEATABLE BEES

Stingers Women’s Rugby Cap Off Perfect Season with 77-0 Win

by David S. Landsman @dslands

The gameplan was simple: run, hit, score and win to stay perfect.

And the Stingers women’s rugby team did just that last Thursday, overwhelming the last-place Bishop’s Gaiters 77-0 in their season finale at Concordia Stadium.

The win gave the Collegiate Interuniversity Sport nationally third-ranked team a flawless 7-0 regular season record and the top spot in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec Conference standings.

“So far so good,” said Stingers head coach Graeme McGravie. “Though our idea of a perfect season is winning all the season games and playoffs too.”

Thursday night’s contest was over early, with the Maroon and Gold cruising to a commanding 28-0 lead midway through the first half.

Fourth-year flanker Cara Stuckey led the team with 15 points on three tries en route to the game’s MVP honour for Concordia.

In contrast to the Stingers, the Gaiters ended their season winless, only scoring five points all year—and giving up 526.

At halftime the Stingers were running away

with it 45-0, with Bishop’s looking exhausted. Nothing worked for the Gaiters, who simply couldn’t keep up as Concordia went on to add 32 second-half points to seal the victory.

Second-year Stingers fullback Sandra Hudson was solid in her cleats, successfully earning six conversions and finishing the tilt with 12 points. Three of the other Stingers—Emily Hickson, Laura Pollice and Alexandra Tessier—were equally dominant, each completing two tries for 10 points apiece.

Hickson and Tessier also happen to be rookies on McGravie’s squad, and he’s proud of what he sees in the youngsters.

“We have a strong core group of players up and down the lineup,” said McGravie. “Last year we were underdogs, and now this year we came out strong and continued all season.”

Tessier was pleased with the team’s effort. “I think we did well, we were very good at executing our plays,” she said.

“We ended on a very good note.”

Absent from the turf on Thursday was the veteran presence of Hughanna Gaw, who sat the game out to be well rested for the playoffs.

Gaw, who missed the entire 2012 season recovering from knee surgery, will be in full-

force, ready-to-go mode come the semifinals.

“It really feels great, and it’s reminiscent of the last time we had a perfect season and went to the finals at nationals,” said Gaw. “I would really love to get to do that again.”

The last time the Stingers finished the season with a perfect record, in 2010, the team reached the National Championship but couldn’t bring the title home, dropping the gold medal game 17-12 in overtime to the St. Francis Xavier X-Women.

The Stingers missed out on nationals in the ensuing season, but returned in 2012 after edging out the Laval Rouge et Or 35-34 at Telus-UL Stadium in last season’s conference final.

With home-field advantage throughout the provincial playoffs as a result of finishing atop the conference standings this season, the road back to the National Championship may be an easier task this time around: the Stingers outscored opponents a whopping 173-10 in their three games at Concordia Stadium this year.

“We will enjoy [playing at home] that’s for sure, but we don’t let the road games bother us,” said McGravie.

“However, it does feel nice to sleep in your own bed the night before.”

Getting to perfection wasn’t a breeze for the Stingers.

After blowing out the Carleton Ravens 51-7 in the season opener, the team beat Laval and McGill University by only a combined 34-20. In their fourth game of the season, against the Sherbrooke Vert et Or, the Stingers were down early before coming back to escape with a 27-15 victory.

“Being down by 10 to Sherbrooke in the first five minutes wasn’t easy,” said McGravie.

“We saw a lull that week and knew we had to be better. We addressed it and then had a very convincing win [62-17] over Ottawa the following week.”

It’s the kind of resilience that has McGravie confident his team can bring home its first-ever National Championship.

“This year we have the target on our back,” said a smiling McGravie.

“We’re pretty comfortable so far. This year, it’s more ours to lose rather than ours to win.”

The Stingers will take on fourth-place Laval in the provincial semifinals at Concordia Stadium. The date and time of the game have yet to be determined.

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Photos Matt Garies



Photo Cassandra Nadeau

NATIONAL GUESTS

Stingers Head to Nationals for the 5th Time in 7 Years

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

On Saturday afternoon, the Carleton Ravens baseball team arrived at Trudeau Park to face the Concordia Stingers, sporting “We’re Going To Nattys” T-shirts—“nattys” being short for nationals, where Carleton and five other universities will battle it out to be crowned the best team in the country.

With bragging rights and a higher seed at nationals on the line the Ravens, who like the Stingers qualified for the national championship by virtue of having made it to the conference finals, were nonetheless looking to make a statement with their sense of style.

But it was the Stingers who made themselves heard loud and clear, doing their talk on the diamond.

After Carleton swept the Stingers in last year’s conference semifinals, the Maroon and Gold returned the favour this year with two straight victories in their doubleheader at Trudeau Park over the weekend to claim the best-of-three Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association Northern Conference title.

Both games featured strong performances from Concordia’s pitching rotation, as well as timely hitting from their batting order. The conference championship capped off a stellar regular season for the Stingers, where the team finished with an impressive 13-3 record.

“I think they really convinced me that they can do anything they want at any time,” said team manager Howie Schwartz moments after clinching the conference title.

Game 1 of the series ended with a 4-1 scoreline, headlined by a performance to remember from Stingers pitcher Jonathan Raftus, who pitched a complete game, brought a no-hitter and helped establish a 4-0 lead into the seventh inning.

The score was 1-0 until the sixth inning,

where the Stingers scored three runs, bumping the score up in their favour. The Ravens eventually got to Raftus in the seventh and scored a run, but by then it was too, little too late.

“It was one of the better performances of my year, probably of my career,” said Raftus. “I’ve never had a no-hitter going into the seventh inning like that, so that was pretty special.”

Game 2 started promisingly for the Stingers as they took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. It would be short-lived, however, with pitcher Roberto Zapata allowing four runs in the very next inning, allowing one more in the fourth before giving way to reliever Daniel Connerty.

Connerty gave up a run of his own that inning, but it would be Carleton’s last score of the game. At the bottom of the inning Concordia mounted its comeback, taking advantage of back-to-back fielding errors in the Carleton outfield to score four runs, tying the game at 6-6.

The game-winning run for Concordia came in the bottom of the sixth inning, when a Carleton outfielder caught a sacrifice fly in foul territory, allowing the Stingers to tag up and score to take the lead for good at 7-6.

The comeback was nothing new for Connerty and his teammates.

“It’s happened throughout the year,” said Connerty, who was awarded the win. “The coaching staff’s always told us: the good teams always find a way to win, regardless of the situation.”

Closer Andre Lagarde came in as a stopgap in the seventh inning for the save and, more importantly, helped ensure the team would not have to make a trip to Ottawa for a third game in the series.

“We didn’t want to go Carleton,” said Lagarde. “There’s no way we wanted to go on a bus ride [there]. No way.”

The team will still have to go on another bus ride, but the trip to Windsor, Ont. for

the national championship later this week will likely be more energizing than a trip to a third conference finals game.

“[We’re] really excited,” said Lagarde. “We’re pumped!”

The team isn’t short of confidence, either. “We’re a pretty damn good team, I would say,” said Connerty.

While the players are chomping at the bit to make a memorable run in nationals, it seems no one wants the title more than Schwartz.

“I definitely want the hardware,” he said. “Every team [I’ve coached] deserves it. I’ve loved every team I’ve coached but these guys are really special.

“I really want it for these guys,” he continued.

Perhaps what makes this squad so special is the fact it features 14 rookies on the 25-man roster—the most Schwartz, who founded the Stingers baseball club in 1999, says he’s ever had on a team. But while the experience in Windsor will be brand new to those first-year players, it’s familiar territory to Schwartz.

“We’ve [now] been to nationals five times in the last seven years; we know the good teams, we know what’s out there,” he said.

Still, knowing what to expect and winning it all are two different things. Despite all their recent trips to nationals, the team only has one national championship to its name—a win over Cape Breton in 2009.

Concordia made it back to nationals the next two seasons in a row, being bounced both times in the semifinals, before losing the conference semifinals last season.

If one thing’s for sure, it’s that Schwartz doesn’t expect to leave this year’s playoffs empty-handed.

“I don’t care who we’re playing,” he said. “I think we have enough to beat anybody, anytime.”

The 2013 CIBA National Championship will take place in Windsor, Ont. from Oct. 18 to Oct. 20.

BOXSCORES WEEK OF OCT. 7 TO OCT. 13



Saturday, Oct. 12	Men’s Hockey—Concordia 2, University of Guelph 3
	Men’s Basketball—Concordia 68, University of British Columbia 76 (UBC Tournament)
	Baseball—Concordia 7, Carleton University 6 (Game 2, best-of-3 conference finals)
	Women’s Basketball—Concordia 58, University of Windsor 72 (non-conference)
Friday, Oct. 11	Baseball—Concordia 4, Carleton University 1 (Game 1, best-of-3 conference finals)
	Men’s Rugby—Concordia 31, École de technologie supérieure 3
Thursday, Oct. 10	Men’s Hockey—Concordia 2, University of Western Ontario 3 (OT)
	Women’s Basketball—Concordia 52, University of Windsor 60 (non-conference)
	Men’s Basketball—Concordia 68, Thompson Rivers University 79 (UBC Tournament)

Friday, Oct. 11	Men’s Rugby—Concordia 31, École de technologie supérieure 3
	Men’s Hockey—Concordia 2, University of Western Ontario 3 (OT)
	Women’s Basketball—Concordia 52, University of Windsor 60 (non-conference)
Thursday, Oct. 10	Men’s Basketball—Concordia 68, Thompson Rivers University 79 (UBC Tournament)
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	Baseball—Concordia 4, Carleton University 1 (Game 1, best-of-3 conference finals)

Wednesday, Oct. 9	Men’s Hockey—Concordia 3, University of Ontario Institute of Technology 2
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UPCOMING GAMES THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Wednesday, Oct. 16 7:00 p.m.	Men’s Hockey at UQTR Patriotes
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Friday, Oct. 18	TBA	Women’s Basketball at Ryerson tournament
	6:30 p.m.	Men’s Soccer vs. UQTR Patriotes (Concordia Stadium)
	7:00 p.m.	Men’s Basketball vs. Ottawa Gee-Gees (Concordia Gym)
Saturday, Oct. 19	8:30 p.m.	Women’s Soccer vs. UQTR Patriotes (Concordia Stadium)
	TBA	Women’s Basketball at Ryerson tournament

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Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports



Genivar manages most of Concordia's major construction projects, including the recent batch of renovations to the Hall Building escalators. Photo Erin Sparks

CONCORDIA'S CHARBONNEAU CONNECTION

Why is Concordia Still Doing Business with Genivar?

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Enter Concordia's Guy-Metro Building and head to the third floor to come across an office space belonging to Genivar Inc., a Canadian engineering consulting firm and one of the largest of its kind in the province.

It's not terribly shocking that the university provides space for external businesses on campus, especially one that the university regularly deals with, but what raises red flags is the fact that Genivar has been named repeatedly in the Charbonneau Commission as being heavily involved in collusion in Quebec's construction industry.

Despite allegations of corruption against Genivar, the university has continued to include them in its construction projects.

Headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice France Charbonneau, the eponymous commission began in October 2011. It aims to shed light on activities involving corruption and collusion in the way public construction contracts are managed in the province, as well as to find possible solutions to help rehabilitate the industry.

So far the commission has led to the resignation of former Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay, interim mayor Michael Applebaum and former Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt.

Those who have testified have painted a dark and depressing portrait of the Quebec construction industry characterized by intimidation, threats, bid rigging and millions of dollars being funneled into political parties at both the municipal and provincial level.

Former Genivar vice-president François Perreault testified in March before the commission, stating that subcontractors like Exécut routinely invoiced Genivar without the latter ever having performed any actual services.

Exécut made headlines earlier this year when an employee of the Terrebonne-based construction company was sentenced to two years in jail for fraud related to the company's involvement with Genivar.

Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota said that Genivar being named in the Charbonneau Commission isn't cause for the university to rethink its relationship with the company—but why not? Being linked to an organization that has been named in an inquiry into just how deep corruption runs in Quebec construction projects can bring no good to Concordia's reputation.

The university certainly doesn't need any more bad press, especially in relation to how they manage their money.

The projects that Genivar and Concordia collaborate on are by no means insignificant: the John Molson School of Business Building ended up costing \$118.5 million, while the current renovations of H-110 will reportedly cost \$4.25 million. These aren't minute sums to the university, and it's important that the money goes towards a company that has a cleaner record than Genivar allegedly does.

Genivar isn't the only engineering consulting firm in the city, and accepting that the university will not switch to a different, less shady organization despite the tangible ties to corrupt practices being uncovered is a tough pill to swallow.

From a purely financial standpoint, it makes little sense to be involved with a company that has allegedly been invoiced for services it ultimately never provided, although that might explain why our escalators are constantly broken (Genivar was involved in the latest batch of renovations to the Hall building escalators).

It's distressing that the university has chosen to involve Genivar in such high profile and important projects when the company is supposedly so heavily involved in the province's deep-rooted problems of corruption and collusion.

It sends a message to the Concordia community—and to the city as a whole—that the university is not overly concerned about the implications that come with being involved with such companies; nor does it matter if a company is named repeatedly in the Charbonneau Commission—they can still find people more than happy to give them more money.

It's a reality that is represented in Genivar's financial statements: the company's profits have consistently grown, with their second-quarter earnings jumping nearly 200 per cent.

While Mota maintained that Genivar was the best candidate for the job, it seems impossible to believe that an organization linked to false invoices and shadowy behaviour could be best suited to play such a significant role at Concordia.

To make matters worse, Genivar isn't the only Charbonneau-linked company that Concordia has connections with. EBC, the

general contractor in charge of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex at Loyola, has been cited as one of the key players in the system of collusion currently under investigation by the commission.

In light of this, it's even more pertinent that Concordia reconsider the organizations it associates itself with. Our badly battered reputation is at stake, but so is the hope that these companies will be penalized for their actions.

Rewarding them with prestigious building contracts and projects to oversee accomplishes nothing; it merely reinforces the idea that things like bid rigging and systemic corruption are acceptable.

Concordia ought to start looking for a different contractor, one that doesn't have such direct ties to allegations of corruption that see the price of construction inflated 25 to 30 per cent; one that did not engage in bid rigging for public contracts; one that did not allegedly donate \$200,000 to now-defunct municipal party Union Montréal at the request of the party's director of financing, Bernard Trépanier.

The university has been penalized time and time again for its financial mismanagement, whether it's in the form of a \$2-million fine from the provincial government for the school's hefty severance packages, or from donors withdrawing their pledges because of the way Concordia handles its funds.

Having the relationship it currently does to Genivar will do the university no favours. It's time Concordia put an end to it.



EXCUSES GET US NOWHERE

The Way Harassment is Handled Needs to Change

by Karina Licursi

Four years ago, while I was still living in Montreal North—an area scarred by media portrayal as a dangerous place—I was stalked for almost an entire month.

I was 17 and getting ready for my final year of high school. He lived across the boulevard; his age doesn't matter. Things began innocently enough, with him driving past me, attempting to start a conversation. I ignored his efforts because these types of scenarios were quite common for me, and they didn't usually pose a threat.

Things escalated, however, and eventually every time I left the apartment, whether it was to walk my dog or go to the grocery store, he would be there with his car. He would constantly pursue a conversation, and once, as I was about to cross the street, he blocked my path with his car.

One night he drove away slowly as I was walking home, and I took the chance to memorize his licence plate. My mother, already aware of the situation, called the police.

We had his address, his license plate number, his physical description—you would think that would be enough to push the police to pursue the issue. Instead, they simply told us that they were unable to interfere “unless something actually happens.”

He moved away not long after the incident, so my experience, while traumatic, ultimately didn't end tragically. Many others are not so fortunate.

Time and time again the victim becomes the one to blame in instances of assault or harassment. Rationalizations always spring up, with people making claims like, “If they [the victim] knew they were in danger, they could have done something beforehand.”

Police and authority figures use these attitudes as a way of simply sweeping harassment cases under the rug, rather than addressing the incidents and their broader causes head-on.

Greater barriers need to be put into place to prevent people from feeling threatened by aggressive figures. Police need to be more present and involved if someone feels they are being pursued, so that if an act of violence oc-

curs they can be there to catch the perpetrator.

Discussions on how to combat harassment and assault are crucial. It's unacceptable for these dialogues to be covered up or considered taboo. The same excuses will be used as a way of justifying harassment and nothing will change; nothing will move forward.

“It happens all the time,” goes a common refrain dismissing harassment and assault complaints. Ironically, that's exactly right, and it means there's more need than ever to work to fix things. Frequency is not an excuse; it's something that should spark a response or, at the very least, a change in policy.

“It's always been this way,” goes another. Justifying assault by claiming it was once acceptable not only represents an absurdly selective reading of history, but also an incredible laziness in confronting and understanding these issues.

Even if these distorted versions of history were accurate, there really is no reason to define our current standards by what may have existed in the past.

What's needed now is philosophical introspection when it comes to men and

women, the roles they're assigned, and how our society reinforces them, coupled with real action on the part of institutions.

Had my situation been a Hollywood movie, the story would've ended happily ever after; I would've realized what a wonderful person this predator could be. The passive aggressive female meets the assertive, dutiful male. It should go without saying how ridiculous this scenario is.

Perhaps the most reductive thing about these dismissive stances is their outright neglect of the psychological aspects of assault and harassment, framing the issues solely in terms of physical contact.

Although a person's body is their physical identity, it has no necessary correlation to their self. We ought to quit seeing each other like pieces of clay to be molded, and we should not reduce relationships between two people, physical or otherwise, to mere business transactions or penances.

We're simply worth more than that. We can do better.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

After weeks of anticipation, *The Link's* by-elections are here! Here's who's running for what:

COORDINATING EDITOR
Geoffrey Vendeville

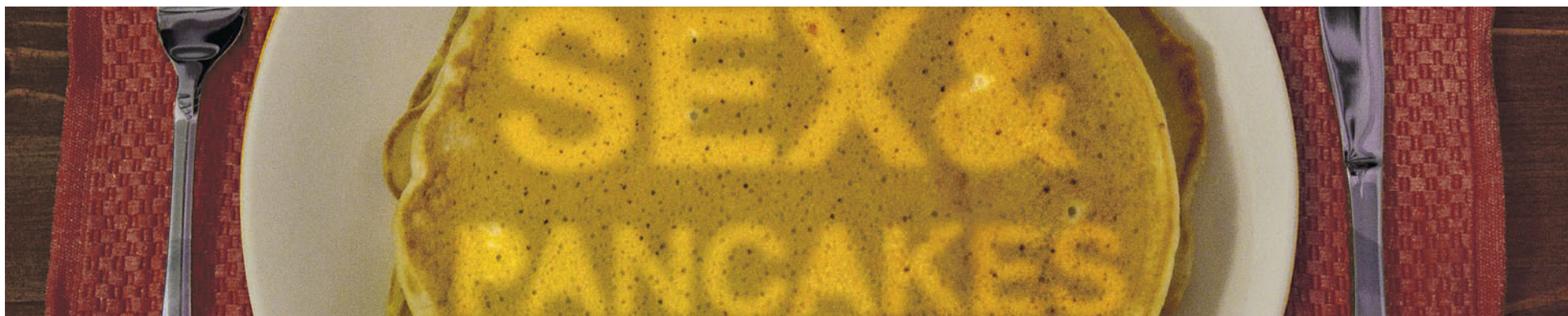
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR
Michael Wrobel

PHOTO AND VIDEO EDITOR
Brandon Johnston

FRINGE ARTS ONLINE EDITOR
Alejandra Melian-Morse and Riley Stativa

SPORTS ONLINE EDITOR
David Landsman

The following people are eligible to vote:
Alex Callard, Paku Daoust-Cloutier, Josh Dixon, Betty Fisher, Melissa Fuller, Alex Gauthier, David Landsman, Liana di Iorio, Brandon Johnston, Alejandra Melian-Morse, Riley Stativa, Geoffrey Vendeville and all current *Link* masthead.



THE ACE OF CUPS

I used to see and experience my period the same way I still see many women around me do: as an inconvenience, as waste, as something gross or unnatural that my body did. But this all started to change after a column I wrote two years ago.

The topic was on how to have an eco-friendly period, and doing the research for that column actually convinced me to switch from tampons to the menstrual cup, which I've been using since. It's been such a positive change that I've found myself constantly advocating for others to give it a try, so this week's and next week's columns will be dedicated to sharing my reasons for making the switch, as well as changes I've noticed since doing so.

There are three major things that stuck with me after doing my initial research: the toxic chemi-

cals that are introduced into the body through tampons, the fact that tampons disrupt self-regulation by absorbing fluids that are critical for balancing pH levels and other factors in the vagina, and the cost difference between the cup and tampons.

Many of us are concerned, and rightly so, with informing ourselves on the products we purchase and what we put in our bodies, but it can be easy to overlook the products we use to deal with our periods.

It's seen as a given that we use either tampons or pads, and many of us will never really question either of these products or seek out alternatives.

We end up using scented tampons with long applicators and strings so that we never have to touch ourselves while menstruating. We're constantly told that this

completely natural bodily function is dirty, but that the products we use will keep us clean.

In reality these products are anything but clean as they usually contain pesticides, used to grow the cotton they're made of, and are bleached to give them that clean, sterile, white look that is the antithesis of the dirtiness we're conditioned to associate with menstruation.

You won't read about the presence of these chemicals on the side of a tampon box because the companies that make feminine hygiene products have no legal requirements to include the contents of their products in their packaging.

The second major issue is that tampons absorb all the fluid in your vagina. You know the last day of your period when you don't bleed enough—or at all—for the tampon to absorb fully, so you sometimes end up having to pull

out a dry tampon? This happens because tampons aren't selective with absorption and will absorb any fluid present in the vagina, including its natural lubricating fluid and discharge.

These fluids are essential to regulating overall vaginal health, so their absorption can result in dryness or abnormal pH levels, which can then lead to yeast infections and other irritations. Tampons can also leave fragments of material behind when pulled out dry or even wet.

Finally, you can't ignore the drastically lower price tag! The cost difference between spending \$30 to \$40 on a menstrual cup that can last up to five years instead of around \$900 for tampons that will last the same amount of time definitely caught my interest.

But these are just general facts and reasons why I first made the

decision to switch. Two years since switching, I've observed and experienced some pretty major changes for myself and I constantly find myself sharing them with people every time the topic of menstruation comes up.

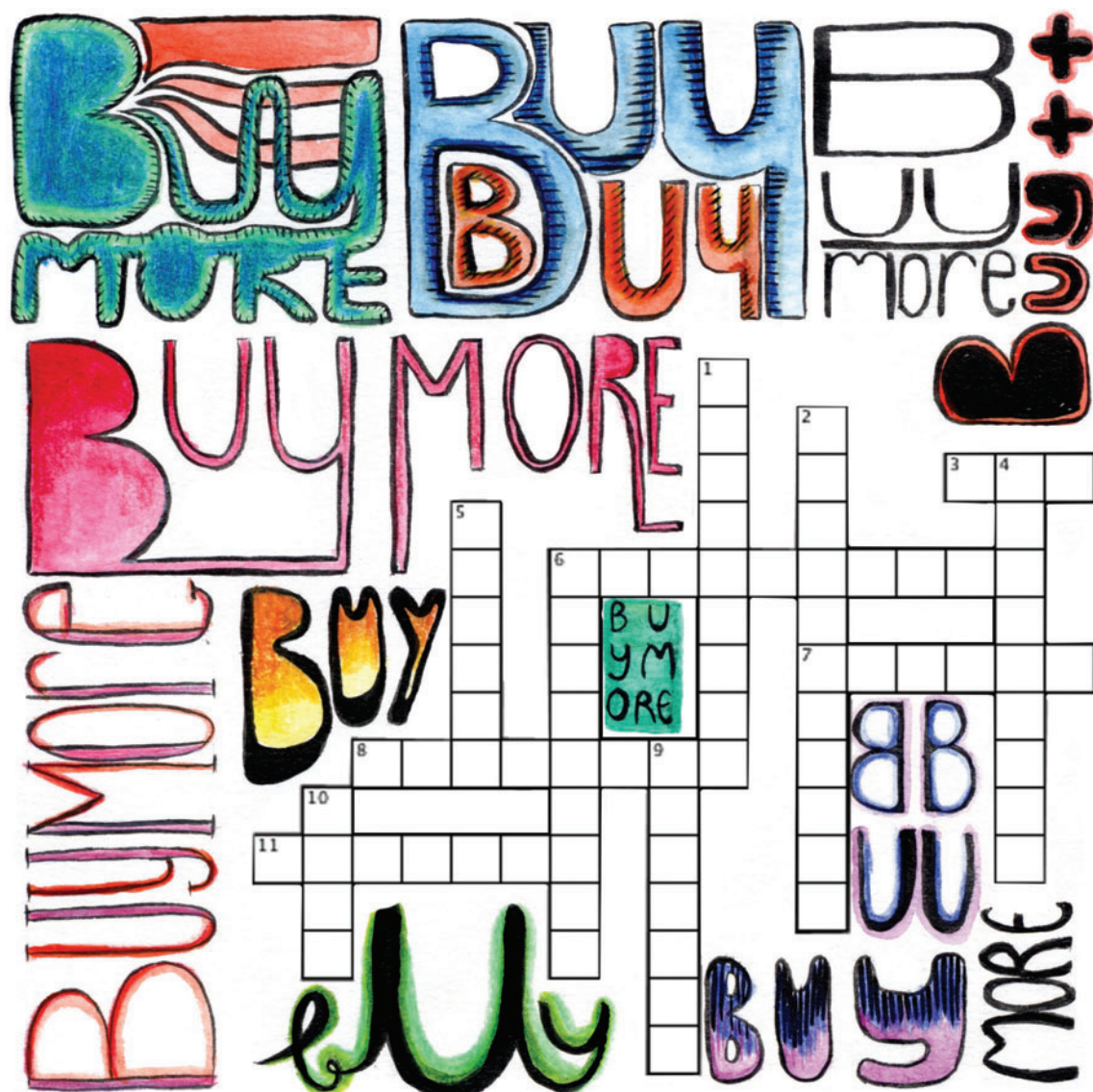
I truly believe using menstrual cups, especially the Diva Cup, can change the way women experience their periods, and thus their relationship with their body, for the better.

Check out next week's Sex & Pancakes to find out about my personal experience with the cup!

—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!



BRANDED ON THE INSIDE OF YOUR EYES

by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

ACROSS

- ▶ 3. "Canada Lives Here" is the latest slogan for this Canadian broadcaster, home to The Strombo Show and Hockey Night in Canada.
- ▶ 6. The "Happiest Place on Earth." Also home to the longest lines to meet a princess on earth, and to the most expensive hot dogs on earth.
- ▶ 7. New to Canada, this retailer entices customers with its "Expect More. Pay Less" catchphrase, although it should be "like Wal-Mart, but a bit fancier."
- ▶ 8. This city's famous "What Happens Here, Stays Here" campaign started in 1991 and was voted one of the most effective slogans in history. Reno's equivalent was less successful. (2 words)
- ▶ 11. True to its name, this company encourages you to "Broadcast Yourself" (which may just mean singing Bon Iver covers into your mirror).

DOWN

- ▶ 1. Few people know that Justin Timberlake introduced this company's current catchy jingle.
- ▶ 2. This ever-evolving gaming brand invites everyone to play with its tagline, "Live in Your World, Play in Ours" (we'd rather forget the squirrel ads).
- ▶ 4. The so-called "King of Beers," if you like oddly expensive mediocre beer.
- ▶ 5. David Beckham, Katy Perry, Run-D.M.C. and others are all-in for this company, which claims "Impossible is Nothing."
- ▶ 6. While IMAX urges us all to think big and Volkswagen says to think small, Apple (often tastelessly) invites us to think _____.
- ▶ 9. Harley Davidson's "American by Birth. Rebel by Choice" is embodied in TV network FX's biker drama "Sons of _____."
- ▶ 10. This company's 2013 "You Are More Beautiful Than You Think" campaign went viral, and spawned a handful of parodies.

.....
Graphic Flora Hammond

POWER THEATRE COMIC ALEX CALLARD



QUÉBÉCOIS 101 COMIC PAKU DAoust-CLOUTIER



Mettons (met-tohn): "Mettons" is the abbreviation of "admettons" which comes from the verb admettre (to admit). The expression "mettons que..." roughly translates to "let's say that..." It should not be confused with "nous mettons" which is the first person present tense of the verb "mettre."

FALSE KNEES COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN? You Don't Win Friends With Fake Salad

I love a good salad. Give me some green beans, a few slices of cucumber, a couple leaves of lettuce and a bit of broccoli and I'm happy as a clam. That's a salad.

What really gets my goat is when people proudly tout their macaroni *monstrosity* and dare to tack the word "salad" onto its name. A salad has green things in it. A salad has vegetables. A salad *does not* consist of cold pasta and mayonnaise.

I'm sure your plate of bocconcini and basil is great, but quit pretending it's a legitimate salad. Give me a break. If 50 per cent of the ingredients in your so-called salad are cheese then you cannot seriously claim it deserves that title.

Don't get me wrong; I love eating mounds of cheese and I do it all the time. But at least I have the good sense to recognize that a dish consisting mainly of dairy products with a few slices of tomato thrown in for good measure is not exactly salad material (though it sure is damn tasty).

Pasta "salad" is arguably a greater offence than a jumble of cheese and tomatoes is. Even when it has a few stray slices of red pepper or some baby corn thrown into the mix, it's still an insult to genuine salads everywhere.

For some reason that remains beyond me, people have just been getting away with this overly liberal use of the term. I say it's high time that a new word was created for salad shams like pasta "salad," just to avoid confusion and rage-filled rants by people like me.

I am currently accepting submissions for this dynamic new term that will accurately describe such abominations—right now I'm thinking of the word "choontz." Chicken and egg "salad" will obviously qualify as well; how someone mistook those mayo-slathered messes for a salad we may never know.

Wake up sheeple, you don't win friends with fake salad.

—Erin Sparks, Managing Editor



Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Editorial



RULES AREN'T MADE TO BE BROKEN

At last week's Concordia Student Union council meeting, some tension surfaced within the executive.

Pledges to make the union more accountable—namely, financial oversight and fee levy vote policy—were seen by some as impediments to getting things done.

Last year, the CSU's financial committee struggled to hold regular meetings and the budget was blown.

VP Finance Scott Carr was elected on a platform of putting the CSU's fiscal house in order, and over the summer financial controls were amended to require FinCom to approve any spending.

However, council voted at their most recent meeting to make that approval apply only to expenditures over \$1,000.

Considering last year's union broke their student life budget by throwing a \$9,000 party for themselves—and that CSU spending on

a poorly-attended ASFA event went unchecked—we think a stronger FinCom is a great idea. The union can't be taken seriously if there are still concerns being raised about their spending.

Having such checks and balances also makes working for the union more attractive for business-minded students. Overseeing budgets of millions of dollars only looks good on a CV if it's with a reputable organization.

Considering we have a world-class business school, it only makes sense to try and build a climate attractive for those serious about accounting.

But the biggest source of tension right now seems to surround the Concordia Food Coalition.

There are clearly divergent opinions on the executive about what to do, and council is divided on the issue, too. A motion to allow the CFC a chance at an increased

fee levy this semester failed 4-3, with the discussion to be continued at a special meeting later this week.

The CFC didn't file all its paperwork in time to meet the union's standing regulations for fee levy referendum requests, and while they can be exempted from this rule with a two-thirds majority vote from council, being short on time this semester just doesn't seem like a good enough reason for skirting council regulations.

A fee levy is a huge undertaking that leads to giving a small group access to thousands of dollars of student money. Rushing a fee levy increase seems like the wrong time to exempt a motion from Council's standing regulations.

An argument for providing an exemption for the CFC is that it would've needed to get its paperwork filed at the beginning of September, something they failed to do. But hav-

ing the application process span a number of months is an important safeguard to make sure student money is being spent responsibly.

Like the new regulations that gave FinCom power over expenses, the fee levy policy works to keep student money from being abused. CUTV (under management that is no longer affiliated with the station) was given this exemption before, and last year's spending is still under scrutiny.

If there are issues with these regulations, then they can be amended. It happened last winter, when the three-month lead-up time was shortened to two months.

But making exemptions for one group is bad practice. Given that the CFC is close to the executive and considering that it's working towards the union's goal of ending Concordia's relationship with Chartwells, it opens the door for

critics to cry favouritism—or discrimination—among fee levy hopefuls who have followed procedure.

We support the CFC's goals, but we also question the validity of pushing ahead with the referendum this semester.

Rebuilding the student body's faith in our union is their biggest task this year. Other goals should not work to undermine that. Well-regulated policy on spending—both by the union and its fee levy groups—is an essential part of fostering that faith.

A special meeting has been called to sort all this CFC business out. Council will have to make the unfortunate choice between denying a time-sensitive student group a shot at funding, and following their own rules.

But it's imperative that Council thinks in the long term when casting their vote on Wednesday.

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Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

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In "Boroughs and Voting Procedure in the City of Montreal" [Vol. 34, Iss. 6], the Ville-Marie borough of Montreal was described as having a borough council composed of "three city councillors: two councillors chosen by the mayor from among the members of city council, and the borough mayor, who is the mayor of Montreal." A grammatical error rendered the information incorrect. The borough council in Ville-Marie is actually composed of five city councillors—three city councillors elected in each of the borough's electoral districts and two city councillors appointed by the mayor—and the mayor of Montreal, who acts as borough mayor. *The Link* regrets the error.

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NOV 7-9
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JASON ROUSE
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