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THIS PAPER IS **RECYCLABLE**

STEPS TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY • A SPECIAL INSERT

Photo of the Week



PHOTO ANDREW SCHARTMANN

Angry tenants went fishing outside the Régie de logement office in Montreal Jan. 26 in an effort to raise awareness about what they see as a systematic injustice. Tenants wait an average of 15 months before getting a hearing before the rental board, they argued, which is far too long for justice to be served. Read more online at thelinknewspaper.ca.

PETITION AGAINST CSU PRESIDENT ON HOLD

Agreement to Reconcile Differences Embraced by All Parties

• LAURA BEESTON

A “ceasefire” agreement has been reached concerning a petition to impeach Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill that began circulating last week.

While issues outlined in the petition remain unresolved, a round-table discussion between the involved student groups and the CSU is in the works.

“We discussed it [and decided] the best course of action was to have a conversation and really lay it on the table, share our grievances and ask our questions,” said Arts and Science Federation of Associations President Alex Gordon, who co-organized the petition with former CSU councillor Tomer Shavit and Commerce and Administration Students’ Association President Marianna Luciano.

“[The petition] was a bold statement that we have issues.

Now that it’s out in the open, we want to find a reasonable way to get by this, move forward with as much unity and synergy as possible, and get back to helping students. So we’ll see what happens after this meeting,” said Gordon.

“I’m going in with good faith to get the answers, documents and accountability I’m looking for.”

The petition, which can be found online at stoplexgill.com, listed the decline of student representation on the Board of Governors, slashed budgets and issues stemming from last semester’s byelection as some of the reasons for Gill to be removed from office.

A parody website called stoplexgill.ca cropped up shortly after.

CSU councillors dismissed the petition at their Jan. 25 meeting as a “waste of time” and unanimously passed a motion of confi-

dence in both Gill and her executives.

It was also determined there is a chance that the petition does not comply with current CSU by-laws, which state that an executive member cannot be recalled individually, but instead must be recalled with the entire executive committee.

For the petition to be considered valid, it would also require at least 10 per cent of all union members, or about 3,500 student signatures.

Over the weekend, Gill explained that “the petition fiasco” stemmed from “rumours, misinformation and unanswered questions,” but once she met with both Gordon and Luciano, all parties decided it wasn’t the most effective way to address the outstanding concerns.

“We came to a consensus that sitting down in a reasonable and diplomatic way and working

through things would be the best thing for students right now,” said Gill. “We felt there was a step missing and a conversation was missing.”

Calling the petition “water under the bridge,” Gill said the goal of the round table was reconciliation. “It’s a much more constructive solution that will allow us to get down to work and fix things,” she said.

Shavit, who took Council to the Judicial Board—an independent ruling body of the CSU—over the firing of former CEO Bram Goldstein last semester, said the future of the petition “really depends on Lex and what she’s willing to concede.”

“I really want answers about the allegations I brought up against her,” said Shavit. “We’ll see if we can reach a constructive way to solve our differences and decide what we want to do after that.”

“We came to a consensus that sitting down in a reasonable and diplomatic way and working through things would be the best thing for students right now,”

—Lex Gill
CSU President

ConU Board Under the Microscope

Next BoG Meeting to
Be Filmed by Student
Gov., Protesters



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

MINIMUM AGREEMENT

• JULIA JONES

The Minimum Agreement, a collection of motions decided on by the Rassemblement national étudiant, will be voted on by potentially disparate student groups with the goal of strengthening their ties in the fight against tuition increases.

The RNE decided that the best way to retain and strengthen ties between the various student groups was to have everyone sign the following three agreements:

- 1) That umbrella student associations refuse to negotiate with the government if the government excludes one of the associations.
- 2) That umbrella student associations do not endorse a proposition from the government to their members, so that the decision is up to the local general assemblies or local instances.
- 3) That all student associations not denounce to the media actions undertaken by other organizations.

Members of the RNE also came to an agreement on the three following issues:

- 1) That their opposition to the tuition hikes is non-negotiable, and that post-graduation tuition tax credits, proportional tax refunds, financial aid improvement, and cuts in public services do not constitute acceptable palliative measures to the issue of tuition fees.
- 2) To support the reinstatement of the tax on financial institutions, adding new levels of enforcement and an increase of taxes on large corporations as alternative solutions to tuition hikes.
- 3) The RNE will invite student associations without a mandate on the issue of tuition hikes to take a position.

• JULIAN WARD

In the wake of Concordia's Board of Governors' refusal to broadcast its own meetings, student-governor A.J. West decided to take matters into his own hands—quite literally.

West is calling for all concerned students and members of the media to bring their own video cameras to film the Feb. 10 meeting, much to the expected chagrin of the camera-shy governors.

"[If security guards try to kick spectators out], then we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. They can't kick us all out of these meetings and they certainly can't kick me out of these meetings," said West.

"Worst-case scenario, I will bring a camera and I will sit it on the Board table and I will film it myself."

Needless to say, the Board of Governors is not impressed with their rogue member.

"Should [the Board's] decision not be respected, the Board of Governors will take appropriate action to ensure that its duly approved decision is respected," said Concordia's senior advisor of external communications, Cléa Desjardins.

Desjardins was unaware of and would not comment on any specific actions the Board may take if faced with a crowd of filming spectators.

West's call-to-action came after the last Board meeting when governors voted down a motion, introduced by graduate-student representative Erik Chevrier, to broadcast and digitally-archive all meetings.

Chevrier originally introduced four motions he says were drafted in the spirit of increasing transparency on the Board—an issue that Board members

had been specifically tasked with improving after a report was released by one of its very own committees.

The report, by the External Governance Review Committee, states that, "Universities are public institutions in that they have a responsibility to serve the broader society. In addition, most Canadian universities are substantially supported by the public purse. University governance processes must, therefore, be transparent in that it should be clear what decisions have been made, by whom, on what basis and why."

And it is on these grounds that West believes he is justified in ignoring the will of the Board.

"The point is, it's not about pissing them off. It's about making the precedent that we're allowed to film. It's just a matter of when there is [something controversial happening at a meeting], we want to be able to film it," said West.

West says that he's not concerned that there will be any legal repercussions, and he appears to be right in that assumption—at least according to an internal memorandum prepared by Concordia's legal advisors.

The document states, "That no permission is required in order to film or record individuals in a public space. However, normally, consent is required prior to broadcasting unless the context of the recording is in the public interest."

It is on this last point that the lawyers were less clear. They say it is arguable either way and undecided as to whether the Board is serving a public interest.

For West, though, the issue is clear-cut: the Board is serving a public interest, he says, because they are funded

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External Governance Review Committee

largely by tax dollars.

"I don't understand why these people on the Board want to represent this university but they don't want the students or the faculty or the staff to be able to see how they're doing it," he said.

West has one final message for the governors who will be on the receiving end of his and potentially many other cameras:

"If the governors of this university don't want to be filmed, then they can leave the boardroom; not only for this meeting—but for each subsequent meeting," he said.

Female Media, Fully Clothed

Panel Discussion Takes Aim at Lack of Women in Media

• LAURA BEESTON

A cursory scan of Canadian daily newspapers will reveal some bleak statistics on gender parity today, as women's perspectives—as both newsmakers and sources—make up only about 20 per cent of all voices being quoted or reported on.

Working to remedy the scarcity of female opinion in the news, Canadian communications expert Shari Graydon is holding a workshop at Concordia on Feb. 1.

Graydon is the founder of Informed Opinions, an online support and training network that features a growing database of female experts. The mandate is to “explicitly bridge the gender gap in public discourse” by using the website as a tool to make female ideas and knowledge more accessible in media.

It's a necessary tool, for despite the gains women have made in the last half-century, their media presence is still lacking.

In a two-week study last spring, Informed Opinions discovered a mere 16 per cent of op-eds published in a six-paper sample were written by women, and female columnists made up 15 per cent of regular contributors in English language dailies.

In the French-language papers, the

number of female columnists was slightly higher, sitting at 23 per cent.

Another study from McMaster University found men were writing 90 per cent of all commentary on politics, national affairs and economics in 2009.

Graydon makes a convincing case on why it's increasingly important to have female voices inform the news: primarily, she argues, it makes for “richer, more relevant and more compelling” content.

“One of the messages we deliver when we talk to producers, reporters and editors is that they're serving the Canadian public [and] their readers are increasingly diverse, so if they're only reflecting the activities and perspectives of middle-aged white guys, there's a problem,” Graydon told *The Link*.

“It's competitive out there and [including diverse voices in media] is not only the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do—it's better reflecting readers and viewers.”

Graydon emphasized that the media is not missing “just one, single, mythical woman's voice,” but a lack of diversity in general.

“It's so critical,” Graydon said. “The bigger picture issue here is that we need more voices. [...] Many of the intractable problems we face as a country and a world could

really benefit from the diverse perspectives of people who have a different daily experience.

“The capacity of any group to problem-solve is exponentially enhanced when the group is diverse. I really think there's huge opportunity here to make change.”

But there are many different challenges keeping women in particular back from the mic, said Graydon, and often the reasons are “self-perpetuated.”

“If the media is full of male pontificators and experts, and women never see other women in those roles, it's this very subtle thing, but on an unconscious level, the message that they don't belong there is reinforced,” said Graydon.

“Marry that with the fact that on the home front, more responsibilities land on women [...] and add that to the punishing appearance standards that women are subjected to [on television]—it's sometimes just an overwhelming hurdle and women just won't go there.”

More often, female experts also decline the opportunity to be interviewed or write an editorial, said Graydon. Many don't believe they're the best person to comment, while “men never say these words.”

The event on Wednesday will seek out solutions to the lack of women's voices in media, and will be rounded out by a panel



Shari Graydon

discussion with Concordia Journalism Department chair Linda Kay and *Montreal Gazette* Deputy Editor Katherine Sedgwick.

The event, dubbed ‘Fully-Clothed Female Role Models: Bridging the Gender Gap in the News,’ takes place in on Feb. 1 in the Hall Building, in conference room SH-767 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

McGill Admin Rejects Referendum

Students May Have to Vote on CKUT and QPIRG's Fate Again

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

McGill's radio station, CKUT, and the McGill-operated Quebec Public Interest Research Group might be fighting for their lives after a student-wide referendum keeping them afloat has been rendered inadequate by the university's administration.

According to Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning, Morton Mendelson, the question asked to undergrads was too confusing.

“A few years down the road there is a possibility that CKUT will no longer be able to exist as it does now,” said Caitlin Manicom, funding and outreach coordinator at CKUT.

In a letter to both student groups, Mendelson explained the questions were “unclear and, as such, will not provide the McGill's Board of Governors the assurance necessary to approve renewal of your agreement with the university.”

The agreement is that every five years, both CKUT and QPIRG have to hold an existence referendum.

This year, a question asking whether students should vote in person or use an online system on their student portal to opt out of funding the groups was included with the question about giving the groups the finances to stay alive.

When the opt-out system was first introduced in 2007, CKUT lost \$8,000 as students could easily click ‘no’ to the \$4.00 funding for CKUT while paying for their tuition, instead of voting it down in person.

Both the *McGill Tribune* and the *McGill Daily* raised concerns before the referendum about the students' inability to choose between renewal and the online opt-out policy on the referendum question.

“If you ask two different questions in one and you get an answer of ‘yes,’ what did the ‘yes’ refer to?” said Doug Sweet, director of media relations at McGill. “Some of the student media have agreed on that.”

The question coming under scrutiny was, “Do you support CKUT continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a

fee of \$4.00 per semester for full-time undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is fully refundable directly through CKUT, with the understanding that a majority ‘no’ vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate funding to CKUT?”

The same question was asked about QPIRG. Both QPIRG and CKUT were voted in, by 66 per cent and 72 per cent of voters, respectively.

Maggie Knight, president of the Students' Society of McGill University, released an open letter to the Deputy Provost on Jan. 13 expressing concerns that “a democratic decision by the student body [is] being declared invalid,” after the results were rejected by the university.

According to Knight, it's recommended that all student groups go to the administration with the referendum question before asking it to the public, something Knight said she was unclear on, so CKUT chose not to run it by administration first.

But Mendelson raised concerns about the clarity of the question prior to the referendum.

“Frankly, I find [the question] to be put in a convoluted, confusing way,” said Mendelson in an email to *The Daily*. “When questions cannot be implemented because they are not clear, they aren't implemented.”

While Knight acknowledged that both student groups are talking with the Deputy Provost, she recognized that there were no official procedures for such a situation.

“We are still trying to negotiate with the university,” said Andrea Figueroa, the external coordinator at QPIRG. “We believe the students voted in a clear way to support us this year.”

If the McGill administration maintains its decision, a second referendum would have to be held during the annual elections in March.

“It would be part of our winter referendum. Obviously it requires [student groups] to campaign all over again, which takes their time and energy,” said Knight.

“If you ask two different questions in one and you get an answer of ‘yes,’ what did the ‘yes’ refer to?”

—Doug Sweet,

McGill Media relations Director

Chris Hedges Bets on Grim Future

Prize-Winning Journalist Talks Occupy Montreal



Veteran foreign correspondent Chris Hedges gives a bleak assessment of global challenges and the Occupy movement in a keynote speech on Jan. 27.

PHOTO NATALIA LARA DIAZ BERRIO

• SIMON LIEM

In a keynote speech ending a day of workshops and discussions on the Occupy movement, veteran foreign correspondent Chris Hedges gave a bleak assessment of the challenges that he thinks the world is facing.

"If we continue to put our faith in traditional systems of power, which are corporate, [...] they will kill us. They will kill you and they will kill your children," said Hedges, addressing an audience of nearly 300 at the Grande bibliothèque nationale's auditorium on Friday night.

The former *New York Times* journalist and author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* and *Death of the Liberal Class* said that the consequences of climate change leave the world very little time to fight against a corporate state that is "hollowing out the [United States] from the inside."

Hedges emphasized the impor-

tance of protest in the face of these threats. He compared the Occupy movement to revolutions he covered in Eastern Europe.

Small, individual protests helped "keep alive another narrative" which, according to Hedges, led to events such as the 1989 revolution that restored democracy to Czechoslovakia.

"No act of resistance is ever wasted," he said.

During the question period, Hedges stressed that the current protests remain non-violent and the need to incorporate labour into the Occupy movement.

Hedges, who has supported the Occupy movement since its early days and was arrested protesting American investment banking firm Goldman Sachs in November, focused on the history of radical movements in the United States.

He made reference to Canada's fortune in not deregulating its banking sector and compared Prime Minister Stephen Harper

with former American president George W. Bush.

Despite the dire tone of the talk, Dan Parker, an Occupy Montreal protestor who took part in the workshops throughout the day, said that "everyone is going to walk away with a few inspiring points."

The event, organized by Media@McGill, was often lively.

At the beginning of Hedges' talk, a man yelled, "Vive le Québec libre!," and asked Hedges to say a few words in French.

Occupy Montreal members made their presence known, several of them 'up-twinkling'—the wiggling of the fingers to express approval, common at Occupy protests—whenever they heard something they agreed with.

During the panel discussion before Hedges' talk, an audience member called a "mic check"—a method of quickly grabbing the audience's attention—because organizers asked someone who was

filming the event to stop.

Within a few minutes a motion was called by the audience to resolve the issue, a block of the audience raised its hands, wiggled its fingers and declared that the man was allowed to continue recording.

The organizers acquiesced soon after, and the panel moderator thanked the crowd for a "helpful and democratic intervention."

"It wasn't our intention to ban the filming. It was just our intention to control it," said Theodora Tsentas, the project administrator for Media@McGill, who helped organize the day.

According to Tsentas, the consent forms that the speakers signed were meant only for certain media outlets and Media@McGill could have been in breach of contract if the talk were to be distributed elsewhere. Tsentas said under the circumstances, however, the organizers decided to permit the filming.

"If we continue to put our faith in traditional systems of power, which are corporate, they will kill us. They will kill you and they will kill your children."

- Chris Hedges

Catering to Concordia

Students Deliver Home-Cooked Meals to Classmates



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

• KATIE MCGROARTY

Starving students pressed for time and money are putting down the ramen and ordering from Mamita, a student-run company dedicated to delivering delicious, cheap and nutritious meals.

Combining delivery service, an online ordering system and inexpensive fare, employees at Mamita are dedicated to getting students to eat right.

“If you’re a student and you

work [for] minimum wage, you’re on a very tight budget,” said kitchen manager Marco Carbone. “We make it easy. We provide hearty, healthy meals that we deliver to your home at a very reasonable cost. It’s win-win for everyone.”

Though it was originally started to cater to friends and family, Mamita, now in its fourth year, is expanding to serve the greater Concordia community.

“Despite things like Facebook

or Google, businesses don’t just happen all at once. They develop over the years,” said Carbone.

With a quality-over-quantity outlook, marketing manager George Boustany says he wants to make sure students are getting something similar to what their family would make at home, and with a wide variety of dishes like chicken stroganoff, shish taouk and fish filet, Mamita is sure to please even those with the most discerning of taste buds.

Taste buds aren’t the only concern, however—Carbone knows students are also watching their waistlines, but he has a game plan that he says will ensure that their food is the healthiest his clients have ever eaten.

“All I can say is that we’re working on something new [...] and we’ll be maintaining a good balance between food that’s good for you, and excellent taste,” he said.

BEST OF THE
WEB

DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

TELL YOUR (HIV+) STORY

The Concordia community lecture series on HIV/AIDS brought Doris Peltier to speak last week about how she had been on a trajectory for getting AIDS since age three, when her family was torn apart by the residential school system.

AGREE TO AGREE

One thing was immediately clear at the federal National Democratic Party candidate debate at Concordia last week: New Democrats agree with each other on almost everything.

BRIEFS

Ministry of Education Under Fire

About 100 students protested the proposed increase in tuition by blocking off access to the Montreal offices of the Ministry of Education on Jan. 27.

With the increase, tuition is set to double, increasing to \$1,625 over the next five years. The mobilization on Friday was part of a province-wide build up that many student unions believe will result in an all-out general strike that is set to begin on some campuses as early as February. According to the Mob Squad—a Concordia coalition of students organizing against the hikes, demonstrations are beginning next week. On Feb. 2, an event is being planned at Concordia, starting the Hall Building lobby at 11 a.m.

According to many students, it’s not the figures that they’re protesting, but the right to a free education being denied.

Concordia Admin. Against Strike

The Concordia Student Union has called for a strike vote on Mar. 7, with the goal of staging a cessation and walkout in mid-March. Since then, the university administration took a stand against the proposed strike. In an email sent out to students and faculty last week, Concordia’s Provost David Graham stated that all regularly scheduled events—including classes and tutorials—will take place as scheduled in the event of a strike and that students, faculty and professors are expected to be in attendance.

CSU President Lex Gill called the letter “fear-mongering” and said she was deeply unimpressed.

Both governments were supposed to discuss the strike last week, but the meeting was rescheduled by the administration.

Cut and Paste Plagiarism

Concordia University is changing its policy on plagiarism. Because of the free flow of online information, professors are seeing more of what’s become known as ‘cut and paste plagiarism’—when students, with no intention of cheating, neglect to cite a website or make an error in their citation. Whether intentional or just a sloppy mistake, students are currently afforded no slack if caught plagiarizing this way. With penalties as serious as expulsion, CSU advocacy coordinator Lisa White is hoping the revised policy will take intent into consideration when dealing with students who have been caught plagiarizing.

The End of CEO-Gate

Controversy surrounding the firing and replacement of the Concordia Student Union’s Chief Electoral Officer was finally put to rest on Jan. 20, after the Judicial Board—an independent ruling body of the CSU—decided not to accept an appeal filed by former CSU Councillor Tomer Shavit.

The appeal came after Shavit brought the JB’s original decision to dismiss former CEO Bram Goldstein to a student council meeting on Nov. 30. Council voted against overturning the original decision of the JB, who had previously determined that proper hiring procedures had not been followed.

The JB cited preoccupations with final exams as the reason for the length of the appeal process and final decision.

BUILDING AN EMPIRE



Toronto Band Young Empires Aims for Perfection

• HILARY SINCLAIR

While Young Empires don't share the same type of world-domination goals as Napoleon, they do have their eyes set on expansionism.

With the release of their EP *Wake All My Youth*, the band is finding its footing and embarking on a Canadian tour backed by a soundtrack of synthesized indie pop that occasionally incorporates the magic of the pan flute, and conjures up words like chill-wave, disco, world beat and haute rock.

The Toronto-bred quartet, comprised of Robert Aaron Ellingson, Jake Palahnuk, Taylor Hill and Matthew Vlahovich are

building their own type of empire, and making music is only the starting point.

"We have a sub-thing called the House of Young Empires," said guitarist Ellingson. "It's like an umbrella [...] the House of Young Empires could branch into other things. We are interested in fashion so we could do our own t-shirt line that's under the House of Young Empires or we could be doing music videos and remixes."

They have already begun a foray into fashion, collaborating with Handsome Clothing, a company out of Toronto, to create a line of band t-shirts, as well as furthering their reputation for sartorial pursuits by performing at charity fashion event Rock the

Runway.

But Young Empires aren't focused on the kind of rapid expansion that sees bands fall into the feared one-hit wonder track or alternately exiled to Mediterranean islands.

The band is holding out for flawlessness. They carefully considered record labels before settling on Pirates Blend—an imprint started by Toronto reggae-poppers Bedouin Soundclash—and they're particular about their video concepts.

"The hardest thing is being patient and waiting for material that is perfect," said Ellingson. "We wait until something resonates with all members, when we can look at each other and know that

something connected."

The recent addition of a drummer is something that will help them make that same kind of connection with the live audiences.

Drum machines guarantee that you will sound the same as what has been released, but you don't have the ability to change it up for the crowd, says Ellingson.

"Having a drummer frees us up so we can do that and do different songs different ways. We do it a little longer here and a little shorter there depending on how things are going that night. We have the freedom to mix it up," said Ellingson.

Playing shows with the likes of Chromeo, Jamiroquai, Drag-onette, Japandroids and Sleigh

Bells, the group has begun to feel the gratifying but "weird feeling" of having people scream out the names of their songs and know their lyrics by heart.

"You want something to be really good on a first listen, [something] that grabs people, but you want it to be equally good on the hundredth listen," said Ellingson. "We like making music that makes people feel sexy, that makes people feel confident and has that balance of being fun but at the same time has some substance behind it."

Young Empires / Feb. 9 (w/ Honheehonhee) / Le Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

LE DECLIN

Cinema du Parc is currently paying homage to iconic Quebecois filmmaker Denys Arcand. Read our coverage of *Le Declin de l'Empire American*, but spoiler alert: It's all about sex.



BELIEVE THE HYPE

A\$AP Rocky - LiveLoveA\$AP

Hype can take you a long way fast—just ask anyone from *Odd Future*. However, once you make it so far, your image has to be followed with actual talent.



IGLOOFEST

We've been shooting at Igloofest, which saw over 70,000 come out to dance in the cold this year. Check out the photos on our media gallery by scanning the code!



ART AND THE BOTTOM LINE

Infinithéâtre's Latest Finds Comedy in a Literary Lifestyle



PHOTO BRIAN MOREL

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO ENOS

"Money is good. Art is better," playwright Arthur Holden told Poetry Quebec about the theme of his show *Ars Poetica*.

Texting, poetry, a crumbling arts office and a web of romantic affairs are all prominent features of the production. Infinithéâtre, Montreal's third-largest English theatre company and the only one committed to producing new works by local playwrights, is staging Holden's new show.

The play starts in the office of a poetry magazine that could easily be a stand-in for any small Montreal arts bureau. The cast of misfit characters includes a brilliant and dedicated intern desperate to go to NYU, the intern's father—a rich lawyer whose racy

texts to an escort keep him distracted—an underpaid office manager who is supplemented by the nobility of a life in the arts, the kooky Arts Council granting officer and the publisher who serves as captain of the sinking ship.

Each has personal problems and goals, but the main thrust of the show is their troubled quest to keep their magazine afloat—a familiar narrative for many arts companies.

Holden has been working with the Montreal theatre community for 15 months in readings, dramaturgy and re-writes to develop *Ars Poetica*.

"I love to watch little arts organizations at work," Holden said. "They cope with big bills and small revenues, attract varying levels of attention from an easily

distracted public, deal with high-strung artists, apply for grants and try to find private contributors.

"Objectively they know what they do is trivial, but subjectively their art, whatever it is, means more than anything to them. Their activities are thus simultaneously useless and necessary."

Holden is an established actor who recently delved into playwriting. This is his second play for Infinithéâtre, following 2010's *Father Land*. He said that both his acting and writing career are satisfying, but for opposite reasons.

"Acting is the process of taking someone else's text and delivering it in a way that feels honest. During rehearsals, a director will give instant feedback, not all of it nec-

essarily positive. During performance, depending on the medium, feedback comes from the audience.

"An actor's work is collaborative and reactive from start to finish. [By comparison] solitude is part of the joy of writing: the opportunity to dig for purely personal truth, or humour, and express it in terms that are entirely one's own."

He added that both outlets are equally important, that "each provides a particular pleasure, and relieves me of a burden the other imposes."

Ars Poetica runs 'til Feb. 12 / Bain St-Michel (5300 St-Dominique St.) / Tickets \$10-\$20 / infitheatre.com



THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE

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PAGE 6&7 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

WHAT IS CONCORDIA DOING?

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THE SCARY BIG PICTURE



SUSTAINABILITY SPECIAL ISSUE

The state of our planet should be of the utmost importance to all of us—but is it?

So many of us go about our busy days with almost no thought to the impact of our daily actions on our world and ourselves.

Our social environment is fast-paced; everything is available to us at the touch of a button. We're an impatient society, always ready to move on to the next new thing. We are constantly connected to the Internet, we grab food on the go, we drive cars. We don't interact with our planet on the same level as our predecessors.

So what is the impact? How sustainable is our lifestyle? The answer is not at all. According to the World Wildlife Fund, humans are using 30 per cent more resources than the planet can replenish each year.

As we were creating this special issue, we thought a

lot about how much our actions have an effect on the environment. We hear about large environmental and sustainable movements, but we also wonder how much is being done on a smaller, individual level.

We are all part of the problem, whether intentionally or not, and unless we inform ourselves and try to become part of the solution, it will remain that way.

The reality is that sustainability is, and should be, connected to everything we do. This issue takes a look at steps—on both a personal and a global level—being taken by members of our communities to bring sustainability to the forefront in some way.

If we take our planet and our resources for granted, then we deprive our children and their children of anything resembling what we have now.

What we can do is engage in a dialogue.

Here are some conversation-starters.

—Colin Harris & Alex McGill
Special Issue Coordinators

THE WAY OF THE FREEEGAN



You may be surprised what's waiting in the dumpsters behind grocery stores and food markets.

PHOTOS LAURENCE OLIVIER

A Beginner's Guide to Montreal Dumpster Diving

TOP 5 TIPS

1

Bring a backpack or reusable grocery bags. You'll need something to carry your goodies home in.

2

Only take what you think you will use. You may find a dozen loaves of bread, but do you really need them all?

3

Check expiry dates. There may be a reason it was thrown out.

4

Bring a flashlight. Now isn't the time to guess what may be lurking inside the dumpster.

5

Keep at it. Somedays you may find nothing, but that doesn't mean you'll have the same luck tomorrow.

KATIE MCGROARTY

To most, sustainable shopping is bringing your own bag. But to some, footprint-free groceries means a little more effort—and getting a little dirty.

If you're annoyed with the rising levels of food waste, looking to make a political point or maybe just want some fresh bread, what's sitting inside Montreal's dumpsters could be a treasure waiting to be unearthed.

"I had friends who did it, so one day I went to Atwater Market, filled up my bag with a bunch of vegetables from their dumpster and I was set," said Concordia student Jason Roussel. Even though he only looks once a week, 90 per cent of his groceries come from the garbage.

Although freeganism, or dumpster diving, may require you to add some gloves and a good pair of boots to your usual shopping trip, Roussel says that it gets easier with time. Once you get familiar with the area, even a beginner will know exactly where and where not to go.

A diver for the last few years, he says his new routine is definitely an eye opener—and not just because climbing in the garbage is now a main part of his weekly shopping.

"I had no idea how much good food was wasted," he said. "Almost all of the vegetables are perfectly good. Usually they're the ones that have fallen on the ground or are a little banged up [and] have the slightest imperfections—and they throw it all out."

Claire Evans, a Concordia Fine Arts student whose grocery shopping also includes looking through the trash, said that she had no idea what was being thrown out before she started to look for herself.

"I saw friends bring home bags of bagels, bread and croissants that they had found in bakery garbages," she said. "They told me to check the dumpsters if I happened to walk by, and after that I started looking all of the time."

Forget clipping coupons and shopping from the sale aisle, dumpster diving can allow students to eat in a way that they otherwise might not have been able to afford.

Evans said that, although it does help her save money, eating food deemed unfit by others has actually allowed her to eat healthier as well.

Going through the garbage of commercial stores is sort of a grey area in terms of legality. Both of the self-professed dumpster divers have never had trouble with the

police, but say that being courteous of the store's property is key to having a successful trip.

"Sometimes people will yell at you, tell you that it's dangerous. Or what will happen is that they'll be like, 'There's glass, you shouldn't be in that dumpster,'" said Evans. "To that I'll usually say, 'I'm wearing combat boots, and pants, and gloves. I'm really not going to cut myself on anything'"

Roussel and Evans have had similar experiences: no run-in with the law, and both say divers and grocers usually get along well—with a simple policy of respect.

"Usually when I encounter people doing it, they just ignore me," Roussel said. "It happened only once where someone got mad and told me to get out. They usually just don't really care, as long as you're respectful."

Although they were both ready and willing to give out advice on what to expect, and tips on what beginners should look for, both students were wary about giving out exact locations of their favorite places to look.

"It's not so much secrecy, but more so a respect to the grocer. If hundreds of people are going through the dumpsters, they'll probably not be too happy and

maybe call the cops or something and try to stop it," explained Roussel.

As there's obviously no rule saying that owners must keep their trashes open, there's also a risk that if someone leaves a mess, the next time you come back, there may be a padlock stopping you from free groceries.

"It has happened before, sometimes dumpsters do get locked if people aren't cleaning up after themselves," says Evans. "But if I go to a dumpster and there's a bunch of food lying on the ground or somebody ripped a bag open, I'll clean it up so the people from that store don't get angry that I threw stuff everywhere."

Although they may not give out the exact locations of their favourite spots, both advise to go to big market like Jean-Talon or Atwater, as well as bakeries around closing time, when they are getting rid of what wasn't sold.

As for some guidelines to keep diver-to-diver relations friendly, Roussel said that there are a couple of ethical rules to keep in mind.

"Don't leave a mess, the first person to the dumpster gets dibs, and you should probably share with people if there's anyone else there," he said. "Because, after all, it is food for everyone."

ON TIME ON TWO WHEELS



Cycle-Bird is reinventing the image of the scumbag bike messenger.

PHOTO COREY POOL

How our Bike City Can Fix its Business Model

COREY POOL

Whether you like it or not, cycling is fully engrained into the culture of this strange city.

Every spring, thousands of rickety bi-wheeled wonders flood the streets as Montrealers take their bought, borrowed or rented whips out for a spin.

Over the last 15 years, bike trends have changed dramatically in Montreal and in Quebec. According to Transport Canada, one in six adults were using bicycles as their means of transportation in 2005, and those numbers have continued to rise.

Of course, none of this is by accident. Montreal and its transportation industry, along with groups like Velo Montreal, have been making real efforts to improve the city's transportation image over the last decade.

During the Montreal Summit of 2002, the city decided that transportation was a key component to the first strategic plan for sustainable development. A large part of that plan involved active transportation and a greater focus on the city's booming cycle culture.

Some people took full advantage of this boom and as a result,

the bike messenger has become a well-known (though hotly contested) fixture of the urban Montreal environment.

ATTAINING THE UNATTAINABLE

There are dozens of courier companies and a couple hundred bike messengers zipping through the streets of downtown Montreal. It's no news that bikes are the fastest and most efficient way to navigate the congested city streets, yet some companies still rely on postal trucks and cars to do their deliveries. This is especially true once you leave the downtown core.

"Outside of a certain zone there are no bike messengers and there's a reason for that: [bike messengers] are just more effective in maintaining the downtown customers," said Cam Novak, owner and founder of Cycle-Bird Courier. "I saw this and didn't really agree, so I decided to construct a company purely based around cycling."

In the fall of 2008 Novak founded Cycle-Bird as a cycle-only sustainable alternative to the big courier companies that domi-

nate Montreal. The company has strict rules on pollution and consumption, sends all its invoices electronically, and attempts to offset its waste by donations to a local not-for-profit.

"In an ideal world I'd like to have a business that creates zero pollution," said Novak. "Of course that's not entirely possible, but it's about trying to attain the unattainable."

GOING THE DISTANCE

"Being a bike messenger is inherently sustainable, but it hasn't typically been done for that reason," said Kelly Pennington, Concordia urban planning student and one of five couriers at Cycle-Bird. "This job has been around long before it was a good business plan to seem sustainable."

However, Pennington adds that for most companies, if the job seems faster or easier to do by car, it's sent that way without hesitation.

"We're really pushing the boundaries of what most people think is possible on a bike," said Pennington.

Cycle-Bird boasts some im-

pressive credentials, and the lengths at which this small crew goes to provide their speedy service is definitely something to make note of.

"I can send a biker from downtown to the end of the island in 30 minutes if I need to," said Novak.

The company website lists long distance trips to Ottawa, Quebec City, and Kingston, while their delivery zone covers the entire island of Montreal, from tip to tip on two wheels.

As impressive as this service is, there is still a negative stigma that looms around the bike messenger.

"I don't like it when people generalize, or when they think that I'm a scumbag because I ride a bike for a living," said Novak. "But I don't think that it's the fault of the people doing the job; I think it's the industry's fault."

AN INDUSTRY IN DISREPAIR

According to Novak, one of the biggest problems with the courier business is the treatment of its employees.

"It doesn't take long to figure out that the industry itself is

flawed," said Novak. "There is no minimum wage, zero compensation if you get hurt, and no breaks. It's an industry that is running wild and can do whatever it wants."

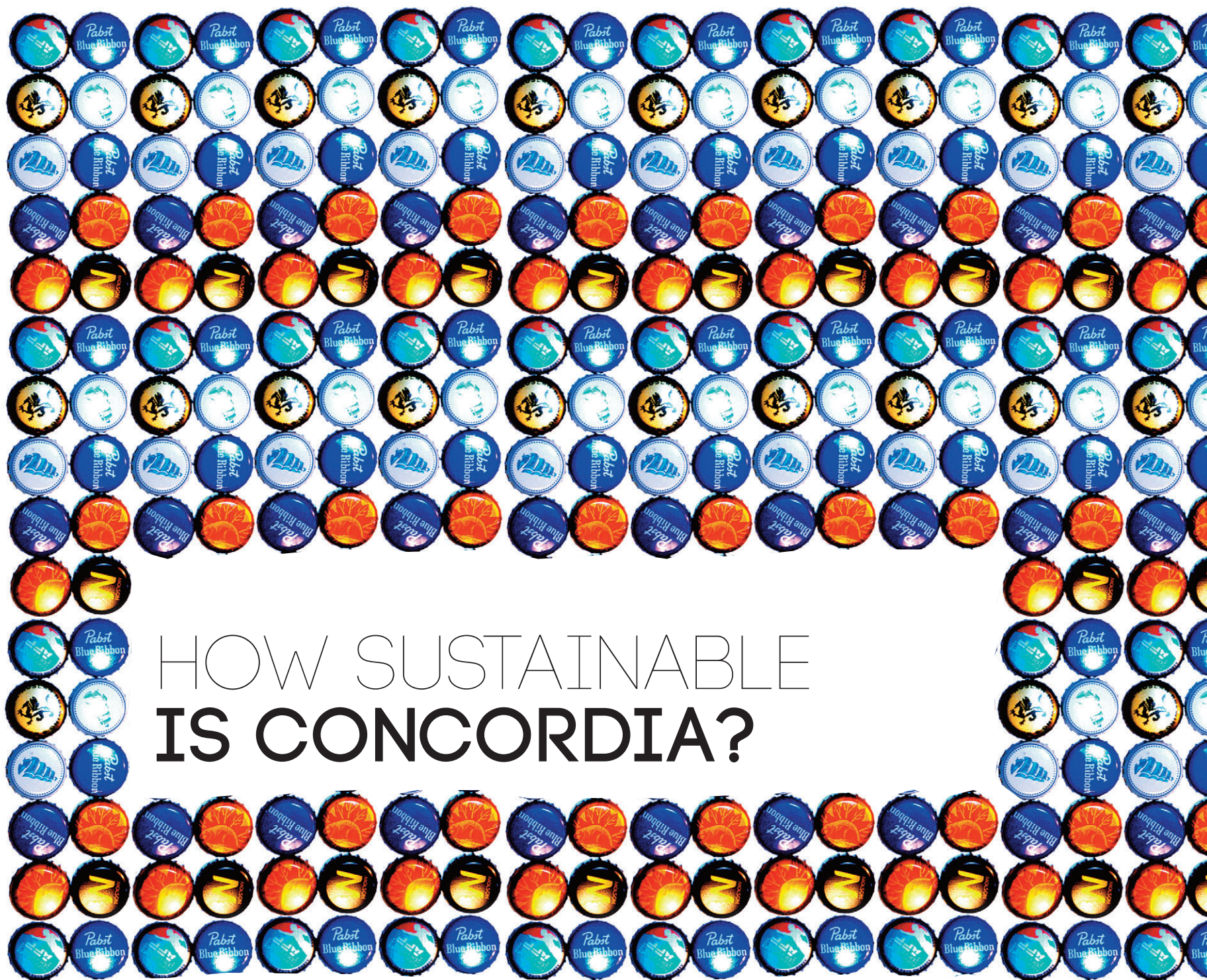
Along with being one of the only companies to provide an island-wide bike messenger service, Cycle-Bird is also one of the only courier services to pay its employees a fixed daily pay, as opposed to the standard 50-60 per cent of a delivery.

Novak agrees that the percentage system creates incentive for workers, but thinks it fails by creating an unhealthy competition amongst couriers.

"[The percentage system] creates a situation where you're constantly worrying about your pay check," said Novak. "Sometimes a courier can make less than \$40 in a day, sometimes you can make \$100, but you just don't know. That's not something that I want my team feeling."

Though it may be a work in progress, Novak believes that the industry itself needs a big change, and he's willing to start it.

"One of my goals is not only to be sustainable in what we do day-to-day, but to be sustainable in the way we treat people," he said.



HOW SUSTAINABLE IS CONCORDIA?

HILARY SINCLAIR
& COLIN HARRIS

An institution that spends upwards of \$450 million annually can have a huge impact on the future of sustainability, depending on how it chooses to spend its money.

Not only has Concordia University begun to realize how certain energy-saving techniques can be healthy for its coffers, but interest in greener options from the higher-ups is helping create the demand that free-market champions point to.

Questions of sustainability seep into nearly every decision the university makes, and while it's in everyone's interest to attend a more eco-friendly school, the changes needed to clean up the school's act—and its image—require reams of research and planning.

To that end, Sustainable Concordia, a non-hierarchical organization acting as an umbrella for all ConU's green initiatives, will be releasing a report on the state of our

sustainability this spring.

Ashley Finlayson, coordinator of the report, said the university is heavily invested in the results.

"Their big concern is that they want the results that come out to be in line with the strategic plan," she said.

REACH FOR THE STARS

The Sustainability Report uses the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System, an American framework that gauges how institutions are doing compared to other schools.

Created by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the framework is the most developed set of criteria used by multiple institutions, but it still needs improvement.

"Unfortunately, all the great stuff Concordia is doing is not addressed in STARS," said Finlayson. "Waste is an area where Concordia is doing really well, but because of the criteria that

STARS is asking for—they're asking, instead of diverting waste, to reduce waste—we now get fewer points."

With new buildings going up, reducing total waste doesn't seem viable for the school. Instead, the focus has been on increasing the percentage of composted waste, a factor not evaluated by STARS.

Another issue with the system is the lack of concrete planning for sustainable policy to come to fruition.

"One of the problems with the 2009 assessment was the model in terms of how recommendations would translate into action," said Sustainable Concordia's R4 and environmental coordinator Faisal Shennib.

What the report has found, however, is that the greatest potential for movement is when the administration actively coordinates with students and takes part in student initiatives.

"Once they see these initiatives and everyone is on the same page, the governance will get to pick up a lot faster," said Finlayson.

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

Becoming fluent in the language of sustainability is crucial to Concordia's green goals. Several initiatives, such as employee training and sustainability in the curriculum, are underway to increase linguistic understanding.

"There's a general employee-training session that Concordia University staff go to and [Sustainable Concordia] participates in that," said Shennib.

"We have a program called the Ambassadors Program which is about talking to the people in the departments about things they do to be more sustainable like double-sided printing, turning off lights, light bulbs, all that jazz."

With the recent addition of a minor in sustainability, an assessment has been completed on all courses that cover sustainability, as well as all those that have the potential to.

Finlayson says that the university is moving in the right direction, with the Engineering and

Computer Science Department being very interested in developing a specialized program.

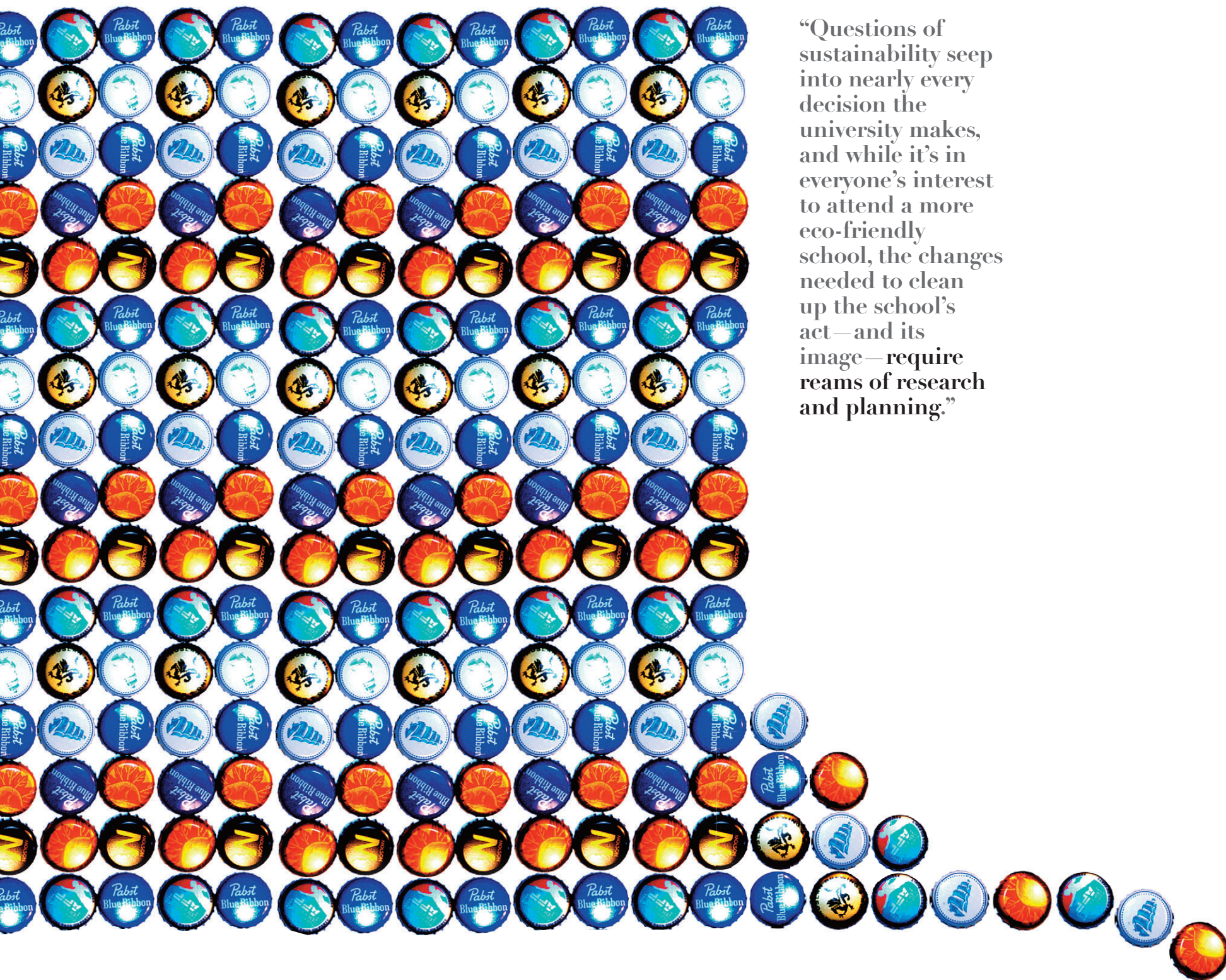
REUSABLE MUGS

In the Sustainable Concordia office sits disposable coffee cup troll/mascot Uggie the Muggie, a patchwork of Tim Horton's brown and Starbucks green. He represents the estimated over 100 cups that are thrown out at Concordia every hour.

In another corner sits sustainability mascot Huggie the Muggie, who embodies SC's gradual campaign to increase the number of mugs on campus.

The ultimate vision for the mug campaign is to collect a fleet of reusable mugs that will be available for on-campus pickup and drop-off, where they will be washed and sterilized for re-use.

For now, Shennib prescribes applying the same social pressure that people now feel at the grocery store when asked if they have their own bags, but retailers are hesitant about scaring people off.



“Questions of sustainability seep into nearly every decision the university makes, and while it’s in everyone’s interest to attend a more eco-friendly school, the changes needed to clean up the school’s act—and its image—require reams of research and planning.”

WATER BOTTLES

“Last year the university agreed to do a phase-out of the sales of bottled water from vending machines initially, and then from the vendors,” said Shennib. “That would happen after university buildings are fit with fountains that have fillers.”

This is easier said than done. With all buildings equipped with different kinds of fountains, and the desire to have one company complete all the retrofitting, the process is moving slowly.

Three phases are planned until Concordia can totally remove bottles from vendors and vending machines.

Concordia will be embarking on a three-phase plan to convert the fountains, building by building. It will likely still be four years before the full plan comes to fruition, however, said Shennib.

CHARTWELLS

Campus food service provider Chartwells was challenged by the

2009 report to “increase the volume of local, organic, seasonal and fair-trade food supplied, vegetarian and vegan options, introduce bulk condiments and reduce overall waste by requiring tray-less dining and reusable containers on campus.”

There has been some improvement in these areas, with 21 per cent of Chartwells food coming from within 100 miles of Montreal, up from 11 per cent in 2008.

“I think the biggest steps [Chartwells] made is in reduction, but they have definitely started using more bulk stuff and they’ve started using compostable items,” said Shennib.

“Although not all of their utensils are compostable yet, I’ve been going and meeting with the Chartwells manager and making sure they get everything to move in that direction.”

SPACE & TRANSIT

Concordia is in the process of recladding the GM Building, work that will cut the building’s energy

footprint by 40 per cent. The STARS framework advises all construction follow Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, which both the EV Building and PERFORM Centre are built to adhere to.

However, the buildings are not LEED-certified by a third party, and the new GE Building at Loyola was not built according to LEED specifications.

As for Allégo, Sustainable Concordia’s transit limb, the focus right now is on increasing student bike skills and resources. Funded by Facilities Management, Allégo has a number of projects on the go, including hosting workshops and increasing outdoor bike racks on campus.

Along with the Sir George Williams campus co-op Right to Move, Allégo is looking to expand their new co-op Le petit vélo rouge to Loyola, but there are still some hoops to jump through.

“Administration is cautious to give something so valuable in a campus with such restrictive space, so they have to understand

where we come from and who we are before they give us something,” said Allégo coordinator Graham Bradley.

“It’s hard to coordinate, because administration can’t always share the details of what they’re doing because of contractual law.”

And therein lies the rub. It’s inevitable that it will take longer than sustainability champions would hope, but it may pick up as the image of sustainability becomes something prospective students care about.

Although the speed of all these changes may depend on cost, the last report suggests that the best work is done when students and governments are on the same page.

Ultimately, Concordia’s path to sustainability hinges on its ability to turn the findings of the report into action—thus the importance of the forthcoming report coming up with solutions for governance and student body to work together towards a more sustainable future.





SLOW DOWN & SMELL THE COOKING

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Looking Past the Mythology of Sustainable Food

JOSH DAVIDSON
FRINGE FOOD COLUMNIST

What is sustainable food? Ask that question of a few local chefs, activists or scholars, and you'll swiftly be dissuaded from trying to define it.

The term, it seems, is a less achievable ideal than sad symptom—its very existence a nod to the disastrous state of the global food system.

"The reality caused the term to emerge," said David Szanto, a lecturer in both Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Université du Québec à Montréal's Gastronomy Diploma program. "It's the product of a post-industrial society that takes the 'unsustainable' as its status quo."

"Only a couple decades ago, for instance," he added, "regional Italian winegrowers would not have used the word 'sustainability.' The word wasn't meaningful to them. They didn't need it."

But on to the good news: though 'sustainable' food is rapidly becoming mythologized, it has reconfigured our awareness of food systems along the way and—most importantly—left behind a vibrant trail of forward-

focused practices.

And though few would give them credit, those aforementioned Italian winegrowers actually seem to have a lot to do with this.

Flashback to October 1985: McDonald's opens up shop in Rome, their first Italian branch. A feisty group of Piedmont viticulturists, with Carlo Petrini as their figurehead, band together to ensure the protection of their unique and longstanding methods of cultivation, creating the Slow Food Movement.

By coalescing, they also ended up securing the economic viability of small-scale food producers. Whether due to savvy PR or fortuitous timing, the Italian "slow food" concept managed to capture the world's attention.

Here in Montreal, slow food has also taken hold.

Espousing its forefathers' campaign for "good, clean and fair" gastronomy, the *Montréalais* movement has, since 2004, been trying to connect city-folk to regional producers and global food campaigns alike.

But the local wing has never contented itself with lobbying alone. Its upcoming 5 à 7 Slow, for instance, is a rare concoction of superstar local chefs, high-

quality Québécois products and innovative culinary spaces.

"We always hold 5 à 7 Slow at a locale embodying one or more of our core values, and we naturally end up partnering with chefs who believe in the philosophy," said Bobby Grégoire, the association's Montreal president. This month's version takes place at Golden Plate-award-winner Martin Juneau's new restaurant Pastaga (6389 St-Laurent Blvd.).

Paying homage to those original Piedmont producers and their recently-released "Slow Wine Guide," the evening is centred around six natural Quebec wines, all matched to Juneau's small, apéritif-sized plates.

Taste and table remain paramount to food advocacy, according to Grégoire.

"The 5 à 7 idea is about conviviality, creating accessible, low-cost spaces for people to come together and enjoy local products," he says, adding that the price tag (approx. \$35) is not inflated with overhead or admin costs like other galas or foodie events. "I think it would be almost impossible to find this much top-quality wine and food for this price."

Grégoire isn't on a sales

pitch. Most Slow events sell out quickly, so he hardly has to hawk it. Furthermore, call Pastaga for a price list, and you'll see that \$35 normally doesn't get you much past a wine and a starter.

Past 5 à 7 venues have showcased locavore or fair-trade initiatives in neighbourhoods as diverse as the Plateau, St. Henri, Mile-End and Verdun.

For Szanto, the Slow Food model is useful in that it replaces the weary 'sustainability' buzzword with a set of specific, ongoing practices.

"Sustainability, as it's used today, wasn't part of Slow Food's consciousness when it started in Italy. It was about a set of actions, such as educating the public, supporting local producers, or preserving traditional methods," he said. "In my opinion, this is a much better way to talk about sustainability: break it down into concrete objectives."

If a participative awareness of the food cycle can heighten one's gustatory experience, then let it be known that the 5 à 7 Slow is only the tip of the local gastronomic iceberg. Check out the sidebar to the left for a quick and dirty glance at how to grow, cultivate and compost your own food in the city.

COMPOSTING:

Slow Ways to Dirty Your Hands

Your apartment didn't come furnished with a compost heap? You can still send those onion peels to a happy home. Here are five ways:

SANTROPOROULANT

The award-winning Plateau nonprofit resto began vermicomposting—that's composting with worms, to the uninitiated—a few years ago to help nourish its rooftop gardens. The initiative, which began in a basement, has grown into a series of workshops offered at their spacious new Roy St. location. They run from spring onward, and you can call 514-284-9335 for more info.

GROW YOUR OWN

EcoCentre Jeanne-Mance offers starter kits and instructions for home vermicomposting. It's located at 3986 St. Urbain St., and can be contacted at 514-288-1402, or online at urbaniterre.org/services-et-produits/.

COMPOST MONTRÉAL

This private eco-minded enterprise works in conjunction with the city's Department of Parks and Horticulture and will pick up your compost for the reasonable rate of \$5.00 per week, or \$60 for 13 weeks. Bonus: free pickup, free bin with weekly biodegradable liner bags, and a load of fresh compost at year's end. Check it out at compostmontreal.com/.

THE PLATEAU

Move to the Plateau neighbourhood. The small but hip quadrangle, bordered by Brébeuf St. to the east, Messier St. to the west, Sherbrooke St. E. to the south and St. Joseph St. E. to the north, is where the city runs its pilot project for home organic-waste pickup.

SUSTAINABLE CONCORDIA

Get dirty on campus. Depending on the time of year, Sustainable Concordia runs compost workshops right at your fingertips. Check it out online at sustainable.concordia.ca/ourinitiatives/r4/c ompost.

GARDENING:

CULTIVATE YOUR OWN GARDEN

Tired of relying on faraway farmers? Montréal is blooming with possibilities.

ACTION COMMUNITERRE

This a network of "communitized" backyard gardens in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce that allow you to cultivate and harvest your own produce. To join, get in touch at 514-484-0223 or visit actioncommuniterre.qc.ca/.

LOYOLA CITY FARM

This ConU-based initiative showcases a converted soccer field (and more) which has been turned into vibrant plots for the People's Potato and other community groups. Learn how to grow, and reap the rewards in a tasty People's Potato meal! Check out concordialoyolacityfarm.wordpress.com for more info.

YOUR LOCAL BOROUGH

Eighteen Montreal boroughs offer 97 community gardens—there's a plot out there waiting for you. You have to bring your own equipment, however—britches and hoes not included. Find your opportunity for growth at tinyurl.com/79z9jh5.

GOING GREEN IN THE ARENA



Concordia's new PERFORM Centre was built to meet the requirements of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

Vancouver Olympics Set New Standard for Sporting Events

DAVID MURPHY

The International Academy of Sports Science and Technology is making sure that more than just the Astro-turf is green in sports stadiums.

Their nearly new initiative has invoked a new precedent for events like the Olympics, but also for minor tournaments in local communities through introduction of the Sustainable Sport and Event Toolkit, a Canadian initiative.

The toolkit gives event planners structured recommendations on how to improve sustainability, a push that has been seen in our everyday world but not fully demonstrated in sport until the Vancouver 2010 Olympics set the standard.

"The toolkit was built on the experience of Vancouver. It's like a knowledge transfer," said Scientific Head of Sustainability at AISTS, Dr. Tania Braga from the Olympic headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Until the 2010 games, major sporting events had no guide to rely on for green standards and the Olympics lacked any movement towards sustainability outside of a promotional campaign in 1995. Now, the SSET is a backbone to further their sustainability, building on what can be improved based on pre-

vious events.

"The SSET [is] a way for Vancouver 2010 to help organizations reproduce the same initiatives they had," said Braga. "It was more like a legacy—a gift that Vancouver has left to other sports organizations."

Built on the goals set at the winter games two years ago, the SSET includes action plans on how to initiate, delegate and complete sustainable plans.

Objectives include building eco-friendly stadiums, to simple actions like buying locally grown produce for cafeterias.

This gift is now in full effect at the London 2012 Olympics. The Summer Games have all the same environmental developments and more. London's expected sustainable initiatives include recycling 90 per cent of material demolished for the parks, making 100 per cent of spectators either walk, bike or use public transport to reach sporting events. They're also building a 450,000 sq. metre nature park by the Olympic Stadium—the size of 63 football fields—making it the largest urban park in Europe.

There has been some controversy surrounding if the 2010 games actually were green, however, and if the London games are going to be.

A UBC study found greenhouse gas emissions increased eight-fold during the games because of trans-

portation to Vancouver and, according to a Jan. 2 *The Guardian* article, solid waste increased 10 times after the games were done.

Concordia University Urban Ecology professor Laura Shillington says London is using sustainability as a way to sell and justify the games, and might not be going to full lengths to live up to their sustainable attitude.

"The London Olympics really reflect the way in which sustainability is taken up in city governments, as well as national governments, and planning in general," said Shillington.

"Sustainability, in the understanding of the London Olympic Organizing Committee, and perhaps the City of London, remains framed by neo-liberal discourses which prioritize capital. The Olympics are now an excellent tool to bring global capital to a city—in this case, London."

But this is just on the grand stage. The SSET is also something that small and medium sized events and organizations can also pick up—something Braga says is easier and less costly than many think.

Instead of monetary resources, Braga says "drivers" such as ownership's commitment to sustainability, hosting responsibilities and getting sponsors to demand that sustainable ideals be incorporated into events, leagues or organiza-

tions, is integral to tournaments being sustainable.

"When you integrate based only on one person's wish it's difficult to go from the interest to the action," Braga said. "We see this moving when we have one of these three drivers."

Whatever Braga might think, many organizations think it's too difficult and too expensive to implement the SSET. "There's lot of interest, but still little action," she said.

For Concordia, the new PERFORM Centre was a step with the right direction in terms of sustainable sport.

The new building was built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards, the school's second building to do so, after the John Molson School of Business building on the downtown campus.

The PERFORM Centre cost Concordia \$35 million and has a state-of-the-art cooling system, efficient showers, conservative water faucets and plumbing and a low-energy system that saves 49 per cent in energy costs, according to the university.

The 1967-built Ed Meagher Arena, however, is not as energy efficient.

"The arena itself is old, and we're doing the best we can do with it," said athletic facilities manager Marvin Cooper. "When the university

decides that they have the funds I'm quite sure they will make it a green arena."

Although the arena is limited by age, it still meets some of the sustainable practices that Braga preaches as "the little things that can make a difference."

"We've changed our coffee cups, we recycle, we don't have water bottles for sale and we don't use a propane tank, we use natural gas... It's lower pollution and it's healthier for everyone," said Cooper.

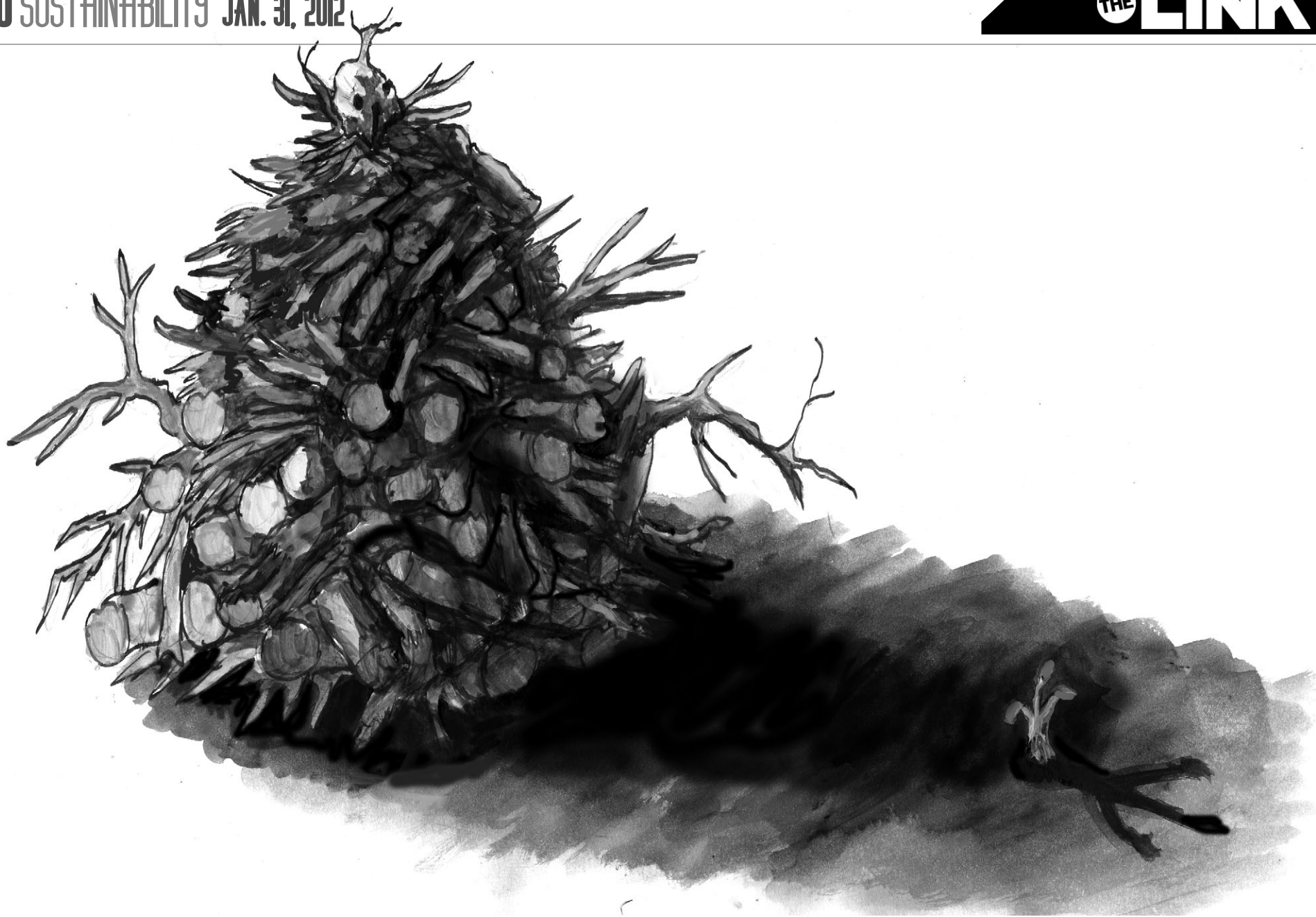
Although these are some of the practices recommended in the SSET, director of athletics Katie Sheahan said she hasn't heard of it—but the same ideas are seen through working with Sustainable Concordia.

Sheahan said she has seen a push from the public to be more sustainable, noting two people who play hockey at the arena and bike to the game with a trailer carrying their equipment behind them.

She thinks that the changing social practices—like adopting a plan to have efficient water bottle fill-up stations all around the athletics building—are happening.

"Whenever we introduce something, every time we get positive feedback from people who say, 'Wow, we like this,'" she said.

"We're always looking for more realistic ways, a lot of support and a lot of help."



REFORESTATION: THE MYTH OF SUSTAINABILITY

JACOB ROBERTS

Whether you believe in global warming or not, or the role of trees in keeping the world's temperature in check, few will speak out against reforestation.

Humans use up a lot of wood, and even the most vehement anti-climate change conservatives will have trouble preferring ghostly, stump-ridden empty fields to the rich, healthy forests that used to cover the continent.

As a result, reforestation—like recycling—is one of those green practices that enjoys a comparatively widespread acceptance in North American culture. Unfortunately, it's not exactly deserved.

Many people assume, or maybe just want to believe, that after an area of forest is clear-cut, a crew of tree-planters goes in and replants all of the trees. After a few decades, the trees will be well on their way to adulthood and life in the forest will return to normal. By this definition, it's

a sustainable practice. But that's not exactly how it works.

THE CLEAR CUT IS THE DEEPEST

The Pacific Temperate Rainforest is close to 300,000 sq. kilometres, stretching from Alaska to Northern California. According to the World Wildlife Fund, it is the largest temperate rainforest on the planet and home to the biggest and oldest trees in the world—which can reach past 100 metres in the air and live for 2,000 years.

Due to clear-cut logging that started around the time of World War II, the forest is now about half that size. Except for in certain preserved locations like Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island, the old growth of ancient giants is now almost non-existent.

The logging industry in British Columbia pre-dates the clear-cutting practices, having

begun during the 1800s. Back then, the technology was so crude that it could take a team of four or five men with axes and hand-saws weeks to fell a single old growth tree.

That kind of struggle is a thing of the past though, as deforestation technology has been steadily improving over the last century. Now, whole mountainsides worth of trees can now be obliterated in the time it once took to cut down a single tree.

As is the case with any operation designed to transform masses of natural resources into products for human consumption, the process whittles down the wood taken from the forest to a fraction of its original mass. Many of the trees that get logged aren't big enough or straight enough to be milled into usable construction material—they were just in the way of the good stuff. Those trees get hauled into what are known as slash piles, a pile of forest detritus that is usually burned.

RE:FORESTATION

Typically, two or three years after an area has been logged and some of the ground vegetation is starting to grow back, crews of tree planters—mostly young men and women, often students—are brought in on trucks, all-terrain vehicles—and sometimes helicopters, in cases where road access to the cut blocks doesn't exist.

For the price of about 10 cents a tree, they begin the laborious process of replanting a forest.

A decent tree planter can, depending on the terrain, plant between 1,500 and 2,500 trees in one day. Despite those numbers, only about one fifth of the trees planted have a chance of making it to maturity. They will grow in clusters, with one tree taking dominance while the rest act to shelter it from the elements.

A few years after an area has been planted, loggers will come back in and fell the subordinate trees so that the dominant one will have a better chance of sur-

vival. Then, the replanted forest will be left alone for close to a century while the trees try to attain the height of their ancestors.

In his book *The Golden Spruce*, John Vaillant notes that it would take over 1,000 years to actually re-grow a forest. It's not just the trees; a forest is also comprised of the delicate ecosystem that flourishes all around them: the mosses, lichens and fungi that grow up their trunks and hang off their branches, the plethora of vegetation that thrives on the forest floor and, of course, the wild fauna that call the forest home.

Most of them will never make it that far. Recently, the very first reforested areas have begun to be harvested—they are, after all, no more than tree farms. At 100 years old, these trees would have been scoffed at by the earliest loggers as not even big enough to consider for firewood. They would have gone almost unnoticed.



THE SCARY BIG PICTURE

➔ AND A BUCKET OF COMPOST

COLIN HARRIS

As we were piecing together this special issue, the same dilemma kept coming to mind. By covering individual green heroes, the section might project an overly optimistic image, and that seemed a little negligent, considering how the big picture paints a much gloomier scene.

Every point we wanted to touch on was tied to larger issues that manifest themselves in the giant industrial machine careening ever faster towards the ends of the Earth.

In the developed world, it's hard to know where the brakes are at all, let alone how to activate them. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking there's no way to escape being part of the problem.

More and more, we hear doomsday scenarios of a not-so-distant future of resource wars and destruction of nature, looming over human advancement like a giant anvil from a childhood cartoon. It's easy to lose hope of any solution with a problem this big.

Finding a way to stitch sustainability into the fabric of everyday life to the degree that would realistically fix the world seems all too overwhelming. If everyone acted like the fate of the planet de-

pended on their decisions, then we could be saved. But, of course, it's not that simple. The choice is so hard simply because each one of us has to make it.

UNNECESSARY TRAGEDY

In 1968, ecologist Garrett Hardin's *Science* article "The Tragedy of the Commons" gets at this dilemma. He writes about how when individuals can take from shared resources unchecked, everyone will take full advantage.

"Because the privatized gain would exceed the person's share of the common loss," Hardin pointed out, "a self-seeking individual would seek more exploitation of the commons. And reasoning in the same way, so would all the others. Ultimately, the common property would be ruined."

And thus the paradox rears its ugly head—it seems we need to save us from ourselves.

But where does this motivation for maximizing personal wealth—at the expense of everything else—come from? Because while the above model seems to offer little hope, whether it's an accurate portrait of human nature remains to be seen.

Perhaps even more paradoxically, whatever salvation we can hope to achieve seems to be found

in other people, in community—in common efforts. It's a mindset that we might not be using enough, however.

"The picture which is rewarded and predominated is that individuals are isolated, rational decision makers," says Sheila Mason, ethics professor in Concordia's Philosophy department. "That's the utilitarian picture, and it's the driving force behind capitalism."

It's easy to orient yourself towards the lifestyle of material goods and comfort that a personal fortune confers. It's easy to forget about the environment that makes all this success possible. But without the fragile natural balance that exists on Earth, human existence and progress wouldn't be possible.

The more of the planet we ruin trying to preserve this way of life we have become so attached to, the more we undermine our ability to live the way we do. This is unsustainable.

It's not hard to see how we got to this point. In business, material and legal constraints—which are often comparatively toothless—are the only things checking brute exploitation of the natural world. There's no explicit force inclining corporations to think about the absurdity of infinite growth within a finite space.

"[How we do business] was de-

signed in a period when the pressure on the ecosystem was not as palpable," said John Molson School of Business Professor Paul Shrivastava. "Now that we know what we are doing, we need to redesign virtually every aspect of our life."

Some, like Shrivastava, think our economic system needs to shrink a little bit. Shrivastava is the director of the JMSB's David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, an advocate of a multiple bottom-line approach to business practice that teaches businesspeople to maintain a socially and ecologically sustainable model—while maximizing profit.

Education might be the only way—as it is, ideas of regulation and reform are branded as an attack on personal freedoms by the lobby money behind the business and politics of expansion.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

A champion of the status quo will readily say, "Go ahead; be an environmentalist. That's your right," giving a less than cursory glance at the economic and social forces leading you towards consumer culture. But by the time sustainability becomes a financial imperative rather than just an ecological one, causing such a shift

will be even harder than it is now.

The fact remains that environmental ethics has not yet worked its way into our lives the way it needs to order to maintain anything close to our way of life for the next generation. We have not yet put enough pressure on those with the power to shift our course.

The question of how to get everyone to save everyone gets even more convoluted when the most powerful push the idea that greed is, for lack of a better word, good for society.

Can the free market save the planet before it's too late? The bigger question is whether or not we're really going to take that risk. Businesses need incentives, and perhaps it is also time to re-evaluate what's important.

"We all do this together. I'm not a Joan of Arc alone, bitterly composting," said Mason in explaining the fulfilling motivation of acting with the community in mind. "I'm part of a movement."

What we need is a movement beyond awareness, and practical application of that background dread for the future. Because sustainability is connected to everything we do. It is inevitably the systemic forces that need to change. But that will never happen if we don't seriously think about our own actions.

A SPECIAL INSERT



More Than A Game at Loyola



Loyola High School players bare a crest of Ed Meagher's favourite number 11 on their right shoulders to remember the tremendous contribution to sport he gave the school.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

The Ed Meagher Tournament Brings in Young Stars, Old Families and Lots of Nostalgia

• DAVID MURPHY

Concordia students may recognize the name Ed Meagher as the title of the old hockey arena at Loyola campus, right next to Loyola High School and the PERFORM Centre.

Loyola High School students associate the name Ed Meagher as one of the top high school sports tournaments in the country comprised of hockey, basketball and wrestling.

Bob Lafave, however, remembers Meagher as a hell of a guy.

"He was one of a kind," said Lafave. "I remember he used to go to [watch college sports at] Notre Dame every year, he just loved sports. And he brought that passion with him to this tournament."

Lafave first started volunteer-

ing at the tournament 28 years ago and has since worked his way up to chairman of the event.

With over 600 athletes and teams from Toronto and Newfoundland, the high school is reaping the benefits in terms of financing their athletic department.

Lafave reckons over \$17,000 is made annually from the tournament, which is in its 42nd year. The money goes directly into equipment such as wrestling mats, scoreboards and weight room supplies.

Randy Burns, the coordinator of the event who was once a student in Meagher's math class, thinks Concordia is a big reason for the success every year.

"Concordia's been huge since day one," said Burns. "They lend us their facilities and we fill the

arenas. They are great partners."

The tournament has allowed before-their-time greats like Eric Lindros and Vincent Lecavalier to glide on Concordia's ice. But this year Burns is most proud of Loyola's wrestling team—winning the section of the tournament for the first time in the history of the event over the usual powerhouse Kahnawake.

"The tournament serves as a great development process for the students. It's a different environment," said Burns. "There's big crowds that they're not used to playing with, they're playing at 8 p.m. instead of right after school, it's really exciting for the kids."

Burns and Lafave feel the tournament could go on for another 20 years, and it's something that is just expected to

"The tournament serves as a great development process for the students. It's a different environment."

—Randy Burns

Tournament Coordinator

happen year after year.

For Concordia Athletics Director, Katie Sheahan, the relationship between the high school and the former Loyola College grows even stronger overtime. "In order for [the high school] to be successful, there has to be a place for organizers here so that it's almost as if the facilities are

theirs all year round, so they can feel at ease."

It's only fitting the high school feels at ease at the arena, since Concordia renamed their hockey rink after Meagher 12 years ago to the day that Loyola lifted the three hockey trophies—bantam, juvenile peewee—on Sunday. In fact, the high school won six out of the seven possible events this past weekend, a testament to the tournament and the benefits brought to the athletic department because of it.

Lafave definitely feels more than comfortable at the event, and with good reason.

"It's a family event. Me, my son and my grandson played [in the tournament]," said Lafave. "It started off small, and now it's one of the finest tournaments in the country."

Rugby Legend Rees Passes Torch



Rugby players practice with the guidance of former international rugby star Gareth Rees on Saturday in the dome at Loyola.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

Canadian Star Shares His Knowledge at Loyola Clinic

• RICHIE DALY

Arguably the most famous Canadian Rugby player and a recent inductee into the International Rugby Board Hall of Fame, Gareth Rees, graced the field at Loyola on Saturday, preaching the basics of a game on the rise.

Within Canada, rugby has traditionally been a niche sport loved and adored by few, but overshadowed by hockey. Yet Rees feels the game is growing, and the field full of rugby players at Loyola on Saturday was a testament to that.

"I just love how keen and advanced everyone is. They seem to know a lot," said Rees of the 60 people that showed up for the \$35 full-day clinic.

"If we had done this 10 to 15 years ago, you would have had five people who knew a lot and 10 people who hadn't played the game at all. I think we only had two to three people who hadn't played much rugby."

Rees, who holds the Canadian record for most test points in in-

ternational play—487—started as a young player in Duncan, BC but moved to the rugby promised land in the United Kingdom.

"My parents are from the UK and my father played," said Rees. "My high school had a good rugby program. I played all sports but I liked the camaraderie and the culture of rugby best."

"I went over to Europe when I was young for a school exchange and had some success and was picked for Canada right after that," he said.

Rugby has long been popular in the British Isles and Rees found success and adoration playing there. He also played for the 1991 Canadian Rugby team who managed to make it to the quarterfinals of the Rugby World Cup—the furthest a Canadian team has ever been.

His international reputation as a fly-half and kicker was good enough for his name to be chosen as one of 30 players elected to the Rugby Board Hall of Fame last year. He was the only Canadian in the bunch, and the only one inducted so far.

"Canada did some impressive things and were a team to be reckoned with. For me to be singled out meant that the whole squad was being recognized as well. Rugby is not an individual sport; you need your team to have success."

"It's a massive feather in our cap to know we have someone on the world stage, the equivalent of Gretzky in hockey—someone recognized as being one of the world's best," said Clive Gibson, head coach of Concordia's men's rugby team.

"Now that we're competing on that massive stage that everybody in the world knows, we're going to see the general public pay attention," predicted Gibson.

Currently, the Canadian women's rugby team is ranked number one in the world, making them favourites at the upcoming London Olympic games, which has translated to funding and sponsorships.

The ranking is a proof of growing female interest in the sport, and a large portion of the players at the Loyola clinic were girls.

"Our women's program based out in Victoria, BC gets a lot of funding and they get things we didn't always have. They get all sorts of opportunities; they get gear and they get access to really good coaching," said Rees.

"Rugby is not big right now but it's growing really fast. When I started there were a lot fewer teams and now there are a lot more teams and places to play," said one of the female attendees who plays for Campus Notre-Dame-de-Foy.

The students started off the clinic at Loyola with a video series about the differences between rugby union and rugby sevens—a variant played with seven players a side instead of the usual 15—before heading onto the pitch and performing some individual and line-out drills to help them understand the ways in which the pace of sevens differs from traditional rugby.

Introduced as one of the newest Olympic sports in 2009, the sport will make its debut at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Games last 14 minutes and, with fewer players on the field, rugby sevens is a much faster and freer-flowing game.

After a brief lunch, Rees began to focus on specialty kicking. All participants in the clinic watched avidly as Rees demonstrated the basics in kicking techniques before pairing up and perfecting it themselves.

This was followed by the students kicking high-arching balls, some with placeholders and others in pairs. Rees moved throughout the action, emphasizing ways to improve the individuals' distance and accuracy.

The students all seemed to recognize Rees as a legend, but his skills at rugby weren't the only positive he brought to the field that day—he was also described as an "impressive" teacher, attesting to how much they learned about the game in just one day.

With rugby's popularity heating up internationally and at home, it's only a matter of time before Rees is seen for what he is—a Canadian rugby pioneer.

THE FRUSTRATION CONTINUES



Goalie Marie-Pier Remillard comes out of her crease to shut down Ottawa Gee-Gees forward Asha Kauffeldt at Ed Meagher Arena on Sunday.

PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY

Penalty Woes Lead to Another Women's Hockey Loss

"There's a fine line between winning and being afraid to lose. Sometimes we just don't bring that winning attitude with us."

—Les Lawton
Stingers Head Coach

• DAVID KAUFMANN

They came, they competed, but they couldn't stay out of the penalty box.

As a result, Concordia's women's hockey team lost 4-3 to the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees—their eighth straight loss—which dramatically hurts their chances of competing in the post-season.

"We've got to realize that we have to play with a little more passion and a little more intensity at certain times of the game," said Stingers head coach Les Lawton.

For the first two periods at least, it seemed as though Concordia did have that passion. After Ottawa forward Dominique Lefebvre opened the scoring midway through the first, ConU left-winger Emilie Bocchia scored a goal at the tail end of the period and banked another at the beginning of the second to make it 2-1.

Before Bocchia's second goal had even been announced, the Stingers nearly netted a third, but it was stopped by Ottawa goaltender Tia Marley.

However, Concordia tended to shoot themselves in the foot throughout the rest of the game.

"We had a couple of penalties against us—that has been hurting us for the past couple of games," said Stingers right-winger Catherine Rancourt.

The Stingers went to the box seven times in the game—a habit they've seen throughout the year. But this hurt them particularly in the second and third periods as Ottawa found the net twice while on the power play. The first came after Jaymee Shell's elbowing penalty; the second after Ottawa enjoyed a 5-on-3 in the third.

The Gee-Gees nearly ran away with the game following that power play when forward Lauren Coxon got a breakaway. Stingers goaltender Marie-Pier Remillard—who kept the game from becoming a blowout stopping 28 of 32 shots—had no problem denying the scoring opportunity with a good save.

With five minutes remaining, Bocchia completed her hat trick after connecting on a pass from Rancourt to put the Stingers back within one, but it wasn't enough; the team had already dug their own graves with undisciplined play.

As Lawton points out, this is something of a trend for the Stingers of late.

"There's a fine line between winning and being afraid to lose. Sometimes we just don't bring that winning attitude with us," said Lawton.

That aside, the opposition believes the Stingers have some potential.

"The Stingers have a great team. I don't think the standings show what kind of team they have," said Gee-Gees head coach Yanick Evola.

As much as Lawton would like to qualify for the post-season, though, he believes his squad might be in too deep.

"We dug ourselves a bit of a hole," said Lawton. "Hopefully we can get a bit of a run here. The teams we're up against, we've had success [with] in the past," he added, referring to Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and the Université de Montréal.

With the loss, the Stingers find themselves six points behind Ottawa, who hold the fourth and final playoff spot, with only five games left to play. They will try to rid themselves of their losing ways when they travel to Carleton this Saturday to take on the Ravens. The puck drops at 7:00 p.m.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

MEN'S HOCKEY

CONCORDIA 4 UQTR 3

Concordia's men's hockey team beat the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières squad at home for the first time since 2007 on Wednesday, squeezing by the Patriotes by a 4-3 count. Their next game is against the number-one ranked team in the country, the McGill Redmen. The action takes place this Friday at the McConnell arena at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 75 BISHOPS 67
CONCORDIA 67 MCGILL 73

The Stingers men's basketball impressive unbeaten run came to an end this week. The Stingers extended their streak with their eighth-straight win, defeating the Bishop's University Gaiters 75-67 before coming back to Earth a day later with a 73-67 loss to McGill—who nearly beat them in their last encounter. The Stingers have the Laval Rouge et Or on Friday night before crossing town to take on the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins Saturday. The games are at 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., respectively.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 55 BISHOP'S 59
CONCORDIA 50 MCGILL 61

The women's basketball team picked up their second and third losses of the season after being edged 59-55 by the Gaiters Friday night and 61-50 Saturday by the McGill Martlets. The Stingers will try to redeem themselves this weekend with games against the Laval Rouge et Or Friday, and the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins Saturday. Tip-offs are at 6:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

BILL C-11, A CANADIAN SOPA

• NADIM KOBEISSI

Threats against Internet freedom and digital rights aren't new, but the Internet blackout that happened a couple of weeks ago was. Now, however, the threat is moving closer to home—to Canada.

On Jan. 18, for 24 hours, Wikipedia shut down entirely. So did Reddit. Google blacked out its logo and a torrent of independent websites went down in protest.

This happened because the Internet, as a collective, intelligent body, felt mortally threatened: the Stop Online Piracy Act, a bill set to be voted on in U.S. Congress, was about to enact an Internet censorship system in the United States, with architecture similar to the ones seen censoring legitimate pathways of self-expression in China and Iran.

The U.S. government refused to listen to the experts, and the Internet was left with no other choice. The uproar American netizens produced was too loud to ignore, however, and Congress postponed the bill indefinitely. But this is a conflict that's been going on for as long as the Internet's been around, and it is far from over.

By the looks of it, the battle will be moving north of the border in the near future. Bill C-11, the Canadian government's proposed copyright modernization act, might set the groundwork for Internet censorship and seriously limit digital rights for all.

For example, Bill C-11 would make it illegal to save a DVD on your personal computer, even for fair dealing purposes.

According to Michael Geist, a Canadian law professor from the University of Ottawa, the music industry is seeking to use the bill to introduce website-blocking and even Internet access-termination for alleged repeat infringers.

This won't stand in Canada, and Canadians won't stand for it.

So join me, fellow students and fellow Montrealers to fight against this bill in support of civil rights on Feb. 10, at Norman Bethune Square. Come at 2:00 pm—not to listen to our speeches, but to give your own. Not to take pictures, but to be in them. Be part of the solution, and tell everyone that'll listen why this is a problem for you.

Defend your civil liberties. No one else will do it for you.

Google Ogling You



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Are We Becoming Google Products?

• PAULINE MAUCHE

It's official—if you don't pay, you are not the client: you are the product.

Starting March 1, Google will only have one privacy policy for all its services, making it even easier for the company to track users over all Google products.

It means that your personal information—from the day-to-day things you search for and email, talk about on Google+, to the places you visit on Google Maps and the cat videos you watch on YouTube—will all be under the same file.

It's not exactly news that Google uses our personal information. Ever notice how certain words always appear in your Gmail ads? Your email content determines which ads you see, a technique Google can charge more for than uniform ads for each account. And with this further aggregation, the ad system is set to make even more money.

In January 2006, products and actions by Google were accused of contradicting the company's "don't be evil" ethos.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch strongly condemned Google's compliance with China's Golden Shield Project, which further implements the nation's censorship of the Internet, calling it a form of self-censorship.

According to Amnesty, Google's Support Center claimed that it "does not censor results for any search term" until January 2006, when it did away with this claim after reaching its deal with China.

So what about the "don't be evil" policy? It seems Google doesn't feel like it can't make money without crossing that line. Not to mention how this information will also prejudice what your Google searches return. An algorithm decides what information is right for you, and it's getting more efficient.

In 2007, Privacy International, a self-described defender of "the right to privacy across the world," ranked Google as having the "worst" privacy policy. The group said the company had "numerous deficiencies and hostilities" to privacy and gathered a sheer amount of data about users and their activities.

The company also had to redesign Google Buzz after a litany of privacy complaints that arose due to the company's failure to ask for users' permission before using and sharing their information.

The major privacy problem with Buzz was that people's most frequent email contacts appeared as their followers on the service, meaning your boss, your mother or your abusive ex-husband could spy on you and who you were communicating with.

Another privacy concern was that it was hard to prevent people you didn't want following you from doing so.

Google is not the only one to use your data. The problem is that almost everyone has the potential to access it, as was demonstrated by a 2010 robbery resulting from Google Street View.

Englishman Gordon Rayner reported theft of his bike and washing machine, and was later alerted to the Google Street View photograph showing him standing next to his house in front of an open garage door. The contents of the garage could be seen clearly.

Unfortunately, the Internet these days is not much different—everyone's information seems to be on display for all to see, criminals included. If you're logged in to Google services, escaping this new policy of theirs is impossible.

Google is the world's default search engine, so popular that it has officially become a verb, so how can we stop using it? In any case, we should be aware of the risks we take while using its services.

GAG ORDER

Why Activists Shouldn't Engage in Self-Censorship

• JULIAN WARD

The student-led movement against tuition hikes in Quebec is set to take a turn that is both hypocritical and quasi-fascist.

Student unions from across the province will soon vote on whether they will allow themselves the opportunity to speak publicly about the specific tactics used by students in their fight.

The motion, drafted by a collection of student groups in Quebec, would prohibit all signatories from commenting on the actions of anyone trying to quash the impending fee-hikes.

If someone throws a smoke bomb into a school, for example, or smashes the windows of a government building, no single student representative would be able to speak out against it.

To be clear, the type of controversial behaviour I'm talking about here involves either physical violence or property damage. I'm not talking about actions like peaceful occupations or hanging banners, which, though they may be illegal, are not destructive.

Notwithstanding individual ac-

tions, isn't it curious that a movement advocating access to education as a human right is simultaneously trying to impose censorship? Evidently, not everyone thinks so. What is the value of such a self-imposed gag rule?

Some argue that it provides a safeguard against infighting, thus strengthening the solidarity between potentially disparate forces. This might be true, but it also prevents people from denouncing actions that they judge to be truly deplorable, should such actions occur.

In this light, is duct tape really the best tactic for activists to achieve their end goals? I think not.

By standing idly by and not denouncing actions which they would never undertake themselves, activists would convey a message to the unengaged public that violence and property destruction is a tactic of the whole movement, and not just one of a fringe element. The gag order would bring everyone down to the level of the lowest tactics employed in the name of tuition-hike freezes, whatever those end up being.

The message this sends is only amplified by many in the media who

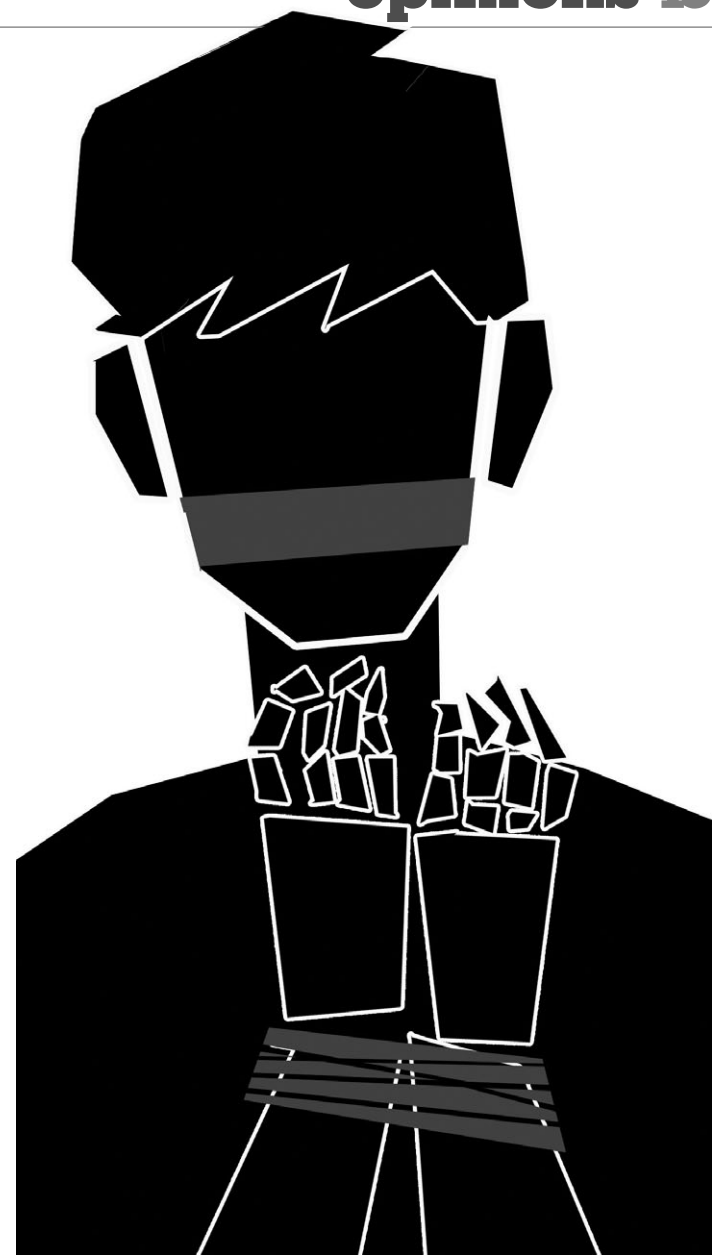
are hell-bent on the most exciting aspect of a story, which, frankly, is never the true meaning of the protest, but always the Black Bloc and the windows they smash.

And you know what? I don't fault those in the media for their tendency to focus on the extreme—over the years, for better or for worse, the mandate to report on things that are in the public interest has increasingly become a preference to report on things that will interest the public.

Nevertheless, those fighting for change need to play by life's unwritten rules or forever relegate themselves to the back-burner of public discourse.

To get people on their side, which should be the goal of anyone who claims to embrace democracy, activists must engage in publicly acceptable behaviour, and, if necessary, disavow ill-advised violent shenanigans.

When the Concordia Student Union votes next month on whether to gag themselves or be free, let's hope they make the right choice—one that allows them to be a strong voice for the many rather than the hostages of a few.



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

CSU's Anti-Hike Campaign Will Do More Harm Than Good

• ALEX WOZNICA

The Concordia Student Union is fighting a losing battle against tuition hikes with an irresponsible approach that is likely to do more harm than good.

This March, Concordia students will vote whether to go "on strike" to combat tuition fee increases. This will be the climax in an academic year that has seen the CSU engage in an intensive campaign against the hikes.

Despite the folly of trying to fight against a budget that has already been voted in as legislation by the provincial government, the CSU is arming itself with language that is likely to eliminate any chance of ameliorating the situation.

The most obvious problem with the CSU's campaign is that the tuition increases in question are quite reasonable. Tuition in Quebec has been frozen for most of the last 45 years.

The increases, which will increase by \$325 a year for five years, will, adjusted for inflation, bring provincial tuition back to 1968 levels. As well, Quebec students will still be paying some 30 per cent less than students in the rest of the country.

Regardless of whether the CSU feels the tuition increases are reasonable or not, the fact is that they are happening. They were voted in

as part of a legislated provincial budget this past March, which makes them extremely difficult to reverse.

Any change would have to occur in the realm of Parliament or the courts, and certainly not in that of student—or even public—opinion.

In leading the charge against the tuition increases at Concordia, the CSU has coerced people into believing that these protests have the possibility of reversing the tuition increases. The CSU needs to be more honest with the people it is supposed to be representing.

Student groups across the province, including the CSU, are still riding high after the 2005 student victory against a government plan to cut \$103 million from the bursary budget. But a tuition increase and a decrease in bursary money are not the same thing.

The hikes will generate badly needed funding for universities; funding that could very well be directed towards bursaries. If anything, the immature language that the CSU campaign uses to aggravate our government might jeopardize the likelihood of the government increasing those bursaries that they fought for almost seven years ago.

The Charest government could very likely be persuaded to make massive increases in both the availability and amount of student loans



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

and bursaries that would allow more students to attend, rather than fewer, as the CSU's campaign suggests.

That would go a long way in eliminating any negative effects created by the increases. Unfortunately, the CSU has gone out and begun what amounts to a malicious campaign of intimidation against the provincial government.

From the "Fuck Tuition" events at Concordia's Reggie's Bar that see the desecration of Jean Charest in effigy to the plan to jam the fax and phone lines of the provincial government, the CSU seems dead-set on creating a situation where the provincial government will be as unwilling as possible to give students a helping hand.

In failing to accept what appears

to be the new status quo of slightly higher tuition, and in deceiving students into thinking that this can be easily changed, the CSU is doing a great disservice to Concordia.

They need to stop making matters worse by using language and tactics that are likely to alienate the very government body that students need on their side in order to best cope with that new status quo.



Sustainable Sex

It's official: the green movement has reached the bedroom. It's no secret that being green has become a real concern, but you can tell people are taking it really seriously when the sex industry gets on board.

So why should you care? Well, despite being a pretty natural thing, sex isn't actually very sustainable. It's not the act itself that carries the problems, but rather the consequences and the conditions under which we have sex—many of which we've actually created.

Take sex toys for example. It's no secret that plastic isn't great for the environment but next time you're choosing a sex toy take this into consideration: in children's toys it's illegal to use more than 0.1 per cent of a group of chemical compounds called phthalates, which are used to soften hard plastics, because of links to infertility, birth defects, and hormone imbalances. Phthalates also don't chemically bond very well to plastics so they're commonly and easily released into the environment. Sound like something you want to stick up your ass? If not, you should know that you'll find phthalates in most sex toys as they're hardly as regulated.

The good news is that many companies have started producing sustainable sex toys, which are body-safe, animal product free, powered by rechargeable batteries and come in recyclable packaging! There's even a solar-powered bullet. Plus, most of these are made of wood (repurposed and varnished), unbreakable glass or silicone, so they can last a lifetime.

In case you're wondering, biodegradable sex toys don't exist because there'd be the risk of them beginning to decompose while still inside you. If you're really set on the idea, use a cucumber. If you REALLY want to be sustainable, eat it afterwards.

Latex condoms and dental dams also create issues for the environment. Latex is biodegradable, but condoms and dental dams are rarely made of 100 per cent latex and the lubricants and powders on packaged latex products to prevent deterioration actually affect biodegradability.

It's also estimated that these products take several years to a decade to decompose, and, at the rates that people are using them, we're not making much progress. Polyurethane con-

doms are synthetic so they won't decompose, and while lambskin condoms will, they don't protect against STIs and they're made of lamb intestines so if the goal is to be green, using animal products is pretty much one of the worst things you can do.

If that isn't enough for you, individual condom and dental dam packaging isn't biodegradable or recyclable either. So overall, condoms and dental dams aren't too eco-sexy... but then again, neither are STIs and unwanted pregnancies.

There are few things less sustainable than creating a duplicate of yourself to consume, pollute and essentially double your carbon footprint. So in avoiding making a baby, hormonal methods of contraception might look pretty good. The pill, however, also brings major environmental concerns. Not only does it regulate women's cycles in a not-so-natural way and have note-worthy side effects, it also causes women to release estrogen into water when they go to the bathroom. This, in turn, leads to increased levels of estrogen in human and water life populations, since most pharmaceuticals make it through treatment processing systems.

A similar thing happens with the antibiotics used to treat STIs (among other things). About 90 per cent of most antibiotics aren't absorbed in the system, so they make their exit into our water leading to water pollution and antibiotic resistance.

If you're really committed to going green, consider the all-natural, fertility awareness method as birth control. But I'd only recommend even considering this if you're in a monogamous sexual relationship, since it doesn't protect against STIs, and if you're incredibly organized with a foolproof schedule.

So ultimately, what's the most eco-friendly way to have sex? Well, with yourself. No but really, it's looking like the healthiest and most eco-friendly way to have an orgasm is by getting yourself off with your hand. So go ahead and have a guilt-free orgasm!

—Melissa Fuller

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

Soccer Impact Yet to Be Seen



Saputo Stadium, home of the Impact, is yet to see any advertisements and still displays their old logo.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

All Quiet on the Football Front as New Season Approaches

• DAVID MURPHY

On Mar. 3 the Montreal Impact will play a historic first match against cross-nation rivals, the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Confused already? You're not alone. Allow me to fill you in.

The Impact is Montreal's only professional soccer team, and they're heading into their inaugural season in Major League Soccer—the largest soccer league in North America and home of David Beckham. And believe it or not, some people actually care about the Impact.

Well, perhaps that's not entirely true.

The group of supporters behind the net at every Impact game—called the 'Ultras'—probably care. But other than them, the upcoming season doesn't appear to be garnering attention. There's no sense of growing anticipation.

This is a stark contrast to the build-up to the Vancouver Whitecaps' first season in MLS, which started this time last year.

When I was in Vancouver then, posters dominated the city and radio ads filled the airwaves. It was hard not to know soccer was coming to town.

The Portland Timbers, who also entered the league last year,

had posters of busty women with saws as props tantalizing the downtown core in late 2010.

The Whitecaps took this tactic a step further and body painted a naked blonde with their new and improved jersey, slapped her on a banner the size of two semi-trucks, hung it off a five-storey building on the busiest street in the city, and ran a YouTube campaign about it.

This created controversy and had their Facebook page buzzing—some said it was a classless move to display giant, mountainous breasts in a populous area, while others said it was a healthy distraction from the less-titillating North Shore Mountains.

Whether it was socially acceptable or not, it inspired a province-wide discussion and soccer was on everyone's radar.

While these teams were, in tried-and-true business fashion, spending money to make money in early 2011, the official Impact Facebook page doesn't even have a wall yet.

In fact, according to Montreal Impact media relations, they aren't even done finalizing details for their 2012 marketing campaign.

The Whitecaps are a mile

ahead with their 'Round 2' ad campaign already hitting the town and on social media platforms. The only sports conversation in Montreal is why the Canadiens are still stuck in the basement of the Eastern Conference, instead of a new beginning in a sport that's proven more popular than hockey amongst Canadian kids.

Tapping into a sports market that is craving low ticket prices is something Montrealers have been looking for ever since the Expos left town for Washington, and not jumping on the chance to engage these sports-starved fans is like standing over an oil reservoir and setting up a lemonade stand.

When the Impact's marketing campaign finally shows up, however, it better be good. It has to capture the attention of non-soccer lovers and they have to go above and beyond naked women with painted-on jerseys to have an *actual* impact, and make up for lost time.

Nothing would be more embarrassing than having a losing hockey team, a metro system that breaks down all the time, and a losing soccer team that no one goes to see.

Who are we, Toronto?

'90s Nostalgia

ACROSS

3. As a kid, I thought this film was a slam-dunk. Looking back, it's about as good as Michael Jordan is at baseball. (2 words)

7. This gory game had players 'test their might' against each other in a fight to the death. (2 words)

9. Cowabunga! These heroes in a half-shell each got their name from a Renaissance master. (4 words)

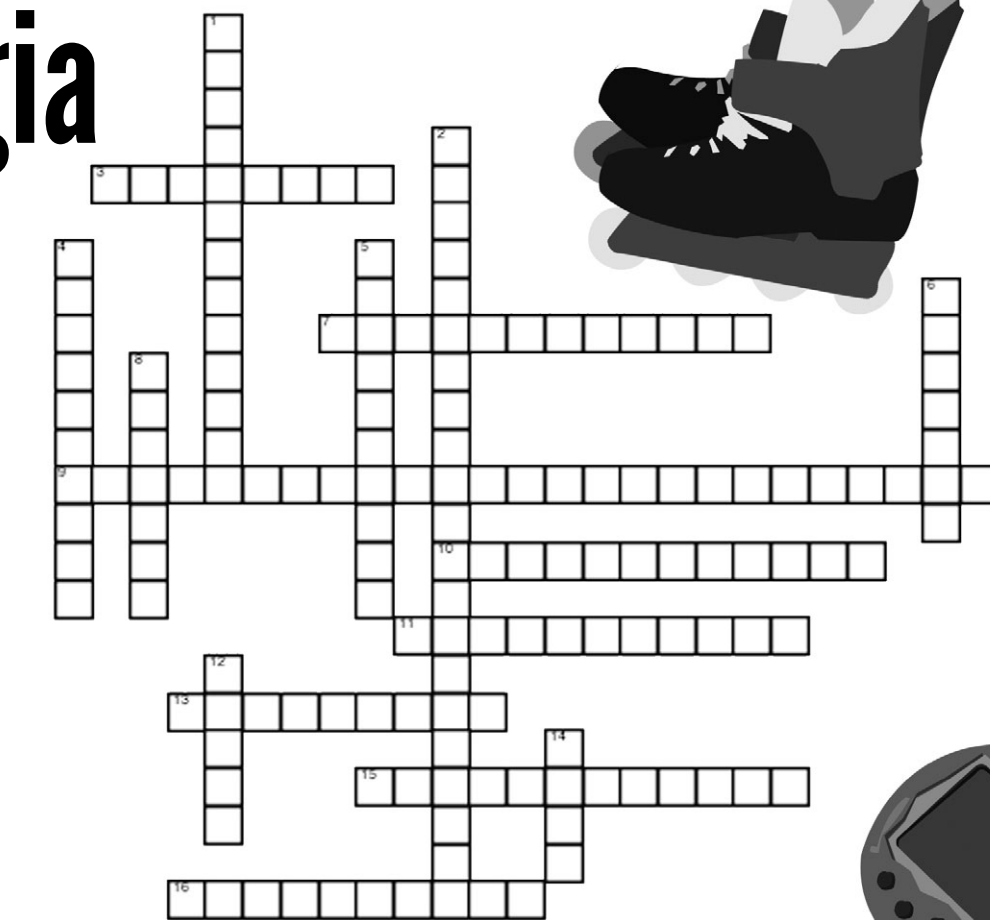
10. While things like weapons and zords would change with each season, this show had one unchanging element: the red one was always the coolest. (2 words)

11. The West Philadelphia playgrounds are where this fly guy spent most of his days—until he moved in with his uncle and auntie in Bel-Air. (2 words)

13. Due to child labour laws, Michelle Tanner had to be portrayed by fraternal twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen on this ABC sitcom. (2 words)

15. At the height of their popularity, these fabric fauna would resell for thousands of bucks, a hell of a mark-up for glorified hacky-sacks. (2 words)

16. This fab female five-some sold over 75 million albums worldwide, a record for an all-girl group. (2 words)



BY CHRIS TAN

DOWN

1. This ill-fated royal made headlines for her untimely death in 1997. (2 words)

2. Sarah Michelle Gellar stars as the titular kick-ass heroine who protects the residents of Sunnydale from all sorts of evil in this show. (4 words)

4. These toys, whose name combines the Japanese words for

'egg' and 'watch,' were banned from many schools due to the constant attention that they required from owners.

5. This spooky series of books would keep me up countless nights. It seems silly now, seeing how hokey they were.

6. This site was one of the first—but certainly not the last—online peer-to-peer file-sharing sites.

8. This 8-bit beauty was the very first handheld console produced by Nintendo.

12. These '90s robots may be described as 50 per cent hamster, 50 per cent owl—but I think everyone can agree that they're 100 per cent creepy in retrospect.

14. This leather-clad gal's show went on to outshine *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, the series it was spun off from.



LETTERS @thelinknewspaper.ca

Defending the Oppressor

Columnist Riley Sparks cannot be criticized for inconsistency. Without fail, he starts his columns by writing that cops are generally violent and oppressive. With equal consistency, he then defends Montreal police against their latest use of violence. He has perfected his method in his latest column, which merits a serious response.

Sparks writes that anti-police brutality activists have made "cheap politics" of the killing of Farshad Mohammadi, an Iranian immigrant with mental health issues who was shot and killed by Montreal police on Jan. 6.

Sparks writes that events surrounding the killing are "unclear." Given this lack of clarity, he proceeds to write his own history of how events unfolded.

Without any expert opinion he explains how "shooting to wound" is more difficult than it looks on television. "The police have a

tough job," after all, "and many of them do it well."

Sparks then returns to those "ignorant" activists. How dare they go "rushing to crucify the police without knowing or caring what happened on Jan. 6."

How ignorant of Sparks?! How ignorant for rushing to defend the police and crucifying the activists without knowing or caring about what they actually did and said.

Sparks' argument is incoherent, but he rightly argues that "activists devalue their very legitimate cause when discarding facts to fit a prejudiced narrative."

One should indeed take precaution in distorting facts to suit a political agenda. But this concern should be applied with greater measure by Sparks himself given that he is supposedly a professional journalist.

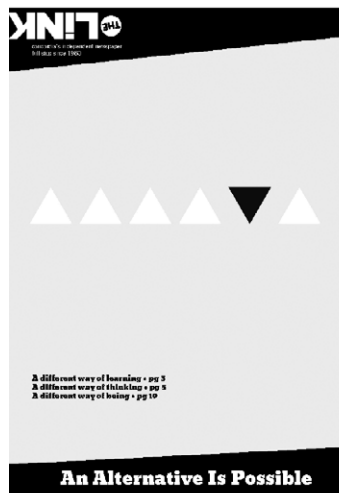
He has devalued his work by making assumptions about the event itself and the activists that responded to the killing. Anyone

who followed these events closely knows that certain anti-police brutality activists were the best informed about this case.

Of far greater importance is Sparks' journalistic focus. People striving for peace should "denounce the violence on which the present system is based," wrote radical pacifist A.J. Muste. "So long as we are not dealing honestly and adequately with this 90 per cent of our problem, there is something ludicrous—and perhaps hypocritical—about our concern over the 10 per cent of violence employed by the rebels against oppression."

In his coverage of the McGill occupation last November and the killing of Mohammadi this month, Sparks has tasked himself with the ludicrous and hypocritical job of defending the 90 per cent of violence upon which our present system is based.

—Matthew Brett
MA political science



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



• SANAZ HASSANPOUR

In keeping with our special sustainability issue, we asked students what further initiatives do they think ConU could take to be more sustainable?

"They could have more greenhouses. At the Hall Building, they have a greenhouse, so they could do that for other buildings and some on Loyola, too. I think those kind of initiatives are more student run."

—Anne Guay

BA Political Science



"As [far as] what I know, they are doing a pretty good job. But they should have a proper smoking place. The thing is if you go out, everyone is smoking in front of the [doors]. You know, passive smokers, cigarettes lying down on the street, in front of the entrance. They should have some sort of smoking cabin."

—Atif Ali

MBA



"Well, by using your laptop all the time, you are consuming the electricity rather than paper. At the end, it's the same thing. By saving the paper, you are destroying the environment by using electricity. And, if we all share a lab or two after a certain time of the day, we could all save electricity. For example, if we have six labs from 9 p.m. onwards, we could use only two labs. We could save the electricity of those four labs."

—Hitesh Nalamwar

MEng Software



"In engineering, every assignment we give, we have to print this sheet, 'The Expectation of Originality,' for every assignment! And, if you don't print, they deduct marks. It is just to write your name. I don't think that's important. It's just a waste of paper. All the projects that we have to give, we have to give in a hard copy."

—Turki Halawani

BEng Industrial



"To ban paper cups. That would be very good. Tim Horton's. Starbucks. Everybody brings their own reusable cup. We are like 20,000 students? Imagine one person buys [a cup of] coffee a day. This is pretty ridiculous amount of paper wasted right there."

—Eirini Michali

BA Political Science



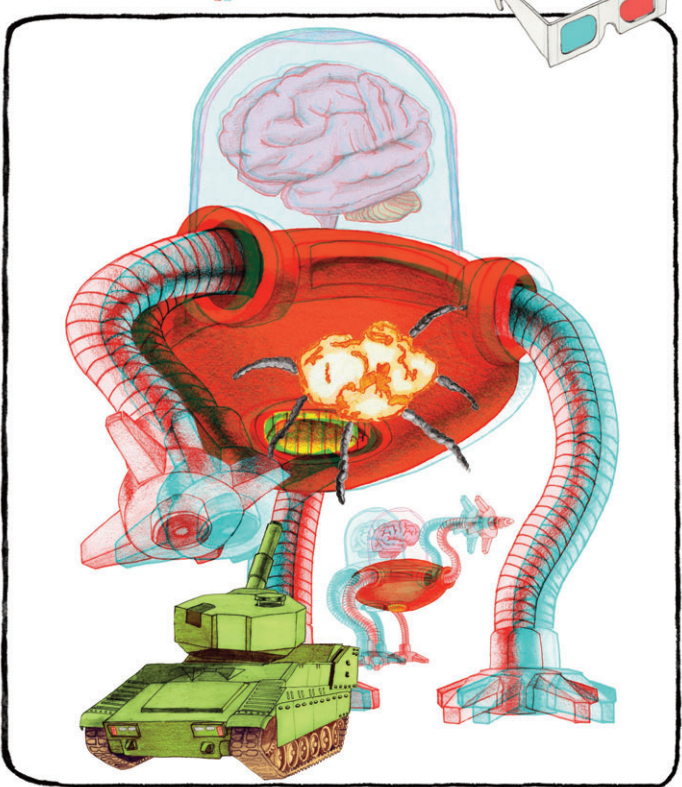
Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales

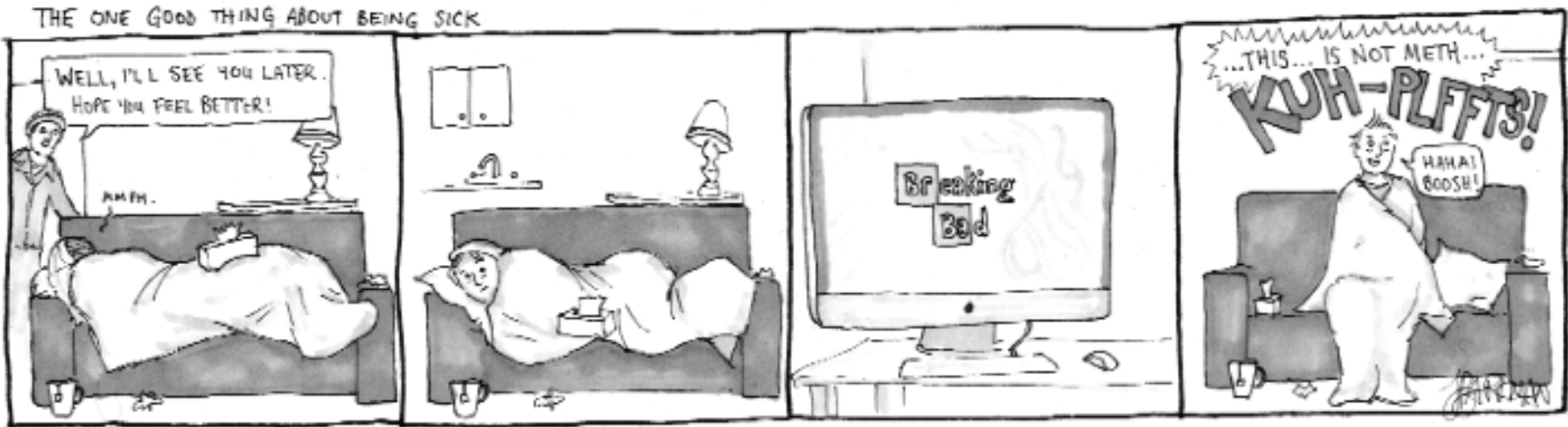
by Christopher Olson



“They say that the only chance for peace with the Martians,” mused Sgt. Raygun, “is if we were both invaded by another dimension.”

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

Science Sometimes Sucks

As I'm sure my legions of fans at Concordia have noticed, my byline has been absent from this fine publication for a few weeks now. I know you're all concerned, as I've heard the lamentations and received the singing telegrams, but I figure you all deserve an explanation: I've been gone because I've been sick, and that bitch of a mistress called science hasn't done shit to help me.

We can transmit insane amounts of data almost instantaneously around the world. We can screw

with the very atomic foundations of life. We can make toothpaste taste like bubble gum. But when it comes to treating vertigo—a chronic dizziness caused by inner-ear problems—our best researchers have come up with this: “Move your head this way. Ok, now that way. Feel better? No? Umm... oh. Crap. Good luck with that, I guess.”

Seriously science, I like you, but sometimes, you're a bit of a dick.

—Adam Kovac
Current Affairs Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

THE ART OF GRANDSTANDING

editorial

I'm not quite sure who brought it up, but there's a concept from the Student Council meeting last Wednesday that really stuck with me.

The concept was 'grandstanding.'

Grandstanding is a verb that connotes someone is putting on a show, attempting to impress or seek approval. The person doing it desires attention from onlookers, spectators and media.

With so many important and necessary issues which students need to understand this semester, it's unfortunate that we sometimes waste our time—and ink—covering what amounts to little more than petty politicking bull-shit.

We're pretty certain it's going to take a whole lot more than isolated, attention-grabbing displays for students to accomplish anything in the weeks ahead. There isn't much confidence from our end that grandstanding will necessarily preface lasting and effective

policy change, quite honestly. Does it ever?

To get a sense of the prevalence of grandstanding at Concordia, why don't we check out what's up with the two branches of Concordia governance—student and admin.

The Concordia Student Union is mired deep in the trenches of the anti-tuition hike fight, but frankly, grandstanding will probably not work on the Liberal government of Quebec.

As we've seen, there hasn't been much in the way of gains for the student collective since the Nov. 10 protest that saw 30,000 students on the street. As awesome as it was, one full-day display of "Fuck you, Charest" didn't move mountains the way we hoped.

When the student groups banded together, it seemed as though communication and information was really getting out there—at least, for a time.

But grandstanding on Nov. 10

only took the student movement so far, and the reality is that it might not be an effective use of time for round two.

Alone, another huge protest cannot deliver what would, or could, make a second collective action different or more effective, or the murky Liberal budget more understandable. Sure, people paid attention on Nov. 10. But what are the necessary steps that generally precede lasting policy change, and how are we taking them?

Your guess is as good as ours.

The lines of communication seem to have gotten crossed at Concordia as well.

While posters cropping up in the hallways pretty much spell out the Concordia Student Union's position on the hikes (hint: strike), the Provost has proclaimed deliberate actions in March will not hinder business (and classes) as usual in terms of university operations.

Sounds like this is going to be one heck of an exam period. Regardless of where your politics

land, can we all agree that it's pretty sad our governments came to their decisions on the matter seemingly without each other's input?

Where are the panel discussions? The information sessions? The inter-governmental exchange necessary to take on such an important decision on either side? The fact that communication is absent is a troubling sign.

Now, what about the Board of Governors?

About a year ago, the highest governing body at this school was in crisis mode after unilaterally firing former president Judith Woodsworth.

Not anticipating the intense backlash and media scrutiny, the BoG called for an "open meeting" following an external governance report—ostensibly to help prove to the Concordia community the administrators on top would be more willing to communicate and cooperate in the months ahead.

Fast-forward to 2012: If recent Board meetings are any indication, the entire "open forum" spectacle was—oh yeah, you guessed it—grand-freakin'-standing.

Today, the BoG is essentially evading the community they had promised to engage with in the new year, rejecting motions that would create transparency and ensure that good governance is carried through.

Specifically, the almighty BoG and Senate defeated motions to have Board meetings filmed and streamed. This would ensure anyone could access them, while also holding individual members accountable to the public institution they claim to serve. These concepts, apparently, don't interest the BoG.

All this to say, we see through your showy bravado, Concordia. This isn't progress—it's posturing. And we deserve better.

— Laura Beeston,
Editor-in-Chief

ISSUE 18 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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