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Can We Watch? • Page 19

CUTV, Inc.



CUTV station manager Laura Kneale was one of three people who filed for CUTV's incorporation.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Confusion Reigns as Campus TV Station Incorporates

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

CUTV, Concordia's television station, took the first steps towards restructuring itself and gaining some independence from the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation, the umbrella organization that oversees CUTV and radio station CJLO.

The online-broadcast station was incorporated under the name 'Télévision communautaire universitaire-Concordia' on Jan. 11 by CUTV representative to the CSBC board Abel Alegria, station manager Laura Kneale, and programming director Laith Marouf.

An emergency meeting was called by CSBC directors on Jan. 17 where members of CUTV explained their decision to stray away from the CSBC. Under Quebec law, one of the rights granted by incorporation is the ability to apply for grants from the province, as well control of bank accounts.

"There are only so many subsidies a corporation can apply for," said CSBC board member and former *The Link* news editor Christopher Curtis, who at-

tended the January meeting, suggesting that the reason for CUTV's branching-out was to increase the amount of outside grants that the station could receive without having to compete with CJLO for the money.

CSBC secretary Sabine Friesinger agreed that finances were the impetus for the incorporation, pointing out that CUTV had received an increase to its fee levy by \$0.16 per credit to \$0.34 total during the November byelection. She argued that this increase made a restructuring of the station's oversight necessary.

"In that sense the incorporation is just part of this creation of checks and balances and accountability for the management of the money and for the direction of the general organization," said Friesinger.

Despite the incorporation, the TV station hasn't fully cut ties with CSBC, which will still provide oversight. A restructuring committee composed of three CUTV members and three CSBC members was created during CUTV's general meeting on Jan. 19.

The committee is expected to

"We do take the opportunities to do interviews when the subject matter does seem like something we want represented. We are a very transparent organization,"

—Laura Kneale

CUTV Station Manager

report during the February CSBC meeting according to the meetings minutes of the CSBC regular January meeting.

But according to Kneale, the restructuring committee hasn't even met yet. While she wouldn't comment on the incorporation, she did state that everything CUTV does is open for the public to see.

"We do take the opportunity to do interviews when the subject matter does seem like something we want represented," said

Kneale. "We are a very transparent organization."

CUTV received a vote of confidence from their radio colleagues under CSBC, as CJLO board rep Angelica Calgagnile told *The Link*, "I think they are trying to do what they feel is best for their organization."

Calgagnile admitted that she and others on the CSBC board had no idea of the branching off until the meeting on Jan. 17.

Others, like Friesinger, apparently did know about the move, and claimed board members were aware as well.

"Maybe some board members were not paying attention, but yes, the board was aware," said Friesinger. "After the [incorporation], you have 90 days to propose a structure for the organization. That's where we're at now."

Curtis said that the confusion among board members was due to a misunderstanding.

"We initially mistook [the incorporation] to mean that they just wanted to break off and have their own organization," said Curtis. "I think they have a good vision, but they need some help. It's not easy."

CFS WANTS \$1.8M

• ADAM KOVAC

Count your pennies, Concordia students—the Canadian Federation of Students says you owe them money, and lots of it.

In a counter-claim submitted in January to the Concordia Student Union's lawsuit to leave the CFS, the national student lobby group said that the union owes them roughly \$1.8 million.

"I don't see their logic," said CSU President Lex Gill.

The claim from the CFS isn't new. The lobby group has maintained since February 2010 that Concordia students owe them just over \$1 million in back dues, an assertion both the CSU and Concordia have disputed.

Facing allegations of misspent fees, stagnant campaigns and a failure to successfully lobby the federal government, student groups across the country are attempting to leave the CFS; the CSU was the eighth to attempt it.

After the CFS increased its previous claim by \$800,000, Gill said the new figure is based on three things: dues owed for this year, despite the CSU's attempt to leave; money the CFS claims is owed to CFS-Quebec, a separate entity, dating back to 1998; and unpaid dues from all Concordia students from 1998 onward.

Gill said the last claim was impossible, due to a little known aspect of CSU history.

"From 1998 until 2007, the only people who should have been paying fees to the CFS were Arts and Science and Fine Arts students," said Gill. "In 1998, Arts and Science and Fine Arts students were the only members of the CSU, and they were the only people able to vote to join the CFS."

At the time, business and engineering students were represented by separate student associations.

The CFS's counter-claim comes in response to a lawsuit filed by the CSU after Concordia students voted in a March 2010 referendum to leave the organization.

Although 72 per cent of those who voted wished to leave, the CFS claimed the referendum was illegitimate due to insufficient turnout, which prompted the CSU to sue for its freedom in March 2011.

Concordia's Graduate Students' Association also held a referendum in April 2010 in which 75 per cent of the vote was against remaining part of the federation.

The CFS similarly refused to recognize those results; the GSA, like the CSU, remains embroiled in an ongoing legal battle to leave the federation.

Bigger Is Better?

Protesters Expand Focus of Tuition Fight

• JULIAN WARD

Yelling, “Fuck the police!” and, “Don’t fuck with our education!” a group of radical anti-tuition protesters made their way through Montreal’s downtown campuses on Feb. 2.

That morning, around 200 protesters met in Concordia’s Hall Building in an effort to raise awareness of the growing campaign against the Quebec government’s impending tuition-fee hikes.

The tactics used and sentiments expressed by the demonstrators were markedly more aggressive than those of the tens of thousands who took to the streets on the Nov. 10 Day of Action against tuition hikes.

“I think that our struggle is radical,” said event spokesperson Frank Lévesque-Nicol, who suggested students question the logic behind the rising tuition fees.

“Basically, more and more people are starting to realize that the real problem behind the rising tuition fees and the commodification of education is something related to a socioeconomic system that is behind it all.”

The protesters consisted of a loosely organized contingent of anarchists, socialists and anti-capitalists, who marched through the hallways, libraries and cafeterias of Concordia, McGill, CEGEP Vieux-Montreal, and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Not all in the anti-tuition hike movement, however, identify with the anti-establishment message of the protesters.



Protestors from a more-radical anti-tuition protest stop in UQAM on Feb. 2.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

“My only criticism is that I worry that by adding additional messages [such as anti-establishment or anti-police] you are diluting from the core issue, which is affordable tuition,” said former Concordia Student Union councilor Tomer Shavit.

“The great accomplishment of [the Day of Action protest] was that the students attending the rally were not just from ‘activist groups’ or the ‘usual protesters,’” he said.

“Any other cause that is affixed to the tuition fight can lead to divisiveness and so should be treated with caution.”

CSU VP External Chad Walcott, who has played a large role in organizing Concordia’s part in the anti-tuition campaign, echoed Shavit’s criticism.

Distancing the CSU from the divisive actions of the demonstration, Walcott said the protesters failed to choose the “most effective means of getting the message out.”

“Running around with a megaphone through the library isn’t necessarily the best way to get students on your side, though it is a really good way to get heard,” he said.

Walcott thinks a debate of more radical ideas would be more appropriate when activists and students aren’t in direct conflict with the government over tuition.

“[These activists] have a larger scope to their demands. They’re asking for the removal of all

worldly oppression. Theirs is just another discourse that falls within the anti-tuition debate. More than anything, I think that these discussions should come at a time of peace,” he said.

“I think that it’s practical to ask for a freeze in the face of an increase and it’s ideological to ask for free tuition in the face of an increase,” he said.

“If you’re driving a car forward, you have to stop before you go backward.”

\$900K LATER, JUDY’S BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

• COREY POOL

One year after being forced to resign from her position as university president, Judith Woodsworth has made an unlikely return to Concordia as a professor, despite having been compensated over \$169,573 in “administrative leave pay” to help her get back on her feet.

On Dec. 22, 2010 Woodsworth left the university at the urging of the Board of Governors halfway through her term in office, receiving a \$747,045 severance package that stands out as one of the hallmarks of a governance crisis that continues to plague the university.

Woodsworth’s story is not a particularly new one, however. Her predecessor, Claude Lajeunesse, was dismissed in 2007. Together, the severance packages they received amount to almost \$2 million.

Now Woodsworth has taken up a teaching position in the Department of French Studies, teaching French translation.

“It bewilders me why she would want to come back [to Concordia] to teach, or why the university would hire her, but I imagine it is part of whatever settlement they had,” said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. The severance package and administrative leave pay saw Woodsworth leave with \$916,618 in total.

In an interview with *The Link* last November, Concordia VP Services and Secretary General Bram Freedman explained administrative leave as “almost like a little sabbatical,” wherein academics that are temporarily senior administrators are “given six months to brush up on their academic areas because they’ve been out of [academia] for five or 10 years.”

Woodsworth was a faculty member and professor at Concordia for seventeen years between 1980 and 1997. After leaving Concordia, she held the position of VP Academic at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, and later was president at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

Woodsworth returned to Concordia to hold an administrative position as president of the university in 2009, twelve years after leaving Concordia as a professor.

According to Concordia’s Policy Concerning the Remuneration of Senior Administrators, the benefit of academic leave should only apply at the conclusion of one’s term in office.

The policy also states, “Senior administrators who are not professors are not eligible for administrative leaves and will receive appropriate compensation reflected

in their salaries.”

Though Concordia did not hire Woodsworth as an academic in 2009, and her term was never completed, Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, senior media relations advisor for Concordia, claims that there is nothing unusual about her situation.

“Like all academic administrators [Woodsworth] received academic appointment when she was re-hired as president in 2009, so it’s really business as usual,” said Desjardins.

Freedman refused multiple requests for comment on this issue.

Last week Education Minister Line Beauchamp made comment on the case of Woodsworth’s return to Concordia, demanding an explanation from the university.

Desjardins assures that these requests have been met.

“Senior officials at Concordia

were in touch regularly with Line Beauchamp’s office on Jan. 31,” said Desjardins.

“They answered the questions concerning the subject of Dr. Woodsworth’s return, and the lines of communication between Concordia and the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport remains open.”

However, Gill doesn’t buy Beauchamp’s newfound concerns for Concordia’s governance problems. She believes that Beauchamp is simply “latching on to the spectacle of Judith Woodsworth,” while the education department mismanages millions of dollars.

“The reality is that no university should have been able to give anyone this deal that Woodsworth got when she left,” said Gill. “Now the ministry is stepping in a year later to ask questions? That’s not really acceptable.”

Out in the COLD

The Occupy Montreal camp saw city dwellers share space with the homeless.

PHOTO PETER HAEGHAERT

Occupy Montreal and the Homelessness Question

• BRIAN LAPUZ

If nothing else, Occupy Montreal brought in a diverse crowd.

From its origin on the Oct. 15 Global Day of Action up until the ultimate eviction two months later, people from almost all walks of life congregated in Victoria Square.

Unionized workers, hippies, temporary refugees from the upper-middle class, pensioners, street kids from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, anarcho-punks, suburbanites from the West Island or South Shore, Mile-End hipsters—and even some yuppies.

The general assemblies were well attended. Musicians played to their hearts' content.

Part of the worldwide infamy Occupy Wall Street gained was because of its quasi-primitivist communal organization. Occupy Montreal followed suit.

Soon, the kitchen got up and running, along with the first aid station and the media centre. They even had free clothing, courtesy of donors. As weeks went by, tents multiplied and Victoria Square became a colourful island in the middle of the business district grey, set off from the cement sidewalk by a marble border, like an inlaid jewel.

As the occupation progressed, however, it began to take on an unexpected characteristic—a certain smell. It wasn't anything unbearable, but body odour was definitely in the air under the canopy and network of tarps in the newly dubbed Place du Peuple, sheltering the bulk of the operation.

The sections north of St. Antoine

St. W. and west of Square-Victoria St. didn't have much overhead cover, and weren't as affected. But a few weeks in, the issue could no longer be ignored in the main segment.

Our society has many so-called elephants in the room, but if there's one that makes city dwellers the most uncomfortable, it's homelessness.

A HOME IN THE PARK

Occupy Montreal, which was supposed to be a political expression, saw a huge swell of homeless people, as did the one in New York, weeks before worldwide expansion.

The camps also saw drugs, violence and crime; as much as pundits accused the movement of not having a focused enough mandate, Occupy encampments worldwide were also victims of their own success.

Occupy was too welcoming—and not logistically prepared—to turn away elements that ended up sullyng its reputation in the media and in the minds of the public.

"I have no idea why the people were there," said Stéphane Beaucage, a homeless man who went to Square Victoria every day after discovering the camp in early November. "I imagine it had to do with the government or something."

Beaucage has been homeless for several years. A man constantly abuzz with a certain nervousness, he often goes to the Old Brewery Mission—the century-old shelter and outreach center on St. Antoine

St.—for food, shelter and to volunteer. His curiosity brought him to Place du Peuple.

"There was food, tents, clothing, coffee," Beaucage remembered. "I walked around, spoke to people..."

While Beaucage's reasons for going to the tent city were benign, some say that the end result was less so.

"Homeless people hurt the image of Occupy Montreal," said Stéphane Marceau, a Montreal psychiatric nurse who spent most of his nights on site treating injuries and calming down rowdy people.

"That's because journalists obsessed over them. At the same time, Occupy Montreal wasn't able to give an answer to the public about what was going on."

Still, the Occupiers accepted the challenge. They had a mandate to be inclusive and to give safety to anyone at their camp.

At first, it was clear that the homeless only came because of the food and because they could loiter without anyone attempting to throw them out. In Occupier Jill Pittman's words, "They didn't take ownership of the space."

Originally, the homeless didn't bother participating in the general assemblies or to take up tasks at Occupy Montreal's various committees. But change can come through unexpected avenues.

"After a few weeks, they were helping out and were developing skills they could use to integrate back into society," Pittman recounted.

It wasn't just a one-way street process, either, however. By being

inclusive and paying attention to one of society's most marginalized groups, Occupy Montreal eventually got something back. By taking part in the occupation, the homeless were able to live in a community.

According to several members of the Occupy community, the newly minted Occupiers did their best to be helpful with absolutely anything. They served coffee, directed people who had questions, kept the encampment as tidy as possible, peeled potatoes—any number of little odd jobs to help keep the camp running smoothly.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE TENTS

So how exactly did drugs and violence play into this?

"Let's not kid ourselves," said Marceau. "Downtown Montreal is not a quiet little town. A lot of violence happens there."

While the media threw homelessness, drug abuse and violence on the same boat, some spoke favourably of the homeless. They were able to distinguish between those perpetuating street violence and good people who needed help to get back on their feet. In fact, homeless Occupiers often helped keep the peace by confronting violent people.

"They weren't the ones who caused violence or brought the drugs, even though some were drug addicts," explained Marceau. "It was the criminality surrounding the homeless. They were the prey."

It's a popular perception that mental illness is common amongst

the homeless. The statistic that's thrown around is that 40 per cent of homeless males suffer from a mental disorder. That number is even greater among women.

Marceau explained that mental health issues are intensified with the consumption of drugs, and Place du Peuple saw no shortage of syringes—or other stuff.

"This was the jackpot for all those drug dealers that prey on the homeless," Marceau said.

He admits that things were getting out of hand towards the end and that the homeless got singled out.

"A bunch of community groups wanted to support us. They had the skills that we didn't have because we're not mental health professionals," said Pittman, who lamented that the Occupiers were evicted before they'd gotten a chance to work things out in that regard.

But now the issue is no longer in front of them. Two months after Victoria Square was emptied, those who took temporary reprieve there have found themselves back out in the cold. Former Occupiers occasionally run into the homeless from the camp—sometimes to their surprise.

"We saw some people who we had no idea were homeless. Now we see them begging," said Marceau.

While Occupy Montreal was not a perfect haven for the lowest on society's totem pole, for a couple of months, it provided them with food, a place to sleep, conversation and company—it gave them a community.

History in the Making

Concordia Clubs Team Up for Black History Month

• ADAM KOVAC

Left off this year's Concordia Student Union calendar and in the dark about any planning, Saradjen Bartley thought her student union didn't care about Black History Month.

The president of the Concordia chapter of the African and Caribbean Students' Network, Bartley decided to find out what was going on.

"Last year, we were contacted by the CSU around October and by mid-November we met with them. This year, I had to go to them," said Bartley.

Ultimately, CSU VP Finance Jordan Lindsay stepped in to help with the project. Lindsay said the reason for the delay was that "they had expectations of us, and we were unaware of the expectations."

"I think they expected us to have started working on this last semester, and we hadn't. There's no manual for this particular kind of work, and I think that the priorities of the group were kind of forgotten about."

Since they cleared up the miscommunication, Bartley said Lindsay's contributions have been valuable.

"There's nothing to complain

about. Jordan has been helping a lot."

That hiccup in communication is ironic, given the theme of the activities in this year's edition are "Together We Stand."

As a joint project of eight student associations, each was responsible for organizing their own events, but cooperation was encouraged.

"This year we tried to do something special," said Bartley. "In prior years, they would usually collaborate in some events, but this year we tried to have everything go with associations collaborating with each other. So far it's been great."

Among the events planned are speakers, film screenings, a fashion show, a museum display, workshops and panel discussions.

Concordia Caribbean Students' Union VP Finance Yuri Wilkie said he believes the annual month-long celebration of black culture is particularly necessary at the university given Concordia's history, citing the 1968 Computer Riot.

The riot took place in the Hall Building's Computer Centre on the ninth floor to protest a professor that students claimed was racist. The event resulted in the arrest of 97 students, many of

whom were black and goes down in Canadian history as the largest student occupation.

"We tried to promote black history's presence in Canada, as well as our contributions within our cultures, within Canada and within Concordia University," said Wilkie.

"We tried to tie it into our university's roots and the founding of student organizations here. For example, during the Computer Riot you had clubs like the CCSU being formed to represent minority groups like Caribbean students, so it's about all of us coming together to represent a certain demographic within the school."

The CSU, the ACSN, the CCSU were all part of the planning for Black History Month, as well as the African Students Association of Concordia, the Engineering and Computer Science Association, the Concordia chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and Ralliement étudiant Haiti-Canada.

For a full itinerary of Black History Month activities, go to life.csu.qc.ca and check out their "Black History Month" page.

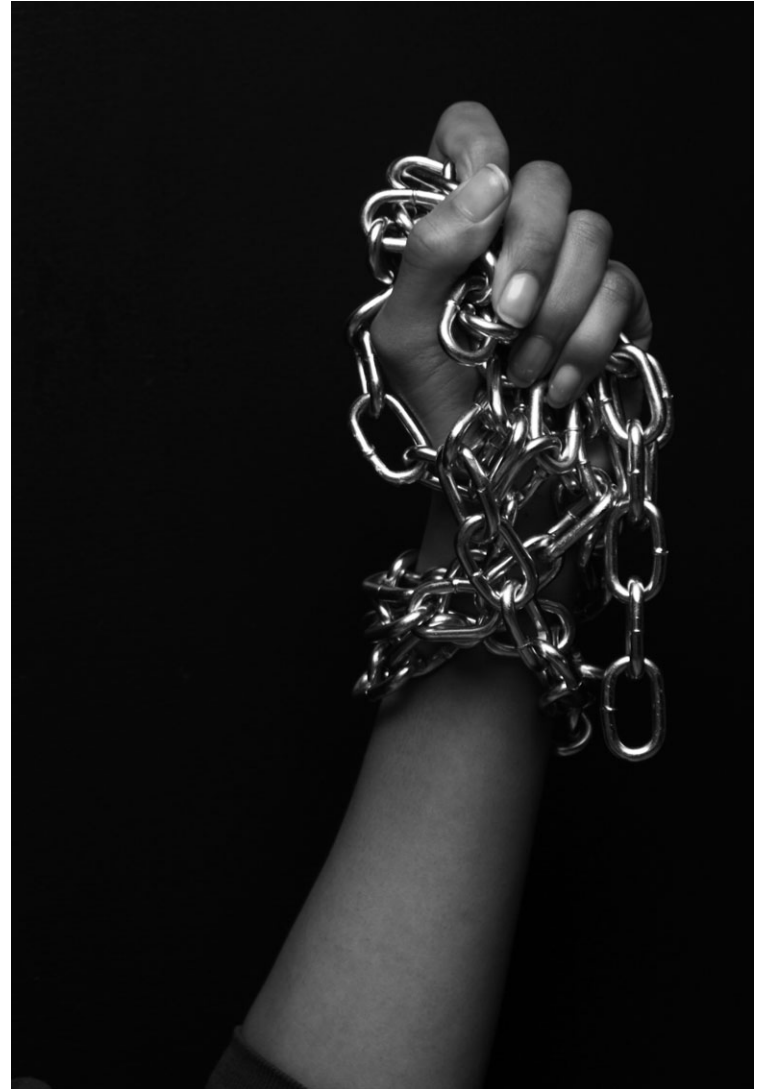


PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

BRIEFS

Fabrikant Fails

Former Concordia professor Valery Fabrikant, who killed four Concordia professors and injured a secretary in 1992, has lost his bid to sue his heart doctors. Fabrikant is serving a life term in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. For the past 20 years, he has suffered from a heart condition and in 2011, Fabrikant sought the authorization to take legal action against his heart doctors at the time. The application, as well as the appeal that followed, were rejected. Fabrikant has been classified as a vexatious litigant by the courts for harassing the legal system in undertaking too many lawsuits.

#McDstories

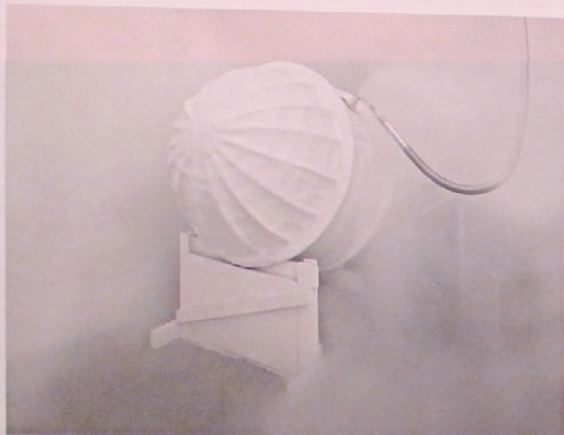
A street brawl involving approximately 15 people erupted just outside of the McDonald's at the corner of Mackay St. and Ste. Catherine St. W. at 3:40 a.m. on Sunday. Two men in their 20s were the recipients of knife wounds. One was stabbed in the back and is in serious but stable condition, while the other received lacerations to his face, but has since been released from the hospital. Police have deemed the attack an attempted homicide and armed assault. They do not yet have a description of the assailant, but will be meeting with the hospitalized man as soon as possible.

ASFA Elections

Campaigning has begun for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations general election. The campaigning period, which began on Feb. 6, will wrap up on Feb. 14, while voting will be held from Feb. 15 to Feb. 17. It will be the first election since reforms were passed, which will permit candidates to run affiliated with each other, but not on organized slates. During a byelection in November, the Concordia Student Union also adopted reforms that will result in a similar system being adopted during their general election in March. Last year's ASFA election was the first following bylaw reforms that saw the electoral slate system abolished after incidents of bullying occurred during electoral campaigns. Several positions, however—including president—went uncontested, while not a single candidate ran for the VP Communications position. This year's candidates for president are Caroline Bourbonnière and Charles Brenchley.

Smuggling Gadhafi

Last week, Canadian Cynthia Vanier was formally charged with immigration trafficking along with Gabriela Davila Huerta, as they were allegedly involved in a plot to remove the son of the late dictator Muammar Gaddafi from Libya. On Nov. 11, both women were arrested in Mexico and were in the company of Stephane Roy, an executive of SNC-Lavalin, at the time. SNC-Lavalin is an engineering firm that has spent billions of dollars on projects in Libya overseen by Roy. Among the projects is a \$275 million Libyan prison, which was supposed to wrap up this year. Executive Vice-President of SNC-Lavalin is Concordia Board of Governors' own Michael Novak. According to his bio on Desautels, Novak is responsible for SNC-Lavalin's defence contracting business, among other things.



Exploring the Darkness

Taryn Simon's photography transfixes a viewer at the DHC/ART Gallery.

PHOTO LOUISE CALLIER

Chronicles of a Disappearance Digs at Our Deepest Fears

• ALEX MCGILL

We are often perched just at the edge of a void—going through life with an unrealized deep-rooted fear of death, the unknown and the unfamiliar.

Chronicles of a Disappearance, on now at the DHC/ART Gallery, is the kind of exhibit that leaves you thinking about these things for days afterwards.

Bringing together five international artists, it showcases a variety of mediums including video, photography, installation and projection. Incorporating history, politics and a critique on social norms, the exhibit explores feelings of loss, absence and mourning, as well as the obscure, the odd and the inaccessible.

In other words, it bluntly brings us into the darkness of our world—the things that aren't immediately visible or that we often try to ignore.

DHC is divided into two separate buildings. On one side, the gallery is tall, and part of the process is climbing a multitude of stairs to get to each separate piece.

The upward momentum adds

to the impact of the exhibits, especially in this case, as you feel like you're travelling to different locations, and the time spent climbing allows you to process. The second building is split into two equal spaces.

The first artist is Taryn Simon, whose installation *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* is a series of photographs that takes up two floors.

The first level deals with images of oddity, deformity and death. She displays the kinds of weird realities that we are not granted access to as the public. The photographs are sparse and portrait style, with the ideas behind them not becoming obvious until the viewer reads the annotation displayed beside.

The second floor is a startlingly complete picture of American greed-farms where you can pay to hunt an almost-extinct animal for fun, piles of money, and mounds of rotting food confiscated at John F. Kennedy airport. It paints a dark picture of the American underbelly—crime, greed, excess and indulgence.

Cuban artist Jose Toirac's sin-

gle-screen projection, *Opus*, features the voice of Fidel Castro in a speech that Toirac edited down to just numerical statements.

As Castro states them, the numbers appear in white on a black screen. The audio echoes around the room, and the sequence of numbers feels empty and mechanical, a strange imprint of a dictator slowly disappearing from the public focus.

Omer Fast's 30-minute video, *5000 Feet Is the Best* is a juxtaposition of American video-game culture and the post-traumatic stress disorder associated with actual drone aerial vehicle operators. The film blends fact, fiction and the creator's own fantasy into a complicated and inter-woven narrative.

Teresa Margolles' *Plancha* is perhaps the most subtly haunting piece in the exhibit. It's an installation composed of 10 heated steel plates in a row, with water dripping down periodically onto each, steaming and evaporating into the room.

The water is sourced from a morgue in Mexico City where the artist worked, where it was used to

clean corpses after autopsy. When the water hits the steel plates and is evaporated it mists throughout the room—confronting our fears of contamination and contact with the dead.

Standing in the room is unsettling, but if you hadn't known where the water was coming from you might feel differently—the marks it leaves on the plates form a beautiful pattern, an unassuming minimalist sculpture.

Finally, Phillip Parreno's *June 8, 1968* is a reenactment of the train ride that brought Robert Kennedy's corpse from New York to Washington.

Filmed landscape-style and shown on a wall-sized screen in a white room with red carpet, the audience is made to feel like they are on the train, watching the cities and people pass.

There is a deeply creepy beauty to the film, with the moving landscape interacting with the motionless people watching the train pass. When the lights reappear, you realize you're standing in a room eerily reminiscent of either the White House, or a funeral home—or maybe a cross between

the two.

Each individual artist showcases pieces that have a soft, haunting beauty. Displayed on and in the white, neutral backdrop of the DHC/ART gallery spaces, the pieces are sparse and affecting.

The message behind the exhibit is strongly political, and it produces a great platform for dialogue.

The five artists each bring a different element, or culture, to the table—but the discussions and the mediums interact with each other on a larger scale. The exhibit grants access to unconscious fear, remembers traumatic events, uncovers the hidden and asks direct questions about the state of our society.

By granting us direct access to our fears and to the dark void that is death and absence in the world, *Chronicles of a Disappearance* allows us to step out into a bit of light.

Chronicles of a Disappearance / Jan. 19 to May 13 / DHC/ART (451 & 465 St. Jean St.) / Free admission / dhc-art.org

A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

Local Author Pens
FLQ Fiction

• ANNE-MYRIAM ABDELHAK

Quebec was a turbulent place in the 1970s, wrought with the burgeoning Franco-nationalist movement's political skirmishes and a province-wide cultural upheaval. And while it's not common to see an anglophone author depicting this time period, Raymond Beauchemin's first novel, *Everything I Own*, is taking it on.

"Ever since I graduated I was writing fiction," said Beauchemin, an alumnus of Concordia's creative writing program. "So this is actually the fourth novel I've written, but the first one to get published."

His debut tells the story of Michel Laflamme, a Quebec songwriter, and his wife Bijou. Their love story evolves in a politically and culturally important period for Quebec, and Beauchemin arcs the story through the rise of the nationalist movement that was very closely linked to the musical scene of the time.

"[Michel Laflamme] gets involved with the separatist ideology and movement through music," Beauchemin explained. "It was the way many people did back then [...] it wasn't solely a political thing, it was also cultural."

Beauchemin ensured that music was an important feature of the book. Every chapter corresponds to a part of a song, with verses, a chorus and a bridge.

"I had the characters, the story; some bits were 20 years old, others just in my head. I was struggling with the novel at first in terms of how to bring things together until I realized that I could structure it as a modified form of a thirty-two-bar blues. After that, the novel basically wrote itself," he said.

The novel mixes politics, music and a love story, while, as with seemingly every debut novel, sharing some details of the author's own life. Like Beauchemin, his protagonist was born in the United States to Quebequois parents. But unlike the author, Michel Laflamme comes back to Quebec when he is still a baby. In real life, the Beauchemin family decided to stay in America. The story is sort of a "what if" novel.

By setting his plot in a precise historical context, Beauchemin, a former foreign editor for *The Gazette*, was able to use some of his journalistic skills.

"I wasn't necessarily trying to document something in a journalistic way, but there is an important attention to detail, and this is probably the journalist in me," he said. "Like knowing exactly who was performing—and what they sang—at the St. Jean Baptiste show of 1976 on Mont Royal."

History, certainly, but shown from a different point of view: that of an English writer, a rare occurrence in Quebec separatist literature.

"It is very much a separatist point-of-view, but told in English," he said. "We don't see that very often. English writers in Montreal don't tend to write about the 'others.'"

Reading / Feb. 11 / Paragraphe Bookstore (2220 McGill College Ave.) / 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Signing / Feb. 12 / Chapters Pointe-Claire (6321 Trans-Canada Hwy.) / 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A Trail *through the* Digital Mountains



Jon Rafman's *9 Eye* captures strange beauty via Google Street View

Montreal Artist Jon Rafman to Give FASA Talk

• ALEX MANLEY

Two decades into the Internet era, more writing, more photographs, more video, music and art than could ever be consumed in a lifetime now get created—and uploaded—in a week or so.

Rather than attempt to create new and engaging art in the pretense of a vacuum, artists are now increasingly embracing the clutter, and creating by interacting directly with the mountains of data we produce, and re-contextualizing it.

One artist who's had some success in this regard is Montrealer Jon Rafman, who will be giving a talk at Concordia Thursday as part of the Fine Arts Student Alliance's second annual speaker series.

The series, titled *What Does It Mean, and What Can I Do About It?*, is an attempt on FASA's part to de-mystify contemporary art somewhat for Concordians.

"We have video artists, we have sculptors, we have photographers, historians," said Paisley Sim, president of FASA, of the five-talk series, of which Rafman's is the third.

"We're trying to make it as accessible and as wide-reaching as possible because we're appealing to a really diverse demographic of students."

Rafman's work is often disarmingly simple—and stunning. His photo series *9 Eye*, named for the nine-camera globe on top of Google Street View cars, turns captures from the service into painting-like landscapes, evoking a sense of—as the talk bills it—the "digital sublime."

A lone caribou wanders along a winding stretch of hillside highway. An old man with a cane inches his way down a lonely sidewalk, a dozen paces behind his future self. An ambulance technician and a reporter confer, standing matter-of-factly in front of a tarp-covered corpse. An arrow at the end of a road points towards the desert that stretches out beyond it. "Hell," reads the text beneath it.

"There's an element of archaeology—he explores digital landscapes through an archaeological lens, which is really fascinating," said Sim.

This captures part of what is so interesting about the project. The pieces are dia-

monds uncovered from the rough, gems from the rock face of the otherwise immense, uniform, uninteresting, and overwhelming data mountains.

The shift towards the digital is also present in some of his other works, such as the *Small Crowd Gathers*, a film he directed that takes place entirely in the online virtual world Second Life, and the film *Codes of Honor*, which functions as a eulogy for Manhattan's Chinatown Fair arcade, shut down in 2011 after more than 50 years of existence.

We now play our games—and live our lives—on our computers and mobile devices. We are cut off from the tangibility, and the raw, unplanned social interaction of something like an arcade.

It's a fact that Sim suggests applies to art generally as well.

"The dialogue that he's engaging in is totally relevant to the ways that you or I might explore an artwork," she said. "You are almost 100 per cent of the time going to engage with an artwork by Googling it or by experiencing it online."

For those still interested in

"You are almost 100 per cent of the time going to engage with an artwork by Googling it or by experiencing it online."

—Paisley Sim
FASA President

getting a taste of real-life, face-to-face artistic discussion, however, FASA's lectures—which are free, and followed by Q&A periods and then wine & cheese—offer an excellent opportunity, no matter how deeply into those digital data mountains the speaker intends to lead the audience.

Jon Rafman in Search of the Virtual Sublime / Feb. 9 / EV Building, Room EV 6.720 (1515 Ste. Catherine St. W.) / 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / Free / Check out lectures.fineartsstudentalliance.ca/ for more info.

Life of the Promoter

The Empty Room & The Band That Blows Your Mind

• COLIN HARRIS

It's funny how things can turn around on you in the music business sometimes. When local concert promoter Noah Bick first started out, he was so hard up for shows that he would take up any offer given.

But with Passovah Productions celebrating its fourth anniversary this Friday night at Il Motore with a show featuring 12 bands and free soup, it's clear that the times, they have changed.

Bick is modest about the reasons for his success.

"I like to think it's half good taste and half luck to book a band that blows my mind," said Bick.

"Like [the group] Women. I did their first show here at Barfly, and their first record is one of my favourite Canadian records in the last few years."

When Bick booked the Calgarian shoegazers, he was still accepting offers from any band that contacted him. But now in its fourth year, his production company Passovah gets more requests than it can handle, especially with the McGill cultural studies student pulling double-duty on the promotion front.

In his second year of putting on multiple shows a month with Passovah, Bick was approached by Meyer Billurcu of independent Montreal promotion staple Blue Skies Turn Black to join on as a production manager—the position responsible for everything on the night of the show.

Now working with Blue Skies, along with summer work for POP Montreal and Just for Laughs, the young promoter is seeing many different levels of Montreal nightlife. But he's still running Passovah, which he's found fits best in the scene helping up-and-coming bands.

"Bands like Braids or The Luyas and Parlovr, these were bands I booked early on and I'm really proud and happy to see they've moved on to other things," said Bick.

And while it may not take up all his promotion time, the company is as strong as ever, as

"What I love is the way I looked up to Blue Skies as a kid, and I still do; is the way they looked up to the Godspeed, Casa/Sala era, and those people looked to the Fugazi movement of the '90s. It's all people learning from other people, DIY and community."

—Noah Bick

Concert Promoter

proven by the success of their POP showcase last year, and what's sure to be a big night at Il Motore on Feb. 10.

"There's no room for two Blue Skies. [Passovah] tries to work with local bands, help give them those first couple shows," said Bick. "I've realized that the point of this fourth anniversary show is that these are all bands I've met over the years that aren't only clients, but friends."

He's also learned how connected everything is, and how competition between promoters isn't all that productive in a city the size of Montreal.

"There are very few rooms that are suitable for upcoming bands. Casa [del Popolo] is the last room you don't have to pay to play, except for a couple coffee shops," said Bick. Being the best place to promote without the risk of losing money, Casa's calendar fills up fast.

"The best small room in the city is Casa, and you're looking at the summer [for booking] now. It's super competitive already, so there's no point in trying to fight with independent, community rock," he said.

The life of a promoter is an unpredictable one, with count-



GRAPHIC OHARA HALE

less forces moving to determine the success of the show. It can be grueling at times, but Bick tries to not let the work burn him out. A great night is all that's needed to remind him of why he started Passovah, and in the Montreal music scene, those moments come often.

"Every once in a while I run production for a band that I love, like Destroyer last year. *Kaputt* is one of my favourite records of 2011, so working that show and hanging out with [Destroyer frontman] Dan Bejar—it's the best job ever," he said.

"But other times I'm sitting at Il Motore from five 'til two in the morning and there's a band that's four hours late and there's no one there and it's ice-raining. It's a bizarre, bizarre existence."

When it works, though, it's

work that thrives on community, on passing the torch to the next music-lovers to keep the scene alive.

It's a tried and true tradition in Montreal; one that Bick has every intention of following.

"What I love is the way I looked up to Blue Skies as a kid, and I still do; is the way they looked up to the Godspeed [You! Black Emperor], Casa/Sala [Rossa] era, and those people looked to the Fugazi movement of the '90s," said Bick.

"It's all people learning from other people, DIY and community."

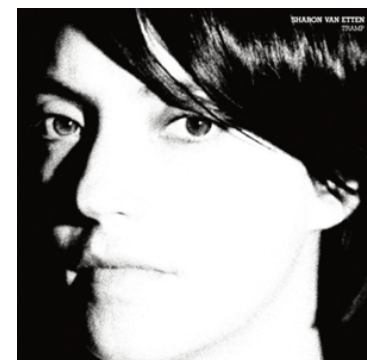
Passovah Fourth Anniversary Show / Feb. 10 / Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon Rd. W.) / Pay what you can & free soup for early birds

BEST OF THE
WEB

DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

WEEKLY SPINS

With an over-mellow guitar and almost ethereal melodies, Van Etten's harmonies are strong and focused. Themes of movement, displacement and love lost and found are obvious, and Van Etten's lyrics are often blunt and direct—a far cry from the poetic tendency of folk songs to get lost in their own lyricism.



Sharon Van Etten-Tramp

MEDIA MIX

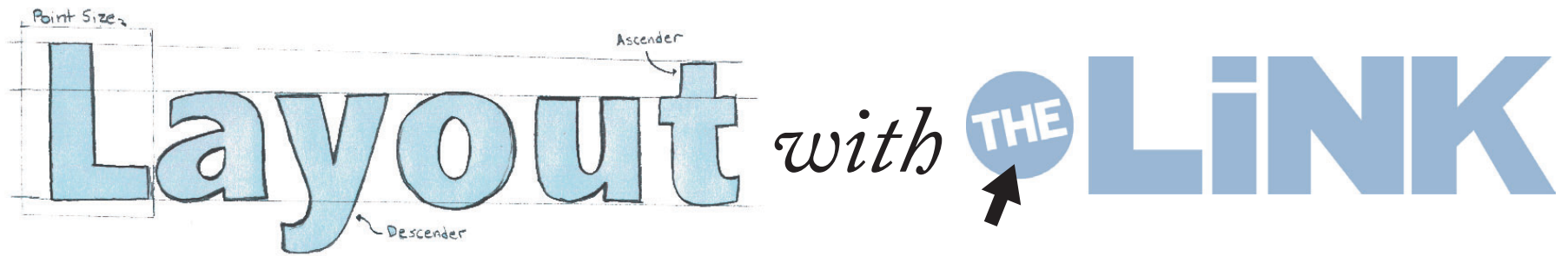
Concordia's annual President's Conference, which happened this weekend, aimed to unpack the meanings and models of Japanese animation and gaming.



POST ROCK PICS

Scan the code below to see pics of *This Will Destroy You*, *Amen Dunes* and *Mountains* performing at Casa del Popolo last Sunday night.





Designing for a Newspaper



Come by *The Link's* office Friday to learn the basic principles behind newspaper design & *Link* style.

The mysteries of Quark 8 will also be explained.

Download the free 30-day trial of the program at 8.quark.com and bring your laptop along for the fun.

Friday, Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. in room H-649

THE LiNK

2012 BYELECTION

For the positions of Opinions Editor and Creative Director

The following contributors are eligible to come and vote:

Joshua Barkman, Andrew Brennan, Jeff Bush, Emily Campbell, Christopher Curtis, Richie Daly, Paku Daoust-Cloutier, Josh Davidson, Elysha Del Giusto-Enos, Shoshana Eidelman, Tyler Finigan, Grozdanovic, Sanaz Hassanpour, Rebecca Hiscott, Claudine Lamothe, Amanda Laprade, Brian Lapuz, Oliver Leon, Andrew Maggio, Dylan Maloney, Nicolas Martel, Katie McGroarty, Christopher Olson, Corey Pool, Amanda Siino, Hilary Sinclair, Sam Slotnick, Riley Sparks, Eric White, Jonathan Woods, Alex Woznica & current *Link* masthead.

The following contributors need one more contribution to be eligible to vote:

Camille Chacra, Boris Degas, Kevin Duarte, Iman, Christopher Tan & Caitlin Leroux

The following contributors need two more contributions to be eligible to vote:

Adam Aberra, Sean Celestrin, Stephen Cutler, Elise Favis, Rachel Fox, Hannah Hackney, Elsa Jabre, Christine Jeyarajah, Sean McClure, Allan Morais, Lizy Mostowski, Alex St-Laurent & Antonella Victorero

To run, this is what you need to do:

All candidates must submit a letter of intent not exceeding one single page, to be posted in the *Link's* office on Feb. 10, by 4 p.m. This letter will explain the candidate's reasons for running, goals and any relevant experience for the position.

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

Feb. 17, 2012 4:00 p.m. H-649



Jenny Gill jabs through the air as instructor Terry Brule lines up beside her, conducting the class. Boxercise is offered at Le Gym every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:05 p.m.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

Think Outside the Box

ConU Boxercise Class Teaches Boxing, Minus the Black Eye

• DAVID MURPHY

Terry Brule jokes that when you walk into Concordia's Le Gym athletic complex, you can hear the pounding music—and the groans coming from those in his boxercise class.

Maybe that's a bit of a stretch, but there's no doubt boxercise—a class focusing on technique and conditioning boxing exercises—is among the best options for health geeks at the fitness centre under the EV Building.

"He pushes us, but it's great. It's good in the morning to wake up to," said Jenny Gill, a 21-year-old English literature major with badass tattoos on her arms and legs. You wouldn't want to mess with Gill after seeing her out-punch, out-kick and out-squat everyone in the 50-minute class.

Ironically, however, she origi-

nally wanted to go into a very different selection of Le Gym's eight classes, and basically the polar opposite of Brule's class—ballet.

"It was full," said Gill. "But I'm actually really happy with this class. It's a great overall workout. You get cardio in, you get the technique in, and it's great arm workout, which is good for a girl."

Brule would argue that boxing—like ballet—is an art form, too.

"It's more like a boxer's workout. It's about conditioning," he said. "At the same time you are learning the art, because I'm showing them how to punch."

And they do a lot of it. For just under an hour, 25 people line up against a mirror in half of Le Gym's basket court, jabbing, ducking and lifting small five-to-10-pound weights in unison.

It looks like Brule is training

an army as he walks through the ranks, shouting encouragement or fixing the forms of the participants—many of whom are women. Terry agrees learning a self-defense is one reason more women than men take his class, but that it ultimately comes down to getting in shape.

"Boxing is an all-round good conditioning sport," said Brule. "It's about staying lean and healthy."

With the conditioning background Brule has, it's no wonder everyone looks like they just went 10 rounds with Manny Pacquiao at the end of the workout.

Growing up in Ottawa, Brule's passion was boxing, and he won the Ontario provincials as a teenager. But his most memorable moment, which he says solidified his passion for boxing, was meeting famed boxer Sugar

Ray Leonard when he was a water boy for a fight in Ottawa. Ever since that day, boxing was always on his mind.

After choosing to continue with his education rather than turn pro, he soon fell back into the sport after befriending a boxing gym owner. Brule started teaching conditioning classes there, and people started to notice him. Toronto Maple Leafs players at the time, like Wade Belak and Matt Stajan, used to come in, and that's when he found his niche.

Brule still hosts private boxing lessons in Montreal, but he's found home at Le Gym.

"[Boxercise is] the best thing that's happened to this place in a long time," said Le Gym employee Kenroy Broderick. "No matter what age, there's always people coming in."

"[Boxercise is] the best thing that's happened to this place in a long time. No matter what age, there's always people coming in."

—Kenroy Broderick
Le Gym Employee

Dryden Talks *Game*



PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Ex-MP & Hockey Legend on Head Shots, Hockey History

“Do you know what happens with a brain inside of a skull, with collisions? It’s similar to throwing a SuperBall on a squash court.”

—Ken Dryden

• DAVID KAUFMANN

A crowd filled the Indigo bookstore in Place Montréal Trust Feb. 2 to hear former Montreal Canadiens goaltender and politician Ken Dryden talk about his book, *The Game*, and weigh in on the concussion crisis currently rocking the hockey world.

The event was put on as part of Canada Reads, a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation-run endeavour to choose and promote Canada’s best books. *The Game*, released in 1983, recounts Dryden’s memories of the pressures of being a goaltender in the National Hockey League. It also takes an in-depth look at the Montreal squad that took home the Stanley Cup in 1979.

Dryden went from speaking of his earliest moments playing the sport to discussing the speed and intensity of how it is played today.

The 64-year-old Vezina Award-winner spoke about the

drastic change in speed in the game now compared to when he donned the Habs jersey 33 years ago.

“If you look at a full game from the 1950s, one from the ‘70s and one from today, you’d think, ‘Oh my God, that game is unbelievably slow,’” he said. Dryden recalled there was no phrase like ‘finishing your checks’ back then because the other player would be too far away.

“If you did [finish your check and hit somebody], you would have had to go 10 or 15 more feet,” he said. “[It] was so obviously interference that it didn’t happen.”

Dryden felt like players’ improved conditioning and increased size were factors that have changed the game significantly.

“It’s the combination of a game that goes a whole lot faster, and players that would be an average of 25 pounds heavier now, and in very good condition, so the

force of collisions is that much greater,” said Dryden.

In light of this, he believes that 50 years from now, people are going to be looking back, wondering how irresponsible the athletes of today could be.

“Do you know what happens with a brain inside of a skull, with collisions? It’s similar to throwing a SuperBall on a squash court.”

Dryden tended goal for the Montreal Canadiens between 1970 and 1979, winning six Stanley Cups and five Vezina Trophies in that period as the league’s best net-minder before retiring from hockey at the age of 31.

Dryden pursued a number of different fields after his NHL career, publishing several books, working as an executive for the Toronto Maple Leafs, and serving as a Minister of Parliament for the Liberal Party from 2004 to 2011.

Dryden’s not the only one who’s worried about the state of

the game, however. Gordon Bloom, associate professor of Sport Psychology at McGill University, joined Dryden at the talk and noted that all this hitting in the NHL is having an impact on children as well.

“If professionals are showing a lack of respect by not playing the game the way it used to be played, it carries down, and I’ve seen it in minor hockey,” said Bloom.

In fact, Lisa-Marie Breton, who plays for the Montreal Stars of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League, has kept away from watching men’s hockey because of this intensity.

“I don’t watch the NHL because I find there’s not enough passes or nice plays. The guys are just smashing into the boards,” said Breton, who also works as a fitness trainer for Concordia University.

“In women’s hockey we don’t have body checks; we have contact which is only along the boards, in the same direction.”

I'd Rather Be a STINGER



Concordia puts one past McGill goalie Hubert Morin in a packed McConnell Arena.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Stingers Upset High-Flyers McGill Away From Home

• ANDREW MAGGIO

The Concordia Stingers took down the Canadian Interuniversity Sport's number one ranked McGill Redmen 4-2 in men's hockey Friday night at McGill's McConnell Arena.

In a preview of the two teams' upcoming Corey Cup showdown on Feb. 8, the Stingers stunned the home crowd by taking down the high-powered Redmen in a fast-paced contest.

Stingers goaltender Nicholas Champion made 37 saves in a first-star performance, while winger Mike Stinziani picked up a goal and two assists to pace the Stingers' offense.

Defenseman Adam Strumas, who had an assist, noted the importance of the victory in the team's push for a playoff spot.

"I thought it was our best team effort of the season, we played with controlled desperation," said Strumas. "Plain and simple, we outworked them. It's huge for our playoff run because it gives us a bit of breathing room in the standings."

Both teams came out flying to start the game, ramping up the physicality from the first shift. The Redmen had an early goal disallowed, and the teams traded power-play opportunities in the latter half of the frame, but neither

"I thought it was our best team effort of the season, we played with controlled desperation. Plain and simple, we outworked them."

—Adam Strumas
Defenseman

side was able to capitalize on their opportunities.

Champion made several key saves throughout the period to keep the game tied, but McGill finally solved him with under a minute to play in the first. Defenseman Marc-André Dorion took a pass from Nicolas Biniek and rifled it past Champion's outstretched blocker to give McGill the lead and momentum going back to the locker room.

The fast pace carried over into the middle frame as the bitter rivals continued to do battle. Champion faced yet another barrage of Redmen shots, but stood tall, stopping all 13 shots he faced in the period; several being of the spectacular variety.

The Redmen failed to capitalize on three power plays during the period despite creating several good chances. The Stingers, on the other hand, took full advantage of the one power play they were handed.

They wound up the third period on a high note as McGill's Marc-André Daneau sat for a slash, and on the man advantage Strumas unleashed a slapshot from the point. Étienne Archambault was parked in front of McGill goaltender Hubert Morin and managed to get his stick on the shot to deflect it past Morin, tying the game at one.

The Stingers began to pull away in the third, feeding off the indiscipline of the Redmen and capitalizing on two back-to-back power plays midway through the period.

Michael Blundon wired a slap shot from the point past Morin on a Stingers 5-on-3 advantage, and just over 30 seconds later George Lovatsis put the Stingers up by two, also on the power play.

But the Redmen didn't wait long to reply, as Francis Verreault-Paul pulled the Redmen within one, scoring a power play goal with close to six minutes left in the period.

The Redmen pushed for the equalizer throughout the last five minutes and pulled their goal-

tender with a minute left in the contest, but were unable to muster a shot on Champion. Stinziani iced the game by depositing the Stingers' fourth goal into the vacant net.

Stingers' center George Lovatsis said that while beating McGill felt good, the most important thing was picking up the two points.

"Every point that we get gives us a better chance of clinching a playoff spot," said Lovatsis, "We have to keep working and focus about our final two games of the season."

Strumas, however, admitted that there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with taking down the cross-town rivals.

"Any big win at this point of the season is sweet, and the fact that it was McGill's first home loss of the season makes it that much sweeter."

The Stingers now sit in seventh place, tied for points with Queen's, who are eighth and only a point ahead of ninth-place Ryerson. The top eight teams make playoffs.

The Redmen will come to the Ed Meagher Arena on Wednesday and, after a 5-3 Saturday afternoon loss to the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, the Stingers need a win to keep their playoff spot secure. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

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MEN'S HOCKEY

CONCORDIA 3 // OTTAWA 5

The Stingers couldn't carry their momentum from Friday's win this Saturday. Against the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, the men's hockey team was edged 5-3. The team closes out the regular season with a visit from the Redmen Wednesday night in the Corey Cup, before taking on the Carleton Ravens in Ottawa Saturday afternoon. Games are at 7:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

CONCORDIA 4 // CARLETON 5

It was a hard-fought battle, but the women's hockey team got out of Saturday night's barnburner with only a point. The game went to a shootout, but Stingers goaltender Marie-Pier Remillard-Paquette surrendered two goals as the Maroon and Gold missed out on the extra point. The Stingers host the Université de Montréal Carabins Friday night, and the puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 80 // LAVAL 59

CONCORDIA 73 // UQAM 62

Concordia's men's basketball team is continuing to run away with the top spot in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec standings. This comes after defeating the Laval Rouge et Or and the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins over the weekend. Their next test comes when the Bishop's University Gaiters visit Friday night. Tip-off is at 8:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 52 // LAVAL 56

CONCORDIA 61 // UQAM 74

What started out as an undefeated run has now turned into a free-fall for the women's basketball team. The Stingers lost their fourth and fifth straight to Laval and UQAM over the weekend. They look to stop the bleeding when the Bishop's Gaiters come to town Friday night. Tip-off is at 6:00 p.m.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

The MAN Pill

What Happens When Male Contraceptives Catch Up?

• LAURA BEESTON

I have a serious question for the males out there who could, theoretically, impregnate their sexual partners: How many of you would actually take a shot to the scrotum, or an ultrasound to the nuts, in order to assume contraceptive control of your sexual relationship?

According to a recent article in *The Globe and Mail*, a number of experimental male contraceptive methods are in the works to give you more choices than ever to *not* knock someone up.

Currently, the available male contraceptives are pretty much limited to condoms, spermicide and vasectomies. With 30 years of research and the creation of male pill prototypes, however, a handful of experimental methods to keep you shooting blanks and baby-free are being tested for the future.

While the interest may be out there—as an alleged 64 per cent of Canadian men told AskMen.com in 2005 that they're into the idea—the clinical and cultural questions remain. Would it work? Could it sell? And, perhaps most importantly, what might the social implications look like?

This particular sex-related male pill might not be as easy to market as Viagra, for example. Take the brouhaha surrounding

the human papillomavirus vaccine for boys as an example of how less sexy male-oriented treatments face various social challenges in mainstream consciousness.

In this case, young girls have been receiving the HPV treatment already for years—doing so despite the hand-wringing, pearl-clutching hysterics of sexual conservatives about whether or not it would make them “retarded” (Michelle Bachman’s wording, not mine) or sexually immoral.

Only last month did Canadian experts give the recommendation that boys aged 11-15 should also be lining up for three rounds of shots against HPV, which is known to cause genital warts and aggressive cervical and throat cancer—and so far, no one has said anything out loud that might rock the boat.

Will male vaccination increase public support of preventative methods and tone down the morality rhetoric? Will this eventually apply to male pill methods?

Perhaps the success of certain male contraceptives in India is an indication. For the last two decades, the Reversible Inhibition of Sperm Under Guidance method has been successfully stopping pregnancy there with no known side effects.

Unfortunately, the method hasn't exactly taken off over there, and there's no word as to how soon—if ever—it'll make its way to North America.

Allegedly, no pharmaceutical companies are willing to financially back the studies required for it to fly—in part, perhaps, because of one of RISUG's best features: the fact that one treatment would last from six to 15 years.

Compared to a pill you have to take every day, it's a money-losing venture. From that perspective, it's not hard to see why the bulk of the male contraceptive discussion centres around pills.

In any case, for there to be progress in this department, the medicine would also have to work.

Modifying body chemistry with hormone therapy can be rough—just talk to any woman who's had a bad experience on the pill—or people transitioning between genders. It's hardly simple or fool-proof, even today.

For the female pill, at least, side effects include reduced libido, blood clots, weight fluctuation, pelvic pain, bloating, swelling, breast tenderness and headaches. If you smoke, there's a higher risk of heart conditions.

A male pill might be great if the female partner in a relationship had adverse reactions to required estrogen doses, as it would allow her counterpart to step up to the plate.

But most men don't want to take this stuff until it is thoroughly tested. Can you blame 'em? Many of the side effects of “dry orgasm” drugs, such as phenoxybenzamine

and thioridazine are similar to the list above, however—with some notable extras, like erectile dysfunction and “bizarre dreams.”

Once they do regulate the drugs, however, the male pill has a lot of potential to do good, as the World Health Organization maintains contraceptive prevalence is an indicator of population health, development and gender equality.

According to the *Globe's* sources, a United Nations survey found that 75 per cent of Canadian men don't use contraceptives, which could be due to the fact that they're in a monogamous relationship or relying on their partners.

The vasectomy market isn't exactly booming either, and the pull-out method is, as they put it, “dubious.”

So, the more choices, the better—but don't hold your breath (or your nut sac): the ‘man pill’ seems like it's going to take a while to get out there.

When it is released, in the somewhat-distant future, perhaps it's good to start negotiating what a world with more male contraceptives might look like for couples and for our sexual culture.

Can we anticipate anything about the introduction a pill for men by remembering what its introduction for women looked like in the '60s?

The history of the combined oral contraceptive, which was legalized in Canada in 1969 and is

currently used by over 100 million women worldwide, was wrought with politics and power dynamics that helped usher in new attitudes and lifestyle choices.

Would the man pill make the cover of *Time* magazine today, for example? Would it be as wildly popular, igniting a new sexual revolution? What might the impact on gender roles be? Would government bodies or insurance firms help with the tab at all?

It's worth considering whether or not it might also help finally push sex ed in a more realistic direction.

Would the Catholic Church come down on it as hard for “distorting the nature and purpose of sex?,” the way they did with the female pill? Or, alternately, could it be introduced and accepted without a significant blip on the cultural radar?

Interestingly, the *Globe* notes “there's still the question of whether men can be trusted to take reproductive control in a relationship,” which gets to the heart of a whole other debate.

What unwritten, historical biases relegating contraceptive methods as being “a feminine issue” or “a woman's choice” (because they're the ones getting pregnant) might be broken?

I guess we'll just have to find out. This thing is coming, but maybe the bigger story is how—or if—it will have an impact.

Old Age Insecurity

Canada's 20-Somethings vs. the Looming Retirement Crisis



GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

• HILARY SINCLAIR

In 1959, Canada welcomed 461,703 little bundles of joy into the world. This was our country's biggest baby boom and, given declining birth rates, will probably hold down its place in the record books until the end of time.

But what's really important is that there are only 12 years until those babies will turn 65—the age the government had decided that people have worked long enough and should enter into retirement.

And we are screwed.

This past week Prime Minister Stephen Harper infuriated old-timers and soon-to-be-old-timers across the nation when he suggested there's a need to reform Old Age Security, which is a government program that provides seniors with a maximum monthly cheque of \$540 or less, depending on income.

Unlike the CPP, where the payout is based on how much you've contributed over a lifetime, you only have to have lived in Canada for 10 years to collect OAS.

Most are speculating that some of these changes will come in the form of raising the eligibility age of OAS from 65 to 67.

But why should the youth of Canada care?

For the most part, we cannot picture a time when the endless beer pong tournaments and blatant disregard for sunscreen will actually be visible on our faces. We can't imagine a time when the motorized scooters will become our reality... but neither did the acid-dropping baby boomers of 1959 and they're a paltry 12 years from retirement.

It will happen. We will get old and sleepy and we won't want to work anymore. But if pressure groups can

stop this reform from happening, our generation will lose the ability to complain about technology and those-damn-kids from the comfort of our living rooms. We'll still be working.

So while organizations like the Canadian Association of Retired Persons have got a pretty aggressive bee in their bonnets about the two-year increase, they are selfishly throwing the very people they struggled to support under the bus.

It should be mentioned that I don't have a vendetta against the elderly, they have raised and nurtured us and worked hard to do so. It is the elected government up to this point that has gotten us into a debacle.

Here's what is going to happen in 12 years: mass retirement, huge gaps in the workforce, a crazy reduction in taxable income (less money, more problems), and a lot more people to support.

At this rate, we're going to see a drastic reduction in benefits for our generation—if we get anything at all—and we probably won't be getting any of the OAS that we're paying into right now.

But we also aren't entering the workforce as early as the baby boomers did. Our generation takes its sweet-ass time dawdling, married to ideas like “doing something we love” and “being happy,” which is not necessarily a bad thing—but means that we often don't start really working until our mid-20s leading to less money in the current system and less contributed to our pensions.

Now, the program is costing taxpayers \$36 billion and will skyrocket to \$108 billion in 2030. Considering Canada's entire federal budget this year is \$235.6 billion, and there are no planned tax increases, it really puts

Harper is spending money like a west-coast rapper on things like jets and jails set to be filled with the victims of legislative warfare.

things into perspective.

But it's not like our country is actually saving the money that we are contributing to things like OAS and the Canadian Pension Plan in a special savings account that you are forbidden to withdraw from. They are spending it. They are overspending it—to the tune of a \$29.6 billion, also known as the 2011 Canadian deficit.

Harper is spending money like a west-coast rapper on things like jets and jails set to be filled with the victims of legislative warfare.

So what does two years really mean?

It allows more people to replace the giant group of individuals that will stampede out of office buildings everywhere in a couple dozen years, and see two more extra years of solid contributions to retirement programs.

In a Jan. 31 article in *The Globe and Mail*, Brian Lee Crowley said that pushing the retirement age to 70 would be a more realistic policy, if we really want to support the younger population.

We are that younger population. We are the ones that are going to have to pay for these policy decisions out of the pockets of our skinny jeans.

And it seems counter-intuitive that just when we're figuring out how to get a job, we also need to be considering how—and when—we'll be getting out of having a job.



Dirty Mouth

I'm a 24-year-old woman and my boyfriend won't kiss me after I give him head. My mouth grosses him out after he finishes in it and I don't know if it should bother me but it does. Is there anything I can do?
—Feeling Mouthy

Oral sex can be a pretty intimate act, at times even more so than intercourse, because it's about taking the time to focus on your partner's pleasure—and also, your mouth is on someone's genitals.

Getting head is a pretty sweet gesture, so I can understand why it would be upsetting when one second your mouth is the hottest thing he's ever seen—and the next you're too dirty for a kiss.

Why won't he kiss you? Has he actually said that your mouth grosses him out? There could be a lot of reasons why he's grossed out, the most obvious being that he's just simply grossed out by his own cum.

Slightly less obvious is the strong societal norm and pressure that men who have sex with women simply aren't supposed to like or want to be near cum—even their own.

While there's a hidden homophobic undercurrent there, our sexuality is largely shaped by our societies and norms, and while it's important to recognize them, it's not always fair to blame people for them.

According to the guys I asked, it's pretty common for dudes to be grossed out by their own cum. While they recognize that it's a double standard and they would (no-tongue) kiss their girls after oral, they completely understand why a guy might not want to.

It can also depend on what you mean by “after he finishes in it.” Everyone has different comfort levels, so consider this—are you swallowing, spitting, or holding it in your mouth and expecting a tongue-heavy cum-swapping makeout session?

Either way, the important part isn't that your partner doesn't want to kiss you after oral, it's the feelings that arise from him not wanting to.

If not getting kissed after head is something that matters to you even the teensiest bit, then the first step is to actually talk to him about how you feel.

If you care about and respect each other you should be able to have a real conversation about this and find a solution together. Maybe he won't kiss you, but will make an effort to show he appreciates the gesture in other ways.

Remember, though, that he does have a right to not kiss you afterward—and to not want to. How he exercises that right, and how you feel about it does matter, though, and, as always you have the right to not give him head or not let him cum in your mouth if you don't feel good about it.

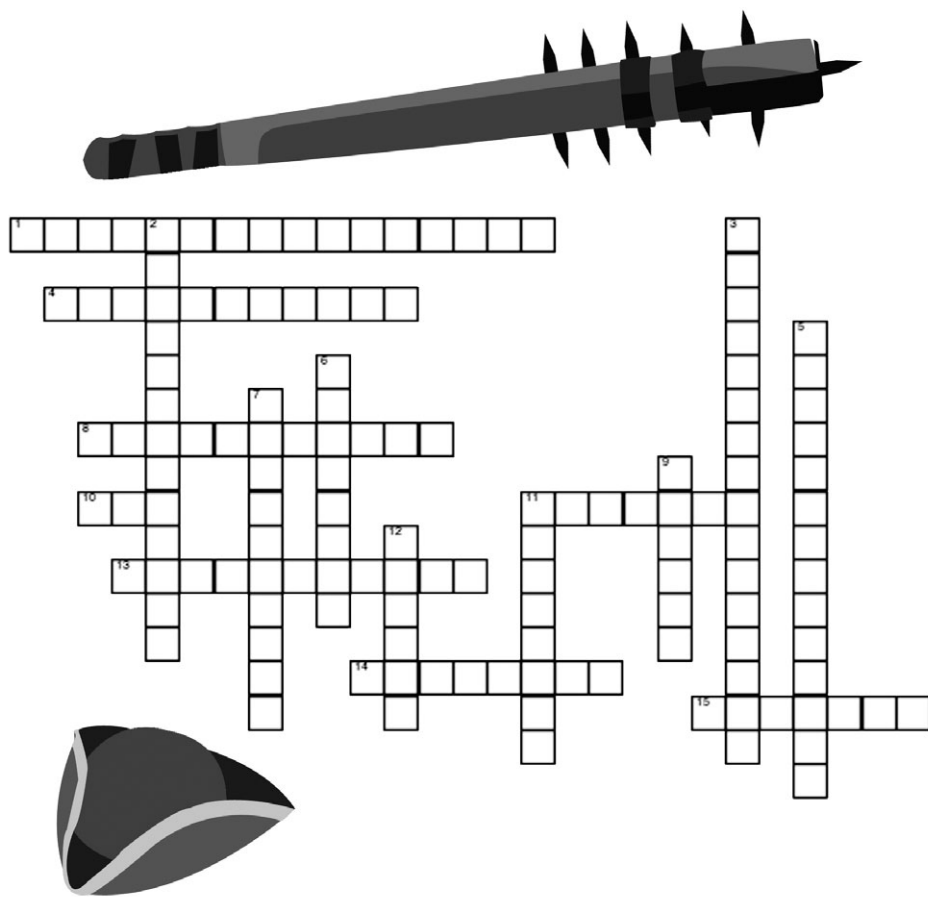
People often, and easily, forget that performing oral isn't only about your partner's pleasure. With a good partner, oral sex should be enjoyable for both of you.

I don't expect everyone to love doing it, but your attitudes about oral sex really play into your feelings about it. So it shouldn't come as much of a surprise that my advice is to open the lines of communication and understanding between you and your partner.

—Melissa Fuller

Submit questions anonymously at sexpancakes.tumblr.com and check out “Sex & Pancakes” on Facebook.

XWORD: LARGER THAN LIFE



ACROSS

DOWN

1. This guy's affinity for adultery and gentlemen's clubs doesn't often make it into stories about him. Writers tend to focus on the key and kite. (2 words)

4. This comic book Amazon was the only female on the original Justice League. (2 words)

8. Due to his notable style of signing the Declaration of Independence, this guy's name is now synonymous with signature. (2 words)

10. This Roald Dahl character is best known by his initials, that also happen to be the title of this book.

11. This Greek monster was blinded by Odysseus on his journey home in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

13. Although originally noteworthy for his involvement in the Boston Tea Party, non-history majors probably associate him with beer rather than tea. (2 words)

14. It was beauty that killed this chest-pounding beast. (2 words)

15. From Hebrew mythology, this big bully went down after one hit from a shepherd boy named David. Talk about a glass jaw.

2. If you don't recognize this wrestler from the Obey logo, you might remember him for his roll as Fezzik in *The Princess Bride*. "Anybody want a peanut?" (3 words)

3. It is widely believed that this founding father of America had wooden false teeth; they were actually made from hippo ivory and gold. Baller. (2 words)

5. The leader of The Avengers, Steve Rogers, was killed off by Marvel Comics in 2008. You probably know him better by this name. (2 words)

6. This American gent "wants you for the U.S. Army!" He's awfully convincing. (2 words)

7. This Boston silversmith is remembered for his midnight horse ride rather than his craft. (2 words)

9. From Norse mythology, the chilly variant of one of this week's puzzle themes.

11. Cleaning up after this huge rubicund hound has got to be rough. I doubt that they make plastic baggies big enough.

12. Hogwarts groundskeeper who was the first to tell Harry Potter, "Yer a wizard."

BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

LET THE SUN GO DOWN

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Last week, the Sun News Network reported that the Francophone branch of the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, Radio-Canada, was using taxpayer money to air so-called "pornography."

Since then, one question has been taunting me for days: Does Sun News actually pay its journalists? See, the show in question was a sitcom on tou.tv called *Hard* that "has scenes of soft core pornography." But the word "reported" may not be the appropriate to describe how this "news" came to light.

It's worth noting that things like basic reporting standards are largely ignored by the Sun Media Corporation, as this "report" came from the same network that also just faked a citizenship oath ceremony for new Canadians and graces the daily pages of its papers' sports sections with scantily-clad buxom Sunshine Girls.

But specifically concerning their cries of "porn," did Sun News even contact CBC? Did the journalist watch an episode of *Hard* to describe it to the readers? Did they do their due diligence?

No. They sent a "reporter" and a camera crew to Parliament Hill, asking MPs what they thought about it (must have been a slow news day).

But the answer from heritage Minister James Moore did not please them: "I know you're in the business of going after CBC," he said, "but I have other things to do right now."

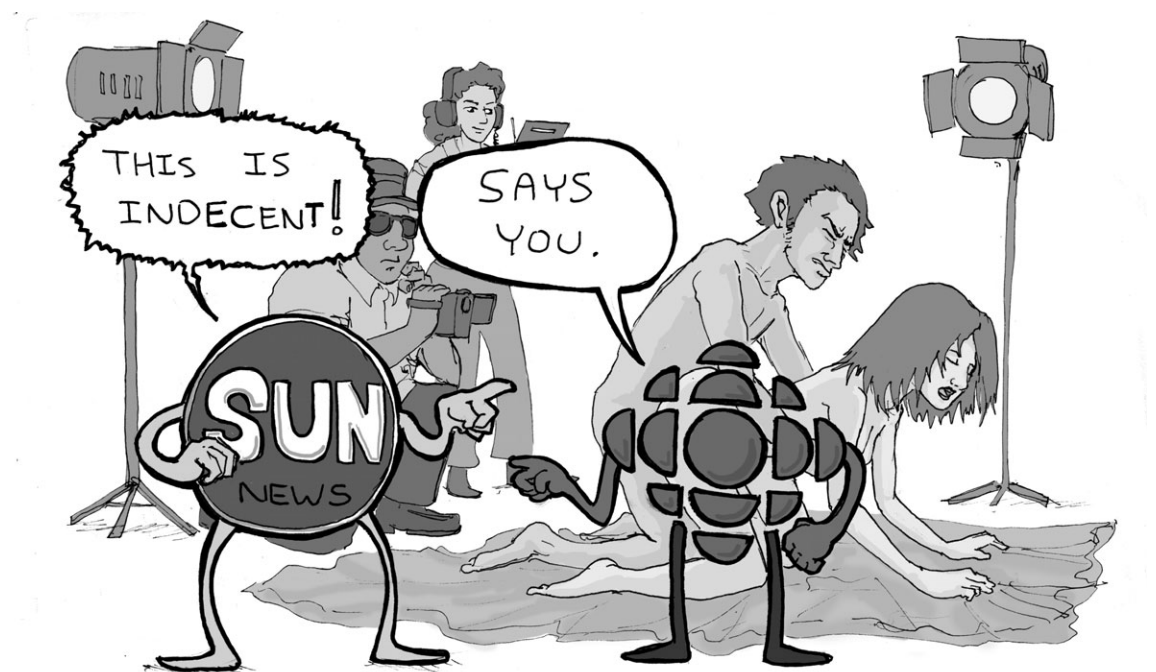
Judging by the copy that came from this "investigation," a description of tawdry acts is the type of journalism that gets Sun News hot and bothered.

"Was there a shortage of Internet porn that we needed the CBC to spend our money?" said Sun News "journalist" Brigitte Pellerin. Such a question is totally misleading.

The CBC bought a show from the French company Canal+, a leader comparable to HBO in the French market. *Hard* features a woman whose husband died and she has to take over his porn business. So yes, there are sex scenes. Like in most movies you watch today.

But I'm pretty sure there is a fine line between a show about pornography and actual pornography—mainly because one would assume that the show has a comprehensive story line. And if these journalists can't see such a difference, maybe they should consider a career in nunnery or somewhere equally opposed sex in general.

And if it's not about the sex, it's about the money.



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

"Reporter" Kris Sims eventually went so far as to ask if it would make a difference if the actors on the show were Canadian. "It's foreign money, it's made overseas and it's been posted on a taxpayer-funded website," she wrote, suddenly making the issue about the horny Euro travelling onto virginal Canadian lands.

Look, we all know that Sun News is out to take down the CBC. Quebecor, the legal owner of Sun News, regularly hammers the CBC

with access-to-information requests, and then hauls them to court. It's a beef about business.

But despite fast-and-loose reporting and man-made publicly funded CBC "porn" crisis, Sun News forgot one thing: Quebecor does receive public money.

Last October, CBC—tired of being continuously attacked by Quebecor—pointed out to them they receive around half a billion in tax credits and provincial and federal funding. No, that's not a typo.

Last fall *The Globe and Mail* also reported on the story, confirming the whopping \$500 million to Quebecor.

So next time Sun News goes after a taxpayer funded corporation for doing the very thing they are mandated to do, which is to entertain, perhaps they should take a long, hard look at their own mandate, which is to be "Canada's Home for Hard News and Straight Talk." There's nothing straight about one side of the story.



LETTERS@THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA



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 libelous, 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.

It Worked in BC— It Will Work Here

The notion that Concordia students should capitulate and quietly welcome a 75 per cent increase in tuition fees is bewildering.

Labeling awareness campaigns as “folly” does little beside degrade students who are fighting for what they believe to be honestly unjust. Aspirations to deter student activism by claiming the increases as “fact” or near impossible to reverse should only galvanize Concordians into action.

Public opinion, in theory, defines the parameters within which Parliament should operate. Student opinion is public opinion, and public opinion does matter.

On the belief that people are being “coerced” into misleading understandings over the power of protest, I assume students have the ability to think independently, and, if willing, can search for their own accounts of its effectiveness.

In British Columbia, the Liberals, who had formerly disapproved an implementation of a new tax that would see student tuition fees raise 7 per cent, followed it, once back in office, with plans to force an entirely unexpected HST tax on the public.

This deceitful action again called for the wheels of public participation to turn. British Columbians began various awareness campaigns for the need of a referendum. Students with their boots on the ground were instrumental to getting petitions signed and finally, after six months, a referendum was called. The tax was repealed!

The moral of the story is that without active involvement, nothing would have changed, and students, along with the public, would be paying for it. I'm sure during the heat of such contentious issues, questionably “malicious” tactics were employed against Gordon Campbell and the Liberals, but only to reflect

the nature of the situation.

To wind up, a great Naomi Wolf quote seems fitting: “Activism is the rent we must pay for the privilege of living in a democracy. Protest is how you pay your civic rent.”

—Terry Wilkings
BA Political Science

Demistifying Student Strikes

There's no doubt about it: a general student strike is on the horizon. Students have been pleading and negotiating for two years: petitions, letters, phone calls, conferences, protests, rallies, occupations—you name it, we've tried them all.

The government isn't budging, but this isn't surprising. Historically, it's widespread strikes that make gains in student struggles.

A strike is no laughing matter; it isn't a decision to be made lightly. It means making a democratic choice to temporarily put aside our studies because we believe that higher education is a societal good and a human right.

During a strike, we mobilize and organize instead of studying, and a mobilized student body is a force to reckon with! Strikes work by pressuring the powers that be because labour contracts and utility bills make any extension to the semester undesirable.

There have been eight such province-wide strikes in Quebec. Seven were successful, and students have never lost a semester.

During strikes with tens of thousands of participants, cancelling a semester would result in backlogs of those waiting to enter the university and those waiting to enter the work force. This is precisely why at the end of previous strikes, rather than penalizing students, classes were extended and evaluations renegotiated.

I'm not going to pretend that going on strike isn't a sacrifice, because it is. I can't promise you that we will be successful this year. What I can tell you is that without organized resistance, we will certainly lose.

Fortunately, there is a movement: 13,180 students from three campuses have already voted to go on strike, and another 52,000 will vote in the upcoming weeks.

The question is: will we join them?

Concordia doesn't have a history of participating in strikes lasting more than a day or two—although we benefit from the improvements to financial aid and tuition freezes our francophone peers have won for us.

This spring we can fight in solidarity with students across Quebec for a society that recognizes the value of education for all of its members.

If you want to learn about strikes, come by Hall Building's second-floor mezzanine during the week, come to the Loyola Lunches on Wednesdays, or to the GSA

house (2030 Mackay St.) Fridays after 5:00 p.m.

Like “Concordia Students for Accessible Education” on Facebook, and send your concerns and questions to info@concordiastudents.ca.

Inform yourselves, talk to your friends, and get involved!

—Irmak Bahar
BSC Biology

Education Is a Right, Not a Privilege

Alex Woznica's article, printed in *The Link* last week, is so deeply uninformed that it could never have appeared anywhere other than the Opinions section—and even then it functions only on the loosest possible definition of “opinion.”

His entire article drips with a fatalistic and deeply flawed view of the fight against tuition fees, which would have us all just roll over and submit to the judgment of our betters. Its paternalistic attitudes about government have no place in a democratic society supposedly based on the principles of justice and equality.

His assertion that passing these hikes as part of the provincial budget is some kind of unalterable fait accompli is either an example of profound ignorance or an effort to purposefully mislead.

For those who don't know, Parliament has the authority to subsequently alter any legislation or act passed by it—all it takes is the will. The only place this political will can come from is the much-derided realm of public opinion, that final bastion of our democratic rights.

As equally ill-founded is Alex's imputation of responsibility on the CSU for what is in fact a province-wide fight, and one supported by many, many students here on campus.

They are also not the only organization working on campus. The Mob Squad, an autonomous organization with many sub-groups within it, is also fighting these hikes and working to mobilize students against them.

Finally, and most egregiously, the entire article smacks of a perspective which views education as a privilege being offered to students, rather than as a fundamental right within a just society.

That Alex can even conceive of the government using access to education for the province's poorest students as a tool to punish ‘naughty students’ for exercising their democratic rights, by withholding bursaries, is an affront to the fabric of our society.

It completely ignores the history that brought Quebec to where it is today, the bloody struggle that had to happen simply to secure access to education for the have-nots of this province, and the sacrifices of the generations before us.

We owe ourselves, our predecessors, and the future generations of

Québécois society better. We have both a duty and a right to fight for a fair society, and an accessible education, which doesn't handicap the future of those not fortunate enough to be born into the ‘right’ socio-economic class.

—Gene Morrow
BA Political Science

Fight the Power

The anti-hike campaign will do more harm than good? Can't wait to read the next article asking the student reps to instead shell out for old-fashioned student-subsidized three-day beer benders!

Like many others being “coerced” to believe things in the Concordia Student Union's Orwellian Ministry of Love, I will have graduated well before the full impact of these hikes is felt.

But like them, I am prepared to fight to keep our university, and education in general, free from the perversions of market philistinism as universities have largely been for nine centuries or so.

Woznica's argument hinges on the assumption that this government is composed of sensitive leaders whose feelings will be hurt if we are not nice to them, when they are in fact functionaries whose tagline is waste and corruption.

The CSU has estimated, and I think they are right, that the only way to be heard above the din of the privatization ideology is with outright defiance.

—Richard Hinton
MA Sociology

More Harm Than Good

The article written by Alex Woznica claims that “the tuition increases in question are quite reasonable.”

Now this is clearly a matter of opinion, up for debate, which is why it is being debated in the first place.

It also states that the “hikes will generate badly needed funding for universities.” If university funding is in such trouble I would hate to see what Frederick Lowy, Interim President of Concordia makes on a good year considering his salary is already \$350,000 a year, plus perks.

Within this attack on the student voice is a reiteration of something the Liberal government has been boasting: the fact that Quebec students will still be paying 30 per cent less than other Canadian students despite the increases.

The Concordia Student Union has pointed out in their campaign posters that, while this is true, it is also a fact that Quebec's post-secondary participation rate is 9 per cent higher than the rest of Canada. There is clearly a link between lower tuition costs and higher academic participation this writer avoided to mention.

The new provincial budget, including the tuition increases, may

have already been passed and is extremely difficult to reverse, but, as it was put in the article, it is most certainly not impossible to reverse.

What's more is that the student body is being disempowered by these words. They are being told, “There is nothing you can do, sit down and shut up. You are powerless.”

On Jan. 27, Pulitzer award-winning journalist Chris Hedges spoke at the Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec. This author and former war correspondent had words of encouragement for those brave enough to butt heads with the establishment when their actions are deemed to be rash and unfair: “No act of resistance ever goes to waste.”

The fact is that we have a constitutional right as students and citizens to speak up and protest if we so choose, regardless of whether the government or anyone else believes it will amount to nothing.

The CSU is empowering students, not deceiving them, as Woznica suggested.

Fighting against the powers that be is never easy, but for the 30,000 people that are estimated will be unable to attend university in the near future because of these hikes, it is well worth it to at least try.

—Michelle Moore
BA Communication & Cultural Studies

Practice What You Preach

As a longtime resident of Mackay St., and as an elementary school teacher who tries his best to teach the younger generation about the values of recycling and taking pride in one's community, I found your recent issue on sustainability [Special Issue, Vol. 32, Iss. 19] quite laughable.

How can you preach the virtues of protecting our planet when some Concordia students treat this neighbourhood as a dumping ground?

The streets surrounding Concordia are constantly littered with trash that I can only presume primarily come from the thousands of students who visit campus every school day. I've even seen student organizations which purport to be left-leaning and liberal visually pollute the campus's lampposts and private properties with posters advertising their events.

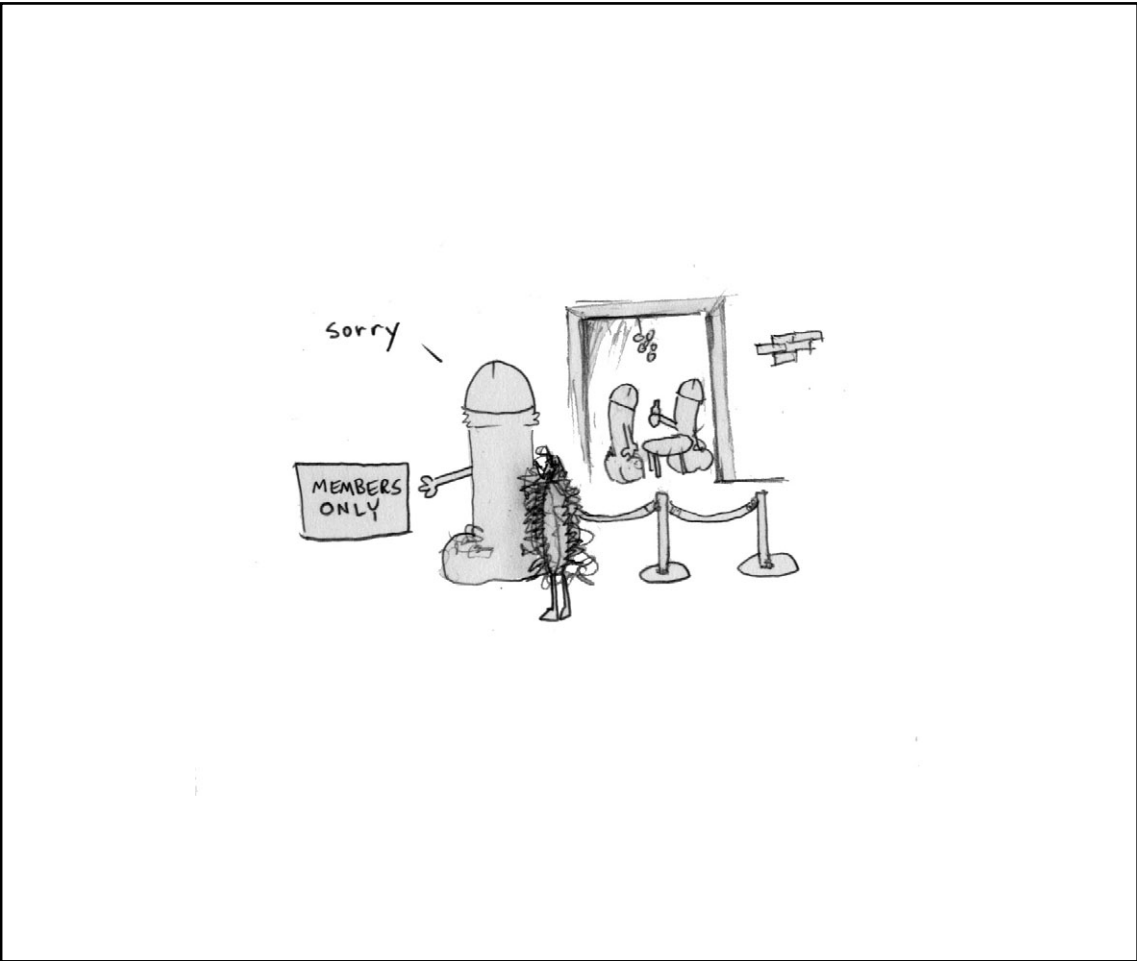
I do recognize that there are some hints of change afoot. I appreciate the efforts of student organizations to promote the “Greening of Mackay,” by planting herbs in planters each spring, and trying to lobby the city to make Mackay St. more pedestrian-friendly.

Every little bit helps. Perhaps your sustainability issue will get students talking about how to take pride in their university community, whether they live in the neighbourhood or not. I can only hope.

—Iain Jessop

Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Ols



It started off as a practical joke. Then it became a running joke. Two murder probes and a life sentence later, it stopped being funny.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

PAKOO PAKOO!



Nah'msayin?

Shit Editors Say

Very often, the Internet is hilarious. It's just that when it's not—which happens just as frequently—it can be so fucking in-your-face stupid that you want to take a machine gun to the iCloud gods and cut off all communication between you and the meme-crazed idiots of the world.

We're not even comfortably into February 2012 and I'm about one oddly specific "Shit ____ Says" video from hitting that threshold. Every day I'm confronted with "Shit Hockey Moms Say," "Shit Radio Interns Say," "Shit Australian Members of Parliament Say to Dolphin Trainers."

When I find myself unfriending about half my Facebook cluster-fuck because I just can't take another "Shit

Danish Soccer Players Might Say If Presented With a Matter-Reconfiguration Machine."

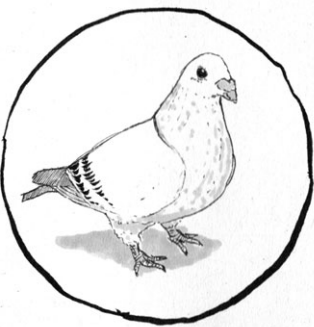
It's time to lock and load.

I mean no offense to the good sci-fi and soccer-crazed Scandinavians in the world—of which I'm sure there are many. It's just that after a certain point, the joke is dead. And attempting to reanimate with a couple new adjectives benefits no one.

So for the sake of my sanity and our standards as a species, let us end this charade. Let's all say whatever crazy shit comes to mind and not ascribe any greater comical meaning to it. The future of the Internet depends on it.

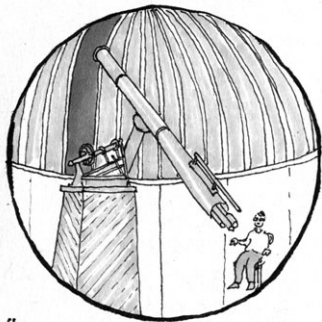
—Julia Wolfe
Managing Editor

SHIT PIGEONS SAY



"... croo..."

SHIT ASTRONOMERS WITH LISPS SAY



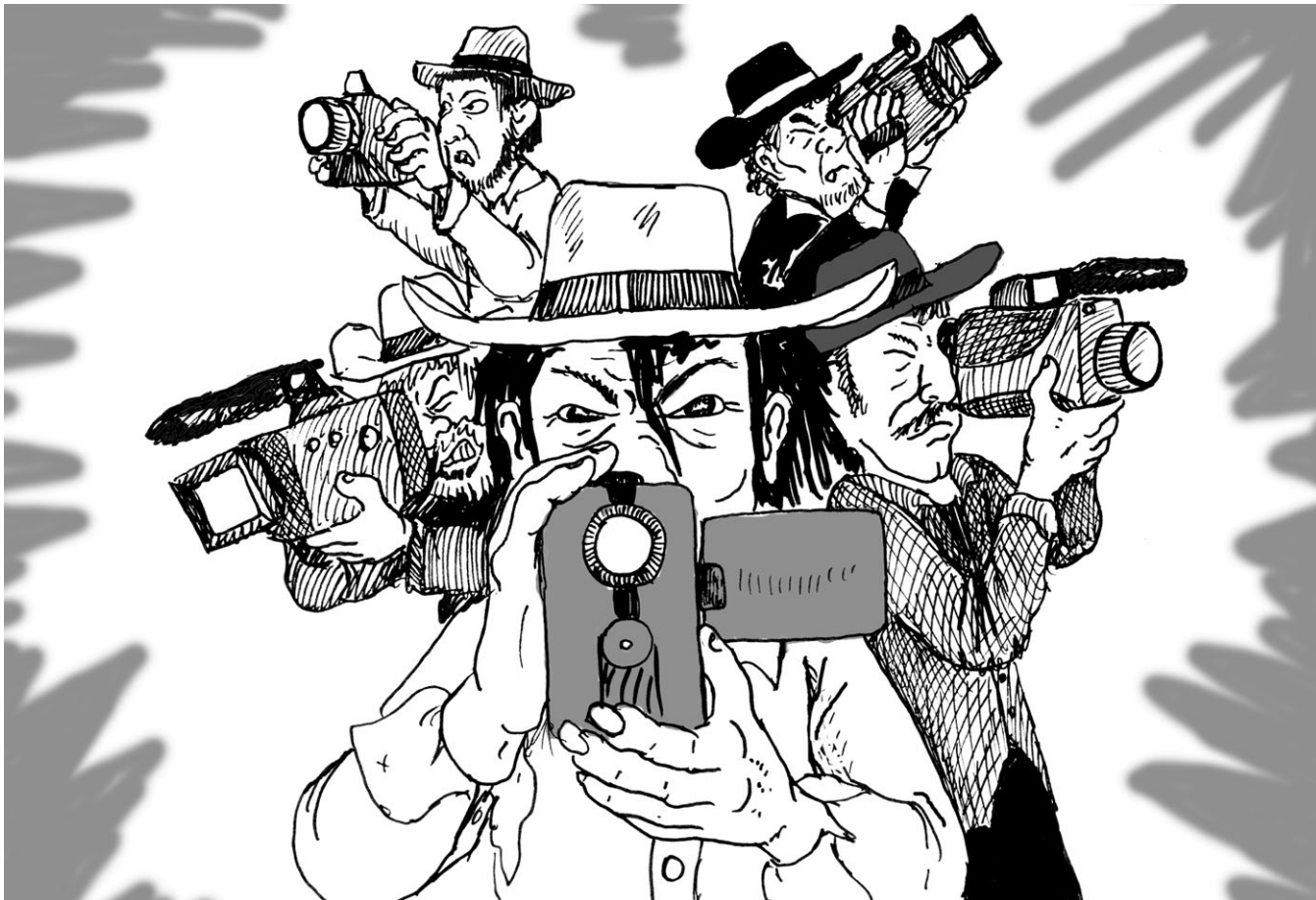
"The univerth ith ekthpanding at an ekthponential rate ...hollerrrrr!"

SHIT TRILOBITES SAY



"Hhkkthssskhth"

GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

CANDID COMMENTS

editorial

And if you're reading this, BoG members: don't forget to smile for the cameras.

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across: SPACEJAM, GAMES, BOY, TEEN, AGEMUT, MANT, NINJA, TURTLES, FRESH, PRINCE, FULLHOUSE, BEANIEBABIES, SPICEGIRLS
- Down: PRINCE, BUFF, MORTALKOMBAT, NAPPST, CHOI, POWERERRANGERS, BEANIEBABIES

There are two images: a sneaker and a Game Boy.



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