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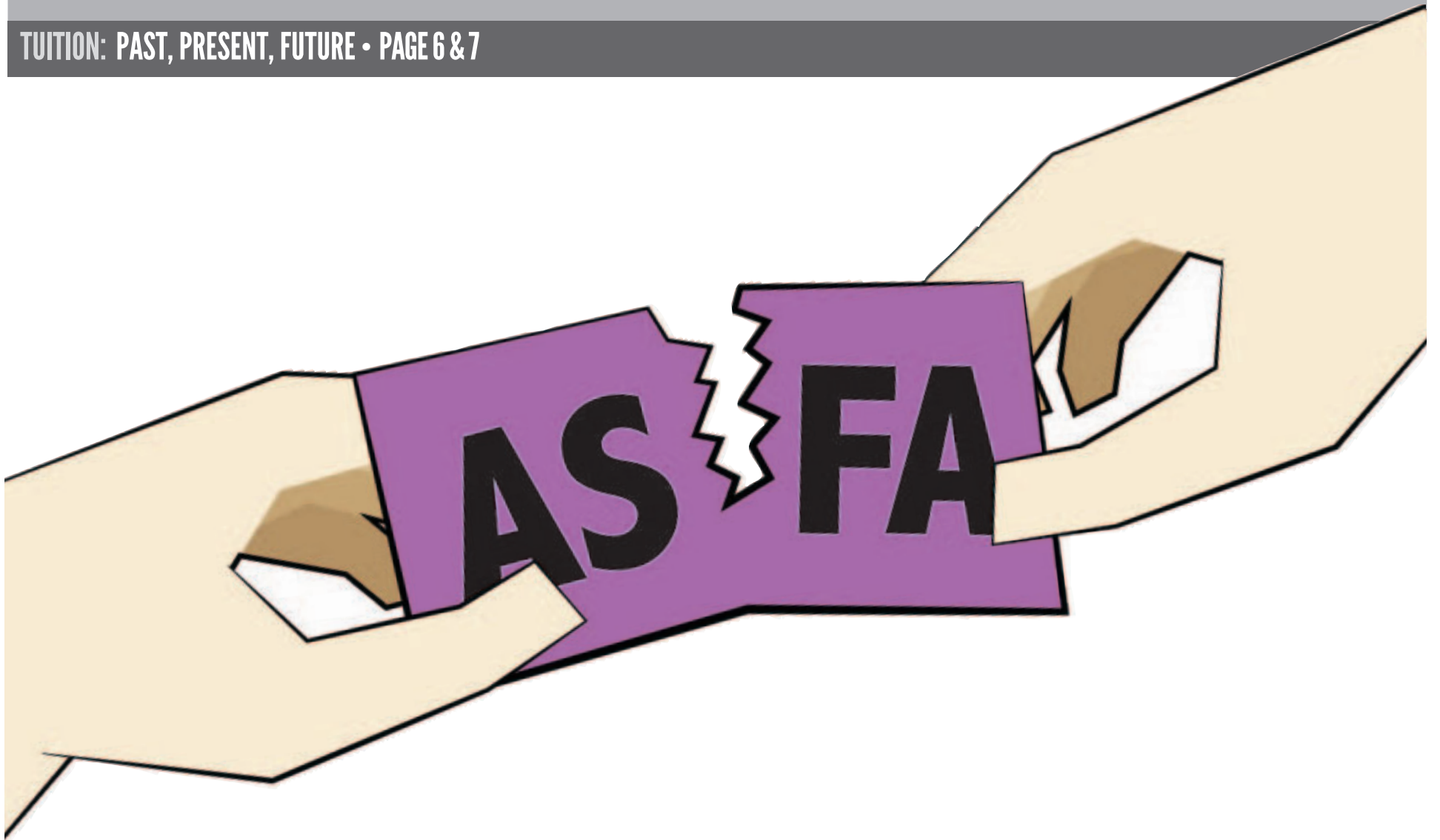
the LiNK'S

guide to

ART MATTERS

link picks ★ event previews ★ festival map

SPECIAL INSERT



ASFAIL

Election Do-Over After CEO Resignation

• HILARY SINCLAIR

The unexpected resignation of Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations Chief Electoral Officer Chris Webster and other polling irregularities have led to the postponing of the ASFA general election until the first week of March.

The new election campaign period will run from Feb. 28 to March 4 and voting will take place from March 5 to March 7. Candidates have been asked to remove all prior campaign posters and will not be allowed to put up any new posters.

Webster cited personal reasons for his resignation and declined further comment.

Contacting ASFA's VP Internal Affairs Schubert Laforest at 8:00 a.m. on Feb. 15—the first day of polling—Webster announced his resignation. All necessary documents were passed on and Laforest continued the election until the end of the second day when it was decided to postpone further voting.

"So many discrepancies came up due to the fact that there were a lot of things we didn't know be-

cause we weren't at the head organizing it," said Laforest. "So we made the judgment call of just having to void the voting that took place."

ASFA President Alex Gordon cited polling clerks improperly trained by the CEO, which led to inconsistent procedure including booths being left unattended and technical issues.

Gordon said they are still waiting to meet with Webster and the electoral committee.

Webster's resignation came in the wake of a controversy involving the ASFA Judicial Committee's decision to penalize VP Academic candidate Eric Moses for filing an improper nomination form.

Moses had written that he was running for VP Internal rather than VP Academic.

Presidential candidate Caroline Bourbonnière said that his penalization by the JC for misrepresenting himself was "ridiculous," calling it an honest mistake due to Moses currently holding the position of VP Internal for the Political Science Students' Association.

Webster had told Moses that

he would not be penalized for the error until the JC overturned his decision. Moses is currently appealing the decision, which would strip him of 65 votes from his total.

"The stressful nature of the position should be communicated to people who want to be appointed CEO," said Bourbonnière, "I don't think people have a good idea about it. He wasn't expecting the Eric Moses situation and the Judicial Board not respecting his decision."

No new dates have officially been chosen for a new election, which ASFA President Alex Gordon attributed to the upcoming Concordia Student Union general election, and a potential general strike in March.

There are three Deputy Electoral Officers working to pull the election together, as the association is not looking to hire a new CEO.

There is no word yet on exactly how much the setback will cost. ASFA had budgeted \$8,000 for the general election.

"Most of the money that was already spent was on advertising and polling clerks for the first day

and three quarters," said Laforest. "It's going to be tricky. We're going to have to do some financial maneuvering from ASFA's administrative budget."

Both Bourbonnière and her opponent Charlie Brenchley expressed their frustration with the postponement and the way it was handled by the current ASFA executive.

"It was kind of devastating to hear the news because we put our heart and soul into the campaign, and we put in so much energy as we are all very active students," said Bourbonnière.

"ASFA, as an organization, needs to get its act together and needs to collectively come together and make this election successful," added Brenchley. "That means getting the word out and using the resources that ASFA has. I haven't seen a posting up yet on campus for these elections that are taking place in a week."

It's not the first time this year that ASFA has had trouble with their CEO. Webster's predecessor, Marvin Cidamon, resigned in October after a complaint was filed regarding violations of ASFA by-laws in a byelection.

ASFA, as an organization, needs to get its act together and needs to collectively come together and make this election successful,"

—Charlie Brenchley

ASFA PResidential Candidate

MANIFESTATION



1. A police officer blasts protesters with pepper spray after they tried to walk through police lines near the Jacques Cartier Bridge.
PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

2. A riot cop brandishes a handgun loaded with tear gas shells.
PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

3. Thousands of students march south on Berri St..
PHOTO RILEY SPARKS



A First Person Account of a Tuition Protest

• COREY POOL

Editor's note: The Link is looking forward to a long month of March that is sure to be filled with protests against the provincial government's planned tuition hikes. While we're excited to cover all the issues and events, we gotta admit: writing about a bunch of protests around one issue can get a bit repetitive. If you'd like a straight-up news story on what happened at the protest on Feb. 23, visit our website. As for what you're reading, well, we decided to go in a bit of a weirder direction. This is a first-hand 'gonzo'-style account of the inside of a protest. Enjoy.

A bustling mob of eager and enthusiastic students had taken over Philips Square in Downtown Montreal by noon on Thursday.

By 1:00 p.m. there were between 1,000 and 1,500 people taking up several blocks of the busy city centre. Groups shuffled about brandishing wild posters, banners and attractive artistry condemning the raise in tuition fees.

Though peaceful, this mob was absolutely serious. "Jean Charest," one sign warned. "You shall not pass."

As organizers from l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante bounced about in red jumpsuits, talking hurriedly to one another or else hollering through bullhorns, their members in the crowd simultaneously raised and lowered signs, performing some strange choreographed theatrics.

In an event like this, organization—or at least the semblance of

organization—is paramount.

Suddenly, with the cry of a few thousand voices, the crowd lurched forward a pace or two and we set off east down Ste. Catherine's St.

Trudging through the cold downtown streets, one thing became very clear: the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal was taking no chances.

Approximately 20 police cruisers followed the demonstration, dozens of officers on bicycles buzzed about the front line, paddy wagons and SWAT vans awkwardly hung around main intersections, while cruisers blocked adjacent roads as the SPVM struggled to follow the movements of the shifty group.

A lone helicopter also whirled about anxiously throughout the entire protest, often hovering

low, watching.

This certainly was not their first rodeo, and the SPVM know all too well that it takes only a handful of protesters to turn something peaceful into front-page news.

As the protest came to an end at Berri Park, a definitive instant took place—one that gonzo journalist Hunter Thompson once described as 'a moment of The Great Fork.'

The official demonstration was now over, but numbers had risen to upwards of 15,000 protesters. As the last of the stragglers descended upon the Berri-UQAM Metro station, a decision had to be made by everyone involved: what next?

It didn't take long for some to make their move, as a splinter group of roughly 1,500 began to

form. A few enthusiasts called out to their comrades, "To the bridge!" and "On prends Jacques Cartier!" setting off what one organizer described as the "real" demonstration.

"I had no idea what was going to happen after [the protest] was officially over," he explained. "All I knew was that the real demo was going to take place after the official demo was over."

Moving east down Ste. Catherine St. once again, the rogue demonstrators made for the Jacques-Cartier Bridge, a risky move that was sure to be met with heavy opposition from the police.

As the wild and leaderless group came upon the intersection of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and de Lorimier Ave. attempting to reach the bridge, the SWAT vans

MADNESS



finally made their move. A hard line was set up by the SPVM, and the group was forced to reroute.

After a short game of cat and mouse, a small contingent of about 100 protesters took one last shot at the bridge, breaking off from the main group and heading north on the small residential block of Dorion St.

Caught between the advancing mob and a hard line of SPVM fully clad in their riot gear, two fellow reporters and I found ourselves faced with an impending clash. The protesters began to link arms only a few feet away from the shields of the SPVM, chanting as they slowly stepped forward.

With a shrug of their shoul-

ders, the officers raised their shields, gripped their batons and shoved forcefully into the crowd. Undeterred, the protesters continued. Quickly, and without warning, two officers leaned forward, extending that familiar canister and administered several shots of pepper spray into the crowd.

Total madness.

There are few instances that assure you more of where you stand in the bigger picture than getting a nose full of pepper spray. Student, non-student, press be damned.

After five hours, the crowd that was once 15,000 strong had been whittled down to a relentless group of roughly 300 protesters who marched on confusedly through the streets.

By 5:00 p.m. what was left of the demonstration returned to Berri Park, followed closely by an increasingly impatient group of riot police.

Finally, as the last of the protesters slowly left the park, I was left once again confused by what I'd witnessed.

Did the demonstration accomplish what it had set out to accomplish? Had the original message been clear, and was that message delivered to the right people? Is blocking traffic to get attention to the cause a strategy that will backfire?

As we move now in lock step toward one of the largest student strikes in Quebec's history, these questions are bound to become increasingly relevant.

—with files from Adam Kovac

4. Riot police face off against protesters on Dorion St., near the Jacques Cartier bridge.
PHOTO COREY POOL

5. Thousands of people turned out for the day-long protest.
PHOTO COREY POOL

6. Protesters march north on St. Laurent St., near Sherbrooke St.
PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

A First-Hand Account of the Jacques-Cartier Bridge Occupation

• BRIAN LAPUZ

After roaring through the streets in the Downtown Core, we gathered to hear the closing speech at the corner of Berri St. and Ste. Catherine St. W.

Since the Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante called the march, it was bound to be a little, well, à la Che Guevara.

I didn't give it much thought, until I saw heaps of people marching east. I then remembered the fliers that some people were handing out an hour earlier, inviting us to block the Jacques-Cartier Bridge.

I decided to take the Metro to get ahead.

At about 3:45 p.m. a group of 500 marchers tried to get on the bridge via Papineau Ave., but the riot police blocked the access. They went under the bridge and tried to make it up de Lorimier Ave., but were again unsuccessful.

I was hanging out in front of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux building, watching the action to the south. I was discouraged. I felt as though I had wasted time... But then, I heard cheering on the bridge. I couldn't believe it. They had outmaneuvered the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.

I walked uphill to the forked entrance of the bridge where the second group of 300 protesters blocked the outbound lane. There were a dozen riot police—for the time being. Inbound traffic was still flowing, albeit gently, and some motorists honked, seemingly in support.

More SPVM reinforcements were coming in. It was windy up there, so much so that my eyes were tearing. Soon, there wasn't any more traffic. I was on the south side of the entrance, with the mainstream media.

There was a Sécurité du Québec officer who had a thick moustache and wore an olive green cap and a long coat. He looked like a high-ranking Soviet official.

Some moments after, I noticed two dozen people in thick olive-green suits, with black helmets shields and batons marching down the bridge. For a second, I thought it was the army.

One of the SPVM riot police ran up to them and asked: "You guys have it from here, right?" The bridge itself was SQ jurisdiction.

As daunting as they appeared, they never saw action. Enough SPVM officers had gathered to form a concave to push the protesters—holding out peace signs—off the road and down the muddy hill. They advanced while beating their shields with their batons, then by jabbing here and there.

The protesters threw a few mud balls in response, which prompted the police to clouds of pepper spray drifted across the line. The riot police charged and charged again until the marchers were pushed back down Dorion St. toward Ste. Catherine St. E.

From then on, it was a cat-and-mouse game until Place Émilie-Gamelin. The riot police remained until the protest thawed. At the end, I noticed one of them taking a photo of five of her colleagues with her smartphone. She dropped it in the snow, picked it up and continued back to their bus, smiling.

Turf Wars

Young Liberals Accused of Deceitful Online Pro-Hike Tactics

• ADAM KOVAC

It is what it is—unless it's something else as well.

That's the message some students are sending to the youth wing of the Quebec Liberal Party, after two members were accused of engaging in political astroturfing.

Astroturfing, named after the term for the synthetic grass used in sports arenas, refers to the creation of seemingly grass-roots organizations that are in reality backed by a powerful entity.

In this case, two representatives of pro-tuition hike group Mouvement des étudiants sociaux responsables du Québec were outed as members of the Quebec Liberal Party in a post on the Facebook page UQAM Memes.

In the image macro, pictures of two students, Jean-Francois Trudelle and Marc-Antoine Morin appearing on a show on French television station TVA as representatives of MESRQ are contrasted with pictures and Facebook screen captures identifying them as members of the Youth Commission of the Quebec Liberal Party.

"It's very strange that those spokespeople revealed their links with the QLP [only after it came to light]," said Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, a spokesperson for student lobby group Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante.

"I think it's a matter of trans-

parency for the spokespeople for this movement to reveal their political associations."

Nadeau-Dubois added that he thought neglecting to mention their ties to the party was dangerous because "it could give the impression to the public that students are more divided than they really are."

However, QLP Youth Commission President Maripier Isabelle dismissed the charges, saying that Trudelle and Morin, though involved with the QLP, were acting on their own, and not as representatives of the party.

"It's kind of a non-issue," she said. "Some members of some students' associations heard that Marc-Antoine and Jean-Francois were members of the QLP and that they were also involved with the MESRQ."

They decided to start spreading allegations that the QLP was kind of leading the MESRQ, which was not the case."

Isabelle added that the Youth Commission and MESRQ had different positions on the specifics of a tuition hike, though both groups support the general idea.

She also noted that both Trudelle and Morin were involved in a regional forum of the Youth Commission as organizers, and were not among the organization's higher ranks or spokespeople.

Nadeau-Dubois mentioned that while he wouldn't accuse Trudelle and Morin of working at



Facebook memes and photos were at the heart of astroturfing allegations against young members of the Quebec Liberal Party.

the behest of the QLP, he did find it odd that Education Minister Line Beauchamp would deny ever having met Morin, despite a photo that surfaced of the two together.

Isabelle claimed that while the two may have met, the circumstances of when the photo was taken were such that Beauchamp likely would not remember the encounter.

"That picture was taken in 2010 three days after Beauchamp

was named Minister of Education. It was at a convention at which more than 1,000 Young Liberals were attending. She might not have remembered every hand she shook during that weekend."

The incident occurred during a heated week in which pro-tuition students gained the spotlight. In a Feb. 23 article of *La Presse*, MESRQ member Arielle Grenier claimed that she had been the victim of threats and intimidation.

Nadeau-Dubois, who debated Grenier on the Radio-Canada television show *Tout le monde en parle* on Feb. 26, said that this kind of behavior just goes to show how hot a topic tuition currently is.

"I think it's very regrettable. I think there's intimidation on both sides. Strike votes are very emotional moments, and it's an emotional debate. It's really sad in both cases."

GRASSROOT GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

Departments and Faculties to Meet on Strike Mandate

• LAURA BEESTON

Throughout the week, general assemblies and meetings of nearly a dozen student associations will be taking place to discuss strike mandates against tuition increases.

While the Concordia Student Union will discuss and vote on a one-week strike at a General Meeting on March 7, the smaller assemblies are also gathering to discuss their stand and come to internal decisions about student action moving forward.

And while the CSU and the Mob Squad have been engaged at the departmental level in many cases—such as with the Political Science Students' Association—some of the momentum behind the GAs come from concerned students or the departments

themselves, though the motivations differ from one group to another.

The Women's Studies Student Association, for example, took their cues from the Simone de Beauvoir Institute—which took an official position on the tuition increases earlier this month.

"As an institute, we've framed our position on the very significant impact this tuition increase will have on women and their children. That was an important place for us to start," said WSSA External Executive Gabrielle Bouchard, who is helping to organize the GA that will see women's studies students vote on an open-ended strike Feb. 29.

"Research shows this increase will affect women's access to education, so it's hugely important, as women's studies students, to

bring that point to the debate. [...] Spearheading the movement at Concordia is something we're also super stoked about."

In the case of the Fine Arts Student Alliance, the call for a Special General Meeting—taking place in the CSU large lounge on the 7th floor of the Hall Building on March 1—came from a collective of independent students concerned about the hikes.

"It was a loose collective of people, but it's grown," said FASA President Paisley Sim. "[FASA] council voted to officially endorse the momentum behind them [and] recognizes this effort. It's important to have people who aren't involved in the executive or on council exercise their rights to talk about this stuff."

For philosophy students, their executive is less than an arm's

length from the organization of their GM, also taking place on March 1.

"Our main motivation [to organize] is that, since we're in a shared department are close to each other and know each other more than the CSU knows us, it's a lot easier to talk about the issues on the same level," said Students of Philosophy Association President Peter Grubestic, who is collaborating with SoPhiA VP External Geneviève Dick.

"We can talk to philosophy students about the philosophical issues that surround these hikes."

And while the student departments are organizing their GAs, a petition called The Concordia Declaration is making its rounds on the Internet, garnering signatures from the university's faculty, research and teaching assistants,

associates and other academics. As of press time, it had nearly 160 signatures.

"A strike in an English university is not part of our history," said Bouchard. "To have different departments and voices taking a position prior to the March 7 vote and to create a momentum and take a strong position can make a huge difference."

The Concordia Declaration can be found at concordiadeclaration.wordpress.com. The CSU's General Assembly for the entire undergraduate student body to make a decision on a one-week strike at the end of March takes place March 7 in H-110, the Hive and the 7th floor of the Hall Building at 3:00 p.m.

Tuition Timeline

– Compiled by Julian Ward & Laura Beeston



**Nov.
10**

- An estimated 30,000 students march against tuition hikes through downtown Montreal.
- Charest government launches pro-tuition hike website, activists launch counter copycat website less than 24 hours later.
- Fourteen McGill students occupy the fifth floor of the James Administration Building after the Nov. 10 march. Protesters outside complained of brutality from the police who fired tear gas.



**Feb.
2**

- Radical demonstration against tuition hikes rages through campuses in downtown Montreal.

**Feb.
13 & 14**

- Approximately 11,000 students from UQAM and Laval vote to go on an indefinite strike.

**Feb.
16**

- Some 200 protesters block entrance to Montreal Stock Exchange and Delta Hotel close to where Occupy Montreal took place.
- Students protest overnight at CEGEP du Vieux Montréal. Thirty-seven of them are arrested for breaking into and vandalizing the school.

**Feb.
28**

- Sociology & Anthropology Student Union Information General Meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Concordia Student Union Conference Room
- Liberal Arts College Information General Meeting at 4:15 p.m. in the LAC Annex basement.

**Feb.
27**

- Start of five-day slumber party at the Webster Library. Students participate in workshops and information sessions on the impending strike.

**Feb.
23**

- Thousands protest in downtown Montreal, temporarily blocking access to the Jacques-Cartier Bridge.

**Feb.
17**

- MNA Jean-Martin Aussant files a petition in the National Assembly calling government to back down from tuition hikes.
- Students protest outside of the Sheraton Hotel, where Education Minister Line Beauchamp was speaking.



**Feb.
29**

- Women's Studies Student Association General Assembly at 12:30 p.m. in room H-110 of the Hall Building
- School of Community and Public Affairs General Assembly at 4:00 p.m. in the SCPA Annex basement
- Geography Undergraduate Student Society General Assembly at 4:00 p.m. in room H-1271 of the Hall Building.



**March
1**

- City-wide march against tuition hikes
- Political Science Students' Association General Assembly at 2:30 p.m. on the seventh floor of the Hall Building
- Fine Arts Student Alliance General Assembly at 1:30 p.m. in the CSU Large Lounge on the seventh floor of the Hall Building
- Students of Philosophy Association General Assembly at 2:45 p.m. in room H-110 of the Hall Building.

**March
5**

- Engineering & Computer Science graduate students General Assembly at 12:00 p.m. in room EV2.260 of EV Building.
- Geography graduate students referendum, with possible General Assembly the following day.

**March
6**

- Graduate Students' Association General Assembly in room H-110 of the Hall Building.

**March
29**

- Potential vote to extend strike for CSU & GSA.

**March
26**

- Start of four-day potential CSU & GSA Strike.

**March
22**

- Province-wide Day of Action against tuition hikes.

**March
7**

- CSU General Assembly in room H-110 of the Hall Building, the Hive and the seventh floor of the Hall Building at 3:00 p.m.

HACKER HEAVEN

‘Hackathon’ to Develop Health Care Tools

• JACOB ROBERTS

Health care professionals and technology experts spent last weekend designing solutions to problems plaguing the medical community.

Hacking Health—called a “hackathon” due to the marathon-like endurance needed to compete—hosted over 40 health care professionals and 160 computer programmers and engineers who joined forces to attack technologically neglected issues in the health care industry.

The Accessible Montreal team came in first place with their idea for mapping wheelchair-accessible buildings in Montreal.

In second place, Rapid Assessment of 3D Surface Area Using Kinect—a working title—used the Xbox Kinect’s three-dimensional scanner to give more precise readings on burn victims.

In third place, Tame Type II created a smart phone application to monitor blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetes patients.

All three teams received \$400 and an invitation by the Business Development Bank of Canada for consultation on how to turn their projects into viable start-ups.

The all-night programming marathons to create new and innovative technology—called Hackathons—are usually about creating new applications for social media or online games. Hacking Health is the first Hackathon in Canada to focus on finding solutions to problems related to health care.

“Typically, health care and health care professionals are very slow to adopt technology unless it’s big things like imaging. I think it’s super cool that we’re able to work with such smart people like engineers and computer [scientists], just to get this device out there,” said Jenny Basran, a geriatrician from Saskatoon who received honourable mention for her iCaregiver app, which networks daily reminders between dementia sufferers and their caregivers.

Organizers were expecting a turnout of roughly 150 audience members over two days, but were surprised by the popularity of the event, which exceeded 200 in attendance on both days.

Jeeshan Chowdhury, a co-founder of Hacking Health and a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Alberta and Oxford, was thrilled with the success of the event.

“It really is an experiment to put doctors with hackers and see what happens and clearly it worked. So now our long term goal is to support these teams, nurture them and give them support so that they can form start-ups or non-profits [and] go forward in delivering saleable solutions to health,” said Chowdhury.

Health care professionals—who came from as far away as Edmonton pitched their ideas on Feb. 24—then pulled together teams of web designers, coders, software engineers and computer scientists. The teams spent the next 24 hours developing a prototype of the original idea and presented them the following night.

“You work in a really short period of time to build something: the prototype [of] an idea,” said Andrew Cleland, a McGill law student and one of 11 co-founders of Hacking Health. “It’s about fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.”

Hacking Health will be traveling across Canada and repeating the Hackathon in major cities. Their next stop is Ottawa.

Extending a Good Thing



Kenyan parliamentary candidate and women's advocate Flora Terah will speak at Concordia on March 2.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

SDBI & VIA Fill CSU Gap for Women's Month

• ADAM KOVAC

This year, the annual Concordia Women's Week has been extended to a full month, but that lengthening didn't come without some growing pains.

While Concordia's chapter of Volunteers In Action and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute for Women's Studies have teamed up, the Concordia Student Union has made no activities or plans for the month.

“They didn't help with planning, but they did help facilitate communication between the club and Simone de Beauvoir,” said VIA President Caroline Bourbonnière.

“We're going to be helping them out with their space booking and helping them out to get various licenses they may need,” said CSU VP External Chad Walcott. “Basically,

allowing them [access to] the resources that the CSU has in order to host [any activities] they may be having.”

In the past, the CSU's Women's Caucus had organized events for the annual Women's Week. However, that body was eliminated in the recent revamping of the CSU by-laws, leaving responsibility for organizing Women's Week to Walcott.

Walcott said that while he was glad to lend a hand to VIA and SDBI, because of his heavy involvement in the anti-tuition hike movement the CSU would be unable to formally organize Women's Week this year.

“The main reason we weren't able to handle all the events is because it's under my portfolio and I was concentrating on the tuition issue,” he said.

“So that's why we're trying

to take more of a collaborative stance and use all the resources we can to make a women's [month] that's representative of women's issues but also has participation from a wide amount of people in the Concordia community.”

A full list of activities is hard to come by online, as both the CSU and VIA were experiencing technical difficulties with their websites at press time. However, Bourbonnière said she expects to have the website back online shortly and noted a Facebook event page was on its way.

Among the events planned are guest speakers—including Kenyan parliamentary candidate, author and women's advocate Flora Terah on March 2—workshops, bake sales, and a production of the play *The Vagina Monologues*.

Bourbonnière said that

while much of the planning was done by the SDB, VIA hope to use their influence to get word of the events to a larger group of people.

“We're going to be helping the SDBI to get a wider audience because I think they have some really amazing things to say and I don't think enough women pay attention to what they're saying.

“There are still so many inequalities in society in regards to women and men,” she continued. “There aren't enough women in parliament or high-standing positions and I feel even the media portrays women in a certain way. [...] It's also a good time to celebrate all the women that are doing so well, [as well as examine] human rights—there are women who are going through atrocious situations in other countries.”

NEW ESCALATORS BY FALL FOR HALL BUILDING



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

It's a Hall of a mess. The Hall Building is undergoing phase three of a \$16 million renovation plan started at the beginning of the Fall semester. As Mitch Hedberg once said, the nice thing about escalators is that they don't break, they just become stairs. "The purpose is the badly needed replacement of old escalators used by thousands of students weekly," said Concordia Spokesperson Chris Mota. "Timeline for this phase is March to September 2012." In the next two to three weeks glass partitions will be put up between the escalators, but the fully replaced lobby and mezzanine escalators will not be accessible until September, 2012.

BRIEFS

Candidates, Start Your Engines

Get out your (campaign) running shoes: the nomination period for the Concordia Student Union general election opened on Feb. 27. Concordia undergraduates are encouraged to sign up to run for president, any of seven executive positions, one of 30 councilor positions, or one of five senator positions. This year, potential councilors and senators must run independently and unaffiliated, while any potential executive, including the president, must run independently but can be affiliated with other executive candidates. The nomination period ends March 2, while actual campaigning begins on March 5. Voting starts on March 20 before the whole shebang wraps up on March 22.

Book Stacks and Nappy Naps

A study released last week has shown around a quarter of all tickets given out in Montreal from 2006 to 2010 for bylaw and STM infractions are given to homeless people. Itinerants were issued over 30,000 tickets for public intoxication, loitering, smoking inside of a metro station, not paying transit fares and sleeping in metro stations. The authors of the study concluded it is a waste of time and resources to ticket people who will never be able to pay them. Instead, they argued, social services and mental health programs should be developed to help the homeless reintegrate and not commit offenses in the first place.

Tickets for Transients

Amping up their anti-tuition message, Concordia students are staging a sleep-in at the Webster library. "The Library is the center of knowledge and information of the university. We also pay to have it open 24 hours. So why not take advantage of that!" Read a message posted on the event's Facebook page. Students will participate in workshops and lectures and learn about the potential consequences of a strike against the provincial government's proposed tuition increases. One goal of organizers is to convince the administration to grant academic amnesty to strikers. Currently, the administration is advising all professors to follow their current course plan regardless of whether that means failing striking students.

To Catch a Predator

A man once shown on the TV show America's Most Wanted was arrested in Montreal last week after a decade on the run. Steven Dyer was convicted of 13 counts of child molestation in Arizona in 2002 and faces up to 169 years in prison upon his return. Dyer had been living in Vancouver under an assumed identity and was caught when traveling back from the Caribbean at the Montreal airport. AMW said that Dyer volunteered for Brothers and Sisters of America before befriending a couple young boys whom he assaulted, according to a report in *The Globe and Mail*.

2012

March 9, 2012 4:00 p.m. H-649

General Election

All of *The Link's* Editorial Positions Will Be Open.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Head Honcho.

You get to make the big calls, demand coffee from overworked underlings and appear in court for all libel lawsuits.

COORDINATING EDITOR

Web 2.0 Captain.

Direct the newspaper's online content, staying on top of the news, fringe and sports cycles. 24/7/365. Sleep optional.

MANAGING EDITOR

Tree Killer.

Ever felt like directing a slew of editors writing long-form stories, attempting to breathe life into an industry in decline?

NEWS EDITOR

Ambulance Chaser.

Direct the newspaper's online news content. Make friends with politicians, learn the acronyms, attempt to salvage your sanity.

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Robin.

Help the news editor avoid insanity for as long as possible.

Work hard on the small stories, work small on the hard stories.

FRINGE ARTS EDITOR

Hipster Royalty.

Tell Concordia and Montreal where the best shows and artists are to be found. You're online and daily. Short, dirty and fringe.

SPORTS EDITOR

Jock-in-Chief.

Sports is going online. Get your game shorts, your stats and all the information that Stingers fanatics need.

CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

Secret Weapon.

How does 3,000 words and a great layout sound to you? The powerful and politicians will shake at your printed words.

CULTURE EDITOR

Thespian Stalker.

From the literary arts to the dance floor. Write thousands of words on anarcho-traditional-porn-grind. Maybe invent it.

LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Colour Blind.

You aren't the fashionista or interior designer. You write about the Stingers and haterade, in long-form print delight.

OPINIONS EDITOR

Stamp Licker.

Get the letters, the rants and the crazy. Tell the people why the green space men trump the grey. Reserved for paper.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Don Draper.

Make sure that the newspaper's print edition looks good. Get the photos hot, the graphics sharp and the words tight.

PHOTO EDITOR

Soul Snatcher.

Take the shots that convey the emotion, the sense of defeat and the utter embarrassment of being caught red handed.

GRAPHICS EDITOR

Kindergarten.

These swirls and lines are essential for making big numbers edible. They also look so purty everywhere but Current.

COPY EDITOR

Word Smith.

Keep us out of the headlines, out of jail and out of synonym hell. Make all the words work; hard to do with so many.

COMMUNITY EDITOR

Pontifex Maximus.

Make friends, make ads and make the newspaper the most jumpin' recruiting machine on campus. Bar none.

THE CONTENDERS

Eligible To Run

Alex Woznica, Amanda Laprade, Andrew Brennan, Andrew Maggio, Boris Degas, Brian Lapuz, Caitlin Leroux, Camille Chacra, Christopher Curtis, Christopher Olson, Christopher Tan, Claudine Lamothe, Clément Liu, Corey Pool, Dylan Maloney, Elysha Del Gusto Enos, Eric White, Faiz Imam, Jeff Bush, Jonathan Woods, Josh Davidson, Joshua Barkman, Katie McGroarty, Kevin Duarte, Megan Dolski, Melissa Fuller, Myriam Arsenault, Nicolas Martel, Nikola Grozdanovic, Oliver Leon, Paku Daoust-Cloutier, Paolo Mingarelli, Richie Daly, Riley Sparks, Sanaz Sunnie Hassanpour, Rebecca Hiscott, Sam Slotnick, Tyler Finigan, Vincent Yip & Current *The Link* Masthead

One More Contribution Needed

Natalia Lara

Applications must be posted in *The Link's* office by March 2 at 4:00 p.m.

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues during Volume 32 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

For more information email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca



THE LiNK
It's Good For You

Breaking Down the Wall



The Wooden Sky Merge Artist and Audience

• ALEX MCGILL

The Wooden Sky are raring to go. It's part childish giddiness, but it's also part cabin fever.

"We haven't been out on the road in a while, so everyone is sort of itching to get out and play," admitted the band's frontman, Gavin Gardiner. "We want to see what the new stuff will do for people live and we're excited to try some new things."

The band kicked off a North American tour this past Friday, four days before the official release of the "new stuff"—their third full-length, *Every Child a Daughter, Every Moon a Sun*.

The Toronto-based quartet, with their harmonious, down-home, country-tinged sound, have the uncanny ability to bring something alluringly different to the table every time.

Their easy-listening folk sound has gained a following thanks to reflections on rural and urban life, happiness and re-

gret, and Gardiner—singer/songwriter and guitarist—sounded as eager as a fan about the latest effort.

"It feels really strange to release a record," he said on the phone a few days before the band set out on tour. "Excitement, stress, relief. It's a really long process; we started this record in July. Right when you finish, you want everyone to hear it."

"For us, it feels like it's out already. All of our friends have heard it and now we want the world to hear it. It's a reflection of where we are in our lives. [...] There's a maturity there that I think we couldn't have achieved until now."

Comprised of Gardiner, Andrew Wyatt, Simon Walker and Andrew Kekewich, The Wooden Sky was initially created as a bedroom project. Since then, the band has grown both in size and in sound, starting with their first album in 2007, and continuing through their next two albums,

several EPs and countless tours.

Every Child a Daughter, Every Moon a Sun first came to being in a cottage outside of Toronto and they finished the process in Montreal at the famed Hotel2Tango recording studio.

"Every song and every album is different," said Gardiner of the creation process.

"We rented a cottage at Dyer's Bay, four or five hours north of Toronto. We all went up there and worked together on songs, some we had played together, some we hadn't. There were also songs that we worked on together in smaller groups, or got together in the practice space to make demos."

"You try to chase down that song that you have in your head. Some songs just need that raw energy. You can't achieve that with a laptop in your bedroom."

The band ended up with a large number of songs that they eventually cut down to 13 for the album.

"It's fucking brutal," said Gardiner. "There's no right or wrong decision; it's just opinion-based. We agreed on 80 per cent of it, but sometimes one of your favourite songs doesn't make it to the album. You have to trust each other."

The decision to record the album in Montreal stemmed from a need to step away from their day-to-day.

"It's really important for us to be away from our lives for a bit while we're working," said Gardiner. "It helps to isolate yourself [...] in the recording process."

"It helps us to come together as a group; we totally immerse ourselves in it, but sometimes you can get lost in the process. We live and breathe the record for two weeks at a time."

"Plus," he added, "there's something really special and alive about Montreal."

For their 2009 Bedrooms and Backstreets tour, the band embarked on an unconventional

journey—playing shows on rooftops, in backyards and in living rooms.

On this tour, they're taking part in a contest that will see them playing several house shows along the way. For Gardiner, there's something much more personal about playing shows in these alternative venues.

"The people you meet [at house shows], you just wouldn't get the opportunity to meet otherwise. There's a wall between artist and audience," he said. "As an audience member, house shows shaped my experience both as a musician and as part of the audience. They're so special. It's a great way to experience the music."

The Wooden Sky with The Great Bloomers and Charlotte Cornfield / March 5 / Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) / \$13.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

THEATRE BUSINESS

Theatre Business: *Fill Us In* is a piece of verbatim theatre based on the interactions between business and theatre students in the MB Building.

"We have one floor and there are business students that come to the floor and use it, and there have been conflicts over space. We talk about that in the play—about this feeling of hostility, or an unwelcoming environment," said Assistant Director Manon Manavit.



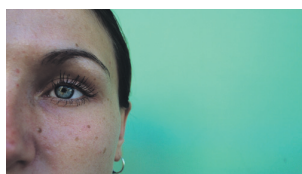
WEEKLY SPINS



Grimes - *Visions*

A look at the 4AD Records debut from local synthstress Grimes, for the lovers and the haters.

FRAME TO FRAME



"One kilo of cocaine, one AK-47 or one Moldovan girl—it's all the same," is one of many haunting statistics that you'll hear in Mimi Chakarova's *The Price of Sex*, a documentary about illegally trafficking Eastern European women.

Filling *the* Silents



Building 3D Performance Space with The Hilotrons

• COLIN HARRIS

Believe it or not, three-dimensional space in film has much more potential than a flaming Nicolas Cage face flying towards you.

Though the rest of the world got caught up in the horrible 3D mania that ensued after the release of *Avatar*, Mike Dubué and his fellow Ottawa electro power-poppers the Hilotrons decided to prove there was more to the concept than gimmicky action films and movie industry money-grubbing.

Since 2009, the band has been live-performing soundtracks to films from Hollywood's Golden Age now in the public domain, the first being the scoring of *Metropolis* for the opening of an old theatre that Dubué managed in Ottawa.

After a successful string of performances, the Hilotrons are now bringing their silent film sounds on tour, the main attraction being *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*—one of the first horror films ever made.

The Hilotrons have been stretching their cinematic muscles with a number of projects, including *Night of the Living Dead Live*, where Dubué got together voice actors, musicians and Foley artists—the people who create

sound effects in films—to recreate the zombie cult film with all-live sound.

For *Caligari*, Dubué wants to ensure the film gets its due focus. It's one of his favourites, and in scoring the movie, the band will work in support of the dark, German expressionist imagery.

"It's not a situation where I want to be very bold," said Dubué. "I really enjoy writing scores to these silent films and creating a three-dimensional space for the audience, but it's all about the film."

Because the form only prevailed for a few decades, Dubué sees a huge potential in the underdeveloped art of silent film.

"When the industry introduced talkies, they saw the silent era as a limited situation, not on par with the technology," he said. "But I think that's the greatest thing about the silent era—its limitations and what that created."

In embracing the films as inspiration and master to the musical direction, Dubué hopes to avoid what he sees as an exercise in irony: silent films becoming an aside for a free jam.

With sound far behind picture in the heyday of silent film, visuals were everything. For the singer/keyboardist, ignoring this significance takes the cinema out of movies. In their ever-evolving

"When the industry introduced talkies, they saw the silent era as a limited situation, not on par with the technology. But I think that's the greatest thing about the silent era—its limitations and what that created."

—Mike Dubué

Hilotrons Singer/Keyboardist

score of *Caligari*, the Hilotrons always serve the film reels with a score that strengthens what's already there.

After the feature film, the band will play to four Ontario Film Board shorts found in the National Archives. Dubué wants to spend the rest of his days writing music for these lost bits of our history, especially with what he sees as negligence from the government to preserve and explore it.

"The government has kind of put a hold on history. The archives are no longer taking in

acquisitions, there's an insane amount of cutbacks," said Dubué. "When it comes to the silent era, [we have a lot of works] in our vaults."

Before every household had a television, silent films were a considerable source of information for Canadians.

As a result, there are scores of instructional and educational shorts from the turn of the century, including an animation on how to take care of a sore tooth, mining graphite and how wireless telephony works—three of the shorts showing after *Caligari*.

As for their less film-oriented projects, the band is still working on their pop sound, although it's now melded with this extra experimentation. An EP, tentatively titled *The Rhythm of the Film as an Art of Movement*, will be out before the summer, and they begin work on their fourth full-length in the fall.

"It's a new connection with an audience. It's nice to not be a pop band, to go a different route," said Dubué. "I love making pop records, and it's nothing we've abandoned, but we like to broaden our horizons."

POP Montreal Presents: Silents Is Golden / March 2 / Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon Rd. W.) / 7:00 p.m. / \$10.00

Our Guide to ART MATTERS

The 12th edition of Concordia's Art Matters festival kicks off this Friday and they've got some surprises in store.

Featuring a host of student-curated events, an artist talk series, block party events, an open house weekend, and a party to kick off right, this year's festival is bringing some great new stuff to the table.

With its continued success, Art Matters has become one of the largest festivals of its kind, while being an important platform for Concordia students and the Montreal arts community in general.

The mandate of the festival is to communicate that art does, in fact, matter. And the continued interest and participation of Concordia students suggests that they are right.

The festival takes place over two weeks and involves 120 Montreal-based undergraduate artists.

For the first time, Art Matters will also host an open house weekend, which will run in the middle of the festival, from March 9 to 11.

Community-based collaborations are also scheduled for this art-packed weekend.

Art of Survival—a speakers series that will take place at the VAV Gallery (1396 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.) on March 4—will focus on forging a path in the competitive art industry and will feature a variety of art industry professionals.

Moving beyond Concordia spaces, Art Matters will take place in galleries, artist spaces and unconventional exhibition sites across the city.

Its 13 exhibitions feature painting, installation, video, performance, design, computation arts, photography, sculpture, theatre, contemporary dance, music, ceramics and much more.

Art Matters is a place to not only see what your fellow students are up to, but to experience the Montreal art community first-hand.

The entire festival is completely bilingual and open to everyone—artists, art-lovers, and curious community members.

For your convenience, *The Link* has compiled a few exhibits to get you started, but we encourage you to get out there in the next two weeks and go to as many shows as possible.

—Alex McGill,
Fringe Arts Editor

ART MATTERS OPENING PARTY / THE DARLING FOUNDRY / 745 OTTAWA RD. / MAR. 2 / PERFORMANCES BY SUUNS, DA PINK NOISE, DOOM SQUAD AND MEKELE / 8:30 P.M. / \$6.00 PRE SALE FOR STUDENTS, \$10.00 FOR NON STUDENTS AND AT THE DOOR / FOR MORE INFO AND A FULL LIST OF SHOWS, VISIT:

ARTMATTERSFESTIVAL.ORG



BLOCK PARTY
MARCH 8 TO 16

ATTACK THE BLOCK

HILARY SINCLAIR

Block Party Explores How Consumer Choices Shape Communities

The *Block Party* exhibit at Art Matters is exactly what it sounds like.

But instead of celebrating the people that make up a community, it gives life to the structures and choices that create it.

Featuring the work of 13 artists, *Block Party* attempts to draw attention to how consumer power shapes our urban environment—with a focus on Montreal's Mile End.

"I wanted to celebrate the neighbourhood and think about how it has gentrified in this specific way," said exhibit curator Aditi Ohri.

"The problem with art sometimes is that it can raise these questions without resolving them."

Ohri has chosen works that are about geography, consumerism or give insight into human relation

with objects and space.

From jewelry that forges a relationship with the wearer through physical and visual qualities to a sink filled with Jell-O that shakes as the observer approaches, the exhibit incorporates a wide range of art practices.

"[The exhibit] became about retail spaces and how, when you walk down a street, there's just little things like how a window display looks that kind of add to the character of the street," said Ohri.

"It just becomes a part of the landscape in a way [...] I wanted to put emphasis on the fact that there is already art there by putting explicitly artistic objects there."

The Mile End has developed in a unique way, influenced by the Hasidic Jewish community and the sizable student population alike to produce an almost idyllic physical space. Much of this, said Ohri, is

due to the appreciation that all the neighbourhood's demographics have for creativity.

"Most of the work is going to be on St. Viateur St. between St. Laurent Blvd. and Parc Ave.," said Ohri. "I used to joke with my friends that St. Viateur St. is kind of like Sesame Street. In the summer everyone is walking around and drinking their coffees, looking at the sun without a care in the world. It's just the cutest place ever."

However, the Mile End is just one example of the power of community and consumerism.

"I want to encourage people to walk around their neighbourhoods and look at what is beautiful and unusual," said Ohri.

The exhibit takes seven Mile End venues, kicking off with an "Art Crawl" that meets at 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Van Horne and Parc.

VERNISSAGE

March 8 / General 54 (54 St. Viateur St. W.) 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ART CRAWL

March 11 / Corner Van Horne Ave. and Parc. Ave. / 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

March 11 / Monastiraki / 3:00 p.m.

FINISSAGE

March 16 / Phonopolis / 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VENUES

Annex Vintage

56 St. Viateur St. W.

Club Social

180 St. Viateur St. W.

General 54

54 St. Viateur St. W.

Monastiraki

5478 St. Laurent Blvd.

Phonopolis

207 Bernard St. W.

Peut-être

6029 Parc Ave.

S.W. Welch's

225 St. Viateur St. W.

A LITTLE BIT OF *Whimsy*



The Poupart Gallery Explores Space Within Space

ALEX MCGILL

You might not spend much time thinking about it, but gallery space for an exhibit is a crucial element for both curator and artist.

The default gallery space seems to be well lit with white walls, but whatever setting the art is presented in will affect how the audience will perceive the work.

Derived from *poupée*—the French word for doll—the Poupart Gallery is literally miniature, housed within a dollhouse.

“I got the idea when I was doing an undergrad in art history and researching alternative gallery spaces,” said Lianne Zannier, the gallery’s curator.

“I read an article called ‘My Own Private MOMA’ by Marc Valli [where] he talks about the particular viewing experience you have in larger galleries along with the very specific narratives they create,” she explained.

“The Poupart Gallery comes out of this desire for a different experience.”

In addition to space, the gallery also deals with issues of scale. Since the gallery is miniature, the artworks exhibited also have to play within those parameters.

“The Poupart Gallery aims at playing with nostalgia, narrative and the potential for miniatures to be both big and small at the same time,” said Zannier.

“The goal is to manipulate those concepts. It’s part curatorial and part collaboration between myself, the artists and the space.”

As an animator, Zannier also

plays with these themes regularly in her own work.

“In animation, you make worlds, establish the laws of gravity and manipulate the scale of both the world itself and the objects within it,” she explained.

“The dollhouse is completely self-contained. It could be in a host gallery—as it is at the Coatcheck Gallery for Art Matters—or it could be set up in the woods. It is an ongoing project.”

For Zannier, the dollhouse itself is more than just an exhibit, as it has a history with the St. Henri neighbourhood where the gallery will be featured during Art Matters.

“I purchased the house in St. Henri from Jean Gilbert, who has a storage [space] where he holds perpetual yard sales all summer long. What is particular about this is that Gilbert is a collector of antiques along with memorabilia from St. Henri,” explained Zannier.

“Inside his space he has the streetcar used in the film *Bonheur d’occasion* based off the book by Gabrielle Roy about St. Henri. He also has full stained-glass panels from the original church that used to be in the neighbourhood. Pretty amazing, really.”

Zannier renovated the dollhouse herself, and it will be home to nine artists, working within the mediums of animation, print and ceramics.

The Poupart Gallery / Coatcheck (5180 Notre Dame St. W.) / March 9 to 12 / Vernissage / March 9 / 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NARRATING THE SPACE & YOU

Surveying Space and Building Perception

• COLIN HARRIS

They may seem interchangeable to many, but the words ‘space’ and ‘place’ are very different terms. It is a difference that Levi Bruce wants you to investigate.

“We all go through spaces day to day, and they transfer into places for us; they become background noise,” said Bruce, the curator of *Surveying Space* about the focus of his exhibit. “We know them, but we don’t take a look at them.”

The exhibit—which is a collection of two photography pieces, two sculptures and a hybrid sculpture/performance work—focuses on space within art, as a constitut-

ing and interactive phenomenon for an audience to narrate.

“With this exhibit I want to take a look back at spaces. This three-dimensional area, prior to the connotations that you apply to it, before a space becomes a place in your consciousness.”

Bruce selected various artworks that start a conversation about space and investigate its connection with the user.

What brings these pieces together is attention paid to that dialogue.

“They’re talking about [space] through the use of different techniques that bring up the typical views of space related to art,” said Bruce.

“That conversation about space is at the heart of the exhibit. It’s explored through photography of a minimalistic corner, as in [Jean-Marc Perin’s] ‘These Corners,’ or in juxtaposing banners against ‘found spaces,’ as in [Jordan Loepky-Kolesnik’s] ‘The Banner Series.’”

“These banners, which [have been] placed in these found spaces, develop [narratives] in these two separate ideas that have come together for a finished composition,” said Bruce. “There’s a dialogue created between the artwork and the viewer.”

“Autonomous Landscapes” plays with vantage points, moving from objects to

I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK BACK AT SPACES. THIS THREE DIMENSIONAL AREA, PRIOR TO THE CONNOTATIONS THAT YOU APPLY TO IT, BEFORE A SPACE BECOMES A PLACE IN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.

—Levi Bruce
Surveying Space curator

landscapes depending on where you look at it.

“It challenges the idea of scale. [The piece features] these three woodcarving mounds that, depending on how the viewer looks at them, can change the view.”

Bruce founded the idea for *Surveying Space* after noticing how objects command—and take over—a space.

In selecting the art, and in unraveling the movement of perception, a different angle can be considered in the works.

“I want the viewer to look at the artwork and acknowledge the space before they create a place for themselves. Through that, they can realize the development process.”

Surveying Space / March 2 to March 15 / WWTWO (170 Jean-Talon St. W., #206) / Vernissage / March 8 / 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ART *by* DESIGN

Subject to Change Talks Aesthetics



ALEX MCGILL

However polished the finished product is, art exhibits are made, not born. They're the end result of hours and hours of work—and often their fair share of trial and error.

Though *Subject to Change* co-curators Eli Kerr and Christopher Spears originally wanted to do a design show. But after arguing about the place of design in the context of an art exhibit, they realized that what they were really exploring was the divide between art and design.

"Design presented in a gallery setting is often marginalized as 'design art,' or design is approached as thematic content for an exhibition," said Kerr. "We wanted to leave that brand of cat-

egorization behind in an effort to move forward.

"We became interested in art as design—in rejection to the notion of 'design as art.'"

As a result, the theme of the exhibit is the work itself: how artistic mediums inform and shape each other.

"As our show isn't bound by a traditional thematic structure, we were able to select a diversity of mediums," said Kerr. "Through our curation process, we found that how the works interacted through their formal values became the main point of interest."

The two curators want to explore the formal discourse of art in practice—the idea that all art forms are interrelated and can be viewed in a variety of ways.

"*Subject to Change* could be considered as a non-narrative exercise," said Kerr. "We were interested in the common aesthetic and formal values of the works we've curated, rather than any sort of narrative-driven or thematic framework."

"I think [the show] presents where we'd like to be. We want to see more discourse about aesthetics and formal values, rather than thematic or emotional approaches to looking at work."

Both Kerr and Spears had work in the same show at Art Matters last year, an experience that helped them when planning their own exhibit.

"I think that shared experience gave way to more collaboration between us," said Kerr.

"We've since made work to-

gether, established a constant exchange of ideas and criticism, and now with *Subject to Change* I think a lot of these exchanges are coming to the surface."

The exhibit will include video, sculpture, painting, design and performance.

"It's important to get out of the classroom and get the work from the studio to the gallery," said Kerr. "Participating in the festival is outside of the curriculum, and if you asked around, I'm sure you would hear that working towards a show is much more rewarding."

"The festival is largely successful because everyone involved is excited and works hard. It energizes students to create new work, share new ideas and put their work out there."

SUBJECT TO CHANGE
ESPACE PROJET /
353 VILLERAY ST. /
MARCH 3 TO 14 /
VERNISSAGE /
MARCH 8 /
6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

QUIET SPACE

The Unending Silence of Space Wants Us to Pause

KATIE MCGROARTY

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, sometimes it's best to take a moment for yourself. To some, that might mean getting a coffee in the middle of the day, or doing nothing for an afternoon without feeling guilty about it.

Jessica Fahey has a different plan. In *The Unending Silence of Space*, which she curates, Fahey hopes to "silence the noise of our minds."

Hosted at Eastern Bloc, the Mile End's self-styled "Centre for New Media and Interdisciplinary Art," the exhibit takes place inside a room meant to deprive viewers of their senses.

With no outside light or sound, it sparks an intimate connection between viewer and art, making for a very different type of gallery experience.

"I'm hoping that [viewers] are able to take a little repose in the room. It's very calming. You want to just take time, close the door behind you, [and experience the] unconstrained energy that guides and sways," said Fahey of the unortho-

dox setting.

"I want people to be in there, be in these very immersive video experiences and be guided by the videos and the energy that is in the videos."

The multi-channel silent video installation may sound complex, but it's not meant to be intimidating. Ralitsa Doncheva's film, *Still Moving*, and Simon Grenier-Poirier's piece, *Le ciel nerchi, la mer trobla*, will play intermittently, presented on loop between two screens in the tiny 4' by 11' room.

"When you're in the room [the films are] projected simultaneously and in sync on two different walls. [They're] all around you," said Fahey. "The room itself is really small, so you can kind of just stand back and be surrounded by films. The two videos play off each other really beautifully."

Doncheva's film is a reflection on her experience as a Bulgarian immigrant in Canada, focusing on what Fahey describes as a transformation of expertly arranged found footage of everything from birds flying to schoolchildren singing.

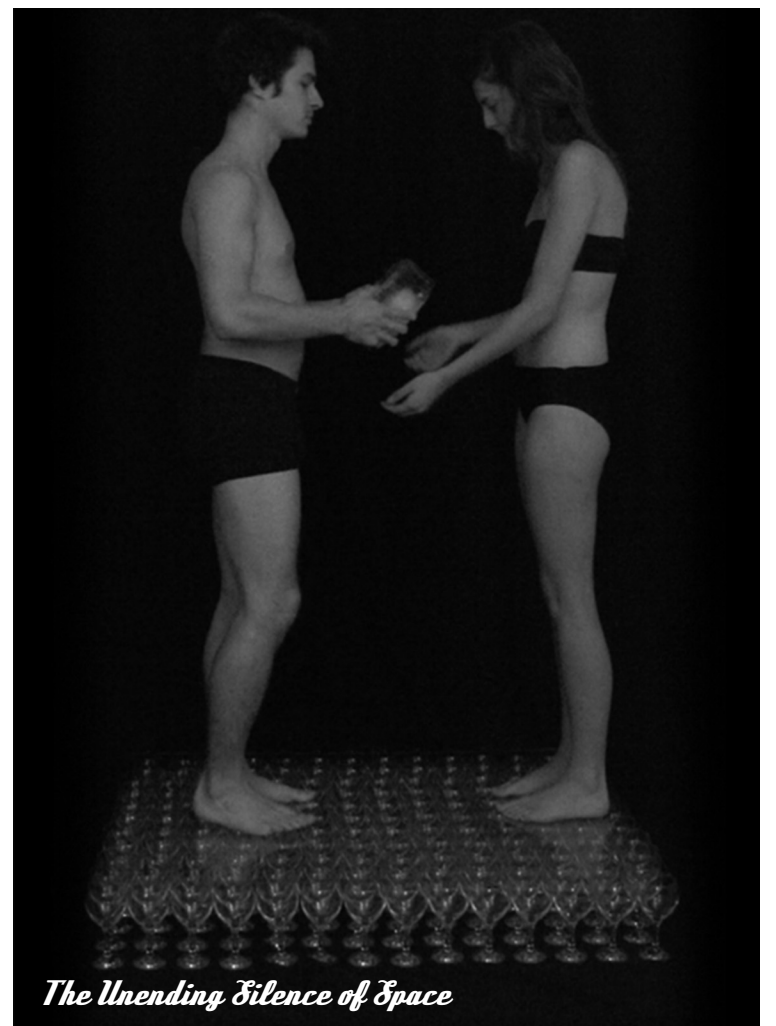
Somewhat contrarily, Grenier-Poirier's piece is a mock scientific movie focused on the natural phenomenon of erosion on natural elements.

"It's wind, sand, and water taken out of context in such a close-up manner that it sort of decontextualizes the process of erosion," said Fahey. "There are these grains of sand or these drops of water and they're sort of swirling in space. It's a micro-examination of nature and natural processes."

A third piece, which is not in the dark room but will be displayed in the hallway on a flatscreen TV, is an endurance-performance piece involving the testing of the physical and mental strength of the artist, Janick Burn.

The three pieces are very different in theme, but they are brought together by one common factor—silence.

"There's a beautiful, soundless exchange that pulls together all the different rhythms of the videos," said Fahey. "When I saw these three pieces it was very clear that they would work together extremely well."



The Unending Silence of Space

EASTERN BLOC
(7240 CLARK ST.) / MARCH 2 TO 15
VERNISSAGE / MARCH 6
6:00 P.M. 9:00 P.M.

FESTIVAL MAP

★ *march, 2012* ★



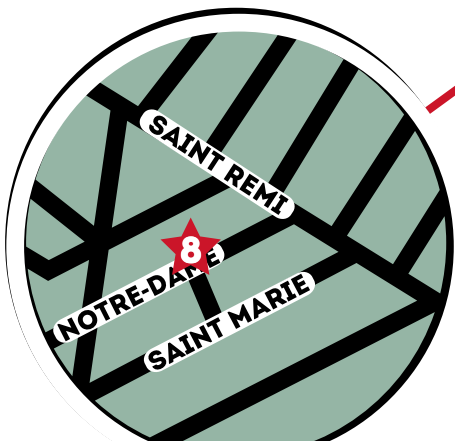
ROSEMONT

- DE CASTELNAU
- JEAN-TALON
- ★ 1 ESPACE PROJECT
- ★ 2 EASTERN BLOC
- ★ 3 WWTWO



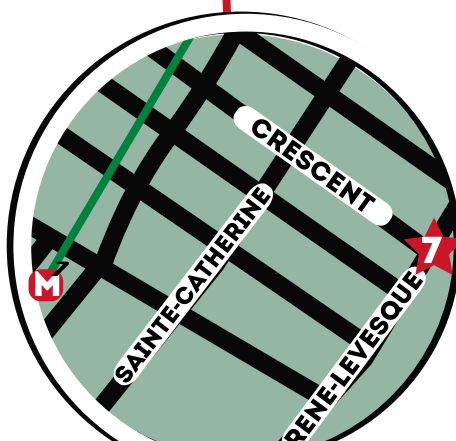
MILE-END

- ROSEMONT
- LAURIER
- ★ 4 STUDIO BELUGA
- ★ 5 BLOCK PARTY*
- * Several Mile-End Boutiques*



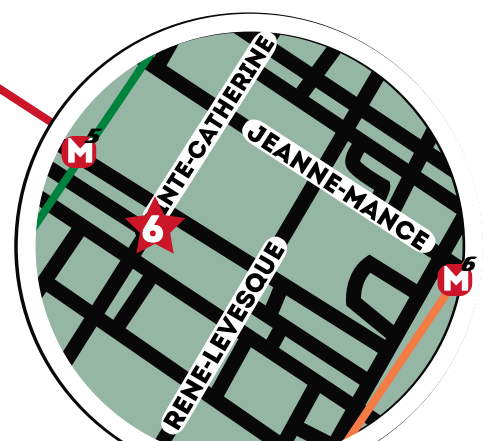
ST-HENRI

- ★ 8 COAT CHECK



CONCORDIA

- GUY-CONCORDIA
- ★ VAV GALLERY



PLACE-DES-ARTS

- PLACE-DES-ARTS
- PLACE-D'ARMES
- ★ 6 AB GALLERY
- STUDIO 303
- LES TERRITOIRES



Get in the Pool

(Above) Damon Palamarek sets up a shot while Mike Mandanici and 20-year-old Dylan look on.

(Right to left) Mandanici eyes his options, Mike Salvador and Dylan share a laugh while racking the balls, and Palamarek tries a risky behind-the-back shot

PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS



McLean's Pub Dives Into the Montreal Pool Scene

• DAVID MURPHY

Mike Mandanici squares himself behind the lush mahogany wood and leans over it, eyeing the white ball while setting up his pool cue. After smacking the ball home with a loud crash, he strides around the table with a confident smile on his face and does it twice more.

He looks like Pittsburgh Jewish-rapper Mac Miller with his white toque, winter sweater and skinny jeans. The 20-year-old bends down and lines up another shot. This time, he can't sink the orange five-ball in the corner pocket, but puts his opponent, Damon Palamarek, in a bad spot.

Palamarek, 35, thinks about his move for a second, then ambitiously places his cue around his back and sets his hand steadily on the forest-green felt, carefully preparing his shot.

After a breath he strikes the cue ball—only to have it completely

miss the eight-ball, ricochet, and bounce back to exactly where he set up the shot.

The roar of laughter ends with a clink of pint glasses and a pat on the back, something Heidi Przepiora, the self-proclaimed unofficial coordinator of the pool league at McLean's Pub on Peel St., says is what the league's all about.

"The pool league really brought our regulars closer together," she says. "[It] definitely has that *Cheers* sorta feel to it."

Ironically, Przepiora, who bartends at the pub, doesn't like pool. In fact, she openly hates the sport and admits that if she can so much as hit a ball, she's happy.

But she organizes the teams, records the data and hands it in to the league, which consists of around 30 teams and is played at various bars around Montreal. The teams switch venues, but McLean's sponsors a team that plays its home games at the pub.

Organized pool leagues like this

one are all aligned with one another and have tournaments to see who the best amateur pool players are in Canada, and are then sent to an international tournament in Las Vegas, NV.

But pool here is more than just going to Vegas.

"Going to Vegas would be fun, ideally," says Palamarek. "Sometimes you have a game and it's okay, but sometimes you play and you just have a blast."

Though he says it's just for fun, Palamarek clearly has a passion for it; he proceeds to list off different techniques and explains the intricate geometric complexities of the game—or sport, as Palamarek stresses.

"You're leaning over, you're balancing, you're strategizing—oh yeah, it's definitely a sport," he says. "It's like baseball. [...] The only difference is that the table is the medium."

Pool, however—or cushion, billiards and snooker for many—is

not considered an Olympic sport. But its worldwide popularity is still very apparent at McLean's.

Victor Marin is from Venezuela, and says the level of play here is comparable to the quality back home. Mike Salvador, an El Salvadorian, was taught how to play by his dad before he moved to Canada. Palamarek himself is originally from Alberta and was similarly taught by his grandfather.

"Originally I just came here and started playing by myself because I knew no one else in the city," says Palamarek. "Then some people started playing me and that's how I got to know most people here."

The same can be said for bartender Przepiora, who Salvador now calls Mom.

"I'm from Ontario and didn't know anyone," says Przepiora. "I'm happy here. My job is to come in and serve my friends."

The gang admits that when the drinks are served, the quality of the pool goes down a little.

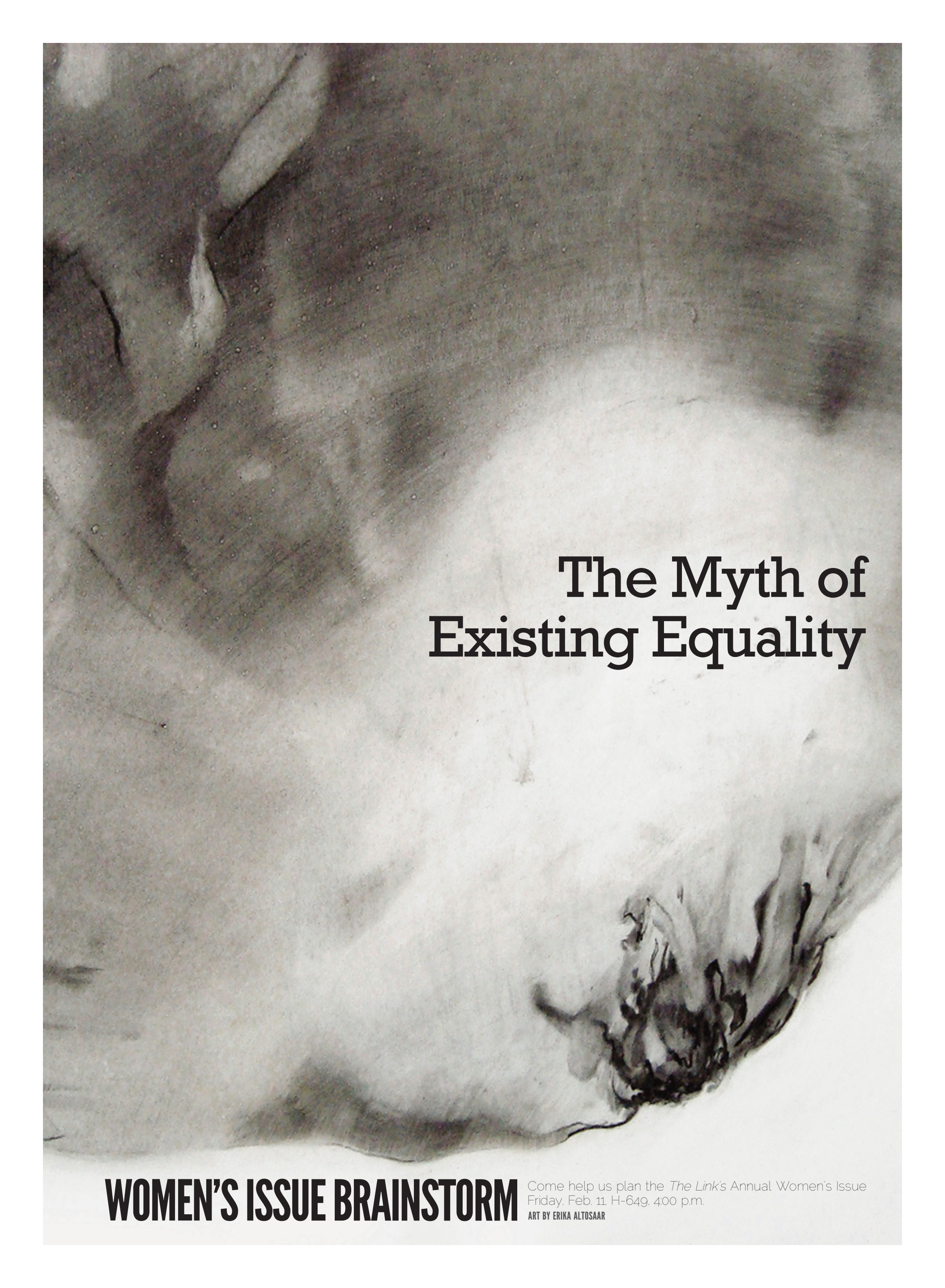
But their team saves most of the drinking for afterwards, and sits comfortably at middle of the pack in the league. Others are more serious and come with professional-caliber pool cues and customized bags. But it's all about the beer and company for Salvador et al, who also all like to brag about their accomplishments in the league to Przepiora.

While the backgrounds are different, the faces and the glorious taste of beer always remain the same, and the action continues outside the regular Tuesday league time slots, too.

"The rest of the week it's the pool league plus a bunch more competing for fun. [It's] always good times and we have a fantastic group of regulars," says Przepiora. And hey—the tips are great, too.

McLean's Pub (1210 Peel St.) / Tuesdays / amusementsclassique.ca

—with files from Riley Sparks



The Myth of Existing Equality

WOMEN'S ISSUE BRAINSTORM

Come help us plan the *The Link's* Annual Women's Issue
Friday, Feb. 11, H-649, 4:00 p.m.

ART BY ERIKA ALTOSAAR

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Cross-country skiers gallivant through Mont-Royal park Sunday after a harsh weekend snowstorm. Montreal was hit with up to 10 cm of snow this past weekend, making for perfect winter sport conditions.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Wrestling to the Top

Stingers Men Steal Gold, Women Finish a Successful Year

• TYLER FINIGAN

Concordia is on top of the college wrestling world yet again.

The men's team finished first at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships in Thunder Bay last weekend with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Despite coming in ninth overall, all three members of the women's team also finished on the podium.

The CIS championship brings collegiate wrestlers from all around Canada and pits them against each other to determine Canada's best. Last year, Concordia placed first in team standings for the first time in 10 years. With 12 wrestlers competing this year, Concordia sent one of its largest contingents ever to nationals.

On the men's side, David Tremblay, a former Canadian junior national champion and current senior national champion, won the gold medal in the 61 kg category on Saturday, making it his fourth straight.

Tremblay is currently in

contention at the 2012 London Summer Olympics and has to finish first or second at one of several qualifying tournaments to earn his spot. His chance will come in late March at the Pan American tournament in Kissimmee, FL.

Also on the podium were veteran James Mancini, who took gold in the 65 kg category, Scott Schiller, whose notable effort earned him second place in the 72 kg category, and rookies Greg Rossy, who nabbed the 130 kg bronze, and Irankah Nariman, who did the same in the 82 kg category.

The men's team was rounded out by Noël Tremblay (fourth in the 57 kg weight class), Mitchell Krauter (fourth in the 76 kg), Stephen de Layen (fifth in the 68 kg) and Trevor Banks (seventh in the 54 kg).

Though the women's team finished ninth overall, this was due to the smaller size of their squad, not a lack of talent, as each of the three women took home a medal.

Nikita Chicoine, who won silver in the 63 kg category, added

a fifth medal to her résumé.

Chicoine, a three-time Concordia female athlete of the year, placed first in three of her four bouts this season. It's her fifth and final year of eligibility, but she has high hopes for the women's team in the years to come.

"It's a bit upsetting that we only have three women competing. I'd like to see enough women compete so that we can win a title like the men did," said Chicoine.

"We did our best and unfortunately I won't be there next year, but I believe that next year's team will do just as well," she added.

Veronica Keefe and rookie Linda Morais rounded out the women's contingent with a bronze medal apiece in the 72 and 59 kg categories, respectively.

With his team finishing as high as they did, Stingers head coach Victor Zilberman won CIS coach of the year. Born in Russia, Zilberman is a multiple international medalist as well as Concordia alumnus.

This is Zilberman's third coach of the year win, as he's led the Concordia wrestling team to six national championship victories and brought home more than 65 gold medals at the CIS national championships—in addition to five world champion medalists, including his son, David Zilberman, who competed for Canada in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Victor has been a member of the Canadian coaching staff at four Olympic games and a number of World Championships.

"Victor is the reason I'm wrestling at [Concordia]," Tremblay said. "He is the only one who told me that I could compete at a national level. I owe all of this to him."

It's a second straight title for the Concordia team and, with most of the team staying next year, the title could be in reach again.

"I think we can take it next year; we're all returning and our rookies will only get better," Tremblay said. "We don't have one of the biggest teams, but we do have one of the strongest."

THIS WEEK in SPORTS

DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 80 UQAM 62
CONCORDIA 84 UQAM 60

Stingers guard Kyle Desmarais put a Feb. 18 near loss over the McGill Red-men behind him, as he led Concordia's men's basketball team with a combined total of 36 points in victories over the weekend against the UQAM Citadins and Laval Rouge et Or. The Stingers begin their quest for a national championship tomorrow night when they host Laval in the semifinals. Tipoff is at 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORDIA 42 UQAM 44
CONCORDIA 61 UQAM 67

Despite last weekend's results, Concordia's women's basketball team has secured home court advantage in tonight's semi-final over the Bishops University Gaiters. While they have lost their third game straight following Saturday night's 67-61 debacle over Laval, the Quebec City-based team lost on Friday clinching home court for the Stingers. The action takes place tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Loyola Gym.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Stingers forward George Lovatsis was named to the Ontario University Athletics first team all-star list. Lovatsis finished the season with 20 goals and 20 assists, tied for fifth on the OUA points leaderboard. Two Stingers, Michael Stinziani and captain Eric Begin, made the OUA second team all-star list despite the team not making the playoffs this year.

FOOTBALL

Wide receiver Sanchez Deschamps of Concordia's football team has been selected to participate in the 2012 CFL evaluation camp which takes place in Toronto from March 2 to 4. This event gives the opportunity for general managers and scouts to evaluate the talent eligible for the CFL draft on May 3. Deschamps has a career total of 78 receptions for 1,121 yards along with six touchdowns in four seasons.

that TRANSEXUAL GUY

• OLIVER LEON

column 4

I was at the supermarket a few years ago and I saw this tabloid headline: “World’s First Pregnant Man.”

On the cover was a man with his hands on his round belly. I purposely avoided looking too interested for fear that someone would automatically assume that I was a transsexual. Now, of course, I purposely read transsexual literature on the metro so people start to question gender.

But what I want to talk about is parenthood. Currently, the law requires all transsexuals in the province of Quebec to be sterilized. This means that my reproductive organs will be removed. My endocrinologist (hormone doctor) said that this was because of an increased risk of cancer. Why? I’m

not sure.

But trans men must have a hysterectomy and trans women must have a vaginoplasty. These surgeries are both considered a part of Sex Reassignment Surgery. We have this surgery so that the Quebec government will change our sex designation. If we do not have SRS, we are left with our sex assigned at birth on all of our official records.

Frankly, my pet theory is that the government does not want trans people reproducing. Obviously part of our ‘Big Transsexual Agenda’ is to create more transsexuals so we can spread gender-variance throughout the world, right? Oh yeah, totally. It’s what I dream about at night!

Alternatively, I could keep my uterus and, eventually, have a child.

I would need to stop testosterone in order to do this, and my period would come back. My voice would stay its masculine self. So I, too, could be a pregnant daddy—if I so desired.

I’m not sure I want to, though. I like kids, but... I’m only 19! I should have the rest of my life to decide these things.

Instead, I have my endocrinologist telling me that, in the next three years, I should decide whether or not I am having a hysterectomy.

Trans parents do exist. They blog online, they’re in trans magazines, they’re in the tabloids, they’re on talk shows. But they probably have paid a lot of money to become the person they are today.

Why doesn’t the government change our sex designation when

Big Transsexual Agenda— A Decision on Sterilization

we tell our therapists that we’re trans? Why is our name change thrown in for free only if we have SRS? Why do name changes cost upwards of \$500 anyway? Do they think we’re made of money or something?

Therapy is expensive. There’s a limited pool of mental health professionals who agree to have trans clients in the first place—do we really have to put a price on everything?

Oh I forgot, obviously it’s be-

cause gender identity and gender expression aren’t protected against unlawful discrimination or hate crimes under the Canada Human Rights Act.

Our bodies are policed. People judge our genders for us. But hey, no big deal. Let’s just charge the transsexuals loads of money if they want therapy, a name change, or surgery!

And people wonder why I scribble madly in my Big Transsexual Agenda all the time...

TO SERVE AND PROTECT



I’m gay and it will be two years that I have been with my boyfriend. I have always been an advocate for protected sex and have never had sex without protection. But I tried it for the first time and loved the experience. Everyone I know eventually stops using protection, but when is the right time (if there is one)? If you are certain both you and your partner are clean and have been tested? I have only had unprotected sex three times and still have this uneasy feeling about it.

—Feeling Vulnerable

This is a question I think a lot of people have, because we’re constantly

taught “safer sex, all the time,” but then what?

What happens once you’ve been with someone for several years, or even if you’ve committed your life to someone?

As someone offering advice on safer sex, I could never advise you to stop using condoms. It’s always just safer to use protection and there’s no such thing as a risk-free situation.

That being said, let’s acknowledge the reality here: a lot of people in committed relationships do stop using protection, and that’s not necessarily irresponsible—it’s their choice, and as long as they know the risks, there’s nothing wrong with that.

The problem is, there is no “right time”—it’s more a matter of assessing the risks and making a decision you feel comfortable with. So assess your own risk and your feelings about it.

Also, consider the stuff you’re doing in the sack and how risky it is. Anal sex, for example, is a pretty risky sex act, since the anus doesn’t naturally produce lubrication and microscopic tears and cuts for STIs to enter through aren’t

uncommon.

Not using condoms isn’t for everyone. Some people will go crazy worrying every time they have sex if they don’t use one—so if that’s you, don’t put yourself through that.

If you decide not to use a condom, make sure you’re comfortable, confident and that the decision is your own so that you still enjoy the sex.

There are also ways to minimize your risk aside from condoms, though you can still do these when using condoms too.

Lube is a magical thing. Though it doesn’t get much safer sex credit, sometimes it can make all the difference. Lubing up will not only feel awesome, it’ll also lower your chances of getting an STI, since the lubrication will reduce the likelihood of getting small cuts, tears and irritation.

For anal sex, enemas (flushing the anus with water) can reduce the risk of contact with fecal matter, which can also cause a lot of fun infections, and not cumming inside your partner’s anus or mouth will lower the amount of contact and fluid exchange.

Either way, always use a condom with a non-monogamous partner and continue getting regularly tested, even if “you’re sure” you’re both STI-free.

Also, remember that there’s no such thing as being “sure” or “clean.” (As a side note, I hate the term “clean” because having an STI doesn’t make you “dirty.”) Some STIs have no immediate or visible symptoms, and can take a long time to show up on any tests, so people don’t always know they’re infecting someone else.

The bottom line is that shit happens, and it can happen to anyone, even the person you love or even to you, so it’s important to remember that no one is special when it comes to risk.

If you want to stop using condoms, assess your risk and continue to take other precautions, especially for any peace of mind they may provide.

—Melissa Fuller

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

Panda-ing to the Masses

Expensive Empty Gestures on Harper's Eastern Tour

• HILARY SINCLAIR

There's nothing like a cute, chubby panda pup tumbling about in lush bamboo to make you forget the ethical issues in friendly relations with China. The People's Republic knows the best way to exploit cuteness and get paid for it.

Since 700 A.D., China has been using the bears as tokens of political goodwill. The process has evolved since then; no longer are they panda "gifts"—they are panda "loans." In 2013 Canada will be the lucky recipient of two fuzzy loans.

But one has to wonder what's the value of such an exchange, with a cost much higher than a

handshake or arm-over-shoulder photo op.

In 1973 Pierre Trudeau tried to bribe China with beavers to get pandas. Our current Prime Minister's recent trip to China was seen to be a rollicking success because he could do what Trudeau did not. It's not that he negotiated any sort of free trade deals or took a hard stance on human right abuses—but he got the pandas!

It seems wonderful on the outside. China will buy our oil and we get to see Harper actually smile while watching his wife hold a panda baby.

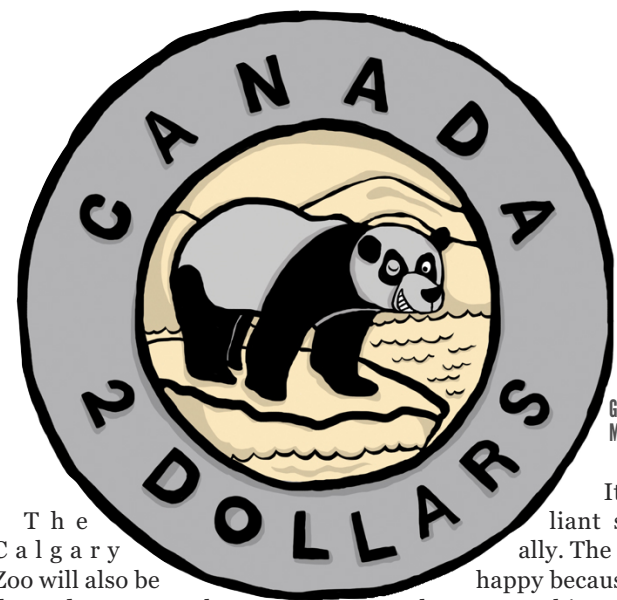
But in reality it is the worst "gift" ever.

Over the 10 years of the "loan"

our nation will be on the hook for \$10 million USD to feed and care for the bears, each of whom will grow to consume 20 to 30 lbs of bamboo a day.

The sum basically goes back to China for bamboo and other panda amenities. It doesn't include the cost to the actual zoos, which have to build enclosures and train keepers.

The Toronto Zoo projects a cost of \$20 million for their five years with Er Shun and Ji Li. But with rusting transit and a mayor hell-bent on crushing any small ounce of joy that the city has left, there probably won't be any extra funds funneled to the city-owned institution. So that leaves private donors to pay for goodwill.



GRAPHIC
MYRIAM ARSENAULT

The Calgary Zoo will also be dependant on the wives of oil barons and wealthy animal lovers for their stint with the bears. But money isn't the only question in Calgary, there's also a question of competence.

The zoo has been plagued with an incredible number of premature animal deaths since 2008 that include, but are not limited to, 40 cownose rays, two baby elephants, a capybara and a baby Siberian tiger.

So not only are the pandas an expensive gift from the get-go, but we really aren't prepared to receive it, either.

It's a brilliant scheme really. The citizens are happy because everyone loves cute things. Harper is happy because he looks slightly less evil with a cute bear by his side, and we can flaunt our panda pride in triumph over other nations.

But I can't justify blowing all my money on that Irish wolfhound I've had my eye on anymore than Canada can blow \$10 million on endangered bears.

Let the two leaders celebrate over pints, not pandas, so they can play the diplomacy game without expensive, empty gestures.

Monsters & Cie

ACROSS

1. The popularity of these shambling horrors has led to the Centre for Disease Control putting up a web page specifically for this type of fictional outbreak.

5. Due to the shaky style of this film's cinematography, AMC posted warnings to viewers who were prone to motion sickness.

11. Making this 2009 animated feature in stereoscopic 3D rather than converting it after completion added a hefty \$15 million to its price tag. (3 words)

12. The most southerly research station, the "Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station," screens this horror film set in the Antarctic alongside *The Shining* annually. Masochism at its finest. (2 words)

13. This top grossing film of 1996 features Jeff Goldblum at his goldblumiest. (2 words)

15. When some listeners missed the opening disclaimer to this 1938 Halloween broadcast, many actually thought that Martian tripods were actually invading Earth. (4 words)

16. This mad scientist's nameless morbid creation is often mistakenly referred to by his master's name.

17. In this film, witnesses to alien activity get a nice, non-lethal memory wipe. In the original comics, they weren't so lucky. (3 words)

DOWN

2. From 1978 to 1982, this arcade classic grossed around \$2 billion. That's a lot of quarters!

3. The hairy makeup used to create this 1941 titular movie monster took six hours to apply and three to take off every day.

4. The original name for this Japanese giant is a portmanteau of the Japanese words for gorilla and whale, a little odd considering it looks like neither.

6. Thanks to superstition surrounding the ancient Egyptian pharaoh tombs, these monsters were a staple in classic horror cinema. (2 words)

7. This bloodsucker can boast being in over 200 films and 1,000 novels. I guess it's easy to stay relevant to audiences when you never age.

8. Better known by his initials, Reese's Pieces can thank this little guy for the 65 per cent profit surge for the Hershey Company.

9. This Loony Tune can be found on NASA's launch patch for the Spirit Mars Rover. (3 words)

10. This M. Night Shyamalan film is arguably his last good movie before his switch from making great works to bombs. What a twist.

14. It's interesting that with all of the exploring that the Federation does on this show, it rarely deals with non-humanoid aliens. (2 words)



BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

*concordia bog:***A WRETCHED HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY**

BY RILEY SPARKS

INFOGRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE, GRAPHICS ERIC BENT

Whether it's Peter Kruyt shouting down student reps, Rita de Santis peacocking about the board room and calling students "losers" or Robert Barnes telling students to stop "pissing people off," meetings of Concordia's Board of Governors are rarely dull.

But *The Link* was curious. These governors are volunteering their time and efforts,

for no obvious gain—and in the process they gather no small amount of bad press. So why do it? What kind of people are on the Board?

We were a little surprised. Some of them have done great work. Others, like the three profiled below, have definitely not.

Seriously, who thought this was a good idea?

**PETER KRUYT**

It hardly seems fair that a vice-president of one of the most influential corporations in Canada should suffer the indignity of being Google-ranked below a satirical Twitter account and an open letter calling for his resignation. At Concordia, life is tough for Peter Kruyt.

Outside of the university, though, things look good. Since 1996, he's been a VP at Power Corporation, a massive Canadian conglomerate which controls insurance and investment firms, owns newspapers (including *La Presse*), a mining company, a hollowed-out volcano in the South Pacific and suppliers of natural gas and construction materials.

Apart from their bi-weekly calls asking this reporter to renew his subscription, *La Presse* is a great paper. The same adjective can't be applied to most of Kruyt's other businesses which, through a *Human-Centipede*-esque chain of holding companies, are tied to Power Corp.

Power Corp. and its CEO Paul Desmarais are the largest shareholders in

French oil company Total SA. For most of us, international sanctions might be a good reason not to do business with a country. But that's why most of us aren't making millions running an oil pipeline into Myanmar. Through a deal with the military dictatorship that recently machine-gunned protesting Buddhist monks, Total's pipelines carry most of the country's oil and gas exports.

Total leveraged that same regard for human rights when it allegedly sent almost \$2 billion in bribes to members of Saddam Hussein's government to secure oil contracts.

The company is facing criminal charges in France for the affair. Until the US introduced sanctions in 2010, the company was also a major investor in Iranian oil, and has invested billions in the Alberta tar sands.

Kruyt is an alternate director on the board of CITIC Pacific, a holding company which is 58 per cent owned by the Chinese government and has been repeatedly investigated for illegal trading. He's also the chairman of the Canada China Business Council, an organization which lobbies for increased trade with China, despite the country's sketchy human rights record.

MICHAEL NOVAK

Kruyt will be leaving the board after his term ends in June, but the board will still have at least one member whose company does business with military dictatorships. Executive VP of SNC-Lavalin, a large Canadian engineering and construction firm, Michael Novak oversees the company's defence contracting arm.

Driving around Montreal, you'll see plenty of SNC-Lavalin projects. The huge construction company engineered the Bell Centre, refurbished the Jacques-Cartier Bridge and is working on the massive McGill super-hospital in Westmount.

SNC deserves congratulations for the home of the Habs—one of a handful of Montreal landmarks that isn't yet a crumbling wreck. Presumably, the \$271-million prison the firm was building for now-deceased Libyan tyrant Moammar Gadhafi would have been built to the same high standards, if it weren't for the recent revolution

in that country.

Given the political situation in Libya, a prison might not have seemed like a great idea. But the company wasn't worried, SNC-Lavalin CEO Pierre Duhaime told *Maclean's*, because Moammar's son, Saif—who was heavily involved in the project—was "very vocal in terms of respecting human rights."

If you recognize Saif's name, it's either for his moderately successful art career, or because he's wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

"He's in a war and he has to defend his family's interests," explained Duhaime. The International Criminal Court, which says Saif is responsible for shooting civilian protesters, apparently disagrees.

In addition to the prison, the company also reportedly provided a bodyguard for his younger brother Saadi Gadhafi, the head of Libya's special forces and a fugitive from Interpol. The company recently fired two executives in connection with an alleged plot to smuggle members of the Gadhafi family out of the country.

When Jonathan Wener joined the board, Nunavut did not exist, Justin Bieber had just turned one and we were all sure that the world was going to end at midnight on Dec. 31, 1999. Some of these people have been on the board a long, long time. Let's take a look at some of the things that have happened during their tenure.

Rita de Santis, Charles Cavell, 1999:
-The Euro was established.
-Napster and MSN Messenger were created.
-Shakespeare in Love won best picture.
-Nunavut was created.
-First episode of *Family Guy*.

Peter Kruyt, Brian Edwards, 2000:
-The Millennium Bug didn't happen.
-Bashar al-Assad elected for the first time
-First episode of *Dora the Explorer* airs.
-George W. Bush elected
-The ILOVEYOU computer virus hits.
-Putin elected president for first time.

Howard Davidson, 2001:
-Wikipedia is founded.
-9/11 and invasion of Afghanistan.
-George Harrison dies.
-Enron goes bankrupt.

Baljit Chadha, Suzanne Gouin, 2002:
-Whoopi Goldberg hosts the Oscars.
-Elizabeth Smart kidnapped.
-Kelly Clarkson wins *American Idol*.

Tony Meti, 2004:
-Leafs play their most recent playoff game.
-Series finale of *Friends*.
-Saddam Hussein goes on trial.
-Southeast Asia tsunami



BALJIT CHADHA

It wasn't the cocaine, the superhuman quantities of alcohol or the cigarettes that got him. When Warren Zevon sang about getting bad news from his doctor ("Let me break it to you, son, your shit's fucked up"), it was mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

This nasty stuff is more than the reason no one will ever get to see one of the greatest songwriters of all time play live again, however. The carcinogenic construction fibre will also kill about a quarter of a million people by 2029 in Western Europe alone, according to a 1998 study published by the *British Journal of Cancer*.

When he's not attending Concordia Board of Governors meetings, businessman Baljit Chadha has kept himself busy fighting for the right to export this poison from his company's mine in central Quebec.

A member of the Board since 2002,

Chadha is president of Balcop, which owns a mine in Asbestos, QC.

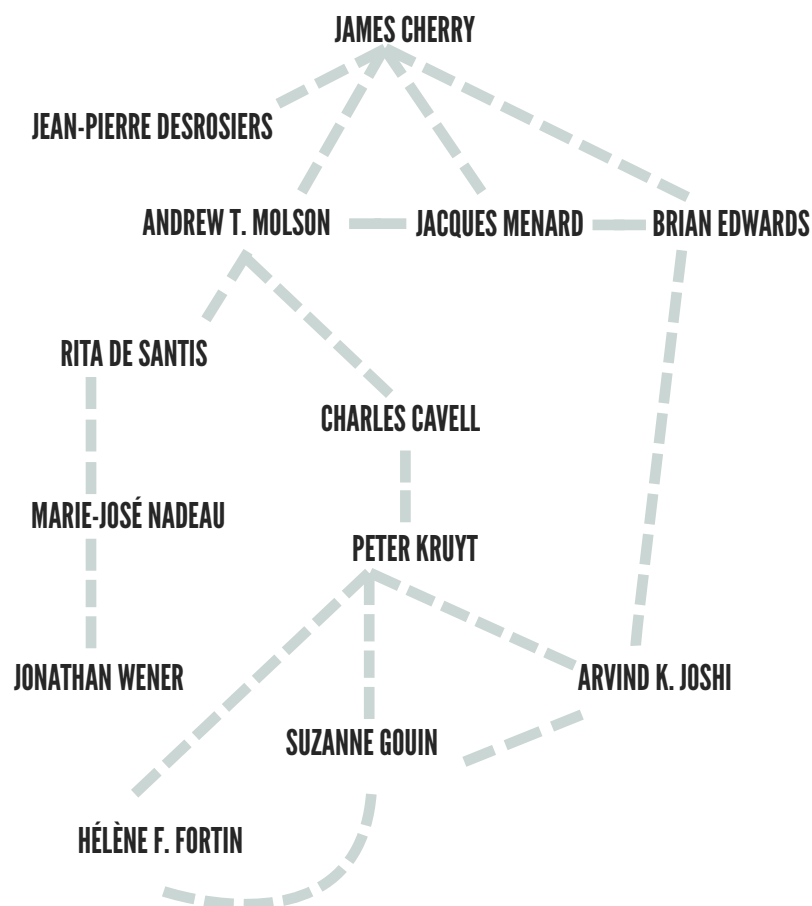
Until the mine shut down last year—this is an industry that doesn't really encourage repeat customers after all—Balcop was doing a brisk business selling the slow-and-horrible-death-causing mineral to developing countries.

He was on the receiving end of a rare, personal smackdown from the World Health Organization, who refuted his repeated claims that chrysotile asbestos—the kind he exports—is safe in small amounts. The European Union has banned all use and production of asbestos and the Canadian Medical Association says Canada should do the same.

Last year, facing increasing activist pressure for her ties to Balcop, Chadha's wife, Roshi, resigned from her positions on the boards of McGill University, St. Mary's Hospital and the Canadian Red Cross. Baljit Chadha is still working to resume asbestos exports.

The Endless Web

For most of these governors, the early-morning meetings at Concordia aren't the only place they'll bump into each other. Many sit on the same boards, or have worked for the same companies. The map below shows the members who, even if they weren't at Concordia, could be connected by one degree of separation. They either sit on the same board (or have in the past), or have at some point worked for the same company. If you add a second degree, it's a little creepy how incestuous this web becomes. Some can be connected by mutual friends and others by spouses. Others, like Tony Meti of Saputo, Peter Kruyt of Power Corp. and Charles Cavell of Quebecor, are suing each other. Still, it's heart-warming that, for a couple hours on a Thursday morning every month, they all manage to sit down, munch on some free food and pretend to be friends.



Bram Freedman, Concordia's VP of Institutional Relations and Secretary General, would not comment on any of the board member's business interests.

In an interview with *The Link* he noted that June 30 will mark the end of both Chadha and Kruyt's

terms on the board. And, he explained, if individuals have concerns about certain members, those may be discussed either during the nomination process at the Governance and Ethics Committee, or at the Board itself.

All reasonable. It's not admin's

fault that we have such unsavoury characters on the Board. But what was the Governance and Ethics Committee thinking when these people were nominated?

If the members of that committee need someone to hold their hand and explain why exporting deadly

poison to developing countries or building prisons for the man called "the mad dog of the Middle East" is a bit morally questionable, they should just call it a day, head home for a warm mug of Pepsi and look for a job where they control less public money.



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Jewish Guilt vs. Catholic Guilt

• ADAM KOVAC

I'm really sorry about this. I'm just going to get that out of the way.

I mean, I probably shouldn't feel guilty. All I'm doing is writing a little piece of ha-ha for all of you. Here's the thing about Jewish guilt, though: it doesn't come from any action I (or any other chosen person) might undertake. It comes from the furthest possible logical outcome of that action.

So when you read this, you might go, "Oh, that's kind of funny," or, "That wasn't funny. Good luck with that journalism degree, buddy."

But due to years of conditioning from my mother, father, other relatives, childhood friends, society as a whole, Holocaust movies, and the works of Shalom Alechem (but mostly my mother), I kind of have to assume that a) anything I do represents the entire worldwide Jewish community, and b) anything I can do might result in the total obliteration of the Jewish people, so c) feel really badly about everything before I even do anything.

See, somebody might read this and go, "Oh, this is such a Jewish stereotype. Ugh, those Jews are always complaining. And they think they're so amusing, like that Woody Allen schmuck, but I saw *Midnight in Paris* and it wasn't even funny, and hey! That Jack Abramoff was Jewish! And I'm pretty sure a Jew once worked at Fox News..."

Eventually, Montreal starts looking a

lot like Poland in the 1930s to me, and I feel bad about every part of that, up to and including the regression to babushkas as a viable fashion statement.

This can only go so far, because luckily, I'm a pretty abysmal person. That's why I can ignore those twinges of guilt when I eat a delicious, succulent piece of bacon. (Though it should be noted that only part of my guilt comes from the fact that it's not kosher. Most of it comes from the cholesterol. Sorry, arteries.)

Case in point: as I was writing this, I had some music on random, and some Matisyahu came on. I don't even like this song, but I feel bad about changing it because that would mean that I'm ignoring my own culture, and if nobody cares about the culture, it's going to disappear, and then IT'S ALL MY FAULT OH GOD WHY DIDN'T I JUST LISTEN TO THE STUPID FUCKING SONG?

Look, I get that those Catholics feel guilty a lot. They've got Jesus looking down on them, which is hard, and they produced Rick Santorum, which is just brutal. But Jesus hasn't been kind to us, either. After all, we killed him (Ed.'s note: citation on this was Mel Gibson's diary). That's not an easy burden to bear.

This is why we shvitz the small stuff: because the small stuff is gigantic.

Quite frankly, it's a wonder any of us manage to date, because I could see how this is just phenomenally irritating.

So, again, if I'm accidentally causing Holocaust Part II: Holocaustier, I'm really, really sorry. Especially to you, mom.

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Before I ever found out that Jesus was a man who died for our sins, I knew him as a kind of magical baby.

The Baby Jesus, it turned out, could see everything you did and when you misbehaved he would cry.

Growing up in a Catholic household, there was no shortage of transgressions that would bring the infant Christ to tears. Lied to your mom? Just made the Baby Jesus cry. Pushed your brother down a flight of stairs? The Baby Jesus weeps for you. Bad report card? Way to go dummy, now the adorable Baby Jesus is bawling.

In a way, the Baby Jesus was like Santa Claus except that instead of being given gifts once a year you were left with a lingering pain at the core of your soul.

These were my first brushes with Catholic guilt. Having to live with the knowledge that, as a six-year-old, you've pretty much been a consistent disappointment to God's only son.

Of course, I eventually figured out that the Baby Jesus routine was really just something our mothers used to keep us in line. Instead, as they taught us in Catholic school, the truth was far worse.

You see, the Baby Jesus grew up and turned into a man—a great man. He cured the blind, resurrected the dead and brought forth a message of peace and hope to all mankind.

Then he died, because we're all sinners. That's right, Timmy, Jesus was tor-

tured, humiliated and crucified because someone had to take the rap for all those times you "borrowed" your classmate's pen and forgot to return it. It hurts, doesn't it?

Just look at all of our depictions of Christ on the cross. It's the look on Jesus' face. He's not mad that your sinning has cut his life short. He's just disappointed, is all.

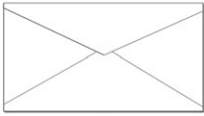
The Jews set aside one day each year to atone for their sins. It's called Yom Kippur. Catholics have a somewhat similar concept. It's called life.

Being a good Catholic is about many things. It's living in a constant state of guilt. It's having trouble saying the word 'vagina' without cringing. It's a voice in the deepest chamber of your heart reminding you just how disappointing you are and always will be.

We're supposed to confess to a priest every week and then double down on our apology by repenting to God himself. I mean, the first question the priest asks you in confession is, "How long has it been since your last confession?" How's that for guilt?

There's even a guy whose job it is to write down all of your sins into a ledger and then decide if you go to hell. Oh, yeah—hell. Another great Catholic tradition that hinges on guilt and punishment.

Maybe Jesus knew we would always feel this crummy, which might be why the blood of Christ is red wine. Well, I'll drink to that, and confess my gluttony in the morning.



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.

Looking For Love

I would like a date with a fantastic girl. If you are a fantastic girl, and if you think you could use a date, read on!

First of all, you may be wondering why I am having this published in *The Link*. Why not use one of those matchmaking websites instead? Have I no shame? Correct! None whatsoever.

Have I no desire to join the hordes of guys posting pictures of their six-packs on dating websites? Correct! None whatsoever.

Moreover, anyone who reads *The Link*—or who reads at all, for that matter—starts off with a bonus point in my book.

Please don't get the wrong impression: I have no trouble getting dates. I'm funny, smart, confident, affectionate and good-looking. But the probability of accidentally meeting a girl as awesome as the one I'm looking for is very slim—I know this because I'm a mathematician.

Here is a short list of things that I like: science, art, drinking too much coffee all at once, music, riding bikes, learning, making friends, *Le Devoir*, avocados, sci-fi, reddit, cohomology groups of manifolds, taking over the world, making out, sleeping in, the BBC, camping, Bertrand Russell, prime numbers and Carl Sagan.

Of course, this list is far from exhaustive. I should also point out that what I like doesn't determine who I am; I'm only including this list because it is otherwise quite difficult to capture the pure essence of being on paper.

If Aristotle were to write this letter, I'm sure he'd proceed in a similar fashion. But then again, Aristotle would probably not write this letter because of the

400-word limit. Also because he is dead.

So if you're as awesome as you think I require, and happen to be emotionally stable, cute and funny, send me an email! I will write back, I promise.

Feel free to include a poor quality webcam shot of yourself holding this letter while thinking, "Why the hell am I doing this?," so that I know you are real.

My email is
brunojoyal@gmail.com
Yours truly,

—Bruno Joyal

BSc Mathematics, McGill University

More Than a Piece of Paper

When I transferred to Concordia from the University of Victoria I was on my fourth major and my last leg.

I knew I wanted to live in Montreal and I thought I wanted to continue in school, but like many undergraduate students, I was struggling to focus my studies. I randomly applied to the School of Community and Public Affairs and three years later can definitively say that it was a stumble in the right direction.

The SCPA introduced me to an alternative way of experiencing university, one that fused all of the exams and presentations and papers with a real-world connection to local communities and everyday struggles for social justice.

As an undergraduate, it's easy to feel like you are being pushed through a degree factory, jumping through the same hoops over and over again until you're finally allowed to stop.

It's also easy to feel like you have to attend grad school to begin to be taken seriously as a scholar. But my professors at the SCPA (and some in other departments) by-and-large treated their students as valid intellectual beings in their own right. I began to feel like the work I was producing could contribute to a wider community, instead of just lining a recycling bin.

What I'm essentially trying to highlight is the idea that undergraduate work can be valuable in a way that moves beyond the socio-economic 'value' of a degree to an undergraduate.

It is because of this conviction that I want to encourage people to check out QPIRG's Study in Action Conference, happening on the Hall Building 7th floor from March 2 to 4.

The conference seeks to promote social justice while forging links between undergraduate students and the broader Montreal community.

Undergrads from Concordia, McGill, Ottawa and Ryerson will

be presenting their research during a series of panel discussions—an opportunity most of us don't get until grad school.

There will also be five great workshops hosted by community organizations and some amazing undergraduate artwork presented as part of Art in Action.

The entire conference is free and catered by the People's Potato.

By highlighting undergraduate research and connecting it with the world outside the university, Study in Action provides a reminder that the work we do as undergrads means more than just a mark on a transcript.

For more info: www.qpirgconcordia.org/studyinaction

—Cassie Smith

BA School of Community and Public Affairs

CSU Thanks

I would really like to thank the Concordia Students Union and Arts and Science Federation of Associations for helping me go on the annual New York City trip on the weekend of Feb. 17.

It's hard for me, as a disabled student, to do any activities. I encourage all disabled students to get involved in student life. There is so much more to being a student than just studying and writing papers.

A lot of people have been bad-mouthing the CSU as of late, because some students don't think that the CSU is there to help [and] think that they're only there to pad their resumes.

I'm here to tell you that this union is here to help all students.

This was my first trip ever and I had a blast going to all the New York City landmarks—Madison Square Garden, Time Square and, my personal favourite, NBC Studios.

This trip has been a year-and-a-half in the works and I could not go if it wasn't for two very special CSU members—Laura Glover, VP Student Life & Sustainability, and Morgan Pudwell, VP Advocacy. They really took care of everything. They took care of my hotel accommodations and made sure that I got an adapted hotel room that was wheelchair accessible.

They were the ones that also came to me to encourage other disabled students to come. The other students I talked to were too shy, because they didn't want to be a burden. But I was treated as an equal. I went to all kinds of group functions, like a group dinner and hotel room parties that went into the wee hours of the morning.

They were always offering to help so that I could enjoy the trip to the fullest. I will definitely go

next year. I have made friends that will last forever and I will cherish the memories. A big thank you goes to CSU President Lex Gill, who is responsible for leading the charge.

As a disabled person, it is very hard for me to have a 'normal life.' But I don't let my disability stop me from living life to the fullest.

Without a doubt, it isn't easy, but I still do 95 per cent of the things I want to do. I couldn't do this without help.

I just want to thank the entire CSU and ASFA President Alex Gordon for making this trip so special for me.

—Patrick Lefebvre
Sociology

Against Fatphobia!

Alex Woznica's "Tax the Fat" article (*The Link*, Vol. 32, Issue 21) suggests fatness is the product of individual diet and exercise and thus a problem that can be solved by changing individual behaviours through taxation.

This ignores the fact that diet and exercise are questions of access. People who are marginalized by race, class, gender, or dis/ability have more barriers to accessing healthy food and leisure time.

Diet and exercise are also questions of spatial distribution such as public transportation, proximity of grocery stores, food banks, farmers' markets, restaurants, housing systems, and recreational spaces. These components structure unequal social access to healthy food and leisure.

Most importantly, Woznica's article reflects the discourse that fatness is unhealthy.

Fat people are shamed, policed, and marginalized on personal, social and institutional levels. For further reading, I suggest Julie Guthman's *Weighing In*, available at the library.

Woznica's article even makes fatness the scapegoat for economic crisis.

Rather than trying to make fatness disappear, we should challenge a society that causes such harm while it blames people for their own oppression.

In solidarity against fatphobia!

—Mike Lumsden
Independent Student

Concordia's Irresponsibility

I am writing in regard to Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota's comments about the stance the Simone de Beauvoir Institute has taken toward tuition fee increase. ("A Boost From Beauvoir," *The Link*, Vol.

31, Iss. 21)

Mota's comment, "This is what they say their research has shown. It has nothing to do with the university's position," is not only negligent of responsibility on behalf of the university and how tuition fees are indeed endorsing further sexism and racism in society, but also smacks of arrogance from those within the academy to push for increased tuition fees.

Effectively, Concordia University, through Chris Mota, is stating that, indeed, they approve of the social dynamics that maintain sexism and racism intact in society.

Ours, dear Women's Studies peers, is pedagogy of anti-oppression, and it is time that we put our bell hooks, Audre Lorde and Gloria Anzaldúa readings to practice. It is time that we walk our pedagogy—even if that means walking out of classes and striking.

Such is the arrogance of those in power—mainly made up of white, affluent, heterosexual males—and the capricious ways that they will hold on to their power, that, in spite of evidence that proves tuition increases will have a grim effect on women, indigenous peoples, and people of colour, they insist that tuition increases are necessary and positive. They do not care.

Mota's words attempt to distance the university from this uncovered prejudice by suggesting that it is not the university's position. Yet they fail to realize that, by supporting tuition increases, they are in fact covertly working to maintain sexist and racist oppression.

This, however, is no longer covert when the data demonstrates the social problems linked to tuition increase in terms of sex, gender and race.

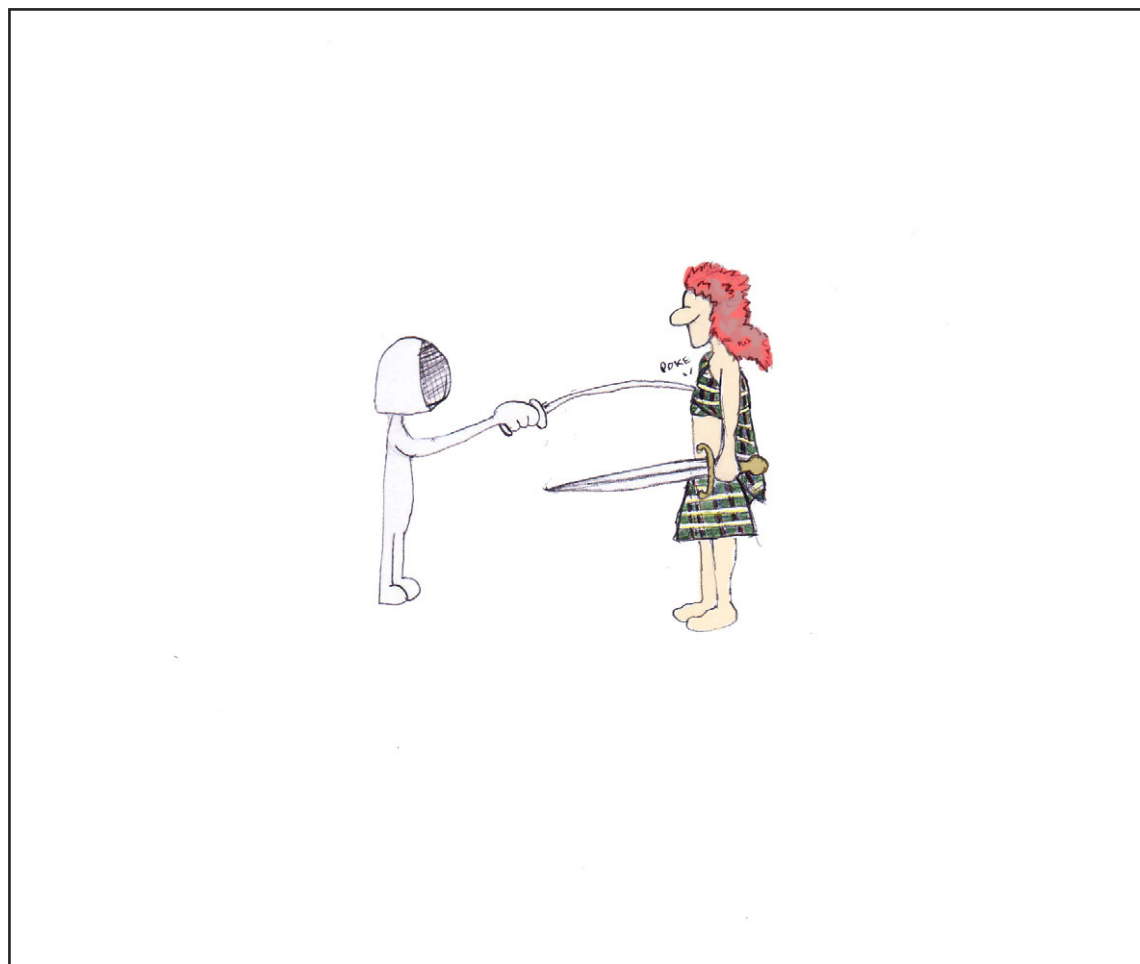
On Feb. 29, at 12:30 p.m. in room H-110 of the Hall Building, we Women's Studies students have the opportunity to stand up for our principles, and our anti-oppression mandate and speak to our power as students and as feminist thinkers who will not accept the status quo's endorsement of further discrepancies, inequalities and injustices of power in our society.

In a society that makes the attainment of an academic degree mandatory in order to access a better life and education, we should all have a right to this. We must resist elitism, classism, racism and sexism. We must displace this grotesque monopoly of power. Let's stand in solidarity with our Francophone peers!

—Hector Villeda-Martinez
BA Women's Studies

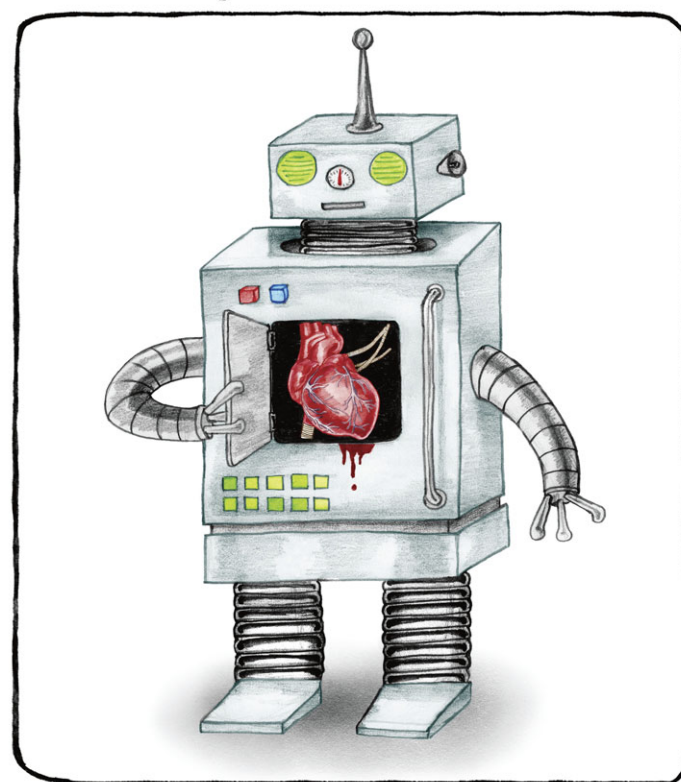
Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



In the end, it took a robot to teach man the true meaning of love. If only man could have taught the robot when to stop.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

UNTOLD STORIES OF THE HOSPITAL-PLACE!



Nah'msayin?

Someone Call the Concert Cops

I love live music, the whole experience of it. The people you meet at concerts are usually pretty stellar human beings as well. But without fail there are always a few Buzz Killingtons that manage to sneak into every show and put a damper on things.

The Rock sees fit to remain utterly sedentary for the entire duration of the show. This includes, but is not limited to, when someone is trying to inch by them, trying to see something or trying pay for a beer. You will also never see this person demonstrating any sign that they are having a good time (i.e. clapping, moshing, head-bobbing, dancing, etc.). This person is almost always 6'5" and the width of a small football field.

The Shvitz sweats profusely, and

likes to rub up against every single person in the crowd. Naturally, the shvitz smells fantastic, is covered in hair and has an aversion to wearing shirts. And somehow, the shvitz even seems to make appearances at unplugged and acoustic shows, when perspiration is, quite frankly, uncalled for.

The Bubble expects everyone in the crowd to remain at least an arm's-length distance from them, despite the fact that they are in the front row. They like to huff and puff and give dirty looks to everyone that so much as brushes up against them. Look, I don't want to touch you either—but there are 8,000 people behind me that also want to see.

The Encyclopedia knows what

colour underwear the lead singer is wearing, what elementary school the bass player went to, what the drummer's childhood dream was and likes to make sure everyone around is aware of their superior knowledge. What the Encyclopedia is completely oblivious to, however, is the fact that no one else in the audience fucking cares.

If you enjoy going to concerts and realize you fall into any of the above categories, please adjust your behaviour accordingly. That, or accept the fact that the world would be a much better place if you enjoyed your favourite bands alone in your bedroom.

—Megan Dolski
Contributor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

editorial

“SOCIALY RESPONSIBLE” INDEED

• ALEX MANLEY

There’s been some talk in the press lately about students who are pro-tuition hike.

Specifically, a group called the Mouvement des étudiants socialement responsables du Québec has been making waves; one of its members, Université de Montréal student Arielle Grenier, has been getting a lot of coverage after her pro-hikes stance earned what she called death threats.

The press’ interest in getting both sides to a story, and, perhaps, the strangeness of students actually *wanting* higher tuition, makes it worth covering, but after Grenier and the infamous death threats were the front-page story in *La Presse* on Thursday, it’s clear that there’s a muddying of the waters on a discussion that should otherwise be very straightforward.

On the one side, masses and masses of students—students who turn out by the tens of thousands for anti-hike protests, who face down riot cops, who are preparing to strike and who will continue to do so in order to protect their right and the rights of future students to affordable education.

On the other, a small but vocal minority of rich, politically affiliated students asking for higher tuition—painting it as the “socially responsible” thing to do—and getting a disproportionately high amount of press coverage in the process.

Last week, it was pointed out in an image macro on the UQAM Memes Facebook group that two of MESRQ’s spokespeople, Jean-François Trudelle

and Marc-Antoine Morin—who appeared on French television station TVA recently, promoting the pro-hike cause—were both members of the Commission jeunesse du Parti Libéral du Québec, a training ground for Liberal Party hopefuls.

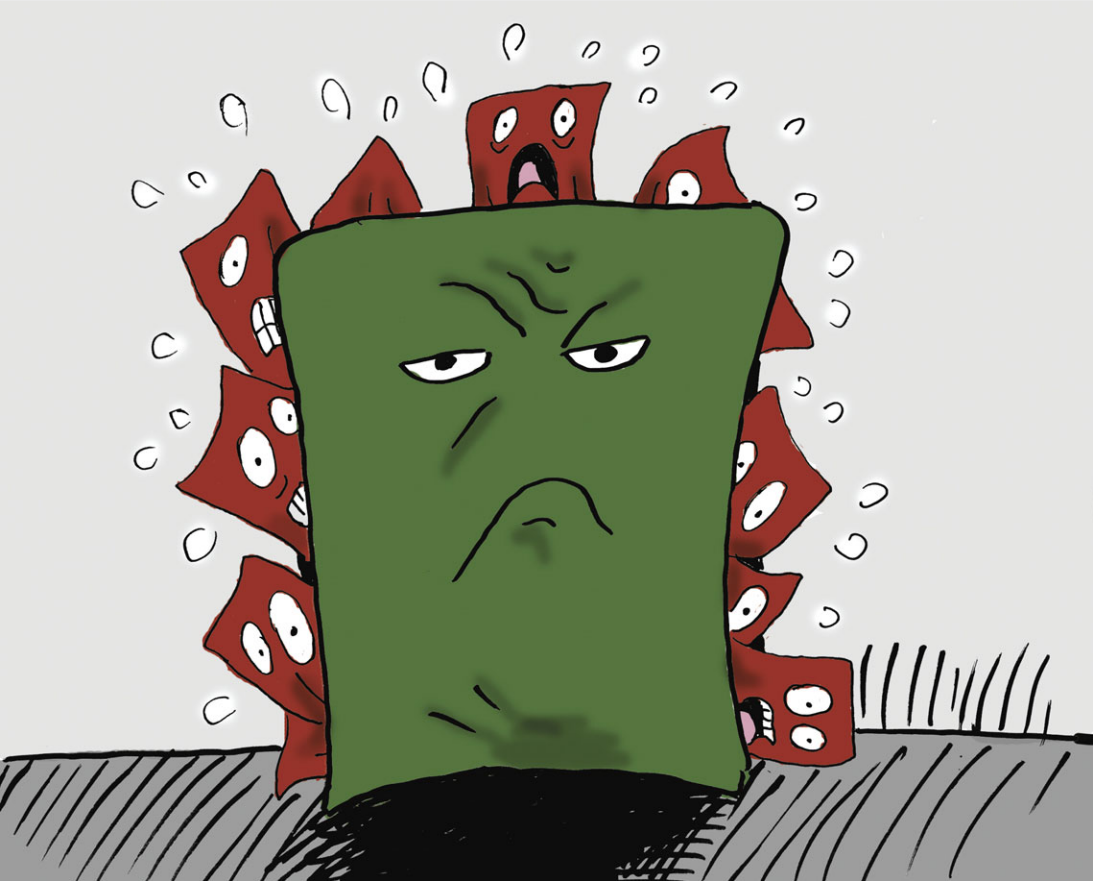
Grenier herself turned out to have ties to the Commission jeunesse as well, along with being the daughter of an ex-Liberal MP.

It wasn’t long before the conflict of interest horse here was flogged well to death. *La Presse* blogger Patrick Lagacé grilled Trudelle about her lack of disclosure and attempts to dance around the subject in interview, but Lagacé’s superiors turned around and boosted the MESRQ cause the next day by painting Grenier—and her rich politico compadres—as the victims.

I don’t condone death threats, but it’s a sad reality of the nature of the situation—the anti-tuition hike movement is large enough, wide-ranging enough and passionate enough to produce some who would go too far. The actions of a few nutjobs should not colour the coverage of the greater whole, however.

Meanwhile, the MESRQ has the gall to tell us that their agenda—which will, increased bursaries or not, ultimately equate to shutting out thousands out of a university education—is somehow “socially responsible.”

The people heading up this movement are rich student politicians for whom the concept of a university education was never in doubt. They’re on the fast track to careers with major political parties or big busi-



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

nesses. They don’t care about the students deep below the poverty line.

They don’t care about the effect that the hikes will have on people whose parents aren’t paying their tuitions, on single mothers, on people without affluent connections for whom a degree is the only shot at a life free from the jaws of want and debt.

If there’s a better description for ‘socially irresponsible’ than people throwing their generation—and future generations—under the bus in order to advance their own political careers, I’d be happy to hear it.

In the mean time, all those

reminding students that Quebec tuition’s already comparatively low, all those telling students they can’t have both an iPhone and a leg to stand on when it comes to opposing the hikes, all those accusing students of being whiny, selfish troublemakers, to you we say this:

The students may be many things. We may be idealistic. We may be causing a stink. We may be alienating people instead of converting them to our cause.

But we are not equal parts for and against the hikes.

The MESRQ does not deserve equal screen time just be-

cause they have an opposing point of view. They do not represent some silent majority. The green squares do not outnumber the red squares, and rightly so.

Whatever the outcome—whether we strike, whether we affect political change, whether the roar of our voices thundering as one gets the Liberals to sit up and take notice—let’s not pretend the MESRQ are socially responsible. They are an out-of-touch minority trying to deny their fellow young people their rights.

Socially responsible, my ass.

—Alex Manley,
Copy Editor

Solutions: Issue 21

BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

THE LiNK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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