



LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
puking in solidarity since 1980

LAST YEAR, CONCORDIA LOST

\$51,000

ON CHARTWELLS

**(They also spent
\$1.14 million to fire
one president and
\$385,000 to hire another)**

*\$70,000 more than stephen
harper makes in a year*

THE NUMBERS ARE OUT • 4



Peter Kruyt, Jonathan Wener and Erik Chevrier talk after the Nov. 17 Board of Governor's meeting.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Barbs at the Board

Student Reps "Ticking People Off" at BoG Meeting

• ADAM KOVAC

Two motions introduced by a student representative at the Concordia Board of Governors meeting on Nov. 17 were tabled and another was defeated, in a session that culminated with another Governor forcefully telling students they are "ticking people off."

"I'd like to send a message," said Robert Barnes, who represents the Sir George Williams Alumni Association on Concordia's highest governing body.

"Many of the items you bring forward have some merit for discussion, but you do not let it go," he said. Referencing a call for increased transparency and reopening discussion of an upcoming cut in proportional representation for undergraduate students at the BoG.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's over [...]. If you come on an attack mode, you're going to continually see every one of your motions shot down in flames, and that's what's been happening over the last few meetings."

Barnes' comments came while debating motions introduced by graduate student Erik Chevrier, which included allowing BoG meetings to be taped and broadcasted, expanding the gallery to accommodate more spectators, and introducing a 20 minute general public question period to the end of meetings.

Chevrier introduced the motions with a plea to have them heard fairly by the assembled governors, saying, "If there's any questions or if there's any issues people have, please address them and don't just

vote these down."

Barnes' outburst was not received warmly by the other student reps.

Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill, who also sits on the BoG, said, "I felt like he was belittling and rude, and frankly speaking to us like we were children. It's worth pointing out that the student representatives are the only people in that room referred to by their first names."

She added that other members of the administration had come to her after the meeting, apologizing for remarks that were "inappropriate."

Chevrier's first motion was for BoG meetings to be recorded and made available to the general public, and also be open to broadcast by the Concordia University Broadcasting Corporation, the governing body of CUTV and CJLO.

CUTV is currently reviving efforts begun last year to record and broadcast all meetings of the CSU Council.

Some of the assembled disagreed with the idea, citing both legal concerns and an opinion that such a move would force more issues into closed session meetings. Concordia Interim President Frederick Lowy said he had consulted fellow university heads at a recent meeting, and had not heard of any precedent.

"I'm not aware of a single Canadian university where there is this broadcast," he said. "That's not to say we shouldn't necessarily do it here, that's another issue."

Governor Jonathan Wener objected on the grounds that the

Board is not meant to be "an open forum."

"I think one of the issues [is that the] Board is a forum where we can discuss, with a reasonable degree of confidentiality, issues which relate to the university," he said.

"I think if we get to the point of having everything broadcast, that we get to the point of moving all the issues to closed agenda [...] which I think defeats the purpose. I think that the concept of a board of governors is not a senate or open forum."

While other Governors worried about the legal feasibility of the idea, suggesting that each Board member would have to give permission for it to be possible, Chevrier said that as far as he knew, this was not the case.

"From my understanding, they're already broadcasting to the overflow room, and nobody sought any documents giving permission for this to be broadcast," he told *The Link*. "I would say a web broadcast falls under the same category."

"It's our duty to actually represent what we're saying and what we're doing in the most transparent way possible," he added.

When discussing the second motion, which proposed expanding the gallery at BoG meetings to up to 50 seats for interested individuals, Wener pointed out there is a new boardroom being built, and the seating will have to be limited to what this room can accommodate.

Concordia VP Services Roger Côté said that the room would not be able to handle 50 spectators.

When Chevrier asked if there

would be seating for any non-Governors in the room, Chair Peter Kruyt replied, "Not very much."

The current room seats roughly 20 non-BoG spectators. The Board will also be shrinking next year from 42 members to 25.

The second part of that motion, which would require BoG to take 20 minutes of questions from the general public after their meetings, met with heavy resistance. Lowy conceded that while transparency is a lofty goal, it must not interfere with the Board's *raison d'être*.

"There's no doubt that openness and the capacity for participation are important things [...] At the same time, the Board has to operate efficiently. We have to do this consistently with what we're here for, which is to govern the university."

The motions regarding broadcasting the meeting and the question period eventually tabled, and will be sent for more study to the BoG's executive committee, while the motion for a larger gallery was defeated. Chevrier said after the meeting that he was not optimistic about the motions getting further than that.

"The executive committee already ruled before the September meeting [that these issues] not be included on the agenda. I think that's a bit of a problem on its own. The second thing is that they're not allowing me to attend this meeting because I'm not on the committee."

While Chevrier won't be in attendance, Gill is a member of the committee. However, she declined to comment on what happens in the committee, due to concerns about confidentiality.

"Most of the members of the executive committee didn't speak on these issues at the board meeting, but I think we'll see what happens in the coming weeks up to the executive committee meeting," she said.

Barnes' outburst was not the only time things grew heated during the meeting. After Chevrier referenced the infamous "culture of contempt" line, written by former McGill principal Bernard Shapiro in a report last summer on the state of Concordia's governance, Kruyt asked him, "Do you feel there has been any contempt shown at the Board in the deliberations?"

"I felt like he was belittling and rude, and frankly speaking to us like we were children. Student representatives are the only people in that room referred to by their first names."

— CSU President Lex Gill

This set off a back-and-forth between the two, with Kruyt asking for a yes-or-no answer, and Chevrier replying that Kruyt was "basically speaking over me and putting words in my mouth."

"Please don't pin statements on me where you're not actually getting my opinion in its full validity," he asked of Kruyt.

MONEY MATTERS

Even a cursory glance at the auditor's report and statement of salaries of Concordia's upper management, presented to the Board of Governors on Nov. 17, reveals one fact immediately: a lot of dollars come through the university door.

With an operating budget of almost \$400 million, The Link decided to take an in-depth look at where the money is coming from—and where it's going.

What we found was informative, to say the least.

As you saw on our cover, the school is currently losing over \$51,000 a year in its exclusive deal with food provider Chartwells.

Upper-level administrators make well into the

six-figures, with plenty of perks, such as reimbursed business-class airline tickets, and "administrative leave" pay.

The school makes \$190,000 in revenue from charging students for printing, fully half of which is profit. Parking fees provide a whopping \$622,000 in profit.

Not that the school making money is a bad thing. Concordia is a small city unto itself, with roughly 50,000 students, administration, faculty and staff in its population.

The funding to make this whole place possible has to come from somewhere, and obviously that money gets spent in many necessary places.

But when you consider the amount of dough

it takes to bake the Concordia pie, it's important to know who's paying for what, and why.

So we asked.

We had a chance to sit down and discuss the report with four upper-level members of the Concordia administration: VP Institutional Relations and Secretary General Bram Freedman, VP Services Roger Côté, Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelley and University Controller Daniel Therrien.

The following is a brief summary of the audit, with the explanations these four administrators provided. With tuition set to rise substantially, students should ask one simple question:

Are we getting our money's worth?

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE CASH



• JULIAN WARD

The release of an auditor's report has revealed that Judith Woodsworth, Concordia's ex-president who was fired last December, received \$169,573 as part of an 'administrative leave' pay, in addition to her oft-reported \$747,045 severance package.

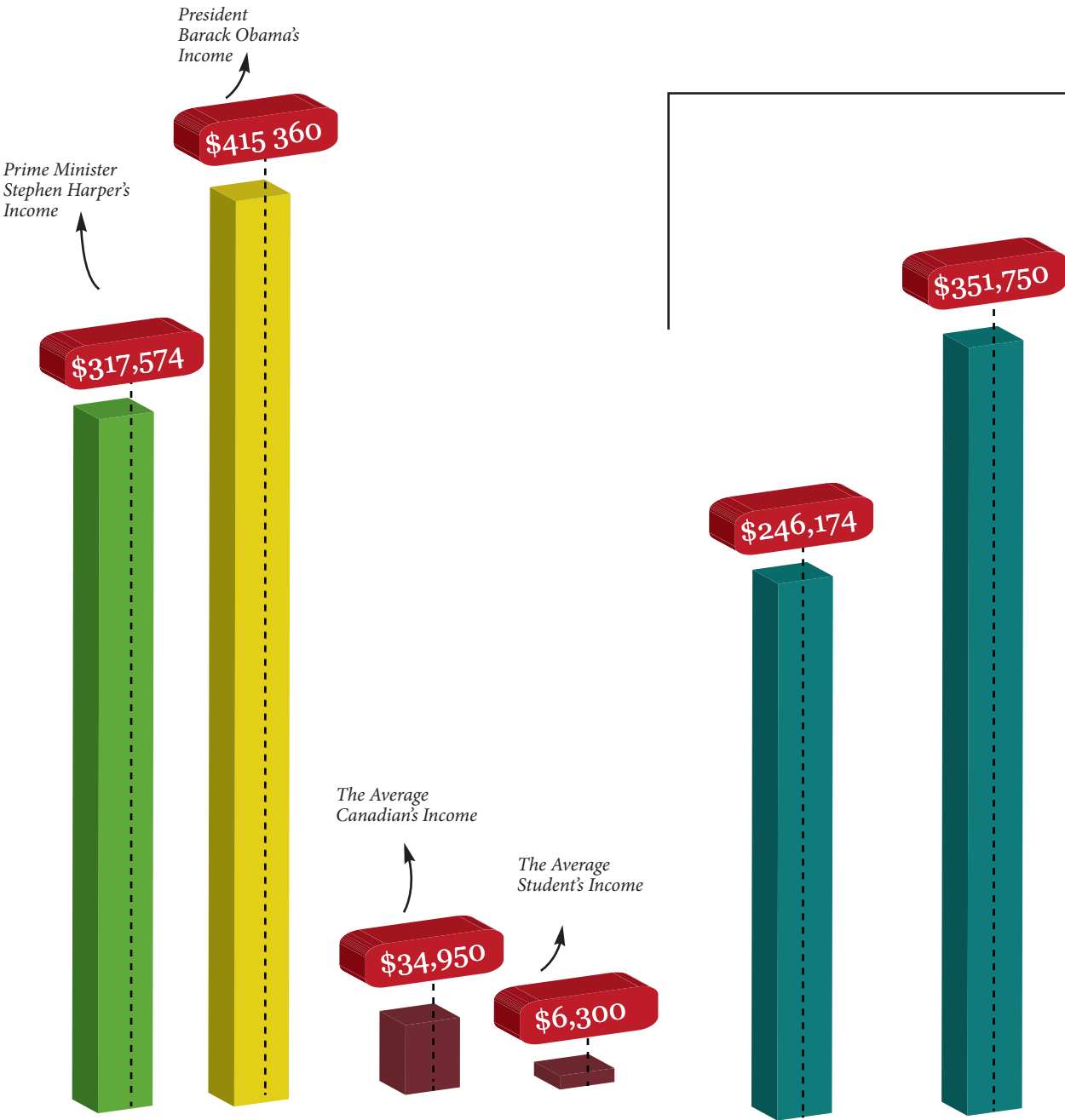
Concordia VP Services and Secretary General Bram Freedman explained that 'administrative leave' is "almost like a little sabbatical," where academics who are temporarily senior administrators are "given six months to brush up on their academic areas because they've been out of [academia] for five or 10 years."

However, Woodsworth did not resign her position as President of Laurentian University, a job she held for five years, to fill an academic position at Concordia. While some administrators are career academics, the positions themselves are not academic in nature.

Freedman addressed this, as well as the fact that Woodsworth was removed from her position without the possibility of her retaining an academic position at Concordia by saying, "The idea is that most people don't take the money and run."

"Most academic administrators who finish their term will continue as academics here at the university. [This] hasn't happened recently, but that's the principle and that's the thinking behind it."

HOW MUCH DO YOU



Food and Finances

ConU's Food Services Lost \$203K Last Year

• LAURA BEESTON

A \$203,000 loss under ‘food services’ is the figure that sticks out most blatantly from an auditor’s report on Concordia’s finances that was issued last week, but actual food operations only account for a \$51,000 loss, according to university administrators.

The ancillary food service “is not just Chartwells,” said VP Services Roger Côté, referring to the food service provider that has an exclusive contract with the university.

“It includes several categories—conference services, all administration for hospitality services as well as food services. [...] The food service is a small component of the figure.”

Stating at the Nov. 17 Board of

Governors meeting that the performance of the food services on campus is “rather positive,” Côté admitted at a student press conference Nov. 21 that there is need for improvement. “Should it be like this? Absolutely not,” he said, “but you need to look at it aggregately.”

Signing an exclusivity contract with the university in 2002, Chartwells came to Concordia shortly after the university terminated their agreement with Sodexo-Marriott after 37 students living in residence got food poisoning from a bad batch of chicken fajitas.

Providing food for over 200 schools in North America, Chartwells is a subsidiary of the UK-based Compass Group, the world’s largest supplier of prison meals.

“The [\$51,000] liability comes out of the investments we put into that operation, because we also invest in the food services outlets, the space and so on,” explained Côté, stating that the university expects to eventually see a return. “We will do that.”

Côté contributed the financial deficit to both renovations, as well as locations on campus that “aren’t performing well,” citing Loyola as an example of food outlets that are less profitable.

“If we close down those locations that aren’t performing well, our line would be different,” he said, “but we wouldn’t have our constituents served.”

When asked whether or not the private company should have to make up their own losses, Côté ex-

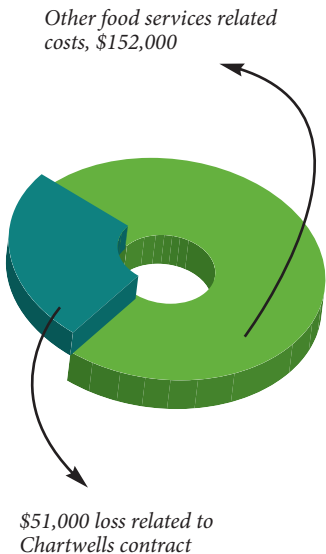
plained that “contracts are fairly complex and they adjust according to the provider. It’s not like they’re paying a fixed amount of rent per month. It is linked to performance.”

When pressed for further details on the contract, university spokespeople informed *The Link* that we were welcome to file an Access to Information Request, but would likely come up short.

“Under access legislation we’re not permitted to release information that could affect the finances of a third party,” said Concordia Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelley.

The mandatory meal plans for students in residence range from \$1,820 to \$2,412.

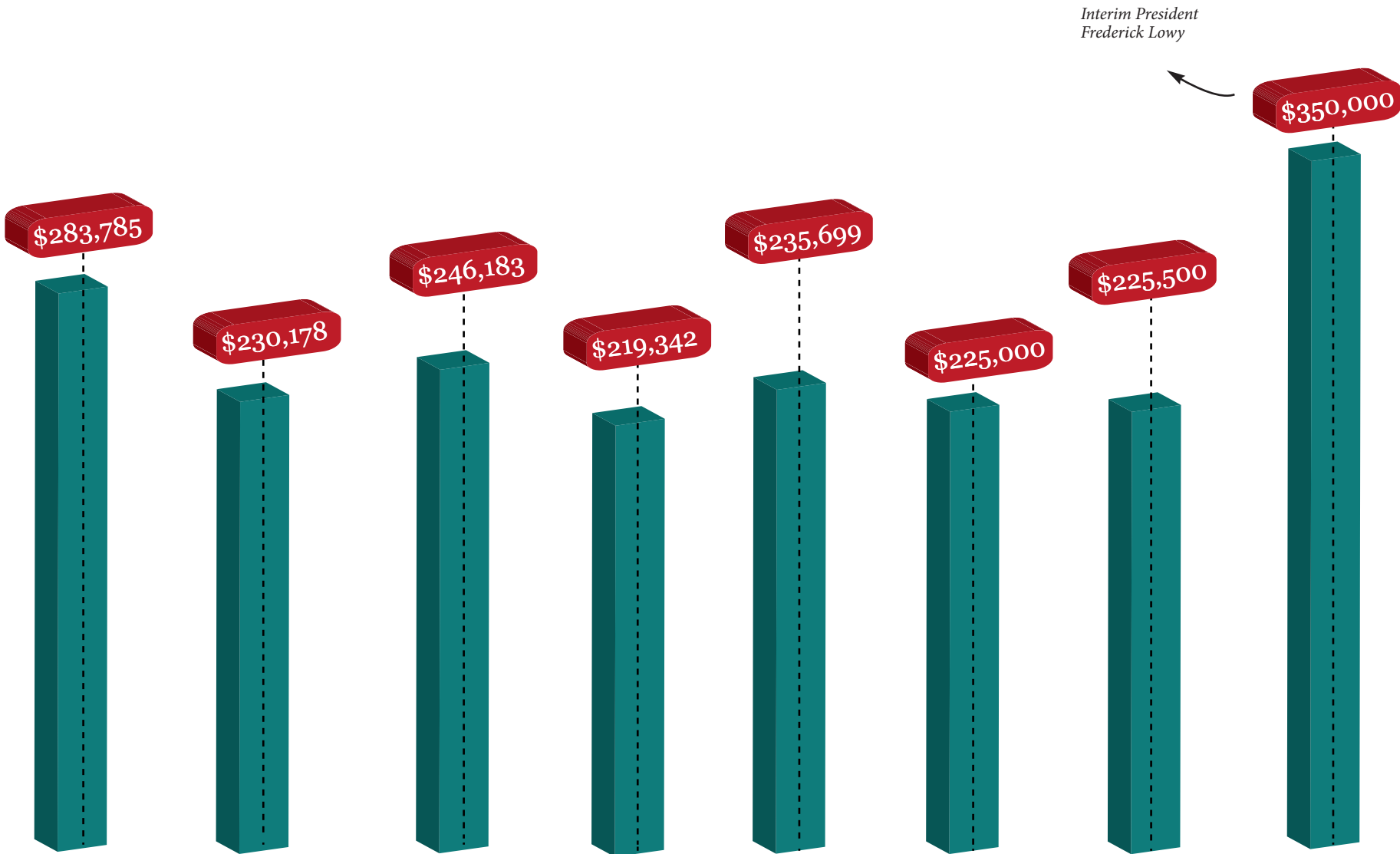
—with files from Madeline Coleman



MAKE IN A YEAR?

Top 10 Pro-Rated Salaries for Concordia Executive

GRAPHICS JULIA WOLFE



Secure in the Knowledge



Concordia spends \$5,487,437 a year on security expenses.

PHOTO JULIA JONES

Concordia Security Keeps an Eye Out for You—and on You

• ADAM KOVAC

Riot cops, pepper spray, and tear gas. Police on both bikes and horses roughhousing students.

After the near-riot at McGill University last week, these images are the ones many will be thinking of when the topic of policing a university campus comes up.

At Concordia, however, security and prevention doesn't start with the police. It starts at home.

While the second article of the school's policy on the recognition of student organizations and the use of university space says, "In the normal course of events, the University should not attempt to monitor the activities or to screen the materials used by student associations or organizations," there are people who say that the school has been known to do just that.

One of those people is Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. Before taking office, she was a councillor on the CSU and also a noted activist—one of the ten loudest in Montreal, according to a poll last year in weekly newspaper the *Mirror*.

Gill recently got back an Access to Information Request she filed regarding any security files the school was keeping on her.

"Most of it was pretty benign stuff," she said of the documents she received. "But there was also a disclaimer at the start of the request saying, 'We can't give you all the documents associated with your name, if they exist.' But I think the most interesting thing in my security file was [in regards to] Angry Week."

Angry Week, as the name implies, was a protest against tuition hikes that took place in June 2010, organized by Concordia's

Graduate Students' Association.

"There was a screenshot of the Facebook event, and it's listed that I'm attending," said Gill of one of the documents in her ATI request. "So the university was Facebook-stalking activists and putting it in their profiles."

This is the kind of incident that is reminiscent of an ATI request filed by former Concordia student David Bernans about an event in 2006, when he was prevented by the school from giving a reading of his novel, *North of 9/11*.

Bernans claimed that he had obtained proof that he was being monitored by a secret Risk Assessment Committee, and his event was cancelled due to political motivations.

In an interview with *The Link*, Concordia's VP Services Roger Côté denied emphatically that such a committee exists.

"I've been around the university for quite a long time," he said. "I've never been on a Risk Assessment Committee, I don't chair a Risk Assessment Committee, there is no Risk Assessment Committee in the VP Services sector that I lead, and I certainly don't expect there will be any in my tenure."

While Gill would not go so far as to claim that such a committee is a real entity, she did opine, "Obviously, if the university is engaging in political profiling of students, that's deeply problematic."

"Whether or not there's a Risk Assessment Committee, clearly the university on some level monitors the activity of organizers."

Securing the Situation

Whether or not the school is monitoring activists on campus, there is no question that both the administration and CSU would

like to avoid a situation like what occurred at McGill, where four people were arrested, and countless others hit by pepper spray or alleged abuse by police.

To that effect, the school maintains an annual security budget of \$5,487,437, of which 97.5 per cent goes to personnel, according to Côté.

That comprises 142 security agents, only 12 of whom are directly employed by the school, with the rest contracted from firms Corps canadien des commissionnaires and Agence de sécurité maximum.

"The security industry is highly regulated in this province, and it's highly normed as well—as to how much you pay, who you get, the qualifications of each individual," said Côté. "So it's much more effective for the university to operate with a service provider agreement than to hire our own security agents."

He noted that while the companies are responsible to the school, individual agents are held accountable by their employer, rather than by the university.

In separate interviews, both Gill and CSU VP Student Services Laura Glover said that the union had a good relationship with Security Services.

Both said, however, that occasional problems arise, with Glover pointing to an incident at the recent CSU Cultural Night event, held at Loyola's The Hive café. Glover said that she had an altercation with a student who tried to bring alcohol out of the venue, they became aggressive, and security personnel refused to assist in the situation.

"As the event planner, I'm a little bit disappointed in that situation, but that being said, we're

going to be communicating with the security department over that specific situation to ensure it doesn't happen again in the future. Otherwise we're going to have to be looking for a new security company."

Gill mentioned another recent incident, in which Concordia's culture jamming club, überculture, sat on the floor of the Hall Building mezzanine and invited passersby to reclaim their space by sharing a pot of Earl Grey—as part of their annual Tea-In.

The group was told by security that the police would be called if they did not leave.

"A lot of the policies security is forced to enforce are quite nonsensical," said Gill. "When überculture has a tea-in in the Hall Building, it's clear they're causing absolutely no harm, no one is in danger, there's no issue, but security will try and remove them on the basis of [a violation of a] booking policy, Hospitality Concordia policy, fire exit policy [or] food and beverage [policy]."

Côté reiterated that while the school does not spy on its students, it relies on an open flow of communication to make sure events go smoothly and safely, no matter what they are. Hence, the seemingly arbitrary rules.

"We don't monitor. There's too many things to monitor. We assure that we are aware as much as we can of the planned activities."

"We do a lot of collaborative work with the various stakeholders and student groups on campus. Sometimes they seek our input and assistance, and we gladly provide it to make sure they can conduct their activities, even if it's a protest, in a safe manner."

PROTECTORS' POLICY

• ADAM KOVAC

It's a dangerous world out there. Luckily for you, Concordia has numerous policies in place aimed at keeping you safe. Here's a look at some of the things keeping you out of harm's way.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE USE OF UNIVERSITY SPACE

The school doesn't just want to keep you safe from the bad people. They realize that sometimes they need to save you from... themselves. Hence section two of this official policy, which states: "In the normal course of events, the University should not attempt to monitor the activities or to screen the materials used by student associations or organizations."

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Concordia has a designated team who is tasked with coming up with contingency plans for all kinds of bad stuff. Think of the Emergency Management Team as an iPhone of or disasters. Fire? There's a plan for that. Chemical spill in a science lab? There's a plan for that? Godzilla? No plan for that. Yet.

According to section two, the team is headed by VP Services Roger Côté (or, as the policy calls him, 'Incident Commander and Chair'). They've got plans for three types of emergencies.

Category 1: "An emergency that is localized, requiring an initial response by the Security Department, with limited support from [Environmental Health & Safety office], Facilities Operations, Volunteer Emergency Responders, and in some cases, external emergency services. These emergencies are usually short in duration (generally less than one hour) and do not significantly affect the University's operations."

Category 2: An emergency that may last more than one hour, with adverse effects on University operations, such as class cancellations and department closures. These emergencies usually require the coordination of several University departments and, in some cases, external emergency services."

Category 3: "Declared by the Vice-President, Services, this is an emergency situation that threatens to cause, or has caused, death or significant injuries to staff, students, faculty or the public; or that has, or threatens to, disrupt operations, or cause physical or environmental damage. Additionally, an event that may threaten the University's financial standing or public image may be classified as a Category 3 emergency."

SECURITY

So, what are you not allowed to do on campus? Well, that's a pretty broad category. According to section 13, "No person shall damage or destroy University property, engage in violent behaviour, threaten violence or engage in any other illegal behaviour on University premises." So, basically, if it's against the law, they don't want you to do it. Simple?

JobBook Hits Concordia

Controversial Website Helps Students Find Employment

• JORDIE YEAGER

Concordia student Antoine de Brabant knows you want a job. He also knows you don't want to pay a website upfront to help find you one. That's why he and some partners decided to start their own site, one that's a bit of an update on the classic online recruitment model.

The site, called JobBook, is open to anyone, including students and recent graduates. Registration is simple—job seekers create an online CV and choose jobs they're interested in, and the site's filters do the rest.

"The big difference with our site is that job seekers choose the jobs they want from our job dictionary and we match them with openings according to filters," said de Brabant. "It's basically like a dating service for employers and job seekers."

The launch of the site has not been entirely without controversy, however. In February, former Students' Society of McGill University president Zach New-

burgh came under intense criticism for his involvement with the site.

According to *The McGill Daily*, Newburgh had taken trips to Ivy League schools and England to promote the site, but never revealed his connection to his fellow executives, citing a confidentiality agreement he had signed with the company.

This led eight SSMU councillors, including current President Maggie Knight to vote to impeach him, though the motion ultimately failed.

"Right now he's actually our Vice President of University Relations," said de Brabant about Newburgh.

"He's been a very integral part of our team. There was a big splash that came out when Zach just mentioned that he had talked to us, or that we had talked to him, but half the team was positive about it. We wanted to do something positive. Most people involved at that point were quite happy."

"At that point, the site wasn't even up or anything, it was all just talk. It just became this huge thing, and the truth is

we weren't even really working with Zach very much until June or August."

With Newburgh no longer involved in SSMU, the site is looking to promote itself, focusing on the fact that there is no cost to for students to join.

"We have no advertisements, either," says de Brabant. "Our revenue model is simple; we get paid 5 per cent of the first year's salary by the employer when a hire is made. All we want to do is match candidates with jobs and get them hired. We're hoping to get our first hire in the next week or so."

The JobBook team created their own formula for matching job seekers with employment prospects that sets it apart from similar websites.

"Most job search sites are based on the newspaper classified system. People post jobs and other people look through those jobs," said de Brabant.

"It kind of creates this situation where people post the most popular job title names, and it kind of limits the actual titles that are out there. It's an old system, and it works, but we've found a

better solution."

A strong likelihood of finding a job isn't the only benefit of JobBook, said de Brabant. When job seekers get hired, they're put in a lottery system and have a one in 100 chance of winning a free trip.

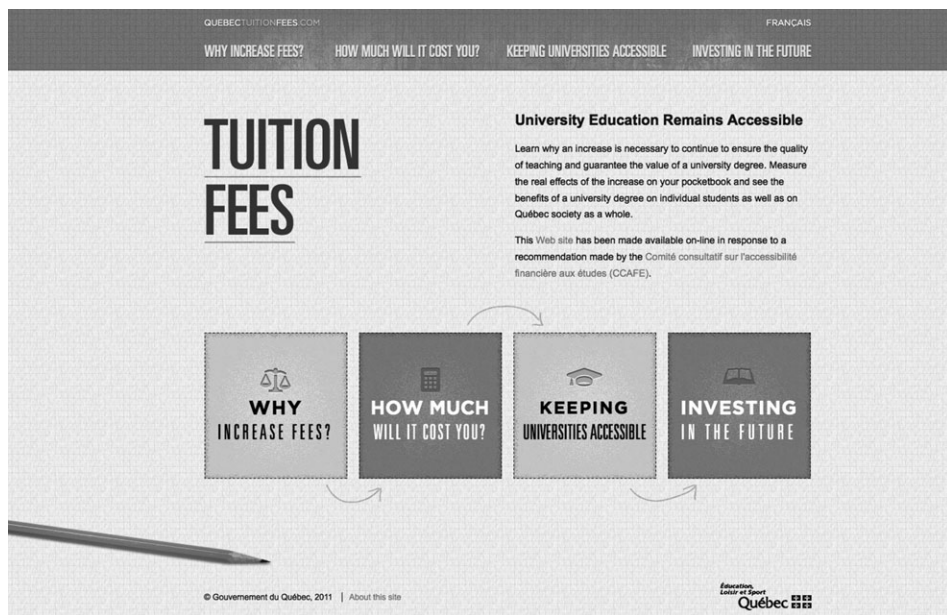
With so many apparent incentives to sign up, the creators' goal of JobBook becoming the top online recruitment website doesn't seem too far out of reach.

According to de Brabant, some of Canada's top corporations seem to agree.

"We're aiming to be the reference online recruitment site," he said. "We've actually been speaking with a lot of Canada's top corporations that have mentioned that they'd use us as a reference."

The site, which is still in beta mode, has already gained almost 6,000 users since its launch in late September. De Brabant said they hope to have 20,000 users by the time the full version launches in early 2012.

Activists Launch Copycat Website



Look familiar? The makers of the parody website on the right have chosen to remain anonymous.



Web Parody Undermines Gov't's Pro-Tuition Hike Message

• JACOB ROBERTS

Student activists have taken to more than just the streets in their efforts to halt tuition hikes.

An unknown group of rabble-rousers have created an anti-tuition-hike website nearly identical to the Charest government's pro-tuition-hike site.

The original website, quebecuitionfees.com, was launched on the Nov. 10 Day of Action in an effort to counter the growing voices of dissent against the government's

plan.

The website states that increasing tuition will help "ensure the quality of teaching and research and contribute to maintaining the value of a university degree."

According to Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill, the Charest government spent \$50,000 on Google keywords like "CSU" and "FEUQ" so that their website would be the first result in a Google search.

Gill called this "astroturfing at

its finest," and was encouraged by the government's website, saying it's a sign they're losing the battle for increased tuition fees.

"Trying to outsmart young people with technology is always a failed venture, and I don't think this was any different," she said.

Within 24 hours of the launch of the original site, an unidentified group launched their own website, which includes information on fighting the tuition fee increases. The parody site has the same

URL but with a .ca domain extension.

Mathieu Le Blanc, the press officer for the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, said that "[FEUQ is] not involved in [the parody website]."

Neither FEUQ President Martine Desjardins nor the office of the Ministry of Education returned phone calls looking for comment.

Visit quebecuitionfees.ca for more information about the fight over tuition hikes.

"Trying to outsmart young people with technology is always a failed venture, and I don't think this was any different,"

—Lex Gill,
CSU President

Tear Down Those Tents

City to Evict Montreal Occupiers

• JACOB ROBERTS & ADAM KOVAC

Following in the footsteps of cities across North America, the City of Montreal issued an order on Monday calling on the denizens of Occupy Montreal to vacate Victoria Square.

According to a report on CTV's website, Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay was the one to give the order.

"I have always said that peace and security on-site and off-site should be the paramount consideration," said Tremblay. "As these conditions are not met, the time has come that the [Occupy activists] find other ways to get their message across. I'm sure they will understand the need for action as soon as possible."

CTV cited accounts of an incident at the camp that took place Monday, with various witnesses saying there had been an attack by someone wielding a knife. Others said that the person or people had been "just using a knife to make late-night modifications to their tents," and the fight that allegedly took place was verbal



PHOTO JACOB ROBERTS

tand not physical in nature.

This comes directly after the Occupiers decided to comply with the city on Nov. 16, and agreed to take down all wooden structures located on the plot of land in the centre of the financial district.

Occupy Montreal had voted in a general assembly to take down several structures, in accordance with a demand made from the city,

which had deemed several of the wooden structures at Occupy Montreal unsafe after an inspection by the fire department.

The city had raised two main concerns: one, that the structures were unsafe, as they're neither fire-proof nor able to withstand a heavy snowfall; and two, that they didn't want anything built that could be perceived as a permanent structure.

In response, and after much deliberation, the general assembly of Occupy Montreal voted in favor of removing the offending structures in return for something from the city.

"We accept the demands of the city that most of the wooden structures will be taken down by Sunday," said a man who identified himself as Jean.

"As long as the city first gives us a written guarantee of our right to occupy the Place of the People responsibly in tents as defined by Health Canada. Amendments: that the guarantee be reviewed by a lawyer. And that a press conference will be held on this occasion between the city and the occupants."

The structures in question included teepees made of wood, a longhouse and a network of tarps that have been strung up as a roof over the individual tents. Occupiers had been informed on Nov. 11 of the city's position and originally had conflicted responses to the ruling.

Greg Addams, a worker in the coffee tent, said, "They are trying to make it a little miserable for us to test how resilient we are. We're proving how resilient we are."

"Honestly and truly," he maintained, "the movement is not going anywhere."

Whether that's the case remains to be seen, however—if the Occupiers don't bow to the mayor's demands, it's likely only a matter of time before the riot police are dispatched, following in the footsteps of Quebec City, Oakland and New York City.

MUNACA MEMO TO THE MINISTER

Striking McGill Union Sends Complaints to Beauchamp

• JACOB ROBERTS

Joined by faculty, staff, professors and students on Nov. 17, the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association marched from McGill Campus to the Ministry of Education to make their displeasure with the McGill administration clear.

MUNACA's grievances towards the McGill Administration were hand delivered in a letter by Kevin Whitaker, the President of MUNACA.

"The campus is no longer a safe environment for higher learning, instead it is one of fear and violence," said Whitaker. "We believe that because this is a public institute, the ministry has the ability—not to mention the responsibility—to come in and have a clear investigation as to what this administration is truly doing to its students and its staff."

The main points in the letter included imposed injunctions against the MUNACA picketers that keep union members from protesting outside university administrators' homes and the construction site of the future Montreal super-hospital, both of

which have been picketing sites for the striking employees.

Another injunction ruled that picketers cannot gather in groups larger than 15, and must maintain a distance of at least four meters from campus entrances.

The letter also mentioned the reaction to students protesting in support of MUNACA, which MUNACA alleges has included reprimands, harassment by security and disciplinary meetings. MUNACA marched in conjunction with students at the Day of Action on Nov. 10, and pointed to the excessive use of force by police responding to the occupation of the James Administration building by students.

Although the letter was intended for Minister of Education Line Beauchamp, it was delivered to her Assistant with assurance it would be read and responded to.

SUSPENDED AGAIN

Meanwhile, a provincially appointed conciliator has suspended negotiations between MUNACA and the McGill Administration for the second time.

"The conciliator decided she

will suspend any further negotiations because of the fact that we are very far apart in salary," said Whitaker.

What MUNACA is asking for is to have a wage grid put in place—something that every other University in the province has, according to Whitaker.

A wage grid serves to automatically advance—in salary and/or position—every contracted employee a certain amount every year. It functions independently of wage scale increases, which are usually negotiated annually. In MUNACA's case, no one is guaranteed advancement and everything must be negotiated for.

"What they proposed in the last round of negotiations would take 37 years for someone to reach their maximum," said Whitaker. "With their current offer they would never reach their maximum, it would remain at the same level for the duration of the contract. That's unheard of anywhere else."

MUNACA is currently waiting for a decision from the conciliator to resume negotiations, but have no set end date for the suspension.



PHOTO JACOB ROBERTS

Transphobic Reality

Day of Remembrance Acknowledges Transgender Deaths



Natalie, one of many speakers at the event, spoke out against the dangers of transphobia

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• OLIVER LEON

Roughly 40 well-layered people congregated in Berri Square on a rather chilly Nov. 20 to recognize the fifth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

On a day where trans people, their allies and loved ones publicly acknowledge transphobia—“the confusion, misunderstanding, fear, and outright hatred that trans people face on a daily basis,” as one of the organizers put it, many people held aloft signs proclaiming their belief in Vie et dignité.

Local organizers PolitiQ and Aide aux transsexuels et transsexuelles du Quebec encouraged folks to come out of their nooks for this event, invited them to speak and share their experiences with transphobia, or just en-

courage their trans brethren.

Natalie, a participant originally from Vancouver, pointed out that the “fear and risk of violence, whether or not we’ve experienced violence, can be internalized [and] that fear can limit our actions.

“There are people who feel they don’t have that courage to transition because of that retribution. It’s marked in blood that there is a [gender] line that you cannot cross. It can constrain people and put them in little boxes.

“You do not want to have your gender be an apology. I don’t want to allow myself to be forced into a specific destiny just because of my biology.”

Another participant, Kayla Hallam, shared that she had recently quit her job because a co-worker was harassing her.

“My boss didn’t want to take two minutes out of his life to tell my co-worker that it’s not okay to say those things,” she said. “I’m there to work, I’m not there to be discriminated against for wearing dresses.”

The Day of Remembrance was first organized in 2007, though the website transgender-dor.org lists events as far back as 1998, such as a candlelit vigil in San Francisco meant to raise awareness of the murder of Rita Hester.

Hester, a transgender woman, was stabbed in her apartment in Allston, MA that year. No arrest was ever made in the case.

“Transphobia is swept under the carpet,” said Sonya, a participant who asked to only be identified by her first name. “It’s accepted institutionalized discrimination. We have to fight the system here to tell them that this is

contradictory to the Charter of Human Rights.”

Catherine, who moved to Montreal from Texas, voiced similar sentiments, encouraging trans people to “watch your back!”

Some saw the event as an opportunity to stay connected, however. Samuel Oake Brisson, who lives off-island, said that he came to stay up-to-date on what is going on in the trans community in relation to the government. He said that he wished that people were more knowledgeable about trans people and their struggles.

“I talked to someone about it. She said, ‘So is that the same thing that happened to Chaz Bono? So are you a boy or a girl?’” He laughed. “I just want to let people know, we don’t bite!”

BRIEFS

▶ Paper Bills No More

Soon you will no longer be able to pay with paper money in Canada. Instead, the existing currency will be replaced by a polymer version, which the Bank of Canada brags is more secure and longer-lasting. The Bank officially unveiled the new \$100 bill Nov. 14. It features artwork commemorating the groundbreaking work on insulin by Canadian researcher Frederick Banting. Other denominations of the polymer money will be gradually phased in over the next two years, with the \$50 bill set to debut in March 2012. Though polymer notes cost around double what the current bills cost to produce, they are expected to last two-and-a-half times longer.

▶ CRTC Rules on Internet Billing

Canada’s telecom regulator reversed a previous decision to impose usage-based billing on Internet customers nationwide, which opponents to the decision said would stifle Internet innovation and substantially raise prices for consumers. The Harper government said they would fight the ruling if the CRTC did not reevaluate its decision. In what was labeled as a compromise meant to appease both sides of the debate, the CRTC ruled that small Internet service providers can either pay the large providers a flat rate or a rate based on capacity and number of users, instead of forcing each user to pay for the amount they use.

▶ New Party Leading in Quebec

A new poll suggests that François Legault’s newly launched provincial political party, Coalition Avenir Québec, is the top choice for voters in the province, according to The Gazette. Twenty-eight per cent of respondents, polled between Nov. 14 and 17, said they would support the new party if an election were held then; the Liberals came second at 18 per cent. The CAQ bills education as its number-one priority, promising to increase teachers’ salaries by 20 per cent and to abolish school boards to streamline services for students.

▶ Language Wars

A teenager in Montreal is being allowed to finish his final year of high school in the language of his choice, after being forced into a French school because of Quebec’s language laws. Emiliano Morales-Espinosa, 16, was allowed to attend an English school after emigrating from Mexico with his family due to his father’s temporary resident status. After his father became eligible for permanent residency, Quebec law forced Morales-Espinosa to attend a French high school. The government announced they reversed the decision for Emiliano on humanitarian grounds. His two younger sisters are still currently required to attend French schools.

Print's Not Dead



Local Small Press Fair Expozine Hits Decade Mark

• ALEX MCGILL

In the age of Internet domination, where we're told almost daily that the printed word as we know it will soon be obsolete, Montreal's infamous small-press festival, Expozine, is celebrating a decade in the biz and showing no signs of slowing down.

"Ten years ago a lot of people told us that we'd barely last a year or two because there was this thing called the Internet and blogs and, 'You're starting a book fair at the worst time, pretty soon there won't be any paper.' Clearly, at this point it's all about culture and it's not going to stop," said Louis Rastelli, one of the founders of Expozine and organizer of this year's event.

"Every year, we're really seeing a whole new generation of people at Expozine. They're 18, 19, 20; they totally want to make zines and books and posters and poster art like the other generations did," he continued.

"I'm not really worried about the Internet or blogging, or that the new generation is going to change anything. If anything, Expozine is going to keep getting bigger, because we're seeing it this year that at least half the exhibitor list are very new people."

One of those first-time exhibitors is Jack Allen, an Honours English and Creative Writing student at Concordia and founder of small press Trapshot Archives.

"What I'm looking forward to most at Expozine is, lamely, to be more involved in the Montreal print/publishing community.

There's such a rich sense of the literary, music and visual art scenes, but print seems to fly under the radar a lot of the time," Allen said.

"It's cool because Expozine lets independent presses be proud of what they've been doing, but it's also an exhibition where you can see what other people in print are getting up to."

The idea for Trapshot began this time last year, but didn't fully develop into something tangible until this past summer. "Trapshot became a way to motivate myself, as well as my most talented peers, to do something without the constraints I experienced in other [publications] I was involved in."

Montreal artist, writer and Concordia graduate JP King is another young member of the independent print world. "Expozine is living proof to anyone who loves making books that other people also love making books," said King.

"Paper can be a lonely world, so it's a chance for everyone to crawl out of their basements, attics, lofts and walk-ups to show what drives them, what they can't keep inside of their heads or hands, what they compulsively, and by any means necessary, must create to share with you."

King started Paper Pusher, a Montreal-based micro-press, after a decade of thought and experimentation.

"Over time I've worked with lots of different people, and now I'm at a point where I'm doing it all alone and loving it," said King. "I started buying and collecting and scavenging all sorts of print



Participants check out the zine scene last year. Organizers expect another healthy turnout at this year's Expozine.

production equipment and have now built a substantial bedroom-print-shop. It was what I dreamt about at 17, and now have at 26.

"Owning the means of production makes for inexpensive manufacturing, which allows me to create well-crafted, affordable books. The idea for Paper Pusher came from somewhere between a nerdy office-worker love for paper, and a sort of black market fantasy of books becoming a contraband good in the future."

With the new generation on its side, Expozine continues to expand in both popularity and influence.

"After two or three years, we didn't expect the project would get so big so fast," Rastelli said.

"At this point, we can barely keep up. We are really sad to turn away so many people who want tables at Expozine. It fills up so fast. After 10 years we're all really proud of the things we've set up;

we really did address a need that existed at the time, and we're all surprised at how huge the need still is today."

The fair has a lot to celebrate this year—it is currently one of the largest small-press fairs in North America, with over 270 publications, both English and French, participating and visitors and exhibitors from all across the United States and Canada. For readers interested in underground and alternative publications, it doesn't get any better.

Local literary arts zine *Four Minutes to Midnight* will be launching a special anniversary issue in honour of the event.

"They interviewed the organizers and lots of people who have taken part over the years and put together a lot of excerpts from various zines over the past decade," said Rastelli.

"There's a free launch of this magazine at Drawn and Quarterly

[on Nov. 25], the founders of Expozine will be there too to tell stories and discuss and take questions and launch this special magazine. It's really nice that we have someone actually making a zine in honour of the 10-year anniversary. I think it's pretty appropriate."

There will also be a birthday party incorporated into the weekend. The event, being held at Casa del Popolo on Nov. 26, promises some wicked DJ sets—DJ crew Jazz Amnesty Soundsystem will be spinning tunes—as well as some fun surprises. The party, as well as the rest of the weekend's events, is free.

Expozine / Nov. 26 to Nov. 27 / Église Saint-Enfant Jesus (5035 St. Dominique St.) / 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. / JP King will give a free poster to anyone who mentions this article at the Paper Pusher table.

Addicted to Humour



Montreal Comedian-By-Night Morgan O'Shea

PHOTO JULIA JONES

Local Comic Morgan O'Shea on Style—and Substances

• EMILY CAMPBELL

“Can this wait until the last round of *Jeopardy* is over?” asks Morgan O'Shea, from the edge of the futon in his living room.

“Roosevelt!” he barks at the TV. Correct. He flashes a cheeky grin as he turns off the television and sips from a Colt 45 wrapped in a paper bag.

He's dressed in hipster garb; tight-fitting jeans, a clean white t-shirt, and a red-and-black checkered flannel shirt. His light brown hair reaches down to his chin, and his beard is well groomed. He's boyishly handsome and he's got the confidence of a performer.

I introduced myself to O'Shea a few days earlier, at an open mic at The Works, a hole-in-the-wall Montreal comedy club. That night, he won over the audience with dirty jokes about eating pussy and a dating service for the suicidal. He was voted best of open mic by the audience—news to him, because he'd left right after his set.

It's not that his head is inflated by his success though. O'Shea works full-time at an unglamorous job—the collections department of a call center in Montreal.

“I work the only job a kid whose mom is a crack addict can get... other than stripping,” says O'Shea. “It's kind of a shady company, I call people and tell them they owe debts on something they got scammed into. It's not very fulfilling, but it pays the bills.”

On the other hand, O'Shea doesn't need to be fulfilled by his day job because he lives for the night. An average week will find him doing stand-up at least three times at open mic nights, bars, lofts, house parties and

comedy clubs.

“I guess I'm a little bit dirtier than most [comics]—I've got kind of a sick mind,” he says of his material. “I just tell jokes about whatever happens to me, whatever I say that makes me laugh, whatever makes my friends laugh.”

He lights a cigarette—his third so far—and lets it lazily hang from the corner of his mouth as the interview continues. He tells me casually how he and his brother were raised by their single father in an area of Calgary that Calgarians fondly refer to as the “ghetto.”

We are interrupted by three sharp raps at the door before it springs open.

“Yeah, yeah!” I hear, as footsteps shuffle up the steps to O'Shea's apartment, and empties tumble down them.

“Turn off the recorder,” says O'Shea. “My drug dealer's here.”

A man even shaggier than Morgan flops onto the third of the three couches crammed into the living room.

He's wearing cargo pants and from one of many pockets he pulls out a Tupperware container filled with “goodies.” He expertly chops lines of cocaine and if I hadn't wished we'd met at a coffee shop like he suggested, I certainly do now.

I play it cool and innocently shake my head at the line laid out for me on the back of a pack of Macdonald cigarettes. On three hours of sleep, I feel no need to be any jitterier than I already am—much less among

strangers.

This isn't a rare occasion at the O'Shea household, and he's built up some notoriety for his habits. At the show he performs tonight he will be introduced by the host as “the drugs of the comedians,” a statement meant both figuratively and literally.

“Turn off the recorder, my drug dealer's here.”

—Morgan O'Shea

I know the interview is over, because the door doesn't stay shut for long. All his friends seem to be comics and the room fills with funny-men cracking jokes and cracking beers.

Everyone seems to be getting restless, which can partially be blamed on the cocaine, but I also sense a bit of nervousness for the show that starts in about an hour.

All of the guys in Morgan's apartment are performing. They form kind of a de facto comedy crew here in Montreal, and it isn't uncommon for four or five of them to perform a set at the same club. At the show tonight their laughter will be the loudest in the crowd.

O'Shea organizes the “Shut Up and Laugh” open mic comedy nights at Burritoville every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

A Pixelated Infatuation

Data Romance Make Waves with Digitized Bliss



• COLIN HARRIS

Data Romance has had quite a year. It started with scoring the soundtrack to *Life Cycles*, a film about the evolution of the bicycle. By the beginning of the summer, they were releasing their debut EP.

The Vancouver duo has since been playing around the continent, showcasing their heavy electronics and blissed-out vocal hybrid sound to an ever-growing audience.

"We obviously keep our aesthetic pretty dark [onstage]; we like black," laughs Ajay Bhattacharyya, the half of Data Romance responsible for production. "At this point we're just making sure people have a chance to see who we are as people [...] Until recently we were getting comments that people couldn't really identify us as people."

"So live, right now, is a really great way to do that. It's really honest and simple."

They've made quite a visual splash on the Internet. With only an EP released the band already has three music videos. With vocalist Amy Kirkpatrick's background in light design and their mutual love of cinema, it only makes sense for video to be a big part of the project.

"Visuals are definitely important to our music," said Bhattacharyya. "I'm personally more interested in watching a video along with music, if the band can pull it off."

Music videos are no longer a must-have for emerging artists, but with the ability to share their love of film with fans around the world, Data Romance get as creative as they want—be it through intense, avant-garde hip-hop choreography or a one-take video that plays with shadow.

"I think the luxury of the Internet is that we can make a video like we did for 'She's Been High,' and if nobody's into it, that's cool because we made it and enjoyed it," said Kirk-

patrick. "There's not so much pressure like MTV or Much Music where you have to stick to almost a guideline of what you can and can't put in a video, there's total freedom."

And with high-fi video equipment at a fraction of the price it was in the MTV era, there's nothing stopping the band from keeping it up.

"We're lucky to be able to do [videos] in such a do-it-yourself way just because of the technology. You can make them look pretty amazing without a ton of money anymore," said Bhattacharyya.

"Live, sadly, it's still a bit different. At this point, we're touring just the two of us, and we don't have the lighting setup, but we really want to work towards that. It just takes building a fanbase that can support a tour of that proportion."

"Visuals are definitely important to our music," said Bhattacharyya. "I'm personally more interested in watching a video along with music, if the band can pull it off."

—Ajay Bhattacharyya

It's all part of the plan however, and the band will be sure to take advantage of the bigger stage and better sound systems they'll use on tour with German house duo Digitalism.

As for including the monome, a real-time sequencer that has made appearances in their videos and online performances, it'll still be a while before that becomes part of the live show.

"I want to try and incorporate [the monome] as soon as I can. We haven't been taking it on tour because it is such new technology and it's kind of buggy," said Bhattacharyya. "The software is actually written by users, there's this open-source mentality behind it."

The monome is a super-versatile controller with dozens of little square keys, capable of sampling, composing, and layering sound. It's new technology that's inspiring for the producer, but for the time being he'll rely on his Novation Launchpad and MPD32 controllers when it's live and there's no room for error.

"Anyone can upload a program to tell the monome what to do, which is a really cool idea in theory, but the reality of it is it actually leads to no real quality control, except the forums on the site," he said.

It's technology like the monome that allows the band the tools to keep up with their electronic experimentation. For their forthcoming LP, things are going to get darker. The new record will be in the vein of the latest single "She's Been High," according to Kirkpatrick.

The band is in perpetual motion, the full-length surely just one thing on the horizon for the duo.

"I think it's always good to shoot for your next goal, and always live in the near future. It's funny, sometimes you reach your goals and you don't even realize it because you're too obsessed with the next one," said Bhattacharyya. "Sometimes you have to remind yourself to live in the moment, but I don't think, mentally, I can just sit in that moment. I always think about what we're about to do."

Data Romance (with Digitalism) / Nov. 30 / SAT (1195 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 8:00 p.m.

**BEST OF THE
WEB**

**DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA**

LIVING INSTALLATION

On the seventh floor of the EV Building, around the corner from Café X, there's a very special kind of laboratory. It lives and reacts to the people inside it, combining the technological, the ecological and the philosophical.

DOLDRUMS' EMPIRE

Solo artist Airick Woodhead played M for Montreal this weekend. We chat with the Toronto-turned-Montreal musician about his stuttering quasi-R&B/glitch EP Empire Sound and his forthcoming split with Portishead.



A NEUROTIC'S REVENGE

"In fact, the second time I didn't get in [to Concordia's Creative Writing program], I went to talk to the professor because I was feeling beaten down. I asked him why I didn't get in, and he said that someone who wrote the way that I did needed to be in therapy more than they needed to be in Creative Writing. Anyways, I showed him"

—Jonathan Goldstein, writer & host
of CBC's *WireTap*

FRINGE FOOD

Nestled unassumingly amidst low-rise office buildings and government facilities just south of Jean-Talon is the wide, bright Artère, a newly-minted co-op proposing a gastronomic and cultural space to über-diverse and rapidly-changing Villeray-Parc-Extension.



Ritual Psych-rifice



GRAPHIC MYRIAM ARSENAULT

The Difference in Your Game Might Be in Your Head

• DAVID MURPHY

Mike Deboever believes he wouldn't perform as well if he didn't complete his pregame ritual 15 minutes before swimming competitively.

"I would be sitting down in the showers. Showers off. Lights off. With my left hand I would be playing with my goggles, flipping them like coins, and I would visualize the race," said Deboever, owner and personal trainer at the Reebok Crossfit YUL gym in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. "And I would listen to music—always the same [song]."

Deboever would even load different race-starting beeps to his mp3 player just so he could react to the start in his mind.

"They do this with horses at horse races. They ring the bell, so the horse just reacts to that one sound. I worked like that too."

"I needed time to visualize. I needed to see how fast I would do the turns, I needed to know what athlete was in the race with me, and I needed to beat that person in my head first."

Superstitions like these are

now all too common for amateur and professional athletes, and some sports psychologists are even saying mental toughness is more important than being physically prepared.

Pittsburgh Penguins forward Sidney Crosby likes to wear the same hat and pads throughout the season. Phoenix Suns point-guard Steve Nash takes a two-hour nap, and Rafael Nadal takes freezing cold showers prior to a game.

Eric Saulnier, a trainer at Saint-Laurent gym, says the most unusual ritual he's heard of involves a football player flicking a rubber band to get himself psyched.

"[This gym member] used to listen to a certain song that would get him pumped up for the game. He would ask his psychologist, 'How could I make that happen on the field?'"

The psychologist suggested a scenario right out of the playbook of famed behaviourist B.F. Skinner. Whenever he started a heavy set at the gym, the football player would snap the rubber band on his wrist, start the song, and begin

the set with all his might.

"On the field you can't play that music, but you can still have that elastic band," said Saulnier. "So [he would] snap it at important plays, when he knew he really had to perform."

Rituals like this have become more detailed and meticulous, according to sports psychologist Lior Doron. He says they make athletes mentally tough by reliving good feelings they previously had when performing well, which are brought back up when the ritual is reenacted.

Doron's worked with the Concordia Stingers soccer and football teams before, and said being mentally prepared through pregame rituals and superstitions allows athletes to feel comfortable.

"Routines guide athletes to success. It soothes them and gives them more confidence," said Doron. "Overall, it is good to have routines; it's part of the success formula."

That being said, it's important not to let the routine become too important.

"You have to respect the guide-

lines [when it comes to] a routine. Have it in your control, make sure you're not dependent on it, and have the mental toughness to be able to rebound back once your routine is set off."

This mental toughness comes through work done away from the field of play. Doron teaches athletes in a classroom environment to build confidence, so when bad events happen on the field, they have resilience to get up, restart, and compete without getting mired in their thoughts.

"It's like lifting weights," said Doron of his mind exercises. "You start off small and then lift more and more."

In his class there's a lot of reading, writing and discussions on how an athlete prepares and competes. He gives hints on how to perform in key scenarios, like making basic plays. Where one player might make a perfect pass in practice, in a more pressurized situation, another might drop the ball.

"These players know how to do it; they've done it thousands of times," said Doron. "They're work-

ing on their mental toughness. You can't just read a book and become mentally tough."

Doron says mental imagery is key—when an athlete encompasses all senses of game play in their mind, playing 30-second mental clips, rehearsing successful plays, mundane plays, and even failures, like Deboever would do before swimming.

He says being mentally prepared is 95 per cent of the game, and money is being wasted building better facilities for athletes, where they could improve more in a classroom setting.

"What's undervalued in 2011, and in Canada, is the sports psychology component to playing," said Doron. "It's all mental. All athletes are very agile, quick, fast, and strong, but psychologically, the toughest mentally is usually better."

For free sports psychology e-learning courses visit www.flowinsports.com. Fill out the free initial request form by December 1, 2011 and mention "The Link"

Levelling Up



The gaming community descended like an alien swarm on Club 1234 Nov. 13 to witness the best of the best compete.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

The *StarCraft* Community Goes Clubbing

• DAVID MURPHY

A mob of people screaming for death and destruction is something one would expect in Roman times at the Coliseum with a half-naked Russell-Crowe-esque figure holding a sword above someone's head.

In the 21st century, Barcraft is the closest thing.

Combining the turn-based sci-fi strategy computer game *StarCraft 2* with the social aspect of a bar, the second annual Barcraft, held last Sunday at Club 1234, drew roughly a thousand people.

In the club, two massive projectors showed the final of Major League Gaming's Pro Circuit played in Providence, RI.

Montreal gaming nerds gathered for up to nine hours in the club watching epic battles of ships, machines and deformed aliens devastating one another with laser guns and physical brute force.

This wasn't just a dreary Sunday gathering at your local pub. A special drinks menu was made up, featuring drinks named after popular characters in the game, a barbecue was held and standard club rates applied—\$15.00 cover and \$2.00 coat-check. The upstairs balcony was even reserved for those wanting the best view of the battle from swanky red-leather seats.

Everyone else crammed onto the

club floor, impatiently gazing at the screens showing advertisements for *StarCraft 2* and anticipating the main event, as though Kanye West were about to walk across the screen and start battling himself.

Of course, as the big guns in the sport came onto the screen, people gasped with delight as their heroes started assembling armies and strategizing how best to demolish their opponents.

The action got people talking—something Barcraft encourages people to do.

"There's this atmosphere, this ambience, all these guys and girls are rooting for different players," said Michael Cohen, founder and co-organizer of the Concordia *StarCraft* Club.

He started the organization as soon as he found out no such club was offered at Concordia and got a huge response. From then on, the *StarCraft* community has grown considerably.

"In CEGEP I had no friends. I took 10 courses and breezed through it in two years—I was a complete loser," said Cohen, who was greeted by a plethora of people as he walked through the masses at Barcraft.

"It doesn't bring the community together—it shows that the community is together," said Cohen. "*StarCraft* appeals to both genders, all ages, different levels of gamers—casual, hardcore, dedicated."

Not only is it growing in popularity, but people are noticing. There have been rumblings that ESPN2 is interested in picking up MLG tournaments to broadcast games like *StarCraft 2* and *Halo*. Though that may sound strange to North Americans weaned on football and basketball, in South Korea gaming matches are shown on national TV regularly, generating massive sponsorship.

Korea's not the only place where the game generates revenue, though—Barcraft received a \$3,000 sponsorship this year from Vuugo, a Canadian online computer store.

And Cohen thinks it's about time this game gets televised here.

"They [show] spelling bees, so why not *StarCraft*?" he said. "We televise pool. They have their fans, their interested parties. *StarCraft*'s no different."

It's not that surprising that it's garnering this much attention. Over 11 million copies of the game's newest iteration, *StarCraft 2: Wings of Liberty*, have been sold worldwide.

In 2005, a Korean *StarCraft* competition garnered 40,000 more viewers than the Super Bowl did that year, and North America is catching on to the trend too, as streaming websites make it possible to catch all the Major League Gaming action.

Like other sports, the game's not purely a participatory event.

"I play, but not as much as others," said 24-year-old Barcraft attendee Max Ceban. "But I really enjoy watching. I watch more than I play."

"Five years ago it wasn't as big, but it's always growing," said Cohen. "The game wasn't as accessible as it is now."

Now, professional *StarCraft* players can make up to \$200,000 a year, a reality that's been convincing players to continue practicing in hopes of making it big.

The current president of the Concordia *StarCraft* Club, Patrick Moullas, says although there might be one potential member that could turn semi-pro, it's not about the money, however.

"I just play for fun really. I probably play 30 hours a week just for fun. Pros play eight to 10 hours a day," said Moullas. He also says there is a stigma attached to playing *StarCraft* and other video games, largely imposed by older generations, that video games are a waste of time.

"I feel like I'm actually using my brain and thinking, so I feel like I'm active in a mental sense," said Moullas. The most important aspect, however, is the social side, and he wants it to continue its rise in popularity.

"If I go to class and mention I play *StarCraft*, there's an opening already, just talking about video games," he said. "Without the *StarCraft* club in Concordia, I wouldn't know anybody here."



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

MEN'S HOCKEY

After beating Nipissing Lakers last Friday, the Stingers couldn't sustain the momentum against the Toronto Varsity Blues. The team came out flat, losing 7-3 on Saturday. The Stingers have dates with the Ryerson Rams and the Royal Military College Paladins this weekend. Games are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. respectively.

STINGERS 3 - BLUES 7

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Stingers were scored on early and often last Sunday as the Université de Montréal Carabins trounced them 7-1. They will try to re-group when they travel to Carleton before returning home to face the McGill Martlets. The puck drops Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

STINGERS 1 - CARABINS 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ConU gave their fans something to cheer for last Saturday on their way to defeat the Laval Rouge et Or 88-72. The Stingers will try to add to their strong start this Friday when the Bishop's University Gaiters visit. Tipoff is 8:00 p.m.

STINGERS 88 - ROUGE ET OR 72

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Concordia's women's basketball team is also on fire. This comes after edging the Rouge et Or in a 62-60 match last week. The Stingers will try to make it three in a row with the Gaiters in town. Game is set for this Friday at 6:00 p.m.

STINGERS 62 - ROUGE ET OR 60

COMEBACK *Kids*



Stinger centre George Lovatsis prepares to score shorthanded. The marker, scored with 33 seconds left, sent the game into overtime.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

Stingers Storm Back, Tie Game in Dying Seconds

• ADAM KOVAC

A sensational third-period comeback lifted Concordia's men's hockey team to a 7-6 shootout victory at home over the Nipissing Lakers in a game that appeared all but over after the second period.

Concordia started in impressive form, taking an early lead off a marker by forward Michael Stinziani less than four minutes in, but ended the first down 2-1. The Lakers then dominated the second, entering the third period with a 5-2 lead.

The third, however, belonged entirely to Concordia, who opened the final frame with a goal five-and-a-half minutes in from Charles-Antoine Messier.

While Nipissing scored a minute later to cancel out Messier's goal, the Stingers surged forward soon after, scoring three unanswered goals, culminating in a shorthanded goal by George Lovatsis with a mere 33 seconds left on the clock.

After a scoreless overtime, it would take the Stingers seven dramatic rounds of the shootout to finally close out their comeback. Stinziani scored in the second round, while François Lancot-Marcotte caused the bench to empty in celebration with his game-ending goal.

"You gotta have confidence," said Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby after the

game. "We talked between periods that if we could get a goal in the first five minutes, and a goal before the eight minute mark, we might be able to tie up the game in the last two or three minutes.

"We went out there and that's exactly what we did."

"I thought that selfish play was part of the problem tonight. I would probably say we were more interested in trying to score and pad our own stats than try and win for the team."

—Lakers coach George McParland

Luck played a major role in Lovatsis' tying goal. With Concordia captain Eric Begin taking a high-sticking minor with under two minutes left to play, it seemed that completing the comeback was not to be.

Lakers goalie Daniel Spence misplayed a corner dump-in, however, with the puck bouncing straight onto Lovatsis' stick with a wide-open net to shoot at.

"We didn't get a save when we needed

one," said Lakers coach Mike McParland of Spence's error. "That last goal was a bit of a catastrophe."

McParland also blamed the outcome on a lack of teamwork.

"I thought that selfish play was part of the problem tonight," said McParland. "I would probably say we were more interested in trying to score and pad our own stats than try and win for the team."

Stingers goalie Nicholas Champion started out rough, looking especially shaky and out of position on the Lakers' fifth goal, the first of two by Scott Restoule.

He eventually settled down, however, allowing just the single goal in the third, and stopping six of seven in the shootout.

When asked of what he would say to Champion, Figsby only smiled and replied, "I asked him if he wanted to start tomorrow."

He also pointed to a defense corps that is half composed of first-year students, and also has Etienne St. Germain playing injured, and Begin unable to practice, due to his commitments as a student-teacher.

The Stingers ended the weekend on a sour note, however, losing 7-3 at home to Toronto on Saturday, putting their record at 8-6-1 heading into their next game at Ryerson University, which will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday night.

It Could Get Worse

Campaign Against Crime Bill Goes Viral

• LAURA BEESTON

As Occupiers across North America were ripped from their tents, protesting students were maced on their own campuses, and police flexed their brass brutality, an equally insidious and serious news story was, until last week, flying under the media's radar.

The Conservative Government's omnibus crime Bill C-10, ironically named "The Safe Streets and Communities Act," is currently being rushed through Parliament. To be frank, this bill is a huge fucking deal, with serious fiscal and social implications for our penal law system.

If you dig liberty and justice in this country, you need to start paying attention. Now.

It's worth noting that this piece of ill-considered legislation has the Canadian Bar Association—representing over 37,000 law practitioners across the country—urging MPs to vote it down. The lawyers aren't alone. Noted criminologists, policymakers, and even Republicans from Texas are taking issue.

Nope, that last part wasn't a typo: even Republicans from the United State's toughest crime-fighting jurisdiction believe this bill is a bad idea. That should tell you something.

The "tough on crime" provisions in the omnibus bill—which blankets law over young offenders, child sex offenders, drug crime and immigrant law—actually go against years of research on crime reduction and prevention, and will inevitably divert funding away from rehabilitation and community-based healing initiatives.

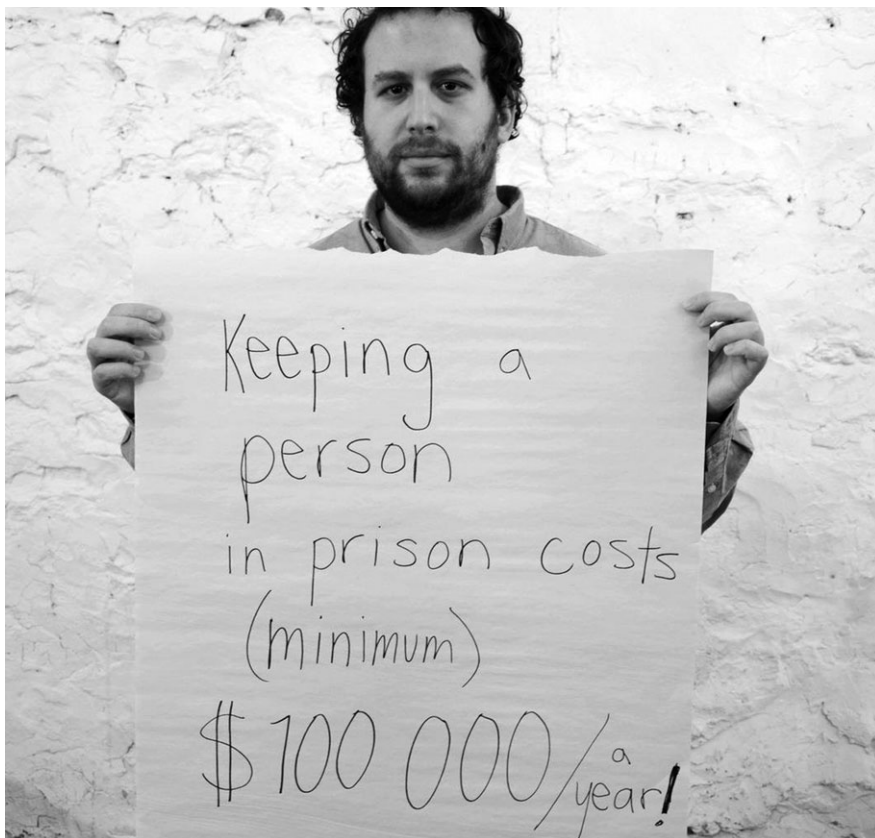
Also worth noting is that, under this bill, 80 per cent of university students could be considered criminals for recreational drug use, according to the Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy. Up to 20 per cent of us would be liable to a mandatory two-year minimum sentence in a federal penitentiary for simply passing around drugs at a party.

One could go on and on about how backwards and heavy-handed this bill is, and how it will disproportionately affect youth and at-risk groups, but an onslaught of published articles have recently been doing just that.

Specifically, "10 Reasons to Oppose Bill C-10," written by the Canadian Bar Association and published in *The Vancouver Sun* and *Toronto Star* last week has been especially resonating with Canadians as it straightforwardly breaks down the situation.

Closer to home, indie media darlings The Duty Myth, alongside the Forget the Box collective have started their own viral campaign, called "It Could Get Worse... Don't Let It."

Modeled after Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" project that was created to support LGBT youth, the pair hopes Canadians start making and sharing videos and



spreading awareness about the real implications of the policy.

With a healthy sense of urgency about the gravity of this issue—as C-10 could be going through a first reading as early as Thursday—the duo said they had to mobilize quickly to "cut through constitutional talk and legalese, to make this issue real for people."

"It's getting ploughed over by other news," said Jordan Arseneault, a founding member of It Could Get Worse.

"This is Old-Testament, fire-and-brimstone justice they're calling for, but it's been swallowed. Protesting has occupied the news agenda over the last few weeks, [...] and we hadn't seen anything street, anything pedestrian about [the bill] to make people actually realize how serious this is."

Spending the weekend filming 'omnibusters' of all stripes speaking up against the Bill—including one of the "McGill Four," NDP MP Laurin Liu and Montreal director and *Mirror* film critic Mark Slutsky—the team hopes that generating interest will make a difference.

The Conservatives in the House, meanwhile, have been riding this bill through fear-mongering without fact-checking—wringing their hands and framing the debate around "rapists who prey on children," and "individuals who grow drugs and sell them to children and sell them near schoolyards."

Any MP demanding, you know, evidence of this hyperbole or testimony of experts is written off as "soft on crime" and in cahoots with child molesters. If you're a masochist, or otherwise interested in witnessing this exercise in futility, the en-

tire, infuriating MP play-by-play can be found at openparliament.ca.

"But even though there's a Conservative majority, MPs are still responsive to their constituents," argued Jason McLean, of FTB. "Harper removed the Internet [and electronic surveillance] provisions from this bill because of the public backlash, so if we can generate outrage for the entire bill, there's a chance we might be able to stop it."

Launching on Monday, It Could Get Worse hopes their videos will connect with people, get posted and re-posted, and inspire folks to mobilize or make their own.

If the bill continues its course of wild unpopularity, the Conservatives will have no choice but to slow the heck down on this one, argue the omnibusters.

"Call your MPs, talk to their secretaries, email them and sign petitions. If you're a student from another province where there is a strong Conservative base, call your parents, send them the videos, call your auntie, your grandma," encouraged Arseneault.

"They were probably rad at some point too, long before their mini van and mortgage, and they might sympathize that our generation could be criminalized for something as minor as pot use. [...] Occupy your parents and your MPs. Tell them to get with it."

Plans are in the works for a cross-Canadian day of action on Thursday thanks to the efforts of the folks of leadnow.ca. To see the omnibuster videos, post your own, or learn more, head to itcouldgetworse.com.



Concordia on: Security

• SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

A week after riot cops stormed the university down the street, *The Link* took to the halls to find out whether or not ConU students feel secure on the campus and if they feel campus security is effective. Here's what they said:

"Yes, I do feel safe on campus. When there is ever a condition that might make things unsafe, I see the security and the staff working and taking the necessary steps to prevent any damage to the students."



—Naeem Yassin
Masters Mechanical Engineering

"I do feel safe on campus because it is located in a safe part of Montreal. [...] That sense of security might be a bit false because I haven't seen anything bad happen, at least on campus. But, I am aware that a while back something happened in the Hall Building—I was told that's why we have the concrete tables."



—Thomas Burelle Tremblay
BA Admin

"I feel safe because there is security and I don't feel any threat over here. As far as I know and I see, [security] is doing a good job."



—Omer Ahmad
Masters Software Engineering

"I do. I have never felt unsafe. But, I did have a conversation about how it was sort of weird that the security guards are on one floor of the campus—near the doors. I do find that a little strange, I have only seen [security] downstairs. I guess the only issue people would see [as unsafe] is that the doors are always open—especially from the tunnel, anybody can walk in. But, I have never felt unsafe."



—Jasmyn Ford
BA English Literature

"I have spent a lot of time here after hours in the film building and we've never had any issues. I don't think there is any particular place on campus that I don't feel safe. Sometimes, when you are around the library or Hall Building, you say 'Oh! I'm on campus,' then, you go a block away and find yourself in a random alleyway downtown. In that sense, you sometimes feel ill at ease because you are not in your territory all of a sudden."



—Mattias Graham
BFA Film Production

"Mostly—except for the weekends because a lot of people come to the campus, especially this [7th floor Hall Building] floor because of the free phones. They just come here to use free phones. Sometimes, they are not people from Concordia. Like, you can tell—I find that weird."



—Mahdie Tabatabaei
BSc Biology

LITTLE BLACK BOX

McGill, Pepper Spray and the Arab Spring

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Last week as I was perusing the Internet, I came across the writings of third-year McGill Student Teddy Weinstein on the *National Post*'s Full Comment blog.

The piece was entitled "Dear McGill Protestors: this isn't the Arab Spring, and your principal isn't Mubarak," and wow, I could not agree more.

I'd like to say that I absolutely loved the piece*—despite it mostly not being based on any facts, which made it oh, so powerful.

Weinstein busted out some pretty deep insight, expressing that McGill is, indeed, not a third-world country and that the school's president, Heather Monroe-Blum is actually not Hosni Mubarak.

I'd like to add some similarly insightful statements to Weinstein's list: fire burns, rain makes you wet and llamas are South-American camelid.

Weinstein goes on to argue that students were comparing last Thursday's We Are All McGill event with the Arab Spring, despite the fact that, over the nearly five-hour event, no one made such a reference.

But, you know, good argument anyway!

Interesting thing, though was that Teddy didn't witness the event himself. Of course he "was able to stitch together a rough timeline"—how *Without a Trace* of him, minus the professionalism. Did he talk to the students who got maced? Did he contact the SPVM or the McGill administration?

Seems like Teddy took the easy option by skimming through social media and reiterating hearsay. And it's not like he's an international reporter filing from the other side of the world—Teddy is a McGill student. All he had to do to get the scoop was go to school.

Tons of firsthand witnesses were available at We Are All McGill. It shouldn't have been hard for him to get an interview with them and then boom! Firsthand testimony.

Maybe the core problem lies in the fact that Teddy doesn't know that journalistic opinion pieces have to provide more than simply a point of view: they need to be based on more than strong feelings.

"Some of the blame must also fall on the protestors themselves," he asserted. Here again, Teddy's not all that precise: should the protesters be blamed for getting maced? For expressing their opinions? Staging a non-violent occupation? Not enjoying getting a baton back massage by dozens of riot squads swarming student's space?

One particularly insulting argument Teddy mobilizes against students out there fighting for their rights is that apparently we 'romanticize' protestors. Interesting. I'm not so sure the Libyan and Tunisian protestors who suffered during the last months opposing dictatorial regimes would agree.

Teddy just doesn't 'get' students who complained about the riot squad's intervention on Nov. 10, as, "This university is not a true democracy. It doesn't pretend to be. If you don't like it, you do not have to come here."

Hell yeah, man! It's not like Freedom of Expression is a protected Charter right (who cares anyway) or that going to university is about strengthening democracy through education—who do those students think they are, asking for accountability, transparency and non-violence?

It's not like university professors ever encourage students to participate in discussions and express their opinions, backed by factually based arguments. So how dare students express an opinion, am I right? Go home, study, and pay your tuition fees. (Bonus: get maced and thank the officer.)

After reading this phenomenal piece of journalism, I can't wait to see what Teddy writes, and the NatPo publishes, next. Something about tuition hikes would be amazing. I can already see the headline: "Dear Students: Education is Not a Right, and Charest is not Severus Snape."

Also, with such solid arguments, I'm sure Teddy will receive a promotion pretty soon—Fox News, get ready.

*Sarcasm

Blackening Out Freedom

Websites Protest American Anti-Piracy Legislation

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Cyberspace was censored last week.

Black bars blocked the names of hundreds of popular websites, including Tumblr, Reddit, Grooveshark, Hype Machine, Disqus and a myriad of others.

Wednesday was American Censorship Day. Bars plastered across website logos served as a symbolic protest against two pieces of legislation currently making their way through American Congress—the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect IP Act.

The legislation would enable the United States to extend their own laws beyond their borders, by making it illegal for websites hosted anywhere in the world to use American copyrighted intellectual property without the owner's permission.

The day of protest was organized by a slew of organizations, including Public Knowledge, Demand Progress, Fight for the Future, Participatory Politics Foundation, and Creative Commons.

Bloomberg reported that Internet goliaths Google, Yahoo!, AOL, Facebook and Twitter stood in solidarity against the legislation. Approximately 6,000 websites signed up to participate in the day of protest, and congress received a reported one million emails speaking out against it—including at least 60 from civil and human rights organizations.

The European Parliament has also criticized the legislation, adopting a resolution with the goal of protecting the global integrity of the Internet.

On the other hand, the House Judiciary committee has received nine statements in support of SOPA,

signed by major entertainment conglomerates such as NBC, Universal and Comcast.

A *Forbes* blog post dubbed the issue a battle between 'Hollywood and Silicon Valley.' Jargon aside, the real issue with this legislation has nothing to do with the problem it aims to solve, but rather the other problems it creates in attempting to solve it.

At face value, both bills appear to be a step in the right direction—as someone who doesn't advocate piracy or oppose copyright, they seem like a pretty good idea.

Theoretically, the legislation intends to prevent the theft of U.S. property. That's a good thing, I agree. But the practical implications of this bill create opportunities for many people to do a lot more than simply catch a crook.

First of all, these bills put a whole lot of power into the hands of people with intellectual property rights. So much power in fact, that these people can literally ask that any site they deem to be an "infringer" be blacklisted from major payment processors and network operators.

Internet service providers will also have the power to block access to sites, without fear of being sued, if they believe the site to be partaking in the theft of U.S. property.

Basically, the American government is proposing to change the way the Internet is structured at the behest of a handful of major corporations and powerful media conglomerates.

The SOPA legislation stands to discontinue the free-flow of content and information the web currently, and wonderfully, hosts.

Sites like Flickr and YouTube that are filled with user-generated content could be liable for infringing copy-

right and shut down by the government if they don't hastily remove the offending material.

The Washington Post reported that Booz & Co. conducted a study that found SOPA legislation could actually lead to a decline in Internet innovation as more stringent rules scare off investors and venture capitalists.

On the other hand, a Viacom executive testified that the vast majority of Internet piracy is limited to "about 20 websites." So why is congress opting for a blanket solution to such a narrowly focused problem?

Beyond the issues of potential abuses of power, this legislation is unhealthy for the economy.

Right now, sites like Google, Facebook and YouTube, as well as a plethora of Internet startups, are creating many jobs for many people. Meanwhile, the entertainment industry is doing the opposite—it's struggling.

It doesn't take a Harvard MBA to understand that killing the prosperous business in favour of the declining one is not an intelligent move, financially speaking.

The Internet is worried, and assuming you use the Internet, you should be too. This legislation is really scary, and there is a very real possibility that it might pass.

Copyright and how it's handled in the ever-growing, ever-changing Internet age is obviously a problem, but it's a conundrum that will require a well-structured solution in order to work effectively.

It shouldn't be at the cost of freedom of expression, or the economy—sorry, Congress, SOPA and PIPA are not the answer.

If you were paying attention to the reaction to them, you should know that.

THAT TRANSEXUAL GUY

• OLIVER LEON

column 3

"I want to share my transition. I want to write to you about public bathrooms, navigating my name change and taking hormones. I want to tell you about the scary parts, the fun times and share with you the celebrations that come along with transitioning. I want to tell you all of this because I think that it is important that you know about it."

Seeking Stability Within the Spectrum of Blue and Pink

As I'm writing these words, I've been on testosterone for 18 days. Before I began injecting hormones, I never thought much about my body beyond nourishment and sleep. Paying attention to it is a relatively new phenomenon for me. The pores on my face are deeper and more pronounced. My torso hair may be getting a little darker, but I'm not sure. What hasn't changed though, is that mental health continues to be a battle.

This is common for trans people. There are all sorts of facts about how trans people have horribly high rates for depression and suicide. I could quote them, but I'd rather explain why.

Looking in the mirror and not being able to connect yourself to the person staring back at you is bewildering, painful, and heart-wrenching. It's terrifying.

Childhood is not idyllic. Trans people often—not always, but often—know that they are 'different' from the other kids around them. They know that there is something 'wrong' with them. Sometimes they have the words to express their preferred gender. Sometimes they don't. Their family members encourage them to follow the rules applicable to the gender they were assigned at birth. Whether or not the trans person in question agrees is something else entirely. Sometimes the people surrounding the trans child or person are forceful, forcing them to engage in activities or ex-

pressions without their consent. They mean well. Transsexual and gender-nonconforming teenagers are only just starting to feel okay about coming out in high school. Rumour has it, anyway. I haven't met any folks who have come out in high school. I don't blame them. I mean, in a country where Catholic school boards won't allow Ontarian youth to have a Gay-Straight Alliance, why would a trans teenager feel safe coming out in high school? I have read newspaper articles about gender-nonconforming children—young boys who wear tiaras and princess dresses and parents who raise their children to shop in both sections of the department store. Newspaper articles about gender non-conformance in children. Is this really such a marvel? What happens if you're in your thirties or forties and decide to transition? You might have a job, a nice house, some kids, a spouse. How will all of that factor in? Actually, maybe you don't. You could have a low-paying job and not have the money to access services to transition. What if you're elderly and trans? How will you tell the nurse who's helping you out? Will your identity as a trans person be respected in a nursing home? Looking in the mirror and not being able to connect yourself to the person staring back at you is bewildering, painful, and heart-wrenching. It's terrifying. I still don't recognize myself in the mirror. Transitioning is a journey I'm taking in an effort to remedy that. Look around. How gendered is the area around you? Are the bathrooms segregated? Are the advertisements aimed at specific genders, such as straight masculine men and straight feminine women? Does the birthday

card you get say boy or girl on it? When you fill out a job application form does it ask you your sex? Do you only shop in the area you're 'supposed' to, even if the clothes on the other side might appeal to you more? Do people call you 'sir' or 'ma'am?' Have they ever been mistaken? I won't bore you with too many questions. Those are just starters. Gender is everywhere. Transsexuals know this on a visceral level, and gender-nonconforming folks generally do as well. Gender is oppressive and frightening. You can get kicked out of bathrooms for looking 'wrong.' Hell, it's not just bathrooms and locker rooms. You can get kicked out of your housing situation, your church, your job. You can get kicked out of your family. It all depends on whether or not you follow the rules. A variety of factors can effect how you'll be received as an out trans person: race, class, religion, age, geographical region, etc. When you transgress gender, it can make people uncomfortable, disagreeable, or violent. Frankly, I don't give a shit if you're uncomfortable with my gender. I am sick of getting adrenaline rushes every time I go into a public bathroom as my body prepares for a fight-or-flight response. I am exhausted by feeling sucker punched in the gut every time I hear my birth name. I am fed up with feeling like I have to avoid certain spaces—like my own home, for instance—because I know that my identity will not be acknowledged or respected. All of these contribute to anxiety and depression, both of which I have experienced. It is not fun. I do not enjoy having to make crisis plans for myself all the time. Trans people should not have to live in a society where

their very existence is doubted or denied. Trans people should not have to justify themselves to anyone. But I do. And so do my trans siblings. Why? Mostly, it's to get access to the services that I need as a person to survive. Some trans people, such as myself, need hormones and surgery. Not want. Need. For some trans folks—but not all—transitioning is a life or death situation. My personal transition is tied to my mental health. Other folks do it for other reasons. In the introduction to the book *Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation*, gender theorist and performance artist Kate Bornstein wrote "All I ever wanted to do was be pretty." Emphasis on 'all.' I have had the desire to do horrible things to myself, but knew that transitioning was the only way that to survive. I know that other folks have felt the same way. So we've found this quality within ourselves—it's called resilience. Or maybe it's an unwillingness to cater to people's bullshit. Either way, I know that I am not a woman. Regardless of whether or not I wear pink t-shirts or nail polish or dance around my house in colourful underwear, I know that I am not a woman. I am a man, whatever that means to me or you or anybody. Because I am a man, I have a man's body and therefore am not trapped in my own body. It just needs some editing. And some tattoos. I really want some of those. I try really hard not to listen to the people who gender me wrong or who use my birth name. It's difficult. There are days when I approach friends, shaking slightly, to ask for a hug. There are days when I walk

in the door to my house and have to suppress sobs from all the pent-up emotions. There are days when I have to whisper to myself that I am a good man, a good person, who is doing the best he can. On the other end of the spectrum, there are days when I am dandy as Oscar Wilde in a courtroom trial. Misgendering rolls off my personal space faster than a kid on a toboggan sledding down an icy hill. Gender can just get down on its knees and beg to unzip my jeans (but only if it asks nicely). Trans people fight tooth and nail to have their genders recognized as valid and legitimate. This is why we can be defensive or angry when faced with inane questions or invasive pat-downs. We're touchy because we've been poked and prodded so many times that we've forgotten how to heal. So the next time you're looking at us to get up and go educate, check in first and ask if we feel up to it that day. I want to thank the two people who got me through my first shot of testosterone. Thanks to N., for teaching me how to inject and injecting for me when I decided that I didn't want to do it when I'd never done it before. Thanks to K., for supporting me and holding my hand. I hope that you both enjoyed the lollipops as much as I did. Navigating this ferociously gendered world in a state of precarious mental health is hard. Actually, just doing it in general and coming out safe and whole is really hard. But survival is pretty damn important. There will come a day when trans people, as a whole, will be able to look up from their survival field guides, drop them and live in a world where we can thrive.

HERE ARE SOME HANDY
RESOURCES TO HELP YOU OR
YOUR LOVED ONES RESIST:

The 2110 Center for Gender Advocacy here in on campus: **2110 Mackay St., 514-848-2424 ex. 7431**
Good reminders on self-worth for trans and gender-nonconforming people: **binarysubverter.wordpress.com/2010/11/24/trans-101/**
Holding On: an article about trans people and integrity: **questioningtransphobia.com/?p=3631**
The It Gets Better Project, for LGBTQ youth: **itgetsbetter.org/**
Kate Bornstein's Blog for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws: **katebornstein.typepad.com/**
The Icarus Project, radical info on navigating mental health, trans-friendly: **theicarusproject.net/**
210 Things to Do Instead of Cutting: **secrettalk.com/secrets/210-things-to-do-instead-of-cutting/14316931/**
Feeling suicidal? The Trevor Project, for LGBTQ youth: **866-488-7386, thetrevorproject.org/**
Canadian 24h crisis hotline: **514-723-4000**
Online forum for Trans and gender-nonconforming folks—immediate crisis support: **lauras-playground.com/chat.htm**

for more jhrconcordia.com

Censoring a Conversation

Pope Pulls Controversial Ad Campaign

• HILARY SINCLAIR
—JHR CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine Pope Benedict XVI locking lips with an imam.

That arousing mental image got real last week. It appeared on billboards and hung from bridges in Rome, Paris, Tel Aviv, New York and Milan on Wednesday, courtesy of clothing company United Colors of Benetton's newest ad campaign.

The Vatican, in typical Vatican fashion, got offended. The sensual depiction of its leader prompted threats of legal action against the company. In response, Benetton removed the image from the collection of controversial kisses that make up its newest campaign, entitled 'Unhate.'

This latest move by the Catholic Church comes during the Pope's visit to Africa where he, irony aside, preached to leaders that they should stop depriving their people of hope for a better future.

There's an irony to the Pope making these optimistic statements while the Vatican uses its monetary influence to censor the conversations that could actually cultivate this hope.

As of late, our society seems to value large-scale conversation more than ever. All you have to do is look at the tents and demonstrations popping up in hundreds of cities around the world.

Starting a conversation is what this ad was meant to do as well.

Benetton is no amateur when it comes to using shock tactics. Their past ads include a man dying of AIDS with his grieving family next to his hospital bed, a black woman breastfeeding a white baby and three identical human hearts labeled black, white and yellow.

All these contentious images have a purpose, however. They may be intended to raise consumer awareness of Benetton's products, but they're doing so by attempting to shock the population into having a conversation.

People are angry because they feel their religion is being mocked. But I think what is really being mocked here are the people themselves—people who can't see past the homosexuality

(and a lot of people are up in arms about that), who can't look up from their Bible or Qur'an and see what is really going on around them.

Religious intolerance is breeding hate and war, and guess what, our society is not working.

So let's talk. Let's look at these ads and ask ourselves why they shock us. Why this meeting of ideas is so unfathomable that the Vatican feels they should be torn down and many in the religious community are upset. It is because in our limited scope of the future we cannot picture a time when this is possible. That is the message here.

The message also extends its shock to political figures.

We get Barack Obama locking

lips with Chinese President Hu Jintao, French President Nicolas Sarkozy sucking face with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas playing tonsil hockey.

Now, these are not awkward grandma kisses. They are intimate, eyes-closed mouth parties so skillfully edited that they could be real. And maybe they should be—could be—real.

This campaign, ultimately, is about more than selling clothes. This campaign is about forcing us to talk about why we are shocked by these images. It's a shame that a valuable participant in the discussion has opted to shut it out, rather than speak up.

TIPS ON ATIPS

The Link's Investigative Reporting Workshop

On Nov. 25 The Link is dreaming up and sending off Access to Information requests. Join us and our search for truth in H-649 at 5:00 p.m.

(If you can't make the meeting but have a burning question, you can also email Concordia's Access to Information coordinator bram.freedman@concordia.ca with the details of your request.)

'MUSICALS'

Across

2. Before Julie Taymor lost her cred with *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark*, she was building a successful Broadway adaptation of a movie that was already a musical to start with. Think *Hamlet* on the savannah. (3 words)

4. Banning dancing in your small town pretty much guarantees that your daughter is going to lose her virginity to a guy who owns a pair of tap-dancing shoes.

6. More like, "Give me a haircut." Heh.

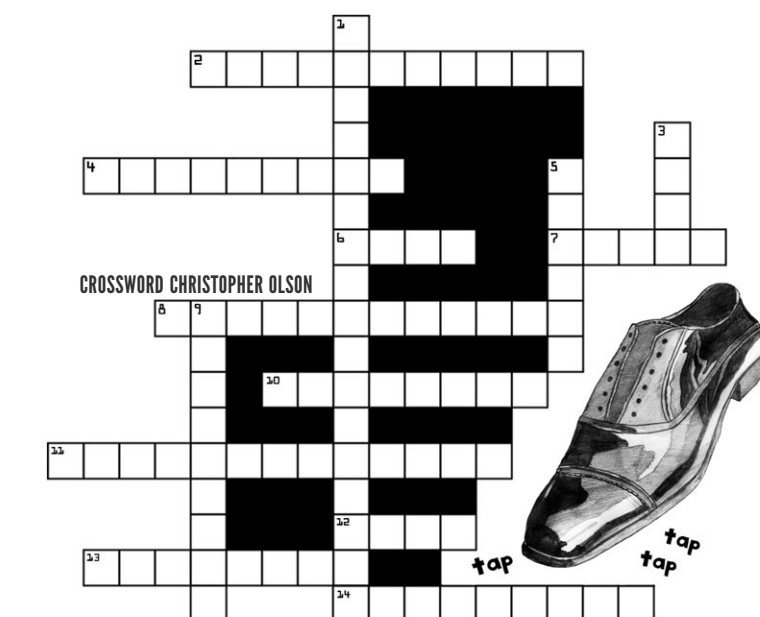
7. Don't cry for Madonna? Got it.

8. Film based on a Broadway musical based on a Mel Brooks film. In the resulting confusion, the film couldn't live up to the original movie or musical. (2 words)

10. In the long tradition of taking songs by famous bands and adding stories to them comes this one based around the works of ABBA—minus my personal fave, "Rasputin." It's all politics, man. (2 words)

11. Like *Romeo and Juliet*, only west side meets east side. Also includes a lot of hip lingo of doubtful authenticity. (3 words)

12. *Phantom of the Opera* doesn't fit into a crossword, but this other popular Andrew Lloyd Webber musi-



cal fits like a four-letter glove.

13. If only the people who live in the American state that this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic was named after all sang beautifully in unison at the drop of a hat. The world would be a much better place.

14. A man's package has never been more explicit in a film ostensibly made for kids than this David Bowie flick. For god's sake, Bowie, your co-stars are Muppets!

Down

1. Disney had a great string of ani-

mated musicals in the early '90s, but even that stellar record can't forgive this made-for-TV tween abomination. (3 words)

3. I'd recognize Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème* anywhere, even if it has that distinctive '90s flavour and has numerous references to the AIDS virus.

5. Before he made *Pulp Fiction*, but after he made *Saturday Night Fever*, John Travolta was actually an okay singer.

9. Film musical based on a Broadway musical based on a John Waters film. In the resulting confusion, John Travolta played a doting mother.

✉ Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Get CJLO on the FM

It's time to get yourself heard.

CJLO 1690 AM is looking for you to approve a nine-cent fee levy during the Concordia Student Union byelection on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1.

As many of you know, CJLO ran for a fee levy last semester but came up short. What you might not know is that we were the victims of a flawed process and your democratic voice was lost as a result. We are running again to correct that wrong.

Due to the neglect of the Chief Electoral Officer supervising the last election, students didn't have access to correct ballots or information on our proposal.

Had you had access to our reasons for running this is what you would have heard:

CJLO is currently aired on 1690 AM. Due to the technical limitations of AM, the sounds of Concordia's students can't be heard downtown. We have a plan to correct that: voting yes will help fund a new FM signal that would serve downtown, bringing CJLO to all of Concordia's students and residents.

This signal would concentrate on the downtown core, bringing you the best in local music and an opportunity for your voice to be heard by the entire university. This signal will also be kept ad-free.

If you vote yes, CJLO will continue to purchase new professional-grade recording equipment that any student can use, no matter what class you're registered for.

CJLO is committed to bringing your voice and the voices of local artists to our city's increasingly com-

mercialized airwaves.

—Stephanie Saretsky, CJLO

Station Manager

Brian Joseph, CJLO Program

Director

CUTV Needs You!

Real-life TV heads may have caught your attention roaming Concordia's campus this week. This attempt at 3D TV is no joke; these TV heads want you to know that CUTV is your TV.

Students' concerns deserve more attention in our media and this is why we want to become the first REAL campus-community channel in Quebec.

To help us make this much-needed TV channel a reality, we need your support on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1.

Vote 'yes' for CUTV. Here's why:

In the past year, CUTV's content has exploded. From almost no regular programming, the station now has six weekly shows on topics as varied as news, arts and culture, comedy, food and sustainability, music and independent film. All this student-produced content has made us among the biggest campus TV stations on the continent.

In expanding our programming, the station followed two strategies. The first was to offer an un-editorialized look at campus politics as a tool for increased transparency and accountability at Concordia. CUTV also broadcasts news from all the levels of governance to keep students as informed as possible.

The second strategy was to exhibit the beautifully diverse artistic and cultural communities that make up Concordia. CUTV has helped countless

groups on campus promote their groundbreaking work.

On campus, CUTV has helped improve the political culture at Concordia. The Concordia Student Union Council was one of the first student councils in the world to be live-streamed following the rules of decorum that parliamentary broadcasters follow.

The live-stream has become the official archive of the student union and decreased student apathy significantly. This innovative project gave students the means to demand the same access to all governing bodies at our university.

More recently, on the province-wide Day of Action against tuition hikes, CUTV sent more than 100 "Dear Charest" video letters to Quebec politicians. These letters portray what students think of the hikes, and the campaign ranked in the top 50 most-viewed channels on YouTube, Canada-wide.

In arts and culture coverage, CUTV is acknowledged as the hope of the English community to showcase its' diversity. Groups like the English Language Arts Network of Quebec and the Quebec Drama Federation are partnering with CUTV on special projects and endorse our application for a TV broadcast license.

Help CUTV broadcast media that represents *you*. We want to amplify *your* content on our airwaves. Under the CRTC, we have a right to it, so *vote yes!*

—Laura Kneale

CUTV Station Manager

[The Link was unable to confirm claims made this letter before press time.]



Excuse or Infection?

I've been fooling around with this guy for about a month now, and everything was really great until he told me we can't do anything for a bit because he's clearing up a yeast infection. He also told me I should see a doctor to get antibiotics just in case. Is he trying to avoid sleeping with me, or can guys actually get yeast infections?

—Path of Yeast Resistance

Of all the things to pretend to have, I don't think a yeast infection would be anyone's number one choice. You don't hear people talk about it very often, but men can absolutely get them. It's not as common in men as it is in women but it can be just as uncomfortable, so let's find out more about the male yeast infection!

Candidiasis, thrush, or—as we more commonly know it—the yeast infection, is a fungal infection. Candida yeast is already found in both men and women and an infection happens when the body overproduces this yeast, usually as a result of a drop in the immune system.

The most common cause of yeast infections in men is intercourse with an infected partner, but it can also be the result of a weakened immune system, diabetes, or use of antibiotics.

In women, the infection can also happen when things like medication, creams, detergents, flavoured lubes and the like throw off the pH balance of the vagina. This is also why you should never use flavoured lubricated condoms for actual intercourse.

The seriousness of any yeast infection can vary depending on where the infection takes place (it can also happen in your throat!) and the presence of other illnesses.

A man's yeast infection commonly involves an irritated and sore penis head, and can be really itchy. There can also appear in the form of sores. In rare cases there will be a white, sometimes clumpy discharge and a bad smell.

It's also common, however, for yeast infections to show no symptoms at all or ones that aren't concerning enough to think anything is really wrong.

Why does this suck? If you're someone regularly having sex with a man who has a yeast infection you may keep getting infected and treated without realizing that it's because the source of infection is never really going away.

Women can also show no symptoms, so the risk of re-infection also stands. Basically, yeast infections are a ton of fun!

Your guy is right that he can't fool around with you until it clears up. Since yeast infections can pass between partners, it's always best to keep your distance for a bit. So, is he avoiding having sex with you? Yes, but based on the info you've given me, it seems like it's for the right reasons.

If you have any reason to think you also have a yeast infection, there are a few ways to take care of it. You can get an over-the-counter cream treatment or you can see a doctor to prescribe a one-time tablet called fluconazole. In Quebec, you can now get the same tablet without a prescription if you present yourself to the pharmacist counter.

I suggest seeing a doctor even if it's not the most pleasant option, because what you have may not be a yeast infection, but any of a variety of bacterial infections that a cream won't solve.

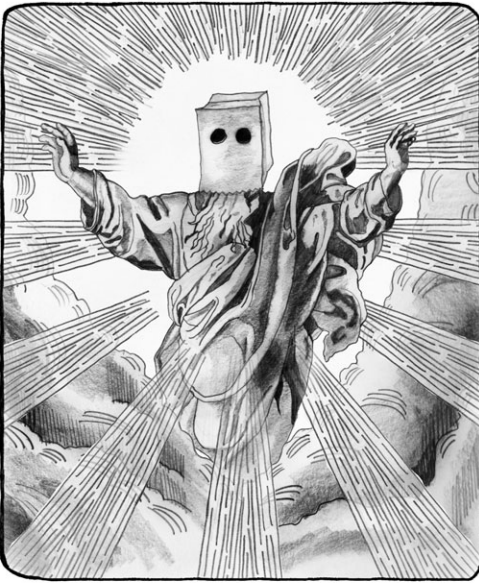
A major issue around men with yeast infections is that they rarely see a doctor about it. This could be because they don't know it's even possible, or because they're embarrassed.

The bright side to all this is that you have a partner who is aware of his body and takes care of himself. He's also taking care of you by letting you know what's going on with him, and that's a good sign in any kind of sexual relationship since it means he probably wouldn't keep you in the dark if he had something more serious, like an STI.

—Melissa Fuller

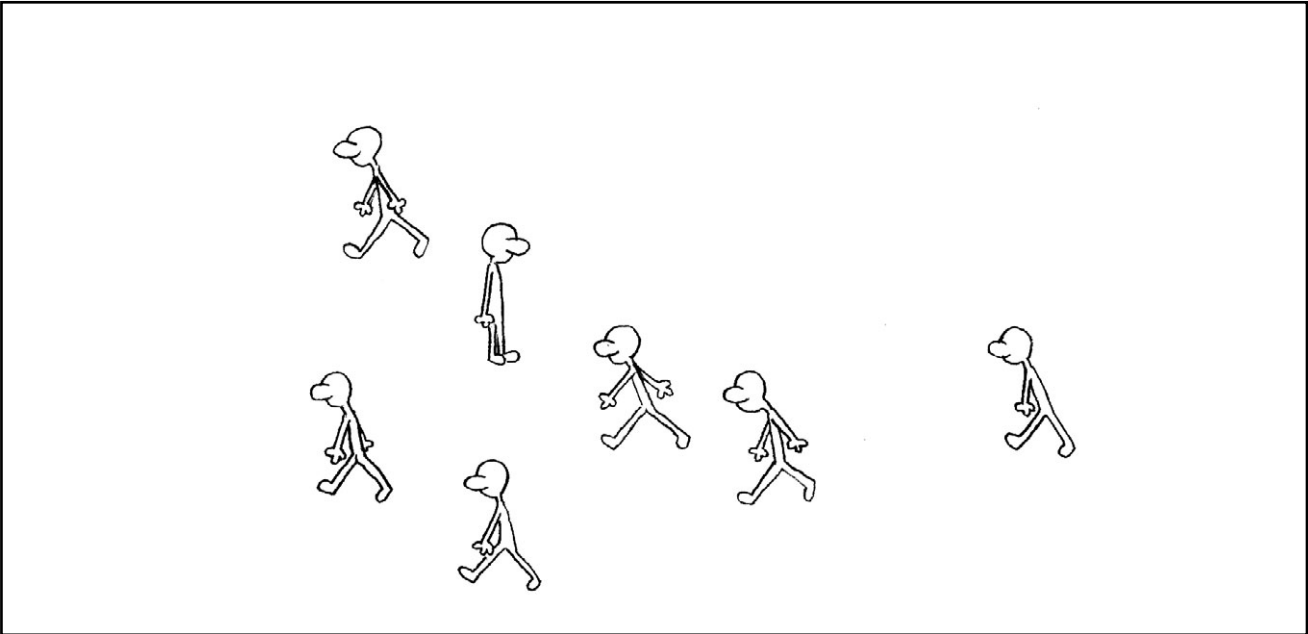
Submit questions anonymously at sexpancakes.tumblr.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Tremendous Tales
by Christopher Olson



Aside from a brow lift, a nose job, and a tummy tuck, Man was, more or less, made in His image.

Barton Flats
COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Living The Life
COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



False Knees
COMIC JOSH BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

Roaches Run Rampant

• RILEY SPARKS

Next time you're on the platform in Guy-Concordia Metro, look closely at the floor next to the walls. You can't un-see it. A teeming mass of horrible little legs and antennae. Hundreds of cockroaches, some of them the size of beagles.

I saw these awful little creatures at the beginning of the year. Maybe two or three, scurrying around, all creepy and gross-looking. Taking advantage of the STM's clever do-absolutely-nothing strategy, they've since multiplied like crazy, and are rapidly taking over the station.

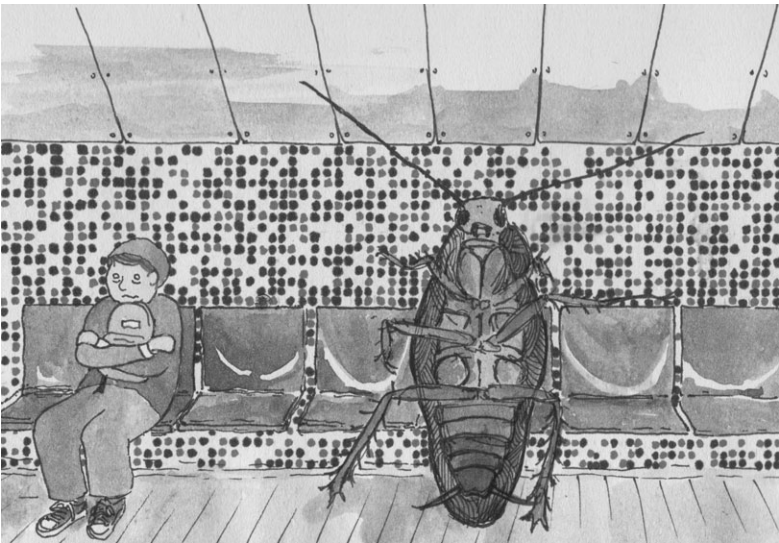
It's getting out of control. Last week I saw a herd of the little critters steal a guitar from a dude playing in the metro, and by yesterday afternoon when I caught the train downtown they'd learned how to play "Brown Eyed Girl"

and were busking for change.

The other day I watched a pack of wild cockroaches carry a baby off into the tunnels. I have no proof, but I'm pretty sure they're forming some kind of parallel, underground *Jungle Book*-type society where they're massing feral, insect-raised children to storm up the subway tunnels and take control of the city.

That's pretty freaking terrifying. I don't know about you, but I don't want to spend the rest of my life being ruled over by some damn dirty insects. I just want to finish my BFA and enjoy my unemployment in peace. Is that too much to ask?

I've watched enough action movies to know what has to happen next. We need to *28 Weeks Later* this situation and flood the tunnels with napalm and whatnot. It's the only way to be sure.



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

editorial cartoon



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Trim the Fat

It's worth noting at the outset that the university turned a \$15 million deficit into a projected \$8.7 million surplus this year. That's a \$23.7 million increase, which is impressive by any measure.

Given those numbers, you'd think you were attending a university undergoing a sea change towards relative competence, but next time you find yourself in a Concordia cafeteria (God help you), look down at that plate of Chartwells-issued slop and think about \$51,000.

This is the amount of money that Chartwells—the only food services company that runs cafeterias and cafés on both campuses—lost this year.

This number represents only a portion of the \$203,000 deficit incurred by Concordia's food services and is one of the many numbers revealed in the latest university audit last week.

Losing money to something as gross as Chartwells is as good a sign as any that we need take a long, hard look at where and how we spend—especially before administrators and politicians have the audacity to tell students to “pay their fair share” and that we ought to get ready for steep tuition hikes.

One man in support of a “fair” allot-

ment of fees is Interim President Frederick Lowy, who's been toeing the Liberal party line with regards to the upcoming province-wide hikes.

If there were other places to find money, he told *The Link* in October, no increases would be justified.

Now, it's worth mentioning that Lowy is a man who earns a staggering \$350,000 a year on top of his expense account, which has racked up \$16,000 since February, and who netted himself a \$1.4 million interest-free loan from Concordia to help finance his condo.

To give you some perspective, Prime Minister Stephen Harper earns \$315,000 a year, perks included.

And on average, students who are lucky enough to get a job—and who have enough free time to work between classes and extra-curriculars—earn roughly \$6,300 annually.

If we're looking to cut corners in the coming years to curb post-secondary operating expenses or to find the money we need, perhaps we should look to our top-heavy upper administration.

Before Lowy, former President Judith Woodsworth took home some \$970,885.90 in salary and severance for

seven months of work—which comes out to a whopping \$4,736 a day, or \$3.29 every goddamn minute.

This figure doesn't include \$169,573 worth of “administrative leave”—a sabbatical-type pay to help her get back into academic life—she took on her way out.

The rest of the VP salaries—surprise, surprise—also gross six digit figures, with 28 of the top administrators earning over \$7 million a year in combined salaries and bonuses. This, of course, doesn't include expense accounts or perks, which, we have been told, are “pretty standard practice.”

Concordia is also notorious for spending more than any Quebec university on doling out the extras for those on the senior-level. In 2009, Concordia paid over \$8,000 in private golf course and gym memberships to former VP Services Michael Di Grappa, for example.

All the while, students paying into this administrative arms race—those of us who would consider themselves lucky to work full-time for an entire summer to make what Woodsworth's total compensation averaged for a single day—are being told it's up to us to compensate for a so-called chronically underfunded in-

stitution, despite the fact that its bureaucracy is bloated and its basic functions are falling apart.

The shuttle bus doesn't provide its most basic service in a timely manner; students are contractually obligated to exclusively eat horrific Chartwells-only food that's losing them money; we're being charged \$9 a credit for an administration fee that continues to sustain its upper ranks, and the list goes on...

While it's great news that numbers have been crunched and spent in such a way that Concordia comes out with an operating profit, it's clearly time to continue to trim the fat—especially if the admin claim they're looking for a way to operate a “fair and balanced” budget in the coming years.

We deserve—at the very least—a straight-talking justification for the fiscal state of affairs in this school and an explanation for why paying a “fair share” applies only to student spending, but not administrative earnings.

Someone needs to take a cut.

—Laura Beeston
Editor-in-Chief

ISSUE 12 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

