



DEMOCRACY

BYELECTIONS 4 • OCCUPY MONTREAL 5 • SPECIAL MEDIA ISSUE

Talking With the Presidents II

Concordia's Leaders Talk BoG, Money and Ticking People Off

• LAURA BEESTON

As another Board of Governors meeting thrust the issues of transparency and accountability—as well as an audit—to the forefront of Concordia's political sphere once again, The Link talked to our school presidents. Here are the highlights.

FREDERICK LOWY, Interim President



► ***On the BoG's hesitation to adopt the Graduate Students' Association's motions to film meetings, accommodate a larger audience and hold a question period:***

"First of all, I can't speak for the entire Board, and I do believe in transparency, but there are some problems with televising [the meetings]," said Lowy, who explained that certain Board members expressed personal discomfort being filmed and streamed online.

"There are individual rights involved. It's not a simple matter. [...] While Parliament is filmed, and the National Assembly is filmed, those are political organizations. In our case, we're not."

Nevertheless, a committee has been set up to discuss the pros and cons of recording the meetings and making them available, which will be brought to the Board at the next meeting. "Then we'll decide which way to go," he said.

► ***On the student reps ticking the Board off:***

"I'm not going to try to defend comments made by individual board members," said Lowy of the remarks made by Board member Robert Barnes at the last meeting.

Barnes, who represents the Sir George Williams Alumni Association, told student representatives that they'd have more support for other motions but that they are "ticking people off," and "just do not let it go," a reference to efforts to revisit the topic of student representation on the Board.

"[The continued charge of contempt], I think, is an overstatement. I think a lot of people confuse disagreement and contempt," continued Lowy.

"It galls me that we have the wrong

image," he said later, when discussing Concordia's now infamous reputation.

"I think it's an image that doesn't reflect what we want to be or, to a larger extent, what we are."

Lowy added that even Board members who are "insufficiently sensitive to students" aren't contemptuous.

"They might behave in a way that it comes across like that," he said, "but the Board members I know reasonably well are genuinely interested in this university and students."

He noted that some Board members have a confrontational style, but that he "honestly and truly [believes] that the people on the Board do not feel contempt for students."

► ***On the recently-released financial documents, upper-administrator salaries and students paying their "fair share" of increased tuition:***

"To be perfectly frank, and I'm not a boastful person, but I think I earn my keep," said Lowy, who makes \$350,000 plus perks—including a \$1.4 million interest-free loan to finance the purchase of a condominium—and an expense account.

"And I think my colleagues here in the university senior administration are also doing the job. They're all committed, and they all work hard."

When asked about trimming down the top-heavy upper administration, or if the university could do with fewer Vice Presidents, Lowy said he didn't know where he could cut "without losing something important."

"In terms of the actual salaries of the people, we're in a competitive marketplace," he continued. "As compared to the rest of Canada, [the salaries] tend to be a bit lower."

LEX GILL, Concordia Student Union President



► ***On the BoG's hesitation to adopt the Graduate Students' Association's motions to film meetings, accommodate a larger audience and hold a question period:***

"You have to remember that when the same thing was proposed at the CSU Council last year, there was the same original discomfort," said Gill. "Eventually people came around and realized that being filmed isn't the end of the world."

While she's under the impression that the Board executive is not supportive of them and was initially surprised that student-proposed motions would be discussed at all, Gill said she was excited for the opportunity to sit on the committee and come up with solutions to increase accessibility to the meetings.

"These guys on the Board could do themselves a really big favour in terms of public relations by simply agreeing to make these meetings public," said Gill, adding that it would send a necessary message that they have nothing to hide.

"This is an important mechanism to keep [the Board] accountable," she said. "I'm hoping that this is a baby step. What really needs to be fought here is this sentiment I've heard from Board members that these meetings shouldn't be public in the first place, or open to public participation. That's nonsense."

► ***On the recently-released financial documents, upper-administrator salaries and students paying their "fair share" of increased tuition:***

"University competition and seeing this institution as a business competing

for the same revenue streams—or, you know, students—is a really pervasive and ridiculous justification for things like senior salaries," said Gill of the over \$7 million paid annually to Concordia's upper ranks.

"This mentality makes the assumption that what makes a school great and what's worth paying for is more senior administration, which is not particularly reasonable when you think about what they could really be investing in."

Admitting that the revelation of senior salaries "wasn't a scandal," Gill opined that it came down to a question of what good management looks like.

She added that competition is "essentially a race to the bottom."

"In the end, what they're doing is creating a system that's driving up their own salaries—and students are suffering."

"It's rich—and insulting—to ask students to pay more," she continued, wondering aloud if those in the upper admin would even feel a \$40,000 pay cut.

"Students live in a totally different world than the people who run their universities, and that's a problem, because if you have people making decisions that affect the real lives of students, they have no real understanding of what the impact will be."

"These guys, no matter how well-intentioned they are, can't understand the lived experience of a student in poverty, in debt, on student loans or fighting with the bank for another semester," she continued. "This is not the way they live."

When you're playing with hundreds of millions of dollars, Gill concluded, "it's difficult to imagine how a \$1,625 [increase in tuition] is too much to ask."

Get to Know Your Council Candidates

• BRIAN LAPUZ & HILARY SINCLAIR

Students, meet your hopeful future politicians.

Of the four candidates running for five empty student Council seats in the current Concordia Student Union byelection, three are to represent the John Molson School of Business and one is an independent student.

The Link thought you should know a bit more about the potential future councillors, so allow us to introduce the three JMSB candidates.

Omar Abdullahi, the sole candidate for independent students, could not be reached for comment by press time.

EDUARDO ALVES DOS ANJOS

Dos Anjos is a Concordia business administration student who aspires to get more JMSB students involved in school politics.

"The number of students at JMSB who don't care about student politics is stupefying," said dos Anjos. "A few of them are interested but barely know how to get involved or where to go to voice their opinion."

He hopes to act as a liaison between JMSB and the CSU and "bring new suggestions to the table to give more privileges and advantages to JMSB students in order to make their university experience more exciting and beneficial," he said.

Past volunteer experience with humanitarian activities instilled a fire to help others in him and prepared him for a leadership role, he added.

When asked if he supported the new proposed bylaws, dos Anjos said that he supports the CSU's position when it comes to fighting tuition hikes.



EDUARDO ALVES DOS ANJOS

YASSINE CHAABI

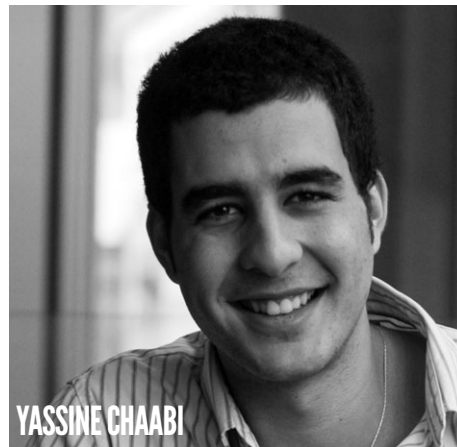
Chaabi, an international student, said his priority is to enter into dialogue with students for them to air their grievances. He would like to pass the concerns of JMSB students along to the CSU Council.

"I'm not a shy person," said Chaabi. "If something needs to be defended, then I will defend it loud and clear, to protect and reinforce the voice of students."

Paying about \$10,000 per semester to study, Chaabi said he feels like things are only getting worse every year. "Where did the [tuition fee] hike come from?" said Chaabi, referring to the increase that will see students paying \$1,625 more per year by 2017. "I'm against it."

"We students have already a lot of things to worry about, such as rent, the high price of books, food, etc. It's scandalous."

Chaabi added that he thinks a lot of things can be done with the CSU budget to improve the daily lives of students. "Why not try to find solutions for the books that cost too much?,"



YASSINE CHAABI

he said.

Chaabi also sits on the Appointments Committee and said he's "pretty up to date with all the scandals [this semester]."

He declined to comment on the new bylaws currently on the referendum ballot, which include a decrease of \$0.50 per credit for the Union Building Fund fee, among other things, saying, "I am not completely familiar with them."

MUSEB ABU-THURAIYA

Besides wanting "to give JMSB a voice" in the student union, Museb Abu-Thuraia said his number one priority is tackling the provincial tuition fee hikes.

"I want to see how I can work with the current executives and councillors to put pressure on the government to freeze tuition," said Abu-Thuraia.

With regards to the CSU's new bylaws on the referendum ballot, Abu-Thuraia said he agrees with the decrease of \$0.50 per credit for the Union Building Fund fee.



MUSEB ABU-THURAIYA

He added that he would like to see the remaining \$1.50 per credit stay under that name, seeing as the ballot question says it would be replaced as a Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund.

Abu-Thuraia has been involved in the Muslim community, both at Vanier College and Concordia University, for the last six years. He has been the president of the Muslim Student Association at Concordia for two years, and ran with the Action slate during the last CSU election, but did not get the councillor seat.

"When I ran the first time, I didn't know the game very well," said the candidate. "I was surprised with all the dirty politics."

Surprised by "a lot of shady things happening" during last semesters' election, Abu-Thuraia was not part of the executive Action slate, and said he wasn't sure if his team knew they were breaking the rules. He said he feels the situation has been dealt with accordingly.

BYLAWLESSNESS

• ADAM KOVAC

No election at Concordia is complete without a little controversy.

This was proven yet again with the creation of a Facebook group in opposition to proposed changes to the Concordia Student Union bylaws, which students will vote on in the referendum starting Nov. 29.

"I didn't take issue with the changes right off the bat," said Aundeen "Ace" Szmolyan, the group's creator. "I first took issue with the fact that there is a lack of information for students to make an informed choice regarding the changes."

Since putting the page up, threads have been started that take issue with several large changes, especially the abolishment of the electoral slate system.

"I haven't bought into that," said Szmolyan. "I personally find that the individual system is going to cause a lot of problems," including having to keep track of an inordinate number of candidates for each position, rather than a general slate.

He pointed to last year's Arts and Science Federation of Associations election as an example of what happens when the slate system is scrapped. In that election, several executive positions were uncon-

tested, and the VP Communications spot didn't have a single candidate running.

CSU President Lex Gill said that any comparisons to the ASFA situation are unwarranted, arguing that people weren't engaged in the election because in the prior year ASFA had done "very little."

"They weren't particularly public, people weren't volunteering and weren't engaged with them. I don't think the CSU is in that situation. If people need a tribalistic team identity to give them an incentive to run for elected office, then they probably shouldn't be running."

Szmolyan isn't the only person who has voiced an opposition to the reform. ASFA VP Internal Schubert Laforest posted a note on Facebook detailing the reasons he plans to vote "no" to the changes, including those concerning elections.

"I don't have an objection to abolishing the slate system, I'm actually in favour of it," said Laforest. "My problem is with the way that bylaw is specifically worded. The problem is the distinction between running individually and running independently. I don't think that's a clear enough distinction."

The new bylaws propose a system where executives will run "individually," whereas councillors,

senators and Board of Governors representatives are to run "individually and independently." Gill said that the wording was intentional, in that it left room for candidates to team together in affiliations, without being elected as a team, as in the current slate system.

Another item heavily discussed on the Szmolyan's page, which he called "Demand Knowledge: Vote NO for the CSU Bylaw changes," is the changed system for removing an executive or councillor from office.

Currently, it requires a petition signed by 10 per cent of the representatives' constituency, which then automatically triggers a byelection within 40 days with the representative staying in office during that time.

The proposed change would reduce the signatures required to an array from 2,500 for an exec to 300 for a Fine Arts or independent councillor, and also adds the step of calling a Special General Meeting.

"The requirement of an SGM creates an unfair system," said Szmolyan. "If the students get the required percentage which is a [fairly high] amount to get to sign a petition, it's generally more than what was required to get them elected in the first place."

He pointed to what he saw as

problems with the SGM, such as the difficulty of getting quorum—which ranges from 450 students for an executive to 54 for a Fine Arts or independent councillor—and of a vagueness as to what happens if quorum isn't met.

Gill maintained that the new system would actually make it easier for students to remove unwanted representatives, pointing to the 2008-09 attempted recall election of then-President Keyana Kashfi.

"We are presenting bylaws to students that make it easier for us to lose our jobs," said Gill. "You get a petition, the petition automatically calls an SGM, there's a quorum for that SGM, and then there has to be a vote by two thirds, with cause, to remove someone from office. It's a clear process that's familiar to a number of other student unions as well."

Both Szmolyan and Laforest pointed to the complete abolishment of the Senate of Faculty Associations as another problem. The seldom-used SoFA is a forum where the associations theoretically can act as a check and balance on Council, with powers to reject and send back resolutions.

"It is not something that should just be removed, it should be fixed,"

said Szmolyan. "It's disappointing they haven't met, but it doesn't justify their dissolution."

"I think it's a body that has a lot of potential, that can serve as an institutionalized forum for faculty associations to coordinate with the CSU," agreed Laforest.

However, Concordia professor and lawyer Patrice Blais, a former CSU Councillor who played a major role in shaping the new bylaws, said that the dissolution of SoFA was not about removing a check and balance, but about eliminating a structure that legally had very little power.

"It's something that has not worked and will not work," said Blais. "I'm not going to tell you it's illegal, but if you look at the Quebec Companies Act, the authority to manage and administer the affairs of a corporation is given to the Board of Directors, the Council of Representatives. That's a power given by the law which your bylaws need to be in accordance with."

Blais noted that SoFA was given powers by the current bylaws that could contradict this and that there are "many other avenues" for faculty associations to bring concerns to the CSU.

Voting takes place Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1.

The Battle for Broadcast Budgets



CUTV Station Manager Laura Kneale wants to see the station on cable television for four hours a week, starting in January 2012.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

CJLO and CUTV Seek Fee Levy Increases

• SHERIDAN POLINSKY

Students heading to the polls on Tuesday will decide the fate of Concordia's broadcasting groups' funding, as both CUTV and CJLO are seeking an increase in their fee levies.

Both stations plan on using some of the increased funding to pursue methods of reaching a wider audience. In CJLO's case, they are pursuing a \$0.09 per credit bump up to \$0.34 that would see the station switch from AM to FM broadcasting.

"Right now we are at a crossroads," explained Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation President and former *The Link* Editor Justin Giovannetti. "We have been on AM for three years and the Internet for eight years. We are here to serve the students. Acquiring an FM signal is the way to best fulfill that goal."

Though there are several hurdles, such as surveys on how the signal will affect airplanes and briefings with the CRTC, the switch to an

FM signal in the next two years is vital to the stations continued growth, according to Station Manager Stephanie Saretsky. The new signal will be able to reach a wider audience, as the current Loyola-based signal is not clearly audible in the downtown core.

"It is time for the station to grow and become more sustainable, and that is the main thing we are trying to accomplish with more funding" says Saretsky.

While they have not prepared a full budget outlining all the expenses they will use the fee levy increase for, Saretsky did say that one thing they would like to do is offer more readily available rental recording equipment. The current gear is currently only available to students in the journalism program taking a radio class.

While CJLO is hoping to switch frequencies, CUTV is looking to switch mediums. Currently only available on their website and on muted screens around the Hall Building, they

plan on using a portion of their \$0.16 per credit increase—which would boost their total to \$0.34 per credit—to begin broadcasting on cable television.

"We want to amplify the voices and concerns of students on tuition and other matters that the mainstream media does not report on," said Station Manager Laura Kneale. "Voting for CUTV is voting for more adequate representation on our airwaves."

While the short-term goal is a modest four hours of programming a week on VOX télé, according to a document titled "CUTV Strategic Plan 2011-2016," the station plans to set aside between \$165,000 and \$200,000 to buy new equipment, including a \$10,000 sound studio, \$30,000 permanent camera setup and \$4,000 worth of editing software.

"Voting for CUTV is to support media that students produce," said Kneale. "It is a way of ensuring that Concordia has a more accessible and sustainable TV station for years to come."

The End of an



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Despite Evictions, Occupiers Party and Vow to Go On

BY ADAM KOVAC

In the end, Occupy Montreal didn't go out with a **flash bang**, but with a **bass line**.

Exactly six weeks after the global Occupy phenomenon came to the city, Victoria Square was a place transformed, then transformed again.

Gone was the intricate maze of shelters and structures. Gone were the kitchen and library areas. And gone were many of the inhabitants of the tent city, kicked out by members of the Service policière de la Ville de Montréal on Nov. 25.

Still, despite the naked landscape of the square compared to the bustle and crowds that had been a mainstay for the past month and a half, on Saturday afternoon, a few hundred people came back to the site to discuss what they had been a part of, and where the movement will go now.

Unlike the violent end to the Occupy camps in New York, Oakland, and UC Davis, Montreal's version didn't end in clashes with the cops—instead, it ended with a concert. Local legends Bran Van 3000 performed a stripped-down set marked with the refrain, “Love is in the air.”

“I think it's beautiful, that's why I'm here,” said James di Salvio, Bran Van's leader. “[It's about] common sense, bringing it back to a bit of a balance.”

THE EVICTION

The “common sense” di Salvio spoke of seemed to be scarce just a day earlier, when the SPVM arrived with orders to clear out the site. The day before that, the Occupiers had been served eviction

notices, though no deadline was given for them to leave by.

I managed to stop by the day the notices were served, just as Occupier Greg Adams got through joking with two SPVM moderators passing through the camp.

Though he declined to talk about their conversation, Adams spoke about the relationship between the police and the Occupiers in positive terms, growing emotional recounting an encounter he'd had with an SPVM supervisor who drove up to the camp.

“We thought, ‘What regulation are you gonna try and oppress onto us at this point?’

“He got out and donated two whole bags of clothing. He turned around, looked at us and said

‘Under the uniform, I'm human, and I'm with you, too. My wife supports you, my family thanks you. Good God, you guys are brave.’ It echoes through my head right now.”

It's the kind of story you heard a lot. Occupier Ben Godin, who had been at the camp since Oct. 17, recalled getting upwards of four phone calls a day from the SPVM, just checking up on how everyone was doing.

“It was more than cordial, it was friendly,” he said. “We were assured all along by the police that they were giving positive reports internally to city officials. When it turned out that we got the eviction notice, take it as you will, but they told us that they were disappointed, that we had been betrayed.”

That kind of openness with the cops was on display a few weeks earlier when I went to the site for the first time. During a march through the downtown core, I consistently saw committee mem-

bers and organizers exchanging kind words with the police escorting them.

So when police and city workers showed up on Friday morning and, according to some accounts, grew “aggressive” with the Occupiers and members of the press—a photographer for *The Link* was threatened with arrest if he did not vacate the area—it came as a surprise.

Godin was one of 16 people arrested during the eviction, though no charges were laid. He had tied himself in a human chain to the camp kitchen, which had come to represent something more than a mere food dispensary.

“The kitchen was a symbolic center to the Occupation,” he said. “Everyone went to the kitchen, and it was a symbol of support not just to the people who were working there, but to the homeless population that found a community with us.”

After being grabbed and having his arm twisted and a pressure

Occupation?



PHOTO ADAM KOVAC



PHOTO NATALIA LARA DÍAZ-BERRIO

Bran Van 3000 brought a joyous end to Occupy Montreal. Other locations, such as Occupy Oakland were not so fortunate.

point in his neck prodded, Godin was told not to come back while police were still at the site. Still, he feels that the atmosphere was not one of aggression, but of “people trying to do their job.”

“Aside from the two guys who removed me, who I felt were violent and painful, they were generally okay.”

WHAT NOW?

Today, the tents have been torn down, and the inhabitants have all gone back to wherever they came from. All that’s left is the question that’s been levied at the movement since the beginning: what’s next? What do you do when a protest predicated on the physical occupation of a location no longer physically occupies that space?

“That’s a good question,” said di Salvio. “Even in the middle of summer we were wondering what was going to happen in the winter. We’re human, and it gets very cold.”

Rather than look at the winter

as a time for bonds to weaken, di Salvio, who had also paid a visit to New York City to check out Occupy Wall Street, thinks that breaking up the camp will result in different kinds of organization—digital and physical—that will lead to bigger things when the temperatures rise again in the spring.

Not surprisingly, he used an example from his own career.

“It’s almost like a tour: you go and reinforce and recharge to meet up again next summer.”

While much has been made of the Occupy movement’s lack of formal leadership and demands, Patrice Dauphin, a community activist from St. Michel who spoke at Saturday’s event, said that the eviction will ultimately make the structure stronger.

“When you have one leader, usually he’s going to bring his way of doing things. When there’s no leader, everybody is the leader. So it’s the people that are deciding where to go instead of [being led]. That’s what’s beautiful about di-

rect democracy, is that we are the power.”

That sense of optimism seemed to be contagious. During Bran Van’s set, there was not a hint of sadness in the barely illuminated crowd. But even on the day when eviction notices were being handed out, members of the camp couldn’t help but look forward to the future.

“We’ve always been dealing with in-camp issues,” said Jamie Klinger, who has been in the camp since it began. “So let’s say we do leave the camp, we don’t have to deal with camp issues anymore.”

Klinger predicted two different possible outcomes. Either some of the most heavily invested people will get their own space, and try to keep the dialogue going from there, or, as he put it, “If we don’t have a space, then we’re everywhere. Then we’re several hundred people packed with all this information and all this energy spent trying to keep this camp alive, and it’s just going to go out

and make Occupy live everywhere. It’s going to spread like wildfire.”

BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Godin noted that even the activity in Victoria Square is not done. There are still plans for three weekly general assemblies at the downtown financial district space, as well as smaller ones for neighbourhoods that may host their own, smaller Occupations.

“They’re going to have their own meetings during the week, and then report back on Saturday,” he said. “The one central location is going to continue to exist. We’re not done. We won’t be there 24/7, but we’re still going to be meeting up there.”

While Klinger might be over-ambitious—he predicted a turnout of 10,000 to 15,000 for the rally and concert, though the actual turnout would be measured in the low to medium hundreds—it’s hard to fault him.

Maybe it’s that, more than many of the world’s Occupiers,

this group is getting to leave—at least partly—on their own terms. Or maybe it’s a sense that the last six weeks will mean something, that it won’t be a quickly forgotten blip in time.

Before they were kicked out, Adams expressed both defiance and acceptance of the situation. While he wanted to stay, he seemed to know that time was short for the camp. All he wanted was one last party with his friends.

“Being down here, with a group of people who have been trying to make a statement... It has literally grown into a small family, a small village of joy. There’s a lot of people that just do not want to leave without really having one good last moment together.”

Though the ground looks strangely naked Saturday without the tents, the inhabitants faithfully returned. That night, with the help of a stage, a bass guitar, a drum set, some microphones and a few hundred people, they got their moment.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

HATIN' ON HARPER

The Forum to Resist Conservatives held a meeting at on Nov. 21 to discuss ways to 'stick it to The Man' (i.e., Prime Minister Stephen Harper). The event established three working groups: one to organize public discussions and a teach-in, a second for planning actions and activities, and a third that was supposed to organize a workshop at Occupy Montreal. The latter was presumably cancelled due to the eviction of the Occupiers from Victoria Square Nov. 25. Read more in our article "Activists Meet to Resist Harper."

MO' MOVEMBER

At least one Concordia faculty isn't just concerned with what's in your head. They also care about what's on your face, as you can read about in "Concordia 'Staches' Cash." Thirty-four members of a Movember team from Concordia's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology—including grad students, administrative staff and faculty—managed to raise over \$7,500 in the yearly monetary moustache movement. The contribution is part of a push that has seen Canada take the lead globally in Movember fundraising, with \$22 million raised across the country.



MUNACA MESS

Striking McGill workers were tossed from a speech given by the school Principal Heather Munroe-Blum at the Sheraton Hotel on Nov. 25, after interrupting the talk. As you can read in "MUNACA Crashes Party," the union and the university headed back to the negotiating table later that same day.

...And Justice for Some

Eleven G20 Arrestees See Charges Dropped, Six Jailed



PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

• JORDIE YEAGER

The court case of 17 alleged conspirators involved in Toronto's G20 protests ended Nov. 22, with six being found guilty and 11 walking free.

Two of the 17 are organizers from the Convergences de luttes anti-capitalistes. Patrick Cadorette, one of the CLAC organizers, was the last to see his charges dropped.

Cadorette had been accused of three counts of conspiracy, including mischief resulting in damages of over \$5,000, conspiracy to obstruct police, and conspiracy to assault police officers.

"I got arrested because I took part in a few meetings to coordinate the street protest between different cities," said Cadorette. "CLAC was mobilizing quite a few hundred people, so it was important for us to know what others were organizing."

One of the protests, called Get off the Fence, was organized by a coalition called the Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance. According to Cadorette, some of SOAR's meetings had been infiltrated by two undercover police officers.

"I was just sort of included in this group of people who were, according to the cops, conspiring," he said. "The way we see it is basically the opposite. We actually wanted to make it safer for everyone who was going to be at the street protests."

The G20, a meeting of the leaders of 20 of the largest economies in the world, had amassed a wide array of opposition during its edition in Toronto, which was held in June 2010. Over 900 people were arrested, making it the largest mass arrest in Canadian history.

The arrests were also the result of what was revealed to be the largest police spy operation in

Canadian history, which the CBC reported, had involved over 500 people at points. Cadorette feels that he and the others involved in the case were wrongfully accused.

"The police invested so much money and resources into invading these groups that they almost had to charge people, even though they have pretty flimsy evidence," said Cadorette.

But the case could have had a far worse outcome for the 17. They had the help of a plea bargain that allowed 11 of them to have their charges dropped.

"One reason we decided to take the deal was that, in any event, there's no justice to be found in the system," said Cadorette.

"We've been infiltrated, and it's all part of a strategy by the state to criminalize the organization that was made against G20. We're activists, we're organizers, and we're being criminalized for that. We didn't expect

any victory to come of the trial."

"The idea of taking a deal is to make it go away, to get it over with as soon as possible, so that at least some of us can go back to organizing as soon as possible," he added.

"In the best-case scenario, a trial wouldn't have started until the end of 2012. That's a lot of time to be out of what we want to do, which is organizing, and that's a lot of resources that are put into defence."

And, while six of the defendants did plead guilty, none of them were pleading guilty for conspiracy.

"What's important to say is that they pleaded guilty to a lesser charge, which was counseling to commit mischief, not conspiracy," said Cadorette. "Nobody was charged with conspiracy."

The six who pleaded guilty are facing jail sentences ranging in length from three months to 14 months.

BRITISH

Rock Rumble

Rocks and beer bottles were thrown at members of the Légion Nationale, a group of Quebec nationalists that advocates against multiculturalism in Quebec, on Nov. 25 during a protest in downtown Montreal.

The group was waving Quebec flags peacefully on a sidewalk when self-identified anarchists and anti-fascists attacked. Ten people were arrested after the brief scuffle.

No one was hurt, but a few windows were broken, including those of an STM bus and a nearby building. Légion Nationale's website, which has not been updated since March of 2011, bills the group as peaceful fighters for Quebec's future.

Buying Bupkis

Activists countered the hyper-consumerism of Black Friday with the ninth annual international Buy Nothing Day(s) on Nov. 25 and 26.

Questioning the greed that inspires shoppers to trample each other and bring pepper-spray to the mall, Buy Nothing Day encourages people to leave their wallets at home and speak out against the North American culture of consumption and waste.

This year, organizers piggy-backed on the Occupy movement with a new twist on their campaign, choosing the biggest shopping day of the year to launch the Occupy Xmas movement, which saw activists culture jam consumers in shopping malls.

How Fair Are Our Fares?

The Société de transport de Montréal released their annual budget on Nov. 26, outlining increases in their service plans and fare costs.

The discounted student metro passes will jump from \$41 to \$43.75 per month as of Jan. 1, 2012, and the regular monthly pass will rise from \$72.75 to \$75.

Single and two-trip prices will stay at \$3.00 and \$5.50 respectively, and students and seniors can avoid the price hike by buying in advance: the four-month pass will go for \$164.

In return for the higher fares, the STM promises 3.2 per cent more service for bus lines within the island of Montreal.

Places for Pups

Six hundred dogs and puppies seized from the 'Paws R Us' puppy-mill back in Sept. 2011 are now up for adoption. The dogs were found in cramped spaces, without enough food, water or exercise, and many had gone blind or suffered from skin conditions as a result of the mistreatment.

Since their rescue by the Humane Society International, the puppies have been nursed back to health and as well as spayed or neutered. Their former owners have been formally charged with animal cruelty and may be facing fines of up to \$25,000.

The HSI invites you to visit hsicanada.ca to adopt a homeless puppy.

MEDIA DEMOCRACY



THE LiNK
A SPECIAL ISSUE

SPECIALTY SERVICES

Food Network Canada Inc. (57.58%)
HGTV Canada Inc. (80.24%)
Historia & Séries+, s.e.n.c. (50%)
History Television Inc.
Life Network Inc./Réseau Life inc.
Shaw Television Inc.

TELEVISION

3535991 Canada Inc.
Canal Évasion (8.31%)
Groupe TVA inc. /
Mystery (50%)
Sun Media Corporation /
Sun TV News General
Télé Inter-Rives ltée (44.66%)
The Cave (Men TV) (51%)

NEW MEDIA

Nurun Inc. (57.46%)
Netgraphe
Cano

MUSIC & OTHER

Groupe Archambault inc.
Archambault Group Inc.
Le SuperClub Vidéotron ltée
TVA Régional inc

SUN MEDIA

Le Journal de Montréal
Le Journal de Québec
The Toronto Sun
The Edmonton Sun
The Calgary Sun
The Ottawa Sun
The Winnipeg Sun
The London Free Press
plus several other newspapers & magazines

RADIO

CFCW-AM Camrose (O)
CFCW-FM Camrose (O)
CFOK-AM Westlock (O)
CFXE-FM Edson (M)
CFXH-FM Hinton (O)
CFXL-FM Calgary (O)
CFXW-FM Whitecourt (O)
CHFT-FM Fort McMurray (O)
CHLW-AM St. Paul (O)
CHLW-FM St. Paul (M)
CHSL-FM Slave Lake (O)
CIBQ-FM Brooks (O)
CILB-FM Lac La Biche (O)
CILR-FM Lloydminster (O)
CIRK-FM Edmonton (O)
CIXF-FM Brooks (O)
CIZZ-FM Red Deer (O)
CJEG-FM Bonnyville (O)
CJPR-FM Blairmore (M)
CJXK-FM Grand Centre (O)
CKBA-FM Athabasca (O)
CKDQ-AM Drumheller (O)
CKGY-FM Red Deer (O)
CKJR-AM Wetaskiwin (O)
CKKY-AM Wainwright (O)
CKMP-FM Calgary (O)
CKRA-FM Edmonton (O)
CKSA-FM Lloydminster (O)
CKSQ-AM Stettler (O)

and 30 other local stations

RADIO & TV

Shaw Media Inc.
Shaw Television G.P. Inc.
Shaw Media Global Inc.
Shaw Television Limited Partnership
Fox Sports World Canada Holdco Inc.
Fox Sports World Canada Partnership
Men TV General Partnership (49%)
Mystery Partnership (50%)
TVtropolis General Partnership (66.67%)

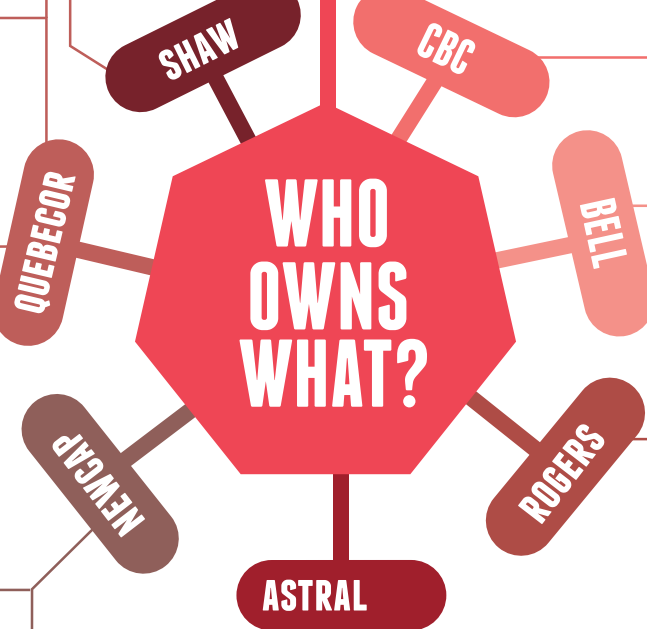
DIGITAL SERVICES

3924181 Canada Inc. (49%)
4399781 Canada Inc. (80.24%)
Discovery Health Channel
HGTV Canada Inc. (80.24%)
Jasper Broadcasting Inc. (80%)
NGC Channel Holdings Inc. (80%)
Shaw Television Inc.
Showcase Television Inc.

MAJOR MEDIA OWNERSHIP IN CANADA

BY JULIA WOLFE

WHO OWNS WHAT?



RADIO & WEB

Owens a large number of local and national CBC branches, as well as cbc.ca

Northwestel Inc. / Norouestel inc.
Bell ExpressVu Inc.
Bell ExpressVu Limited Partnership
Bell Sports-Special PPV (PPV / TVC)
Bell TV On Demand and Vu!
(DTHPPV / TVCSR)
Bell TV SRDU / Bell Télé EDRS
(RELDIS / EDRSDM)
Bell TV / Bell Télé (DTHDU / EDSRD)
Bell TV On Demand (PPV / TVC)
Bell TV On Demand (VOD / VSD)

BELL CANADA

CTV

TV

Specialty Services spécialisés (other than Sports / autres que Sports) Animal Planet (80%) BookTelevision Bravo! Business News Network (BNN) CablePulse24 Comedy Gold CTV News Channel Discovery Channel (80%) Discovery French Discovery Science (80%) Discovery World HD E! FashionTelevision- Channel Investigation Discovery	MTV2 (Razer) MTV Canada MuchLoud MuchMoreMusic MuchMoreRetro MuchMusic MuchVibe PunchMuch Space The Comedy Network (TCN) Viewers' Choice (24.95%) Learning and Skills Television of Alberta Limited ACCESS ESPN Classic RDS Réseau Info Sports (RIS) The NHL Network (21.42%) TSN
--	--

RADIO

Bell Media British Columbia
Radio Partnership
Bell Media Calgary Radio Partnership
Bell Media Canada Radio Partnership
Bell Media Ontario Regional
Radio Partnership
Bell Media Ottawa Radio Partnership
Bell Media Toronto Radio Partnership
Bell Media Windsor Radio Partnership

CABLE

Rogers Communications Partnership
Fido Solutions Inc.
CPAC (41.4%)
Solv Signals Inc. (80%)

NEW MEDIA

BizLink
i Media

RADIO & TV

4382072 Canada Inc. (associé / partner)
Astral Media Radio inc.
Astral Media Radio s.e.n.c./
Astral Media Radio G.P.
Astral Media Radio Atlantique inc.

SPECIALTY SERVICES

Adrenaline Canal Vie Canal D Cinépop Disney Junior INVESTIGATION Mpix Super Écran Superstar TELE-VITESSE TENDANCES	The Movie Network TV Time VRAK.TV Ztélé Historia & Séries+, s.e.n.c. MusiquePlus inc. The Family Channel Inc. Disney XD Family Channel TELETOON Canada Inc. Viewer's Choice Canada Inc (50.1%)
--	---

BROADCASTING

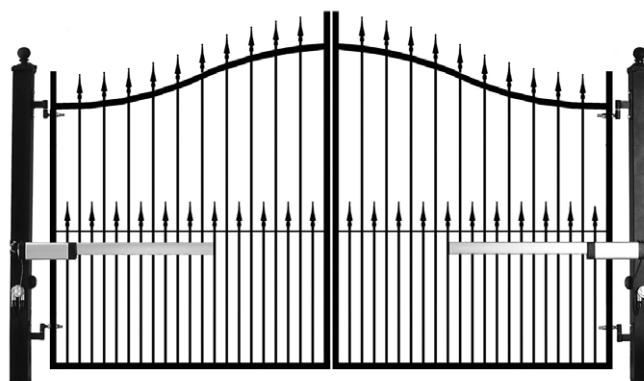
Radio & TV
Rogers Broadcasting Limited
6878458 Canada Inc. (66.67%)
6878482 Canada Inc. (80%)
Rogers Broadcasting Limited
Rogers Sports Group Inc.
Rogers Sportsnet Inc.
TVtropolis General Partnership (33.33%)
Viewer's Choice Canada (24.95%)
Cogeco Inc. (7.73%)
Cogeco Cable Inc. (3.48%)

TV

CITL-TV
CITL -DT
CKSA-TV
CKSA -DT

PUBLISHING

Rogers Publishing Limited,
which owns consumer magazines such as
Maclean's
Châtelaine
Canadian Business
Flare
l'Actualité, Profit
& several other consumer magazines



Getting Past the Gatekeepers

Media Democracy

When we were brainstorming ideas for this issue, one word kept coming up: access.

It's simple, really. Journalists require access to information so we can do our jobs properly. Members of the media need to access documents and sources in order to make our discoveries and analyses available to the public.

It is our job to equip our readership with timely and pertinent information about the world that surrounds us. As an informed public is a fundamental pillar of democracy, its functioning and flourishing are dependent on the flow of information—but this requires access to make it happen.

Unfortunately, it's common knowledge in the industry that, in practice, the media system manifests itself as a series of filters, and members of the press act as proverbial 'gatekeepers,' controlling what gets passed along and what gets held back.

Journalists are required to strip away spin, deconstruct jargon and probe their way towards the real facts. We work through the filters on a daily basis in this constant effort to provide the truth—or, at the very least, the most accurate

picture we can paint.

When we get information, our job is to analyze it, make sense of it and pass it on in a clear, quick and accurate manner. That's our responsibility, and we recognize that we are directly integrated into this system—we can critique other media sources for filtering the news all we like, but ultimately we are one of the filters, too.

In this issue, we hope to give you a better idea of how the news gets from us to you and the things that go on in between, to provide a more holistic perspective on the difficulties and impediments we face when putting things to print.

This also serves as a reminder that there are more options than ever before. You can choose what you read, what you watch and which sources you trust to give you your news. The monumental shift that the journalism industry has undergone in the past decade means more than just figures about ad revenue and subscription numbers.

It also means that you can—and should—take a more active role in your news consumption than ever before. Hopefully the information in this insert helps you make an informed choice. Democracy depends on it.

—Megan Dolski & Laura Beeston
Media Democracy Issue Coordinators

The Holy Grail

Broken sentences, long pauses, rambling responses, and a slew of different answers are probably all you'll get if you ask a bunch of journalists what they think about objectivity.

While their thoughts on the subject may be initially inarticulate and rather jumbled, journalists have lots to say about the term that has been ingrained in their brains since their first days of J-school.

• MEGAN DOLSKI

The Unreachable Standard?

Despite objectivity being a much-idealized and longstanding pillar of journalism, many of Montreal's practicing news writers and editors admit that reporting on the news objectively is, well, not even possible.

"It's a little bit like a holy grail," said Patrick Lejtenyi, news editor of the *Montreal Mirror*. "It's not really achievable and, at worst, it can be disingenuous."

It has been over 15 years since the Society of Professional Journalists scrapped "objectivity" from its code of ethics, and the word is nowhere to be found in the Canadian Association of Journalists' list of ethical guidelines.

Queen Arsem-O'Malley, news editor of *The McGill Daily* said objectivity is an unfeasible standard to strive for, simply because reporters are human—just like sources, just like readers. "Everybody has some type of background and position that influences the way that they think about things," she explained, "even if you don't consciously recognize that you are thinking about them that way."

Marc Lalonde, news editor of the *West Island Chronicle* agrees that absolute objectivity is impossible, but that hasn't stopped him from demanding his reporters to strive for it—as much as possible—within the parameters of the story they are working on.

"I always demand fair comment," he said. "I ask that [my reporters] present all sides as fairly as possible, taking into account circumstances and everything else." He added that knowing how much objectivity is "enough" is a skill honed by experience.

Michelle Richardson, city editor of *The Gazette*, on the other hand, does think journalistic objectivity is possible.

"I think that it is something

that reporters and editors take quite seriously," she explained, adding that objective reporting is a value upheld by both *The Gazette* and Postmedia, the national news agency that owns it, in keeping with the standards of good journalism.

Subjectively Objective

According to its dictionary definition, objectivity requires one to make judgments based on observable phenomena uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices.

But regardless of how detached and impartial journalists can be while observing and recording events, they have no choice but to make hundreds of subjective decisions throughout the course of their day's work.

Arsem-O'Malley explains that, as part of production, news editors and writers decide what to report on, who to talk to and where to do research for the stories they will then write. She points to all of these small but essential choices as necessary flaws in the theoretical framework requiring reporters to produce a purely objective product.

Richardson furthers this point by acknowledging the potential sway a journalist's choice of language can have on the reader.

"[Objectivity] is not just trying to talk to all people and get all sides of the story—it's making sure that the article is written in a way that strips pejorative terminology that takes away anything that could lead people into a sense of what a story is and isn't," she said.

Richardson explained how crucial it is that journalists understand the weight of words in their writing. This is something Arsem-O'Malley said *The McGill Daily* is extremely conscious of, so much so that she questions whether it has become detrimental to the

quality of their reporting.

"We take out words in almost every story, and we will take out any adjectives about people—instead of saying someone 'expressed' or 'demanded' something, we will change it to 'said.'"

She explained that this way of writing allows for people to draw their own conclusions, but wondered, "Really, which one is more objective: to let the reader draw something from a quote, or to try and convey an environment in which it was said?"

The Currency of Credibility

Objectivity surfaced as a core journalistic value back in the nineteenth century, with the advent of mass-circulation newspapers and the penny press. It made its appearance initially as a financial strategy—neutrality meant a broader range of possible readers.

Today's newspaper reporters, though the majority of them would simply laugh at the idea of a growing readership, haven't considered the lack of financial incentive a reason enough to let the concept bite the dust just yet.

For Richardson, being objective is simply a matter of ethics and doing her job fairly. For Lalonde, it is a way to ensure his publication remains credible.

"As a newspaper all you have in terms of your capital is your credibility," he said, explaining that he views objectivity as a key factor in earning the public's trust.

Yet an academic criticism of objective reporting is that it prevents reporters from looking further into issues.

Brent Cunningham, managing editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review* argued, "Objectivity excuses lazy reporting. If you're on deadline and all you have is 'both sides of the story,' that's often good enough."

Richardson disagreed. "I think that there is a way to probe and to do deep and nuanced stories that are still objective," she said, adding that even analysis can be impartial.

Lejtenyi also highlighted the importance of delving deeper into stories and not simply letting the sources talk.

"You should always take everything that anyone in a position of authority says with a huge grain of salt and try to find holes and find arguments in it—I think the ones that have stopped questioning people with authority have really lost their way as journalists."

New Journalism, New Fundamentals

Journalism is a field that is rapidly evolving, hustling to keep up with the quick and constant advancements in technology. The way people produce and consume the news isn't the same as it was just a few years ago.

Both Richardson and Lalonde argued that while we are certainly living in a 'new journalistic world,' the fundamentals haven't, and shouldn't, change.

"A more competitive market is more of an incentive to be more rigorous about our standards and our practices," Richardson said, explaining that new methods of coverage are no reason to stray from the commitment to objectivity.

Lejtenyi sees things a bit differently. "From the *Mirror's* perspective—we are a strange kind of creature, being a hybrid between a newspaper and a magazine—we have worked hard to establish an editorial voice which makes us different from *The Gazette* or from CTV."

He believes that having a strong editorial stance is something that can be done while maintaining the basic tenants of

journalism, despite occasionally offering a more suggestive version of the news. He also said this is a growing trend that might be worth watching.

"I think more people might be trying to tailor their coverage to appeal to an audience that agrees with them," he said, pointing out that the new mushrooming of media outlets provides readers with many options—and many will seek out reporting that reinforces their values and preconceptions.

"As long as it's not based on insanity and the opinions are strong and can be backed up with facts and arguments, I think that there is a place for that," he said, "and it could arguably be growing."

But Really, It's Up to You

News reporters are trained to serve a very specific function in society—it's their job to inform the public of what's happening in the world.

"If you are presenting a story as 'this is what happened,' you have a responsibility to present it from a viewpoint that people can look at and make their own judgment and own decisions," said Lalonde, a sentiment reiterated by Richardson.

Arsem-O'Malley explained that *The McGill Daily's* mandate is to represent marginalized voices, and represent those often silenced by the mainstream media. She said there's always going to be a dominant voice, both in society and the media.

"By seeking out those other groups, we recognize that part of objectivity is in what you cover, and maybe that is not being 100 per cent objective," she said. "But is it worth it do give up a little bit of objectivity in favour of trying to find voices in society that aren't heard from? It is something we grapple with."

The Great Leveller

The Internet and New Media Democracy

• COLIN HARRIS

It's been hailed by many as the great leveller, in that a blogger with no budget has the potential to get as many viewers as the biggest broadcaster. But does the Internet really make news more democratic?

There's an enormous potential online for news equality, but the ideal can't out-run reality. While today's news coverage is increasingly able to make quick, global connections, media ownership is falling into fewer and fewer hands at the same time.

"We need to be careful not to fall into this trap of technological determinance, where having the technology in and of itself will somehow assure us a breakaway from monopoly," said Julian Awwad, an assistant professor in Concordia's Communications Department.

There's no 'mass audience' out there, if there ever was one, and when consumers can easily become producers, a whole new model of communication needs to be considered.

"We need to understand that power now operates, especially in news media discourse, in the network-style discourse," said Awwad. "It's not top-down, and this implicates—in this very Foucauldian sense—the ways that we self-discipline and self-regulate ourselves, not just as people but also as professionals."

Considering how easy it is to make public comment in public space these days, it's a little outdated to exclude the traditional news 'consumer' from the discussion about what's newsworthy. What's probably most democratizing about the Internet today is its potential for collaboration.

Dominique Jarry-Shore is the Montreal editor for OpenFile, a web-based news source that takes these levelling principles to create a different kind of community journalism.

"I think OpenFile is really democratic because our story ideas come from the community," she said. "The whole idea is to not have some editor in a newsroom somewhere deciding what's news."

Using an approach to reporting without the traditional divide between consumer and producer, OpenFile is taking full advantage of new technology to connect people and their news on a continuous, collaborative platform. It's a refreshing alternative to larger media groups tasked with the gradual process of fitting new media into their structure.

It's a very 21st century tale. OpenFile built a transparent space for stories to grow, far from the closed doors of newsrooms in the golden age of print.

"We have to understand the way that ownership over media through corporations has changed as well," said Awwad. "The era of convergence doesn't only mean convergence of media, but also business convergence."

"The architecture of the Internet is being refashioned in a way to also serve corporate interest."

As a local news creator, OpenFile plays a different role than the international newswire. Above all else, they're creating a forum for those looking to consume their news more actively than passively.

"We really want to get a discussion going about the story," said Jarry-Shore. "We know we can't compete with the mainstream media since we're tiny compared to them, we're just a few people."

"But what we hope to compete with them on is getting that conversation started, having more democratization in the media."

CRISIS VS. EMERGENCY

HIKE VS. RAISE

TAR SANDS VS. OIL SANDS

ACTIVISTS VS. PROTESTERS

SEPARATISTS VS. NATIONALISTS

LOBBYISTS VS. PRESSURE GROUPS

TERRORIST VS. INSURGENT

MAFIA/MOB VS. ORGANIZED CRIME

DEPRESSION VS. RECESSION

WEAPONS AND WORDS

• HILARY SINCLAIR

When we were kids, it wasn't uncommon for our parents to tell us to use our words, not our fists. The idea was that physical violence was more hurtful than verbal confrontation.

In *Might Makes Right: News Reportage as Discursive Weapons in the War in Iraq*, however, Concordia journalism professor Mike Gasher casts doubt on that, writing that language is one of the most powerful weapons of war.

It goes even further, however. In media-making every day, the words the press deploys go beyond the Bush administration's manipulation of meaning as they described and reported on the Iraq war.

By 'parroting' words used by the government and media, "journalists covering those policy decisions could be seen as reporting facts, when in fact what they were doing was granting legitimacy to partisan political interests and goals."

A news story can be spun under the weight of a single word. When you hear the phrase 'global warming,' for example, it paints a picture of melting glaciers and a single polar bear strapped on a sheet of ice surrounded by ocean—but this is not necessarily reality.

Using 'climate change' in its place might portray a more holistic picture, encompassing all the things really going on. Alternately, using 'climate change' could be meant to pare down the gravity of rising temperatures.

All this to say that words really matter. Words that journalists use almost interchangeably in the media often require more care, and can have completely different connotations.

Consider this short list of 'synonyms' and see which option incites less panic.

Renaissance Man

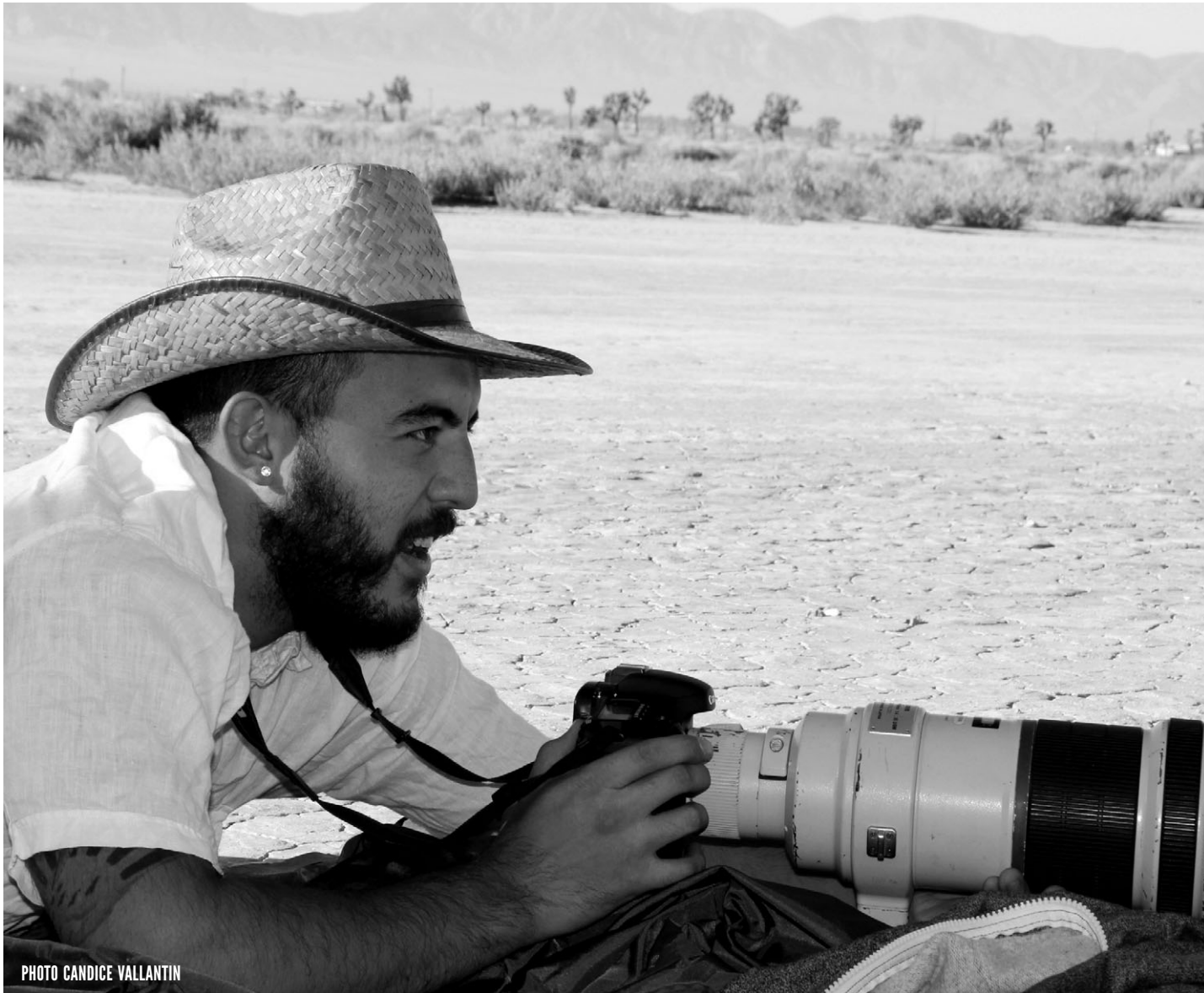


PHOTO CANDICE VALLANTIN

“But the reality is that the economic context forces you to do some lazy-ass journalism from time to time. And I think that starts to chip away at your integrity and values, because that’s your name on the byline, your face on the TV or your voice on the radio.”

— Kai Nagata

Kai Nagata on the Possibilities of Post-Corporate, Citizen Journalism

• LAURA BEESTON

Kai Nagata suggested we meet at the bar where, just one night prior, he gave a very regular patron a very fake name.

Taking out his wallet during a second round, he flashed me an old, CTV-issued piece of identification. Bangs in an impeccable, immobile news-anchor pompadour, the only thing recognizable in Nagata’s angular face are the determined brown eyes. The bearded man drinking a beer before me could be a different person entirely.

Nagata is a journalist that struck a national nerve last July when he walked away from his “great job, especially for a 24-year-old” working as CTV’s Quebec City Bureau Chief and wrote a lengthy explanation of his move on his website, kainagata.com.

Part rationale, part media criticism and part manifesto, his blog post, “Why I Quit My Job,” received substantial attention across the country.

Some of the thousands of comments that came with the storm of viral backlash and back-and-forth wrote him off as self-indulgent, questioning his wisdom, while others hailed him a visionary.

“As a reporter, I feel like I’ve been holding my breath. Every question I asked, every tweet I posted, and even what I said to other journalists and friends had to go through a filter where my own opinions and values were carefully strained out,” he wrote at the time.

“If I ever said anything out of line with my position as an ‘objective’ TV reporter, they had grounds to fire me. I had a sinking feel-

ing when I first read that clause, but I signed because I was 23 and I wanted the job. Now I want my opinions back.”

Nagata said he is far happier today than he was before.

“I felt like I was going crazy, having that much of a gap between who it was I wanted to be [and who I was]. I couldn’t recognize the two,” he said. “I’ll give you an example: what does it mean to your identity to play a character on air that everyone assumes is straight, but actually be gay?”

“That’s something a disproportionate number of male of broadcasters deal with, and I can’t claim to get inside their heads, but I know it’s tough to compartmentalize that this is who I am on air and this is who I am the rest of the time.”

Emphasizing a self-censorship that occurs in journalism when reporters are forced to adopt a “he-said, she-said mentality” to storytelling that lacks a deeper, or more informed analysis, Nagata argued the current framework makes it difficult to create media that makes a difference.

“I recognize that people try every day to put out better stuff than the kind of ultimately useless, non-analytical representation of events,” he said.

“But the reality is that the economic context forces you [...] to do some lazy-ass journalism from time to time. And I think that starts to chip away at your integrity and values, because that’s your name on the byline, your face on the TV or your voice on the radio.”

Though people across the country called him naive for leaving the system, Nagata de-

murred. Rather, he said, it’s naive to believe things can be changed from the inside in an institution like media.

“Give me an example of when that’s worked and I’ll happily discuss it,” he said with a chuckle.

“Let’s put it this way: is there any reason to be hopeful about the existing model? I don’t believe that unlimited growth is possible forever. And saying that out loud makes you a heretic. It’s not a viable model for your career or for the global economy.”

After taking a decision to strike out against the “internal, self-regulated culture of news,” Nagata gave away most of his worldly possessions in Quebec City and spent the rest of his summer occupying his father’s backyard, living in a tent.

He eventually became a writer in residence at *The Tyee*, an independent online magazine based in British Columbia, while making plans to work on changing how news is produced from the outside.

His first project, *Renaissance Man*—the debut installation of a possibly three-part documentary he filmed in California about a Montreal-based, blind British dirt bike jumper named Matthew Wadsworth—also quietly hit the Internet last week.

“What I’m trying to experiment with right now is a ground-up sustainability model to media production,” he said. With a budget cultivated online from donors, “we proved we could make something cool with very little money and without any networks, distributors or advertisers calling the shots.

“Think about how far [our budget of] \$5,000 would go at a TV station,” he mused.

“It would keep the lights on for the first half of the day. But if you can strip down the process [...] it’s possible to create a model of efficiency that allows you to tell ambitious stories.”

Nagata’s bold prediction is that creating a more sustainable model of producing media now will better prepare journalists if there’s another recession—and another round of industry downsizing.

And while he’s got his hands full at the moment, currently en route to England to put together part three of *Renaissance Man*, Nagata is also in the early stages of developing an interactive online network and skill-share for citizen journalists.

“Think of it like a Facebook for citizen journalists,” he explained, “or a hybrid news site, training resource and meeting place.”

It is the projects like these that keep him extremely hopeful about the future of Canadian journalism and the quality of the people working in it, he said.

Plugging away at *Renaissance Man*, Nagata said his progression away from the corporate journalist has allowed a more creative and resourceful side to flourish.

“The more time you can give yourself to think deeply, to read, to reflect, to examine your own causations and feelings, the more you have time to work on yourself and your own work, rather than someone else’s,” he explained. “When you’re not working for someone else, all kinds of interesting things happen with those creative muscles.”

Check out Nagata’s new film project *Renaissance Man* at kainagata.com

Covering Cops

Crime Beat Reporter David Goldberg Opens Up on Access

• LAURA BEESTON

What a time to be covering the cop beat.

Reporting in a world where citizens upload footage to the Internet in real time, where “media blackouts” permeate clashes of peaceful resistance movements, and where actions of lieutenants like John Pike—the now-infamous ‘Pepper Spraying Cop’ who maced the faces of student protestors on the UC Berkeley campus Nov. 9—send viral shockwaves around the world, finding a journalist on the ‘inside’ doesn’t seem to be the norm these days.

But for crime reporter David Goldberg, who writes for the Montreal-based *Free Press* it has taken 22 years to “cultivate the trust” required to get in with the local police.

He’s a rare breed.

“I tried to let them know I’m not the enemy. Let them know, ‘Look, you’re serving the community as the police, I’m serving the community as a journalist, and there’s no reason why we can’t work together.’”

— David Goldberg

“If you really upset the cops, they may never speak to you again, and they know they don’t have to,” Goldberg told *The Link*. “You can upset politicians,

but they’re always going to come back around because they know they need the media. Cops don’t.”

Through experience at his local newspaper outfit, Goldberg explained that developing a rapport with the police was necessity, as he was dealing with the same people week-in, week-out.

“I had to get them to trust me, and I also had to make sure that I could trust them—it’s a two-way street,” he said. “So I got to the core of the two issues that I’ve been told [police] have with the media: that they don’t like journalists and that the media, by and large, is just out to make them look bad.”

While he admitted that cops do things all the time that warrant bad press, and that examples like the Pepper Spraying Cop at UC Berkley don’t exactly help their image, Goldberg’s access is better than most—even when he’s critical—because of his approach.

While an attitude of distrust makes it increasingly difficult to navigate the media relationships necessary between journalists and cops, Goldberg had some advice: show them you’re fair.

“I tried to let them know I’m not the enemy,” he said. “Let them know, ‘Look, you’re serving the community as the police, I’m serving the community as a journalist, and there’s no reason why we can’t work together to promote both of our goals.’ That’s the tack I’ve taken. And it’s worked.”

Goldberg acknowledged that, because he’s on friendly terms with many of the police he works with after so many years on the beat, he constantly has to “double and triple check” his conduct and his work, while also maintaining his relationships and access.

“There are times where, yeah, it’s very hard to police yourself when you’re covering this type of stuff, pardon the pun,” he said.

“But when I have an issue, I talk with other journalists, I talk with my editor, and I work it out ethically. I don’t think I’ve done anything egregious and I don’t cross that ethical line—maybe I nudge up to it from time to time—but the most important thing is that I’m serving my readers.”

Journalists should also attempt to understand the many aspects of police work, he said. “If you’re going to write intelligently about the police, before you attack something that’s done, at least try to figure out why they’re doing what they do.”

But fairness goes both ways, he continued. “I think that police have a responsibility to learn a little bit more about what journalists do, too.”

“This mistrust is usually born out of misunderstanding—and it’s difficult because the police are a closed system that don’t like to talk a lot about what they do,” he said. “But if you can convince them you’re not there to harm them, and to figure out what their job is really about—as they do put up with a lot of stuff—it will really make a difference.”

The bottom line for Goldberg is that a reporter is never ‘one of them’—even if this was an aspiration of many investigative journalists from years past.

“You have to criticize them when they don’t do things properly, absolutely,” he said.

“We’re here to let the public know what’s going on, good or bad. But you have to go into the story, and show you’re going into the story knowledgeable and unbiased about what you’re writing.”

ACCESS TO CON U INFO

• LAURA BEESTON

Whether it’s media-shy sources, public relations spokespeople giving canned answers or the less-than-media-friendly local, provincial and federal governments, journalists often find themselves searching for answers.

Getting access to records and documents is an invaluable resource for journalists who find themselves walled off from the facts by these information gatekeepers, and thankfully, there’s a means for them to extract crucial data in such situations.

The Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, passed into law in 1985, provide Canadians with an outlet to look more deeply into information held by the institutional bodies on high.

The former allows Canadians to inquire about all manner of government-held information, and the latter allows them to find out information being kept on them personally.

By filling out a form and providing a requisite \$5.00, inquisitive ATIP-filers get five hours of search and preparation time for requested records, though additional time may cost additional money.

Concordia’s ATIP coordinator is Bram Freedman, who also happens to be the university’s VP Institutional Relations. While he may appear to have a vested interest in the good and bad information about the institution that pays his salary, Freedman is required to respond to the details of any access to information request.

Though situations like these often require a fine knowledge of legalese and an ability to cut through red tape, there isn’t a particular form required to send an ATIP at Concordia. Interested students simply have to email Freedman at bram.freedman@concordia.ca.

► While *The Link* loves talking to university spokesperson Chris Mota every week, sometimes there’s nothing like the look and feel of fresh financial documents in our hands, unfettered by the university’s press relations protocol.

Here are some of the Access to Information requests *The Link* has filed to Concordia:

The Lowy Loan

Last May, Concordia provided an interest-free loan of \$1.4 million to Interim President Frederick Lowy, which was expected to incur the university approximately \$35,250 in interest fees at Lowy’s expense.

We asked for more details on the nature of that agreement, and whether or not a contract was signed. If the loan was given in good faith, we want to see the proposals and correspondence between VPs that set it up. Thirty-five thousand dollars is a lot of public money.

Chewing Chartwells Out

In Concordia’s latest financial report, it was discovered that the exclusive food service provider on campus, Chartwells, incurred a \$51,000 loss, with another whopping \$152,000 lost on ‘other food services related costs.’

We asked about these ‘other costs,’ and the stipulations in the contract that require Concordia to pay for the losses of a private company that has a monopoly on campus.

While *The Link* was told it wasn’t likely we’d get any answers about the contract, as it could affect the finances of a third party, we thought we’d try (again) anyways.

Investing in the Future?

What’s in Concordia’s storied investment portfolio? Where is the university spending our money? For all we know, it could be spent in arms manufacturing or asbestos. What are our ventures and speculations?

There is precious little information out there about where Concordia invests, but considering the captains of industry who sit on our Board of Governors, it should be interesting to find out.

Expen\$e Account\$

Most of our VPs have expense accounts, but what do they spend the money on?

It’s become public that Lowy’s already burned through \$16,000 on hotels and airfare, and former John Molson School of Business Dean Sanjay Sharma was reimbursed over \$27,000 for unspecified expenses. What else is out there?

Government Relations and Tuition

You’d think that Russell Copeman, Concordia’s Associate VP External Relations, must be having some seriously interesting conversations with the provincial government about the impending tuition hikes lately.

I guess we’ll see; we’ve asked for all correspondence between him and the Provincial government since September.

Need help sending your own ATIP? Email community@thelinknewspaper.ca

New legislation might require journalists in Quebec to obtain accreditation in order to continue pursuing their roles as reporters.

It all began last January when Dominique Payette, a professor at Université Laval and former journalist with Radio-Canada, submitted a report on the state of the media.

The Payette Report described some of the issues in the Quebec media, and provided 51 recommendations in order to rectify these problems. One of these recommendations was to create a professional title for journalists.

In April 2011 La Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec held a referendum for its 2,000 members to vote for or against the creation of a professional title. The result was an overwhelming 86.6 per cent in favour. Claude Robillard, secretary general for FPJQ, described the result as “almost North Korean in nature.”

Since then, a proposal containing four of the 51 recommendations has been presented to Christine St-Pierre, the Quebec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women. The creation of a professional title for journalists was included.

But why is this title necessary, and overwhelmingly popular?

According to Robillard, one of the main reasons journalists are in favour of this title is to differentiate between professional journalists and all other types of communicators.

“With the arrival of the Internet, blogs, social media, etc. everyone has begun writing and commenting,” said Robillard. “Even in newsrooms, information is being diluted with the arrival of all sorts of commentators, such as politicians, ex-politicians, hockey players, and ex-hockey players.”

“And we say that, for the public, the difference between someone who has a hidden agenda and the journalist who isn’t supposed to have any hidden agendas, isn’t necessarily evident.”

Steve Faguy, a copy editor at *The Gazette* and creator of the blog Fagstein, doesn’t believe any distinction is possible or required.

“Many people see [the word] ‘journalist’ and they think of a newspaper reporter,” said Faguy. “But journalism is a lot more complicated than that, and it’s only going to get more so. I think it will be impossible for a line to be drawn between ‘journalist’ and ‘non-journalist’ because I don’t believe such a distinction exists anymore.”

This proposition also raises the question of which organization ought to be given the

power to dictate who receives the title and who doesn’t.

According to Robillard, the FPJQ is the natural choice for this role. He said the federation has more than 2,000 members, accounting for about half of all working journalists in Quebec. Robillard said the federation really has no equivalent elsewhere in North America, citing the Canadian Association of Journalists as having only about 550 members Canada-wide, and the Society of Professional Journalists in the U.S. with 9,000 members, although the country’s population is far greater than Quebec’s.

He also mentioned the Federation has been administering the press cards for over 20 years and that this new task would be very similar in nature.

The FPJQ puts forth a strong case, but a fundamental question remains—who has the right to say whether someone is a journalist or not? And why is that distinction even important?

In an article, published by *The Métropolitain* in Feb. 2011, Beryl Wajzman, the editor in chief of *The Suburban* and *The Métropolitain*, said that the Payette Report was, “the greatest affront to the freedom of expression since the French language laws.”

Wajzman said it is inherently an issue of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. “There can be no good intentions involved in this proposal. There needs to be equal opportunity for everyone to shout no

matter if it offends someone else.”

“When has a piece of legislation since the Trudeau administration increased the freedom of society?” he asked. “Legislation only serves to further restrict freedom.”

The Gazette also published an online statement, which rejects any attempt to create a special status for professional journalists.

“The creation of a special class of journalists as recommended in the Payette Report would, in *The Gazette*’s view, violate the fundamental rights guaranteed by both the Canadian and Quebec Charter of Rights,” said the statement.

“Freedom of expression, as guaranteed by these charters, does not distinguish between various classes of speakers. To give one class of speakers a special status is to violate the fundamental rights of ‘lesser’ speakers who are not so fortunate as to be awarded membership in that class.”

Elias Makos, technical instructor at Concordia University and a regular contributor to both CTV Montreal and CBC Montreal, shared this opinion. “I am completely against the creation of a professional title for journalists. One of the things that makes a free press free is the whole ‘free’ part. To add some extra hoop, hurdle and obstacle before someone can be a journalist, or someone can have extra privileges as a journalist, is just ridiculous.”

Robillard thinks the danger to the freedom of the press is blown out of proportion.

“In Anglophone circles people have the impression that it’s a horrifying attack to the freedom of the press,” he said. “Let’s calm down here. It exists in France, and it has existed in Belgium since 1963. I don’t think they are countries reputed to have worse freedom of the press than Canada.”

According to Reporters Without Borders, Belgium was rated 14th in the world for freedom of the press in 2010, whereas Canada was ranked 21st and France 44th.

This does not provide definitive proof either way and essentially it doesn’t change the question of whether this proposal impinges on the freedom of individuals.

The proposal, which has been subject to several consultancy sessions in the last few weeks, has lost most of its support, and it appears unlikely that it will be implemented.

Brian Myles, FPJQ president, has recently rescinded his full support for the title of professional journalist, citing the division it has created within the FPJQ and other organizations as the reason. He instead suggested an alternate proposal that doesn’t necessarily include a professional title.

David Johnston, the Community Editor for *The Gazette*, believes the proposal is dead in the water.

“I believe [the rejection of the proposal] will be announced before Christmas,” said Johnston. “It is now being seen as the wrong solution. It creates more problems than it solves.”



Right to Report

Possible Press Accreditation Requirement in Quebec

• JOSEPH LEGER

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

BASKETBALL



Stingers head coach John Dore takes a timeout during one of Concordia's preseason games this year. Since then, the men's basketball team has been on a tear, improving to 3-0 on the season after beating Bishop's University at home last Friday.

PHOTO FAIZ IMAM



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Concordia's men's basketball team got ahead in the third quarter and never looked back on their way to their 71-59 victory over the Bishop's University Gaiters. Next for the Stingers is the 21st annual Rod Shoveller Tournament at Dalhousie University in Halifax, taking place Dec. 29-31.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Concordia's women's basketball team continued their undefeated start to the season, edging the Bishop's University Gaiters 59-56. The Stingers return to action Jan. 5 when they visit the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins. Tipoff is at 5:00 p.m.

Caron Wins Presidents' Trophy

Stingers Linebacker Picks Up Top CIS Defensive Award

• ANDREW MAGGIO

Second-year linebacker Max Caron of Concordia's football team accepted a major award in Vancouver at the Gibson's Finest ceremony on Nov. 24, taking home the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Presidents' Trophy for most outstanding defensive player.

The win marks the fifth time in the last eight years a Stinger has snagged the trophy, and it's Caron's second award of the season; he also won the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec's Outstanding Defensive Player award earlier in the month.

**"He's an old school
linebacker in the sense that
he always brings his hard
hat and lunch pail to work
without ever."**

-Luc Pelland, Stingers' linebacker coach

Caron is coming off a stellar year in which he broke two single-season RSEQ records, notching five interceptions, and three interceptions returned for touchdowns. Caron also led the nation with 78.5 total tackles, an astonishing 8.7 average

tackles per game.

"Winning the Presidents' Trophy is a huge honour for me," said Caron. "It was especially humbling to be considered in a year where there were many other talented defensive players in the league."

Caron credited his brother for pushing him to become a better football player at every stage of his young career.

"Without my brother, I wouldn't have been able to get to where I am today," said Caron. "He helped me understand that if I wanted to be better than him I would have to put in the work and that was when I started to really work hard at becoming a good football player."

Caron appears to be next in the line of great linebackers to come through the Concordia football program. He has been compared to other Concordia greats such as Ross Reeves, Luc Pelland, and Cory Greenwood. Greenwood, who won the Presidents' Trophy in 2009, currently plays for the National Football League's Kansas City Chiefs.

Pelland, now the Stingers' linebacker coach, noted Caron's leadership and work ethic in describing his star protégé.

"Max is a true student of the game, and he inspires me as a coach to bring him the tools he needs to continue his development," said Pelland. "He's an old school linebacker in the sense that he always brings his hard

hat and lunch pail to work without ever complaining."

Phil Roberts, the Stingers' defensive coordinator, had high praises for Caron's work throughout the season.

"He's come a long way after two years. I still think there's growth in him. He's shown himself to be one of the best university football players in Canada, and with a bit more fine-tuning there's no doubt he'll be able to take his game to the next level."

Concordia halfback Kris Robertson was also honoured over the weekend as a CIS All-Canadian for his tremendous return abilities. This season he returned two punts for touchdowns and made two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, and he spoke glowingly of Caron.

"Max is an incredible individual who exemplifies someone with incredible willpower," said Robertson. "The trophy was well deserved. He earned it."

Caron knows that he'll have a target on his back now, as teams will begin to focus on him every week in an attempt to limit his impact on games. Unfortunately for them, Caron is ready for the challenge.

"If teams want to try and key in on me more, then I just need to concern myself with doing my job, because more attention on me just means that there will be more opportunities for my teammates to make plays."

MEN'S HOCKEY

For the third straight weekend, Concordia's men's hockey team split its two-game series.

After a lopsided 6-3 loss to the Ryerson Rams on Friday, they finished on a strong note, dominating the Royal Military College Paladins 10-4 on Saturday. The Stingers travel to Ottawa next weekend to take on the Carleton Ravens and the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees. Games take place Friday and Saturday at 7:00p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Concordia's women's hockey team had a rough weekend, losing 3-0 to the Carleton Ravens on Friday before coming home and being thumped by the McGill Martlets 6-2. The Stingers will travel to Japan on Dec. 26, where they'll take on the Japanese national team in Tokyo.

Obey the New Drinking Rules

NEW GUIDELINES:

No More Than

10

drinks a week for women, with

2

drinks a day most days

15

drinks a week for men, with

3

drinks a day most days

DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU ARE:

- driving a vehicle or using machinery & tools
- taking medicine or other drugs that interact with alcohol
- doing any kind of dangerous physical activity
- living with mental or physical health problems
- living with alcohol dependence
- pregnant or planning to be pregnant
- responsible for the safety of others
- making important decisions



GRAPHIC DARIO FARINA

Canada Releases National Drinking Guidelines

• DAVID MURPHY

The first ever nation-wide drinking guidelines in Canada were released by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse on Nov. 25.

The new guidelines come on the heels of information released this year about higher consumption-related cancer risks, and higher risks of liver diseases attributed to the frequency of drinking.

"Once publicly released, these guidelines will help health professionals across Canada to provide consistent, evidence-based advice to their patients and will allow Canadians to make informed decisions about their drinking," said Olivia Caron, media spokesperson at Health Canada.

One of the new guidelines cautions Canadians to avoid consuming alcohol for at least a couple days each week.

"Based on frequency and quantity, they really recommend that people abstain for two days a week," said Dr. Sylvia Kairouz, the Director of Concordia's

Lifestyle and Addictions Research Lab—a recommendation she criticizes.

"Why only two days per week?" said Kairouz. "Maybe we should be giving more instruction on the frequency of drinking [...] maybe they can say, try to limit yourself to so many times per week."

Controversy over the old guidelines started in July when a study by the Canadian Medical Association Journal stated the guidelines were inaccurate because they only applied to a certain amount of the population.

"It would be foolish not to recommend to an overweight, sterile woman with a family history of breast cancer, or to a smoker exposed to ionizing radiation, asbestos, or arsenic, to reduce to null their consumption of alcoholic beverages," said Dr. Mariette Gerber, senior scientist of the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale in a response to the study.

"It also seems unnecessary," she noted, "to apply the same constraints to the general popula-

tion."

The new low-risk drinking guidelines were developed by the CCSA and National Alcohol Strategy Advisory Committee, a committee represented by federal and provincial governments including Health Canada and the Public Health Agency—a change from the old guidelines from the research facility and hospital, CAMH.

The previous guidelines were established in 1997 and updated just once since then with significant research from the CAMH. The old guidelines have been under scrutiny as research continues to develop about the risks of drinking.

A recent study in Britain stating the benefits of the two-day rule has sparked a discussion about whether binge drinking should be considered in making their guidelines, due to British drinking culture.

In the new guidelines, Kairouz said binge drinking isn't an option for Canadians, as a maximum limit per occasion is set at four drinks for men, and three drinks

for women—one drink being a 341 ml bottle of five per cent beer, a 142 ml glass of 12 per cent wine, or a 43 ml serving of 40 per cent liquor.

"There is nothing about excessive drinking in the guidelines," said Kairouz. But she says this decreases the risk of more alcohol related incidents occurring.

"Definitely binge drinking should be considered," said Kairouz. "[It] puts people at higher risks for violence, drinking and driving, and people are less in control of their bodies."

Californian Madison McLaren, 19, came to Montreal to visit a friend, and to drink. She thinks the new guidelines are at a good level.

"I think it's okay to drink on weekends. And if you're with your girls, five to six shots is good," said McLaren. "It's okay to have a glass of wine or a beer during the football game, or a couple."

"I don't follow it, I just drink until I'm drunk," said 19-year-old Champlain College student Katarina Pranke. "But only on the weekends."

Concordia Clinks



Students pack Reggie's on a special Thirsty Thursday, commemorating the last week of November.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

An In-Depth Look at Concordia's Notorious Drinking Culture

• DAVID MURPHY

Temperatures dropped sharply in the past two weeks, but the steps leading up to Loyola's The Hive were packed Nov. 16, the students divided into those shivering impatiently to get inside and those out enjoying a smoke.

That night, a few hundred Concordia students migrated to The Hive to partake in an event that's gaining some infamy on the university's drinking scene—cultural night.

A cultural night aficionado identifying herself as Capta Smithson, 19, was passing around a cigarette with a group of friends.

"Cultural nights are a place you want to go because every time I go, I meet up with people that I know," said an admittedly intoxicated Smithson.

Smithson, who lives in Hingston Hall, a Concordia residence notorious for its culture of partying, feels it's a reunion of sorts whenever there's a cultural night, co-hosted by one of the school's myriad cultural groups and the Concordia Student Union.

"Whoever lives in Jesuit or Hingston are definitely, without a doubt, here, and ready to get their face soaked in alcohol, because they want to be hammered," said Smithson.

"When I lived in Hingston I always wanted to be soaked in alcohol. I want to be so drunk that people know who I am."

And people now know that Concordia knows how to party. The campus bar, Reggie's, has a bit of a reputation thanks in part to its Thirsty Thursdays, and the stories of open bars at events around campus mean that, in the popular

imagination, Concordia seems to be the place to get your drink on.

This particular cultural night, which set back budding Latin American culture enthusiasts \$8.00, was one of those open bar events, and it was suitably full.

In theory, it was a Latin American culture appreciation night. Inside The Hive small flags from various nations were displayed on a far side of the wall of the dance floor.

Flowers, necklaces and sombreros were given out, while a band played salsa and meringue music—until the predictable throbbing of club music took over, attracted the masses into a sweaty, smiling, but definitely not sober crowd.

"More than alcohol, dancing brings a lot of people together," said Juliana Ramos, president of the Latin American Student Organization of Concordia, who were putting on the event.

But Smithson disagreed. She said if it wasn't for the drinks, she wouldn't go, and she's not the only one who feels that way. These alcohol-oriented events are an example of the drinking culture at Concordia, and while it may leave the students with painful hangovers the next day, the culture itself is alive and well.

Concordia Student Union VP Finance Jordan Lindsay agrees Concordia is renowned for its partying. He meets with different student unions in Montreal, and says he hears of Concordia's reputation.

"I'm a pretty big partier myself, and I've heard word on the street that Concordia seems to be a pretty big party school," said Lindsay. He argues it isn't necessarily a bad thing if students are attracted to the school because of that.

"Does that demean our integrity

a little? I don't think so. I think there's a mentality of work hard, play hard."

If that's the case, Concordia students must be working really hard.

A BAR TO CALL HOME

Reggie's, the heart of Concordia's drinking community, is a cash cow for the CSU, which operates the bar through CUSACorp., its profit-making arm.

Reggie's has the reputation as a dive bar by serving cheap beer, but it's becoming a bit of a victim of its own success.

Rowdiness at Reggie's has reached the point where an influx of bouncers is needed for Thirsty Thursdays, their showcase night of the week.

On Thursdays, students from other universities are allowed to join in on a Concordian tradition—getting drunk off cheap booze.

Until midnight, beers are priced at a dollar, as are shots, and until closing time, a full bottle will only run you a toonie.

Those are prices that are hard for anyone to ignore.

"The outsiders are usually the ones that cause the most trouble," said manager/bartender Tory Forsyth.

This has led to several incidents of violence throughout the years, but something that happens whenever alcohol is sold, according to Forsyth.

In 2008, a 22-year-old gang member was shot dead on the steps outside of Reggie's.

Two years after that, a patron had his head slashed by another man wielding a beer bottle. Earlier this year, drunken patrons broke a window in the establishment.

Last Thursday, Forsyth said a few incidents occurred—someone

stole an injured patron's crutch, and another person stole a beer—although both were dealt with swiftly.

But it adds up to Reggie's being considered a dive by many—including Lindsay and Forsyth. That label might not be such a bad thing, of course.

"I've heard it's the third best dive in Montreal. Not to say that it isn't true," said Lindsay. "But we need to keep some integrity in the bar, or troublemakers will come back."

This is why 10 bouncers are now required every Thursday night, an expense which is proving to be costly.

"Reggie's has been notoriously not super-profitable over the years, and part of that is Thursdays being awesome, but Thursdays' costs being so high," said Lindsay. "Revenue is high on Thursdays, but the profit is more or less the same as any other night."

Despite quibbles over profits and the dive-status, Reggie's—and Thursdays—are still an essential part of Concordia life.

"It's part of it, historically," said Lindsay. "Because of that, for us to kill off a night that has done so well in the past would be an injustice."

Others agree.

"It's a little dive-ish. I've associated the entire logo of Reggie's with the purpose of the Thursday nights," said George, a history student. "Reggie's is a good place to go. Cheap alcohol is one of the best ways to go."

CSU VP Student Life Laura Glover argued that Thursdays aren't the only night Concordia has to offer, though.

"You can't broadly categorize drinking culture in Concordia," said Glover. "There are different

groups of students, and they party in different ways. There is maybe a group of 1,000 students that frequent Reggie's, and there's 35,000 undergrads here, so that one group doesn't represent the population."

Glover has come under scrutiny from some who think there aren't enough parties held around the university to supply students with a means to get their drink on.

She says this stems from the CSU wanting to pull out of cultural nights because of safety concerns about students and their level of drinking.

"We have concerns about healthy drinking habits. It's an open bar, so students go to drink as much as they can," said Glover. "But that's what students want, so we have to do that."

And although alcohol brings together a sense of unity in the university, Glover doesn't want any harm to come from students being intoxicated.

"With unhealthy binge drinking, we just want people to minimize risk—without compromising the enjoyment."

But to some, Concordia's drinking culture isn't about Thursdays or special events.

"To me, this is Reggie's," said Forsyth of the half-empty establishment, a ring of regulars enclosing the round bar, slowly sipping on a variety of gold- and brown-hued comforts. While some made small talk, a few found a quiet corner to pull out their notes and textbooks, and others sat back to watch the game.

"People come here and do homework quietly, or meet with friends, or talk with the regulars. It gives the bar a sense of a community centre. Reggie's is a lot of things."

The Psychobilly & The Sitar

King Khan's Homecoming with Tandoori Knights



PHOTO CHARLIE SMITH

• COLIN HARRIS

It's Thanksgiving weekend when I call King Khan, and when he picks up he's making a dinner of butter chicken and dal for his friends in Memphis. They're all going down to Jay Reatard's grave before it gets dark to pay their respects.

This fall's Tandoori tour has brought Khan—real name Arish Khan—and his quartet up and down the East Coast, starting with a show in New York opening for '60s garage legends The Sonics, and down to New Orleans where he caught up with his friends Quinton and Miss Pussycat.

"We've got an RV this time, it's this traveling living room," says Khan. "Man, it's like an opium den when we're driving around because we'll have one person driving and four Indian people sprawled out in the back. It's awesome."

The Tandoori Knights are Khan and his childhood friend Bloodshot Bill. When the two are together, that juvenile side comes back in full force—perfect breeding ground for

their Indo-rockabilly punk.

With the help of an upright bassist and drummer, the Knights have been banging out their signature recipes, spiced up with sounds from the East mixed into their respective roots of garage and psychobilly.

Since Khan's days in the late '90s with Montreal wild party machine The Spaceshits, he's been conjuring the souls of Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry and Little Richard, mixing punk, psychedelia and doo-wop sounds to build a powder-keg of rock 'n' roll mania.

But Khan wanted to do more, and this desire was embodied in his frenetic onstage energy and off-the-wall wardrobe. He's built a persona that extends far beyond the everyday 30-something family man that he is. His legacy as King Khan is something truly deserving of a royal title. By now, it has an almost mythic quality to it.

"When you think of [afrofuturist jazz composer] Sun Ra now, you think of him as coming from outer space. He wasn't just from Alabama, he came from Saturn," said

Khan. "I think that's the magic of music [...] it's like discovering the secret things that might be in your bones, your ancestry, and putting that to music."

Everyone Khan works with is part of one big extended family, their projects fueled by the desire to create music together. The party-punk performer sees it like cooking. "When I was younger my mom refused to teach me how to cook until I got married, I guess so I wouldn't use it as an aphrodisiac thing," laughed Khan.

"Especially with Indian food, there's a lot of improvisation. I never see my grandmother or my mom measuring anything, and it's the same thing for me. I don't read music, I just throw everything in a pot and see what happens. Everyone kind of adds their own spice."

'A Family Business'

After the tour-ending hometown show on Wednesday, Khan heads back to Berlin, the city he's called home since moving there after a Spaceshits tour.

When back in Germany he'll be

putting the final touches on a new record with supreme soul-rockers The Shrines, a record that's been three years in the making.

"We're in the process of finishing the new Shrines album. It's taken us years to do it, but it's going to be really great. We have this great studio in Berlin that we've been using, and I'm really excited," said Khan. "It'll sound really fat and awesome."

Whether in a full-sized band complete with horns and cheerleader, or as a duo playing drums with their feet, every project Khan embarks on is strictly for the love of it. He's a vanguard of genuine music, scantily clad and always ready for a food fight.

"I've been able to raise a family without having to compromise anything. I've made it into a family business," said Khan.

"I'm really lucky to do what I do, especially in the past few years when we've lost so many friends to drugs, and cancer and horrible things. Our time here is limited and people waste so much energy on scheming."

One of the more serious moments of the conversation is interrupted by something that succinctly proves his point about not stressing too much.

"Sorry, people are laughing at me because I'm wearing this track suit from the '70s that my wife's uncle used to wear," he said. "It's really ill-fitting, and we're posing now for these Indian thanksgiving pictures."

Khan is a man who's clearly thankful for everything he's earned so far, and has no plans to slow down. He's always got several projects on the go, and you can be sure the King is enjoying every minute of it. Even the typically somber act of paying respects to a dear departed friend takes on a kind of strange, manic possibility.

"I'm thinking about bringing him a plate of food, and just mashing it into the dirt," said Khan about his plans to visit Jay's grave. "He's buried right next to Isaac Hayes."

Tandoori Knights / Nov. 30 / Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.)

The Arab Winter Is Coming

Six Local Artists Bring Middle East Streets to Montreal



Fresh Paint Gallery transforms to bring the streets of the Arab world to Montreal

PHOTO CHAMSI DIB

• COREY POOL

The historic La Patrie building, formerly owned by the Church of Scientology and currently housing the Under Pressure Fresh Paint Gallery, will be undergoing yet another transformation this week.

The gallery, at the corner of Ste. Catherine St. E. and Hotel de Ville Ave., is being taken over by *The Arab Winter* for the month of December, an exhibition/experience that promises to bring the streets of the Arab world to Montreal in a way that's never been done before.

"We're trying first to move away from the commoditization of a revolution; and we're moving away from getting stuck in time."

—Sundus Abdul Hadi

"You are invited to a world where your freedom is in question, your countries are in limbo, your identity is in flux, and your dreams

are put on ice," said Yassin Alsalman in the press release. Salman, more commonly known as The Narcicyst, an Iraqi-Canadian rapper, author, and artist who calls Montreal his home, is one of the six responsible for *The Arab Winter*.

The project plans to recreate a "post-revolution" Arab street, fusing Arab-inspired graffiti and calligraphy from Tunisians eL Seed and Karim Jabbari respectively, while mixed-media masterpieces and visceral photography from Iraqi sisters Sundus and Tamara Abdul Hadi stand back-to-back with nostalgic video installations by their mother, Sawsan Al Saraf.

The whole experience is musically curated and overseen by The Narcicyst, as he provides the soundtrack accompanied by a group of hand-selected musicians that will guide you through the Arab streets on "the first day after the storm."

At a time when the Arab world is in the global spotlight more than ever, and as we witness the so-called Arab Spring flourish and wilt simultaneously before our eyes, a project like this holds significant weight.

"Obviously the Arab Spring is on everybody's mind," says Sundus,

whose Flight series focuses primarily on the imagination of youth throughout the revolution. "I think I speak for all of us when I say that our work really tries to deal with the current issues that are happening in our homelands."

The exhibition not only deals with what is happening in the Middle East from an Arabic perspective, but it also strives to confront and question the way it is viewed in North America.

"Many people have thought that when we say *The Arab Winter* [it's meant as] a pessimistic view on the Arab Spring—in some ways it is, and in some ways it isn't," said Sundus. "We're trying first to move away from the commoditization of a revolution; and we're moving away from getting stuck in time."

The concept of the changing seasons is both literal and symbolic of a new era for this revolution, and of a time when change and progress have become absolutely necessary for its survival.

"The Arab Spring happened, but we've got to move with the times," says Sundus. "Seasons do change, and we have to move past that initial phase and start thinking about consequences, and start thinking about the future."

She added, "As inspiring as it is, we know that there is still so much to be done, and there are so many stories to be told within these uprisings."

However, every member makes it clear that the exhibit is in no way a platform to spout off opinion; it is in fact quite the opposite.

"We are not here bringing answers, we are here asking questions," said eL Seed. "Also, we want to create discussion around the concept of revolution; what does it mean, and how does a revolution really exist?"

In many ways *The Arab Winter* functions as an interactive exhibition that is focused around education and story telling.

"We are artists; we are cultural producers," says Sundus. "We are not politicians, and we are not political analysts either."

"If anything, [the show] is a point of reference, and a chance for people to question, and to come in and contemplate the events that are happening from a human perspective, from a cultural, and historical perspective – we are not trying to make any statements about politics."

Though Dec. 2 is the main event and opening night, the show will be

occupying the Fresh Paint Gallery until Dec. 24, and the six artists plan to keep the space alive, interactive, and engaging.

"We really want to include a community element into the following three weeks," says Sundus. The group is considering hosting workshops in light-graffiti, calligraphy, photography, and more, and the idea of a panel discussion is in the air.

"We want to make people realize that we aren't that far away from the events going on in the rest of the world," said Sundus. "We want to give people a sense of unity in a way, and sense of understanding."

The exhibit has become much more than the gallery it inhabits for these artists, and for the Arab and non-Arab community alike. An installation like this becomes a platform for discussion, and the hopes for the future are high.

"We definitely want this project to travel," says Sundus. "Hopefully *The Arab Winter* can go on and freeze other cities."

***The Arab Winter* / Dec. 2 to Dec. 24 / Under Pressure Fresh Paint Gallery (180 Ste. Catherine St. E.)**



WEEKLY SPINS

Get your garage on as The Link reviews the latest from Thee Oh Sees and Japanther.



FRINGE FOODIE

"After a screening of The Omnivore's Dilemma, Food, Inc. or King Corn, you may find yourselves asking entirely new questions. Questions, perhaps, of a theatrical nature: 'Can food perform the same role as a movie star?' Of a social nature: 'How can film further food?' Or, most annoyingly to your dearest friends, of a Deleuzian nature: 'How is food a becoming-film and film a becoming-food?'"

WITCHCRAFT

Concordia's Matralab and Hexagram Institute have spent three years digging up research for Witchcraft, a play from the 19th century about the last witch trial in Britain. Catch a performance this week at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre.



EXPOZINE

The awesome small press fair celebrated its 10th birthday this weekend. Missed out? Scan the code to check out all the action, captured with our photographic technology!



Ribboned for Your Pleasure

Literary Publication *Ribbon Pig* Debuts First Issue

• KATIE MCGROARTY

The question of whether or not physical publications will continue to exist with the rise of the Internet is one that has been asked a million times over. Oddly enough, it's almost exclusively asked to people who are involved in the making of said publications—making the answer itself pretty evident.

Ribbon Pig is a new literary publication created by Concordia students that, yes, will exist outside of a webpage.

Volume One will consist of a collection of 10 stories, poems and personal essays that focus on contemporary issues, settings and ideas—but editor Guillaume Morissette said that doesn't mean every story has to mention Facebook or T-Pain.

"I personally dislike stuff that feels like it could have been written in 1954," he said. "We live in radically different conditions and therefore the writing that comes out of those conditions should reflect that in some way."

A self described "literary mix tape," Morissette said *Ribbon Pig* wanted to try something original with the visual presentation, "something different than a zine that you flip through and you're done."

Not only will you be able to hold it in your hands, but *Ribbon Pig* will be a piece of art as well as literature.

Sold as individual booklets packaged inside a limited edition box set, a story that involves borscht and erotic role-play (I won't say any more) even goes as far as having soup stains on the cover.

Ribbon Pig is a project of Maison Kasini, a publisher, shop and all around creative enterprise focused on contemporary art. Although the roles are vaguely defined at publication, Morissette insists that's the way he likes it. "It forces us to communicate a lot," he said. "I don't like hierar-



chies, so I tend to look for relationships of mutual respect".

Having already manned a booth at this weekend's Expozine, *Ribbon Pig* is getting ready for their debut party this Friday. The event will host readings from many contributors from the first issue as well as sets from Institutional Prostitution and Tops. The night will finish off with a DJ set from Cadence Weapon, then followed by an after party at Torn Curtain, swiftly discrediting everyone who has ever said literature was boring.

For readers that want to get a copy but can't attend Friday night's festivities, ordering online is the best option, but keep a look out for *Ribbon Pig* at local shows and expos as well.

Although they're not currently accepting submissions, they will be shortly, so interested writers should keep an eye on their website, ribbonpig.ca, for updates.

The "Debut Spectacular" will be on Friday at Hotel 2 Tango (173 Ave. Van Horne) starting at 9 p.m.

SHINING A LIGHT ON ROMANIAN CINEMA

• HILARY SINCLAIR

The opening scene of *The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu* begins with a blurry scene of the Romanian dictator denying charges of ordering a genocide.

He sits beside his aged wife behind a barricade of desks. The scene flashes with black and white pops that suggests the filmstrip has been left to deteriorate—but the memory of the dictator is far from faded.

This is the first film in the Fine Arts Student Alliance's film series, From Under the Shadow. The film, directed by Romanian Andrei Ujica, takes its place among a movement dubbed New Romanian Cinema, where the films tell stories of Romanians before and after the fall of the brutal Ceausescu.

Over then next two Saturdays, FASA will be screening four more of these films for free at the J.A. de Seve Cinema.

"The first two weeks of programming attempt, through different cinematic designs, to provide an identifiable image of this life

to the audience," said curator Jesse Cumming. "Rather than broad, sweeping narratives, the filmmakers craft their stories around very few characters, showing how tyranny impacts them on an individual level. The final week of films take place in present day Romania, where citizens are no longer oppressed by omnipresent powers."

Stylistically, the films are minimalist with touches of black humour that weave together how individuals handle life after a communist dictator is brought to his knees.

While the themes explored are heavy, the insight into this world is carefully crafted. When the lights come on in the theater the audience feels like it has a much more human understanding of the situation in Romania.

The film opened with a statement from Dr. Max Bergholz, of Concordia's Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, who is also setting up the next film in the series.

"I would encourage you to be patient as you watch this film," said Berholz, "and

watch as this world, his world, his universe slowly begins to crystallize on screen through this archival footage that the director has carefully pieced together."

Rebecca Kelley, an audience member of Romanian descent couldn't believe filmmakers could edit so much of Ceausescu's life into a three-hour film, which takes you inside his world. "It seemed like it would be such an exclusive thing to be at that place, and for someone to be filming that."

Filmgoers in the audience said they plan on seeing more films from the movement.

"I find it exceedingly rare in modern cinema to find a group of filmmakers producing such interesting and consistent work that is able to function cohesively, as a whole," said Cumming. "This is one of the reasons we were so happy to be able to a number of the films, rather than just one."

Check out the film schedule on the FASA website at fineartsstudentalliance.ca.

Let the Press Pass

SPVM Fails to Recognize Non-Mainstream Media



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

"I don't think you got it—so you're going to go outside."

That's how an officer from the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal ousted me from the 'media zone' during the eviction of the Occupy Montreal protesters from Victoria Square on Friday.

I went to Occupy Montreal as a reporter from *The Link*. I was covering the event for a legitimate publication, bearing a *Link* press pass as proof I was doing so.

As a member of the press, I would have appreciated receiving similar courtesies as were bestowed on journalists from the mainstream media. All I was there to do was my job.

An SPVM officer began shouting at a photographer, his tone rising. I decided to pull out my camera and film the argument, hoping to catch a live depiction of debating about what the press is entitled to do and not to do.

When the officer realized I was filming, he threatened to arrest me if I didn't leave immediately. I showed my press pass but it didn't change much. Other student reporters and non-mainstream journalists were also asked to leave the space reserved for media.

There is so much I could say about the incident—firstly being that the officer was violating several of my charter rights. He argued that my camera was "in his face" despite the fact that I had taken the precaution to stand a metre away, and that it took him almost 30 seconds to even notice my presence.

When I moved back further to appease him, he continued to threaten me. Last time I checked, freedom of the press was still entrenched in the constitution—but I guess some SPVM officers skipped out on Intro to Canadian Politics.

While all this was happening, it's worth noting that the SPVM had their own photographer, taking pictures of the protesters, as well as of some journalists. I wonder if any of the officers learned about irony in any literature classes.

The issue of accreditation is problematic for journalists covering protests and events with a police presence. The SPVM only issues press passes for a few selected events. "We don't deliver press pass [sic] annually except for some events like the anti-police brutality [protest]," the SPVM replied to my query via their official Twitter account.

This all boils down to the issue of defining who is a reporter. Stefan Christoff, a freelance journalist and activist at Occupy Montreal, explained.

"[The] media is anybody who is a person at the event and documenting the event. Any kind of discrimination from the police about defining who is a journalist and who is not is something to be denounced, period."

Montreal's non-mainstream press are not alone in experiencing an attitude of contempt from cops, however. An article published on *Wired* magazine's website on Nov. 18 explained that the New York Police Department expected journalists to carry press passes, while it was virtually impossible for them to even obtain NYPD-issued

passes in the first place.

The point is: the SPVM, and police forces in general, have to stop deciding who counts as media and who does not. They should be accountable to the press in its entirety—and not assume that the mainstream media upholds a higher level of professionalism than the non-mainstream press.

Only one cameraman during the Occupy Montreal eviction had the luxury of a bright orange pass giving him the privilege of getting close to the tents; the rest of us were stuck on the sidewalk.

It's about time we establish clear rules about what the police is entitled to require in terms of professional identification, if any.

Freelance reporters, bloggers, student journalists are just as important as mainstream news journalists—together, they maintain the high quality of the press, and work hard keep our democracy strong and its actors accountable.



Watch as SPVM Media Relations Agent Daniel Lacoursiere ousts *The Link's* photographer from the designated media zone at the Occupy Montreal Eviction.



Concordia On: The Media

• SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

This week, words like democracy, objectivity and access kept coming up in *The Link's* office. So, we decided to take to Concordia's hallways find out what ConU student's think about the media. We asked students whether or not they trust their news media.

"No [I don't trust the media]. I feel there is too much bias exerted by who controls what it is said."



—Antoine Dufour-Blain
BA English Literature

"Well, I don't think I can trust one specific source, because there is a bias within each media [source]. If the organizations are non-profit, I think I can increase my confidence in them because they are not biased because of the sponsors. I think as an individual, it is important to see more and try to absorb as much material and sources as possible and to generate your own opinions."



—Vincent Yip
BComm Accountancy

"I don't think 100 per cent of what they say or illustrate is true because they filter it. Alternative news could be more trustworthy than the regular [mainstream] news. They are not as controlled."



—Chris Drogaris
BFA Computation Arts

"It is a very difficult question. You know, there is always that dark hand in the back. It's hard to [tell] if what you are seeing has an ulterior motive to it. Even at home [in Columbia], there was a time where my mother used to say, 'Oh! I don't watch the media because God knows what they are really trying to inject in you!' You have to look at it [the news media]. I wouldn't say don't trust it. But be mindful."



—Roxwel Ruiz
BFA Computation Arts

"It depends. If you look at the popular media, I find the news is there. But they often put in their own point of view. So, if you get it [the news] from multiple sources, then you can make up your own mind."



—Eric Martineau
Masters Marketing

Disgustingly Expensive

Students Speak Out Against Meal Plans

• ERIC WHITE

When I found out that buying a meal plan was a requirement to live in residence at Concordia, I didn't think much of it. I figured the food probably wouldn't be the greatest, but hey, I didn't have a choice.

Recent reports have revealed that Chartwells—the sole company responsible for this school's food services—lost Concordia \$51,000 last year. With this deficit and the less-than-appetizing food in mind, I can't help but wonder why I'm paying such a ridiculous amount to a company that's losing my school money.

Meal plans in residence start at \$3,721 for an entire academic year, with the most expensive option costing \$3,980. Even if the food was delicious and nutritious, it would still be significantly more expensive than letting students buy their own groceries.

"When I was budgeting for first year, I knew that I could make better food for much less if I was cooking for myself," said Meghan Gagliardi, a resident who pays for her living and university expenses on her own.

Options are limited for people who are tired of eating at the cafeteria. There are some options where residents can use the 'flex dollars' from their meal plan to buy pre-packaged food from Chartwells. Beyond that, however, there's not much else you can do—especially if you're on a tight budget.

"I can't afford to buy groceries all the time and I can't afford to go out since I've already spent all my



A rather costly and er, appetizing, Chartwell's meal

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

money on Chartwells," Gagliardi said.

Each "all you care to eat" Chartwells meal costs \$9.75—plus tax. For people eating one to two such meals a day, which most people do, this means you're spending at least \$20 on food a day, a sum that could be much better spent elsewhere.

Students' main issue with Chartwells, besides the fact that it's incredibly overpriced, is the lack of both quality and variety.

"I would never pay \$10.00 for a meal like that anywhere else," said Joel Abrahams, a journalism stu-

dent living in residence. "I haven't had a meal that's impressed me. Everything's either decent or poor quality."

At the Loyola cafeteria, there are two constants at meal times: the grill and stir-fry section. The hot food section, although it changes daily, also does not offer much variety. Each meal includes some sort of meat, rice or pasta, and mystery veggies—and you're more than likely to see one of these dishes being served multiple times a week.

For vegetarians, there are even fewer options. "It's tough to get

your money's worth," said psychology student Kathleen Litzenberger, a pescetarian. "There's just not enough protein served."

Litzenberger listed many concerns. She won't touch the deep-fried, breaded oily cutlets of fish that Chartwells serves every few weeks. She also said that she's talked to a manager about getting more options in the salad bar. She'd like to see food such as avocado, cheese, yogurt, and smoked salmon—but she's not holding her breath.

Plans either need to be made optional, more affordable, or there

needs to be a serious upgrade in the quality of the food. In terms of the quality and variety, students living in residence deserve a higher standard of eating—especially if they aren't given the option to opt out.

If this system is losing Concordia money on top of everything else that's wrong with it, then maybe it's time to blow it up and start anew.

"I wake up and force myself to go to the cafeteria because I've already invested in this food that I don't even enjoy eating at all," Gagliardi said.



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Better the Bylaws

Recent times have been characterized by widespread loss of confidence in the legitimacy of our democratic institutions, at every level of government.

Majority governments elected with a minority of the popular vote; elections called at a time most profitable to the party in power; serious allegations of collusion, corruption and conflict of interest; lack of transparency in the use of public funds; ridiculous electoral campaigns which spread more cynicism than ideas.

Examples of serious problems abound, many of which plague large governments and student associations alike.

The proposed Concordia Student Union bylaw reforms, which will be subject to referendum during the Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 CSU byelection, have been designed to

make the CSU more democratic, more representative and more liable to its members.

I invite you to study the proposed reforms. I believe that you will not be disappointed.

—Bruno Joyal

CSU Councillor, Arts & Science
Member of the CSU Policy Reform Committee

Vote Yes

This week, on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, we're asking you to head to the polls and vote yes to a set of historic bylaw changes for your union. I know ordinary students don't often interact with these regulations, and they might seem complicated (or kind of boring), but they're of incredible importance.

The proposed changes represent more than eight months of revisions, meetings, reports and public consultations all aimed at making the Concordia Student

Union, the organization that represents all students on this campus, better.

These changes mean more direct democracy, stronger mechanisms to keep executives (like us!) more accountable, and a forward-looking vision on student space. It's kind of a big deal. Please vote. Want more information? Check out the Facebook page and elections.csu.qc.ca and help make your union better.

—Lex Gill
CSU President

A Stronger Community

You are reading this letter today on the first day of an extremely important Concordia Student Union byelection.

I have written many letters in the past about CSU elections, each one full of hope and promises—but this byelection is possibly the most

important culmination of all of these promises: an opportunity to finally institutionalize meaningful change in our union.

This Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1 you have the opportunity to vote on an entirely reformed package of the CSU bylaws. These reforms mean a more accessible, representative, accountable and democratic union. I have spent the majority of my time at the CSU over the past three years pushing for reforms like these and am so excited to finally have a chance to give you the union you deserve.

Please read the documents made available to you at elections.csu.qc.ca, get informed, and vote yes to bylaw reform.

P.S. CUTV & CJLO are some of the most accessible and supportive groups in this community that I have had the honour of working with. Please vote yes to their referendum questions as well. I am con-

fident that their expansion of services and resources will only strengthen our community.

—Morgan Pudwell

CSU VP Advocacy & Outreach
Chair of the CSU Policy Committee
Chair of the Yes Committee

Vote Yes!

After several drafts and numerous lively discussions on Council, it is now time for undergraduates to vote on proposed changes to the Concordia Student Union bylaws.

As a member of the CSU Council for two years I have seen the proposed amendments and have been privileged enough to be a part of this process. These changes will give more power to individual students to hold their elected representatives accountable.

These bylaws limit the powers of the CSU's executive thereby ensuring better governance and account-

ability. According to the current CSU bylaws, the president could use a presidential decree to make decisions, bypassing the CSU Council that serves as the checks and balances of the union.

This decree has been abused in recent years when presidents were reluctant to call special Council meetings. The new bylaws guarantee that such a decree cannot be used to bypass Council.

The proposed bylaw changes also simplify the procedure to remove an elected executive member from office by replacing the recall procedure with an impeachment procedure.

The recall procedure has never been used successfully because the people in office could easily interfere and delay it long enough to finish their mandate. The impeachment procedure would allow students to replace an elected official that is not working in the best interests of students or not fulfilling his or her mandate.

In this case, the person will have to leave office immediately after a vote takes place in a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

The new bylaws also empower CSU Council and individual students to keep the CSU executive in check. The frequency of Council meetings has been increased to ensure the executive's transparency and accountability due to their need to report to Council, the media and to students at large in these public meetings.

I am thrilled to see this opportunity to promote and uphold direct democracy at Concordia. Quorum for Special General Meetings has been decreased from 2.5 per cent to 450 students (representing roughly 1.5 per cent as ap-

proved by the SGM at the WHALE in February 2011).

This will facilitate the calling of these meetings more frequently to consult students and make important decisions directing the Union.

Going forward, we can actively hold our elected representatives accountable to their mandate! On Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, I encourage *you* to empower yourselves! Vote *yes* to the proposed changes to the CSU bylaws!

—Melanie Hotchkiss

CSU Arts & Science Councillor
School of Community, Public Affairs &
Policy Studies

Vote No

Today Concordia students will be going to the polling stations to cast their votes in the Concordia Student Union byelection.

There are many interesting and important questions on the ballot, like the increased fee levy for CJLO and CUTV and the position of the Concordia Student Union regarding to tuition hikes and accessible education.

But one question seems to fall between the cracks—its importance is marginalized and its repercussions unexplained. This question is, does the student body wish to change their bylaws to a new set of bylaws that were penned primarily by current CSU President Lex Gill?

I've already probably lost most readers by this point. Who cares about bylaws?

Well, that seems to be the assumption of the CSU—since there has been no serious attempt to educate the student body about these bylaws and

changes.

Our bylaws are like our constitution. They aren't changed often and should not be tampered with lightly, without all of the information available to students. The CSU has posted the "new and revised" bylaws on their website as if they had already passed referendum. I find this to be unacceptable.

A student named Ace Szmolyan started a Facebook page where he provided all of the missing documentation to students. His unofficial "NO" campaign is called "Demand Knowledge: Vote NO for the CSU bylaw changes" and it was the first place where students have been able to get their hands on the old bylaws, the new bylaws and the proposed changes.

The CSU then scurried to launch a very weak "YES" campaign, trying to divert the attention of students from the negligence and incompetence of their executive team. They've been telling us how "cool" the bylaw changes are by filling the page with articles about tuition—anything to get out of an actual debate or discourse regarding the actual proposed changes.

In this upcoming by-election, please join me and hundreds of like-minded students in showing the CSU that if they want our support, they need to involve us, they need to inform us and they must not keep information from us.

Vote NO for the bylaw changes, and check out the unofficial "No" page to see the debate rage on!
<https://www.facebook.com/events/291992754166626/>

—Tomer Shavit
Computation Art



Hard to Deal

I have a really embarrassing problem. There's this girl I like, and every time I'm around her I get hard! I can't help it and I'm worried she notices. It feels like high school all over again. Is there a medication I can take to stop this from happening?

—Hard-Done-By

That doesn't sound so bad to me, as far as problems go! In all honesty, I totally understand. This used to happen to a boy I liked in high school and it made for some pretty awkward interactions. Hopefully this lady friend is as understanding about the situation as I was.

Keep in mind; I don't have a penis, so I'll do my best to advise you without suggesting impossible things.

First of all, erections happen! Especially if you like this girl, it makes sense that it's happening and that's truly nothing to be ashamed of. That being said, I'm not sure if there's a medication that serves the opposite purpose of Viagra, but if there is, I would tell you not to use it.

There's nothing wrong with getting an erection around a girl you like and it's no reason to medicate yourself. That being said, there are ways to deal with your situation. I would suggest one or all of these techniques: masturbation, unsexy visualization, and covering.

You could try masturbating before you know you're going to be seeing this girl. Masturbation is safe, totally natural, healthy, and it can be a great way to help manage sexual urges, stress and anxiety. The goal here is to desensitize yourself to thoughts of her.

This strategy could also backfire though, so you should probably try to not think of her every time you masturbate, since that just might make you think of sex even more when you see her.

Next, think unsexy. I hope that you're not just thinking about having sex with this girl every time you see her but, even if you are, unsexy thoughts can be helpful.

This does also depend on if you're more of a visual person, since seeing her may be more powerful than your imagination, but next time you see her think about your grandma. Or your dog. Or really anything non-sexual that you can really focus on.

Again, I don't have a penis so this is probably much harder than I'm making it sound (pun intended).

If that doesn't work and this is really stressful and embarrassing for you, then consider your clothing options. Try wearing underwear that will hold your penis closer to your body like briefs or boxer-briefs, or try excusing yourself to the bathroom when you feel it coming on and use your underwear or jeans waistband to minimize the visibility.

You can also try baggier pants, longer shirts, whatever will help draw less attention to the area.

If all else fails, let it happen. No, really—accept that your body is doing this and let it take you along. I can't guarantee she won't freak out if she notices, but you can try explaining to her that it's a reaction you can't control, that it's actually pretty embarrassing for you, and you're sorry if it makes her uncomfortable.

If you make it clear that you have good intentions, she'd be overreacting if she thinks you're some kind of pervert. Who knows, she might even appreciate your honesty and openness about the situation.

—Melissa Fuller

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

'COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY'

Across

1. It's never been easier to see your friends without having to actually *see* your friends.

5. Now you can see the fine programming of *Extreme Couponing* and *Teen Mom* in the comfort of your own home! You know what? Fuck this medium.

9. The modern successor to traditional mail, as the name suggests.

10. Before BlackBerries, you weren't an executive on Wall Street unless you had one of these things strapped to your belt. Later, you weren't a drug dealer in Baltimore unless you had one of these things strapped to your belt-loop.

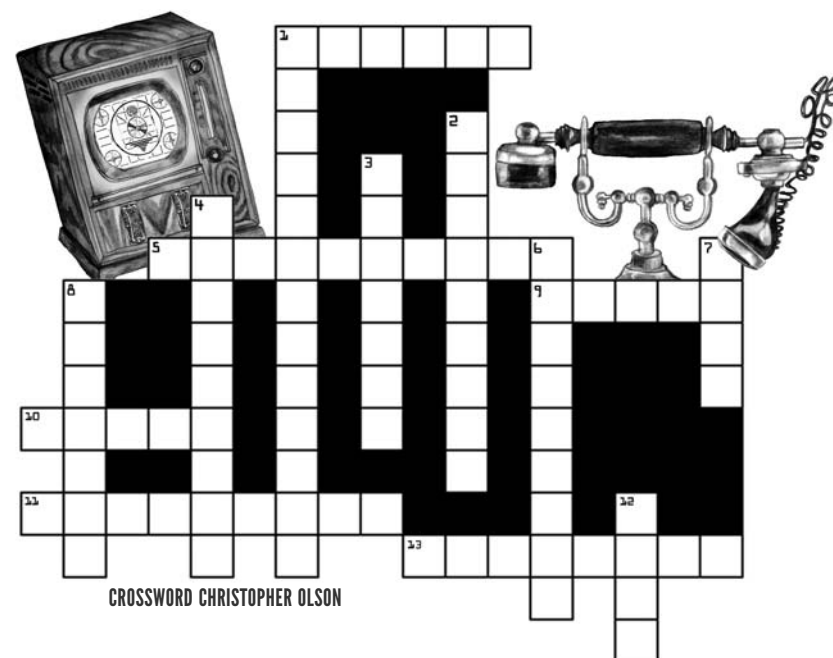
11. It's never been easier talking to your friends without having to witness their hideous visages.

13. Remember when your drunken escapades weren't well known to the world? Yeah, no one else does either.

Down

1. Remember when the postman wasn't a man but instead a winged animal? Just kidding, who remembers actual mailmen?

2. The most comprehensive up-to-



date repository of information in the world. The authenticity of the information contained within, however, is highly suspect—up until it's 2:00 a.m. and your paper is due in six hours.

3. It's like CNN's tickertape, but dedicated to what Kim Kardashian had for lunch.

4. THIS FORM OF COMMUNICATION IS OBSOLETE STOP. IT IS ONLY USED FOR NOVELTY STOP. THIS USE OF ALL CAPS MUST

STOP STOP.

6. You're reading it. Metaaaaa.

7. Remember when diaries were private? I mean, apart from your parents/siblings/supposed best friends snooping in them. That's why I developed an advanced encryption technique to keep mine a secret.

8. It's like 1,000 books in the palm of your hand! Whatever 'books' are.

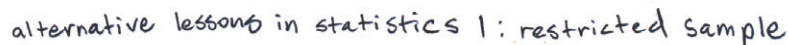
12. This was once the singular means of disseminating information to the masses, aside from shouting.

by Christopher Olson

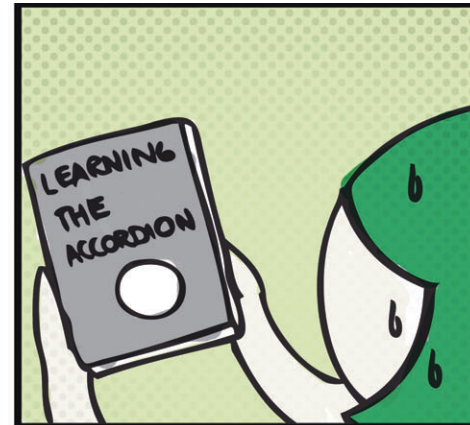


With one parting glance, the man evaporated into the night. The next day it rained.

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



A cartoon illustration of four jars of jam. From left to right: a blue jar, a tall grey jar, a red jar, and a yellow jar. Each jar has a uniquely angry facial expression with furrowed brows and a grimace. The jars are set against a plain white background.

GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial

—Julian Ward
News Editor

We couldn't even make these bylaws sexy in our editorial cartoon. Just go vote.

GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
 - 2. THE ELI ON KING
 - 4. FOOT LOOSE
 - 6. HAIR
 - 8. HE PRODUCERS
 - 10. WEST SIDE STORY
 - 12. CATS
 - 14. OKLAHOMA
 - 16. ABRYINTH
- Down:
 - 1. H
 - 3. RENE
 - 5. GRENADA
 - 7. MAMMAMIA
 - 9. AL
 - 11. U
 - 13. R
 - 15. Y

To the right of the grid is a black and white illustration of a shiny, polished leather dress shoe. Below the shoe are the words "tap tap" written in a stylized, handwritten font.



CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by *The Link* Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *The Link's* constitution. Any student is welcome to work on *The Link* and become a voting staff member. *The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec.

Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from The Link. Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link's* statement of principles.

Board of Directors 2011-2012: Clare Raspopov, Mathieu Biard, Christopher Curtis, Justin Giovannetti, Morgan Todd, Jamila Musayeva; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Laura Beeston. Typesetting by *The Link*. Printing by Transcontinental.

Online and print contributors: Joshua Barkman, Emily Campbell, Charnsi Dib, Shoshana Eidleman, Dario Farina, Melissa Fuller, Justin Giovannetti, Sanaz Sunnie Hassanpour, Claudine Lamothe, Brian Lapuz, Natalia Lara Diaz-Berrio, Joseph Leger, Andrew Maggio, Dylan Maloney, Katie McGroarty, Christopher Olson, Sheridan Polinsky, Corey Pool, Hilary Sinclair, Charlie Smith, Riley Sparks, Eric White, Jonathan Woods and Jordie Yeager.

Volume 32, Issue 14
Tuesday, November 29, 2011
 Concordia University
 Hall Building, Room H-649
 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
 Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

editor: (514) 848-2424 x. 7405
 arts: (514) 848-2424 x. 5813
 ads: (514) 848-2424 x. 8682
 fax: (514) 848-4540
 business: (514) 848-7406

editor-in-chief

LAURA BEESTON

news editor

JULIAN WARD

current affairs editor

ADAM KOVAC

assistant news editor

JACOB ROBERTS

fringe arts editor

ALEX MCGILL

fringe arts online editor

COLIN HARRIS

lifestyle editor

DAVID MURPHY

sports online editor

DAVID KAUFMANN

copy editor

ALEX MANLEY

opinions editor

MEGAN DOLSKI

community editor

PIERRE CHAUVIN

photo editor

ERIN SPARKS

graphics editor

ERIC BENT

managing editor

JULIA WOLFE

creative director

CLÉMENT LIU

coordinating editor

JULIA JONES

webmaster

OPEN

business manager

RACHEL BOUCHER

ad designer

ADAM NORRIS

distribution

ROBERT DESMARAIS

DAVID KAUFMANN

Cover By:
 Clément Liu & Julia Wolfe