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STARTING OVER • 19

Cost of an Occupation



Unhappy with the way their administration handled a fee levy referendum, 23 students occupied the sixth floor of the James Administration Building for five days in February before leaving peacefully. Thirty-five students, including first-floor sympathizers like these two, faced charges.

PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

McGill Admin Reveals #6party Racked Up 141K Tab

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

It's been almost two months since the James Building occupation at McGill University ended, but the party isn't over just yet.

An Access to Information request submitted by *The Link* revealed that the #6party occupation came with a #6figure price tag, costing McGill University over \$141,000.

Calling the occupation a "surprise resignation party" for Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning Morton Mendelson, 23 students demanded that administration overturn a decision to invalidate a referendum that granted funding for CKUT and the Quebec Public Interest Research Group.

Heightened security and overtime pay account for over \$134,000 of the money spent during the five-day protest that began on Feb. 7.

Other costs are split between overtime agency personnel, catering, and cleaning. During the first three days of the occupation, the university spent a combined \$60,867. By comparison, the following week, the costs dropped to about \$11,570 per day.

"The university has a budget of

nearly a billion dollars," said McGill University spokesperson Doug Sweet. "We'll just have to suck it up."

"If every time someone occupied a space and the university ceded to their demands, what would happen?"

Not all McGill students share Sweet's view of the #6party expenses, saying this large bill might have been avoided if the university had engaged in a dialogue with protesters.

"Everything about how the administration handled the occupation showed that they had all the resources they needed to do everything but engage with their students about the reasons they were there," said Danji Buck-Moore, one of the sixth floor occupiers.

Students' Society of McGill University President Maggie Knight, wasn't surprised by the costs related to the occupation.

"It's up to the McGill community whether they consider that money well-spent or what they think should have happened instead," said Knight.

During the occupation, the administration gradually cut the occupiers' access to food, electricity and functioning plumbing. While

it ended peacefully after five days with an eviction conducted by the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal, the consequences extended beyond the financial ones.

McGill made the headlines for several days as approximately 35 students were charged under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

These include not only the 23 students who started the occupation, but also those who occupied the building's ground floor in solidarity. Two editors from *The McGill Daily* who were reporting on the occupation were also charged by the administration.

Sweet refused to disclose any information about the state of the proceedings.

"I don't know what is happening and I'm not supposed to know because it's confidential," he said.

Sweet added that, under the disciplinary process, there were provisions for fines.

The charges include disruption, unauthorized entry and/or presence; unauthorized or fraudulent use of university facilities, equipment or services; and physical abuses, harassment and dangerous activity.

"No final judgment has been

passed yet, as far as I know," said Buck-Moore.

He and another McGill student also lost their jobs as residence assistants in the Solin Hall residence building as a consequence of their involvement in the occupation.

"We just hope that due process is observed; that they are not targeted above and beyond what's already provided for based on the political nature of their protest," said Knight.

In an interview with the *Daily*, McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum commented on the new security measures and long-term consequences of the occupation.

"There are 300 people who come in and work really hard," said Munroe-Blum. "[They] felt completely unsafe in the building, had their space intruded; some of them [felt] physically very threatened. So there's an aftermath to that."

Many students, however, are still waiting for signs that the university has their interests at heart with regards to the fallout from the occupation.

"A lot needs to come from the administration," said Knight. "The more powerful party needs to take the first step as a sign of good faith."

STRIKE UPDATE

• COMPLIED BY COLIN HARRIS

With the Concordia Student Union no longer holding General Assemblies to address strike mandates, things are happening on the departmental level. Here's the current status of student associations that have held strike votes.

CASA

The Commerce and Administration Students' Association is *NOT* on strike.

COMS Guild

The Communication Studies Student Guild is ON strike.

ECA

The Engineering and Computer Science Association is *NOT* on strike.

FASA

The Fine Arts Student Alliance is ON strike.

GUSS

The Geography Undergraduate Student Society is ON strike.

JSA

The Journalism Student Association is ON strike.

PSSA

The Political Science Student Association is *NOT* on strike.

SoPhiA

The Students of Philosophy Association is ON strike.

SASU

The Society and Anthropology Student Union is ON strike.

UPA

The Urban Planning Association is ON strike.

WSSA

The Women's Studies Student Association is ON strike.

Talking With the Presidents



Outgoing CSU president, Lex Gill says she is “ready to be done.”

PHOTO RILEY SPARKS



Incoming CSU president Schubert Laforest has begun meeting with Gill to discuss his term. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Gill and Laforest Talk CSU, Board, Prez and More

• JULIA WOLFE

As *Your Concordia* vacates their offices on the seventh floor of the Hall Building, *A Better Concordia* is figuring out how to represent the students in a university on the eve of sweeping administration change.

The Link sat down with Lex Gill and Schubert Laforest, the current and upcoming Concordia Student Union Presidents to get their takes on the state of affairs and plans for the future.

ON THIS YEAR'S CSU

Gill: We had one of the most difficult times at the union and I think that my executive have done a really good job of making it through that.

The bylaws and standing regulations are completely rewritten, we said no to the student center, and you can look to orientation. We proved that you can do orientation right, that it can be local and sustainable and reasonably priced.

We proved that you can do these sorts of things right. I think [VP Student Life] Laura Glover has done a lot to make student life into a more holistic portfolio and she's invested a lot of time and energy building a new policy around that.

I think when people look back on our year, they will probably remember the strike and the tuition campaign the most, but that's just one part of the work that we got done.

Laforest: [The current CSU was] able to mobilize despite being an English university. [...] It showed Concordia's unique nature. It's an English university, but in many aspects we behave like a French university.

Having this whole tuition dialogue, which hasn't really been had at Concordia before, brought to the surface this activism that was kind of dormant at Concordia. People on both sides of the issue came out in droves to voice their opinions and that was something that we want to foster and keep alive.

Students felt [the CSU was] spitting information at them, saying you need to strike because of this and this reason and that there wasn't enough of the opposite opinion. Just giving a venue for the opposite opinion to take place is really important.

Not only does it add legitimacy that you have equal representation of both views, but it also makes students more comfortable to participate in the process.

ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Gill: A good Board chair is someone who is fair and objective, has a broad idea of what the best interest of the university is and someone who listens. A lot of that role is listening.

Quite frankly, I think the whole structure of the board is a mess. It's corporate people with corporate interests and until that changes [...] I don't know how much of a difference you're going to see in how the Board operates.

With the number of people leaving this year, there is a real opportunity to get people who have a more direct involvement with the community.

If you look at the way the university operates, it's not actually that the Board or the senior administration are evil people out to get you. I think it's really easy for them to painted that way because it is endlessly frustrating. It's just that the university's interests and the students' interests are not al-

ways the same thing.

Laforest: It's important to have a chair that respects students. [...] Right now, [the Governors] don't treat students as equals, they treat us as people who should act as if they are lucky to be here not as if this is our right and we should be taken seriously when we are bringing out concerns to the table.

One of the main fights is to get the alternate member an actual seat on the board. I know it's going to be a long, arduous battle [...] I'm not going to stop until we get it.

And if it's something we can't achieve by the end of our mandate, we want to actually have made active steps towards getting that second seat. [With only one student rep,] you're kind of put in a position where you're at the mercy of the Board and you really have to depend on them to get things done or get things talked about.

ON THE NEW PRESIDENT

Gill: Whoever the new president is will have a significant impact on the tone on university governance—at least, I hope they will.

There is a need for fresh faces; I think even the Board recognizes that when they talk about renewal.

Laforest: A functioning relationship with this university's president is vital. [Concordia needs] a president that is going to be willing to address to the issues of mismanagement of the university, will acknowledge that financial mismanagement exists and will take active measures to ensure that it does not happen again.

I would like to see a Concordia president who acknowledges that Concordia is unique and that our students are not going to sit

around and let the Board do its thing. They want to be in the know, they want to be on the front lines, they want to be involved in everything.

ON THE CFS

Gill: With the [Canadian Federation of Students] lawsuit, the wheels are in motion. It's just about serious carry-through and making sure that those things don't get neglected. Being in a long-term legal battle is not glamorous, but it's work that needs to get done.

If the CFS were allowed back on this campus right now, it would destroy three, four years of really important work. Given the organization's history with Concordia, it would just open the open the door to same politics that we're glad to get rid of.

Laforest: I'd love to win the case, but I'm not sure how realistic that is. We'll just have to make sure that active steps are taken. We need to be fully sure we don't have to pay ridiculous fees.

ON THE CHARTWELLS CONTRACT

Gill: Students should be demanding to be involved in [the Chartwells negotiations]. I think the clearest place to look is residence life; those are the students directly affected by it. I don't think it would be a hard sell to get students involved in that process in some way. It's one of the biggest things that comes up around the CSU office, the lack of consultation with students among corporate contracts.

I almost feel like it shouldn't be the CSU at the table; it should students from residence who are in-

involved in that process, and the CSU should be acting as bridge to get them there.

Laforest: [Chartwells] is something we're going to be negotiating and looking into sustainable alternatives to. [VP Sustainability] Andrew Roberts is very adamant that it is a sustainable model, not just in terms of the environment but also both in terms in the way it's run and that it's cost-effective.

ON JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Gill: When I think back on the year, my executives have spent a lot of time building really strong relationships specifically in fine arts and arts and sciences, but we had trouble in engineering and business.

It's really hard to reach out to JMSB. It would have been nice to find new ways to reach out to those communities a lot of the time. One of the biggest challenges for us politically has been trying to keep everyone happy. Sometimes you end up making compromises to make everyone happy and in the end you make no one happy.

Laforest: [The divide between JMSB and the rest of the school is] something that has always been there. JMSB students feel estranged by this university. There are two things that need to be addressed—there is the actual representatives of their views and they fact that they don't engage in these processes. [...]

We want to promote inter-faculty collaborations, because when you work together on a project, that ties the Concordia community together.

Now We're Talking



Frederick Lowy, Andy Filipowich and Chris Mota on discuss with demonstrating students.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Prez Lowy Speaks to Students After Hallway Occupation

• HILARY SINCLAIR

Concordia's Interim President Frederick Lowy opened up an impromptu dialogue with students for the first time Monday, discussing tuition hikes and the university's hard stance on dissenting action.

Following an occupation of the corridor outside the president's office on the 15th floor of the MB Building, Lowy replied to an email sent by fine arts student Casey Stainsby asking him to join in on the conversation.

The president, who had just returned from a trip to Hong Kong, didn't deviate from the pro-tuition hike stance of university administration, saying, "The universities in Quebec have been pushing for those tuition hikes for a long time, and finally the government has acted," he said.

"I personally would have no problem with zero tuition, with no tuition at all, provided that the university could get operating funds from other sources."

The occupation began as a result of the Fine Arts Student Alliance's Special General Meeting's

failure to meet quorum. After waiting over an hour to discuss a continuation of the alliance's strike mandate, which has spanned almost five weeks, students decided to use their numbers to take real action.

"People were getting furiously demoralized, and the sentiment in the SGM room was pretty negative," said studio arts student Evan Montpellier. "One student put it quite well, when she said, 'I didn't realize I was coming to a funeral today.'"

Banging on walls and buckets and chanting, "Whose school? Our school!" students filled the t-shaped corridors that lead to the president's office, until they got word that he would talk.

"I am presently on a telephone call, but, when my meeting is over, I will come out and will be pleased to speak with you," Lowy responded in his email to Stainsby.

After hearing that Director of Concordia's Media Relations Chris Mota would be arriving to moderate the discussion, students chose undergraduate Senate representative Andy Filipowich to moderate on behalf of protesters.

The students' demands were relayed to the president by Montpellier, who in turn relayed to students the 'business as usual' attitude taken by administration.

He said that Lowy must "do whatever is necessary to publically and vocally support academic amnesty being given to all students who have participated in the strike.

"Secondly, [...] push for the university to take a public stance in opposition to the \$1,625 tuition hike budgeted by the Charest government."

The president responded by saying that the hikes are necessary due to underfunding.

"This slogan that I think a lot of you object to, 'Students should do their part,' is in fact the case," said Lowy. "If the student contribution were not to go up and there were no other funds to compensate, we would literally be falling more and more behind, year after year."

Academic amnesty, he said, falls under the purview of each professor, emphasizing that it would be out of tradition to tell teachers how to run

their classes.

"We don't have an overall policy at this university that tells individual professors how to run their courses or how to mark the exams, or how to set the exams, or all the rest," said Lowy.

Some students believed that this was a crucial crack in the administration's hard stance, but Montpellier was appalled by the seeming lack of knowledge the head of the university has on the subject.

"I was generally just shocked by the level of ignorance, of just absolute ignorance coming from Lowy," he said. "It's not just about internal affairs at Concordia. He had the wrong facts about issues with the budget. He didn't know how much of the money that is garnered from the tuition fees is going to be reinvested in the education system."

The president was eager to continue discussion with students, telling them he was free to meet the next morning. The Concordia Student Union will work with Lowy's office to determine the details, but promised dialogue within the next few days.

"I was generally just shocked by the level of ignorance, of just absolute ignorance coming from Lowy,"

—Evan Montpellier
Studio Arts Student

MANIFESTATION MARATHON



1. A Charest dummy burns during last Thursday's Grand Mascarade.
PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

2. Students gather at Place des Arts before the start of the march.
PHOTO BENJAMIN ALLARD

3. Thursday's Grand Mascarade attracted many elaborately dressed protestors.
PHOTO BENJAMIN ALLARD

4. An April Fool's Day march saw students suit up as they marched ironically in support of tuition hikes.
PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

5. Costumed protestors lie down in front of police by UQAM during the Grand Mascarade.
PHOTO ADAM KOVAC



Scrutinizing Security



Security agents at Concordia film demonstrating students

PHOTO BENJAMIN ALLARD

Agent at Concordia Found Without a License

• COREY POOL

Concordia University security is falling under further scrutiny after the security officer involved in the alleged assault of a student on March 23 has been revealed to not possess a valid security permit.

A document shared with *The Linkz* revealed that the security guard in question is not a licensed agent with his employer, Agence de sécurité Maximum Inc.

"Following verification with his employer, [...] we have been advised that he does not hold a security permit at this moment," said Concordia Security Acting Director Jacques Lachance in the written response to a formal complaint filed against the agent requesting his name and license number.

"The university told us on [March 30] that this person was under review," said Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott. "Then we found out that he wasn't even licensed at all, which leads me to believe that the university lied to us, or they themselves were lied to."

"Every security agent that is on the university premises is supposed to be a licensed individual. These individuals are also all supposed to be providing students with licenses when requested, and to fail to do so is a violation of the Private Security Act."

According to section four of Quebec's Private Security Act, "Any person operating an enterprise that carries on a private security activity must hold an agency license of the appropriate class."

Any agent in violation of section four is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$500 to \$5,000. Additionally, if convicted, the agent in question is liable to be found in contempt of several other sections of the act.

Amber Gross, the McGill student who was the victim of the alleged assault, filed a complaint against the agent and asked Concordia security to investigate. Gross says she was encouraged by a Concordia security officer to pursue a formal complaint with the security department.

Gross was part of a group of Concordia and McGill students

demonstrating outside of a class in the Faubourg Building, reportedly there reminding students that their associations were still on strike.

"It was sort of our way of responding to the fact that security was going to be ramped up on each one of our campuses," said Gross. "We were reaching out to each other and providing mutual support between the two campuses."

Though some have questioned Gross's involvement in strike action on the Concordia campus in the first place, others have pointed out that this undermines a much greater issue.

"The fact of the matter is that before she was struck there was no verification of whether she was a Concordia student or not," said Walcott. "Furthermore, the job of security is to ensure the general safety of students."

"If one of our security agents that our university is employing is harassing students, that's a serious problem, regardless of where the student was from."

Concordia hires private security agents from several private

firms, most notably Maximum and CCC.

"Providing Concordia with a non-licensed individual does not satisfy the University's expectations nor Maximum's contractual obligations to us," said Lachance in the letter.

Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota agreed, and said the university is following up with an investigation.

"We should expect to have fully trained and competent people," said Mota. "We are pursuing that with the employer. Our expectations are that when we contract with a supplier that they will be supplying us with agents that are fully credited."

According to the document, the individual's application for a security permit is in progress with the Bureau de la sécurité privée. The individual in question has been reassigned and is no longer working at Concordia.

Due to privacy legislation and the investigation of this case, the agent's name is not being released. For this same reason, Lachance was unavailable for comment.

BOG GRUB



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Governors Cost \$300 a Meeting to Feed

• COREY POOL

Once a month, Concordia's Board of Governors and a handful of student representatives meet in a room in the EV Building to discuss the university's internal issues.

From September 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012 a total of five BoG meetings took place. Through documents obtained from an Access to Information request, *The Link* can report that the university spent a total of just over \$2,400 to facilitate them.

Over the five meetings, Concordia spent just over \$1,400 on "refreshments" for the approximately 30 people in attendance, the largest expenditure on the bill, which averages out to just shy of \$300 per meeting.

"To put things into perspective, we rarely spend more than \$100 on food for CSU Council meetings, and those are also once a month," said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. "That's usually enough pizza or burritos or falafel for about 40 people."

In contrast, the university only allotted about one quarter of the cost of refreshments to Instructional and Information Technology Services and audiovisual equipment, which would facilitate the over-flow room.

In total, \$350 was spent on IITS, or an average of roughly \$70 per meeting.

"One person will go up and set up a projector and one or two wireless microphones, but it won't go much further than that," said an IITS technician about the standard procedure.

Spoke, Line & Sinkers



Bait bike being rigged up with tracking system.

PHOTO COURTESY OF *TO CATCH A BIKE THIEF*

To Catch a Bike Thief Seeks Stolen Rides—and Answers

• KATIE MCGROARTY

Just like choosing between fixed-gear and 10-speed, or between vintage and new, how you lock your bike—U-lock or chain, key or combination—is just as important.

By now most people know that locking just the wheel is asking for trouble—but not locking through the spokes could mean coming back to a wheel-less bike.

Stolen bike statistics are alarming to say the least. According to the team behind *To Catch a Bike Thief*, a new web series slated to air this fall, every 2.5 minutes a bicycle is stolen, and only one in 100 is ever recovered.

Armed with a DIY bait-bike equipped with vibration sensors, a tracker and a GPS system that broadcasts its real-time location every 10 seconds, Ingo Lou, the

producer and host of new web show *To Catch a Bike Thief*, along with a team of dispatchers, confrontation specialists and security officers, started hunting the bike thieves wreaking havoc in our cities.

“I know I’m certainly not the only one to be affected by bike theft,” Lou said. “Pretty much everybody that I know that rides a bike at one point in their life has had their bike stolen.

“There’s a really strong perception that nothing is being done about it, or that nothing can be done, which is really the reason why we decided to make *To Catch a Bike Thief*—to show that there are actual tools and technologies [that bikers] can use to protect themselves.”

Based out of Vancouver, *To Catch a Bike Thief*’s team is looking to change the dialogue sur-

rounding theft.

“We would actually like to see an increase in reported bike thefts, and the reason for that is right now because of the perception that nothing can be done, no one really reports their bikes as being stolen when they go missing,” he said.

“As a result, the idea is that if we can encourage everyone to report their bikes as being stolen as soon as they go missing, there can be an increase in perceived incidents of bike thefts. Therefore, the stats could show a sudden spike and then maybe more attention will be shed on the issue.”

Looking to the public for funding, the team hopes to raise \$20,000 to shoot and produce Season One. But raising more than that is the goal, and would give them the chance to pursue

new initiatives, like travelling to Montreal and San Francisco with the project—something that is already in the works.

“If we find ourselves in an over-funding situation we can start to do some really fun things like shooting episodes in different cities and potentially create a fleet of bait bikes and have them all stolen simultaneously to find out if there’s any type of organized crime element to the bike-theft situation,” said Lou.

“The reason behind that, of course, is if we see that the bikes are coalescing in one area of town, a bike shop or a warehouse, we can blow the doors wide open off of that.”

When the bait bike is in place and the lock is cut, a GPS signal is sent out and the team gets to work.

Although watching a thief getting arrested might be sweet revenge for those who have gotten their bike stolen, that’s not the next step in the operation. Instead, the team attempts to interview the thief, looking for answers, such as what bikes they usually target, what kind of locks they look for and the kind of places they steal from.

“Our intention is to not involve the cops or law enforcement. [The show is] part education and part entertainment. It’s all shot from a documentary-style narrative, so what we really are searching for is answers,” said Lou.

“The point of the show is to find out who is stealing bikes, why, where they’re going, who’s buying stolen bikes and trying to get answers, as opposed to trying to get convictions.”

SXSW Diary: Part 1

Noise Complaints, Breakfast Tacos & Being Better Than Everyone Else

• JOE CORNFIELD

I arrived at my South by Southwest accommodations in Austin, TX on a sunny, humid Monday. Located just a few blocks from E. 12th St. and Chicon St., the notoriously rough intersection in the city's east end, my host's place would be home to 15 musicians and fans for the duration of the festival.

I was staying with Dave, a friend of a friend, and his roommate Eli. Dave is a well-spoken Harvard grad with a passion for folk music—his dog is named Townes, after the Texan country musician Townes Van Zandt.

Eli is a former snowboard pro turned high-functioning alcoholic with an assortment of drugs in his sock drawer that would rival some pharmacies both in number and in variety.

During the week of the festival, if he wasn't on one of his 12-hour sassafras-and-MDMA binges, he was at home telecommuting to his high-paying desk job while doing hits of nitrous oxide from an endless box of whipped-cream chargers.

Having arrived in the city a day early, I was planning on spending the night collecting myself, organizing my week, and researching artists. Instead, Eli and Dave immediately dragged me off to a local bar in South Austin for some BBQ and PBR.

A couple of hours later, I found myself in my first official SXSW line. While the festival boasts an impressive amount of free shows, often with free beer provided by sponsors, the trouble of actually getting into them is the most common festival-goer complaint.

Most events require online RSVPs to get on the guest-list. If you miss the RSVP, whether or not you have a badge or wristband, you're out of luck. Once you're on the list you have to brave the lines, which often stretch across entire city blocks and last for hours.

Officially, there were 2,000 musicians registered to showcase and around 15,000 registered attendees this year. However, those numbers were at least doubled by unofficial musicians and festival-goers who chose not to buy an expensive badge.

This massive influx of official and unofficial traffic dominates the downtown core for the week of the festival, packing all of the venues and bars past capacity.

On my first night in Austin, only one guy in our group of four had the foresight to RSVP to the event we were attending, a patio party with free beer DJed by the Hood Internet.

Fake RSVPs, cut-off-and-taped-back-on wristbands, and backdoor entrances are a few of the tactics we used to get into venues.

We ended up passing back an iPhone with the same RSVP four times to get us all into the club, a game-time manoeuvre that gave us access to a night of free liquor and great music.

Even if you plan for months in advance, this kind of last-minute finagling is often necessary to get into the more exclusive parties. Fake RSVPs, cut-off-and-taped-back-on wristbands, and backdoor entrances are a few of the tactics we used to get into venues over the course of the week.

After getting a ride home from a generous Austinite who probably shouldn't have been driving, we were surprised to find a raging afterparty going on at the house.

A Denver-based dubstep duo called Bedrock were making use of the multiple Marshall stacks in the living room, much to the dismay of our neighbours. After 10 noise complaints and two visits from the police, Bedrock finally shut down their improvised system and we all found a few square feet of floor space to pass out on.

The next morning I set out to explore the city. I choked down a couple of breakfast tacos, a Tex-Mex standard consisting of potatoes, eggs, bacon, and cheese in a soft taco shell, picked up my festival badge and took a walk around downtown Austin to get my bearings.

After checking out some venues, picking up wristbands, and tracking down some free food and a lot of free beer, it was time for me to fulfill my professional obligations. I headed to a small club called Spill on 6th St., Austin's equivalent of St. Laurent Boul., for the Planet Quebec launch party.

Spill was just one of three venues in the downtown core that were dedicated to showcasing Canadian bands at SXSW. Ironically, despite travelling about 3,000 km to Austin, I kept finding myself at Spill, the Canada House, and the Canadian Blast BBQ over the course of the week, seeing bands that were mostly from my hometowns of Montreal and Toronto.

That night at Spill, I was checking out Ain't No Love, a genre-bending hip-hop/electronic group



PHOTO JOE CORNFIELD

based here in Montreal. Camera in hand, I took up a spot at the bar beside a fast-talking record executive. I learned he was also there to see Ain't No Love.

"They just have such a marketable image!" he explained, excited.

While it's not necessarily the first compliment an artist would ask for, Ain't No Love's unique image and sound have attracted the attention of fans, labels, and promoters alike.

Comprised of DJ/producer Liam Clarke, MCs Roly Broere (aka 1990) and Eli McBean (aka Bean) and singer Saidah Conrad, ANL fuses bass-heavy, dubstep-influenced beats, gritty lyricism, and soulful hooks to create a

sound that bumps as hard in the club as it does at a college house party.

Riding the momentum of sold-out shows in Montreal and Toronto, Broere had a simple explanation for their early success.

"If you look at it, we literally cover the entire spectrum of like, race, weight, gender, class, style, everything—anybody can feel comfortable with us."

But their diverse image and unique sound has also been an obstacle.

"With our genre, if it even exists, it's hard to hit up 2dopeboyz.com and be like, check out this real hip hop, because it's not," McBean said. "And there's no electro blog that really wants to

put us on because its not electro."

The struggle for recognition and success is one shared by the majority of the mostly indie artists at SXSW.

Everyone is trying to make connections, meet bloggers and have their music heard by the right people. The festival is a sea of talent, with great bands in every bar and on every corner; how any of them are able to separate themselves from the crowd is a mystery.

McBean isn't as mystified.

"There's no secret, you just have to be better. You have to be better than everyone else."

Read SXSW Diary: Part 2 at thelinknewspaper.ca next week.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

FRINGE FOOD



According to Spacing Montréal and the Canadian Centre for Architecture, taste has the power to shape experiences across this island and beyond. The hip urban mag and stately museum have joined with other culinary forces to assemble what they call an “un-conference” on taste in Montreal.

BLACKBIRD CRY



Shadowbox Productions presents Blackbird, written by David Harrower and directed by Sara King-Abadi, a controversial play about two former lovers with an illicit past.

LIVE SESSION #4



The girls from indie-folk-pop trio Motel Raphaël are featured in our latest Link Live Session. Catch them at Le Divan Orange April 5 with Samantha Savage Smith.

MUSIC *of the* SPHERES



PHOTO JOSÉ DEL RÍO MONS

Nada Surf Singer Talks Philosophy, Psychology, Planets

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

Every now and then there's a great band that sticks around for a couple of decades—a band whose music connects, grows and matures with you.

Nada Surf first reached indie favourite status when their cover of “If You Leave” by Orchestral Maneuvres in the Dark appeared on seminal teen drama *The O.C.* in 2004 and persuaded fans to check out their original tunes.

Their seventh LP has a more positive vibe than their previous records, an outlook that lead singer and guitarist Matthew Caws has been trying to keep constant.

“I just have to remember to put things in context and remember to look for the long-term solutions and not the short-term ones, which is something I've been guilty of my whole life,” said Caws. “I always want the quick fix when really, it's mainly behav-

iour that has to change.”

Caws' soothing, melancholic voice stays captivating even when it's not the soundtrack to tribulations of California's elite youngsters.

While some may have thought they were headed towards one-hit-wonder status with the popularity of their 1996 single “Popular,” the New York City trio continued to play music that shares their wisdom and life lessons with a legion of fans.

Throughout the years, Nada Surf's sound may have grown and shifted, but they haven't alienated fans, and despite problems with former label Elektra resulting in a not-so-amicable split and legal battle over their sophomore album, the band is still going strong. Caws said they couldn't imagine doing anything else.

“It's an honour and a thrill to stand in front of [the fans],” said Caws. “Also, we may feel a little bit of an obligation to them be-

cause they embraced us and we feel it may be our duty to keep on coming back to the same cities over and over again.”

Though their new single “When I Was Young” has an autobiographical feel to it, the album itself—entitled *The Stars Are Indifferent to Astronomy*—is less personal than their usual style. Looking back at older records and earlier recordings, Caws admitted his journey through music has been more a self-reflection he describes as, “staring into a psychological mirror.”

“[I decided to] let the rest of the world come in a little bit more,” said Caws. “Just trying to look out the window rather than the mirror.”

For the first time in years, Nada Surf recorded the album back in their hometown of New York. They wanted to pin down the songs before they lost them.

“We were just really trying to

put something really put together,” said Caws. “I realized [they] were playing so well because it's all done, done and dusted.”

Caws said the album was inspired by thoughts of nature, how humans have been losing touch with the natural world and how our daily lives are constantly changing. With help from Caws' father, the band was able to find a title that suited their philosophical theme of detachment between humans and nature.

“The stars and the planets don't know we gave them names, and it doesn't matter to them,” said Caws. “It's something about humility in the face of nature, and also checking ourselves that we're not becoming too presumptuous about what we think we know.”

Nada Surf (w/ An Horse) / April 5 / Corona Theatre (2490 Notre-Dame St. W.)

BARRETTE THE ALOUETTE



Montreal Alouette offensive lineman Anthony Barrette in action with the Concordia Stingers.

PHOTO JOHN MAHONEY

Former Stingers Lineman to Dress for Montreal

• ANDREW MAGGIO

Like many young Canadians, ex-Concordia Stinger Anthony Barrette's first passion was hockey. But a chance meeting helped spur his move from the ice rink to the gridiron.

"I used to play hockey up until I was 15," said Barrette. "But then I kind of lost the passion for it. A year later I was playing pick-up football at a park in Lasalle and a coach from the Lasalle Warriors saw me and asked me to play."

The switch is now paying dividends for Barrette, as he just signed his first professional contract with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.

After spending five years anchoring the left side of the Stingers' offensive line, Barrette was drafted 16th overall in the second round during the 2011 Canadian Football League draft.

The history major started out as a defensive lineman, but seamlessly made the switch to offensive line in his second year at Vanier College. He was skeptical at first, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions he's ever made.

"Playing defense was fun, it was more about instinct," said Barrette, "Offensive line is kind of the same thing, but it's a controlled violence because it's way more technical. There's a lot of thinking involved."

Despite his obvious talent, going pro was never really in the cards—until he was told it was impossible.

"When I first started playing I never thought about [it]," said Barrette.

"I had some coaches at the time who told me I should probably focus on school because I was never going to go anywhere in football. When I was told that,

something clicked inside my brain, I told myself that I was going to change everything around, that this was what I wanted to do and that I was going to do it."

His determination culminated in his name getting called by his hometown team on that fateful draft day in May of 2011.

"In life, if you have a goal, no matter what it is, and you achieve that goal, even when all the odds are against you—that's one of the best feelings in the world," he said.

"That day when I got drafted, it could have been any team in the CFL, it was just a great feeling—I can't really describe it. It was such a sense of accomplishment, that all the years of training had paid off."

Barrette has had a strong supporting cast around him throughout his football career. He credits his parents as being

the two most important people in his life, and also singled out his uncle, Peter Folko, as being his role model. Folko played in the National Hockey League with the Vancouver Canucks, but his career was cut short by a knee injury.

His football role model, Marwan Hage, offensive lineman for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats was key in shaping Barrette's game.

"I started training with Marwan in my second year at Concordia, and he really made me realize that my dream was possible," said Barrette. "He taught me to stay focused on getting better at my position and taught me a lot about the business aspect of the league."

Barrette also credits Bryan Chiu, former Alouettes offensive lineman and current assistant offensive coordinator of the Stingers, for not only helping him improve as a football player,

but also preparing him for life as a professional athlete.

Chiu had nothing but good things to say about Barrette, and is confident that he will be a good CFL player for years to come.

"I think Anthony is a great player," said Chiu, who played 13 seasons with the Alouettes, "He's got size and great athletic ability, he's very quick for a guy his size. He'll do everything you ask of him as a coach and those are the guys you love to have. He's not the most vocal guy, but he's a great leader by example."

His unwavering determination and will to succeed is what got Barrette to this point, and he knows it's what will allow him to succeed in the CFL.

"The ultimate goal is to become not just a good player in the CFL, but a legend in the CFL," said Barrette. "It's going to be a long road, but I'm ready."



THE MARIO LEMIEUX *of* WOMEN'S HOCKEY

PHOTO BRANDON TAYLOR

Ex-Stinger Lisa-Marie Breton-Lebreux on Her Hockey Career

• DAVID MURPHY

Hockey Renaissance woman and ex-Concordia Stinger Lisa-Marie Breton-Lebreux lapped a life goal last weekend, winning the Clarkson Cup—for a third time.

The competition, however, wouldn't have even come into fruition without Breton-Lebreux, who played a leading role in the development the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

Captain of the Montreal Stars, Breton-Lebreux and her CWHL team went undefeated in the Clarkson Cup—the Stanley Cup of women's hockey—winning it for the third time in four years.

"We knew it was going to be physical and tough, we got the better of [them]," said Breton-Lebreux, listing off significant plays in the game with uncanny accu-

racy. Her voice rises in excitement when she talks about the final, where her team overtook the Brampton Hockey Club 4-2.

"We were just on our game that day," said the 34-year-old.

It's arguable, however, that she's never really off it. Breton-Lebreux has a hockey curriculum vitae that would make Montreal Canadiens captain Brian Gionta jealous. She started off making the under-18 Quebec provincial team at the age of 15, and would regularly play at Concordia's rink for tournaments in the early-to-mid '90s.

"It was during Concordia's glory days and I said to myself, 'Wow, [...] one day I'm going to be the captain of the Stingers,' and that became my goal."

It was a goal she completed in style. Breton was captain of the Stingers and went on to win two

national championships with Concordia under current long-reigning head coach Les Lawton. In 2001 she also won a slew of awards, including a CIS All-Canadian award.

"She came [to Concordia] and had trouble conversing in English," said Lawton. Breton-Lebreux, who's from the small town of Saint-Zacharie, QC, overcame that speed bump, and culminated by graduating with a sociology degree.

"She's a very dedicated athlete, not only athletically though, but academically too. She was probably one of the hardest working athletes I've coached," said Lawton.

But overcoming obstacles and completing goals is a constant theme Breton-Lebreux's life.

Part of Canada's B-team in 1998, a team that practiced

against the women who went on to earn silver at the Nagano Olympics, she was eventually dropped from the national team after graduation.

"I was always among the top ten scorers in leagues, but never got to make it [to Team Canada]," said Breton-Lebreux wistfully. "My dream was always to compete at a national team level."

"The year team Canada released me, I kind of lost hope that I would have that chance."

But while Breton-Lebreux came close to abandoning her dream of representing Canada, she eventually did receive a call to play hockey for Canada—just not on ice. In 2006, the Canadian Women's Roller Hockey team invited her to play in the World Championships. She won there, too.

And after completing this goal

there was only one more thing to do, which was to win the National Women's Hockey League championship again, which she did, also in 2006, scoring the game-winning goal for the now defunct Montreal Axion.

The sticks she played with during those games now lie in Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame, but despite that honour, Breton-Lebreux was soon faced with a pressing issue—one season later, she didn't have a league to play in anymore, as the NWHL collapsed in 2007.

Teams were losing up to \$150,000 a year, and there was little to no structure—rookies could join whichever team they wanted, and there was no balance in pay. Some players didn't get paid at all, as stadiums remained, for the most part, empty.

That's when the entrepreneur



PHOTO PASQUALE STALTERI

Captain Lisa-Marie Breton-Lebreux was a +9 during the Canadian Women's Hockey League Regular Season with 9 points overall. She recorded an assist in the final of the Clarkson Cup against Brampton on March 25.



Lisa-Marie Breton-Lebreux stands in front of Boston's goalie in the semi-finals of the Clarkson Cup on March 24.

PHOTO PASQUALE STALTERI



(From left to right) Current Concordia Stingers women's assistant coach Nathalie D ry, captain Lisa-Marie Breton-Lebreux, ex-Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, CWHL League Commissioner Brenda Andress, Canadian Olympian Caroline Ouellette, and ex-Stinger captain Kelly Sudi pose with the Clarkson Cup.

PHOTO BRANDON TAYLOR

in Breton-Lebreux woke up. The only other option to play regular hockey at a competitive level was to go west, which wasn't a possibility for many. With guidance from six other players, two from Team Canada, a new league emerged—the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

"In 2007 we had a tough year, it was really a bit stressful," she said.

She had to do everything—she was a league co-founder, general manager of the Montreal Stars (one of the seven new teams), as well as a player and the captain, too—like a super-charged version of the Pittsburgh Penguins' Mario Lemieux, who returned from retirement in 2000 after becoming the team's owner and played for five seasons as a player/owner.

"Some games, we would be like, 'Do we have enough pucks for warm-up? Is there a DJ to play songs during the game and intermission?'" said Breton-Lebreux, who decided to start working at Concordia's Le Gym at the same time.

"It grew, as well as my work [...] everything was just growing, both on and off the ice for me."

The league has made strides over the last five years thanks to guidance from National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman and the creation of three new teams. Social media's helped, too, leading the way for more advertisement opportunities and even spots on sports networks—this year's Clarkson Cup was played on TSN.

"What we've improved the most is the level of play has gone up big-time. [If you watch] clips

on TV, the passing, the nice plays, it's fast. [...] We have offensive talent that we've never seen before," said Breton-Lebreux.

"This year for first time we had a league banquet. Last year we just had a soiree, nothing much. Now it's a red carpet banquet. [We had] steaks and crab to eat. [It] sounds like [we're] celebrities."

Breton-Lebreux is now Concordia's strength and conditioning coach, guiding players from a range of sports to accomplish goals she sets from day one of training, something she's been doing for herself for decades.

"I think she's a big part of the department, not only women's hockey but she's training the bigger and best athletes," said Lawton. "Working with some of the top female hockey players in the

country, she brings that to our team."

One of those players is Catherine Rancourt, a right-winger on the Stingers women's hockey team. She's a grinder, just like Breton-Lebreux, but she also put up a team-leading 11 points this season.

"We had a special relationship. She sees herself in me, I think," said Rancourt. "She was pushing me a lot. I was always listening to what she was saying."

"And [she] corrects you if you do something wrong, and just makes you want to do better," teammate Maggie McNeil interjected. "It's never personal, because [she's] doing it to make you better."

"Seeing her achieve something like [winning the Clarkson Cup] also makes me want to achieve something like this, but maybe

not just on the ice."

Winning the Cup certainly has off-ice advantages. The Montreal Stars have been named the Personnalit  de la semaine by *La Presse*, joining a list that includes names like the Montreal Alouettes' Anthony Calvillo, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Denis Villeneuve and Montreal Impact owner Joey Saputo.

"Because of the league, I've been able to do things," says Breton-Lebreux. She's been invited to press conferences at the Bell Centre, met several Montreal mayors over the years and she has the opportunity to host an annual breast cancer awareness fundraiser on behalf of the CWHL.

"I'm blessed to have my teammates beside me through rough times and good times. That's why we've been successful."



GRAPHIC PAKU DAUST-CLOUTIER

Visible INC

Incomplete Solution to a Collective Problem

• EVAN MONTPELLIER

You'd be hard-pressed to find someone at Concordia who hasn't been affected by our four-week-long engagement with the strike in one way or another.

The administration's job is ostensibly to make sure things are running smoothly at the university. Considering how they've reacted to the strike, it's not hard to realize that their interpretation of "running smoothly" is a very unique one.

Instead of trying to facilitate mutually-agreeable solutions for all those involved in the present conflict, the administration is hell-bent on maintaining business as usual at the university, inflexibly refusing to consider alternative solutions despite the extraordinary circumstances created by the strike.

The admin's approach is a textbook example of the shift in university culture towards corporate management practices. Their concern is clearly not the well being of

the Concordia community.

They want the semester to end, the strike to go away, and everyone to keep working as if the huge problems posed by the strike don't exist.

By sidestepping their responsibility to serve the Concordia community in the face of a challenging situation, the administration is inflicting collective punishment on students, with professors as collateral damage.

As students scramble to find solutions on their own, one idea that has emerged has been to apply for incomplete grades en masse. The process of getting incomplete grades is a standard part of Concordia's grading scheme, and allows students to negotiate later deadlines with their professors if they don't think they can complete their work on time.

Students are currently considering applying for incomplete grades for a variety of reasons. Some see the process as a way to honour their commitment to striking without making academic martyrs of

themselves. Others simply need more time on account of the disruption of their classes.

Submitting an incomplete means negotiating with professors to determine new due dates. The professor will then replace the INC code on the transcript with a grade when the assignments are turned in.

As a tactic of dissent, mass application for incomplete grades is fraught with problems. Most significantly, students must pay the administration \$20.00 for each incomplete grade.

For many students, the thought of handing over more money to a hostile university bureaucracy is repulsive. The fee is also a huge potential financial barrier to students, amounting to \$80 or \$100 for full-time students who want incompletes in all their classes.

Effectively, the administration's stance has forced all students into individually deciding whether or not to literally buy time, either for political or academic reasons.

Meanwhile, dealing with excep-

tionally high numbers of incompletes creates an additional layer of labour for professors, again representing the administration pawning off their responsibility onto individuals.

Despite these problems, there are potential political benefits to adopting a mass application for incompletes as a tactic to put pressure on the administration.

Personally, though, I think that it makes more sense to stop thinking of incomplete grades solely as a political tactic, and start seeing them as a last-resort option that all students are being forced to consider because of the administration's stubborn refusal to accommodate the situation produced by the strike in any way.

The administration's attitude must be viewed as a political decision, particularly given that it holds a stake in seeing the strike dissolve and the government's tuition increase go through unchecked.

In light of this conflict of vintereests, the hostility and lack of leadership coming from the ad-

ministration should be regarded not merely as a gross dereliction of their duty to serve the Concordia community, but as a willful reframing of a collective situation as a set of individual conflicts.

The strike affects all of us and constitutes a collective condition of students and faculty that warrants effort on the part of the administration to ameliorate. Instead, the administration is promoting the same values of individualization and consumerist social relations that underlie the tuition hike itself.

This is a call to action: as Concordia students, whatever our role within the university, we must organize around this point to hold the administration accountable.

For a basic student-written guide to the hows and whys of incomplete grades, search **Concordia Incompletes** on Facebook or go to fasosconcordia.wordpress.com. An unabridged version of this article can be found at the-linknewspaper.ca.

Father Doesn't Know Best

In the Land of the Blind, Charest Is King



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

In the perverse macrocosm of “father knows best” that is our culture, we keep listening to the black-suited bureaucrats. In theory, their credentials and experience guide policy-making, but realistically, private interests rule the roost.

The United States’ economic collapse came about because of a number of factors, not least of which is the unquestionable belief in power of logos and business models.

It would be counter-intuitive to think that a banker who deals in mortgages and loans for a living would issue ones that are destined to fail.

While religious-types may laud the virtues of blind faith, society at large seems to have embraced it in their dealings with corporations and governments.

Canada is not immune to modern symbols of authority; if a policy is spun the right way and delivered by the right group of people, it is easy to believe—comfortable, even.

But believing that those who lord over us can see the big picture and have our best interests at heart is on par with children believing in Santa Claus.

In Quebec, the easy logic that our tuition needs to go up is appealing because of the template set by governments around us. Ignorance is equated with bliss for a reason.

For those who can juggle the de-

mands of a 21st century life and find themselves needing a challenge, looking behind the curtain more than tests their limits. But many prefer to let the people who stand behind podiums, in front of flashbulbs and beside corporate leaders tell them what’s happening.

We’re a society of baby birds waiting for momma to chew the worm first, because we’re tired, we’re busy and isn’t it their job, anyway?

So when someone whose job it is to know certain issues inside-out says we are headed towards financial ruin because students aren’t shelling out enough cash—someone like Minister of Education Line Beauchamp or Premier Jean Charest—the knee-jerk reaction is to listen.

We’re a society of baby birds waiting for momma to chew the worm first, because we’re tired, we’re busy and isn’t it their job, anyway?

But right now, the curtains seem to be fluttering uncontrollably.

When Charest’s government took over in 2003, it promised to

cut down on Quebec’s bloated public service departments. But instead of there being a reduction in the 275 government entities he inherited from the Parti Quebecois, he nearly doubled them.

So Quebec Finance Minister Raymond Bachand is trying to solve government overspending by charging the population more.

The most recent increase came from Quebec’s sales tax going up two per cent to 9.5 per cent in January.

La Presse reported that Quebec universities spent \$80 million in five years on advertising.

Do hospitals advertise? Does the fire department advertise? Advertising a public service is pure budgetary farce, and it makes clear the truth—universities have become businesses.

They don’t seem to be run according to business logic; however. Concordia shelled out \$3.1 million in severance packages for six departing employees over the last few years.

It seems like the Board of Governors thinks the university’s coffers are full of Monopoly money.

From the eye of this mess it’s hard to tell what’s more disconcerting—that our school system seems to be run by a pauper who thinks he’s Richie Rich, or that Charest’s Liberals have made this federalist anglo Quebecer start considering voting Parti Quebecois in 2013.



Oral Panic

I have been in a relationship with my boyfriend for a year. We have great sex; I feel comfortable and love having intercourse with him. He is extremely gentle and tender with me.

But, sometimes I don’t like oral sex. Most of the time if he tries to go down on me I feel uncomfortable and nervous to the point where I feel I might cry. Other times, I will enjoy it for a little bit but then eventually want it to stop. I also feel nervous when he puts his mouth on my nipples. Why is this?

—Sensitive Situation

First off, glad to hear you and your boyfriend seem to be doing good and that you’re having great sex! Yay you!

So there are a few things I want to talk about. But first, if you don’t like oral sex, why do you do it? Receiving oral sex is about you, and your partner is probably trying to please you, so if you’re not loving it, then that’s a sign that you shouldn’t be doing it—especially because of the way you describe your feelings about it.

I get the impression that you’re asking about this or not stopping because you might think there’s something more than just not liking it going on, which is completely possible. There’s no real way for me to know what exactly, but I can elaborate on some physical and psychological issues that can arise.

On the physical side, I don’t have much detail on how it actually feels for you, but it could be an issue of sensitivity and thus fear of not being touched right. Based on your question, I’m not 100 per cent sure which parts you have below the belt, but luckily, both apply.

Both the clitoris and the penis can be extremely sensitive because of all the nerve endings, and some people require very specific pressure in order to enjoy themselves. Without that exact pressure, it could be way too much when touched wrong.

The same can go for nipples. If you also happen to be someone who is ticklish, this can make things even harder, as both require a certain loss of control on extremely sensitive parts of your body.

Psychologically, I’m not a psychologist and not qualified to diagnose, but I’ll throw a few ideas out there in case one clicks.

You should ask yourself if this is the first partner you’ve had this problem with, if there’s a specific experience you associate with oral sex, or if you have any suspicions at all as to why this act would make you so uncomfortable. If so, reflect on those experiences.

Body image can also play into this. Are you insecure about either of these body parts? If so, it would make a lot of sense if someone’s face being right there made you nervous.

If you feel like this might be psychological, even if you’re unsure, I strongly recommend talking to someone qualified about it because you can’t always figure things out on your own.

When it comes down to it, I don’t have all the information, and even if I did, I can’t guarantee I’d have the answers. So reflect on what I’ve given you and what you already know and hopefully you’ll have a better idea of what direction to take this in!

For help working through your sex-related fears, you can always contact Concordia Counselling & Development. The Sir George Williams campus office is reachable at 514-848-2424 ext. 3545, and the one at Loyola is ext. 3555.

—Melissa Fuller

Send questions to sexpancakes.thelink@gmail.com and check out “Sex & Pancakes” on Facebook.



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

BUDGET COVERAGE SLANTED PENNY-WISE

• LAURA BEESTON

As the Conservative budget came down last week, the media was aflutter with the numeric details as they emerged. Curiously, there was one story in particular that gained traction in the Canadian consciousness, and that was the announcement that the copper coin, our penny, is going out of circulation starting this fall.

It's amazing the amount of ink devoted to the death of the penny when you think about it, especially considering the government laid out \$5.2 billion in spending cuts, axed 19,200 public-service jobs, lifted regulations on natural resources and spent \$8 million targeting and regulating the dissent of oil opponents and activists.

But for whatever reason none of these things—at least from a cursory look at the front pages and Twitter feeds of the Canadian mass media—got as much play as the penny. Why was that? Are we really that distracted by shiny objects?

In the grand scheme of all things monetary, this news was perhaps worthy of a simple news brief, when you consider where our money is actually being penny-pinch.

It isn't only in the realm of national politics lately that little-picture numbers like these dominate the collective conversation about our news.

Take a look at the provincial situation, for example; this entire tuition debate has inexplicably hinged almost exclusively on the \$1,625 figure, but anyone who has been following the story knows, in financial terms, that it's about way more than that.

It's easy to typecast students as spoiled and whiney brats if you're only looking at this situation with a frame of two thousand bucks. This might also be why the bigger numbers at play haven't taken to as much scrutiny or public cognizance.

What about the estimated 7,000 students over the next five years who aren't going to be able to afford a post-secondary education? And what's the value on a 40-year history of Quebec's

unique accessible culture?

How many students' tuitions could be paid with the roughly \$70K the Liberals spent on Google Searches and websites? Also, where the heck is the heat on the rest of this provincial budget?

You'd think the public would demand the same critical attention be given to the nebulous \$160 million slated for the government-administered "Fonds pour l'excellence" that will oversee university targets, or as much nitpicking over the \$530 million slated for programs.

Where is this analysis? Do we actually think the government is capable of handling this money, considering they are the architects for a public debt that is out of control?

Yet, time and time again, it's the \$1,625 brought up without context.

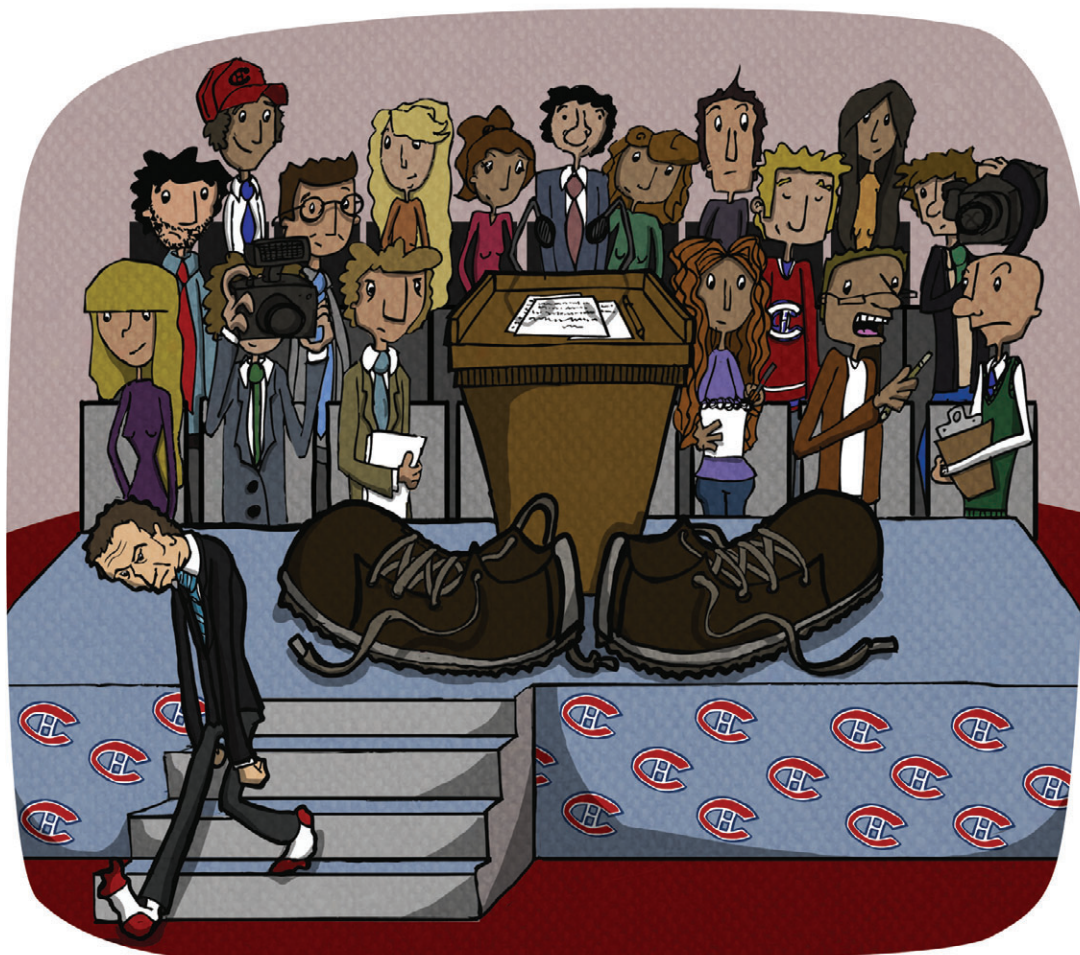
Nowhere in the headlines will you read that so-called underfunded universities account for only 0.76 per cent of all of Quebec's \$400+ million deficit, and certainly free education is never set up as a value against the nearly \$5 billion in tax relief the government has given to corporate and individual incomes since 2000.

There is a serious lack of critical number-crunching in this province and in this country, and the penny is just another example of it. To a degree, perhaps it makes sense: numbers aren't exactly media-sexy, and most people don't like reading budgets.

But understanding our financial dire straits is more important now than ever, especially as these budgets set our province and our country on a path of austerity that will have real social and cultural implications for our futures.

It is time for us to make a concerted effort to follow the money.

This budget has proven how easy it is to throw around small figures and make a splash—especially shiny, copper figures—and this is dangerous. We must demand more of our government, our journalists and ourselves to get to the bottom of these numbers.



GRAPHIC MYRIAM ARSENAULT

Bleu, Blanc, Maroon and Gold?

Befuddled Habs and ConU Admin Have a Few Things in Common

• ANDREW MAGGIO

At first glance, there isn't much Concordia University and the Montreal Canadiens have in common, except perhaps their proximity to Lucien-L'Allier Metro.

Look closer, though, and a strangely near-perfect parallel emerges between the decline of the Habs and the undeniably shameful year that Concordia has endured.

Both are the laughing stock of their national counterparts. Both are grossly overpaying for unproductive personnel, and will continue to do so long after they are gone (see Gomez, Scott and Woodsworth, Judith). Both have been the subject of a lot of bad press over the past couple of months.

Now, however, both are covering their tracks, looking forward towards what they hope is a promising future that begins by cleaning house and starting fresh.

Montreal Canadiens owner Geoff Molson fired general manager Pierre Gauthier last week; over the summer, Concordia will see much of its Board of Governors turn over and likely a new president.

The Habs' decline into mediocrity began long before Gauthier became GM in 2010. It began when Serge Savard and Jacques Demers were ousted four games into the 1995 season, replaced by two stiffies with no experience, Mario Tremblay and Réjean Houle.

They began the destruction of

the once-mighty empire, going as far as trading one of the greatest goaltenders in the history of the NHL, Patrick Roy, for what may as well have been a six-pack of Molsons and a bag of pucks.

Concordia's fall from grace also began long before this dismal scholastic session—once considered a major hive for student activism, the school has been on a downward spiral lately.

The Netanyahu riots in 2002 and huge payouts to departing administrators over the past few years tarnished the school's image.

Both are grossly overpaying for unproductive personnel, and will continue to do so long after they are gone (see Gomez, Scott and Woodsworth, Judith).

ConU's kept up the mismanagement, slamming the door in the students' faces with regards to the tuition hikes, unwilling to open any form of dialogue beyond telling striking students to step away from the classroom doors—or else.

Gauthier disconnected himself from the league's most demanding but most passionate fanbase and often showed a lack of respect in handling players

and public relations. The same applies to our Board of Governors, who consistently refused interview requests from the media to explain their actions.

But above all, both flat out sucked.

It's painful for the previous generation of Habs fans to watch their team fall from its perch as the class of the NHL, and it's painful for the younger generations, who have never been granted the chance to shed tears of joy, to raise their arms in triumph, to watch their captain accept hockey's holy grail and lift it high above his head.

It is also painful for Concordia students, past and present, to be shunned by those paid to create an environment committed to education and expression and watch the university value dollars and strict, controlling governance over open-minded dialogue.

This city has been in serious turmoil over the past year, and it seems to be culminating in an end-of-season and end-of-semester explosion. News of another head rolling in a seventh-floor Bell Centre office. Pepper spray being unleashed on unsuspecting teenagers.

It seems like there's a different protest every other week—the only one we know we won't see is another playoff riot.

Let's hope we've reached the end of this drama. This is our school. This is our team. This is our city. It's about time we make that something we can be proud of again.

Noah's R. Kelly Remix



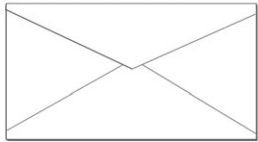
BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

ACROSS

4. These salty streams are said to be shed by someone feigning sorrow—but who knows, there may actually be some remorseful reptiles out there. (2 words)
6. Based on the life of Joseph Merrick, this film won the Best Picture Oscar in 1980 along, with seven other Academy Awards. Despite the title, the film notes, “[He is] not an animal! [He is] a human being.” (2 words)
9. Duane Chapman is one badass bail bondsman whose antics you can catch on A&E. You probably know him better by this nickname, however. (4 words)
11. This is what happens when the crotch of a lady’s pants rides up and leaves little to the imagination. As a gentleman, I prefer to refer to them as ‘dromedary digits.’ (2 words)
12. An idiom for a valuable but onerous possession, the term originates from stories of Siamese kings gifting these sacred but impractical pachyderms to those they disliked in order to ruin them through upkeep costs. (2 words)
13. This American cable channel is often slammed for being conservatively biased rather than remaining neutral when reporting political issues. (2 words)
14. This vessel that God commissioned in order to save two of every animal from his immanent flood is also your clue to this week’s puzzle theme. (2 words)
15. When playing craps, this roll is probably the last thing you want. When playing G.I. Joes, however, this ninja of the same name is probably your first choice. (2 words)
16. These ursine confections are a no-no for vegetarians and vegans—not due to their animalistic shape, but rather because they are made from the connective tissues of livestock. (2 words)

DOWN

1. This brand of smokes caught a lot of flak for their mascot Joe, who some saw as an attempt to market to children. The character was finally axed in 1997, ten years after his debut. (2 words)
2. Calvin Cordozar Broadus, Jr. is better know as this canine celeb, a West Coast rapper who played Concordia’s orientation show a few years back. (2 words)
3. This kids show from the ‘80s has been slated for revival this year. Not bad, considering that they’re a 30-year-old franchise that originated as greeting card characters. (2 words)
4. Considering this stage name, Steve Irwin’s death from the usually docile stingray was both tragic and completely unexpected. (2 words)
5. In this 2006 film, Samuel L. Jackson may have had it with the “motherfucking” serpents on the “motherfucking” aircraft, but in actuality, his contract prevented him from getting within 25 feet of any live specimens. (4 words)
7. In this card game, players use deception and foresight to get rid of their hands before their opponents do. Don’t get caught, though, or you pick up the whole pile.
8. The titular ace pilot character of Nintendo’s space fighter series. His allies include Skippy, Peppy and Falco, all different animals who somehow all have their pilot licenses.
10. This relaxation beverage is native to Quebec, and, as the name suggests, brands itself as a contrast to Red Bull’s fast paced, high-energy image. (2 words)



LETTERS@THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

SPHR Defense

On March 13, the *Jewish Tribune* published an article entitled “Back with a Whimper: Israeli Apartheid Week in Montreal,” written by Daniel Smajovits.

The article included a direct quote from Dana Remer, co-president of Concordia Students for Israel, in which she accuses Concordia’s Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights of having access to external finances and resources as “the people that work with [SPHR] are not in school anymore.”

Though we understand that the author is entitled to his own opinions regarding the events surrounding Israel Apartheid Week, we cannot accept the libelous accusations made against SPHR. These comments were made irresponsibly, given the constructive and transparent dialogue with Remer that had oc-

curred after an SPHR event this past fall semester.

SPHR Concordia is made up of hardworking students who dedicate long hours to ensure the advancement of its mandate. It is therefore extremely unfortunate that defamatory statements are undermining our efforts.

Upon discovering this article, we reached out to the co-president of CSI in the hopes of gaining some clarity on the situation. Remer stated that her words were taken out of context and assured SPHR that she would contact the *Jewish Tribune* to correct the misinformation that had been published.

We have since not seen any changes to the article. In the meantime, we hope that this is an isolated incident and we await the pending retraction.

In addition, we regret the author’s failure to contact SPHR Concordia and give us an oppor-

tunity to respond to the false allegations.

—Asma Alaribi, BSc Biology
Sara Shaltony, BA Journalism
Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights

Link Lovin’

To *The Link* editorial board, and Concordia as a whole:

I have two things I need to write about.

The first is that several issues ago, *The Link* published a letter from Bruno Joyal, fishing for a date (“Looking for Love,” Vol. 32, Iss. 22). Stuningly, he apparently got six or seven responses. Seeing as how I’m chronically and tragically single, I will now attempt the same.

Look, I’m awesome. If you’ve read *The Link* all year, you’ve probably had a chance to see how awesome. So there’s that. I want someone equally awesome. That’s my only qualification. I can best

be reached over the Facebooks.

On a completely different note, I just want to say what an honour it was to be the Current Affairs Editor of *The Link* this year. I am incredibly proud of all the people I had the pleasure of working with, and won’t single out any, except for our former Editor-in-Chief, Laura Beeston, who busted her ass for every single issue.

I spent many sleepless nights with the good people at this newspaper, ate many fast-food meals because we can’t afford better, and who has the time anyway? I also got to drink many beers, have many arguments, resolve those arguments, and generally have the time of my life.

Thanks all of you, and to the new masthead, good luck. Be bold, be tough, and don’t take any shit from anyone.

—Adam Kovac,
Former Current Affairs Editor



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

Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales

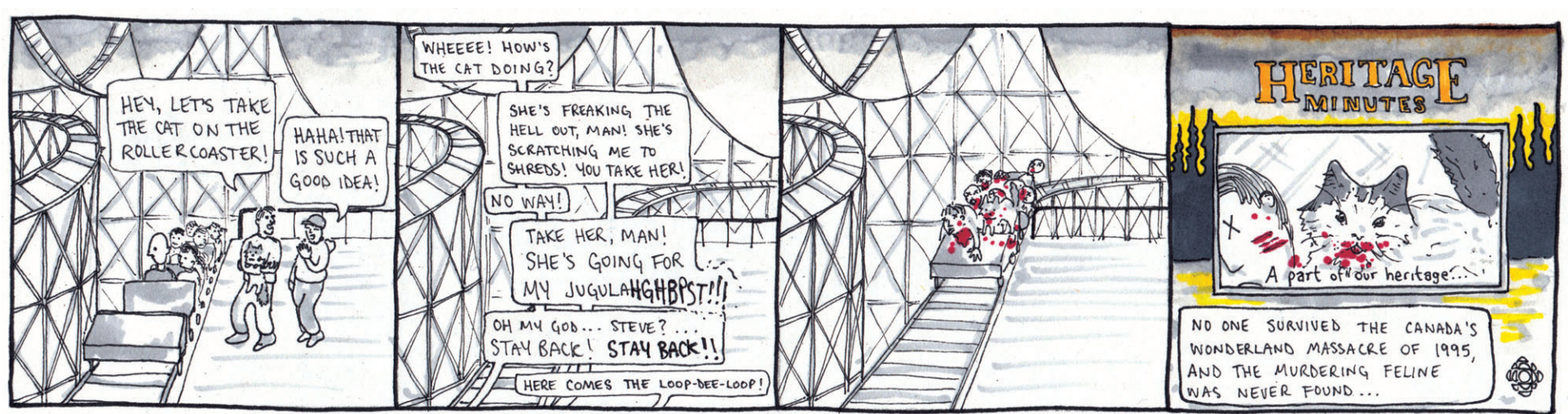
by Christopher Olson



"It has the same destructive power as the previous model, but our shareholders will be happy to know that it's less harmful for the environment."

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

One Doesn't Simply Use a Meme

There was once a time where you had to do very specific things to be exposed to memes. Say, if you were pwned in game of *Counter-Strike*, or deep into some forum for a weird, way-too-specific hobby. But lately, you need not even so much as click on a mouse to experience these simple viral jokes—they've even made it onto our goddamn protest signs.

Now, I can take a joke as well as anyone, but the trouble with the extreme popularity of these one-pane-wonders is that I'm now forced to digest shitty memes wherever I go.

I'm forced to cry out, to my own dismay, "Y U NO leave it to the funny people!?"

When everyone and their uncle can put them together with a few keyboard strokes and an emoticon, there isn't much stopping all your unfunny Internet friends from posting them about every meaningless menial moment in their lives.

Your lame joke won't benefit from some text in Impact font and an overused picture. Either you're funny or you're not. If you're not funny, a meme can't save you. You're just ruining it.

My Facebook feed isn't 4Chan. Please, for the love of God, let's keep it that way.

- Colin Harris
Coordinating Editor



GRAPHIC
JOSHUA BARKMAN

