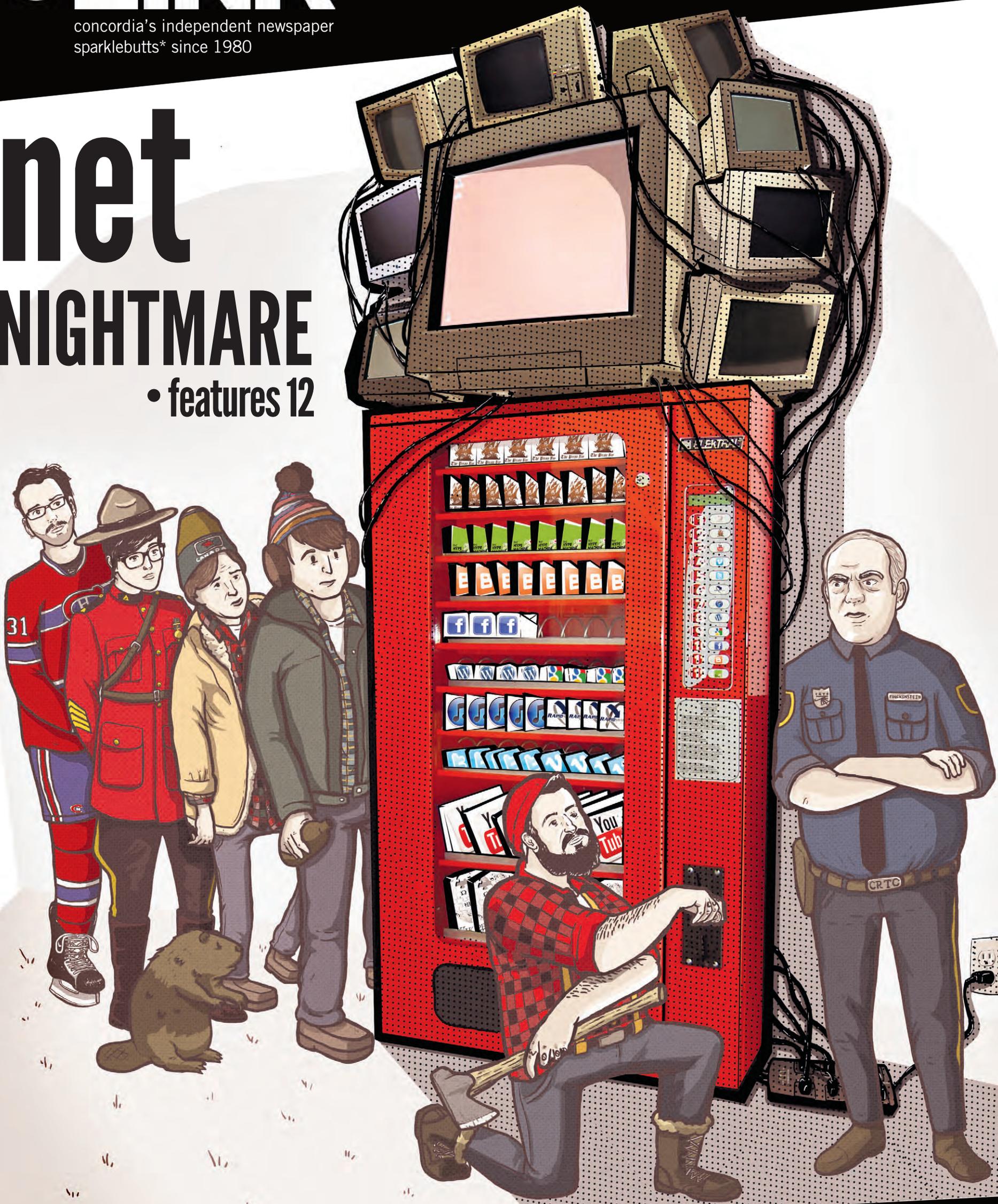


net NIGHTMARE

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ASFA: ELECTION SEASON KICKS OFF



Protestors take their anger over the CRTC's decision to increase the cost of Internet usage to Montreal's Dorchester Square.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

SIX WEEKS IN, 241 TAs YET TO BE PAID

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Paying February's rent was tough for 241 of Concordia's Teaching and Research Assistants as snarled paperwork has delayed their first paycheques. Despite more than a month on the job the money will only be mailed out later this week.

On Feb. 3, representatives from the union of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia sat down with the university to demand answers.

"They haven't been paid in a month, so they will be six weeks into work before they first get paid," said Robert Sonin, TRAC's VP Bargaining. "The contracts had to go through the Dean of Arts and Science and someone at the Dean's office who needed to sign off on the contracts didn't sign them in time.

"Six weeks is a long time to go, especially when you need to pay rent."

The first pay for these TAs and RAs will be Friday.

"This is the first semester that we are implementing the contract with TRAC, there were some growing pains," said Chris Mota, the university's spokesperson. "Having a student delayed with their pay is something we want to avoid in the best of times."

The contract for employing a student assistant has to go through several bureaucratic levels at the university. Each TA and RA contract has to be signed by the teacher who hired them, the chair of the department and a faculty representative before it could be sent to the university's payroll department.

"In some cases, there were delays. It didn't move as quickly as everyone would have liked," said Mota.

Under the terms of the collective agreement with TRAC, signed only last semester, every student hired as an assistant has to take out a union membership or they need to renew it.

ConU continued on p. 7

Unlimited Internet?

Montrealers Gather Together to Oppose Limitations on the Internet

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Canadians breathed a sigh of relief last Thursday when the federal government opposed the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission's plan to implement usage-based billing on Internet providers.

If imposed, UBB would see an increase in Internet fees and weaken competitiveness between independent and larger Internet providers.

While some rejoiced by streaming online, others took to the street to voice their concerns about an issue that Canadians haven't heard the end of quite yet.

A group of about 40 people gathered in Dorchester Square on Saturday to speak out against UBB. The turn out was underwhelming to some that attended.

"It is a disappointment to see the turn-out," said Colin Smith, who attended the rally. "It's an important issue that affects us all."

Although masses of people didn't attend Saturday's protest, the Internet saw a cyber uproar regarding the ruling. So far, 416,200 Canadians have signed an online petition opposing the CRTC's plan.

About 550,000 people use independent Internet service providers in Canada and will be directly affected by the ruling if implemented.

"I come from Romania where it's inconceivable to have limited Internet," said Smith. "They don't have the concept of limited Internet there. It's \$15 a month for unlimited Internet."

The bandwidth available in Canada is unlimited as well, according to Andrew Moore, organizer of Saturday's rally.

"Unlike resources classified as utilities such as oil and electricity, [bandwidth] does not disappear once it is used," he said. "[CRTC] trying to treat the Internet like a utility is unfortunately causing a situation where the population perceives bandwidth as an extremely limited and finite resource."

Moore said that regardless of the government's decision to speak out against UBB, this issue is far from over.

"The CRTC only delayed the implementation of the UBB decision until May 1 for further review," he said. "We do not know yet what 'further review' means."

Konrad von Finckenstein,

chairman of the CRTC, released a statement last Thursday that reaffirmed the organization's intent to impose UBB.

"I would like to reiterate the Commission's view that usage-based billing is a legitimate principle for pricing Internet services," said Finckenstein. "We are convinced that Internet services are no different than other public utilities, and the vast majority of Internet users should not be asked to subsidize a small minority of heavy users."

Moore said it was important people attended Saturday's rally to send a clear message to Canadian telecoms and regulators.

"Essentially, particularly for the younger generation, the Internet has become an incredibly important tool for communication, education, for business enterprises, but most and foremost it has been extremely important to open up the borders of all the nations of the world," Moore said.

"In adding limits to the Internet, we're basically closing our borders around Canada—we're closing ourselves out from the world."

"We need unlimited Internet to communicate with the world,"

Smith said. "When you introduce usage-based billing, you're limiting people's freedoms."

Many people, including Moore and Smith, are not only concerned with the personal implications for putting a cap on the Internet; they are worried about the possible outcome for smaller Internet providers.

If UBB is implemented in Canada, consumers will have little to no choice when looking for an Internet service package.

"If UBB is approved, they are going to kill the small companies," said Smith. "That's not democratic at all."

Moore said that Quebecers should be aware of the existence of cheaper alternatives to Bell and Videotron.

"I hope that this issue informs people that there are in fact companies such as Acanac, AEI and TekSavvy which provide unlimited Internet. If more consumers choose the competition, it will only make Bell and Videotron think twice about the viability of UBB on their packages."

Similar demonstrations took place in major Canadian cities over the weekend.

WHAT IS ASFA?

And why you should probably care about these elections

• LAURA BEESTON

ASFA: What is it? Who's in it? Why does it matter?

If you are one of nearly 17,000 students at Concordia studying in Arts and Science, your departmental government is likely one of 27 constituent members of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, or ASFA.

Strange acronym aside, ASFA is the largest faculty association on campus. Acting as a veritable student-life cocktail of government, academia, social events and serv-

ices, ASFA has the stated mandate of "representing and fighting for students' rights, as well as enriching their university experience."

You should care about ASFA because there is more to university than grades, because our administration seems to be increasingly giving students things to fight for, and because you're paying a over a dollar and change to the organization every year—giving these student politicians over \$300,000 of your money to play with.

This year, only three executive positions are being contested: VP

Internal, VP Finance and VP Academic. No candidate is running for VP Communications and the remaining three positions, including ASFA President, are uncontested. *The Link* will not be covering any of the uncontested VP slots this week.

Your student government is here to serve you, and your interests—but you have to elect and demand them to.

So figure out what you want out of ASFA, get involved, get informed, get to the ballot box and make a choice.

Putting Finances in Order

• LAURA BEESTON

With budgetary issues central to many of the challenges faced by the Arts and Science Federation of Associations council this year, the three-way race for the position of VP Finance should make for an interesting campaign.

So who are the candidates striving to maintain the checks and balances for the \$324,000 pot?

The first candidate to speak with *The Link* was Pier-Luc Therrien Peloquin, currently acting as VP Finance in the Political Science Student Association. Taking a strong it's-your-money approach to the campaign, Peloquin made it clear that he's doing this "to invest in the academic and social experience of students."

One of his main platform points is to find ways of giving member associations more of the annual budget so they can spend it on their departments—instead of student money being spent on the professional operating costs of the executives.

"Currently it's at 43 per cent, and I want to make it at least 50 per cent," he said. "If students are seeing the concrete things that ASFA and their MAs are doing, and seeing themselves as the winner, apathy will go down."

Another point he made was on the issue of Frosh—who gets to attend, and at what cost. Traditionally, he said, there is a long waiting list for Frosh every year and its budget is by no means proportional to the 250 students it can host.

"How can we reduce Frosh spending? Or, if we cannot reduce it, how can we increase the number of students that can go?" he asked. "With a \$300,000 budget, how can you spend \$50,000 on 250 students to go to Frosh? I mean, it's good to have the time of your life, but I don't see why we can't keep it local and do it for more people."

Though the second contender to speak with *The Link*, Laura Gomez, didn't mention Frosh, she had her own ideas about how to handle the 'scrilla if elected.



Pier-Luc Therrien

"I know at the beginning of the year that most of the controversy on ASFA surrounded the budget, which is why total transparency, organization and accountability are central to my platform points," she said. "Everything should be online. All the documentation, that's my main thing. If people can see where the money is going [...] and if the budgets are clear and really specific in terms of what the MAs are doing, there shouldn't be any problems."

Gomez, VP Information Management with AIESEC Concordia—a student-run leadership and cultural exchange organization—also maintained that creating student awareness about ASFA would be a large part of her mandate if elected.

"Unfortunately we don't have anyone running for VP Communications, which is really important," she said. "[If elected,] I plan to work with the executive making sure we fill this position, promote events and get people to the website, so people start to know who ASFA is and how we can work for them."

Ben Prunty, the third VP Finance candidate, only communicated with *The Link* via e-mail, describing his main platform points as "dedication, transparency, balance, co-operation, communication and hard work."

VP Internal to Reach Out

• LAURA BEESTON

Vying for one of the few contested positions in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections, VP Internal hopefuls Tanya-Michelle Contente and Shubert LaForest took some time with *The Link* to speak about their platforms.

For both contenders, a stronger tie to the 17,000 arts and science students is essential to their mandate. Contente anticipates reaching out to students themselves during orientation, while LaForest hopes to form strong ties with ASFA's 27 member associations, who will in turn reach out to their departments.

"The MAs are a super integral part of how ASFA works as a cohesive whole to improve student life."

—Tanya-Michelle Contente

"I want to take a bottoms-up approach to empower member associations, and give them the tools necessary to get students involved so it can transfer up to the ASFA level," he said. "I think it's important to give them more leeway to organize their events. This way, we will have a more accurate understanding of what students want."

Currently sitting as VP Finance in the Linguistics Student Association, LaForest was also keen in dealing with potential changes in bylaws and budgets due to the Math and Statistics Students Association's push for accreditation. Interested in finding "improved channels of communication to come to positive solutions" if elected to council, LaForest also said he'd be interested in creating an internship



Shubert LaForest

program for arts and science students.

Contente, current VP internal with the School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association, was also keen on working with the MAs to reach out to students.

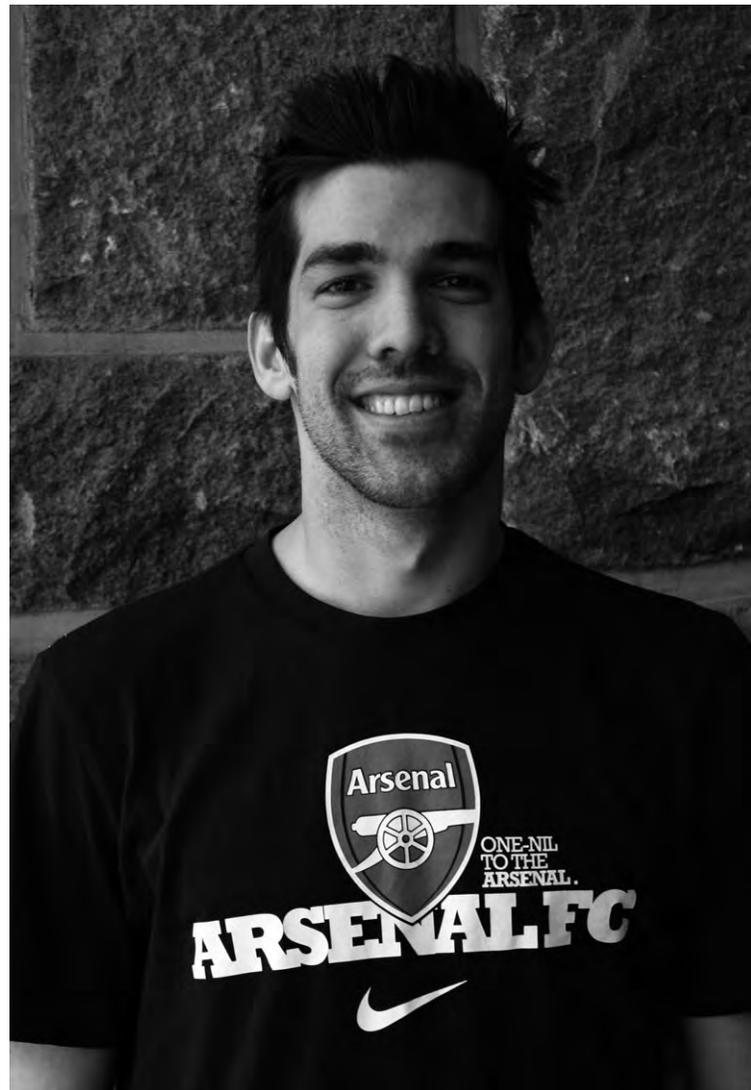
"It's not only the executives who have to work together," she said. "The MAs are a super integral part of how ASFA works as a cohesive whole to improve student life."

Well-versed in changing bylaws and managing internal affairs for the SCPA, Contente's platform revolves around making sure students are aware of what their MA can do for them.

Every program in Concordia's faculty of arts and science elects student representatives to serve on ASFA's council as MAs. The MAs serve as a student's most direct link to their faculty's governing body.

"I think that's where political apathy generates: when people don't think they can make a difference," she said. "As an ASFA exec, I would listen in such a way that I could better serve the bigger population."

THE CAMPAIGN SEASON KICKS OFF



Alex Gordon is running unopposed for ASFA president. PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Acclaimed: Meet Your ASFA President

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Without any candidates to debate or match wits with, Alex Gordon is running for president in this year's ASFA general elections.

Although this might seem like the ideal scenario for a politician, Gordon said it actually forces him to work harder.

"If I was against someone else then maybe there would be a forum to debate and discuss what's important to us," said Gordon. "But right now it's me against this big crowd. No one knows who I am."

Last year, Gordon was elected to represent the Sociology and Anthropology Student Union on ASFA. He was also a part of the Fusion slate that swept into office during the Concordia Student Union's 2010 general elections.

In the wake of former Concordia President Judith Woodworth's Dec. 22 dismissal, Gordon was one of the few CSU councillors that demanded mass resignations at the university's Board of Governors.

"I was on council representing sociology students and they would have wanted me to [take a stand]," he said.

Coming into this year's campaign, Gordon told *The Link* he wants to focus on community building to ensure that ASFA can reach out to the 17,000 students it represents.

"If you ask people what ASFA is, eight out of 10 will tell you they don't know."

"It starts with ASFA's Member Associations and getting them involved," said Gordon. "But then if you ask people what ASFA is, eight out of 10 will tell you they don't know."

If this year's election is any indication of student participation in ASFA, Gordon will have his work cut out for him. Only three out of ASFA's seven executive positions are being contested and no one is running for VP communi-

cations. In comparison, last year's election saw candidates compete in a fiercely heated election, though the clash of rival factions vying for office often turned ugly.

As a result of the 2010 election, which was riddled with accusations of foul play and culminated in the removal from office of two candidates, ASFA council decided to do away with political parties. Now, every candidate is running alone, a practice that Gordon is cautiously optimistic about.

"There's a positive part of the no party system, that you have to go out and do your own thing, you can't handwagon onto someone else's abilities," said Gordon. "The negative aspect of it is that you get to know the people you're running with in a party. You can develop a platform and work as a team. [But] it's too early to tell if the elimination of political parties isn't a good thing."

Gordon also told *The Link* he wanted to create an ASFA scholarship to be awarded to a deserving candidate from the faculty of Arts and Science.

The Race for VP Academic

• LAURA BEESTON

Often seen as the source of all things Frosh, a more important part of the ASFA mandate actually concerns scholastic initiatives. Vying for the position of VP Academic and Loyola, Diana Sitoianu and Christina Gentile are two candidates with big ideas.

"It's so important for students to balance out academics with networking and socializing," said Sitoianu. "School is about growing as a person before you can actually go out there and impress future employers. ASFA is a great organization for doing that—it really puts students in the middle of a lot of opportunities."

If elected, Sitoianu said her social skills and political background as a former student-at-large on the Concordia Student Union events committee and director of the past winter orientation would help her fulfill the VP mandate.

"My human resource skills would allow me to branch out to students and get them in the loop, get them involved," said Sitoianu. "My campaign is based on that."

When asked about her platform, Christina Gentile had prepared two

lists of ideas for the coming year. The Psychology honors student, who "spends 24/7 on the Loyola campus," broke things down for what she'd like to do academically and for the "other" campus.

"We need more networking opportunities, informal cocktails, wine and cheeses, things where we invite professionals in the field to meet people," she said, before detailing her ideas of implementing a studying abroad career fair and an academic "did you know" campaign for first year students.

But the real passion in Gentile's campaign was evident when speaking of things she'd like to do for Loyola. Specifically, Gentile hopes to get a shuttle bus that will run from the Vendome Metro to campus at peak hours, a Loyola-based ASFA office and more events—like career placement services and CV workshops—run from the NDG campus.

"When you're at Loyola, participating in student life is more difficult because of that travel time to get downtown," she said. "We're always talking about student space, but at Loyola there's an abundance of it. I want to be realistic in saying that there are more students who study downtown, but whatever op-

portunities are [at the SGW campus] should also be available at Loyola. Students who study here shouldn't be disadvantaged in any way."



Diana Sitoianu

FIRST VIOLATION OF THE SEASON

• LAURA BEESTON

The Arts and Science Federation of Association's Chief Electoral Officer Nick Cuillerier issued the first sanction of the election period Monday, but the candidate in question, Pier-Luc Therrien Peloquin, doesn't seem to be too hindered by it.

His election crime? Erroneously hitting "Reply to All" in response to an e-mail from the ASFA Council Chair about an upcoming council meeting, explaining that he would be unable to attend due to an election bylaw requiring candidates to vacate their positions during the election period.

"While his intention was to state his regrets for not attending, he made use of a mailing list that is not equally available to all candidates during the election period. Furthermore, the announcement of his candidacy to the ASFA mailing list is a clear use of the ASFA mailing list as a campaign tool in order to spread publicity about his candidacy," stated Cuillerier via e-mail. "Had Pier-Luc been adhering to his leave of absence,

he would have not used this mailing list to announce his regrets and would have exclusively messaged the chair about his absence."

As a consequence of the misdirected e-mail, Therrien Peloquin was given a three-day election sanction, his actions seen as a major offence under "Insider Exploitation." He has been banned from campaigning from Feb. 7th to 10th.

"I guess I'll just be a good student and stay in my books," joked Therrien Peloquin when contacted by *The Link* on Monday. "I don't have many comments on my violation, other than I accept the consequences for my actions. I meant to just communicate directly to the ASFA chair. But the CEO is doing his job and I'll respect his judgment on the rules. [...] As soon as the sanction is over I'll be back on track."

If elected, Therrien Peloquin—who usually acts as VP Finance of the Political Science Students' Association—plans on increasing the ASFA Member Association budgets and regulating Frosh spending.

Bring Back the Parties

Commentary: Does the Individual Politico System Work?

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

After an electoral campaign plagued with allegations of harassment and intimidation, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations decided to drastically reform this year's elections.

For the first time, candidates will not be allowed to form political parties because, according to former ASFA Chief Electoral Officer Colby Briggs, parties devolved into an "extremely aggressive" mob during the 2010 campaign.

Last year's elections were among the dirtiest in recent memory. Candidates would call Briggs in tears, the CEO received affidavits from lawyers detailing bully tactics used by rival parties and two executives-elects had their victories thrown out for violating the association's electoral bylaws.

I was among those who agreed with ASFA's decision to have candidates run as individuals, but as this year's campaign kicked off on Thursday, I've been forced to reconsider this position.

In the span of just one year, ASFA has gone from having a dangerously competitive electoral process to one that scarcely resembles democracy. Only three of seven ASFA executive positions are being contested and no one has even bothered to run for



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

VP Communications.

While political parties have the potential to degrade into glorified street gangs, they also foster competitiveness, teamwork and discipline—all of which are required traits for success in politics.

The burden placed on a candidate running alone is intimidating. The candidate must be a jack-of-all-trades, a self-promoter and a skilled public speaker with no one to fall back

on if the contest intensifies.

It's hard to imagine there would be so few running in this year's election if the party system were still in place. Mob mentality aside, it's easier to join a team when you know you can rely on its members to bring different skill sets to the table.

Because there is no real competition this year, what motivation do candidates have to get out there and mobilize students? What motivation do students

have to vote for someone when the other option is nothing? Why should candidates even bother having a platform worth living up to?

Perhaps the most important element of the party system is that it forces candidates to stick to a well-defined set of promises. Having spoken to many of this year's candidates myself, I can say that they are well-intentioned and hard working individuals. But, frankly, fighting student apathy isn't a quantifiable campaign promise. There is no school spirit meter tucked away in the ASFA offices.

Say what you will about this year's crop of Concordia Student Union executives, but at least they have a clearly defined mandate. There are eight platform points that students can hold the CSU accountable to during their time in office. Although there has been plenty of talk of accountability and transparency, those are the most basic job requirements of an elected official.

I won't deny that ASFA's electoral bylaws need a series of reforms if the association wants to rid itself of the cronyism and dirty tricks that arose last year. But doing away with political parties altogether is just a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater and may have further alienated the association from the students it represents.

ConU Rushes to Fix Administrative Tangle

ConU from p. 3

"They are literally only members of TRAC when they are under contract here," said Mota.

"In a number of cases, contracts were making it to the Dean's office or as far as payroll without proof of TRAC membership."

"All documentation required was not there."

Despite the problem unraveling within Concordia's administrative bureaucracy, the problem was not acknowledged until TRAC brought it to the university.

"When we met with people from HR and academic representatives, the HR representative was appalled that this could have happened and they said that they would tell the Dean's office why it's important to act in a timely matter," said Sonin.

According to Mota, the representative from human resources did have an impact.

"As soon as the problem became evident, HR said 'Just send the contracts, forget the supporting materials.' They want to get the

TAs paid as soon as possible. For those contracts that don't have the supporting materials we will get them later," Mota said.

The problem with payment is the first crisis to hit TRAC, as the union was only established last year. According to Sonin, TRAC has yet to receive its first dues from the university, leaving it with little money.

"TRAC is filing a grievance, this will be our first official grievance. We find it unacceptable, there is no good reason for the delay," said Sonin.

Although the union is not sure what corrective action to seek, it will establish an employee fund to help with similar situations in the future.

"We thought of establishing a fund for urgent cases, but we don't have the money to meet a payroll of 200 people," said Sonin. "We will be setting aside a few thousand dollars for an emergency fund."

—with files from Christopher Curtis



TA union rep Robert Sonin says TAs' delayed paycheques are unacceptable. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Briefs

Man Stabbed in Lachine

A 67-year-old man was stabbed repeatedly in Lachine on Feb. 6 at around 3:45 a.m. He is in serious but stable condition in hospital. The suspect, described as a man in his twenties, is still at large. The motive for the attack is unknown.

Egypt March

Montreal Egyptians and other supporters marched through downtown Montreal on Saturday as part of a Canada-wide protest for democracy in Egypt. The protestors began at 2 p.m., walking from Dorchester Square to the Egyptian consulate. The Canadian Peace Alliance, who organized the protests, has vowed to rally for as long as the demonstrations in Egypt continue.

Cop Shooting

A 27-year-old man was fatally shot after attempting to run from police following a home invasion in Beaconsfield. The victim and another man broke into a home at around 3:45 a.m. Sunday morning and fled the scene in a car before crashing and fleeing on foot. After an altercation with police, one of the suspects was shot dead.

240km/h Joyride

A valet parking attendant was arrested Friday after allegedly stealing a BMW and driving it at more than 240 km/h on the Ville Marie Expressway—nearly four times faster than the highway's 70 km/h speed limit. The man is facing a \$2,598 ticket and 42 demerit points.

Prosecutors Strike

Quebec's crown prosecutors will go on strike as of today after reaching a stalemate in their negotiations with the provincial government. The 450 prosecutors in question are claiming they are paid 40 per cent less than the Canadian average and that they need an additional 200 prosecutors to lighten their workload.

Secret Trials, Blackmail and Other Adventures

Panel Investigates the
Human Rights Cost of
National Security

PHOTOS JULIA JONES

In the Hands of Canada's Secret Service

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Secret trials, blackmail and other “dirty tricks” were on the table at “CSIS: Who needs them?” an event held at Concordia’s Hall Building over the weekend.

Panelists, offering first-hand accounts, spoke about the history of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, kicking off the People’s Commission Network Popular Forum on national security on Saturday morning.

Sharing the panel were Laurentian University professor and editor of *Whose National Security?* Gary Kingsman, lawyer Yavar Hameed, Kanehsatake activist Clifton Arih-wakehte Nicholas and Palestinian-rights activist Marie-Ève Sauvé.

Hameed, who acts as counsel for Muslims and Arabs in CSIS investigations, is currently representing Mohamed Mahjoub, one of the last remaining security certificate cases in Canada.

Security certificates allow for permanent residents and refugees in Canada to be imprisoned indefinitely on secret evidence, with the presumption that they are connected in some way to a threat to national security.

Evidence is not disclosed to the defendant or their legal counsel, and once a judge upholds the certificate there is no access to an appeals process. The result of an upheld security certificate is deportation, often to countries where the defendant faces torture.

“The security certificate is really the showcase of everything oppressive, everything ideologically coercive about CSIS and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration,” said Hameed. “In some instances, that individual is not even a legitimate target of concern.”

Hameed said the use of security certificates against the Muslim and

Arab community post-9/11 was largely based on “guilt by association,” which includes CSIS’ ideological targeting of people with religious ties, community leaders, people active in their Mosque and charitable organizations.

“These communities are targeted for their marginality because they live on the cusp, in situations of precariousness,” he said. “This is something that CSIS knows and that the Canadian Border Service is aware of.”

Nicholas, who was involved in the 1990 Oka crisis, experienced first-hand the way CSIS targets vulnerable communities. He said he was interrogated and blackmailed, received threatening phone calls, and claims there have been many police operatives in his community.

“Immediately after 1990, we had a lot of people coming into the community as infiltrators, disguising themselves as non-native supporters, trying very hard to get into the community,” he said. “I remember one individual who we had caught. We ransacked his vehicle and found RCMP accreditation and different passes, recording devices, phone numbers and a whole slew of pictures. This was a recurring thing.”

These “dirty tricks,” says Kingsman, who spoke about the historical foundation of CSIS, are at the core of the Service’s tactics. CSIS emerged in the mid-eighties after the RCMP’s secret surveillance and infiltration tactics—which included planting bombs, stealing subscription lists and burning down buildings—came under extreme public scrutiny. When the RCMP’s intelligence service started losing its legitimacy in the 1970s, CSIS was created to replace it.

According to Kingsman, most of the initial employees of CSIS were, in fact, former members of the RCMP who continued to target the

same groups of “subversives,” including lesbians and gay men, unions, women’s activists and solidarity movements with struggling people in the developing world.

“The ideological practice of national security is based on identifying certain groups of people as being national security risks or enemies of the state and thereby expelling them from the fabric of the nation,” he said. “Once people are successfully identified as a national security risk, they lose all of their democratic and human rights and are basically cut out of the fabric of the nation state.”

“Basically what the notion of subversion does is criminalizes and mandates surveillance against completely legal activity, which the state believes might, down the road, lead to illegal activity,” said Kingsman.

Sauvé attested to this, stating that she wasn’t the only one targeted by CSIS around anti-Olympics and G20 organizing, but her friends, family and colleagues were targeted as well. She argued for a response of absolute non-cooperation with CSIS officials.

Historically, there has been important mobilization contesting the legitimacy of the existence of CSIS based on concerns of democratic accountability. In 1996, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers was successful in getting the Canadian Labour Congress to adopt a resolution calling for the abolition of CSIS.

Kingsman said Canadians need to return to these types of measures.

“I think we have to realize that we absolutely have to abolish CSIS now,” said Kingsman. “We can see that national security and CSIS systematically deny people democratic and human rights. They have become and they have always been a threat to our security, a threat to people’s security.”

Rewriting Canadian Identity

• JASMINE PAPILLON-SMITH

Addressing Canada’s history of human rights violations, panelists spoke to Concordia students at the Hall Building Friday for “Whose Security? Our Security!” a three day conference on the relationship between national security and civil liberties.

Friday’s speakers discussed the discrimination of racial minorities within Canada, and what they referred to as the Harper government’s attempts to exclude these minorities from mainstream society and from treatment allotted to regular citizens.

“[Neo-conservatives] are rewriting the core script of what it is to be Canadian,” said Ian Mackay, professor of Canadian history at Queen’s University, and one of the panel’s speakers. “Canada used to have free speech and right of assembly.”

Mackay continued his brief lecture in saying that the parliamentary democracy has been reduced to a pale shadow of what it once was. He referred to the G-20 summer, meek media responses to systematic intolerance of visible minorities, and named Omar Khadr as an example of discrimination when describing “the scope of the ominous campaign of the right-wing takeover.”

“This country was once known romantically and idealistically, perhaps even unrealistically, as the peaceable kingdom; it will henceforth be called a warrior nation,” he said.

Ellen Gabriel, president of the Native Women’s Associations of Canada, was another one of the panellists on Friday.

Gabriel touched briefly on the fight against residential schools and named the Oka Crisis as a

historical rallying point by which Native Americans were to model resistance against the government.

“We have been demonized by the church, demonized by the state; we have been demonized by the media. We have had our human rights violated, and that is state terrorism,” she said.

Gabriel named the “fear and greed” of our society, and specifically our need for energy security, as the ultimate catalysts in the perceived downfall of our country.

“When you can no longer feed yourself because you have destroyed the earth so much, only then will you realize that you can’t eat money,” she said.

Mona Oikawa, Associate Professor in the Race, Ethnicity and Indigeneity Program at York University, was another of the speakers.

She discussed the mistreatment and internment of Japanese Canadians during WWII, as well as the dispossession of their lands and the incentives provided by the Canadian government for deportation.

“The treatment of the three groups was based on a relational racial hierarchy,” she said.

“The internment of Japanese Canadians was a security regime that relied upon the prior idea of Orientals as racially inferior to Europeans,” she continued, pointing to the fact that neither Italian nor German Canadians were sent to work camps in Canada during WWII.

All four speakers opined that with many of the national security policies adopted by the Harper Government, Canada is drifting further and further away from its reputation as a peaceful nation.

Fighting Security Certificates

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Representatives from respective community groups lashed out against the issuance of Canadian security certificates and other immigration security measures during a panel discussion in the Hall Building on Sunday.

The Government of Canada has issued security certificates to foreign nationals it deems can pose a threat to Canada. While no actual charges have been laid, the government has used secret evidence to reach a decision. The outcomes of approved security certificates consist of detention and deportation. Twenty-eight security certificates have been issued since 1991.

The common fear for those issued security certificates is that, upon being deported back to their country of origin, they will run a high risk of being tortured.

“Ask any Canadian, left or right, if [he or she] thinks it’s correct to throw someone in jail without knowing why,” said Hassan Almrei, a Syrian-born refugee from Toronto who was detained for nearly seven-and-a-half years on suspicion of having terrorist links.

Almrei staged three hunger strikes during his detention in various Ontario prisons from 2001 until his release 2009—the last ending after he fasted for more than five months at the Kingston Immigration Holding Centre.

“My mouth was my only weapon,” said Almrei in regards to his aim of attracting public attention. He still has no idea why he was detained.

Matthew Behrens, a community organizer with the Campaign

to Stop Secret Trials in Canada, deemed the amount of money the Canadian government spends on immigration security as unnecessary.

A recent federal study reports that a sum of \$45 million dollars was spent to detain immigrants and refugees from 2008 to 2009.

Behrens noted the decreasing number of persons administered security certificates in recent years to encourage more support for his and the other campaigns.

“[The Canadian Security Intelligence Service] has been restrained from using one of its most draconian [measures],” he said.

But Mostafa Henaway, of the Immigrant Workers’ Centre, pointed out that CSIS still has the power to deport immigrants it deems as risks to national security.

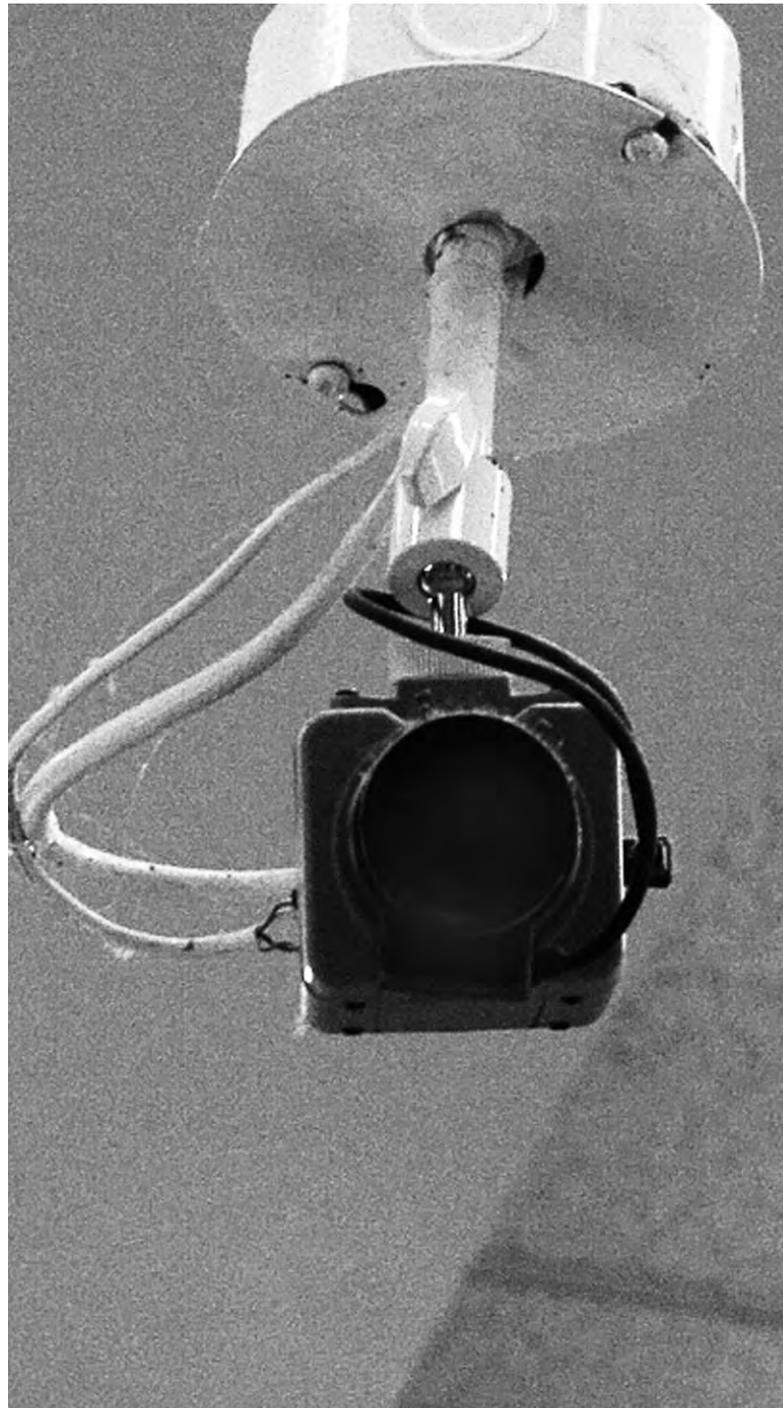
“How long [immigrants] are here for or allowed to stay rests in the hands of CSIS,” he said.

Ottawa resident Mohamed Harkat is currently living under house arrest after being subject to a federal court decision to issue him a second security certificate in December of last year.

Like Almrei, he also spent part of his detention in solitary confinement. Harkat was denied travel to Montreal for the event held by the People’s Commission, but his wife Sophie Lamarche-Harkat was present.

She has been acting as a human rights campaigner since her husband was arrested in 2002.

“We will have to fight this battle, which will be long and painful,” she said, noting that her husband received his deportation papers in January.



Canadian Anti-Terrorist Policy Under Fire

• SIMON LIEM

In 1994, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service made Suleyman Goven a proposition: give information to CSIS on activity in the Kurdish community or risk deportation.

Goven is Kurdish and was granted convention refugee status in 1993 after coming to Canada from Turkey.

“When they questioned other people about me [...] it was really stressful for me. When I hear those kind of stories, I get really depressed,” said Goven. “I feel guilty when [CSIS] goes to people’s houses and questions them about me or tries to force people to make statements against me in exchange for their [immigration]

papers.”

Goven said that CSIS put him through “psychological torture” and claims agents broke into his apartment to steal documents. He said they falsely claimed that he was a part of the Kurdistan Workers Party—one of 40 groups on Canada’s terrorist entities list, which did not exist at the time that CSIS threatened him.

Goven refused to cooperate. He now has landed immigrant status and no longer has contact with CSIS. He works as a journalist and founded a Kurdish community centre in Toronto. He was one of several speakers that shared their experiences with CSIS, Immigration Canada and being labeled a terrorist at a panel discussion on Canada’s anti-ter-

rorism methods at Concordia on Saturday.

The talk centered on how legislation such as the 2001 Anti-Terrorism Act and the branding of organizations as “terrorist entities” effects resistance movements.

“They actually broke the spirit of my people in Canada,” said Sivanathan Sivaraman, a Tamil activist who was also on the panel.

In 2008, the RCMP closed a community centre for Tamils in Montreal, which Sivaraman partly owns, because of alleged links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Dominique Peschard, the president of the Ligue des droits et libertés, spoke of Canada’s terrorism policies and how the lack of trans-

parency in the government’s classification of certain groups and individuals as terrorists puts citizens’ rights to freedom of association and privacy at risk.

One piece of legislation that Peschard finds troubling is Bill C-42, sometimes referred to as the “Secure Flight” program.

The bill would allow airlines to provide a foreign state with data about passengers on a flight if the aircraft is landing in or flying over that state. If a domestic flight passed through American airspace, the United States could force the airline to hand over any passengers’ personal information that the airline possessed, for example.

“The evidence is that the bill is going to create enormous prob-

lems in our society and would have a long, far-reaching impact on civil society,” said Libby Davies in Parliament last week. The East Vancouver New Democrat MP, along with other critics, said that the legislation offers no transparency in how passenger’s information might be shared.

According to its proponents, the bill “has to do with Canada complying with a request by the United States to have air carriers disclose basic information on people flying,” said Liberal MP Paul Szabo.

The legislation, which passed its second reading on Oct. 26, 2010 with support from all parties except the NDP, is currently under debate in the House of Commons.



Montreal's urban planning department put the brakes on a plan to level the Redpath mansion and replace it with a seven story condo tower. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

City Halts Redpath Demolition

Historic Building Still Standing After Over 25 Years of Decay

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay is withdrawing his support for a plan to demolish the city's historic Redpath Mansion and replace it with a seven-story condo project.

Until recently, Tremblay backed the proposal even though it violated a city-zoning bylaw that restricts any development on the Redpath property to three stories in height.

Approval for the historic mansion's demolition made it through two readings of Ville Marie's bor-

ough council and was set to be approved yesterday. But on Friday, the mayor had a change of heart after the city's urban planning department recommended the project be halted.

"There was a concern that the condos would block the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' view of Mont Royal," said Ville Marie borough councillor Sammy Forcillo. "And that doesn't just affect the borough, it affects tourism and the 600,000 people who visit the museum every year."

In 2010, the MMFA invested \$40 million in structural renovations to their property, including the construction of a sunroom that looks out onto Mont Royal. When a study found that the Sochaczewskis condo tower would significantly impede the museum's view, MMFA representatives spoke out against the developers.

"We respected the city's zoning bylaw when we built [the sunroom]," museum spokesperson Danielle Champagne told *The Link* on Jan. 31. "Why can't [the

Sochaczewskis]?"

The development has been the object of scrutiny since Avi and Michael Sochaczewski bought the decaying Redpath mansion in 1986. That year, they began tearing down the building, which was one of the few remnants of Queen Anne architecture in Montreal.

An injunction obtained by a citizen group prevented any further demolition from taking place, but the Sochaczewski brothers remained patient. Although this latest setback has sidetracked the condo develop-

ment, Michael Sochaczewski told *The Gazette* he would work with the city to make his project fit within the city's bylaws.

"It's a great message the city has sent to developers who want to undertake this kind of project in the future," said Dino Bumbaru, the executive director of Heritage Montreal.

"But the city should enforce measures to have the Redpath Mansion properly preserved. It's a historical part of Montreal and it's falling apart."

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AWARDED \$900K GRANT

• SIMON LIEM

Cloud computing. If you only occasionally glance at a tech blog, you probably already know that it is "the next big thing." If you don't, there is still a good chance you are cloud computing daily.

The term describes a way of storing data and applications on a network, or "cloud," rather than on a personal computer. Think of it as an online hard drive, accessible from anywhere. Services like Google Docs, social networking and photo storage sites are common examples of cloud computing. As the practice expands, more advanced applications and more data will be available from cloud networks.

The ability to access your information from any Internet connection offers a lot to users, but a shift towards this technology comes with dangers.

"Users have no control over the data they submit to cloud computing networks," said Professor Mourad Debbabi, the director of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering.

The CIISE recently received a grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of close to \$900,000 to be spent over the next three years for three separate projects. Over half of that money will be dedicated to the CIISE's project of researching privacy and security in cloud comput-

ing networks.

"We would like to give users some control over privacy and security," said Debbabi. "A lot of things are happening behind the scenes."

Currently, if you upload something to a site like Facebook and want to know what happens to that information, you have to read through pages of an arcane privacy policy and then trust the site to honour that agreement, which may change in a few weeks regardless.

In January, Facebook announced that applications would be able to share phone numbers and addresses with external websites, but then delayed the policy change because of complaints.

The CIISE say they will develop methods to let users manage their own security and privacy.

One idea is to create a "digital fingerprint," only known to the users, for everything that is uploaded to a network. When the data is accessed, the fingerprint changes. If users see a change they did not make, they immediately know that someone has tampered with their data. This will give users more control and also take some responsibility to monitor privacy violations out of the provider's hands, according to Debbabi.

"Like most university research, these guys are doing nothing new at all," said Nadim Kobeissi, a network security analyst and self-de-

scribed Internet freedom advocate.

According to Kobeissi, the techniques that the CIISE are researching are already available to users and "good architecture" for networks is one thing that could be focused on for providing security.

While Kobeissi pointed to examples of similar security protection developed independently, the buzz around cloud computing is making grants like the CIISE's more available. The money the department received came through the Strategic Project Grants, a government program that is funding research in, among other things, telecommunications, natural resources and environmental sciences.

All You Need Is WHALE

Students Stage “Flash Love-In” for Accessible Education

• LAURA BEESTON

A group of students gathered in the Hall Building lobby on Monday, donning sparkly red hats and feathered boas, passing out Valentines and flyers as part of a “Flash Love-In.” When the clock struck twelve, the twenty-odd students linked arms, sat down together and sang that classic Beatles tune, “All You Need is Love.”

This romantic showmanship was staged in preparation for the student day of action taking place next Monday, Feb. 14 at 11:30 a.m.—otherwise known as Valentines’ Day—on the Reggie’s terrace.

Dubbed the “Wintery Hot Accessible Love-In for Education,” or WHALE, the event hopes to call attention to the forthcoming tuition increases—set to double over the next four years—as well as to send a strong message to the university’s Board of Governors, who have not addressed the nearly unanimous call for transparency and a vote of non-confidence by students and staff since dismissing President Judith Woodsworth before Christ-

mas.

“It’s all about love,” said Concordia student Alex Matak. “It’s going to be a really strong show of student empowerment. [...] This is a pretty unique issue because no matter who you are or what your personal politics or perspectives may be, [tuition increases] are something that’s going to affect you and your future.”

Lamenting the very real restrictions that come with inaccessible education—namely a lack of diversity in classrooms and youth being unable to make it in the professional world—Matak stressed that “whether or not you’re personally affected in your degree, you’re going to see the effects of these increases in five or 10 years, when your cousins or children can’t afford to go to university.”

In a time when the Quebec student debt upon graduation has reached an average of \$28,000, the drop in university enrollment as a result of the impending tuition increases is slated at approximately 6,000 students, according to the Concordia Student Union.

The biggest challenges facing WHALE organizers, however, is getting enough students out to the Reggie’s terrace to ensure the special general meeting reaches quorum. For this to happen, the CSU currently requires 2.5 per cent of the student population—roughly 850 students—to guarantee the motions put forward at the meeting are legally binding.

Though the number may seem steep, Graduate Student Association Councillor and Free Education Montreal volunteer Rushdia Mehreen is optimistic about the anticipated turnout. In her visits to classrooms since last Wednesday, Mehreen said that more and more students are becoming aware of the impending fee hikes.

“As soon as you give [students] the information and let them know what they have to fight for, they’re very receptive,” she said. “We’re working very hard to mobilize everybody.”

For more information on the WHALE, visit concordiastudents.ca



Twenty students sang “All You Need is Love” to protest university tuition hikes. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Shootin’ the Breeze With Uncle Graham

Provost Calls on Students to Define Concordia’s Future

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Concordia has a growing and energetic student family, new buildings, fully stocked laboratories and a balanced budget. The last step for Provost David Graham is to be recognized as one of the top five comprehensive universities in Canada.

Students, he needs your help.

“I guess the obvious question is; why now? Why are we preparing an Academic Plan process? The answer to that coincides with two things: Concordia’s previous Academic Plan was designed to cover the years 2005-2010. It is now officially done,” said Graham.

Sitting in his office on the eighth floor of the GM building, Graham is Concordia’s senior academic. While the floors below and above were rocked by the infighting and strife that decimated the university’s upper administration, Graham weathered the storm with his mortarboard unscathed.

He is now moving ahead and writing a new Academic Plan—the program that will direct what students study and how for the next half-decade.

“The Academic Plan sets out some big picture goals for Concordia, of which the biggest and most prominent from our perspectives



Provost David Graham wants you to learn how to learn. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

is becoming recognized as one of Canada’s top-five comprehensive universities by 2020,” said Graham, who is supervising the drafting of his first Academic Plan.

“The question we asked ourselves was what does it take to get us from where we are now in our

academic standing to being on par with those other universities—the same four that come up every year in no particular order: Victoria, Simon Fraser, Guelph and Waterloo,” said Graham. “There’s a clear gap between them and everyone else.”

The second category of universities in the academic rankings compiled by *Maclean’s*, comprehensive universities are those with graduate programs but without large medical or law schools.

To reach the top five, Graham has called on Concordia’s staff,

faculty and students to help decide what academic pursuits to emphasize, how to get new students and reward those that succeed, how to build the best faculties and how to best support the community.

“Research, creativity, student success, academic programs and experiential learning are going to be very important in this plan, and we’re looking for people to tell us how to do this,” said Graham. “I understand that students have a lot to do. I often say they have three jobs: classes to go to, jobs to work and families to attend to.”

Students have much to win in the drafting of this plan. Their gripes, observations and complaints will do much to shape Concordia until 2020. If the plan is successful and the university vaults up the standings, the value of every degree will jump with it.

“Part of education is learning that you have the ability to take charge of your own education,” said Graham. “That to me is what a really successful education is about. It’s not the subject material so much, but if you learn how to learn and how to take charge of your own experience, that’s everything.”

While that might not be an invitation to skip class, it isn’t an indictment if you do.

MUCH ADO ABOUT MODEMS: USER BASED BILLING MIGHT HINDER YOUR INTERWEBS USAGE

Battling for Bandwidth

What a Controversial CRTC Ruling Means for Canadian Internet Users



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

• ADAM KOVAC

On a mild February afternoon, a small crowd descended on Montreal's Dorchester Square. Amid high snowdrifts and throngs of Habs fans in *bleu-blanc-rouge* on their way to an afternoon hockey game, the group traded off bullhorns, ranting about the powers that be.

The target of their ire? The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the regulatory body that rules over the Canadian airwaves. In late January, the CRTC announced plans to cap Internet usage for those who shun large providers like Bell or Videotron, and opt instead for unlimited packages from smaller, independent ISPs.

The CRTC, whose mandate is "to ensure that both the broadcasting and telecommunications systems serve the Canadian public,"

has managed to piss off not just Internet-users-turned-activists, but politicians of all stripes, ranging from the NDP to the Conservative Minister of Industry, who has announced that the cabinet would not look kindly on user-based billing being pushed through.

The entire furor boils down to a question that has persistently popped up since the web went ubiquitous. Namely, to whom does the Internet belong, anyway?

Who's a Heavy User?

An important fact that has gotten lost is how few Internet subscribers would be affected by user-based billing—only 6 per cent of Canadian Internet subscribers, according to CRTC chairman Konrad Von Finckenstein's Feb. 3 speech to Parliament (when reached by telephone, the CRTC referred *The Link* to Von Finckenstein's speech and declined further comment). With so few people di-

rectly affected, can you be forgiven for asking "Who cares?"

Andrew Moore thinks that everyone should. Moore is an independent software consultant, and one of the organizers of the Montreal rally.

"The CRTC decision is not necessarily just about money," he told *The Link*. "[It's about] innovation in Canada. When you think about it, sites like Facebook or Google were started at home. [...] If you make Internet packages more expensive, you're basically stopping that kind of innovation from happening, because there will be a large cost to whatever you're doing. Those innovative ideas won't come from Canada anymore, they'll come from countries like the States that do still have unlimited packages."

Moore himself will be directly affected. As he works from home, Bell refused to install a commercial connection. He says he is at

risk of seeing his Internet bill go up by as much as \$200 per month.

Michael Geist is a law professor at the University of Ottawa who has written extensively on the subject of Internet law. While he doesn't see any direct danger to Canadian businesses, he does acknowledge that there will be economic ramifications from user-based billing.

"I do think it affects the potential for innovation in the economy," he said. "Not so much for business use, but public adoption of innovative and competitive services can be affected. [For example], companies like Netflix and other sorts of independent services essentially face hidden costs and fees if you're a consumer, because you have to pay for the additional bandwidth."

It's an interesting perspective on the situation. The CRTC decision seems to be aimed at reducing Internet usage in a time where

constantly being plugged in is becoming an economic necessity. In Von Finckenstein's speech, he said, "More bandwidth is being eaten up by consumers who are accessing information, downloading or streaming music and video content, or playing online games." The CRTC cited the idea that "heavy users"—a term they don't define—are piggybacking on the backs of normal users via the set fees they pay for unlimited activity. Geist dismissed this idea as a "bad decision."

"They seem to have prioritized the notion of heavy users being subsidized by so-called light users," he said. "It's hard to understand who they think is a heavy user. I think they ought to be prioritizing facilitating as much competition in the marketplace as possible. [...] It's hard to speculate as to why they arrived at the decision they did."



United Over Internet

In a country of over 30 million, only 550,000 people would see their Internet bills increase. And yet the controversy has given rise to an online petition calling for the disbanding of the CRTC that at press time had almost 15,000 signatures. The issue has struck a nerve, evidence that Canadians realize the Internet has become more than a service. It is a requirement for living in the modern world, essential to any education or industry.

Moore pointed out that countries such as Finland have ensured their citizens have access to broadband connections.

"Today, citizens of Finland have the right to a one megabyte per second unmetered connection," he said. "It's not just a tool to bridge people together, it's [vital] to today's education, business, communication and entertainment. Should it be a human

right? I think that expressing ourselves publically should be a right, and if the Internet is a medium to do so, why not?"

Among those making themselves heard on the subject were politicians of all stripes. During a House of Commons debate on Feb. 2, NDP MP Charlie Angus declared that "Canadians are fed up with the Internet usage caps and the rip-off that they have been receiving," and asked if Minister of Industry Tony Clement would "insist that all the usage caps come off individual home Internet accounts?"

While Clement did not directly respond at the time, later that day he told reporters that "we do expect the CRTC to reverse its decision and to basically go back to the drawing board on this issue, and if they do not do this, we wanted to make it clear cabinet would take its responsibilities to do the same."

On Feb. 3, Von Finckenstein announced a 60-day review of the policy that will begin on March 1—the day the policy was to have come into effect.

In a funny way, the CRTC has done more to unite disparate factions than the Internet ever could. Unfortunately, a good ending to this controversy is far from assured. Geist wrote on his blog that "there is considerable reason to be skeptical of the review on both procedural and substantive grounds."

Moore shares the feeling of unease, saying that should the government overrule the CRTC, legislation would have to be passed to specifically set out what ISPs can and cannot charge, and there is no way to know what such legislation would look like.

For the People

In Dorchester Square, the rally went on. There was a palpable

sense of irony that a group of strangers had gathered to protest against infringements on the anonymous medium that brought them together—the ball got rolling after a mass of posts on the subject appeared on the website reddit.com. Gripes got aired as toes got cold. There was talk of the importance to democracy of the free passing of information. This is what the protesters believe is at stake.

The Internet, to borrow from the late Alaskan Senator Ted Stevens, is more than just a series of tubes.

It is people, bouncing ideas off each other, crossing borders at the speed of light. And as we are reminded almost constantly, it is an incredibly efficient means of protest. Ask the people in the streets of Egypt, or right there in Dorchester Square. More and more, the Internet belongs to them.

Should it be a human right? I think that expressing ourselves publically should be a right, and if the Internet is a medium to do so, why not?"

—Andrew Moore,
Software Consultant



SPIN ON SPINS: NEW CUT COPY ALBUM IS 'NOISE CHEMISTRY'

Personality Transcends Body

Cinema Politica Doc *Regretters* Cuts Deep Into Gender

• CHRISTINA BELL

"Sometimes I say I represent a third sex," Orlando Fagin says to Mikael Johansson in the documentary *Regretters*. "I've gone through two sex changes; what's the next stage for me?"

Both are men-turned women and then once again turned back into men. The two meet for the first time to discuss their similar search for self-identity in *Regretters*.

Sex changes are still taboo in our society and it is rare for an individual to go under the knife to shift genders, but that is just what these men have done—twice.

Regretters explores the often-ignored grey areas of gender, sexuality and how deeply these factors affect a person's identity. The film will be screened by Cinema Politica for its Quebec premiere.

The "regretters" are two sixty-something Swedish men who are meeting for the first time to discuss their similar experiences. Simply by looking at the two individuals, it is easy to see how different they are, but throughout their conversation, one sad similarity becomes crystal clear: both regret their initial decision to go under the knife. In fact, both Fagin and Johansson were searching for things in life that, in retrospect, had very little to do with the physicality of gender, and much to do with respect and

acceptance.

"I missed having a woman in my life so desperately that I damn well had to become one myself to deal with the intense longing," says Johansson while the pair are flipping through photographs of their past selves.

At the time of the filming, Johansson had not yet had his surgery to transform back into a male. He is certain that he is ready to leave "Mikaela" behind and embrace his former self. He talks with sadness about the doubt and insecurities that led him to believe that becoming a woman could improve his life.

Regretters gives the viewer a new perspective on the topic of gender and sexuality. Confining people into concrete male or female roles is unrealistic and confusing when one finds they do not align with characteristics assigned to their gender. Desperate situations are formed when one does not have a sense of self, and these two men prove that extreme measures are not always the right answer.

Through their discussion the two, sometimes humorously but always honestly, tackle the idea that personality transcends the body.

Regretters / Feb. 15 / 7 p.m. / Room H-110 / All films are free of charge, but donations are encouraged



Decent Exposure

Concordia Art Students Open Their Classroom Doors and Invite You In

• ANTONELLA TENORIO

Concordia's Studio Arts Master's of Fine Arts students are opening their doors to the public this week and inviting you to come in and experience their ongoing and finished artworks.

This two-day showcase will give fine arts students an opportunity to introduce themselves as a new generation of artists in Montreal's artistic sphere.

This year's event differs from previous years in its interactive nature.

"What we do is organize an exhibition every year. This year we

decided to do it differently and to organize the event so that artists can come in and talk about their work," said Jin Kim, one of the seven organizers of the event.

The concept for the MFA Open Studio event is to gather artists from the seven existing departments—sculpture, photography, drawing and painting, open media, print making and film—and to expose their works not only to students, but also to Montreal art aficionados.

"As MFA students we want spaces in order to put up our work, so this is simply an opportunity for the public to come and

take a look at the ongoing work we have," said Kim, a first year photography student. "We want this to be a city event."

Viewers will be free to explore a diverse array of visual arts that will range from performances to film screenings and a vernissage. Artists will be present and open to discussing their works with the public.

"It is a good opportunity for the students to interact with other artists as well," said Kim. "We are sending e-mails to artists and putting up posters in order to promote this event outside the Concordia campus."

In addition to the exhibit, students will be able to sell their work to the public. "Right now we are collecting small artwork from students and faculty members in the MFA Program," said Kim.

The organizers are also planning to sell raffle tickets where the prizes will be student art.

"If you are chosen, you get to choose which artwork you want to take. It will not be bidding-based, but it will be interactive," she said.

It is the first time that students get the chance to receive monetary compensation for their creations in an academic exposition.

"Inside the fine arts department, a lot of students are not aware of what other students are doing in terms of artwork, so this event is going to give them some exposure" she said.

"As underground artists we are not only hoping to get recognition within the school, but also to get contacts within the Montreal art community," said Kim.

"This is our chance to make it."

MFA Open Studio / Feb. 11 and 12 / In the EV, VA and JA buildings / 5 to 10 p.m.

Galleria

FLEET: Student Art, Outdoors



PHOTOS PIERRE CHAUVIN

On Feb. 8, Concordia students took to the streets to sprinkle some public art installations around our campus. *The Link* was there to catch some of the magic.

Secret Feelings

Black Feelings Intrigue With Secret Show



• NATASHA YOUNG

Owain Lawson, of local noise rock outfit Black Feelings, would like to assure you that his band is not nearly as gloomy as its name suggests.

“The songs are usually kind of morose in theme, but not really grim,” Lawson said. The band is mostly about having a lot of fun. We sort of chose the name Black Feelings as a joke and, since then, it’s come to define us.”

Comprised of Lawson on drums and lead vocals, Brian Mitchell on bass and Kyle Fostner on guitar and synth, Black Feelings have been a prevalent facet in the local indie music scene for a mere decade. They’ve worked closely with Blue Skies Turn Black, a successful Montreal-based record label and concert promoter, since its inception in 1999.

Much to their credit, Mark Lawson (no relation to Owain), the it-producer best known for his work with Arcade Fire, produced Black Feelings eponymous first

full-length self-titled album released in 2009.

Black Feelings record in a low-profile residency at the old Hotel 2 Tango recording studio, an exclusive spot for musicians and artists to create and practice. The locale’s exact location is kept relatively secret, though it is hinted at in the name. H2T are the first three characters of a zip code in the Mile-End.

“The ‘Old Hotel’ has always had people living in it and bands practicing in it for the past 15 years,” Lawson said. “We’ve been in the space for a year now. We have our practice space in there. We’re actually in the control room of the old studio, so it’s a small room, but it’s so sound-proofed and [everything] sounds amazing in there. It’s the best practice space we’ve ever had; there are all sorts of artists in there. Basically, I proposed [the show] to them because the space needs money for repairs.”

When faced with the question of who to ask to join them for the

show, Black Feelings decided to invite two acts they had not yet played with but whose style they admire: Toronto-based experimental performer Doldrums and local bizarre-electronica soloist Grimes.

Besides playing shows and hanging out in what has essentially become a secret artist commune, Black Feelings have been hard at work recording new material. The band is set to release a new EP later this month produced by Sebastian Cowan, head of Arbutus Records, on local underground cassette tape label Pasalmany. The cassette tape as a means for distributing music may seem even less practical than the persistent vinyl trend, but it is certainly an appropriate medium for Black Feelings’ fuzzy, lo-fi sound.

“For our self-titled record, [...] we were recording with Mark Lawson, who brought a ton of really fancy recording gear, and then when we mixed we made it sound crazier. That’s pretty much the

same thing we did with Sebastian, too—we recorded them really clean in the studio and then ran them through really shitty reverb and lots of distortion,” Lawson said.

This somewhat unconventional recording process of achieving an authentic-sounding vintage lo-fi sound through hi-fi equipment allows their hazy, heavily reverberant sound to maintain depth and dimension, in spite of what Lawson described as its “broken tape deck” aesthetic.

“It’s like in movies—they say that you want to make sure that all of your shots are perfect so that in post-production you can make them look as crazy as you want, because if all the information is there you can do whatever you want with it.”

Black Feelings are playing a secret show sometime this week at a secret location. Use the Internet, use your resources and figure out where it is.



Zonoscope Cut Copy

• GUILLAUME MORISSETTE

My Australian roommate claims that he once had brunch with one of the dudes from Cut Copy. I asked what the dude from Cut Copy ordered and his answer was, “some fruit thing,” which led me to believe that he didn’t brunch with the dude from Cut Copy as much as just sat in the same place at the same time as he did.

I was thinking about that a little while listening to *Zonoscope*, hoping there would be a track referencing “ordering some fruit thing for brunch,” but there wasn’t. Too intense, it probably ended up getting cut.

I don’t know what a zonoscope is, but it’s probably not a virtual colonoscopy tool that uses x-rays and a computer to produce a three-dimensional image of the colon, which is what I had imagined at first. The cover art for the album is skyscrapers and New York withstanding the assault of a waterfall. It all comes across as a prophecy of doom of some sort. I have been to New York, and it could happen again. In the summer the entire subway system sometimes shuts down because of rain and the city becomes unresponsive and feral and post-apocalyptic.

I don’t really understand what chewing gum is made of and I also don’t understand if *Zonoscope* is still music or just very complex noise chemistry. *Zonoscope* has so many layers of stuff going on that half the tracks make me feel like I am on sensory overload like I am a wizard on acid at a Flaming Lips concert or something. I just want a little break somewhere in there, like maybe a song in the middle with the brunch dude jamming freeform on a kazoo and nothing else happening.

The music creates a mood that supports whatever the lyrics are trying to depict. If the song has pharaohs and pyramids and human-serpent gods in it, then you can usually find some Egyptian-themed sample buried somewhere in there.

Also, Cut Copy sound cheesy almost by default, as if they can’t help it. *Zonoscope* talks about love so much that I feel like it wants me to move away from, give in to, act on, forget and spend my love all at once.



women

gender

sexuality

Women's Issue Brainstorm

Come help us plan the *The Link's* 30th Annual Women's Issue
Friday, Feb. 11, H 649, 4:00 p.m.



FIRST MATES AND SPECIAL DATES: AN OCEAN-GOING GRAPHIC NOVEL & A TIME-SENSITIVE PIECE OF PROSE

Breezy Reading

David Collier's Graphic Novel *Chimo* a Sea Oddity

• CHRISTINA BELL

Chimo is David Collier's autobiographical account of his multiple experiences in the Canadian War Artists Program. This is a military program that may have escaped your notice until now, which is strange because you'd think they'd do more to publicize something like this.

Basically, Canadian artists volunteer to participate in Canada's military simply for the experience. (That's right. Minus the pay.) In fact, there are a large number of artists who submit applications to have this particular experience and only a select few get that privilege.

Collier's story is unique for a number of reasons. He decided to return to military life while in his 40s amongst soldiers who were, for the most part, half his age. This means training that's all the more grueling, and leaving behind a less than thrilled family.

Unsurprising given the book he produced, David Collier enrolled in the Canadian War Artists Program as a cartoonist. The reason for his acceptance is clear, thanks to his quirky renditions of military life as a man of "advanced years," which, in Collier's words, was a "truly Cana-

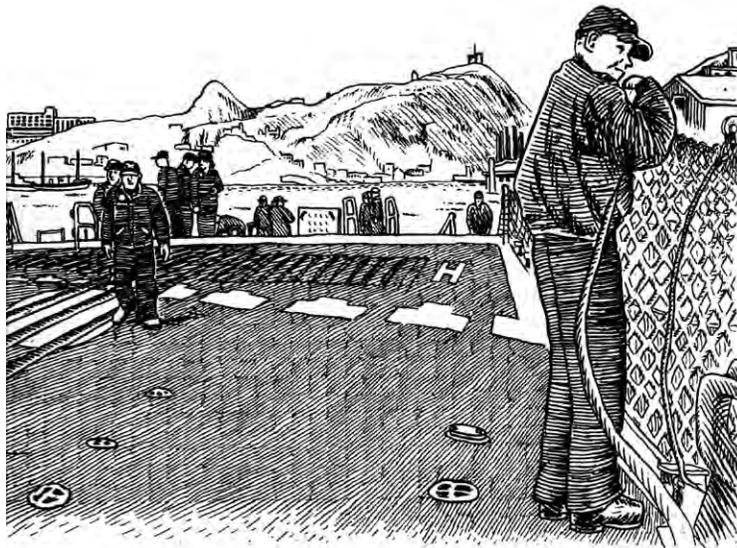
dian experience at the time"—if only because the American military doesn't accept soldiers who are 40 years or older.

The fact that Collier is so much older than his peers makes him vulnerable and charming. He is injured easily during training and is definitely not the most popular soldier. Despite the obstacles, he manages to stay fairly enthusiastic throughout the experience.

That being said, Canadian history is, not to put it too bluntly, inherently boring, and turning daily life into meaningful and/or interesting art, while in the military to boot, can be a difficult task. Nevertheless, *Chimo* is pretty informative while remaining light and entertaining.

If nothing else, *Chimo* is an interesting look at a rarely-discussed facet of Canadian life, handled in a playful way that a similar book without comic accompaniment would have trouble communicating. Perhaps the Canadian military realizes this and that is why they are eager to have artists as a part of their team.

Chimo is an enjoyable graphic novel with something for all sorts of readers. Art lovers will appreciate the illustrations, and the work Collier produced during his



TOP GRAPHIC DAVID COLLIER BOTTOM GRAPHIC MYRIAM ARSENAULT



time in the military, which is included in the book's Appendices, is a neat bonus. Military folk and Hamiltonians will enjoy the references and overworked students looking for a light, easy book will be charmed by the sea breeze of this quick read.



Chimo
David Collier
Conundrum Press
128pp
\$17.00

LIT WRIT: FEBRUARY 9

• WILL M. DAFOE

I understand the math. I do. But what does a day mean in a vacuum?

Like Christmas, the good memories become harder to remember, and every change to the routine makes you more aware of what you've lost. The presents are a blur, but the insults, the missteps, the interruptions to harmony last a lifetime.

And like Christmas, my reverence for the ninth is some subconscious consumption of the dregs of the cultural barrel rather than the Histories (which I've been meaning to get to, and might have read part of). The only reason I need to remember it is because someone thought it would be profitable to glorify this day, and he passed this message

along while I wasn't paying attention during *V for Vendetta* (the movie).

Right?
It's always hard to get older.

I can remember certain physical features. A dark room, a flashing strobe light, huddled in an industrial loft lighting a cigarette, trying to discuss the merits of comic books over the sound of the band, embracing the night for what felt impossibly long. You're somewhere in the background, intangible. How, exactly, do you see a day?

It always leaves, like clockwork, but it's permanently burned into my retina, a ghostly, amorphous reminder, and the ninth comes alive every single time I close my eyes. Is it the precise day, some idiosyncratic appeal, some comical cosmic

accident, a loop in time? Sometimes I want to sleep forever.

Is it easier to dream of a blizzard than sun-kissed bliss?

I'm more afraid of the spring. We'll emerge from the underground—only, as I sober up, my pupils dilate and I orient myself, I'll see that the day has gone. I'll try to clean myself up, look presentable. But we're both pale, and the darkness was more appropriate.

So I stand there, waiting for the storm clouds, waiting to be buried. Maybe if I could just explain? Maybe after hours of wracking my brain, searching the shallow depths, exercising every last muscle and fiber of my being, wringing out whatever meager sounds I can muster on this meaningless, pointy strand



GRAPHIC
IAN
STOBBER

of bone, muscle tissue and tendons. Maybe you would understand then?

I still want to feel the cold air pierce my lungs. I want to ache desperately every time I take a deep breath. As long as I can hold onto the ninth, it will be winter forever and I can hide under the sheets and defiantly tell the world that the normal rules of time don't apply to this particular day. I'll stay awake forever.

This is my present to the ninth. Time is a one-way street, and there really isn't any foreshadowing at all. The day meant what it meant; it's not a beacon, an ideal or even a memory.

But does the ninth ever change? And is that cloud getting any closer?

It's always hard to get older.

Lit Events

Synapse Reading Series, Round Two

Featuring Melissa Bull, Candice Maddy Fridman, Jacob Spector, David McGimpsey and a Mystery Reader

FEB. 9
7:00 P.M. ONWARDS
VAV GALLERY
1395 RENE-LEVESQUE
BLVD. W.
FREE ADMISSION

Yellow Door Poetry & Prose Reading

Featuring Clayton Bailey, Dominique Gaucher, Barbara Lewis, Josip Novakovich, Janet Pasternak, Branka Petrovic and Sandra Sjollema

FEB. 10
7:00 P.M. ONWARDS
THE YELLOW DOOR
3625 AYLMEYER ST.
ADMISSION \$5

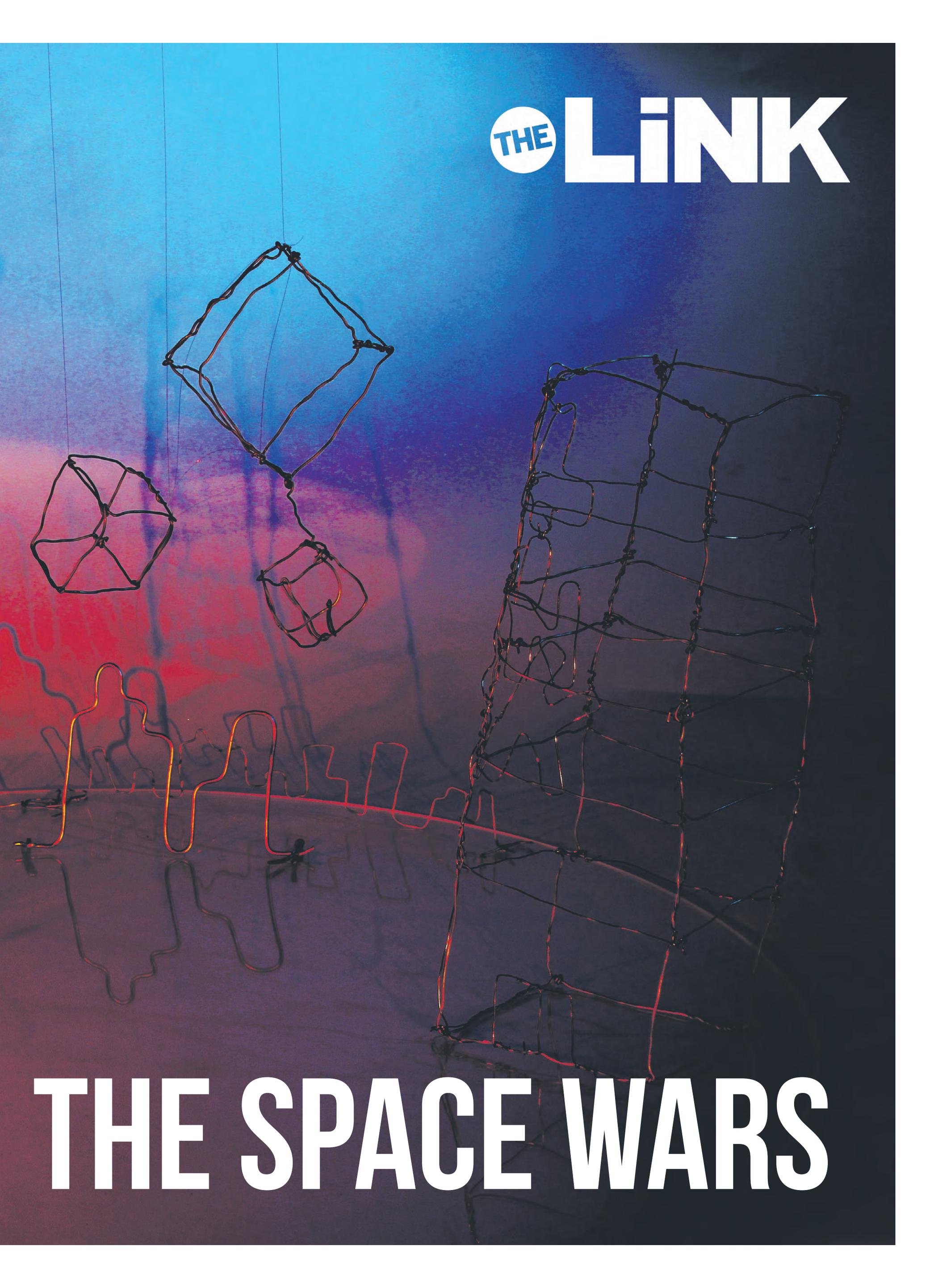
THE VOID Magazine Fundraiser Party

Concordia Bilingual Lit Mag Hosts Music-Based Party, Invites All, Promises Crazy Freakin' Times, Man. Featuring Fox News, Max Max and 2Live

FEB. 10
10:30 P.M. ONWARDS
VINYL
2109 BLEURY ST.
ADMISSION \$5



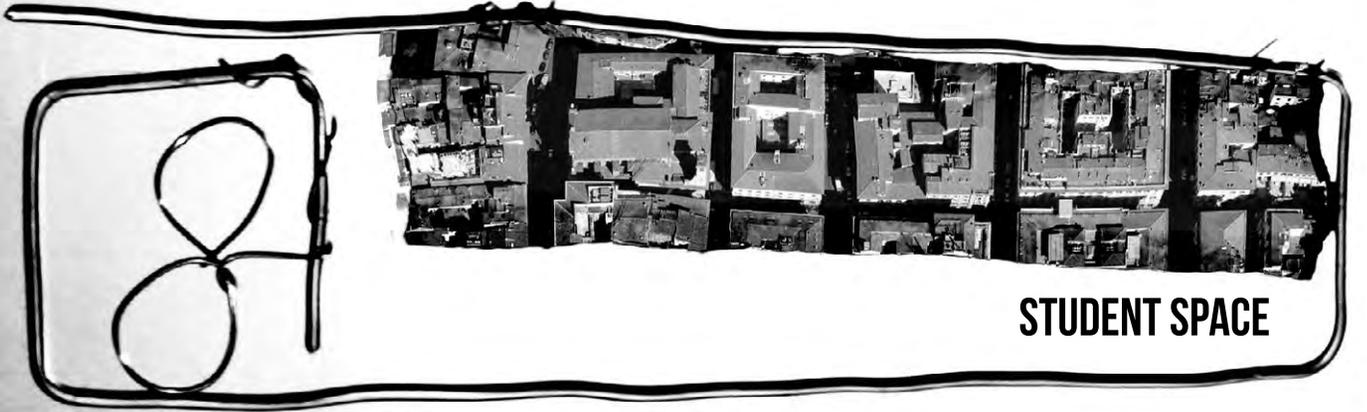
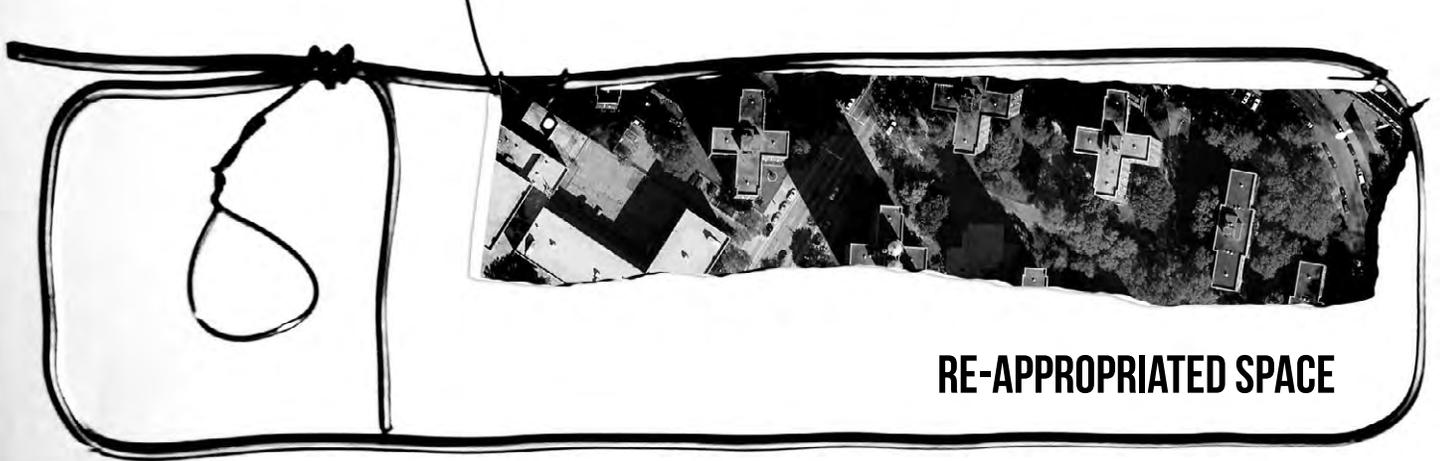
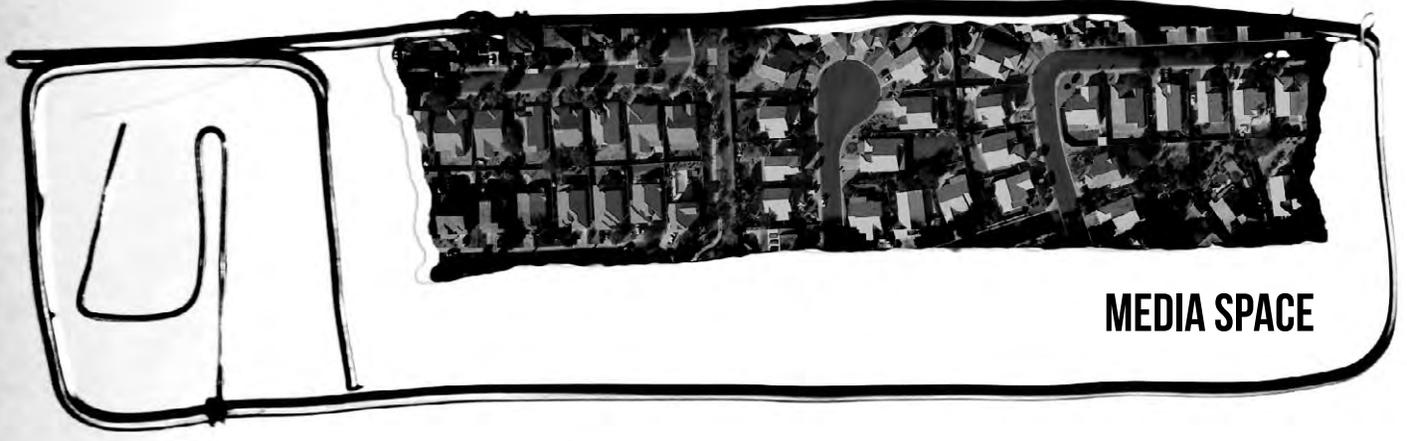
THE LINK
A SPECIAL ISSUE

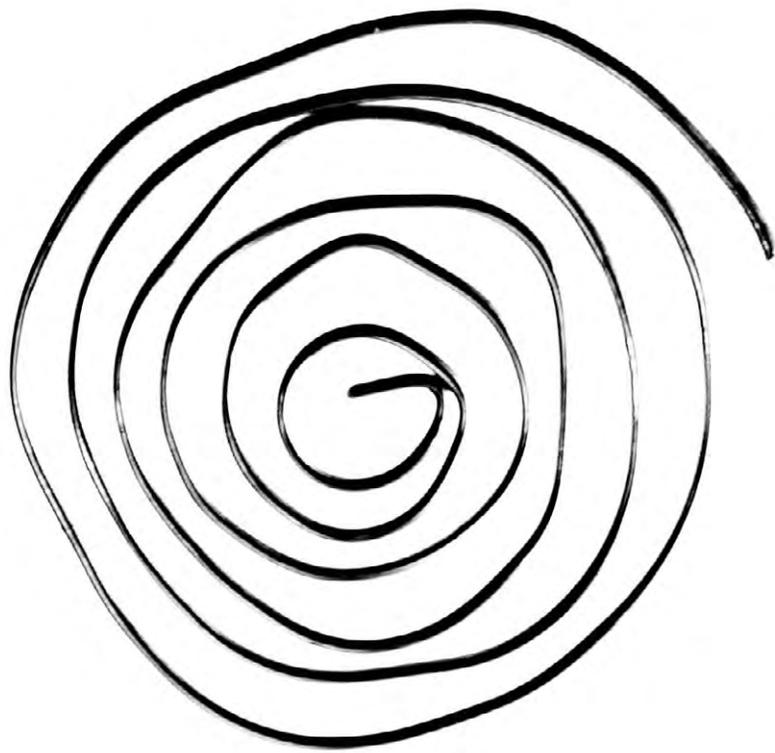


THE LINK

THE SPACE WARS

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WELCOME TO THE SPACE ISSUE

The Space Wars Engulf Concordia and the World

The world is at war.

The Link's special issues have traditionally been reserved for topics considered the most vital by the newspaper's editors. Gender equality, sexual rights and media freedom have been favourites for years as progress in those fields has often proven slow and hard to come by.

Now the issue of space is being added to the family of troubles.

Whether intended or not, space is becoming one of the defining battles of our times. This did not happen because other social ills are being resolved, leaving greater mental room for us to maneuver, but because the space around us is increasingly at risk.

As our population spikes, resources plummet and daily life is completely transformed by the Internet, everyone is fighting for space.

Whether it's the media attempting to re-establish itself in the cloud—turn to page four—or corporations looking to advertise in the final frontier—beam up to page 11—everyone needs more.

This situation has been complicated by the presence of the world's corporations, ever hungry for another profit and another surface to make their own.

So for the first time in *The Link's* history, we decided to examine this space war. What does this fight look like? How does the artist, the skateboarder, the student or the government fight for space?

This issue falls far short of what we had hoped to cover. It is simply not possible to give adequate coverage to an issue so large, literally larger than all of us, in one issue. But in the following pages we have given it a try.

This is a challenge, a fight and a struggle that goes beyond any single issue or story, it drips from every page of this newspaper.

The space wars are being waged.

What side are you going to take?

Illustrating the special issue presented us with the unique challenge of finding concrete images to describe space, an idea without shape or form. Space is a concept that cannot be described without referring to the borders by which it is defined. We decided to use actual wire, or "wireframe" structures, on our pages in hopes of outlining both the physical space and the issues concerning it. Each two page spread of the space issue was built, lit and photographed by The Link's Production team: David Barlow-Krelina, Erin Sparks and Julia Wolfe.

—Justin Giovannetti & Julia Wolfe,
Space Issue Coordinators

STREAMS OF INFO

THE END OF THE NEWSPAPER'S MONOPOLY AND HOW IT INTENDS TO SURVIVE

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Every year, fewer people pick up issues of the newspaper you are holding.

In the early 1980s, *The Link* held a monopoly over the attention spans of Concordia students. While lounging between classes, students didn't have access to the Internet and its infinite power of distraction. The halls reverberated with conversation and paperbacks were read, but the only real connection to the wider world was a copy of the newspaper.

That monopoly has now been broken, in these pages, as it has in every other publication in the world.

First, the bad news: across the world, the revenues of newspapers have plunged and aren't recovering, staff is being laid off in record numbers, issues are getting thinner in both words and impact and newspapers are shutting down.

Despite the disintegration of a press system that took centuries to build, the world's consumers of news and informa-

tion have never had it better. Streams of information from around the globe are carrying ever more information, faster, to their media tool of choice.

"The monopoly of locked-down information and locked-down media is gone," said Tim McSorley, a member of *The Dominion's* editorial collective. "There isn't a closed network anymore and there are ways that it can be changed without locking the news down again."

The incumbent giants of the media universe have tried many ways of dealing with the challenge of the Internet; they are now talking about taking the information off the free Internet completely. No one is more serious about pay walls and online memberships than Rupert Murdoch, the head of News Corporation—the parent company of the Fox network.

"People will be buying papers and enjoying the tactile experience for decades," said Murdoch, 80, last year. "Soon people will be getting stories over WiFi to their eReaders, and we will be able to

charge them a very attractive price."

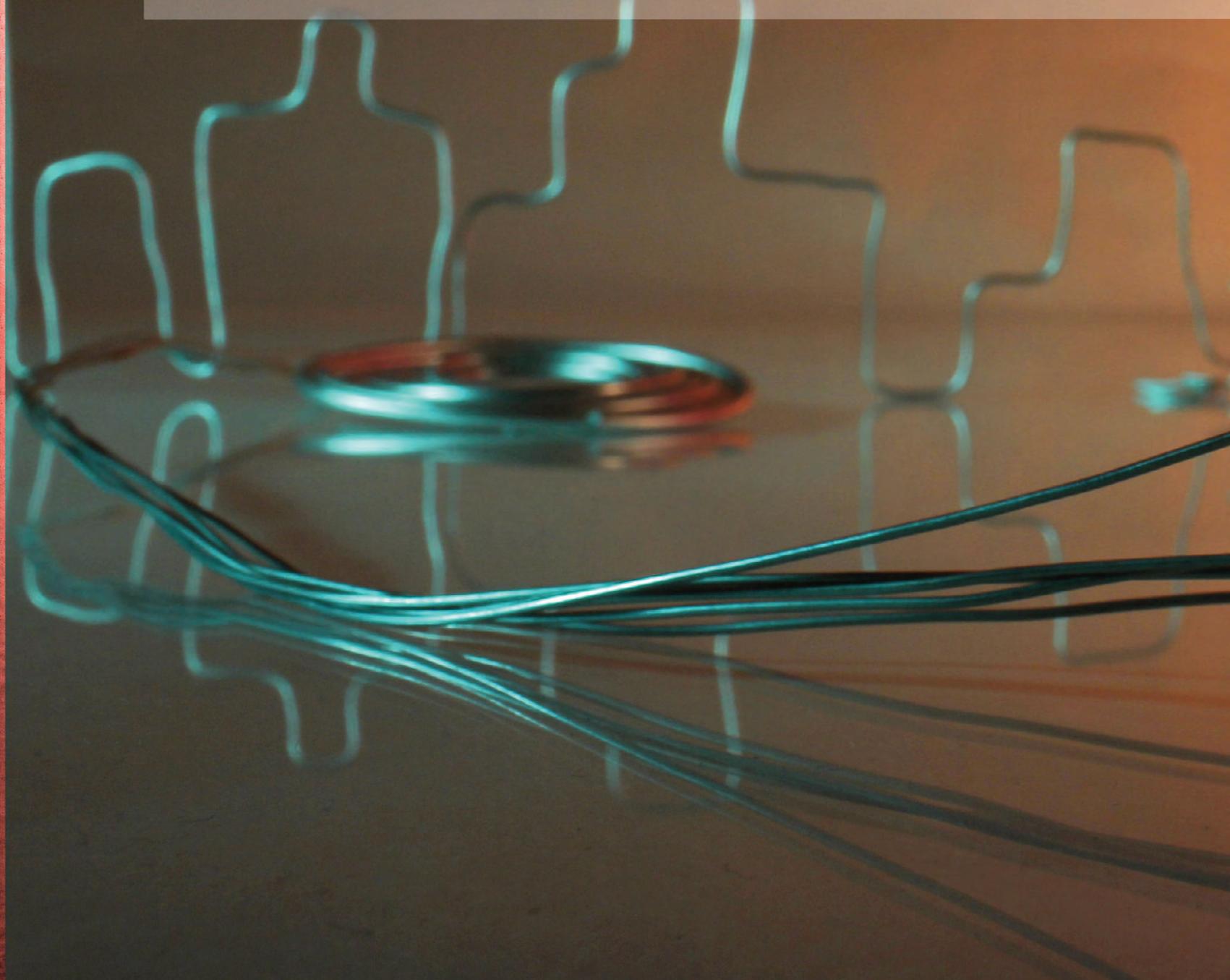
The Australian media mogul has already put *The Times of London* and *The Wall Street Journal* behind pay walls, readable only after netizens have paid the cover price.

Last Wednesday, Murdoch launched his newest venture, *The Daily*, an iPad-only newsmagazine that features short-form stories for a dollar a week. The critics have not been kind to the new product, pointing out its lack of unique content and its appeal to the lowest common denominator.

While some have called Murdoch's approach "fearful of the future," other newspapers have embraced the Internet.

"I expect that one day the newspaper will be a luxury item, a lot like a magazine, when you pick it up in its physical form once a week," said Matt Frehner, *The Globe and Mail's* mobile editor. "The bulk of the news business is moving online."

Having inked a 20-year printing deal late last year, the *Globe* has embarked on



FORMATION

a plan to remake itself for the 21st century. The widely applauded redesign of Canada's national paper last year was the first step.

The *Globe* is not betting its future on a pay wall, but rather on being the first online source of news for Canadians and delivering stories faster than the competition. The paper version will slowly become more of a magazine, delivering the long-form experience and colourful layout that readers seem to appreciate on paper.

Despite the plan, Frehner admits it's a gamble.

"Everything is changing so quickly right now. We seem to be at a point of transition," said Frehner. "In three years our mobile traffic is supposed to be higher than our web traffic. We aren't sure where we will be five years from now."

This is not the first challenge newspapers have faced—but it may be the last.

Radio was supposed to kill news publishing, but the threat never quite materialized, as the spoken word never delivered as much detail. Televisions were the next challenger, and while the six o'clock news was responsible for ending evening newspapers, morning editions continued to flourish.

Many journalists felt that the Internet would follow the same script. However, plunging circulation numbers have yet to change course.

"The Internet is different; it is the closest challenger to the newspaper because it is text-based," said McSorley. "Although people aren't looking at long features online, they still love reading the news. Stories have gotten shorter, moving to tweets and blogs.

"Television stations are hurting, radio is hurting, but newspapers are hurting the most."

The New York Times, the paper of record for the most powerful empire in history, is struggling under an immense debt burden. Last week, the *Times* announced that the last quarter of 2010 saw its revenues drop by 26 per cent below the previous year.

Within the next five years, the *Times* will almost certainly be extinct in its print form. The looming question is, will the newspaper build a pay wall around its online presence?

"You can't put the genie back in the bottle. News has been going up for free, and I'm curious about how companies think they can lock it down again," said McSorley. "But the media can be rebuilt in an open setting."

McSorley's publication, *The Dominion*, is reader-supported using a model like the American Public Broadcasting System. It doesn't rely on advertising revenue.

OpenFile, a new collaborative news service spreading across Canada's major cities, relies on citizens to file story ideas that are then assigned to reporters across the country.

"There is a need for paying journalists a wage and there is a need for organizations to create quality news," said McSorley.

While blogs and Tweets form a new backbone of the information system, newspapers will remain around for decades—the printed edition may die, but the great names will live on in one form or another.

Those expressing concerns about the sustainability of Murdoch's "fear of the future" may be onto something. While researching for this story, a *Wall Street Journal* article had great quotes from Murdoch; the media mogul's future thoughts may stay trapped behind his own pay wall.



ACCEPTED ACT, BROKEN CULTURE

• MAT BARROT

“Legal walls are a plague.”

A tireless defender of Montreal’s graffiti writers, Sterling Downey is the patriarch of the city’s graffiti scene and the founder of *Under Pressure*, the local magazine that’s scripture for taggers.

Downey also has little patience for nonsense.

Legal walls are exactly what they sound like, a piece of vertical concrete chosen by the city or borough that a graffiti writer can alter without the fear of arrest. While the intention of the city may be good, far too many problems arise from the walls.

“Those walls are dangerous,” said Downey. “It’s an old problem that these walls are a part of. If the police are looking for someone who frequents the wall, they know they can go and find the person, or someone who knows them.

“It just becomes a location of harassment.”

The city’s South West Borough, an affordable refuge for thousands of artists and students,

used to hold two legal walls.

Over the summer, one of those walls became off-limits. The wall, on an old industrial building on Cabot Street, was closed after the owner of the building put \$1 million into its revitalization.

“The owner told police that he would have let them continue to paint the back of the building, but they painted the whole thing, so he had to stop it after renovations,” said Bernard Metcalfe on behalf of the Montreal Police.

“With legal walls, graffiti writers get a sense of entitlement,” said Downey. “Kids go and paint and they don’t care about maintaining the area, they don’t have to enter into a dialogue with people. There is a sense of responsibility, pride and ownership to graffiti that does not come with a legal wall.”

Downey, who goes by the graffiti name Seaz, used to go to shops and stores around Montreal with fellow writers Flow and Dyske and speak to the owners about letting them put up pieces. They would explain to the owners that by allowing a mural, other graffiti writers would not “hit” the

spot and they could have a nice piece that had aspects of the community or the shop itself.

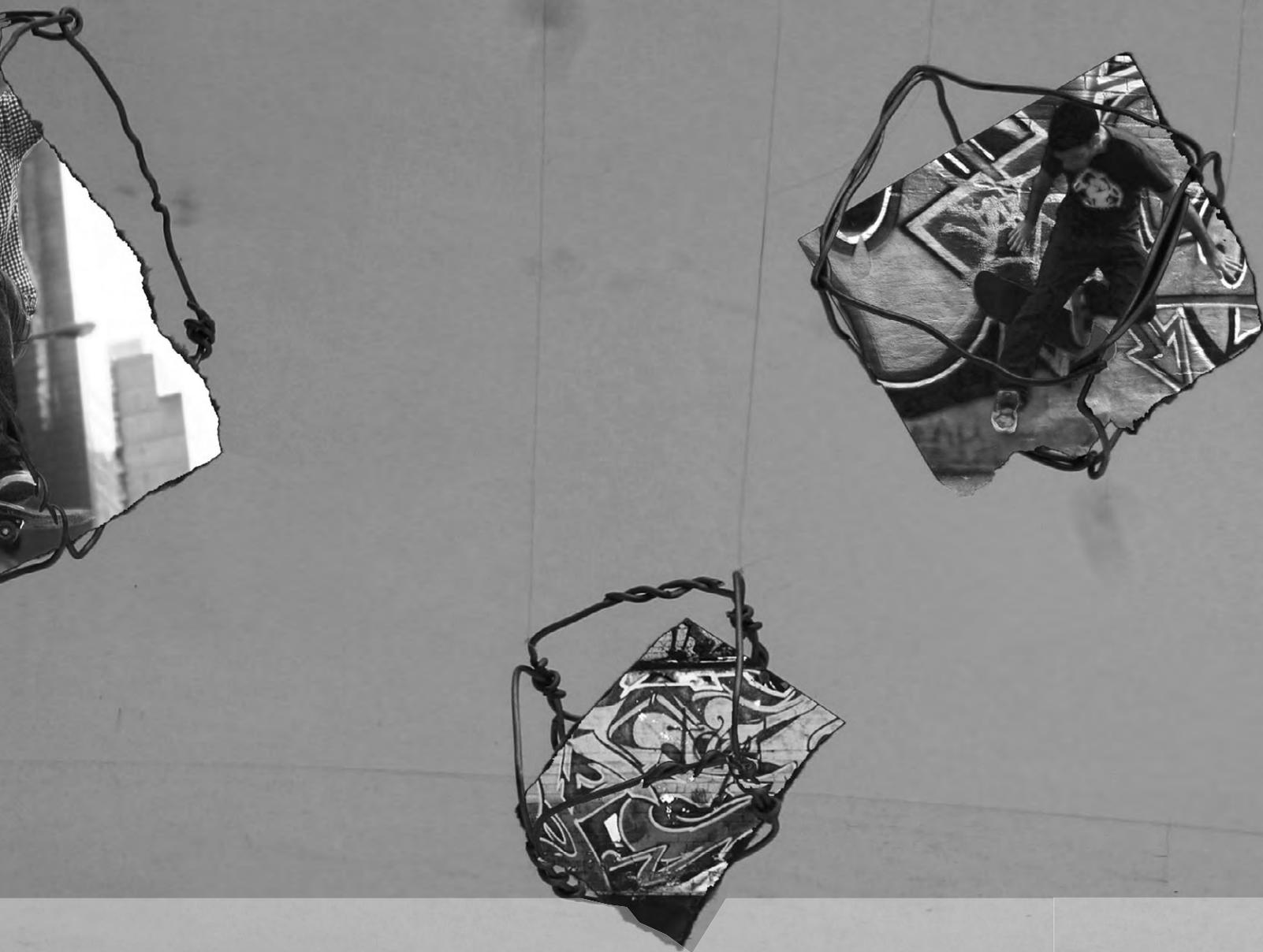
“If we painted the side of a fish peddler’s, we would use blues and make the piece have the look of water,” said Sterling

“Or if it was near a school ground we would make something appropriate for kids. It made us respectful of the area, these people gave us their wall and we couldn’t shit where we ate. But with legal walls it’s a free-for-all. No one cares because there is no respect or dialogue opened up.”

Graffiti can also become very territorial. When writers go to a legal wall that is outside of their own neighbourhood, it could be seen as a crossing of the line—local writers could take issue with it and violence could erupt.

When it comes to the government and legal walls, Downey thinks that the municipal response often breaks down between the civic administration and the police.

“It’s like the right hand has no idea what the left hand is doing,” Downey said.



SKATEBOARDING IN A HOSTILE CITY

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Fifteen minutes into a midnight skate session with friends at Peace Park last summer, a homeless man hassled me into doing a kickflip for him. I relented with a pop and a flick, and let my board spin around once. The grip tape slapped the soles of my feet then the four wheels clapped the pavement, echoing into the night.

The man finger-whistled and sat by his friends near one of the long, marble ledges and started smoking something out of a glass pipe while watching us try our luck with the skateboard.

Throughout the session the man shouted out, “Awesome, dudes,” and “Way to go, bros,” when we landed things, soon followed by laughter and “You suck,” when we bailed. There was nothing unique about the event, as interacting with people that don’t sleep at night has become a part of skate culture—because street skateboarding is illegal.

Skaters looking to get creative with new terrains are subjected to doing it when fewer police and on-lookers are around.

Before 2003, a skater could be fined for unruly noisemaking, but the Quebec Court soon ruled that noise from a skateboard wasn’t a “public nuisance.”

Skaters soon discovered that riding a skateboard on something that isn’t a skate park or bike path could earn them a \$30 ticket.

It has now been reported that cops can hand out a \$680 ticket for skating in great spots like Square Victoria and Peace Park.

Even though Peace Park is usually occupied only with skaters, and perhaps the occasional homeless person—becoming one of Montreal’s most famous skate spots—the City of Montreal has outlawed the space for those who use it most.

City officials argued that worn down and discoloured marble ledges and damaged trees were the reasons why skaters were told to stay away.

With skate spots in short supply, the Quartier des Spectacles and the Société des arts technologiques teamed up to create a space that pedestrians and skaters could share. Despite hard work, the city rejected the plans in 2004.

Since then, the SAT has taken an active stance in making Peace Park a legal space for skateboarding, according to SAT Communications Coordinator Martin Lapointe.

So where does the city stand in regards to upholding a vibrant skate culture?

Montreal is home to one of the biggest underground skate scenes in North America, and it is also home to some of the world’s most talented professionals.

The city was given a place of honour when it was selected as one of the settings for *Emerica’s Wild in the Streets* campaign, where a mob of skaters get together to raise awareness and money for the Quebec Skate Plaza—a skateboarder designed space and park that’s open for skaters and pedestrians to hang out.

“More than 500 people were at the campaign. It was crazy busy,” said Ibrahim Wa, a skateboarder and John Molson School of Business student,

Because Montreal is home to a vibrant skate culture, it’s hard to pinpoint where the city stands in regards to supporting its underground culture. It is legal to ride in

a handful of parks, but it’s worth mentioning that “Montreal’s skate parks suck,” according to Marc-Antoine Marcoux, who rides for a Montreal-based skate company called Clientele.

“The ones outdoors are all plastic and all the coping is messed up,” said Wa. “The parks look the same and the rails and boxes are usually low. There’s no challenge. You get sick of it because they’re all the same.”

There are also no skate parks downtown.

“They’re all 20 minutes away,” said Wa. “There’s nothing to skate legally on. In a way, we’re forced to pay because the parks that cost \$20 to get into are all perfect and everything else sucks or is illegal.”

No matter how good the park is, skateboarding will never be contained in one space. More than half of the art of skateboarding is being creative with foreign city space and transforming it into something to skate on.

While some of the rush of skateboarding comes from landing tricks, to be honest, most of it comes from sticking it to the man and the gamble of getting caught.

A TALE OF TWO STUDENT CENTRES

The 50 Year Battle for Student Space on Campus

• LAURA BEESTON & JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

THE FIRST STUDENT CENTRE: 1476 CRESCENT STREET

The Daytime Student Association of Sir George Williams University started collecting a fee levy of \$5 per year at registration in 1965 for a Student Centre.

Jan. 19, 1970: The DSA purchased 1476 Crescent St.

September 1970: DSA President Jonathan Wener opens the Student Centre; it has an art gallery, Karma Coffee House, Reading Room and Film Screening Room.

November 1970: *The Georgian*, Sir George William's student newspaper, reported on the unpopularity of the SC.

Nov. 26, 1970: In *The Georgian*, written by President Wener: "It is disheartening to observe this lack of interest in the Centre." Wener accused students of having "one building syndrome."

1972: Renovations and improvements to the SC, known as "The Union."

Nov. 10, 1972: *The Georgian*: "Let's face it, that place on Crescent street is a white elephant."

1974: A \$50,000 deficit is announced at the DSA.

October 1974: The DSA put the SC up for sale. University not interested in buying details.

January 1975: The SC is sold to former DSA President Wener for \$210,000.

THE SEARCH FOR A SECOND STUDENT CENTRE

Jan. 29, 1985: Plans for a new Student Centre on the mezzanine of the Hall Building, due to the new library building plan freeing up space.

2000: The Space Plan: Student Services, clubs and associations to move from Hall Building to the GM Building. Student associations call for a student centre between the GM and future EV building.

"If you know any corporations that would like to donate money to us, we'd be glad to hear about it," said Rector Frederick Lowy, asking for money to finance the centre.

June 2003: The Concordia Student Union sends the dean of students a Space Plan Analysis for the Mezzanine, the Greening of the Hall Building Terrace and The Faubourg Basement Project—to be completed by August 2003. The budget for the Mezz is \$15,000 and the greening has a \$10,000 budget. The Faubourg basement is supposed to turn into a student lounge and an art gallery. The budget is \$7,500.

2003: The student body votes to institute a \$1 per credit levy towards a student centre on the SGW campus.

2005: A vote to increase the levy to \$2 per credit was passed "with no objections."

2006: Joint discussions between the University and CSU led to identification of several scenarios for the SC building.

June 2008: CSU President Keyana Kashfi starts up the Student Centre project with a joint CSU/Administration working committee. She vows to sign it off by the end of her mandate.

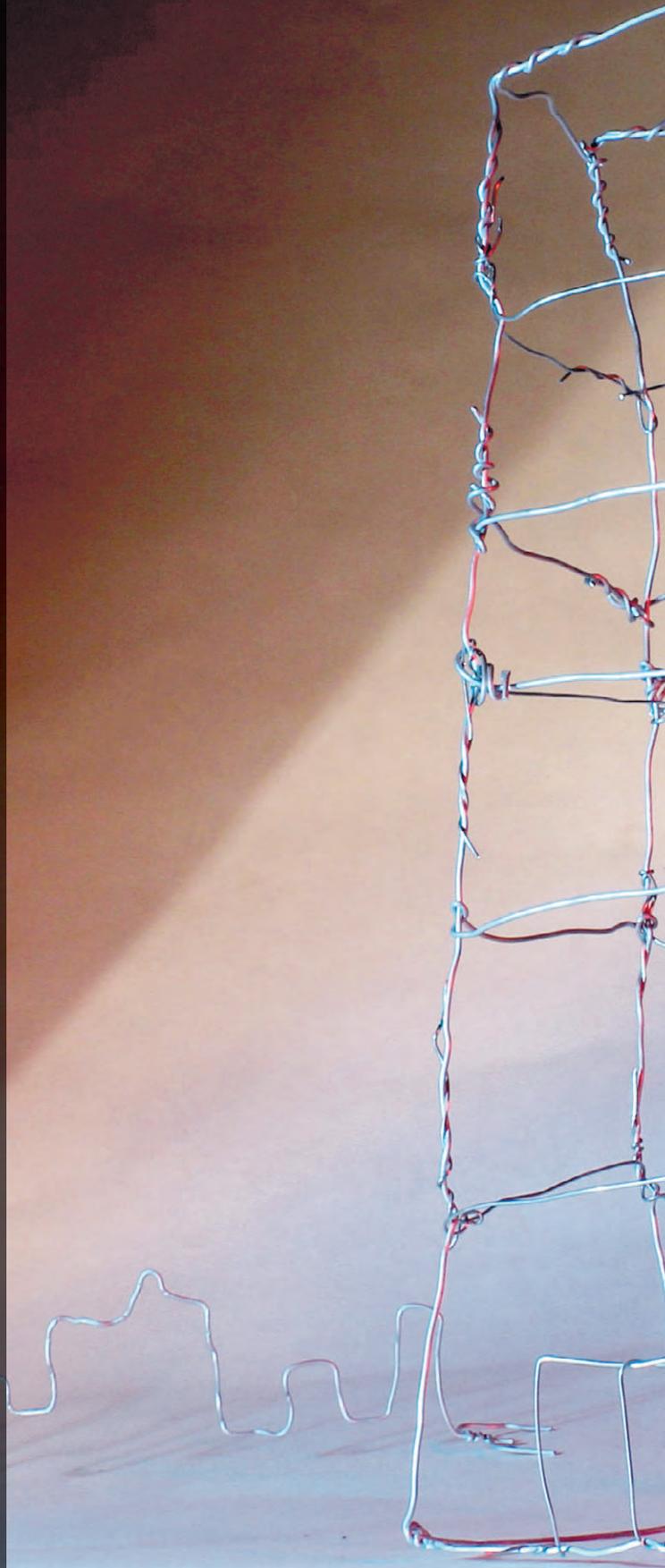
The project is estimated at a cost of \$68.4 million, and the university expects \$5.40 per credit will be required to sustain the Student Union Building.

May 29, 2009: Kashfi finalizes and signs an agreement with Concordia. The arrangement outlines that students will amass \$10 million towards the down payment and that the site will be determined by 2012. The target date for opening is 2015.

March 2010: The CSU Council puts the Student Centre back on the table with a referendum. The building is estimated at \$43 million, and January 2011 is the potential purchase date. The CSU is "legally bound" not to comment on the location of the building. The referendum fails.

Oct. 12, 2010: The CSU Council approves a referendum question for the November byelection to increase the existing \$2 per credit fee levy by another \$2.50 per credit.

Nov. 25, 2010: A near-record number of voters oppose a referendum to increase the Student Centre fee levy to \$4.50 per credit by the summer of 2012.



QUARTIER CONCORDIA

REIMAGINING STUDENT SPACE AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

An international student stands outside of the Hall Building looking lost. He asks a stranger where Concordia is. The stranger points up at the Hall, to the EV, the MB and the GM Buildings.

The student gives the stranger a puzzled look and asks, “Yeah, but where is Concordia?”

That anecdote, as recounted by former Concordia Student Union VP Sustainability & Projects Alex Oster, speaks to a problem Concordia students face everyday. The university’s scattered downtown campus has little sense of community.

McGill’s sprawling green fields, Victorian architecture and access to Mont Royal gives students a sense of space. Concordia is a collection of office buildings.

Its people and organizations define its community—institutions that span busy streets and dirty sidewalks. They are also institutions that have been plagued by low student participation for years.

This fall, the CSU re-proposed a solution to the problem: buy a building downtown to centralize student space.

In November, the union presented students with a referendum question asking them to fund the purchase of a \$43 million building through a \$2.50 per credit fee levy.

The referendum ultimately failed. Thousands of students turned out to vote against it, in part because of the building’s cost, location and a perception that the project would benefit Concordia’s administration more than it would its

students.

But for Oster, the project’s biggest failure was that it proposed to fix the problem of having a cold, building-centric campus by throwing another building into the mix.

“The idea of Concordia is not buildings,” said Oster. “So if we’re going to build a student centre then let’s not just build another building because the idea of Concordia is people. So let’s get these people connected with their community.

“I mean you have people living in apartment buildings on Sherbrooke Street who won’t let us have outdoor concerts because it’s too loud. You’ve got an arts museum across the street that doesn’t reflect Concordia’s fine arts department. I mean these people are physically connected to the university but they have nothing to do with this 50,000-person institution.

“Why aren’t we concentrating on shutting down traffic on these two blocks and saying ‘this is Quartier Concordia?’ The university’s urban infrastructure is not suited for this century.”

Rather than use student funds to finance the purchase of a building, Oster said that he would like to see money allocated to the university’s faculties and programs to redesign Concordia’s campus. The redesign would see students from all disciplines have a practical outlet for the skills they learn at Concordia and would see students play a central role in the reshaping of their environment.

“Why not have the arts students turn the university into a canvas,” he asked. “Why not have engineering students develop porous roofs that filter water so it

can be used within the school? We have all this intellectual capital that is going to waste. Concordia students need to be intellectually stimulated, challenged, and this is the perfect opportunity to accomplish that.”

Since 2005, Concordia undergraduate students have been paying \$2 per credit to fund the purchase of a student centre. By 2014, the amount collected from this fee should add up to about \$10 million. While Oster speculates about the possibilities this student centre fund could offer students, the \$10 million is bound by a contract between the CSU and Concordia’s administration.

The contract stipulates that money collected from the \$2 fee levy has to go towards the purchase of a building that would be split between student union controlled space and administrative offices. The annual cost of operating the building is projected at \$2.6 million. The contract also has a clause that would allow Concordia’s administration to impose a fee levy on students to fund the purchase of a student centre.

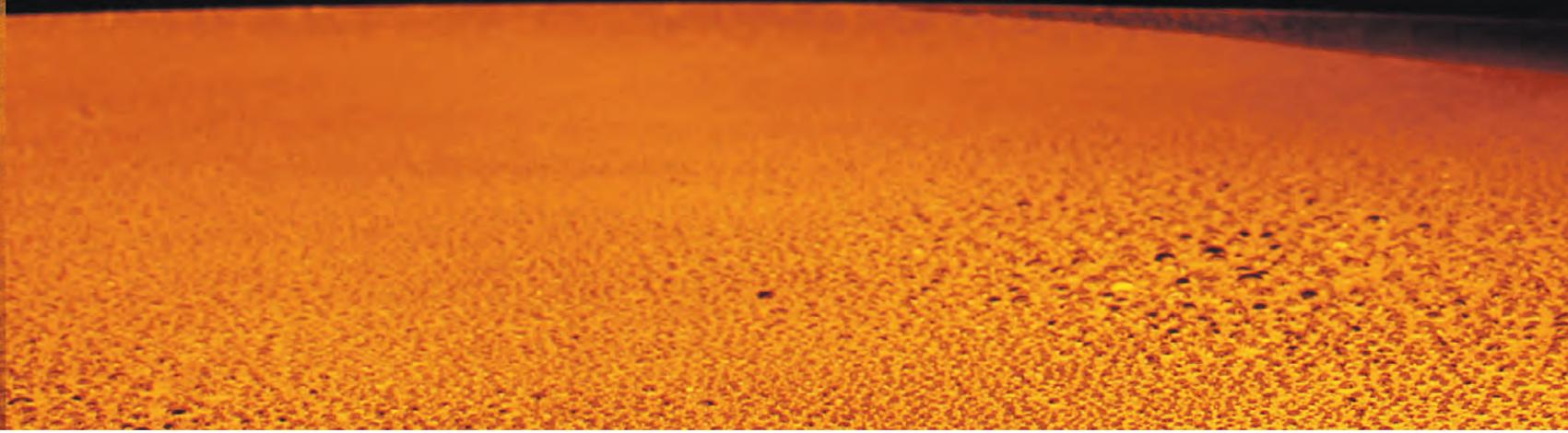
CSU VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns, who oversees the contract, said that it would be impossible to break.

“We can modify the contract if we sit down with administration and reach a consensus but we can’t just break it,” he said.

Last week, the CSU listened to students’ suggestions about what to do with the millions of dollars in accumulated student centre fees. While a few inspired ideas came up, and while the CSU continues to encourage students to pitch ideas, the contract still restricts what student money can do for student space.

10 SPACE WARS

THE LINK • FEBRUARY 08, 2011
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SPACE: THE FINAL FRONTIER

SEEING DOLLAR SIGNS IN SPACE, THE GOVERNMENT PULLS BACK

• ADAM KOVAC

Where outer space once resembled the Old West—an unknown territory of tremendous danger and immeasurable opportunity—it's now beginning to resemble the commercialized Silicon Valley that grew on what was once unexplored territory.

Concordia electrical and computer engineering professor Scott Gleason has been working on a project that will see the school launch a small Cubesat satellite into space. According to Gleason, the efforts to turn space exploration into a moneymaking venture are not totally a negative thing. There's more than one way to make a buck in space, and each comes with its own set of problems.

"I think people like [Virgin Group founder] Richard Branson are catering more towards rich people who want to pay a million dollars to go into space," said Gleason. "I think their priority is just to make money, and not to do some good, which traditionally is what NASA and the Canadian Space Agency will do."

In 2004, Branson launched Virgin Galactic, a company dedicated to space tourism, where those who can afford it can spend a few hours enjoying weightlessness 100 km above the earth. While this would be the first dedicated space tourism company, to date seven people have paid for the privilege of going to the In-

ternational Space Station, hitching a ride aboard Russian Soyuz vehicles.

"[Space tourism] is not particularly an interest of mine," said Gleason. "I've got nothing against it. If some rich sheik wants to spend millions of dollars to take a picture of earth, that's his money. We have some pressing problems now, with climate change and a severe shortage of measurements and science to back it up, we need a lot more infrastructure put into to actually doing environmentally conscious things. I'd much rather see more funding and more satellite missions going to understand the climate, to study the planet, with a good network of systems."

However, public money for space travel is no longer the priority it once was. NASA has continually been threatened with budget cuts and the continued effects of the recession mean that there is less public patience for expensive missions to space. As a result, space exploration has been largely privatized: corporations have been staking a more significant claim in owning a piece of outer space.

"The commercialization of space has been coming for a while, and some of the situations we're in right now are very strange," said Gleason. "You have publically funded projects and privately held data from them. For example, the radar satellites, which are arguably one of Canada's

biggest contributions [to space technology], are owned by MDA Corporation. If you were a Canadian citizen [and your tax dollars were invested into this satellite] you'd think you'd have the right to get some data from it. Turns out you can't, because MDA owns all the data. This is a very interesting trend, because it's almost like public money isn't just going to fund big contracts, but the public sector is now being limited as to what the return is."

If nebulous ties between governments and corporations seem like a bit of déjà vu, it isn't the only earthly issue that is also slowly migrating to the cosmos. Even warfare is being exported to space.

"Another big issue is the militarization of space," acknowledged Gleason. "Even RADARSAT, which was initially designed to be a remote [environmental] sensing device, has been used quite a lot for the military. A lot of these new environmental satellites are being used in a dual purpose for their military capability."

Back on Earth, there is something of a battle over space. There's an ongoing discussion over cleaning up the outer space version of litter, called space debris, which can pose a danger to missions and orbiting hardware. One of the proposed missions for Concordia's own Cubesat is to help clean up some of the debris. A secondary mission that's been pro-

posed is figuring out a way to de-orbit the Cubesat to keep it from becoming space junk itself.

The Concordia Cubesat is part of a larger trend that has seen numerous universities and even high schools take a step into space. Less than 50 years since the two superpowers on the planet spent vast amounts of money and manpower to be the first to put an object into orbit, that ability is becoming accessible to students around the planet.

"The accessibility of space, and why all these schools are doing it, is because it's not becoming easier to do it, but [the process is] becoming more understandable," explained Gleason. "You don't have to be NASA anymore to launch a satellite. Even if you don't have complete expertise in all the systems, like a high school wouldn't, you can buy certain things off the shelf for communications or power."

Looking at the challenges facing humanity in outer space might help us face the problems we have down on Earth. What role are we going to allow corporations to play in our lives? How much leeway do we give to those with the hefty wallets? Like it or not, corporatization will have a role to play, both in schools and in the stars.

Privatization is now the kind of issue that will rear its head more and more, whether you're walking on campus—or walking on the Moon.



CHEERLEADING: ATHLETES OR DANCERS?

BASKETBALL



Morgan Tajfel congratulates his team after coming from behind to defeat the UQAM Citadins. Tajfel played the fourth quarter after breaking his nose in the third.

PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY

Playing Catch-up

Stingers Narrowly Seal Victory

•DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 94

UQAM 87

They got a little banged up, but Concordia's men's basketball team finally struck back against the UQAM Citadins in a 94-87 decision Friday at the Loyola Gym.

"I thought we had a good fourth quarter, but played inconsistently in the first three quarters," said Stingers assistant coach David Bloom.

The home team gained momentum with a shot from downtown by guard Morgan Tajfel but had trouble holding off the Citadins for a prolonged period.

Inconsistency throughout the first quarter proved frustrating when Stingers guard Kyle Desmarais put his team in front 15-14 with a three pointer only to open up in the second quarter trailing.

"In the first half we were kind of up and down, but we really grinded out in the end," said Stingers forward James Clark.

This style of play continued in the second. After spending most of the quarter trailing, the Stingers

sank a few free throw balls along with guard Decee Krahl's long shot to be leading 43-39. Sure enough, the opposition closed off the half with three quick baskets to go up 45-43.

Going into the third it seemed like the Stingers were going to lose more than just the game. Stinger guard Tajfel suffered a broken nose late in the quarter. However, he returned in the fourth to play the rest of the game.

"...and then everyone started hitting the glass."

—Kyle Desmarais,
Stingers Guard

"The fourth quarter came on and we've had a sense of urgency, and then everyone started hitting the glass," Desmarais said.

The Stingers spent most of the closing quarter playing catch up, but within the final two minutes they pulled ahead of the Citadins, as they sank more of their free throws and added a couple of insurance baskets for the win.

The way the game ended didn't sit well with UQAM head coach Olga Hyrcak.

"We didn't do the job in the last couple of minutes," she said.

As disappointed as she was, she was quick to praise Desmarais and Krahl for their hard work. "The guys that stepped up for Concordia were Decee and Kyle and they're [great] players," she said.

The Stingers also felt they have their work cut out for them going into the playoffs particularly when it comes to sustaining the pressure.

"If we can perform in the first three quarters like we did in the fourth, we can blow teams out in this league," Desmarais said.

While they didn't see this game as the slam dunk they were looking for, they do see this as a confidence booster for when the Laval Rouge et Or visit next Friday.

"To come from behind against a strong UQAM team, it definitely boosts our confidence, especially since we got good performances from so many guys," said Desmarais. "I think we're going to be riding into that game on a high note, especially in our home gym."

Tip off against the Laval Rouge et Or is 6 p.m. on Feb 8th. On Saturday at 7 p.m. it's their turn to visit the Citadins.

Scoreboard

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

W 73-68 v UQAM fri

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

W 3-1 @ Ottawa sat

W 3-2 (SO) v Carleton sun

Schedule

MEN'S HOCKEY

@ UQTR
7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9

v McGill
3:00 p.m. SUNDAY, FEB. 13

v Carleton
2:00 p.m. SATURDAY, FEB. 12

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

v McGill
7:30 p.m. FRIDAY, FEB. 11

@ Carleton
2:00 p.m. SATURDAY, FEB. 12

MEN'S BASKETBALL

v Laval
6:00 p.m. FRIDAY, FEB. 11

@ UQAM
7:00 p.m. SATURDAY, FEB. 12

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

v UQAM
8:00 p.m. FRIDAY, FEB. 4

v Laval
8:00 p.m. FRIDAY, FEB. 11

@ UQAM
5:00 p.m. SATURDAY, FEB. 14

N-O-T T-H-E S-A-M-E

Athletic Cheerleaders should not be Confused with the Superbowl Variety

•MEGAN DOLSKI

There are many words in the English language that have multiple connotations. However the term "Cheerleader," usually isn't recognized as one of them—and it should be.

Oxford Dictionary defines a cheerleader as "a member of a team of girls who perform organized cheering, chanting, and dancing in support of a sports team at matches in the U.S. and elsewhere."

That definition is both incomplete and outdated for several reasons. Cheerleaders are no longer exclusively female and the limited definition excludes a growing stream of cheerleading in which participants perform extremely risky acrobatic flips, lifts and throws. Nowadays, two distinct forms of cheerleading exist and it is quite simply erroneous to consider them one and the same.

"The second [acrobatic] one probably shouldn't even be called cheerleading," said Sarah Dalpé-Volstad, a member of last year's Flyers All-stars Open category Cheerleading Team. Dalpé-Volstad says that competitive cheerleaders are pushing for their type of cheerleading to be known as "cheersport" in order to highlight the difference between what they do and traditional cheerleading.

Dalpé-Volstad explains that

she always feels the need to elaborate when she tells people she is a cheerleader.

"People think of half-naked girls waving pompoms," she said. "And what we do is really not like that."

"Cheersport" cheerleading evidently requires athleticism. The competitive requirements to compete in a cheerleading competition consist of a list of technical requirements, safety and scoring guidelines that mimic what you would find going into gymnastics or a diving meet.

The number of injuries racked up by competitive cheerleaders demonstrates the intensity of the activity. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has conducted a study from 1982 to 2008 that found that cheerleading is responsible for just over of 65 per cent of high school—and 70 per cent of college—catastrophic injuries among all female sports.

Last Sunday's Superbowl was the first in history to not have cheerleaders on the sidelines. Dalpé-Volstad thinks that while "Cheersport" is growing, traditional cheerleading may be a dying trend.

"Football is a sport, and then you have the cheerleaders on the side, who aren't the main focus of the show," said Dalpé-Volstad. "Cheerleading as sport should be the main show."

"People think of half-naked girls waving pompoms and what we do is really not like that."

—Sarah Dalpé-Volstad,
Flyers All-stars Open Category
Cheerleading Team



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Integral Intervals

The Importance of the Oft-Overlooked Interval Training

•CHRISTOPHER HAMPSON

Interval training is a form of exercise that is seen by many personal trainers as an integral part of any workout.

Yet if you go to the gym, many self-motivated patrons, whether they are athletes or casual goers, do not include it in their routine. The gym is typically crowded and if you are working out correctly, an intense workout is not a lot of fun. The inclusion of interval training can not only cut your workout time in half, but regardless of your training goals, the benefits of this system will provide noticeable results.

To start, find your maximum heart rate by subtracting your age from 220. Then use a stationary bike, elliptical, rowing machine or cardio machine of choice to get your heart rate to within 85 per cent of your maximum heart rate—this is going to suck. The



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

good news is you only have to do this for 30 seconds.

After going as hard as you can for 30 seconds, take a one minute active recovery period where the speed and resistance is drastically turned down, but you are still moving. Lactic acid—the chemical build-up in muscles resulting in a

feeling of muscle fatigue and sometimes nausea—has a chance to be flushed out, while your heart rate is maintained. Don't forget to keep breathing. After the recovery period, ramp it up again for 30 seconds. Repeat this cycle eight to 12 times.

Personal trainer Katie Dunn

from Vancouver works with a team of professionals at the gym—the people responsible for turning Hugh Jackman into Wolverine for the X-Men movies.

"For people trying to keep their muscle mass, performing long-duration moderate-intensity exercise may put your body in a catabolic state in which you will start losing muscle mass," she explained.

When it comes to interval training, "increased calorie expenditure in a short amount of time keeps your metabolic rates elevated for hours following a workout. It allows the body to better convert stored carbohydrates into energy and speed up calorie burning," said Dunn.

A well-balanced workout routine is a feedback loop. Interval training elevates the heart rate and continues to burn fat hours after the you've left the gym, while resistance training builds muscle mass which in turn burns more

calories. Rather than simply doing bicep curls in the mirror, you'll find that a holistic approach will take you to peak physical condition much faster.

"It is more effective than steady-state exercises when it comes to increasing your VO2 max [maximum oxygen uptake].

Also, alternating fast and slow movements during a work out keeps the exercises more mentally engaging. Being present during training means that you will get more out of each work out," said Dunn.

Anyone with health problems should consult a doctor before beginning a fitness routine.

Whether you are a guy, girl, body builder, athlete or a novice, you shouldn't be spending more than 45 minutes in the gym if you are including interval training. Make sure to stretch before and after and get some form of lean protein within an hour.



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE PROGRESS

Revolutionary Resource Deserves to Win

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

It feels strange that the biggest force for peace and transparency in the world is not a person, but a website.

But that's where we are now and it represents real progress.

Despite the massive publicity surrounding the Nobel Peace Prize, traditionally the award has been something of a popularity contest for leaders of Western institutions. Previous winners like Henry Kissinger and, yes, Barack Obama, have been questionable for the prize.

Kissinger oversaw one of the most vicious and brutal wars of aggression in human history, and Obama oversaw the escalation of two major wars and a further increase to the unbelievably bloated military budget of his country, already the most expensive and technologically advanced fighting force in human history.

In comparison, a website doesn't seem like such a bad idea—although Julian Assange was a little miffed that he was not offered the award personally. WikiLeaks, despite having received lukewarm treatment from even the liberal media on this side of the pond, has provided an unprecedented resource for truthfully examining the decisions and actions of various governments.

In this country, WikiLeaks is seen largely as a novelty. In a liberal democracy, the potential of WikiLeaks is basically to uncover certain relatively benign faux pas made by our elected officials.

However, in the third world, WikiLeaks has been truly revolutionary. In Tunisia, WikiLeaks cables detailing the full extent of the corruption within their regime was a factor leading to the ousting of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Egypt is currently undergoing a similar revolution due to the dissemination of similar information about its own government. Meanwhile, many other Middle Eastern countries sit on the precipice, waiting for the push that another successful revolution or batch of cables

could potentially provide.

Now, compare this to the civil rights history of a guy like Kissinger. He oversaw the massacre of a million or more Vietnamese citizens and the utter destruction of much of their land during his time as one of the leaders of U.S. foreign policy. Despite unprecedented popular uprising against the war, Kissinger practiced a bit of revisionist history after the fact, stating, "The Vietnam War required us to emphasize the national interest rather than abstract principles. [...] What President Nixon and I tried to do was unnatural. And that is why we didn't make it." It's hard to think of a deeper mark on the Prize's history than Kissinger and it's hard to find a better justification for giving the prize to a website.

Another more popular U.S. President-turned-Nobel Laureate, Jimmy Carter turned down a proposal to provide aid to Vietnam to rebuild their country. After the United States had basically laid waste to an entire corner of the globe and much of its civilian population, Carter had the gall to justify his decision by saying that "the destruction was mutual."

Even our beloved Barack, who I do believe is at the very least the lesser of two—or, in this case, three—evils, won a Nobel Prize after escalating both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and augmenting the use of unmanned attack drones which have terrorized the civilian populations of these countries. All this after promising to completely pull out of Iraq and running on a platform of being one of the few Democrats who had the stones to vote "No" to the war in the first place.

Finally, to those who think giving the award to a website is a copout, similar Prizes have been given out in the past, including one to U.N. Peacekeeping Forces in 1988 and another to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War in 1985. Rather than give the award to yet another timid politician who has caused more harm than he prevented, this year the award should go to a true revolutionary.

Does WikiLeaks Deserve its Nobel Peace Prize Nomination?

THE 'PISS-OFF-THE-USA' AWARD

WikiLeaks Nomination Follows the Trend

• ADAM KOVAC

The Nobel Peace Prize is among the greatest honours that can have bestowed on a person. The Peace Prize transcends borders, religion and race. It is meant to recognize those who have worked for the betterment of humanity itself, the most inspirational among the nearly 7 billion people on this planet.

Or at least, that's the theory.

There's been a disturbing trend in the past decade, one that can be traced back to the presidency of George W. Bush. The Nobel Peace Prize has, in a way, become the "Piss-Off-the-United-States" Prize.

That's not to say that the prize has not been awarded to worthy people. Liu Xiaobo, last year's recipient, has spent a lifetime pushing for human rights in China, and has spent the last two years in prison for his efforts. Iranian lawyer and human rights activist Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 winner, has struggled tirelessly against the oppressive theocratic regime of her home country despite threats against her life.

Mixed in with those who deserve the recognition have been a few notable exceptions. Two years ago, Barack Obama was given the prize despite having been in office for less than a year. The Nobel Committee cited "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples" as justification for his win. Translation: he won for not being George W. Bush.

In 2002, the award went to former American president Jimmy Carter. Carter hadn't done much notable that year, except for visiting Cuba, where he called on Fidel Castro to improve human rights conditions. Admirable, but hardly earth shattering.

So, why Carter? He was given the award in the months leading up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Carter, who became a figurehead for leftists after leaving office, was widely seen as the anti-Bush. It can hardly be called coincidence that he was given one

of the most prestigious and high profile awards in the world while the man who was seen as his opposite made a public case for a much-maligned war.

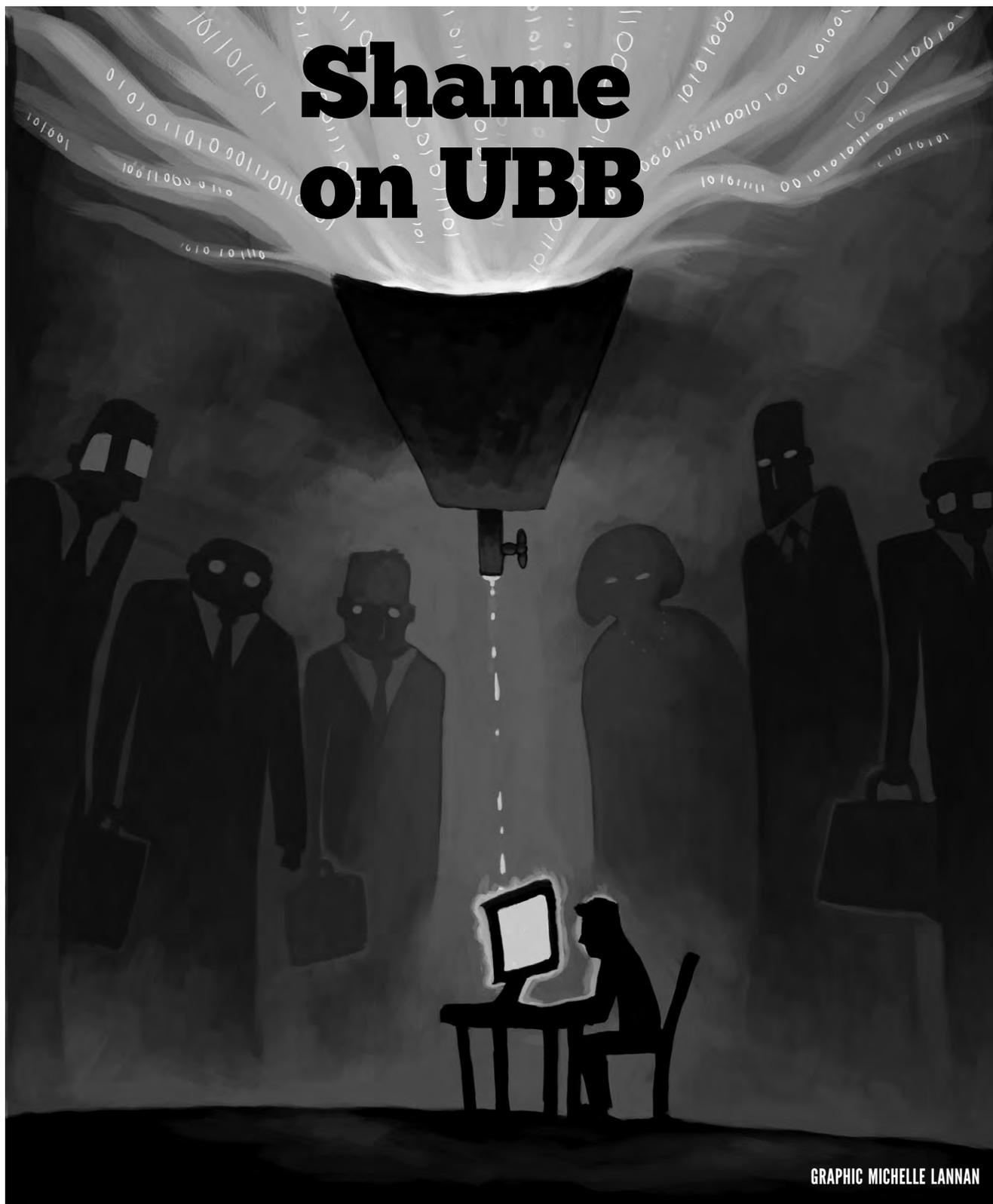
As if that wasn't enough, five years later, the Peace Prize again went to an anti-Bush figure. Al Gore, the man Bush defeated in the 2002 presidential election, was given the 2008 award essentially for making a movie that was basically a global warming PowerPoint presentation. Again, admirable work, but in the same league as Nelson Mandela? Hardly.

If the Nobel Committee really wants to try something new, here's a suggestion: give the award to the people who are actually fighting for human rights and democracy.

The nomination of WikiLeaks falls into this same category. Despite Obama being in office instead of Bush, the U.S. is still in the midst of two internationally unpopular wars, and still stands accused of imperialist policies. WikiLeaks has publicly embarrassed the U.S. with thousands of leaked documents about operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention State Department cables.

If the Nobel Committee really wants to try something new, here's a suggestion: give the award to the people who are actually fighting for human rights and democracy. Give it to the people of Tunisia and Egypt, who have altered the political order in a tangible, real way.

Has WikiLeaks increased transparency and the way we think of information from the government? Yes. Has it changed politics and furthered human rights? Hardly. Does it deserve the Nobel Peace Prize? No.



GRAPHIC MICHELLE LANNAN

The CRTC's Decision Would Send Us to the Digital Dark Ages

• JULIAN WARD

There are two kinds of gatekeepers currently standing between us and the Internet.

There are the big guys like Bell and Rogers, who create the tubes and sell access to them at astronomical rates. Then, there are the smaller companies who are allowed to rent parts of the infrastructure from the big guys and sell it to their own customers, usually for cheap.

The decision of which gatekeeper to go through depends on whether or not you are looking for unlimited bandwidth—because that option is only offered by the small guys.

The question of the methods of doling out the Internet affects every Internet-connected Canadian, which, according to Statistics Canada, was 80 per cent of the population in 2009. That's 21.7 million people, and the number has surely only gone up since then. Allowing small Internet Service Providers to offer unlimited bandwidth ensures at least minimal competition among ISPs.

It has become even more important since all of the large ISPs adopted the Usage Based Billing method for their customers. UBB is a flat fee for up to a certain amount of band-

width, but if you go over they can charge you \$1 to \$5 per gigabyte. UBB is how most Canadians are charged for their Internet.

A recent decision by the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission, Canada's broadcast regulator, was set to change all that.

The CRTC decided that large ISPs will now be able to force small ISPs to instate UBB instead of allowing them to offer unlimited bandwidth.

The large ISPs argue that it's not fair for the average Internet user who logs in to check their email and maybe poke someone on Facebook to have to pay the same amount as the porn-addicted gamer next door who is using 100 times the bandwidth. The logic is: the more you play, the more you pay.

This logic does make sense in certain cases. It's a simple concept; if I go to the store and want ten oranges, I will have to pay more than someone who only wants one orange. The large ISPs would like to have us believe that bandwidth works the same way. They want us all to share this precious resource and not go over our allotted amount lest we find ourselves in some sort of Internet fallout. (Remember the South Park episode where Randy

Marsh takes his family west in search of the Internet?)

But this simply is not the case. Ironically, while the price of bandwidth has steadily increased for consumers, the cost to ISPs to provide the bandwidth has steadily declined. An average gigabyte of bandwidth costs no more than three cents to produce. That's right, you might be being charged 33 to 166 times the amount it cost to produce that single gigabyte you just exceeded.

So, where do the large ISPs get off thinking that they're entitled to all of this extra cash? It probably has to do with recouping losses from the great migration that brought us from television to the Internet.

Bell, Rogers et al are effectively losing money to the small ISPs they are required by the CRTC to sell bandwidth to, and they're pissed about it. This migration is only going to get worse as more innovative and bandwidth-intensive sites like Netflix keep popping up.

Another problem with UBB is that it stifles Internet creativity and competition nationwide. UBB forces new and growing Canadian companies to develop less advanced websites just so they can stay within their restricted

bandwidth.

These small companies, with limited money to pay for bandwidth, can hardly be expected to compete against successful and developed companies. So while the rest of the developed Internet world is booming with creativity and beautifully designed multimedia websites, Canada's entrepreneurs are being sent back to the digital dark ages.

Thankfully, the federal government and opposition parties have all stepped forward to say that UBB does not make sense. The CRTC has been asked by the government to go back and review the decision, effectively delaying the implementation of UBB for 60 days. Industry Minister Tony Clement has said that if the policy is not overturned that his government would step in and do it legislatively.

We can be sure that one reason the government has been so strong in their stance is because they heard, and listened, to the response of their citizens. It is important right now that Canadians stand strong and fight for fair access to the Internet. We, as loyal Internet users, need to ensure that the government keeps their promise of allowing Canada to have a bright and prosperous cyber future.

Nah'msayin?

Key Party?

While walking up the Hall Building's escalators I noticed a poster advertising a "Lock & Key Party" for Valentine's Day, encouraging partygoers to "unlock" their way into someone's heart.

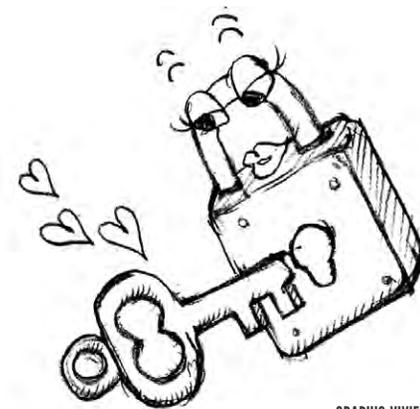
I'm not entirely sure the event's organizers planned it this way but, to my knowledge, "key party" has extremely bizarre sexual overtones. If you're one of the lucky few to have never heard of a key party, let's just say it's a vestige of free-wheeling 1970's culture that involved "encounters" with one or multiple strangers.

In any case, I thought this kind of decadent

behaviour had died alongside disco and the ill-fated *Brady Bunch Variety Hour*. But seeing as how the event takes place at a nightclub and not someone's heavily carpeted apartment in Fresno, I'm willing to give these people the benefit of the doubt.

Here's to hoping for good wholesome fun and not unspeakable sexual depravity, as long as there are shady characters hanging out in front of or around them.

—Christopher Curtis,
News Editor



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Notice something that just doesn't make sense? Got an axe to grind? Send in a rant to Nah'msayin? 300 words max. opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Support Gordon

In the short time that Aaron Green has been President of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, Concordia has seen an upsurge of student pride and involvement, as well as a rise in ASFA's accomplishments to the likes of which Concordia has never seen.

I am positive that the only person deserving of the position of Aaron Green's successor is Alex Gordon. In the three years that I've known Alex, better known as "Gordo," he has shown strength of character that I have come to respect and admire him. He is a dedicated, responsible and, most importantly, passionate person. Gordo is the best choice for ASFA's 2011-12 President.

His involvement in Concordia student life is unmatched, having held positions like Concordia Student Union independent councillor, SASU VP External and ASFA Frosh Leader. Gordo's promise of making life at Concordia unforgettable is more than possible.

He is a true leader and I am confident that his platform of transparency, accountability and honesty is one that will provide our school with no less than amazing results. I encourage all of you to get out there and vote, and to join me in support of a candidate who is sure to make great changes in the coming year—vote Alex Gordon for ASFA

President 2011-12!

—Emma Robertson,
BA English Literature

Diana for VP

I'm not going to write about how great of a friend Diana Sitoianu has been to me, or even about the amazing person I have had the fortune of meeting. That's not why we are here and that's not the reason she should be voted for.

The things I admire in a leader are respect, responsibility and above all, dedication. As a friend, Diana is extremely dedicated, but I have also witnessed her dedication to both her school, and her schoolwork. In addition to balancing straight A's, she somehow manages to volunteer at almost every event that the Arts and Science Federation of Associations has put on for us. Her loyalty and concern that everyone is satisfied is unmatched.

I don't recommend that you vote for Diana because she is a great friend, or even because she is an exceptional person, I recommend that you vote for her because of what she can do with the position she is running for. I have full confidence in her abilities as a leader and as a dedicated academic. She loves her school and will not only succeed at anything she puts her mind to, but she will excel. It is that excellence that makes her the right person for the job.

She will always have my full

support, and I hope yours too.

So please come out and vote for her at the upcoming elections on Feb. 15, 16 and 17.

—Kalli Ringelberg,
BA Creative Writing
& English Literature

Vote Diana

Upon first meeting Diana Sitoianu, I couldn't believe that one person could be so dedicated and have so much pride in their school. Diana is a hard worker, great listener and an amazing friend. She has always looked out for others and genuinely cared—especially when it comes to what they think and how they feel about issues and beliefs concerning the university. By listening to what the student body wants, Diana is capable of coming up with the best solutions that would make everyone happy.

Diana has been a large part of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, and her face will be seen at every event, no matter if it rains or snows! This is part of what makes Diana such an amazing person. She puts everyone else before herself and gives as much as she can, with her whole heart.

Diana is capable of bringing so much to AFSA. She believes in the school, as well as in the student body. Diana always tries to come up with beneficial ideas for the school and ways to implement them.

The fact that Diana has been able to maintain such an honorable GPA, as well as take part in so many associations and events—all with a smile on her face—makes it clear to me that she would make a great candidate for the position of Vice President of Academic and Loyola Affairs.

So vote for Diana from Feb. 15 to the 17!

—Steven Naami,
BA Philosophy

Inaccurate and Distorted

Your report "Donations Plummet with University Crisis," (Vol. 31, Iss. 21, Pg. 3) made for a grim reading, largely due to its inaccuracies and distortions. Both before, and in the wake of Judith Woodsworth's exit from the university, business has been as usual at Advancement and Alumni Relations and its call centre.

Your article drew false conclusions by comparing the results of calls made during October and November (when the call centre was soliciting individuals who contribute regularly to Concordia) with January (when the bulk of their efforts have been concentrated on alumni who have never given to Concordia). Naturally, the results will differ and attempting to equate the two makes no sense.

Indeed, when non-donors were called during the fall semester, donor participation was almost identical (within 0.5 per cent) and in January, the average gift actu-

ally increased. With respect to donations falling to "\$50 on some days," there is a grain of truth. The shift on Jan. 10, 2011, only resulted in \$30 because it was cancelled shortly after calling started due to technical difficulties with the call centre's computers.

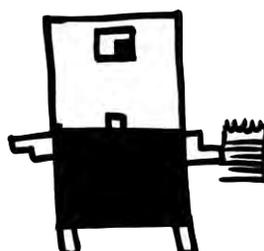
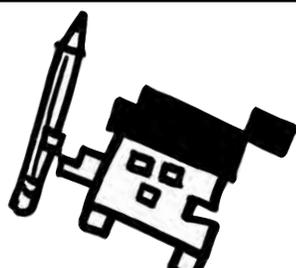
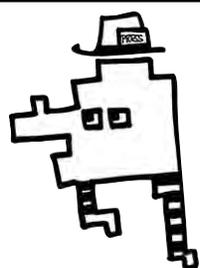
As for the call centre's practice of matching callers and alumni according to areas of study, this is simply part of our ongoing and ever-changing effort to increase rapport during telephone calls. This strategy is completely unrelated to Dr. Woodsworth's departure.

As ambassadors for the university, call centre employees are trained to engage in telephone conversations with prospective donors in a professional manner. There is no reason to bring up a potentially contentious issue during a fundraising appeal, but if it comes up, callers are well prepared to respond factually, avoiding speculation or bias. Similarly, a caller wouldn't comment on a dispute with a professor over a grade or engage in a political debate during a solicitation.

At the end of the day, the call centre is one part of the university's comprehensive fundraising strategy. Misinformation regarding its activities does a disservice to the successes of Concordia as a whole and in particular, to the amazing work of the students employed by the call centre.

—Brad Skog,
Director, Annual Giving
Advancement and Alumni Relations

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 libellous, 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.



Be outspoken. Find your voice. Be a weird robot. Write to us.

letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Long Live Your Laptop



Tips to Prolong Your Computer's Lifespan

Sometimes I wish I had Styrofoam replicas of my laptop to smash against a wall. With so many frequent problems, my computer evidently has a sadistic mind. Call me a "n00b," but in my lifetime I've already watched three computers die in my hands.

• NICOLA NICHOLSON

As a student, owning a computer is essential. From researching to writing papers to watching porn to spending monstrous hours on Facebook—we all rely on our computers, all of the time.

Being so expensive, a laptop is something most of us would ideally like to keep for more than six months, so I took some time to research how I could lengthen my laptop's life expectancy. This way, I don't have to resort to buying an upcoming, futuristic laptop like Apple's Brick, or Orkin Design's Rolltop to save a fortune on buying replacement computers.

Firstly, when you are away from your computer, simply save any programs being used and put your computer to "sleep," "standby" or "hibernate." These modes will reduce energy consumption, save files and programs on your desktop as well as RAM, while keeping them

running.

However—be careful—if the power source is cut off, or the battery runs low while in sleep mode, the laptop may shut down. The Hibernation mode does not consume more electricity, and regulates the amount being used, as if the computer was actually turned off.

A major issue with laptops is the battery over-consuming energy, burning out and eventually dying. If this happens, it may cost anywhere from \$50 to \$150 to buy a new one. To help preserve your battery's longevity, dim your laptop screen, close programs and external devices that are not in use, optimize the power settings and clean both your laptop and battery on a regular basis.

Another thing you can do is defragment your laptop often to keep junk from cluttering the hard drive. This will make your computer more efficient. Cluttering happens when a computer's files break down, be-

coming fragmented in the hard drive. This may cause your computer to run slower and have processing problems. A setting is installed on most computers to defrag at a scheduled time, when wanted. Finally, install reputable anti-virus software to help keep the laptop clear of any damage.

Hopefully these tips can save you from the emotional trauma of witnessing your laptop's death—or at least delay the experience. Reactions of such traumatic occurrences can be found on YouTube, where many derive vengeful satisfaction on their laptops by destroying them in various ways, such as throwing them against walls, microwaving them, driving through them with a screwdriver or over them with a car.

Rather than resorting to such barbaric means, perhaps try buying an XO Laptop (aka One Laptop Per Child). It costs \$100 and a duplicate is given to a child in need—besides, it is unbreakable.



Dear Melissa,

I'm 21 and I've been a woman since the tender age of 13. Five days a month, every month, for eight years I've used five tampons and one pad a day. I'm not a math major—but that's a whole lot of plastic sitting in a landfill because of something my body does naturally. I know there are some natural products, but they seem so extreme. Can you explain my options?

—Going Green

Dear Going Green,

It really is shocking when you realize how much these products add up. The average woman will use between 8,000 to 15,000 disposable tampons, pads and liners in her lifetime and each come with plastic wrapping and applicators. You're right—they all end up in landfills and sewage systems. At a time when we're all concerned about protecting the environment, we can begin the sentence with our periods.

Menstruation isn't seen as a positive thing in our society and that attitude gets transferred onto a lot of these products. I think that women want to think of their period as little as possible, so when the alternative doesn't involve wrapping it up and throwing it away immediately, they're hesitant. So please keep an open mind when reviewing these options because as extreme as they may seem, they just take some getting used to.

Here are two common alternatives you can try:

Menstrual cups: These are my recommended alternative to women who use tampons. The popular Keeper brand is made of latex and placed in the vagina to collect menstrual blood for up to 12 hours. Instead of changing the cup you just empty it, wipe it clean with toilet paper, and it's ready to go back in. It costs about \$50 and can last up to 10 years! You can find The Keeper at Le Frigo Vert near Concordia, or online. Also check out The Moon and The Diva Cup for non-latex options.

Reusable pads are basically the same as disposable pads but they're usually made of cotton and instead of throwing them out, you wash and reuse. They can be washed by hand or by machine, but it's recommended to soak them if you want to avoid staining. You can find them at Le Frigo Vert for \$8 to \$12, or look online for Lunapads. You can also find patterns online to make your own!

I really recommend trying these two products, for the environment's benefit as well as your own. If you use five tampons a day for five days a month, that's 300 tampons and at least \$100 per year that you're paying for them (There are 18 tampons in a \$6 box of Playtex tampons). Multiply that amount by the 30-40 years you have your period. A Keeper will cost you \$50 and last 10 years, and a set of seven Lunapads, also good for a few years, will only cost you \$70. Think about how much money these products can save you.

If you insist on sticking to disposables, there's a really easy change you should make: tart using 100 per cent organic cotton, applicator-free tampons and pads, if you don't already. They cost a little more, but they're becoming easier to find and they're better for you and the environment. Le Frigo Vert carries these as well.

Alternatives to anything require a little effort and will take some time to get used to, but think back to when you first got your period. Remember how weird it was to get used to tampons/pads? If you could do it then, then you can do it now.

Good luck and go green!

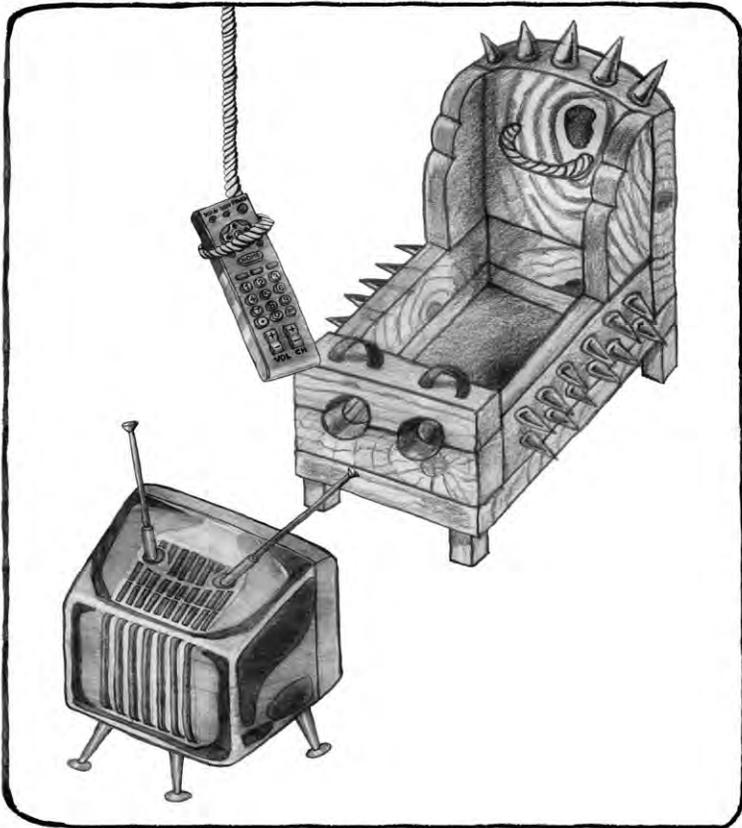
—Melissa Fuller

Le Frigo Vert is located at 2130 Mackay St. Send your questions to sexpancakes.thelink@gmail.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

TIRED OF READING

Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



After 147 years, it occurred to Jeffrey that he had been placed in the wrong circle of hell, and so his punishment was less ironic than it was strange.

Longtail Professions

IF YOU'RE A GUY WITH A PONYTAIL AND YOU'RE SCOPING THE JOB MARKET, HERE ARE SOME POSITIONS YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFIED FOR



ANGST: "Wooyeah"

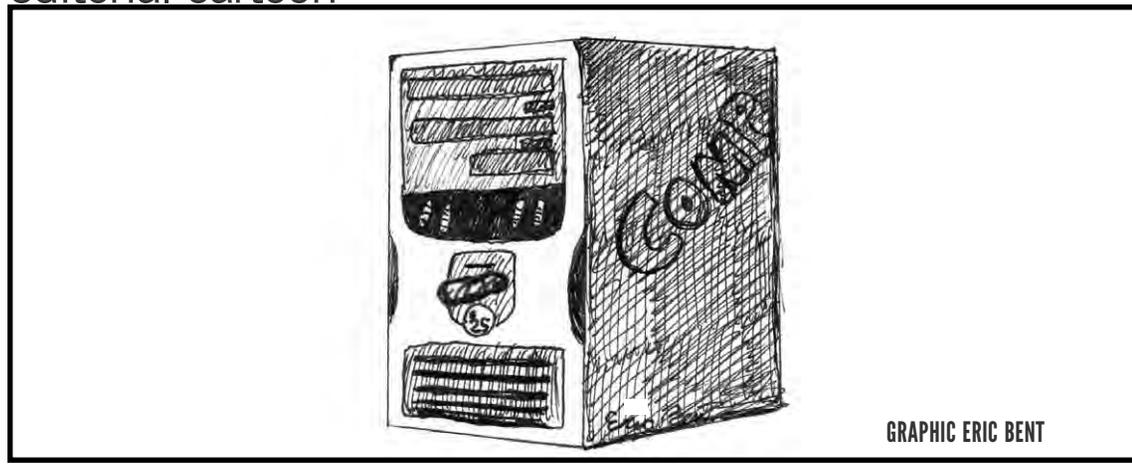
By: Liz Lee



WEEKEND ESCAPISM:
NOT JUST FOR NERDS ANYMORE.

Liz Lee
2011
lizleeillustration.com

editorial cartoon

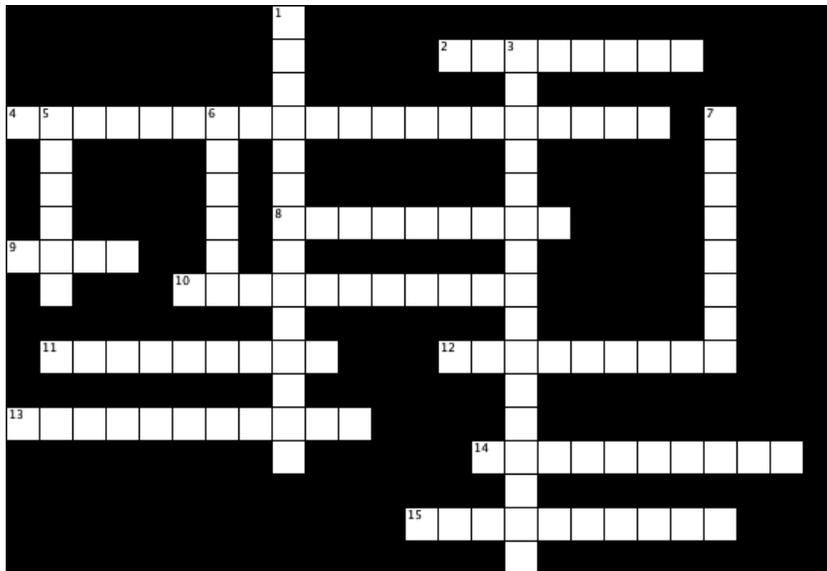


GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Quik-X

“Famous Cars”

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON



Across

- 2. How many cars do you know that have doors that open vertically? Bonus tip: or ones that are powered by nuclear isotopes and can travel back in time?
- 4. The inventor of James Bond, Ian Fleming, wrote a book for kids about a flying car. Maybe that's why its name sounds like it belongs alongside Pussy Galore and Plenty O'Toole.
- 8. Many presume that the evil car in this Stephen King novel was supernaturally possessed, but it's generally agreed upon that '58 Plymouth Furys with red and white paint jobs are inherently evil.
- 9. As comedian Jeffrey Ross so aptly put it in the Roast of David Hasselhoff, only an alcoholic would be cast in a show about a car that drives itself.
- 10. The only real car on this list, and James Bond's ride of choice—even spies aren't averse to the powers of product placement.
- 11. Even though Batman could fly to and from crime scenes with his tricked-out cape, sometimes he preferred to make a fly entrance in a sweet ride.
- 12. Anthropomorphic robot from the planet Cybertron. But when he needs a disguise, he can “transform” into a spiffy yellow Camaro—at least in the product placement-laden Michael Bay version.
- 13. Not to be confused with the book about a beautiful horse, this souped-up car was the flagship of the Green Hornet television series, which was itself an acting vehicle for actor Seth Rogen.
- 14. Though technically not a “car,” this vehicle designed

- by NASA has virtually zero competition in the “vehicles suited for transportation on the surface of the moon” department.
- 15. These days if you see a car draped in the Confederate flag being driven by a bunch of hillbillies, you lock your doors and cock your revolver—if you're lucky enough to have one.

Down

- 1. PBS Saturday Morning cartoon show about a vehicle that can transform into a time machine or a spaceship as needed. Why they never thought to use it to solve world hunger and prevent human suffering instead of teaching privileged American kids about science, well, I think we know why.
- 3. One of Pixar Animation's few films to lose the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. It featured this anthropomorphic car who may or may not be related to movie racer Steve McQueen.
- 5. An anthropomorphic Volkswagen Beetle whose eyes double as headlights. Was recently seen cavorting with Lindsay Lohan—in a Disney movie, not in the pages of *National Enquirer*.
- 6. Animation legend Hayao Miyazaki's most recognizable creation to Western audiences is probably this transportation vehicle that also doubles as a fluffy kitty. Its name pretty much describes what it is.
- 7. A measurement of the ratio of the speed of a body to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium, or the name of the car driven by SpeedRacer. (Spell it out.)

editorial

Interconnected

Canadians are safe from the threat of usage-based billing... for now.

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has delayed further review of the implementation of usage based billing until May 1, at which point it will be tabled again. While the Harper government has opposed the decision, the Canadian government has been leaning towards the privatization of information for some time now.

It may have been put on pause for now, but the UBB debate is far from over. As students and Canadian citizens we should not only be worried, but we should be angry and have the means to express that anger. This is a question of freedom.

We live in a country that should be a forerunner in the Internet age and a leader in the way that the world is changing. As it stands though, we are risking falling behind.

Canada prides itself on being a nation of innovation, change, and most of all, of freedom. The CRTC's proposed Internet cap would make this reality a thing of the past.

When it comes to the Internet, we are still in a period of transition. It has redefined the way our world is structured and reshaped our realities. The Internet is arguably the most powerful resource our world has ever seen—this is no time to take our feet off the gas pedal.

Our generation is in the midst of finding our place within this new Internet world. We understand that in our future, any field we choose to go into will have a specific place within cyberspace. We've reshaped our goals and our tactics to fit our shifting society. A cap on Internet usage would force us to, in essence, go back in time and once again have to find out our place and our future.

As well as providing a space for communication and expression, academic success would be next to impossible without the Internet. We communicate with our professors via e-mail, pay our tuition, conduct our research—do everything—online. Getting a university degree without access to the Internet is now impossible.

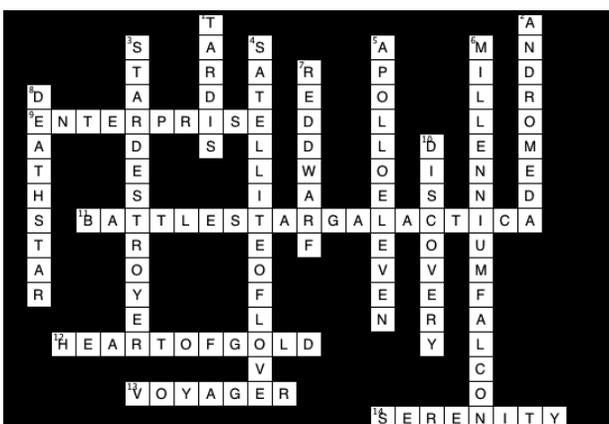
While the CRTC's proposed UBB wouldn't eliminate our ability to do all of these things, it would cost us in a big way. Usage-based billing would up the cost of Internet access for the university, which could potentially cause our tuition rates to rise.

Right now we interact with the Internet so closely, it has almost become a resource we use unconsciously. We use it to listen to music, to communicate with our friends, to view art and writing, to be productive and to be creative. It has given us unlimited opportunities to have our voices heard, and to hear the voices of others. We are more connected with diverse people and cultures than we have ever been, and it is extremely important for our future and society that we don't disconnect.

Usage-based billing, putting limits on our Internet access and usage, is a step in the wrong direction for Canada. We are a democratic society, and not only would the CRTC's implementation of UBB be unfair and unnecessary, it would be anti-capitalist. The CRTC would essentially be transferring a huge amount of power to the big companies like Rogers, Bell and Videotron—as big an affront to the principle of the free market as it is to the freedom of Canadians to enter the future at the same speed as the rest of the world.

—Alex McGill,
Student Press Liaison

issue 21 crossword solutions



THE LINK

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THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Myriam Arseneault, Christina Bell, Eric Bent, Pierre Chauvin, Dominique Côté, Will M. Defoe, Alex Di Pietro, Melissa Fuller, David Kaufman, Michelle Lannen, Liz Lee, Simon Lien, Clément Liu, Dylan Maloney, Marlee Macmillan, Nicola Nicholson, Jasmine Papillon-Smith, Ian Stobber, Antonella Tenorio, Julian Ward and Meagan Wohlberg

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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

JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

news editor

CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

features editor

ADAM KOVAC

fringe arts editor

ASHLEY OPHEIM

literary arts editor

ALEX MANLEY

sports editor

CHRISTOPHER HAMPSON

opinions editor

MEGAN DOLSKI

copy editor

DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

student press liaison

ALEX MCGILL

photo editor

ERIN SPARKS

graphics editor

DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

managing editor

LAURA BEESTON

layout manager

JULIA WOLFE

online editor

JULIA JONES

webmaster

HUSSEIN RIDA

business manager

RACHEL BOUCHER

ad designer

ADAM NORRIS

distribution

ROBERT DESMARAIS
DAVID KAUFMANN