



concordia's independent newspaper  
gimme dat pajama prod since 1980

**we need you.**

PAGE  
**03 News**

GOING TO THE POLLS: CONCORDIA UNDERGRADUATES VOTE FOR A NEW STUDENT UNION

# we need you.

This isn't an appeal for your vote. You've had enough of those, so have we. You have a choice. If you aren't sure why, keep reading.

The upcoming election presents a once in a generation **opportunity**. With thousands of students and millions of dollars in the bank, an **active** student union can change the tuition debate. With a strong voice, a union can reach a **dignified** deal on student space. Relations with student groups across Quebec can be **mended**. The university's Board of Governors can **hear** students again. The union's finances can be made **transparent**. Campuses and services can be **revolutionary** for you.

**The choice is yours.  
Turn the page.**

# Attacks on Free Press Continue

## Vandals Cause \$4,000 of Damage to CUTV's Televisions

• JACOB ROBERTS

Two televisions belonging to Concordia University Television were vandalized in the Hall building on March 22. The next day, a third CUTV screen was badly damaged in what is becoming a month of repeated attacks on freedom of the press at Concordia.

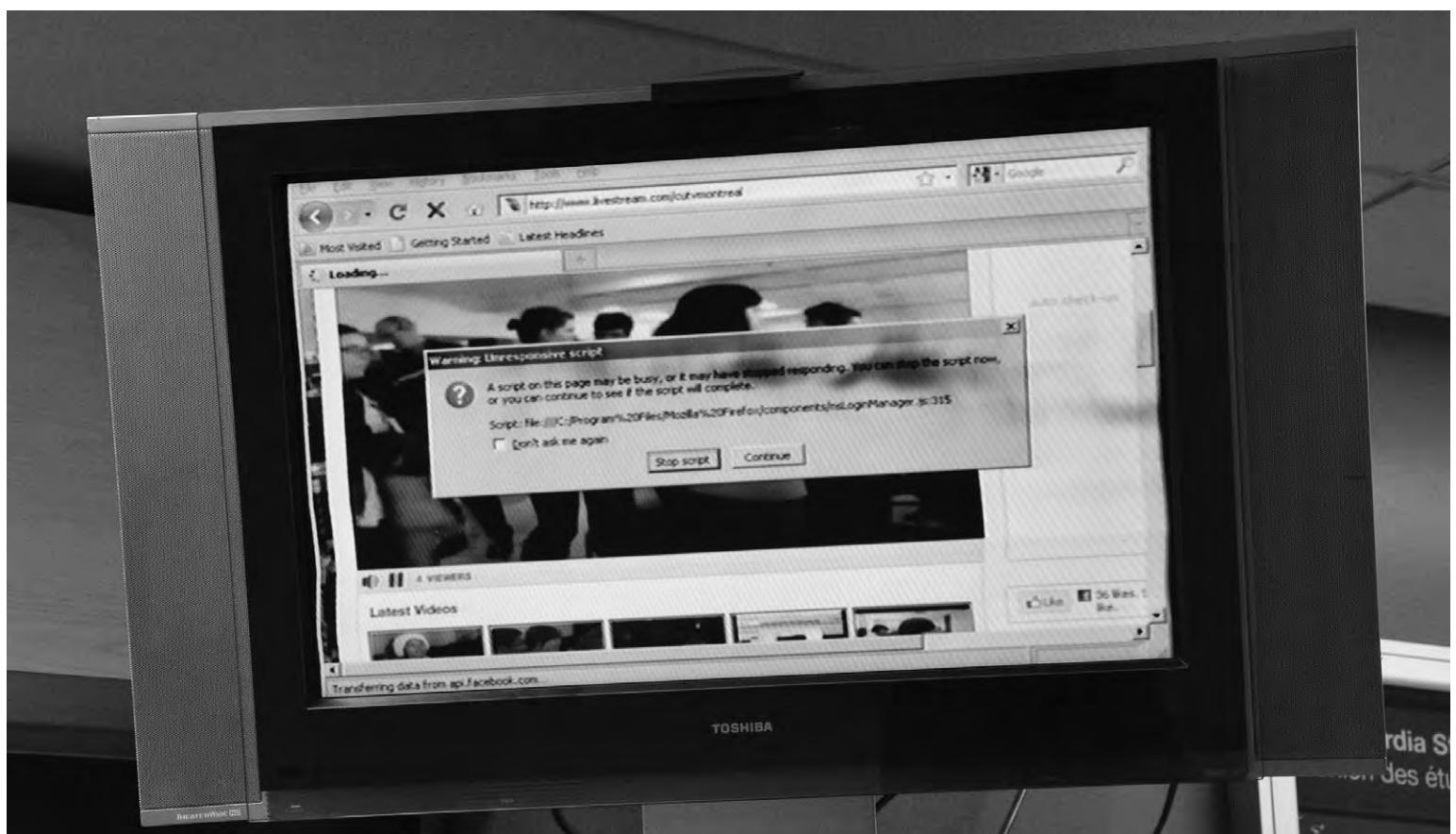
Of the three vandalized televisions, one had its wiring ripped out violently while the two others had an industrial strength magnet run across their screens, ruining the picture quality permanently.

The attack on CUTV's equipment took place two weeks after a demonstration outside the offices of *The Link* where a handful of students—including Ariel Dabora and Terrence Adams, both running for Concordia Student Union Council on the *Action* slate—protested perceived media bias.

Laura Kneale, the station manager at CUTV, believes that the two incidents are related and a result of the political situation at Concordia right now.

"Both [the demonstration outside *The Link* and the vandalism] are attacking independent student media," she said. "To be honest, what I find the saddest about it is, in both cases, none of the people that are mad or protesting against these campus stations are addressing the issue with the actual media outlets. How can we respond to what they're trying to reproach us for if we don't know what it is that they don't like?"

The damage to the televisions is estimated at about \$4,000. The



An attack on CUTV's equipment took place two weeks after the demonstration outside *The Link*'s offices. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

money that is going to pay for repairs comes directly from the \$0.18 per credit fee levy every Concordia undergraduate pays into the station.

"These don't seem to be acts that are grounded in a larger strategy of getting what they are trying to accomplish, which is what they said: free, independent media," said Kneale. "If you want to encourage free, independent media then don't damage the small, independent stations on

campus."

Lex Gill, the presidential candidate for *Your Concordia*, agrees that the vandalism is related to the upcoming election and political tension around Concordia.

"It's a shameful attack on freedom of information and freedom of the press. I think that CUTV has always been an incredibly strong voice for democracy and consistently provided programming that is critical, interesting and engaging to students," Gill

said. "[They're] really a vehicle to speak truth to power on campus—and to that end I can imagine there are some regressive individuals who feel threatened by people presenting the truth."

While Gill believes the attacks to be politically motivated, she doesn't believe that they were perpetrated by either political party.

"I do have some problems with the tactics of some of my opponents, but I don't think that

they're organized enough to orchestrate something like this," she said.

Recently *The Link* received a letter slamming CUTV, accusing it of media bias and threatening the station's fee levy. The Link received similar threats from one Action candidate on Feb. 17.

Action presidential candidate Kalil Haddad said he thinks that the vandalism was a tragedy, but that it was not politically motivated.

# Unionizing eConcordia's TAs

## Uncertainty About Who Online TAs Actually Work For

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Unlike their offline counterparts, eConcordia's 118 teaching assistants are not unionized and, technically, they don't work for Concordia University.

On March 21, the union of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, which already covers all of the university's TAs and RAs, sent 118 union cards to the Quebec Labour Board.

"There is a giant disparity for pay and working conditions between TAs who are working for Concordia and are covered by TRAC and those who are working for eConcordia," said Ethan Cox, who was the lead organizer during the unionization drive.

"It all comes down to a technicality," said Cox. "Because eCon-

cordia is run as a separate company, it is technically a separate employer, even though by a reasonable person's definition those TAs work for Concordia University."

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota could not speak for eConcordia about the unionization because the two are separate entities.

"eConcordia does not offer courses itself but rather acts as a procurement agent for Concordia to find suppliers to produce and deliver our online courses," said Mota. "eConcordia is a separate but related entity to Concordia since there is cross-over between Boards and because it exists to service Concordia."

Despite the close relationship, eConcordia is no longer directly related to the university. In the

past, both the university and eConcordia were part of the overarching Concordia Foundation; since then, however, eConcordia has been spun-off.

If the Quebec government recognizes the attempt by eConcordia's TAs to join TRAC, they will create a separate bargaining unit inside of the union.

"Regular TAs at eConcordia get paid between \$12 and \$15 an hour, while Concordia TAs are paid up to \$23 an hour under the TRAC collective agreement," said Cox. "There is a significant wage gap and they are also not protected by any benefits."

"The point of this is to bring eConcordia TAs up to the level of Concordia's TAs."

The campaign to gather the union cards from the TAs lasted

about a month and a half and was "very easy," according to Cox, who has led other campaigns at Concordia and McGill.

"We succeeded in signing the mass majority of TAs and few were opposed to it. It's just unfortunate that these people weren't already included in TRAC," said Cox. "Now they will be able to negotiate their own collective agreement."

While the campaign may have been easy, neither TRAC, eConcordia nor Concordia have spoken about the accreditation yet. It is not completely clear who the TAs actually work for.

"Through eConcordia, Concordia has contracted with KnowledgeOne to produce and deliver our online courses using the eConcordia brand," said Mota. "In the context of delivering these courses, K1

uses TAs. We cannot comment further on this given the pending certification request."

Despite the current uncertainty, Cox said that the certification process should happen "quickly" and that eConcordia's TAs should be part of TRAC by the end of the summer.

"They will be a distinct bargaining unit of TRAC, which means that they will go to TRAC general assemblies and they will vote for the TRAC executive," said Cox. "But first they will have to negotiate their own collective agreement."

TRAC is currently a union under the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

eConcordia did not return *The Link*'s request for comment by press time.

# Elections Report Card

The Link's Guide to the 2011 CSU Campaign



## Transparency

### Your Concordia

Your Concordia set the bar pretty high right out of the gate. Just minutes into the election, the slate made a detailed campaign budget available to the press. The budget included a list of purchased items, the prices of each individual expense and even the actual purchase

numbers of each item. Furthermore, the budget was updated one week into the cam-

paign and *The Link* was shown each individual receipt from Your Concordia.

But of course, transparency extends beyond budget lines. Your Concordia has also opened up its Facebook page, website and YouTube videos to comments both negative and positive.

During Friday's debate, *Your Concordia* presidential candidate Lex Gill said that it was important for the slate to acknowledge and respond to even the most critical com-

ments. detail about its campaign expenses as *Your Concordia* does. Although it's unprecedented for a slate to even publish campaign budgets before the actual vote takes place, *Action* is definitely lagging behind its rival when it comes to bookkeeping.

On Friday, *Action* presidential candidate Khalil Haddad was confronted about why his slate disabled comments below its YouTube videos and blocked critical comments from its Facebook page. Haddad said that criticism should

be framed in a constructive and respectful manner.

University students don't like having arbitrary limits imposed on their free speech. It's one thing if we're talking about eliminating hate speech, but when one person chooses to remove any and all criticism from public discourse they don't consider that constructive, it's called censorship.

C-



## Platform

### Your Concordia

Your Concordia has an expansive platform that includes fighting tuition increases, creating new student space and a number of sustainability initiatives. Some of these promises are almost a lock: the student-run Hive Café at Loyola and the expansion of sexual health services will happen no matter who is elected because both are existing

CSU proposals.

As for fighting tuition increases, a number of *Your Concordia* members were instrumental in organizing rallies for accessible education outside of Concordia University and the National Assembly. While the slate will need to mobilize students at a much higher rate to affect any real change on the tuition front, *Your Concordia* definitely has some street cred in that regard.

Other promises, like creating a clothing and food bank inside the union's offices and updating the CSU's raw financial data online on

a daily basis, seem plausible.

B

### Action

*Action* shares a number of promises with its political rival. Creating student space, fighting tuition increases and banning bottled water from campus are among them.

*Action* has also hitched onto some existing CSU initiatives such as the Hive Café.

The slate has promised to convert some of the fifth floor in the LB building into student space, claim-

ing it is cluttered with junk. Currently, the fifth floor houses the university's department of education, a nursery, classrooms for English seminars and Instructional Information and Technology Services offices. Not exactly junk.

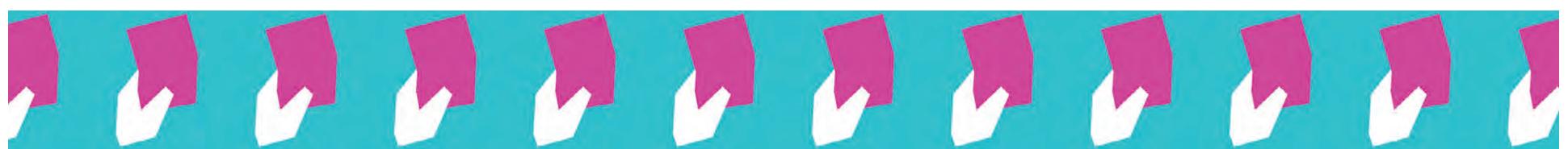
The plan to appropriate space on the fifth floor is already in the works and a number of *Action* candidates have known this for some time as they sit on the Library Fund Committee.

*Action*'s promise of monthly updates on the CSU's finances is plausible and would be an improvement over this year's situation, where

Council was updated on finances only once.

However, *Action*'s promise to improve Concordia's shuttle bus services might be a tall order (editors note: its also something *Your Concordia* is also looking into). More shuttle buses to Loyola would be great, but it is also outside of the CSU's jurisdiction and would require tens of thousands of dollars in additional fuel, man-hours and possibly buses.

B-



## Promotion

### Your Concordia

From the first days of the election, it was clear *Your Concordia* wanted to take a different approach to campaigning. The slate regularly updated its website with suggestions and questions from students, often accompanied by a response from *Your Concordia*.

The slate's first two videos grapple with some serious issues with mixed results. *Your Concordia*'s first video is interesting, but the abrupt editing and flashing letters are jarring and distract from the

slate's message.

"What is the CSU?" breaks down the student union's functions, finances and shortcomings seamlessly with an animated sequence. This video actually manages to explain something most students struggle to understand.

Beyond videos, *Your Concordia* has used social media effectively, responding to its critics in a timely fashion on Facebook, Twitter and its website.

Recently, the slate was accused of spreading attack ads throughout the Hall building, criticizing *Action* as a bunch of party animals who don't take student politics seriously. So far no evidence links *Your Concordia* to the attack ads and CSU

Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen has not taken any punitive measures against the slate.

A-

### Action

In a year where university tuition fees are on the rise and Concordia is facing a crisis in government, *Action*'s first address to students was a three-minute music video featuring partying, snowball fights and good times. While the video was catchy and somewhat amusing, a number of students took exception with its flippant tone.

Another small misstep occurred when the slate released its second,

more politically charged video. The video featured footage of the candidates at protests and stills of people demonstrating against tuition hikes. Oddly enough, some of the photos were taken at protests organized by the Canadian Federation of Students, a national lobby group the CSU is currently suing for damages. These were likely unintentional oversights, but gaffes nonetheless.

Throughout the campaign, the slate has also been walking a bit of a tightrope. While candidates often emphasize their experience, they have also been attempting to distance themselves from the controversial Fusion slate, where many of the candidates gained said experience.

The slate's presence of social media has caused controversy. A number of students have been blocked from *Action*'s Facebook page for being critical of slate's policies. *Action* has also disabled comments on its YouTube videos.

*Action* has stuck to the traditional route of classrooms visits, flooding the mezzanine with handbills and having plenty of one-on-ones with voters. While the effectiveness of these tactics will ultimately be determined after the polls close, you can't help but admire the sheer amount of discipline and effort put into their campaign.

B

# The Fee Levies

## Who Wants Your Money and Why?

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

### CJLO 1690 AM

Asking for: \$0.09 per credit (a total cost of \$1.35 per semester on a full course load)

Since 2008, when CJLO took to the city's AM airwaves, the student-run radio station has been named one of North America's best by *The Huffington Post*. CJLO has continued to rack up national and international acclaim for its quality music programming and news coverage.

However, the acclaim has also come with a hefty price tag. The cost of purchasing an AM frequency antenna and renting land on which to install the antenna is considerable. And because CJLO is on an AM frequency, it's



difficult to catch the station's signal from downtown Montreal.

CJLO will be using the funds to explore the possibility of moving to a stronger FM frequency.



beverage contract with PepsiCo. were two issues at the centre of a protest and sit-in during Concordia's fall semester. The university's new contract with PepsiCo. includes a clause to remove bottled water from Concordia's vending machines.

### Banning Bottled Water on Campus

Asking for: Your Opinion

Okay, so it's not a fee-levy question—but it will be on the ballot. Students will vote on whether they support a ban on the sale of bottled water on campus. The ban is being endorsed by both slates in this year's elections because of the pollution and health risks associated with bottled water, among other concerns.

Bottled water and Concordia's secret renewal of its multi-million dollar exclusive

GRAPHIC CLEMÉNT LIU

### The Void Magazine

Asking for: \$0.02 per credit (a total cost of \$0.30 a semester on a full course load)

*The Void* is Concordia's only bilingual literary publication.

This quarterly magazine features a variety of work from the university's writers—fiction, non-fiction and poetry—as well as work from Concordia's visual artists.

It's one of the only dedicated outlets on campus for Concordia's wealth of creative writers.

*The Void*'s editorial staff and contributors work on a volunteer basis.



The money collected from this fee levy would go towards paying small stipends to the magazine's editors and contributors, while helping with printing costs.

### Queer Concordia

Asking for: \$0.02 per credit (a total cost of \$0.30 a semester on a full course load)

Queer Concordia is a valuable resource to the university's queer community.

Providing safe sex kits, a health resource library, advocacy and outreach as well as tireless fundraising work for HIV/AIDS research and awareness, QC's limited CSU clubs budget is stretched thin every year.

QC is looking to abandon its CSU club



status and become a non-profit organization through the fee levy.

The club wants to use some of this money to expand the scope of its services by hiring a part-time employee to hold more office hours.

# Not Bored With the Board

## Your Concordia and Action Explain their Stance on the BoG

• ADAM KOVAC

One of the most pressing issues facing Concordia this year has become a non-contentious issue in the upcoming Concordia Student Union election.

Both *Action* and *Your Concordia* have declared their intentions to put more pressure on the Board of Governors—Concordia's highest governing body—and both slates are outlining very similar approaches to dealing with a BoG they feel is detached from both the students and the school.

Two elected representatives, as well as two members appointed from the council—one of which is traditionally the president of the student union—stand for student interests on the Board of Governors.

"I feel like some of the Board of Governors are not in touch with students," said *Action*'s presidential candidate, Khalil Haddad. "There's this disconnect, which is why I feel we should build a relationship with them."

At the same time, they have to realize they have to follow their own rules. Many of them have exceeded their mandate, and we have to send a clear message that they have to be transparent and accountable."

It's a view that is echoed by Haddad's opponent on the *Your Concordia* slate, Lex Gill, who also believes that the representation of students by the current student Board members and CSU president Heather Lucas has been insufficient.

"Students expressly mandated

CSU executives and Board members to bring issues to the Board of Governors, which they did not do," she said. "They completely ignored the will of students. They had binding resolutions passed at CSU council and at the Informational General Meeting, [that were] either blatantly ignored or intentionally disregarded."

**"Some of the Board of Governors are not in touch with students."**

*-Khalil Haddad,  
Action presidential candidate*

After a resolution was passed at the Jan. 27 Council meeting calling for the resignation of 16 of

the Board's 23 community-at-large members, Lucas didn't broach the subject at the subsequent Board meeting—an omission she has since apologized for.

Current student representatives Amine Dabchy and Stephanie Siriwardhana have also come under fire for not sufficiently representing student interests.

Members at large on the BoG include executives in some of Canada's largest and most powerful companies. Following the local and national media scrutiny after the firing of former-President Judith Woodsworth, the atmosphere surrounding Board of Governor meetings can be intimidating to the student representatives.

"I think once you do a year

term in the CSU, you tend to learn not to get intimidated so easily," said *Action* candidate, and current CSU VP Loyola and Advocacy, Hassan Abdullahi. "I do understand that there will be some powerful and wealthy people, but regardless, it's not going to stop me from demanding what the students have mandated me to do."

The notion of standing up for students and not backing down or becoming too friendly with the members at large was echoed by *Your Concordia* candidate A.J. West.

"I think I can bring representation," he said. "I want to represent what the students have to say. I want to be blunt, and sure I want to work with the Board, but at the same time, I'm here for the students, not corporations."

# Slates Duel Over Transparency

## Campaign Spending Scrutinized



Your Concordia presidential candidate Lex Gill provided The Link with receipts detailing her slate's campaign spending. PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

### • SIMON LIEM

In an increasingly heated campaign, both the *Action* and *Your Concordia* slates are accusing each other of overspending on this year's Concordia Student Union elections.

On the first day of elections *Your Concordia* released a breakdown of all its campaign-spending. The budget was updated and revised one week into the campaign. Last week, *Action* posted a budget detailing its expenses on the slate's website.

*Action* presidential candidate Khalil Haddad said that this was done to counter suggestions from the opposing slate that *Action* was overspending.

Each slate is limited to around

\$2,300 for campaigning depending on the number of candidates it runs.

The student union will reimburse this money. Any spending over that amount is grounds for a disqualification, according to the CSU standing regulations.

There is no requirement that candidates make their campaign budgets public, but financial accountability has become a central point of both slates' platforms.

*Your Concordia* is aggressively promoting transparency. Lex Gill, the presidential candidate for *Your Concordia*, provided *The Link* with copies of receipts that corresponded to the budget on the slate's website. The receipts were verified with some of the vendors listed.

*Action* was not able to show receipts to *The Link*, as they were already given to the chief electoral officer as required and no copies were made.

The budget did not include amounts of materials bought, but *The Link* contacted the business where *Action* bought their t-shirts and confirmed that the cost listed in the budget is possible.

The slate's costs for poster and flier printing could not be confirmed with the company listed in the budget. Furthermore, Facebook advertisements purchased by the slate were not listed on its budget.

CSU regulations require that students hand in all receipts related to campaign spending, but there is little preventing students

from withholding receipts. Counting fliers and t-shirts to ensure that they match what was declared is not easy.

"I think there needs to be major reforms to the electoral regulations," said Gill.

Haddad also suggested that change is needed to make slates more accountable.

It is widely speculated that in previous years slates have spent multiple times their allotted budgets. During the 2008-09 campaign, one party hired an ad-truck to drive around the downtown campus.

Financial issues have been a major platform point for both parties. *Your Concordia* is pushing an open system in terms of access to financial records. The

*Action* slate believes money mismanagement within the CSU can be addressed through better education.

"With the financial 101 course that we plan to make mandatory for councillors, they'll really understand the finances when they are presented," said Tanya Ng, the *Action* candidate for VP Finance.

Ng and Haddad say that if councillors were better informed on how to manage budgets, responsible spending and financial accountability would be easier to control.

The VP Finance candidate says she will be implementing an "open-door policy" for any students who wish to examine the budget lines more closely.

# Poster Controversy Cuts Campaign Short

## Your Concordia Accused of Smearing Action

### • CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

For the third year in a row, the final day of campaigning in the Concordia Student Union elections was marred by controversy. Yesterday, allegations of smear tactics cut the campaigning period short by six hours.

Sometime after 11:00 p.m. on Sunday night, crudely-made posters attacking *Action* candidates were spread throughout the halls of Concordia's downtown campus. The posters derided a handful of candidates as "corporate whores" and party animals.

Representatives from *Action* are pointing the finger at *Your Concordia* or its supporters, accusing the slate of dirty campaigning just one day before polls open.

"I was shocked. I was disgusted

when I saw the signs," said *Action* hopeful Teresa Seminara. "It's scary what these elections have turned into."

*Your Concordia* presidential candidate Lex Gill denied any involvement with the poster scandal. Gill said she found out about the posters before 8:00 a.m. on Monday and removed them with her fellow candidates.

"It's disgusting and it's not something we condone," said Gill, who immediately contacted security upon discovering the posters. "We think we have a chance of winning this election, why would we jeopardize that with a cheap stunt? It's not something we would want done to us so why would we do it to anyone else?"

The vast majority of the posters were removed before 9:00 a.m.

Shortly after the ads were removed, *Action* filed a contestation with Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen, who—after hours of deliberating—could find no evidence linking *Your Concordia* to the posters.

The CEO decided to prevent any escalation from either side by stopping campaigning at 6:00 p.m. instead of midnight on March 28.

Cohen's ruling hasn't stopped the debate from spilling over onto the Internet, where candidates from *Action* have voiced their frustration over the controversial posters.

"I hope whoever did this realizes that this is not the Concordia we all want," *Action* Presidential candidate Khalil Haddad wrote on a Facebook post.

The posters are the latest development in what has been a week marked with increasingly aggressive campaigning. On March 22, *Action* candidate Tomer Shavit falsely accused Gill of having been arrested at the anti-police brutality demonstration one week earlier.

Later that week, a *Your Concordia* council candidate lashed out at *Action* during a classroom visit. He was reproached by one of his slate's executives and subsequently apologized to *Action* and the classroom.

"This is terrible," *Your Concordia* hopeful Chad Walcott said of the attack ads. "I have friends on that team and I would never do anything to hurt them. After something like this, it's tough to go back out there and campaign."

Concordia security could not be reached for comment by the time *The Link* went to press. Footage from the university's security cameras could play a pivotal role in determining who is behind the smear campaign.

A similar controversy emerged on the last day of campaigning during the 2010 CSU elections. The Community slate was accused of posting defamatory stickers on Fusion posters. Community was never found guilty of any wrongdoing and Fusion ultimately won the election by a landslide.

In 2009, an ad truck with a roughly drawn sign for the Change slate drove around downtown on the last day of campaigning. Both Change and Vision denied knowledge of the ad truck. Vision won in a landslide.



PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

# Sustainable Slates

## Action and Your Concordia Run on Platforms of Sustainability

• LAURA BEESTON

"Sustainability" is a word people love to throw around at Concordia, so it's no surprise that many initiatives relating to this issue have found their way into the campaign trail.

Both slates are running on a platform that promises to ban the sale of bottled water on campus alongside other similar sustainable initiatives. Looking beyond the talking points, *Your Concordia* and *Action* bring a different sustainable skill set to the table.

On the outset, *Your Concordia* has a roster of heavy hitters in terms of sustainable practices on campus. The slate features former Concordia Student Union VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell alongside Arts and Science Federation of Association VP Sustainability Chad Walcott.

But, perhaps most notably, *Your Concordia* Board of Governors candidate Laura Beach has been a tireless water activist on campus since 2007 after founding TAPthirst—a coalition against the privatization of water.

Campaigning against the sale of bottled water on campus for the last three years, Beach organized Concordia's first Bottled Water Free Day and is credited for circulating a petition that garnered signatures from every faculty and association on campus to support of banning bottled water sales and bettering water infrastructure services.

Last semester, Beach also handed outgoing-administrator of VP Services Michael Di Grappa a Mise en Demeure—or formal notice of legal challenge—for allegedly acting in bad faith after it was revealed that the university had quietly renewed an exclusive vending ma-

chine contract with PepsiCo.

Since that time, Beach has worked with Sustainable Concordia and the CSU to find ways to integrate students into university contract negotiations—which has become a platform point on *Your Concordia*'s mandate.

Contacting *The Link* about both slates' commitment to sustainable initiatives, specifically *Action*'s comments and commitment to the bottled water free campus, Beach said, "there is a fine line between supporting an initiative and co-opting it. [Action] should let students know who the real people are behind the platform points on their website."

Under their "our actions" tab on *Action*'s website is an outline for the slate's pledge on bottled water. It states: "We are going to ban all plastic bottles on campus and instead promote the use of reusable mugs.

Just another step towards sustainability."

"We don't want to take credit for [other student groups' initiatives], it's about being there to provide support. We're not going to pretend to be experts on sustainability," said *Action* presidential candidate Khalil Haddad when asked to respond to the allegations that the incumbent party has co-opted existing sustainable initiatives.

"Myself, working in this environment [as a Chief Electoral Office on the Sustainability Action Fund] and seeing what [student groups] do, I really feel like next year we can do something really good because I understand how they work, how they function in their working groups, and I've taken the time to speak to each and every one of them throughout the year."

In terms of how he plans to implement the sustainable initiatives

if made president of the CSU, Haddad explained that "it's about helping [the different groups] with resources and outreach with students, and it's working with Sustainable Concordia. It's not about us taking the initiatives; it's not the case at all."

The extent of *Action*'s green history includes both Haddad's experience, as well as VP Services and Sustainability-hopeful Rasim Hafiz's position as a Board Member of the Sustainability Action Fund.

"Team *Action* wants to provide, in terms of sustainability, the resources needed across campus," said Hafiz. "I don't have a lot of experience, but where I'm coming from, personally, is that I want to keep learning and keep giving. Where the experience should be coming from is from those who are already involved in our community."

# Space Race 2011

## Who Will Claim Your Space on Campus?

• LAURA BEESTON

During a meeting on student space with former Concordia VP Services Michael Di Grappa in the late '90s, Bilal Hamideh whipped out a mat in the middle of the administrator's office and began to pray.

President of the Muslim Students' Association from 2000 to 2005, it was Hamideh who first negotiated the contract for Muslim students to have religious spaces to congregate. He is currently running for re-election to Senate under the *Your Concordia* slate.

Fast-forward 13 years and current MSA President Rasim Hafiz is now at the helm of *Action*'s student space campaign. He was given the portfolio due to his ongoing encounters with the administration about prayer facilities since their agreement expired last August.

Hafiz has expressed plans for the MSA to lawyer-up since September.

"My experience speaking with high officials permits me, in terms of that dialogue with administration, to lobby for those discussions, whether it be [for] religion or student space in general," he said of his "back and forth" negotiations.

However, Hafiz was unable to provide a play-by-play outlining *Action*'s detailed tactics to acquire more space for students—explaining with care that all his party's platform points begin with consultation and committees.

But with issue of student space gaining increasing relevancy since the overwhelming failure of the Faubourg centre referendum question last November, little direct action has been taken to improve the situation. Increasingly a premium at this university, space is predictably at the heart of many plat-

form points on both sides of the slate spectrum.

Paying attention to this shift, *Your Concordia* has changed their VP Projects position to "VP Student Space" to get with the times. The hopeful candidate for this portfolio is Gonzo Nieto.

Nieto prioritized cleaning out CSU storage spaces and the Reggie's basement as a short-term goal. He also wants to create a clubs council and implement subsidies to make the room-booking process easier. Nieto explained that, while his slate will always start with consultation, it should be able to move on concrete actions fairly quickly.

In addition to his experience as an executive on überculture Concordia—a grassroots, student-run organization committed to the public reclamation of the cultural space—Nieto can also be accredited for starting one of the unofficial

"No" campaigns that cropped up during the Student Centre referendum period.

The contract for students to purchase a multi-million dollar building with the administration remains an ongoing concern for the CSU and is likely the most tangible of all the space-related issues in the campaign. Each slate has a dramatically different approach to, and understanding of, the \$43 million agreement and what can be done about it.

"I want to make it clear that we're not going to be increasing that fee [...] and no, there is no binding contract right now," said *Action* presidential candidate Khalil Haddad at the debate last Wednesday. "We can talk to [the administration], we can negotiate and make sure we have control at the end of the day."

The presidential candidate for

*Your Concordia*, Lex Gill, fired back:

"Let me clarify something Khalil just said: there is a binding contract with the administration, [...] governing the purchase and operation of a student union building. That contract needs to be renegotiated," said Gill, emphasizing her party's platform point of a "good deal or no deal" in regards to the proposed student centre.

"If we're going to move forward on issues of student space, then let's talk about what autonomous, student-owned and student-controlled student space actually looks like," she added.

So what does this our space case look like under each of the hopeful parties? Take a look at both at both slate's space platforms and backgrounds, and head to the ballot box. Your space depends on it.

## TECHNICAL STAFF PICKETS HALL BUILDING

**Workers Demand  
Raise to Match  
Cost of Living  
Increase**

• JULIAN WARD

Concordia's technical staff demanded salary increases and an end to contract negotiations that have gone into overtime in a demonstration at Concordia's downtown campus on March 22.

Chanting "So-So-Solidarity," the group of approximately 45 workers wound their way around the Hall and Library buildings during what would otherwise be a normal day at work for them.

"We met with the university and basically they're offering us peanuts," said Joe Luciano, a representative from the technical staff's trade union, the United Steel Workers local 9538.

The union is currently working under a contract that expired May 31, 2008, and they have not received a pay raise since 2007.

"The salary adjustments [that the Concordia administration offered] us do not reflect the cost of living," said Luciano. "We're understaffed, underpaid and buildings are popping up everywhere. The surface area of the [university] is expanding every year and we have more and more work."

He added that, despite an expanding workload, the university is not hiring new employees.

The union is also claiming that university negotiators are working to turn union members against each other.

Eddy Ginochi, the vice president of USW local 9538, told *The Link* that some union workers have 76 hours of bankable sick days while others have 69 hours. He says the university said they would make things fair by averaging the sick hours to 72. In other words, some would get an increase in hours while others would see a decrease.

"That's ridiculous," he says. "[The university negotiators] are fantastic at pitting people against each other, and this is what they're doing."

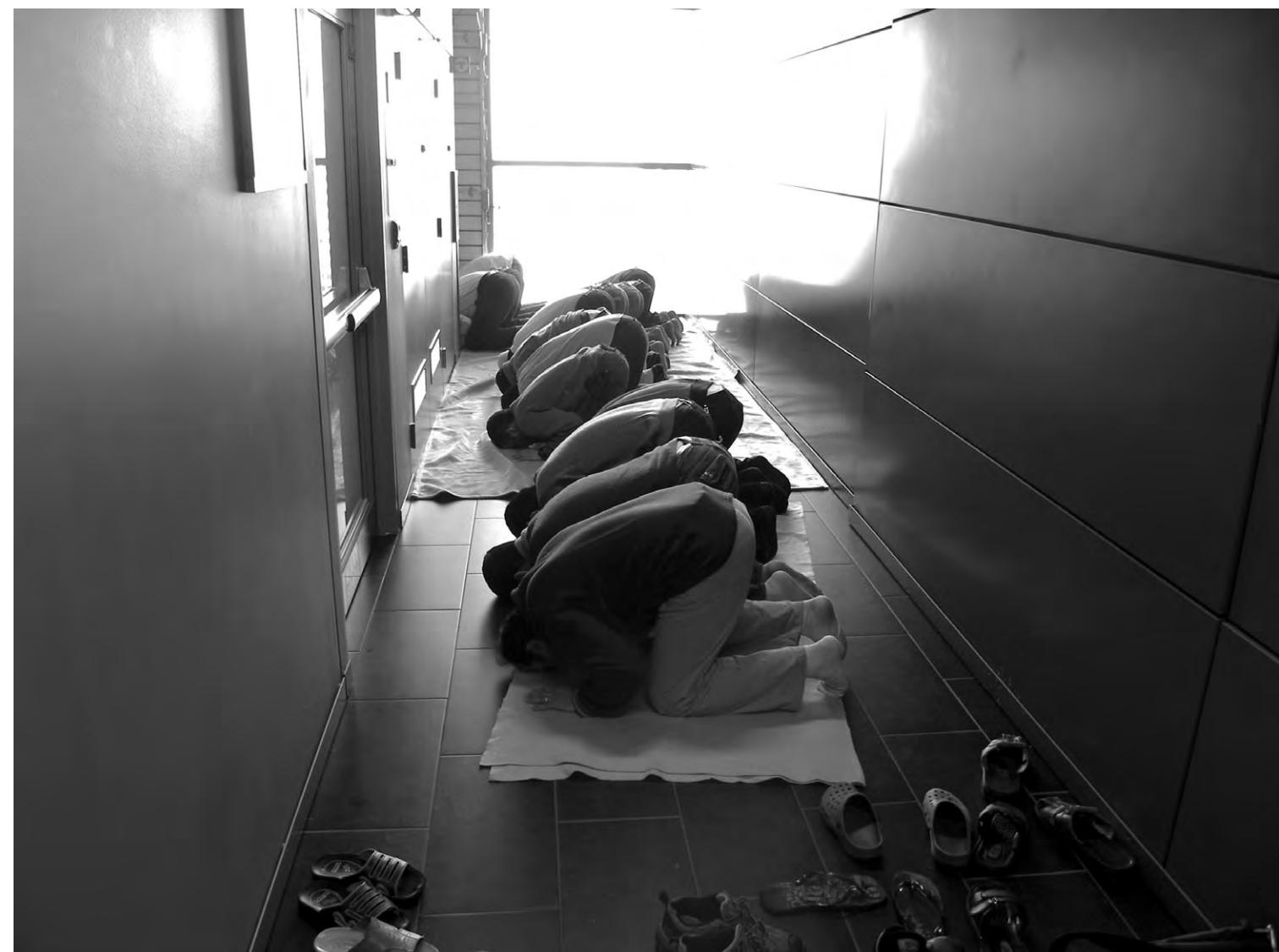
Ginochi said there are currently no plans for strikes by the workers. He added, though, that a vote will be held this Thursday to decide whether or not the university's technical staff should strike.

Concordia, on the other hand, is remaining mum on the issue, citing a policy of not discussing contracts while they are under negotiation.

Chris Mota, director of media relations for Concordia, did say that there are further meetings scheduled between the workers and the university sometime in April.

# Praying in Hallways

## Muslim Students Denied Prayer Space in EV Building



Without any space for their daily prayers in the EV Building, Muslim students take to the hallways to worship. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

• MEGAN WOHLBERG

Comments allegedly made by Dean of engineering and computer science, Robin Drew, in response to the continuing request for a prayer space in the EV building are causing concern among the directors of the Graduate Students' Association.

Holly Nazar, GSA director for the faculty of Arts and Science, says she was told by Drew after a senate meeting on Feb. 18 that Muslim students and researchers in the faculty "don't need to pray—this is Canada," saying his personal opinion was that they, instead, "need to adjust."

"I said I thought that was contrary to the values of the university," Nazar told *The Link*. "It disturbs me that he thinks there's a contradiction between being Muslim and being Canadian, that he assumes all Muslim students in engineering are international students and, for the ones that are international students, that he's got such an unwelcoming, unaccommodating attitude."

Nazar reported the comments to the Dean of Students, VP Services, and Concordia's interim President Frederick Lowy, but is unaware if any follow-up has been made.

Around 20 Muslim graduate

students, research assistants and teaching assistants began petitioning the faculty of engineering and computer science in early January to use an unoccupied "special projects" room on the 15th floor of the EV building several times a day for prayer. They said that the walk to and from the Hall building prayer space was taking too much time out of their work and studies.

Drew refused, saying the EV was "built to be used exclusively as a research and teaching building" with no space for student activities.

"As a secular institution, the university has no obligation to provide space for any religious practices," said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota, indicating that the prayer space at both downtown and Loyola campuses provided by the Concordia Student Union would have to be sufficient.

But the GSA is refusing to take no for an answer. Since January, they have brought forth the request to the School of Graduate Studies, Dean of Students, VP Services and Board of Governors.

"We've tried every avenue with the university, just asking politely," said Nazar. "We get the same line over and over again. They just say that the Hall space

is adequate. Then we explain why it's not adequate and they say, well we think it's adequate. And that's it; there's no conversation happening."

The walk to the seventh floor of the Hall building from the upper levels of the EV takes roughly 10 minutes. Making the trek four or even five times per day for 10 minutes of prayer adds up to at least two hours per week.

"It's taking so much time that the professors are not happy," said GSA President Adnan Abueid. "You have to leave three or four times a day for half an hour or more. That's why the students just started to do it in the hallway."

Individuals who raised the issue have been opting to use stairwells and other spaces that offer relative privacy for prayer in order to save time, but have been met with opposition from security who recently told them they were not allowed to pray there.

Last Thursday, the GSA passed a motion calling for the university to provide student space for general spiritual use—starting with the EV building. Abueid is attempting to negotiate with VP Services Roger Côté to have one of the four student lounges in the EV allocated as a

quiet reflection space for students, religious or not, who just want a room to de-stress.

Côté's response has been that doing so would require the university to provide such a room in each building, which would be impossible.

"Côté keeps saying that once we have the student centre, everyone is going to get space for all the specific student needs," said Abueid. "But we still don't know what the student centre is going to be like."

Moreover, says Nazar, the problem is one of distance. If the university buys the Faubourg, as they have proposed, students in the EV will be faced with the same problem of having to leave the building to pray.

"This issue is not going to go away," she said. "People are having a really hard time and they have to work in that building and they have to pray. The fact is that a lot of people are religious and it's very difficult for them to be in school when they're told they can't practice their religion."

The GSA is currently contemplating other avenues through which they can resolve this issue, such as working with the campus Multi-faith Chaplaincy or the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia union.

# Candidate Quibble

## Question Period Yields Excitement at CSU Presidential Debates



Action presidential candidate Khalil Haddad consults with VP candidate Teresa Seminara during Friday's debate. PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

### • ADAM KOVAC

An already contentious election had the tension cranked up another notch with two presidential debates last week.

While both debates were mostly civil and both sides mostly agreed on the major issues, there were a number of heated moments during the closing question period.

The controversy began after the formal debate had ended at the first event, which was held last Wednesday.

Before a question from current Concordia Student Union VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns, moderator and news editor of *The Link* Christopher Curtis explained to the crowd that Severyns has ties to the *Action* slate, as his fellow executives Ramy Khoriarty and Hassan Abdullahi are both running on *Action*.

The clarification prompted a series of outbursts in the crowd, including cries of "That's biased" from CSU councilor Stephen Brown, who is running for re-election to council on the *Action* slate. Before Severyns' question, Brown and several other *Action* candidates stacked the line to ask questions to their own candidates and rivals in a public forum.

"I'm just clarifying things; there are allegiances on both sides," said Curtis to explain the interjection. Severyns and CSU President Heather Lucas have denied political ties to *Action*.

Eleven candidates from *Action* are members of Lucas' Fusion slate, while three Fusion members are running with *Your Concordia*.

Things didn't calm down following Severyns' question, asked in French, inquiring as to how candidates planned on working with other schools against tuition hikes, given the need to speak French with the mostly-francophone unions involved.

"I'm not going to embarrass myself in front of all of you with my deplorable French accent," replied *Your Concordia* presidential candidate Lex Gill. "I will let you know that I've registered for three French classes over the summer and read French fluently," adding that *Your Concordia*'s candidate for VP External, Chad Walcott, is fluent in French.

CSU President Lucas, as well as her predecessor Prince Ralph Osei, both don't speak French.

Other than the skirmish, the debate saw the two sides agreeing more than they differed, declaring that the Canadian Federation of Students, against whom the CSU recently launched a lawsuit, has no place on campus. Both committed to take a tough stance on the Board of Governors and to fight against bottled water on campus.

One area in which they differed was on the subject of student space.

"One thing I want to make clear is that we will not be in-

creasing the fee [levy] next year. [...] The second thing is Faubourg is off the map. There is no binding contract right now," said *Action* presidential candidate Khalil Haddad.

While there is no contract regarding the Faubourg, there is one that requires the CSU to pursue a student centre, signed by former CSU President Keyana Kashfi in 2009. The contract is a central part of *Your Concordia*'s student centre stance.

"There is a binding contract with the administration. [...] That contract needs to be renegotiated for a number of different reasons. There are a number of misconceptions from the student centre debates in November and March of last year that the student centre would be student owned and managed," said Gill. "Anyone who sits down and reads that document will realize that it is none of those things."

The two debates had very different formats following the complications at the first event. While the first featured three candidates on each side—Lex Gill, Chad Walcott and Laura Glover for *Your Concordia* and Khalil Haddad, Teresa Seminara and Rasim Hafiz for *Action*—the second debate started as a smaller affair, with only the two presidential candidates flanking Curtis. Candidates, current CSU politicians and journalists were barred from the question period, which was again the period where the most con-

tentious issues came to light. One student pointed out the inaccessibility of *Action*'s online presence, citing deleted comments on their Facebook page, and questioned the slate's commitment to transparency.

"There's always people with political interests that ask questions that aren't necessarily informative, but just to be able to have a charged question to discredit the other team," said Haddad. "This is why sometimes we remove unnecessary comments. However, when students rephrase that question in a more respectful manner, that's when we answer."

That claim of deleting comments in the name of respectful dialogue was countered by a former student politician. Mike Xenakis, who ran as a presidential candidate on the Community slate last year, claimed that he asked the same question in a progressively more moderate tone three separate times, and was blocked from the group each time.

"Your friend asked the question in a different manner, and we were able to respond within minutes," countered Haddad. "It's the way you phrased the question that I didn't find very constructive."

The debate did have its lighter moments, as one student asked both slates to fix "the broken/wobbly table in front of the People's Potato."

Gill fixed the table with duck-tape after the debate.

# Briefs

## Quebec Wants to Curb Water Waste

Nearly 800 litres of water is distributed in Quebec per person—more than any other province. The provincial government wants to change this, and as of Monday, cities and towns will have to figure out how much water is used in their municipalities and figure out a way to cut down.

## VIA Rail Service Disrupted

A derailment is causing a disruption to VIA rail service between Montreal and Toronto until Tuesday. VIA said that they would schedule busses to transport passengers with existing reservations, but that no new bookings would be accepted.

## Crash kills 2, Injures 2

A car accident in St. Laurent on Thursday killed a 40-year-old man and his 10-year-old daughter, and left a 20-year-old man and 17-year-old girl in critical condition. The cause of the crash has not yet been determined.

## Quebec Police Officer Shot in the Thigh

A 29-year-old Quebec police officer was shot in the leg mid-afternoon Monday outside of Montreal. Gunfire erupted in St-Remi-de-Napierville after police were called to a restaurant that reported a customer behaving strangely. The suspect was also shot several times during the incident and has been hospitalized.

## Attack on Café Known for Mafia Ties

A 44-year-old man is facing charges after he rammed his car into a St. Michel café known for its ties to the Mafia. The argument started inside Café Niro, and the suspect threatened three men with a knife before leaving, getting into his car, and driving into the café's windows.

# Queen's Students Vote to Remove Rector

## Removal Centered on Israeli Apartheid Week Controversy

• ALANNA WALLACE, CUP ON-TARIO BUREAU CHIEF

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP)—Undergraduate students at Queen's University have voted to recommend the university remove rector Nick Day from his position, while graduate students drafted a letter in support of academic freedom and Day.

Day sparked controversy at the Kingston, Ont. campus when he signed an open letter published on Rabble.ca with his position at the university earlier this month.

His article was in response to Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's statement calling Israeli Apartheid Week unethical.

Despite the results of the referendum, which took place March 22-23, the university has no policy for removing a rector. The rector only leaves office when another individual is elected to take their place, and the process of calling elections is a student matter, according to the Queen's Journal.

A total number of 3,803 votes were cast during the referendum, meaning 26.7 per cent of students' society members voted, a high turnout society speaker and chief electoral officer Rob Lee attributes to the referendum's controversy and publicity. 72 per cent of those who voted chose to recommend Day's dismissal from his position.

"Any time there's a lot of controversy or debate around a particular issue or an election issue, you often get a higher voter turnout and in this case there was a lot of grassroots efforts by students and student groups to

influence the vote one way or another," said Lee.

However, the referendum results are only a recommendation that the university relieve Day of his responsibilities, said Lee.

At the same time, Queen's graduate and the professional students' society also held a discussion regarding the Day's article. The society held an annual general meeting on Mar. 22 and spoke on the issue.

"Nick Day essentially commented and opposed [Ignatieff's] statements and recognized the importance of academic debate, of political expression and asserted his personal and individual rights as a citizen to be public on an issue as controversial and important as this," said Andrew Stevens, a Queen's graduate student who is a member of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and a former organizer of IAW events at the university.

Stevens highlighted the differences between the meeting held by the undergraduate society, where the decision to hold a referendum was based solely on the petition brought forward by students to have Day removed, and that held by the graduate society, where discussion surrounding the politics of Day's statements was outlined.

"There has not been a straightforward debate about this issue at the [undergraduate level]," said Stevens. "When there was a meaningful discussion about this question and the politics around it, the [graduate society] members that were present actually supported the rector



Queen's Rector Nick Day. PHOTO JUSTIN TANG

and supported the cause of freedom of expression."

After much discussion, the latter society voted to endorse a letter in support of "academic freedom and Queen's University rector Nick Day" with 99 students voting for the motion and 42 students against.

With opposing sides of the argument prominent at both meetings and throughout the referendum, Day expressed the importance of fostering dialogue at the university.

"I respect the democratic process and the results of both votes," Day wrote in an email to

the Canadian University Press. "I'm glad that students were active on this issue; as university students we should be engaged in our communities and express our opinions."

"It's good to see that the study body has a healthy diversity of positions on this issue."

# Budget Protest Heats Up

## This is Only the Start, Continue the Fight: Students

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The opposition to Quebec's new austerity budget heated up last week when protesters occupied the Minister of Finance's office in Montreal as a "warning" to the Charest Liberals.

The protest on March 24, organized by the more activist of Quebec's two student movements, L'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, has left many unanswered questions and a string of ongoing investigations by the Montreal Police.

A private security guard at the minister's office is under investigation by the Service de police de

la ville de Montréal for allegedly pushing a student headfirst through a glass door.

"There is an investigation ongoing to validate whether the security guard pushed him through the window, whether there were threats from either party or any form of prior altercation," said SPVM spokesperson Dany Richer. "It's not clear yet."

A student was brought to the hospital with injuries due to the breaking glass.

Students were able to reach the minister's office, on the fifth floor of the Montreal World Commerce Centre, by climbing an emergency escape. The minister and his security detail were in Quebec City at

the time of the protest.

During the protest, a receptionist allegedly assaulted a journalist from Rue Frontenac who was taking pictures of the events. After the journalist refused to erase the pictures he had taken of the event, the receptionist took his cell phone out of his hands.

The cell phone was eventually returned.

Despite the protest ending peacefully, SPVM officers used mace on some students exiting the building. As a result of the mace, some students remained inside the centre and unrolled a banner directed towards Finance Minister Raymond Bachand: "Shove your tuition increases up your ass Bac-

hand."

The SPVM is currently investigating why and when mace was used.

"There were police maneuvers outside the building, but I can't confirm if or how mace was used by police officers," said Richer.

The following morning, CEGEP students from across Quebec occupied the offices of Quebec MNAs Jean D'Amour and Emmanuel Duborg, as well as a large government complex in Quebec City.

"For more than a year we have tried to convince the government to stop tuition increases, but they aren't listening to us. We are passing to a more intense level of action," said Léo Bureau-Blouin,

president of the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec. "I hope that they will start to realize that we are serious."

In the Quebec budget announced two weeks ago, which factored in the current level of ancillary fees, the government committed itself to increasing tuition to nearly \$6,000 a year by 2017.

With ASSÉ, FECQ and its university equivalent united against the budget, this is only the start of a long and bitter campaign by Quebec's government to force higher tuition on Quebec's students.

"This is only the start, continue the fight," chanted students outside Bachand's office.

# Fine Arts Students Oppose Action Candidate



Tomer Shavit in action on Poster Night PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

## Petition Against Tomer Shavit Signed by 150

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

A student is circulating a petition opposing the candidacy of Tomer Shavit, who is running to represent fine arts students on Senate in this year's Concordia Student Union election.

Michael Mercer, also a fine arts student, said he first considered starting the petition after a CSU meeting that degenerated into a shouting match that pitted students against their elected representatives.

That night, Shavit was among the 25 councillors who voted to take the meeting into closed session to discuss the resignation of former CSU VP Promotions & Sustainability Morgan Pudwell. The decision to exclude students from the conversation sparked a debate on accountability and democracy that continued well after council adjourned.

A few hours after the meeting, Shavit began posting a series of comments on *The Link*'s website attacking Pudwell personally and calling students that attended Council a "mob" designed to "cause a ruckus."

"Shavit is entitled to express his opinion," Mercer wrote in the petition. "However, we find it wildly hypocritical, not to mention embarrassing to his constituents, that he voted to go into closed session to receive 'privacy to discuss personnel issues

surrounding Pudwell's resignation,' only to spread malicious rumors about his colleague (and constituent) mere hours later through a public open forum on the Internet."

Action presidential candidate Khalil Haddad has come to Shavit's defence, questioning the motive behind Mercer's petition.

"Obviously this is politically motivated," said Haddad. "Tomer is vocal, but he is a concerned student and it's his right to speak out. He's doing a great job and I think some people are getting desperate realizing we're winning fine arts students over."

Mercer contends that Action has overlooked fine arts students by not including any on the slate's executive.

"They haven't campaigned much around the dance and theatre departments," he said. "We don't feel represented by Action at all."

While Action is not running any fine arts students for CSU executive, Fine Arts Student Alliance President Paisley Simm is one of the slate's council candidates.

Mercer has been circulating the petition since Wednesday, and has garnered 150 signatures from fellow fine arts students.

Shavit did not return phone calls from *The Link* before the newspaper went to press.

## What's Next For Loyola?

### Action and Your Concordia's Plans For The 'Other' Campus

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Two former co-presidents of the Communications Guild are vying for executive responsibility of the Loyola Campus next year. Melissa Fuller is running as *Your Concordia*'s VP Loyola & Services, and Natasha Launi is running as Action's VP Loyola & Student Life.

Both candidates have been full-time Loyola students and are more than familiar with the realities and issues faced by students who attend classes on the campus.

Launi cited one of her biggest issues as a Loyola student as the unreliability of the shuttle bus service. "We [Action] want to lobby the university to get the shuttle bus on time, especially in the mornings and from four to six p.m., because those are the times when it's used the most and is

least available."

Action's website says that the slate "wishes to implement a new and improved shuttle bus service from SGW to Loyola Campus which will include more frequent pick-ups and more frequent drop offs," and that it hopes to extend the service hours "to facilitate the late night studiers and party goers who live in the Loyola area and wish to go downtown."

Fuller says she'd also like to extend the hours of the shuttle bus, as students have said they use the campus later on for group study, and to study during peak times when the downtown campus tends to become crowded.

She is, however, reluctant to concretely promise anything in regards to this service, because, as she notes, it is run by Transportation Services and not the CSU.

Fuller says that if elected, she would—if students decided it was the best option—approach the supervisor of Transportation Services, Mike Russo, to see what concessions would be possible.

Both candidates have plans for The Hive, a space they hope to use and improve. Launi said she wants to create a Hive Café, which, if she is elected, would be up-and-running by the fall semester.

*The Link* reported on Feb. 1 that this initiative was in place under Concordia Student Union VP Loyola & Advocacy Hassan Abdullahi, and that the café was set to open either this summer or next fall.

Fuller said that The Hive is student space that is not being used to its full potential. She also recognizes the café has been in the works for months, adding that she wants the CSU to be very involved in the project—without taking over.

Fuller says that if elected, she would—if students decided it was the best option—approach the supervisor of Transportation Services, Mike Russo, to see what concessions would be possible.

"I think that the opening of the Hive Café will help facilitate making The Hive itself more of a community," she said. "The more things we have going on, the more likely students will be drawn to it." Fuller hopes to extend the hours of the café, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Both Fuller and Launi agree that the Loyola Luncheon, one of CSU's currently existing initiatives located in The Hive, could use more advertising.

Fuller pinpointed this feeling of a communication lag towards the campus as a whole. "I had a big problem with the fact that there were no posters [at Loyola] for the most recent student centre," she said. "From what I understand that was actually a decision that was made, and I find that is frustrating because

there are full-time Loyola students that never go downtown, have never had a class downtown and they pay into that student centre fund, and therefore they should be involved in the dialogue."

To help involve students at Loyola, Fuller says that she plans to make better use of the CSU office on the Loyola Campus. She says that she plans to ensure that one member of the Executive will be in the Loyola office during the hours that its open, to serve as a direct line of communication for students. She also hopes to spend one day a week, time permitting, to go out and speak to students about what issues matter to them.

Launi plans to involve students by promoting Loyola as a great place to host events. "We would be pushing to have a lot more club events at The Hive or in The Quad for BBQs," she said.

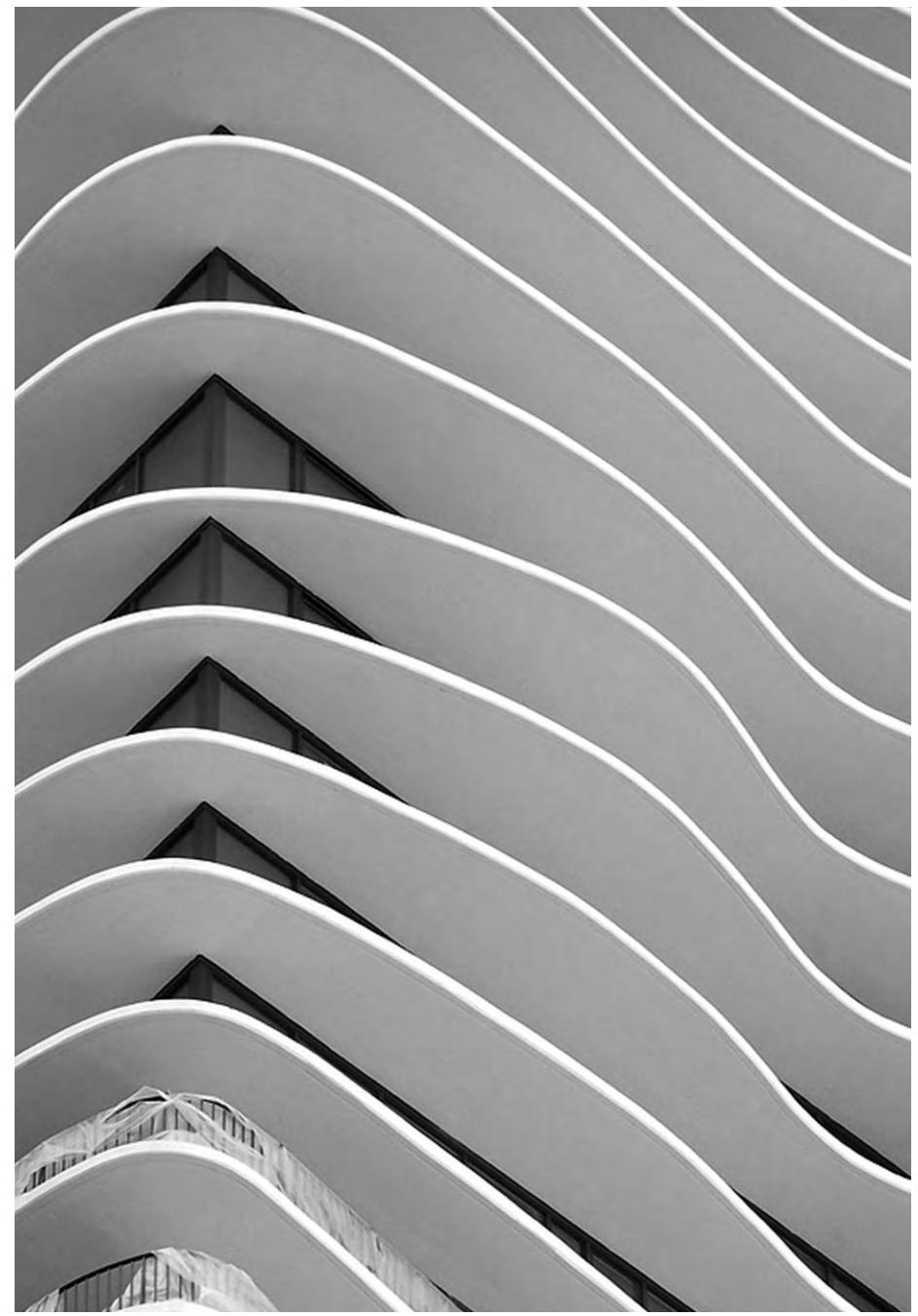
SUSTAINABLE ART: SOMEBODYS TRASH IS ANOTHERS TREASURE

# Architects Make Waves at FIFA

## The Aqua Tower and the Woman Behind It



Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects add movement to the high-rise life.



### • ELI KERR

In the centre of Chicago's high-rise district, a certain building stands out amongst the others—the Aqua Tower.

The tower and Jeanne Gang, the woman behind the structure, were a combined focus for a mini-documentary that screened last week at the FIFA Festival.

The film, entitled *Studio Gang Architects: Aqua Tower*, was as captivating as it was short, screening briefly before the headlining *Contemporary Days: The Work of Robin and Lucille Day*.

The two films formed a double bill as part of the CCA's design and architecture programming for the festival.

Designed by Gang, the Aqua

Tower is a product of Studio Gang Architects, a Chicago-based collective of designers, architects and thinkers.

Gang, an accomplished young architect, earned her master's in architecture from Harvard in 1993. She went on to work for the prestigious Office for Metropolitan Architecture and Rem Koolhaas.

In 1997, at the tender age of 33, she launched her practice and namesake studio.

Her Aqua Tower is the tallest building in the world to have a woman as the lead architect behind it. The structure has gained worldwide praise.

Seeing the tower from afar, the 82 story high-rise fits right into Chicago's modernist skyline. Only upon approaching the

structure does one get a true sense of its impressive and multifaceted form.

The Aqua Tower was constructed using glass and irregularly shaped concrete floor slabs, which lend to the facade of its lucid, sculptural quality. Gang cites striated limestone outcroppings—which are a common topographic feature of the Great Lakes region—as inspiration for these slabs.

Gang speaks passionately about her field and the multiple ways that architecture can be approached, explaining how the group's studio acts "more like a think tank than a traditional architecture firm." She excitedly explains how the vision of the design collective are mostly inspired by motifs found in

nature.

A champion of sustainable architecture, Gang stresses the need to make wider considerations when working on a project. "Every project has a context that is much bigger than itself," she says in the film.

These considerations point to the Aqua Tower's wild form, which is rhythmically defined by its organic, concrete shapes.

Gang explains her approach and intentions for using concrete—an appropriate and ubiquitous material in architecture. She attempts to explore its expressive potential by using concrete to its fullest potential. "It can form to any shape, and we wanted to exploit that," she said.

The concrete slabs again find purpose beyond mere aesthetics.

The wave-like ripples also serve as the Aqua's balconies; their flowing shapes allowing for communication between neighbors. This communicative sense of architecture creates a sense of community that is impossible with most of the buildings that fill the urban cities of the western world.

"We wanted to make it possible for people in the building to be able to actually step out and be on the building," Gang says. "We really thought of it more as a habitable facade."

*Studio Gang Architects: Aqua Tower* provides a wonderful insight into one of the world's most fascinating high-rise buildings, leaving the viewer wanting more than just a 22-minute documentary.



# Art for a Cause

## Coatcheck Gallery and Local Artists Collaborate on Fundraiser for Japan

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Community organizations across Montreal have mobilized to support Japan since the devastation that struck its coast earlier this month. Support has come from all over—including Montreal's art community.

Coatcheck Gallery in the Mile End hopes to lend a hand to relief efforts through its multi-disciplinary Art For Japan exhibition, opening this Saturday.

Over 25 visual artists are involved with the event, along with local bands, DJs, projectionists and local clothing shops including atelier b and Preloved.

"The organizers and myself really hope that we can translate the accessibility we have to a space like Coatcheck and to our artwork into funds that may be able to help the recovery process in some small way," said Jo Lie, who is coordinating the show, in correspondence.

The gallery, which has a mandate to serve as an open-access space for artists, received an outpouring of submissions in the wake of the events in Japan.

"The generosity and interest that has been shown has been phenomenal," Lie said.

The offerings span from painted postcards and pinata prints to projections and handmade jewellery, from a wide array of

artists both established and upcoming.

Max Lapointe's panorama of the insides of the metro system, digitalarch, offers a stark, nearly-empty view, five feet across, of some of the network's most architecturally-interesting and underused stations.

Several Japanese woodblock prints have been donated to the gallery by tattoo artist Dan Innes. Innes is known for his designs, influenced by classical Japanese watercolours.

Photographer Patryk Stasieczek's prints, influenced by mathematical fractals and the science of colour, will provide something a bit more on the abstract side.

The night will feature performances by

hip-hop/soul seven-piece She's Got A Habit, Zooey Glass and Florian, among others. Carl Lechinois will also spraypaint live graffiti.

All of the collected proceeds will go to the Japanese Red Cross society or to local artists in Sendai.

### Art For Japan

Vernissage / Sat., April 2 / Coatcheck Gallery / 407-5445 de Gaspe Ave. / 7:00 p.m. / PWYC

Full exhibit / Sat. April 2 - Sat. April 9 / A complete listing of artists and events is available online

# (Silver), Exposed

## Photography Students Launch Book, Eight Months in the Making

• ALEX MCGILL

(*Silver*), a collection of original photographs by graduating Concordia photo students, will drop this week.

The book is a compilation of their best works and will release this Thursday at a launch that will celebrate their eight months of publication work and ultimately, their time as Concordia students.

Production on this project has been a long, tedious, but rewarding process for the students involved, said Isabelle Landry, a fourth year photography student at Concordia. The group has organized bake sales, print sales, photos with Santa and more to

raise money to cover production costs.

"The project was to create a book as [an] art object. We have privileged the overall quality and consistency of the book as a whole, rather than individual self-promotion. This was very important to us," continued Landry.

The collective are also launching a website which will allow more and future photographs to be showcased and allow the artists to provide viewers with contact information.

(*Silver*) had been chosen as a name within the first month of school. The name is representative of the photography process. Landry explained that there is a

more in-depth exploration of the name given in the forward of the book. "We chose the title (*Silver*) as this is the essential component in the negative film which allows for the image to be revealed in contact with light. This scientific term brings a connotation to the tradition of photography and the process of image-making as it was at its beginning."

"The reason for putting (*Silver*) in parentheses is that we acknowledge the medium of photography (and its original process) to be the influence of all of our work," she continued. "And yet also recognize that this process of image-making has much evolved with technology

and that now students are much more open-minded and creative in the ways in which they approach photography."

As for whether or not the publication successfully encapsulates her time spent in the Concordia photography program, Landry isn't completely sure. "This is hard to say, as I don't believe that one single project, whether a book, an exhibition, or both, really encapsulate all of our years at Concordia," she said. "Studying in visual arts is much about developing an artistic vision, and trying to reach a point where our work really begins to say something, and has a coherent idea behind it. This is a really hard process, and hard to

achieve.

"What we enjoy the most is that this book will now be permanent. It is an object that people get to walk away with, look at it many times, and reflect upon."

Landry hopes that students outside of the photography, or even Fine Arts, departments at Concordia will find something to appreciate in the book. "As for the viewers," she said, "we just hope that they will be able to appreciate the result, enjoy the texts and photographs, and possibly want to share it with someone else."

(*Silver*) Book Launch / FOFA Gallery / Thurs. March 31 / 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. /

# Out With the New, In With the Old

## Hitting the Benchmark Project Makes Use of the Unused



*Debbie So and Thomas Rowlinson find new forms and purposes for abandoned objects.* PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEBBIE SO

### • CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Concordia students already have good reason to be jealous of the McGill campus, with its lush green space and enduring architectural design (sorry, Hall building). But now two urban design students are making McGill just a little bit greener.

Using a grant issued by McGill's Sustainability Projects Fund, Debbie So and Thomas Rowlinson decided to repurpose some of the university's least-recyclable refuse into public benches.

"We wanted to get people to see campus space in a different light," said So. "We asked McGill Campus and Space Planning,

'What aren't you using? What are you going to throw away?'

You'd be surprised at the answer.

"There's one building that McGill had condemned, so they're just using it as a warehouse for all the stuff they're either throwing out or in the process of getting rid of," said Rowlinson. "We spent a few days just going through some of the stuff in there, and it was just filled with all this incredible junk."

"We found a room that was just a pile of chairs, like a mountain of chairs," added So. "They can't get rid of this stuff. They tried to sell it for cheap, they tried to donate it, and no one's going to take it, so it kind of just goes to

the dump. So we just corralled all of this stuff into our friend's basement and started taking it apart."

"We tried to get materials that McGill was specifically having a hard time getting rid of, or didn't really see any way to repurpose already," said Rowlinson.

One of the benches is a salvaged yellow shipping container for large paint cans, which So and Rowlinson converted into planters. A discarded bookshelf and some broken table legs salvaged from a street curb were then incorporated into the piece to provide a seating area.

"What was fun for us was just imagining what we could do with [what was] essentially garbage," said Rowlinson.

So explained that a lot of what is produced by the art and design world, whilst beautiful, is still destined for the dump.

"We're kind of working backwards," she said. "We're taking stuff that people are throwing away and not only making it sustainable art but making it functional."

The two students decided to undertake the project when, after graduating, they found themselves well versed in the theory of sustainable development, but fundamentally lacking in practice.

"We don't have these practical things that someone like an engineer might have, but we have the heart and we know what we want

to do, so we got this grant and just decided to do it on our own," said So.

Concordia may soon take notice. This summer, Rowlinson will be curating a project sponsored by Éco-quartier Peter-McGill to bring attention to Concordia's green spaces between Saint Mathieu Street, Saint Marc Street, Sainte Catherine Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard, with public art installations.

The benches will be unveiled April 8 at 2:00 p.m. on the terrace between Morrice Hall and Leacock (below McTavish Street and Dr. Penfield Avenue). There will be free kombucha tea and nachos.

LIT: SECTION IN REVIEW. AU REVOIR.

# Barmaid to Measure

Author Maya Merrick Mixes Business With Pleasure

• LIZY MOSTOWSKI

Every aspiring writer is faced with the realization, at some point—usually in their twenties, but sometimes much later for the not-so-quicker-picker-uppers—that they will not be able to support themselves by their art alone.

This realization can come about in a number of ways. Perhaps their skeptical parents sit them down for a chat about their increasingly bleak financial situation.

Perhaps it happens when their professor casually mentions that it takes on average ten years for a writer to pen their first novel. Perhaps they have a conversation about fiduciary matters with a published author over lunch, only to find themselves stuck with the bill.

At this point, the writer is faced with an all-important question: How will I support myself? What kind of job should I work so that I'll have enough time, energy and mental capacity to write? And, perhaps more importantly, will it pay the bills?

Local writer and bartender Maya Merrick has some insight into these questions. Drinking and writing are the peanut butter and chocolate of the intellectual

life, so it's hard to not feel like there's a certain symmetry in being a writer and a bartender simultaneously.

Author of two novels, *Sextant* (which has been translated into French) and *The Hole Show*, Merrick dropped out of university after about a year and went on to write *Sextant* in just six months. She then thought to herself, "Well, shit, I've got a book now—better do something with it. So I did."

Getting hired at Copacabana on St. Laurent Boulevard, right below the infamous Korova, was her first taste. The bar has been a favourite of many local writers over the years, notably Concordia profs Rob Allen and Jon Paul Fiorentino.

As a writer, Merrick found that a day-to-day schedule at the bar is convenient to the writing practice—"unless," she noted, "the Canadiens have made the playoffs"—since a bartender's daylight hours are free, and they work in a social environment when they normally would be out socializing.

Merrick confirmed the suspicion: "A really true, great thing about bartending—it can be incredibly difficult to find the time to write when you have a regular 40-hour work-week. Working in a bar means you can work about

half that, which leaves lots of time to get [...] back to work on your book."

As for the bar atmosphere, Merrick said, "I enjoy the fact that there are writers in the bar, but I also enjoy the fact that there are not just writers in the bar. The writers I have come to know through the bar have been incredibly helpful to me, in both my personal and professional life, and I appreciate them deeply. But it's good to hang out with other kinds of weirdoes, too."

Merrick's schedule has allowed her time to start working on her third book, *The Quiet Machine*, of which she said, "this one's in the future."

"There's some immortality, some space, some sentient body parts on the lam. Memory, abuse, drugs and sex." Hearing this, it's clear that her time working behind the bar has influenced Merrick's fiction.

**Maya Merrick** currently works at Romolo, located at 272 Bernard St. W., near Parc Avenue. Apart from her two published novels, *Sextant* (4th Floor Press, 2005) and *The Hole Show* (Conundrum Press, 2007), her work has appeared in *Geist*, *Matrix* and *The Portable Conundrum*.



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

# FIFTY GS FOR YOUR POETRIES

Anonymous Benefactor Establishes \$50,000 Montreal Poetry Prize

• ALEX MANLEY

A poet's lot in life is a thankless one.

Scorned by the hard-working working classes, ignored by the twittering media, pestered by email spam and largely forgotten in the history books, poets can only find joy in having their work recognized by others—being asked to read, getting published and receiving prizes.

Often these are not even enough to make a poet truly happy in the first place, let alone act as a lasting source of inner joy.

All that has changed, though, with the announcement over the weekend of the \$50,000 Montreal

International Poetry Prize, a sort of early Christmas for the poets of the world.

Brainchild of an anonymous benefactor and the group Literary Montreal, the prize will be awarded to the best poem "written in any English dialect" submitted to the contest, whose final submission deadline is set for July 8.

Entries must be 40 lines or fewer—although entrants are allowed a "brief epigraph"—and, likely to discourage money-hungry poets worldwide from spamming the ten jurors into literary oblivion, an entry will set you back a cool \$15 to \$25, depending on where in the world you live and when you submit.

The selection board's ten members, of which Concordia creative writing professor Stephanie Bolster is one, hail from five different continents (Antarctica and South America get the shaft here, though the group includes two Caribbean poets), and are tasked with winnowing the pool of submissions, which is sure to be massive, down to 150 poems—which will be published online in a longlist anthology—and then down to 50, which will be published in a printed shortlist anthology.

Prize judge Andrew Motion, ex-Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom, will then select a single winner from the final fifty upon

whom to bestow \$50,000 dollars.

In order to fully preserve the anonymity of all entries, the contest stipulates that all submissions must be previously unpublished work and does not accept simultaneous submissions.

A secondary effect of these guidelines is that it ensures the contest will focus solely on new work. To this end, the prize must be considered a serious philanthropic gift to the world of poetry.

The sheer magnitude of the grand prize means that its establishment is getting coverage in the mainstream media, which generally treats poetry news like a wet, stinking rag left a few months to mildew in a men's locker room—if

it covers poetry at all.

Furthermore, this gives unpublished poets worldwide a shot not just at \$50,000, but also at the wealth of coverage and readers that the longlisted and shortlisted entries will receive.

As for the identity of this anonymous benefactor—it may only be March now, but the grand-prize winner will be announced in December.

To which I say, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

For more information on the Montreal International Poetry Prize, including how exactly to enter, visit [montrealprize.com/](http://montrealprize.com/)

# 2011 English Awards Wrap-Up

Lit Nerds Take Home Books, Cash Prizes, Future Play Performances for Their Hard Work

• ALEX MANLEY

On Friday afternoon as the second of two, at times heated, CSU election debates wrapped up in the Hall building, the 2011 Concordia English Awards ceremony passed largely without fanfare on Friday afternoon in LB-636.

Prize juror after prize juror stepped up to the podium in the well-attended conference room, commanding the finalists for their hard work and lamenting their inability to award the grand prize to all of those shortlisted—except in one case.

While the head juror for the sixth Concordia Annual 10-Minute Play Contest, English Professor Patrick Leroux, cheerfully awarded the top prize—a staging of the play by Concordia theatre students—to all three finalists, sending Anya Leibovitch, Christopher Olson and Patrick Sergeant all home happy, the other prizes, which conferred financial gain as well as fame and prestige, were not as easy to come by.

Kicking off the afternoon, after a brief speech by English Department Chair Jason Camlot thanking and congratulating all involved, was the Irving Layton Award for Fiction.

Since the finalists for the Layton Awards for Fiction and Poetry had already had a reading two

weeks earlier, juror Kate Sterns kept her time at the mic short and sweet, quickly summarizing the five stories (by Jaime Bastien, Heather Davidson, Leesa Dean, Skyler Radojkovic, and Gleb Wilson) before calling them all up to receive books hot off Vehicule Press's presses and awarding Davidson the \$500 grand prize for her story "Circus Girls."

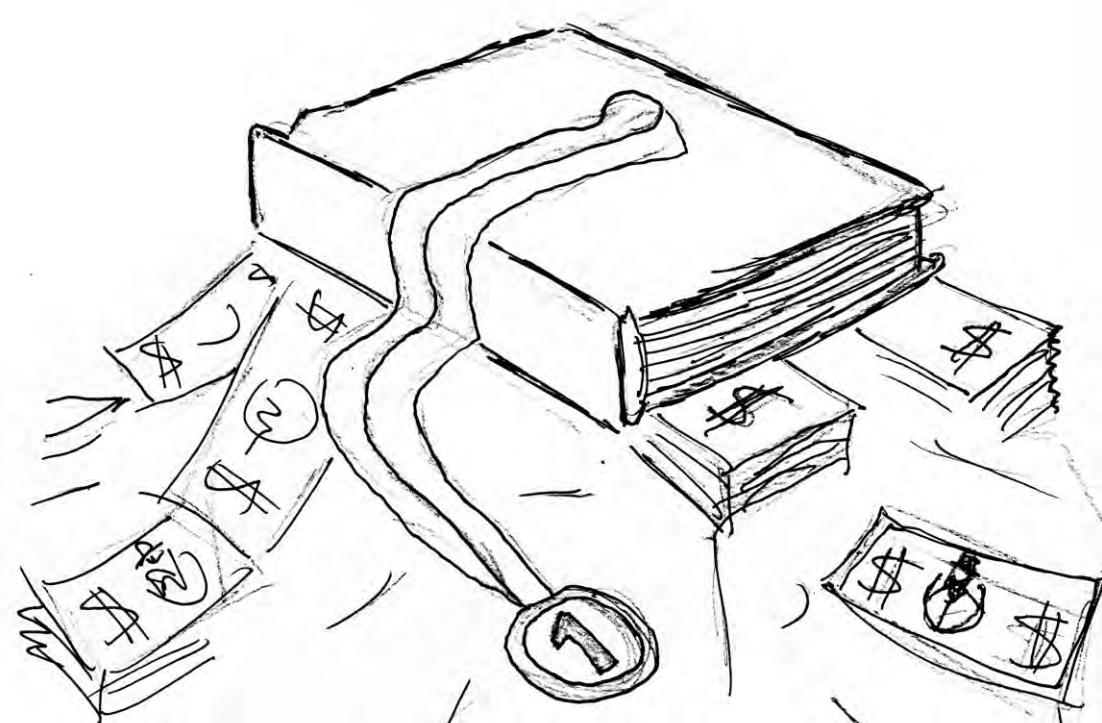
Up next was a trio of essay-based awards: The A.G. Hooper Prize, the MacGuigan Prize and the Compton-Lamb Memorial Scholarship. The first two, each consisting of \$200 dollars, go to the best essays submitted about English literature written before and after 1700, respectively, and were awarded to John Casey and Shawn Petsche.

Along with Paula Wilson, Kirsten Shute was a runner-up for the MacGuigan Prize. Shute was also a runner-up for the A.G. Hooper Prize with Veronica Balafi.

Awarding the MacGuigan Prize, juror Mary Esteve got one of the biggest laughs of the afternoon when, stumbling over her words, she admitted to suffering from a case of nerves talking in front of the audience of three dozen or so.

"You'd think I'd never taught a class," she joked, before deadpanning, "I don't. I just jury committeees."

Next, Nichola Nixon came forward to present the Compton-



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

Lamb Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a student with both an outstanding essay and an outstanding grade point average, which went to Michelle White, beating out Veronica Balafi, Michael Chaulk and Rebecca Hiscott to the \$500 prize.

Capping off the ceremony was Mary di Michele, presenting the Irving Layton Award for Poetry.

Opting not to call all the final-

ists up at once, noting that she deplored the "beauty queen" aspect of it, she called them (Nick Comilla, Candice Maddy Fridman and Emma Healey) up one at a time, before awarding the day's final prize and a \$500 dollar cheque to Jason Freure for his poem "St. Laurent Boulevard."

The multi-segmented poem was praised for its classical allusions and its length, although di Michele offered some crucial in-

sight into the judging process, admitting, "I think long poems have a bit of an unfair advantage, to be honest."

Aspiring poets, take note...

An excerpt of Jason Freure's poem appeared in last week's issue of The Link and can be read on our website in the Literary Arts section. An excerpt of Heather Davidson's story appears below

## IRVING WRIT

Excerpt From the 2011 Irving Layton Award for Fiction Winner, "Circus Girls"

• HEATHER DAVIDSON

A circus, Jayne thought, could take so many different forms. Yet you said that someone had run away to join *the* circus, not *a* circus, as though there was only one and it shook its glitter through a town and then left, maybe never coming back. In the morning the caravans would pull out with housewives curled in the straw by the camels, and the strongmen having dreamt taffy dreams of giving it all up to become farmers. That, or there was one circus and everyone acted their part in it.

"Our house," Lise said, "it was with many others on the slope of a hill. You felt like if you were not careful, you would roll down that hill and into the gutter along the street." She shuddered. "Terrible things in there, you wouldn't want to know."

"Your name, Lise—is it German?"

"My father was from Germany. He was a clown; he had come travelling to Brazil to perform for street children. Tall, and blond, and he wore patchwork pants over his skinny legs. My mother worked for a circus, making the costumes, until she got pregnant. I remember he said that it was because of me, his daughter, that he stayed in Brazil. Some days I think he loved me for that, and other days I think he loved me despite it. He learned Portuguese, and he built us a house. But learning the language, the culture, I think was not that hard. Since he had this wife, this child, he already had to learn a new language. That of love. It was easier to learn how to say *olá* and *tchau*."

"Where are your parents now?" Lise's hair in Jayne's hands was dry and fragile, curling in on itself as though for protection.

"They are both dead. My mother died in Brazil, and my father, he went back to Germany. It's

when I realised, *minha filha*, that the one he had always stayed for was her."

Jayne thought about some night that must have happened years ago. Her father would have been downstairs, with wife in bed and baby in the crib. Drinking a hot toddy, being offered this as a life and saying yes. Maybe without really meaning it yet. Most of what she knew about herself as a child, the stories, came from her father. It was true, he could have been trying to make himself look blameless through the telling, but she had always gotten the impression that he was just as lost and confused as she was.

He didn't know either why Jayne's mother did not express love for her or her siblings, although he would never have said it that bluntly. "I just thought maternal instinct was supposed to come naturally," she had heard him saying once, on the phone. "I know, I know, she has her problems. But what if this is part of it?"

What if she just can't handle what she feels, or the depth of the feeling seems dangerous so she denies it?"

"Aren't you a curious little bundle," her mother had said in one of the stories. Jayne was swaddled up in a stiff white blanket edged with blue trim, like Mother Teresa's habit. Her first language was silence. Apparently she had stared at her parents as though she had been given only a small ration of words to use over her lifetime and she would not waste them asking for juice in a bottle.

"There was a saying I heard the grownups in my town use: You'll forget everyone but your mother." Lise pulled a hand back and forth along her neck. "Ah, my mother. *Que saudade*. It's true, do you think?"

Imagine it like this, Jayne thought. My mother loved me. She loves me. Wondering if, when you invented something, it could not also be real.



GRAPHIC IAN STOBBER



# The End of the Bookstore Cat?

*The Link Investigates Whether *Felix Literati's* Nine Lives Are Up*

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The Link's Literary Arts section isn't the only literary institution that's on the way out these days. From the looks of it, the tradition of the bookstore cat—the seeming inevitability that any given used bookstore would come fully furnished with a furry feline prowling quietly through the stacks and sleeping on whatever surfaces were intended for human seating—is also phasing out.

As it is, the bookstore cat is not a trend that ever took much to the increasingly modernized world of literature.

"Only used bookstores have cats," the owner of a bookstore that sells new and previously unused books told me when I told him I was doing a piece on the bookstore cat. I began to sense that he felt I'd somehow insulted the quality of his stock when he kindly asked me to leave and refused to answer any follow-up questions about cats.

Yes, cats and bookstores are a hallowed tradition—among used bookstores, anyway—and like Halloween and plastic flamingo lawn ornaments, they just make sense, despite defying logical explanation. Like most traditions, there's a historical precedent, but

it's much harder to pinpoint what has made them endure in people's imaginations.

"Cats were standard in European archives—and many still have them—mainly to deal with mice and rats," said Nancy Marrelli, Archivist Emerita at Concordia University. "The idea is that the negative effects of having a cat in an archive are less serious than the side effects of having mice and rats."

Terry Westcott, the owner of Westcott Books on Ste. Catherine Street West, doubted whether his cats Emma and Elliott had ever seen a rat in their lives, and admitted he didn't know if they would know how to catch one if they saw one.

Found abandoned in an alleyway on separate occasions, Westcott adopted the cats—mere kittens at the time—and they have since lived with him in the shop and in his apartment just above the store.

"This guy," he said, pointing at Elliott, "was so small you could hold him in one hand. He was about three months, four months old. They've never been anywhere else."

Asked whether Emma and Elliott are a draw for customers, Westcott shook his head.

"It's just the opposite," he

said. "Instead of attracting book people, they chase book people away because of the allergies. If I'd known that many people were allergic to cats, I probably wouldn't have had them in the store. They come in the store and within two minutes their eyes are swollen and watering."

**"I doubt they've added any money to my bank account, but they're good company. I'm attached to them now, so what else can I do?"**

-Terry Westcott,  
owner of Westcott Books

During the summer, Westcott keeps the front door of his shop open, so that Emma and Elliott can come and go as they please, saving a small sum of money on cat food from the cafe and bistro patrons up the street who slip them part of their entrées.

"I guess it's a surprise for people to see cats on Ste. Catherine

Street," said Westcott. "You see people with dogs on Ste. Catherine Street, but cats are a completely different matter."

As to whether Emma and Elliott have added any to his bottom line, Westcott dismissed the notion.

"I doubt they've added any money to my bank account, but they're good company," he says. "I'm attached to them now, so what else can I do?"

One bookstore owner, who no longer keeps a cat on-site, confessed to me—on condition of anonymity—that after the cat was gone he saw no decline in revenue, but a steep decline in people coming to his store.

"People still come in here and say, 'Oh, where's the cat,' or, 'I love the cat.' There are people who have huge relationships with the cat, and I realized that most of these people were not book buyers. They were just coming in to see the cat."

Stephen Welch, the owner of S.W. Welch Books on St-Viateur Street West., felt something was wrong with his bookstore cat Khan—that's Star Trek Khan, not Coleridge Khan, mind—when after moving the store to a new location, the cat suffered drastic weight loss.

"We had her shaved and we

took her weight, and she was four pounds," he recalled. "As it turns out, she wasn't eating."

Welch suspects that Khan didn't take to the new-paint smell of the shop, along with the heavy smell of mothballs that the previous tenants had—ironically—put down in the basement to get rid of rodents.

"Cats hunt by sense of smell," said Welch. "If they can't smell, they don't eat."

Welch took Khan home with him, after which she seemed to regain her appetite and lust for life. Though Welch has toyed with the idea of putting up a webcam in the store, so that Khan's frequent admirers will still have a reason to stop by, so far those plans haven't come to fruition.

It's good to know, however, that the legacy of the bookstore cat, the genius loci of the shelves, still lives on in the hearts of the city's literati, an anomalous cultural institution still outliving the expectations of those caught up in the hustle and bustle of modern bookselling. You're unlikely to have anything cuddly to pet while mousing through e-bookstores in a decade or two, but if you don't forget to feed it, maybe your local used bookstore will prove to have as many lives as its cat.

# A History of Literary Arts In *The Link*

• ALEX MANLEY

*The Link's* first dedicated literary arts editor—known then as the “literary coordinator”—was Phil Moscovitch. Though the paper had been covering the literary arts since its inception in 1980, it wasn't until Moscovitch was voted in, in the Fall semester of 1988, that Lit officially branched off from the other arts to become its own section.

This week, Lit transfers back from its own section to a subsection of the Culture Editor's mandate. I

have no doubt that the new Culture Editor, Alex McGill, will faithfully continue to include Lit content in her section—for one thing, I'll be around to help provide it—but any encroachment on the few remaining literary establishments that still exist in Canadian media must be frowned upon.

I'm no stranger to the numbers involved; I know it's not financially realistic for *The Link* to have a dedicated Lit Editor on top of all the other new editorships we've created. I hold out hope that, in the

future, by some means or other, *The Link* will have enough money to pay someone to focus purely on Lit. Stranger things have happened.

In the meantime, please enjoy this page composed of snippets from Lit sections past. I have done my ardent best to create some sort of coherent strand. Perhaps this is best exemplified in the poem “Poetic plagiarism,” taken from *The Link's* final issue from Volume 27. See how many lines of it you can recognize!

## Lit Listings

compiled by Leona Patlik

**Tues. Nov. 12:**  
André Alexis, an author of international acclaim, will read at:  
1455 de Maisonneuve W.  
Room 407, 8:30 pm.

**Fr. Nov. 13:**  
David Miller will discuss the conflict between the interior hunter and farmer, in constant battle within us, in a lecture called Hunters and Farmers Haunting the Self.  
Dawson College  
4001 de Maisonneuve W.  
Room 4C.1  
Admission: \$12, Members \$10, Students and Seniors \$6

**Tues. Nov. 17:**  
Nicole Markotic, a poet, novelist and chapbook editor will read at:  
1455 de Maisonneuve W.  
Room 433, 8:30 pm

No Fixed address presents a Fall reading series of cutting-edge writing:

**Wed. Nov. 18:**  
Nicole Markotic, Calgary-based poet and fiction writer, author of *Minotaurs and Other Alphabets*. Introduced by Erin Mouré, poet and author of *Search Procedures*.

\*At Bistro 4, 4040 St. Laurent, 8 p.m.

**Fr. Nov. 20:**  
There will be a Women's Poetry Evening featuring Rae Marie Taylor, Anna Panunto, Ann Diamond, Sylvia Cacerio, Maire Walsh and Ilona Martoni Di Sclafani.  
L'Artothèque de Montréal  
5720 St-André (514) 278-8181

## whole New con/texts

### Anthology of Concordia writers doesn't disappoint

by Fay Chin

If you are one of the many people of this universe interested in creative writing, listen up! There's going to be a reading tonight. What comes to mind? A bit of poetry? A short story or two? Guess again—it's going to be excerpts from completed novels by the five members of a group called Novel Fiction.

The five are all previously or about-to-be published. They all know each other through various courses they have taken at Concordia. And since they've come to the realization that there really isn't any existing outlet for “budding” novelists, they decided to create their own.

“We work from different areas of the country and we all feel the same way about writing novels. All of us have written short stories but we want some kind of outlet for our longer work and would like to do readings as well,” said Katherine Vlassie, a member of Novel Fiction.

The collection's title story [is] about a man searching for love in all the wrong glory holes.

When I told him that my death was an absolute certainty, he frowned and left me

alone in the bar. I wished he hadn't done that. I sat by myself trying to come to grips with my mortality and, on a greater scale, the mortality of all things. Patsy Cline played in the background, I remember. Her voice flowed into the bar like a warm breeze off the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Summer reading doesn't usually involve poetry, but then again, most poetry doesn't get reviewed by major newspapers or sound nearly as good when read aloud as Leonard Cohen's does.

*Book of Longing* is dedicated to Cohen's mentor, Irving Layton, though most of the poems seem to be directed toward an unnamed woman. In “Looking Away,” Cohen muses “you would look at me / and it never occurred to me / that you might be choosing / the man of your life.”

And who wouldn't choose to spend their life with this tragic poet, this man of mystery and beauty? Okay, some women are inherently rational and would want a man who is stable, dependable, solid... but those women would be missing out on everything. The rest of us will never believe Cohen when he writes lines like “Needless to say / I am one of the fakes, / and this is my story.”

\*end tape\*

Do you remember having sex ed. in school?  
ture!

“My God, I hope not,” replied I Ruel, author and actress. “Do the

we read in English and we are inter

“I don't know what I would do if

SHE IS A LESBIAN JEZEBEL

“PRAYERS I FOUND ON THE INTERNET.”

GY: Is this the basis for Itzic Zemmerman? Is he the runaway from the Yiddish culture who tries hard in the English world instead of staying in a better milieu?

JM: I wanted Zemmerman in there as a victim. It is so obvious (polio and Holocaust victim) that I want everyone's sympathies with him. I also wanted him to be a con man.

Now, take this down carefully. I don't want to be misquoted! I think that the

“...Some of the best serious fiction and poetry have sales never exceeding 1500 copies, it's a disgrace!”

weight of guilt and shame felt by non-Jews towards the Holocaust has created a new kind of almost ‘reverse racism’ in many liberal non-Jews. They find it difficult to have honest relationships with Jews. They are afraid to criticize a ‘bad’ Jew because of “what happened”.

“These are places that had no warning of our coming,” recalls Brownstein. “It was like guerrilla attacks.”

L: But what about the danger of the American influence? What some refer to as the “Coca-Cola colonialization” of our culture.

A: That's where we live. We live on the fringe of an empire and we are regarded by that empire as ten percent of its market. The number of Canadian books written, published, bought and read has increased but so has the American ownership of Canadian companies. The American film industry really has a very tight stranglehold on cultural policy in this country and it's just by the hair of our

by Dayna Lapkovsky

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Angloman?!?

Although Angloman may not be saving the world from the forces of evil, he is doing his best as Quebec's ethnic minority superhero. Since 1995, social comic writer Mark Shainblum, 37, and illustrator Gabriel Morrisette have been presenting Angloman, a comic strip that packs a political punch, as many comics have before them.

“Number Two: Get into a comfortable Poseidon,” she read. “Most wimples either sit on the Toyota with knick-knacks apart squat slightly with knitting needles bent, or stand with one football on the town clerk sleep...”



Judith Cowan seems to know that poems are often lost in translation, and lost to anglophonia without translation. Wisely, she has printed the original and translation side to side, allowing for easy interpretation of the original.

## Lit Writ

### Poetic Plagiarism

In the room the women come and go,  
Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Are unbeautiful and have comfortable minds,  
So sweet  
And so cold,  
Half-devil and half-child,  
Vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle  
And cloister'd in these living walls of jet:  
Retals on a wet, black bough  
Scatter, as from an unextinguish'd hearth,  
Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow;  
Madness, starving hysterical naked,  
Darkness there, and nothing more  
Than unswept stone, besmeared with sluttish time.

## On the Road

The International Jack Kerouac by Faye Collins

JUDY WOODSWORTH  
CRUSHED TO DEATH BY  
GOLDEN PARACHUTE

ASFA: "NOT  
DEAD, JUST  
RESTING"

DEATH STAR OVER  
BUDGET, STILL ON  
SCHEDULE: LOLWY

# LEAKED



## YOUR NEW CSU PREZ.

Old prospector steps in for entire student union

VP External,  
Scraps the Dog

THE LiNK  
SPOOF ISSUE

# 03.29 Table of Contents

	LOLWY IS OLD	BIASED MEDIA SCUM	BAD DECISIONS	SCIENCED	SEX	TURTLES	ANTI-SEMITISM
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT PG. 3							
PRINCE RETURNS PG. 3							
B.L.U.E. B.A.L.L.S. PG. 4							
ART DOES NOT MATTER PG. 4							
DATA STREAM: ASU CANDIDATES PG. 4							
WHAT'S INSIDE LOLWY PG. 5							
DEAD THE WHOLE TIME PG 5							
HORROSCOPES PG. 6							
DEATH-BOARD PG. 6							
ASU BUDGET REVEALED PG. 6							
ENTIRE CSU RESIGNS PG. 7							
EVERYTHING IS YOUR FAULT PG. 7							
SEX WITH PANCAKES PG. 6							
STINGER JAILED PG. 7							
STUDENTS ARE BIASED PG. 8							
POSTER TEMPLATE LEAKED PG. 8							

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



D

Don't believe what you read in the newspapers, I'm still president of Concordia University.

I know what you're thinking, "Hey didn't Woods sign a letter of resignation in return for blood diamonds and an Island off the coast of Malta?"

Well, yes, yes I did but what people have to realize is that not all contracts are binding. Now I may not know squat about lawyering or properly administrating a university, but I do know this: if you cross your fingers when you sign a contract it's null and void.

It's the law. Not Canadian law, but I'm pretty sure I saw it on *Boston Legal* once.

It's like when you mercilessly beat your assistant for calling you Judy. Ordinarily, repeatedly bludgeoning someone with a telephone receiver is assault and battery. But if you look out the window and see a yellow car beforehand, all is forgiven.

"Yellow car no punch back!" Ah, memories.

And it's not like the new guy is going to be around for long. He's a relic. He's so old, the only time he doesn't have to go pee is when he's peeing. Did you like that one? I've been using my unlimited supply of free time to work on a standup comedy act.

In any case, everyone makes mistakes. So I fired a few auditors, some senior administrators and let the architect of modern Concordia leave for a lower-paying job at McGill. And, of course, who can forget the time I "accidentally" drove my Audi into hordes of student protesters? I miss that car; it really handled well.

So now that that's cleared up let's give me back the key to the President's office and we'll forget any of this unpleasantness ever happened.

Besides, if you don't give me back the key I'll just break into the office and pretend I was never fired. And no matter how hard you try to kick me out again, I'll just keep jimmying my way back into this place. In fact, I already have. I'm writing this letter from my old desk (let me tell you something, it's going to take a hell of a lot of Febreeze to get the old man stench out of this office).

Well I'd better wrap this up, I can hear security kicking down the barricades I made outside the office. In closing, never let the... oh shit here they come.

## DISCLAIMER

All of this content is false. None of it is real. It's meant to amuse and have a good laugh on what was an overly serious year at this university. If you get mad or for one fleeting moment think that any of this is real, please put this newspaper down and walk away. Seriously. Thank you.

## PRINCE RALPH OSEI RETURNS

### Former Student Union Prez Exiled in Secret Coup

The brass buttons on Prince Ralph Osei's ornate uniform shined as he stepped onto the tarmac at Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport at noon on March 29.

"Tell the dogs on the seventh floor that I have returned to Concordia, my long days in exile are finally over," exclaimed Osei after reviewing an honour guard drawn from each of the university's four faculties.

The former president of the Concordia Student Union explained that his resignation and departure from Concordia in early August was not voluntary, but part of a secret and violent coup d'état by turncoat VPs.

"They wanted a police state, they thought it would be fun," said Osei. "I know a thing or two about police states, the fun stops when the batons come out and the public sodomy begins."

After his election last March, Osei said that four of his VPs discovered his support for gender-neutral bathrooms, and his opposition to bottled water on campus.

"They decided to get rid of me when they discovered I was opposed to the Faubourg as a student centre," said Osei. "Think of it: the mould, the as-

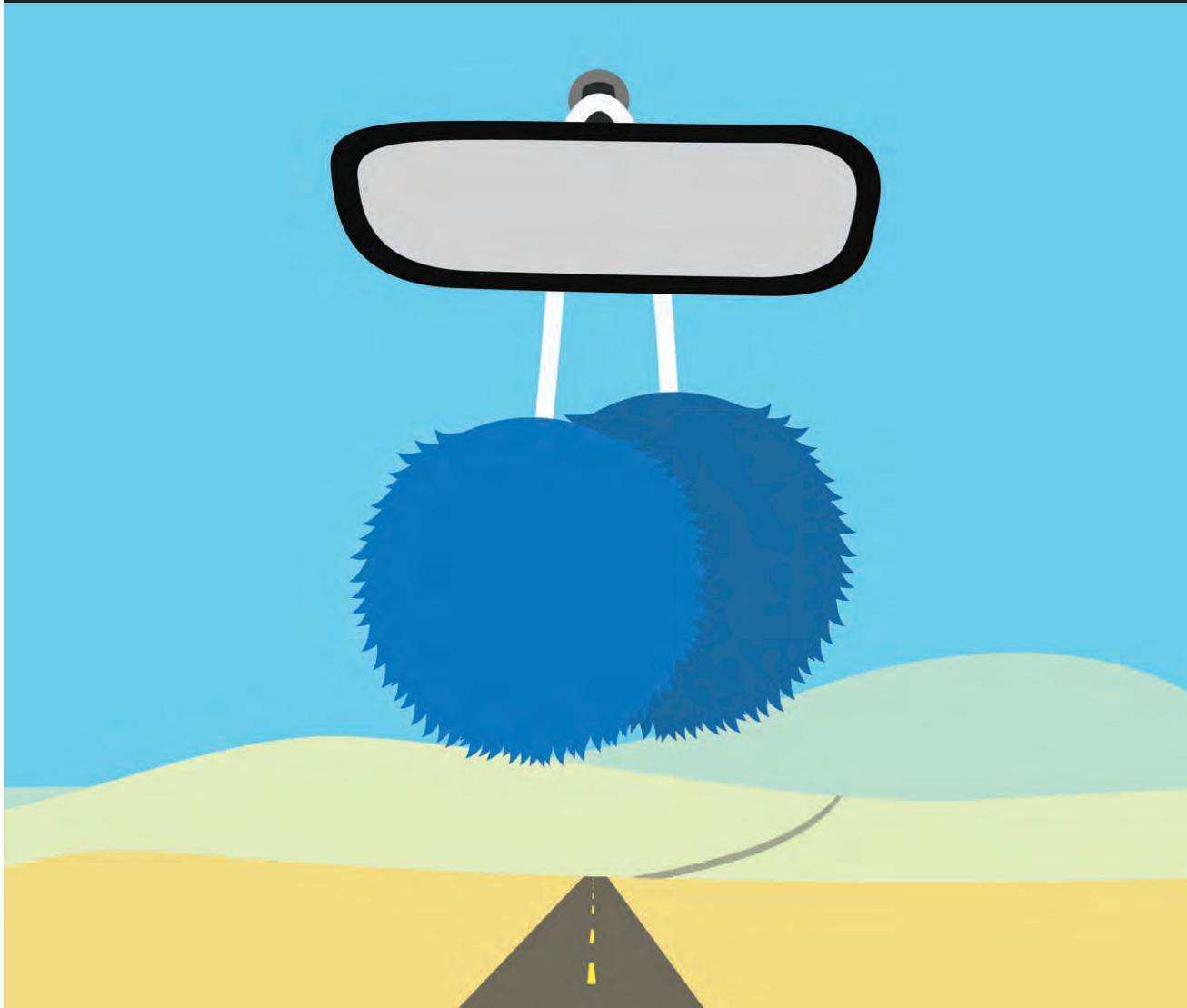
bestos, the lack of people interested in going inside. It would have been a perfect dungeon for their secret police.

"I said no, so they forced me out," Osei continued. The president was not the first executive to be forced out in the reign of terror. Neither would he be the last.

"They got Nikki first, those vile bastards," said Osei, referring to former VP Finance Nikki Tsolikis, who resigned in April 2010. "She discovered their plans, but before she could bring it to me. BAM. Gone."

"Then Zhuo found out and they disappeared him. Finally Morgan escaped, barely," he continued. Former VP Finance Zhuo Ling resigned in January, former VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudface left the CSU in March.

An emergency question has been put on this week's ballot asking Concordia undergraduate students if they are willing to turn the union into a constitutional monarchy. While the democratic process is mysterious, this newspaper knows that the question will be approved by 82 per cent of students.



# BLUE BALLS

## Bachand 'Just Not Feeling It' as He Puts Tuition on Hold

Following the massive success of this year's Wintry Hot Accessible Love-In for Education, or WHALE, the Concordia Student Union announced this week that it is planning two bigger protests for next year.

"The WHALE was such a great event, so we figured, what the hell, let's do it again," said CSU President Heather Lucas. "So we're proud to announce the Balanced Love-in for University Education, Bringing Academic Loans and Lower School-costs."

"Concordia is going to get a pair of BLUEBALLS."

The BLUEBALLS are a response to

what Lucas called unreasonable delays by the provincial government in negotiating freezes on tuition.

"Here we were, ready for our third sit down with the province and as you know, the third meeting is traditionally the one where you seal the deal," she said. "We were all dressed up and at the end of the meeting, trust me, we were very excited. We could hardly contain ourselves. And then the provincial government had to ruin it by saying they 'Weren't ready for a commitment yet.' We were so mad, I can't even describe the ache we still felt the next day."

She added, "Trust me, we don't enjoy getting all hot and bothered like this. We knew the fight would be long and hard, but we didn't realize it would stay

long and hard for so long."

She then muttered something under her breath that sounded something like "fucking teases," though she declined to repeat herself.

When reached for comment, a representative for the government said "I think the students went in with high expectations. We're not that easy. Actually, we're kind of insulted they thought we would give it up so quickly."

Lucas is still optimistic that the deed will get done soon, unless the federal government comes to the province's defense with its dreaded response: Coerce and Organize Concordia to Knockoff Biased Lefties and Obstruct Civic Knitting.

"We're going to go back in there, and try to sweet talk our way in," she said. "However, if Operation COCKBLOCK is put in place, it could be months yet before the release of all this tension."

## Art Does Not Matter

The inaugural Art Does Not Matter Festival—a month-long series of events organized largely by JMSB students who don't give a shit about art—kicked off today, to minimal excitement.

"I tried to get stoked about this, but I just don't really get it," said Finance student Joe Mohammed, as he absent-mindedly scrolled through his stock portfolio on his BlackCherry. "Like, I made three grand before breakfast. I'm still not sure how we're going to monetize this whole art thing."

The festival began in response to the successful Art Matters festival, a three-week celebration of local art "and other bullshit," explained coordinator Alex Nadeau, a third-year marketing student. "I don't understand why the Fine Arts students get a three-week-long festival," she said. "We need to show students that there are much more important and interesting things than their 'art', which, to be honest, I don't even understand half of anyway."

While Art Matters shows are traditionally hosted in local galleries, Art Does Not Matter coordinators have chosen hallways and empty classrooms for what Nadeau called "stimulating non-art-related non-activities."

Attempts to solicit comments for this article were met mostly with disinterest and confusion. "Isn't print media a dying industry, anyway?" asked one second-year finance student, before straightening his tie and going back to working on a degree that might actually make him some money.

As far as this reporter could determine, the festival largely seems to consist of well-dressed JMSB students tapping information into their laptops and generally ignoring everything around them.

"We'll probably think about planning some activities," said John Smith, a fourth year finance student. "But generally I think shows and music and visuals just don't matter."

Not all JMSB students are on board, though. One accounting student—who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals—said he "actually kinda liked" some of the work he saw in last year's Art Matters festival. "I was looking at this piece of performance-installation art, and I just started tearing up. That's never happened to me before. It was pretty cool."

The Art Does Not Matter opening party will happen in the lobby of the MB at 7 a.m. this coming Monday. No drinking, dancing, or fun will be tolerated. —alexandra concordia

0 4

TEXT ALAN J. ZHEITERVAC

ISSUE MARCH 29, 2011

### DATASTREAM CSU PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

MEGATRON // JULIAN ASSANGE // CHARLIE SHEEN // MUAMMAR GADDAFI // RALPH NADER // THE OLD SPICE MAN // KING OSEI // SCARY SPICE // MR. BOUSTAN // JUDY WOODS // SARAH PALIN // NEWT GINGRICH // THE GRINCH

ILLUSTRATION KLEEMINT LOOO

# EMPEROR LOLWY

WHAT'S INSIDE DEDERICK LOLWY

-RILEY "YOUR MOM" SPARKERS

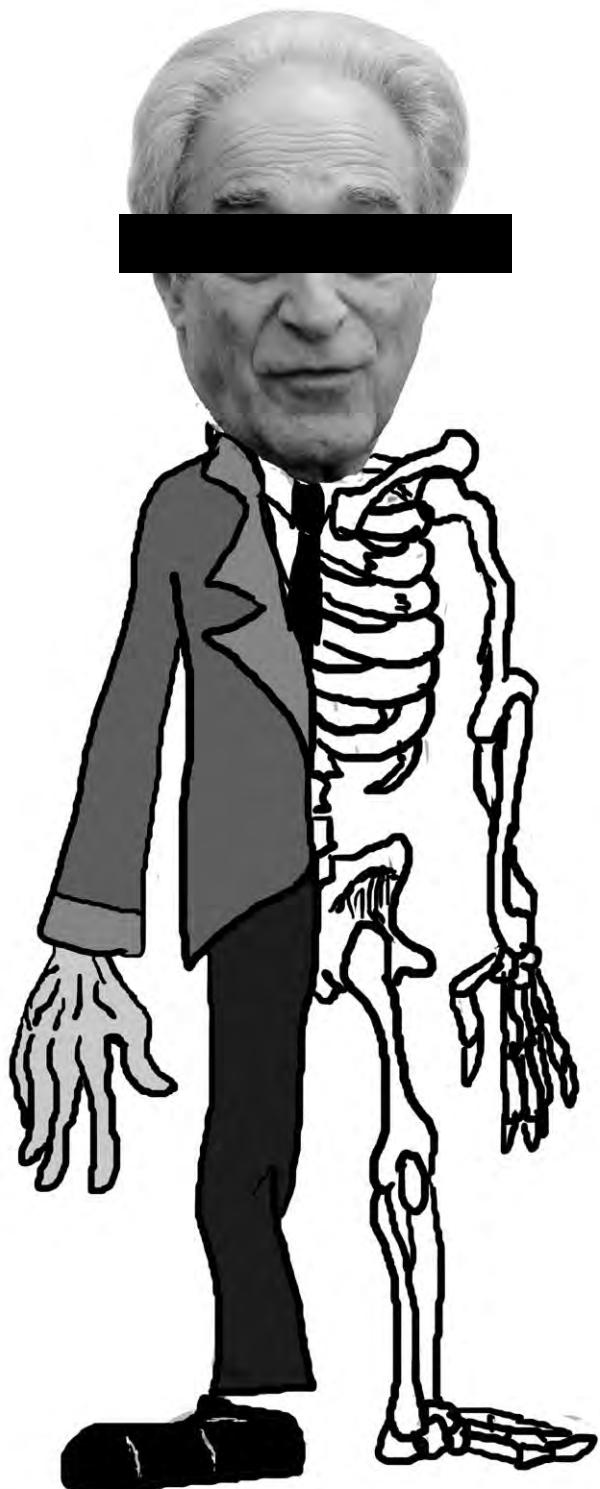


ILLUSTRATION BY RICK BENDER

## GRAPESHOT

An early anti-personnel ammunition fired from naval cannons, these chunks of grapeshot date back to Lolwy's service under Vice Admiral Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar.

## RUSSIAN CAVALRY SABRE

It's not in his official university biography, but a young Frederick Lolwy was one of the survivors of the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade. Emergency medicine wasn't quite as good back then, and Lolwy still has the tip of a Russian cavalry sabre embedded in his thigh.

## BASEBALL SIGNED BY BABE RUTH

A priceless sports artifact, this baseball—inexplicably found in Lolwy's stomach—was signed by the Sultan of Swat himself after the Red Sox's 1915 World Series win.

## NECKLACE FROM TITANIC

That necklace the old lady dropped into the sea from the deck of the Titanic? Fell into Lolwy's mouth as he was lying on a piece of wreckage in the frigid waters of the Atlantic.

He's run down the curtain and gone to join the choir invisible. If we hadn't pumped him full of fluoride and nailed him to his chair, he'd be pushing up daisies. He's an ex-rector.

Responding to stunning allegations raised in a leaked document provided to *The Link*, Concordia Board of Governors chairman Sam Pruyt confirmed that embattled university rector Dederick Lolwy has actually been dead for almost eight years.

"He's officially been all corporified for, like, a decade," said Pruyt. "Just so we're clear, that's not a metaphor or anything. He shuffled off this mortal coil some time ago."

"The truth had to come out sometime," said Concordia spokesperson Nelly Flota. "I thought we did a pretty good job covering it up, but, at the end of the day, the dude's still dead. Can't hide that forever," she said.

"After [former Concordia president] Judy retired—or was kicked out or whatever, no one really tells me anything—we kinda panicked," admitted Flota. "But then we realized that, after all the flak Judy took, this was actually a pretty great opportunity. I mean, who's gonna go after a dead guy? Apparently students, we figured that out pretty quick. You guys suck," she

added. "I may have said too much."

"The scary thing is—nobody outside admin knows this—but we've actually been keeping him running off these old mercury batteries," revealed Flota. "They haven't been made since like 1926, and I'm not sure what we're gonna do when we run out," she said. "I think I maybe found some on eBay, so, fingers crossed, I guess."

Still, Pruyt said, the university has no plans to replace the decomposing president. "He's actually doing an okay job. He doesn't claim that many expenses, he doesn't eat much, his car budget is

# SPACE FROM SPACE

Magical Alien Shows Severyns the Light

The man behind the most recent referendum for a fee levy increase towards a student centre, Concordia Student Union VP Adrien Severyns, says he has seen the error of his ways—thanks to a heartwarming encounter with a magical alien.

"I used to think that we needed a big, fancy student centre to bring us all together," said a tearful Severyns as the alien's spacecraft soared majestically into the night sky. "But now I realize, there's a little student centre in all of us."

"Right here," he continued, first tapping himself above his heart, and then doing the same to this reporter.

Severyns' transformation from a lonely boy trying to find a place to belong, to a man who understands the nature of love, began with the arrival of the friendly alien. After sharing Reese's Pieces and teaching English (and French) to the diminutive creature, the two forged a bond that could never be broken, culminating in the establishment of a symbiotic tie that saw Severyns and the alien mount a bicycle and fly away from an angry mob of students intent on finding the source of the alien's powers, which include healing plants, preventing floods in the Faubourg, and establishing club space for all registered CSU groups.

"That little guy really showed me the meaning of friendship," said Severyns, wiping a single tear from his cheek. "I realized that the human heart is not 60 per cent student space and 40 per cent for use of administration, but belongs entirely to students!"

Severyns added that his new project would get rid of WiFi caps in Concordia's dorms so that students will always be able to use Skype to "phone home."

-Alan J. Zheitervac

## PRUYT REJECTS STUDENT CRITICISM OF NEW RECTOR LOLWY

### 'He's Been Dead the Whole Time'

cheap just a couple days renting a hearse, but that's it—and he doesn't bother the auditors. So far we're all good," he explained. "Plus, I think his experience uniting the warring city-states of medieval Italy might help the university with this whole GazaU image we've got.

"And hey, it's not all bad," Pruyt said, managing a hopeful smile. "We're gonna sell the rights to the story as the sequel to Weekend at Bernie's 2, so that should help recover some of the money we spent on Judy's medical bills after that parachute accident."

-riley "your mom" sparkers

According to NASA, Aquarius and Libra have disappeared from the zodiac, as lucidity and balance are no longer consciously achievable. NASA said in a press release yesterday that they are “doing their best to recover the missing zodiacs,” but they fear that the two constellations have fallen for good. In the meantime, here are the weekly horoscopes for the remaining signs,

# Horrorscopes!

## GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE STILL AROUND.

### CAPRICORN

“There are so many doors to be opened, and I’m not afraid to look behind them,” Elizabeth Taylor once said. Capricorn, it’s time to open some metaphoric doors and step into the unknown. I hear the after-hours parties there are great.

### PISCES

“Disbelief in magic can force a poor soul into believing in government and business,” author Tom Robbins once wrote. My advice to you, Pisces, is to get as magical as possible before it’s too late. Suck on a moonstone.

### ARIES

Aries, I feel like you are searching for something. I was searching for Atlantis today on the Internet and stumbled upon an interesting theory: One scholar believes that the island of Atlantis that

Plato was referring to is actually our Earth! The entire thing! Aries, is what you’re looking for right in front of your eyes? Are you looking for your eyes? What does it all mean?

### TAURUS

Mount Everest, the highest point on the Earth’s surface, is more than 1 mile shorter than the Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the ocean. Taurus, progression can be both an upward and downward experience. Don’t be afraid of digressing in the next week, you may find that you end up where you need to be.

### CANCER

When microscopic plants in the ocean die, they fall to the bottom. Over long periods of time, the remnants of this life, rich in carbon, are carried back into the interior of the Earth and recycled. This pulls carbon out of the atmosphere,

which makes sure we don’t get a runaway greenhouse disaster. Libra, don’t be afraid to fall to the bottom of the ocean, it may give you the regeneration you need.

### GEMINI

Gemini, do you have more answers than questions? Or more questions than there are answers for? I advise you to focus on the questions. Perhaps they are in and of themselves, answers.

### LEO

When a redwood tree reaches a certain height, it sprouts a new trunk that grows out sideways from the already existing one. Live like a redwood this week, Leo, it’s time to start a brand new journey around the clock.

### VIRGO

At the very centre of the Galaxy, right

at its very core, lies a monster: a supermassive black hole. Virgo, I sense you’ve felt this lately—the feeling of uncertainty and fear. I recommend you try and forget the looming black hole and try to think smaller.

### SCORPIO

“Happy are those who find fault with themselves instead of finding fault with others,” the great prophet Muhammad once said. Have you been too hard on the ones around you lately? Have you even noticed? Soften up, Scorpio. Everything that is wrong with the world stems from inside yourself.

### SAGITTARIUS

According to my crystal ball, you have been half-absorbed by the black hole that has already eaten up the Aquarians and Libras. Good luck buddy, make sure to email me and let me know what it’s like.

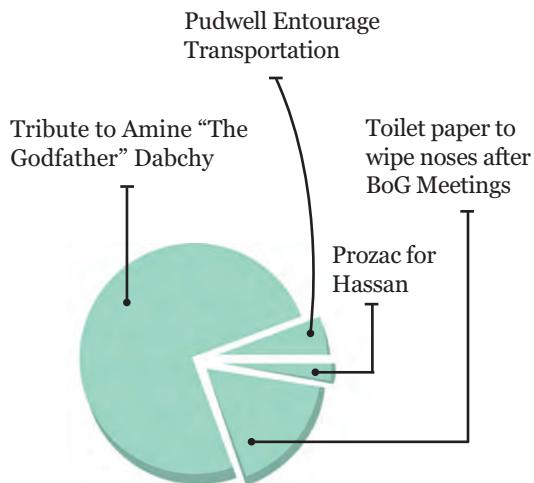
0 6

TEXT MOONSHINE RAINBOW FEATHER

ISSUE MARCH 29, 2011

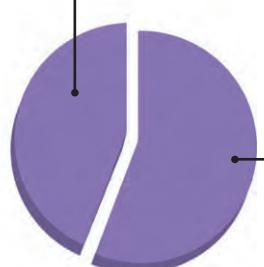
## BUDGET // HOW THE CSU SPENDS THEIR PILES OF MONEY

### WHAT THE EXECS NEED

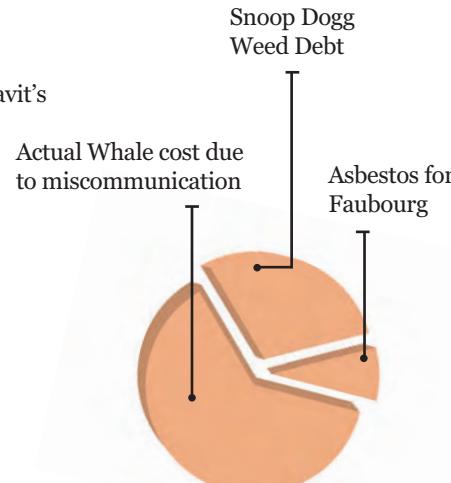


### WHAT THE COUNCILLORS NEED

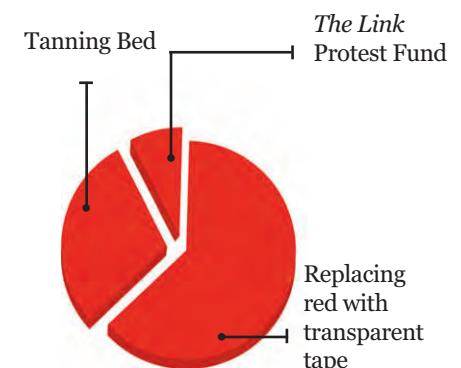
Personality Coach for Aaron Green



### WHAT MISTAKES COST



### WHAT IT COSTS TO LOOK GOOD



# ENTIRE STUDENT UNION RESIGNS

90 per cent of the union's \$2 million budget to go towards the exploration and extraction of gold from Mount Royal.



## OLD PROSPECTOR IS NEW PRESIDENT

The Concordia Student Union has been shaken by a wave of resignations. Citing personal reasons, heavy course loads and one particularly acute case of restless leg syndrome, all 30 CSU councillors and six members of the executive resigned at the union's Wednesday Council meeting.

"I guess when it rains it pours," said former councillor Timmy Shavers, who resigned over his disappointment with the Montreal Canadiens' lackluster performance against the Boston Bruins last week.

As mandated by its constitution, the union will be replaced by a provisional one-man government headed by 87-year-old gold prospector Paddy "Shakes" Finnegan.

Adorned in a coonskin hat, overalls and an assortment of

clinking pans and camping equipment, Finnegan addressed Concordia University at a press conference yesterday.

"Ah fiddlesticks! Looks like old Shakes has gone and done it now," said Finnegan, who has absolutely no political experience to speak of. "I wasn't fixin' to be no president, I don't even remember what all my alphabets are called. What's the first one called? You know the one that looks like a mountain with a bar through it?"

According to Section 54, Article 6 of the CSU's constitution "In the event that every union councillor and executive resigns, the CSU will be turned over to an old prospector who will then use the union's funds to find gold and other such riches."

"I know what you're thinking,

it doesn't really make sense," said former CSU President Hayley Liston who resigned because this season of *The Office* disappointed her time and time again. "He's nearly blind, his dog smells like death and he still uses the term 'Chinamen' when referring to non-whites, but if you saw him swinging a pick axe, we wouldn't be having this conversation."

As his first official act in office, Finnegan appointed his dog Scraps as VP External of the CSU.

"Old Scraps here can count to seven," said Finnegan. "And he can smell a rabbit near three miles away. Four miles if'n the wind is right powerful."

Finnegan also pledged to divert 90 per cent of the union's \$2 million budget to the exploration and extraction of gold from

Mount Royal.

"There's gold in them there hills," he yelled. "I've prospected in Sioux City, up Snake's Canyon and under Old Coyote's Pass. I've made millions and lost it all in on mash liquor and dice games. But this time old Shakes can feel the gold running through his veins."

Students expecting their union to oppose tuition hikes and reform the university's dysfunctional Board of Governors will be disappointed as Finnegan plans on abandoning the CSU's advocacy causes and enforcing mandatory labour.

"I'll get 'em workin' like greased lightning," he said. "And when this year's done we'll all sleeping on beds with real sheets, in buildings with indoor out-houses and real toothpaste."

-e. curtis finnney

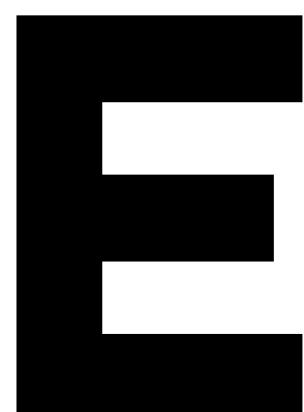
## MOST DANGEROUS OBJECT IN THE OFFICE THIS WEEK: The 'Death Board'

It's long, loud and the perfect office distraction—as long as you're the one riding it. What better way to cure writer's block than to get up from your desk, plant your feet on that deck and take a quick trip down the hall? Or why not keep working out that ollie instead of drinking alone late at night at your desk? Having an office skateboard is like having an office chauffeur. Pick it up and ri-

iiide out the stress from your long day on the job. Student politicos taking themselves too seriously? Find Zen through a nosegrind kickflip before your write that lead. Is the administration feeding you business-as-usual statements in the middle of a governance crisis? "Show, don't tell" them to fakie backside shove-it. Next year we're asking our BoD for a ramp. —laurybeth beeston

## It's All Your Fault: Cinema Politica

'JUST STOP BREATHING'



"Every time you orgasm, a dolphin dies," said James Cameron about his new film, *Humanoid: AIDS of the Earth* at its world premiere screening in the Hall building in collaboration with Cinema Politica.

This controversial film explores human influence over the Earth's environment. If you think that human consumption and lifestyle habits are the only things that are threatening the planet, think again.

"Every single action you make is killing the planet," says Cameron in the film. "Every time you take a breath, a bee drops dead."

Today, escalating human populations have vastly exceeded global carrying capacity and produce unmanageable quantities of solid, liquid, and gaseous waste. The Earth is being threatened by over-exploitation, toxic pollution, invasive species, habitat destruction, urban sprawl, oceanic acidification, ozone depletion, global warming, climate change and so on and so forth.

"This is strangely absent from the world's media. No one wants to hear about it. It's depressing. We would rather collectively deny ecological realities," Cameron said.

When asked about what sort of actions one should take to reverse this escalating problem, Cameron quickly shot down the question.

"The truth is that the entire planet is sick with a humanoid virus. It's not rocket science, look at an image of the Earth on Google maps. The virus is spreading," he said. "Fast."

And there's no stopping it, according to Cameron. "I recommend you upload all your conscious data to a floppy disk or USB key and hope for the best."

There was an overwhelming sense of discomfort in the audience. "I usually feel pretty depressed after watching Cinema Politica films, but this is something else," said one crowd-goer, breaking back tears. "My world has been destroyed." —ashley obscura



# CHARGE OF BIAS FROM LOSING CANDIDATE

## 'They cost me the election, all 35,000 of them, biased'

While reflecting on how he lost the Concordia Student Union election to a group of misfits and rascals, a sober Kenny Hollad endured Reggies' new standing-only section.

"It was the bias," said Hollad. "They were all biased against me, and now they are all sitting at the bar and what am I? Why isn't anyone else standing?"

During the 2011 campaign to control the CSU executive and the union's nearly \$2 million budget, Hollad's *Fiction* slate accused many of Concordia's media outlets of bias. His slate also refused to condemn attacks on the integrity of the campus' newspapers and the destruction of thousands of dollars of equipment at the student-run television station.

"Did you see their bias? Every damn time they spoke to me, it was always, 'Answer this question please? Why are you blocking that comment? Stop hitting me with that campaign sign.' They were out to get me," continued the former candidate.

"Why weren't they asking me about my

beamer? Bias! I shined it for them, put some Armor All on the wheels, well not me, but someone did," said Hollad. "This isn't how it was supposed to be. Some Asian guy padded my CV just right, then I went to the ASFA parties, put on my tightest pants, and I copied last year's winning formula."

"2+2=6 right?"

While the *Fiction* slate quickly attempted to distance itself from the incumbent executive, most of the damage was already done. Hollad said that his team didn't realize that the *Inclusion* slate in power was deeply unpopular.

"How was I supposed to know that people had a problem with the CSU? They put on that WHALE thing for show. They let students vote against the student centre," Hollad continued. "Let me tell you one thing, if I had won, students would have been consulted, but given a vote, that's preposterous."

"How can students be accountable if they don't put their name on a ballot, this

whole system is broken. No transparency. Bias!"

According to the *Fiction* leader, the blocking of Facebook comments wasn't due to a need to control students, only to inform them about the decorum of campaigns.

"You need to be constructive if you want to talk to us," said Hollad. "Do you want to tell me squat? Tell me what to do and how, not what you want. Look at the debate with that biased scum. I knew we were in trouble when that moderator jerk said, 'Students only,' for asking questions.

"Students are the worst, biased lot! Every time they ask a question, they support them," said the *Fiction* presidential candidate as he pointed to a *Our Ville-Marie* t-shirt.

"Students, all 35,000 of them, biased. Made the stupid media biased too. Questions, too many damn questions from the students."

"Sorry, what newspaper do you work for?" asked Hollad.



Dear Melissa,

I recently adopted a pair of turtles, Jack and Jill, in hopes of having baby turtles by spring. But I've noticed that they won't mate. I don't think it's a lack of interest on Jack's part because I often see him mounting Jill, but she always slumps away. REALLY slowly. What could this mean? How can I help Jack get laid?

I'm so glad you asked this question because it's been coming up more and more in discussions I have with friends. Too many people don't know about the difficulties that turtles face when sexually active. Jack is the perfect example of this.

There could be a number of reasons why Jill is avoiding sex with Jack, so I'll touch on a few of them and you'll probably know which direction to go in.

First of all, turtles have HUGE penises. Seriously. Go Google "Turtle Penis" and you'll see what I mean, and maybe begin to understand why Jill is so terrified. No seriously, go Google it right now.

Now, delete your search history.

Secondly, do you know anything about her and Jack's history? Have they been together for a while or is this a new relationship? Maybe Jill isn't really ready to be sexually active with Jack just yet. It is a big step and she shouldn't have to take it before she's ready.

You should also try to determine if Jack and Jill are, in fact, related. There's no real way to determine this, but I just wanted to gross you out a little.

Becoming a mother is also a pretty big deal. Jill may be choosing to abstain because there isn't currently an FDA approved birth control method for turtles and she doesn't want kids right now. I do also question if you'd even allow her to use it. Judging by your question, it doesn't sound like you've really talked with Jill about how she feels about motherhood.

You seem a lot more concerned with having baby turtles, which doesn't make you sound like the most responsible and caring pet owner.

You should also really consider Jill's sexual history. This is really important because she may have a history of sexual abuse, or she may even be a virgin, either of which would explain why she doesn't appreciate it when Jack mounts her. This could be bringing back some horrible memories for her or she could just be really scared of his huge penis.

Finally, what makes you so sure that Jill is into guys? It's a widely known fact that 42.6 per cent of turtles don't identify as straight, and 21.2 per cent will never come out to their owners.

Make sure that Jill knows you will love and support her no matter what and for advice.

Finally, have you ever considered that maybe Jill just doesn't wanna have sex in a glass bowl while you watch?

## ION POSTER OF THE FUTURE

# fiction

let'smakefiction



### WE PROMISE:

- replace Hall Building escalators
- hover shuttle bus
- laser tag/study center
- free tuition raffle
- GPS tracking on your ID
- greening of St. Catherine street
- candy wrap-free campus
- on-campus unemployment office

VOTEFICTION.CA

ILLUSTRATION BY HOOLIA HONES

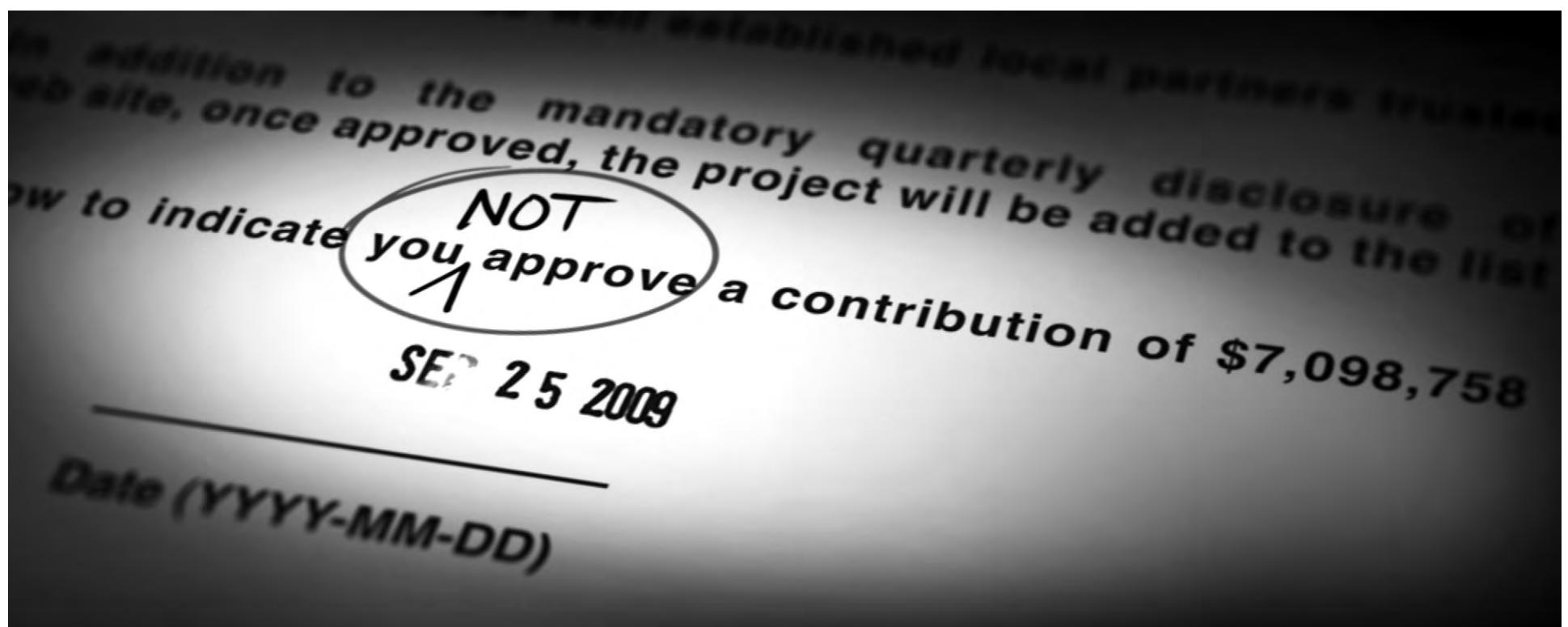


TEXT MELISSA FULLER

KAIROS CALAMITY: A \$7 MILLION SCREW UP BY THE HARPER ADMINISTRATION

## Human Rights Gone Wrong

Why The Federal Government Mysteriously Cut Funding to an NGO



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

• TOMAS URBINA

Colombia's victims of war, the Democratic Republic of Congo's rape victims, those displaced by climate change in Guatemala, and the people of Sudan's new south are some of the world's most vulnerable people. But they have something else in common: only days into the Canadian federal election campaign, it's already clear that they'll be some of the biggest losers.

On March 25, the Conservative government fell in a vote of non-confidence over its lack of transparency on spending for F-35 fighter jets, new prisons and details on corporate tax cuts.

Many may not realize that the non-confidence vote could have just as easily been tied to Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda and Kairos, the Christian aid organization that supports justice initiatives for vulnerable groups in the developing world.

The word "not" was at the centre of the controversy.

In late 2009, those three letters were scrawled in upper case onto a document signed by Minister Oda. The document was intended to approve \$7-million in funding for Kairos over the 2009-13 period from Canada's international aid agency, but instead denied support to Kairos and their global partners.

Oda, who made the decision to

deny the funding in such a fashion, was within her rights as minister. The problem is that last November she told a House of Commons committee, under oath, that she didn't know who had done it. Only after months of pressure and largely avoided questioning did Oda admit she was responsible for the "not" felt around the developing world, and only then did she name the staffer who wrote it.

Be it misleading or obstructing, in Parliament they call it contempt.

But the big questions remain: why was the funding denied and what does it mean?

### Gimme one reason

John Lewis, Human Rights Coordinator at Kairos, said there has been all kinds of speculation, and that not even Kairos knows why the funding was cut.

"We never heard directly from the government," he said.

So far each theory as to why the money was taken away has been debunked.

In 2009, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Jason Kenney claimed Kairos was anti-semitic and that they were leaders in the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel. This was shown to be false and the government retracted the statement.

Later, the Canadian Interna-

tional Development Agency said the Kairos funding application no longer fit the development priorities of the agency. In a written statement, CIDA said the new priorities were announced by Minister Oda in May 2009, though they were not introduced until September. They center on food security, children and youth and sustainable economic growth.

The Kairos proposal, however, was submitted seven months earlier in March and fit CIDA's priorities at the time.

Lewis said CIDA did not tell Kairos about the new priorities.

"We were not given a chance to alter our proposal, as other groups were given," he said. He added that normally there is a negotiation between the applicant and the funding agency, which did not take place in this case.

Among the many that have come out in support of Kairos across Canada, one individual has been particularly vocal.

"I think it was an erroneous decision, an ill-informed decision and just an unwise decision," said Jim Cooney, a retired executive with gold mining company Placer Dome. He wrote an open letter to the Ottawa Citizen in December 2009, and again this February, when the controversy resurfaced.

Cooney's outspoken support is notable because Kairos backs several groups that resist the activities of Canadian mining

companies abroad. "I felt that they were doing very useful work in developing countries," said Cooney.

"[Kairos was] helping to strengthen the ability of local community organizations and NGOs to articulate strongly and coherently their concerns in terms of human rights, environmental impacts and indigenous peoples impacts."

Kairos has been critical of Canadian mining companies in developing nations like Ecuador, Guatemala and the Philippines, but has also criticized Alberta's oil sands in an effort to open dialogue on improving corporate responsibility and accountability.

"Kairos was doing something that was very beneficial in the long run to the industry," said Cooney.

"Some companies don't like being criticized. Nobody likes being criticized, but criticism makes you think and causes you to engage and see if you can find some common ground."

### Hurting the helpless

Kairos, Greek for "opportunity moment," receives funding from Canadian church organizations and private donors for some of its work. But the CIDA funding represents about 40 per cent of their total revenue and over 80 per cent of this goes to its global partners program, especially in coun-

tries of concern, like the Democratic Republic of Congo, where an epidemic of rape is taking place.

"We've been trying to develop a legal clinic with our partners there for women victims of gender-based violence to at least begin to try and break the 100 per cent impunity of perpetrators and hold them to account," said Lewis.

Lewis said the funding loss means an immediate drop in money for organizations that are working in very conflicted parts of the world to defend the rights of citizens.

"We're stepping up fundraising efforts across the country to support this work, but we can't turn on a dime and there's no easy replacement for public funding to do this crucial work," he said.

In March 2010, Kairos submitted a new application addressing its new priorities. A statement on the Kairos website reads: "[The application] is still before CIDA and we hope it will be reviewed on its merits."

Hopes and merit aside, the weekend's election announcement is another major roadblock for Kairos.

Large funding decisions are unlikely to be made before a new government is formed. Regardless in Canada, it's the people Kairos supports around the world that will suffer.

# PAGE 22 Sports

YOGA: SO HOT RIGHT NOW



PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY

## CONCORDIA UNITED

### Concordia Unifies Clubs in CCSU Charity Soccer Tournament

• DYLAN MALONEY

The first, hopefully annual, Concordia Caribbean Student's Union Charity Soccer Tournament took place March 26, and let me tell you: I don't think I've ever seen so many balls flying around in one place. Well, aside from the last McGill party I went to.

Sixteen teams in total were present for the qualifying rounds, which ran for a solid five hours. They were largely made up of experienced players, with a respectable amount of participants, who were less familiar with the sport, mixed in.

This dynamic made for a com-

petitive yet enjoyable atmosphere at the event, which was held inside the Stinger Dome. Two fields were booked for the tournament in order to maintain an efficient rate-of-play, with matches running simultaneously to save time.

Each team represented a different student association, such as the squad from the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and UNICEF Concordia. The purpose of this inter-association tournament was to unify the various cultures and clubs at Concordia using the world's most pervasive sport.

I had a very informative chat with Marvin Coleby, president of the Concordia Caribbean Stu-

dents' Union, who told me that they'd actually expected some teams not to show up.

"Usually with this kind of thing you'll get three or four teams who get automatically disqualified for not even showing up for qualifiers," says Coleby. "Then the people in charge have to rush to reassign match-ups between teams, but luckily we've got a full house this time."

In fact, most teams had organized themselves quite well—so well that no "drop-in" players needed to enter, as there were already full rosters across the board. This probably has to do with the fact that the CCSU had quite a bit of promotional power

behind them, from ads on CUTV to support from the Dean of Students' Office, who contacted the heads of each student association to invite them to enter the tournament.

The CCSU also managed to get sponsorship from the likes of the Concordia Bookstore and Public Mobile. Contributions such as these made it possible for 100 per cent of the proceeds to go directly to the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Once the teams played through the qualifying rounds, at around 9 p.m., the playoffs began. Each and every squad made a valiant effort to claim first place, but when the dust settled it

was the team representing the Concordia University Tamil Mantram that was left standing.

CUTAM was awarded \$100 to be added to their budget, while each player received a fifty-dollar gift certificate from Public Mobile, an event t-shirt with the CUTAM logo on the back, and their name inscribed on the championship trophy.

All in all, the CCSU certainly succeeded in their goal of rallying Concordia's various organizations (culture-based or otherwise) together for a day of fun and football.

For more information on the Concordia Caribbean Students' Union, visit [ccsu.concordia.ca](http://ccsu.concordia.ca).

# Moksha: Yoga That's Lean, Mean and Green

• BENJAMIN PRICE

I imagine most of you have heard about the various forms of yoga, and that many of you have been deterred either from trying or from continuing to practice yoga with formal instruction due to the costs involved. Well, I'm pleased to meet you, we certainly have something in common! There is hope, as I have discovered through my introduction to the Moksha Yoga community.

Founded in Toronto in 2003, Moksha aims at reaching out beyond the regular classes themselves, and firmly believes that the individual studios can play an active part in their communities through their yoga and other programs.

Moksha Yoga finds its roots in Hatha Yoga, which was originally practiced as a means to purify the body physically in preparation for further meditation. This is the form that has become so popular in the west, and is commonly referred to simply as "yoga" with nothing further added.

Presently speaking, the word *yoga* refers to a broad range of physical and mental meditative disciplines traditionally employed by practitioners of Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Moksha Yoga is a physical discipline, and is one that is likely to push anyone to his or her limit. The series of postures and stretches, that have been styled and compiled by co-founder Ted Grand over the course of his own learning, are performed under extreme heat conditions reaching upwards of 40°C.

This sounds daunting, and rightfully so. My first experience taught me much about my body's capabilities. Notable among them is the vivid harmony with which my entire body secreted sweat in an effort to keep cool whilst we held one-legged squats for minutes at a time.

While this all sounds unnecessarily excruciating, one of Montreal's own Moksha Instructors-in-training, Sophie Latreille, commented that she loves "practicing yoga because I get a physical exercise, and it brings me inward and allows me to connect with my body. Hot yoga asks for tremendous mental focus for containing the postures when your muscles are aching and your mind wants to get out of it; that's when you breathe into the 'pain.'

"You see, you can't just do physical yoga, or at least I can't. The intention that is set at the beginning of class is a guide not only for getting through yoga practice, but

something you can take into the world after class is over."

The word *moksha* comes from the Sanskrit word for 'release,' and in Indian religious contexts refers to liberation both from the sufferings of daily life, and from the repeated cycle of life, death and reincarnation. With this in mind, the Moksha Yoga postures specifically target areas of the body particularly prone to built-up tension and pain over time.

"What is unique about *moksha*," Sophie adds, "is, aside from the obvious heat, the focus on hip openers throughout the series, and a definite core workout, both of which help with posture and strengthening the spine to keep it healthy for as long as possible. Let's face it, we are sitting down a lot of the time, and our spine gets lazy over time."

All Moksha studios share a common philosophy, which involves bringing the benefits of yoga to as many as possible. Newcomers can get an unlimited week pass for \$20, and they offer 10 per cent discounts to students and seniors for all their price plans. They also offer what is known as a "Karma Class" every Friday, offered for a donation (\$5 minimum) to allow virtually anyone to try it at low cost. Donations from the Karma Class go to local chari-



PHOTO RON SAMBILON

ties, and instructors periodically take their practices into areas of the community where the benefits of yoga would otherwise be inaccessible. They also make an environmental commitment by keeping all of their supplies, materials and machinery as eco-friendly as possible.

Still can't afford it? Well, you may just be in luck for now. While Sophie is completing her training, she is very kindly offering the opportunity for people to come and learn with her several times a week

for free! Her schedule changes every week, so you'll have to get in touch with the studio to find out when the next free session will be.

The downtown Montreal studio is at 3863 St. Laurent Blvd. Check out their website [mokshayogamontreal.com](http://mokshayogamontreal.com) for a host of useful information. Also see [mokshayoga.ca](http://mokshayoga.ca) for the parent site, which provides even more information about the postures and philosophies of the growing community that is practicing Moksha Yoga.

# Varsity Reds Capture University Cup

## UNB Trumps McGill 4-0 in Men's Hockey Final

• COLIN MCPHAIL,  
*THE BRUNSWICKIAN*

FREDERICTON (CUP)—The University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds can drink from the University Cup once again.

The top-ranked Reds shut out the McGill Redmen 4-0 to win their fourth Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championship.

The win marks UNB's third national title under head coach Gardiner MacDougall.

"I had full confidence in the group. We believed all year," MacDougall said. "It's the ultimate CIS hockey moment to win at home here in the Aitken Centre."

The Reds have won four titles since 1998.

After a pair of victories each, UNB and McGill squared off in front of a sold-out home crowd in Sunday's final.

UNB's Luke Gallant opened the scoring in the first, firing a

slapshot past screened McGill netminder Hubert Morin.

Daine Todd continued the scoring late in the second, as the speedy winger scored his first of two by poking the puck past Morin during a mad scramble in front to make it 2-0.

**"It's the ultimate CIS hockey moment to win at home."**

*—Gardiner MacDougall,  
head coach*

Matt Fillier cashed in the third goal off a beautiful feed from defenceman Jon Harty, and Todd tallied his second to seal the win midway through the final frame.

"It was a good night to get a couple goals," Todd said. "They rank pretty high and I'm just glad I could help out the team."

The Redmen threw their entire offensive attack at Varsity

Reds netminder Travis Fullerton, but the tournament's top goaltender denied any chance of a comeback.

Fullerton stopped all 28 shots for the shutout victory. The third-year goalie only allowed one goal on 72 shots in his three starts.

"Right from the first shot against Calgary, I saw [the puck] really well," he said. "My confidence kind of built from there and we got on a roll."

Fullerton credited the Reds' defensive core for his success.

"The D was awesome," he said. "A goalie is only as good as his defence, so hats off to them."

The Reds' tenacious forechecking and strong physical play was also a key to their success.

"We're a skilled, yet physical, team and we wanted to come out hard and lay the body to them and hopefully wear them down," Harty said.

It was a heartbreaking defeat

for McGill head coach Kelly Nobes, who took the Redmen to their first title game in his first season behind the bench.

"We got manhandled a little tonight, there's no doubt about it," said Nobes. "We weren't able to utilize our speed and were pushed around left, right and centre. But at the end of the day, I was really proud of my team. They had an outstanding season. They showed that they're one of the top programs in the country."

Redmen forward Guillaume Doucet sees the match as a huge stepping-stone for a team on the rise in the CIS. McGill has now reached the University Cup in five out of the last six years.

"It was incredible for us to get to the game. We were not that far away from our goal," Doucet said. "This program has come a long way in the last five or six years and I'm sure we're going to win a national championship pretty soon."

UNB dropped Calgary 2-1 in their opening match on Thursday and blanked Western Ontario 4-0 to advance from Pool A into the final.

Gallant, named Tournament MVP, led all scorers with seven points and was named to the All-Star Team. Goaltender Fullerton, defenceman Harty, and forwards Kyle Bailey and Chris Culligan were also named to the All-Star Team for the Reds. McGill forward Maxime Langelier-Parent rounded out the squad.

The UNB faithful was instrumental motivating the Varsity Reds during their championship run.

"To do it in front of our home fans is indescribable," Fullerton said. "They're the best fans in the CIS, no doubt, and they proved it tonight."

The Reds will try to repeat as champions in front of the hometown crowd next year as they will host the 50th Cavendish University Cup.

LETTERS: SO MANY LETTERS



## There's No Point Paying For It

### Vote For A Bottled Water Free Campus



*The university's contract with Pepsi Co. allows Concordia to mandate the company to remove bottled water from campus. Voting it off is the first step.* PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

#### • MAT BARROT

Every time we buy a bottle of water we are falling prey to the greatest marketing dupe of all time.

Concordia is taking the first step to banning bottled water on campus by asking the students to vote on the matter in the upcoming elections taking place this week.

"Whether you look at the bottle from a social, political or environmental perspective, there are countless reasons to fill a reusable mug with tap water over the disposable bottled variety," said Diana Kirkwood, Concordia's Zero Waste Campus Coordinator.

Aquafina and Dasani, which are

owned by Pepsi and Coca-Cola respectively, have stated numerous times that their bottled water is nothing more than filtered tap water.

"You're already paying taxes to your municipality for your tap water and then if you choose to buy disposable bottled water you are then paying again to companies in which many have admitted are simply bottling municipal sources of water and selling it back to you," said Kirkwood. "So in reality you are paying for your water twice and supporting the direction of water privatization in Canada."

Michael Heinermann, co-coordinator of TAPthirst, believes that water is a human right and is one

that shouldn't be privatized. By allowing companies to purchase water resources, society is basically giving them the right to own the water that they then sell to the consumers—water which should be a free commodity.

"Everyone should have access to fresh, safe drinking water," said Heinermann. "We can't let Nestle, Coke and Pepsi own the world supply of water, which is already scarce."

Despite all of this, we still allow bottling companies to fool us into thinking that their water is somehow better for us than tap water. Unlike municipal tap water, which undergoes various and regular health and safety checks, bottled

water is only tested once every couple of years due to lack of regulatory enforcement and personnel, according to the Polaris Institute.

"The PET plastic bottles are made from fossil fuels which are identified as a non-renewable resource," said Kirkwood.

"These petro-chemical based products utilize high quantities of water in the creation of the oil based resins, as well as require an input of chemical additives and energy to produce the finished plastic products. Once the bottle itself is constructed, more energy is then required in the transportation, extraction of the water itself from its source for bottling, distribution and then refrigeration before it

ever even reaches the hand of the consumer. When we consider that at every stage of this product's life cycle it leaves behind pollutants in the form of atmospheric and waterborne emissions as well as solid waste including greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide linked to global warming, why would we choose to pay for our water when we already have a safe water source?"

By voting 'Yes' to the banning of bottled water, we can rapidly decline the 2.1 million plastic bottles that were thrown in the garbage during the 2008-2009 semester according to R4's waste audit, and start the long battle that says that water is a basic human right.



## COALITIONS MIGHT BE THE ANSWER

### After Harper's Government Crumbles, What's Next for Canada?

#### • TOM LLEWELIN

The first government in Canada's history to ever be found in contempt of parliament crumbled on Friday. As it happened, party spin doctors raced past the government's record and the reasons why it fell and focused on the elephant in the room: a potential coalition government.

Conservative party messaging since the last election has demoralized the concept. The idea has been painted as an undemocratic, banana-republic option that has resulted in the potential coalition partners squirming in their seats. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff used his first pre-campaign announcement to categorically bury coalition talk.

Meanwhile, Parliament has degenerated into a rude, obnoxious circus. Unsurprisingly, voter engagement and interest is at an all-time low. Parties need to ask themselves how to bring the conversation of Canadian politics up to a level that doesn't cause the bile to rise up in the backs of people's throats.

As long as support for all the major parties is split in such a way that makes winning more than 40 per cent of the vote a gamble, a coalition government would be the best answer.

It might not happen this time around, but bringing focus to cooperation and bipartisanship instead of constantly shifting alliances and Machiavellian games would make things more

civil and functional.

Freedom from minority governments, which want to ensure their survival before anything else, would give us more leeway to put together policies that take the long-term into account.

Canada is a huge country with regions whose interests often oppose one another. Quebec's rejection of Alberta's oil tar sands in favour of imports is one of many examples. Economic health and social views vary wildly. Parties that claim to be able to bring all Canadians under their banner have never really been able to succeed at it. Even the Liberals, masters of inclusive politics during their days under Trudeau, burned their bridges with the West.

In the case of Stephen Harper

holding the torch for "real Canadians" while cutting corporate taxes and letting northern pack ice melt away, the doublespeak gets to absurd levels.

In the straight-majority system we have now, where only two parties can realistically win government, real diversity of views and opinion is hard to maintain. The NDP and Bloc Quebecois, the two "third parties" with the positions that diverge the most from the two biggest players, exist in a strange alternate reality.

They represent clearly defined viewpoints, and exist in regions of the country with particular traits that endear people in them to their policies. However, they're stuck between playing kingmakers, obstructionists or impedi-

ments to laws getting passed—these parties really have no other substantial role to play.

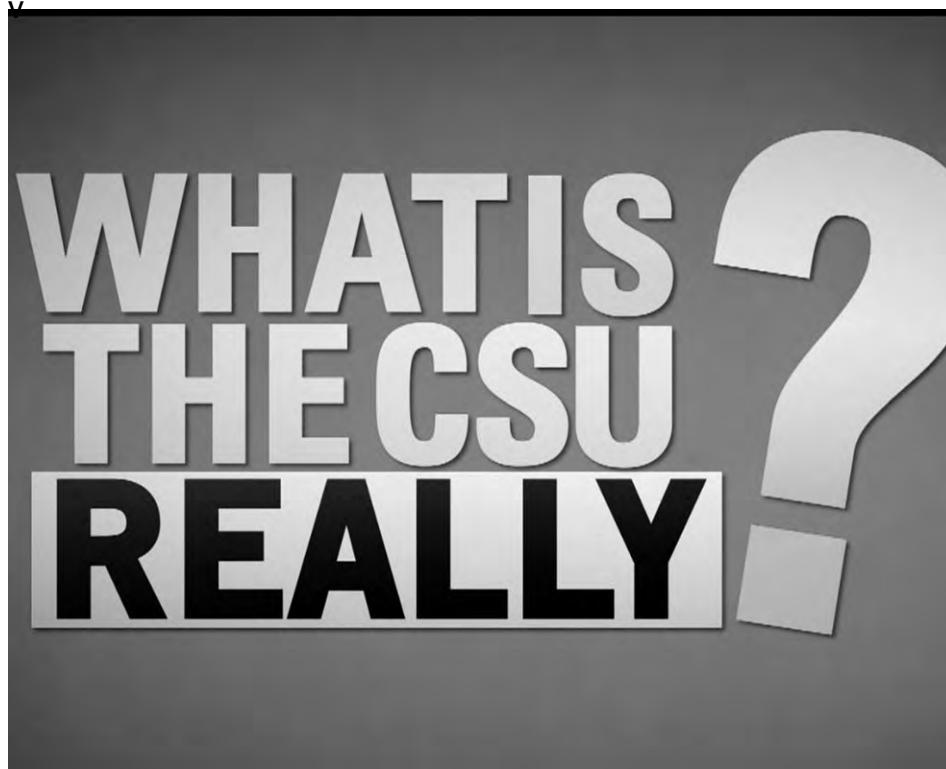
Rather than wring our hands, we could constructively acknowledge the character of our democracy and provide a seat for them at the table. Either in government or opposition, they'd have a reason to exist as part of something larger and more inclusive by its very definition.

By extension, the Greens and other outsiders would become more relevant, and the narrow liberal-vs.-conservative orthodoxy would be more easily challenged.

We'd be better off for it. During your next study break, call your Member of Parliament and tell them what you think.

# Campaign Video Breakdown: *Action & Your Concordia*

## Promotional Play-by-Play



• JESSICA YOUNG

The CSU election process is relentless. Until the 31st of March rolls around and election results are counted, contested, complained about and conceded to, we are all going to be inundated with campaign materials.

Posters for the two slates are up, Facebook is drowning in status updates about candidates, and perhaps the flashiest efforts of all, the campaign videos, are now in circulation. You know what? I graduate this semester.

I am taking six classes. I am bound up by commitments I made at an earlier point that keep me from absorbing all of this election information. I am just too fucking busy to take the time out to think through everything that *Your Concordia* and *Action* are promising.

But those videos! I am at my computer all the time these days. If I can't peruse every campaign website, review every platform, or speak with the candidates themselves, I can give up 10 minutes of my time to let their videos speak to me. Isn't this why the slates made videos in the first place?

These YouTube gems stand in for more in-depth research. They are the quick-fix way to communicate campaign promises, sort of like campaign cheat sheets, giving us viewers a few important bits of information so that when (if?) we choose to vote in the CSU elections, at the very least, we are capable of differentiating between the slates on our ballot.

These videos might be the only first impression *Your Concordia* and *Action* get to make to the larger student population. So what do these videos tell us about the potential future of Concordia and its student governance? Here is the way I see it:

### *Action* [voteforaction.ca](http://voteforaction.ca)

*Action* is smart! *Action* is diverse! No, *Action* is fun (but responsible)! *Action* stands out! *Action* is hot! *Action* really loves Duck Sauce!

The two minutes and thirteen seconds of the *Action* campaign video are all flash. These are candidates that want to make sure we know exactly how much fun they are. This is high gloss, low content. I've seen the outside of Loyola. I've lost myself to the throbbing bass beat of "Barbara Streisand" somewhere between The Hive and Le Gym (not actually), I've been a part of amped up video montages featuring boisterous laughter and uncontrollable street dancing hijinx. I, too, have driven down Sainte Catherine Street late at night, intoxicated by the glow of shop lights.

Watching the *Action* video, I am reminded that my time at Concordia has been one, long, indistinguishable string of black-out parties. Library building? Never heard of it.

To be fair, I got in contact with *Action* to ask why the video was structured and edited to feature little more than repeated candidate cameos (laughing and hugging and just having SO MUCH FUN, of course) with the occasional nipple twist and shout-out from Mr. Bousstan. The answer was simple: Concordia is a creative school with a huge investment in student life.

But student life, *Action*, has demanded a lot more from me than an ability to sing the chorus of this year's biggest dance music earworm. I don't get the chance to go to all of these student (funded) parties, because I have a full course load, and I work, and I've been applying to graduate school, and I give my time to my own department and its students.

Beyond that, I pay out of province tuition, from which the CSU, this year alone, got about \$60 worth of funding. My issue, *Action*, is that your video makes it seem like my \$60 went toward somebody else's Jagerbomb, and while I am all for students being able to party and relax and live a little outside of the library, I could have used that money for a textbook, or, you know, groceries.

If *Action* is going to take me out, get me drunk, and dance on some tables with me, *Your Concordia* is going to be there at the end of the night to hold my hair back, drive me home and make sure I get something for my headache in the morning.

If the only information I had about *Action* going into the CSU elections was garnered from the campaign video, I'd probably ruin my ballot by drunkenly scrawling "woooowooowoowooowooowoo!" at the top.

### *Your Concordia* [yourconcordia.ca](http://yourconcordia.ca)

There are two videos from *Your Concordia*. The first attempts to answer the question of "What is the CSU?"; the second communicates the slate's platform by speaking about what *Your Concordia* candidates want for the school.

Here I get some answers. If I wanted content, *Your Concordia* is giving it to me. Aren't sure what the CSU actually does for us as students? Aren't sure who gets what kind of power and privilege to make decisions about where our fee levies and tuition are spent? Want to know why you should even be concerned about Concordia's BoG? Aren't sure what the BoG is? There

is a lot to take in, especially if you aren't familiar with the way student government operates at Concordia.

But, like I said, if I am giving up significant amounts of my money to support school initiatives and student life, then I want to at least understand who I am handing it over to.

This is a different approach, but it is a valuable tool for the election process. If I only had the *Your Con-*

*cordia* CSU video to base my voting decision on, I certainly wouldn't know who to vote for, but at least I would have some modicum of an idea about what was at stake. (I actually wonder if *Action* thanked *Your Concordia* for taking the time to create and post this video? *Your Concordia* is telling students why the CSU elections matter in the first place, and in doing so are validating the work that *Action* is doing, too. *Action*, want to say thank you?)

The *Your Concordia* campaign video gets it. Don't want to spend hours reading through a campaign website? Take two minutes and just listen to the video, you don't even really need to watch it to grasp the point. *Your Concordia* chose not to feature its candidates, which is an interesting move considering how important a recognizable image and name can be given student-voter apathy. But maybe this is deliberate? Maybe *Your Concordia* isn't standing on the image of its candidates? Maybe (gasp!) *Your*

*Concordia* is actually making its platform the most visible part of its campaign?

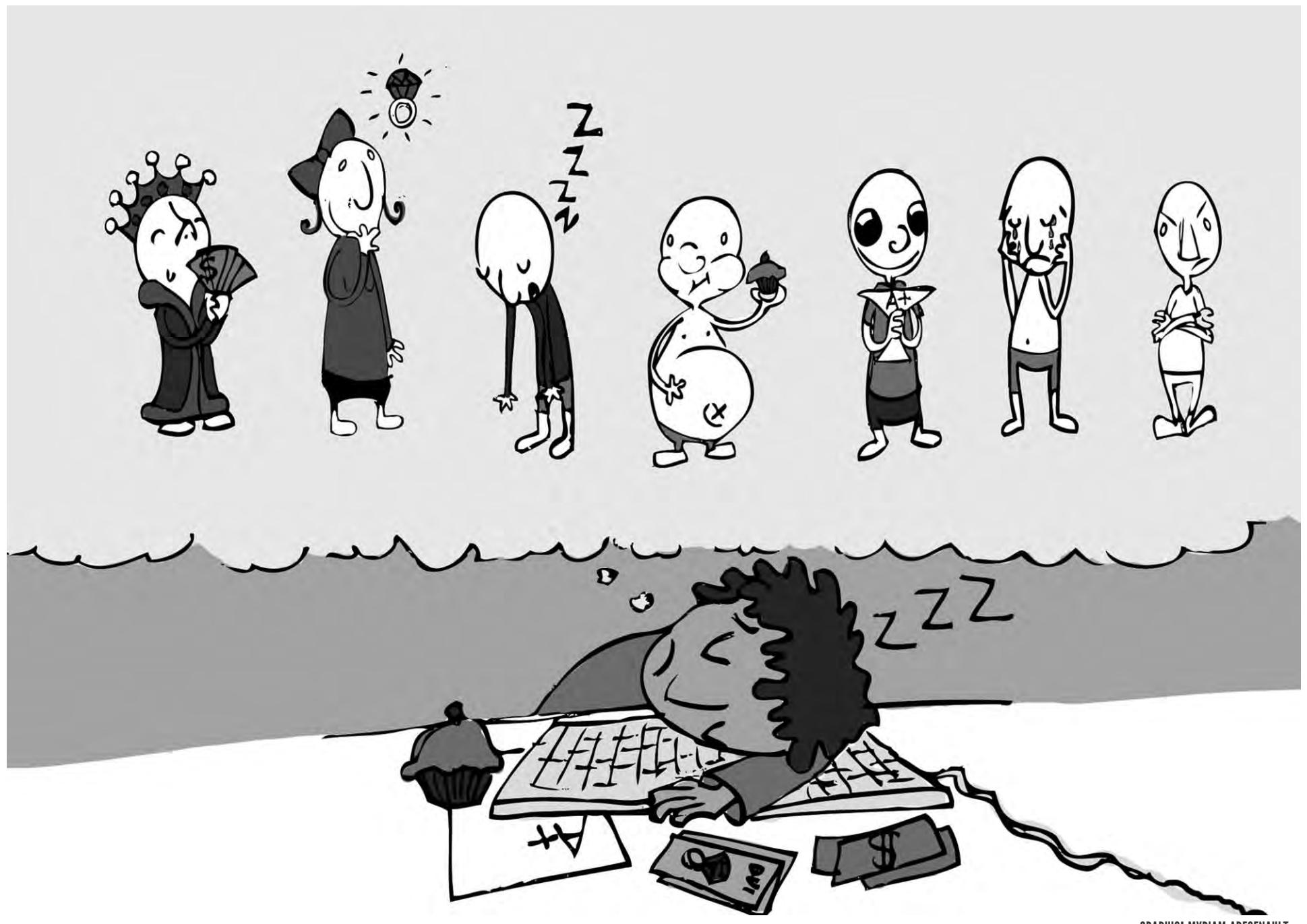
What we get is a substantial montage of Concordia spaces and again, a lot of information. This video is harder to critique because it works to put the issues, and the proposed solutions, on the table. If I had to give up my \$60 to *Your Concordia*, the video's keywords suggest my money would be going to: students, student groups, student spaces, community engagement, community-based problem solving, being represented, resources. These are all great political buzzwords, especially in a student election, but at least *Your Concordia* is working to communicate its plans.

If *Action* is going to take me out, get me drunk, and dance on some tables with me, *Your Concordia* is going to be there at the end of the night to hold my hair back, drive me home and make sure I get something for my headache in the morning.

Ultimately, we're all students and we all have a lot to deal with, especially at the end of semester. If you can't take the time to find out what each of these candidates, or each of these slates, is really invested in doing for Concordia, then take ten minutes and watch the videos. Campaigns are by definition dedicated to making everyone look their best. It's up to you to be critical and to really evaluate what the content is aiming to say about the candidates, the slates, and their intentions for Concordia. We are all giving up a lot more than \$1.85 per credit in two weeks. We are handing over the keys to our school experience with CSU elections.

Vote, but take ten minutes to figure out what you want next year. Start with these videos and remember that I warned you about Duck Sauce.





# The Seven Deadly Sins... Need an Update

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON &  
ADAM KOVAC

It's become increasingly evident that one person's sins are another person's constitutional rights. Also one person's family values can include exclusion from the family unit for identifying too strongly with Kurt on *Glee*.

With so much hypocrisy and double standards in the world, is it not time for a secular reconsideration of the seven deadly sins?

## Pride

While obsession with one's personal status and ego are, on their face, undesirable, what's so wrong with pride that it has to compete with gluttony for our disdain? Pride has made many inroads into the mainstream lately, especially when it was rechristened "self-worth" and was promoted by Oprah as a vital tool in our society's daily struggle for happiness.

Chastity, on the other hand, unlike its cohorts charity and kindness, has had something of an image problem, due largely to its stubborn refusal to face facts that it's

nearly impossible to stop two teenagers from having intercourse just as much as it's impossible to get those little yellow birds to not eat ticks and other parasites off of the backs of rhinoceroses.

Pride—assuming the bar isn't set too low—can be a just reward for our accomplishments. Because God knows so few things in life come with monetary compensation.

## Envy

No doubt you all remember the one kid on the playground whose family had seemingly limitless wealth (as expressed in toys). It's never nice to want what you can't have—but without that initial motivation for the acquisition of what you don't already have, what would you even have now?

Desiring something for the sake of having it can inspire boundless creativity, which in the long-term we may find more satisfying than the actual payoff. If I covet my neighbour's flat-screen TV, the worst I could do is somehow arrange for it to "migrate" off the premises. Or, more likely, I'll get a job and put in the hours so I can afford

one for myself, all while supporting the local economy. Yes, covetousness is my own trickle-down economic policy.

Beats being the recipient of someone else's charity, doesn't it?

## Lust

Where do I begin? Often the only difference between a romantic comedy's perception of love and a psychiatrist's definition of lust is three letters.

I'm aware that there is such a thing as a marriage without any sex, and that sperm banks are well-stocked and open most hours, but intercourse is kind of integral to life, and lust is kind of integral to intercourse. Life is a circle of lust, baby. Amend your motivational work posters accordingly.

## Wrath

Let's be honest: there are a lot of douchebags out there. Look to your left. Now look to your right. One of the three of you is a hopeless turd monkey. This is a scientific fact, established by scientists.

We need a system to keep the mindless assholes at bay, lest they overrun us as an

army dressed in Ed Hardy T-shirts and popped collars. Wrath is basically the basis of our entire judicial system. All that stands between our relatively civil society and an autocracy where the biggest bro-tard not only gets away with his crimes, but rises to the top on a wave of jackassery, is good, old-fashioned vengeance.

Obviously, we need to keep our wrath in check, lest we become a part of the shmuck-horde ourselves. We're just not outraged by the right things. For instance, I'm outraged by lousy service at chain restaurants that could afford butlers to take my order if they wanted. Child illiteracy rates? Mildly annoying. The poor quality of FOX's fall programming? Hulk smash!

While patience is a great quality to possess while doing your nine to five shift at Arby's, it's a sin as far as I'm concerned.

## Sloth

As for sloth? Well, let's just say I haven't gotten around to defending gluttony just yet, but in my own defense, gluttony and covetousness kind of crisscross, and now that I think about it, so does covetousness and envy.

# Du Bon Usage du Français



PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Le premier débat entre les deux équipes en lice pour les élections de l'Union des étudiants et étudiantes de Concordia a eu lieu mercredi dernier au pavillon Hall.

Tout se déroulait bien jusqu'à ce qu'Adrien Severyns, présentement le VP Externe du CSU fasse une intervention en français.

Le fait qu'il pose une question en français au beau milieu d'un débat en anglais est quelque peu déroutant. Mais demander uniquement pour que les candidats pour le poste de président y répondent l'est encore plus. Et pour cause, un seul des deux candidats est parfaitement bilingue.

Ce candidat est Khalil Haddad,

de l'équipe *Action*; par ailleurs Severyns possède des liens qui sont, au minimum, importants avec cette équipe. Coïncidence?

Mon doute quant à l'honnêteté de la question posée par Severyns est aggravée par le sujet de celui-là : la communication avec la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. On aurait pu penser que Severyns pose une question sur la place du français à Concordia en général.

Il existe un vrai besoin d'en discuter et en tant que francophone j'aimerais que le sujet soit abordé.

Cependant la question posée par Adrien Severyns ressemble plus à une tentative de déstabiliser l'équipe *Your Concordia* qu'autre chose.



Au passage, il réussit à faire de la langue française un boulet que l'on traîne à son pied au lieu d'en faire une richesse et une source de fierté.

L'histoire ne s'arrête pas là. Cette question est revenue, exactement la même, dans le deuxième et dernier débat qui a eu lieu vendredi. La question portait sur la coopération entre les différentes universités au Québec, et Haddad a insisté sur l'importance de parler français afin de pouvoir communiquer avec la FÉUQ.

Peut-être serait-il bon de rappeler à Haddad le nombre d'étudiants qui ont pour langue maternelle le français et qui étudient à Concordia. Sans parler de ceux qui étudient dans les programmes de traduction. On parle

d'impliquer les étudiants dans la gestion de leur université, mais pour la communication en français, seules les connaissances des candidats compteraient? Attaquer indirectement un candidat sur le fait qu'il ou elle ne parle pas français parfaitement est très en dessous de ce que l'on est en droit d'attendre de représentants étudiants, surtout quand celui-ci parle d'éthique dans son programme.

Mon but ici n'est ni de supporter une équipe, ni d'en décrédibiliser une autre, mais de présenter le point de vue d'un francophone. Le fait est que l'attitude de Severyns et d'Haddad démontrent au mieux du mépris, au pire de la malhonnêteté. C'est malheureusement un exemple

parmi tant d'autres de tactiques douteuses utilisées lors de cette campagne, incluant s'attaquer à des journalistes qui font un travail exemplaire. Le fond importe peu et tout est bon pour faire couler son adversaire.

Les deux interventions mentionnées sont à 1:07:00 et 38:00 du premier et deuxième débat, disponible sur le site web de CUTV.



## Representation Gone Bad

### An Open Letter From Fine Arts Constituents to *Action's* Tomer Shavit

In recent weeks, we have seen countless politically minded students enter the Concordia Student Union elections for the upcoming academic year.

In light of the current scandalized team, Fusion, this year's slates are both campaigning for transparency and representation of the typical Concordian's voice.

One potential senate representative of Fine Arts, however, threatens these essential rights of the Concordia Community.

*Action's* Tomer Shavit has consistently misrepresented the

general opinions of most Fine Arts students within his role as CSU councillor, most notably during the March 9 council meeting regarding the resignation of Morgan Pudwell.

Despite having over seventy students interested in hearing both sides of the issue, Shavit was vocal in supporting the current executive's choice of going into closed session. Following this blatant lack of support for the students, he took to the comments section of *The Link's* online article, "Call for Security:

Student Union VPs." He alleged that Pudwell was "inept" and "dormant" in reference to her involvement in the Women's caucus, co-chaired by CSU President Heather Lucas.

As students, we of all people understand that Shavit is entitled to express his opinion. However, we find it wildly hypocritical, not to mention embarrassing to his constituents, that he voted to go into closed session to receive "privacy to discuss personnel issues surrounding Pudwell's resignation," only to spread

malicious rumors about his colleague (and constituent) mere hours later through a public open forum on the internet.

We wish to convey to Shavit that we do not agree with his decision to go into closed session during the March 9 CSU Council meeting, and we do not condone any disparaging comments made towards Pudwell.

During the voting period of March 29-31, Andy Filipowich of *Your Concordia* opposes Shavit for the position of Fine Arts Senator.

It is our hope that the elected official voted in is largely in-tune with the students they represent, and works towards strengthening the reputation of our faculty.

—150 Fine Arts Students





Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

## CSU Needs Change

I would like to express my support for *Your Concordia* in the upcoming elections. I would like to see a change in the CSU's modus operandi regarding student affairs, administration and services.

*Your Concordia* has set achievable and intelligent goals instead of naive ideals to solve these recurring problems. I would like to specially support Lex Gill and Morgan Pudwell as I have had the pleasure of working with them personally and both are excellent, integral, professional people, and their passion for student involvement is remarkable.

—Alberto Vega,  
Computer Engineering

## Bruno Will Bring Good

I am writing these few words for my partner and friend Bruno Joyal. We are working together in the Math and Statistics Student Association. You have probably heard some words about our association during the past semesters concerning accreditation and have probably seen Bruno's name in a few lines of *The Link*.

It was for a reason.

Bruno is the most determined person I have worked with. If he wants something to be done, he will do it and do it well. Bruno is one of the friendliest people I know, and he is a good person from all points of view. He is dedicated to his association. Without him, MASSA would never have even been in a process of accreditation.

Bruno knows what he is doing and most importantly, he knows how to do what he is pursuing and how to get the resources to make it happen. Bruno is currently running for a position in the CSU with *Your Concordia*.

I believe in Bruno. I believe that his ideas and presence at the level of the CSU will bring concrete good things to OUR University, within a group that has great ideas and great projects. *Your Concordia* will do great things.

Please go vote.

—Alexandre Filiatreault,  
MASSA President

## Own Your School

Campaigning over the past couple weeks has been an exhausting but incredible experience. I have learned so much about Concordia's student body and have a much more multi-faceted perspective on student life and politics.

Thank you to those who took the time to listen to my ideas and gave yours in return. Thanks for the patience and attention during the many class speeches. Thanks to everyone who passed on a word in support of *Your Concordia*! I know that this year we will see a record amount of voters at the polls!

Regardless of who ends up in office next year, I would ask that the student body hold them to their promises. This is your school; protect and own it!

I would really like to see the CSU take a creative approach to informing the student body on the CSU's role within the school and the resources they offer. This could be accomplished through efforts such as orientation activities at the beginning of the year, a consistent presence within Residence, open Q&A sessions, and an email newsletter, among others.

Loyola deserves some attention as well. I expect the CSU to open The Hive, have executives staff the office, create more diverse and available food options, expand resources, and increase attendance at Stingers games.

Speaking of sports, I have been learning a lot about our teams. I recently spoke to Curtis, a rugby team player, at the Loyola Luncheon. He explained that we have some of the top university sports teams in Canada, including Olympic Trainers! I was also informed that the teams pay out of their own budget to practice on the field and only early morning or late night slots are available to them. Despite their dedication and amazing sportsmanship, attendance is weak at games. The sports teams need some love too, CSU! Let's have some Stingers pride!

The hard work and dedication I have seen from my teammates on *Your Concordia* has been fantastic and inspiring! I am so excited to see them implement their ideas next year. I look forward to seeing you all at the polls this week.

Thanks again for all your support!

—Anaïs Lee-Ende,  
Communication Studies

## Your Concordia, It's Time

Can we just get *Your Concordia* in office, already? Throughout the campaign period they have proven time and time again that they care what students want and have no interest in the kind of ego-stroking legacy projects we're sure to see if we allow Fusion—uh, I mean Action, to get elected.

I've actually seen a councillor for Action state on Facebook that they want to defend students' rights, but only as long as it doesn't jeopardize their job opportunities after graduation. What kind of union is that? The BoG is run by fat cats and if you don't have the courage to take them on, get out of the race.

Defending your students is not a conditional promise; it's the main goal of your job. I can tell you one thing for sure, Lex Gill and her team at *Your Concordia* will side with students EVERY TIME.

No one is happy with what the CSU did this year, and we just can't allow them to get another set of yes-men in office. And that's precisely what Action is. I don't want just campaign promises, I want the experience and backbone to get it done, and looking at the records, *Your Concordia* is exponentially more qualified for that than Action.

If you don't have time to do your

research on the candidates, then just look at the fact that Action is giving out pens instead of information.

Concordia politics have been a national joke for far too long, and we finally have a strong, present and overall awesome opposition to the status quo.

Let's all do something about that and give them the support they deserve.

—Andrew Choules-Nisbet,  
History

## Your Concordia For Me

Through my experience at Concordia's Grey Nuns Residence, I have been able to get to know *Your Concordia*'s Arts and Science Councillor Candidate Tally Shaaked. She who has been a loyal friend since we first met at Residence Colour Wars, an event orchestrated by *Your Concordia* executive candidate Laura Glover.

Tally is one of the people whom I feel has done a great job at shaping my amazing experience thus far at Concordia.

My first student activist experience was with Shaaked at WHALE; it was inspiring to see such passion in a person willing to stand up for what they believe in. Shaaked's critical thinking and strong sense of justice are exactly in line with *Your Concordia*'s principals, which rely on a foundation of loyalty to the student body through communication, understanding and action.

I am confident that the *Your Concordia* slate has the best interests of all students in mind; voting for a team with the right morals and passionate candidates will be exceptionally innovative to the Concordia Student Union, who has seen a history of corruption and mismanagement. I am confident that Shaaked will represent me correctly and responsibly. Putting her alongside a real slate of executives is a key in order to see Concordia finally shape its student union to make some positive steps forward for everyone.

I would much rather see a responsible team who is expressive of their platform, the most visible part of their campaign in the CSU, rather than vote for a team based on seeing them dancing and laughing to an upbeat Top-40 hit.

I am voting for *Your Concordia* for next year's CSU and I invite you to do the same. Check out *YourConcordia.ca* to find out more!

—Austin Lesperance,  
Management

## I'm Not Falling For It, Action

From their most recent campaign video, you'd think the Action team was composed of a bunch of hard-core activists who have been fighting steadily against tuition increases.

Appearances, however, can be deceiving.

I go to more protests than I can count, and am heavily involved in a number of struggles in Montreal, including the fight against tuition

increases. I also helped out with the WHALE and work closely with most progressive groups on campus.

In my experience, and that of other activists I know, the members of Action like to talk a lot about their willingness to fight tuition increases, but when students actually attempt to mobilize, they do everything in their power to frustrate their ability to actually take action. A good example of that is the WHALE, the largest student event at Concordia in ten years.

The CSU refused to properly fund it, refused to help organize it and attacked their former VP, Morgan Pudwell, for working too closely with "activists" to organize it.

These candidates are the most anti-activist people I know, and it infuriates me that they would lie to students about their track record in a cheap grab for votes.

A vote for Action is a vote for the same ineffective, obstructionist CSU we've had for two years. The same one that kicked over 70 students out of a public council meeting and refused to call on external members of the Board to resign, even after students mandated them to do so at a general meeting.

Sorry Action, we aren't as stupid as you think we are. I'm not falling for your misrepresentations and I doubt anyone else will either.

—Bader Takriti,  
Economics

## I'm Voting Your Concordia

My name is Bojana, and I came to Montreal to study at Concordia from Tokyo, Japan. I lived in the Grey Nuns' Residence in 2008-2009 year and had the pleasure of living in Morgan Todd's hallway. Morgan was a great Resident Assistant and really helped support and mentor me as a first year student.

Morgan promoted and fostered a community within the hallway and the building, and I believe that he is just what JMSB needs in order for it to build a stronger relationship within the Concordia community. Morgan had creative ideas and promoted opportunities for our hallway to get closer as peers and friends, which is ultimately what made first year an amazing experience.

Also, I know of first hand accounts where Morgan had dealt with emergency situations as well as student conflicts in a confident and collected manner. He is really good at coming up with new ideas, and is always supportive of his fellow student leaders. Needless to say he would be an excellent council member.

Morgan is running as JMSB Councilor in the CSU election next week (March 29-30-31). He is affiliated with the *Your Concordia* party and I truly believe that he has the drive and experience to make Concordia and JMSB a better place for all students.

I can confidently say that I will be voting for *Your Concordia* next week.

—Bojana Jeremic,  
Political Science

## Ready To Fight: Student Apathy

For the past few months, I have worked relentlessly to create a stronger students' association for the mathematics and statistics students at Concordia.

In February 2010, I discovered that our association, just like all other departmental associations at Concordia, did not have a legal status. I learned also that a section of Quebec's civil code (Ch. A-3.01) was devoted entirely to the description of a special legal status, accreditation, which students' associations may seek in order to safeguard their rights, such as the right to an office and to an assessment.

I immediately set out to create an accredited students' association. With the help of fellow executive members, I created a non-profit organization, wrote its bylaws from scratch and organized a three-day poll to have this organization recognized as the official Math and Stats Students' Association by the Government.

As recently reported by *The Link*, over 35 per cent of the 562 MASSA members voted in this referendum, 96 per cent of which voted in favor of the association becoming accredited.

Unfortunately, our association's project to become accredited was met with much opposition from some of the ASFA executives, most notably from Alexa Newman, ASFA VP Finance. Newman repeatedly brought the "issue" to ASFA Council in hope that Council would oppose our efforts, which they never did, being instead quite supportive.

At the last Council meeting, she even insinuated that MASSA should be kicked out of ASFA for being accredited, although accreditation is a right. So much for cooperation and solidarity! Newman, who is running with the Action party, has repeatedly demonstrated that she believes that small associations on campus should not benefit from the same rights as larger ones, for example the right to establish a fee levy.

I was recruited by Lex Gill to run as Arts & Science Councillor with *Your Concordia* because I have proven beyond doubt that I want to empower students through all available means. I have accumulated much expertise on all matters related to student unions and the relevant sections of the law.

I believe that all student associations and clubs, no matter how small, should benefit from the same rights as larger associations. I am thrilled to be working with *Your Concordia* and I am ready to fight student apathy with all my heart!

—Bruno Joyal,  
MASSA Founder

## SCPASA Supports Mel

It is with great honour and excitement that we support Melanie Hotchkiss, one of our fellow executives, for a seat on Council in the up-

coming CSU elections.

Melanie has been a wonderful resource person to work with on the School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association, given her varied experience with student mobilizing, coalition building and communications. She was at the helm of the bylaw reform process at the SCPA and completed this task with diligence and transparency.

All of her knowledge has served as a guiding compass that has encouraged students such as ourselves to get involved, learn more about their faculty and their surrounding community.

So on March 29, 30 and 31, head to the polls and cast a ballot for Mel Hotchkiss. A vote for Mel is a vote for a dedicated and caring student leader who will do her best to represent your interests.

—School of Community & Public Affairs Student Association Executive Committee

## Voting For Action

Throughout this year, the Latin American Student Organization of Concordia University has had the pleasure to work with some wonderful individuals on many different activities and events.

These individuals have been part of the most active and giving associations of Concordia; such as ASFA, Hillel, CCSU, JMIBA and LSA, along with many others; and have demonstrated their commitment and dedication towards the improvement of student life and the merging and strengthening of student and club relationships.

We have crossed cultural boundaries and learned that working together, our events and our time here at Concordia can be used to make it as fun and as enriching as possible for students from any background and program.

As a member of LASO, I would like to express my full support towards team *Action*, a combination of hard working students at our university who have demonstrated through their dedication, effort and involvement throughout the many years at this university their commitment to pushing the Concordia community to new heights.

They are a team with abundant experience, motivation and dedication, all necessary qualities to lead our student union in the right direction. We would like to convey our gratitude and furthermore wish team *Action* a successful campaign and look forward to working with them next year.

—Carlos Puerta,  
 President, Latin American Student Organization

## Beach To The Board

I am writing to attest that I feel Laura Beach would make an excellent member of the *Your Concordia* Board of Directors.

She has not only shown a strong interest in specific initiatives around the Concordia community (most prominently, TapThirst). I know her to have a strong commitment to transparency, social justice and fair representation.

For these reasons, I feel Laura will go above and beyond the call of

duty to make sure that the Concordia community is fairly represented through a transparent and open student government.

—Chelsey Ancliffe,  
 Anthropology

## CSA Endorses Your Concordia

The Cinema Students Association would like to endorse the *Your Concordia* slate in the upcoming CSU elections.

While *Your Concordia* holistically is a competent, well-rounded and genuine team, we have experienced immense individual support and leadership from individuals on the slate, particularly relevant to the Fine Arts Faculty at Concordia.

We have had the pleasure of having both AJ West and Ali Moenck on our executive this year.

These individuals, along with other key involved students, have reached out to the Fine Arts community with the utmost respect and motivation to enrich the quality of student life within the faculty. They have actively worked to defend constitutionality and democracy within Fine Arts Student Association, demonstrated by a series of committed actions and reforming the recently ratified FASA bylaws and policy documents.

The CSA would be proud to work with these students as elected representatives for the Concordia Student Union in the coming year.

—Cinema Student Association

## Bruno Will Make You Happy

I am writing in support of Bruno Joyal, who is running in the CSU elections with *Your Concordia* for the position of Arts & Science Councillor.

Bruno loves working to do things for others, and is ready to go all out to give Concordia back to the students. He did an outstanding job as VP External of the organizing committee of SUMM, a Montreal-wide mathematics conference for undergraduates.

Having had the chance to work with him over the course of the last few months, we can vouch for his professionalism and efficacy. Vote for Bruno; he'll make you happy.

—Cyndie Cottrell,  
 President of McGill's Society of Undergraduate Mathematics Students

—Jifeng Shen,  
 President of Seminars in Undergraduate Mathematics in Montreal

## Letter For Leslie

We have really appreciated having Leslie Reifer on board with our team at the John Molson International Business Association, during the past year.

Leslie's choice has led him to work in our association, on a particularly demanding task, namely VP Events/Logistics.

During this last year he's shown growing interest in logistics and event planning often reaching over our initial expectations. Finally, Leslie's ease and enthusiasm at work really made the difference and helped him integrate within the team. He's proven to be fully responsible for his work, and I'm quite sure he'll fit into bigger challenges.

It is with great pleasure that I fully support Leslie as next year's VP Clubs and Promotion for the Concordia Student Union.

—Daniel Noeltner,  
 VP Finance, John Molson International Business Association

## Help Make It Yours

I'll be the first to admit I don't know a whole lot about these elections. I don't have the time to go read both websites thoroughly, but I took a 20-minute study break to watch the videos. I expected the most important campaign points to be shown there, to help me cast an informed vote. I won't go into a detailed play-by-play here, because there have already been multiple articles comparing the videos.

However, after watching *Action*'s videos, I felt exhausted, annoyed, and slightly belittled. Don't they realize they have a potential audience of 30,000 adult students? Why are they treating us like we are still in high school, as if these kinds of look-how-glam-we-are tactics will work to get my vote?

In contrast, after watching *Your Concordia*'s videos, I felt empowered and informed, and a little bit in love. The first two let me know exactly what the CSU is about and exactly what they stand for, and the diversity video told me they have a real grasp on what being a Concordia student is all about. And let's face it; the rap video was the most endearing thing I have ever seen during an election.

I find that these videos reflect exactly the kind of approaches each team has in person. While *Action* doesn't look you in the eye, shoves a flyer in your hand on the way up the escalator (along with some useless bribe like candy or...a pen? why?), and hangs around in small, exclusive cliques at school events, *Your Concordia* is like I made a new friend. They smile and say hi, ask how I am, and even asked permission before giving me a flyer.

*Your Concordia* flyers actually have a lot of useful information on them, rather than just a photo of themselves—after all, we vote on ideas, not images. *Your Concordia* has a much more relatable approach—they are like real students!

Needless to say, *Your Concordia* has my vote. I am excited to see a union that can actually relate to and address my needs, and I hope that all other students can see this clearly, too.

I strongly encourage everyone to vote for *Your Concordia*, and help them "Make it Yours!"

—Diandre Prendimano,  
 Creative Writing

## Lina and Your Concordia

I was ecstatic when I found out about Lina Saigol's candidacy for Arts and Science councillor for *Your Concordia*.

From the day I met Lina I saw the determination and passion she held for everything in her life. From the children she works with to her education and especially making Concordia University a better place for you and I, Lina never gives up.

Her idealistic outlook and realistic actions are what fuel her fervor

for political change.

I expect my student union to intervene if ever the student body's best interest isn't in mind. I expect someone who will stand up for us, the student body, when everyone else is on the proverbial bandwagon. I want to know my student union, be able to talk to them rather than view them as some sort of untouchable hierarchy.

I would only ever vote for a slate that I believed would ensure all of these things. I believe that Lina Saigol and *Your Concordia* possess these attributes and this outlook, and that is why I'll be voting for them!

—Erin McCall,  
 Finance

## Action's The Best

Teresa Seminara and along with her team, *Action*, couldn't be better candidates to represent our student body in the academic year coming.

I've known Teresa for many years and have seen her use all her skills and knowledge to its fullest capacity in everything that she does. She is always ready for new challenges and jumps into opportunities to learn and gain experiences.

These are some qualities Teresa is dedicated to fight for and is determined to do what ever it takes to make the world a better place. Concordia students, these are the type of people you want not only to represent you and your university, but to accommodate and keep on making our student life a better place to learn and grow.

Make your voices heard and vote *Action*! They are offering us only the best!

—Francesca Vardaro,  
 Italian Studies

## Khalil For President

In the year-and-a-half I have known Khalil Haddad, I worked alongside him and been friends with him, I have come to know him as a trustworthy, extremely hard-working, organized and reliable person. It's such a pleasure to write on Khalil's behalf to encourage students to vote for him as the next President of the CSU.

It is difficult to be a consistently active representative when working with student and university organizations; however, I believe that Khalil's track record demonstrates his ability to do just that.

I have seen him in action, first as the VP, and now the President for the Psychology Student Association, as well as in the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Sustainability Action Fund. He has the capacity to engage with people in every aspect of university life, working through issues with intelligence, planning and foresight.

Khalil is in touch with students' concerns because he reaches out to us. He does not take it as a given that students will speak out, but encourages us to strive for better things.

During council meetings he is a voice of reason as well as an advocate for sustainability. Advocacy and action are vital, but Khalil also achieves the balance of integrating our voices together with his well-

thought out ideas into plans of action. He does this because he listens and he has the experience of seeing things through to the end.

It's time that we act to reform university governance, to reclaim our space, and to continue mobilizing against tuition hikes. I'll be voting for Khalil with team *Action* because I think he exemplifies the balance between stability and the strength needed to work with and for students to effect these changes.

—Genevieve Lozier,  
 Co-President AHSC

## Library Responds

In Vol.31, Iss. 26 of *The Link*, Elpida Gianopoulos wrote an opinions article expressing that students should be allowed to eat in the library.

I want to thank you for your feedback, Elpida. I understand your point of view, and I can assure that you are not alone. The library is a public space that has its own general principles of conduct.

Unfortunately, ants, fruit-flies, garbage, odor problems and spills sadly do happen on a daily basis in our libraries. We receive more student complaints about food than about food prevention. Our staff members are doing a great job to ensure you have access to a safe and clean environment. We always appreciate hearing from students about their library experience.

You have a comment? Use our suggestion box to let us know. <http://libSuggestions.wordpress.com/>

—Guylaine Beaudry,  
 Director, Webster Library

## Beyond The Slates

I would like to take this opportunity to express a few of my opinions during these elections, as there are healthy decisions to be made and these decisions extend beyond mindlessly picking a side and snacking on it.

I hope that everyone is aware of all the problems which this election is plastered over, and that everyone has the critical thinking skills necessary to see past shiny posters, sweet promises, lollipops and greasy character attacks.

Further, I would also like to encourage any voter to carefully consider all the papers, videos and letters over the past year to determine some of the important developments that have occurred.

If you feel the media is biased, read between the lines. Word of mouth is also an important tool in gauging the situation. So while we're asking around we should look to the graduate students that cannot run or vote but who still care greatly about the Concordia community and can serve as mentors and soothsayers. Their voices will help all of us to consider the strength and commitment of each candidate.

I stress the word each, for I also feel that voting for an entire slate is not ideal, among other ridiculous, traditional practices (which see candidates forced to physically grapple with one another for campaign space, majority voting which crushes important opposition and unaffiliated candidates being buried

beneath ink and cardboard instead of given a loud microphone). It separates us into two camps and a false dichotomy takes shape, in which excellent candidates are made to look terrible, and awful candidates are made to look too good to eat.

My support lies with those who have been active, engaged and responsive to real student problems, those who offer genuine representation to each faculty and group. I will not vote for a stranger who just appeared a few days ago, or a familiar face who has remained silent on important issues. I will not vote for recycled candidates who have shown themselves incompetent, dishonest or unaccountable (and by unaccountable I mean constant excuse making, aggressive behavior, cocky attitudes, attacks on the press, bullet dodging, begging the question, closing the session and hiding in their offices).

This means looking beyond the slate paradigm. I will try my best to identify the bad apples in each bin and prepare a shopping list with everything I need.

We all know what happens when you go shopping on an empty stomach.

—Jamie Kelly  
Undergrad in Philosophy

## Your Concordia is Real Change

Potential—this is what I was looking for in the very first CSU elections I'll be voting in. As a first year undergrad, I was more than curious to see the unraveling of these infamous elections. Result: a popularity contest of epic proportions; a Cheerios versus Glee Club of sorts.

While one team is leaning on their “experience” and the other is trying to prove theirs, why does *Action*, with all their supposed experience, still promise irrational and unachievable campaign promises?

The one promise that makes me cringe the most is their VP Student Life & Loyola candidate's promise for night shuttles. Really now? We can't even go on the shuttle with a cookie, even less puke-filled bellies. Be realistic and don't lie to our faces, please. We're first years, but we're not stupid.

I can't stand the whole “*Your Concordia* has no experience” argument, that's a cop-out. It's like when you're looking for your first job and they give you the same excuse without realizing that often times, the individuals with the least experience bring twofold more to the table, including initiative and drive, to ultimately prove to their naysayers their wrongs and uncertainties.

Back to my initial statement, potential—this is what I see in the whole of the *Your Concordia* family I have before me. And as my time is mostly spent at Loyola, I flinch when I hear *Action*'s presidential candidate say, “There's nothing to do at Loyola.”

Difference: you haven't taken the time to get to know the campus, let alone find an exec that represents the residents of both campuses.

My decision is clear; I'm voting for Melissa Fuller, Lex Gill, Renée Tousignant, and all of the *Your Concordia* representatives I see be-

fore me.

Change happens, *Your Concordia* happens.

Signed, a highly concerned and borderline disappointed student.

—Jeansil Bruyère,  
Communication Studies & Religion

## Creative Problem-Solvers at Your Concordia

In accordance with the upcoming CSU elections, I felt it was important to indulge in sharing my opinion on one of the candidates running with *Your Concordia* for the position of Fine Arts Councillor; I find her to be particularly endearing.

The thing that becomes evident when you meet Alison Moenck is that she's going to make it. Her confidence is ferocious and she's not afraid to tell you her opinions. We knew one another through a mutual friend initially, but over the years have become well acquainted. We've shared numerous classes and later came across one another in our extracurricular activities.

Our paths crossed most notably this year, as we were both voting council members for the Fine Arts Student Alliance. Alison represented the Fibres Student Association and I, the Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History.

Alison proved to be one of the group's most enthusiastic members, openly vocalizing her interest in the policies of student government and ensuring that equal-voice and equal opportunity were afforded to all Fine Arts students. Furthermore, as a representative of FASA, she was always knee-deep in some project; if we met in the hallway, we would exchange brief words as she ran off to work on a show, to fundraise, or to say hello to one of the many people around who wanted to talk to her.

She wears many other hats too.

She's an RA at Grey Nuns and has become passionately knowledgeable about the interests of the Concordia student body—she is, after all, constantly surrounded by them.

She's the VP Communications for the Cinema Students Association.

Need I mention that she's also a full-time student who gets straight A's?

It becomes rapidly clear when considering her credentials that Miss Moenck has a multifaceted skill set. She's a creative problem-solver and she's always thinking outside the box.

She's positive, driven, intelligent and highly capable. She seems to know everyone in the Fine Arts department and beyond. What more could you ask for in a candidate?

This year for the CSU elections, I support *Your Concordia* and Alison Moenck for Fine Arts Councillor.

—Jessica Carroll,  
Editor-in-Chief, CUJAH

## An Engaging Campaign

I would just like to express how impressed and appreciative I am for the clean, honest and engaging campaign that *Your Concordia* has

been running during this year's elections.

This is especially in stark contrast to what *Action* has been doing. It baffles me that anyone can even take *Action* seriously after seeing their videos. The first one was not only vacuous and completely irrelevant to student politics, but it also included many people who have since voiced dissatisfaction at their inclusion (and implicit support).

Their second video was an obvious attempt to exploit an issue that is dear to student's hearts—but that they know nothing about. Not only did they get the ONLY fact in their video wrong (the numbers of how much tuition will be going up) but they also all tried to attach themselves to an issue none of them have spent any time working on before campaign period. I hadn't seen a single one of the *Action* team at any protests/panel-discussions/meetings/conferences prior to campaigning time.

Beyond that, the rest of their campaign has been a mix of verbally assaulting students and empty promises (shuttle bus to the moon, anyone?) However, I wouldn't say the *Your Concordia* campaign has been awesome only in comparison to the incredibly shallow one their opposition has put together. No, I actually truly believe they've run a great campaign in their own right.

It's easy to dismiss any effort this time of year as just empty campaigning, yet *Your Concordia*'s attempt to reach out to Concordia students has been so genuine. It's sad to note that spending so much time actually having conversations with students might have hurt their reach, and I can only hope that *Action*'s spamming technique doesn't prove effective.

*Your Concordia* has not only actually been taking in ideas and actually responding to them through their site and blog, but they've repeatedly addressed critical comments they received and responded to them with class.

I don't need to point out how quickly critical comments have disappeared from *Action*'s page. *Your Concordia*'s videos has been meaningful, thought provoking and moving and the fact that they spent time making an informational video says tons about their overall philosophy. They want students to know what's going on, and I believe that any informed student will have little trouble choosing who to vote for.

I usually struggle to trust any candidates during this time of the year, but I believe *Your Concordia* has worked hard enough to prove that they really mean it.

—Jessica Nudo,  
Political Science

## 'Who is Action Kidding'?

Can someone please explain to me what lollipops and pens have to do with running a student union? Really? Who is *Action* kidding?

I'll be honest; I'm generally distrustful of anyone who wants anything to do with the CSU. But I at least appreciate it when a team makes an effort to act like they care about representation. I mean, at least try!

If I'm going to have to be harassed by anyone, at least try to make it pleasant the way *Your Concordia* has. If you're going to interrupt me, at least give me something to think about. Does yelling out “HI, HELLO, VOTE FOR ACTION! HAVE A NICE DAY!” in a sing-song chorus on the Mezz actually work for anyone?

The times I've been approached, and actually had the chance to ask a question about issues, all *Action* people can tell me is, “go to our website.”

Seriously?

Let's not forget their class speeches. This is a shout out to that blonde girl from *Action* who came into three of my classes to ramble on about parties. Thanks for that. I really appreciate it. Again, the other team at least had substance. Though, why are either of them even allowed to interrupt classes?

I'm horrified that we attend a school where giving out branded pens and candy is considered a legitimate means to the presidency of the student union. I had no intention of voting before, but *Action*'s genius marketing strategies have pushed at least one student to vote against them.

—Jessie Thavonekham,  
Fine Arts

## Action!

This past year, I had the pleasure of working alongside Anthony D'Urbano, a candidate for CSU council with *Action*, as executives of Commerce and Administration Students Association.

Throughout his mandate, Anthony has demonstrated a passion and desire to represent students, enhance student life and make the college experience a memorable one for JMSB students.

Anthony has an incredible work ethic and he has compromised his sleep, study time and personal time to ensure that he not only fulfilled his mandate as CASA VP Events, but also to go beyond his obligations for the benefit of the students. I have no doubt that Anthony will voice the opinions of students at CSU Council and ensure that JMSB students receive proper representation.

I have also had the pleasure of working with Amanda Cabiakman,

as she is set to succeed me as CASA VP External. Throughout her tenure at Concordia, Amanda has represented JMSB in numerous case competitions. She has been a model contributor at the John Molson Marketing Association, and her ability to never back down from a challenge and always speak her mind leads me to believe that she is a perfect candidate to represent students within the Board of Governors.

During my time at Concordia, I have also had the pleasure of working with, and getting to know, Maxime Morin, Gregory Synanidis, Ariel Dabora, Stephanie Laurin, Mahmoud Abdelrahman, Danny Shakibaian, Tanya Ng and Leslie Reifer. I can personally vouch for each and every one of them, as they have been involved in student life at JMSB not for their own benefit, but

for the benefit of the student body. I have no doubt that they will serve JMSB and the Concordia community to the fullest.

With that being said, I urge students to have their voices heard and to vote in the CSU elections between March 29 and March 31. I also strongly encourage students to consider voting for *Action* and the aforementioned JMSB candidates, as their track records and desire to contribute to the betterment of the university speaks for itself.

—Jillian Wise,  
CASA VP External

## Bringing Change

As a CSU councillor, I am in a privileged position to differentiate between the two slates running for office. Knowing most of them personally and witnessing how those that were part of this year's CSU have voted and what stances they have taken, the choice is easy.

*Your Concordia* is who I will be voting for.

*Team Action* seems to be competent and capable to an uninvolved outsider, but looks are deceiving. They have, predictably, been advocating perennial campaign slogans; financial transparency and accountability. However, those running with this team have behaved and voted quite differently.

Their candidates voted to go into closed session and kick out over 100 students from a CSU meeting in early March to avoid an embarrassing public conversation relating to the resignation of a VP Morgan Pudwell.

Amid allegations of financial mismanagement, it was with extreme reluctance that records were released to councillors (who are ultimately responsible for the union as directors of the CSU) months after they were initially requested.

*Action* has been claiming that the issue of university governance is a prime concern, but in a CSU meeting earlier in the year their candidates voted against supporting the majority of Concordia's faculty in denouncing the Board of Governors. Lex Gill, Michaela Manson, Mel Hotchkiss (all *Your Concordia* candidates) and I all voted in favour of the motion that, to our dismay, was defeated.

Finally, their assertion that fighting tuition increases is important to them is contrary to their actions. It was *Your Concordia* candidates, led by Morgan Pudwell, who organized a successful CSU Special General Meeting in order to mobilize students against impending fee hikes.

A quick consultation of CSU minutes and CUTV footage from this year's meetings are irrefutable proof of *Team Action*'s hypocrisy. Ironically, their slate name speaks volumes to their lack of credibility because actions speak louder than words. This team would be more accurately described if they were called InAction.

*Your Concordia* is made up of students who are genuinely interested in the wishes of their constituents, and who are not just paying lip service to ideals in order to get your vote. They are invested in the issues that students care

about and are not simply trying to pad their CV.

As an upcoming alumnus, I am no longer going to be affected personally by CSU incompetence and mismanagement. Be that as it may, I am voting for *Your Concordia*; a team that will shed the disreputable image that has been attached to our union for far too long. A team that will proactively fight against tuition increases, for more student space and for you!

—Joel Suss,  
CSU Councillor

### Voting For Nat

I fully endorse Natasha Launi and Team Action in the upcoming CSU elections. I've had the privilege to have known Nat since childhood. Throughout Nat's involvement I've seen a tremendous growth in her personal development that has highly impacted and enhanced student life at Concordia. The great thing about Nat is not only that she is a great and caring person but she is also the brains behind numerous events at our school.

When I envision VP Student Life, I cannot envision anyone else but Natasha Launi. Under her leadership and motivation, I am confident that next year's CSU Orientation will unite the entire Concordia student body.

Whether you are a first year student or a third year student, whether you are majoring in communications or mechanical engineering, whether you are shy or outgoing, Natasha Launi will make you feel invaluable and that Concordia is your second home.

I endorse Natasha Launi as VP Student Life & Loyola because I believe in her and have seen the amazing work she has done over the years for Concordia.

—Jonathan Cabot,  
Honours Sociology

### I Believe in Your Concordia

I am normally not particularly vocal when it comes to student politics, but this year's CSU election seriously has my attention. It's tempting to get annoyed by the campaigning, or "harassment," but I try to remember that the student politicians are just trying to get their message heard.

That being said, I have been quite put off by the aggression of the Action slate's campaigning thus far. Although I do appreciate a good sugar rush every now and then, having a lollipop virtually forced into my hand in the Hall building brings back scarring childhood memories... Perhaps this is why some students have found it difficult to take the elections seriously.

The problem is, these elections are a very serious matter. Some of our tuition money is going to the CSU, and they have the incredibly daunting role of spending it the best way they can. I'm inclined to believe that we may not care about the CSU if they're doing a poor job, but that if they were truly using that money to the best of their ability, our school could be changed so much for the better!

I completely believe in the *Your Concordia* slate. As a resident in

Grey Nuns, I have spent a good amount of time with AJ West, Ali Moenk, Lorne Segall and Morgan Todd. More importantly, both Laura Glover and Tally Shaaked have played a large role in my Concordia life so far. These women are two of the most loyal, passionate, motivated and well-intentioned people I have ever met. Not only does Glover make her voice heard with causes she feels passionate about (ie. WHALE, The Gulu Walk Movement), she does everything she can to improve the lives of those around her on a daily basis.

I thoroughly encourage anyone reading this letter to check out their website at [yourconcordia.ca](http://yourconcordia.ca); the goals and ideas speak for themselves!

—Kathleen MacDougall,  
Studio Arts

### Your Loyola

Being enrolled in two majors that are based at Loyola campus for the past four years, Melissa Fuller really knows her way around.

She understands Loyola's potential to be turned into a vibrant and shared campus for all Concordia Students. She has been on the COMS Guild (Communication Studies Student Association) for the past three years of her student life and I can safely say that her role as co-president of the COMS Guild this year has brought a necessary change to the department.

With her guidance, more students than ever before have participated in COMS guild events, voted in elections and are familiar with who their student association is. If Melissa Fuller is elected as VP of Loyola & Services, she WILL make a difference. Along with Melissa, comes Renée Tousignant, a candidate running as an Arts & Science Councillor. Renée has also been on the COMS guild this past year as VP of Finance and just recently got elected as co-president of the Guild for next year. She has been an advocate for student rights and will correctly represent Arts & Science students on next year's CSU council.

I have had the pleasure to have worked with both Melissa and Renée and as they run with *Your Concordia*. I can assure everyone that they will make Concordia YOURS.

—Kevin Pacheco,  
VP Social Affairs COMS Guild

### Endorsing Action

I am Khatib Tamal, the President of the Bangladeshi Students' Association.

I would like to recommend Rasim Hafiz as a candidate for VP Services & Sustainability in the CSU. I have known him for the past two years as a very hard working person. I appreciate his involvement in various on-campus activities such as being elected the President of Muslim Students' Association and as the Engineering Councillor for the CSU for the past two years.

I believe that Rasim, with years of experience behind him, would be an ideal candidate for this position, and I endorse my full support for team Action in this upcoming CSU

election for 2011-2012, on March 29, 30 and 31.

—Khatib Tamal,  
President, BSA Concordia

### Let Irmak Represent You

I have seen Irmak Bahar waist deep in student politics.

Upon her first year of entering Concordia, she got involved with Free Education Montréal because she genuinely believes that education is a fundamental right and thus should be free and accessible to all. She fought tirelessly, campaigning for educational accessibility and financial transparency for the international students that suffered the all-of-the-sudden dramatic tuition increase.

This administrative move aggravated the notion of institutional exclusivity, which I think is oppressive and intrinsically xenophobic. I saw this girl everywhere immediately following the free hike, encouraging students to get informed and attend the general meeting that she organized with Free Education Montreal. She hoped to engender a dialogue between Concordia students and (then) university president Judith Woodsworth about a vast array of student concerns; these concerns included (but were not limited to) tuition increases, encroachment of student space due to corporatization, and student inclusion in the decision-making processes that directly affects them.

In terms of how it is that the two slates compare, I cannot vouch for one over the other based on campaign platform because platforms say very little about a slate when both sides will always say what voters want to hear.

But when I look at the *Your Concordia* team, I recognize most of them from many student social justice initiatives. For example, it was their members who invested an innumerable amount of energy into mobilizing Concordia students to meet quorum for the Feb. 14 day of action in response to the supposed 135 per cent tuition increase for Quebec students.

Already, *Your Concordia* has an impressive repertoire of past experience under their belt. When I look at Action I don't recognize any of the slate's members. Even if they were at any of these events, they certainly weren't at the forefront, nor did they make their presence known. The aggressive imposition of their visibility as a slate whose members quite frankly came out of nowhere makes me question their credibility and the motives they have behind running.

I definitely recommend Irmak as Student Rep, as never in my life have I come across someone so involved in their student community, who stands up for what they believe in for the benefit of everyone that she shares this institution with. I draw a lot of inspiration from this person, and I hope students will realize the benefit of having someone like Irmak representing them.

—Kwaku Adomando,  
Sociology & Anthropology

### Make it Your Concordia

Two weeks ago, the Math and

Stats Students' Association took a huge step by becoming legally recognized by the Quebec government.

From now on, MASSA will benefit from the same legal status as ASFA and the CSU. This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the work of one of the MASSA executives and prospective Arts and Science Councillor Bruno Joyal, running with *Your Concordia*.

I've seen Bruno work through this long procedure and I can assure you that, given the amount of opposition MASSA faced on ASFA Council from certain people (many of whom are running with the Action party), he achieved something incredible.

The successful outcome of this project is due to his remarkable dedication. We are now a much stronger students' association and we are looking forward to working with ASFA and with the CSU to create a better organization for math students.

*Your Concordia* is composed of dedicated people just like Bruno, who are able to MAKE IT HAPPEN. For this reason, I fully support Bruno and the *Your Concordia* team and I will be voting for them on March 29-30-31.

—Lambert Leduc,  
President-elect, Math and Stats Students' Association for 2011-2012

### Sabrina for CSU

CSU Elections—it's that time of the year again. Everybody should pay close attention to these elections, especially during these tough times for students (tuition hikes, Concordia being renowned for bad governance).

Among the numerous people you will hear speeches from in the next days, I would like to bring your attention on one outstanding candidate for engineering rep: Sabrina D'Ambra from *Your Concordia*.

Sabrina is an involved student in the engineering community, in fact she has been a strong community pillar since her beginning among us in 2008. Involved in Frosh, VP Social of CUBES, employee of the B-annex and member of prestigious Garnet Key Society (Concordia's official honour society). If getting involved in student life is not enough, she also has done her fair share for the community. In 2009-2010 she represented us on the CSU council and was vocal and critical of her executive in meetings. She was also one of the councillors who supported Le Frigo Vert by putting their question for a fee levee on the referendum ballot, and supporting the motion to call a special meeting for Le Frigo Vert to present their signatures and defend their case.

I know Sabrina will use her previous experience on council to address the areas that need improving. She is honest, dedicated and, most of all, passionate about the Concordia community. Please, get informed; you will see the choice is not hard to make.

—Mathieu Dumais-Savard,  
Software Engineering

### Ari for Councillor

This is simply a letter of genuine appreciation for a friend I met a few

years ago at a fundraiser that was raising money towards developing schools in Uganda.

I was immediately impressed with Ariel Dabora because of his friendly spirit. I was feeling a bit out of place at the event and he came up and introduced himself to me and then introduced me to the other volunteers.

Over time, our friendship developed because of our similar interest in music and love for guitar. Ariel has been an inspiring friend, and his kindness and fun personality unleash the potential in people around him.

I am writing this letter of support because I have seen the dedication and hard work that Ariel puts into everything he does and knows he is the perfect candidate of a JMSB councillor to represent us Concordia Students.

—Mattan Biton,  
JMSB

### Reaction to Action

Over the past two weeks of CSU campaigning, I've grown increasingly disgusted that a team that evidently prides themselves on their "actions" has been displaying a complete lack of respect towards Concordia students.

It has become clear to me that Action doesn't care about student representation; they care only about winning. Beginning with poster night, they showed that they are unable to carry themselves with the sincerity and integrity that union representatives should possess. Arrogantly assuming endorsements from members of the Concordia community only further highlights their view that this is a popularity contest more than an election.

We don't need a CSU that is content with throwing parties and staying out of the important issues. Looking at the Action slate through a critical lens, I can't see them being anything more than that, regardless of what they say. We also definitely don't need a CSU that is happy to be elected through shady campaigning rather than because students believe in them.

Not to mention the clear fact that Action is a reincarnation of Fusion (...and Vision) – and we all know what a great job they've done. They can distance themselves all they want, but anyone who has ever read a student paper can tell that they are exactly the current CSU.

The *Your Concordia* slate has, on the other hand, demonstrated a true concern with what students think. They've spent their time during campaigns building actual relationships with students at this school, rather than just yelling to vote for them. I believe they will actually maintain this dialogue with students after being elected, and that they really will change the notoriously toxic nature of Concordia politics.

I take the protest outside *The Link* as a very clear hint at what we can expect next year if Action is elected. Their enemy is the informed student, and they demonstrated that by trying to silence the media, by keeping their Facebook page private and by keeping all their

YouTube videos closed to comments. This total censorship makes it pretty plain that they don't care to hear what students think.

I'm tired of student "politicians" walking around with a sense of entitlement. The CSU should not be elected based on who has louder friends or who makes the most empty promises, and I really hope things change this time around. That's why I'm voting for *Your Concordia*.

—Melanie Thompson,  
Communication Studies

### I Want You To Represent Yourselves'

I was motivated to run in this year's CSU election as VP Loyola and Services for several reasons. The major one however, is the distinct lack of attention Loyola receives by the CSU. As a Loyola student in my fourth year, I've witnessed this year after year. I decided to get involved because things NEED to change next year.

During campaigning these past two weeks I've learned even more about the Loyola community. My favorite part of campaigning has been one-on-ones with students at Loyola. I've met so many students from different departments over the past few weeks and spoken to them about concerns they have for the Loyola campus, as well as the university as a whole.

It wasn't surprising for me to hear that many students felt ignored or forgotten by their union, or that many students weren't aware of some of the larger projects the CSU has taken on this past year, or even that barely anyone could name the current VPs of Loyola from either ASFA or the CSU. Even more, it was saddening to learn that many students at Loyola don't get involved in student groups because they don't see the point. Several students actually asked me why I even bother.

To that, I'd like to say that it IS worth getting involved. I have been involved in the COMS Guild for three years now. During this time Concordia has become a second home to me, and the COMS Guild, my family. I've had so many amazing experiences through my involvement at Concordia, and have witnessed the amazing work my peers contribute to student life, and their dedication. I do this because I want every student at Loyola to feel as though they had a chance to be involved in something, and didn't miss out just because they weren't downtown.

There is a beautiful community forming at Loyola—a community that I want to be a bigger part of. I want to help facilitate new student initiatives, and actively support the amazing ones already in progress. I want to help show students that there is value in getting involved in the Loyola community, and that there is a place within the CSU for them to do this.

I don't want to represent you Loyola, I want you to represent yourselves. This is *Your Concordia*; let's make it happen.

—Melissa Fuller,  
VP Loyola & Services candidate,

### Your Concordia

#### Know Your Candidates

In light of everything that has happened this year, it should be clear to all students that the upcoming CSU elections are hugely important. We need a change in representation and we need to pick the best people for the job; we need to inform ourselves.

While platforms are an important place to start, I am a firm believer that we need to get to know our candidates. Do they truly believe in the things for which they claim to advocate? Will they stand up for what is in our best interests? It is on this note that I would like to voice my support for Laura Glover, running for VP Sustainability and Student Life with the *Your Concordia* slate.

I've had the pleasure of working with Laura for the past two years as part of Concordia's Residence Life. I have also observed her efforts with FASA and her various other involvements at Concordia. Laura is motivated, competent, and likely the most genuine person I have ever met. She truly cares about people, the environment, and the university. Experience shows me that she is always the first to speak up in meetings, questioning if decisions are the fairest for students or the best use of their time. She is not afraid to stand up for what she thinks is right and she honestly considers the opinions and feelings of others. I have absolute faith she will be a great asset to our student union. To those of you who have not already done so, I encourage you to do more than look at posters and videos. Engage our candidates; find out who they really are.

Good luck, Concordia.

—Michaela Ryan,  
Linguistics

#### Vote Ari

A good friend, student, supporter and, most importantly, brother! Ariel Dabora holds the excellent attitudes, values and beliefs to fulfill the role as JMSB councillor. He is driven by a kind and generous nature that makes anyone who knows him proud. Furthermore, his time management skills are something to be envious of. In CEGEP we use to tease him because he worked as a teacher's assistant, peer tutor, deli boy and still made time for parties, school activities and always managed to get good grades.

I was not motivated to write this letter of support because Ari is my brother. I am supporting Ari because I am confident that he will represent the students of Concordia well and will make JMSB students proud to have elected him.

Personally, I consider myself an average student, not overly involved in school life, but I see an opportunity to make a difference. I see a chance for a better school and that power is in my vote. I recommend that everyone get involved in the upcoming CSU election by getting informed! March 29 I am voting for Ariel Dabora and you should too because together we can make a difference!

—Michelle Dabora,

### JMSB

#### Third Time's The Charm?

This is my third consecutive CSU election. In 2009, I ran as a fine arts councillor with Vision; in 2010, I was an executive with Fusion, and now here I am again, asking students to give me one more chance as their VP Advocacy & Outreach with *Your Concordia*.

2009 was an important year—it was the battle between the Canadian Federation of Students and the students. The CFS ran under a team called Change, while Vision was formed with the main intent of getting rid of the CFS—students from all over the community with varying values and politics came together through Vision to take their school back into their own hands.

We were promised that 2009 would be a year of reform in order to ensure that the CFS kept out of our union politics. However, by March 2010, very little had been done. In March, the makers of Vision created Fusion, and so the line continued. I was asked at the last moment to join Fusion as an executive, and promised it would be the much-awaited year of reform and meaningful "action." However, despite these promises we've seen the union repeatedly fail to represent students and engage in meaningful ways.

So all this has lead us to this moment. We are finally faced with the opportunity for real change. With my candidacy aside, as a student, I am so excited. *Your Concordia* is a team of students who have been actively engaged in this community, and are ready to bring the union back to you. As a team of extremely experienced and capable student leaders, they have worked tirelessly to reach out to you (all of them long before they wanted your vote).

You can find real representation and passion in each individual of the *Your Concordia* team, something I've never seen in my three years of CSU elections. I've never been a part of a CSU slate that I was so proud of—this team gives me hope, something I thought might be lost after my previous experience with the union. I hope that you'll support *Your Concordia*, because you deserve the representation they have to offer you.

To the team, I'm so proud to be a part of this moment.

To the students, it's time you find real representation.

—Morgan Pudwell,  
VP Advocacy & Outreach  
candidate, *Your Concordia*

#### Vote For Real Action

Action does not mean taking fancy mug shots of yourself at a protest that you didn't even bother to join other Concordia students for, nor does Action mean encouraging students to protest without explaining why or how.

Action is hard work. It requires hours of research, education, preparation and organization for it to be meaningful and effective.

Real action is demonstrated through the tactics with which

*Your Concordia* has run their campaign. Their tactics speak to a change in the way the CSU runs, showing action in practice before elections have even taken place, by actively publicizing, listening and responding to students' concerns.

Real action is illustrated by the solid group of *Your Concordia* executives: Scanning hundreds of students' comments, creating diverse videos that don't rely on propaganda or clichés, but that focus on information, education and critical thought and ideas.

Real action is exemplified by Irmak Bahar. She coordinated and presented the original petition for the CSU Special General Meeting. She created the volunteer lists for WHALE. Rewind further back, and you'll find out a few more secrets about Irmak. Since last year she has been fighting for quality, accessible education and has taken initiative that is more than admirable with no credit, and sacrificed a heck of a lot of her personal life.

Real action is demonstrated by Laura Beach. It is hard to find someone more committed to transparency, accountability and the proper representation of students on the Board of Governors. She has been volunteering with TAPthirst since 2007, campaigning for student inclusion in the decision-making processes around Concordia's controversial exclusivity contract with Pepsi.

Real action is experienced by Eva-Loan Ponton, who has been involved in the struggle against tuition increase since her time in CEGEP.

Real action means that for the first time in a decade, a CSU election doesn't have to be a choice between unsure and uncertain, but a choice between a status quo that's failed to address student interests, and a meaningful change with the demonstrated competence, creativity and courage to not only take—but inspire—action.

Real action is not for the money or fame: It is done without credit simply because it's important, as Alex Matak and Kelly Pennington have shown for months now.

If you believe in action, do it the right way: Vote independent candidates Alex Matak and Kelly Pennington and *Your Concordia* Executive and candidates.

—Nadia Hausfather,  
Councillor-elect,  
Graduate Students' Association

#### I Trust Leslie

As a representative of the Concordia student body, I cannot pay due respect to the outstanding efforts that Leslie Reifer has contributed to our respective institution. As the standing president of Volunteers In Action, I can attest to the involvement Leslie has had with our organization with respects to implementation and participation in our various year-long campaigns.

Leslie is approachable, charis-

matic and has always presented himself in the best manner. He is an accomplished individual and strives to do well in all avenues of life. As a candidate for VP Clubs, Leslie Reifer will certainly do an outstanding job by enhancing student involvement within our institution.

His passion to engage the masses at large to participate in co-curricular activities is infectious. Wholeheartedly, I trust in Leslie Reifer and team Action.

—Nancy Salama,  
President, Volunteers In Action

#### Vote Beach!

This is a letter of support for Laura Beach, who is a part of *Your Concordia*, as the Board of G representative. She has been involved with TAPthirst (tap water drinkers against privatization) since its inception in 2007, and has been tirelessly campaigning for student inclusion in the decision making processes regarding Concordia's exclusivity contracts.

Laura has proven to be deeply committed to making these issues accessible to students through her consistent hard work and dedication towards what she believes in, combating apathy at Concordia University!

Laura is a wonderful person who cares deeply about her community and the individuals within.

VOTE for *Your Concordia*!

—Naomi Large,  
Art Education

#### Your Concordia & Cameron

I'm writing to express my support for Cameron Monagle in his run for Concordia Student Union Arts and Sciences Councillor with the *Your Concordia* slate.

Cameron is a colleague of mine at Hingston Hall in the Residence Life Department. I have worked, lived and studied with him for the last year.

As an international student, Cameron and I agree on the importance of fighting tuition fee increases. He's invited me to several protests, and done an impressive job of getting the word out for these events.

I'm a busy student in a challenging program at John Molson, so I appreciate his involvement. He knows his stuff and then spreads the word—I've probably heard from Cameron in the past month more than the CSU all year.

The CSU needs some new faces, and it needs an effective, critical council. Enough of the party videos, let's see a student union that's actually representative and up front.

I hope you'll join me in supporting the *Your Concordia* slate, and I hope all Arts and Science students will support Cameron Monagle.

—Natalie Child  
JMSB

#### NDP Upset With Action

On behalf of NDP Concordia, I am writing to express our ex-

treme displeasure with *Action's* conduct during this year's Concordia Student Union election campaign. When the campaign began, *Action* put up a website which listed about 25 groups that they claimed had endorsed them, including NDP Concordia. The problem is that the list was completely fake and none of the named groups had agreed to support *Action*.

When a member of NDP Concordia discovered this and posted a demand for an explanation on the wall of *Action's* Facebook page, his post was deleted and he was blocked from accessing the page. Despite repeated requests, *Action* has refused to apologize or even retract their false claims.

In an interview with *The Link* [Action Presidential candidate Khalil Hadad] claimed it was an accident and that the groups listed were the ones they expected to endorse them. However, there was no evidence at all that NDP Concordia would support them and indeed we have had no contact with anyone on the *Action* slate. Also, if this was an accident, why did *Action* try to cover it up rather than simply apologize?

We have an especially hard time believing it was an accident considering that slates have now made the same "mistake" three years in a row. It seems more likely that they did this because most students check the websites at the beginning of the campaign and are left with a false impression of a slate's support, which lingers even after the fraud is exposed.

Concordia students should seriously question whether *Action*, a slate that is clearly dishonest and that has refused to take responsibility for their actions, should be trusted with our money or to represent us.

—Natalie Bocking,  
Chair, NDP Concordia

## Your Concordia Has My Vote

I have never been interested in taking part in student elections—until this year.

I have felt personally affected by *Your Concordia's* campaign and trust them to fulfill their promises. As well, as an art history student, I am glad to see a fine arts representative as part of the movement; something that *Action* lacks.

I completely support Concordia's bottle-free campaign. Campaigners for *Your Concordia* have been more personable and approachable, and it is easy to see all of their colourful t-shirts moving around campus.

I have barely seen any *Action* representatives, especially in the EV Building where I attend all my classes.

Maybe *Action* has filled JMSB, but this does not count for the entire student body.

In fact, this to me says they are not representing the students well by only reaching out to a particular demographic of the Concordia population. *Your Con-*

*cordia*, on the other hand, can be noticed all around campus—not just because of their colourful t-shirts, but because of their dynamic and engaging personalities from their desire to keep this school in the interests of its students.

Students should be comfortable in their environment.

*Your Concordia* representatives are personable, approachable and have my vote!

—Niki Kingsmill  
Fine Arts

## Ari for JMSB

I met Ariel Dabora in my Statistics class. I was struggling with a problem and asking the teacher many questions but not understanding the material. After class, Ariel approached me and explained to me exactly what I was doing incorrectly.

Since then, I have come to know Ariel better and have come to respect and admire him more and more due to his compelling strength of character. It's so rare to meet a genuinely kind person who is always willing to help and listen.

Ariel is decisive, responsible and a passionate person. He is actively driven to be involved in school politics for the right reasons: to better student-life on campus. I wholeheartedly agree with Ariel's campaign viewpoints including the reclamation of student space.

I know he will put all his effort and joy into representing us—the students of Concordia. That is why he has my vote for JMSB councillor!

—Nina Ansermino,  
JMSB

## Inform Yourself

You cannot go through business school without working on a group project.

They can be good experiences, but they can also be experiences from hell. I worked on a project in COMM224, and it was the latter. One group member showed up to one meeting and then freaked out that we didn't give her credit. Then someone plagiarized their entire part from Wikipedia, which was not discovered until it was the day to print the project.

Morgan Todd and I spent the last couple of hours before we had to hand in our assignment in the library. Between the two of us we were able to finish the missing group member's portion and rewrite the plagiarized portion. This was a great example of working hard under pressure and getting things done. This is something that is needed in an elected position.

That being said, I still encourage every student to go out and inform themselves on the two teams this year. If you don't have much time, like most business students, spend 15 minutes checking out each team's YouTube videos.

*Your Concordia* has a great video explaining the CSU to give

you some context for the election. Take another few minutes to read candidate bios on elections.csu.qc.ca or review their websites ([www.yourconcordia.ca](http://www.yourconcordia.ca) and [www.voteforaction.ca](http://www.voteforaction.ca)) and you will be relatively informed.

This all being said, I am in full support of *Your Concordia* and Morgan running for a seat as a JMSB councillor. He has demonstrated a good work ethic and problem solving skills that every organization needs. See you at the polls.

—Pascale Cardin,  
JMSB

## 'Your Concordia Wowed Me'

I have been watching the CSU campaign over the last two weeks and I can honestly say that I haven't ever been this interested in school politics. Both teams present compelling platforms.

However, as a person who is concerned about the environment, I am thoroughly impressed by *Your Concordia* and their VP External, Chad Walcott. He has been committed to the cause of eliminating plastic water bottles throughout the year.

As a student at Concordia, I found myself somewhat lost when I first started here. This was only furthered by the ongoing and unnecessary political drama that seems to surround our system of student government. I found myself continuously asking the same question: how is it that a union with as much potential as the CSU has consistently failed to properly represent its students?

Watching *Your Concordia* campaign on the grounds of really trying to communicate with students has wowed me. With candidates like Lex Gill and Chad Walcott, both of whom are actively involved with campus life and improvement, any doubt one could have is rapidly lost.

What we want, what we need, is a union that will deliver; we need a team like *Your Concordia* to show everyone how politics does not have to be the result of selfish people seeking office, but a tool by which to exercise our power as students.

Students of Concordia, make your voices heard! Vote *Your Concordia*.

—Patrick Lepage,  
Studio Arts

## CSU To Represent You

This is a letter of support to *Your Concordia* CSU councillors.

I believe *Your Concordia* would bring a diversity that would represent Concordia students. *Your Concordia* on council would bring accountability, transparency and a balance to the decisions of the CSU Executive.

*Your Concordia* is a team of students who have been involved in every social, political and financial issue that has been plaguing our university, and they have always been on the side of the students.

This is also a letter of support

for Schubert Laforest, Laura Gomez and Alex Gordon as CSU Action Councillors and members of ASFA. ASFA needs a powerful representation on CSU council in order to have an efficient representation of the member associations like PSSA. They are also hard working individuals who know how student associations and clubs work at Concordia. This is why I wish to see *Your Concordia* councillors and Schubert Laforest, Laura Gomez and Alex Gordon of *Action* on CSU council.

Please vote for them in order for a CSU that is representative of YOU, the student, the clubs and student association. The university future is in your hands; choose something that represent you.

It is *Your Concordia*.  
—Pier-Luc Therrien,  
Political Science Students Association, President-Elect

## This One Could Be Different

For the first time in my four years at Concordia I feel like there is a slate worth voting for. For the first time, I see a group running in the CSU elections that are actually in tune with real issues facing students.

For the first time, I see candidates engaged in student politics that have been working at a grassroots level for positive change in this school and want to continue doing so.

For the first time in my nearly-completed degree, I feel like the outcome of a student election could actually make the difference between a year full of creative changes, meaningful debate and engaging politics that reflect the student body, or the same old apathetic, hedonistic bull-shit that reminds me of a high-school student council.

I am excited to support the candidates running for *Your Concordia*. For anyone who has felt disillusioned with Concordia student politics, look to these candidates, who have finally broken from the continuum of *Action*-style campaigns that we've seen for the last four years. Find out more at [yourconcordia.ca](http://yourconcordia.ca).

—Rachel Tetrault,  
History & Photography

## Your Concordia Taking Action

Fighting for Students or Just Along for the Ride?

I would be very curious to know what the ironically-named *Action* slate has done for fighting fee hikes, battling the Board's power politics and striking back at the student union's fumbling—you know, actual student policies?

I helped promote the March 12 demonstration against the Charest budget cuts and was lucky enough to get to know some of the good people who have been organized in unselfishly fighting these battles on students' behalf for months, not just when it's time to party.

It so happens that the overwhelming majority who are really

taking action are to be found on the *Your Concordia* slate.

—Richard Hinton,  
MA candidate,  
Sociology & Anthropology

## Dabora's Driven

Student elections at Concordia: all the big shot politicians running around doing speeches on how they are going to be the next prime minister of Canada... my favourite time of the year!

I'm not writing to persuade you to paint your face blue and run around glueing *Action* posters to your body. My letter of support is simply to express my appreciation and support for a long-time time friend and role model.

I support Ariel Dabora for JMSB Councillor. Ariel has one specific trait that I truly admire: it is his drive and determination, that willingness to help others and make an impact on his environment. He is a leader who makes you proud knowing that he represents you to his maximum potential.

Ariel is capable of bringing so much to Concordia and JMSB. He believes in the school and student body! On March 29-31 take action: Vote Ariel Dabora for JMSB Councillor and vote *Action*!

—Rick Fenster,  
ENCS Computer Engineering

## Your Concordia Gets It

Generally speaking, I don't get involved in student politics. My course load is more than enough and CSU stuff always seems so corrupt and messy. But that's the very reason I chose to take a stance this year, because there's finally a team that I actually believe when they say they'll change that.

I'm writing in to encourage students to vote for *Your Concordia*. They are by far the better choice for CSU and it is time we encourage the few students at school that actually work really hard for the Concordia community for reasons beyond having a pretty CV.

Just comparing the two teams campaigning styles makes their true intentions really obvious. *Your Concordia* has been campaigning through conversations and by sharing ideas; *Action* has been creating a tunnel of people in the hall building that made me feel like I was being bullied at recess all over again.

Being the most annoying has little to do with being the most fit for office.

I also think *Your Concordia's* platform is strong and realistic—realistic being a keyword here. Their candidates have shown a willingness in the past to follow through on promises and commitments and, frankly, *Action's* platform seems to be all about taking on responsibilities that are usually the administration's job, which means the administration would be saving a lot of money if they get in.

Ultimately, I think *Your Con-*

cordia just gets it.

They know things are awful right now, and they actually want to fix that. *Action* is entirely content with the status quo, and I don't trust them to maintain their distance from corrupting influences on the Board and admin.

I'd really love to see the student body step away from just voting for their friends or those who offer them the most high-fives, and instead vote for actual, trustworthy representation.

I truly believe if we want to avoid having to put up with another year of secrets, lies and controversies, then we need to get *Your Concordia* in office.

—Sabrina Soria,  
School of Community and Public  
Affairs

### Lina Will Make You Proud

Lina Saigol is one of the most informed, intelligent and passionate people I know. When you meet Lina, the first thing she does is ask your name. She does this because not only is this a way to introduce herself but as a way for her to get to know you.

Furthermore, Lina is very good at connecting with people. She can stand and talk to you for hours about what is going on in the world, or on the latest episode of Grey's Anatomy. Lina is relatable, she makes people feel comfortable and at ease. To me this is an important quality as someone who is going to be meeting a lot of people throughout her time as Arts and Science councillor.

Secondly, Lina is a team player. She thrives at working in groups and is very good at taking on different roles, whether it is delegating tasks or stepping back and taking directions. She has immense patience; after all she worked at Camp Amy Molson for two years with underprivileged children. She was always helping out the counsellors and program staff when they needed it, and seemed to always be able to get the kids who misbehaved the most to calm down and have fun with her.

Lina is a hardworking and devoted person who is always looking for new experiences. I believe that being part of the CSU is part of her journey and would really allow her to use her talents and expertise. It would also provide her with the opportunity to learn and grow as a person. I know it is extremely important to her to make a difference in other people's lives and this position will give her the chance to positively impact her fellow peers. If Lina is privileged to gain a position as a Concordia councillor for Arts and Science, she will make you proud.

—Sarah Lukassen,  
Human Relations

### Count on Your Concordia

I have so many hopes for *Your Concordia* and how they will change the history of the CSU. And I must say, Action has not

shown me that they will bring any changes to Concordia other than the shuttle buses, already a promise that I know they cannot fulfill because it is ultimately up to the university, not the CSU.

Besides, driving around intoxicated students at 3 a.m. probably shouldn't be on anybody's list of priorities...

I do not see any enthusiasm in Action about actually making a change. It seems that they only care about the titles. All I see from them is good posters. They look good, but we want answers and what they have for us is not enough.

They don't even know how to approach students. Once in a while one of them comes around and passes flyers and free pens, and I think: who is that? I look at the flyer and say, "Oh, he is THE President." Then I wonder how a free pen is going to solve the problems that we are facing today.

We need active student leaders who can lead the university, not students who cannot even approach or communicate with those they are supposed to represent. I am afraid of what might happen if students make the wrong decision and put critical matters into the wrong hands.

On the other hand, we have *Your Concordia* and they are nothing like the blue team. They are so approachable, so passionate about what they are doing; they encourage student involvement, and get this, they ask for students' opinions. They take the time to sit down with individual students and engage in meaningful conversation. They listen to our concerns and give honest responses about what the CSU can do for us. I have never seen any student body working so hard like this and it shows that they are going to do what they say. I know it.

There is no other team that can be better for CSU other than *Your Concordia*. I have to say they have convinced me to the limit where I feel extremely proud to be a Concordia University student.

So when you go out to vote this week, vote for a team that cares about us, a team of people we can count on and trust! Vote for *Your Concordia*! I certainly will.

—Shaima Shoaib,  
Biology

### Filipowich For Fine Arts

I am writing to show my support of Andy Filipowich as Fine Arts Senator. All too often, students vote for people they don't much about, but I think it's time people learned something about Andy Filipowich, because he can and will do what is best for the students of Concordia.

I plan to vote for Andy Filipowich because I know how committed he is to the Fine Arts student body and to Concordia as a whole. He has been on the Dancer's Student Association as the Fine Arts Student Association

representative this past year, and has been highly active in this role.

Filipowich understands the workings of the student organizations, and he is always willing to take the time to inform and educate people if they are interested in learning more or getting involved. He has been a very positive influence on many students by encouraging them to become aware of their school and how they can help make their school a better place. Filipowich has also been a RA at Hingston and was very committed to the people he was assisting in that context.

He is caring and helpful and wants to make this school a better place.

—Sophia Wright,  
Contemporary Dance

### Annie Cares

Why should you vote for Annie Thompson as councillor? Well, there are a number of reasons why you should. To name a few, she's got awesome fashion sense and a great taste in music. But really, out of all my friends, Annie is the best suited to be on the student union.

She is extremely passionate and educated about a great many issues, and applies all of her strengths to raise awareness and help fix these things. She helped organize the WHALE event and took a bus down to Quebec City to protest tuition hikes. This is a characteristic that I believe (and hopefully many of you believe too) will benefit students extremely if she is elected onto the CSU.

Furthermore, I can guarantee you that she is running with 100 per cent interest in Concordia and 0 per cent interest in herself. In other words she truly, passionately cares about Concordia and is simply running to improve it in all aspects that she can.

So when you go to vote, vote for Annie Thompson as councillor. She's what Concordia needs and is the best candidate out there for the job. If you're still not convinced, I suggest you go talk to her —she'll most definitely be campaigning throughout campus during the week up to elections, and she is more than willing to listen to what you have to say.

—Spencer Rutherford,  
Psychology

### Khalil for Concordia

My experience as a member of the Concordia Undergraduate Psychology Association was amazing, fun and rewarding. This was made possible because of a great team dynamic and organization. I strongly believe that an enthusiastic leader is what makes the difference in order for a group to work well together, achieve goals and make a difference.

As President of CUPA, Khalil Haddad was our leader. He is one of the most organized, hardworking and dedicated people I have

had the opportunity to work with. He was truly invested in every aspect of the association and made things run very smoothly.

What impressed me the most was Khalil's dedication from the very start. He made sure that he had the best team possible by campaigning, recruiting and educating his friends and colleagues on how they could make a difference. He translated this enthusiasm to me and got me on board.

Another quality that is extremely important in a great leader is an intrinsic sense of responsibility. Khalil possesses this quality and therefore puts his passion, energy and effort into absolutely everything he does. He does not stop until he knows that we as a team are providing the best opportunities to the students we are representing.

Last but not least, Khalil is an excellent team leader because he takes everyone's opinion to heart and works with us as opposed to above us. He is an inspiring team member, student and friend, and I am confident that he will be an important asset as president of the Concordia Student Union along with team *Action*!

—Stephanie Russo,  
VP Social, Concordia Psychology  
Student Association

### Residents Represented

We are writing on behalf of the Grey Nuns' Resident's Council. We are a group of students who have many of the same functions as the CSU on a much smaller scale in the Grey Nuns' Residence. We try to host fun events that are representative of our student body, and we have closely worked with an awesome team of Residence Assistants to make the first year student experience exciting and educational.

We are very pleased to see current downtown RAs Laura Glover, Ali Moenck, Lorne Segall, Morgan Todd and AJ West, as well as Andy Filipowich and Cameron Monagle from the Loyola Residences on the *Your Concordia* slate.

This is a beacon of light for Residence Life, as currently the CSU forgets many of the first-year residents after they have moved in. This is unacceptable, as this is a huge student population that is unique, as we not only go to school, but we also live on campus. Therefore the CSU has many opportunities to provide services/events for us—not just to give out agendas, which is the only service that most residents can name off the top of their head.

We are pleased to see that the residences will not be forgotten next year with representation on

*Your Concordia*'s Executive, Board of Governors, Senate and Council. Also, we are so excited to see what these driven student leaders can do on a large-scale for the whole Concordia Community next year. That being said, we fully back the *Your Concordia* team and we hope that all students, liv-

ing on campus or not, go out and vote on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

—Steven Hodgson,  
President,  
Grey Nuns' Resident's Council

—Georgia Higgins,  
VP Events,  
Grey Nuns' Resident's Council

### Hasan Can Help

Hasan Cheikhzen is one of the kindest, most devoted and determined people that I have ever met. I have known Hasan for a year now and can say with great confidence that he is a very hard-working person. He is always engaging and involved in several activities, everything from sports to joining the Syrian Association at Concordia University.

Being an ex-member of the Syrian Association myself, it is actually there where I met Hasan. And it is through my experiences there that I can confirm that he clearly has a social commitment to his fellow colleagues. He was always the first one to offer his help whenever we encountered a problem in the association and possesses excellent communication skills.

Hasan more than fulfills the characteristics that an ideal CSU executive should possess. In complement to this point, having previously lived in Jeddah, he is also educated in a cross-cultural milieu, which only serves to underscore this.

Hasan strikes me as a person who is deeply reliable, who has a deep sense of self and of his own character. He is a person I trust completely. I believe that he will be a tremendous asset to our CSU and I recommend him to you in full confidence.

—Tara Al-Dakkak,  
Communications Studies

### Ari for Councillor

As you read my letter, keep this question at the back of your mind: what makes a good student representative?

Ariel Dabora is honest, has an amazing sense of humour and is down to earth. He is beyond smart, a competitive athlete and skilled musician. However, what impresses me most about him is his dedication to volunteer work and giving back to students, people and society in general. His selfless acts of kindness inspire myself and others to also get involved.

Ari is creative to a point where we can joke about predicting the next awesome or crazy event that he is planning for Concordia students. He never runs out of ideas and is always dreaming up new ones. The difference between Ari and other people is that he turns these dreams into reality. He puts his thoughts into Action.

He is a dedicated student who never hesitates to help a fellow classmate. He is an involved advocate for a better student union. And mostly importantly a cool, approachable and friendly person.

I asked you what makes a good student representative. Come to think of it, I should have asked:

who makes a good student representative?

That answer is quite clear. VOTE Ariel Dabora For JMSB Councillor

—Timothy Maag,  
Accountancy

### JMSB/CSU Connection

I've been a part of Concordia for quite a few years; I'm working on my second degree. Since I've been studying at JMSB there hasn't been communication or a good relationship between the CSU and JMSB.

It seems that students are all really busy working on group projects, studying hard to get better grades or networking to make all the right connections for the future.

I do encourage you all to get informed and to go out and vote in the upcoming CSU election. This is the only way that we can strengthen the JMSB-CSU connection and to get the CSU to work together and to provide more services for business students.

I'd like to tell you about one of our peers. His name is Morgan Todd and he is part of the solution to get JMSB concerns voiced. Morgan is running as a JMSB Councillor with the slate *Your Concordia*.

We recently met in my Entrepreneurship class and we are working on a group project together. His friendly personality, incredible charm and his passion to get people involved has encouraged students to get involved and to make their own choices. He has educated me on the importance of voting and how the CSU works, and I will be voting for the first time this year.

I overheard Morgan talking to a student in our class and when asked who the better team was, he responded, "I can't tell you that, though I would check out [www.yourconcordia.ca](http://www.yourconcordia.ca), and [www.voteforaction.ca](http://www.voteforaction.ca) to check out both parties and make the decision for yourself."

I thought the response was perfect; finally there is a team promoting free thought and listening to students' needs. I fully support the *Your Concordia* team and I hope to see you at the polls on March 29, 30 or 31.

—Tarina Chopra,  
JMSB

### überculutre Endorses Your Concordia

Now, I know you're probably tired of getting emails endorsing this candidate or that platform, but I hope you will bear with me, as we both recognize that this is kind of a big deal. With this one election, students stand in a position to have their rights respected and to elect a representative body that actually gives a damn.

It is for this reason that überculutre has decided to endorse *Your Concordia* and all the potential councillors, senators and Board of Governors representa-

tives that are running under that banner.

While both groups have turned to combatting rising tuition fees and expanding student space as key issues, we at überculutre acknowledge and respect that *Your Concordia* is promising to be more transparent, with campaign platforms that include working the students into the inner workings of the university, helping students to be more informed, promoting inter-institutional relations and working towards a sustainable campus.

Furthermore, while *Your Concordia's* opposition, *Action*, doesn't necessarily promise things that would be detrimental to the student's experience at Concordia (and in fact, some of their positions are very good), their campaign, especially as far as student life goes, seems to be focused on creating a party atmosphere.

*Action* seems to be promising things that will make them more relatable to students, but not necessarily things that will help them to be respected by the students. For us at überculutre, we understand how important it is to be able to relate to your representatives, but given the choice between people who show the same attitude towards having a good time as us and people who are looking out for our rights (and keep in mind, this is a very simplified dichotomy), we'll go with the latter because we believe that how our university treats us is more important than what we do on the weekends.

That's not to say we don't like to party. We do. Everyone likes to party, whether they admit or not, but we just think that partying is not a very good political campaign point.

Additionally, we would like to announce our support for the also-running but unaffiliated Arts & Science councillors Alex Matak and Kelly Pennington, as well as the proposed fee levies for CJLO, Queer Concordia, *The Void* and the proposed ban on bottled water.

—Vincent Hubert,  
On behalf of überculutre

### Your Concordia Already Acting

Platforms full of exciting ideas, bright smiles, and pleasantries exchanged in hallways — can this really be a CSU election? It warms the cockles of my heart after a five-year absence to be back and find such a downright cheery election going on. Congrats to both the teams running for their attitude on this.

Looking at the platforms, one would be tempted to reasonably conclude the teams are quite similar in their ideas. But the crucial difference is the team members themselves. Time and time again if you look at initiatives throughout the year on tuition, sustainability, financial policy and development, it's been the *Your Concordia* team members out in front getting the ball rolling. These are the people who if you

give them a task, they're going to figure out how to make it happen and do it, not just wait to cheer on someone else's idea. They're not just going to do it; they're already doing it.

This team is comprised of the leaders, the ones who have been out banging on doors, talking to people in classes and hallways, and leading the fight for reasonable tuition, transparency, student space and practical sustainable initiatives. These are the people who are well versed in the fight against CFS and won't walk in with an open mind to "look at all the information and make a decision." These are the people strong enough to carry out a "no holds barred, take no prisoners" approach and realize any wavering is treason against the members who fought so hard to get out. Because they're already doing it!

The *Your Concordia* people don't need to have their dicks held while they pee. They actually understand things and are ready to begin leadership without having to have it drilled into their heads why things are the way they are and how to get to where they should be. There won't be a learning curve here as they're already on the ground running. They've got their eyes on the road and are heading forward.

Don't make the mistake of not electing a team that is the most savvy, experienced, dedicated, competent and all around shit-together group of people the CSU has had the opportunity to elect in a decade!

—Wendy Kraus-Heitmann,  
Independent Student

### Irmak Will Do Good

In life, everybody has a purpose, and we all do what we want and have to do so according to our dreams and beliefs. It didn't take me long to notice what the purpose of my good friend Irmak was. She is fighting for the greater good. Ever since she came to Concordia University she had this spark in her eyes, this need to help and this hunger for the righteousness. The best part of all is that she didn't think about herself only, but about all students who would benefit from it, including those who think the same way she does but don't have the power or courage to get involved. There aren't enough words to explain how great of an individual and candidate she is.

Irmak Bahar is a person very straightforward, patient, persevering, but mostly she is a listener. In my opinion, this is the number one quality every candidate should have. You might be an elected president, but if you do not listen to the people you are speaking on behalf of, what are you doing? What Irmak does is listen to students to know what she could do FOR them. After all, representing students means portraying their wishes and ideas.

I have never been into politics, and frankly I have always hated

it. Thus, it is very surprising that I am as involved as I am with the CSU elections. Though I am doing it for a good reason; I have faith in *Your Concordia* and know that they could bring the Concordia Student Union to a better place. I have met some of the people from this incredible team and learnt so much from them. Together they would change CSU's image for the better and give people interest into knowing more about this union that is representing us all. On top of that, with Irmak by their side they really have nothing to worry about.

On March 29, 30 and 31, I hope people are going to make the right decision and think about all the greatness, help, and wishes the next student union could bring them.

Will next year's student life be better and wiser? Well...VOTE *Your Concordia*!

—Yasmina Dosso,  
Biology

### Vote!

Outside of my academic commitments, I am also the president of the Concordia Music Student Organization, a member of the music departmental council and a member of the Fine Arts Student Association council.

As you should be well aware, the CSU election campaign is in full swing. To speak on my own behalf, I value transparency and accountability.

Most of us at Concordia are young, hardworking individuals and we are all human, so it's only normal to make mistakes; after all, it is the best way to learn. However, to try and cover up spilled milk is feeble and unnecessary.

Transparency, accountability and accessible council meetings are important to me when it comes to a platform. *Your Concordia* stands by these points. It goes without saying that for these reasons, I support *Your Concordia's* campaign.

That being said, I will state that there is another eyesore of an issue at hand. That is the poor student voter turnout at CSU elections—3 per cent last year, with Fine Arts having the weakest turnout. This is unacceptable.

Concordia has a rich history of stirring shit up and it's about time we collectively take the power into our hands again. Strength can be found in numbers and undergraduates potentially have about 34,000 people's worth of clout. Imagine one and a half Bell Centre's yelling at once? That's a lot of noise—and this can be achieved. It only takes a short while to read up on each of the running slates and only a few minutes to cast a vote.

I know who I am voting for after being informed, and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the respective teams and candidates and make an educated decision.

To close, I would like to say that when you decide you won't

vote, you implicitly forfeit your right to complain about the elected student union.

—Luke Horimoto,  
Concordia Music Association

### They Aren't That Nice

I am writing to you in reference to "Kettle to the Metal" published in Vol. 31, Iss. 27 of *The Link*. Reading through the first half, I was happy to see that you were in tune with at least a fraction of the issues at hand in a state where absolute compliance with a normative life is enforced by increasingly violent police corps—from the other side of a 9mm pistol.

This relative understanding came to a rather abrupt end when you started documenting your arrest and your jovial interactions with Montreal's worst. I find it quite grave to be relieving members of the Montreal police of their responsibility as carriers of pistols, batons, shields and that badge stained with the blood of the 43 killed at their hands since 1987.

You paint a portrait of the friendly bobby who's just doing his job and would rather not be there. This image of the gentle enforcer becomes one of a kind caring community member even whilst your "mother" is disabling you and suspending your rights, "I smiled politely as he continued searching me, emptying the contents of my backpack into a clear plastic garbage bag. As he led me towards one of the city buses, my jacket fell from around my shoulders. Noticing this, the officer gave me a motherly warning. 'You have to be careful, you'll catch a cold,' he said reproachfully as he adjusted my coat."

I'm perplexed as to how you don't find this to be a patronizing humiliation. This is exactly the kind of psychological violence which leads to the police's absolute power over our lives and our bodies. This relationship is one with very masculine connotations characterized by a paternal dominance through ridicule and physical control and aggression, not of maternal affection.

I'm at a loss as to how you can't see this. If he behaves like this towards you —good citizen, professional journalist—what do you think he will do with the weapons that he carries daily to any slightly subversive or marginal person? There is a huge problem in the fact that one moment he will smash your head in order to protect Calvin Klein and the next he will tickle your neck whilst adjusting your coat.

You also present a clear demonstration of one of the many pitfalls of journalism: you protect yourself with your job status with absolutely no acknowledgement of your privileged position, and go as far as discrediting those around you as "scruffy, punk kids."

You don't explain how you tried to wriggle out of your predicament by using the excuse of the innocent journalist. Instead

you distance yourself from the oppressed, whilst ridiculing them. Identifying yourself as everything that the “Anarchist or black bloc extremist” is not: responsible, reasonable and professional, this is a kick in the nuts for everyone who was at that protest and even the families of those killed at the hands of the police.

Do you not realize that the police might treat journalists differently from others? Your experience is a country mile from the objective truth and you need to assume that.

Hiding behind the status of journalist and not taking a political position is the common trick of the trade and by not denouncing it, ends up supporting the dominant discourse. Is this legitimized by the goal of partial reporting?

What I read here is not objective but on the side of the problem.

—*Ian Hoather,  
Human Geography*

### I Believe in Your Concordia

I would just like to express how impressed and appreciative I am for the clean, honest and engaging campaign that *Your Concordia* has been running during this year's elections.

Especially since it is in stark contrast to what *Action* has been doing. It baffles me that anyone can even take *Action* seriously after seeing their videos. The first

one was not only vacuous and completely irrelevant to student politics, but it also included many people who have since voiced dissatisfaction at their inclusion (and implicit support).

Their second video was an obvious attempt to exploit an issue that's dear to students' hearts, but that they know nothing about. Not only did they get the ONLY fact in their video wrong (the numbers of how much tuition will be going up) but they also all tried to attach themselves to an issue none of them have spent any time working on before campaign period. I hadn't seen a single one of the *Action* team at any protests/panel-discussions/meetings/conferences previous to campaigning time.

Beyond that, the rest of their campaign has been a mix of verbally assaulting students and empty promises (shuttle bus to the moon, anyone?) However, I wouldn't say the *Your Concordia* campaign has been awesome only in comparison to the incredibly shallow one their opposition has put together; no, I actually truly believe they've run a great campaign in their own right.

It's easy to dismiss any effort this time of year as just empty campaigning, but *Your Concordia*'s attempt to reach out to Concordia students has been so genuine. It's sad to note that in spending so much time actually having conversations with students might have hurt their

reach, and I can only hope that *Action*'s spamming technique doesn't prove effective.

*Your Concordia* has not only been taking in ideas and actually responding to them through their site and blog, but they've repeatedly addressed critical comments they received and responded to them with class. I don't need to point out how quickly critical comments have disappeared from *Action*'s Facebook page. *Your Concordia*'s videos have been meaningful, thought provoking and moving. The fact that they spent time making an informational video says tons about their overall philosophy. They want students to know what's going on, and I believe that any informed student will have little trouble choosing whom to vote for.

I usually struggle to trust any candidates during this time of the year, but I believe *Your Concordia* has worked hard enough to prove that they really mean everything they say and promise.

—*Emily Skahan,  
Theatre Performance*

### More At Loyola

During the 2011 CSU elections, I will be voting for team *Your Concordia*.

Apart from their down to earth campaign approach I, for starters, like the fact that *Your Concordia* took the time to inform students about what exactly

the CSU was.

I found this personally helpful because even I wasn't 100 per cent sure of all the logistics behind the school politics. The fact that *Your Concordia* wants to get students more involved in the student union is great since this is, after all, our school, and we are the ones that have to live with any decisions made.

Furthermore, being a full-time student that only goes to Loyola campus, I agree with their goals of wanting to improve the Loyola campus spaces. The Hive Café would be a great place to go to eat affordable food while engaging with other students. Large “hang-out” spaces like this are not available to Loyola students and would be great to increase the interaction among students in different faculties.

Personally, I would like to see a stronger presence of the CSU on Loyola since, in my opinion, this will encourage students to get more involved with projects that affect us directly. Due to the CSU's lack of presence on Loyola and their limited office hours, I don't feel encouraged to get involved.

*Your Concordia* is striving to connect and support all the students in order to create a strong group of educated and proactive individuals capable of changing our school for the best.

—*Marie-Lisa Jolin,  
Communication Studies*

### Gonzo Support

I've had the pleasure of knowing Gonzo Nieto since I started here at Concordia. As a bit of a nerd myself, it was really refreshing to see someone who shared the same enthusiasm and passion for psychology.

This enthusiasm translates to everything he takes on. With campaign slogans and glossy posters it can be hard to figure out how genuine some candidates are. But I can assure that you should have no doubts when it comes to this candidate.

I encourage you to stop him in the halls for a chat to see for yourself. This genuine concern for our school can be seen with his involvement over this past year with überculture, the unofficial no campaign for the student centre, WHALE and the organization for the fight against tuition hikes in Quebec City. All of these projects undertaken because these matters truly strike a chord with him. It was no surprise when I found out he was running for a position on next year's CSU, it's the next logical step for him to take to be able to make a difference at this school.

Please, don't take my word for it—talk to these candidates so you can get a feel of where they are coming from, the slogans really can't capture it.

—*Stefanie Brideau,  
Psychology*

**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.

# Nah'msayin?

## Too Far

I do my nails at least once a week. I soak, file, buff, smooth and sometimes even paint them—colours with classy names like “merlot,” “terracotta” and “haute chocolate.” But if you can pull off “red carpet” or “strawberry kiss,” more power to you. I know I can't.

What annoys me is that some people take things way too far. When fully capable, grown-up women wear multi-coloured glittery flower/heart/butterfly/zebra polish strips, stickers, glued-on beads and jewelry charms on their fingernails (toenails are a whole other level of superficiality)—I'd say that's too far.

Your manicure is not supposed to be a challenge to see how much you can fit between your cuticles and fingertips. It's stupid; it wastes both time and money. Worst of all, it makes you look like an eight-year-old gone wild on their mom's polish stash while on a sugar high.

And don't let your eight-year-old follow your example either. It's just scary and flat-out inappropriate to subject children to this silly shallow custom.

This whole culture of “nail art” comes from a mentality which dictates that the less you work, the more important/noble/rich you are. Just like high heels, wigs and corsets, long and dangly nails make manual work virtually impossible, immediately granting the people who wear it (faux) status in society—the longer your nails, the fatter your bank account.

But how do you expect to be taken seriously if you can barely handle paper, type or open a beer can? Seriously, ladies, I can take the scandalous colours, but please take it easy on the nail bling.

—*Julia Jones,  
Online Editor*

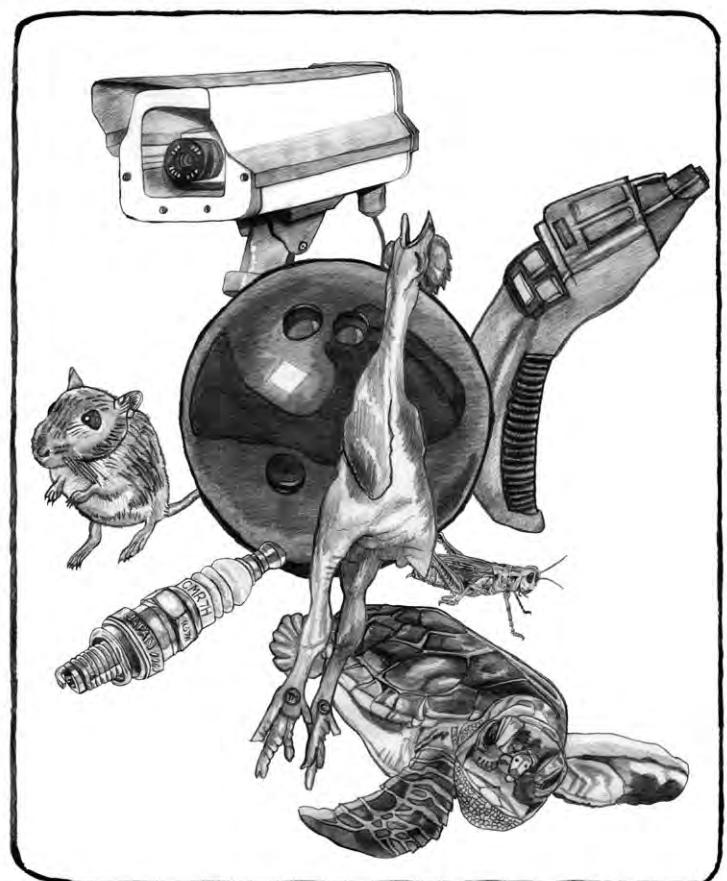




MARLEE MACMILLAN

## TodrenuemS TeLas

by Corphishter Olson

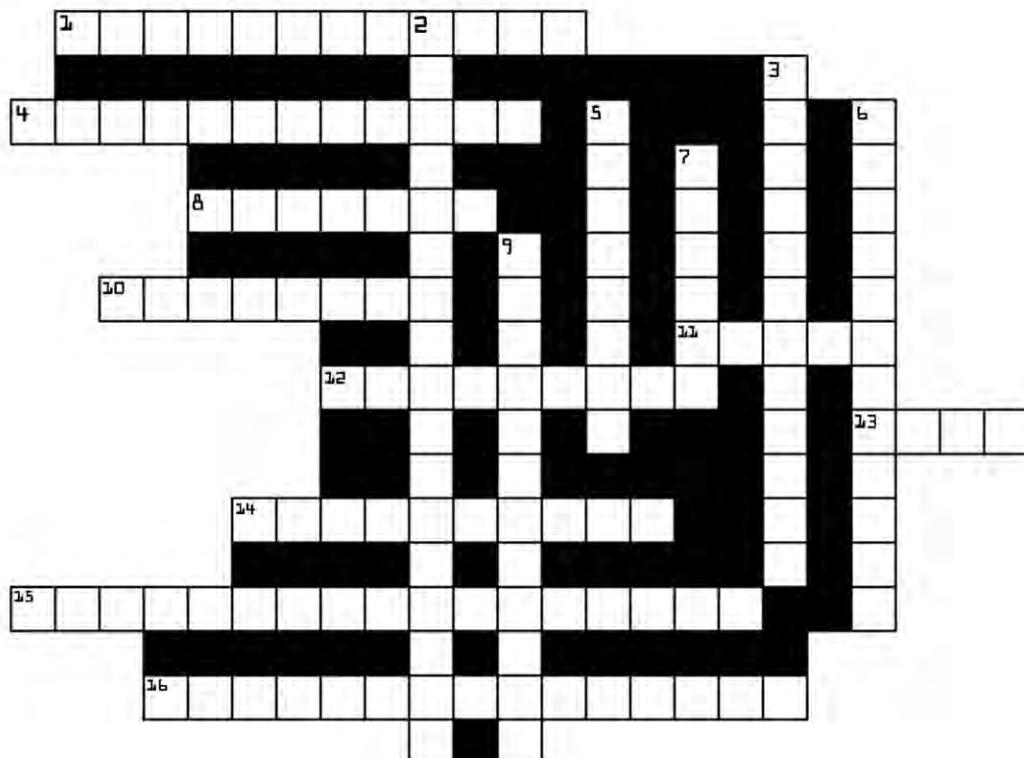


"Snoemoe trun off taht mettar scarmbelr!"

# Quik-X

## "Famous Trilogies"

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON



### ACROSS

- As much as I like *Goodfellas*, it didn't come in three volumes that get better, and then worse, than the original. (2 words)
- "Do I make you horny?" gets less funny the more you repeat it. Like, say, three times. (2 words)
- Part-cop, part-robot, all-cyborg.

10. The buddy cop formula peppered with lots and lots of ethnic jokes. So of course they made three of them. (2 words)

11. Forget that "Quadrilogy" nonsense—it was a made up word, anyway—this film trilogy died with its protagonist in the third, somewhat anticlimactic, entry.

12. The first one made us all go, "Whoa," and brush up on our old philosophy textbooks. The second and third ones made us

throw up a little in our mouths. I still can't get past the rave scene in the second one. (2 words)

13. The first one skyrocketed Steven Spielberg to prominence. The second one sucked. The third one was in 3D.

14. Due to the Disney company's penchant for direct-to-DVD sequels to classic movies, most of its repertoire now consists of trilogies. The third film in this particular trilogy, however, sees the wicked stepmother stealing the fairy godmother's magic wand. Ugh.

15. As if the books weren't long and boring enough, this "unfilmable" trilogy added up to 30 minutes to each film with their DVD releases, mostly consisting of shots of Elijah Wood saying good bye. (4 words)

16. The first taught us that our parents were just like us when they were teenagers. The second one was all about temporal paradoxes. The third one was a western. (4 words)

### DOWN

2. Matt Damon kicks a lot of ass, and takes a lot of names. The only name he can't take, alas, is his own. His real one, anyway. (3 words)

3. The first one took us to an island. The second one told us that there was another island, a lot like the first one, but conveniently not mentioned in the first movie. The third one was just a lazy excuse to go back to the second island. (2 words)

5. The powerful forces of the first movie are finally thwarted in the third, not by the hero, but by an army of teddy bears. And don't get me started on the prequels. (2 words)

6. And as the famed archaeologist, his father, and a few friends they picked up along the way ride off into the sunset, the perfect ending to a perfect trilogy is achieved. And then they go and fuck it up with a fourth film about aliens. (2 words)

7. The first one was post-apocalyptic. The third one was post-Thunderdome. (2 words)

9. George Clooney finds a way to bankroll a get-together with some of his famous friends. The third movie allowed him to add +2 to the invite. (2 words)

## editorial

# We Need A New Start

Our cover is not a mistake: we need you. Concordia students haven't seen a detailed budget from their union. There's been no consultation on a student centre project that's failed twice. We were passively represented on our Board of Governors in the midst of an administrative crisis and Council's decorum both in and out of union meetings has been deplorable.

The fact is that your education is about to get a whole lot more expensive. Student space in this university is receding. We have a \$43 million contract to buy the university a building, and an administration that has consistently shown it is indifferent to student concerns.

This, coupled with an increasing contempt for the student press and the desire to avoid dealing with a student presence at council meetings, is all troubling and unacceptable.

This can change. But we need you. You should care.

Did you know, or like, how your union represented you this year?

Do you know what a student union could be doing for you?

If the answer to any of those questions is "No," now is the time to do something about it.

Though Fusion/Vision/Action swept into power three years ago with the best intentions, seeing candidates from all sides of the political spectrum put aside differences to fight the Canadian Federation of Students, they are now being criticized for lacking what they once fought for: proper representation, financial transparency and, ironically, action.

At the time, we cheered the "-ions" on precisely because we thought they were replacing a dying dynasty. And now, three

years later, they are the dynasty—and we want a new start.

Our union is broken. Its internal structure is toxic. And nothing has changed in three years.

But most of Action's leadership has had the last year to show us their commitment to reforming the business-as-usual approach that has permeated politics in this school for the better part of a decade. And they didn't.

Culminating at a Council meeting nearly three weeks ago—one that devolved into a screaming match between councillors and students, with the executive calling security on their own constituents—it is pretty clear that the state of our union is troubled.

Part of this has to do with the fact that almost all of Council ran on the same slate as their executive. In a way, that defeats the union's entire system of government. Council is designed to keep executive in check, not push the executive's agenda onto students.

This lack of opposition has created an atmosphere where any criticism is met with hostility. What most of these elected representatives fail to grasp is simple: it's the student's job to be critical of their government and the politician's job to take it. Even the most critical student is a dues paying member of the union.

The tradition of dismissing and censoring criticism has also crept its way into these elections, with Action heavily censoring what students can post on its Facebook page and YouTube videos. This was done under the guise of keeping the election clean and positive, but freedom of speech isn't something to be left up to a handful of candidates running for political office.

To be sure, it is not the entire Action slate that has gone wrong. Most, if not all, of those running truly care about students and there

are many competent people on the slate who Concordians could be proud to call Councillors. However, the Action leadership is relying on old tactics that have contributed to the fetid atmosphere currently enveloping the CSU.

On the other hand, you have a campaign that raised the bar for transparency, student engagement and consultation. Many on Your Concordia have a real track record of fighting for students' rights and are decidedly not tied to the present executive.

We are not saying that we are cheering for a clean sweep. Just the opposite, actually. Not everyone can be friends in a democracy. The time you're supposed to be afraid is when all the politicians get along. What the CSU needs, and what it has been missing this year, are divergent opinions held by passionate people who can challenge conventional wisdom and keep each other honest.

So who do you believe will actually fight for students' rights next year?

It's certainly not going to be the university administration, nor the Board of Governors, and it certainly won't come from the type of student leadership currently dominating the discourse on our student council.

We need you. And we need you to know that, just because you have the right to vote, doesn't mean that the democracy in this school is working.

So decide. You actually have the choice to re-elect the status quo or vote for something better.

We need you: strong, passionate, innovative and intelligent students to choose who will lead our union next year. But we need you to not only vote for them, but to fight them and fight for them and with them.

Our student union depends on it.

### Corrections

In "On Biases and Conflicts of Interest" (Vol. 31, Iss. 27) *The Link* reported that *The*

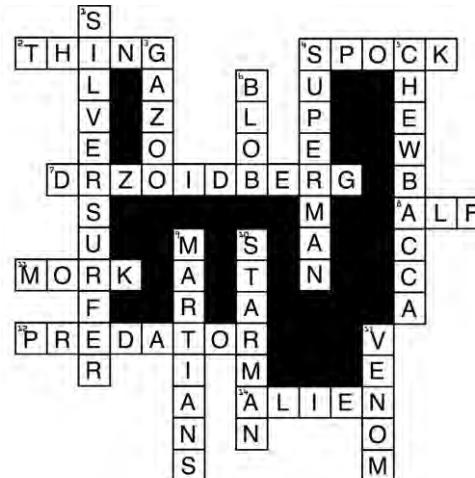
*Concordian*'s editor-in-chief Sarah Deshaies reported on ASFA while she was a sitting councillor. She did not.

In "Pre-Campaign 2011" (Vol. 31, Iss. 27)

*The Link* improperly identified Lorne Segall in a photo. Iain Meyer-Macaulay was in the photo.

*The Link* regrets the errors.

### issue 27 crossword solutions



**THE LiNK**  
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

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

Board of Directors 2010-2011: Matthew Gore, Matthew Brett, Jake Stevens, Clare Raspopow, Mathieu Biard, Dale Corley, Les Honywell; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Justin Giovannetti. Typesetting by *The Link*. Printing by Transcontinental.

Contributors:

Myriam Arsenault, Mat Barrot, Eric Bent, Pierre Chauvin, Elizabeth Lee, Tom Lewellen, Vivien, Leung, Clement Liu, Eli Kerr, Marlee Macmillan, Dylan Maloney, Steven Marotte, Christopher Olson, Benjamin Price, Jacob Roberts, Debbie So, Meagan Wohlborg, Jessica Young, S. Zelov

Cover By:  
Julia Wolfe

Volume 31, Issue 28

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Concordia University

Hall Building, Room H-649

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

editor: (514) 848-2424 x. 7405

ads: (514) 848-2424 x. 5813

fax: (514) 848-4540

business: (514) 848-7406

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 DESMARAIIS

DAVID KAUFMANN