



Flavours of summer in Montreal

PLAN OUT YOUR TASTIEST SUMMER EVER,
WITH *THE LINK*'S EVENTS CALENDAR
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Rosengate saga comes to a close

‘This is fucking bullshit,’ Rosenshein says

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The verdict is in: Steven Rosenshein was never an independent student.

But nobody seemed surprised at this tid-bit of discovery.

Dania Fawaz, an outgoing Concordia Student Union councillor, seemed unfazed by the old news brought forth by outgoing CSU president Angelica Novoa.

“Are you kidding me?” Fawaz interjected at her final council meeting. “Did you just figure this out?”

Rosenshein, an arts and science student, posed illegally as an independent student in last year’s CSU general elections. He and David Kogut successfully blocked council induction of deserving independent students.

“I am an independent student,” Rosenshein asserted to *The Link* after a contestation was filed with the Chief Electoral Office.

The Judicial Board disqualified the two councillors-elect based on information provided by the Dean of Students’ office. Independent student Ethan Cox, a council hopeful blocked by Rosenshein, was welcomed to the roundtable as well.

However a special summer meeting chaired by Rosenshein saw only four members of the outgoing CSU Council reverse

the JB’s decision.

According to CSU bylaws, the council of representatives is able to overturn a decision of the JB by a four-fifths majority, if the decision engenders racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia or collusion, or is “manifestly unreasonable.” When asked if the councillors at the special meeting decided the JB ruling was manifestly unreasonable, Rosenshein replied, “That was the point of the meeting.”

Although the JB continued to uphold its initial decision, Rosenshein remained a councillor representing the independent students during the 2007-08 school year.

In the final 2007-08 Council meeting held May 14, president Novoa asked Rosenshein to “go to the back of the room where he belongs,” as a mere observer—but only after a disagreement regarding CSU health and dental negotiations ensued.

Under current practices, the CSU executive is responsible for making health and dental negotiations. This didn’t sit well with Rosenshein.

“The contract shouldn’t be approved until Council signs it,” Rosenshein said, citing transparency as the main reason for his concern.

Novoa was quick on the draw and ordered that the proposed motion “not [be tabled] by Steven Rosenshein who is debat-

able as a council member.” A letter from the Dean of Students proving Rosenshein’s student status, obtained the same day as the Council meeting, was thus introduced by Novoa and circulated.

Novoa has since been unable to reproduce this document.

Novoa asked Rosenshein to “go to the back of the room where he belongs.”

“I should’ve kept a copy, I guess,” said the former CSU president.

Outgoing councillor Matthew Forget made the initial request for proof of Rosenshein’s student status last November. Forget has never received a copy of the document.

“The fact that it comes out in May’s really handy because [nobody] can do anything,” he lamented. Forget believes Novoa’s newfound awakening is just a red herring: the real dispute is behind the health and dental renegotiations.

“It just doesn’t add up,” Forget continued.

Forget also noted that the completed request for Rosenshein’s status “was a matter of days, not months.” According to

Forget, the Dean of Students’ office got the request “about a week ago,” dating back to a few days before the document was produced.

Dean of Students Elizabeth Morrey confirmed she was asked only “recently” for information from Novoa and thus “provided

the basic information I am obliged to give.”

Novoa initially cited “confidentiality issues” as the reason for the six-month delay of the long-awaited document.

Jason Gondziola, former coucillor, is upset at the last-minute breakthrough.

“I could have had a seat on the Board [of Governors],” he said. Gondziola was Rosenshein’s only opponent in the bid to take a seat on the Board.

Gondziola blamed the ordeal on inconsistency and called for “more ostensibly democratic processes.

“These kinds of things wouldn’t happen if there was a better measure of accountability,” he continued. “I don’t think this happens with governments that are monitored.”

—with files from Rita Cant

Economics trump humanitarianism

Local activists protest changes to immigraton policy

• CLARE RASPOPOW

Federal Immigration minister Diane Finley was met with a frosty welcome last Wednesday as members of Solidarity Without Borders and other immigrants’ rights groups held a protest outside of the downtown Omni Hotel to express their concern and raise awareness about Bill C-50 that passed earlier this year. Finley was in Montreal to give the keynote speech at the Canadian Immigration Policy Conference hosted by the Fraser Institute.

“[This bill] has the potential to cause systematic racism against immigrants looking for citizenship,” said Farah Najah, a member of Solidarity Without Borders and one of the protest organizers. She likened bill C-50 to past legislation that categorically prevented Jews, blacks and Asians from immigrating to Canada.

The bill features two changes and three additions to the

Immigrant and Refugee Protection Act. These alterations to the act grant the immigration minister the discretionary power to reject applications, give mandatory instructions to case workers and create quotas for and categories of desirable immigrants.

“This bill represents a shift away from why you’re immigrating to what you can do for Canada.”

—Farah Najah, member of Solidarity Without Borders

Finley has stated that these changes are needed to modernize the immigration system and speed up application processing. Immigration officials are currently dealing with a backlog of around 900,000 applications.

But it’s as much the manner in which the bill was passed as the

changes contained therein that have activists like Najah upset. The bill was attached to a budgetary bill, making the vote for or against the changes a confidence matter.

“What the Conservatives did was absolutely unprecedented,” said Najah. “Not many people knew about what was going on, but the people who knew were flabbergasted.”

Finley was unapologetic when questioned by the press about the Conservatives’ tactics. “We’re quite firm in what we’re going forward with,” she said. “We’ve thought long and hard about it and we can’t risk having this piece of legislation derailed.”

Finance minister Jim Flaherty has said that these changes are only intended to create a “competitive immigration system which will quickly process skilled immigrants who can make an immediate contribution to the economy.”

Najah is skeptical of the



Diane Finley's star on the Walk of Shame. PHOTO FARAH NAJAH

increasing emphasis on economics in immigration policy.

“This bill represents a shift [in government ideology] away from why you’re immigrating to what you can do for Canada,” criticized Najah.

The bill is now before the Senate and its critics expect it to be passed, despite the controversy

surrounding it, before the summer session. But members of Solidarity Without Borders don’t intend to stop fighting it.

“For now we’re focusing on sensitizing people,” said Najah. “We want people to know that this is bigger than just this bill. It’s about the immigration system, which is intrinsically flawed.”

Panties for peace campaign

Delicates to promote democratic rights for women

• TERESA SMITH

You may not normally think of putting your underwear in an envelope addressed to a local embassy, but that's exactly what the Panties for Peace campaign is asking women all over the world to do.

The goal of the Panties for Peace campaign is to put a spotlight on the injustices inflicted by the Burmese military regime, especially following the military's brutal response to pro-democracy protests by the country's Buddhist monks last year. Injustices towards women tend to be more flagrant, the underlying reason for Burmese women exiled in Thailand to launch Panties for Peace.

The Quebec Women's Federation and the Rights and Democracy Student Network have teamed up with Lanna Action for Burma, a Burmese women's rights group, to bring this campaign to Canada.

The campaign, launched two weeks ago, wants to get as many countries on board as possible to send a strong message of dissent, especially among students.

Thet Thet Tun is a Concordia student and Burmese activist who left her native country 20 years ago. In a recent interview, she told CTV that "previously-worn panties will be the most effective to put [the junta] to shame." Thun promoted the campaign as a tool to bring about awareness of women's rights violations as well as strained political divides.

"We want Canadians to know about both discrimination against women and against our democratic reforms," Thun continued.

Mika Levesque, who has been working in coalition with Burmese women for the past 20 years, is the regional officer for Asia with the Rights And Democracy network.

Levesque explained that women's underclothing holds great power against Burma's military regime; superstitious leaders in Burma think that if they touch a pair of panties, they'll lose all of their strength and influence.

"Instead of being victims, the women are using this taboo as a way to fight back," Levesque said.

Lack of foreign aid has also renewed the efforts of the Panties for Peace campaign to seek funding. Since the area was hit by



Panties replacing guns as weapon of choice in Burma. GRAPHIC JONATHAN DEMPSEY

Cyclone Nargis on May 3, very little foreign aid has flowed into Burma because authorities are fearful that aid comes with strings attached. The result is a crippling lack of resources, which has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Burmese people.

According to Sophie Rondeau, the Student Network Coordinator for Rights and Democracy, the group is specifically targeting students to join in the fight.

"It's really up to the students

[to get involved]," she said. "We're providing the support and the materials," but students are expected to provide the panties. She said the group will continue efforts through the summer but will really focus on recruiting on-campus when classes resume in September.

Concordia students are encouraged to send their panties to the Burmese Embassy in Ottawa and show their support of the worldwide campaign.

Wanna send your new/used thongs/panties? Slap a stamp on your knickers and send them to:

Embassy of the Union of Myanmar, Ottawa
85 Range Road, Suite 902-903
The Sandringham, Ottawa ON K1N 8J6

For more information about this campaign, visit: pantiesforpeace.ca.

What a waste!

R4 shows how to limit the garbage bag lug

• TERRINE FRIDAY

As summer edges closer and closer, some of you may be thinking about more environmentally friendly means of cutting down on waste.

Concordia will start its own composting project next school year with the help of organic compost. The project will accept any biodegradable item, whether or not it's nutrient or pesticide-rich, whereas home composts cannot decompose such materials within a reasonable timeframe.

The R4 initiative of Sustainable Concordia offers composting for dummies-style workshops that make the job a cinch to do at home.

"It doesn't matter if you're starting from scratch or if you have experience," said Louise Hénault-Éthier, R4 Coordinator and composting guru.

Here are some of the need-to-know tips for starting up your own composting project or for keeping your current compost kosher.

Do It Yourself

It's important to know which biodegradables can be composted at home and which cannot.

Nitrogen- carbon-rich foods that are raw can be easily used for home composting due to their organic composition. Cooked and/or animal derived foods will take much longer to break down and thus are not recommended and, as Hénault-Éthier noted, "the smell may attract unwanted friends." Root vegetables are not recommended either, because they are "biologically equipped to fight off degrading microbes."

Eggshells are encouraged because they help balance the hydrogen ion concentration. According to Hénault-Éthier, it's

best to crumble eggshells to facilitate decomposition.

Although pet droppings may be used in composting, it's important not to use them in vegetable or fruit gardens but rather in flowerbeds.

If you buy fruits and veggies that aren't organic, beware of the additional time penalty for achieving decomposed, healthy soil.

"Pesticides break down over time," Hénault-Éthier added. Unless you want organic compost, you may want to plan ahead for this delay.

Getting down n' dirty

Physical work is mandatory for compost upkeep, although frequency and intensity varies depending on the size of

your project.

"[Composting] is as easy as taking the garbage out, except sometimes you need to mix it and check on the humidity," Hénault-Éthier said.

The recommended composting structure is to toss in a handful of "green" waste (such as fruits, garden waste, coffee) for every handful of "brown" waste (such as leaves, paper, natural fibres).

It's important to place a layer of branches at the bottom of your compost for ventilation. Too much water and not enough moisture can be damaging to your compost's homeostatic environment.

For more information on composting and upcoming workshops, please visit sustainable.concordia.ca.



INFOGRAPHIC SARA BADREDDINE



FIGURE OUTREACHWORLDWIDE.ORG

Student life hits a roadbump

Councillors debate where they stand on international fee hikes

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The Concordia Council on Student Life, whose mission is to “enhance students’ academic success” and “advocate for students,” failed to reach consensus on how to approach the prospect of international student fee increases.

In the last meeting of the 2007-08 academic school year, a proposed motion not to support international tuition fee increases was shot down by just a few votes.

Outgoing student union executive Noah Stewart proposed writing a letter to Concordia’s Board of Governors citing disagreement with imminent international student tuition fee increases.

After much debate, a roll call vote of

CCSL’s councillors produced a split decision: all students voted in favour of the motion and all faculty against.

Stewart wasn’t surprised by the outcome and thinks the board may have influenced the vote.

All students voted in favour of the motion [not to support international tuition fee increases] and all faculty against.

“It’s disheartening to see that they get their orders from the top,” Stewart said of the CCSL faculty representatives.

Katie Sheahan, director of Recreation and Athletics and CCSL member, does not deny that the CCSL faculty members met before the meeting to discuss the pro-

posed motion.

“As a point of continuity and as a point of preparing, the student services directors.... met prior to the CCSL meeting,” Sheahan said. She defended the CCSL faculty members’ rejection of the motion say-

ing it did not encompass a broader spectrum of expert opinion and ideals.

“The only avenue before us was to present the motion as written and signed by CCSL,” Sheahan continued. “We did not reach a consensus on the approach, and that’s unfortunately

regrettable.” In defense of CCSL’s collaboration efforts, Sheahan pointed out “there were areas where there was agreement.”

Former president of the Concordia International Student Association and CCSL councillor Elie Chivi thinks the CCSL has abandoned its initial mandate to support students, leaving them high and dry.

“The students won’t get student life because students won’t come to [Concordia] anymore,” Chivi said. As an international student, Chivi isn’t impressed with the decisive vote and contends that orders do trickle down from board members.

“That’s obviously what happened,” he said. “But... They’ll never admit to it.”

Something academic

The central role of markets in alleviating worldwide poverty

• IAN IRVINE

Dr. Ian Irvine, distinguished Economics Professor at Concordia University, specializes in public economics and econometrics and has recently focused his research on the global food crisis.

A self-professed “aspiring environmentalist,” Irvine has been a Concordia faculty member for 30 years.

The following is an excerpt from Professor Irvine’s essay published last month by the Montreal Economic Institute.

Of the three crises currently occupying the economic stage—the sub-prime mortgage crisis, the oil crisis and the food crisis—the last one is by far the most serious. While in the United States and Canada governments worry about the falling value of bank stocks, financial liquidity and the possibility of an economic slowdown, the developing world has seen a dramatic growth in food shortages, social discontent, rioters in the streets and lives with the prospect of an augmented pool of many millions of hungry families. At the same time, Canada has reaped enormous gains from being a net exporter of energy, food and fer-

tilizers.

The different factors in play

Agriculture Canada reports that fuel and fertilizers account for about 15 per cent of farm expenses, and that these inputs increased in price by 20 per cent between 2006 and 2007. This implies that such price increases account for about a three per cent increase in farm expenses. So fuel prices, considered as a cost input, are not driving food prices directly in Canada.

The recent food spikes have been caused primarily by a series of shorter-term shocks and poor policy measures that have seen some economies benefit, Canada for example, and others suffer tremendously.

Households living on a few dollars a day have experienced dramatic declines in their purchasing power, and aid agencies universally declare that recent food price hikes will result in additional tens of millions of people living in hunger, and millions more hunger-related deaths.

The second suspect for the food price rises comes from the demand side, in the form of higher living standards in China,

India and much of the developing world.

The third candidate for the food price ascent comes from the supply side. Since the demand for grains is relatively unresponsive to price movements, small changes in supply and demand can cause major price changes. The fourth suspect on the crime scene is the astonishingly ill-considered ethanol and biofuel program in the United States (and Canada). Much has been written on the negatives of this policy,

yet the magnitude of its impact is not always appreciated.

Corn has been directed away from animal feed and consumer use (as a vegetable and sweetener) towards ethanol. It is estimated that as much as one quarter of the total corn acreage will go to ethanol in 2008. Some redirection of land from soybeans, wheat and others to corn has reduced the supply of these other grains below what they would have been, and

contributed in turn to their price rises.

The fertilizer industry is concentrated in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Its profitability is reflected in the share price of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (Canada is the world’s biggest producer of potash and is a large exporter of fertilizer). Corrected for share splits, its price rose from 10 dollars at the end of 2000 to 60 dollars in May of 2007 and on to 180 dollars in April 2008.

The solutions

To summarize: long-term growth in the world economy should see a continuation in the rising demand for food products. The recent food spikes have been caused primarily by a series of shorter-term shocks and poor policy measures that have seen some economies benefit, Canada for example, and others suffer tremendously. The critical question is: what can be done to improve the situation?

Supply increases are the answer. There exist at least three channels through which supply can be increased.

First, world trade policy has been singularly unsuccessful in the area of agriculture... Most developed economies have chosen to implement a protectionist

structure around their agricultural sectors.

The massive subsidization of Western agriculture has prevented many less developed countries from developing and investing in their own sectors. Now that food prices are high, those countries find themselves in the improvident position of depending upon aid from those economies that have historically undermined them.

Second, there remains scope for widespread efficiency gains in agriculture in the third world through the more effective use of inputs, fertilizer in particular, despite the recent run-up in prices.

Third, there remains an abundance of land in middle-income economies that is not under pressure for urban development. This is particularly true of the former Eastern Block, where agricultural supply was woefully inefficient under the collectivized system. Until very recently, the problem was how to reduce the excessive amount of land in use on account of the growth in output since switching to private ownership.

To read Professor Ian Irvine’s full article, please visit IEDM.org.

Depression

Some signals
to consider

Are you worried that your friend is suicidal? These are some warning signs that may be helpful to know.

If these conditions are present, risk of suicide may be higher:

- Recent death or terminal illness of a loved one.
- Recent divorce or separation in the family
- Loss of health, job, home, money, status, personal security
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Depression

If your friend is acting differently, it may be a sign:

- They may have feelings of hopelessness, powerlessness, worthlessness, shame, guilt, self-hatred, feelings of isolation.
- The person may become sad, withdrawn, tired, apathetic, anxious, irritable or prone to angry outbursts.
- A real change in academic performance is a signal.
- Deteriorating physical appearance and poor hygiene

The fact is that there are no rulebooks or guidebooks about suicide. If you're worried about your friend, you should say something and make sure they know that you are there for them.

They may not want to talk about it yet, but knowing that they have a resource and someone who will listen will go a long way to lessening their feelings of isolation.

—Teresa Smith

Concordia will keep your secrets

At least they'll try their darndest

• TERESA SMITH

When Mohamad Kajouji got the call that police had identified his daughter's body and that it was a suspected suicide, he was shocked. The shock soon turned to anger when he was told that 18-year-old Nadia Kajouji had been seeing a counsellor at Carleton University in Ottawa and that she had been taking anti-depressants without his knowledge.

He wondered why the university hadn't informed him of her condition before it was too late and he wanted answers.

The response from the university administration at Carleton was that informing the family of a patient without their consent would be a breach of confidentiality and that Kajouji's case did not seem to warrant such extreme measures at the time.

Ann Cavoukian, Ontario's privacy commissioner says that privacy laws were not at fault in Kajouji's case.

"To infer that privacy laws were responsible for someone's death is to completely misunder-

stand the role that privacy laws are designed to play."

Ontario and Quebec privacy laws are similar in that it's not easy to inform family members of a potential suicide risk—because there is a difference between someone who is at imminent risk for suicide and someone who is having suicidal thoughts.

According to Dale Robinson, a psychologist at Concordia Counselling and Development, confidentiality remains one of the cornerstones of successful counselling. Robinson noted that protection of a student's privacy is paramount in the counselling department's mandate.

"If we didn't have confidentiality, students wouldn't talk to us," she said.

In her 11 years as a psychologist at Concordia, Robinson has never had to breach confidentiality.

"If a student is depressed and seeing a counsellor, that's not sufficient reason to call her family," she said. "It's not up to the university to inform parents of what's going on, it's up to the student to



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

share that with them." Only in the most extreme cases would a counsellor release information without the client's written consent.

However, she stresses that if there is good reason to suspect that someone is a danger to themselves or to others, the counsellor has a "duty to warn" the appropri-

ate authorities. "At that point, it's a question of the law."

Concordia Counselling and Development will be hosting a Depression Screening Day in the Library Atrium in October. For more information, please visit cdev.concordia.ca.

Keep dreaming—but only for a week

Official Montreal Dream Week to launch

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Dreams do come true in Montreal—or at least they will this year, as the International Association for the Study of Dreams hosts their 25th anniversary in the city next month.

Marcel Tremblay, the brother of current Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay, will be presenting a speech during the conference's commencement ceremony, where he is expected to officially announce the week of July 8-12 to be Montreal's Dream Week.

Layne Dalfen, host of the dream conference, is enthusiastic about the prospect but would rather wait for the official announcement.

"I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes," Dalfen said, noting she'll be a believer once it's "in print."

The conference will mix science with new age mysticism

by providing a research track for devotees of the scientific method and a parapsychological track for those who believe beyond the material.

Tore Nielsen, a clinician at the Dream and Nightmare Laboratory at l'Hopital du Sacré-Coeur de Montreal, is ready to dream on.

"I think the pendulum is turning in favour of opening the field," he said. Nielson will be presenting a keynote speech on a variety of his research studies into dreams, including the frequency of bad dreams in toddlers and the nightmares of new mothers.

"People are opening up to quantum physics and alternative sciences to provide an additional context to the world we live in," he continued, although he noted the difficulty in finding adequate funding and the lack of financial backing for such studies.

Aside from assuring a good

night's rest, Nielsen suggests that decoding your dreams can have other, less obvious benefits.

"The secret weapons of a lot of creative people are their dreams. A lot of great ideas started out as people's dreams," both literally and figuratively speaking, said Nielsen.

Other features of the conference include a Dream Ball and a bachelor auction with a twist. "People will be able to buy a dream analyst," said Dalfen, each being offered as part of a "package" that includes other gifts such as fine dining. "So you can take your dream analyst," she suggested.

This year, the International Association for the Study of Dreams will be held July 8th-12th. To find out how you can float on cloud nine, please visit asdreams.org.



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

Hating your hate

Shai Hulud's metal album *Misanthropy Pure* has old and new feel

• CARL ROLOFF

After a 5-year wait, Shai Hulud, pioneers of both the metal and hardcore scenes came out with a new record last month—*Misanthropy Pure*. Culled from material written on tour, new melodies and even “riffs written back in '96,” says Matt Fox, guitarist and founding member of the band. “The new record is a mix of old and new.”

Thematically, the album deals with hatred—a “couple personal songs” but ironically more of a hatred of hatred. “Personal observations on the way people treat themselves and others. The insincerity present in so many Americans today,” said Fox.

Fox maintains that the goal of Shai Hulud is not to inspire hatred, lamenting how some fans latch onto the emotion and not the message they're trying to put out into the world. “We want to inspire compassion, to make peo-

ple think and feel, to inspire consideration. We want people to be self-aware,” he said.

Shai Hulud began in 1995 with Fox and Dave Silber, two friends with a mutual interest in hardcore. After all of Fox's other bands fell through, Silber pestered Fox into making a hardcore band and “Shai Hulud started with the first song [he] wrote while on the toilet.” Fox repudiates the label of metalcore, saying “I write what I feel, and how I write is a hybrid of punk, hardcore and metal. It's a blend of what I listen to.”

The new album itself is a mix of things as well, building on the feel of their first EP, but trying to “bring out new patterns [and] new emotions.” While the band has a thread of wry humour in them (even titling a previous release *A Comprehensive Retrospective: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Release Bad and Useless Recordings*, (after the title of Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove*) Fox



Shai Hulud in a world of destruction. The band is expected to perform in Canada in October.

keeps the jokes to the liner notes, letting only a thread of sarcasm grace the lyrics.

While heading to Europe soon for their tour, Shai Hulud are

excited to return to Canada around October, recalling fondly their Canadian tour back in '99. “We did a couple shows in Newfoundland,” says Fox, “an all

ages and a 21 and up, or whatever the drinking age is. It was a great crowd, we met some really cool people, and let me tell you, the drunk fans were great.”

spins

The Wet Secrets
Rock Fantasy
Rodeo Peanut
Records (via Six
Shooter/Warner)



Bass machine and singer Lyle Bell leads most of the tracks through pop-rocky-brass-beats of a refreshing nature. With instruments like trombones, paint cans, keyboards and a tuba, it's rare you'll find yourself seeking out the absent guitar. This is a pretty well organized album with a lot of thought put into the order in which the songs are tracked. Each one fits in its place and builds momentum into the next. There's some great energy in this music and the female vocals really give it some zip. The bass rhythm will hypnotize and, ultimately leave you in a groovy funk, the melody lingering long after. A few of the tracks fall prey to the tendency of sounding a bit too muck alike. But the good thing is that for the most part, these are good, strong tunes. This is a pretty solid first album and as far as I can tell, this bunch would be a hoot to see live.

3.5/5

Andrew O'Kill-Griffin

Ben Sures
Field Guide to
Loneliness
bensures.com



The first song of the album is less than

remarkable, and the second song is no different, merely full of more potential; “Used to Have a Raygun” uses a Strokes-esque effect of the voice, and while cute, lacks somewhere in movement leaving the song flat. It shouldn't be, but it is.

“My Last Girlfriend” the third song on the album and one of my favourites is once-again clear and more successfully cute. The second-to-last song, and my personal favourite of this album is called “Lettuce and Tomato” in which Sures speaks of his parents' divorce, and the sandwiches his father used to make for Sures' bus rides back to his mother. “Lettuce and tomato, ketchup maybe mayo, sliced up left of last night's barbeque, put it in a sac of paper and put in my back pack careful the tomatoes don't soak through.”

Sures' sound is so varied from song to song that I'm left wondering as a listener, if he's very many things, or not sure if he's anything at all. As an artist he is clever, more of a poet than a chart-topper and chooses his accompanying sound carefully. In retrospect I think I've said it many times throughout this review. Sures' sound is cute no more and no less than that.

3.5 sympathetic
Canadian stars/5
Joelle Lemieux

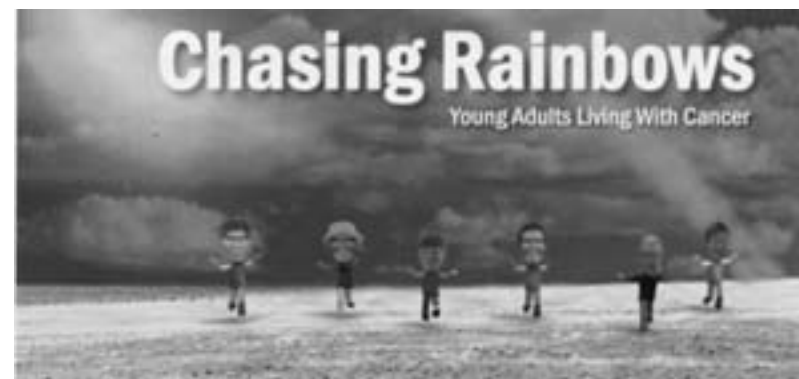
Hail of Bullets
Of Frost and War
Metal Blade
Records



May 13th brought with it the first release of Dutch death metal band Hail of Bullets. Apologizing for the recent Dutch-led trend of female-fronted gothic metal bands, these five metalheads took inspiration from old American death metal and “a lethal dose of Celtic Frost.” The result was *Of Frost and War*, an album full of crunching, gritty guitars, relentless drumming and dominated by lyrics stemming from World War II's Battle of the Eastern Front. Lyrically, musically and artistically the album comes together to form “an atmosphere that would breathe the spirit of war and all horrors that it brings; death, grief, desolation.” Full of aggression, the album is slow without being boring, catching a looming sound in General Winter while still pulling out the stops for epic melodies and solos in *Inferno* in the Carpathian Mountains. While good music, many of their songs follow similar lines, and don't push the barrier. If anything, Hail of Bullets could benefit from some musical diversity, but as a sophomore album, it shows remarkable promise and Hail of Bullets' subsequent releases should show even more promise.

4/5

Carl Roloff



Cover of the film featuring young adults' battle with cancer.

Never giving up

Young adults deal with life and relationships after diagnosed with cancer

• JOHNNY NORTH

Facing a possibly limited life span and a whole new way of life, six cancer patients reveal their fears and determination in the documentary entitled *Chasing Rainbows: Young Adults Living With Cancer*.

The film was a personal project of one of the patients, Sarah Taylor Gibson, and was carried on by her mother, who is the producer and director of the film. Last month, the film was shown for the first time in Montreal and was screened in four other Canadian provinces.

For 43 minutes, the patients talk about the different ways cancer has changed their lives. They discuss topics such as sexuality, hair loss, finances, work and what they plan to do in the

future. Even though life has not gone the way they planned, they all have an optimistic view that keeps them from giving into despair.

The movie stays upbeat even throughout some of the more emotionally charged segments. When one patient completely twists his arm without feeling any sensation, his peers have no reservations laughing, which only goes to show how comfortable they are with one another. They reveal personal information and speak candidly over their initial reactions in an attempt to help educate others going through similar problems.

DVDs of the documentary are available from the BC Cancer Foundation, at: chasingrainbowsproduction.com.

THE LiNK is looking for a Fringe Arts Editor!
For more information on the position please
contact fringe@thelink.concordia.ca or
call us at 514-848-2424 ext.5813.

Law of the blue-collars

Carpenter lead singer talks about his band Carpenter's debut album and sustainable farming

• JOHNNY NORTH

British Columbia punk band Carpenter has been on a roll lately—their first album, *Law of The Land*, has been out for just a few days and they have already started touring across Canada.

The punk-indie-farmcore band are coming off a Sunday night performance in Montreal and are currently scheduled to tour all the way back to B.C. for the next few days. *The Link* had the opportunity to chat with lead vocalist Daniel Sioui earlier in the week.

How did you guys come up with the name Carpenter?

Daniel Sioui: It was strange. I was in a band called All State Champion. Obviously that name had a sort of grandiose feel and a little bit cockier. I purposely wanted the name of this project to be something quite a bit more low-key and a little bit more blue-collar. Carpenter was something that was simple and works for the feel of the band.

How has the response been for the album after the first shows of your current tour?

It's been really, really great.



The band Carpenter enjoying a few beers before performing their new songs on *Law of The Land*.

Better than I could have imagined. I think the fact that people say there is such variety on the album, but that it also works so well as album and that is something we were striving for. We didn't want to just have

a couple of good songs and then filler, we wanted the album to be something people would put on and listen to from song one to song 10. [People aged from] 17 years old to 40 years old are all finding some-

thing in it that they like—everyone has a different favourite song.

Through your lyrics you have spoken out and taken a stand in favour of struggling farmers and support organizations like Canadian Organic

Growers. When did you first start supporting sustainable farming?

I think it's been about two years. I've known for the last eight or nine years that I wanted to eventually become a farmer. I actually just bought a farm in Ontario last week. It's been in the last couple of years that I've discovered the struggles independent farmers are finding themselves in, because of the property taxes, the lack of land available to them, and the urban sprawl crisis. There is such a public outcry about the gas prices, and obviously that's important especially for us driving across the country, but there is not nearly enough public outcry over the food shortage. It's starting to get a little more recognized now. But ultimately gas is a luxury and food is a necessity, but no one is really talking about food prices or the farmers' struggles to feed all of us. Hopefully we can bring some awareness to it.

Do you have any future plans to perform again in Montreal?

Our goal is to come back in the fall, like in October. We're really excited about playing there. We know there is such a huge punk community of various styles.

Art of many emotions

Common ground in adjoining exhibitions

• HEATHER ANDERSON

Although Frédéric Loury, the owner and brains behind the Galerie [sas], would plead coincidence, the theme of movement, interior and exterior all interlink the current exhibitions at the gallery.

Mateo M may be found caressing one of his works in Galerie [sas]' espace 1.

"Once I've finished it, I don't care anymore," he explains.

Random movement (of the soul) captures the elusiveness of emotions through studies in paper, wood, aluminium, serigraphy (silk-screening) and video. While some artists wear their hearts on their sleeve, M prefers to wear it on his medium.

"It's not located in my mind, more in my heart [...] more like a gut thing than a head thing," says M.

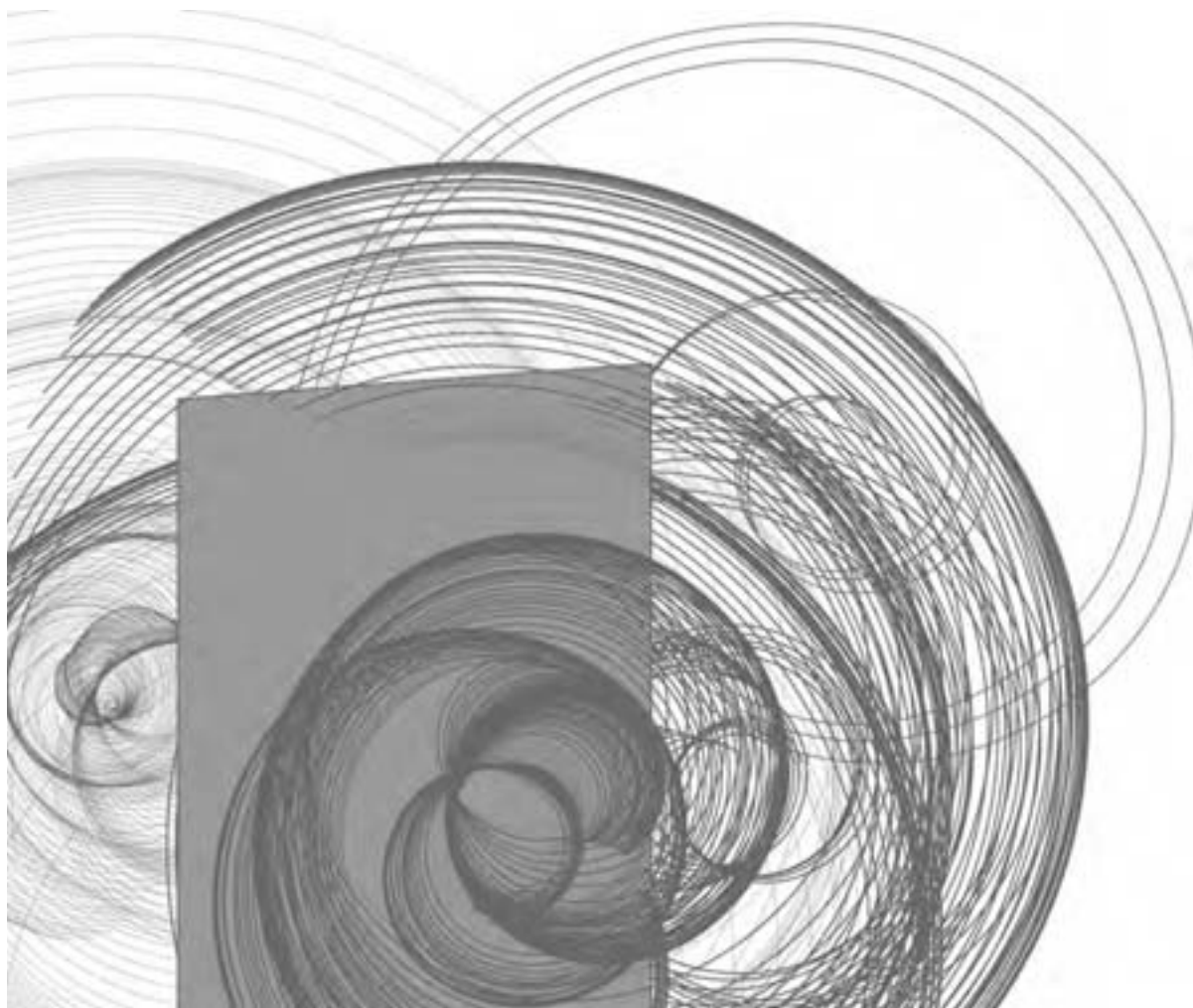
Taking his cue from Art Brut, created by insane asylum residents, Mateo's work draws from an automatic, meditative process. Trained at the School of

Decorative Arts of Strasbourg and driven by a sense of urgency, M uses unconventional tools like spatulas and nails to engrave wet surfaces, creating a dialogue between abstract line and distinct figures, between black and white along with hints of colour.

In *Les divinités...*, two opposing panels of thin, leaf-like forms swirl in a vortex of black and white, where etchings of a face reside. *Cycle* features images reminiscent of open heart surgery circling around the form of a woman, echoing the cyclic nature of love and loss.

M summarizes, "I'm not talking about the external world. I'm not talking about society. Maybe my art is a statement [...] but it's only a statement of my own feeling, experience, history, life."

Juxtaposed against M's emotional movement, espace 2 houses Guillaume Simoneau's *Til kingdom comes... (or a slight difficulty to breathe)*. The collection features scenes of modern commercial debauchery identifying sources of power and suffering



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

with familiar imagery from the media and others reminiscent of an advertisement.

Harlene Weils run over by a car, evinces reckless speed in the portrait of a young woman's face,

whose perfect symmetry is interrupted only by bruising-like tire tracks. In *Caged Play Station*, a television set is chained to a shelf in a North African home, showing the adaptation of high tech devices

into the third world.

Galerie [sas] is located at 372 Ste-Catherine West (4th floor of the Belgo building) and will feature these exhibits until Saturday June 14th.

Summer events calendar

• COMPILED BY BRIAN HASTIE
AND JOHNNY NORTH
GRAPHIC BY AMY SMITH



June

GS- **Galérie [sas] (art exhibition)**- now until June 14
- www.vivamontreal.org
BMTP- **The Black Market Type & Print Shop**- now until June 22
- www.articule.org
SPP- **The Suoni Per Il Popolo 2008 Festival**- now until June 30
- www.casadelpopolo.com
CE- **Cirque Etc. (Une exposition d'Aline Martineau)**- now until June 30
- www.geocities.com/alinemartineau
SADN- **Spectacle annuel d'école nationale de cirque**- now until June 13
- www.ecolenationaledecirque.ca
DLRV- **Doctoral Lecture-Recital: Vincent Boucher**- organ June 10
- 514-398-4547
WMC- **The Wise Men of Chelm (theatre)**- June 11-July 3
- www.segalecentre.org
SMF- **St-Ambroise Montreal FRINGE Festival**- June 13-June 22
- www.montrealfringe.ca
DLRS- **Doctoral Lecture-Recital: Stacie Lightner, organ**- June 18
- 514-398-4547
PT- **Pétanque tournament**- June 21 - www.tohu.ca
EF- **L'Éco-fête**- June 21 - www.tohu.ca
MEG- **McGill Examination Gala Concerts 2008**- June 26 - 514-398-4547
LB- **Linda Brady at McGill Conservatory**- June 28 - 514-398-4547

July

FA- **Fantasia**- July 1 to 21 – www.festivalfantasia.com
FI- **Festival international Montréal en art**- July 3 to 6
- www.festivaldesarts.org

FIN- **Festival internationale nuits d'Afrique**- July 8 to 20 – www.festivalnuitsdafrique.com
MR- **Montreal Reggae Fest**-July 11 to 13 - montrealreggaefest.com
PF- **Projet Fibonacci (Cirque, musique, théâtre, danse)**- July 18 to 20
- www.les7doigtsdelamain.com
AIM- **12th Annual International Merengue Festival**– July 19 to 20
- www.festivalmerenguedemontreal.com
AMP- **Annie-mots, le projet bête (théâtre, musical pour enfants)**- July 20
- www.annie-mots.com
AS- **Asere (musique Cubaine)**- July 25 – www.tohu.ca
OK- **Otakuthon**– July 26 to 27 - www.otakuthon.com
BTK- **Boom Tchi-Ka (Percussions réinventées)**– July 27 - www.creason.ca
DC- **Divers/Cite** - July 29 to Aug. 3 – www.diverscite.org
TW- **Twist Weekend 2008**- July 31 to Aug. 3 – www.bbcm.org

August

SLQ- **Sin Limites et Qbanito (Reggaeton)**- Aug. 1
- www.myspace.com/sinlimitespage or www.qbanito.ca
MOSF- **Montreal Scottish Festival**- Aug. 2 - www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca
LGM- **Le grand cirque minuscule et Alex Lalune**- Aug. 3 - www.tohu.ca
POM- **Psychotropical Orchestra (Musique Latine, Rock et Ska)**- Aug. 8
- www.myspace.com/psychotropicalorchestra
LFBP- **La Fête Bio Paysanne (Canada's largest organic/eco-friendly event)**- Aug. 8 to 10
- www.tohu.ca
LCDM- **La chèvre de Monsieur Seguin (Opéra pour enfants)**- Aug. 10
- www.operavoxpopuli.com
SCMT- **Sol Caribe (musique Tropicale)**- Aug. 15 - www.musiquemulimontreal.com
DLSS- **Dans le sous-sol (musique pour enfants)**- Aug. 17 - www.lespetitestoures.ca
NAS- **Nadaka: A Sense of the Infinite (musique)**- Aug. 30 - www.nadaka.com

SUN MON TUES WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	2 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	3 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	4 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	5 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	6 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	7 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN
8 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	9 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN	10 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN, DLRV	11 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN, WMC	12 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN, WMC	13 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN, WMC, SMF	14 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, SADN, WMC, SMF
15 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	16 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	17 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	18 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, DLRs, SMF	19 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	20 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	21 GS, BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, EF, PT, SMF
22 BMTP, SPP, CE, WMC, SMF	23 SPP, CE, WMC	24 SPP, CE, WMC	25 SPP, CE, WMC	26 SPP, CE, WMC, MEG	27 SPP, CE, WMC	28 SPP, CE, WMC, LB

29	SPP, CE, WMC	30	SPP, CE, WMC	1	July	2	WMC, EA	3	WMC, EA, FI	4	FA, FI	5	FA, FI
6	FA, FI	7	FA	8	FA, FIN	9	FA, FIN	10	FA, FIN	11	FA, FIN, MR	12	FA, FIN, MR
13	FA, FIN, MR	14	FA, FIN	15	FA, FIN	16	FA, FIN	17	FA, FIN	18	FA, FIN, PF	19	FA, FIN, PF, AIM
20	FA, FIN, PF, AIM, AMP	21	FA	22		23		24		25	AS	26	OK
27	OK, BTK	28		29	DC	30	DC	31	DC	1	August	2	DC, TW, MOSF
3	DC, TW, LGCM	4		5		6		7		8	POM, LFBP	9	LFBP
10	LFBP, LCDM	11		12		13		14		15	SCMT	16	
17	DLSS	18		19		20		21		22		23	
24/31	NAS	25		26		27		28		29		30	

That time of year

Fringe-For-All reveals the spectacles going down at the annual Montreal festival

• KAREN DURRELL

The St-Ambroise Montreal FRINGE Festival is back for the 18th year and with a few changes to the schedule. Eight countries and over seven hundred companies will be in Montreal for ten days starting on June 12.

This year the FRINGE is moving out of Mile End and into downtown making the Just For Laughs studio its home base. The studio is where Fringe Club, an after-hour club, will be situated and where Jimmy Priest and Zack Winters will be broadcasting the *13th Hour*, a bilingual talk show featuring dance parties, drinking games and outrageous stunts.

Though it is hard to know exactly which shows to see and impossible to see them all, it is worth a good old college try. With ten days of gags, skits and amusement for all it may be a good idea to check out the Out-of-Towner Fringe-For-All to see what's out there.

Fringe-For-All, hosted by the quirky entertainers on the *13th Hour*, is a showcase of local companies of rapid-fire theatre, music, dance and comedy. Patrick Goddard, general manager of the festival, said the non-locals had been whining, "why don't we get a Fringe-For-All?"

Well, they got their wish. Each company had two minutes to impress the crowd during last week—a right usually reserved for local talent that has now been



The FRINGE Festival will feature many types of clowns, actors, comedians and much more.

extended to all. The out-of-town-ers only get one-minute opening night at 10 p.m. in the Just For Laughs Studio.

The new additions to FRINGE don't stop there. Like to draw and look at sexy half-naked cabaret dancers? Check out the FRINGE Special *Dr. Sketchy* at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 16 at Parc des Amériques.

The variety of shows really have a little bit of something for everyone; *Degrassi! The Musical*, *Lard* (like grease but thicker), *Dishpig* and *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* are just some of the must-sees.

But for some not-so-good entertainment check out *Dramaturkey*. It is described as "local play writes, with actors dis-

playing the worse stuff ever written," said producer Jeremy Hechtman. "They have been digging through their high school journals."

Hechtman and Goddard encourage all spectators to donate some loose change to another new addition to the FRINGE, a charity of the day. Everyday of the festival the

organizers will be collecting money for any number of local charities as well as their own funding. The money-collected everyday will be split 50/50 with the charity of the day.

The festival kicks off next Thursday. Show listing and information is available at www.montreal-fringe.ca.

Lady of men

Singer-comedian brings her act to Montreal for the first time

• KAREN DURRELL

Men of Montreal, get ready because Marysia is on her way to the St-Ambroise Fringe Festival and she is looking for a primitive man. In the beautiful Brit's hour-long jazz cabaret comedy show, *Find Me A Primitive Man*, Marysia plays Lady Farquarh-Merkin, a divorcee of a Royal Family member. She is offering up advice on dating men from all walks of life.

"[Lady Farquarh-Merkin] is a persona with a fair amount of me in her, and things I have observed from friends of mine," said Marysia. "She's more true than I'd like to admit."

Marysia, who is the definition of the sexy lounge singer, said she played more of a role in her old profession as a bonds trader in London. With her hair pulled back in a tight bun, dressed in conservative suits and even wearing non-prescription glasses to give the impression of seriousness and professionalism she wasn't stimulated.

"I could do it with my eyes closed," it came to the point where she thought, "I've been sensible enough." It has been seven years since the ex-bonds trader left to pursue her dream as a Jazz/Cabaret singer but with Jazz precedents already set by singers like Billy Holliday and Ella Fitzgerald she wanted to do something different. Billy and Ella though, have nothing on Marysia's wit and humour.

Having lived in London as well as Los Angeles, she has dated all different kinds of men, but says, "English men like to show affection to dogs and horses." Her most recent ex refolded dirty sheets. It's no wonder of him she said, "He was a lovely man but a little too straight for me. The refolding of the dirty sheets was the deal breaker in that relationship. I haven't met any men in this city who fold clean sheets,"—she may be coming to the right place.

"I dated a Formula 1 driver, he made love the way he would race—he didn't pay enough attention to the curves [...] didn't

last very long either," she will not disclose the name of the driver, assuring that this tale is all 100 per cent true. The show is aimed at women but can be enjoyed by "men who don't take themselves too seriously."

She has been reading up on Canada and our men, so watch out girls, she just may make-out with your lumberjack in a canoe.

It's her first time coming to Montreal and she is very excited to get out in the city and see how our Montreal mating rituals work.

Marysia is performing the first of her six shows at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday June 14 in the Just for Laughs Cabaret on St-Laurent. Tickets are \$9 and \$7 for students and there is also an additional \$2 service charge. But for a free sneak preview check out the Out-of-Towner Fringe For All, opening night of the festival, June 12, at 10 p.m. at Café Campus.



Marysia on her way to Montreal, looking to make love in a canoe.

And they lived happily ever after...

An expatriot remembers life in Baghdad

• TRISTIN HOPPER

Tarnished by decades of war and dictatorship, there are few who remember the cosmopolitan grandeur of colonial Iraq.

Once Upon a Time in Iraq, an autobiographical account by Iraqi-American Basil Balian, takes readers on a childhood journey through a forgotten era of what is now the largest war zone in the middle east.

Balian immigrated to the United States in 1958 as a teenager, mere months before his childhood home would become inalterably transformed by the Iraqi revolution, the rule of Saddam Hussein, multiple wars and most recently, the U.S. invasion.

"These may have been the most peaceful years that Iraqis ever knew," he writes in the introduction.

A son of an Armenian father and an Arab mother, Balian lived a privileged, Christian childhood in Baghdad and Kurdish Iraq before moving to the United States to become an engineer. The last time he saw the country of his birth was almost 50 years ago.

The book is not arranged chronologically. Rather, it is structured around a series of different "points of interest." Chapters are named after the different categories in Balian's memory bank: "Baghdad," "The River," "Americans," "Houses,"

"Women." The reader pieces together Balian's childhood through a myriad of charming "Cheaper by the Dozen" -esque family accounts: sleeping on the roof in the oppressive heat of summer, his Armenian grandfather spitting on his school textbook because it carried a picture of the Turkish sultan, an uncle sleeping in a cemetery and scaring a rural town half to death when they thought he was the walking dead.

Throughout all the whimsy of the book's childhood yarns, there is nevertheless a looming knowledge that turmoil and violence lies only years in the future for the idyllic Iraqi home that Balian describes. Balian gives glowing accounts of the beauty and majesty of the Tigris river, before lamenting that it has "become the dumping place for hundreds of bodies that disappear daily in war, revenge vendettas, and atrocities."

I hope that our culture has a zenith awaiting it and that our golden age is still ahead of us.

—Basil Balian, *Iraqi immigrant*

He describes holidays to the scenic Mediterranean city of Beirut, noting that the plazas and colonnades he so admired have now become scarred by bullet marks and bomb blasts.

Readers also hear Balian's personal connections to some of

the more sinister aspects of post-revolutionary Iraq, including a cousin who, in the wake of the 1958 revolution, worked for the British colonial government and was later captured and forced to reveal British "secrets."

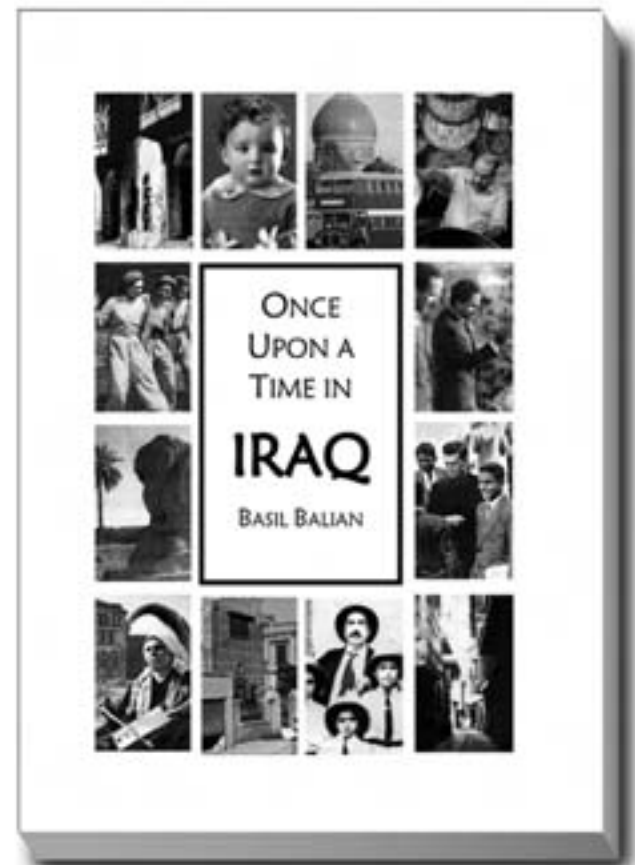
Balian surmises that one of his best friends, Hamid, is most likely in severe danger as a result of the current sectarian violence.

There is even a chilling account of a situation where one of Balian's uncles had a tire explode while driving past the residence of Saddam Hussein. The car was immediately surrounded by armed guards, and only a chance intervention saved it from becoming riddled with bullets.

Basil's Americanization shines through in the narrative. While raised within the boundaries of traditional Iraqi conservatism, it is clear that he has strived to make his book a true "warts and all" account.

Balian describes his mother proudly displaying a blood-stained sheet to friends, as a way of proving that a relative married the day before was, in fact, a virgin.

Balian also describes the sudden end of a close family rela-



Once Upon A Time In Iraq
Basil Balian
Lulu Press
June 2008
250 pp
\$16.50

tionship that ended when it was found that the neighbour's daughter had attended a boy-girl dance party at Balian's home.

On the other side of things, Balian recalls some kinky hijinks, when he climbed over rooftops with his friend Hamid in order to spy on a Turkish neighbour indulging in a series of high-class prostitutes. On one occasion, one of the prostitutes caught a glimpse of the peeping toms, only to give them a playful whistle.

"We went home that night and dreamt that we were the ones who were being treated to a sexual encounter," he wrote.

Or, take his description of a teacher at his elementary school: "The Lebanese teacher was sexy and slightly heavysset, and we often suspected that the principal of the school used her for a rainy day when his wife might have had a headache."

Balian also lets readers in on the immigrant experience: being

startled by the presence of masked children on his doorstep in late October, finding out about the merits of antifreeze after bringing fire to a car engine, and the indignity of leaving behind a pampered lifestyle and being forced to take on a busboy job at a restaurant that served fish. Balian closes the book by noting that he was fortunate enough to live through the golden age of Iraq right before it descended into chaos. The book ends on a note of caution as he prays that the same will not become true for the United States:

"If our economic fabric gets shredded as the result of our policies we may have seen the best of our years. I certainly hope not. No one lives long enough to know how the events he is witnessing in his lifetime will unfold in historical context. I hope that our culture has a zenith awaiting it and that our golden age is still ahead of us."

Q & A: Basil Balian, author of *Once Upon A Time in Iraq*

The Link: *Only months after you immigrated to the United States, Iraq exploded into armed revolutionary rebellion. Did you feel that something like that was bound to occur?*

Basil Balian: No. I did not. Frankly, about the only thing that gave me a feel that it may happen is because of all the excitement in Iraq when Gamel Abdul Nasser took power in Egypt. The average student was just euphoric about that possibility [a leader touting pan-Arabism].

But the [Iraqi] government was strong, well organized, not oppressive to the point where somebody wanted to overthrow it tomorrow ... I didn't think [revolution] was

going to happen, but when it did happen it almost felt like 'yeah, that's expected.'

You're enthusiastic about promoting this book within the Arab world. Do you see it as a way of reminding Iraqis of what their country once was, and what it ultimately can be?

My feeling is that now, the animosity has gotten too severe to let those memories change their attitude. Maybe after things settle down and people are not worried about security and about jobs and about not getting killed, maybe they'll remember the good old days and say "jeez, we used to be this way at one time."

I just think that times now are too

volatile for anybody to emotionally go back to these days. If they go back to anything, they go back to the way they had it better under Saddam Hussein, which is not the positive you want them to remember.

The book exudes a certain candidness about intimate personal and sexual subjects that seems out of place for someone raised along conservative Arab sensibilities. Was this intentional?

I am a conservative person by nature. Arabs don't tell the world their 'dirty linen', so to speak. Something I've learned in the United States as an amateur writer is that people are not going to be interested in an opinion or a qualified truth. They really want to know you as naked as possible - that's distasteful to someone who grew up where "showmanship is looked down upon." It's other people that are supposed to talk about you, not yourself. I guess that came from the many years I

lived in (the United States).

You perceived the 1991 Gulf War as merely a fight between your two adopted countries (Iraq and the United States), but you have had a completely different perspective on the most recent Iraq conflict. Could you elaborate?

The Iraq War really left me with a bad taste in my mouth about the way we handled Iraq. I did not like the idea of the war to start with, and frankly, most of what I predicted would happen in Iraq, actually came to pass.

I told my friends that I didn't think the way they described the ease of conquering Iraq was going to happen. When the government was saying that Iraq is going to come out into the street and welcome us. I said that if they ever did that, it would be very short-lived celebration.

A: Iraqis, knowing them, they're not going to welcome an occupier and agree with that for a very long time.

Chris Benoit vs Larry Zbyszko

Battle of the wrestling all-star biographies!

Ring of Hell

• JOHNNY NORTH

Almost a year ago, the murders of Nancy Benoit and her son Daniel by former professional wrestling champion Christopher Michael Benoit, left families, friends and fans in absolute shock and still asking "Why, Chris why?"

Benoit, born in Montreal, was a quiet, shy and extremely obedient employee for any wrestling company he worked for. His many peers and ex-wife saw him before and after his untimely death as one of the greatest human beings they'd ever met.

Matthew Randazzo V's novel, *Ring of Hell: The Story of Chris Benoit & The Fall of the Pro Wrestling Industry*, chronicles the story of Benoit as an eager young man who abused steroids and painkillers in order to survive in pro wrestling. We learn that he first started using drugs at the age of 16 in order to compensate for his lack of size.

That Benoit's brain had been damaged to the level of an 85-year-old man's by the time of his death shows not only the brutality of the sport but also the gradual effects of Benoit's steroid abuse.

By focusing in on role model figures, pro wrestling trainers and wrestling friends that died from drug abuse, we are given a better understanding of the kind of world Benoit came to emulate. The wrestler he grew up idolizing, Tom Billington (aka The Dynamite Kid) was a loner and bully to anyone who rubbed him the wrong way. Billington took great pleasure in terrorizing people and did so many times over. Benoit in many ways followed in Billington's footsteps, emulating his moves, his abuse of drugs and his attitude towards rookie wrestlers. Unlike Billington, Benoit was highly respected due to his strong work ethic and his obvious dedication to the wrestling profession.

How Benoit and Nancy fell in love and broke away from their first marriages is simply bizarre. Nancy's ex-husband and pro wrestler Kevin Sullivan tried to push a wrestling storyline that they were cheating on their spouses by forcing them to spend time together. Eventually, Sullivan's abusive relationship with Nancy simply served to make the storyline real.

Randazzo, a crime writer, did his homework when it came to past wrestling autobiographies, as there are quite a few excerpts from them. Randazzo also was able to get quite a few former writers for World Wrestling Entertainment to give their two cents on some of the horror stories they'd witnessed first hand. The story of how Paul



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

Levesque, aka HHH, and his wife Stephanie McMahon worked against Benoit are appalling as both still have considerable control in the WWE.

Randazzo comes up short in providing names for his sources, which doesn't always bode well for their credibility—one of his sources he simply refers to as a 'friend.' Randazzo makes a few erstwhile assumptions and attempts to get inside Benoit's head during his early steroid days and the week of the murders, something that no one could possibly know except Benoit himself. But for Randazzo to declare the "fall of the pro wrestling industry," as he does in the title, is weird considering the WWE is coming off one of its best years in terms of revenue. The negative and at times slanted views of the pro wrestling industry are highly exposed in *Ring of Hell*. Wrestling fans that keep up with Internet wrestling news might have already heard most of the stories or a slightly different variation of them. Benoit fans will hate how the novel blames him for getting involved in the crooked side of wrestling. For wrestling fans new to the sport, and for people interested in a broad view of Benoit's life, you can't go wrong with *Ring of Hell*. But don't be surprised if you never look at wrestling the same way again.



Ring of Hell
Matthew Randazzo V
Phoenix Books
May 2008
278 pp
\$25.95

Adventures in Larryland

who always started off conversations with maniacal-not to mention moronic-laughter. Zbyszko also takes credit for helping Hulk Hogan change from a jobber to one day becoming a wrestling god with Hulkamania.

Following his scandalous departure from WWF, Zbyszko found success in WCW and the American Wrestling Association. In the AWA Zbyszko became a world heavyweight champion for the first and only time—with the title victory he finally got to live out his life-long dream.

In retirement, Zbyszko found more success—he became an employee of Ted Turner's, working as part of Turner Broadcasting. Zbyszko ended up creating a whole new fan base as a commentator and was paid handsomely for his opinion. Zbyszko came out of retirement twice and managed to get on two WCW pay-per-views with some of their highest recorded buy rates.

The road stories that Zbyszko puts in the book are at times funny and emotionally charged. From being a pilot in a plane that was about to crash, to making fun of young wrestlers for using too many clotheslines, wrestling fans get to read about the "New Living Legend" in a whole new light.

Zbyszko's belief in standing by his booking commitments is somewhat hypocritical—he threatened to miss wrestling shows since he thought he should be WWF champion and paid more, but when AWA champion Jerry Lawler was not paid by AWA, Zbyszko criticizes Lawler stating that it was "the most unprofessional act in the business."

For fans wanting to read about Lawrence Whistler, the real-life Zbyszko, you're out of luck. Zbyszko keeps his private life to a bare minimum—Zbyszko's real name is only mentioned on the back of the book. Wrestling fans that do not like to read long books are in luck—Zbyszko kept it under 200 pages and keeps chapters short. His opinions on love in wrestling is a mere sentence. Overall, the biography is a unique perspective from a Polish émigré who battled tough wrestling politicians and came out alive.

• JOHNNY NORTH

Larry Zbyszko is known in the professional wrestling world as a great villain, a jerk, a backstabber, selfish and a familiar voice on World Championship Wrestling television programming.

Zbyszko's biography, *Adventures in Larryland* takes the reader on a trip through the highlights of Zbyszko's three decades in pro wrestling, minus the bad stuff. His wrestling idol, Bruno Sammartino, plays a huge role in the beginning of the book—Zbyszko starts off stalking him and the two end up feuding for the cameras.

Zbyszko tells about how in the 1970s wrestling was considered real to the general public and that outsiders needed to be dealt with in order to keep the secret alive. This resulted in wrestlers seriously injuring wannabes. Zbyszko was so hated by the fans for turning on his hero that fans would chant "Larry sucks!" One fan went farther, stabbing him in the right butt cheek four inches deep.

Zbyszko tells his side of his World Wide Wrestling Federation career and holds nothing back when talking about his dealings with the McMahon family. Zbyszko had his ups and downs with Vince McMahon Senior, but when it comes to Vince Junior he recalls a conniving crybaby



Adventures in Larryland
Larry Zbyszko
ECW Press
May 2008
240 pp
\$12.99

Lit Writ

The Bike Courier

• MATTHEW READING

I am the slowest bike courier in all of Montréal. There are perhaps slower in Toronto, or maybe even Vancouver, but in Montréal, I have them beat. Other couriers may deliver upwards of forty or fifty packages a day, but lately, I have been averaging about three deliveries per workweek. Naturally, this is a matter of great talk and personal satisfaction. Even my employers, who were originally irked by my tardiness, have now come to embrace my velocity as a means of self-promotion. I am something of a miracle worker, you see

Why, just the other day I was on my route, when a woman began to jaywalk across the street I was traveling down. When she noticed me, she appeared bashful and stepped back on the curb.

“Please,” I insisted, bringing my bike to a standstill, “do cross, Madame. It would trouble me greatly if you stopped on

my behalf.”

“Oh, but young sir, it's clear that you are working. I wouldn't dare risk the possibility of making you unpunctual.”

“No, Madame, I assure you that's of small importance. You are unquestionably very kind, but honestly, I must beseech you.”

Eventually, her light turned green.

(Oh! Have you ever ridden along the bike paths overlooking the St. Lawrence in the Old Port? Sometimes I'll take up to three, four, five hours out of my day, just sitting on the grass there and watching the Ferris wheel at La Ronde go round and round and round and...)

Sometimes I'll take up to three, four, five hours out of my day, just sitting on the grass there and watching the Ferris wheel at La Ronde go round and round and round...

Today I am meeting my rival Jean-Paul Girard for coffee. Jean-Paul is the second slowest bike

courier in Montréal. He is now down to five packages per week, which I assure him is quite impressive, however he regards me very bitterly.

“You think you're so damned sluggish,” he tells me, “but one day you'll speed up! A pack of rabid dogs will come and chase after you! Your prostate will enlarge and you'll have to go piss! By God, you may even develop hemorrhoids! And then-then! We'll see who the slowest bike courier in all of Montréal is!”

A waitress comes to take our order, we deliberate between ourselves, send her away, call her back, sheepishly apologize, send



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

thinking better of it. The service is very slow but that has no bearing on us. Our coffee is delicious and we nurse it for the better part of three hours.

When the wait staff begins to rotate, I can sense Jean-Paul getting anxious.

“You do know, Jean-Paul,” I say innocuously, examining my cuticles, “at some point, one of us

will have to leave this café and deliver his package.”

We glare at each for what might be a record for us.

“Tabarnac!” he exclaims finally and runs out to unlock his bicycle. From where I am sitting, I can see him peddling frantically down St. Catherine, cursing himself (and me) and darting in and out of traffic like a madman....

Put down that doobie and pick up Dubé

At the Bottom of the Sky lost in a sea of fanciful poetry

• ANDREA PARÉ

There are the people you know and the landscapes that you love. In *At the Bottom of the Sky*, his collection of short stories about these two themes, Peter Dubé examines the former and the latter as they collide until it is hard to distinguish where one begins and the other ends.

There is the anti-social Adrian, the zealous activist Zack, and the eccentric artist Terrence. In between the character dialogue, the reader is exposed to the narrator Thom's landscape.

The languishing phrases emit a longing for connection with these friends and lovers, and with the world outside. They are uniquely worded, if a little lacking in substance at times. For the reader who relishes an abstract world, this work is probably a delight. But for those readers who like a meaty plot to accompany their

words, they may find themselves lost in a sea of fanciful poetry-what one of my English professors called “purple language.”

But it is pretty to look at nonetheless, even if it leaves you a little empty in your own inner landscape. In some ways, the cast of characters could have been drawn

a great city like ours deserves an equally fantastic portrait of it. Unfortunately, *At the Bottom of the Sky* doesn't quite capture all of what the city has to offer, although to do so would be difficult task for any author or poet. The landscapes are the familiar urban haunts that most natives have traipsed through at one time

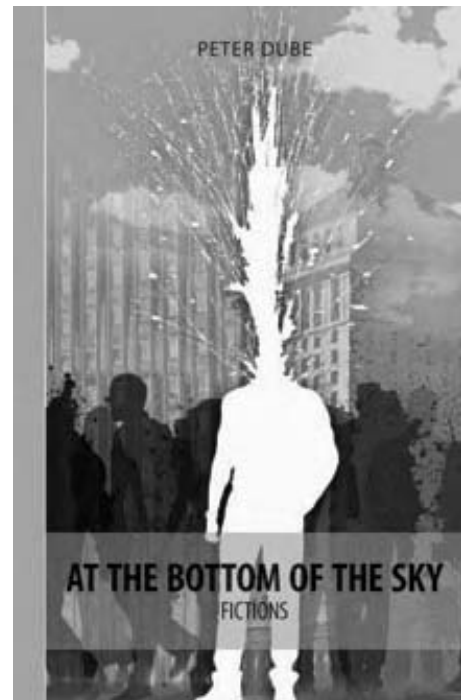
In some ways, the cast of characters could have been drawn from Concordia or Montreal beyond.

from Concordia or Montreal beyond.

In fact, they really could be based on people you know. Dubé wrote this book, drawing inspiration from names and places from this very city. As most who dwell here have an almost love and lust for la belle ville, this fact alone will likely be enough to drive some Montreal diehards to read *At the Bottom of the Sky*. After all,

or another. There is the city bus with its host of archetypical characters, the alleyways, the terraces and the urban underground buildings. Through all these landscapes and encounters with friends, Dubé effectively portrays the longing to connect with one another in the urban wastelands.

If only it didn't also leave the reader longing for more.



At the Bottom of the Sky
Peter Dubé
DC Books
July 2007
102 pp.
\$16.95

wordstuff

cause English needs some explainin' to do

• COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER OLSON

panty (?pan-t?) n. a woman's or child's undergarment covering the lower trunk and made with closed crotch —usually used in plural. **hate** (?h?t) n. intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury. **cou-ri-er** (?kur-?-r) n.1. a member of a diplomatic service entrusted with bearing messages or carrying parcels 2. a runner of contraband. **doobie** (?dü-b?) n.slang : joint. **ref-u-gee** (re-fy-?) n. one that flees; especially : a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution.

No man is an island

An advocate for immigrants' rights fights to stay in Canada

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Ushered up the front steps of St. Gabriel's Presbytery, I am invited by an unidentified man into a small room where a blind Algerian man picks at the strings of a guitar. "Welcome," he says, "It's a nice day. I was just listening to the birds outside my window."

His name is Abdelkader Belaouni, but friends call him Kader. He has lots of friends these days. As I find a place to sit in his modest abode, I am amazed at the ease with which I gained entrance. For Kader, now 41 years old, this place is a prison, and today is day 885 of his unwilling incarceration.

Actually, Belaouni is an honoured guest at St. Gabriel's. It is outside the church where his freedom is at stake. He is one of an estimated 40,000 immigrants in Quebec that have defied deportation orders, 18,000 of whom will most likely lose their battle for citizenship.

Were this man to step outside, he could be placed in arbitrary detention for up to 14 months as immigration officials sluggishly filed the paperwork to have him deported. I wonder briefly if the police are watching nearby. Seeing no police cars stationed outside, I suspect the man enjoying his cigarette near the front steps of the church to be

an undercover informant.

Most people are familiar with the rules of sanctuary, but not everyone knows why or how. "'Sanctuary' is a historical norm. It's not defended by the law, it's simply permitted," says Mostafa Henaway, of the Committee to Support Abdelkader Belaouni. He is one of a staff of 12, mostly supplied by the organization Solidarity Across Borders, a Montreal-based group that demands rights for all non-status people, as well as an end to deportations and

munity for the last seven years, for as long as he's been living in Montreal," says Henaway. "I think he's the face of this movement, for sure."

Despite the mystique that surrounds 'sanctuary,' public officials in Montreal have once before defied its agreed upon sanctity. It was in the highly publicized case of Muhammed Shafi in 2002. Shafi was part of a wave of Algerian refugees who fled the country during the Algerian civil war in 1996. One hundred thousand people lost

hop CD. "It's hip hop, but it's not hip hop," says Belaouni, playing a cut off his album. He explains how the CD mixes different styles and instruments in the same way that Montreal and Canada mix people of different cultures and backgrounds. "It's not all Arab, and it's not all western," he clarifies. "It's hard to mix the two, you know? But I do it."

He shows me the tape recorder where he records his jams. His music partner, Tu-Three, a Muslim American rapper who came to Montreal from the United States, later remixes these songs in a sound studio. He samples a piece of his next album for me. It is still in the planning stages and will feature more folk music than rap.

Belaouni also has a radio show on CKUT, the "Hour of Power," which airs on the 20th of every month from 5-6 p.m. Belaouni uses the show to discuss issues including child poverty, gentrification, women's lib, and features guests like Oliver Jones, a talented musician and a friend of the late Oscar Peterson.

If the man in front of me seems a little sluggish or tired, it's not because he's finally tossed aside a veneer of joviality or has started to embrace doubt about his current predicament. He's just had his wisdom teeth taken out—a procedure that necessitated a house call from his dentist. He laughs. "I

There's a light in his soul, despite what he's going through.

—Rosina Kazi, lead singer for LAL

security certificates.

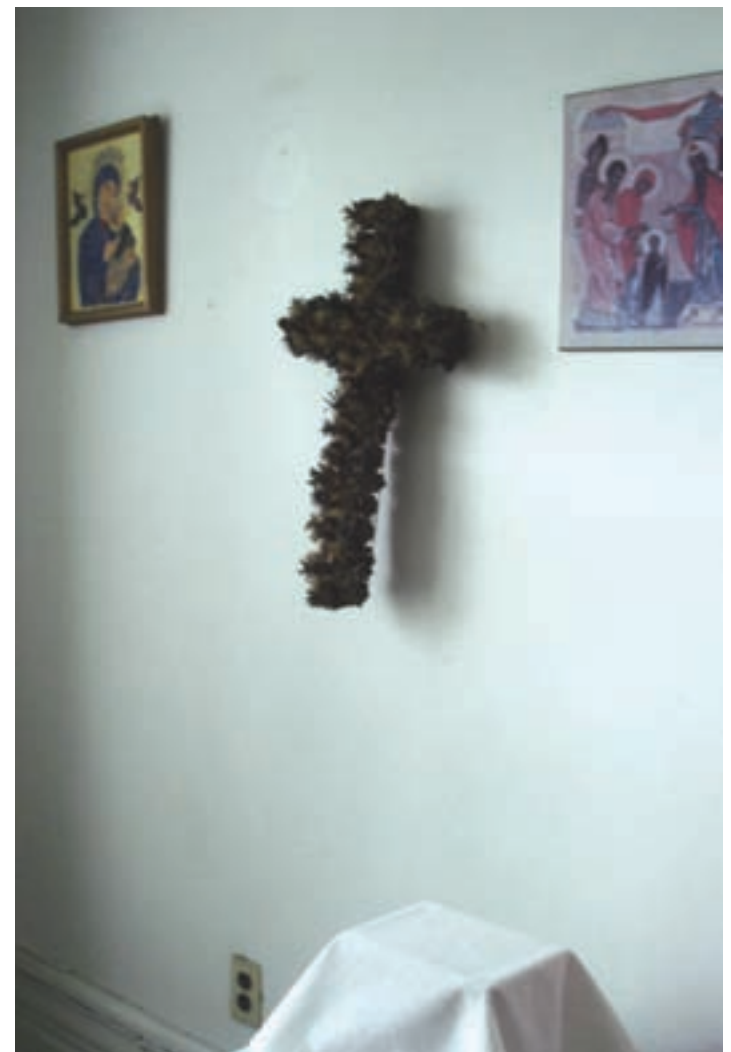
When they're not hosting rallies or pressuring public officials for Belaouni's right to citizenship, they're meeting with him for lunch, and keeping him company.

Prior to seeking sanctuary in January 2006, Belaouni was a prominent civil servant—one explanation for why so many public activists in the community seem to have rallied to his defense. His contemporaries just want him treated with the same respect and consideration he gave to others.

"He's been an integral part of our com-

their lives in that war. His arrest followed two and a half years of intense rallies in support of Algerian refugees' rights in Montreal, culminating in Shafi's swift removal from his sanctuary home.

But even in the face of such a precedent, Belaouni couldn't be more relaxed. He continues to fight quietly for his freedom. Well, maybe 'quietly' isn't the best term to use. During the two and a half years spent by the open window in his room, Belaouni learned to play the flute, the piano and the guitar. Just last month, he released his first hip-



Abdelkader Belaouni has been trapped in sanctuary for 885 days. PHOTOS ELSA JABRE



During his two and a half years of incarceration, Abdelkader Belaouni has taught himself guitar. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER OLSON

never complain. I can't hide my smile."

He pops an antibiotic and pours me a cup of coffee.

Belaouni's life has effectively been on hold for the past two and a half years. His former apartment is only around the corner, tauntingly near. He gestures out the window to indicate how close by it is. His landlord, a close friend, has kept it for him for the past 885 days. If he were freed tomorrow, he wouldn't have to spend time moving in—technically he never moved out.

"I'm patient," he says, optimistically. "I'm just waiting for good news."

It's hard not to admire Belaouni's resilience.

"To deal with everything he's dealing with, to be blind and to create a hip hop CD in a matter of a few months, is amazing," says Henaway, himself a second-generation immigrant. And Henaway isn't the only one with praise for Belaouni.

"He's awesome," says Rosina Kazi, lead vocalist of LAL, a Toronto band that released their latest CD, "Deportation," simultaneously with Belaouni's album. "There's a light in his soul, despite what he's going through."

The title of Belaouni's debut CD, "No Human is an Island," reflects his insistence on focusing on larger issues, instead of his own problems. A track off of Belaouni's

album called "Borders," deals with the issues of "big brother" surveillance.

Kazi says she witnessed this kind of surveillance first hand while putting together her album in a stuffy hotel room in the UK. "There are cameras everywhere there," she says. "It's drilled into you that it's for your own, quote-unquote protection. It's as if they're saying 'we have cameras everywhere, so behave.'"

Montreal, in some ways, is a respite from the anti-immigration fervor that Kazi and people like Henaway claim to see in the U.S. and the UK. Belaouni spent five years in New York after emigrating from Algeria, but left two days after 9/11 in response to the intense pressure and scrutiny he says he felt was directed at immigrants.

"I had a good life there," Belaouni relates. "Don't get me wrong, nothing bad happened to me." But the US and Algeria signed a free-trade agreement in 2001, some say putting economics before humanitarian interests, and it effectively ended the refugee status of Algerians who'd forged ahead to make new lives since fleeing their home country in 1996.

Belaouni found new refuge in Montreal, and for five years led a normal life. But Montreal isn't always as immigrant-friendly as it might seem. He's learned that being an immigrant and disabled makes life twice

as difficult. Belaouni lost his sight at age 25, after an accident during a soccer match.

"It's a catch twenty-two," says Henaway. "There are work programs for the blind, but they won't help him because he's not a Canadian citizen, and he can't get his citizenship because he hasn't got a job."

Belaouni's refugee status was finally revoked in November 2005 by Immigration and Refugee Board Commissioner, Laurier Thibault. Henaway nicknamed Thibault "Mr. 99 per cent" because he refused 99 per cent of immigrants' refugee claims in a two-year period.

"From what I've seen, there's a lot of solidarity for immigrants among native Montrealers," says Henaway. "But there's nothing but anti-immigrant hysteria from the government."

Kazi and her LAL band members have also run up against discrimination. They were once accused of taking jobs from Americans during a cross-country tour, after stopping in Minneapolis. The group was pulled off a plane because they didn't have work visas. It was feared that they were trying to sneak into the States to get jobs illegally.

The band explained that they were only there to do a non-profit show and were eventually re-boarded. But the real awakening came for singer Kazi in March

2004 when a friend and fellow Torontonians Queen Nzinga was given a deportation notice. This was even more of a slap to the face considering Kazi was then taking part in an International Women's Day march. "It just took me out of my Canadian privilege," says Kazi. "It's hard to be remiss if you're not paying attention."

After meeting with him in the sanctuary he's come to call home, Kazi and the other members of LAL decided to put together a concert that Belaouni could actually come to, and so that he could play his own music in front of a crowd. Last month, in association with Public Transit Records and the Mayworks arts festival, an annual cultural celebration of worker's struggles, a concert was held inside St. Gabriel's Presbytery.

Following the success of his May 3rd concert, Belaouni says he's hoping that he'll receive permission from authorities to leave the church for one night this summer. He wants to take part in a reggae festival at this year's Jazz Fest. "It wouldn't hurt to ask," he says, cracking the same smile I saw earlier.

For now, at least, it doesn't seem likely that he'll be leaving St. Gabriel's anytime soon. I shake Belaouni's hand and walk out the door just as easily as I entered and remind myself not to take that freedom for granted.

Wrestling coach receives top honour

Victor Zilberman inducted into canadian hall of fame

• JOHNNY NORTH

It is hard to imagine what Concordia wrestling or wrestling in Canada would be like without the tutoring and guidance of Stingers' wrestling coach Victor Zilberman.

The former three-time Canadian Interuniversity Coach of the Year award winner, who has been with Con U for over 20 years as the coach for the men's and women's wrestling squads, was appreciated for his contribution to amateur wrestling by being inducted into the Canadian amateur wrestling hall-of-fame last month as a builder to the sport.

"He is really responsible for bringing Canadian wrestling to the level it is at today."

—Tyler Marghetis,
former Con U wrestler

"It was long overdue," said Tyler Marghetis, four-time Concordia Stingers gold-medalist. "Victor is the reason I came to Montreal. He can take someone with a really high wrestling level and help them

make the jump to the international level. He is really responsible for bringing Canadian wrestling to the level it is at today."

Zilberman has coached more than 40 ConU wrestlers to gold medal victories. He has been a part of the Canadian coaching staff at the Olympics four times and is leading the Canadian wrestling team to Beijing. Zilberman has helped guide his son David, a former ConU Male Athlete of the Year and former Stinger Female Athlete of the Year Martine Dugrenier to qualify for Beijing.

"He's dedicated his life to wrestling," said his wife Chris Zilberman. "We consider it like a family."

Chris finds that her husband's induction is on par with his induction into the Concordia hall-of-fame in '98.

"Certainly, Concordia is very fortunate to be home of such a recognized coach," said Katie Sheahan, Con U Recreation and Athletics Director. "Because he has such a high regard for the sport, he is currently trying to build leaders to ensure strong wrestling coaches for the future."

Along with David, Zilberman just recently returned to Canada from a wrestling tournament in Sardinia.



Coach Zilberman giving advice to his team. PHOTO DAN PLOUFFE



It's a short trip to our mountain for Con-U students. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

Mount Royal Manifesto

One man's long journey to the top of a short mountain

• ANDREW O'KILL-GRIFFIN

Winter is slowly releasing its grip and the sun, try as it might, can't seem to pierce through those piles of ugly remaining snow quickly enough. We're stuck in a dirty climatic limbo. You know exactly what I mean; too muddy and shitty to enjoy the parks, the rinks are long melted. Let's face it, our options are slim.

Then again, there are those of us who can always find a place to connect with nature. For the, surprisingly, many of you who for some reason don't seem to realize that we have a mountain in our midst, I would suggest that you take a solo hike up to the top and take a look around. Does that sound a bit too pretentious? It's not supposed to. But I'm a born n' bred Montrealer and for the better part of 24 years Mount Royal has been my playground, sanctuary—even, to some of my friends' dismay, something like a rite of passage.

Since I was a good-natured

hooligan of 13 or 14 I've been notorious for bringing new friends up the more treacherous routes. And yes, there are some pretty dangerous crevices that carve their way up the East and South sides. (The other sides are mostly the cemetery, St. Joseph's oratory or Beaver Lake.) I'm talking from experience here—roughly six out of 10 people that I bring up the mountain have told me that they've never been up there, even though they've lived here their whole lives!

Mount Royal is an important part of Montreal's personality.

Now I understand that hiking, climbing or even walking just for the hell of it, isn't for everyone, but I believe that when you live in a city as lively as Montreal, it does the body, mind and spirit well to take a break from time to time, from that horrible daily grind.

Next time you think of going

out to a club or bar for the same old superfluous scenes and atmospheres, go for a night walk around Mount Royal. Find your own look-out. Lose your virginities up there! Make a little fire (I know it's illegal but be responsible!) and dance naked under the moon and stars. Bring a guitar, a djembé, harmonica whatever! Tam-tams have started. Don't know what the Tam-Tams are? Sweet Jesus! get out there on Sundays and get ready to shake it baby!

Back to what I was saying—Mount Royal is an important part of Montreal's personality. It has helped make me the person I am today and I just want everyone to know that it has power to move you. I've climbed it under some pretty extreme conditions and not once have I ever regretted the challenge. Forget about the gym. Forget about sit-coms and cul-de-sac nights out on the town. Forget about video games and relationship drama. Get up there and take a deep breath—you won't find a better high.

Sammy goes Ok-Pro

Stingers standout heads west

• DIEGO PELAEZ-GAETZ

Former Concordia Stingers defensive back Sammy Okpro had the honour of being selected in the fourth round of the CFL draft by the Edmonton Eskimos last month.

Okpro enjoyed a stellar career at Concordia—finishing his senior season as the team's Most Valuable Player through a vote among his teammates. He also became the first Stinger in the school's distinguished history to receive the honour of being named to the All-Canadian team a remarkable three times. He finished his last season as the team's leading tackler, an impressive feat for a defensive back, and good enough to be the 10th-best tackler in the country.

Okpro not only excelled for his school, but was also part of an elite team chosen to represent Canada at the NFL global junior championship in Houston after completing his collegiate career with the Vanier Cheetahs.

Despite his considerable successes, Okpro never managed to achieve that one benchmark of the successful athlete—a championship trophy. His team, the Vanier Cheetahs lost 3 times in the provincial final, and despite several successful campaigns at Concordia, Okpro fell short of winning a championship here, as well. In an interview before the 2007 season, Okpro even suggested that he would trade all his individual accolades for a championship, proving that Okpro's priorities are in the right place.



Stingers DB Sammy Okpro making a tough tackle. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

Le Gym offers unique programs

Opposite ends of the exercise spectrum on display

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Concordia's Le Gym is offering two radically different programs for Concordia students this coming fall. The new classes, Gyrokinesis and Endurance: Body and Mind, were offered during the summer semester and will be returning in the fall.

For those who enjoy being pushed to their limit, Endurance: Body and Mind will be right up their alley. The class asks its participants to hold certain poses for extended periods of time, both with and without weights. The purpose of the exercises is to build muscle tone and to build mental strength, as the extended poses become quite painful the longer the class goes on, requiring intense focus to continue. As Le Gym spinning class instructor Cleo Roch explained, it doesn't pay to come into the class overconfident. "One guy came in and was used to lifting heavy weights, so he took two ten pound weights to do the exercises. He had to quit after about five minutes," said Roch with a laugh.

Instructor Omar Zabian created the class three years ago, and has worked in fitness training for nearly eight years. After playing soccer and volleyball professionally, Zabian came to focus on weight training. "I was my own guinea pig," explained Zabian about his formative years learning the trade. He managed to build himself up to 205 pounds then back down to 160, and now



The Le Gym facilities. PHOTO DAN PLOUFFE

works as a personal trainer for body-builders in addition to his work at Le Gym.

His search for a workout regimen that incorporated a lot of different types of exercises led him to the creation of this program. The class focuses on core exercises, meditation and muscle toning, and the exercises are derived from everything from martial arts to ballet. "I found that most programs were too repetitive," said Zabian when describing why he

started Endurance: Body and Mind.

Zabian is known for drilling his students in a military fashion, pushing them to exceed their limits and keep their focus. "I have found that people like to be pushed, and that people are generally too quick to give up on their own," said Zabian.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Le Gym is also offering another new course called Gyrokinesis. The course is a

relaxation class from New York City that was originally called "Yoga for Dancers." Naturally, the class' instructor, Maria Kefirova, came across the class through her experience as a dancer.

"A few years ago, I had an injury, and I was looking for a workout that was a little softer than what I was used to," said Kefirova. Gyrokinesis uses the whole body through various spiral shaped movements,

as the word gyro means "circle" in Greek.

The class starts out slowly, as some of the more complex movements are hard to teach to someone who is new to the program. The class starts with some brief massaging of your major muscle groups, and then the students are asked to keep their bodies in constant motion. This particular aspect separates it from the currently more popular yoga, which asks its participants to sustain certain poses for a period of time. Gyrokinesis reminds Kefirova more of dancing, as the participants are asked to be in fluid motion most of the time.

The class is markedly different from most current forms of exercise. "In a gym, we work out in a linear way, contracting the muscles by lifting weights," said Kefirova. Gyrokinesis instead works the muscles in a spiral motion, working every part of the muscle. It provides a more "introspective" workout, according to Kefirova. She occasionally provides images of certain parts of the body to her class to help them better understand their own exercises.

"It's about having a deeper understanding of the body," said Kefirova. "Some people like to sweat and feel sore after they work out, but that's not the only way to exercise."

Kefirova and Zabian will be back to offer these two distinct disciplines starting in the fall semester.

- **DAVID BERNANS**

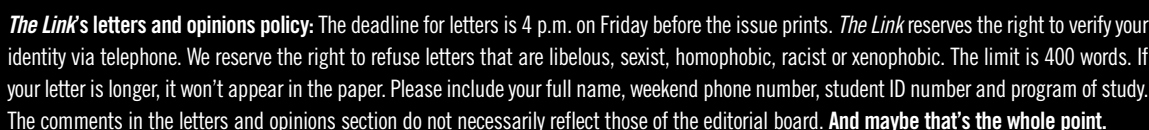
The message from Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota has been mixed, she has told the press that a committee exists while on other occasions has maintained that the committee “does not exist.” Yet this non-existent committee managed to ban an on-campus reading from my novel, *North of 9/11*, scheduled for September 11, 2006 (the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks).

Enter the Access to Information Commission

But Concordia gives out information on a strictly “need to know” basis. Di Grappa could tell you who the “professionals” on the committee are, but then he would have to kill you.

Please understand I am aware that you received many more applications than you could

—Patricia Verret,
Manager, Graduate Awards



crswrdpzzlol

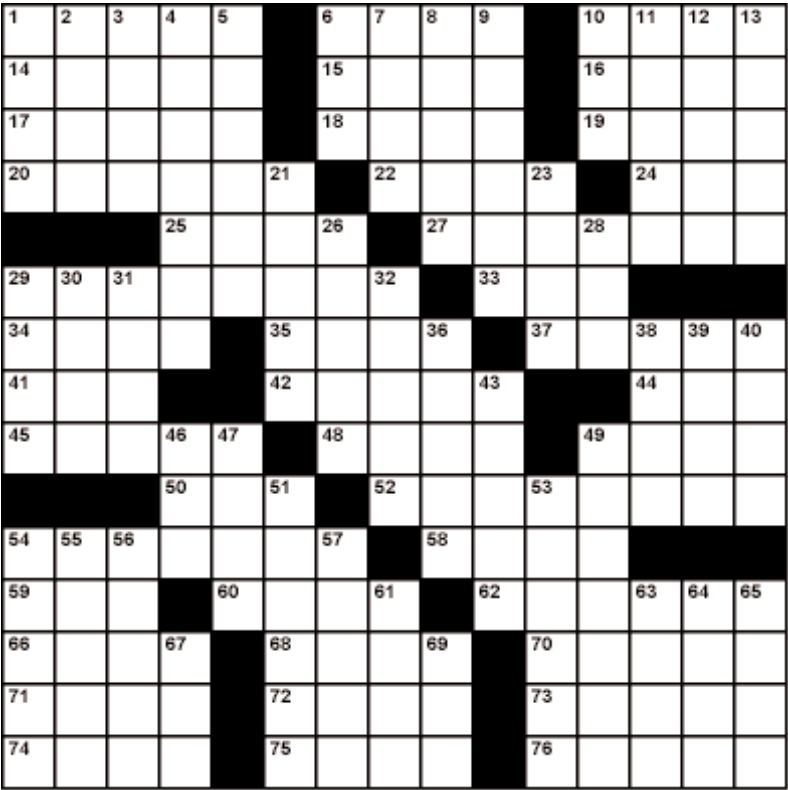
• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Across

- 1. Capital raised through an issue of shares
- 6. The short sound of a solid hitting water with-out a splash
- 10. Acronym calling for urgency
- 14. 30s slang for commotion
- 15. A migrant with a bindle
- 16. A place that serves cold cuts
- 17. His terrible conduct had the ability to ____
- 18. The worthless remnant of coffee
- 19. All that is related to the ear
- 20. How a man addresses a women on the Mississippi
- 22. The first domain of Otolaryngology
- 24. The most widespread blood type system
- 25. Below the surface
- 27. An archaic world for nevertheless
- 29. A military unit composed of one or more bat-talions
- 33. To spoil
- 34. A group composed of Germany, Japan and Italy
- 35. To inspire fear or dread
- 37. To inhale suddenly
- 41. To poke
- 42. Manufactured regenerated cellulosic fiber
- 44. For never was a story of more ____ than this of Juliet....
- 45. Congress has done this to the Constitution 27 times
- 48. A large flightless bird
- 49. Wind between 28 and 55 knots
- 50. To make a mistake
- 52. A rookie
- 54. The rounded overhanging part of a stern
- 58. A communist republic between Vietnam and Thailand
- 59. A large primate frequently compared to Homer Simpson
- 60. A continuous vertical structure to divide
- 62. A well-paid young middle-class profession-al (derogatory)
- 66. Not kosher
- 68. The bird on the one-dollar coin
- 70. A tall slender grass that grows in water and marshes
- 71. Also known as pop or soft drinks
- 72. A novice (From medieval Latin)
- 73. An accumulation in the corner of the eye
- 74. An agate with different colors in layers
- 75. The likelihood of something happening
- 76. A short piece of writing on a particular sub-ject

Down

- 1. Something that is false



- 2. A hat (chiefly Indian)
- 3. An exclamation of mistake
- 4. A vehicle's frame
- 5. Potassium in Latin
- 6. The culmination of the university system
- 7. Traditions held by a group and passed by word of mouth
- 8. A type of Caribbean sorcery
- 9. The organized massacre of a particular ethnic group
- 10. French slang for teenager
- 11. A stiff hair like structure
- 12. Evidence that you cannot be in two places simultaneously
- 13. The Sykes-____ Agreement
- 21. A mocking smile, remark or tone
- 23. Stuff We All Get
- 26. To work into dough or paste with hands
- 28. An undergarment worn for upper support
- 29. An Indian prince or king
- 30. A test of great magnitude
- 31. To jeer
- 32. What one does in a dressing room
- 36. A German form of singing (often seen in the Alps)
- 38. A dense group of insects
- 39. The first to start in a race
- 40. An expert who provides forecasts
- 43. A written means of barring entry
- 46. A length of open-meshed material
- 47. The act of randomly selecting names
- 49. Writings from Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke

issue 30 solutionz



- and John
- 51. The island with the old mercantile core of Venice
- 53. The route of a ship, aircraft, road or river
- 54. A derogatory noun for a fat person
- 55. A protective garment worn in front and tied at the back
- 56. One lacking in the necessities of life
- 57. Insurance underwriters in London (singular)
- 61. Someone of power or influence
- 63. Several acts of urination
- 64. A thought or suggestion
- 65. Annual sports awards on ESPN
- 67. A means of transmitting documents as data
- 69. Abbreviation of numbers

editorials

Concordia’s great game

Uncertainty at the end of a rough year

We all love this great game; it hooks you in because you can change the rules depending on whom you're playing against. Kind of like checkers, but at least on the red and black board you need to decide before the game starts whether or not things like huffing, back-wards jumping and the like are legal. Student union politics seem to ring to a different tune, at least at Concordia.

To those who haven't heard, former student union councillor Steven Rosenshein has final-ly left the building and he did so without the pomp he may have grown to expect.

Rosenshein's leave may signal the end of attempts to deconstruct and atomize Con U's political arena, but most think not.

Through the Evolution/Experience/Unity party he helped build, he'll remain a backseat driver, always sort of around, but somehow keeping his hands out of the cookie jar. Perhaps another former executive will inherit the role of Master of Musical Chairs to keep the dream alive.

We can see you wandering the empty hallways impishly on your cell phone, Rosenshein. You are not Susan Storm reincarnated.

Outgoing CSU President Novoa supported you through scandals and shenanigans that will ultimately define her and her administration. Although Novoa has made an exit downstage left-um sorry, right, her destructive departure from Concordia politics has left both of you worse off. There are so many questions from last year's political, moral, and everything-all scandals that have gone unanswered and no one has been held accountable (there's that dreadful word again). It's a pretty reasonable expectation for “student” and “adult” to be personified simultaneously. Or maybe my rulebook isn't from 1984 (no pun intended).

Maybe it's just that the game looks different on the inside and no one's really aware that the mirror is two-way. Certainly Rosenshein and Novoa know how to be fair and let skill trump the inequitable, the question is why didn't they?

At any rate checkers is overrated. At least chess is more of a thinker's game.

—Terrine Friday and Justin Giovannetti
News Editor and Opinions Editor

Privacy lost

A tragedy in Ottawa has some questioning privacy laws

There's something holy about privacy.

Last March, a young student from Carleton University disappeared for a month. Her name was Nadia Kajouji and after a police search she was found dead on the Rideau River. At only 18 years of age, the cause of death was determined to be suicide. Suspicions were raised as she had been seeing a counselor and doctor at the university's health clinic and was tak-ing anti-depressants.

Her father, Mohamad Kajouji, was notified of her depression and medication use only after her disappearance. The cause of death was also a shock to him since he did not think his daughter capable of suicide and suspected foul play. Kajouji believes it was the university's responsibility to notify him of his daughter's condition and does not think they did as m uch as they could to help her.

The university disagrees; it believes it did in fact give Kajouji all the help they legally could. According to Ontario privacy law, they could not divulge any personal information about the daughter to her parents unless police intervention was required. This disclosure only takes place when an imminent danger to self and/or others or a situation involving child abuse or neglect exists. The counselors at Carleton saw no indication Kajouji was planning to com-mit suicide, and therefore saw no need to violate her privacy.

The elder Kajouji has begun a case that challenges the very fundamentals of privacy and the threshold at which it should be violated. The father is calling for full disclosure to fam-ily members at any time, while the defendant is shielding a policy of disclosure only when danger is imminent. The current system works by providing adequate privacy protection while allowing medical professionals a means to warn authorities when they see fit.

Counseling requires the guarantee of privacy. While the therapeutic process is far from complete scientific understanding, establishing a rapport between patient and therapist is the most important step of a successful intervention. Disclosing personal information to anyone without the patient's consent is an enormous violation of confidentiality and doing so would cripple the therapeutic process.

The university was simply not responsible for keeping the father informed. Nadia Kajouji was 18 years old and perfectly capable of communicating with her father. Maintaining a healthy relationship is the responsibility of the persons involved, and the university cannot be expected to compensate for its lack, if any.

It is certainly not easy to lose one's daughter, especially to suicide, but putting the entire-ty of our current privacy structure in doubt is not an answer. The privacy system by which the university abided has struck a careful balance between individual needs and collective responsibility, the alternative could be disastrous for both parties.

The fact is that suing the university is not the answer.

—Mathieu Biard
Layout Manager and Psychology student

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JUNE 13, 1995



‘Homeless Fest gets the boot’

After two years at the site, Montreal’s annual Fringe Festival was denied access to the abandoned TD parking lot at St. Laurent and Prince Arthur.

The bank told the festival that a construction crew needed the site vacated weeks before a planned repaving was to com-mence.

Without a definite location,

the Fringe Festival was thrown into doubt as organizers were sent scrambling across the city to book an alternate site.

Blocked twice by the city and threatened with a fine when they setup on an unused side street, Montreal’s Fringeheads had to wait for the St. Laurent sidewalk sale in mid June.

—Justin Giovannetti