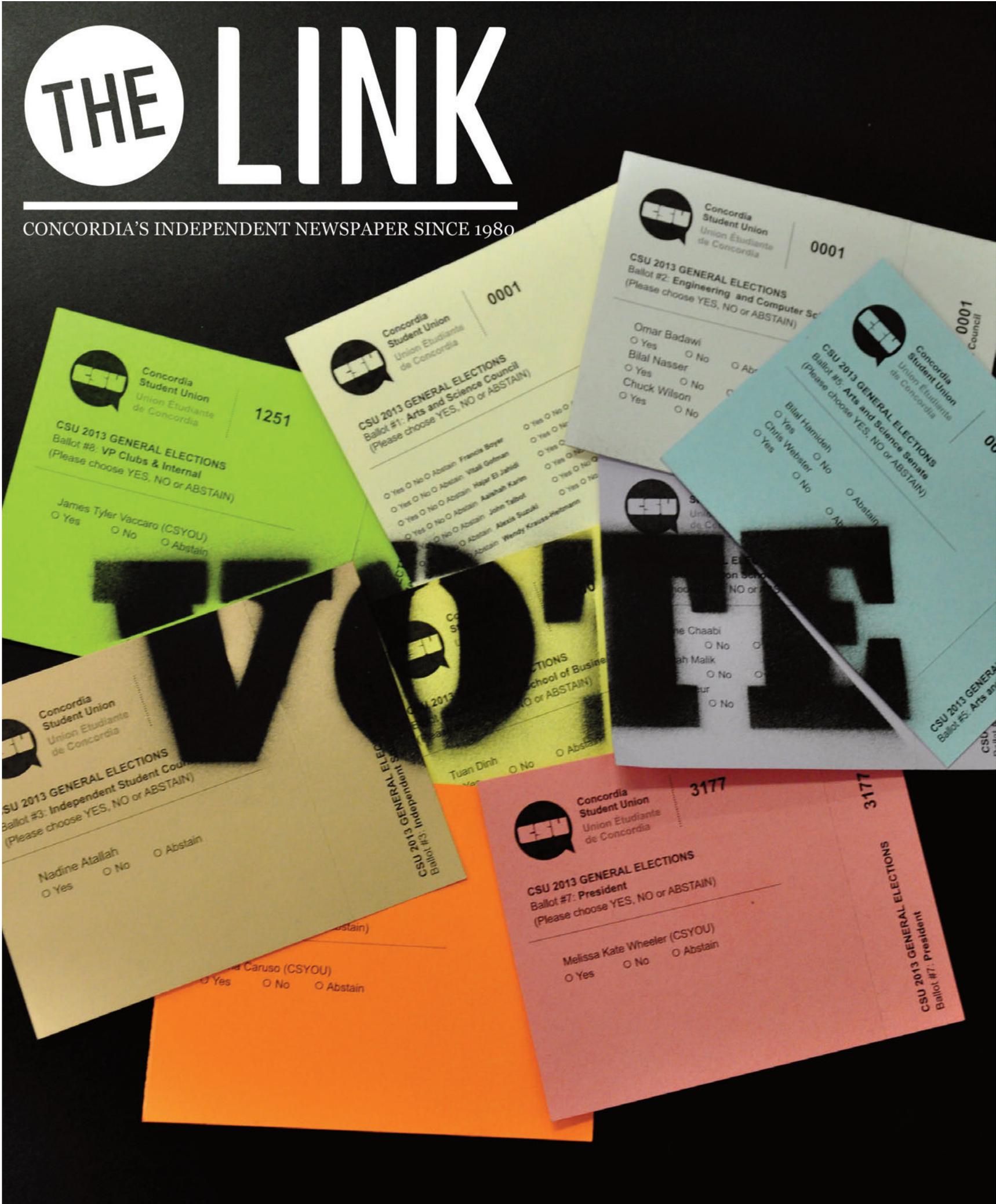




CHERISHED MONTREAL CAFE CLOSES
 After more than two decades, La Croissanterie Linda has served its last latte. P9

THAT TRANSSEXUAL GUY
 Oliver Leon is back from top surgery and telling the tale. P19

EDITORIAL: VOTE. RESULTS MAY VARY. P23



THE LINK

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CSU ELECTIONS START TODAY



Near the front entrance of just about every building at Concordia, something will be different starting on Tuesday: the Concordia Student Union elections will have begun.

For the first time since 2008, however, candidates are running uncontested—for all but one executive position.

Attendance at pre-election events has been scarce at best. Fewer than ten people attended the two scheduled debates between candidates last week.

According to the presidential candidate for the CSYou team,

Melissa Kate Wheeler, students are disenchanted with union—and this year's executive has a lot to fix.

"If we don't begin to change things next year, then the CSU will be facing turmoil the following year," said Wheeler.

Referendum questions are on

the ballot as well; Sustainable Concordia and Greenhouse Concordia are asking for fee levy increases.

CSYou executive candidates are also looking to open up the Hive Café on Loyola campus—hopefully by September, they say.

But a lot of work is still needed,

maintains Wheeler.

"Do we think that we will be able to completely turn the reputation of the CSU around in one year amongst all students at Concordia?" she asked.

"Probably not. But we can start." Polling continues until Thursday.

WHAT ABOUT THE HIVE?

What would it take to get a café at The Hive? **P6+7**

JMSB, MEET CSU

The JMSB doesn't often get involved in CSU politics—but some want to bridge the gap. **P10**

FIRST DATES AND SWEET CUPCAKES

The Montreal MOBilizers play Cupid with a charity dating auction, plus unlimited D Liche cupcakes. **P14**

THE STINGER EFFECT

How a teenage friendship got Evens Laroche to come to Concordia—and help power the Maroon and Gold for five years. **P17**

THAT TRANSSEXUAL GUY

The Link's trans columnist describes the experience of 'top surgery.' **P19**

THE CONCORDIA GREENHOUSE

Is the greenhouse worthy of students' financial support? **P20**



Photo Benjamin Allard

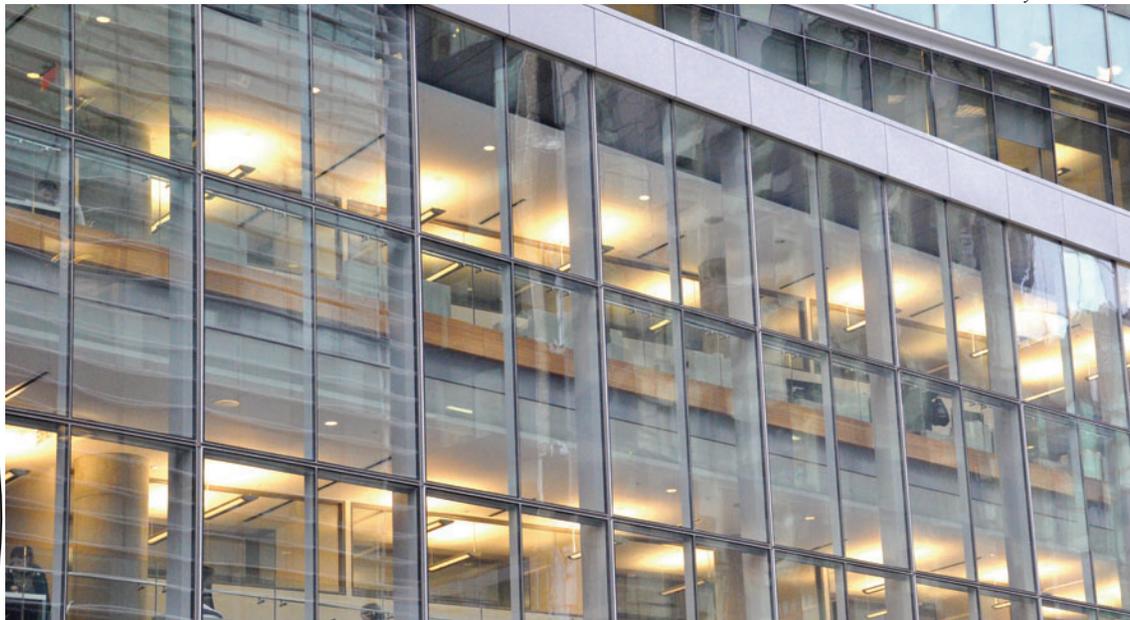


Photo Erin Sparks



Photo Leslie Schachter

THE LINK ONLINE

SPEAK, FRIEND, AND ENTER

The Toronto-based art collective Newmindspace launches "Speakeasy"—an online open-party invite site.

CJLO ANNUAL FUNDRIVE

Concordia's radio station has a week of events planned as part of their yearly fundraiser. Bands, parties and an R. Kelly "Trapped in the Closet" screening are scheduled.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR ELECTIONS

Concordia is getting a new CSU. We'll be there all night if we have to Thursday counting those votes. Stay tuned online.

P-6: THE CSU IS ON THE CASE

Montreal police are escalating arrests at protests. The student union wants to help.

THE LINK RADIO

The radio isn't dull anymore. This week on The Link Radio: CSU elections, Concordia profs' new labour agreement, and the effects of Bylaw P-6 on protests.

A LOOK AT THE LEVIES

by *The Link*

Every year, when Concordia Student Union elections rolls around, there's another group asking for student money, and these groups are starting to pile up.

Students are now paying into 23 groups if they're arts and science, engineering or independent students; 25 groups if they're in the John Molson School of Business; and 26 groups if they're in fine arts.

Here's some information on these groups so you have a better idea of where your money's going.

Cinema Politica - \$0.07/credit

For almost a decade, these folks have been delivering free independent political films to Concordia. Funded by undergraduates and graduates alike, the group hosts weekly screenings that have included docs on porn actress Lara Roxx and Russia's push against Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

QPIRG - \$0.31/credit

Concordia's branch of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group. Administrative and volunteer coordinator Christina Xydous dubs the organization a "social justice centre on campus." The group uses their space at 1500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. to hold skillshares, discussions and workshops. Their Study in Action program works to mix activism with what you learn in class.

CJLO - \$0.34/credit

Concordia's award-winning radio station features acts such as the Death Metal Disco Show to ConU news from yours truly. Station manager Stephanie Saretsky says, "As always [the student fee levy] goes toward keeping our airwaves as advertising-free as possible."

It also goes towards an accessible recording space for budding ConU musicians, and their uphill battle to switch from nostalgic AM to high-tech FM.

Concordia Student Union - \$1.85/credit

Concordia's undergraduate student union, the CSU was founded in 1979 following the amalgamation of the student associations at Sir George Williams University and Loyola College. Originally named the Concordia University Student Association Inc., CUSA became the CSU in 1994.

The CSU is also one of the two largest members of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, a provincial university student lobby group, tied with the Université du Québec à Montréal's for largest.

The Concordian - \$0.19/credit

Founded in 1983, *The Concordian* is the other independent student newspaper at Concordia. Tucked away on the Loyola campus in Montreal's west end, the paper is one of three student newspapers still a part of the Quebec branch of the Canadian University Press.

The Concordian has a distribution of about 8,000 around both campuses of the university.

Sustainability Action Fund - \$0.25/credit

In operation for six years, the fund has contributed to 161 projects and acts as an "incubator for new projects and ideas on campus," said Jeffrey Riley, CEO of the fund.

"If we believe sustainability and climate change are our generation's most pressing issues then we need to find immediate solutions for them."

With financial support of the Concordia Greenhouse for over five years, and the backing of three Engineers Without Borders speaker events, among others, the group is now hunting to collect a fee levy from graduate students.

Advocacy Centre - \$0.30/credit

The advocacy centre is a place for undergrads to deal with problems both in the university and off-campus. Under the CSU, they provide mediation and/or a listening ear for undergrads.

FASA projects & clubs - \$0.80/credit

FASA ONLY

A fund for fine arts projects, FASA gave over \$30,000 to the fund this year, said FASA VP Finance Vincent Vezer.

These grants exist to help students financially with their projects and aid in their professional development, he said. As well as providing funding to individuals and small groups, this levy also goes to support the VAV Gallery and the John Russell Harper Memorial Reading and Reference Room.



EVENTS



WORKSHOPS



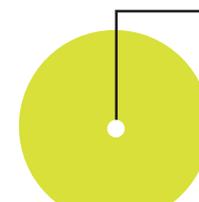
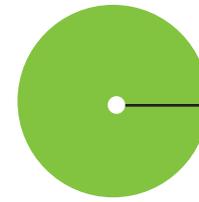
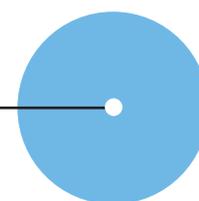
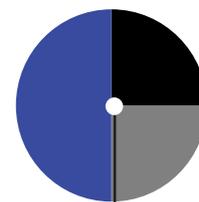
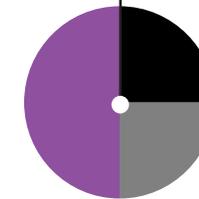
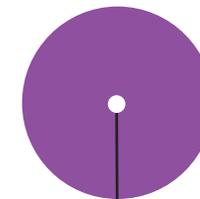
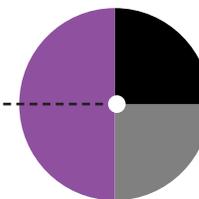
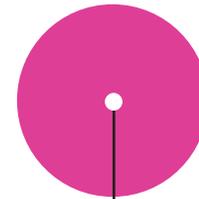
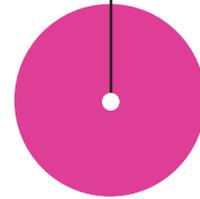
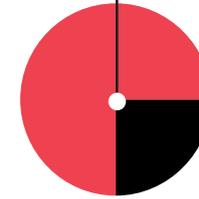
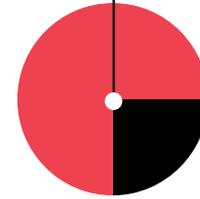
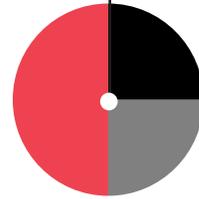
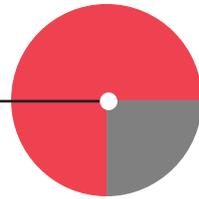
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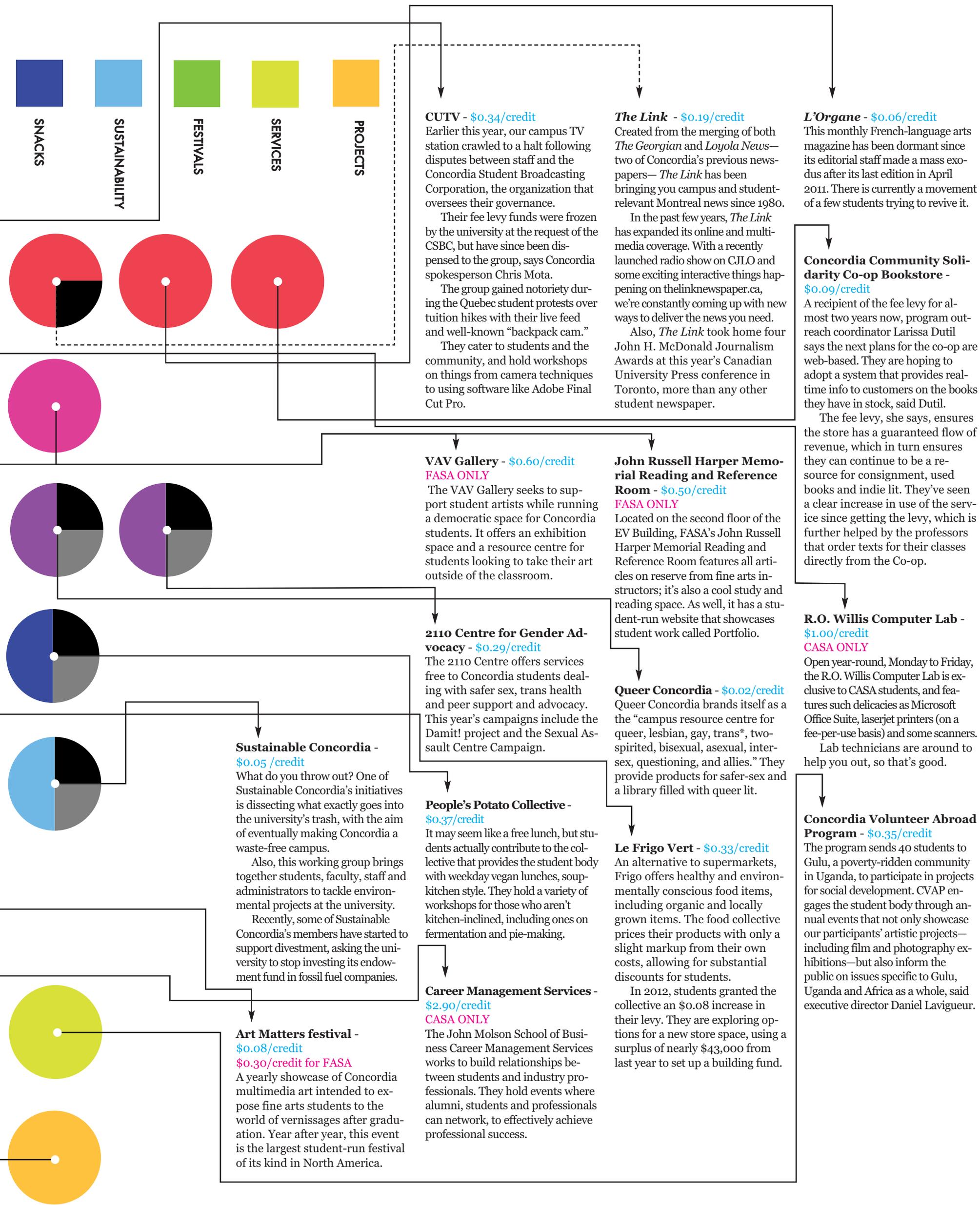


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THE STUDENT CAFÉ YOU WON'T SEE IN SEPTEMBER



Photos Benjamin Allard

“The Hive” Loyola Is Looking for Might Take a While

--by Julia Wolfe & Katie McGroarty

Walk up the stairs from the cafeteria at Concordia's Loyola campus and you won't see much.

You'll see some old, mismatched furniture, a solitary bar and a big empty room.

You won't see the business plan, the fully developed design concept or the thousands of dollars of renovations costs that have been geared towards turning that space into a student-run restaurant and café called The Hive.

And chances are, you won't be seeing that anytime soon.

For years, the project has been blocked by logistical, financial and ideological conflicts that are preventing the dream from becoming a reality.

For about a year, a big blue tote bag full of thick white binders covering everything from the space's logo design to the free-range farm where they could potentially get their chicken has been gathering dust.

There's a restaurant permit request with everything filled in but the signature.

Cameron Stiff, who was paid to take the project under his wing, put those binders together from

2010 to 2012 is still baffled The Hive isn't yet buzzing with activity.

“I spent over two years of my life bringing this project from just an idea to an actual plan,” he said. “The plans were done. The business plan was done, the architectural plans were done and the university was on board.”

Living in the Shadow

It's no mystery that CUSACorp, the for-profit arm of the Concordia Student Union, is struggling.

At the moment, Reggie's Bar, via CUSACorp, owes the CSU \$1.4 million, incurred through deficit bailouts and locations costs.

Former VP Loyola and current *The Link* columnist Melissa Fuller and former VP Finance Jordan Lindsay both said they would have loved to see the plan realized under their mandate.

That said, when following the advice from the CSU's then-general manager Michele Dumais, the prospect of opening yet another business while one floundered was shortsighted at best.

Stiff isn't ready to accept that explanation.

Without incurring costs such as

rent, alongside virtually zero competition, Stiff said, it's practically a given that The Hive would thrive.

He says that The Hive shouldn't suffer because of failures of CUSACorp, what he calls the CSU's “shadow organization.”

Stiff argued that grant money would offset large portions of the cost, and that money from the union's student centre fund could be used to kick it off.

A former Loyola student himself, he said that such a business would be virtually risk-free because the demand for a café at Loyola is so high.

For Fuller, however, that way of thinking is just too simplistic.

“There's a risk,” she said. “There's always a risk.”

Loyola's Potato

But issues with CUSACorp run much deeper than the union's pockets.

As a business, The Hive would naturally need to run as a CUSACorp subsidiary. CUSACorp employees are not unionized—something Fuller says is just too expensive for a company constantly in the red.

Monday through Friday, however, three employees of the CSU run a not-for-profit soup kitchen out of The Hive, a sort of Loyola-campus version of the People's Potato called the Loyola Luncheon.

As CSU employees, they are unionized.

Under Fuller's mandate, keeping the luncheon running was a top priority, but doing so meant that it wasn't possible to bring non-unionized workers into the same kitchen filled with unionized workers.

While Stiff outlined a few options around this, such as unionizing CUSACorp employees or giving out a regulated number of free meals per month through The Hive, he saw one much simpler solution—ditch the Luncheon.

This option was something Fuller and Stiff were never able to agree on, and it contributed to the breakdown of their working relationship.

Fuller was committed to ensuring Loyola students had access to free food, so that those struggling with finances could still get a full meal.

Stiff, however, just didn't believe it was a well-built enough

service to be worth preserving.

“There was nothing around [the Luncheon], there was no politics there was no programming, nothing. There was just, ‘Show up for a crappy lunch,’” he said. “And that's the reason that you can't open a café?”

Renovations and Accessibility

While the Loyola Luncheon might be holding The Hive back right now, it's also helped the project progress get as far as it did.

Around \$80,000 of renovations went into making The Hive capable of supporting the Luncheon. Those renovations paid for the industrial-sized stove any restaurant would need.

But that's not to say the place is restaurant-ready. Around one of the many proposed launch dates for the café, the CSU realized that the structure's limited electrical output wasn't enough for the demanding needs of a restaurant.

This summer, Concordia's administration intends to fix that. They still need a signature from the current CSU, but they have a verbal agreement to begin construction as early as the summer.



That work will see the space receive new counters, improvements to the service areas and a boost to the building's electrical capacity.

There will still be questions of accessibility, however. Up a flight of winding and steep stairs, any restaurant in The Hive would hardly be wheelchair accessible.

But by September, it's very possible the room itself would be ready to support a plan as grand as Stiff's.

VP Loyola's Progress

After taking over outgoing VP Loyola Melissa Fuller's position over the summer, current VP Loyola Stefan Faina instituted a few social events at Loyola, but long-term projects have been put on hold.

Faina says that The Hive Café has been the biggest challenge in terms of projects to date.

"The problem with this project is that there's been things that have been done with it, but the turn-over of the CSU really impedes the progress," he said.

Faina says that some of the problems lie in the revolving nature of the student union—that it's difficult to pick up where a year of

someone else's work has left off.

However, to help the process, this year's executive will have one month of training where they will teach their portfolio to their incoming replacements—a longer period of time than in previous years.

"I'm going to try and speak as much as I can to the incoming execs," he said. "One month is not necessarily enough [for training]. I really want to outline exactly what I've done and what I recommend to follow through with once my mandate is finished."

But until now, The Hive has been a somewhat sore spot in his portfolio.

Although Fuller attempted to get the project off the ground, Faina has only recently picked up where she left off, and admitted that his involvement in the project is coming too late in the year.

"I was hesitant to speak to last year's executives who were current councillors," he said. "But when I did speak to them they gave me their perspective on what it was that was missing."

However, it was only very recently he sought council's advice.

"The Hive Café, although it was never one of my campaign points, was definitely something I think I should have spent more time on, on figuring out exactly what it was that was missing," he said.

"Figuring out exactly what it was that needed to be done so I could finish the end of my year, the end of my mandate with my head held high, and that I contributed something, and that's what I'm trying to do now."

Since the beginning of fall semester, Faina has been working on planning social events to be held at Loyola.

Although the majority of executive positions do not have to rely on other executives to fulfill their duties, Loyola does not have its own budget for events and CSU services, so Faina had to work through VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki in order to secure funding.

"That would be something that I'd like to see in the future—a Loyola budget," he said. "It would make sense, in my opinion. I've had to speak to Alexis a lot this year. I'd like to be less dependent on another executive when it comes to this sort of thing. I'm sure a lot of students would like to

see that, too."

Concordia's Forgotten Child

Tuesday kicks off the CSU elections, and as she's running untested, it's very likely that Crystal Harrison will become the CSU's newest VP Loyola.

Transforming The Hive into a fully functional café, and perhaps even a bar, is one of her main platform points.

She wants a "full launch" of The Hive by September. Fuller and Lindsay said it doesn't need to be so difficult—so long she's not striving for anything extremely impressive.

What could work, they say, would be something as simple as setting up a coffee machine. They say Harrison will need to get students accustomed to the idea of a café with something as simple as coffee. There would be no need for extended construction, no need to mix employees in the kitchen.

Once that initiative begins to turn a profit, the former execs say, Harrison could then start selling simple food, like muffins and pre-wrapped sandwiches. Bit by bit, investing profits could bring the café to the next level.

Of course, a plan like that means Harrison won't see much under her mandate. It will take several years of successful student unions, proper management and regular improvement to build something truly impressive.

It means that no single executive will get to include launching The Hive full-force in their legacy, and that a few years of hard work could easily be undone by a single incompetent union.

It also means that Stiff's work, and the work of the many designers and architects consulted will be largely in vain, at least, for the foreseeable future.

But Stiff says that if such is the case, the university will lose more than that—that it will lose the opportunity to change the face of an entire campus, the opportunity to build something that might revitalize what he calls "a ghost town after 7:00 p.m."

"Loyola is the ugly little sister, the ugly little brother, the forgotten child of Concordia," he said, adding that the right commitment and vision to the Hive could change all that.

"It's got to happen."

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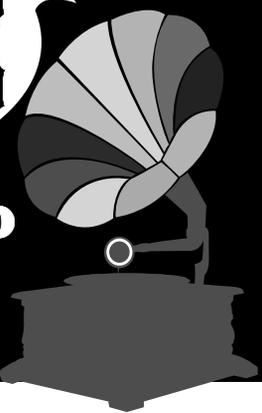
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SOMETHING'S MISSING ON STE. CATS

Community Saddened as Local Institution Closes Suddenly



La Croissanterie Linda, a 20-something year-old institution on Ste. Catherine St. W. has closed. Photo Alex Bailey

by Megan Dolski @MeganDolski

Sometime around lunchtime, at 1909 Ste. Catherine St. W., a phone rings and a mild-mannered, thick-accented gentleman picks up.

“Hey, Elie, could ya make me a croissant—ham and cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, a little mayo, little mustard?” asks Franklin Grigat on the other end of the line, calling from his magazine shop, Mediaphile, a few doors down.

Grigat has been making phone calls just like this one almost daily for the past 17 years. Or at least, he had been until the end of January, when La Croissanterie Linda, a 20-something year-old institution, abruptly closed its doors.

“It’s like the end of the era,” Grigat said. “Everyone will sum it up in different words—but it’s a sadness.

“You know, that store wasn’t just a store—it was part of a community, and I guess when you lose a member of your community, there is a sense of loss.”

“I-Think-I-Recognize-You”

Take a stroll from the Faubourg to Alexis Nihon Plaza and you are bound to bump into someone that has something to say about Elias “Elie” Darrous.

Darrous has been making sandwiches, serving coffee and piping the same classical music over the speakers since he took ownership of La Croissanterie in 1992.

“He was always the most welcoming guy,” said Eric Mendoza, a Concordia student who had been a regular since 2007. “Every time I came in, there would always be that brief moment of I-think-I-recognize-you, then he would remember, and we would have a conversation of how things were going.”

Mendoza also remembers his

encounters with Darrous’ sister-in-law Theresa, who is also well-known around the area from her time working at the shop.

“It was kind of a big deal to try and get to know her,” he recalled. “She seemed to be the one that was the hardest to please, the hardest to crack—it became sort of the informal staff bet, like if you could have a conversation with her, you’d made it.”

J.P. Karwacki, one of three owners of neighbouring Argo Bookshop, remembers the Croissanterie as a staple he could always count on.

“I suppose it had this sense that you were actually going into someone else’s home,” he said. “They hadn’t really changed anything in the longest time, which is kind of the point—from when it started to when it ended, nothing had really changed.”

Grigat says there was something special about the longevity of the place.

“It becomes part of someone’s routine,” he said. “Somebody who was 20 when they first walked in is now 46 and is going in with his own kids.”

For many of the regulars that work in the neighbourhood, the shop became more than just a comfortable place to sip a cappuccino, but a communication hub.

“It really helped me tap into knowing the community better,” said Mendoza, who used to work at the nearby Movieland, which folded recently. “I realized that everybody that had opened a business 20-something years ago knew each other, and that there was this weird web of community downtown.”

Nafrin Talad, owner of nearby falafel restaurant Nilufar, is a long-time friend of Darrous’ and a client that has frequented La Croissanterie for as long as it’s existed.

“For me it was a local coffee

shop where you’d meet all the neighbours and talk,” she said. “All of the news of the area, I would get it from there.”

Locals, Loyalty and Loss

Times are tough for small, local businesses on the western portion of Ste. Catherine St.—much has changed since the early ’90s.

“We closed down because business was getting bad,” Darrous explained. “Before, I was the only one. There was no Starbucks, Tim Horton’s, Station des Sports—it was only me.”

He says that while the decision to shut down happened almost overnight, the reality that justified it was a long time coming.

“I tried to borrow money from my friend, we discussed this and then figured there was no way to continue,” he said.

“We don’t want to stop, we feel bad, and we kept saying, ‘Maybe next month we’re going to be okay’—so we waited, and waited and finally we said no.”

For Grigat, he says the shock of the shop’s abrupt closing is perhaps what makes it most difficult to digest.

“People are having trouble letting go for various reasons, but having to deal with a community loss with an end so unceremonious—no one had a chance to say goodbye.”

But local shop owners facing similar struggles empathize with Darrous’ misfortune, and will avidly attest to the trying times.

“They couldn’t do it, it’s hard—people aren’t supporting them,” Talad said, adding that her business is experiencing similar challenges.

“The landlord doesn’t put the rent down, our expenses are really high, the overhead is difficult and taxes are high,” she said. “But the real sad part of this story is that

people don’t support the small local businesses—there is no loyalty.”

But, if you ask Darrous what he’ll miss most, he’ll tell you it’s the students.

“The younger people used to come by,” said Talad. “But now they just go for the smaller prices, I guess.”

She adds that family-run businesses offering quality products simply can’t compete with the free giveaways, lower prices and homogenized products of their corporate neighbours.

As for Darrous—he’s currently entertaining the possibility of entering a partnership with an old friend in Toronto, to start up another café in an area with better financial prospects. But for now, leaving’s been tough.

“I really miss it,” he said with a sigh. “But what can I do?”

Big Shoes to Fill

In response to the vacancy, the owners of Argo Bookshop have issued an online solicitation to “aspiring café owners.”

The posting on Facebook makes a plea to new entrepreneurs who might consider moving into the location, requesting that the art-deco interior and location’s value are preserved.

The call-out is complete with cost and contact information for those seriously interested in renting the space.

“With more and more bars and restaurants sprouting up along our strip, we want to keep locales for love and leisure,” reads the posting. “And one less-crowded coffee house to use the Internet in while you nurse one Americano for two to three hours.”

Karwacki says the two businesses used to share many of the same customers, courtesy of the

natural relationship between a good cup of coffee and a good read—something he hopes will transcend the space’s new ownership.

“Bookstores and cafés seem to have become synonymous with one another,” he explained, adding that with La Croissanterie no longer there, Argo has essentially lost its other half.

Just when the “À Louer” sign will be removed—and who will take over—is still unknown, but as far as filling the void goes, the café’s next-door neighbour is making an effort.

In the next few months, Grigat’s magazine store will be expanding its repertoire to include an espresso bar.

“I feel like I’ve got to replace that little cachet,” explained Grigat. “It’s going to be different, of course, but maybe people will feel some sort of comfort and that they can hang out here, like they hung out there.”

He says coffee is something he’s always been passionate about, but had never considered offering because competing with his long-time neighbour and friend was simply out of the question.

“Now that he’s not there anymore, I’m going to take this as an opportunity,” said Grigat. “But this isn’t about making money, this is about making people happy—and if it does, then, you know, the money will come.”

He says he’s still working out the kinks, but is aiming to ensure that traditions that had become a staple of La Croissanterie live on—such as the much-loved Singer sewing machine tables, good coffee, but mostly the friendly and personable customer service.

“It’ll be a different sort of vibe,” he said. “But it most certainly won’t be a Second Cup vibe.”

“BRIDGING THE GAP”

A Look at the Divide Between JMSB Students and the Rest of Concordia



Photo Erin Sparks

by Corey Pool @coreyriver

The John Molson School of Business is a school of its own—or at least, it would like you to believe that it is.

“We’ve developed a culture there,” said Scott Carr, outgoing president of JMSB’s entrepreneurship group Enactus Concordia, and one of two VP Finance candidates in this year’s Concordia Student Union elections. “We’ve developed this great program that’s really a step above.”

If JMSB is a step above, it’s worth wondering whether, over the years, the school and its students have also taken a step away from Concordia.

The Commerce and Administration Student Association, which represents JMSB students, has drawn lines of division between themselves and the Concordia Student Union.

The divisions have never been as clear as they were last year, during the Quebec student strikes, when hundreds of thousands of students across the province were striking against the threat of tuition increases.

In early spring, the CSU held a general assembly that resulted in the calling of a one-week strike. In direct response, CASA held its own assembly and ultimately became one of three associations that voted to boycott the union’s decision to strike.

These strikes conveniently coincided with last year’s CSU elections, and for once, the impact of JMSB became evident in the polls.

According to numbers col-

lected by *The Link*, approximately 68 per cent of JMSB students voted for the *A Better Concordia* slate; ultimately, the entirety of *A Better Concordia* was elected.

According to the same numbers, had it not been for JMSB, *A Better Concordia*’s then-president Schubert Laforest would have lost his seat to *Concordia Could Be*’s presidential candidate Melanie Hotchkiss—who beat Laforest in every polling station, save the one located in the MB Building.

Voting aside, nearly every incoming CSU executive has promised to mend the relationship between CASA, JMSB and the CSU.

In a recent letter to *The Link*, incoming CASA president John-Michael Minon endorsed Carr’s bid for VP Finance on the *CSYou* slate.

“I am positive that he will be able to bridge the gap between JMSB and the CSU and I am looking forward to working together with the union to make Concordia University a better place for the students,” wrote Minon of Carr.

In a radio interview with *The Link*, Carr referred to this separation between JMSB and the CSU, saying that, if elected, he hopes to make the connection between JMSB and the rest of Concordia, which he claims has been disconnected for some time.

The Great Divide

According to Carr, this division is not necessarily confined to student associations—if you ask any business student where they study, the answer is almost unanimous.

“There’s a gap between Concordia

University as a whole and JMSB,” said Carr. “You know, we have our own cheer, we have our own gear; we rep our school like there’s no tomorrow, and a lot of the time it’s ‘John Molson School of Business, from Concordia University.’”

Carr is not alone in this thinking. The separation between business students and Concordia University runs deep.

“JMSB has long been perceived as its own school,” explains Pierre Tardivo Martin, current CSU councillor and the sole candidate opposing a member of the *CSYou* slate, running against Carr for the CSU’s VP Finance position.

“If you ask where [students] study they will say JMSB, not Concordia. I think that’s where they’re a bit different from other faculties,” Tardivo Martin said.

According to Carr, the divide is something that students, associations and the university need to understand, respect and work with.

Changing this mindset might be more complicated than it seems, however.

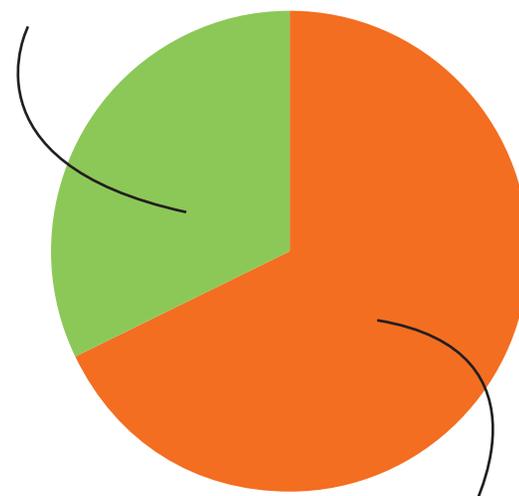
“If I look at it completely objectively—from funding to things that they have at their disposal—does CASA need the CSU? They don’t,” said Carr.

“They’ve operated without the CSU and they could probably continue to operate without the CSU. That doesn’t mean that there couldn’t be win-win situations that could still be created.”

According to Tardivo Martin, however, the issue could be more complicated still, with this year’s CSU needing to shoulder more of

Last year saw a significant difference in voting patterns between JMSB students and the rest of the school. While most buildings saw a near split vote, total ballots cast for all the executives in the MB Building sent a very clear message. Over two-thirds of the business students voted together, and decided the presidency that way.

32% Concordia Could Be



68% A Better Concordia

the blame than an intangible difference in “culture.”

“This year there has been a divide between the CSU and every faculty,” said Tardivo Martin. “It’s tough for the CSU, which acts as a sort of umbrella, to keep a unity amongst faculty.”

The CSU represents over 35,000 undergraduate students, across all faculties.

“The CSU has represented everyone’s interest to a large extent, so if that average interest doesn’t coincide with the JMSB general interest there tends to be a lot of backlash,” said Jordan Lindsay, current CSU councillor and last year’s CSU VP Finance.

“I think in my year a lot of JMSB students were pretty pissed off at the CSU for doing all the strike stuff,” said Lindsay. “That didn’t really help things.”

Lindsay’s situation is particular, however. As a business major with a minor in computer programming, he played a significant role in the union that led Concordia through the strikes.

The Red Square Movement

If you attended CASA’s general assembly, held to decide its position on the strike last spring, the message was clear: JMSB wanted no part in it.

Out of 7,500 undergraduate students, 843 participated in the vote. Of those, 123 students agreed with the motion to join the strike movement, 710 opposed, nine abstained and one ballot was spoiled.

Despite voting to boycott the CSU’s strike, some JMSB classes

were still blocked by Concordia students protesting tuition hikes—and CASA’s decision not to join.

The experience left an impression on JMSB students that, according to some, is still felt strongly today.

“One of the main reasons that JMSB disassociates and has in the past year and a half dissociated on a whole new level from the rest of Concordia is this red square movement,” said Carr. “[The strike] fed that gap a lot.”

As part of the union that led those strikes, Lindsay admits that one of his union’s faults was a failure to communicate with everyone across the university about the strike.

“I think the lack of communication at that time was the most contentious issue, and has left a really sour taste in the mouth of the JMSB student,” said Lindsay. “It polarized the school as it polarized the city in a very dramatic way. I guess that’s a repercussion that we’re going to feel for a couple years.”

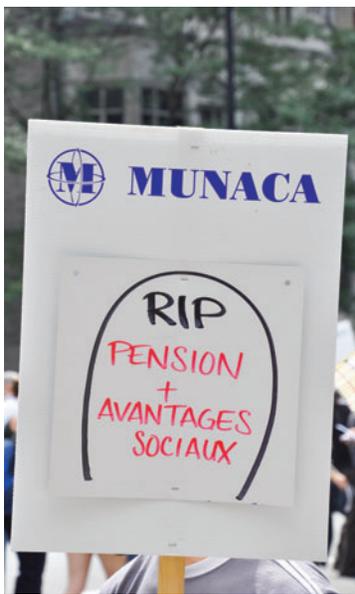
However, while Tardivo Martin feels that the animosity created between JMSB and the CSU during the student strikes is nothing to scoff at, lingering resentment isn’t something he’s worried about this year.

“I think that one year is long enough for the majority of students to move on and forget about the divide that happened during the strike,” said Tardivo Martin.

“I think that one year later I highly doubt that there’s a grudge regarding the strike. I don’t think that people are going to vote tomorrow based on who may or may not have supported a strike at a certain time.”

ON LABOUR UNIONS AND STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel



During the MUNACA strike of 2011 students showed support for the striking staff. Photos Erin Sparks

CUFA Reaches Tentative Agreement with ConU

The Concordia University Faculty Association, which represents the university's full-time faculty members, came to a tentative agreement with the university on March 21.

But new negotiations for the next collective agreement could start as soon as one year from now. The three-year tentative agreement includes the current academic year, and negotiations could recommence one year before the agreement's expiration in May 2015.

"That means in the summer of 2014, CUFA and probably the employer [Concordia University] will be working on preparing the next negotiation," CUFA President Lucie Lequin told *The Link*.

"In the current financial and economic climate of the province, we felt that it was better to negotiate a short agreement instead of a

longer agreement."

Lequin said CUFA is hoping negotiations will run more smoothly next time around.

"I think the way the negotiations take place needs to be changed," she said, noting that Concordia President Alan Shepard—who came to the university when negotiations were already underway—said he would try to change the process and duration of negotiations moving forward.

Lequin said the labour situation at Concordia has deteriorated over the past few years.

"Negotiations did not used to last this long," she said. "It's been more like the last 10 or eight years where all of a sudden many union negotiations started to be very, very long and very inefficient. [...] The style of negotiation on the part of the employer, in my view, has to change."

Lequin said that improving labour relations would help improve the climate at the university in general.

"There used to be a real sense of community, but labour relations that are difficult sort of destroy, or at least diminish, this sense of community."

CUFA's 37 executives must still vote to recommend the negotiated collective agreement to the union's membership at a meeting set for March 28.

After that, two meetings will be held with full-time faculty—one on each of Concordia's campuses—to answer questions about the agreement.

Union members will then have five days to vote in a secret online ballot on whether or not to accept the agreement.

"I'm optimistically prudent," said Lequin of the process still to come, adding that the voting will

take place after faculty members return from the Easter long weekend.

The tentative agreement comes after 74 per cent of the union's membership spoke out in favour of a strike mandate during a week of voting that began Feb. 28.

That vote gave the union the power to go on strike, provided it gave the university 48 hours' notice.

In a statement, Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota acknowledged that the university had reached an agreement with CUFA, but wrote "details of the agreement in principle remain confidential as it is now being submitted to the CUFA membership for ratification and to Concordia's Board of Governors for approval."

In a bulletin posted on its website, CUFA said that under the tentative agreement, professors with limited-term appointments would

be "better protected from an excessive number of course preparations" while professors with extended-term appointments would be "compensated for an excessive number of course preparations."

Stipends for extra teaching will be brought in line with those of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association in the second year, with a two per cent increase planned for the third year.

Lequin also told *The Link* that the tentative agreement "clarified the workload of librarians."

The union was hoping to gain guaranteed research time for librarians since they have an "obligation" to do research in their jobs, but that didn't happen and will instead remain a topic of negotiation for the next collective agreement.

—with files from Andrew Brennan

Unifying Unions, Deconstructing Differences

University labour unions and student associations stand to learn a lot from one another.

"Fostering solidarity between students and workers is extremely important as we face more and more challenges every single day," said Jérémie Bédard-Wien, a spokesperson for the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, at a conference held at McGill on Saturday.

He went on, specifically pointing to new austerity measures imposed on working people and students by the Parti Québécois government.

Students and workers shouldn't be dissociated from one another, said Francis Lagacé, vice-president of the Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain, part of the province-wide trade union federation Confédération des syndicats nationaux.

"The great majority of students work," said Lagacé. "When we create a dichotomy between

workers and students, it's a bit of an artificial dichotomy."

According to Lagacé, studies have shown that those employees under the age of 25—in other words, those who are often still in school—and those over the age of 55 face a similar challenge in the workplace: precarity. These workers simply don't have as much job security as others.

Lagacé also said educational workers face a particularly great amount of unpredictability in the workplace. Students and university employees could therefore be good allies.

But both Bédard-Wien and Lagacé noted that there are significant cultural differences between unions and student associations that could hamper collaboration.

Bédard-Wien said ASSÉ practices a more combative form of syndicalism—"syndicalisme de combat," in French—which is rooted in grassroots membership and "is not afraid

to use disruptive tactics to [achieve] its aims."

This philosophy has at times put ASSÉ at odds with union activists.

"We have to understand how both the student movement and the union movement function in order to better foster a good relationship," he said.

There are many things that student associations and labour unions can learn from each other, said Thomas Collombat, a lecturer on the topic of organized labour in Quebec and a professor in the Department of Social Science at the Université du Québec en Outaouais.

"What everybody saw and was impressed with, I believe, is the spontaneity and creativity of the student movement," said Collombat. "But that always came hand-in-hand with very disciplined democratic ethics."

Student associations were able to mobilize quickly, but did so without some central authority like a union

leadership determining the strategy.

"It was actually left to the various entities within the student movement to find their own ways of mobilizing," he said. "So of course unions can learn from that in terms of renewing their repertoires of action and renewing their strategy."

He said students demonstrated creativity by using social media effectively, taking to the streets for naked demonstrations and using mascots as symbols of the movement. Labour unions could take note of these tactics.

At the same time, student associations can learn from the history of labour as an organized social movement, Collombat said. In particular, student associations can take lessons from labour unions on the importance of unity, even as they strive for diversity in their membership.

"The major victories of organized labour were done in times of unity, when unions actually managed to be

all together despite their differences and held their solidarity."

He said that the student movement's relative success last spring can be attributed to the unity that all of the student associations—ASSÉ, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec and the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec—displayed when facing the provincial government.

Bédard-Wien said that unions have the power to bring about change and they should flex their muscles more to affect government policy.

"We have to see unions as a political vehicle," said Bédard-Wien. "We have to see unions as a place of gathering of people that can take political decisions and, especially, take political actions, not only on their workers' conditions, not only to have a strike on salaries, but a strike on something else—a strike to strike at the heart of the state."

IDLE NO MORE CHANGES GEARS

Native Movement's Tactics Continue Despite Dwindling Spotlight



Photos Emile Bouffard

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

Energy can't be destroyed once it exists—only changed. A similar principle seems to be at work when it comes to social movements.

Idle No More began in October as a teaching platform on indigenous land and water treaty rights, which—according to its organizers—are being threatened by the Conservative government's omnibus budget bill, C-45.

By mid-December, the grassroots movement had grown into a national, multi-faceted social movement.

Idle No More soon found itself garnering international media coverage, largely aided by a 44-day fast by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence in support of the movement.

The hashtag #idlenomore became popular on Twitter, and several days of protest—some worldwide—were met with massive turnouts, aided by the movement's significant presence across various social media outlets.

Momentum seemed quick to fade, however, and by February the number of headlines began to taper off.

Regardless, the movement's provincial chapter leaders say that the campaign is ongoing—in Quebec, at least.

As it stands though, Idle No More seems to have landed back

where it began—on the fringes.

No Fireworks

For Idle No More Quebec co-founder Melissa Mollen Dupuis, time in the spotlight can be fickle.

After Spence's hunger strike ceased in late January, media attention on indigenous rights faded fast.

Spence had demanded a meeting between First Nations leaders, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston to discuss issues pertaining to First Nations peoples.

A meeting took place between Harper and First Nations chiefs Jan. 11—albeit without Spence and Johnston—prompting thousands to protest across the country.

National days of action followed throughout January, with tactics including flash mobs, teach-ins, railroad blockades and border crossings.

But soon after the immediate flurry of demonstrations, media interest quickly diminished, Dupuis recalled.

"The media always wants the fireworks," she said. "They don't want the boring stuff, so since nobody's been burning themselves on the cross, we don't see ourselves a lot on the news."

While the movement might be falling short of the mainstream media's radar—that's not to say

that continued efforts have gone entirely unnoticed.

Some political leaders claim they are still paying attention.

Speaking at a debate at Concordia, Liberal Concordia co-president Cameron Ahmad said the Liberal Party of Canada has come forth with a policy of "mutual respect" to resolve land claims and replace the Indian Act.

The Conservative 2013 federal budget also included a \$241 million First Nations Job Fund to train aboriginal youth.

Results May Vary

The budget, released March 21, included language to reaffirm relations between the prime minister and First Nations and to maintain dialogue.

But critics, including Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo, say the budget does little to address the causes of the unemployment and that aboriginal people themselves were not consulted.

"Idle No More made the government move—but they still don't move the way we want," added Dupuis. "They move on their own and they decide for us."

The job fund also couples income assistance funding with mandatory employment.

"We believe that once we can bring First Nations people of Canada into the economic fold of Canadian success, then we'll have a more prosperous confederation," said Eric Scanlon of Conservative Concordia at the March 21 debate.

But Dupuis explains that, to First Nations people, employment is not the problem—it's the jobs offered.

"The jobs they want us to train for are either mine-related or exploitation of the resources," she said.

According to Dupuis, this creates a choice for First Nations youth—financial security or respecting tradition to preserve the land.

"We have to think bigger [...] and stop thinking in the mindset of numbers—which are so logical, but in logic, a lot things can die out," she explained.

"Money is logic, but like the great saying says: 'Only when they will have poisoned the last river and cut down the last tree will they see that money cannot be eaten.'"

"Nothing to Lose"

Despite the setbacks, Idle No More hasn't withered too much in Quebec, according to Dupuis.

"I don't think it's going to slow down, and we're getting more and more solidarity from other movements," she said.

"We have the 99 per cent, we have Occupy Montreal [...] we also have the student movement here helping us out, cause people are getting hungry for social justice."

March 21, dozens gathered around the Complexe Desjardins shopping mall for a flash mob marking the following day's World Water Day, the movement's first major demonstration in the city in weeks.

National media are also taking notice of the 1,500 km-plus walking journey of seven Cree from Whapmagoostui, QC to Parliament in Ottawa. The group, which began with seven walkers, has steadily grown to over 100 since it kicked off in January.

The group arrived at Parliament on Monday.

Dupuis said plans are in motion for demonstrations to coincide with Earth Day on April 22, and that across Canada the movement is increasingly narrowing its focus to concentrate on band council corruption.

But, since the protest numbers and the national media coverage have died down, many still question why Idle No More proponents are fighting.

"We kind of have nothing to lose any more," Dupuis responded. "I mean, at [some] point, if we don't fight back, we might as well die in the street."

CORRUPTION BRIEFS

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Former Mayor and Right-Hand Man to Testify

Former Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay and former head of the city's executive committee Frank Zampino have both reportedly been asked to testify in the Charbonneau commission in the following week, according to *The Gazette*. The commission, which is investigating possible corruption and collusion in the handing out of government contracts, has been ongoing since October. Tremblay has been called to testify despite reports from Rosaire Sauriol, vice-president of Dessau Engineering

and Construction, that he was unaware of any corruption going on during his time as mayor.

To Fill or Not to Fill

The city's interim mayor Michael Applebaum wants Montrealers to make a decision—should the city's numerous potholes be left to grow, or should contractors linked to the Charbonneau commission fill them in? During a special meeting March 18, the city council rejected a \$5.2 million contract that would allow potentially corrupt companies to supply asphalt, *The Gazette* reported. Applebaum now hopes to resolve the issue through an online survey open to all Montrealers. Pro-

jet Montréal has criticized the survey for being misleading, while opposition party Vision Montreal agreed with Applebaum's fix. At least three of the seven companies named in the contract have also been linked to corruption, the commission has revealed.

Mixed-Police Squads to Lose Funding

Federal funding for mixed-police squads is set to run out in March, leaving some forces wondering where the money will come from. The regional police squad on the North Shore combined forces of Laval with other squads—such as those from Terrebonne and Saint-Jérôme—to combat organ-

ized crime in the area, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. There is no word yet from Quebec Public Security Minister Stéphane Bergeron as to whether or not funding will be taken over by the provincial government. These cuts come at a time when the province is swept up in a commission to uncover precisely how much corruption and organized crime occur in Quebec.

Bridge Over Corrupt Waters

For the first time since the Charbonneau commission began, the federal government has publicly announced it will be investigating an issue raised by the

inquiry. Transport Minister Denis Lebel has announced that the government will be looking into Federal Bridge Corp. Ltd. following witness testimony earlier this month, according to the *The Globe and Mail*. In her testimony, Ghislaine Dujmovic of DJL Construction stated that the federal company was given gifts every Christmas, something which may have violated certain rules of ethics. This is not the first time the federal government has been brought up during the commission; it was revealed last week that construction firm Dessau had used fake billing schemes to give funds to federal parties.



It's the event you've been waiting for all year! *The Link* is going for drinks and you're invited!

Come join *The Link* at Brutopia this Friday, March 29 to celebrate the end of Volume 33 and help us welcome the new masthead for Volume 34.

Join us for drinks, conversation and all-around good times, starting at 9:00 p.m. upstairs at Brutopia (1219 Crescent St.).



SWEET-TOOTHS AND SWEETHEARTS

Local Group Throws Cupcake-Crazy Charity Dating Auction

by *Alejandra Melian-Morse*

Easter is just around the corner—a fact that we’re reminded of every day as candy chicks and chocolate bunnies dominate dollar stores, supermarkets and pharmacies around the city.

But for those uninterested in traditional celebrations, there’s an evening for you.

Promising to raise your heart-beat as much as your blood sugar, Cupcakes, Mocktails and Dates, hosted by the Montreal MOBilizers, hopes to be a fun and charitable way to kick off Easter weekend.

As the name implies, the fundraiser will feature gourmet food, fancy drinks and an opportunity to bid on a date. Proceeds will benefit the Clean Water Initiative, a non-profit organization that aims to support developing communities around the world.

Although last year’s event was hosted at a gallery, this year it’s being held at Mainline Theatre—in a continuation of their traditional combination of arts and charity.

The Montreal MOBilizers have been affiliated with the Adopt a Village program for three years. The two share a goal of breaking the poverty cycle and empowering communities worldwide to support themselves in the long term.

It began by assisting schools that were struck by Haiti’s devastating earthquakes; this year’s proceeds are going towards the Clean Water Initiative.

“The program hopes to provide 100,000 people in marginalized communities around the world with clean water,” said Thusiga Inderanathan, one of the MOBilizers’ organizers.

It’s no secret that free food is a tried-and-true way to lure students to events. Still, there is something

about cupcakes that makes them irresistible—especially when they are gourmet and unlimited.

Last year’s selection ranged from chocolate to rainbow with a range of frostings, toppings and sizes. The inevitable sugar rush will no doubt have the participants amped up in time for the dating auction.

The Easter Bunny is being extra generous this year, and is opening up the opportunity for partygoers to bid for a date with one of the lovely MOBilizers. The brave participants are putting their hearts on the line to benefit developing third-world communities.

Also featured in the event are performances by local Montreal musicians to help keep the energy levels high.

Last year’s Cupcakes, Mocktails and Dates raised \$2,000 for initiatives in Terre Cassée, Haiti, setting an ambitious bar for this year.

The goal is anything but daunting to an organization that labels itself as “shamelessly idealistic.” One of the MOBilizers’ main goals is to motivate and inspire Montreal’s youth population, said Inderanathan. They are a tight-knit group consisting of thirty individuals trying an unorthodox way of raising money.

“Youth is so important for the future that we need to be as unique and optimistic as possible,” she said.

For her, this means promoting awareness to the rest of the community not directly involved with the MOBilizers. The cupcake-themed dating auction is an example of their creativity in boosting awareness, and it’s clear that if anyone knows how to motivate youth, it’s youth.

With a population attracted to all things fringe, the clear choice is Mainline, a.k.a. “Indie theatre’s home on The Main.” While charity events are not the Mainline Theatre’s focus, their

participation is due to more than simply an opening in the schedule.

“Independent theatre relies on the support of the community to operate, so it seems fitting to give something back,” said Amy Blackmore, the director of Mainline.

While there is certainly an art to getting people to reach into their pockets, and perhaps even more to making it fun, creativity is key.

Pairing up with a refreshing arts venue like Mainline certainly attracts the bidders they’re looking for. With Blackmore’s support, the MOBilizers expect the event to draw a full house—especially considering there are unlimited cupcakes involved.

Cupcakes, Mocktails and Dates / March 29 / Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 7:00 p.m. / \$10.00

Graphic Paku Daoust-Cloutier

THE SPOOF ISSUE

It's that magical time of year again—the sun is out, the birds are singing, people are getting drunk on terraces and *The Link* is putting together the annual SpooF Issue. After a year of hard news and biting opinions pieces, it's time to blow off some steam. Stay tuned; the issue hits stands Tuesday, April 2.



Graphic Flora Hammond

FRINGE GIVEAWAY

Glen Matlock & Tommy Ramone // High Society

You have Facebook (probably). We have free tickets (definitely). So like *The Link's* Facebook page for a chance to win them!

Glen Matlock & Tommy Ramone
March 28

Throw on that old studded leather jacket and slam a 40 oz. malt liquor, because these legends of punk, from the Sex Pistols and the Ramones respectively, are coming together for a bangin' collaborative show. Bring back the '80s in a major way by getting grungy and pissing off your parents.

High Society
April 19

Indecent Xposure is throwing this classy affair at Cabaret Underworld, and Mark Wahlberg and P. Diddy's signature bottled water (and rumoured hangover cure) AQUAhydrate will be available for consumption—but we probably just had you at Mark Wahlberg.



FRINGE CALENDAR MARCH 26 – APRIL 1

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci &
Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

MUSIC ■

1 *Translations*, by HP Process
March 30
Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.)
2:00 p.m.
Free

2 Zammuto + Snowblink
March 31
Il Motore (179 Jean Talon St. W.)
9:00 p.m.
\$10.00 advance / \$13.00 door

THEATRE ■

3 Mile End Poets' Festival: Voice Dance Trance
March 30
Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.
\$8.00 or PWYC

In the heartland of Montreal's art scene, this intriguing one-of-a-kind event blends poetry, music and dance for a unique aesthetic experience. The show features multiple artists from the varied disciplines, and will end with Body Slam, "the only pure improv poetry/music/dance troupe in the country."

FILM ■

4 *Landscape and Technology: Films of Chris Welsby*
March 30
Cinémathèque québécoise (335 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.)
9:00 p.m.
\$7.00 students / \$8.00 general

Vancouver-based media artist Chris Welsby hosts a program of six of his acclaimed experimental landscape-based short films. Originally trained as a painter, Welsby brings a unique perspective to his cinema, allowing natural elements such as wind, tides and the earth's rotation to structure his work. Shot on 16 mm film, Welsby's introspective collection is an alluring alternative to the clichéd films of today.

LIT ■

5 Julia Serano Brings *Whipping Girl* to Concordia
March 28
Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd., H-767)
7:00 p.m.
Free

California native Julia Serano, author of *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity*, is visiting Concordia to open the dialogue on issues of misogyny, femininity, misconceptions about sexuality and more. A queer studies and gender studies expert, Serano will illuminate controversial topics and make you question your previous assumptions: be sure to check your privilege at the door.

VISUAL ARTS ■

6 Salon: Data III - Ensemble Allogène
March 27
Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.)
7:00 p.m.
Free

7 résistance/résidence: une soirée de performances
March 28
Café l'Artère (7000 Parc Ave.)
8:00 p.m.
Free

8 L'art & Be
March 28
Cabaret du Mile-End (5240 Parc Ave.)
8:00 p.m.
\$8.00 advance / \$12.00 door

9 Springtemps: Vernissage
March 29
Articule (262 Fairmount St. W.)
7:00 p.m.
Free

OTHER ■

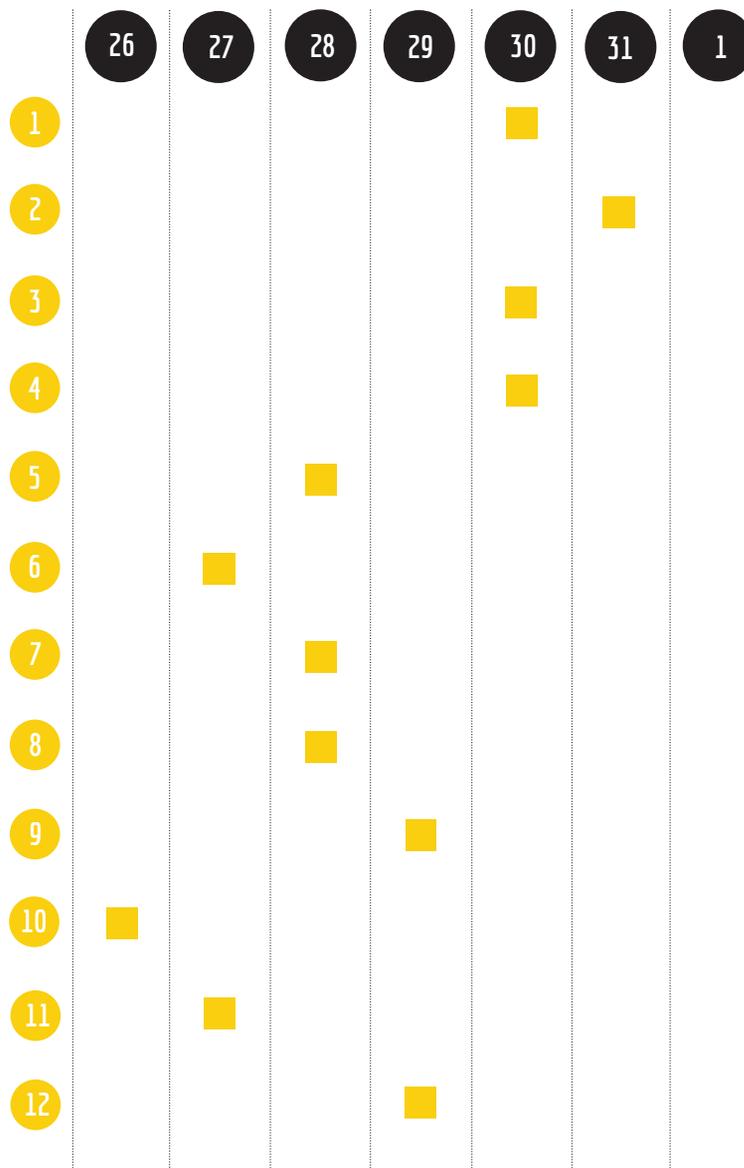
10 Getting Saucy! A vegan/gluten-free cooking workshop with Marjie
March 26
The People's Potato (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd., seventh floor)
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Free

11 Strip Spelling Bee
March 27
Théâtre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
9:00 p.m.
\$10.00 / Free for contestants

Yes, you read that correctly. The spelling bee gets a sexy twist in this hilarious event filled with stripteases and smartypants-es. Contestants battle for literacy supremacy with both wits and skin, in front of a hooting audience that's eager for them to misspell "antidisestablishmentarianism."

PARTY ■

Bend Over Magazine Release Party
12 March 29
Club Lambi (4465 St. Laurent Blvd.)
11:00 p.m.
\$8.00 advance / \$12.00 door





“Evens is able to do the dirty work, but he also has the skills and physical ability to go with it, which makes him an extremely valuable player. He’s a really smart basketball player and he leads by example. Bottom line, he’s a winner.”

Kyle Desmarais, Stingers guard

Evens Laroche at basketball practice earlier in the season. Photo Erin Sparks.

“Mr. Everything” MOVES ON TO NEW THINGS

Stingers Star Evens Laroche Reflects on Decorated ConU Basketball Career

by *Yacine Bouhali @MyBouhali*

In a way, Concordia got lucky.

After Evens Laroche led Montreal’s Dawson College to a national basketball championship in 2007, the six-foot-four, 190-pound forward was expecting to receive a scholarship to play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the United States equivalent to Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

But Laroche never went on to play in the NCAA.

Growing impatient with the scholarship application process and concerned about the amount of playing time he would receive as a freshman, Laroche instead accepted an invitation from childhood friend Hamza Ruhezamihigo to join him on the Concordia Stingers basketball team.

“Hamza is the one who persuaded me to come play at Concordia,” said Laroche. “I knew [the Stingers] had a good team and that I would have the chance to win a championship right away.”

The Stingers owe Ruhezamihigo, then, for Laroche’s stellar five-year career. The first days at Concordia weren’t easy for Laroche, though, as he struggled to get comfortable in his new environment.

“I got into a school where I knew only one guy, so it was really difficult for me—I had to focus on my English, do a lot of homework and play basketball everyday,” said Laroche, who first started playing basketball at École Lucien-Pagé, a French-language high school located in Montreal’s working-class Park Extension neighbourhood.

At first, it seemed earning playing time would be equally as difficult.

“When I started with the Stingers I wanted to play right away, but the team was stacked,” said Laroche. “There were [brothers Dwayne and Damian Buckley] and many other good players so I had to prove I deserved to be in the starting five.”

That’s exactly what he did, however.

Thanks in large part to his versatility on the court, Laroche quickly became a regular in the starting lineup, appearing in 12 of 16 games that year and playing a major role in the team’s success that season and in those that followed.

“Evens is able to do the dirty work, but he also has the skills and physical ability to go with it, which makes him an extremely valuable player,” said All-Canadian Kyle Desmarais, who has been

Laroche’s teammate since their CEGEP years. “He’s a really smart basketball player and he leads by example. Bottom line, he’s a winner.”

Indeed, Laroche has been synonymous with success everywhere he’s played, and it was no different at Concordia. In his five years with the Maroon and Gold, the Stingers made the playoffs four times and won three provincial championship titles in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec.

Last season was Laroche’s best as a Stinger, as he received the RSEQ’s Most Valuable Player award and was named on the CIS second All-Canadian team.

“I don’t play basketball to receive awards, but the MVP award was a special one,” said Laroche. “It showed me that everybody recognized my hard work.”

“Mr. Everything,” as Laroche is referred to by head coach John Dore, was also named on the RSEQ first All-Star team on three occasions during his university career.

“Evens had five great years with us,” said Dore, who now faces the challenge of filling the void left by Laroche’s departure in the off-season. “He has come a long way since day one; now he’s a much more mature guy and I think he’s ready to take other steps in his life.”

That being said, Dore isn’t dwelling on the past.

“It’s not about how it affects the team, it’s more about who do we get next year,” he said. “You don’t look back, you look forward.”

Laroche will be doing the same. Like his older brother Hernst, who is currently playing for BBC Monthey in the Ligue nationale de basketball A—Switzerland’s top professional basketball league—after a four-year career in the NCAA with the New Mexico State Aggies, Laroche hopes to take his talents to Europe.

“I’m working really hard trying to get a contract in Europe,” said Laroche. “I’m lucky that my brother is already there and that he has many contacts overseas. He’s able to tell me the things I should or shouldn’t do.”

One thing Laroche doesn’t need to be told, however, is the value of education—basketball or not.

“I’ve seen a lot of guys around me who played basketball and did a lot of other things but they never received their diploma,” said Laroche, who is poised to earn his human relations bachelor’s degree this year.

“I’m not like them. I won’t give up on my goal.”

NETTING GAINS

ConU Students Play for More than Victory in Annual Soccer Tourney

by Vanik Kechian

Soccer and charity brought together Concordia's ethnic associations March 23, as the Concordia Caribbean Student Union and International and Ethnic Associations Council organized their third annual Unifying Concordia Charity Soccer Tournament.

A melting pot of Concordia students assembled at the Loyola campus Stinger Dome for the tournament. Among the near 150 players, supporters, and organizers were Bengalis, Arabs and Armenians, all gathered to raise money and have a good time.

The tournament, organized by Marvin Coleby of the IEAC and Yuri Wilkie of the CCSU, raised \$800 for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation when they first started the event in 2011 and about \$1,000 for Montreal non-profit organization Share the

Warmth last year.

"We saw that a lot of student leaders interacted with each other, but the students themselves didn't," said Wilkie. "So we basically wanted to bring the school together while raising money for a good cause."

This year, the IEAC, CCSU and the 11 teams that competed combined to raise about \$1,000 for the Côte-des-Neiges-based charity Project Genesis.

Project Genesis is a community charity that helps Montrealers—most often those in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges—apply for welfare, resolve housing issues and secure their rights.

The organization will put the money raised towards resources allowing them to improve the living conditions of seniors, immigrants and the less fortunate in the borough.

"It's for a good cause, it's for charity," said Concordia's Armenian Students' Association president Patrick Armen Elliott. "We're getting a look

at other associations and the people behind them, and it's a lot of fun."

"You realize that even though we're all from different places, we all have common interests, either the welfare of the community or just soccer," said Wilkie. "A lot of people who come to play at the tournament want to meet people and enjoy themselves, and this is the unifying aspect we were aiming for."

Although the tournament was for charity and participants came to support the fundraiser, some did not let that deter them from showing their competitive side and playing to come out as champions.

"We hope for the best," said Farhan Ul Islam of the Bangladeshi Students' Association before the tournament. "I see some amazing players on my team and I hope we're going to do a good job."

Players for the Arab Students' Association were also excited to express their confidence.

"We will win, we will win," insisted some players of the team, trying to speak over each other. "Last year we came in second, but this year we will win."

As it turns out, they were right, as the ASA beat 2011 champions Tamil Mantram in this year's final.

Others relished the opportunity to catch up with old friends and discover new cultures and student associations.

"The other team didn't show up for our first game, but the Armenian folk are embracing me as one of their own," said Kyle Rogers who, despite not being Armenian, played in net for the Armenian Students' Association.

The tournament was expected to see its fair share of heated moments on the pitch. But after incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct last year, organizers were relieved to see better behaviour on the participants' part.

"There was a lot of competition, which is good," said Shanice

Yarde, program and events coordinator of the IEAC. "Everyone understood the context, that this is a charity event, and it is to unify Concordia and not to divide."

For the third straight year the tournament was seen by its organizers as a success and a pleasure to be a part of.

"It was really great seeing the pride in each organization," said Yarde. "I really felt like we were all there together for the same goal."

The IEAC and CCSU are already looking forward to next year's tournament and another chance to unite Concordia on the soccer pitch.

"With each year as it progresses and grows, even though we were smaller in number this year, I still feel it had a great impact," said Yarde. "There are so many of us that it becomes easy for us to be separated and disconnected, but I think this is a great way to bring everyone together."



The third annual Unifying Concordia Soccer Tournament, which took place at the Stinger Dome last Saturday, raised about \$1,000 for Montreal's Project Genesis charity. Photos Jake Russell

by Oliver Leon @oliverdandylion

THAT TRANSSSEXUAL GUY

With New Scars Like Smiles

As those of you following my column may know, I am a transsexual. I mean, transsexual. Growing up, everyone around me thought I was a girl. But no one thought to ask! So a month ago, I had a double mastectomy, known colloquially to trans people as ‘top surgery.’

I am now wonderfully flat-chested, with big hot scars to boot. I plan on telling people that I got into a knife fight with pirates. Or maybe a tiger attacked me. Who knows?

Before top surgery, I had several shirts I felt that I could not wear because they were quite tight and would outline my binder—the shirt that compressed my chest—quite clearly. Happily, I am now post-op and can say that as I write this I am wearing a slim-fitting shirt with a unicorn on it that I would not have worn before.

I’ve pieced together my pre-operative and post-operative memories for you to read and for me to re-read 10 years from now.

I had missed out on the instruction that I was to fast before surgery, so I had very nearly eaten bacon that morning. Gabrielle Bouchard—the peer support and trans advocacy coordinator at Concordia’s 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy who offered to drive me to my surgeon—knocked on my close friend Tara’s apartment door just as I was about to eat. Gabrielle gasped in horror. I sheepishly stopped and we all made our way to Gabrielle’s car.

We arrived at 9:30 a.m., only to have to wait until 11:30 a.m. or so

‘til they actually took me to the operating room. I hugged everyone goodbye. The last person I hugged was Tara, and she was also the first person I hugged about a week after surgery.

The operating room was freezing, so the doctors put flannel leg-warmers on me. I informed all the doctors and nurses that I have a fear of needles and requested that they get me to look the other way if they used them.

To achieve this, the doctor who administered the anesthesia actually tricked me: He said that he was going to put something in my arm to relax me for the anesthesia. I looked at the clock—11:50 a.m.—and was awake for probably 30 more seconds.

I was peculiarly determined to have surgery before noon. I was hungry, having not eaten since the night before. Logically of course, I was hoping to eat after surgery.

At first, I was thirsty—actually, that might’ve been the first thing I said. Yes, I must’ve woken up before going into the elevator and they gave me an ice cube. I was annoyed—only an ice cube? And they refused to give me another (don’t worry, they eventually gave me water).

We took the elevator upstairs; I couldn’t feel the movement at all. The nurses’ faces were blurry. I can’t remember if my surgeon was there.

We came out of the elevator and I waved weakly to my friends, giving them the thumbs-up sign.

Tara informs me that the first

thing I said to her after top surgery was a joke: “That was the worst nap in the history of everything.”

My friends chuckled, nervous looks still on their faces.

“It was like when you go to sleep and your brain is still on so you just think through the night and wake up the next day having slept really badly,” I said.

I don’t really remember much after that. The pain, and the eventual painkillers, distorts my memory. I remember declaring that I was indulging my inner child by being demanding, but it was not like I had any options but to ask.

I refused to look at the I.V. that was plugged into my left hand—it crept me out too much (the bruise finally went away last week). My surgeon must’ve come to visit. I remember someone important dropping by and asking me questions but I can’t recall if it was her.

My roommate in the private clinic had been a quiet presence behind the curtain ‘til I finally was given chicken broth for dinner. He was in his 40s and covered in tattoos—I’d like to be so handsome when I grow up. We talked about our experiences a bit. It was reassuring to know that there are trans men older than 35 who are quietly living their lives too.

My dad and his girlfriend came to visit. They seemed impressed with how cheerful I was. My dad gave me a box of Kinder eggs (Dad, if you are reading this, please bring Reese Peanut Butter Cups next time). I don’t think they

stayed very long because naturally, I was quite tired. A surgeon had taken a knife to my chest that day, so I needed lots of rest.

I stayed at friends’ homes, all of whom very gracious and generous hostesses. I did not lack for anything. Oh, except for movement. As I’ve been recovering from top surgery for the month, I’ve had what I affectionately call ‘T-Rex arms’. My arm motion is very limited so whenever I move or reach for something, I look like, to the amusement of everyone, a T-Rex with tiny arms. My response to their laughter is to roar at them.

I wasn’t allowed to shower for at least a week so I used waterless shampoo. It wasn’t perfect, but I did feel less disgusting, so that was helpful.

After a week of convalescence, I returned to the surgeon. A nurse took off my bandages, which was a relief to finally be able to breathe properly. She then took out the drains. The drains were inserted into my chest to release the blood and gunk from my wounds. So when she took them out, it felt like a snake being removed from my body. It was disturbing.

I could see my chest! In a daze of joy, I thanked her at least five times, to which she always replied, with appreciation, “My pleasure.” All the nurses that I have met who work at Dr. Brassard and Dr. Belanger’s clinic seem to love their jobs. I shall be seeing my surgeon again very soon, upon which she will finally inform me as to how soon I can get my nipple pierced.

I still had to wear ace bandages for two weeks after that visit. Ironically, they often slid around so, like a bra, I constantly had to adjust them!

I became very anxious the first time I tried to shower. My chest was so numb that I couldn’t feel anything. So I used baby wipes to wash myself and washed my hair quickly in the bath. I felt somewhat ashamed for not feeling consistently happy about top surgery, like you see on the Internet.

Not having sensation in an important part of your body is scary—much worse than having your mouth numbed at the dentist’s office. I say ‘worse’ but it’s not really all that awful because it means I wasn’t in pain!

About three weeks after surgery, I returned to school, Tylenol at hand. That week, I took off the Steri-Strip tape that was slowly falling off my scars. The scars are beautiful. They are thin like a knife, which only makes sense given I had a double mastectomy. I am healing quickly, everyone says.

While my professors remark that I don’t quite have my usual vigour and have lost weight, they haven’t seen me lying on a hospital bed, unable to move without help! I am getting stronger and stronger every day. It is quite thrilling. And already, I have little tiny hairs growing between and around my scars!

That Transsexual Guy has returned from their hiatus! Read their column every week at thelinknewspaper.ca



YES, GREENHOUSE. YES.

by Colin Harris @colinharris

You should vote yes for the greenhouse fee levy.

Why? If you haven't been yet, you should know that the greenhouse is one of the greatest parts of the downtown campus.

It's been one of Concordia's best-kept secrets for too long, and now we have the opportunity to make the greenhouse as ubiquitous with the Sir George Williams experience as the People's Potato.

This fee levy will make the greenhouse independent. Without having to worry about where the next grant

money will come from, we'll see the space thrive—the events they've held during their campaign could become commonplace.

Workshops, concerts, screenings—it's the perfect venue for all kinds of ecologically minded events. The space is totally unique from anything else at Concordia—and financial independence will give the greenhouse more solid footing for collaboration with like-minded campus groups.

Besides, where else are you going to find summer-like weather in a desolate Montreal January? If

you haven't gone up those 13th-floor stairs, you'd be amazed by what that green space will do to ease your stress levels.

Focusing on your readings is a whole lot easier when the world isn't moving around you at break-neck speeds.

\$0.12 per credit may seem like a steep opening bid for a fee levy, when it's only pennies fewer than what *The Link* has built towards for years, but let's put things in perspective. The greenhouse's proposed fee levy would still amount to considerably less than what the Concordia Student Union spends

on orientation—an orientation that, last year, only a few hundred students benefited from.

Urban agriculture is experiencing a mini-boom, and the university level is the best place for this kind of project. For all the talk about sustainable living, the greenhouse actually gives you the know-how to cut your consumption waste.

Eating in a truly "local" way is no easy feat as a student in Montreal, always in search of a fast bite before the next cram session or night out. The greenhouse is an environment that can rebuild your relationship with what you con-

sume—one both healthier for yourself as well as the world we live in.

With a fee levy, the greenhouse intends to be more than just the space on top of the Hall Building, too. And that visibility is exactly what the greenhouse needs.

Those who see no use for the greenhouse just haven't taken stock of what it could be. Whether it's a study space, a teaching space or a venue to house ideas being developed in various Concordia faculties, the greenhouse is deserving of its own fee levy by virtue of its potential alone.

NO, GREENHOUSE. NO.

by Alex Manley @alex_icon

You've probably never seen it, you'd be hard-pressed to find it, but the Concordia Greenhouse is looking for your money at the student election.

At first glance, it might be hard to say no: They're asking for mere pennies, \$0.12 per credit. That translates to \$2.88 annually for the average student.

If you've ever trekked up to that mystical, faraway land on the 13th floor of the Hall Building, you'll know the idyllic atmosphere there is an asset to the school.

The greenhouse also does more than just provide you with the green-

est place to study this side of a golf course: It's a place that champions community gardening and can help put Concordia students back in touch with plants without having to hitchhike out of the city. It's an oasis in a city full of grey.

And yet...

I can't recommend that you vote in favour of the greenhouse's fee levy unreservedly.

While \$0.12 per credit may not seem like much, it's worth taking that number in context. Fee levy groups at Concordia include *The Link*, *The Concordian*, CJLO radio, Cinema Politica, the People's Potato, Le Frigo Vert and the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy.

Their right to students' money is sacrosanct and they proved that by getting fee levy referendum questions passed. Each of the groups contribute significantly to thousands weekly in the Concordia community and are expensive to run.

The greenhouse is neither of those two things.

As much as I love the greenhouse, so far it has been operating as a subsidiary of Sustainable Concordia, which is itself the recipient of a \$0.05-per-credit fee levy. Essentially, what they're saying is that they require a 240 per cent increase to operate.

A \$0.12 per credit fee levy, if they receive it, would translate to

a significant amount of money. Concordia has in excess of 35,000 undergraduate students; assuming the average student is taking four courses per semester, the greenhouse would be looking at around \$50,000 per semester, or \$100,000 per year.

You read that right: \$100,000 per year.

While they could use that money to continue providing Concordia students with a place to grow plants and contemplate nature within the sometimes-draining monochromatic downtown campus, they've provided few reasonable justifications for such a drain on student finances.

The greenhouse has provided few suggestions of where the money will go, but if history is used as a guide, the vast majority of student funds will go to one place: salaries.

The greenhouse has yet to explain why they need a hundred large annually to run the greenhouse, which is restricted to a fraction of the top floor of a single Concordia building.

It's worth waiting before voting yes. Maybe with another year of reflection, the greenhouse can give you a good reason to go up to the 13th floor and finally see it for yourself.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

FACING EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN RELATIONSHIPS HEAD-ON

by *Melissa Fuller @mel_full*

When you say the words “abusive relationship,” many people’s first thoughts turn to abuse of a physical nature.

Years of awareness campaigns and public service announcements fill our heads with depictions of yelling matches ending in hitting or someone covering up bruises with makeup.

When I was a teenager, I even remember being told, “If you get hit, you leave” as a sort of relationship guideline to help us recognize abuse.

This really only reinforced a very limited understanding of what abuse could look like. I’ve since realized that no one ever gave us a guideline for how to act if someone made you cry, scream, called you names and/or destroyed your will to live without ever laying a finger on you.

A new awareness initiative has popped up on campus called Love Doesn’t Hurt, with the aim “to educate students on the signs of emotional and physical abuse and to aid survivors on their healing journey.”

The distinction Love Doesn’t Hurt has made in acknowledging emotional abuse is important because recogniz-

ing, accepting and leaving an emotionally abusive relationship can be much harder than people may think. They’re often really subtle and hard to recognize, understand or even explain until you’ve been there yourself.

It’s rarely ever as simple as just leaving. I know from experience—I was in an emotionally abusive relationship for months before I even realized it.

I wasn’t a kid, it wasn’t my first relationship, and I wasn’t dumb or weak. I just didn’t recognize it because it was subtle and no one had ever taught me about emotional abuse.

My partner was possessive and controlling, but he didn’t start out that way. The change was gradual and reached a point where he became irritated anytime I expressed interests or goals that didn’t directly involve him.

When I wanted to see friends without him, he hid his anger in comments like, “But I love you so much that I want to spend every moment with you.” He demanded all my on-line passwords because it was integral in showing that I “trusted” him.

I was blamed for his depression and often called “insensitive” for not

doing my part in preventing him from lashing out.

This all started months into the relationship and caught me completely off guard. Leaving wasn’t easy because there was a ton of emotional manipulation, harassment and refusal on his part to actually acknowledge the breakup.

I changed my number twice and considered moving just so I wouldn’t have to keep looking over my shoulder every five minutes. Months later, I got a letter in the mail describing our future children and how we would move past all this silly stuff because he wouldn’t live without me.

I was terrified and even had moments where I thought, “Maybe it’s safer to just stay.” In the end I got out of that situation because I had a supportive friend and a great drop-in counselling clinic.

Accessible resources are essential in these situations: it’s one thing to know you’re in a bad place and to be told you’re not alone, but it’s another to know what support is actually there to see you through.

Unfortunately this is an area where I feel the Love Doesn’t Hurt campaign falls short, despite what I’m

sure were great intentions. While the Facebook page includes resources like a checklist to help you tell if you’re in an abusive relationship, it doesn’t have much in terms of helping you if you realize you are.

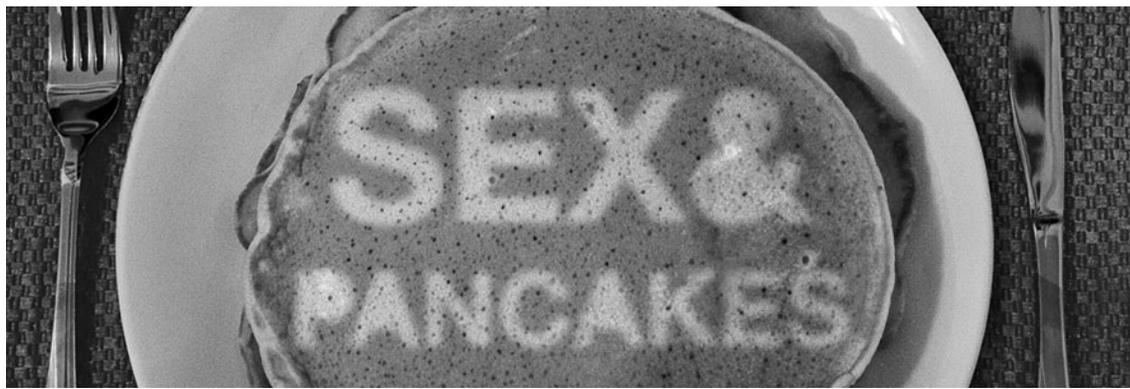
I’m really glad that awareness of relationship abuse has been finding its place on campus, but campaigns too often fall into the trap of negatively contributing to the dialogue surrounding abuse and assault by pinning the responsibility for ending it entirely on the victim.

Awareness is great, but it just isn’t enough anymore unless it’s paired with concrete steps that people can take if they actually realize they’re in the situations described.

There are many crisis hotlines and support services available in Montreal, so let’s share as many of them as possible to spread not only awareness, but also knowledge of the tools available to people who need them right now.

Share one or more of the resources in the sidebar and if you know any that should be added, send them in or comment online!

Submit your questions anonymously at sex-pancakes.com.



Concordia Counselling & Development:
514-848-2424 ext. 3545

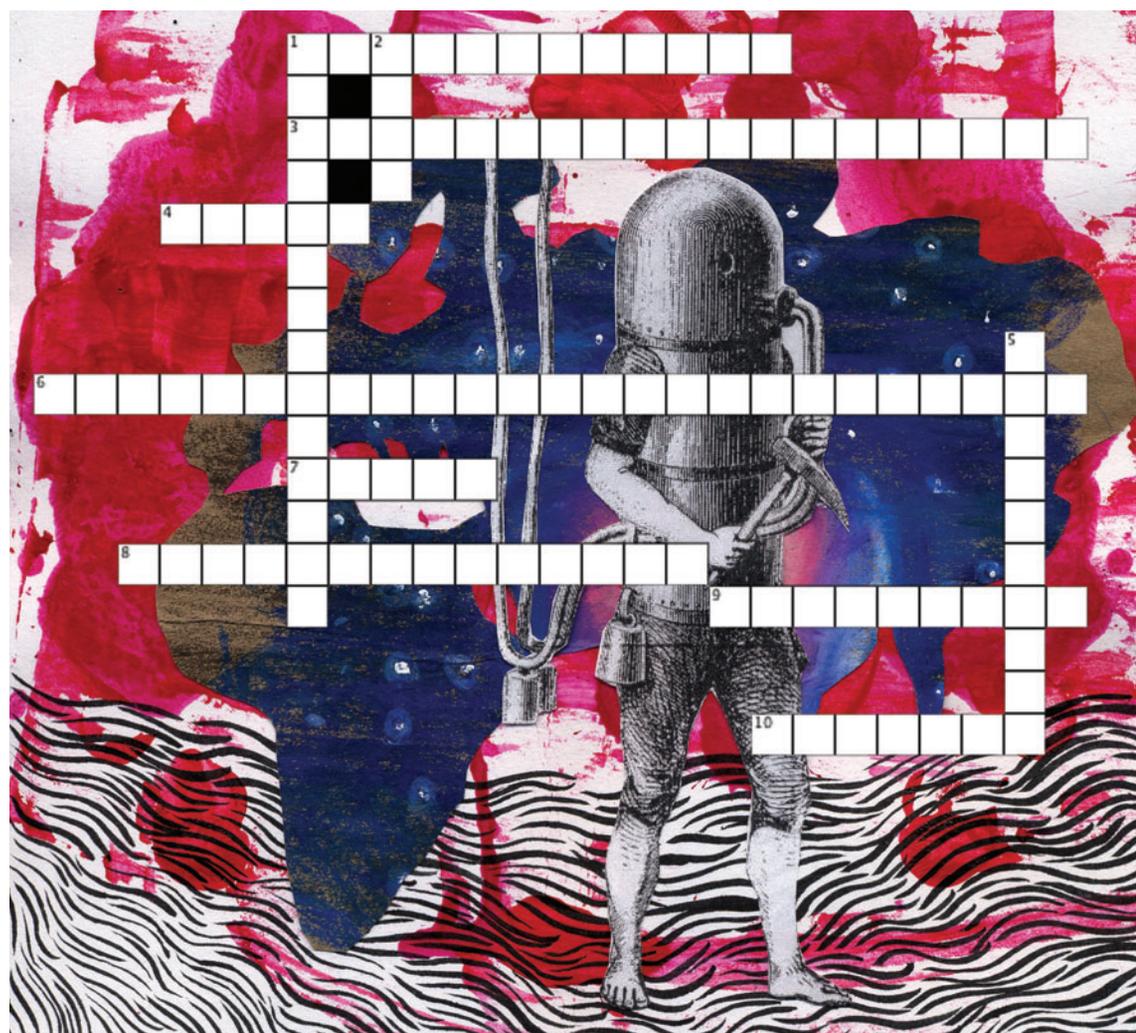
2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy:
514-848-2424 ext. 7880
(peer support, advocacy and referrals)

Head & Hands: 514-481-0277 (counselling services for 12- to 25-year-olds)

Tel-Aide: 514-935-1101 (24/7, free, anonymous and bilingual)

Centre Multi-Écoute: 514-737-3604 (phone and face-to-face listening service, referrals, counselling)

Each of these services can refer you to other resources if necessary.



Graphic Flora Hammond

XPLORATION XWORD

by *Liana Di Iorio @MsBerbToYou*

Across

▶ 1. This Hollywood director travelled 12,000 feet under water to explore what was left of the Titanic. That’s dedication. (2 words)

▶ 3. In 1492, this man sailed the ocean blue, reached America and thought he had found the Far East. (2 words)

▶ 4. This man may be regarded as an explorer of the human psyche: unconscious, subconscious and all that jazz.

▶ 6. This month, Chris Hadfield became the first Canadian to command this sweet, giant floating piece of future technology. He also celebrated St. Patrick’s Day. (3 words)

▶ 7. Liam Neeson played the titular role in the 2004 film *Kinsey*, which was about Alfred Kinsey, a man famous for exploring sexual behaviour. But he more famously portrayed a butt-kicking father in this 2008 film.

▶ 8. You could call this painter of “Starry Night” an explorer—in the sense that he explored the effects of cutting off his own ear. (3 words)

▶ 9. The first man to walk on the moon, unless you’re a conspiracy theorist. Not to be confused with the disgraced cyclist, or the jazz trumpeter.

▶ 10. A vicious group of warriors who raided, traded and explored via drakkar, this group of individuals is often depicted in furs and horned helmets.

Down

▶ 1. The explorer of New France, whose namesake is a shaky steel bridge that links Montreal and Longueuil. How inspiring. (2 words)

▶ 2. The mission of Curiosity, an automated rover, is to discover whether life has ever existed on this sizzling planet.

▶ 5. Disney set up this animated movie as the forbidden love between a European explorer and a Native princess.

BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



LINKOGRAPHY

FASHION & FLASH-BANGS

PROTEST SEASON'S HOTTEST TRENDS

SCARVES

Don't cover your face, though. Because it's illegal.

HELMETS

Available in a range of aerodynamic styles, none of which are flattering.

RUNNING SHOES

Practical and, if you're willing to spend some dough, potentially even stylish.

GOGGLES

Highlight those pretty eyes and protect them from the damaging effects of pepper spray.



GRAPHIC JAYDE NORSTRÖM

FALSE KNEES

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

Getting Beat by Dre

Dear Dr. Dre,

Hi, it's me again. You may remember me from my rant about how you helped launch 50 Cent's career.

Don't get me wrong, I'm a fan of your stuff. But with all your fame and fortune, did you really need to start making overpriced audio gear?

And, more importantly, did you really need to skimp so much on the damn plastic headbands?

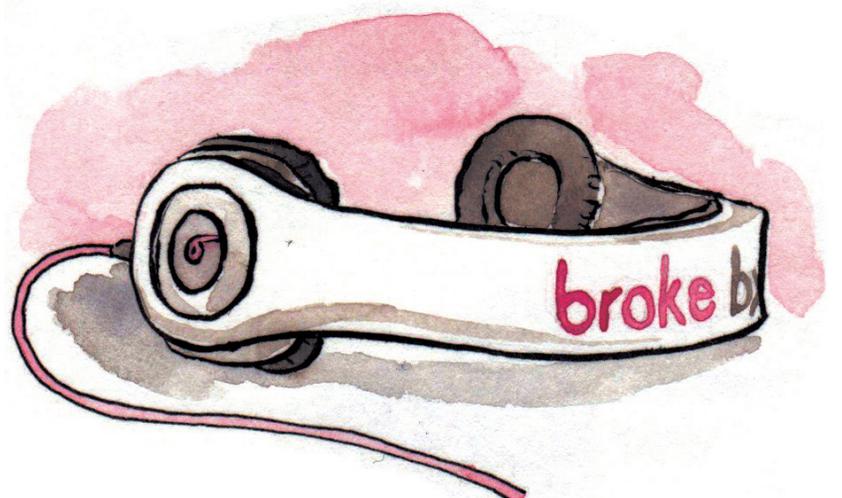
I'm now the proud owner of a pair of your goddamn, half-broken Beats by Dre, because apparently my head is too big for the brittle headband. Yes, I have an afro. No, that's not reason enough. Plastic that snaps this easily shouldn't be anywhere near headphones that cost hundreds of dollars.

Why put your name on these tacky things? Were you so worried we'd forget about you? Just put out a new album finally. It'll go further than some lame fashion accessory. Also, why would anyone trust the judgment of a guy that endorses Dr. Pepper?

Please. Restore my faith, oh mighty Dre. Would your old friends in N.W.A. want to see you swindling kids who don't know they could buy better stuff for half the price?

Well, maybe they would, actually. I guess I'll just be here, blasting *The Chronic* and let this "noise-cancelling" technology drown out my sobbing, empty wallet.

—Colin Harris,
Coordinating Editor



Graphic Joshua Barkman

Editorial



VOTE

Even when you have only one choice, you have to go out and vote.

With the CSYou team running unopposed for all but one executive seat, this year's Concordia Student Union has practically been decided from the get-go.

Even for VP Finance, the sole contested position, CSYou candidate Scott Carr is the better choice: while his opponent, Pierre Tardivo Martin, is looking to promote ethical investments, Carr is the only one of the two who actually has a long-term plan in place and initiative behind it.

But without showing up at the polls and casting a ballot, you're signalling low expectations—if any at all—for this CSYou executive.

Even if you go just to spoil your ballot, you're still voicing your opinion. Not showing up at the polling booths is giving free rein to the incoming executive—just look what historically low turnout last year got us. And, after all, important referendum questions for fee levies are also still on the docket.

On the university side, strong voting numbers tell Concordia that students are not only engaged in their own affairs, but passionately so.

Last year, only about 1,500 students showed up to vote, less than five per cent of the undergraduate student body—and about a quarter of the turnout the year prior.

This year, there is no provincial-wide student strike keeping

students away from school.

At first glance, there's nowhere to go but up: The union's reputation among Concordia students is damaged at best, and strong leadership is needed to rebuild trust.

We believe that CSYou is capable of doing this. This new team seems much more reassuring than the current CSU executive.

But, we still hold reservations. CSYou may have a near-free ticket into office, but they're running ambitious projects with unrealistic deadlines.

Cutting ties with Chartwells is an easy example—a giant problem that would need years of planning to change.

The contract between the world's largest prison-cafeteria

operator and the university expires in 2015, and the union is hoping to entice Concordia away from a single lump contract towards more environmentally sustainable and local alternatives.

They want to get local businesses to fill the gap in campus eats. But considering the giant mass of students that go in and out of our buildings each day, that's a huge void for the local café to fill. Making it attractive for the administration to rent space to small businesses instead of dealing with one corporation would be a feat on its own.

And that's not considering how we could find a Chartwells-free way to provide a meal plan for students in residence.

Transforming The Hive is another plan with a questionable timeframe. CSYou wants to have a scaled-down café open to students for September.

But issues still abound, mostly surrounding the dire financial straits of CSU's for-profit arm, CUSACorp. With its one business, the campus bar Reggie's, already \$1.4 million in debt, it will be conceivably hard to find the liquidity to open a successful second business.

Not surprisingly, there's a lot we need to expect from this year's executive. While the ideas are good, the results may vary.

And if you don't think that CSYou can deliver, you can always spoil your ballot.

Graphic Paku Daoust-Cloutier

THE LINK

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In "Education Pivotal in Quebec Liberal Race" [Vol. 33, Iss. 26], Quebec Liberal Party youth wing president Madwa-Nika Phanord-Cadet was misquoted as saying, "We'd like to go into university and college institutions with the new leader to do a tour, to make clear our ideas, because last year there were misunderstandings over what we wanted to put forward."

The quote should have read: "We'd like to go into university and college institutions with the new leader and with the Youth Commission to do a tour, to make clear our ideas, because last year there were misunderstandings over what we wanted to put forward."

The Link regrets the error.



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