

THE

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Another protest. Another riot.

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horse gets punched • News 4

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THE LINK

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Shirin Ebadi hasn't been home to Iran since the violence earlier this year. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

The struggle for democracy

Iranian Nobel Prize winner frustrated as world's attention shifts

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Shirin Ebadi displayed a deadly stare while speaking at Concordia on March 10, the kind of stare that makes an innocent person feel guilty—a useful asset for the woman who became Iran's first female judge in 1975.

"I have come here in the week that we celebrate women to speak of the role of women in Iran and on Iran's peace movement, and the impact it has on democracy in Iran," said Ebadi, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003.

After Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979, Ebadi was removed from the bench. Since that time, she has become one of the country's best-known campaigners for democracy and human rights.

"The Iranian women's movement is the strongest movement inside Iran and the Middle East. Women have had a primordial role in Iran's democracy movement," said Ebadi as she spoke with jour-

nalists before her presentation.

"It was a woman who became a symbol of this movement; Neda [Agha-Soltan, a passerby] was killed on the street [by militia during protests]. It's interesting to note that Neda in Farsi means voice. So the voice of Iran's democratic movement is a woman," she continued in her slow, pondering style.

On June 20, 2009 Agha-Soltan's death was caught on video and rapidly spread across the Internet, where it became a rallying point for opposition to the regime in power.

Protests erupted after Iran's general election in 2009 when it was widely believed that electoral fraud brought about the loss of main opposition candidate, Mir-Hossein Mousavi, to controversial incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"When I left Iran things were very quiet and everyone was hopeful that Mr. Mousavi would be elected," said Ebadi, who left the country a day before the election to

attend a conference in Spain. "Unfortunately, after the three-day conference I was at, I realized that a large number of people had been killed or arrested on the streets.

"A group of my friends were in prison and the remainder had gone into hiding; the police had visited their homes to arrest them. Those who were not arrested sent me the message to remain outside of Iran where they thought I would be more effective," continued Ebadi, as she took notes in small script.

The Nobel laureate soon went on a world-wide tour where she met with the secretary-general of the United Nations, the UN high commissioner for human rights and the European Parliament.

"Improving the situation inside Iran is the responsibility of Iranians," said Ebadi. "Our expectation from the West is sympathy, not military intervention or the economic embargo of Iran. Such actions only harms the people."

Ebadi was extremely critical of

western governments' handling of the crisis in Iran, charging them with having a focus only on nuclear weapons at the detriment of human rights and democracy.

"The only problem that the West seems to have with Iran is over its nuclear program," said Ebadi, throwing down her pen. "[The West] is willing to shake the hand of friendship with Iran if it agrees over its nuclear program.

"They don't care at all with what is going on inside Iran.

"Doesn't it matter to the world that Iran has the highest rate of juvenile capital punishment in the world?"

"All [the West] wants to do is punish Iran for its nuclear energy."

"Is their own security the only thing that matters to the West?"

With hundreds having died in the streets for democracy over the previous year, the world's focus has shifted away from Iran's internal struggle: its "green revolution."

Ebadi has yet to return home.

The new CBC

CBC News head talks to Concordia about sweeping changes

• RILEY SPARKS

The disappearance of Peter Mansbridge's chair was just one of many changes that CBC News editor-in-chief Jennifer McGuire discussed at Concordia on March 12.

The country's public broadcaster is undergoing a total transformation to keep up with the changing face of the news media.

"We are in the midst of a major revolution," said McGuire. "Most studies tell us that most people today don't get their news from newspapers."

Consumers are increasingly using online sources, not a traditional platform for the CBC.

"Online news is now second only to television as a news source, and it's the fastest-growing source," McGuire continued.

According to an Ipsos-Reid study commissioned last year by the CBC, Canadians are not only turning in increasing numbers to online news, but they also tend to get their news from multiple sources and usually don't have a particular favourite.

According to McGuire, no one

in the broadcast industry is delivering the "ideal" news package.

"So here we are—sitting at a C+? B-?" she said. "It's quite a wake-up call for any news organization."

The recent re-branding of CBC Newsworld as the CBC News Network was part of an effort to merge the corporation's online, radio and television departments. Instead of filing stories for just one medium, reporters are expected to produce multi-media content that can be adapted to fit all platforms.

McGuire also noted that the major driving force behind these broad changes is the audience themselves. Citing the role of Twitter and crowd-sourced journalism in the recent unrest in Iran, she said that the CBC will move away from its paternal, top-down style of delivering news and begin to incorporate more audience participation.

"The basic rule remains: content is king," said McGuire, who added that the "engaging curiosity" at the heart of journalism remains unchanged.



Trapped in the crowd

Listening by cellphone as the riot police move in

• LAURA BEESTON

As soon as the metro doors open, it's clear we're in cop country.

Blocking the exit of Pie-IX metro, they're everywhere. They far outnumber the activists and journalists who gathered to mark the 14th annual march against police brutality.

"We want to be really clear with the police and the media that we are here to respect the victims of police brutality who we march [in solidarity with] today," said Sophie Sénecal, a march organizer, through a megaphone.

After the roughly 600-strong mass of marchers moved northwest towards Raymond-Préfontaine Park, organizers dart through the crowd and tell us to leave the demonstration peacefully, calmly and without incident. As the throng of marchers makes its way towards the Préfontaine metro we are met by men and horses, pushed

into the intersection of Préfontaine and Hochelaga Streets.

Someone shoots a firework at the charging cops.

The group then splits into two and over 100 people are caught between groups of cops who have surrounded them, despite raised hands and an eventual sit-in. Someone begins playing a harmonica. The chopper still hums overhead. Smoke fills the air and our nostrils sting.

As their riot shields press the group tighter and tighter together, the crowd on the other side of the street, still in the park, calls for their release. The police don't move an inch.

A man comes up to me and hands me a cellular phone. I answer it, reluctantly, since I have never seen him before, nor do I know who could be calling me at this time. When I pick up the phone I realize that it's a woman whom I marched beside for most of the day, trapped in

with the hundred on the other side of the street.

"People are getting arrested already," she tells me, emphasizing that there has been an attempt to reason with the cops to no avail. "We haven't even been read our rights."

Suddenly, the horses keeping the crowds apart charge forward and the police begin sweeping through the park.

"Get moving," one of them tells me with a shove. "Faster."

The woman on the other line swears in French.

"I'm going to get arrested for sure," she tells me in a show of defeatism. "This is fucking bullshit."

Suddenly, the announcement comes, cutting through the stand-off.

"You are presently under arrest for having participated or having been present at an assembly, a march or a gathering, putting in danger the peace, safety or order in the public area."



1. Off Ontario Street a protestor tags a building with "fuck the police." PHOTO PETER HAEGHAERT

2. The owner of a jewellery store on Ontario Street closes up shop as the protest moves in. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

3. The Montreal police's manners do not improve while undercover. Notice the boots and Oakleys. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

4. Beating a man about a horse. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

5. Mounted police on Hochelaga Street as STM buses the detained. The buses said "Special." PHOTO PETER HAEGHAERT

6. After having turned over a trailer of firewood, protesters lit it on fire. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

7. A Montreal police officer stands over traffic with a tear gas rifle in hand. PHOTO PETER HAEGHAERT

1	2	3
4	5	7
6	8	9

8. Three members of squad six stand side by side. Coincidental? Police wardrobe malfunction? Mark of the beast? PHOTO JOHN GUNNER
9. A firework erupts in a crowd, pelting undercover cops, journalists and onlookers with burning projectiles. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS



Shields and rocks

Montreal police and protesters clash on anti-police brutality day

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

A deafening pop rattled the already-agitated crowd. Someone had set off fireworks, and as the electric green sparks blasted up Dézéry Street, the crowd rushed west towards a skate park. A group of black-clad, masked men started shouting.

"He's a fucking pig!" they yelled as one pointed to a plain-clothed man.

They darted towards him. One assailant zeroed in for a hit with fist raised until the man quickly pulled out a retractable baton and struck him. Undeterred, the mob swarmed the man and battered him with kicks to the head and torso. He got up and ran towards Hochelaga Street, where similarly-dressed men piled into an unmarked white van and drove off. Presumably, the man was one of many undercover police officers embedded in Montreal's 14th annual anti-police brutality demonstration.

Leading into Monday's protest, a number of events increased tension between the police and citizens of Montreal.

The ongoing coroner's inquest into the police shooting of 18-year-old Freddy Villanueva has revealed a series of protocol breaches on the part of the Montreal police. Montreal police union boss Yves Francoeur's statement last year that "our job is repression" and that "the police are a paramilitary organization" echoed through activist message boards and blogs across the Internet.

At 5 p.m. on March 15, police officers and journalists far outnumbered protesters outside the Olympic Stadium on Pie-IX Boulevard. Units of riot police were posted in and around the Pie-IX metro, on a concrete platform overlooking the crowd and in buses along the street.

Mounted police divisions sealed off the north end of Pie IX Boulevard, a convoy of squad cars blocked most traffic, cyclist police units were on standby to the east and groups of plain-clothed police officers blended into the crowd. As a final sign of the overbearing police presence, a helicopter fluttered loudly above demonstrators, effectively drowning out speeches given by event organizers. A 14-piece brass band downplayed the scene's intensity.

By 5:40 p.m. the crowd numbered about 700. They marched south on Pie IX Boulevard, away from the barricade formed by the cavalry. Although event organizers railed against acts of protester vandalism, pockets of violence began to emerge.

One man stole a brick from a park, smashed it in half and pocketed the jagged projectiles. He put a second brick in his jacket, revealing a plastic 15-pound weight. Others began

throwing bottles at shops on Ontario Street but, by this time, storeowners had barricaded their doors and windows.

Undercover officers began making arrests with mixed results. A few people went without a fight but one team of cops was pelted with rocks and fled through a side street.

By the time the protest reached Raymond-Préfontaine Park, the riot squad began moving in on the crowd. A mounted policeman grabbed one stationary teenager, who turned around and punched the cop's horse in the nose.

"Don't you fucking punch my horse," the cop said.

The teen then swung at the officer and was promptly snatched by foot patrolmen, who held him in a chokehold and slammed him against the pavement. He emerged handcuffed and bloodied.

Around 6 p.m., police pinned protesters against a wall in the park. They then ordered the crowd to disperse or face detention. Despite orally giving protesters the choice, almost none could disperse because all escape routes were sealed by the riot cops. The police then subsequently arrested about 120 people, two of which were *The Link* photographers.

Elsewhere in the park, militant protesters jumped fences and ran north through a series of laneways to flee the police. One group pulled a wood trailer from a parking lot, flipped it over, doused it with gasoline and set it ablaze.

Through the chaos, local kids kicked a soccer ball around their apartment's front lawn and heckled police.

"It's your turn to run now," a girl yelled.

A glass bottle narrowly missed one of the children. Another one nicked a boy in the leg. The boy picked up his hockey stick and ran after the mob.

By now the mob was whizzing through traffic and back towards the Olympic Stadium. It was 7 p.m. and for the second time in as many hours, police read the crowd the Riot Act while a gang of undercovers tossed more people into paddy wagons.

The cops almost blended in with protesters; wearing bandanas, sunglasses, messy jeans and hoodies. But several costume details betrayed their ruse—for one thing most protesters don't wear shiny police-issued boots, Oakley sunglasses and walkie talkies.

Around 8:30 p.m., police drove off zip-cuffed protesters into the night on Société de transport de Montréal buses. The remaining crowd gradually thinned, providing an anticlimactic ending to an otherwise explosive day.



(Left to right) Community presidential candidate Mike Xenakis and Fusion presidential candidate Prince Ralph Osei debate on March 15. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Community currency

Slate proposes money to boost student-run services

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Forget Chartwells, the Community slate running in this month's Concordia Student Union general election thinks that if students are going to spend money on campus, they should spend it at student-run outlets.

They propose to make that easier with the introduction of a Community Currency, a program that would offer a five to 10 per cent discount on student-run services.

"Instead of just having students' money circulate outside, we're trying to have that money circulate inside the Concordia community," said Community's VP Finance candidate, Tala Aoudi.

The currency would come in a digital form, not on paper. Students would pay a certain amount and get it back—plus five to 10 per cent more—in credit on a card. The initiative is intended to not only give students a discount, but also to encourage more student-run services to pop up around the university.

The currency would be partially subsidized by a CSU budget allocation as well as external investments, which would make it the CSU's first venture into extra-university investment.

She said determining the specifics of those investments would be her first priority upon taking office and that she has "no idea" why the CSU has never invested before.

"There are no constraints as of right now on investing. I'm guessing they just didn't think about it," she said. "They haven't really looked beyond the obvious plan of attack, which is spending the money."

Community presidential candidate Michael Xenakis explained that whatever money was set aside in the budget would be matched in investments. Xenakis cited \$40,000 as an amount that might be put aside; if that were so, the executive would then need to put aside \$80,000 overall.

"We wanted very conservative numbers so we're sure this is what we can do, so we've been looking at federal investments, T-bonds," he said. "Their return is 3.5 per cent, which is fairly low, but they're very safe."

"If elected, then we'd have more time to be creative and look into investing in sustainable technology, things that are in line with the ideology of our platform," he continued.

The presidential candidate said

he would want to enlist the help of the E.F. Schumacher Society, a Massachusetts-based group that specializes in the development of local currencies like the one Community is proposing.

Aoudi and Xenakis said that they have already discussed the initiative to campus groups like Le Frigo Vert and the Co-op Bookstore, both of whom Aoudi said are "very much on board."

Xenakis criticized this year's CSU executives' decision to spend big on one-off events like the Snoop Dogg concert last fall. He also pointed to the price tag on the CSU's two Nobel laureate speakers Shirin Ebadi and Wangari Maathai.

"Both those speakers spoke in H-110, which has a capacity of 700 people," he said. "Now how much does that cost relative to the amount of people that could see them?"

He said that this year's CSU executives' approach to spending was "really good—if you want to be glorified party planners."

Xenakis also promised a more transparent CSU under his slate, including a fight to film Council meetings—something currently not allowed under CSU precedent—and more detailed budgets.

Fusion ready for sweep

Calls for more visible opposition

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

After his slate routed the competition on poster night, Fusion presidential candidate Prince Ralph Osei pledged to campaign hard.

On March 12, Osei and his team had already put three consecutive 13-hour stints into the campaign—often skipping classes to hand out flyers, talk to students and visit classrooms.

"The most important part of the campaign is engaging students one-on-one," said Osei. "You look at the person in the face and if you're lying, if you're bullshitting them they'll know from talking to you."

As of March 12, the Community slate's campaign presence had been negligible.

"Unfortunately we have not seen the other team out there, so it's kind of sad to just give the students one side of things. We're looking forward to a second week of campaigning and hopefully we can see [Community presidential candidate] Mike Xanakis and his team out there so we can debate ideas."

Where Fusion has not had much in the way of political opposition, Osei said his party is waging a war on two fronts: mobilizing student voters while extending the awareness of Fusion's platform beyond Concordia's walls.

"My hope is that each and every

student turns out to vote," he said. "I don't care if it's not for my party, just vote. At the end of the day, you can't just sit down and not care. Because your money is at stake."

"The Canadian Federation of Students was ineffective in the fight against higher tuition fees," said Osei, who has openly stated defederation from the CFS is part of the Fusion slate's platform.

"I think the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec have been more effective in their fight against higher tuition fees than any other organization out there," Osei continued. "We need to take a page from their handbook and work with them."

Osei pointed to a protest FEUQ held on March 11 where they demanded that Quebec's minister of education put the federal government's \$35 million in education transfer directly into education.

Fusion maintains a daily presence in the Hall building's second floor mezzanine, The Hive and the G-Lounge on Loyola campus. The slate is also giving classroom speeches until the general elections start on March 23.

"It's been an interesting week to reach out to students," said Osei. "I think students have responded, sometimes because they have no choice, or because we're out there putting it in their face."

CFS referendum question survives contestation

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Even before the Concordia Student Union election campaign began, there were contestations.

Audrey Peek, the chairperson for the YES to the CFS Committee, filed a contestation with Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen against the Canadian Federation of Students referen-

dum question itself on March 8.

"There is an unfair advantage set for the No Committee because posters saying 'No to the CFS' appeared on Feb. 15, several weeks before the campaigning period began," said Peek, who ran under the pro-CFS Change slate in last year's CSU general election. "Also, the NO to the CFS Committee has been endorsed by

the Concordia Student Union."

Cohen dismissed Peek's contestations on March 12, arguing that pre-campaigning did not occur. The posters Peek contested were informational posters put up by the CSU after they were served a \$1 million bill by the national lobby group, according to the elections chief.

"I think posters encouraging

students to discontinue membership in the context of a referendum on continuing membership suggests a clear correlation between these posters and pre-campaigning," stated Peek. "There was no substance to his reply."

In response, Cohen stated that at the time the informational posters were posted a referendum

question was not established, therefore they could not have been campaigning.

According to the CEO, both the YES and NO committees had an equal amount of time to campaign since all posters—including the ones Peek was referring to—were taken down before the campaigning period officially began at midnight last Tuesday.

Fusion candidate's past in question

Ex-Dawson Student Union president doesn't remember much from her time at the top

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

As the Concordia Student Union general elections loom, CSU Council hopeful Melanie Hotchkiss' political past has become an object of scrutiny.

Hotchkiss, a former Dawson Student Union president, played a pivotal role in the 2005 accreditation referendum as its chief electoral officer. The process awarded the student union legal, political and financial autonomy from the administration—a move consequently denounced by administrators and other members of the DSU.

Critics claimed Hotchkiss, as the first president of the newly-accredited DSU, failed to co-manage the union's budget with the administration during the transitional first year. The process was intended to help union staff—who were mostly 18- and 19-year-olds with no experience handling six-figure budgets—slowly ease themselves into financial independence. Instead, the DSU took the school straight to court and won control of its \$280,000 annual budget.

The newly accredited union was constitutionally bound to fiscal transparency; each November, the DSU was required to present students with an audited financial statement, detailing the previous year's expenses. However, students were never presented with financial statements for Hotchkiss' 14 months in office.

On Nov. 22, 2006, newly-elected members of the DSU presented Hotchkiss with an ultimatum: resign or face impeachment proceedings. She resigned within the week.

Five years later, nobody seems to remember what happened.

"It's been a while," Hotchkiss said, as she tried to recall her time at Dawson. "I've been out of school for quite a few years now. That was quite a long time away."

Internal disputes within the DSU had begun shortly before Hotchkiss' term as president began in September 2005. During the college's 2005 winter semester, 17 DSU executives resigned before and after the accreditation referendum.

Ethan Cox, a former member of the DSU's executive council and one of the first proponents of

accreditation, claimed recently that the college's administration had a hand in the resignations.

"I know for a fact that [DSU senator] Ali Olshefsky resigned because she was bribed [by the administration in 2005]," said Cox, who is now a CSU councillor. "So, I know for a fact why Ali Olshefsky switched her position [on accreditation] and quit. [...] As to other people, it was a matter of pressure. This was a ridiculous situation and you can't expect people at that age and at that level of political lack of sophistication to be able to deal with a full-frontal assault from their own administration."

Not so, said Olshefsky.

"Anyone who knows me knows I would never take a bribe," said Olshefsky. "I also never resigned. In fact, there were so many resignations and conflicts of interests that I had to chair certain meetings myself. And I never changed my position on accreditation. I was always for it and I still support it. I just wanted us to ease into it so we could set up checks and balances."

"We needed that first year to work with administration and iron things out.

—Ali Olshefsky,
DSU's senator (2005)

Olshefsky said her main point of contention with Hotchkiss and Cox was that, for the first year of accreditation, she believed that the DSU should co-manage funds with the college's administration.

"Students come in and out of Dawson College in two years," she continued. "I thought it would be impossible to set up all the financial and political structures needed while simultaneously having all of the responsibilities of a student union."

"We needed that first year to work with administration and iron things out. I think [Hotchkiss] was afraid the administration would permanently revert to the way things were before accreditation."

The accreditation fallout took its toll on other union members as well.

"The continued ignoring of the constitution, the political attitudes and means of certain [DSU] mem-

bers, and the undermining of [...] students at large became too much for me to accept and I could not continue to compromise my values just to be a part of the team," wrote executive council member Daniel Kramer-Stein in his letter of resignation in the spring of 2005, months before Hotchkiss took over as president.

In his letter of resignation, executive council member Will Cundill wrote that he felt his opinions were constantly discredited as they often differed from those of other council members.

In 2008, then-DSU VP External Affairs Charlie Brenchley told *The Link* there was a lack of financial management during Hotchkiss' term as DSU president. Brenchley also said that Hotchkiss' DSU ran on a "cash system, with no real bookkeeping."

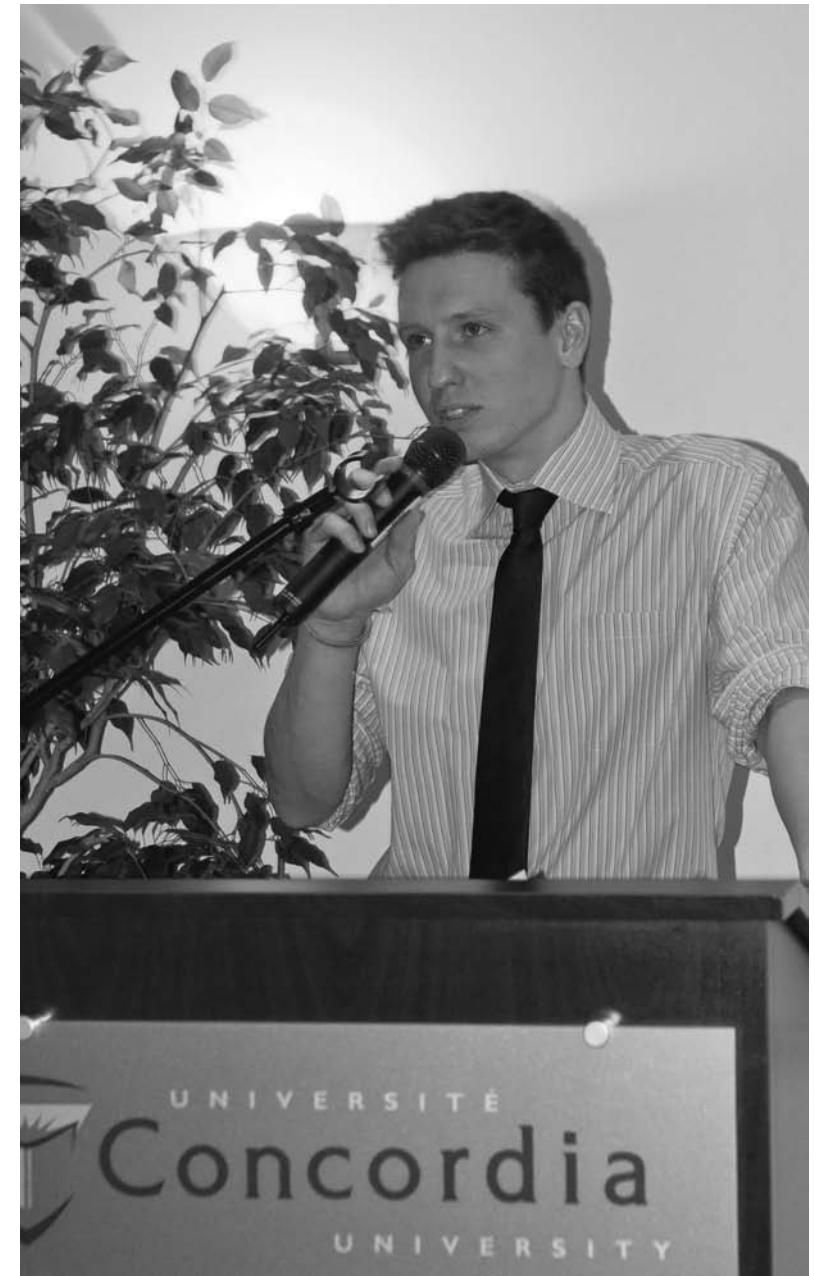
When asked last week for comment, Brenchley—who recently ran for president of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations—said he could not recall the financial workings of Hotchkiss' DSU.

"In terms of the financial system, it was a bit of a headache because of the VP Finance at the time," Hotchkiss replied, pointing to her subordinate's failure to establish financial accountability in the wake of accreditation. "It was really hard to get a chance to work with her on the finances themselves."

Employees at Dawson College are now strongly discouraged from speaking about accreditation publicly. In 2008, Dawson required employees to sign a contract stipulating that public denunciation of the DSU would not be protected by the college's lawyers in the event of a defamation suit from the student union.

A Dawson College employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of losing his job, said that the push for accreditation was rushed through and that full fiscal transparency could have been achieved with a year of co-management.

"We disagreed about co-management," said Olshefsky, "But I know how hard [Hotchkiss] fought for accreditation and I have nothing but respect for her. I wish her nothing but the best in the CSU elections."



CSU VP Sustainability and Services Alex Oster speaks at the Sustainability Awards Gala. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Pouring the bubbly for green

Concordia celebrates first Sustainability Awards Gala

• RILEY SPARKS

At its first ever Sustainability Awards Gala on March 10, Concordia presented its Sustainability Champion awards to students and staff who worked to reduce the size of the university's environmental footprint.

"At Concordia we have become ambassadors of change and we believe it's change for the better," said Concordia VP Services Michael Di Grappa. Citing university initiatives such as the MB Building's solar panels and the Loyola composting project, Di Grappa called Concordia a leader in on- and off-campus sustainability.

The Sustainability Champion awards were established to recognize "students, staff, faculty or local businesses that are setting an example, making waves, catalysing change or making a difference in the sustainability of our university."

Among the award winners were

business student Kelly Laidlaw, who was recognized for her work to ensure that this year's John Molson MBA International Case Competition was more environmentally responsible. Laidlaw is also the VP Sustainability for the John Molson Sustainability Business Group. Raymond Paquin, a JMSB assistant professor who teaches an MBA course in sustainability, was also honoured. He also acts as a faculty advisor for iCOP, a JMSB program that places grad students in work positions in the developing world.

At the gala, Concordia Student Union VP Sustainability and Services Alex Oster praised Concordia students' commitment to the environment.

"We are the knowledge base of tomorrow. We're emerging, educated citizens," said Oster, who added that Concordia students are an "eager and able resource base for community development."

CFS-Q chairperson resigns to head fight against CFS

Kaats to lead No campaign for McGill graduate students

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

At 4:59 p.m. on March 10, Adrian Kaats was the chairperson for the Quebec component of the Canadian Federation of Students. One minute later, his resignation was official and he was helping McGill students defederate from the CFS.

Much like the Concordia Student Union, McGill's Post-Graduate Student Society is going to a referendum in late March to decide whether or not to leave the CFS. While the Concordia referendum has not been supported by the CFS, the McGill referendum was one of two "approved" for the 2009-10 academic year—the other being at the Alberta College of Art and Design.

Kaats, now the chair of the No to CFS Committee at the PGSS, did not resign due to disagreement with the other members of the CFS-Q, but due to a legal settlement signed in January. The settlement between the CFS and CFS-Q, who are at loggerheads with each other, did not allow for any person at the Quebec component to talk about referenda or disaffiliation.

"I could say, 'Hi, my name is Adrian Kaats and I am a member of the PGSS and I want to talk about disaffiliating,' but it would be disingenuous to support leaving the organization that I am the chair of without telling people," said Kaats.

Due to the legal agreement, Kaats said that the CFS would find a way to sue him—unless, he added in jest, he walked around with a tape recorder recording his every word.

Despite being one of the approved referenda, the PGSS brought the CFS to court in January to force the national student lobby group to give it referendum dates.

"The safeguard failed, largely because on the day they went to

court the CFS sent a letter to the PGSS saying, 'Here are two days for voting: March 31 and April 1,'" said Kaats. "The problem with that is that this summer the PGSS held a referendum to affiliate with [the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec] and it took two and a half days to reach quorum."

Kaats said that the CFS was made aware of the issue reaching quorum—the minimum threshold of students required for valid results—in such a short period of time.

"They hope that it will not reach quorum and fail," said Kaats, who added that the PGSS had spent much of February negotiating with the CFS to get more referendum dates to no avail.

"What's the point of holding a referendum that is designed to not meet quorum? The object is to poll your members and get a reasonable sample of your members," said Kaats.

After the lack of progress negotiating, the PGSS received a mandate from its council to go ahead with pre-set rules, voting dates and questions. The polling will now be held from March 29 to April 1.

"The PGSS had the mandate to go forward with all four days," said Kaats. "They are going forward with the four days. The CFS is saying no."

To help with any possible court battle, the PGSS had a judicial precedent. They used the referendum rules approved by the British Columbia Supreme Court after Vancouver-based Kwantlen College (now Kwantlen University) attempted a defederation in March 2008 that ended up in court.

"The CFS is creating a scenario under which is it impossible to approve a vote even if it happens," said Kaats. "They hold all the marbles and a gun to your head."



Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff may be the last defender of the native women's shelter. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Native funding on the chopping block

Federal Liberals vow to fight against Conservative cuts

• LAURA BEESTON

Just one day after International Women's Day on March 8, executives from the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal logged onto the Conservative party's website to discover that their funding had been cut.

Receiving federal money for over a decade through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation—a national, non-profit organization established in 1999 that supports Aboriginal healing initiatives—the Montreal shelter was one of over 130 different First Nations women's centres across the country to feel "recalibrated" budget blows.

"It's a shame," said Marci Shapiro, executive director of the Montreal shelter. "The Aboriginal Healing Fund was so impressed with our shelter that they wanted to use us as a template for other organizations in terms of holistic programming. I was sure we were still going to get the money."

In operation since 1987, the Montreal shelter currently serves over 376 women who use the shelter and outreach services.

After discovering the announcement, the shelter wasted no time bringing the news to the attention of federal politicians. It was

brought to the forefront of Michael Ignatieff's Montreal visit on March 14, where he invited the audience to "have a frank and open discussion on women."

Swivelling in his chair to face the 150 members of audience in the centre of the auditorium, Ignatieff responded directly to the concerns about the shelter when Shapiro requested that the Liberal party raise the reinstatement of funding to the AHF in the House of Commons.

"A straight question demands a straight answer," Ignatieff said. "The answer to that is yes. We will undertake and raise this in the House of Commons next week without fail."

The crowd roared.

If the funding ceases by March 31, as was prescribed in the federal budget, Shapiro said they will lose "several key personnel—the majority who are Aboriginal women—who will have their positions terminated."

"The funding for the last 10 years [has allowed us to have] a program coordinator, sexual assault councillor, elder, sweat lodge ceremonies, an art therapist, psychotherapist, psychologist and many workshops," said Shapiro. "Now we won't be able to offer that

anymore. It's devastating. We've been a leader in this and now we might have to go back to the basics [...]. We've got a dedicated staff, we've done awesome work. It's a shame."

In the scrum following the town hall-style meeting, Ignatieff reinforced his party position.

"We don't think it's appropriate that they have to go begging to the private sources [for funding] when we think these institutions perform public services," he said. "They protect, shelter and help women and they deserve public support [...]. These cuts are absurd."

"At a moment when aboriginal families and aboriginal women are under maximum pressure in an economic downturn and other conditions, it's the worst possible time to cut funding to these healing and health centres that provide us so much good," he continued.

Since January, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been championing initiatives on maternal and child health care in developing nations as a "signature focus" at the upcoming G8 meetings. Canada currently holds the organization's rotating presidency.

Services for Aboriginal women and children in Canada depend on the AHF, argued Shapiro.

Concordia takes bronze at Communications Games

• NIKITA LOUIS-JACQUES SMITH

Hard work, dedication and a strong desire to prove themselves led Concordia to finish third at this year's Communication Games.

"This year, you could not tell the difference between Concordia and the other delegations," said Hugo Pilon-Larose, a journalism student who finished first in the

debate competition.

The annual games, which set nine French-speaking universities against each other in a four-day competition of media, journalism and communication contests, has seen Concordia sweep the bottom rung every year until now.

"We had practices every Sunday evening," explained Julien Gauthier, one of the leaders of this

year's delegation. "It's the first year that we asked that much of the people, but it really worked well. Without the hard work, we wouldn't have finished in the top three."

The delegation, made up of 33 communications and journalism students, had been practicing since October for the games that were held from March 3 to 7 in

Moncton, N.B. One thing that Concordia's team set out to prove this year was that it could compete in the games, which are conducted in university-level French.

"Having finished third, now they know we are real competitors," said Sabrina Allard, another of the delegation's leaders.

As well as coming in third overall, the Concordia delegation

received two Spirit Awards and three honourable mentions from other universities competing in the games.

"We are probably going to work with those people later on in life," stated Charles D'Amboise, third leader of the delegation. "Having them know we did well in the 2010 delegation will prove that we are able to get the job done."



Dear Concordia undergraduate students,

The Concordia Student Union filed their petition to leave the Canadian Federation of Students on Oct. 19. Since then, it appears as though the national lobby group has pulled out every trick up its sleeve to devalue the democratic process taking place on our campus.

You, as a member of the Concordia Student Union, pay 41 cents per credit (\$1.23 per course) to the CFS, amounting to a total of approximately \$200,000 per year. The student press has tried to cooperate with the national lobby group, asking the questions that count: what has the CFS done for us lately (*The Link*, Vol. 30, Iss. 7, Sep. 29)? Exactly how many schools have sent similar petitions to the CFS national office by registered mail (*The Link*, Vol. 30, Iss. 7, Sep. 29)? If the CSU sent our defederation petition to CFS offices on Oct. 19, why was its receipt only legally acknowledged on Jan. 11? And, furthermore, where does the claim for \$1,033,278.76 of overdue CSU membership fees—your money—come from (*The Link*, Vol. 30, Iss. 23, Feb. 16)?

Direct answers to these questions and many more are either continually avoided or appear to be scripted by their lawyers; it's all spin and no spit.

In turn, the CFS has spoken loudly and clearly about how they prefer to spend our student money in communicating with their membership: by paying for advertisement space.

The opposite full-page ad throws out large numbers without any context as to the return of services for fees paid. It goes on to claim the CSU has “united with more than 500,000 students” through CFS membership. How we are united, other than through the inevitability of our concurrent membership, has yet to be explained.

Defederation petitions and lawsuits have been filed, ranging from the Alberta College of Art and Design Students’ Association (whose name appears in the top left-hand corner of the ad, oddly) to the University of Guelph’s Central Student Association. There are 13 schools in all.

The seven-figure debt is supposedly “well-documented,” but the only proof that’s been made available is a letter signed by the former CSU president last April—and first delivered to the current CSU executive last month.

In Katherine Giroux-Bougard’s statement, she says the CSU “has not contacted our Federation to inform itself of the background of the issue.” This is a paltry attempt at turning the tables; the onus is on the CFS to send an official record showing outstanding fees due.

Giroux-Bougard goes on to say the CSU’s referendum question on continued CFS membership is “outside of the laws governing our Federation.”

Consider what appears to be the only two valid points that prevent the CFS from granting the CSU a referendum:

- a) the claim of outstanding membership fees, which appears to be unfounded, and
- b) an amendment to the CFS bylaws—passed in violation of internal procedure and made after the CSU’s petition was filed—which disallows more than two referendums on continued CFS membership on CFS member campuses.

Jurisprudence will set the path for the CSU, since the University of Guelph, Kwantlen University in B.C. and McGill’s Post-Graduate Students’ Society will see a judge to ratify their “illegal” referendums on continued memberships before month’s end.

To our readers, you may wonder why *The Link* accepted this ad in the first place. *The Link* has a boycott policy it adheres to designed with unethical businesses in mind, but we cannot simply refuse to run a campaign ad during campaign season. Editorial direction is separate from advertising.

But as editor-in-chief, I could not sit idly by as such a mockery paraded through our paper in an attempt to debunk not only the reporting *The Link* has done throughout the year, but also claim the paperwork the CSU has provided does not exist (it would be nice to see some files from the CFS, though).

So, I will leave it to you, readers, to use your own judgement. I would rather have the opportunity to address Giroux-Bougard’s talking points—though it appears dialogue with students wasn’t an intention—than not run the ad at all.

Is the \$700 of your money that the CFS spent on this ad enough to buy your vote?

*Terrine Friday,
Editor-in-chief*

A writer's holy trinity



A publisher, editor and literary agent host talk on what it takes to get immortalized in print

There's no golden rule to getting yourself published. Just write the best book you possibly can. GRAPHIC ELLEN LEUNG

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The route to being widely read can be long and sweet or short and arduous. But if you want the advice of one of Canada's largest publishers, an editor who's worked her way up the literary ladder, or an agent who doesn't buy a book she isn't fully confident will sell, it'll be free for the taking on March 18.

Part of Concordia's Writers Read series, Professional Development Day pairs up industry insiders with those eager to be authors.

It's almost easier for writers to publish their first novel than their second or third, said Alana Wilcox, one of the panelists on Thursday's roundtable, and the senior editor of Coach House Books, a small Toronto publisher.

"These days there's a sort of fetish for first novels and a hunger for new voices," she said.

Wilcox, a one-time author herself, barely has time to read for pleasure, let alone write.

"I think the process of having written and having published a book definitely helps," she continued. "I think it makes me more and less sympathetic; it's hard to be edited, so it makes me, in some ways, more gentle in how I do it and also more demanding because I know they can do it."

With self-publishing on the rise, the role of editor is starting to resemble that of a curator, Wilcox noted.

"You know the way music geeks choose their albums by label? I think a

lot of book nerds choose their books by publisher," she said. "So, if you're looking to submit your manuscript somewhere, you take a look at your bookshelf and see who's published the books that you're most interested in."

Coach House publishes 15 books a year out of the 1,000 or so manuscripts that are submitted. More often than not there's more than 15 good manuscripts in the pile, said Wilcox, which means she selects books based on personal preference and what has the potential to sell.

"These days there's a sort of fetish for first novels and a hunger for new voices."

—Alana Wilcox,
Coach House Books fiction editor

"[Then again] you can never predict how well a book is going to sell," she pointed out. "Our best seller of all time is a book of avant-garde poetry. We didn't see that coming."

"What people read in their spare time isn't necessarily what they feel they can sell," acknowledged Rebecca Strong, the face—and name—behind the Rebecca Strong International Literary Agency in New York, and a fellow guest panelist. According to Strong, literary agents are a must for writers hoping to turn their afternoon hobby into their day job.

The book publishing process can really bash you on the rocks. My job is to navigate a new writer through those

channels to a safe harbour," Strong said, between negotiating licenses for books overseas and meeting with her stable of aspiring authors.

"If you're going to bypass agents, there has to be a very good reason for it," she continued. "Most of the larger publishing houses that I deal with really don't look at unsolicited submissions."

If Strong has any tips for aspiring authors who want to get published on their own, she suggests finding a writer who's already been published in the area they're interested in writing and see how they did it—it's as easy as checking out the acknowledgements page of their book.

Self-publishing is risky, but it doesn't always come without its rewards, said Strong, citing *The Shack* by William P. Young as an example. The book gained attention by strong word of mouth and heavy promotion by Christian radio. Young went on to sell over a million copies without the need for a publisher.

"The fact is, if you're within a community and you find your readers, I think that's the most important thing," Strong said. "So as long as you have a great story, I don't really think it matters which platform you publish in first."

The final instalment of Concordia's Writers Reads series will take place on March 18 at 1:15 p.m. in the Hall building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) in room H-767, and will feature Anne Collins, the vice-president of Random House Canada, in addition to Alana Wilcox and Rebecca Strong.

Rising to the challenge

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The Irving Layton Prizes for Fiction and Poetry, named for the late poet and Concordia professor, were handed out March 12.

"These awards provide important recognition, but also an important—and sometimes difficult—competitive experience for poets who are just beginning to make their work public," said Concordia creative writing professor Stephanie Bolster, who for the first time in her tenure has not been on the deciding jury.

The prize for fiction went to English honours and creative writing student Andrew Battershill for "Stop by Falling" and the poetry prize went to creative writing undergrad Emma Healey, for her poem "Begin With the End in Mind."

"I feel very fortunate to have been granted the award," said Andrew Battershill. "Because I'm aware that in a just universe [fellow nominee] Erica Schmidt would win every writing contest she submitted to."

"As my colleague [fiction jury chair] Kate Sterns said—though more eloquently than I—one's writing always seems excellent when kept to oneself," said Bolster. "The challenge of submitting work to a contest like this is considerable."

And profitable. Both winners walked away with \$500 prize money.

See below for an original poem from Irving Layton Award Poetry Prize winner Emma Healey.

Lit Writ

The Problem of History

• EMMA HEALEY

Mostly it's pretending. That's why we have ipods, Jameson,
why we abbreviate our trips to Dollarama,
why last week I kissed someone I only halfliked
in the silty doorway-dark of a party's slow dissolve
instead of going home. Last week, over coffee,
Richard drew patterns in the sugar with his index finger
and said "I can feel the weight of it bearing up behind me."
Like I can't justify myself to myself." Sometimes
you hit the wrong light and it hits you. Start summing yourself.
Capless ballpoint pens, matchbooks, hydro bills,
magnets, the cough-choke sputter of a printer out of ink.
Even the most unparalleled engineers would stare,
cock an eyebrow and shrug. On the radio,
someone back-announced Phil Collins and told us tomorrow's weather.
I nodded. You can't swallow a tidal wave.

To submit your fiction or poetry to the Lit Writ column, e-mail them to lit@thelinknewspaper.ca.

One for the Nipper

New life breathed into lost Canadian comic strip

• SEBASTIEN CADIEUX

Growing up, you may not remember seeing "Nipper," the adorable tyke who terrorized both neighbours and family, in the funny pages alongside Charlie Brown or Dennis the Menace, but that doesn't mean he isn't a classic.

The invention of English-born cartoonist Doug Wright, *Nipper* has all but faded into the pages of comic history. One of Canada's most prolific cartoonists in the 1950s and '60s, Wright's work appeared in the *Montreal Standard's* Sunday edition before being serialized across the country.

The Collected Doug Wright: Canada's Master Cartoonist is the first volume in a planned set showcasing Wright's life work. This 14 by nine-inch hardcover from Drawn & Quarterly may be the only fitting way to reprint much of Wright's work, originally printed as magazine covers and detailed vertical comic strips. The book's large format also serves to transport the reader back to a time when the Sunday papers' large comics section was spread out over a bed or kitchen table and studied for hours.

The collection, edited and

designed by Canadian cartoonist Seth, is mainly a portfolio of Wright's published work, but it also includes a number of earlier art and sketches as well as a short but detailed biography of the man and his career.

It starts with the comic strips he drew of fellow servicemen during the Second World War—when he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force—and then moves on to his time as an illustrator for newspapers and magazines, covering *Nipper's* decades-long run.

Though the strips started in the late 1940s, the world that the comic characters live in has a distinct local look that even modern Montrealers will recognize.

The strips demonstrate Wright's tremendous skill as an illustrator, with amazingly detailed depictions of period cars, houses, clothing and the like. More impressive still is his skill as a purely visual cartoonist. In the 13 years' worth of strips in this collection, Wright warms the heart and provides poignant lessons on family along with humour, all without the use of dialogue.

The only words that appear in the strips either come in the form of sound effects or as details woven into



Nipper, circa 1951.

the background. Doing away with dialogue not only shows Wright's skill as a storyteller, but his business savvy; he expanded his audience by leaping language barriers.

Due to the fact that most of his work was originally syndicated in newspapers, the opportunity to use a full range of colour did not often present itself. Wright used this to his advantage, however, choosing to use only one colour—red—to amaz-

ing effect for highlights, to colour key objects like a balloon or a car, or simply to guide the reader's eye.

Wright's visual storytelling and acute attention to detail elevate his work to the same echelon of comic strip artists as Bill Watterson, Milton Caniff and Charles Schultz, and cement his title as Canada's master cartoonist.

Though this collection does sport a hefty price tag, it's well

worth the expense to own this nearly-forgotten treasure trove of Canadians, if only to admire the beautifully-detailed and expressive illustrations.



**The Collected
Doug Wright Vol. 1**
Doug Wright
Drawn & Quarterly
240 pp
\$39.95

Spring is back, time to Fall forward

Colin McAdam's second novel explores obsession within an Ottawa boarding school

• PASCALE ROSE LICINIO

Fall haunts the minds of most of the teenagers going to St. Ebury, the exclusive Ottawa boarding school in which Colin McAdam's latest novel, *Fall*, is set.

In a room right above the main entrance of the school, two very different teenagers share a bunk bed and a love for Fall, a teenage girl.

Julius thinks about sports, sex, parties and Fall, his girlfriend. His admiration for her is matter of fact: "She looks, like, elegant." The son of the American ambassador to Canada, he is handsome, rich, simple and the school's golden boy.

His outcast roommate, Noel, is a more complex character. He has a lazy eye and he keeps to himself, working out in his spare time instead of socializing. His father is a minor Canadian diplomat in Australia. He is consumed with love for Fall and has wanted her for years.

"When I achieved a perfect mark on an essay, it presaged



Fall's author, Colin McAdam, was the recent recipient of the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

Fall's eventual love for me," he tells us. "When I scored a shot from the line in basketball, which I

rarely did, it was because I would kiss Fall that week, that term, that year."

"I wanted to get into the voice of someone going through [their] teen years. I wanted to reimagine the feel of it."

—Colin McAdam,
author of Fall

"I wanted to get into the voice of someone going through [their] teen years," said author Colin McAdam about his characters' passion for Fall. "I wanted to reimagine the feel of it."

Sharing a room with Julius is Noel's one chance to be near Fall. Noel eventually ends up acting as a messenger between them—until one day she disappears.

For one reason or another, Fall is on everyone's minds. But she doesn't have a voice in the novel, which is told from the perspective of Noel, Julius and the driver of Julius' father, William.

"I decided to write the novel

from a male's perspective," explained McAdam. "Fall is a character that is imagined more than fleshed-out."

McAdam wanted to write a book that differed from the usual portrayal of teens in movies and in novels: "They are always so witty, so articulate."

"I don't want to [fingerpoint]," he said, then paused. "Just think about Juno for example," he added with a smile.

In *Fall*, as the two roommates deal with shock and loss, confide in us and show their true colours, we realize that the characters aren't so forthcoming.

"The tragedy in the book comes from the fact that the characters tend to think in terms of types and fantasies and don't go further," said McAdam. "The two boys may share a bunk bed but they don't know each other."



Fall
Colin McAdam
Riverhead
368 pp
\$25.95

THE

LINK

30



Sustainability special insert

The bad guys are winning

Welcome to Sustainability in 2010

While planning and preparing for this issue we found out something troubling: that many sustainability activists at Concordia are worried.

After all the excitement of the last year, where so much energy was poured into selling the dangers of climate change to the public, the “bad guys,” as some of them put it, were winning. What had gone wrong?

After eight years in office, even George W. Bush was finally convinced of the dangers of climate change. Carbon was the hot topic. Ideas like carbon offsets were spreading and green taxes were in vogue. And yet Copenhagen failed.

For the first time, the new green movement was associated with the smell of failure. If you couldn’t get a climate accord passed in Copenhagen, a “snow-covered city” so green it has more accidents on its bicycle highways than on its motor highways, then you couldn’t get one passed anywhere.

With the world looking to keep the global economy alive and the United States off chasing its

newest shiny thing—health care reform—the sustainable economy has fallen to the side and it is starting to smell a little off. It feels more like a fad gone downhill, reduced from the front window of Holt Renfrew to the Wal-Mart bargain bin, than a social and political system to reorder society around a common-sense relationship with the planet we live on.

Which is why this walk in the wilderness might be good for sustainability. Most of the things that made thinking green popular during the last three years were fads—adding that sustainable dress to your full closet, for example—or at least they should be.

Carbon offsets are another troublesome feature of the last round of the green economy. Offsets happen when you pay a company to plant trees in Thailand to offset the carbon you produce from eating New Zealand apples. This is a red-hot market with few controls or oversight. Were the trees actually planted? Who knows, and that’s the problem.

In shedding these popular manifestations of sustainability—

most of which resemble the old Catholic indulgences where you could simply pay your way to heaven—the green economy could regain a footing in reality.

On page 8, Vivien Leung sets out a sustainable day. It requires turning the lights off a little more, using a lot less packaging and getting your hands dirty in a backyard garden and compost. The hybrid Lexus did not make the cut, but public transit did.

North Americans spend 90 per cent of their lives indoors. Laura Beeston, on pages 4 and 5, sets out how Concordia students might soon have a space to stretch under the sun on campus and spend a little less of their time cooped up indoors—getting a little closer to Mother Nature and a little further away from the glow of LCD screens.

Those pieces, along with the other stories in this issue, are based on taking sustainability back from the bad guys and winning one for yourself. Maybe you don’t have a thousand pages from Copenhagen telling you what to do, but here are a few ideas.

Go ahead, try one.

—Justin Giovannetti & Vivien Leung,
Sustainability issue coordinators



“We need a new environmental consciousness on a global basis. To do this, we need to educate people.”

—Mikhail Gorbachev

Empowering architecture

• CLARE RASPOPOW

According to American psychologist Abraham Maslow, shelter is a fundamental human need. But modern humans have taken that dependence to a whole new level.

These days, the average American spends about 90 per cent of their time indoors. The shelters they spend their days in are heated during the winter, cooled during the summer, bright at night, equipped with ventilation and indoor plumbing; oases away from the cruelty of the natural elements. However, all of that comfort comes with a hefty price tag.

Almost 40 per cent of the United States' carbon emissions—the second largest polluter in the world next to China—come from maintaining buildings, 20 per cent from residential buildings alone. In 2006, the power draw of buildings accounted for 72 per cent of total U.S. electricity consumption.

Canadians aren't doing much better; the combined power use of our residential and commercial buildings is greater than all industrial usage.

Humans have created a society of enormous, inefficient buildings that siphon power off the grid and offer nothing in return. But all of that could change in the near future.

With an eye towards lowering our power consumption and reducing our carbon footprints, scientists have been working hard to come up with technologies that capture the natural energy we let slip away every day, turning our very buildings into batteries.

Every window a solar panel

When most people think of solar panels they imagine big, black ugly rectangles hanging off of someone's roof. Ted Sargent at the University of Toronto imagined the big glass office tower you pass every day on your way through downtown. In 2005 Sargent, an electrical and computer engineer, helped invent a spray-on solar technology with the potential to be five times more efficient than the industry standard of the day. His technology used plastics instead of the usual metal solar cells and was capable of absorbing invisible infrared light as well.

Since the initial development of the technology, scientists in the field have been in a race to invent better, less noticeable, more environmentally-friendly and easily-applied alternatives. Most recently, New Energy Technology devel-

oped see-through, spray-on solar technology with the capability of capturing and converting not only visible light from the sun, but fluorescent light as well.

The spray-on substance, which is composed of thousands of tiny solar cells the size of a grain of rice and one-one-thousandth the width of a human hair, can be applied at room temperature, potentially turning every window into a solar panel.

The air up there

We've all seen pictures of wind farms; empty fields full of streamlined white windmills, turning slowly in the afternoon sun. It's hard to imagine how the technology would be applicable in the context of a city, but scientists haven't given up hope. An Ontario firm, Magenn Power Inc., has developed a new generation of airborne wind turbines.

The technology consists of a bladder held aloft with either helium or hydrogen that spins horizontally, generating electricity high above our heads—between 600 and 1,000 feet in the air to be exact. The floating generator takes advantage of the increased high-altitude wind speeds and low-level and nocturnal jet streams to produce higher electrical yields than their earthbound counterparts. The power this blimp-like dynamo produces is carried down the tether wire to be used immediately or stored in batteries.

As of now, the technology has been proposed mostly for rural areas that don't have a grid, but the idea has the potential for urban adoption. There are a few downsides to this method of electrical generation—generators could have to be pulled in during severe weather and might require no-fly zones—but the potential payoff would certainly be worth it.

Watch your step

Most people don't give much thought to the energy we expend walking around. For the scientists developing certain piezoelectric technologies, it's just about all they think about.

Piezoelectric



materials produce electricity in response to mechanical pressure—say the pressure you exert on the floor when you're walking. Small motors in the floor are pressed down and then expand again as you walk over them, creating an electrical current which is funnelled into a power storage device. If placed in a public space, the millions of steps daily would create a powerful power source.

Though piezoelectric technology has been around since the late 1800s, it's really just in the last decade that scientists and civil engineers have started taking advantage of the wide-scale adoption of the science.

In 2006, the East Japan Railway Company integrated piezoelectric elements into the flooring of its ticket turnstiles in Shibuya Central Station. The energy generated by the motors as 2.4 million people walk over them is enough to power the LED display boards throughout the station, as well as the internal lights along the walls.

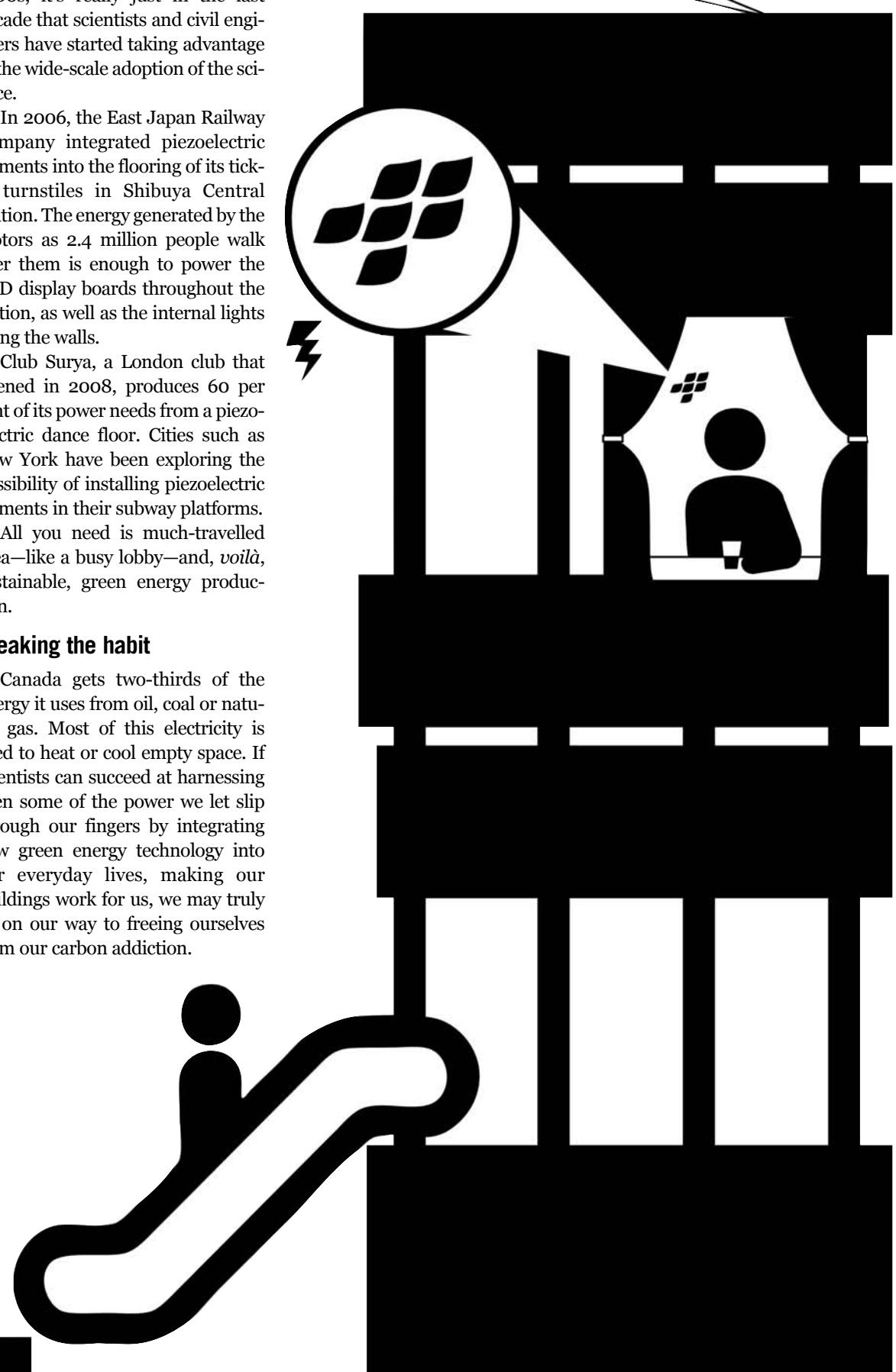
Club Surya, a London club that opened in 2008, produces 60 per cent of its power needs from a piezoelectric dance floor. Cities such as New York have been exploring the possibility of installing piezoelectric elements in their subway platforms.

All you need is much-travelled area—like a busy lobby—and, voilà, sustainable, green energy production.

Breaking the habit

Canada gets two-thirds of the energy it uses from oil, coal or natural gas. Most of this electricity is used to heat or cool empty space. If scientists can succeed at harnessing even some of the power we let slip through our fingers by integrating new green energy technology into our everyday lives, making our buildings work for us, we may truly be on our way to freeing ourselves from our carbon addiction.

Scientists and civil engineers strive to create buildings that give back to the grid



Time to redesign

Concordia's green space starts with students



• LAURA BEESTON

Gaggles of second-year design students put their heads together on March 10, pouring over sketches, light tables and textbooks to collaboratively work on a class project like none other.

Assigned to draft a plan for a green and sustainable Mackay Street—starting with the Hall building's back yard terrace—these students have been challenged to create an Eden in the urban throes of cars, concrete and construction.

On scattered papers and PDFs they have laid down the concepts for their Renaissance.

Rain-collecting water systems, gardens and public art lines the brick walls behind Java U; hybrid chair-planter and snaking sets of garden-benches form comfortable-looking common areas; the black streetlights currently illuminating late nights spent on the Reggie's patio have been transformed into bar tables with stools.

All created sustainably—and beautifully—by students earning credit by designing for the community.

Not the same old 'greening' of Mackay

According to Concordia archives, creating green space on Mackay has been on and off the

drawing boards, and in and out of the Concordia student government's agenda, since 1971.

An official proposal from 1988 was abandoned in 1993. In 1995, a new proposal revived the movement, and a fundraiser fronted by alt-rockers The Violent Femmes apparently "did more harm than good" for the street's reputation.

The revamped "Greening Mackay," the collective dream of students, came with a five cent per credit fee levy increase, which accumulated \$53,000 by 2000. At that time, the extent of the project was a 3D model of the project and three wooden planters, costing students a whopping \$22,000.

This was also the year the Concordia Student Union faced a near-\$200,000 fraud scandal that threw the project under a microscope, revealing organizational and budgetary flaws along with a total lack of oversight.

For the next decade, the enthusiasm for the project dissipated from students' consciousness. At the same time, reports of traffic and parking trends created a vision of a "pedestrian mall" that became the apple of the university administration's eye.

Co-opting elements of the original Greening Mackay project, the Concordia administration was solicited by the city for a proposal

and submitted a less-than-stellar plan that had little community support last winter.

Since that time, the greening has also become a talking point on the platform of the \$22-million revitalization plan for Quartier Concordia, which is responsible for such greening strides as the Norman Bethune concrete-heavy makeover.

"It was the wrong approach," said Alex Oster, the CSU's VP Sustainability and Services, who is involved in outreach and community engagement for the current revisioning project. Now the plan has been unofficially dubbed "Our Street" in an attempt to re-brand the stalled legacy. The project started brainstorming last November.

"[This time] we're going about creating a community development project that is not only student-driven, but grassroots—from the ground up, with people power," he said.

Explaining that students have been asked to envision a design that could demonstrate how Concordia could manage its private and public space more effectively, Oster emphasized that integrating residents, merchants, students and the Quartier Concordia community at large is the best approach to getting green space on the ground.

"We're willing to engage with the community and ask 'what do

you want?'" he said. "Inclusion is one of the big things that was missing last year and is currently missing from the Quartier Concordia project. Did anybody ask you if you wanted the grey Norman Bethune slab of concrete that's down there now? Of course not. I'm sure the pigeons are even upset about it [...] but I bet that if you did ask Concordia professors, students and community members what to do with the area you would get a myriad of beautiful, beautiful responses."

Student visionaries

"I think that a lot of people—even Concordia students—retreat to the McGill campus because we're always in this urban environment and want to be around nature," said Vince Beauchemin, one of the Concordia student designers, looking up from his light table. "Why don't we offer that here? What's wrong with the picture? We're Concordia. We're supposed to be sustainable and green. Let's design it."

Beauchemin gestured to some photographs his design group had taken of the Hall building's terrace as it appears now; they look gross, grey and grim. The building's barren backyard terrace, with defaced public artwork and cigarette butts piling up on the concrete, show "a

total lack of respect" for an area in need of revival, he contended.

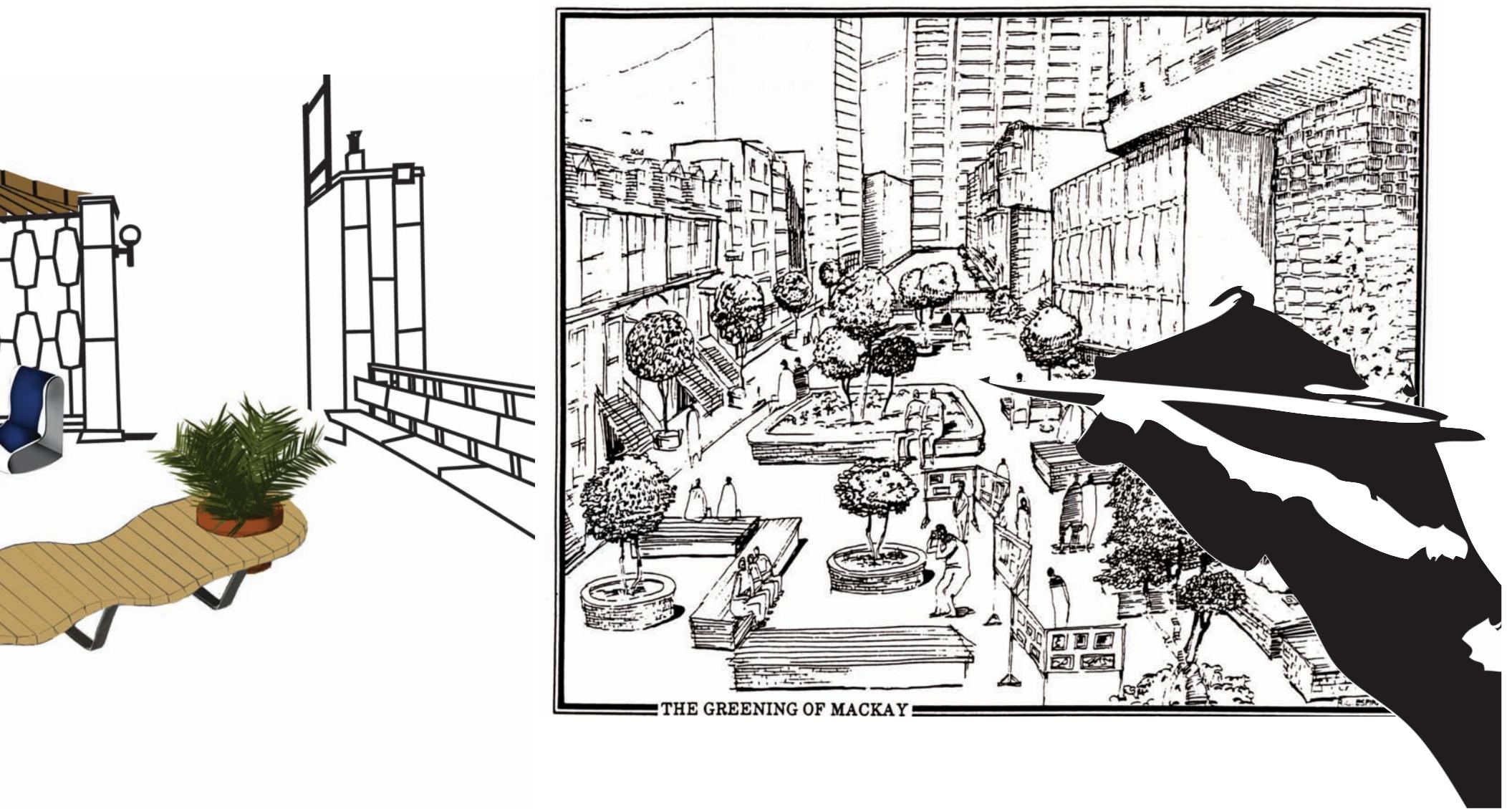
"We're not maximizing the use out of this space at all," he said. "This is our school and this [project] has a lot to do with pride in it, in our community and in our city. We're working to make it better."

Three weeks into the project, the students seem determined and enthused that what happens in the classroom may one day benefit larger outdoor life downtown. They cut each other off when talking about their ideas, they debate which plants, herbs and colour palettes will best integrate with the natural light or attract the birds.

"Because it could be used by students and the community, it adds a little bit of an emotional attachment to the project," said student designer Mark Pragai. "It's more exciting. Students should be building for students. So many people come here and learn here, but they should also give back and build for each other."

"That is such a good idea," interrupted colleague Andrew Gordanier. "We should also be throwing up our art on the walls. We should be shaping the university culture ourselves and not just the other way around. It's like FUBU, you know? For us, by us."

PK Langshaw, the design and computational arts professor



instructing the class, said she hopes this pilot will embed another vision for greening Mackay Street into the university's mandate and curricula.

"What if we could have a course where there is collaboration to create a green space for the downtown campus with urban planning, engineering, design and studio arts students who are interested in sustainability and public artwork? It could be really beautiful and really profile Concordia," she said.

Collaborative community

Receiving weekly feedback on their work from the groups invested in the project, including Sustainable Concordia, the Rooftop Garden Project, Vert Ta Ville and the CSU, the designers said they felt challenged to improve their ideas as the weeks tick by and as they gain a better understanding of what the larger community is looking for.

"I looked at the old proposal and really sensed that [the former designers] just focused on the social side of things and didn't consider that this is more than just a private university space—and they quite literally suggested AstroTurf," said design student Antonio Starnino. "This time we're using ecological, sustainable and recycled materials and we're considering that there are so many different

people who will use this space throughout the year."

The challenges of working collaboratively with many levels of organizations and within certain parameters is part of the learning process, said Langshaw.

"This is a cultural project and the stakeholders are very different. You have many more complexities," she pointed out. "Here the students are working on something that has to be developed every week and it's always cyclical—or moves forward and sideways, up and down, depending on the feedback."

One thing the "Our Street" organization has come to an agreement on is that Concordia's campus has a responsibility to grow in a greener direction and foster the urban community.

"This is the first step. What comes out of this project eventually will be entirely the community's idea," said Oster. "We're providing a lot of the impetus, design work and urban planning work, but basically this is about asking the community what potential a project like this could have."

A "visioning" session, open to the general public and showcasing the students' design work, will take place on April 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the SCPA building (2149 Mackay St.).

The business end of things

• CLAY HEMMERICH

2150 Mackay Dép

Haider Mahabub owns and manages a small dépanneur on 2150 Mackay St., across the street from Reggie's. He was first approached about the greening of Mackay two years ago and promptly signed a petition advocating against it.

Mahabub said his store would be inaccessible during construction, leaving him unable to keep up with the rent and bills.

"There's going to be less business because nobody passes the street [in cars]," Mahabub said. "The delivery man is going to have problems bringing products in."

He was hesitant when asked about the positive effects of foot traffic.

"Maybe [foot traffic] would be good," said Mahabub, "but only if there is a festival or something like that."

Mahabub said that he would like to see the plans before construction takes place, because he would like to know what is going on.

When asked about his ideal situation, he said he "would like the

street open, but maybe a larger pavement. Maybe it could be one lane and no parking spots."

CompuXellence, 2155 Mackay St.

Sohail Sheikh, owner of CompuXellence on 2155 Mackay St., is strongly against the greening of Mackay.

"It will not be good for us," he said. "We sell large computers. You cannot walk with those things. Who's going to walk around with a big computer?"

Sheikh has been running his computer business for six years and has been approached about the project at least four times.

"The first time I heard about it," said Sheikh, "I said 'okay,' but I thought they were [only] going to eliminate one parking lane."

Most of his loyal clients drive by car and he says the most business he gets from students are the 99-cent photocopies he generates, which he cannot support himself on.

"It doesn't make sense as a business owner," said Sheikh. "We're here for business. We have to eat."

"If it were up to me, I would

leave Mackay as is," said Sheikh. "But, if they leave one lane open, they can do whatever they like."

Café Nirvana, 2002 Mackay St.

Walter Ortez, manager of Café Nirvana since it replaced a Second Cup location two months ago, said the greening of Mackay will not affect his business either way.

"We are right on [de] Maisonneuve," said Ortez, whose business is the only one of the three that sits on the corner. "We have a good position. Most people park on the main streets because the parking on Mackay is expensive."

"Maybe it will effect us," he continued, "but I don't think so."

Peter Fogl, whose family owned the building for 60 years, sent a letter to *The Link* two weeks ago expressing his support for the greening project stating, "Last summer, I got excited when I was informed that Mackay Street would be closed off, though some traffic would still be able to pass. 'Better than nothing' was my attitude."

"Close down Mackay Street if you truly want a Quartier Concordia!" exclaimed Fogl.

Paying more for power

As Hydro Quebec eyes higher rates, Africa moves toward pre-paid electricity

• HIBA ZAYADEEN

Picture this.

You're huddled on your couch on a Tuesday night watching your favourite TV show when suddenly, the electricity is cut off. Sitting in the dark you curse your carelessness.

"How could I forget to buy a pre-paid electricity card on my way home? Why didn't I buy two the last time I was at the store?" you ask yourself.

You're probably very confused; Quebec does not have a pre-paid electrical system, but this situation happens all the time in Sudan or South Africa.

Ahmed Munier, a Sudanese student now studying aviation at the St-Hubert Flying School, recalls the hot July nights that he spent in Sudan without air conditioning so that the little bit of electricity left in his meter would last him the night.

"Some of my friends have super rich parents, and sometimes when they were over they'd just turn the A/C on, never having looked at a meter before and not knowing how to read one," said Munier.

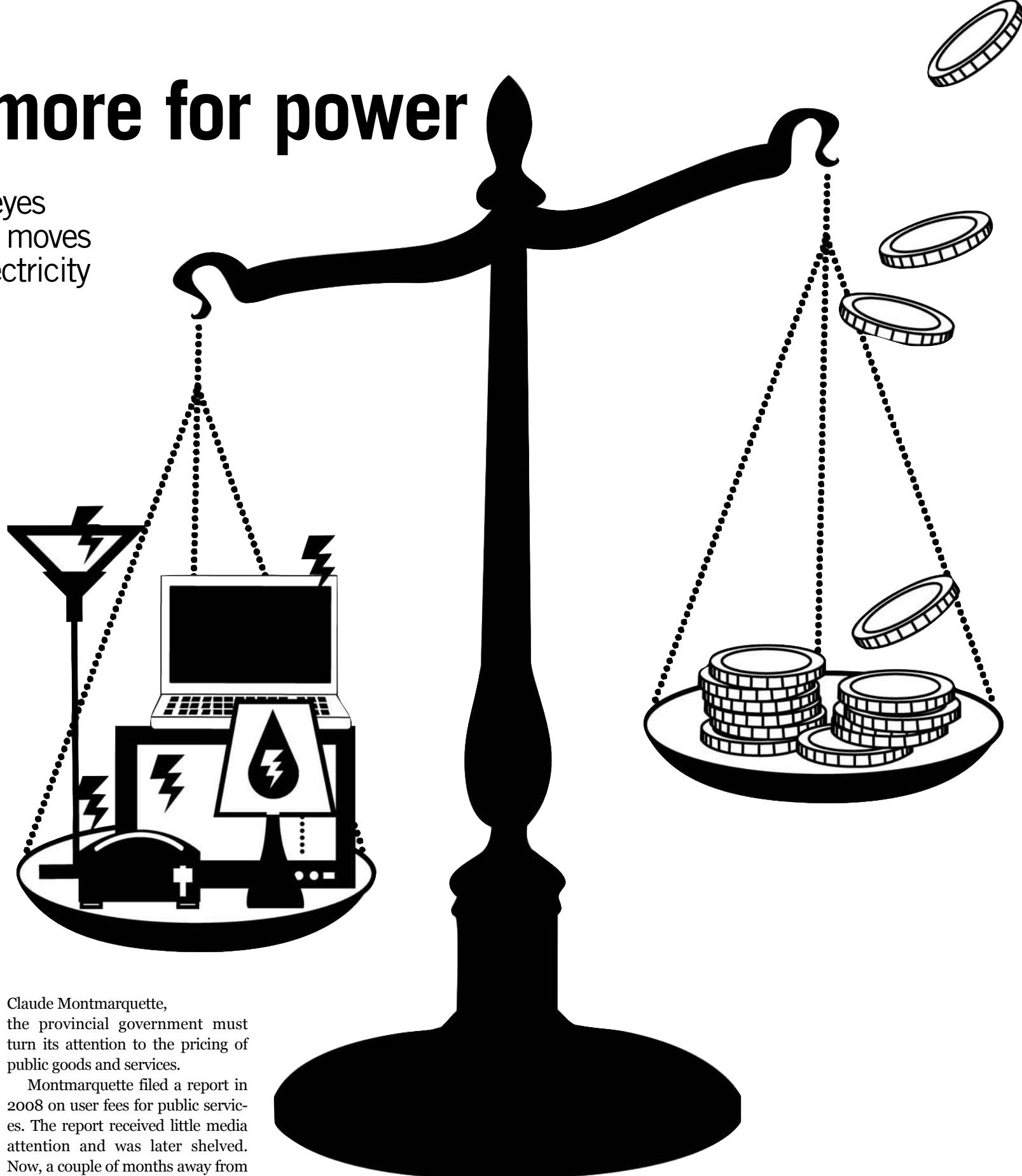
"I couldn't really tell them to turn it off. I would be looking at the meter every once in a while and by the time they'd leave, there would barely be any electricity left. I'd have to turn all the lights off and keep my little fan running on slow," he said chuckling.

Sudan does not have a stable national electrical system and blackouts are common. The government introduced the pre-paid system in 1997 because it's cheaper than conventional meters, it eliminates bills and debt accumulation and it reduces operational costs—no need for meter readers.

"Almost everyone has electricity now, at least in the capital, but the problem is that it's still expensive," said Munier.

Quebec has some of the cheapest electricity available in North America with residential customers paying half the continental average per kilowatt hour. Some economists argue that the price is too low.

To deal with Quebec's burgeoning debt, now approaching \$150 billion, Finance Minister Raymond Bachand recently convened a committee of four economists to provide recommendations on how to improve Quebec's economy. According to one of the economists,



Claude Montmarquette, the provincial government must turn its attention to the pricing of public goods and services.

Montmarquette filed a report in 2008 on user fees for public services. The report received little media attention and was later shelved. Now, a couple of months away from the introduction of the province's budget, he still stands his ground.

Montmarquette suggests that the price of electricity be raised to cover its true costs. He added that low-income households should be compensated for this price increase.

While this might be politically risky, it would help stabilize the government's revenue. A 25 per cent hike in rates would generate \$2.7 billion in additional revenues for Hydro Quebec. As the utility's sole shareholder, the provincial government receives all of Hydro Quebec's dividends.

Montmarquette further recommended that the revenue generated could be placed for the development of new and cleaner energy sources.

George Tsoulekas, an economics professor at Concordia University, agreed with Montmarquette's suggestion.

"Let the market set the rate

where it should be reflecting the real cost of production and then give rebates to those who are unfortunate and cannot afford this rate," said Tsoulekas.

After the pre-paid electricity system was introduced in Sudan, energy usage dropped as people could track their usage.

"People were forced to save more on electricity," said Munier. "They would always shut down the lights when they left and they never leave something running when it's not supposed to be."

If the price increases in electricity are implemented in Quebec, energy consumption will likely decrease as well. In 2004, per capita electricity consumption in Quebec was among the highest in the world and was virtually 50 per cent higher than the rest of Canada. According to Montmarquette's report, the high

consumption may have been a result of low pricing.

Since the Montmarquette report was issued, Quebec's political leaders have done little to prepare public opinion for the fee increases. According to the committee of economists, the public must be informed.

"The idea with higher fees is everybody pays more in gross terms," said Tsoulekas. "But in net terms, if I get back a subsidy from the government, then I pay less."

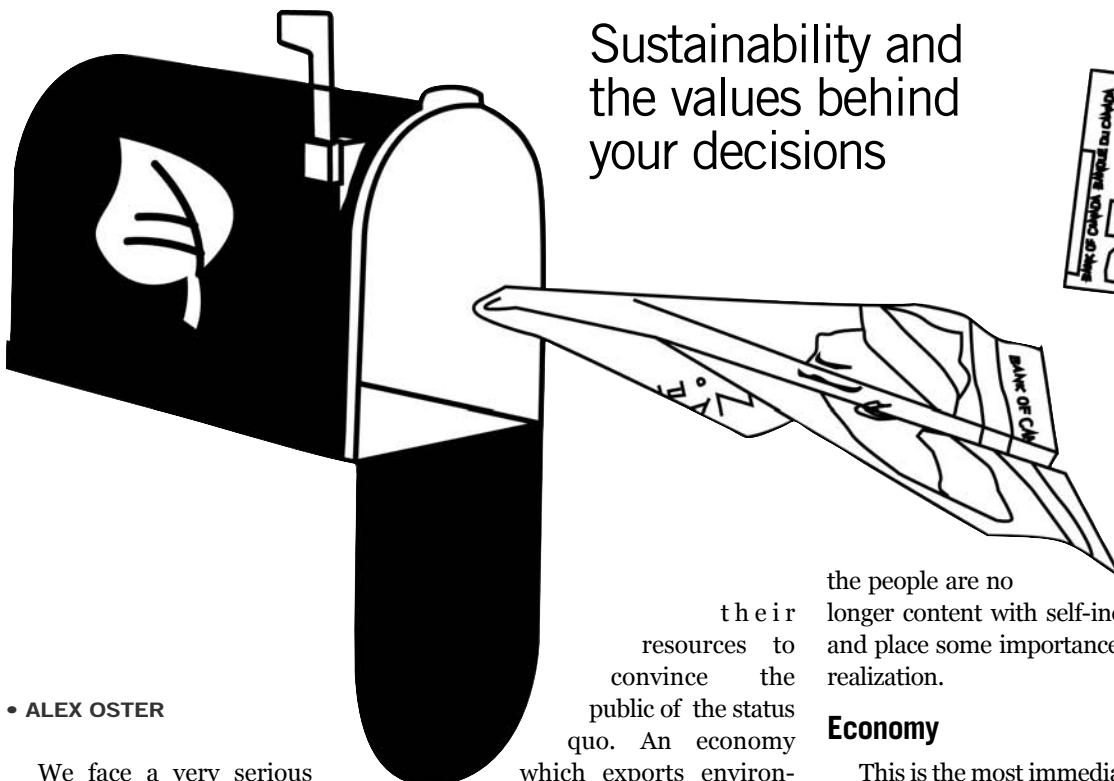
Sudan is currently in the process of developing a distribution network that meets demands across the country and that provides reliable electricity to all parts. Quebec, on the other hand, is already known as a world leader in the field of hydro-electricity. Quebec rarely experiences blackouts and no town is devoid of electricity.

Why doesn't our province benefit from this obvious advantage? Montmarquette's report points to the fact that the price Albertans pay for their national resource, oil, is higher than the Canadian average while the rates Quebecers pay for our national resource, electricity, are much lower than the Canadian average.

According to Montmarquette, it would be a win-win situation: setting the Quebec rate at the average Canadian rate would still leave it low by North American standards.

It is still unclear whether these price increases will be introduced in the next provincial budget, but as of April 1, electricity rates will go up 0.4 per cent. The hike will mean an additional cost of 43 cents per month for the average residential customer.

Does 'fast and cheap' sound good to you?



• ALEX OSTER

We face a very serious problem.

Despite a largely successful campaign waged over the last year to change the public's perception of climate science, we as a species are still walking along the knife's edge of history.

As we emerge from the warmest winter since Environment Canada began collecting data, basking in the glow of a budget which offered no real solutions to the climate crisis, you should wonder: whose interests are being met by our government's agenda? Is Parliament back to hand out proactive legislation based on cutting-edge research and the nuances of local knowledge, or can we expect more of the same?

The plain fact is that the emissions-intensive industries, media, financial corporations and political institutions in Canada have directed

Sustainability and the values behind your decisions



their resources to convince the public of the status quo. An economy which exports environmental degradation, ignores the well-being of indigenous human and animal populations and is based solely on growth, they say, is the only way to do business.

What is to be done? There are three arenas of action where an alternative vision for the future is needed if we want to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Politics

The spirit of democracy enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and forming the basis of our public institutions must be reinvigorated by a new wave of citizen participation. This is a slow process, yet it is imperative that our public officials craft policy and spend public money in a way that is consistent with the values of the people.

This can only be accomplished if

the people are no longer content with self-indulgence and place some importance on self-realization.

Economy

This is the most immediate arena of action, since it's most susceptible to rapid change. Economic transformation is a crucial means to stopping runaway climate change. Most democratic citizens feel they have no say or have no power when pitted against the colossus that is a multi-national corporation. This assumption could not be further from the truth.

In 2004, the average Canadian spent just under \$17,000 per year on durable goods, for a total national expenditure of over \$540 billion. Those 17,000 Canadian dollars are small individual symbols of power, small votes of confidence. As they pass from your hand to the till, you cast a vote of support for the business taking your money. You proclaim with your purchase that you are satisfied with how the employees are treated, how the company man-

ages its waste and how its products are made and sourced.

As consumers, we've succumbed to the myth that we're powerless. What consumers value is expressed in a capitalist system. Demand and competition drives companies to craft products based on what consumers value. If consumers value low cost, companies like Wal-Mart will flourish. If consumers value expediency, companies like McDonalds will fill that need.

Fast and cheap are not the values we enshrine in our public documents, they are not the founding principles of our country and I doubt they would be mentioned as the core values shared by all Canadians. There is a disconnect in the values held personally by Canadian citizens and the values expressed economically by Canadian consumers.

Most people you will meet today or pass on the street would not hesitate to express their own deep-seated love of nature, biodiversity, clean air, social equality, human rights, local culture, public art and justice. But would they be able to demonstrate that their recent personal pur-

chases reflect these value choices?

The remedy for this disconnect is to apply to your purchases the same critical thought and careful analysis brought to bear during an election or jury duty. While this argument may at first seem ridiculous ("Does this brand of soda cracker cause global warming?") taking the time to critically assess the sources of your purchased goods and services leads directly to the third axis, or arena of action: culture.

Culture

Personal choices made according to the popular sway of a dominant culture are easy choices to make. Imagine how long a suburbanite remains ignorant of recycling when theirs is the only house without a blue-bin on the end of their driveway come pick-up day.

In attempting to change our politics and economics, we engage in and shape our own culture. Politics and economics are means to change, but culture is both a mean and an end in itself. By professing our values through our actions and through what we buy, our culture would be thoroughly sustainable. Our politics and economics would then be forced to follow suit.

Building a green business world

John Molson conference looks for a sustainable competitive edge

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Concordia students are leading the way towards sustainable business practices with "Sustainable Edge," a conference organized by students from the John Molson School of Business to be held March 19.

The conference, previously organized by Sustainable Concordia before being taken over by the JMSB last year, features speakers from both the academic and business worlds who espouse the virtues of sustainable business practices and event planning.

Walking the walk as well as talking the talk, the planning of the conference itself oozes green. The ticket for the event has the program print-

ed on the back of it to save paper, as well as being printed on 100 per cent recycled paper using vegetable ink.

The food service at the event will also be a model for sustainable event planning.

"The caterer we chose for the event uses all local, organic foods," said Allesandra Boezzio, co-organizer of the event and a graduate student at Concordia in science administration, specializing in marketing. "The plates we use will be either real plates or biodegradable paper plates."

All attendees will also receive free aluminium water bottles with information printed on them displaying the heavy ecological toll of the consumption of plastic water

bottles. "We want to get people thinking about their eco-footprint, as well as the repercussions of their actions," said Boezzio.

The speakers list for the event represents a wide variety of interests, from big companies like IBM—who have dubbed themselves sustainable for several years—to start-ups like World Colour, a consulting firm that helps businesses without any prior experience with sustainable practices to work them into their everyday operations. In keeping with the theme, the biographies for each speaker will be projected onto a wall digitally, without using paper posters.

"We tried to get a mix of speakers that appeal to a variety of different majors," said Boezzio.

The academic world will also be represented at the conference, with the most notable speaker being Stuart Hart, the Samuel C. Johnson Chair of Sustainable Global Enterprise at Cornell University.

Despite the support for the conference, the curriculum at the JMSB is still lagging behind the enthusiasm of the students.

"There are currently no sustainability-based courses offered at the undergrad level," according to Boezzio. "It's hard for the curriculum to keep up with new trends, particularly in the business world where things change so rapidly."

After graduating from Concordia with an undergraduate degree in marketing, Boezzio found the working world to be unforgiving, finding

a sea of applicants for the same jobs with similar educational backgrounds. "I found that people wanted more than just what you learned in school," she continued.

The event aims to give attendees a competitive edge in order to help them launch their own viable business models.

"We want to appeal to all students. Anyone who wants to plan an event can learn valuable ways to minimize both costs and waste," Boezzio concluded.

The "Sustainable Edge" conference is taking place March 19 at the BMO amphitheatre (room 1.210) in the MB building (1450 Guy St.). The conference is open to the public and costs \$10.

Living the sustainable life

A guide to living a day as a green student

• VIVIEN LEUNG

Staring at the myriad of environmental issues facing this planet can make anyone feel powerless, but there are concrete actions that you—as a Concordia student—can take.

This is like starting class at the end of the term. The pile of school-work might seem Himalayan, but by whittling the pile down one assignment at a time it will eventually reach the floor. Big changes are made through the accumulation of many little changes.

Here is a list of little things you can do throughout your day.



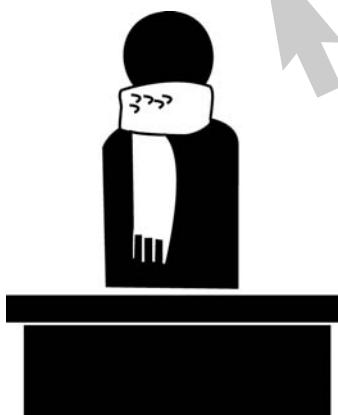
8 p.m.

You're sitting at your desk studying and it's kind of chilly. Layer up instead of turning up the heat. Instead of printing your essay on glossy thick paper, go for some of the thinner recycled stuff.



6 p.m.

Dinner. Processed foods, like ready-made frozen dinners, are much more carbon-heavy than their individual ingredients. Do a solid for your wallet, your planet and your health. Walk to the local grocery store and pick up some basic ingredients and cook—just like riding a bike, it gets more fun the more you do it.



4 p.m.

Afternoon coffee. Have you been considering the purchase of a reusable mug for some time now? Take the plunge. It will last you and you can stop feeling that twinge of guilt when you perch your used paper cup on top of a mountain of others like it overflowing from the trash.

Most of these tips are old news, but they need to be repeated until they actually start gaining traction. It's not really that hard to save the world. What's more important than knowing sustainable behaviour is knowing how to think sustainably.

Make your choices about things by weighing the amount of energy required by the product for its whole lifespan—from raw material to disposal.

When considering food, vegetarian meals have a lower carbon footprint. The same rules apply for unprocessed food. One of the biggest sources of pollution is transportation—the average North American plate has travelled about 2,000 carbon-intensive kilometres. The problem is, it's hard to know where your food came from and how it got here. The safest bet? Growing it in your own backyard.

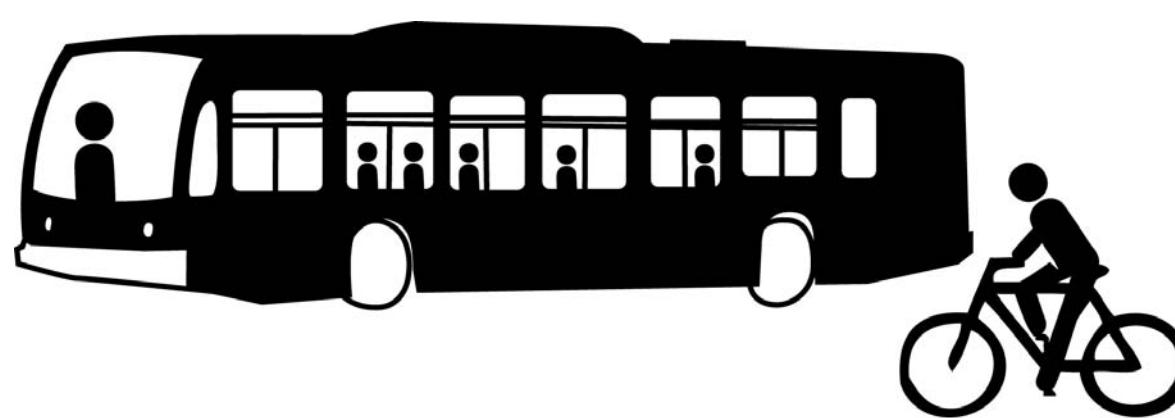
8 a.m.

Wake up and shower. You don't really need that light on when you shower; switch it off. The argument that we can gorge ourselves on electricity in Quebec because hydroelectricity has next to zero carbon emissions is wrong. The less we consume, the more there is left over to export to places that burn carbon fossils to generate electricity.



9 a.m.

Before you leave the house, pack some Tupperware and cutlery into your bag. Bike or take public transport to school. If you must take the car, get to know your neighbours and carpool. Nothing is worse than a traffic jam of cars carrying only one driver. Look at the cars around you next time you're parked on the Décarie, most of them are lonely.



10 a.m.

Class time. Read your notes on the screen instead of printing them out. Research done in 1991 by Muter and Maurutto negated earlier reports concluding that reading off paper is faster. They found that reading off a screen matched reading from a book in terms of speed and comprehension. Time to get over the mental hang-up compelling you to press that print button for all your online course reserves.

Noon

Lunchtime. You queue up at your favourite fast food stand. Instead of eating off a Styrofoam plate, ask the server to put it in that Tupperware you brought from home. If you eat out regularly, a literal mountain of waste can be avoided by bringing your own container.

11 a.m.

Strive to buy used schoolbooks. You avoid cutting down new trees for paper and what could have ended in a landfill has now found a second life on your shelf.



The energy required for food disposal should be considered as well. Composting is the best option, but finishing everything on your plate and not overeating is a great start.

When buying an article of clothing, consider the energy already spent on the textiles, buttons and zippers as well as the input of energy it will require throughout its lifespan. Buying less clothes, and garments that don't require

drycleaning or ironing, will give the environment a break. Wash your clothes in cold water; cold detergents are more plentiful than ever.

If nothing less, share your clothes, swap them or put them in a biodegradable bag and drop them at a thrift store.

The smallest actions today can have larger than expected effects tomorrow. Sustainability is not an act of nihilism, and it doesn't require a commitment to consume

nothing or next to nothing. In many ways, it is asking for more from yourself. Composting and gardening will get you closer to your food, your health and your community. Being sustainable just requires you to think for yourself and perhaps be a little more conscious. Would our great-grandparents have tossed things as effortlessly into the green bin as we now do?

Who knows, maybe today's conscience will be tomorrow's norm.

No experience necessary

Not just for esthetes: the International Festival of Films on Art dishes up art docs both mainstream and obscure

There was a time when appreciating films about art required detective skills rather than a sense of esthetics—at least if you lived in Montreal.

When the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) began in 1981, there were few venues and scarce opportunities for art lovers to see the latest documentaries without leaving town. Festival founder René Rozon said his original aim was to rope in the film reels that would have otherwise passed the city by.

"It was to bring together films related to the arts that had never been shown in Montreal," explained Rozon. "Without the creation of the festival [those films] would have no chance of

being shown, unless you knew where they were."

FIFA showed its first films in the basement theatre of the Grande Bibliothèque on de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Now in its 28th year, the festival has added Concordia to its roster of nine venues, which will screen documentaries covering everything from fashion to architecture.

While Rozon admitted that the first festival-goers were primarily those "in the art milieu," he stressed that one need not be up-to-date on contemporary visual art to catch some screen time. This year's festival lineup may include meditations on German art during the Cold War, but it also boasts a documentary about British spy novelist John Le Carré, whose books you may

have last seen on your father's nightstand.

"[Some people might think,] 'not for me.' It's a natural reflex," Rozon said. "But they also have to consult the [festival] catalogue. They'll find names that they know."

The Link has done its homework. Consider the three films below entry points to the festival.

For your chance to win free passes to the 28th annual International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) and a \$100 gift certificate for Omer DeSerres, turn to pg. 12.

—Madeline Coleman



(Clockwise from left) *Expansive Grounds*, *Learning from Light: The Vision of I.M. Pei* and *Milton Glaser: To Inform and Delight*.



Expansive Grounds

History, guilt, memory, politics and preservation are key players in Gerburg Rohde-Dahl's documentary on the Berlin Holocaust Memorial. The cryptically named "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe," consisting of 19,000 square metres of grey concrete slabs in the middle of the bustling metropolis, evokes a vast array of contradictory feelings from those interviewed in the documentary. From the architect, Peter Eisenman, to the average passer-by and the director herself, everyone has their own interpretation of the art's significance.

The director also has her own internal conflict about her father's role in the Nazi regime. "The five happiest years of my childhood were during the Nazi era," she admits in the film's opening moments. *Expansive Grounds* argues that art, in this case architecture, does not necessarily "solve any problems," as Eisenman says.

In the memorial, children play hide-and-seek, parents smile at their children's blissful ignorance and older generations reminisce about life in totalitarian society.

The emotional subject matter eclipses the artwork itself and the film focused mostly on the director's personal journey. However, it still remains a very interesting look into how an unforgettable time in history is expressed through modern art.

—Nikola Grozdanovic

Milton Glaser: To Inform and Delight

Milton Glaser is an inspirational portrayal of a man you may be more likely to recognize by his work than by his name. Best known for designing the iconic I [heart] NY insignia, Glaser has been called the most important designer of our time.

Filmmaker Wendy Keys portrays Glaser's experience in the design world with ease and clarity.

His accomplishments range from founding *New York Magazine* to designing unforgettable record sleeves, books, posters, logos, typography, magazine layouts and interior and exterior designs. Glaser himself is interviewed throughout, as are his peers. This documentary is not only for those interested in art and design; like 2007 documentary *Helvetica*, the film traces the designer's immaculate influence not only in the art world but in our everyday lives.

Glaser emerges as an inspiration not only for his design work, but also for his belief in design's ability to make the world a better place.

—Ashley Opheim

Learning from Light: The Vision of I.M. Pei

I found the title of this film misleading. I expected a documentary that would examine the philosophy of the famous archi-

tect who counts the Louvre's controversial glass pyramid among some of his most well-known works. Instead, the film gave a cursory glance at the process of creating the Museum for Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, glossing over any architectural issues beyond the realm of esthetics.

Pei claims in the film that the MIA project allowed him to realize the meaning of architecture beyond the physical building, thanks to his research into the religious roots of Islamic architecture.

The documentary, however, ignored much of the sociopolitical and environmental issues involved in the museum's construction.

The recent construction of such a monumental project is evidence of the overnight wealth acquired by many Arab nations during the oil boom. Architecture, especially monumental architecture, acts as a signifier for much broader issues.

To not even broach the geopolitical implications of oil wealth in this documentary is a pity.

More outrageous is the fact that environmental sustainability was not considered during construction. The MIA was built on a man-made island necessitating the shipping of 25 million tons of materials and dozens of fully grown palm trees—trees which would only be thrown away and replaced by a fresh shipment when they failed to survive in their new environment.

From an artistic point of view, the film is inspirational. The museum and panned shots of traditional Islamic architecture are spectacular, and the moments of insight into Pei's brilliant mind were always titillating albeit too brief. Overall, the film gives a good overview of the artistic process but would benefit from more attention to the issues affecting contemporary architecture.

—Vivien Leung

Primal angst

Toronto band Teenanger call out the naysayers, release new album

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

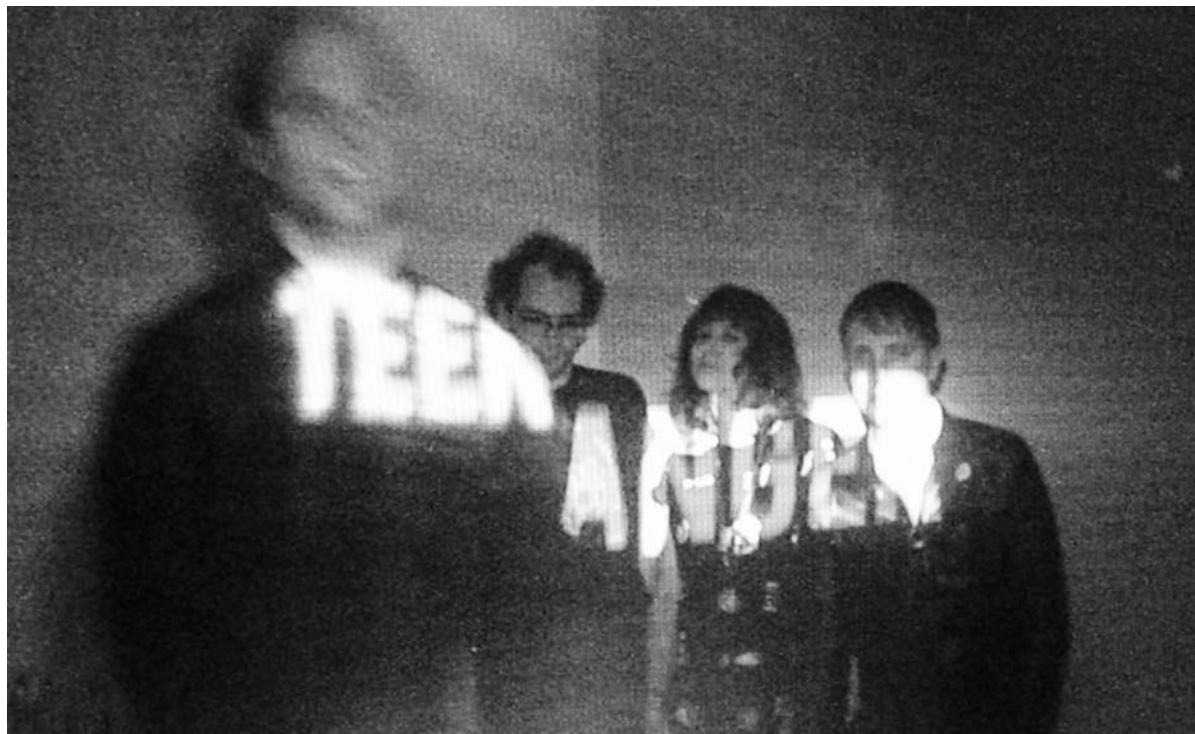
Somewhere along Highway 401, there is a fissure. Though it is invisible to most, it's this crack that the free-spirited Montreal set likes to think separates them from money-minded Torontonians.

Midway between the 514 mindset and the 416 area code we encounter Teenanger, a dirty Toronto rock band that still admits an affinity for the land of poutine and Pop Montreal.

"People in Toronto have jobs, and people in Montreal have lifestyles," says Teenanger singer Alex Lekay between bouts of self-induced laughter. "I love the city but can't live [in Montreal]. The biggest problem, honestly, is the language. I could not speak a lick of French."

Lekay emerged from the safe linguistic waters of Ottawa, playing in now-defunct band Quebexico before heading further southwest to Toronto (because, according to Lekay, "it's better than Ottawa, which kinda blows").

Lekay and his brethren in Teenanger, including three-quar-



"Everyone's more buddy-buddy in Montreal. People look out for each other more than they do [in Toronto]," says Teenanger singer Alex Lekay (far right).

ters of Quebexico's former roster, specialize in that most primal of rock and roll: dirty tunes culled from real-life encounters. The song "Brain Hiccup," from a recent seven-inch split record with Charlie and the Moonhearts,

even details a minor stroke a friend of Lekay's experienced at The Beer Store, complete with impaired speech.

Lekay admits that Teenanger's upcoming album *Give Me Pink*, due for release March 23, won't be

a reinvention of the wheel by any means—but it will certainly add some grease. The record, a year in the making but mostly recorded in a remarkable two days, finds the quartet offering up a fresh slab of skronky raw-as-fuck

anthems that Lekay compares to "mid-tempo rawkers in the vein of Dead Moon and The Wipers."

Teenanger's formula has won them a wide following in and around their base of operations, though Lekay says sometimes their peers are less than enthusiastic about the band's path towards musical dominance.

"Everyone's more buddy-buddy in Montreal. People look out for each other more than they do [in Toronto where] it's more pocketed," Lekay laments.

He too is quick to talk shit when he thinks it's deserved. "Some of the bigger Toronto bands like Metric and Broken Social Scene prance around [when they play] live," Lekay notes, but all is not negative in the land of Teenanger.

"For the record," concludes Lekay, "I love Montreal and also love all races."

Teenanger play with Hell Shovel, Holy Cobras and Interracial Love Triangle at Friendship Cove (215a Murray St.) on March 20 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$6.

THE LiNK

2009-2010 General elections

**General elections
March 26, 2010
4 p.m. H-649**

The following people are eligible to run and vote:

David Adelman, Laura Beeston, Esther Bernard, Mathieu Biard, Madeline Coleman, Christopher Curtis, Travis Dandro, Terrine Friday, Justin Giovannetti, R. Brian Hastie, Emma Healey, Clay Hemmerich, Les Honywill, Elsa Jabre, David Kaufmann, Adam Kovac, Stephanie La Leggia, Tristan LaPointe, Vivien Leung, Britanny Levett, Tom Llewellyn, Alex Manley, Tania Mohsen, Christopher Olson, Ashley Opheim, Diego Pelaez Gaetz, Hugo Pilon-Larose, Clare Raspopow, Daryna Ruhklyadeva, Shawna Satz, Riley Sparks, Julia Wolfe.

The following people need one more contribution to be eligible to vote:

Maude Abouche, Alex DiPietro, Hiba Zayadeen

Open positions:

Editor-in-chief	Opinions editor
Managing editor	Copy editor
News editor	Student Press Liaison
Features editor	Photo editor
Fringe arts editor	Graphics editor
Literary arts editor	Layout manager
Sports editor	Online editor

To apply:

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues this semester as of March 19 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

For more information email: editor@thelinknewspaper.ca or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407.

Fear and loathing in Mosul

‘Dark impulses are understood’ in *Father Land*, says playwright

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Two brothers, considered monsters by many, wait for the end as the world’s most powerful army comes ever closer.

Half a planet away, two different brothers sit trapped in a Westmount living room, waiting for the mob to make good on a debt.

For Montreal playwright Arthur Holden, the people in these situations have more in common than you’d think.

Holden’s play, *Father Land*, chronicles the last minutes of Uday and Qusay Hussein (Howard Rosenstein and Neil Napier), sons of Iraqi dictator Saddam, as they hole up in an opulent house in Mosul, Iraq waiting for the arrival of American troops.

The play also follows Westmount accountant Joe (Napier) whose ex-junkie brother Victor (Rosenstein) tells him he owes former mob associates money he doesn’t have.

The play’s script won Infinithéâtre’s Write-On-Q playwriting competition. Holden saw it as a way to test the boundaries of a conventional morality play, blurring the lines between good and bad.

“Human intention,” he said, “is never deliberately evil.”

The play is directed by Guy Sprung, a long-time veteran of the Montreal theatre scene serving as Infinithéâtre’s creative consultant



Brotherly fear: two pairs of siblings await doom in Arthur Holden's play Father Land.

this season.

Both sets of brothers, who are played by the same actors, make oft-misguided attempts to protect their teenage sons from both outside dangers and the toxic sibling rivalry they face inside. The characters’ quirks—Uday/Victor’s no-bullshit savagery and Qusay/Joe’s calculating parental instincts—clash as danger draws nearer.

“Men tend to see their own conflicts in grander terms, sometimes,

than their lives provide,” said Holden.

The large role given to Uday Hussein, known for his brutality during his father’s regime, generated so much debate during the initial dramatic reading of the *Father Land* script that the ensuing discussion went on longer than the reading itself.

“Some of my friends were pissed. They asked me, ‘How can you write about people you hate?’” said

Holden. “And this is a play in which good and evil get utterly muddled [...] in which dark impulses are understood.”

Saddam’s sons aren’t treated as villains in the play; they’re just two men in a different set of circumstances, he said.

“The dominating characteristic that certainly defines them to the day they die is loyalty. They didn’t give up, or buy back their lives at their expense. When the moment

came, they stood together,” Holden explained.

He hopes the play will move audiences to question how we define virtue.

“A man who likes to call himself good can do vicious things,” he said.

Father Land runs until March 28 at Bain St-Michel (5300 St-Dominique St.). Tickets are \$15 for students. For more information, see infinitheatre.com.

Chill Zone wraps up Art Matters

How you feel about the show ‘depends how drunk you are’

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Theme parties can be dangerous territory. If you push the scheme too hard, people can feel pressured and alienated.

But no matter what your theme is—be it “under the sea,” dinosaurs or Clint Eastwood roles—the night will be a disaster if you don’t create some incentive to get involved.

Adding art school ethos to this mix only makes things riskier, so how to play it cool? Go to the *Chill Zone*, bro.

As one of the final instalments of Concordia’s Art Matters festival, *Chill Zone* is a teen boy fantasy blowout conceived and curated by Concordia students Jason Harvey and Stephen Marie-Rhodes. Revellers and visitors to CtrlLab on March 18 can expect all the trappings of a teen hangout.

“There’s gonna be bunch of bongs, dilapidated garbage and furniture,” said Harvey. “We’ll probably show some movies. I’m not real-

ly sure yet but there may or may not be performances, but they might just emerge organically.”

Water pipes aside, more than 15 artists and collaborators have been working on pieces for the space that relate to themes of youth and adolescence, or at least how we’d like to remember them. Harvey admitted that much of what the curators had so far came from his own apartment.

Harvey and Marie-Rhodes kept the artists’ guidelines intentionally vague.

“What you get out of the night really depends on what type of alt teen you were,” Harvey explained. “How the night goes really depends on the final esthetic of the space, and with any relational art it somewhat depends on how drunk you are.”

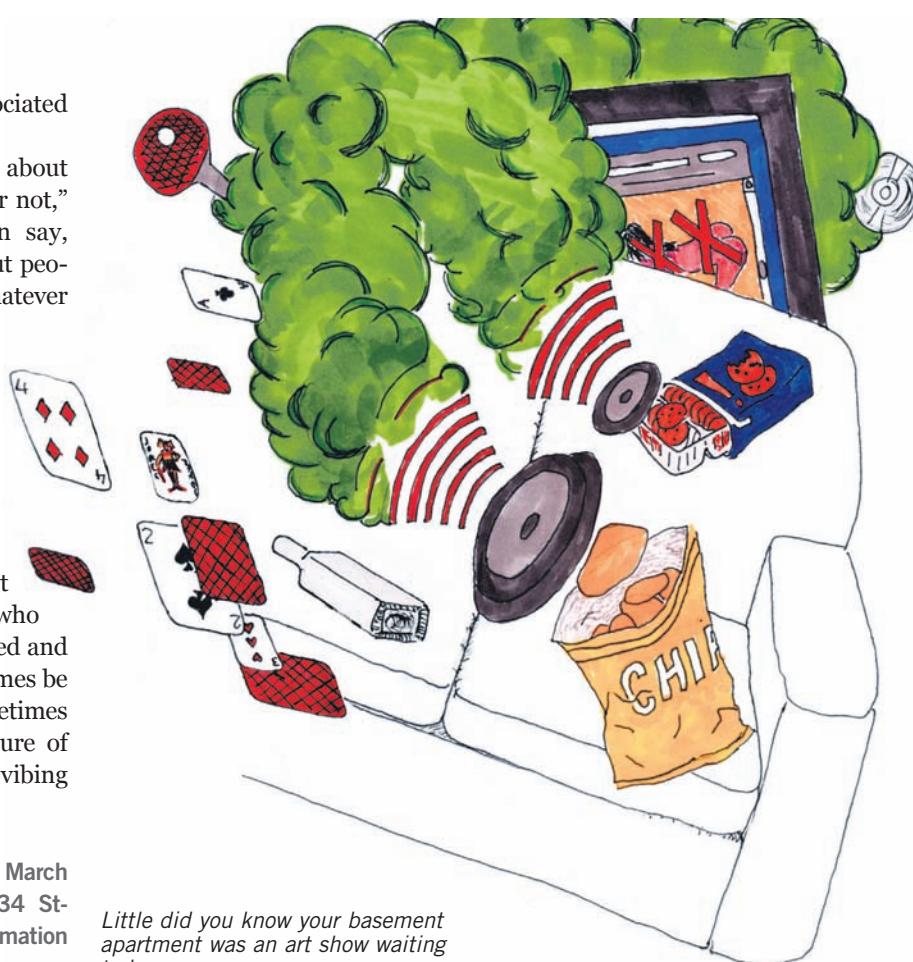
Sometimes it seems that the fetishizing of adolescence and the nostalgia-fests it breeds are unavoidable in Montreal. Will *Chill Zone* avoid the lowest-common-

denominator tendency associated with youth-themed events?

“It’s hard to be objective about what people take seriously or not,” Harvey admitted. “You can say, ‘Live in the now, be here,’ but people will take things for whatever they mean personally.”

“Maybe events like these are used as identifiers, like you want to be there to feel something authentically, but maybe it’s just going about it in a way that is ultimately disappointing and narrow—which makes it super alienating to people who don’t relate. Being open-ended and ambiguous can, I guess, at times be equally alienating, but sometimes when there’s the right mixture of elements and everyone is vibing OK, things turn out alright.”

The *Chill Zone* vernissage is March 18 at 7 p.m. at CtrlLab (3634 St-Laurent Blvd.). For more information see artmattersfestival.com.



Little did you know your basement apartment was an art show waiting to happen. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
March 16-22

ART MATTERS VERNISAGES

Back to Reality
Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.
Show runs until Friday, March 19
Galerie Mile-End
5345 Parc Ave.

Synthesis
One-night show
Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m.
Eastern Bloc
7240 Clark St.

MUSIC

Songs for Haiti
Benefit concert with Ti Kabzy, Golden Isles, Matthew Coelho and more.
Proceeds go to the Red Cross' Haiti efforts.
Thursday, March 18 at 8 p.m.
Excentris Theatre
3536 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$30 general admission, \$20 for students

Ghostkeeper
with Eric En
Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m.
Le Cagibi
5490 St-Laurent Blvd.

FILM

The Montreal Human Rights Film Festival
Films addressing human rights violations with regards to political violence, corporate responsibility and more.
Until Sunday, March 21
For more information see ffdpm.com.

Ghosts and Rethink Afghanistan at Cinema Politica
Films about the torture of three Arab-Canadian men and the ongoing war in Afghanistan, respectively.
Monday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Hall building, room H-110
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

THEATRE AND DANCE

Edgy Women Festival
Cutting-edge experimental performances of dance, cabaret and more in a feminist context.
Until March 27
See edgymen.ca for more information.

McGill Drama Festival
Seven student-written, acted, produced and coordinated plays.
March 16 to 27
Players' Theatre
3480 McTavish St.
For more information see ssmu.mcgill.ca/players.

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Band moves off the backburner

Metal-inspired Dizzygoth more than just a side project



The members of Dizzygoth met in 1999 and 11 years later, they're finally releasing their first album as a band.

• MAUDE ABOUCHE

It's been a long time coming, but Dizzygoth is finally ready to strike out on its own.

The band first entered the recording studio three years ago—only to emerge with a complete album earlier this year.

"We've spread the studio work over something like 1,096 days," said drummer Matt Demon, who described the band's sound as a hybrid of rock and metal. "But this time it's true. We've been talking about the album's release for two years now, and it's coming out for real this time."

Dizzygoth remains a side band for the trio, including Demon as well as Dan and Skar Souto, twin brothers and bassist and guita-

tarist respectively. The band members' schedules threw a wrench in the recording process; Dan and Skar are known for their work with thrash metal band Anonymus, while Demon dabbles in everything from Latin music to punk.

The trio counts KISS, Deep Purple and Danko Jones among their influences and are quick to point out that, despite the band name, they have nothing to do with anything "gothic." The name is actually a pun on dizygotic, the scientific term for fraternal twins—a reference to Dan and Skar's kinship.

Demon met the brothers at a concert in 1999 in Acton Vale, Que., when Demon, who was playing in a punk rock band at

the time, got acquainted with the members of Anonymus.

"I started working with them and little by little we became really good friends," he said. "Dan, Skar and I were even roommates for a while. We're almost like brothers now."

Their first jam session in 2006 made the future members of Dizzygoth realize they wanted to take their music in a different direction.

"It was more heavy rock and less violent than Anonymus," said Demon. "There were no lyrics yet, but I could tell the guys wanted something less fast, less destructive, more melodic in a way."

Taking their roots from '80s heavy rock, Dizzygoth started out

with covers but rapidly developed into a full-fledged project with a sound of its own—an advantage the group capitalizes on.

"I still haven't heard anything that sounds like us," Demon said, concluding Dizzygoth's sound "is still far more accessible than Anonymus."

The Soutos' father, a rock fan himself, seems to agree.

"He said [his sons] should quit Anonymus and concentrate themselves on Dizzygoth instead," laughed Demon.

Dizzygoth plays material from their soon-to-be-released album at Café Chaos (2031 St-Denis St.) on March 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

spins

Joanna Newsom
Have One on Me



Joanna Newsom is back with her adorable squeaky voice and eloquent harp-hands. Newsom stays true to her musical roots on this triple-disc release (yes, you read that correctly) but offers a more accessible album to those who may not have been crazy about the love-it-or-hate-it sound of her previous records. With this release the American freak-folk goddess comes into a more refined sound—just have a listen to "Good Intentions Paving Company" or "Soft as Chalk" to see what I mean. Kate Bush fans will be happy to detect the similarities between Bush and Newsom's musical and vocal sensibilities.

Have One on Me proves Newsom is refreshingly fearless and self-aware. This is the music of a strong, beautiful and mature woman who manages to remain as intriguing as ever with her impossibly poetic lyrics and symphonic arrangements. Go out and buy this album, swoon over the sexy photos in the sleeve and allow yourself to get lost for a few hours in Joanna Newsom whimsicality.

9/10

—Ashley Opheim

The Burning Hotels
Novels



The Burning Hotels bring you post-punk indie rock with inspirations from the '80s. *Novels*, the Texas band's first LP, is only slightly entertaining and overly cheesy, as they croon lyrics

like, "I'm sorry girls, she stole my heart" on opening track "Austin's Birthday."

Surprisingly, the band has been building their name since they released their first EP in 2007. Overall, the songs on this album are repetitive and quite similar to one another. The music might make you tap your feet in a dreadfully boring meeting, but will definitely not make you jump up and dance. With their guitars nailed down by a robotic bass line, The Burning Hotels failed to hold me for more than a couple of minutes.

6/10

—Ioana Vanessa Bezman

Madcaps



Juice

Voxtone Records

Madcaps push full steam ahead on *Juice*,

driving their tracks with the force of a freight train. The grooves are mean and sleek hard rock with a funky edge that twists and turns through psychedelic junctures and tricky arrangements.

Spurning the sentimental and sappy, Madcaps are all about making you feel good. The message is thoughtful and real, without being dark or defeatist.

"There are enough depressing things in the world," says singer and guitarist Frédéric Pellerin. "We want to send positive energy through our music."

They succeed. Madcaps' music raises enough life forces to stir the dead. The Montreal band hits Cabaret Juste Pour Rire on March 18, backed by a full horn section.

8.5/10

—Emily Brass

Keeping the taxman at bay

Smart tax tips for university students



• ALLAN FEFERGRAD

You've seen them, slowly filtering into newspapers and onto airwaves and billboards.

Each year at about this time they start to appear, beckoning you—the average full-time student—to start thinking about how much money you earn and how much money you can make. They may be everywhere, but do we take them seriously? They're advertisements after all. But every time we catch them, they remind us that one thing's sure: you've got to pay the taxman.

Advertisements for tax preparation services and software providers are not the most exciting thing for many university students. Taxes tend to fall into the realm of "grown-up responsibilities" and are the last thing on the list of things to do as finals approach.

Many students may not understand the ins and outs of filing income taxes and feel like they are probably going to have to pay. The truth is that you might just benefit from everything Revenue Canada has to offer those of us studying full-time. Why not let the tax man pay you?

Gettin' paid

As a student, you are required to file a return if you have had to pay tax for the year or if you have worked during the year. There are also many other reasons why filing your taxes is required—like your

Lifelong Learning Plan or Working Income Tax Benefit—but the most important is that you should apply for a tax refund. Do you want more money? Of course you do.

There are many good reasons to apply for a tax refund. As a Canadian resident you receive a basic personal exemption, meaning that you can earn up to \$10,320 during the 2009 tax year tax free!

If you worked during the year and your employer deducted federal and provincial income taxes, you will be refunded back all this money when you file your tax return. If you don't file your return, the government certainly won't come knocking at your door to tell you that you are entitled to get this money back. It's in your best interests to make that happen.

An added bonus: if you will turn 19 years old before April 2011, you may be eligible to receive Goods and Services Tax/Quebec Sales Tax credits. This tax year, this amounts to \$549 if you live alone. Some other reasons to file your income taxes are to carry forward or transfer unused tuition tax credits. As a bit of advice, you should also report income which

will start opening up room for Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions.

Many people wonder how exactly GST/QST credits work, or why they should expect money even if they were not employed during the year. The GST/QST Credit program issues payments to Canadians with low and modest incomes to help offset all or part of the GST/QST they pay on their purchases, so even if you did not work during the year, you are still eligible to receive payments. GST payments are made quarterly in July, October, January and April and QST payments are made twice annually in August and December.

Gettin' taxed

Each year in February, Concordia issues official tax slips to all students on record. These tax slips are available for download from the MyConcordia Student Portal. The Federal slip is titled T2202A and the Provincial slip is titled Relevé-8 and you should print them out or save them digitally in a secure location.

If your tuition tax credits cannot be used in the current year, you will be able to transfer them to a parent or spouse or carry them

forward to a future year. In many cases, if your tuition credits are carried forward to the future, you will receive some large tax refunds in the first few years when you begin to work full-time after school.

Before you get started on filing your taxes, make sure you have your Canadian social insurance number, which all Canadian citizens require. If you don't have one, contact Service Canada for an application or, if you are an international student, you should have an individual tax number which will still allow you to file your income taxes and reap the same benefits. The form is available on the Service Canada website as well.

The deadline to file your income taxes is April 30. If you expect a refund, this deadline will not apply and you can file anytime, though it's recommended to file early. The money's way better off in your pocket than in the government's.

As a student, there are many

If you don't file your return, the government certainly won't come knocking at your door to tell you that you are entitled to get this money back. It's in your best interests to make that happen.

different routes you can take in order to get your taxes filed on time. You may opt to try filing on your own or you may visit your local accountant or tax preparation service provider, many of whom offer discounts to full-time students.

Just don't delay any longer, get started right away! Trust me, your pocketbook will thank you.

Allan Fefergrad graduated from commerce at Concordia in 2003 and recently received his Certified General Accountant's designation.

Three simple steps to make good on the government green.
GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

The other world cup



Richard Giulionatti, professor of sociology at Durham University, believes that FIFA status “[strengthens] the ideological hand of ‘nationless states’ while placing ‘stateless nations’ in problematic positions, as most stateless nations are routinely denied FIFA membership.” GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

• RODRIGO STEIN

The eyes of the world will be on Africa this summer as 32 teams from across the world arrive in South Africa to compete for soccer's ultimate prize: the FIFA World Cup.

With over two million tickets already sold, the month-long tournament will undoubtedly be the biggest and most expensive sporting event ever staged on African soil.

Media have been abuzz with tales of forced expropriations, vast amounts of money spent on capital projects and “renewal” projects meant to impress foreign tourists.

While the World Cup is largely heralded as an arena to advance cultural tolerance, it also serves as a theatre for smaller nations to present themselves to the world. It allows for newly-created nation-states with a cultural sphere to develop strong nationalist rituals. During Croatia's 1998 semi-final run, the players literally wore the nation's crest on their shirts.

Shutting out the stateless

In a sense, FIFA is instrumental in maintaining the Western nation-state structure of international relations. It counts 208

members, 16 more than the 192 affiliated to the United Nations. FIFA status as an international organization, and as supreme overseer of the world's most popular sport, places it in a unique position.

Richard Giulionatti, professor of sociology at Durham University in England, believes that FIFA status “[strengthens] the ideological hand of ‘nationless states’ while placing ‘stateless nations’ in problematic positions, as most stateless nations are routinely denied FIFA membership.”

FIFA routinely stops semi-autonomous regions such as Greenland, Zanzibar and Tibet—as well as peoples without settled territories such as the Roma—from competing. They have all the characteristics of a nation except for an actual state. For some of those nations that think of their governments as apolitical, entering into FIFA is just too political an act to swallow.

The national teams of Tibet, Northern Cyprus and Gibraltar have seen their progress toward being recognized by FIFA hampered by larger countries with political interests in their territories. However, FIFA has made very political statements in the past,

from recognizing the Palestinian national football team in 1998 to allowing Argentina to host the 1978 World Cup while under a violent American-backed military junta.

Steve Menary, author of *Outcasts!: The Lands That FIFA Forgot*, explains how membership in the UN and the International Olympic Committee does not guarantee FIFA membership. The decisions on who to include and exclude, he argues, often come down to expected financial returns. Not to mention FIFA's special relationship with certain money-making football federations like Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, which all claim special status as being the “birthplace” of modern football.

Even the Faroe Islands enjoy special status within FIFA, yet the other Danish territory of Greenland is excluded. These kinds of decisions defy logic.

A new alternative

Luc Misson was a lawyer involved in the famous Bosman ruling of 1995, which established a free agency system for professional European soccer players. Its result was the Nouvelle

Fédération-Board, also known as the “Non-FIFA Board.” The board consists of teams that represent nations, dependencies, unrecognized states, minorities, stateless peoples, regions and micro-nations left out of FIFA.

The Non-FIFA Board organizes matches between its member teams, stating a belief in the “right to play competitive football.” Under this theme, Misson created the VIVA World Cup. Largely made up of recreational and semi-professional soccer players, the Cup—hosted by Malta's Gozo region this summer—will be overshadowed by the more esteemed World Cup in South Africa.

This year's VIVA games, from May 31 to June 6, mark four years of alternative national football. A sampling of prospective nation-states competing include: the Padania and Occitania regions in Italy; the Iraqi Kurdistan region; Provence, located in southern France; and the northern Scandinavian territory of Lapland. The winner gets to take home the Nelson Mandela trophy.

This year's FIFA World Cup is expected to net the organization over US\$3.5 billion in advertising and sponsorship contracts and

endorsements. In comparison, VIVA World Cup's players often have to fundraise or pay out-of-pocket to attend. Big-name multinationals are all but absent from the sponsor roster.

FIFA's stadium capacities are also a testament to mass participation and funding. All 10 football stadiums that host the World Cup can house at least 44,000 people. Four of them can host over 66,000—a world event of monstrous proportions compared to the VIVA games' single stadium of 4,000 capacity.

While the smaller Cup might not garner much media attention or draw swarms of tourists to Gozo, it's a bright light for the sports world. Mainstream sports are plagued by excessive commercialization, doping scandals and endless rambling about injuries, trades and useless stats. It's refreshing to see players and teams who aren't playing just to win—nor just to qualify—but rather want to play the sport in an officially-sanctioned match.

Stateless people have an opportunity to create a sense of shared fates and communities beyond just the borders they live in. This is what sporting competitions should be about.

Dwayne Taylor moves on

Former Alouette speaks about rivalries, drunken frat boys and future plans



Dwayne Taylor has played for Buffalo, Saskatchewan, Ottawa and Montreal. GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

• JOEY ALFERI

Dwayne Taylor is a recently retired NFL and CFL linebacker. He attended New Mexico State University, where he was a standout player. In his pro career, Taylor spent time with the Buffalo Bills in the NFL, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Ottawa Renegades and Montreal Alouettes in the CFL.

The Link: What is an "Aggie"?

Taylor: Let me tell you the best I can. At the great New Mexico State [University], our mascot was a pistol-packing, lasso-tossing cowboy named "Pistol Pete." He was not displayed on our helmets but he was associated with all the sports teams at the university. There are some other universities that call themselves Aggies, for example Utah State and Texas A&M. Utah

State has a bull as their mascot and I am not sure what Texas A&M uses. But I can assure you our mascot was the best.

Is there any rivalry in the CFL that compares to New Mexico State University vs. University of Texas at El Paso, or New Mexico State University vs. University of New Mexico, and just how big are those rivalries?

The CFL has some great rivalries, I must admit. I think the CFL rivalry that most [compares] is probably the Banjo Bowl. That is the game between Saskatchewan and Winnipeg. That game definitely gets everyone in those two provinces fired up. It almost seems as though the people of Winnipeg and Saskatchewan genuinely dislike each other. Our rivalry versus UTEP is called the "Battle of I-10" because both universities are on Interstate Highway 10, and we are maybe 25 minutes from each other.

The rivalry game versus UNM is called the Battle of I-25 or The Rio Grande Rivalry. This game meant so much and I could never forget the events leading up to the game with the bonfires and rallies, the influx of alumni and the opportunity to have bragging rights over our two rivals. The schools were close so we would often see members of the others schools when we would go out. One of my best non-football memories from the rivalry games was after we beat UNM one year, a guy who was on the team but was [sitting out games] because of a back injury got drunk and went to the game with his fraternity. After we won the game, him and his fraternity, along with scores of other students, tore down the goalposts and carried them out to the front of the locker room. Later on, the guy and his fraternity carried the goalpost to the dorms, and dropped the goalposts in a pond that ran through the dorms. It was hilarious!

How did you hear about the CFL and how did your career in Canada get started?

I first heard about the CFL when I was probably 12 years old. I watched lots of football when I was growing up, so there was not much about the game of football that I did not know. CFL games were coming on TV in the States back in the day too. I got started playing in Canada on advice from my agent. I had been trying out for NFL teams but it just was not working out for me, so my agent sent my college film and my football résumé to several CFL teams and with God's blessing, I was offered several contracts.

What's one good thing about playing in the CFL that no other professional football league can offer?

I think the CFL has more of a personal relationship with its fans than any other professional football league. The CFL values the opinions of their fans, and they really attempt to tailor the league to the fans.

When we give you a call in five years, what will you be doing?

Well, in five years I will have received my Master's degree in economics. I will be working as a sports economist, studying the impact both socially and financially to the communities in which professional sports franchises are present. I will be a successful business owner, but I cannot give you too much detail on that right now but that is definitely what's going to happen. I will still be checking up on the Alouettes and enjoying all the great memories I have while I was playing.

Vélo
bpu/ot
dodo

Flip yo'
bike

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Maybe you've been here. After a long search on Craigslist, countless e-mails and a few awkward phone calls, you've finally found the one. A bike that fits your budget and desires and screams summer-o-fun. So you build up the nerve and head over to a stranger's apartment to check it out.

Everything seems right, the tires are fresh and it shifts and stops with new-bike smoothness. What a nice guy he must be for selling this thing for such a reasonable price! So you fork over the cash and are about to go on your merry way, but before you do the seller asks, "Do you want to try anything else?"

"What else?"

"Bikes, man, what do you think?"

A sick feeling washes over you. You, the bike and this whole Internet-organized transaction aren't special. Instead of the web-facilitated exchange of goodwill you dreamed of, this is merely a sale, a tick in the seller's log book. You leave slightly dejected but by the time you get home, the sweetness of the new 10-speed has softened the experience and you decide to reserve judgement on the sorta-jerk you just gave \$140 to.

Congratulations, you just met a bike flipper.

How do I know? I used to be one.

Bike flipping is, at its essence, the private sale of used bicycles. There are no rules governing it (aside from the Rule of Law) and no real standards by which it operates. People involved range from ex-racers and mechanics with serious ethics to relative low-lives peddling stolen or damaged goods. Though most seem to fall somewhere in between, with few to none being thieves.

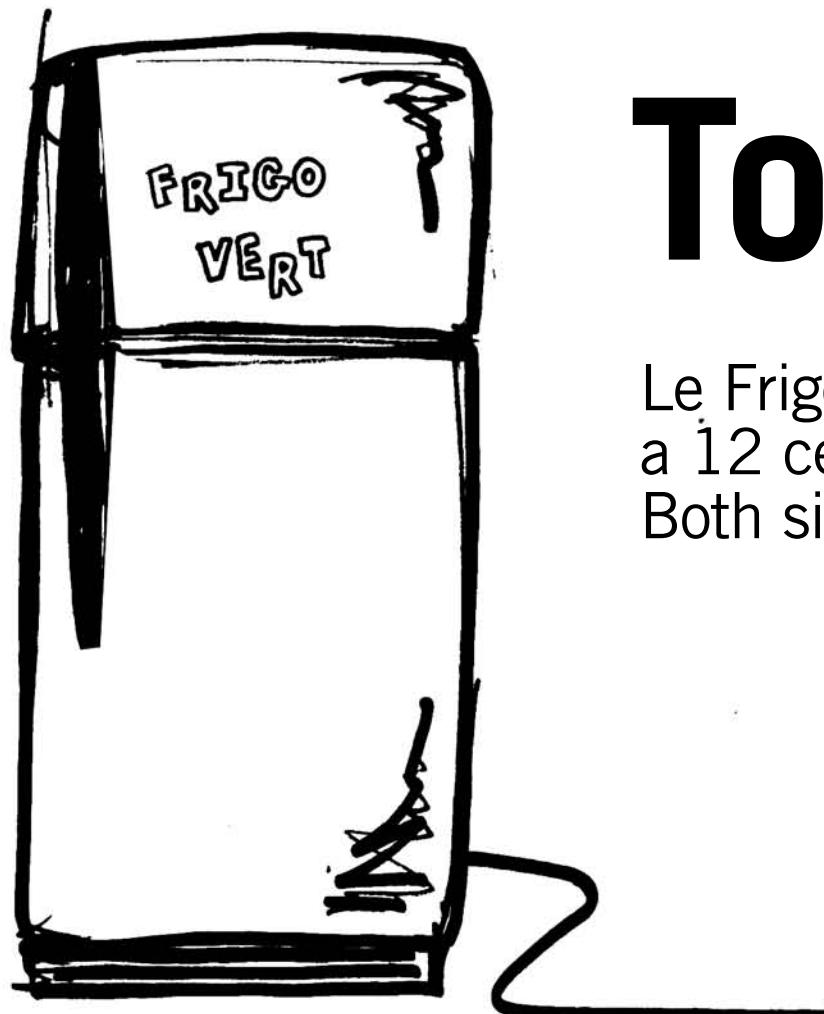
If it sounds sketchy to you, keep in mind that many of the city's small shops are little more than bike flippers with business licenses and wholesale accounts.

So why the off-putting intro? Because you can and do make a killing, plus the fact that any business where someone can make 100 per cent profit naturally makes some people uneasy. Especially people who have a sentimental attachment to some imagined purity or punk ethos of cycling.

To be fair, there are plenty of people who love the idea of having a fellow hobbyist and cyclist sell them their steed. Just the opposite, there are some cranks who will hate you for every cent you make.

And there are a million stoned university kids who don't give a shit where their Specialized came from.

Buyer emotions aside, it's pretty easy for a decent mechanic to sell bikes, make some money and not be a total jerk. I'd tell you this week but I just ran out of space. Grab *The Link*'s next issue to learn how!



To fee, or not to

Le Frigo Vert is asking Concordia students for a 12 cent fee levy increase. Should they get it? Both sides debate the merits of the increase.

Vote Yes for Le Frigo Vert

The impetus for this referendum was to find a way to keep going without having to cut store hours or raise costs.

• LE FRIGO VERT YES COMMITTEE

Why does Le Frigo Vert need the 12-cent increase?

As the demand for the Frigo, as well as fixed costs such as rent and hydro, increase, we find ourselves unable to sustain our current level of services. The impetus for this referendum was to find a way to keep going without having to cut store hours or raise costs.

In order to keep our current hours, we'd have to raise the mark-up on most items by 50 per cent. And in order to keep the costs down, we'd need to cut our store hours almost in half.

So we thought of a third way: a small increase per student for our continued success. Due to these increasing demands, Le Frigo Vert needs you to vote YES to the request for a 12-cent increase to the fee levy in order to keep the store as it is (which requires an additional 40 staffing hours per week) and increase services. The alternative is that we'll be forced to significantly increase mark-ups, and

reduce store hours and services.

While it's with great pride we've seen more and more students accessing Le Frigo Vert's lowest mark-up/healthiest food categories, such as bulk fruit and vegetables, and medicinal/menstrual products, sales in the higher mark-up categories like snack foods have fallen.

The result? A higher demand of our services in terms of ordering, stocking, finding new ethical products, special orders, stocking and cash. However, much less income is being generated. Le Frigo Vert needs more hours, more staff and better technology for tracking inventory. We need more accessible products and an accessibility program. We want to be able to reduce prices even more on prepared foods in order to provide students on the go with nutritious, delicious and affordable meal alternatives. Vote yes and we will not just scrape by and survive, but actually plan and thrive sustainably as your organization.

Your 12 cents will go towards longer opening hours, more staff and volunteers available in the

store, more consistent service, shorter waiting times, more help and information in the store, more products available more consistently, a weekly Loyola marketplace and cheaper, healthy prepared foods.

Sound like a lot? That 12 cents will also provide students with the following:

- A herbal pharmacy with free information, workshops and a consultation clinic
- An expanded volunteer program, more work study positions and more job opportunities for students
- More workshops on low-budget, healthy, responsible cooking and autonomous health care
- A computerized inventory system to reduce errors and loss of inventory, thus reducing costs for you
- Increased outreach and communication with students, including greater participation in campus events
- Accessibility for people who face barriers to healthy food, from affordable organics to allergy-sensitive options, from

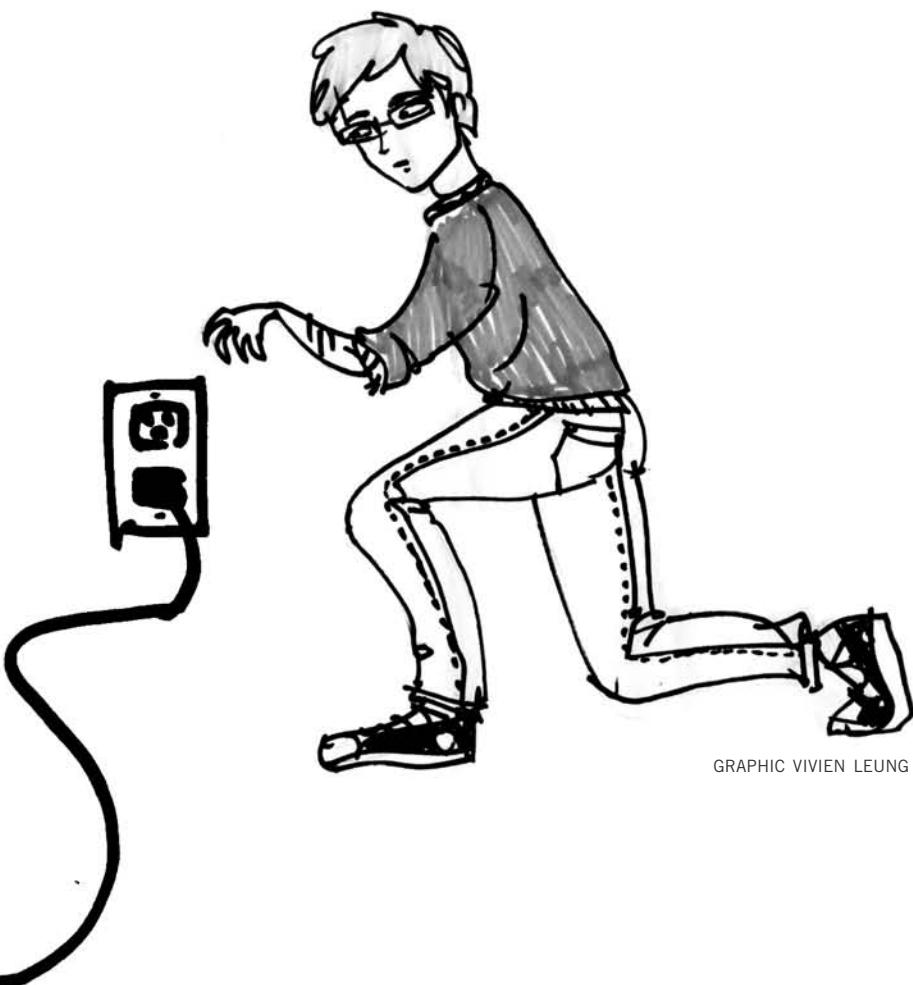
info and resources around health to an online store and delivery service for students facing physical barriers to Le Frigo Vert

• A sustainable organization, both on a day-to-day basis as well as for our long-term goals such as acquiring our own space

- Access to healthy discounted or donated food and beverages for your student group events
- Reduced prices on ready-made healthy food for you to grab between classes or on the run.

We are asking for a bit more money, but when you think about it, for every cup of coffee you buy at Le Frigo Vert instead of at your "local" multi-national coffee corporation, you save \$2.00. Even with a full course load each semester, you can make back the full amount of your fee levy in less than three cups of coffee! If this isn't enough value for your 12 cents, you can always request a refund at the beginning of each semester.

fee?



Vote no to co-op's fee levy increase

The real question is this: why does the Frigo need a \$100,000 fee increase to cover a deficit one-tenth its size?

• ANDREW HAIG

So, Le Frigo Vert is coming hat-in-hand to students once again this year. What a surprise. Fresh from raising wages by \$15,000, and having now gotten comfortable tapping graduate students for their own \$20,000 fee levy, the Frigo apparently thinks that it's time to take a bigger bite out of the undergraduate population.

Students deserve to know the facts about the groups for which they pay fees. Most of all, they deserve to know whether a group's promises are credible—because if not, students are simply being asked to give away their money blindly.

Let's turn to the Frigo's main campaign promise: "Outreach."

The Frigo's primary campaign pledge throughout this campaign has been a vague and woolly claim that the new money will allow it to do more "outreach"—spreading the equitable-vegan-organic message to students throughout the land.

If the Frigo is so committed to getting the message out to students, it's only reasonable to ask how much the Frigo spent on doing so in

past years. So, for 2008-2009? Well, unsurprisingly, the answer is: \$0.00. Nuthin'. Nada. Zilch.

But maybe that's not fair. After all, the Frigo Vert was in deficit last year after that \$15,000 wage hike, so it'd probably be more fair to look back to the year before, when the Frigo was flush with a \$6,634 surplus.

Anyone want to guess how much the Frigo spent on "Outreach" in 2007-08? Well, I'll tell you: \$12.87. Less than a fifth of a percent of the group's surplus for the year, or 0.0029 per cent of the Frigo's total budget.

So, all of that begs the question: if the Frigo cares less about outreach than about squirreling money away in the bank, how will giving them more money change their priorities?

The Frigo's second big argument is one of economic necessity. According to the Frigo's books, the group is projecting a \$12,000 deficit for the coming fiscal year. Unsurprisingly, the organization's management have seized on this deficit as proof that the organization is doomed without a new fee levy.

For the sake of argument, let's

forget that this so-called deficit results entirely from the \$15,000 leap in "Wages and Salaries" over the last year (Frigo staff earn \$14 an hour). Even then, it takes only a cursory scan over the Frigo's books to see that the supposed deficit is composed entirely of waste, perks and pork.

The Frigo pays out \$2,500 in "Board Expenses" and "Staff Appreciation" each year. Perhaps it's just me, but at \$14 per hour, I suspect the staff are "appreciated" enough already. Then there's the \$1,200 that the Frigo donates every year to like-minded organizations.

Scratch everything I just mentioned, and you're already half-way through the so-called "deficit." Add onto that the \$4,850 tucked away in the bank—along with the \$750 spent on "Conflict Resolution Training" and "Visioning Meetings"—and the shortfall vanishes. All of this is without ever touching the major expenses.

This is beside the point, though. How easily the Frigo could cover its deficit isn't really the issue. The real question is this: why does the Frigo need a \$100,000 fee increase to cover a deficit one-tenth its size?

Far from being down to its last two cents, the Frigo Vert is actually swimming in money. According to their last financial statements, the Frigo has more than \$150,000 in assets, including \$91,000 in cash. Against this, the group has only \$8,000 in liabilities. A group with 10 years' worth of funding is coming to Concordia students asking us to fatten their bank account.

After all, the Frigo already takes in more than \$250,000 in sales each year, so, a price increase of only 10 per cent would provide them with enough new revenue to cover their current deficit twice over. This solution has an additional benefit as well, in that it assigns the cost of operating the Frigo to the customers who shop there.

And that's it: \$0.05 to the price of a samosa, and the Frigo's problems all disappear. So, given how easy it would be for the group to solve its problems on its own, it's not unreasonable for students to ask why the Frigo deserves another \$100,000 per year.

Students deserve the answers to these questions. Sadly, knowing the Frigo, answers are unlikely to be forthcoming.



LSA love for Khriaty

I arrived to Canada and I learned about the existence of the Lebanese Student Association. I got really excited because I missed my country and I imagined that this association would make it easier for me.

I met Rami Khriaty, who is currently running for VP Clubs and Outreach with Team Fusion in the upcoming Concordia Student Union elections. He was the elected president of the Lebanese Student Association at that time. He introduced me to the type of work the association did and he definitely caught my attention.

I instantly got interested in the kind of professionalism and ethical conduct he applied in his planning of events, organization of duties, and relations with people. My excitement pushed me to join the board of the LSA and there began my wonderful experience in student life at Concordia thanks to Rami.

He was a human machine in everything he did. The kind of commitment and persistence in his work was incredible. I don't think I have ever met someone with such loyalty and dedication for what they do. Sometimes he even missed class or stayed up late to make an event successful, something rarely anyone did.

When I learned he is on Team Fusion running for CSU elections I was so happy for him, and I thought everyone should know what this person is capable of achieving to help others. He is there for a reason far from the usual expectations, and that is to help students at Concordia better enjoy their university experience. I know that for a fact because he made that possible for over 900 LSA members. He is simply the best.

—Caroline El-Jurdi,
Finance

We need more Frigo

I love Le Frigo Vert because it provides a welcome space for whoever might be seeking some socializing time, as well as providing healthy and fair-trade food at reasonable prices. They do everything in their power to accommodate their customers' health desires, including providing information on different herbs and foods if requested and provide a homey and comfortable environment in which to do your grocery shopping.

I would like this organization to flourish and wish there were more of them all over the city!

—Sarah Michele Rose Sylvester,
Psychology

Praising Pudwell

Following her work as fine arts councillor last year, Morgan Pudwell will be running for Concordia Student Union VP Sustainability and Promotions this year with Team Fusion. As a close friend and even closer colleague, I have seen her devour infinite amounts of projects, campaigns, theatre work and cupcake baking marathons—all in a day's work.

She has done well for herself and is respected by her peers and mentors in the theatre department. She shows herself not only to be a

robot of great efficiency but also a calm and warm soul. Watching her go about her day is overwhelming enough for mere mortals like me, but she takes it all in great stride and charm. I know she will do well, along with the other execs of Team Fusion, in making Concordia a place to be.

—Jeff Ho,
Theatre Performance

Feldman still kicking

Life is full of surprises. This week, I got a very pleasant surprise when, on my way to class on Thursday, I saw a picture of my friend David Feldman on the wall. This picture indicates David's intention to run for arts and science councillor for the Concordia Student Union.

As someone who has known David for many years, I feel comfortable saying that he is the right man for the job. He puts maximum effort into everything he takes on, is on the ball and professional. Although I do not know who David is running against I am comfortable saying that David is the most capable candidate running for arts and science councillor. If you want to see things at Concordia improve, I would advise you to vote David Feldman for arts and science councillor.

—Daniel Shaul,
Independent student

The students have spoken

I was really happy when Anna Goldfinch and Sarah Moore won in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections two weeks ago, from the Stronger ASFA affiliation. There were 1,300 students who voted and these two candidates were chosen to represent the student body in the upcoming year. They have demonstrated hard work and have shown their work ethics which makes me believe that they will do an excellent job for ASFA.

There was an ASFA Council meeting where Beisan Zubi, the councillor for political science, attempted to disqualify these two legitimately-elected candidates. As a councillor, she is supposed to represent the students. Although she said that it was not a personal attack, which it was, she is still going against the arts and science students' voice in attempt to silence it. The students have chosen who they want to see in office next year and that this is completely out of line.

—Dania Habib,
ASFA VP Social

Frats for Fusion

The Concordia Student Union general elections are coming up on March 23, 24 and 25. I highly encourage every student member to go out and vote because your money goes into the CSU, which gives them a budget of about \$1.9 million of student money to work with.

The slate that the Inter-Fraternity Council is endorsing is Fusion. You may have seen them around school in their purple shirts handing out pencils chanting "Vote Fusion."

I have had the pleasure of working with Heather Lucas on the executive of the Inter-Fraternity Council, which pertains to sorority and fraternity life on campus. I know that she truly cares about the students needs and is willing to go above and beyond what is expected of her. Please take some time to check out their website votefusion.ca and see what they want to offer students. This is the only slate that can execute what they are offering because they come with the experience, diversity and knowledge of what it takes to tend to the student body's needs. Do the right thing and vote for Fusion.

—Liyan Chen,
IFC president

Zubi violates students' will

Why does Beisan Zubi think that her vote is more important than over a thousand other students?

Last Thursday night, a disgusting violation of democracy took place at the Arts and Science Federation of Associations Council meeting. Beisan, the representative for students in political science, launched a blatant witch hunt against two ASFA vice presidents-elect, Anna Goldfinch and Sarah Moore. Anna and Sarah were elected by a wide margin in last month's ASFA election. At the Council meeting, she forced a secret ballot vote in an attempt to disqualify them. Why does she insist on hiding her unfounded attack behind a secret ballot vote?

This is the least transparent and least democratic vote ASFA has seen all year. Students should be able to hold their representatives accountable for their decisions; Beisan usurped that right as well.

Consistently, ASFA's Judicial Committee and the Chief Electoral Officer have found Beisan's allegations to be unfounded. Rightfully, the CEO and the Judicial Committee ruled that Anna and Sarah have done nothing wrong. The election contestation period has been over for weeks, yet Beisan continues to maliciously attack Anna and Sarah.

The students have voted—they want Anna Goldfinch and Sarah Moore to represent them as ASFA executives. Beisan Zubi should stop trying to silence students and respect their choice.

—Carolyn Wilson,
Études françaises & Women's Studies

I am writing this letter to inform students about the recent Arts and Science Federation of Associations Council meeting that took place on March 11.

Political science councillor Beisan Zubi has sent a motion to disqualify Anna Goldfinch and Sarah Moore to the ASFA Judicial Committee. I'd like to point out that the period for submitting contestations is over, and this motion was com-

pletely out of order and ridiculous. As an ASFA councillor, it seems as if Beisan believed us all to be fools and that we wouldn't see through her intentions.

It is important to note that all of Council applauded the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officer's fine job and fair decision-making during the election. Despite this, after Colby Briggs' CEO report, questions were raised that were all obviously loaded and tainted with personal attacks.

It was made repeatedly and abundantly clear that the CEO and the legitimately-elected candidates were in constant communication and did not break any rules. The motion put through, although not formally called a contestation, took the exact form of one.

We are not fools. During the meeting it became very clear that some individuals were using their seat on Council and their position as an ASFA VP to further their personal agendas in getting Stronger representatives disqualified. It disturbs me to my core that Council failed to see this disgusting and embarrassing behaviour.

On Council we continuously talk about "the spirit of ASFA." How is accusing and harassing someone of acts that have no truth behind them in accordance with the spirit of ASFA? Such hypocrisy. I hope this issue, which has now been directed to the Judicial Committee, will be seen for what it is: a personal attack.

This needs to end, and it needs to end immediately. Arts and science students, your votes should be respected. I respect the decisions made by Colby Briggs in this election and I respect the legitimate candidacies of the current VP Internal and VP Communications-elect. We cannot allow these continuous attacks to be dignified with our time or they will become endless.

—Gabriella Foglia,
ASFA councillor

dent body to recognize a true difference. Are you standing for "Truth?" Are you standing for "Rights?" Are you standing for "Air?" Then you're all the same.

This is a voter's request: make your name long and proud and put your campaign promises front and centre. Throw away the one-word campaigns and come up with something groundbreaking. You need to make a campaign name with so many pivotal words that it becomes a three-worded acronym filled only with vowels. Stage genuinely unique events at least twice a week on different days and at all different times. Just do something different.

You claim to want to create a change, yet you look like the same pitiful opposition year after year.

Not to mention, all for a drastically overpaid-to-do job that could have been more ethically handled by a trained chimpanzee.

—Jamie Klinger,
Marketing Alumnus 2009

Fringe views alarming

It was extremely distressing to read the fine piece by Christopher Curtis (Vol.30, Iss.25, March 9) concerning the unbelievable attitudes of bigotry and prejudice voiced by a few extremists and fanatics against certain minority cultural groups in Quebec, especially the week after the anti-Israeli group garnered so much publicity.

It is especially obscene that the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste, which is named after the individual that baptized Jesus and stood for the highest humanitarian and ethical values possible, should sponsor beliefs so contrary to the Saint.

On a happier note, it was great to see one of Concordia's leading journalists Matthew Brett contributing again. Although we can all agree that anyone who solves the perennial difficulties with the escalators in the Hall Building deserves at least a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Physics, it was actually a week that all of us can be extremely proud of for our university.

The Volunteers in Action organizers of the Women's Week did exemplary work from having a Nobel prize winner talk to our campus to showing one of the most powerful documentaries concerning the rape-torture of women, to having Michael Kaufman (one of the founders of the campaign to stop violence against women) talk to us, to having Gabreilla Szabo, a premier educator for healthy sexuality, inform us. This alone would put our university on world class standing.

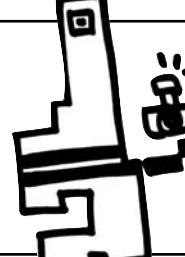
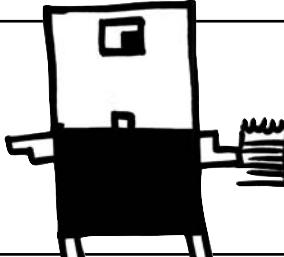
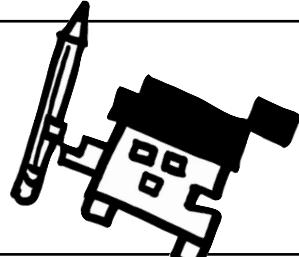
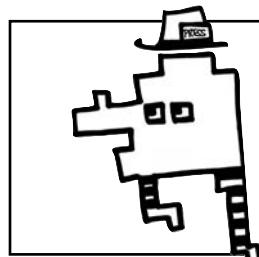
In addition we had the Art Matters week where some of the finest artists in the world from our most distinguished fine arts school exhibited their works in all their genius, creativity and beauty.

When we read that Concordia University is one of the most innovative on this planet we can justly be proud that there is substance to that claim.

—David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

Be outspoken.
Write us.
Be a weird robot.

letters@thelinknewspaper.ca





Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Feeling the Fusion

So far Fusion is projecting itself as a ready and responsible party, one that will hopefully have the opportunity to demonstrate its seriousness in being elected to the Concordia Student Union.

Having worked with several of their candidates while they were at the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, I look forward to having their respective experiences applied towards the CSU. It's great to see such a motivated group that might actually have the potential to accomplish what others in the past had promised and not yet delivered on.

From all of us who are anxious for change, we offer our support.

—*Marc-Antoni Tarondo,
Classics and History*

Adrien a man of his word

I met Adrien at the beginning of this academic year in the first Arts and Science Federation of Associations monthly Council meeting. At that meeting he gave an executive report as the new ASFA VP External and Sustainability outlining his plans for green week and other sustainable initiatives. Since then, Adrien has worked really hard to fulfill his promises and for that reason he has my respect.

Adrien has demonstrated that he is dedicated to supporting sustainable initiatives at ASFA and in the Concordia community. Most importantly, over this last academic year, Adrien has earned my trust by keeping the promises he made from the beginning of the year, and for that reason I will be voting for him in the upcoming Concordia Student Union general elections.

—*Serge Keverian,
President, Geography Undergraduate
Student Society*

Goldfinch responds

I would like to start this letter off by personally thanking all 392 arts and science students who voted for me to be your next Arts and Science Federation of Associations VP Internal.

Unfortunately, your votes are in danger of being disregarded because of petty politics and personal attacks.

After I legitimately won the position of VP Internal, Beisan Zubi, the representative for political science students on ASFA, is attempting to disqualify Sarah Moore and myself for the second time in a month. The Chief Electoral Officer has told her countless times that neither Sarah Moore nor I have done anything wrong. Apparently, this was not enough for Ms. Zubi.

After answering all of her questions in a cooperative and honest manner at last Thursday's Council meeting, she moved that Sarah and I should be sent to the ASFA Judicial Committee for possible disqualification. To add insult to injury, Ms. Zubi subsequently asked for the vote to be conducted by secret ballot, meaning that no student will ever know how their representatives voted on this matter.

I think it is important that students are aware of what is going on, who is saying what on their behalf and what their representatives are voting for. In addition, members of Council must not forget the consideration one must take as a representative of their department. A personal opinion should not (and will not) silence 392 of your voices.

—*Anna Goldfinch,
ASFA VP Internal-elect*

Support for Khoriaty

I have personally known and worked with Ramy Khoriaty, who is running for VP Clubs and Outreach in the coming Concordia Student Union general election with Team Fusion. For two years, we worked together while he was president of the Lebanese Student Association's

board.

From my experience working with Ramy, it's clear that he acquires all the necessary skills to manage and lead people. His well-coordinated approach always leads to successful projects and events. He always aims for improvement and values collaborations with all sorts of people, clubs and associations in order to increase diversity. Rami's goals and values are definitely an asset to Concordia and the CSU.

—*Sara Daou,
LSA VP Internal*

Too much security

This Wednesday I attended the conference "Between Oppression and Empowerment: Palestinian Citizens of Israel Under Apartheid." One hour through, I turned around and noticed two security guards in the room.

It seems every time there's an event about the Palestinian-Israeli problem, Concordia feels like calling the artillery. The first thing that came in my mind is "do they think we're barbaric? Can't we sit in the same room without them thinking we're going to beat each other up?"

Unfortunately, soon I was about to get a reality check. It seemed that the minute the Q&A period started, all common sense left the room. It wasn't too long before the whole thing became just plain ridiculous.

On one side, every time someone criticized or disagreed with the speaker, the room would scream "shame," "racist" or, my favourite, "sooo disrespectful" (really?). People could not even continue their question without people booing or laughing.

Of course, the "other side" was far from better, as soon it became a competition to see who could scream, applaud or heckle louder than the other. At one point, one person even cheered the idea that the speaker get executed! If I wanted to watch an entertaining, useless

debate, I would've stayed home and watched CNN.

Of course, the speaker and organizers are not completely beyond criticism. On one side, I thought the speaker should've known better and told his "fans" to let people talk (the questions are addressed to him, after all).

And of course the organizers, who I give credit for a decent job done throughout the Israeli Apartheid awareness week, could've still hidden their frustration a little more. Telling an audience member to "shut up" is not exactly the best way to encourage communication. If they think that only people who agree with them should come, then what is the point of the whole week?

I am not asking for "civilized" talk. People can be as passionate as they want, but that does not mean you don't acknowledge and try to understand the passion of others as well.

So, to go back to my question, does Concordia think we're barbaric? Of course not (maybe just a bit...), but do I, after this event, think we need security guards in the room? Of course not. Fourteen-year-old babysitters should be just fine.

—*Sawssan Kaddoura,
Concordia alumnus 2007*

CFS-Q prez supports team Fusion

I am writing to express my strong support for the Fusion team running in the Concordia Student Union general elections. The individ-

uals making up this team have shown dedication and prolonged involvement in the student life of this university. It is not only that this team deserves to hold the positions of the executive, Council and Senate and Board of Governors, it is, more importantly, that these individuals are the most capable group to administer our student union and represent undergraduate students in various administrative capacities.

Furthermore, the variety of backgrounds and individual experiences on the Fusion team is highly diverse, meaning that if elected, this team will represent a great range of perspectives and opinions on key issues. This is not a team with a single perspective or ideological bent; rather it is a team with core campaign points that they will accomplish, and a variety of opinions in between.

In particular, it made me happy knowing that Prince Ralph Osei is running for president of the executive slate of Fusion. This year Prince Ralph has done an outstanding job as the CSU's VP Services and Loyola. He has turned the CSU around, from years of systemic corruption, patronage and bad press (and a bad image for Concordia students) into an outstanding, clean model of good governance. I have worked with him closely and can testify first-hand that with him at the helm, Concordia students are in great hands.

—*Gregory Johannson,
University Senator
President, Canadian Federation of
Students-Quebec*

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

Getting outside the classroom

There's more than lectures in student life

• ELI LEVINSON

What is university? Is it just class and then a diploma that will help you find a job?

That seems to be the perspective of a pretty large chunk of the student body at Concordia. You go to class, write your papers, study for exams, maybe meet a couple cool people and go drinking with them. Other than that, life happens outside of your school.

This would seem to be a perfectly valid perspective; after all, it's just school right? Wrong. Being in university is an opportunity that a very small percentage of the people on Earth will get.

At Concordia there are hundreds of student groups and

clubs and associations that you can participate in. These aren't just social groupings, although that is an important part. A lot of these groups can help you find jobs, network and put into practice whatever it is that you learn in school.

Whatever you are studying, there is a group of people that would benefit from your knowledge and who can help you improve yourself and maybe even make some money. It's very easy to actually gain a certain amount of real experience while you are in school; all it takes is a little effort and an open mind.

Think about what it means to be a student. It means, among other things, that you are broke as hell and probably going into debt. It also means that you can

benefit from discounts in restaurants, public transit, movies, museums, pretty much any cultural activity. Student status is not permanent and while you have it, you should appreciate it and take advantage, you only have this for a little while.

On top of the whole moneyless lifestyle, being a student means you don't have real responsibilities. You have to go to class and write exams, sure, but you are also able to spend a whole lot of time thinking about the world you live in and how to improve it without any financial repercussions. It's harder to try to save the world if you're working a nine-to-five, so right now is the time.

In the 20th century, there were many instances of social

change that were led by student movements or at least benefited in important ways from the support and energy of students.

I'm not saying to start a revolution, but I am saying that it is important to understand where you fit in society. We are not in a bubble, no matter how much it may sometimes seem that way.

Recognize that university is the last stage in your educational life, so if you don't take advantage of all those other elements of the university experience, you will be a step behind those who have, squandering away some of your valuable tuition money.

Take the time to find out what is possible and I guarantee you that you will be better off. After all, you don't get your money back.

In the 20th century, there were many instances of social change that were led by student movements or at least benefited in important ways from the support and energy of students.

Con gripes u

Concordia's new dissenting academy

• MATTHEW BRETT

As Concordia prepares to host the 2010 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences this May, now is the time to create a new dissident academy.

What is needed is a radical reorientation of academia, a new dissenting academy, created for the explicit purpose of addressing urgent issues that stand before us.

The university is rarely "anything better than the handmaiden of official society: the social club of ruling elites, the training school of whatever functionaries the status quo required," wrote Theodore Roszak in *The Dissenting Academy* (1967).

The line between universities, the corporate world and government has blurred to irrelevancy.

Concordia President Judith Woodsworth's most recent (trade) mission to India with Quebec Premier Jean Charest and a number of business leaders is a case in point.

It is a shame Woodsworth can praise India's "flourishing economy, [and] rise of the middle class" without documenting the mass state violence and suppression of the rural poor taking place at this very moment in the name of "development."

I have no doubt that some of the 130 trade delegation members are part of Canada's massive mining and finance sectors—the vast majority of the world's mining wealth is made and lost on the Toronto Stock Exchange—busy exploiting India's natural resources while gross human

rights violations take place.

This "flourishing economy" also comes with a state military apparatus that is busy "burning villages, raping women, burning food crops," according to Arundhati Roy, whose recently-published *Field Notes on Democracy* is a must read.

Concordia's missions to China should be regarded in a similar vein, and don't be surprised if Concordia goes on a (trade) mission to Colombia once the free trade agreement is ratified this year in Ottawa.

Research interests also align very closely with prevailing government policy.

The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade recently offered 10 fellowships of \$5,000 each to graduate researchers who submit a paper on "Canada's Role in the Circumpolar World." Research must focus on "the Arctic Council as a mechanism to advance Canada's foreign policy objectives."

Just one month prior to this call for submissions, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was taking part in Operation Nanook, a military exercise demonstrating Canada's "unyielding resolve" to protect the north from those nasty Norwegians.

State leaders never stop for a moment to reflect on the madness of militarizing/colonizing the indigenous north precisely to exploit the very resources—namely fossil fuels—that helped cause the melting of these ice sheets in the first place. It's sheer lunacy.

Yet Concordia's communications, journalism, business, engineering, geography and urban planning departments all sustain the status-quo with remarkable efficiency.

Students can take advanced courses in derivatives, a primary driver of the financial crisis, but the business school pats itself on the back for adding a course or two on business ethics or "sustainable development."

The political science department is no better. The graduate program, and dozens like it across Canada, is designed explicitly to train the new mandarins of Ottawa.

The World Bank predicts an increase of 200,000 to 400,000 infant deaths as a result of the financial crisis, and bloody wars continue in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan (thanks Obama) and Israel-Palestine, with women and children as the primary victims. Iran finds itself at a critical juncture.

The deteriorating environment is also a grave concern for the world's leading scientists and humanity at large, and the global economy needs a radical rethink. There will be another financial crisis unless we make deep and fundamental changes to governance and finance.

But along what lines will this new dissenting academy be drawn? Geographer David Harvey offered a compelling framework during his 2010 World Social Forum speech, "Organizing for the Anti-Capitalist Transition."

Have a Concordia gripe? Send them to opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca

Fortunately, Concordia's new administration permits this kind of

revolutionary dissent, so long as the negative press coverage is not sustained. More fortunately, hundreds of Concordia students have developed a highly-functional network of dissent that merely needs some unifying purpose and a galvanizing point.

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia (QPIRG Concordia), the Red School, the Community University Research Exchange (CURE), Free Education Montreal—all of these organizations are slowly coming together. That said, the Concordia

Student Union, the Graduate Student Association, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and most student organizations have been painfully silent on the upcoming tuition hikes. There will be a tuition hike in the provincial budget this April. At question now is how severe it will be. It is time that our unions start acting like unions! A real student union would be actively promoting a "red patch revival," handing out small felt patches to everyone who cares for Quebec's socialized education system. A potential referendum for a one-day student strike should also be on the table, and this can only be achieved by dedicated individuals who care to shake things up within their organization.

More broadly, teach-ins and educational cooperatives must emerge along with a communications strategy to facilitate this process. Student-run organizations must come together to form a unified movement with pan-Canadian and international links.

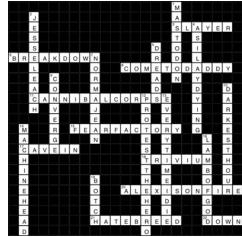
This is merely a sketch of what must emerge in the face of local and global injustice and the evident wavering of capitalism and imperialism.

Concordia can and indeed must return to its intellectual, activist roots. An ideal place to start is at the upcoming Free Education Montreal public debate at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, in Room H-110 in the Hall building.

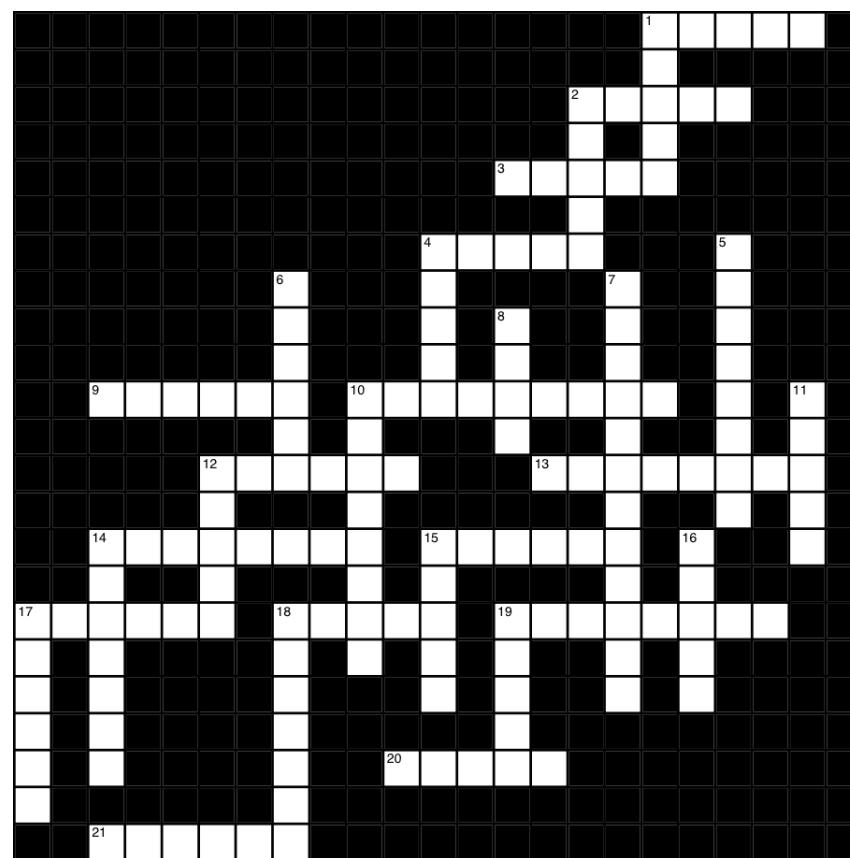
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solutionz



crossword

**Across**

- Originally meant odd or unusual, has been reappropriated by the LGBT set to define themselves.
- A sudden fit of sickness.
- Crazy person, or Daffy.
- Epic, or Johnny.
- Strange, in an interesting or pleasing way.
- The most famous hunchback of all-time.
- The world's 19th largest country... If only they'd finally separate.
- A soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot.
- The result of division. Sometimes done via chainsaw, though most of the time not.
- To snuff out, suppress or crush completely.
- An arrow-holding case, or to shake quickly.
- "We're off the record, right? I mean, you won't do me dirty, huh? Please tell me that you turned your tape recorder off."
- A measure of amount. Alternatively, sometimes it comes down to either this term or quality.
- To stitch or sew together. Alternatively, a musical about pioneer women.
- A member of the Society Of Friends, a Christian sect.

Down

- Ferengi.... Or physics term.
- Imperial unit of measure, equal to a

- fourth of a gallon.
- A prescribed number, meant to be a minimum.
- The foolish path is paved with noble intentions. (adj.)
- Four, en français.
- Yo, it's 4.0 stereo. The Who and the Flaming Lips both think the world of this.
- To peace out, quite literally.
- Prompt that an answer is given for.
- The sex fart.
- Arab emirate, used to be under British control until the 1970s.
- A minor or trivial complaint.
- The only fertile female in a colony of social insects (think ants and bees). Alternatively, the most powerful piece on a chessboard.
- A writing device made of a bird's feather.
- The majority of keyboards out there are of this type. (Hint: Think of letter placement.)
- One-fourth, quite simply.
- Small game bird with a stupid hat/feather thing hanging out over its head. It lays tasty eggs.

Corrections

In "We don't owe them anything," (Vol. 30, Iss. 25, March 9), *The Link* stated that former CSU executive Noah Stewart-Ornstein was a member of the Board of Governors during the 2007 academic year and introduced a motion. However, Stewart-Ornstein was on the Board during 2007-08. *The Link* regrets the error.

heartaches anonymous

Hey Heartaches,
I think this girl is having an emotional affair with me. She has a boyfriend. I really like her. I think she knows and might like me back, kind of. We talk for hours on the phone, flirt constantly, go shopping, to the movies, to dinner, cuddle—basically all of the usual boyfriend-girlfriend stuff without any physical intimacy. Is she just using me to fill all the voids from her relationship or what?
—Captain Blue Balls

Dearest Captain,
I'm going to assume this girl doesn't spend a whole lot of time with her boyfriend if she has enough hours in the day

to hang around with you all day long.
Before you take this anywhere at all, I want you to try to evaluate the, uh, tone of this friendship. You and your gal pal cuddle. Are you literally snuggling or is she just leaning slightly against you when she's too exhausted not to? What is she like around her other friends? Are you really getting special treatment?

Rather than "filling voids" from her other relationship, I would say this girl might be straight-up bored with her main squeeze and is really just trying to get

exactly the same thing elsewhere. Once she's decided to shop around for intimacy, consciously or otherwise, it's easy for her to just go headfirst into another monogamous(-feeling) relationship. She's already in intimacy mode. She's just changing her target. This is how rebounds happen.

I think the best thing right now would be to back off. I know you like her, but it's time to stick up for yourself. No need to be cold; the next time she calls to make a pseudo-date, just tell her you have other plans. Do it a couple more times. Yes, I

could be condoning lying. If she ain't serious, she'll probably ease up on the snuggling. If she presses the issue and asks you what's up, acting all hurt and shit, well—give her an earful. Ask her what the hell is up with her. You don't deserve to be dicked around by someone who really needs to resolve her current relationship before she makes her next move.

Love advice your best friend is too nice to give. Send your queries on sex, dating and a total lack of romance to : heartachesanonymous@gmail.com.

editorial

Operation toy hammer

"Who needs lobbyists when you can pay the Hell's Angels?"
—Old construction proverb

Operation Hammer has been nickel and diming Quebec's construction industry for long enough. Without a public inquiry into the relationship between construction, organized crime and the provincial government, the Sûreté du Québec's fight against corruption won't yield any significant results.

The operation is an SQ task force created to investigate links between the construction industry and organized crime. It was inaugurated in October 2009, after Rue Frontenac discovered ties between Montreal's city hall and a construction company alleged to be involved with the Mafia. The 70-person task force has municipal, provincial and federal police working alongside crown prosecutors and civil servants. So far they have raided the offices of construction companies and union offices in Laval, Boucherville, Anjou and Montreal, among other places.

Last week the SQ continued their series of raids and arrests, paying a visit to a construction company in Brossard and issuing an arrest warrant for former Quebec Federation of Labour boss Jocelyn Dupuis on fraud charges. The QFL represents over 70,000 workers in Quebec.

In a related headline, the head of QFL's north shore operations was caught on tape threatening a rival union representative on the telephone. When construction union bosses are so bold as to threaten each other over the phone (in the midst of a highly publicized investigation into the industry), you can draw one of three conclusions:

- 1) The bosses aren't afraid of Operation Hammer.
- 2) The bosses are stupid.
- 3) Refer to one and two.

Politically, it would seem that Premier Jean Charest and his party have nothing to gain from a public inquiry. In September, Liberal MNA David Whissell held partial ownership in paving company ABC Rive-Nord while serving as Quebec's minister of labour. After opposition parties clamoured for his resignation, Whissell was given the choice between selling his shares in the paving company or leaving Charest's cabinet. Whissell left the cabinet on Sept. 9.

This highlights the entrenched relationship between construction and power that exists in Quebec. If one of the province's highest-ranking public officials can also have a financial interest in a company that is regularly awarded government contracts, how can anyone expect a few raids and arrests to curtail a problem that exceeds police jurisdiction?

Recent scandals prove that corruption goes beyond provincial politics. In 2009, members of Montreal's two largest municipal parties, incumbent Union Montreal and Vision Montréal, allegedly took bribes from construction companies with known mob connections. Obviously, someone was hedging their bets. Obviously, the game is above politics.

A few highly-publicized raids play well on the evening news but the investigation is toothless without a public inquiry.

As we look to the future, Montreal has a number of construction megaprojects. The rebuilding of the Turcot interchange, the proposed expansion of the metro system and the possible construction of a streetcar project. The projects will cost billions and if nothing is done to fundamentally rid the system of bribery, extortion and price fixing, we'll see no end to our current plight.

Jean-Guy Dagenais, president of the Association des policières et policiers du Québec, a union that represents SQ officers, expressed his desire for a public hearing into this matter just one month into Operation Hammer's investigation.

"It takes more than a police investigation," he told *The Gazette* on Nov. 24. "We want an inquiry."

When the police themselves tell you it's time to expand the investigation, our politicians should put political interests aside and actually serve their constituents.

—Christopher Curtis,
Sports Editor