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Concordia president defends stance on tuition



Concordia University president Judith Woodsworth contends with panellists, audience. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

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cover by Riley Sparks

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Hours after the Charest Liberals announced that Quebec's university tuition would rise in 2012, Concordia University president Judith Woodsworth was on the defensive as students questioned her views on tuition and the societal role of a university.

"People come to university to get a job, to improve their quality of life, to become responsible citizens," said Woodsworth at a panel discussion hosted by Concordia's Graduate Student Association on March 30.

Woodsworth was at odds with both her fellow panellists and most audience members over her claim that higher tuition could increase enrolment.

"Quebec raised hydro electric rates so people would use less electricity," said panellist Eric Martin, a researcher for the think tank IRIS. "You can't then raise the cost of tuition and claim it will increase university participation."

The discussion, which took place in front of an audience of 90 at the Hall building, was prompted by statements Woodsworth made in an October interview with *The Link*.

"If we can get to the point where we have enough funding to support students who are

really in need and charge tuition to the ones who have the money, that would be the best solution," said Woodsworth in the interview. She added that raising money from donors was a priority for the university.

"Quebec raised hydro electric rates so people would use less electricity. You can't then raise the cost of tuition and claim it will increase university participation."

—Eric Martin, Researcher, IRIS think tank

"I've been badly misquoted about [the American tuition comments]," said Woodsworth on March 30. "I meant we should have our alumni make donations to the university."

Her explanation was met with cynicism.

"I'm in university now and I'm getting calls from Concordia asking me to donate money," said Beisan Zubi, the former VP External for the Political Science Students Association. "I haven't even come close to squaring my debt and I'm expected to donate to the university."

The weeks leading up to the

discussion saw an increase in support for higher tuition amongst Quebec's political leadership. On Feb. 22, a coalition of former provincial politicians, including former Parti Québécois Premier Lucien Bouchard, advocated an open-market university tuition system where individual schools would set their own fees.

"If I were a university student today, I would have a manifesto" said Daniel Dagenais, a panellist and Concordia sociology professor. "It would read: Let it be known, henceforth, that I shall only pay what Lucien Bouchard paid when he was in university."

The jest was met with roaring applause from the audience. Cheers also rose when Martin suggested that Quebec universities eliminate tuition altogether. Woodsworth did not share Martin's enthusiasm for the idea.

"I don't set tuition prices," she said. "If the taxpayers are willing to be taxed up to 70 per cent of their wages, then yes, I think free tuition is a possibility."

According to Quebec's 2010-2011 Budget, tuition only covers 12.5 per cent of the price of a university education.

At the debate's conclusion, Martin and audience members turned their criticism towards Concordia's Board of Governors, a group of 22 individuals who determine what Concordia stu-

dents can study and how much they pay for their education.

Many of the unelected board members, like Royal Bank and EnCana chairman David O'Brien, are influential Canadian business people. O'Brien also serves as the university's chancellor.

"Many of these board members were Concordia students at one point in their lives," said Woodsworth, who also serves as the president of the Board of Governors. "They were deeply involved in the school and some were even young rabble-rousers."

The board came under fire earlier this year when it approved a 50 per cent increase in international student tuition fees. The increase was announced over the summer, while many students were moving to Canada from abroad.

"They are probably nice people, I'm not disputing that," replied Martin, "[but] corporations and universities have different functions. One generates profit, the other forms minds [...] It's not about attacking the corporations. It's about stressing the separation between economy and culture and knowledge."

"When we confuse the two, culture and knowledge become instruments not for thinking, but to generate more money," said Martin.

Waving the flag

Protesters demand boycott of Chapters and Indigo



25 people took to Phillips Square to call for a boycott of companies with ties to the Israeli regime. PHOTO MADELINE COLEMAN

• CLAY HEMMERICH

A group of Palestinians and supporters gathered at Phillips Square on March 30 to call for the boycott of companies they claim financially support Israeli apartheid. The activists also commemorated six Palestinian protesters who died while demonstrating against the Israeli government in 1976.

The crowd of approximately 25

people followed chants led by event organizer Ehab Lotayef on a loud speaker.

“Vive la Palestine! Boycottons Israel! Boycottons apartheid!” screamed Lotayef.

A band of trumpeters and drummers played an upbeat tune to contribute to the protest. The people who walked past were generally amiable and curious, but occasionally there was anger directed at the protesters’ message.

“It’s not your land,” a young man yelled to the crowd.

The protest—organized by the global Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions Movement for Palestine—urged passersby to boycott products made by companies with connections to the Israeli regime.

Lotayef also advocated for a boycott of Indigo and Chapters bookstore chains. In 2005, Heather Reisman—the CEO of

Chapters and Indigo—co-founded the HESEG Foundation for Lone Soldiers. HESEG is a program that financially supports young people who immigrate to Israel to join the Israeli military.

The Israeli Defence Forces has been accused of war crimes by the United Nations.

“[The Canadian people] should be conscious of what they are buying so that they would not be participating in the injustice that

Israel is undertaking,” said Lotayef. “They would help the conflict itself get resolved and end in a just manner.”

Stuart Myiow, a Wolf Clan Representative of the Mohawk Traditional Council, came to wave his purple Mohawk flag for support.

“It is very similar to native people’s struggle,” said Myiow. “No matter what race, oppression is the same everywhere.”

McGill grads vote to leave the CFS

The CFS is going to be lonely in Quebec: Kaats

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

“Vive le Québec libre!”

A supporter of the No to the Canadian Federation of Students campaign at McGill University celebrated April 1 as the results were released: 86 per cent of graduate students voted against staying in the national lobby group.

The referendum at the Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill was the second successful attempt for a Quebec student union to leave the CFS in as many weeks. On March 26, Concordia’s undergraduate students also

voted to leave.

With 12 per cent turnout, the CFS referendum question had more popular support than the PGSS general election itself.

“Grad students recognized that this is an organization that they don’t want to be part of,” said Adrian Kaats, the head of the No to CFS committee at McGill. “But it took a lot of work, a lot of work.”

Kaats resigned as the chairperson for the Quebec component of the CFS on March 10 to head the No committee. With the help of four people, he campaigned to tell students to leave the organization

he had formerly been a part of.

“The CFS boycotted the process to some degree,” Kaats said. “But on the last day they plastered the entire campus with posters, which was surprising. They violated referendum rules.”

According to Kaats, neither the CFS or the Yes to CFS committee came forward to claim responsibility for the posters, which called for students to vote in favour of the national lobby group.

“I’m very disappointed with the maturity level of the CFS,” said Kaats. “I’m also disappointed that they don’t appear to have any interest in satisfying the needs or

desires of their members.

“They seem to be interested squarely in securing their revenue sources and that’s what membership is to these people: a revenue source.”

Despite receiving the CFS’s approval to run a referendum, the lobby group and the PGSS disagreed over the number of polling days. The CFS only offered two days for voting: March 31 and April 1. The PGSS requested an additional two days so that the referendum would correspond with its general election.

After failing to reach any agreement, the PGSS elected to

add the two additional days without the CFS’s support.

“The CFS told the PGSS that they weren’t going to recognize the referendum,” said Kaats, who added that the student society’s leadership was happy with the results of the referendum.

“As of next week, CFS membership in Quebec is going to be a lonely prospect,” Kaats concluded.

Concordia’s graduate students will vote from April 6 to 8 on whether they want to remain in the CFS. If Concordia’s graduates vote to leave, the Dawson Student Union will be the only CFS member left in the province.

Back over the bridge

Kahnawake residents face racially motivated evictions



On the other side of Montreal's Mercier bridge, non-native Kahnawake residents and their families told to leave town

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

In Kahnawake, some people live in a constant state of fear.

"I have friends who don't sleep at night," said Tracy Deer, a publisher of Kahnawake's local newspaper *The Eastern Door*. "They fell in love with non-natives and now spend their time wondering if one night they'll get a knock at their door and there's gonna be a mob outside with clubs to pull them out of their homes. That's no way to live, that's no way to form a community."

For months, the small Mohawk reserve has been divided over the issue of evicting non-natives and their families from Kahnawake, which sits just across the river from Montreal.

A controversial membership law passed in 2004 stipulates that Mohawks who marry non-natives would lose their right to live in Kahnawake.

In February, Kahnawake's Mohawk band council sent out eviction letters to people and families they claimed didn't meet the community's membership requirements. The letters gave recipients 10 days to leave the reserve. As of last week, 26 letters had been delivered and six of the recipients had left.

Council spokesperson Joe Delaronde said the eviction letters should come as no surprise to members.

"It's the law," said Delaronde. "People knew it was the law when they moved here and it's been that way for years [...] Some people are flagrantly disregarding that law."

The Mohawk band council has yet to announce a plan for enforcing the evictions.

"We have a plan," said Delaronde. "But we aren't telling anyone just yet."

Alvin Delisle served on the Kahnawake's Mohawk band council from 1987 to 1991. He personally handed out eviction notices in 1988.

"The only way they'll enforce the evictions is if they start forcing people out of their homes," said Delisle. "Nobody really moved away in 1988. And most of those that did ended up back on the reserve shortly after."

Since his time on the band council, Delisle has regretted his role in the eviction notices.

Ten years ago, Delisle met and fell in love with Colleen Labelle, a non-native. On February 2, Labelle was handed an eviction notice when she entered Delisle's home in Kahnawake. Labelle lives in Lasalle but stayed with Delisle over the winter as he prepared for and recovered from heart surgery.

"They want to take my rights as a native away because my girlfriend is white," said Delisle. "[But] we're not going anywhere."

Delisle also questioned the

legitimacy of Kahnawake's Mohawk band council.

"[Grand Chief] Mike Delisle doesn't really speak for the people," said the former band council member. "Nobody votes in these elections and I know there are band council members who want to speak out against Mike but won't for fear of reprisals."

In July 2009, Mike Delisle was elected to his third consecutive term as band council chief with 715 votes, just under nine per cent of the population on the reserve. Faced with a stalemate between his council and the eviction letter recipients, Mike Delisle has expressed a desire to publish the recipients names.

"I'm hoping that they're not going to follow through with that," said Deer. "Things could get ugly [or] things could get violent if that were to happen."

Deer, also a filmmaker, released *Club Native* in 2004, a documentary that explores Kahnawake's new membership laws and the concept of blood quantum. Designed to trace racial ancestry and determine legal rights, blood quantum was first enacted in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1705 to remove civil rights from people with American-Indian or African-American heritage.

According to Deer, the new membership law requires Kahnawake residents to have four

Mohawk great-grandparents, or one-eighth Mohawk ancestry.

"While the new membership law does not state anything blood quantum, the elders committee who were in charge of enforcing the law took their own biases to the table," said Deer.

"They started evaluating peoples' great grandparents and decided that they had to be 50 per cent or more Mohawk blood quantum to be considered for Kahnawake membership. Even though it doesn't say anything about blood quantum in the [2004 membership law]."

The federal Indian and Métis status laws allow people whose ancestry is as little as one-sixteenth native to be entitled to live on-reserve, but a loophole allows reserves like Kahnawake to set their own conditions.

Delaronde said the eviction notices haven't been met with much opposition within the reserve. But both Delisle and Deer challenge his claim.

"People sit on the fence in this community," said Deer. "It's comfortable there. When you take an opinion on this issue, you place yourself on one side of the fence. People are afraid of what will happen if they speak out."

"You find out that your friend hates white people and it drives a wedge into you," she continued. "Families all over town are faced with these kind of divisions."

Briefs

Activist group snubbed by Ottawa

Activist group Montreal's Missing Justice staged a sit-in near Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Chuck Strahl's office on March 29. They were promptly removed. The group was protesting the government's elimination of the Aboriginal Healing Fund from last month's budget, resulting in a sharp reduction of community-based services across Canada.

BIXI's back

Montreal's public bike system, BIXI, is on track to roll out 5,000 bikes almost a month ahead of schedule. The two-year-old network allows users to rent public bikes in central boroughs. Its coverage was expanded in March, but Notre-Dame-de-Grâce residents are still left out in the cold.

Media fired upon by US military

A classified video showing American Apache helicopters killing two *Reuters* employees in a Baghdad public square was released on April 5 by WikiLeaks, a site that releases documents provided by whistleblowers. A van that came to assist them was also targeted. The military confirmed the video's authenticity.

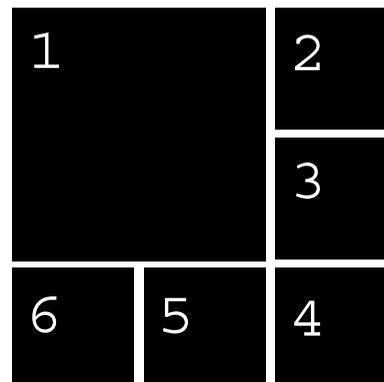
Arctic in Canada's court: minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon stated on Thursday that science will be on Canada's side when it comes to deciding the controversial boundaries of the country's northern waters. The government has come under fire recently for excluding some members of the Arctic Council from G8 boundary talks.

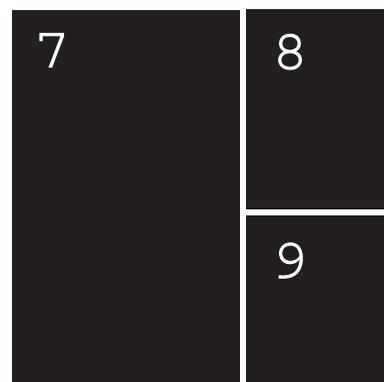
Accused colonel attempts suicide

Ex-Canadian Forces Col. Russell Williams, accused of sexually assaulting and killing two Ontario women while he was base commander of CFB Trenton, attempted suicide on April 4 while awaiting trial. He had been deemed a possible suicide risk by a prison psychiatrist due to bizarre behaviour. His next court appearance is April 29.

Thousands protest new budget



1. The police charged without warning, clubbing protesters as a man clutches his daughter.
2. Students from CEGEP Maisonneuve walk against the budget.
3. Traffic was stalled for half an hour as six blocks of protesters walked by.
4. Seconds later he fired, a rubber bullet split the crowd in two.
5. Holding ground in front of the world commerce centre.
6. Hundreds walked into the commerce centre, attacking plants and cameras.



7. Concordia Student Union President-elect Prince Ralph Osei walks with banners high.
8. "Little pockets don't like big hands."
9. Crowds in Old Montreal chant slogans as fees and hikes are expected to squeeze Quebecers.

PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

Police attack sitting demonstrators as more than 8,000 Montrealers walk

• RILEY SPARKS

Frustrated with a provincial budget that will deny new funding for public services while increasing taxes and user fees, thousands of protesters flooded downtown Montreal on April 1.

The crowd of approximately 8,000 stretched for several blocks as demonstrators voiced their displeasure with the Charest government's new budget. Among the most contested announcements were an increase to university tuition after 2012, a new fee for each visit to the doctor and an increase of the provincial sales tax to 15 per cent.

"We want our universities to be world class, and in order to do that students need to pay a fair share," Quebec Finance Minister Raymond Bachand said during

his budget speech on March 31. The protesters, many of whom were students, did not appear to share Bachand's view.

Sunny weather and two marching bands set a festive mood as protesters made their way from Phillips Square—across from the Bay on Ste-Catherine Street—to Bachand's office in Old Montreal. Chanting and carrying signs, protesters occupied over six city blocks. Dozens of red, green and white Patriotes flags were conspicuous amongst the many placards and red and black banners.

The north side of René Lévesque Boulevard became a parking lot as drivers watched marchers stream east towards the Hydro Québec building. Under the new budget, Quebecers will pay an additional 3.7 per cent for electricity.

The crowd began to disperse around 3:30 p.m. as school buses that had carried demonstrators into Montreal from across Quebec began to leave.

Commotion began when it was discovered that the doors to the world commerce centre—where Bachand's office is located—were unlocked. Chanting slogans, 100 protesters began to pour inside the building. Some overturned a number of oversized potted plants.

Employees bemusedly snapped cell phone photos of the demonstrators as they wandered upstairs in search of Bachand's office.

The doors leading to the commerce centre's upper floors were locked and the group of protesters moved back downstairs as the centre's intercom announced that

the building was being evacuated.

Protesters emerged from the stairways to find that about a dozen riot police, some of whom were carrying tear gas guns, had arrived and were blocking both entrances to the building. Several officers were not wearing their legally-required identification numbers.

Motivated by riot batons, demonstrators and members of the press were herded towards the west entrance of the centre.

After being pushed out of the building, 100 protesters remained standing in the middle of Square Victoria Street facing a line of 15 riot police.

One officer smirked as he aimed a rubber bullet gun into the crowd.

Without warning or apparent provocation, the officer fired one

round directly into the crowd, but did not hit anyone.

Surprised, the crowd gradually began to disperse. About twenty protesters remained sitting on Square Victoria Street.

Suddenly, the line of riot police exploded outwards, striking the sitting protesters with batons. A man who had been standing in the crowd shielded his young daughter from the assault, while another man dragged his friend, whose wrist was badly injured by a riot baton, from the street.

A woman offered a bouquet of red carnations to the riot police, but was met with stone-faced silence.

The demonstration finally dispersed at 4:30 p.m. There is no word yet from the city about how much putting down the anti-budget protest cost.



'An all-out war' against tuition

Student union president-elect leaving 'every option on the table'

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Quebec's recently unveiled budget promises a tough fight for students, as tuition fees are set to be hiked across the province by 2012.

Prince Ralph Osei, the Concordia Student Union's president-elect, pledged to fight tuition increases in Quebec during his recent campaign. He intends to keep his promise.

"It's unfortunate what the Quebec government intends to do," said Osei. "The government should be committing itself to bursaries and making education more accessible for all Quebecers."

The government should ensure that Quebec's minimum wage and cost-of-living expenses correspond to the national average before

touching tuition, Osei continued. "Until we have equality when it comes to the minimum wage, we shouldn't even be talking about tuition increases."

In Quebec, minimum wage is currently \$9 an hour, near the Canadian average.

The exact amount of the tuition increase has yet to be announced, but will be discussed during the annual Meeting of Partners in Education in September, when the education minister will consult with the province's principals and education leaders.

Until then, Osei hasn't ruled out the possibility of a student strike.

"Every option is on the table," he said. "The government is trying to find the easy way out. They can't have their cake and eat it too."

The CSU is a member organization of the Federation étudiante universitaire du Québec, a student group dedicated to fighting increases in tuition fees. With a meeting scheduled in June, the CSU will attempt to co-ordinate with other Quebec universities and colleges to fight the planned increase.

"It's an all-out war right now," said Osei. "We have to appeal to the masses, take our message to the media and get public sentiment behind us. This shouldn't just be a student's problem."

Despite Quebec's massive debt and a projected \$4.5 billion deficit in this year's budget, the suggested measures to balance the books attack the weakest members of society, according to Osei.

"Debt doesn't happen overnight, it's accumulated over many years," said Osei. "For the current generation to be penalized is wrong. We have members of society that are doing very well and they should pay more for programs for people below the poverty line."

Since the exact amount of the tuition increase has yet to be defined, Quebec students still have a chance to influence the government's final decision, contended Osei.

"The more debt students accumulate, the less they will be able to participate in the economy when they graduate," said Osei. "Until salary and cost of living are equal to the national average, we shouldn't be able to pick and choose."

"We have to appeal to the masses, take our message to the media and get public sentiment behind us. This shouldn't just be a student's problem."

—CSU President-elect
Prince Ralph Osei

In protest of a pipeline

Students and cyclists block traffic on Fossil Fools Day

• LAURA BEESTON

Eighty climate activists, students and community members cycled to Montreal's east end oil refineries on April 1, blocking traffic and joining 13 other Canadian cities on Fossil Fool's Day, calling for an end to current pipeline projects.

The Bike Bloc, a group with members from Climate Action Montreal and students from the city's four major universities, took to the streets in opposition to the oil giant Enbridge's Trailbreaker Project.

This project would see the construction of a pipeline network from Alberta's tar sands to Montreal by the end of the year. It would move 200,000 barrels of oil a day.

Taking up lanes of traffic, chanting anti-oil slogans and ringing their bells, the group rode against the expansion, meeting en-route on René-Lévesque Boulevard, up Berri Street and east on Sherbrooke Street before dropping a banner in front of the pipeline at the Petro-Canada and Suncor Oil Refinery in Montreal East.

Clogging both directions of traffic in the heart of a vast foul-



At the far east end of the island of Montreal, refineries produce clean oil and dirty air. PHOTO LAURA BEESTON

smelling no-man's land of smoke stacks and chemical storage tanks, the group demanded awareness and action.

"The tar sands are the largest and most destructive project in history. That is not an exaggeration,"

said Dru Oja Jay, a local activist and media maker whose documentary *Tar Sands & Oil Water* came out last April. "The planet is being held hostage for oil companies and their investors. Quebec is being asked to help increase the capacity for

destruction."

The Alberta tar sands cover an area of 150,000 square kilometres and, according to Jay, for each barrel of oil produced, four tonnes of earth are strip mined.

"If we allow the Trailbreaker

project to go ahead, we're creating the capacity for an additional 800,000 tonnes of earth per day of destruction," he yelled through a megaphone, encircled by the bicycle blockade as cars honked intermittently.

"An area the size of Florida is being turned into a toxic sacrifice, where people down the street are dying of cancer [...] and one of the largest sources of fresh water on the continent is being poisoned," he continued. "Right now, Quebecers have an opportunity to ask themselves: is this what we want?"

After the demonstration, cyclists shared food from McGill's Midnight Kitchen collective and sat down for a "Petro-Canada picnic," discussing solutions to creating a society that doesn't rely on oil infrastructure.

"Students really need to mobilize as a community to stop this from happening. This is the dirtiest oil in the world," said Ariel Charney, from the Dawson College contingent of Climate Action Montreal. "Right now we need to fight against this and make people aware about what's going to be coming here in Montreal [and how] this is going to affect us locally."

ASFA revamps accounting system

Missing \$15,000 spurs changes

• ADAM KOVAC

On the heels of a financial year where \$15,000 of student money was misplaced, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' current executive outlined an overhauled accounting system at their annual general meeting on April 1.

"There was some negligence on behalf of the finance office last year," said ASFA president Leah Del Vecchio. "There was no way to keep track of twenty associations that are supposed to bring in receipts. There was a laissez-faire type attitude, and we've been much more strict this year."

The holes in ASFA's accounting system came to light when a review of last year's receipts revealed that \$35,000 was missing. ASFA President-elect and former finance committee member Aaron Green claimed that the money went missing not due to corruption, but sloppy bookkeeping.

"Cathy Lynn, the VP Finance of the 2008-09 year, gave out money without asking for receipts or following up," he explained. "Nothing nefarious took place, it's

just that they didn't follow the proper procedures."

ASFA office manager Naomi Taylor and Del Vecchio—who finished the year holding the dual titles of president and VP finance following the resignation of Audrey Depault—spent most of June combing through the previous years receipts and eventually accounted for \$20,000 of the missing money.

The new reforms ensure that no member associations of ASFA will be reimbursed without proper receipts. Taylor unveiled new systems which will ensure that ASFA, as well as its member associations, remain financially transparent.

"We've created an adapted financial process, which is a way to track and create records for the future. [We created] the first ever [member association] asset inventory, which means visiting every single [member association] office to see what they have to reflect that in our records," she said. "We [also] have a complete overview for every association, so you have their actual budget and revenue and special projects funding all on one sheet."

She concluded by announcing

that the new procedures have revealed some good news. "For once, nobody is over budget," she proclaimed, which resulted in applause from spectators.

A motion to hire accountant Samir Habbal as the new auditor for 2009-10 was also passed unanimously in order to ensure proper accounting of the ASFA budget.

"There was nothing wrong with the auditor we used this year," said Del Vecchio. "I just don't think they were the most successful at treating us like an important client."

The executive board also claimed a major victory in standardizing the election procedures for its member associations. In previous years, member associations were left to conduct elections as they saw fit, which often resulted in a lack of communication between them and ASFA.

"The member associations had elections, but they were completely unorganized [in the past]," said Del Vecchio. This year, all 27 member associations held elections that were run with the cooperation of ASFA, an accomplishment that Del Vecchio lauded as "revolutionary."

Our philosopher

Concordia takes a look at Nietzsche

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"It's better to be a dissatisfied Socrates than a satisfied pig," said Concordia professor Horst Hutter on the third day of Concordia's 2010 Nietzsche conference.

The philosopher, who some might know as the author frequently providing their local newspaper's 'quote of the day,' is very much "in vogue," said Hutter, who has been teaching students about Frederick Nietzsche on and off at Concordia for the past 40 years.

"He speaks to our age," explained Hutter.

The Concordia-held conference was open to all and was attended by students from the Université de Montréal, McGill and the University of Ottawa.

"The presenters who spoke at this conference, I've got [their] books on my shelves," said audience member Christopher Bourne, who is wrapping up his Masters in political science at Concordia.

"I think that Nietzsche is one of the more relevant philosophers in terms of understanding the growing pains that society is going

through," said Bourne.

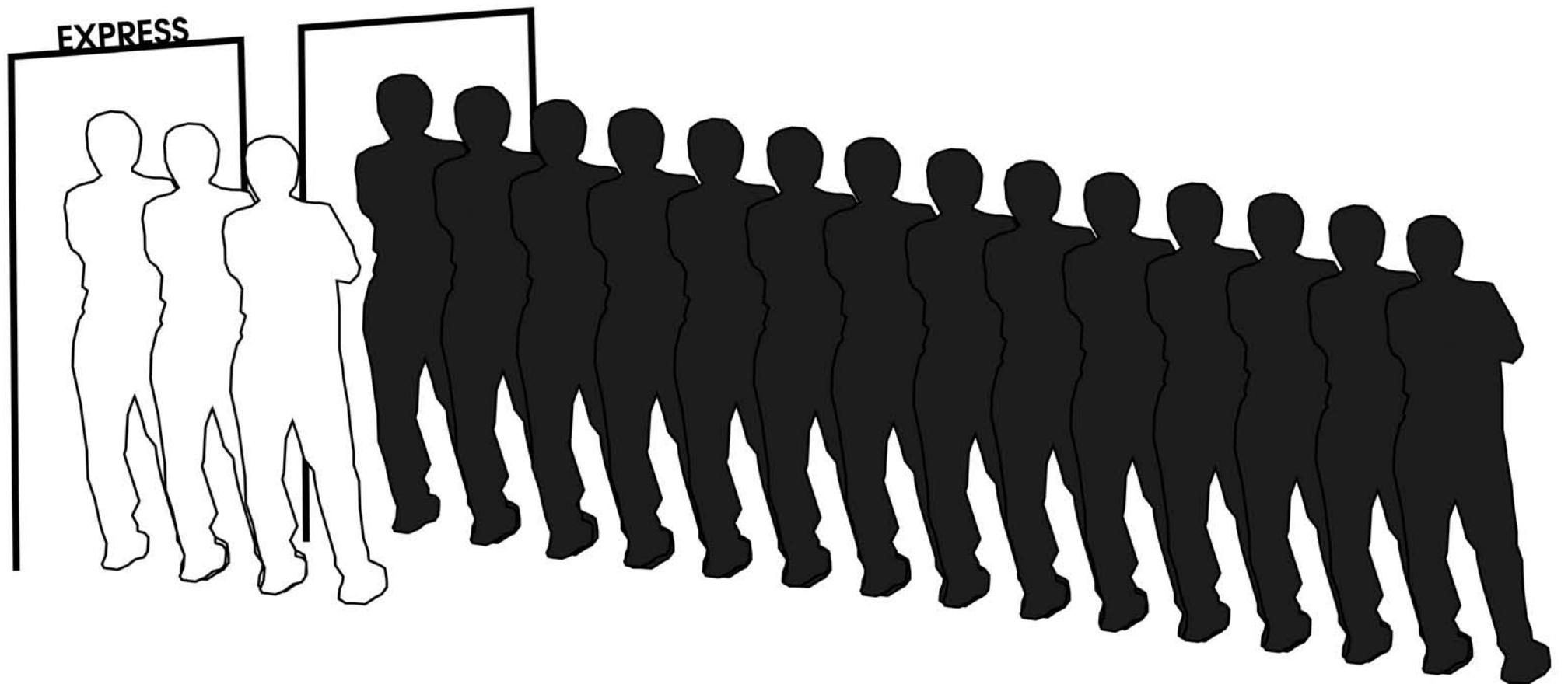
Nietzsche is a "never-ending source of new ideas," agreed Lawrence Hatab, a professor at Old Dominion University in Virginia. "His texts are so complicated and so rich that there's always something that you can find to think about."

One of the primary themes of Nietzsche's work was "thinking in terms of earthly existence rather than looking for some other life or some other reality," continued Dr. Hatab.

"His philosophy isn't sort of airy-fairy, off in the theoretical world," said Bourne. "It's grounded."

"I think a lot of his work stems from the fact that he had very poor health throughout much of his life," continued Bourne. "And a lot of his encounters with what he called the 'sickness of the world' was also therapeutic for himself."

The papers presented over the course of the three-day conference by both seasoned veterans and Concordia students will be collected and published in a forthcoming book, according to Hutter.



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

New refugee system leaves many in the cold

Immigrant rights group criticizes proposed two-tier refugee proposal

• LES HONYWILL

Jason Kenney, Canada's minister of citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism, has proposed reforms to Canada's refugee system that he says will provide increased protection to a greater number of asylum-seekers, while quickly dispatching those making bogus claims of violence and persecution in their home countries.

But organizations that work on behalf of refugees say the two-tiered nature of the reforms will leave some people who truly need sanctuary in this country out in the cold.

"There are a number of different elements in the proposal; not all of them are bad," said Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "What is a matter of concern, why groups like that and ours are raising concerns, is because some of the measures may have the effect of leading to refugees being denied protection."

The legislation Kenney introduced to Parliament last week calls for the creation of a list of safe countries—democratic states with fully-formed judicial systems that have signed on to international treaties requiring them to respect human rights.

While people who arrive in

Canada from the safe countries will be able to plead their case for asylum to employees of the Immigration and Refugee Board, they would not have access to the appeal process that is open to citizens from countries deemed unsafe.

"This creates a system where people who are coming from countries that are determined to be democratic by the minister will not have equal access to refugee protection," said Mariana Payet of No One Is Illegal, an immigrant and refugee rights organization. "This is completely arbitrary because refugees are based on their personal experience, not their country of origin."

The proposed reforms are intended to target the more needy refugees living in United Nations-designated camps around the world that do not have the resources to come to Canada in the first place. They are also meant to reduce the backlog of refugees who make claims for asylum after landing in Canada—a list that now stands at about 60,000 people. It now takes about four and a half years to kick out a bogus refugee claimant, which often puts a strain on the country's social systems.

"Millions of people have fled violence and persecution to seek refuge outside of their home coun-

tries and we would like to do more to provide them with protection in Canada," Kenney said in a press release on his website. "We know that we can't help everyone. But what we can do is introduce balanced reforms to our refugee system that will allow us to expand our refugee resettlement programs to provide protection to more people."

Expediting the system is a goal that is lauded in many quarters.

"One of the elements of the proposal is to force refugee hearings very quickly," Dench said. "[This] has a good aspect to it in the sense that if you're a refugee, you want to be recognized as fast as possible so that you can have security in Canada and get on with your life."

For refugees fleeing violent regimes, the wait for their refugee status claim to be processed can be stressful.

"It's obviously particularly bad for people who have very close experience of violence; if you've been tortured, if you've seen family members killed, then obviously the fears that you have are very immediate and overwhelming," Dench said.

"If you wanted to pursue your studies you would have to pay foreign student fees, which are mostly impossible [for refugees,]"

Dench continued.

"Some refugees have been forced to separate from their families, so they may have a spouse and or children who are overseas who may themselves be in a situation of extreme danger. Those are the worst situations because the person here may be themselves in a situation of security, but they're constantly worrying about their family members who are at risk."

Claimants from countries deemed both safe and unsafe can expect to have their cases heard within 60 days of submitting their application. No timeline for refugee claims currently exists, but prospective refugees must file a claim within 28 days of arriving within Canada. However, speeding up the process has its flaws, said Dench.

"Refugee determination is very difficult to do and in order to make a strong case when you're making a claim you need to be properly prepared and that includes having as much documentation as possible to back up your claim," she pointed out.

"Our concern is that by trying to do the refugee claim too fast there will be some people who will be unfairly denied simply because they haven't had enough time to get the evidence and to prepare themselves to testify about their

experiences. The issue of testifying [is] particularly difficult for people who've been through very traumatizing experiences, such as survivors of torture, women who have been raped, gays and lesbians who have lived all of their lives in a homophobic environment and who need to have a bit of time to gain a sense of security that they can talk about their experiences openly."

Other critics argue that the creation of the two lists creates a potential opening for refugee determination to be politicized.

The issues of economic ties and diplomacy may play a factor in whose cases will be heard first and this raises concerns for refugee rights advocates who insist that refugee status should be based on the individual and not their country of origin.

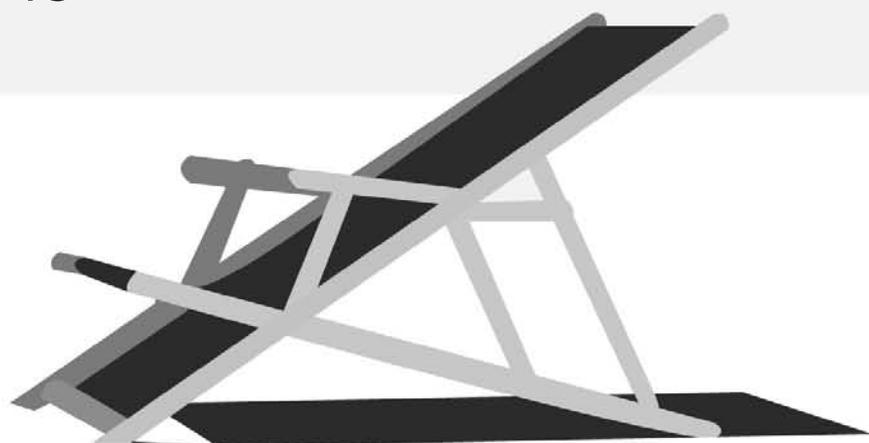
"It's a pretty political decision," said Payet. "Just this last week Canada signed a free trade agreement with Colombia, so I think that Colombia will go on the safe country list as well. We know of a lot of violence that happens there and a lot of human rights violations that take place by the hands of the state."

The reforms would cost \$90.7 million annually for five years, amounting to approximately \$540 million in total.

Catching some sun can be good for your career

Come to *The Link* and find out how

April 9
4:00 p.m.
at *The Link's* office
H-649



Election of Staff representatives for *The Link's* Board of Directors

April 7, 2010 at 8 p.m. H-649

The following *The Link* Staff members are invited to come and vote:

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



Zines for troubled teens

Concordia grad teaches workshops for at-risk youth

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

By her own admission, Larissa Andrusyshyn was a high school outcast, but she found her footing through writing.

“Creative writing was so important for me growing up, it was my first source of confidence,” said the Concordia creative writing graduate. “I was bad at a lot of things, but I knew I was good at writing. So, I thought, I wanted to [share this with] somebody else.”

With her first book of poetry, *Mammoth*, being released later this month by DC Books, Andrusyshyn has finally come full circle. Volunteering for the Quebec Writers Federation’s Writers in the Community program, Andrusyshyn is now teaching creative writing to at-risk youth in Montreal.

“A lot of the students I’ve had were former gang members who decided to clean up their acts and wanted to graduate and finish school,” said Andrusyshyn, who works with 15 to 17-year-olds at Mountainview School.

“These are the cases where every other school has said, ‘You know what? We can’t handle them. They’re too tough for us.’

“They’ve experienced things I could never imagine experiencing,” she continued. “I’ve never seen anyone die in front of me, I’ve never held a gun. So the stuff that they write is very raw.”

Andrusyshyn considers self-publishing the best way to instill self-confidence in her students, largely because it gave herself so much confidence growing up.

“To have a zine, the power’s with them,” she elaborated. “It gives meaning and it gives them [something] tactile that they can show to their friends, they can show to their family.”

Her classroom—which gets larger as the year goes on and students get kicked out of school—act tough, she said, but they soon open up.

“They don’t trust people easily,” said Andrusyshyn. “They’ve been burnt a lot and the first few classes they all come in, and say ‘You suck, this sucks, I hate it. This is stupid, you’re stupid. I’m out,’ and they’ll get up and walk out of the classroom.”

After a few classes, she said, “they’re writing, they’re sharing with each other, they’re getting up and saying, ‘can you read my



GRAPHIC JOANNA SCHNITTKER OLSON

poem?’ and I’m thinking, ‘these are difficult cases?’ There’s something wrong with the mainstream schools if these are the kids that they can’t handle.”

She suspected that many of her students aren’t really rebels without a cause, but simply suffering from undiagnosed learning disabilities.

“They may act the way they do not because they’re bad human beings, but because they’re frustrated,” she said, the frustration in her own voice becoming apparent.

“No one’s going to sit down and figure out why you’re having trouble in English class; maybe he needs intervention, maybe someone should sit him down and figure out what’s going on. But they don’t have time.”

Like any other zine, Andrusyshyn’s students gather

together for a launch party at the end of the semester.

“They deserve a launch, because it’s their first publication,” she maintained. “It legitimizes them.”

This project isn’t Andrusyshyn’s first time giving back, or even the only volunteer work she’s juggling at the moment. “[But] of all the jobs that I’ve ever had, it’s the one that’s the most rewarding,” she said.

“I work at a drop-in centre for women downtown and every day the same women come in and every day it’s the same problem. ‘You’re still a crack addict, you’re still being beat up by your boyfriend.’ You feel like you’re just administering band-aids all the time,” she continued.

“Whereas where I am with [the students at] Mountainview,

even if I have a bad day and the kids yell and they storm out, I always feel like I’m really doing something good.”

So long as her students feel they’re capable of something they didn’t think they could do by the end of the day, she feels like she’s done her job.

“When they say, ‘You mentioned this book by E.E. Cummings and I went online and I found some and I actually really did like it,’ it’s wonderful,” she said. “They have the urgency to learn. They really want to get better.”

Copies of the zines produced through Andrusyshyn’s workshop are available at Mountainview online at qwf.org/programs/wic. The Writers in the Community program is looking for volunteer writers to assist in workshops with troubled teens.

quick reads

A lesson in Burmese



The Burma Chronicles
Guy Delisle
Drawn and Quarterly
208 pp
\$21.95

Sometimes when you’re browsing a bookstore, you catch sight of a book on a subject you feel guilty not knowing about. You buy it and place it on your bookshelf and reassure the book, “don’t worry, you’re next.”

Inevitably, it sits cozily in your bookcase, collects dust and disappears.

Cartoonist Guy Delisle’s latest addition to the Drawn and Quarterly catalogue, *The Burma Chronicles*, does what most travelogues cannot do: it entertains.

Delisle’s graphic novel is a first-person account of life in politically corrupt and war-torn Burma. He writes about coping with culture clashes as his wife and one-year-old boy accompany him to Burma—now known as Myanmar—for a Médecins Sans Frontières program.

Being an outsider who does not know the Burmese native language, he is immersed in the laid-back Burmese way of life. From coping with the extreme heat to being enlightened by monks collecting alms to finding out how political faux-pas truly effect the Burmese working class’ perception of norms, *The Burma Chronicles* informs in a way that makes learning about serious global issues less gloomy and more touching.

4/5

—Clay Hemmerich

Snakes in the city



Dance With Snakes
Horacio Castellanos Moya
Biblioasis
175 pp
\$15.95

Dance With Snakes is the story of how the quiet town of San Salvador turns chaotic when a homeless man named Jacinto appears in a burnt-out yellow Chevrolet.

Eduardo Sosa, an unemployed sociologist, becomes fascinated with Jacinto and follows him to learn his story. Sosa later kills the man and assumes his identity. He learns that the Chevrolet is home to four poisonous snakes and together they cause terror and destruction in the town of San Salvador.

The book is filled with gory scenes, as the town quickly fills up with corpses thanks to Jacinto and his pets. The content is both confusing and disturbing. The protagonist continually converses with the snakes and unleashes them around the town to kill.

Dance With Snakes combines dark humour with violence. If you are partial to thrillers—blood, guts and slimy killing snakes—this is a book for you. Otherwise this book should be avoided, or read with a barf bag handy.

1/5

—Shereen Ahmed Rafea

Adding to their portfolio

Folio magazine showcases McGill's other skills

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

McGill University might not have a fine arts program, but the editors of *Folio* magazine want to let people know they're fine with that.

Compiling the visual art and design work of math, music and anthropology students, *Folio* aims to provide McGill students with a venue to showcase their other talents—the ones they're not getting their degrees in.

"My dream is for an engineering student to take up *Folio* and be really thrilled with it," said editor and co-founder Leah Pires, an art history and cultural studies student.

Formerly the culture editor of *The McGill Daily*, Pires wanted to do something more "creatively geared."

"I saw that there were a lot of people I knew at McGill who made art, but there wasn't really a publication to showcase it," she said. "[What] we were looking for was a diversity of mediums, but also publishing things that you wouldn't conventionally think of as art."

"Cream on penis," the work of artist Andy White, includes a form letter sent to the artist informing him that his work was rejected for a rival publication. The letter is paired with White's off-colour response to the rejection.

Bobby Ezekiel Chirila's "Mall Portraits from Gay Hell" consist of images of him and his band-mates interwoven with 32-bit graphics from old Nintendo games. Chirila made the graphics using what he called a "shitty open-source version of Photoshop."

His band, Insane Grown Posse, will be playing at *Folio*'s launch



Folio showcases McGill students' artistic talent. PHOTO STEPHEN FROESE

party.

"Most of the things I make that I'm really proud of come out of times when I feel really shitty," said Chirila, a French literature and translation student with a minor in Russian language. "Not to sound douchey, but I think a lot of the stuff I do as 'non-linear verbal essays. [They are] about things I can't express well literally."

Pires feels *Folio* not only offers a chance to exhibit emerging artistic talent in a school known

for producing engineers and doctors, but it's also an opportunity to explore a slowly fading aspect of the art world: the art magazine.

"I know this is probably not your favourite thing to hear—I don't really like thinking about it either—but I think the publishing industry is on the outs," said Pires. "Though at one time it would have been my dream to work at an art magazine, now I feel like it's becoming an increasingly unrealistic dream."

Despite graduating later this

year, Pires hopes the magazine stays at her alma mater.

"I don't think I'll take it with me," she said. "I'm hoping that the people involved in *Folio* right now who are younger than I am will be willing to take the torch and carry it on."

The launch of issue three of *Folio* magazine will take place at CTRL Lab (3634 St. Laurent Blvd.) on April 9 at 8:30 p.m. and will feature musical acts from Insane Grown Posse and Chris D'Eon

"Most of the things I make that I'm really proud of come out of times when I feel really shitty."

—Bobby Ezekiel Chirila,
McGill visual artist

CEGEP student makes mark, breaks boundaries

Budding photographer fills small space with big dreams

• HEATHER ANDERSON

Despite the fact that CEGEP is considered a prelude to University, the art work coming out of Vanier College is impressive on any artistic scale, according to Keith Orkus, a communications professor at Vanier College.

Daniel Zoellner is the proof.

As a self-taught photographer, Zoellner is showcasing his first collection of photographs, *Dream*

Walk. The vernissage takes place before he graduates this spring and is being featured at Vanier College's new creative space, Gallery B305.

The second exhibit to grace the small gallery, pioneered by Orkus and colleague, Henri Vavanne, involves both student and faculty reps. Gallery B305 aims to help CEGEP students make their mark.

"[Zoellner's] repetitive handling of colour induces [...] an

aesthetic narrative," explained Orkus on his attraction to Zoellner's photography. "[This symmetry] develops throughout the series of works."

The photos in *Dream Walk* were taken during a brief hiatus to British Columbia and are complimented with photos of exploratory summer strolls through the lesser-visited corners of Montreal.

Zoellner's collection are linked by an invitation to consider one's

life journey, free of chronological constraints.

"Each picture has to do with paths," Zoellner explains. "There is no specific timeline in any piece. It all has to do with past, present and future decisions."

Zoellner's exhibit begins at the end and ends with a beginning.

The Last Chapter, the first photograph of the exhibit, directs the viewer past a set of Chinese lions and up a flight of stairs that lead the viewers eye to an unknown realm.

The last piece, *Mile Long*, sets an infinite distance before the gleaming hood of a red sports car.

These two photos bookend a small library of works featuring vivid colours, clean lines and surfaces haunted by subtle reflections.

Zoellner hopes his exhibit inspires viewers to embrace their life's journey.

Dream Walk runs until April 12th at Gallery B305 (821 Sainte-Croix Ave.)

Making waves

Best Coast brings the beach to Montreal



Best Coast plays in Montreal on April 12 at Friendship Cove.

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Summer is well on its way in Montreal. The trees are budding, people are coming out of winter hibernation and legs, legs, legs! It's a perfect time to blast Best Coast's epic summer jams, "When I'm With You" or "Sun Was High (So Was I)," from your window.

The band is the love child of guitarist/vocalist Bethany Cosentino and bassist/drum programmer Bob Bruno. Best Coast make bare-bones lo-fi surf-rock about boys, summer and just having a good time.

After a brief stint in a creative writing program at a New York college, a melancholic Cosentino fled home to Los Angeles and began Best Coast.

They have caught major attention in the music world even though they've yet to put out a full-length record—flooding music blogs, being drooled over by Nylon magazine and recently doing a feature photo-shoot for *Spin*.

Their first LP is expected to emerge at the end of the summer.

The Link caught up with Los Angeles-based Best Coast on the brink of their two-month tour

through North America and Europe.

"As a woman, I respect a lot of female artists, with the exception of Lady GaGa. I don't like her."

—Bethany Cosentino, lead singer of Best Coast

The Link: What has Best Coast been up to for the past few months?

Bob: We've been playing a lot of shows and, in our time off, trying to finish this record. We just finished it a couple days ago.

Bethany: We recorded our record over a couple weeks in January and, pretty much, since then, we've been touring and playing lots of shows. We did South by Southwest and we literally have not had a day off. But we're not complaining. We're really excited about it.

I used to really enjoy music festivals but now they just make me want to vomit. What about you guys?

Bethany: Music festivals are definitely overwhelming. I definitely

felt anxious but, well, I feel anxious all the time, to be honest with you. It was pretty crazy because we played 10 shows in four days, which is very tiring. When you're playing so many shows, it's hard to comprehend what is going on. South by Southwest is a whirlwind. We were so tired we would just go back to our hotel [at the end of the day] and watch TV and order room service.

I know you've requested interviewers ask you more questions about your cat, so, tell me about Snacks. How do you deal being apart from him? Do you guys ever Skype each other?

Bethany: [laughs] We text each other all the time! I definitely have separation anxiety, but I also have pictures of him on my cell phone that I can look at any given moment.

Bob: Catroulette!

Bethany: Ya. You should check out the blog Catroulette—it's really amazing. But yeah, the cool thing about cats is that they kind of take care of themselves. As long as they have food and water, cats just want to sleep and lick themselves all day.

You guys have some pretty amazing stops during your tour. Are there any specific places you are looking forward to?

Bethany: I'm pretty excited to go to Chicago because I've never been there before and my best friend lives there, so I get to see her. And uh . . . Canada!

Bob: I like the girls in Montreal.

Bethany: Ya, Bob likes girls from Montreal.

Besides the Beach Boys, most of your influences are female. What makes women inspirational for you?

Bethany: Stevie Nicks is inspirational to me because she has an amazing voice and, you know, Fleetwood Mac is one of my favourite bands. Her style and everything about her is really amazing. An inspirational woman is someone that has her own personal style and thing going on. And that's also the reason I like Beyoncé. Not only are her songs really catchy but she's also married to Jay-Z!

As a woman, I respect a lot of female artists, with the exception of Lady GaGa. I don't like her. I respect her; I just think her whole thing is a little contrived. I don't

believe that it's real.

What music are you guys listening to these days?

Bob: I've been buying a lot of country albums lately—George Jones, Jed Hawkins.

Bethany: I've been listening to a lot of Frankie Valley and the Four Seasons. We are also really into the Smith Westerns and Surfer Blood, who we just played with in L.A. They are just two bands who are really young and fucking talented.

Where do you guys want to be 10 years from now?

Bethany: I love playing music but I have no idea what one day to the next holds. I would love to play music for as long as I can. I don't know that it will necessarily be with Best Coast. I just hope we're happy and that I have enough money to buy a hot tub.

A hot tub in L.A.?

Bethany: Yeah, trust me, it gets cold!

Best Coast plays with No Joy on April 12 at Friendship Cove, 215A Murray St. Tickets are \$10.



Indiensoci is 'One girl, one heart,' according to her MySpace description. PHOTO ALEX COWAN

The girl in the mirror

Local songstress doesn't hide behind her music

• MEGAN DOLSKI & ASHLEY OPHEIM

Four years ago in a Calgary bedroom, a teenage girl and her best friend were busy creating "I-want-to-touch-your-body" Euro-sex dance music.

That girl's name is Raphaëlle Preston-Standell and she is Indiensoci, meaning 'indecision.'

Preston-Standell has come a long way since those teenaged jam sessions. Four years later, that girl has submerged herself in Montreal's music scene, playing shows and recording, all the while juggling three separate musical projects

"I think of Indiensoci as being another name for myself," she explained. "It's not a separate entity, it's a persona. Indiensoci is my self, as an artist. I don't see

it as separate from myself."

Originally from Calgary, Preston-Standell up and left at the tender age of 18 and made the move to Montreal. While she doesn't like to hate on Calgary, the sense of repression lingering over the city's art scene made it an environment which was not conducive to making the type of art she was interested in.

"I don't want my art to be influenced by being frustrated. I want it to be about love and imagination."

She's lived in Montreal for merely two years but feels completely at home, not to mention, in love. Her music reflects this in its dreamy, girly feel.

"Montreal, for me, is where I became a woman. It is a place I constantly feel inspired by. I remember seeing Sean Nicholas Savage play a couple years back; a

bunch of people were moshing and he was just this crazy skinny kid singing about love and stars. I had never seen anything like that before."

"Indiensoci is a part of me that will be there when I'm 27 and when I'm 35,"

—Raphaëlle Preston-Standell

Since then, Preston-Standell has been completely immersed in her music, music she would put in the "mystical" genre. She explained her musical aesthetic as being brought on by the discovery of, and immediate infatuation with, a guitar loop pedal. The loop pedal, which creates repetitive, rhythmic music patterns and dense layers of sound, kept her

willingly locked in her garage for three days learning how to use it.

"I feel like Indiensoci is so inseparable from me. Unlike artists like Beyonce or Madonna, Indiensoci isn't something I can hide behind. Indiensoci is both my private and public self. Indiensoci constantly changes with me, by me."

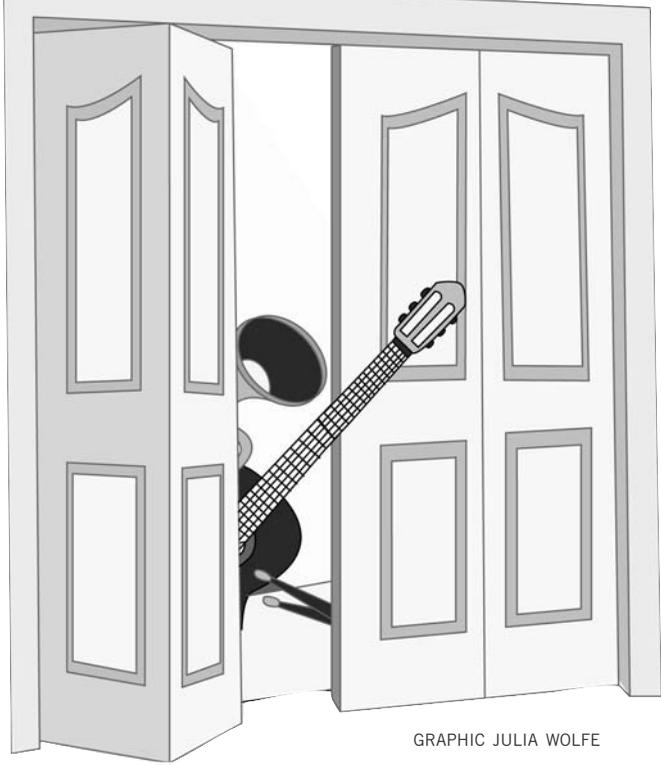
An inability to separate herself from Indiensoci is something that she accredits to the importance of honest art. "I am not afraid to pour myself into my music. However, at times it is difficult, especially with live performances, because I am putting myself completely out there," she explained.

The importance of honesty in Preston-Standell's music has enabled her to take her time with recording. Though she had ini-

tially planned to crank out a full length album quickly, she has since changed her mind. She's recently decided to release a few of the songs she has finished as Stale Pink Demos in preparation for the full-length of the same name. "I don't want to half-ass it," she quipped.

"Indiensoci is a part of me that will be there when I'm 27 and when I'm 35. Basically, music is my life. It's really like an extension of myself; it's like having a third arm, you know?"

Indiensoci plays a bring-your-own-blanket show with Sean Nicolas Savage, The Crown Vandals and Devon Welsh at Club Lambi (4465 Blvd. St. Laurent) on April 7 at 8 p.m.. Tickets are \$7 or \$5 off for those who actually bring something to sit on.



GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

Beyond the closet

Gay musicians need to 'grow some fucking balls,' says Ezra Axelrod

• **MADLINE COLEMAN**

These queers are getting awfully ostentatious. They're in the streets, in movies and in literature. Boys are holding hands with other boys on cable TV while lady-lovin' ladies smooch their partners in front of the dépanneur.

But there's still one place a lot of LGBT people hold back: in their own music.

Queer musicians are still waiting for their moment of truth, says singer and gay activist Ezra Axelrod, and the only thing stopping them is themselves.

"Gays have this mentality that there will be some kind of negative consequence if they are 100-per-cent honest," said Axelrod. "I say, get over it and grow some fucking balls!"

This week the London, England-based American musician joins Calgary singer Jaimee Lee on Montreal stages for *Pianissimo Activismo!*, a three-day concert and discussion series.

Both classically-trained musicians will tackle the issue of homosexuality, feminism and activism in music.

Lee, a Concordia grad who identifies as bisexual, said queer musicians aren't doing themselves any favours when they try to pass themselves off as straight.

"That feeling of being liberated while you're doing a performance—sometimes that comes hand-in-hand with being open about your own sexuality," she pointed out. "It seems like it's such a hindrance to creative performances where you have to do this whole PR campaign [when] you have to change your lyrics around and be less open about who you really are."

While Lee aims to leave her own lyrics open to interpretation, Axelrod sings unapologetically—and specifically—about the ins and outs of loving other men.

"For too long, gay artists have avoided referencing their sexuality out of fear for their 'careers,'" he asserted. "I completely reject

those concerns. If I've lived something, you can bet you'll hear about it in one of my songs."

Axelrod's openness has motivated some listeners to search for a political agenda in his music, something he had never intended.

The imposed obligation to represent the queer community is uncomfortable for Lee, who said she doesn't think of herself as "100-per-cent gay." Her political focus is more on feminism than gay rights. She said she would prefer if her songs about same-sex romance didn't become politicized.

"However," she added, "I'm never going to turn my back on a group of people that have never turned their back on me."

Lee said she doesn't want to force anyone out of the closet, but Axelrod argues that if you want to sing about your sex life at all, you've got to be clear about what you mean.

"The big question is, 'Why should someone have to reveal

details of their private life?'" he explained. "They don't. But if sexuality were so personal, why do Ricky Martin and so many other gay recording artists sing hot and heavy songs about women and film erotic music videos with them? Is that not an expression of sexuality?"

"I wouldn't care about all of this if it weren't for the serious damage [...] it does to the cultural perception of homosexuality, he concluded. "You can be gay as long as no one has to see it or hear about it."

Pianissimo Activismo! starts with a discussion on April 6 at 8 p.m. at Café Zigoto (5731 Parc Ave.) about music, queerness, activism, feminism and doin' it for yourself. Ezra Axelrod and Jaimee Lee play *Cabaret Mado* (1115 Ste-Catherine St. West) on April 7 at 8:30 p.m. and Centre St-Ambroise (5080A St-Ambroise St.) on April 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets to the discussion are \$10. Tickets to both shows are on a sliding scale of \$8 to \$10.

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
April 6 - April 12

MUSIC

The Smith Westerns with Acrylic, Primitive Hands and Futensil
Wednesday, April 7 at 9 p.m.
Casa del Popolo
4873 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$10

Small Black with Washed Out and Silly Kissers
Thursday, April 8 at 8:30 p.m.
Il Motore
179 Jean-Talon St. W.
Tickets: \$14 at the door

VISUAL ARTS

Cooking & Crafts: A Relational Exhibit
Invites the viewer to exchange ideas on the relation between cooking and traditional crafts and its relation to fine arts.
Thursday, April 8 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
FOFA Gallery
1515 Ste-Catherine St. W.

FILM

A Blooming Business and *The Damned of the Sea*
Documentary screenings of labour in Africa
Tuesday April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Hall Building Room H-110
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
\$2 - \$5 donation appreciated

German Highlights
18th annual Goethe-Institut spring series on German cinema
April 8 - June 4
418 Sherbrooke St. E.
Tickets: \$6 for students

— compiled by
Ashley Opheim

spins

Goldfrapp
Headfirst
Mute Records



Calling all music snobs. Yes, I'm talking about

you; kids who are too cool to admit that Virgin Radio does in fact play some catchy tunes. Oh, you know who you are. Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Beyonce—don't lie, they make you want to dance. You secretly love that shit—you just happen to love your status as a music elitist a tad more.

If your life has gotten to the point where publicly declaring your love for waking up in the morning and feeling like P. Diddy is simply not an option, now is your time to get excited. You may have just found the solution to your ego-musical struggles. Goldfrapp's newest album *Headfirst* allows

you to keep your pride intact while listening to pretty, punchy pop music. This album is packed with all of the flair found in mainstream hits, with the added benefit that it doesn't have to be a guilty pleasure.

Really, this is some pretty decent stuff. *Headfirst* is varied, vivid and very, very fun. A bouncy, '80s-esque beats give you no choice but to get up and move, at least a little bit.

7/10

—Megan Dolski

Phantogram
Eyelid Movies
Barsuk



I know it is spring when I start getting melancholic

for bands such as the Sneaker Pimps and The Cardigans.

Phantogram is a swell addition to that list. Lead singer Sarah Barthel lends some swoon-worthy vocals over the majority of the album, with Josh Carter filling in the gaps.

Eyelid Movies is slightly amateur in its vision but does offer a satisfactory sound. Barthel and Carter do some solid harmonies on "Turn It Off," although the music itself overshadows this accomplishment.

The music is reminiscent of a 90s shoe-gaze, trip-hop sound that renders up well-welcomed, younger memories. It's a little wacky, a little cliché and a little disjointed. It's hard to tell if this album is good or just outright confusing. It's a little of The XX, a little Portishead, but all-in-all it's just a little snoozy.

6/10

—Ashley Opheim

Seabear
We Built a Fire
Morr Music



Icelandic folk-pop outfit Seabear is damn consistent.

While some of their lyrics may not feel very original, the strengths that many indie fans fell in love with on their previous album, *The Ghost That Carried Us Away*, remain strong.

Sindri Már Sigfússon's restrained, hushed-almost-to-a-whisper singing voice is occasionally carried along with pallid female back-up vocals, and always over the traditional guitar, bass, and drums laced with pretty violins and other occasional treats.

Many of the beats and build-ups are rem-

iniscent of a more folksy, toned-down Arcade Fire. In some songs, however, it seems that the band could have purposefully aimed for this sort of comparison.

What stands out the most is the consistency of Seabear's musical talents. Everything feels in its right place.

Despite their musical composition seeming slightly more complex than other bands of its kind, its inherently gentle nature makes for a good album to listen to while relaxing at home.

There are a few upbeat tracks, of course, but never anything short of the pacific vibe of an unplugged performance.

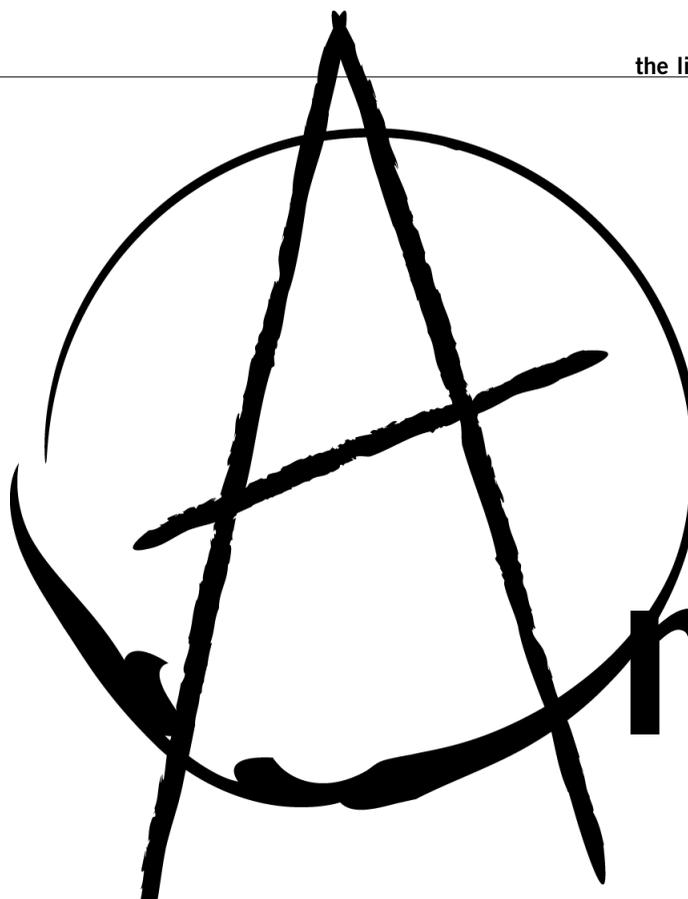
We Built A Fire is an overall solid effort, with plenty of pretty sounds and nature-specific lyrics to keep Seabear fans coming back for more.

7.5/10

—Natasha Young

Montreal's Anarchist Bookfair celebrates its 11th edition

Building



narchis

Glass shards lay scattered on the ground in front of a large chain store on Ste-Catherine Street West. A young punk, his face covered with a black bandana, screams at a line of riot police. Molotov cocktails and rocks fly through the air.

• AARON LAKOFF

Glass shards lay scattered on the ground in front of a large chain store on Ste-Catherine Street West.

A young punk, his face covered with a black bandana, screams at a line of riot police.

Molotov cocktails and rocks fly through the air.

Though these are the typical images associated with anarchism in Montreal, there's a much broader picture to the political ideology that stems back over a century in this city.

Anarchism, the belief that formal government is unnecessary and therefore illegitimate, has deep roots in Montreal's communities, from factories to academic institutions like Concordia.

"No gods, No masters, No bosses, No borders" is a typical anarchist cry which encompasses the "freedom-loving" ideology. But while anarchists have a reputation for standing on a soapbox, they can be found to effect change through action.

"There are a lot of myths around anarchism," explained Sebastien Thibeault, a member of anarchist federation l'Union communiste libertaire. "One of the more persistent myths is that anarchism is only a subculture.

The reality is that anarchism has been rooted in working-class struggles ever since the emergence of modern capitalism."

Testament to the growing anarchist culture in Montreal,

thousands of people converge in a modest community centre in the South West neighbourhood of Little Burgundy every May for the Montreal Anarchist Bookfair. It is a colourful gathering of hard-line anarchists, zine-makers, student activists, community organizations and many who are just curious about anarchism and what it stands for.

This year marks the 11th running of the book fair, which will take place over two days from May 29 to 30.

"That the anarchist book fair has not only lasted for 10 years, but grown tremendously, is a testament to the need to carve out our own niches and a testament to the commitment of anarchists and non-anarchists who have critiques of the current global system [and want] to look for better [alternatives]," said Amanda Dorter, a member of the book fair's organizing collective.

More than simply a space for independent anarchist publishers to sell their books and magazines, the book fair is a multi-day festival that includes workshops, activities for kids, art exhibitions and concerts. In past years, organizers estimated it has drawn over 5,000 people and tout it as the largest anarchist event in North America.

Publish or perish

"The first traces of anarchism in Quebec go back to the 19th century," explained Mathieu Houle-Courcelles, author of *Sur les*

traces de l'anarchisme au Québec. "More concretely, there was an anarchist movement which took form at the beginning of the 20th century, notably after 1906 in Montreal. For the most part, it was coming from new immigrants from eastern Europe, mostly Jews, who formed very dynamic anarchist organizations which held a dominant place on [Montreal's] political landscape until the First World War."

According to Houle-Courcelle's book, these immigrant anarchists set up bookstores and publishing offices downtown, mostly around the corner of St-Laurent Boulevard and Ste-Catherine Street, in what has become the gritty Lower Main district.

These would-be revolutionaries were poor workers who rallied behind the the creation of labour unions, particularly for factory workers in Montreal's women's garment district.

Despite Montreal's vibrant history of anarchism, one would be hard pressed to find many long-standing anarchist organizations, or many anarchist activists over the age of 30.

In the movement today, a common term is "activist burnout," a tipping point that traditionally comes after years of criminal charges, long meetings, too many beatings from the police or simply the stress of being involved in day-to-day solidarity work.

Thibeault suggested that the longevity of the Montreal Anarchist Bookfair is a sign that

the stereotypical flash-in-the-pan style of anarchism is fading.

"Years ago, there was little to no chance of getting past the five-year mark for an anarchist organization in Quebec. Now it is a reality for many collectives," he said. "The Summit of the Americas [in Quebec City] in 2001 and the large student strikes of 1996, 2005 and 2007 were largely responsible for the realization that durable, long-lasting anarchist organizations are a necessity."

"In Montreal, you'll have organizations fighting against the state of affairs, but at the same time trying to set up alternative ways of being," said Anna Kruzynski, an anarchist activist and a professor at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs. "Often this is not portrayed in the media because it's [a coalition within] an everyday neighbourhood or [the result of] community-based organizing; things that are not visible to the general public."

Kruzynski was involved in a large anarchist initiative called the Autonomous Social Centre, which tried to squat in an abandoned building in Pointe-St-Charles last May. The goal of the squat-in was to petition for the building of a multi-use community centre in the neighbourhood.

Rooted within the walls of Concordia University, part of Kruzynski's research on anarchism includes work she does with the Collective for Research

on Collective Autonomy, a group which conducts research on anti-authoritarian, pro-feminist movements across Quebec.

"It's important that many of these initiatives that are not available to the public eye be documented," said Kruzynski. "This kind of research allows us to debunk some of the myths about anarchist activism."

Houle-Courcelles agreed that anarchist publishing has greatly contributed to this demystification of the movement.

Through an increased access to publishing and no shortage of websites and blogs on the subject, anarchists have been able to put their ideas out to the world and get around the stereotype that anarchism only stands for chaos and violence.

"Over the last 15 years, the many books which have been written about anarchism in Quebec have fleshed out the ideology a bit, and has allowed people to see that anarchism doesn't limit itself to the existing prejudices against it," said Houle-Courcelles.

All that's left

Anarchists aren't the only ones on the radical left who are engaged in publishing and book distribution in Montreal. Last March, the Revolutionary Communist Party, a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist group, opened up a bookstore called the Maison Norman Bethune near Frontenac Metro.

m, one page at a time

While their bookshop stands in contrast to the anarchist bookshop l'Insoumise on St-Laurent Boulevard, RCP member Jacques Beaudoin insists that the Maison Norman Bethune isn't trying to compete with anarchist publishing.

"We value the distribution of any book, including books that aren't of the same political orientation as ours, but that the text allows us to better understand a given social issue," said Beaudoin. "The more leftist bookshops, the better."

Meanwhile, organizers of the Montreal Anarchist Bookfair are already gearing up for the 2010 edition of their event.

While the thought of a building full of punks and counter-culture radicals might be off-putting to some, Dorter encourages everyone to come out to this year's book fair whether anarchist or otherwise.

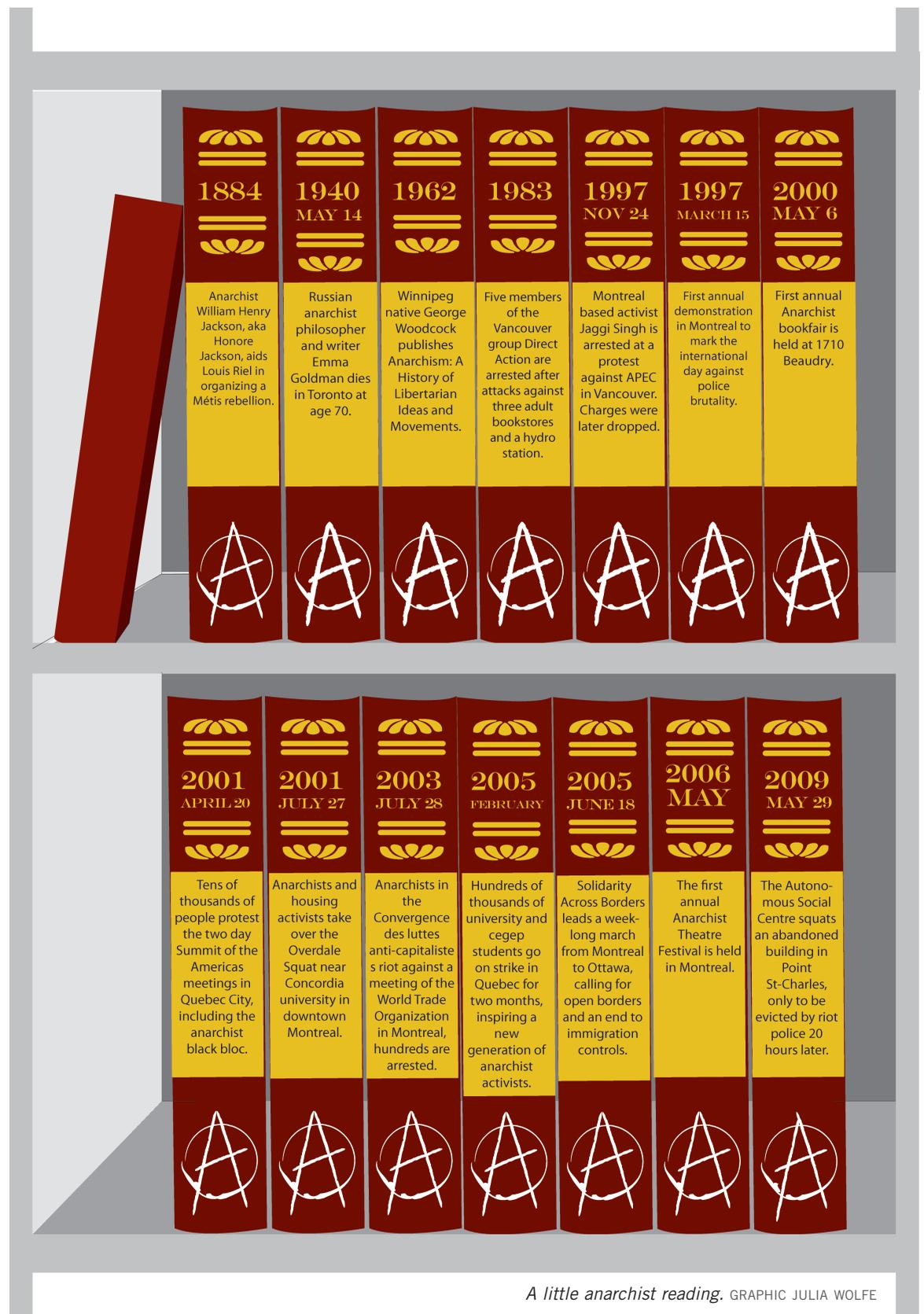
"There really is something for everyone here. We live in a place where cops racially profile and kill people with impunity, where migrants are being deported at increasingly alarming rates and where layoffs and cuts to benefits are causing greater poverty and insecurity for regular people," said Dorter.

"Why not find out what some alternatives to the system are?"

The Montreal Anarchist Bookfair will take place at the CEDA centre (2515 Delisle St.) from May 29 to 30, and will be preceded by the Festival of Anarchy during the entire month of May.

"We live in a place where cops racially profile and kill people with impunity, where migrants are being deported at increasingly alarming rates and where layoffs and cuts to benefits are causing greater poverty and insecurity for regular people. Why not find out what some alternatives to the system are?"

—Amanda Dorter,
Anarchist Bookfair
collective member



A little anarchist reading. GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE



At Concordia's Le Gym, a kick is dodged. Concordia will offer capoeira this summer to keep students in shape. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Stay fit without getting hit

Concordia offers capoeira for those who keep it safe

• ALEX DI PIETRO

It's at least expected in most forms of martial arts to see somebody end up on the floor lying supine, but the goal of Capoeira Angola—an African form of exercise offered by campus recreation at Concordia—is the exact opposite.

There are no points to be awarded, no ranks to be assigned and no blows to be landed, just fundamental exercise and enjoyment to be had. In fact, when the two people necessary for a game of capoeira enter the "roda"—a circle formed by spectators—they are said to be playing, not fighting.

"It will never be hockey," said Vladimir Pavlicik, associate director of Concordia campus recreation. "But it's for those who would like to know more about themselves and about the way the body can move with certain rhythms, music and attributes."

Practised since the Atlantic slave trade in Brazil, there are elements of music and dance in the sport.

Students learn how to walk on their hands, they perform an assortment of flips and kicks and are given the chance to absorb a different culture.

The berimbau is one of the instruments used to dictate how fast the two people in the roda will go. Made so that beginners and experts alike

can enjoy their experience, there are three types of berimbaus, with each producing tempos that vary.

Other instruments used in capoeira are the atabaque, or drum; the pandeiro, or tambourine; the agogo, or cowbell; and the reco reco, which produces a scraping sound.

Capoeira has also taken different forms since it was conceived of in the 16th century, but the class offered by co-instructors Fabrice Koffy and Ronald Scott at Le Gym emphasizes the sport's most traditional form.

"I think the students come here because they see capoeira as a workout," said Koffy. "We make them work hard on their bodies and they actually love that part. Since they're always working with their brains, I think students want to relax and that's a good thing."

Students come as they are, but are encouraged to wear a yellow T-shirt.

According to Koffy, everyone wearing the same colour not only suggests unity, but yellow was the colour worn by the students of deceased capoeira master and founder of the first Capoeira Angola school Vicente Ferreira Pastinha.

Though the goal of a capoeirista is to miss his or her partner, accidents do occur. This is why at the end of each session Koffy and more seasoned practitioners of the art talk

about mistakes made during the roda and how to avoid getting hurt.

George Maccache, a fourth-year student of capoeira, said it can be difficult at times to discern someone's "matinga," or style, especially when that person is improvising during a roda.

"You want to keep a sort of spice in the game, [but] it can be really dangerous" said Maccache. "Even though some masters have been playing capoeira for 20 to 30 years and you can see their matinga really easily, it's really hard to see in a roda because you're actually in the position where you are defenceless against them."

Even though accidents can happen during the practice of capoeira, students like Eric Stein have been able to make peace with its risks and try to be vigilant when entering a roda. Stein also said he'll be back for the summer session.

"It's a very physically demanding exercise, but it's also a very good exercise for the mind and for the soul," said Stein, who took up capoeira just over a year ago. "You get a chance to sing and there's more to it than just the physical aspect."

Registration for all of the summer-session activities, including capoeira, will begin next week. Classes will run from May 3rd to June 27th.

Vélo
bpu/ot
dodo

\$50:

Essential tool kit

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

It's comforting to know that, despite impending rainstorms, springtime hangovers and a crushing new provincial budget, you can still steal all the tools you need to fix your bike from the dollar store. I'm not advocating shoplifting, but if you're a broke-ass, the nearest dollar store can kit you out with most of the tools you need without the help of a shop.

Of course, no assortment of discount vice grips and bargain Allen wrenches is going to make you a good mechanic. If equipment were all it took to be an expert at something, then all your "photographer" friends would be working for MAGNUM. In fact, activities that involve no equipment—like writing—are often the most challenging because there's nothing standing in front of you and success except your own ability.

Fixing a bike is a combination of having the right tools and being mechanics-savvy. Without the proper tools, you'll have no hope of even getting started. Though ingenuity and experience should make up half of your kit. Unsurprisingly, the more of the latter you have the less you need of the former. With that in mind, here are my picks for the best way to spend your tool cash.

Category 1: Tools you can get for a dollar

A trip to a decent sized dollar store can yield plenty of good finds. Here are some essentials:

- Adjustable wrenches—having a fixed wrench in every millimetre size is expensive and unnecessary for a home mechanic. Get three adjustable models, large, medium, small: \$3-\$10
- Needle nose pliers: \$1-\$2
- Duct tape—good for holding down brakes while you work on them: \$1
- Metric Allen wrenches: \$1-\$2
- Flat head and Phillips screwdrivers: \$2-\$5

Category 2: From the hardware store

- Vice grip pliers—sometimes you need to clamp: \$5-\$10
- WD-40—absolutely necessary for unsticking rusty parts: \$5
- Tire patch kit: \$3

Category 3: From the bike shop

- Chain grease: \$5
- Chain breaker: \$5
- Tire levers—to help remove and install tires: \$3
- You'll need a way to cut cables, the problem is a decent pair of snips is \$50. Your best bet is to either bite the bullet and buy some or bring a piece of cable to the hardware store and find a non-cycling specific set that does a decent job.

Category 4: Google, free!

If you can use a search engine to download music you can use it to figure out how to fix your bike. SheldonBrown.com is basically an encyclopedia of all things bikes. Most searches will take you there or will show a list of forum threads on your searched topic.

Briefs

Two Montreal teams make Dodge Cup hockey finals

The female portion of the Dodge Cup wrapped up in the Estrie on Sunday, as the junior A Montreal Canadiennes took second place and the West Island Royals overtook the Laval Rebelles in a shootout to capture the midget B title.

Three Montreal ringette teams win at provincials

Three Montreal-based teams each won titles at the 2010 Ringette A and B Provincial Championships held in the West Island. Montreal North defeated Pointe Claire in the Atom A division, Jeunesse au Soleil took the Juvenile B title and Montreal North claimed rights to the cup in the open A division.

Ricci vs Curran

Montreal native Mike Ricci (5-0) will take on Pat Curran (9-3) in the preliminary stages of the Bellator Fighting Championships on April 15 at the Chicago Theatre. The fight will be broadcast live on Fox Sports Net, with a highlights pack being shown on NBC the following day.

Canadian women win world title

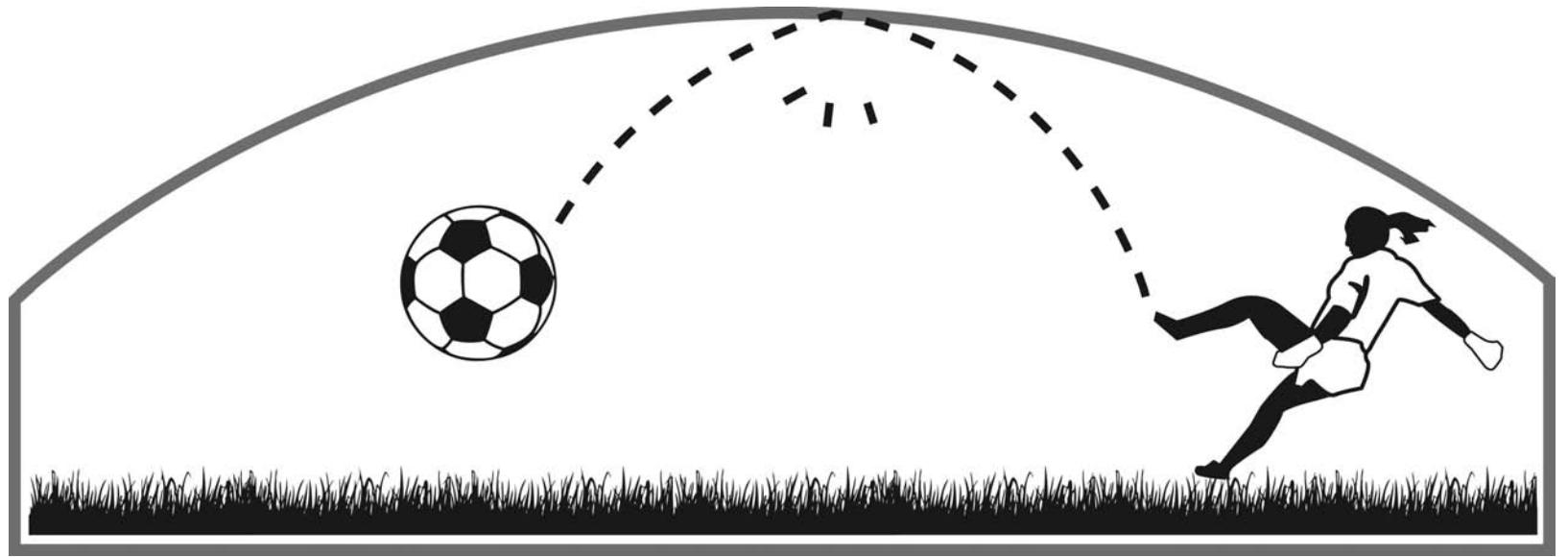
Canada registered a 5-4 overtime win against the U.S. in the final of the 2010 International Ice Hockey Federation under-18 Women's world hockey championship Saturday in Chicago. Valleyfield's Melodie Daoust and Laurie Kingsbury each scored as Canada came back from a 3-1 deficit. Saskatchewan's Jessica Campbell nabbed the winner.

Cross-country meet in Kingston

Fort Henry Hill in Kingston, Ontario will play host to the 17th Federation International du Sport Universitaire's world championship cross-country meet from April 7 to 11 at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The tournament will feature CIS competition, as well as runners from 23 other countries.

Almost a complete turnaround

Men's soccer team confident after solid showing in playoffs



When the ball hits the ceiling during game play, the opposing team is awarded a free kick parallel to where the ball struck. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• ALEX DI PIETRO

On paper, the 0-6 regular-season record coach Lloyd Barker's soccer team posted during the indoor campaign suggests it was improbable that the Stingers would move beyond the first round of the playoffs.

But knowing his team would claim a berth in the post-season despite being in last place, Barker instilled a feeling in his boys that they still had an opportunity to succeed.

coach Frank Bastien of the team's morale going into the playoffs. "We're using this success to give a general call out to other teams—even teams in other conferences—that when September rolls around, we're not to be taken lightly."

Even though the Stingers participated in what was labelled an indoor league, they fielded the same amount of players as they normally would for an outdoor match.

"We're using this success to give a general call out to other teams—even teams in other conferences—that when September rolls around, we're not to be taken lightly."

—Frank Bastien,
assistant coach of
men's soccer team

The Stingers shocked the second-place Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins in the quarter-finals by securing a 3-2 victory in a penalty shootout and edged the Université de Sherbrooke in the semi-finals by a score of 2-1.

A goal scored from a free kick by the Université Laval's Alex Lévesque-Tremblay, with a minute left in regulation time was all that separated Concordia from battling to a goalless draw with the national champion Rouge et Or in the final on March 28 in Trois-Rivières.

To some that may not sound like a major accomplishment, but it is stellar compared to Concordia's 6-0 loss to the Rouge et Or in its opening game.

"There was this new feeling amongst the players on the team and we could tell a new dynamic was developing," says assistant

With this in mind, members of the team and staff agreed that the major contributing factor to their loss against Laval was the roof not being high enough.

The Rouge et Or scored as they were awarded an indirect free kick just outside the 18-yard box after a member of Concordia's backline cleared the ball and it grazed the ceiling.

"With the Stinger Dome, Concordia has demonstrated that other facilities are inadequate now," says Bastien. "If you go anywhere else, especially Trois-Rivières, the goalies can't even punt the ball; they're forced to roll it out all the time."

Bastien also notes that part of the success came as a result of having the Dome to develop new players and assess their skills. He also says the facility allowed the coaching staff to experiment

more.

One of the players that benefited from his try-out with the Stingers was midfielder Gonzalo Paredes. A former Islander with John Abbott College, Paredes joined the team in the winter and dressed for every one of the Stingers' games this indoor season.

"[Coach Barker] prepared us each week and we did what was asked of us to do," he says. "As a rookie, I'm glad I was able to contribute to the team immediately and I'm looking forward to the future."

Also at the heart of Concordia's successful run this winter were goalkeeper Nick Giannone and veteran striker Fred Moody, who scored the winning goal against Sherbrooke.

"After the semi-final game, I immediately noticed a difference," says Moody. "People wished us good luck in the final, teachers made announcements in class and it's those small things that might make someone more inclined to try out after hearing that we've done well."

In addition to the players that have made their case for a spot on next year's roster, there will be three new faces at the Stingers' training camp in August. They are goalkeeper Nour Fathy, Ottawa native Ryan Brousseau and forward Peter Bow.

"Of course we want to keep a lot of the core guys we have now, but there's still going to be some competition because we've got new guys coming in that are ready to step into the starting lineup," says Bastien. "We've developed a competitive environment and I think that's one of the reasons why we're heading toward success."

0-6

The men's indoor soccer team's regular season record

2-1

The men's indoor soccer team's playoff record

89th

The minute that Laval scored in during the final

9

appearances made by midfielder Gonzalo Paredes

3

goals were scored by the team during the regular season

4

goals were scored by the team in the playoffs



Being secular does not mean banning religion

France shows hypocrisy in religious veil debate

• DAN MCPEAKE—(CUP) *THE PEAK* (SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP)—Oh France! Number one in the world in health care, and recently voted best place in the world to live (probably because of the health care).

So, why do you want to ban burqas and niqabs?

A French parliamentary report released earlier this year recommended banning the burqa and the niqab—two versions of the full-body veil worn by some Muslim women—from most public spaces. French President Nicolas Sarkozy supports this ban.

At 3.5 million, Muslims make up a large percentage of the population in France. It's true that not all Muslim women wear religious veils, but it is wrong to punish the ones that do. Sarkozy argued that the controversy has nothing to do with religion and is instead about women's freedom and dignity.

Freedom must have a different meaning to Sarkozy than it does to me. Unless I am mistaken, I thought having freedom meant having a choice: a choice to wear specific clothing, a choice to be a member of a specific religion, a choice to live life however you choose. A partial ban on the burqa,

or any full veil for that matter, would not only take away a woman's right to wear one, but would also be considered an attack on her religion.

It's true that France is officially a secular state. Interestingly enough, however, the Christian Sarkozy wants to lessen the gap between the separation of the church and the state and relax France's fiercely secular culture—yet he says the burqa ban is not about religion.

In one aspect, I agree with the French politicians. Rather than being discriminated against for being Muslim, these women are being discriminated against because they are women, which only serves to make the situation worse.

Considering that only 2,000 Muslim women in the country actually wear the full veil, is a ban even worthwhile for a group that small?

On the other hand, it is exactly about religion. If France calls itself a secular state, then a ban on burqas would be a ban on religion.

However, France cannot call itself a secular state for two reasons. First, the majority of the French population identify as Catholic. Second, the head of state is a Catholic who wants to narrow the separation between church and state.

And despite France's secularism, French presidents all become the "first and only honorary canon" of The Basilica of Saint John of Lateran, a Catholic honour bestowed upon French leaders since the time of King Henry IV.

Being a secular state means having no dominant religion—it doesn't mean having no religion. What did the Muslim women ever do?

Just because someone wears clothing symbolizing their religious conviction does not mean they are showing it down your throats. They are simply choosing a way to live their lives. How can we punish them for that?

If the Pope came to France, he would not be required to disrobe or remove his hat, so what right does the French government have to tell Muslim women that they can't wear veils? Similarly, there would be an uproar in India if the government did not allow Sikhs to wear their turbans.

The taking away of rights—whether it be gay marriage or the right to wear religious clothing—is wrong. People have a right to freedom of expression, religious or otherwise. A Muslim woman wearing a burqa or niqab won't make Paris any less French or any less Christian, it will only make it more diverse. That's the way the world should be.

Tar sands + budget = bullshit

Montrealers don't take it lying down

• ALEX OSTER

April Fools was a day of action for Montrealers, with thousands of teachers, union workers, students and citizens gathering to voice their disapproval of both the provincial budget announced last Tuesday and a pipeline expansion project.

While the protest in Phillips Square was mainly concerned with health-care and education spending, a smaller group of Montrealers blocked Sherbrooke Street with their bicycles to raise awareness and condemn the proposed Enbridge Trailbreaker pipeline, which will bring 200,000 barrels of tar sand oil to Montreal's east end.

The provincial budget will no doubt affect us by directing the spending of public funds. As it should be, the budget is open to public scrutiny, opposition and protest which has led to citizens questioning our national legislature en masse.

The Enbridge Trailbreaker pipeline will likewise affect us by pumping crude bitumen (tar sand) through a pipeline with a history of leaks, increasing Quebec and Canada's energy

dependence on the dirtiest oil extraction project in the world. The project will also negatively affect public and environmental health through a highly polluting refining process all in our backyard.

Our government is promising more of the same programs and policies that have brought our climate to a tipping point. I'd much rather see some work being done on the water pipelines underneath our streets, which only run at about 60 per cent efficiency, than bringing more toxic sludge onto this island.

Unlike our recent budget, the Trailbreaker pipeline has not been open to public scrutiny, debate or questioning. Despite the existence of a government agency—namely, la Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement—for this express purpose, no environmental assessment has been done on the proposed project and no public consultation has been held to see if we, the citizens, want this project.

The 80-odd cyclists who pedaled out to the refineries represented a desire for solutions to the climate crisis as well as a reminder that all Canadians are



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

downstream from the tar sands project and deserve transparency and consultation about its effects.

In my mind, the protest against the budget and Bike to Fight the Pipe were truly a fight against the same thing: the disconnect between the decisions of our lead-

ers and the best interests of the people. Both reek of a misguided, short-sighted, elite-dominated, profit-driven mindset.

While the budget proposes to charge fees for health care—disproportionately affecting the poor—the pipeline will scale up an

industry which has a direct link to the decline in health statistics in the industrial, working-class east end.

Thankfully, as Thursday showed us, the people are not taking these decisions lying down.

✉ Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Challenge for change

Firstly, with our nation at war and no leader with any vision federally or provincially in sight, the humour section of *The Link* was deeply appreciated. Humour is the most difficult writing to create, as it is very easy to report tragedy.

On a more serious note, the very fine journalist Matthew Brett wrote a powerful article on the state of our education (Vol. 30, Iss. 28, March 30). We are the inheritors of the grand tradition of Socrates that asked every important question of his student Plato, who proposed a Utopia, and his student Aristotle, who said “let us investigate.”

It has been the hope of civilization that with our infinite capacity for knowledge, education would save us. We would have no more hate, no more violence, no war or inhumanity.

Yet, in our parents' generation, the three most evil people in history in terms of mass murder—Mao, Stalin and Hitler—flourished at the same time that Einstein took the mantle from the greatest scientific mind until that date, Newton. Bertrand Russell and Jean-Paul Sartre challenged the wisdom of Aristotle and Plato respectfully and James Joyce demonstrated that William Shakespeare was not alone as the greatest universal artistic genius.

The most difficult aspect of the universe to

change is the human mind and human behaviour. One can only hope with the work of social scientists such as Philip Zimbardo on the psychology of evil that deliverance will one day come.

—David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

Frigo won't go away

Given that campus papers could have done a better job keeping up journalistic standards, and since representatives and administrators could have been more considerate and responsible, one could easily make the case that Le Frigo Vert lost its bid unfairly. But I would not say so. I would say that the Frigo has not lost at all.

A great many worthwhile and socially constructive projects would have come about had the Frigo been permitted to update its subsidy. But while some services will likely disappear, I trust that the Frigo will continue to do what it does and then some.

One thing is for sure; those cynical and colonised enough to have thought that a vote against Frigo would serve as a message to reorganise along an “incentive-based” or meritocratic model have certainly made a grave mistake. Adversity is the last thing to ever steer Frigo folks from their mandate, to which they are physically, intellectually and emotionally com-

mitted.

Compromise in the name of profit is an attitude that conditions oppression and that we thus position ourselves against. How far-fetched an idea it is to think that we might consider it for ourselves!

Le Frigo Vert responds to power by bringing people in the community together, answering their needs, relating with them on an equal basis, involving them in the development of a strong political ethic beginning with food, offering tools for taking their alienation apart, lending a hand in bringing them to make of food what they can and what they would in ideal conditions, as well as by building bridges to other related struggles for self-determination and empowerment.

Sounds like a big job, eh? That's why we asked for money, and that's why we will do what we do even more obstinately than ever before.

—Faiz Abhuani,
Collective member of Le Frigo Vert

A letter from Prince

After serving Concordia students for a year, I prepare myself to put an end to one journey and start another.

Over the course of the 2009-10 academic year, it has been a pleasure to serve as the VP

Services and Loyola at the Concordia Student Union—one of my highest privileges to this day.

I now prepare myself to become the representative of every Concordia undergraduate student, a truly honorable task that you have delegated me with. Quite frankly, I am very excited! For that, I would like to thank every supporter for his or her services and overwhelming sacrifices that helped make this campaign a success.

With the presence of several high-profile speakers, refurbishing of the Loyola Luncheon, living Loyola on ice, opening the CSU office in the SC building, providing coffee and snacks during exams on both campuses and shuttle bus stop, Concordia students truly experienced a Concordia renaissance this semester.

I would like to let you know that this is just the beginning. One year's work wasn't enough to prove my passion for representing you. As your president-elect, my team and I look forward to working with you and for you. Next semester will be an experience like none other.

As my team prepares to take office in June, we simply wanted to thank you for your support in entrusting us to carry on the torch to take the CSU to greater heights.

It is truly humbling to learn that students like you went out, speaking loud and clear for what they believed in. I was also thrilled by the fact that we strongly voiced our concern to become a CFS-free campus.

Thank you, fellow Concordia undergraduates, for making this possible.

—Prince Ralph Osei,
President-elect,
Concordia Student Union

Corrections

In “Hotchkiss not fit for Council: former co-executives,” (Vol. 30, Iss. 27, March 23) *The Link* reported that Nick Younes was a Dawson Student Union executive. He was a member of CIXS radio station.

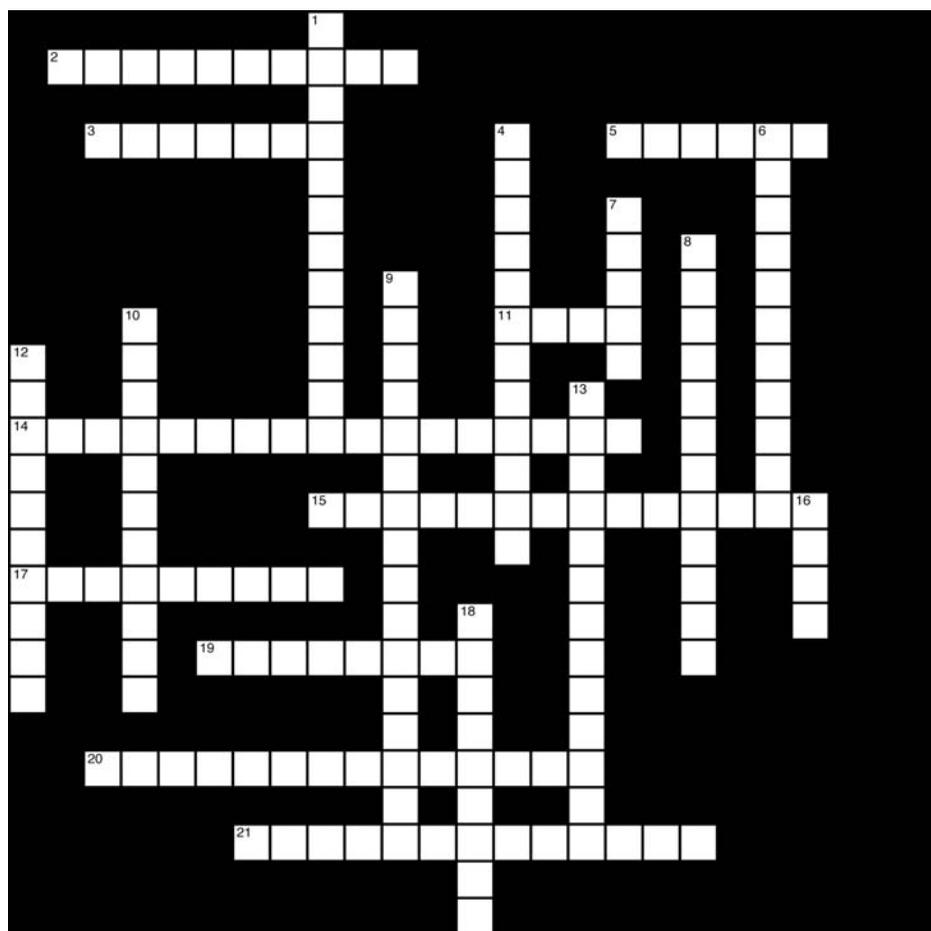
In “Your choice,” (Vol. 30, Iss. 27, March 23) *The Link* wrote that the Community slate wanted to reduce the student centre fee levy to \$1 per credit. They had no such plan.

The Link also wrote that all student groups would be required to pay their honorariums in Community Dollars. Unclear due to the slate's platform, they would require only students under a yet to be established program to be paid in Community Dollars.

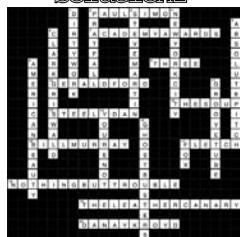
The Link regrets the errors.

crswrd pzzlol

THE "BEACH BOYS" EDITION
• R. BRIAN "IT'S SUN TIME" HASTIE



issue 28
solutionz



Across

- 2. 1965 single/cover named after a girl with two first names.
- 3. 1972 album recorded in the Netherlands, came with a bonus EP.
- 5. Late-career #1 hit that references many nice places to take vacations.
- 11. Brian, Dennis and _____ Wilson.
- 14. Smile song that was then turned into a 10 1/2 minute disco epic for 1978's *L.A. (Light Album)*. (4 words)
- 15. My favourite Beach Boys tune, the last #1 the band had until the late 1980s. Also featured the kick-ass use of an electro-theremin. (2 words)
- 17. The only non-family related founding member of the group. (2 words)
- 19. The Wilsons' cousin, who's got the best name ever for the Flower Power set. At least, that's what I think. (2 words)

- 20. The majority of The Boys' output was released on this record label. (2 words)
- 21. Ill fated second solo album by Brian Wilson, included a rap song titled, "Smart Girls." (2 words)

Down

- 1. Brian Wilson met this singer-songwriter in the late '60s and they soon collaborated upon the unreleased (Beach Boys version of the) *Smile* album. (3 words)
- 4. The last single to chart on Billboard in 1989. (2 words)
- 6. Domineering band manager that controlled the teenaged Wilsons' lives up until his death in the early '70s, more or less. (2 words)
- 7. One of the Beach Boys' core obsessions (hint: not aquatically-inclined).
- 8. Beach Boy who drowned on December 28,

- 1983. (2 words)
- 9. The Boys' first #1 record, a recording which turned out to be toyed with extensively post-recording. (3 words)
- 10. Psychiatrist who had a weird hold on Brian Wilson during Wilson's less-than-stellar years. He managed to exploit Brian into some strange situations, including allegedly co-writing Wilson's first solo album. (2 words)
- 12. The most famous of all honorary Beach Boys, Uncle Jesse, kept time amazingly well, according to many witnesses. (2 words)
- 13. If only the Beach Boys had bought more of his songs, then he wouldn't have started his Family. (2 words)
- 16. The first three Beach Boys albums have this word in the title.
- 18. One of the greatest albums of all time, according to a myriad number of music journalists and Internet snobs. (2 words)

heartaches anonymous

Yo Heartaches,

I recently ended a long-term relationship and am "back on the scene," as it were. Basically, I am partying and flirting with everything that moves, and am unapologetic about how much fun it is to be a make-out fiend.

Things are generally sexy and fun, but a couple of times I've found myself in situations where I'm juggling lovers, which is sort of awkward for everybody.

Any advice on how to gracefully date multiples in Montreal? This city is too damn small, but I don't want to stop my mojo...

—In my sexual prime

Hey there,
I have no qualms with multiple make-out sessions and drunken midnight encounters as long as the second (or third) party knows that they're not the only apple of your eye.

Now, you don't have to share your life story in between periods of tonsil hockey, because then it'd make gettin' some lip service a lot tougher.

But dabbling in a relaxed relationship with people who are looking for love will inevitably lead to some sticky situations and scenes that only belong in cinema (imagine: a drunken significant other crying in the rain, throwing pebbles at your window, reciting haikus

about you, etc.).

Then again, you're going through some tough shit, too. Sometimes, you lose sight of yourself while trying to hold onto the last strings of a long-term relationship and letting loose is a great way to find your identity again.

If it means some hurt feelings, fuck it, it's going to happen. Have a good time!

Just let your stance be known and things should be just fine.

Love advice your best friend gives is too nice. Send your queries on sex, dating or lack thereof to: heartachesanonymous@gmail.com.

editorial

Bachand needs new shoes and Quebec needs a new budget

When Quebec Finance Minister Raymond Bachand released the province's controversial new budget last Tuesday, he did so while wearing a pair of repaired shoes.

By having a cobbler put a new sole on his brown loafers, the minister said that he was showing a sign of fiscal austerity and a fixer-upper attitude.

He should have stuck with tradition and bought new shoes.

While he was at it, instead of getting a pair of leather loafers, Bachand should have gone for sneakers or boots. Just like his footwear, the budget Bachand released was bland and unimaginative. The size of Quebec's deficit meant that the finance minister had the rare opportunity to do something courageous. He didn't.

If any more proof was necessary to suggest Quebec is in trouble, the new budget was it.

By 2012, everything Quebecers buy will be more expensive as the province's sales tax jumps to 15 per cent, tuition will be higher, the price of electricity and fuel will have increased markedly and a new health "contribution" will cost each taxpayer \$200 per year. Each visit to the doctor's office will also incur a \$25 charge.

In all, \$10 billion more in taxes will be collected by 2012 without any increase in services.

All of these fees, intended to keep the province's budget out of the red, will move Quebec closer to paying European-style taxes in return for increasingly American-style services.

In a modern state, taxes are meant for things that are considered bad for society: income inequality, alcohol or cigarettes. By bringing in regressive fees—called regressive because people pay the same amount regardless of their income—Bachand chose to punish the poor, the infirm, students and the middle class.

Calling the new health fee "fair," Bachand failed to mention that the burden for a student making minimum wage would be 19 times larger than the one on his own personal finances.

In presenting an unfair budget, the word fair crossed Bachand's lips several times.

"We want our universities to be world class and in order to do that, students need to pay a fair share," Bachand told the National Assembly on March 31.

What level of tuition is "fair" when tuition in Quebec is already unfrozen, rising by \$50 per semester since 2008? By 2012, when the \$50 increases are scheduled to end, provincial tuition will have nearly doubled from \$700 to \$1,200.

Where will tuition go from there?

Not willing to disclose the size of the proposed post-2012 increase, the government has created a situation over the next two years where it should face constant opposition from students.

Tuition currently covers only 12.5 per cent of the cost of putting a student through university. Bachand argued that that is a very low level from which the government could begin to increase tuition, while not taking into account the high level of debt that it is currently putting students in—nearly \$13,000 for the average student.

Bachand's simple finger pointing to higher tuition in other provinces misses the mark. Many students would be willing to pay higher tuition for something in return, but Bachand is offering us higher fees as classes grow and the size of university bureaucracy explodes. Not exactly a "fair" exchange.

The current low level of tuition isn't the problem; where the universities are spending the money is the problem.

In a piece ran in *Maclean's* in January, the small-c conservative magazine made a shocking concession: student protests actually have a point. Looking at funding priorities since 1988, the magazine found that a conscious decision had been made at the top 25 Canadian universities to sacrifice teaching in favour of administration.

Twenty per cent of all university funding is now spent on administration, nearly double what it was two decades ago.

But why point a finger at the spend-happy administration when you can scapegoat "cheap" students?

Bachand's entire budget is an exercise in placing the blame on the lower-half while ignoring structural problems in Quebec. The minister spent months talking to Quebec's business leaders for a budget they could accept.

He's forgetting that the rest of us have to accept it too.

—Justin Giovannetti,
Editor-in-chief