



C'est full cool

THE POP INVADES MONTREAL

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Bittersweet charity

Controversial calendar causes problems for CEMA

• CLARE RASPOPOW

The Concordia Entrepreneurship Management Association found itself at the centre of a shit storm this week after the launch of their latest philanthropic venture—a calendar whose proceeds are meant to benefit the Montreal Autism Centre.

You may have seen their promotional posters around campus last Tuesday. Featuring a sexy co-ed female with the words, “This may be the girl sitting next to you in financial accounting,” the posters and their wooden easels disappeared the next day as the launch of the calendar was postponed.

“It was the logo that we used that caused problems,” explained Christopher Calkins Jr., the CEMA member assigned as project manager for the calendar. The John Molson School of Business had objected to the use of their logo on the posters as they are in no way associated with the project. “This is completely a CEMA project,” Calkins Jr. clarified.

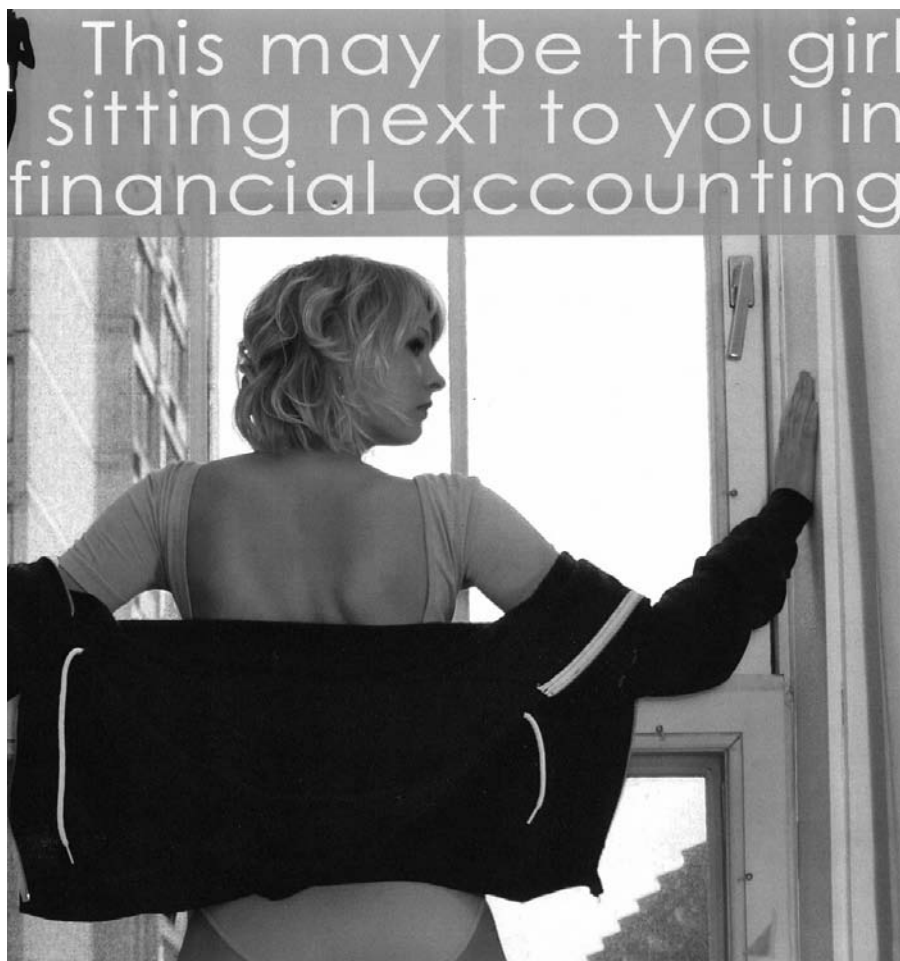
But the delays caused by the logo mix-up were only the beginning of CEMA’s problems. The future of the calendar was called into question when the MAC learned of the content of the calendar this Monday.

“I’m shocked,” said Erwin Neumark, a member of the board of directors for the MAC, of the intended “Concordia Illustrated” theme, an obvious allusion to the *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

The last time anyone at the MAC had heard from CEMA concerning the calendar was in May of this year.

“I wouldn’t have wanted this,” Neumark continued. “We were just told they were going to raise money.”

The MAC, a non-profit organization, strives to help autistic children integrate into society through family-focused intervention. In order to protect the privacy of the families who use



CEMA finds themselves in hot water for printing a racy calendar.

their services, the centre can’t fundraise in a traditional manner—which can make things pretty tight financially.

“Because we don’t ever turn children away, we’re constantly in the red,” explained Neumark.

Though less than happy with the subject matter of the calendar, members of the MAC decided not to intervene in the publication of the calendar as long as CEMA made it clear that the MAC was in no way responsible for the content.

“We never wanted to represent an image of the Autism Centre,” explained Calkins Jr. “This was just supposed to be a fun project to raise money and

maybe publicize the centre a little.”

Many of the posters mounted in the school had been defaced or covered with anti-abortion posters in the course of the day that they were on display.

“It was never our purpose to offend anyone,” defended Calkins Jr., directing his comments not only to the MAC but to the Concordia community-at-large.

“We realize that not everyone will like [the calendar],” he said. “But we hope that if you have a problem with what we do, that you’ll come talk to us about it.”

The calendar will launch later this week with all proceeds going to the MAC.

Independent candidate gets the boot

• TERRINE FRIDAY

It was the first time that a Canadian university barred a candidate in the federal elections from campaigning on-campus, says David Rovins, independent candidate for the Westmount-Ville Marie riding.

Rovins, a graduate of McGill University, was campaigning across the McGill campus last week when he was asked to leave, he said. He said he was campaigning in McGill’s McIntyre Medical Sciences Building when security got the call to usher him out.

McGill’s associate vice-principal, Jim Nicell, said the University was justified in asking him Rovins to leave because he was disruptive and violated protocol by entering campus without permission or notifying administration.

McGill requires that candidates show proof of registration and details of their intentions—steps Nicell claims Rovins skipped before campaigning on campus.

“All we’re asking is for people to follow our process,” said Nicell.

Rovins confirms that he tried to campaign inside classrooms in the law, science and medicine complexes, but was prevented by campus security.

“It is sad [that] a university does not allow free speech,” Rovins said. “One security guard said ‘I agree’.”

However Rovins argues he had the legal right to campaign on campus. He claims he was “told on the phone by one of the most senior officials at elections Canada that this is not the first time the law has been violated, but it is the first time a university has broken the law.”

Rovins made headlines recently when he wrote a letter to the Queen of England denouncing the prime minister’s decision to cancel the federal by-elections.

“Mister [Stephen] Harper is equal to every other citizen and does not have the power to destroy people’s right to vote,” Rovins wrote to the monarch, unhappy to see the by-elections for the Westmount-Ville Marie riding cancelled.

Rovins is still awaiting a response from the Queen.

—with files from Mookie Kideckel, The McGill Daily

Tim Hortons petition running out of time

Three-year deadline coming to a close



Jacqueline Leung hopes to stop the production of the non-recyclable coffee cups. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

• JOSE ESPINOZA

There are 2,851 Tim Hortons coffee shops operating across Canada. Only one of these, located in Owen Sound, Ontario, has a recycling station for the paper cups and lids.

Loretta Lau and Jacqueline Leung observed the daily waste that the chain was producing at their downtown stores on the corner of University and Sherbrooke three years ago. They started a petition to limit the use of double cups on Nov. 15, 2005 and aimed to get 10,000 signatories by their Nov. 13, 2008 deadline. Their cut-off date is just over six weeks away and the petition stands at 2,249 names—a long way from the required 10,000 goal.

“The paper cup is not sustainable,” said Leung. “We need to eliminate [it].”

The paper cup became a central focus of Leung and Lau’s study because Tim Hortons had a policy of doubling cups for tea. Apart from the waste generated through this practice, very few students are aware that the paper cup is not recyclable in Quebec.

According to Leung, lack of environmental awareness is a part of a larger problem: lack of sustainability education. Change should start with the youth, Leung said, more specifically at the university and college level.

Double-cupping is common at Tim Hortons. Recyclable paper sleeves are not used because they are too “trendy,” said Greg Skinner, manager of corporate communications for Tim Hortons Canada, in an interview with Lau and Leung. He said that the corporation does not have a double-cupping policy and that it is up to the customer to decide if they would like a second cup to protect their hands from being burned.

Currently, Tim Hortons offers a 10-cent discount for anyone who wants their coffee in a travel mug. This is not enough for Leung, who says giving money back to individuals who bring a travel mug is not the right incentive.

The fight for sustainable cups may be a losing battle and Jacqueline concedes that she has not achieved the goal that this petition had envisioned. She does, however, admit that although she has not been actively involved, she has done her part to spread the word on sustainability through the petition and her everyday habits.

To find out more about the petition, or to sign it, please visit: thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/232854687.

—with files from Lauryn Kronick

Here today, hopefully gone tomorrow

Student-run organization informs Con U of the dangers of drinking bottled water

• SARAH TOOTH

Enjoy that bottle of water because it could be your last, if members of Tap Thirst have their way.

Affiliate of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group, Tap Thirst, a student-run work group, lobbies against the distribution and consumption of bottled water. With bases throughout downtown Montreal, Concordia and McGill universities, Tap Thirst's initiative focuses on spreading awareness about the negative affects of buying the seemingly harmless beverage.

Tap Thirst co-founder and Concordia student Laura Beach said the inflated costs of bottled water are not even the most concerning aspect of buying the beverage.

"There is an incredible environmental impact of buying bottled water," Beach said. "Most of the plastic bottles end up sitting and decomposing in landfills [...] only a small percentage make it to recycling facilities."

Beach said that while waste produced by the bottles is a major concern of the group, the inefficient process of bottling water and concerns about the purification process that manufacturers put the water through are even more troubling. The process, which requires two gallons of water, only yields a single gallon of water to be sold.

"So basically while you are only drinking one bottle of water, you are consuming three,"



Tap water may prove to be less harmful than bottled water. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

said Beach.

Dana Holtby, Tap Thirst coordinator at McGill, said the group is not so much against bottled water, but pro-information of the effects bottling water produces.

"It's more about informing people, about education," said Holtby, a second-year environmental development major. "We'd like people to understand why bottled water is detrimental to the environment."

Holtby says many of the people who buy bottled water do not realize the harmful factors behind it.

"[Tap Thirst] is about helping people understand why buying [bottled water] is bad. And when bottled water can be anywhere between 240 to 10,000 times more expensive than tap water, we think it's really bad!"

she says.

In an effort to reduce the consumption of bottled water, Tap Thirst has begun a Bottled Water-Free Zone campaign wherein joining associations pledge to not distribute bottled water at any affiliated events or offices.

Associations throughout Concordia which have joined the Bottled Water-Free Zone movement include Sustainable Concordia and The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia.

For more info on Tap Thirst and water resources, please visit inside-thebottle.org. Tap Thirst will be having their next meeting Oct. 7 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the QPIRG Concordia meeting room, 1500 de Maisonneuve, suite 204.

Montreal talks trash

City unveils high-tech garbage disposal plan



Overflowing garbage bins in Montreal are the target for the city's new action plan. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

• PALOMA FRIEDMAN

Vacuum-powered garbage bins may soon render traditional trash cans obsolete in Montreal.

The city has inked a deal with Envac, a Swedish waste management firm, to install a pneumatic waste-disposal system in the area around Place des Arts, which has been tapped for redevelopment and dubbed 'le Quartier des spectacles.'

The new system's receptacles empty automatically as they're filled with waste, which is then sucked through an underground network of tubes to a collection site at speeds of up to 70 km/h.

An underground network that is easily accessible raises safety concerns, however. Some major European cities have removed trash bins from public places for fear that bombs can be discreetly placed inside them. City of Montreal spokesperson Isabelle Poulin said there are no such concerns here.

"This system is in place all across Europe, where it has certainly been tested against this

sort of thing," Poulin said.

The city touts the system as sustainable and safe. Separate openings will sort waste into recyclables, organic matter and trash. And by having the garbage removed at the source, the need for garbage trucks will be cut, resulting in less traffic for an area that is often crowded. The city estimates that the system, which runs on electricity, will save 100 tonnes of fossil fuel emissions per year. However, the tubes can't accommodate larger items like furniture, so garbage trucks won't be eliminated altogether.

The upgrade comes at a cost of \$8.2 million, and will cost \$300,000 annually to operate. The project will begin in 2009 while roads in the area are open for work on the aging sewer system, and is due to be completed in 2010.

Envac has systems in place across Europe in Sweden, London and Barcelona, as well as in Disney World, Florida. The city of Toronto has plans for a similar system in the works.

A need for a national mental health strategy

Politician-cum-mental health advocate speaks about the problems facing Canada

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

A message of hope for the state of mental health in Canada was offered by mental health advocate Michael Kirby in the cadre of a talk given on Thursday night at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall.

Co-sponsored by AmiQuebec and the Concordia Psychology Department, the talk, called Blood, Sweat and Tears, found Kirby outlining the genesis of a plan that would bring issues associated with mental health to the national forefront.

"We need to develop a national mental health strategy," said Kirby who took to the podium and explained his alternative plan,

which is due to be rolled out next spring. "We're the only nation in the G8 not to have one right now."

Kirby, a former politician and who served 22 years as a Liberal senator, has been chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada since 2006. Kirby retired from the Senate two years ago to implement one of his key recommendations, the creation of the Commission.

A major problem facing the current health system is the lack of funds for peer-to-peer counseling exclusive to people with mental health issues, Kirby explained. He stated that people within the health system would like to have that service in place because it helps them step out of isolation.

According to Kirby, another major component missing from current treatment techniques is getting help from a spiritual adviser.

"We are using the streets and jails as the insane asylums of the 21st century," opined Kirby. "We need to offer change, and hope. Locking people up and ignoring the problem is not how we solve this problem."

Kirby urged his audience to get involved and stated, "mental illness affects almost everyone, but there's a lack of public awareness." He is hoping to launch fundraising initiatives as well as mobilize an "army of willing volunteers" to get the word out and open up a public discourse about a subject that has been ignored in the public arena for far too long.

38

Percentage of parents surveyed who said that if their child had a mental illness, they would not seek help nor tell anyone about it.

33

Amount, in billions of dollars, that Canadian companies lost in revenue due to time taken off for health reasons in 2002.

Did you know?

Gender-neutral washrooms are on the horizon. Contract negotiations are still being “passed back and forth,” but soon enough Concordia will be home to washrooms designated to neither men nor women.

Canada Haiti Action will look into the impact of recent hurricanes in Haiti. Yves Engler, Haiti Action Montreal activist and local author, as well as a representative of Partners in Health, a health organization doing hurricane relief work in Haiti, will speak. Video of the devastation in Gonaives will be shown as well. It takes place today, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. in the SCPA building, at 2149 Mackay Street.

The Latin American Student Organization is also trying to raise awareness to the need for hurricane relief in Central America. They're campaigning for clothing, food, and other donations to help with the devastation of Hurricane Gustav. For more information, visit them at 2010 Mackay, Q-203.

Deadlines for tuition payment and scholarship applications are fast approaching. The tuition payment deadline is today, Sept. 30, and the scholarship and bursary applications deadline is Oct. 17. Over \$250,000 in awards are available, but so far only 150 applications have been received. Bursaries range from \$500 to \$1000. For more information, visit the Financial Aid and Awards website at web2.concordia.ca/financialaid.

Concordia is launching the Canadian Women's Artists History Initiative early next month. It's an online database that will provide information, media and links for over 750 female Canadian artists. Similar projects exist in the United States and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit cwahi.concordia.ca.

Venture capitalist Jean Fahmy will be speaking to students about his experiences building and selling I.T. businesses in a lecture hosted by the John Molson Private Equity and Venture Capital Society. The lecture, called Venture Capital 101, is Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. Those who want more information must R.S.V.P. on Facebook.

Canada and the United States aren't the only places in the world dealing with pre-election frenzy. Elections are also coming up for South Africa, Azerbaijan, Zambia, and Ghana.

—compiled by Jesara Sinclair

Still fighting the power

Public Enemy figurehead continues to inspire at Concordia lecture



Chuck D gives his take on beats and bites as a part of the CSU lecture series. PHOTO IAN LAWRENCE

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

“Give yourselves a round of applause.”

Those were the words Chuck D chose to open up his talk to a near-capacity audience inside of the Hall Building auditorium last Tuesday.

The talk, entitled “Rap, Race, Reality and Technology,” found the politically conscious rapper-cum-lecturer discussing things like the upcoming American elections, the current American economic crisis, as well as the need for collegiate students to continue onwards in their scholarly pursuits. The applause, D explained, was a congratulatory pat on the back given to those in the audience for being able to stay in school and pursue academic dreams.

Chuck D, née Carlton Douglas Ridenhour, began his talk with a few personal anecdotes about visiting Montreal as a child with his family, as well as other Canadian adventures before formally beginning the main portion of his talk.

The rapper was quick to point out that the American media were taking a typically dry debate and turning it into what could be considered the greatest reality television show of the year: the race leading up to the Nov. 4 American elections.

“I’m voting for Obama for all the right and wrong reasons,” D said. “He’s entering a lose-lose situation and if elected, 60 to 70 per cent of his

decisions will make people pause and [scratch their heads]. A lot of people won’t be happy because he’ll have to make choices that won’t please a lot of people who elected him to office.”

He further explained that electing republican nominee John McCain for president would be like furthering an agenda that began eight years ago and stagnate any possible chance of change.

“Water will be the new oil, but right now, oil is oil and we’re still paying for it.”

—Chuck D

D challenged the current administration’s plans, calling president George W. Bush a “village idiot” and asking, “How do we fight a war against terrorism? That’s like fighting a war against judo!”

D segued into the current economic crisis.

“Water will be the new oil,” he lamented. “But right now, oil is oil and we’re still paying for it.”

The importance of having a degree was the next item on the agenda. He linked the rise of gun culture to the stagnation of a system where schools have failed the young, stating, “guns suppress logic.”

“I graduated with a degree in Design and Communication, trying to merge things,” D said. “People have asked me about my greatest achievement, and usually they expect me to say the album sales or the sold-out stadiums, but I’m able to look at my diploma and say ‘There it is’.”

He finally brought the topic around to the record industry.

“The music industry is alive and well, but the record industry, on the other hand, is suffering. Artists have a lot more resources available to them: MySpace, Facebook, iTunes. A lot of venues.”

D eschewed critics who call him out of touch.

“How do I stay relevant to a 16-year-old? I can’t. I can, on the other hand, stay relevant to the world. And I feel like every Public Enemy album still has something to say, making it relevant.”

D advocated the necessity for responsibility and conscientiousness in rap music, especially since it has become mainstream.

“Rap was once considered the black CNN, but it has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, and still should be accountable to itself.” Hthat artists like Soulja Boy, whose message is very materialistic and basic in nature, might appeal to “12- or 13-year-olds” but that “if you’re 29 and still listening to [Soulja Boy], then we got a problem.”

On the record industry

“The album has had its place. When [Public Enemy] first started throwing up mp3s a decade ago, we knew what we were doing.

Back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, an album was a statement. When you put a record out, you’re trying to promote an idea. The record industry is quickly changing [...] How is it that baseball can remain the same nine-inning game for a hundred years but the record industry can change so quickly?

I mean, a baseball game in 1921 and a baseball game these days are vastly different things, but the basics are still the same. The record industry is definitely a different animal.”

On the prospect of a new Public Enemy Album

“Well, an album to me is five tracks, you know? Public Enemy will probably be doing singles, not so much an album. You know, three singles over a 1.5-year period. But there won’t be any music before 2010, at least [...] I don’t get writer’s block, but I stepped away from writing for six or seven months to get my head clear, come back from a different perspective.”

On appearing on Nelly's new album, *Brass Knuckles*, despite D's opposition to materialistic rappers

“Nelly is a 30-year-old black man. He’s a lot more than just the ‘Hot In Herre’ guy, you know? I looked him in the eye and asked him to be more accountable, to be able to be more responsible for his actions and to keep that in mind, and he said he would be. And that’s all I ask.”

The inevitable question about D's Public Enemy counterpart Flava Flav

“We’re all differently-orientated people. Flava’s my brother. The way he is on TV that’s the way he always is, and always has been since minute one. People sometimes think that he’s putting on an act, but he really isn’t. Flava’s always been that crazy and original.”

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Will the real conservatives please stand up?

Green party talks and walks conservation

• JULIEN MCEVOY

With a platform centered on sustainability, peace and social justice, the Green Party of Canada contends that they're the only ones concerned about environmental preservation.

Claude Genest, deputy leader of the party, says that it's more than just an issue of syntax.

"We are the real Conservatives," Genest said. The Green candidate in the Westmount-Ville Marie riding, Genest says the party is "the only party addressing the big pink elephant in the room [...] Who the hell else is talking about conserving?"

Green Party leader Elizabeth May put words into action by kicking off her campaign with a trans-Canada journey. May blogged her way across Canada on her Cross-Country Whistle Stop Tour, making the 5000-plus kilometer chug in just six days. Prior to her Vancouver departure May wrote, "Not since Diefenbaker has a federal leader campaigned by train from coast to coast."

May's tour made its way to



Green Party leader Elizabeth May chats it up with supporters in Montreal Thursday. PHOTO DOMINIQUE JARRY-SHORE

Montreal last Thursday where supporters and the undecided alike had the chance to meet and greet the party leader.

"I am the only party leader who's experiencing a country tour that's actually fun," she said. May described how some 40 supporters had been waiting for her train at 4 a.m. in Melville, Saskatchewan. "We have had rallies in places I never

expected," she said.

For students like Florent Couture, May still remains an unknown figure.

"I heard her name for the first time at the beginning of the campaign," said Couture, a 25-year-old student at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

"Apart from the fact that she's the Green leader, I still

don't know anything about her," echoed Pierre-Antoine Girardin, 25.

May's train pit stop in Montreal comes less than a week before Canadian party leaders' English debate, set for Oct. 2. "We are ready for a breakthrough," May said. "We know we will send MPs to the House of Commons on Oct. 15 [...] Forget politics and vote Green."

High food prices force students into unwanted diets

• LIZ MCARTHUR, NEXUS
(CAMOSUN COLLEGE)

VICTORIA (CUP) — Students and food banks are starting to feel the burden of rising food prices in Canada.

Freak weather is a factor in soaring food prices. But so are dramatic changes in the global economy, including higher oil prices, lower food reserves, and growing consumer demand in China and India.

"We've decided to bake our own bread and pies this year. We are going to make everything from scratch and we've been picking a lot of food like berries and mushrooms," said Niki Brockway, a science student at Camosun College in Victoria, B.C.

"But somehow we still managed to spend \$200 grocery shopping yesterday," added Brockway's roommate, Matt Rosenthal. Rosenthal adds that the haul will last them about 11 days.

Lynn Galligos, a student of First Nations community studies, says the higher cost of food has made her think more about her diet.

"I'm definitely changing what I am cooking and buying," she said. "I'm trying to make it stretch."

Brent Palmer, director of Victoria's Mustard Seed Food Bank, says he has seen a marked difference in the food bank this September compared to last year.

Fewer donations and increasing numbers of needy people raise concerns for what the food bank will face this winter.

"Anyone on any type of fixed income, including students, would feel a definite strain on their food budget and would need to seek extra help to subsidize it," said Palmer.

Joanne Cumberland, Camosun College's senior financial aid advisor, sees the benefits of the food bank, but stresses budgeting in every way possible, especially when shopping for food.

"Budgeting makes a huge difference, but it's hard. I'm not going to say it's not hard," she said.

Cumberland, a former Camosun student, says picking the right store makes a difference and recommends looking at flyers that can be found online.

"Some stores make me want to cry they're so expensive," she said. "Read the labels and compare prices. It's common sense, but people run out of time and then it's hard to compare and check everything."

1k for Kader

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Abdelkader Belaoui is a special guest at St. Gabriel's Presbytery, where he has taken up temporary—although sometimes it seems perpetual—residence to avoid deportation to his native Algeria.

This week he passed an important threshold: 1,000 days spent without legal residence in Canada. He was first granted asylum on January 1, 2006.

Not everyone is celebrating.

Once a prominent civil servant, Belaoui has become the "symbol of the immigration movement" in Montreal, according to friend and supporter Mostafa Henaway of Solidarity Across Borders.

And how does Belaoui feel about the support he's received from the community?

"I have the best friends in the world," he says. "I never complain. I can't hide my smile."



PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Breaking the cycle

Support centres working together on campaign to combat HIV/AIDS

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The Concordia Community HIV/AIDS Project will jump-start its year-long awareness campaign with a lecture by Vancouver's safe injection site counselor, Gillian Maxwell.

A trained counsellor in medication and intervention, Maxwell hopes to bring to the foreground the need for education about drug use and its misconceptions.

"In most urban centres, there's a great need [for a safe injection site]," Maxwell said, and stressed the importance of having a safe place to shoot up in major Canadian cities.

According to Maxwell, marginalized populations, like people with HIV and AIDS, need a community-based support centre to use drugs because they "would probably be injecting in the streets," where sharing needles is commonplace.

In the face of a federal election, her safe injection site, called Insite, has evaded the government's chopping block.

"It was difficult enough to get it running with the previous [federal Liberal] government," Maxwell started, "and now the current [Conservative] government just wants to shut it down."

Insite, started in 1997, was the first Canadian partially government-funded safe injection site.

It was borne in the wake of a sweeping crisis on Canada's west coast. The health authority declared the area an emer-

gency—an estimated 40 per cent of residents living in Vancouver's lower east side, an area that has been socially shunned as deviant for over 200 years, were found to have HIV/AIDS, and 95 per cent had Hepatitis C. Ten years ago, it was the highest recorded infection rate outside of Africa.

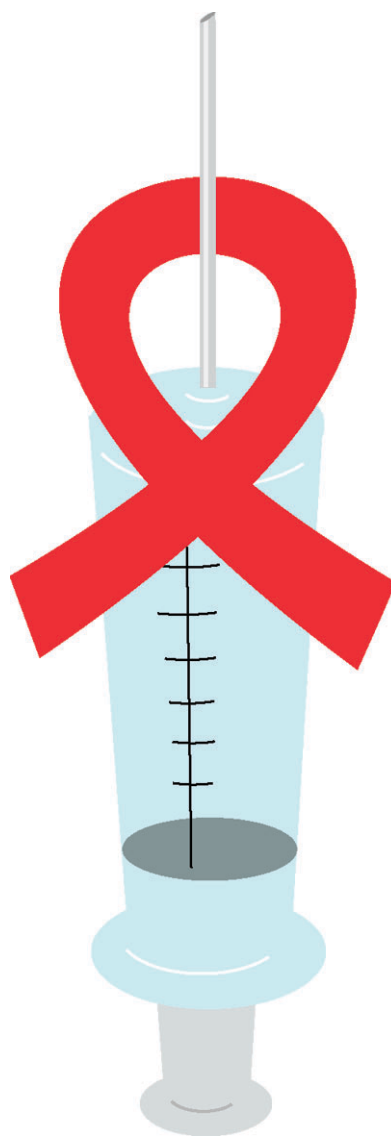
"Those are staggering numbers," Maxwell said, noting that an overwhelming number of infected users are "people who are not well to begin with, who don't eat particularly good food, and a lot of them have mental illness."

Montreal has its own safe injection site, Cactus Montreal, which is a non-profit independent organization that offered the first needle exchange program in North America almost 20 years ago. It also provides services to people who use intravenous drugs and who practice "potentially risky sexual behaviour."

"These facilities actually prevent people from contracting HIV," said Emily Brossard, a human relations and sexuality student at Concordia and coordinator for the HIV/AIDS lecture series. Brossard argues that services like Cactus and Insite are the first step in helping drug users "get out of the vicious cycle."

"Outcasting the individual just makes it worse," Brossard said. "It doesn't offer a solution at all."

Darlene Palmer, director of Cactus, will introduce Maxwell on Thursday.



Insite: the right to healthcare for injection drug users will be held in H-110 on Oct. 2.

For more info on the HIV/AIDS Community Lecture Series, please visit aids.concordia.ca,

For more info on Cactus Montreal and safe injection, please visit cactusmontreal.org

A portrait of Khaled

• VINCENT DESTOUCHES

For some Palestinians, Leila Khaled is a freedom fighter. For the rest of the world, she is a terrorist.

The plights of Khaled, the first woman to hijack an airplane, are brought to the screen in the documentary *Leila Khaled, Hijacker*, the brainchild of director Lina Makboul.

Among the Palestinian community, Khaled still has credence and remains the Che Guevara of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"She was my teenage idol," Makboul said. "She was brave and beautiful. And she was Palestinian. And we both wanted the same thing. A free Palestine."

Against this backdrop of Middle East tension, Makboul draws the portrait of a young and attractive woman who gave a face to a fight and to a rebellion, in a world dominated by men. But more than a portrait or a philosophical reflection, *Leila Khaled, Hijacker* transports us into the director's intimate struggle with the means used by Khaled, her youth idol, to defend her cause.

In a series of interviews, Makboul confronts Khaled about decisions she made over 35 years ago and tries to find remorse in her. Khaled, now 64, still has strong political beliefs, but the images of the working mother she has become contrast with her portrayal as a rebel freedom fighter.

Born in Haifa, Israel in 1944, Khaled was forced to move to Lebanon, along with her family, during the 1948 Palestine war. Ever since that day, Khaled has

been trying to return home. Home, because in 1944, Haifa was in Palestine, a land she was ready to give her life for.

On August 29, 1969, Khaled and a PFLP team hijacked TWA Flight 840, which was supposed to transport its passengers from Rome to Athens. After making the plane fly over Israel to see Haifa from above, Khaled and her team landed in Damascus, Syria. There were no casualties or victims, which was a strict rule. The purpose of the hijacking was to make a statement.

"We captured the planes to ask the world a question. Who are the Palestinians?"

—Leila Khaled

Khaled contends that she hoped "the world would understand our cause [...] We captured the planes to ask the world a question. Who are the Palestinians?"

A year later, Khaled hijacked another plane on its way from Amsterdam to New York, as part of a larger PFLP operation but failed and was captured by British authorities. She was soon after released in exchange for British hostages.

Khaled currently lives in Amman, Jordan with her husband and their two sons.

Leila Khaled, Hijacker will be playing at Concordia University in H-110 on Oct. 6 at 7:30 pm. To find out more about the event, please visit cinemapolitica.org

Pro-choice show where they stand

• ION ETXEBARRIA

At least 5,000 people demonstrated against Bill C-484 as part of the Pan-Canadian Day of Action for Abortion Rights.

Bill C-484, also known as the "Unborn Victims of Crime Act," would treat the foetus as a separate victim and allow separate homicide charges to be laid in the case when a pregnant woman is subject to a criminal attack and the foetus dies.

Feminist collectives believe that giving the foetus a particular juridical status would open a door to challenge abortion rights in Canada and does not really protect women against violence.

Bill C-484 was introduced by Conservative MP Ken Epp from Edmonton and passed second reading on Mar. 5 in the House of Commons. All but four Conservative MPs and 27 Liberal MPs supported the bill, but it was retired by the Conservative Party due to upcoming federal elections.

The organizers of the demonstration, the Quebec Women's Federation and the Federation of Quebec Family Planning, did not endorse any political parties. Michele Asselin, president of the FFQ, called on Canadians "to defeat the Conservatives and not to give any votes to candidates that threaten to reverse women's advancements and autonomy."



PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Love for sale



Yonge Street in 1972

The rise and fall of Yonge Street's sex industry

• TYLER HARPER
(RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

It's a Thursday night at Zanzibar in Toronto and her name is Jasmine. At least I think it is anyway. It's a little hard to concentrate.

"I knew you didn't have to be ID'd," she says in a French accent. "You have a young face, but you're not 19."

"How old do you think I am?"

She eyes me up and down. "Twenty-seven. 28."

"I'm 26. How old are you?"

"Twenty-eight," she says and we both laugh. We both know she's older than that. "I always say I'm 28. If you feel an age you will always be that age."

"Would you like a French dance?" she asks, grinning.

I contemplate what exactly would make the dance French, then remember I have a girlfriend waiting for me at home.

"Maybe next time. I think I'll just drink my beer," I respond.

She gets up to leave, keeping an eye on me as she walks away. A section of the stage rises and the dancer gyrates with the bass. A middle-aged man sitting alone in front of me claps. I finish my beer and get up to leave.

It's hard to find a decent peeler on Toronto's Yonge Street these days. There are only three strip clubs, one porn cinema, and a handful of sex accessory shops.

But in the 1970s, Yonge was the dirtiest street in Canada. Body-rub parlours, porno vendors, cinemas, and clubs lined the south strip. There was music on the street. Tourists visited Yonge for the atmosphere and not the Eaton Centre shopping mall.

Valerie Scott worked in the

body-rub parlours on Yonge during the '70s. She doesn't remember the strip as a black hole into which all good men's souls were sucked, but rather she remembers the people she worked with.

"What I liked about it was the comradery between the women. We would look out for each other," said Scott.

"There wasn't a lot of violence, hardly any. I never even came across any at all, all the times I worked in the massage parlours," she recalls. "I think because we worked together, there were always two or three or four of us working in a place. And it was just nice to hang out with the other women in between clients."

The murder shocked the public and provided the city and local businesses with a moral martyr to rally behind. Many of the sex businesses threw in the towel rather than endure the legal shitstorm.

The first body-rub parlour opened in the spring of 1971. They grew in tandem with the Yonge Street Mall, an annual festival held between 1971 and 1973. Parts of Yonge were closed to traffic and vendors moved into the street for the festival.

The sex industry thrived on the increase in street business the mall provided. The body-rub parlours also filled an economic niche on the street and kept Yonge going, taking advantage of real estate that other businesses didn't want.

"It filled a vacuum," said Ron Soskolne, Toronto's chief planner in the '70s. "The stores were there, it was the centre of the city. Landlords were pretty desperate because they couldn't get serious retailers to go there."

The increase in people attracted by the mall, however, meant an increase in crime. Businesses complained they were losing money just as the parlours were flourishing. In the summer of 1973 the mall became a financial liability for the city and was shut down.

The parlours, however, remained. In just four years, there were more than 100 of them.

But the party ended in 1977. On July 28, four men lured 12-year-old Emanuel Jaques, who worked on Yonge Street shining shoes, into an apartment above Charlie's Angels, a body-rub parlour across from the just-opened Eaton Centre.

Jaques was restrained and sexually assaulted for over 12 hours,

strangled and then drowned.

The murder shocked the public and provided the city and local businesses with a moral martyr to rally behind. Many of the sex businesses threw in the towel rather than endure the legal shitstorm. Some were closed down by the bawdy-house law, which gave authorities the legal right to close down any establishment in which prostitution occurs.

Whether or not prostitution was indeed happening was beside the point. None of the businesses could afford to fight both the government and the public. At the time of Jaques' murder, there were 40 parlours on Yonge.

In November there were four. And by December the last one closed its doors.

The body-rub era was over.

By the early '80s, Scott found herself dancing at the Zanzibar.

"The Zanzibar was a happening place," she said. "They had good quality shows. This is before table and lap dancing. It was far more burlesque. You didn't have anything on the stage like showers or poles. The stage was nice."

As the '80s progressed the strip clubs continued to do well, but Yonge Street decayed.

"It just got worse," said Soskolne. "Some new fast-food restaurants went in, like McDonald's or Burger King, and Cheque-cashing places. Predominately a lot of vacancy.

The buildings were even more

the failure of the office towers and that created a crisis for the business owners."

On a wet night in 1994 Rae took a walk with members of council to show them the state of decay along the street. With the help of the Yonge Street Business and Residents Association, the city began planning to build a square and a new mall at Yonge and Dundas Street to revitalize the area.

After nearly 15 years of planning, Toronto Life Square finally opened last year. Yonge has become an epileptic's nightmare—neon signs advertising the latest cellphone plans flash electric kool-aid over newly erected condos.

It's a 21st century circus fit for anyone with cash to spend.

"I think it's a huge success," said Soskolne. "I think having a film festival there is an example of what the possibilities are now and that never would have been possible 10, 20 years ago."

The sex industry is still there, but it's only a shadow of its former self. The Zanzibar, the Brass Rail, and Remington's are the only strip clubs left. A porn cinema commands a second-floor perch on the east side of Yonge. Only a few sex shops remain.

For her part, Scott isn't very impressed with the new Yonge Street.

"It's boring, for the most part. The Eaton Centre is hostile. The architecture is hostile to the streetscape. The stores are tawdry. The buildings really need some renovations. I'm beginning to become fond of [Toronto Life] Square, but for the most part, there's just not a lot of soul to Yonge Street."

Drugs, drugs, drugs

Which are good, which are bad?

• KRISTEN THEODORE

Sometimes, just the thought of cracking open your all-too-cumbersome textbook to page 174, and reading several more chapters can seem utterly unbearable.

With midterms looming on the horizon, and grades at stake, many Concordia students are turning to the power of prescription pills in order to stay regulated, focused and ahead of the game throughout these stressful times.

However, as use becomes more prominent some people wonder if popping a pill is an easy-way out, a time-management fix, or if taking prescription pills is something that will become more legitimate with time.

It's not uncommon for students to become overwhelmed in the academic environment. Once the pressure is on, coping becomes harder and harder.

"I'm a huge procrastinator," says Christina*, a McGill student in the second year of her MA. "I tend to leave big projects until the night before the due date, which means I'm under pressure to do a lot of work in a short time."

Christina, not unlike other students, has faced unforgiving mountains of homework and very limited timeframes. And whether self-inflicted or not, the work always has to get done.

Red Bull and Monster Energy drinks weren't always the most effective means of staying focused, as they have the tendency to wear off only after a few hours or not work altogether. In order to cope with her never-ending papers and other important projects, Christina turned to Ritalin and Provigil (Modafinil), two over-the-counter drugs.

Ritalin, a drug normally prescribed to those who have a difficult time concentrating, or individuals plagued with hyperactivity, helped Christina to focus on her studies. As a result, she was able to get more work done. "[Ritalin] made me super focused so I just steamed ahead with work and did nothing else," says Christina, who, in the end, was able to work at an unrelenting pace.

Those who have taken the prescription, such as Christina, have reported a heightened sense of focus, which helped render their studying altogether less tedious and enabled them to get the job done more efficiently.

Provigil is a drug often given to those who suffer from serious bouts of narcolepsy, obstructive sleep apnea, and shift work sleep disorder—individuals whose work shifts are so disorderly, their sleep schedules are seriously affected. Though not intended for casual use, the results of Christina's experiences were, in the end, overall positive.

"[Provigil] kept me awake much longer than caffeine," she says. While side effects of the drug are said to include headaches, nausea and stuffy noses, Christina experienced

none of these symptoms. Instead, a hard night's studying was made easier. "When you're in a panic, they seem like a really good solution like, hey, pop this pill, and you can stay up all night, no problem." And while, like most other students, Christina has dabbled in other recreational drugs, such as marijuana and alcohol, she says her use of prescription pills were only for the benefit of her academic productivity.

Christina isn't alone in turning to prescription drugs to pull herself out of tough situations. In recent years, the use of pharmaceuticals as self-prescribed study-aids is becoming altogether frequent. In a 2003 survey conducted by Ontario Student Drug Use, 2.9 per cent of high school students had access to Ritalin and had been using it as a "focus-aid."

By Grade 11, that number only increased to five per cent as the students climbed the academic ladder higher and higher. According to Statistics Canada, that number has remained relatively high in boys, and somewhat lower in girls. Similarly, in Atlantic Canada, a survey by the Canadian Medical Association Journal in 2001 figured that of almost 14,000 randomly selected students, 700 had been taking Ritalin and other drugs, such as Dexedrine and Benzedrine in non-medical use.

From 1985 to 2002, requests for Ritalin prescriptions alone spiked 600 per cent in Canada. And as the use among campus students is becoming more and more widespread, the rampant accessibility of these medications is being questioned. How do students get a hold of prescriptions when they don't actually have attention deficit disorder?

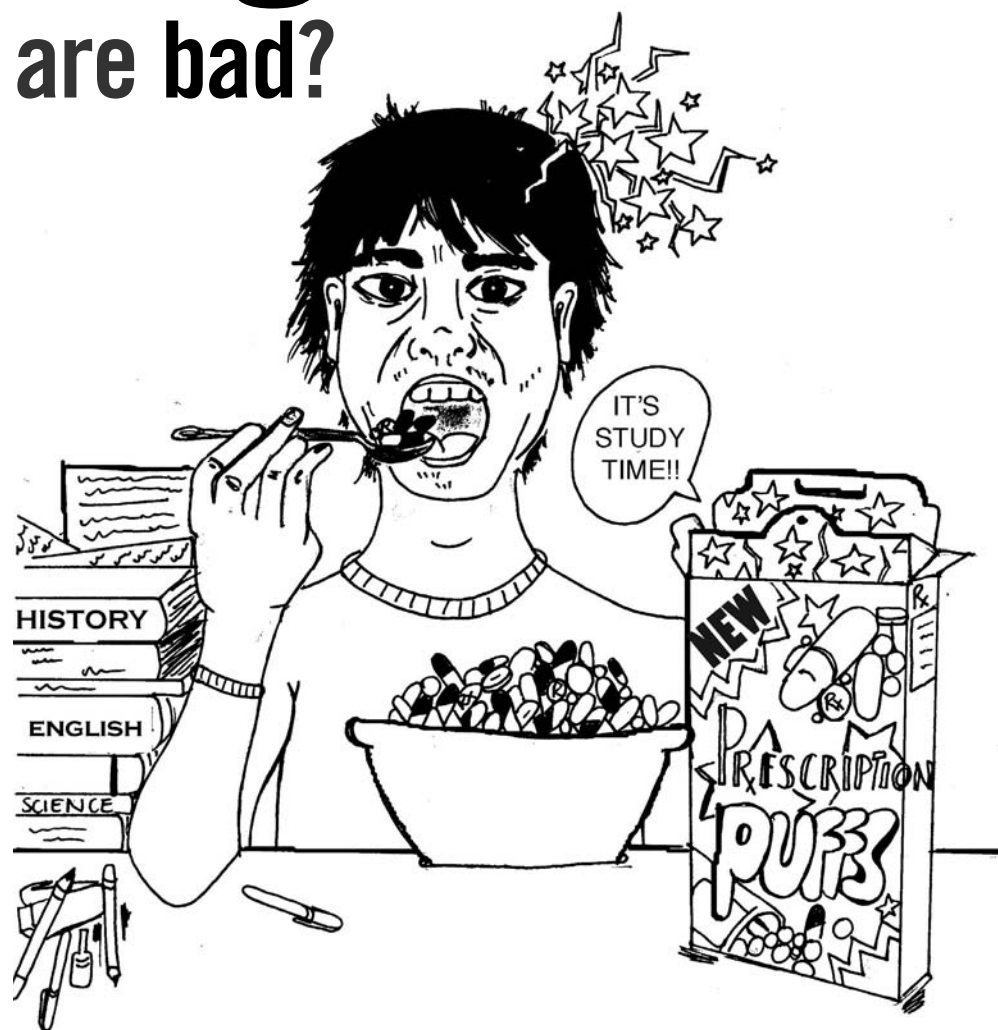
"I just go to a walk-in clinic, give them a list of symptoms and they prescribe to me whatever I need."

—Amy, second-year McGill student

According to Amy*, a second-year McGill student, getting drugs is not all that difficult. Pills, it seems, are becoming increasingly available to the people who so willingly seek them out.

Amy, formerly a marijuana smoker, has developed an affinity for prescription pills. "I just go to a walk-in clinic, give them a list of symptoms and they prescribe to me whatever I need," she says. In such a heavily medicated society, it seems almost a little too easy for just about anyone to get his or her paws on a prescription. Effortless journeys such as these often result in the easy acquisition of sleeping pills, stay-awake pills, or even anti-depressants.

A simple Google search can conjure up a list of the symptoms needed to sound believable to an on-the-clock doctor. "You just need to go to different clinics where they don't have a file on you," and will therefore prescribe you any sort of medica-



GRAPHIC: CARLY FRIDHANDLER

tion you crave, on the spot. Although, she adds, she has never used drugs to study and simply finds it easier to use them for a high—crushing Ritalin and snorting it increases the effects of the amphetamines it contains.

But if that expedition seems time-consuming, students on campuses all across North America have found that there are considerably less complicated means to access prescription pills. Some re-use and recycle old prescriptions they've had for Ritalin or Adderall in the past. Others need not go further than their own campus.

Pills can be acquired so long as students know where to look—purchased from your friendly small-time dealer, often a fellow student, for about three to five dollars a pop. Websites all over the net advertise a "cheap, anonymous" way of obtaining "medication online," in user-friendly fashion. All that is required is a credit card.

Most of the time, students turn to prescription pills as a way to find some sort of balance in their fast-paced lives. Entering a new university can be an exciting experience. Studying just doesn't seem as much fun as going out with new friends and drinking in dormitories does. Often, they find themselves overwhelmed by juggling several priorities at once.

A former McGill-cum-Concordia student, Angela*, often fell behind in her schoolwork. Once she got involved with a sports team, she found it difficult to balance doing her homework as well as doing

sports and maintaining a healthy social life. So, she turned to prescription drugs to help her balance her time.

"During the season, I would do sports, see my friends and usually school would come last," she says. After trying Ritalin, she was able to sit still and focus on her studies instead of drifting off.

Acquiring the drugs was almost a non-issue. "At McGill, my dealer was just walking up and down the hallways of the library, making deals," she recalls, but admits that prescription drug use seems a little more low-key at her new school. "[At Concordia] I've heard a couple of people talk about it on campus but it's still a little more quiet."

Angela says she noticed an immediate different when taking the pills, though she admits it might have been due to a placebo effect. "I completely noticed it, although it could have been psychosomatic. Psychosomatic symptoms are very real," she says. Regardless, Angela was able to do things she thought impossible; "I could read a 500-page philosophy book in five days time. I could write papers."

It's the kind of thing that makes students wonder. Despite some of the risks and side effects of taking these pills, their prominence on campuses is becoming more and more obvious. Those students who have turned to pharmaceuticals as an answer or a fix may acknowledge that their activities aren't exactly safe, but none seem to feel particularly inclined to give them up. The prescription label and industry stamp do a lot to allay fears and to most the benefits outweigh the risks.

"If you're desperate, they're a pretty good last resort," admits Christina.

*names have been altered.



The award-winning photo on aging that won Keren Epstein the BMO Art! Invitational Student Art Competition. Epstein beat out 162 artists to win the award.

Young and going places

Concordia grad wins regional Student Art Competition with series on aging

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"To be 23 and to have your work featured in the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, where my professor was featured only last May, is something a student can only dream of."

Those were the words of photographer Keren Epstein, who graduated from Concordia University this past year, upon learning that her work had been selected as the regional champion of the inaugural Bank of Montreal Art! Invitational Student Art Competition, the only national graduating artist competition in Canada.

To win the award, Epstein had to beat out 162 submissions from other up-and-coming Canadian artists, of which only three were selected for nomination from each post-secondary school across the country.

This October, her work will be shown alongside 12 other regional champions, as well as the national champion, at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art in Toronto. As part of the prize, her work will also be featured in *Canadian Art* magazine.

Being a professional photographer is "a numbers game," says Epstein. "The more places you submit [your work], the better." But when a supportive teacher convinced her to sign an application for the competition, Epstein had no idea she'd end up being the regional winner.

"In some ways, I'm the cliché of the poor artist living with my parents."

—Keren Epstein, *Con U grad*

"It's the best thing that could have happened to a student just coming out of University," she says.

Working mostly from job to job, Epstein admits that she didn't always believe that success would be in her sights. "I was doing a lot of second guessing of myself, but winning only reinvigorated and confirmed my sense of self worth."

Epstein, whose parents are Israeli, was doing volunteer work helping integrate displaced Ethiopian Jews settle in Israel by teaching them English, when news

of her win reached her.

Although most of the \$2,500 prize money went directly into her savings account, Epstein says at least some of it went to offset the costs of her volunteer work—mainly consisting of travel costs.

Some of her previous work, a series of

photographs about Montreal's immigrant community, was featured in the Toronto metro system.

"Art can be very exclusive," complains Epstein. "My goal is to bring art to the masses."

The work that won her the BMO prize was derived from her final class project, entitled the "Ema series," which places a scrutinizing lens on the lifestyles of the elderly, including Epstein's own grandmother. What the photographs reveal about old age, a time in one's life in which lifelong care-

givers become the recipient of care themselves, says Epstein, "is sad, and weird, and almost absurd. But there's also a dignity in the truth of what's happening."

As an artist, Epstein has had to fall back on the care of others a little earlier than expected, after leaving school she moved back into residence with her old caregivers. "In some ways, I'm the cliché of the poor artist living with my parents."

But for someone who still has many years left to pursue her craft, old age is the least of Epstein's concerns. Fortunately, she already has some tips to share with the rest of us.

"My advice to Concordia students would be to make as many connections at school as possible. If you're interested in photo-journalism, apply to one of the school newspapers."

Remember folks: she said it, not us.

Epstein's winning submission will be featured at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, 952 Queen Street West, Toronto, from Oct. 8 to 26. Open hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The vernissage is set for Oct. 7, invitation only.

What's going on

Events listing
for the week
Sept. 30-Oct. 6



Fashion

Puces Pop Official Launch Party and Fashion Show

Thursday, 6 p.m.
Coda, 4119 blvd. St. Laurent
puces.popmontreal.com

Music

Li'l Andy and Ideal Lovers

Thursday, 11 p.m.
4015 St-Laurent
Tickets \$10

Boats!

Saturday, 8 p.m.
3699 blvd. St. Laurent
popmontreal.com

Opera

Liederwölfe: Opera Undressed

Friday, 10 p.m.
30 Ste. Catherine Street W.
Pay what you can
www.liederwolfe.com

Shad

Friday, 11:15 p.m.
3874, St. Laurent
Tickets \$7

Other

Symposium, music conference

Wednesday—Sunday, times vary
5390 blvd. St. Laurent
popmontreal.com

Discussion: "Women in Politics, Women in Hip Hop"

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
1225 St-Laurent
popmontreal.com

Theatre

Transhumain

Wednesday to Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.
Théâtre Ste-Catherine
264, Ste-Catherine Est
www.transhumain.net

Not @ POP Montreal

Exhibits

Signals in the Dark: Art in the Shadow of War
Now until Oct. 11
Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery
1400, Blvd. de Maisonneuve W., Ground Floor J.W. McConnell
Library Building, Metro Guy-Concordia

—compiled by Johnny North

Artists + musicians = POP Matters

Con U heavily represented at collaboration video/music POP Montreal event

• JOHNNY NORTH

Wacky combinations of music and visual art brought by some of the most creative Concordia students past and present will be showcased at POP Montreal's and Art Matters' collaborative event: POP Matters.

Talks between the two organizations began in the summer. Both found that combining their talents was a natural fit since they both focus on a similar youth demographic.

"The idea was to take our strength, which is presenting

artists to the public and POP's, which is presenting musicians, and then combining them," said Matt Goerzen, co-producer of the Art Matters festival and Con U student. "Five groups of artists working with five different musical acts. It's random and really creative."

Grunge French rock from the band Chocolat, folk rock from The Winks, and Con U student Jackson MacIntosh's rock opera are just a few of the different genres being showcased.

"All of the artists are Concordia students," said Goerzen. "Chocolat is the only

band with no Concordia connection."

Chocolat will be performing a new wave collaboration with former Con U students, Sinbad Richardson and Valérie Boxer, two grads from Intermedia/Cyberarts.

"The idea for the video came from Chocolat and listening to their music," said Boxer. "We let ourselves be inspired by them. It has a beautiful homemade family movie/Montreal postcard feel to it. It's basically one long bicycle run."

Third-year Intermedia/

Cyberarts Con U student Jason Harvey will tragically and pyrotechnically relive Woodstock '99, that had two deaths, over 40 arrests, over 3,000 injuries, reported rape and accounts of sexual assault.

"It's really abstract," said Harvey. "It's a bunch of crap everywhere, music gets harsh and the costumes are freaky. It's pretty short, only nine minutes."

POP Matters will be held this Thursday at Les Saints, 30 Ste-Catherine Street W. Tickets are \$6. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Side-project makes it big

Returning member of Halifax band Wintersleep happy to be back with indie rock success story

• JOHNNY NORTH

"It didn't seem like a friend's band—it felt more like a professional band [...] the production had this kind of warm and dry feel that I enjoy."

Once Michael Bigelow heard what Wintersleep had been working on he knew he wanted in on it. Bigelow, who was first in the band playing keyboards, has returned to replace Judd Haynes. Haynes left the band after the recording of their latest album *Welcome To The Night Sky* last year.

What started out as a side project in 2001 has grown into an indie rock band with three full albums and a 2008 Juno award win for New Group of the Year—even though they aren't new. Bigelow didn't contribute to the last album, but is glad to be writing new music again with old friends.

"It's very comfortable even though it's been a long time," said Bigelow, who played first with Wintersleep from 2005 until 2006. "It's fun to play old songs and making them fresh again."

Bigelow, along with drummer Loel Campbell, also performs together in the band Holy Fuck. Bigelow finds both bands are fun to play in,



Wintersleep will be performing at POP Montreal this Friday at Le National.

however when it comes to song-writing, Wintersleep has more depth.

"I like the way someone will write a song and pass it around like Sonic Youth," he said. "I wanted to play for concentrated writing."

Even without a new album this year, the band is constantly writing new material. Bigelow says he would not be surprised if a new song pops up from them by spring. Bigelow can see how bands don't tour as much when they get on in years, but at this

moment he thinks that Wintersleep is "enjoying seeing the world right now."

Wintersleep will be performing at POP Montreal this Friday at 8 p.m. at Le National. More details on wintersleep.com.

Weird Punk at POP

Punk bands come together for a week of drunken madness

• CODY HICKS

How the hell am I supposed to start an article about a genre as far reaching, inclusive and altogether arbitrarily titled as “weird punk”? Everyone from *Exclaim* to *The McGill Daily* to your granny on her blog has covered it.

So rather than waste ink, I’ll direct you over to weirdpunk.com. Go educate yourself on the genre that made this jaded writer believe in new music.

What I’m really here to talk about is the upcoming five-night takeover of Divan Orange during Pop Montreal by the local de facto preachers of the weird punk gospel.

I met with Shaun Anderson of the infamous Pirates of the Lachine Canal and Andre Guerette of the dynamic Blue Skies Turn Black for an impromptu drunken afternoon press conference at Copacabana to make sense of their upcoming mini-festival blowout and to nerd-out over the significance of this whole “weird punk” phenomenon.

Weird Punk Montreal 2008 is described by Guerette as “an after-party for the punks” and by Anderson as a way to see all his favourite bands.

And if late night marathon isn’t a feat in itself, BSTB/PLC has joined forces with sizeemup, another gang of local promoters, to put on a series of afternoon Weird BBQs on Saturday and Sunday at DIY sanctuary, The Friendship Cove.

This cruel sleep deprivation experiment will give people a reason to shake their Pop Montreal hangovers and give some fresh ‘n’ weird talent a chance to blow minds while people chow down on communal grub.

Out of the four Pop Montreal shows that PLC curated last year the most successful was the Jay Reatard show promoted in conjunction with BSTB. It was only natural for them to join forces on a maniacal plot to foster a “weird punk” take-over.

The unholy union of PLC/BSTB is powerful and uncompromising. By taking all curatorial matters into their own hands they have



Weird Punk starts this Wednesday and runs until Sunday. GRAPHIC KETAN PATEL

asserted total creative control over Weird Punk Montreal 2008, free from the unwanted insertion of having any less-than-weird bands into their line-ups.

“There are so many bands that apply for the festival that bands have to be plugged into line-ups for festivals,” says Anderson through a sly smirk. “When we started to curate the weird Punk series we figured we’d invite so many bands that we’d need to have complete control.”

“The definition of punk rock has become so blurred that it means something totally different to everyone,” says Anderson.

Weird Punk revisits the days of CBGBs when punk was about freedom to create in a community and not about rigid rules and uniforms. Like those early punk bands, the weird punk community is comprised of groups that really have little in common stylistically despite an aversion to the mainstream.

“It’s a small scene, everyone knows each other,” says Anderson, who believes it all fell together naturally and that the common bond between these bands is ideological.

“Brutal Knights seem like a pretty regular hardcore band,” says Anderson.

“But, they are punk in the truest sense of

the word,” chimes in Guerette, “they’re doing something extreme and anti-standard.”

Although traditional in sound, Brutal Knights’ are fronted by comedian Nick Flanagan who sings the smartest dumb lyrics I’ve ever heard. They recently played a show in Montreal where they had stand-up comedians as openers.

Whereas traditional “hardcore” bands were strict about who they associated with, Weird Punk bands are open to play any kind of shows.

“It’s all about throwing genres away. Brutal Knights are just as comfortable playing with AIDS Wolf as they would be with the Cro-Mags,” Anderson said.

As the beer continued to flow, Anderson and I climbed to uncharted heights of music nerdery in an effort to give succinct descriptions of each and every band of the show. The world of weird punk can get confusing sometimes, so let us hold your hand and walk you through.

Weird Punk 08 at Divan Orange, 4234 St. Laurent. BBQs at Friendship Cove, 215A Murray St. Night shows are all \$12. BBQs are pay what you can (As much as you can. Touring bands gotta eat.) More info can be found at thelinknewspaper.ca.

Weird Punk events

Day One: Wednesday, Oct. 1:

SILTBREEZE SHOWCASE

10 p.m. — U.S. Girls
11 p.m. — Sic Alps
12 a.m. — Pink Reason
1 a.m. — Blues Control
2 a.m. — Psychedelic Horseshit

Day Two: Thursday, Oct. 2

11 p.m. — Microwaves
Midnight — These Are Powers
1 a.m. — DD/MM/YY
2 a.m. — The Chinese Stars

Day Three: Friday, Oct. 3

10 p.m.: Double Dip
11 p.m.: Japanther
Midnight: Career Suicide
1 a.m.: Brutal Knights
2 a.m.: An Albatross

Day Four: Saturday, Oct. 4

8:30 p.m. — Arab on Radar DVD
10 p.m. — Chrome Jackson
11 p.m. — Shearing Pinx
Midnight — Made in Mexico
1 a.m. — Neptune
2 a.m. — AIDS Wolf
12:30 p.m. — Adult Crash
1:15 p.m. — Lose your Fucking Shit
2 p.m. — Golden Error
3 p.m. — TV Ghost
4 p.m. — Teenanger
5 p.m. — Career Suicide

Day Five: Sunday, Oct. 5

12:30 p.m. — Many Mental Mistakes
1:15 p.m. — The Pink Noise
2 p.m. — Black Feelings
3 p.m. — Double Dagger
4 p.m. — AIDS Wolf
5 p.m. — TYVEK

—compiled by Cody Hicks

Mashing it up at POP

DJ Mike Relm brings his mind-melting performance to the festival

• JOHNNY NORTH

Mike Relm is sick of the tired routine of playing the top hits at parties, and his debut studio album *Spectacle* is a direct response, a change that is needed.

“A lot of people don’t listen to whole records anymore,” he says. Relm wanted his album “to be as closely formatted to a mix tape as possible. I just want it to make it that people weren’t just going through the same type of tracks. I wanted it to sound pretty random. There’s definitely some sounds in there that pertain to what’s going on musically. The songs feel all different, I needed something to bridge it all together.”

The turntablist’s unique blend of film sounds and music has gotten him into gigs alongside artists The Blue Man Group, Jurassic 5 and the Wu-Tang Clan. Relm has remixed almost everything—from Bob Dylan to Rage Against The Machine, there’s not a genre he isn’t willing to explore in order to give fans something new.

“I think people value that, especially at festivals that

can be 12 hours [in length],” he says. “If it’s the same thing over and over it’s boring. I think people are getting wise to that.”

Relm prefers keeping his electronic pop different since “living the band life” is not a venture he cares to pursue.

“I think I would blow my brains out, playing the same show all the time with the same record. As an artist you have to grow or you’re really boring.”

With the growth of music resources on the Internet, Relm finds DJing is now even more important as fans are always craving something new.

“With the Internet, people have access to everything,” he said. “Now it’s all about creating a vibe. People are a little bit more picky music-wise. Before at parties it was like ‘lets throw on the latest Jay-Z’ now it’s show me something else. You can’t show them a Top 40 anymore.”

Relm is hoping his return to Montreal will be the first time it won’t rain on his trip. He finds Montreal has “a great music scene, it’s not a picky audience, but a smart audience.”



Mike Relm will be performing Sunday at Le National.

Relm will be performing at POP Montreal on Sunday at 9 p.m. at Le National with Dirty On Purpose and Thomas Function.

Terrorism of a mercantile nature

ATSA to open up store that criticizes commercialism

• HEATHER ANDERSON

What does a cash register have in common with a political activist? They both make change. CHANGE, a temporary boutique of political protest paraphernalia, which is the latest intervention by Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable.

Founded by Montreal artists Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, ATSA celebrates its 10th year of social protest through an unlikely public intervention—a clever capitalist endeavour. ATSA first surfaced in Montreal with a sock bank, a mock financial institution that reversed the hierarchy of wealth by distributing warm socks to the homeless. Since then, ATSA has staged over 20 interventions in Montreal, New York, Paris and Toronto.

If ATSA's long list of anarchist projects can be said to evince a common style, CHANGE stands out. Roy explains that, "A store is a public space for artists to explore [...] there is an exchange, but its more sharing."

Starting this Thursday, CHANGE will be open to the public at 4351 St. Laurent until the end of December. Goods sold at the store, such as artifacts and photos, will be inspired by or constructed from materials from ATSAs past interventions. Roy explains that this is a way to "revisit and give [each intervention] another life through the object so that the discussion starts again. It's a tool."

But is this just a financial endeavour masquerading as art, or worse, an act of social conscience?

Roy argues that, "It's a family



Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, founders of Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable.

store. When you compare it to big trademarks without creativity, its totally different. Opening a store is actually a very creative process...like opening your home."

In essence, ATSA offers a product that critiques the traditional notion of commercialism because, "there are a lot of [products] that don't have any soul in them. [This is] a brand that goes beyond image, a way to propel a message."

Customers will be asked to throw

their spare change on the floor, because according to ATSA, "we would just spend it on consumerist candy otherwise." There will also be festivities in the Parc du portugalais, including popcorn, beer and carnival games.

Next Steps

ATSA is planning to host a competition for a creative intervention to which they will assign their signature. Roy looks forward

to sharing the credit for future acts of socially acceptable urban terrorism, "It's fun for other people to do something. You generate an élan."

CHANGE opens up this Thursday at 6 p.m. along with an evening fair right in front of the store at 4351 St. Laurent, corner of Marie Ann. In case of rain, events will be held across the street, at the bar Les Bobards, 4328 Saint-Laurent.

spins

Despite Caribou's predictable win, *The Link* decided to review all the albums nominated for the 2008...

POLARIS MUSIC PRIZE

Two Hours Traffic Little Jabs

Burnstead Records



The first two tracks met most of my qualifications for music I like—a nice pace, catchy, good guitar riffs and a reasonably prominent kick bass. My head bobbed. My foot tapped through no effort of my own. But then, as quickly as they had me, they lost me. It was almost as though the album had given up and was hoping I would stick around on the strength of its earlier accomplishments.

Four tracks in, Little Jabs veers tragically off-course. From that point on most of the songs sound like something that should be playing quietly behind a sentimental montage in a mid-budget movie about 20-somethings living, loving and finding themselves.

The album rallies a little at "Backseat Sweetheart," but quickly gets sucked back into the whirling vortex of smaltz. I have a sneaking suspicion that while the band was recording this album the lead singer started dating some "awesome girl," wrote some "great songs" in her honour, and the rest of the band decided to go with it.

2.5/5
—Clare Raspopow

Caribou Andorra

Merge Records



Somewhere between a 1960s slow-dance song, and space-aged indie rock lands Caribou. With soft, sweet vocals, this album evokes a dreamy and rather pleasant feeling. Some songs feel

free to veer off on spacey instrumental tangents, but they all sound beautiful. With most of the tracks on this album being about love or lost love, at times it all feels a bit too sweet and innocent. With that in mind and the sheer quality of the record, all is excused and all is enjoyable.

4.5/5
—Sebastien Cadieux

Black Mountain In The Future

Jagjaguwar



Black Mountain's *In The Future* is a step up from its self-titled debut in every aspect imaginable; the blues are bluer, the nebulous Sabbath-esque rock jams are lengthier and the weird synth parts are weirder. But beyond that, the band's ability to marry atmosphere and pure songwriting abilities makes this a superior effort. The midsection in 'Bright Lights', a 16 1/2-minute jam reveals this ability deftly. The quiet, eerie interlude at the 8-minute mark builds into an ascending, frenzied finish that evokes the best of dirty, primitive rock and roll with a metal tinge. The effortless transition from one to the other in one marathon-length stretch is pure bliss.

4/5
—R. Brian Hastie

Shad The Old Prince

Black Box Recordings



To say that Shad has a way with words is like saying the sky is high. The London, Ontario rapper's ability to string words together is remarkable. Though his flow is far from unique, it's the quality of what's being said that counts in this case. Lead single "The Old Prince Still Lives At Home" is perhaps one of the more humorous cuts, but he also manages to vividly paint a

series of self-deprecating portraits that put other rappers to shame. Songs like this are typical of *The Old Prince* a masterpiece whose mellow, soulful samples evoke the best of the Native Tongues clique at the top of their game. His prose, florid and imaginative, sets a tone that few can match.

4.5/5
—R. Brian Hastie

Holy Fuck LP

Blackbox Entertainment



The genre-fucking adventure known as Holy Fuck's first album takes the listener on many different tangents; at times it's reminiscent of listening to a children's television theme, and then three minutes later the music takes a decidedly more adult approach with beats that would fit well within a club setting. The marriage of live instrumentation (four of the nine cuts for the album were recorded live) and programmed beats offers a strange marriage of sonic proportions that appeals to a wide range of people. Most people can find at least one section of the album that they would enjoy listening to, and the album's greatest strength is its ability to cater to multiple audiences without having to pair down their artistic vision.

4.2/5
—R. Brian Hastie

The Weakerthans Reunion Tour

Hopeless/Subcity Records



The Weakerthans combine folkie type rock with a heavier brand of rock to produce an interestingly unique style that results in exceptionally engaging music. The album gives the overall impression of being a deep, captivating conversation. "The Elegy for Gump Worsley" in the middle of the album broke the flow, but added to this sentiment of genuine song writing.

Commonplace references to commuters biting off their mitts to show transfers or the drawing of a 50/50 at a sports game lead into complex metaphors. The way these routine lyrics weave into images and expressions is an art The Weakerthans have mastered and made the album almost inexplicably enjoyable.

4/5
—Mathieu Biard

Stars In Our Bedroom After the War

Arts & Crafts



All of these songs are love songs, and this is a love album, so much so that most tracks will have you looking longingly at that cute boy or girl on the bus. The album starts off with the pleasingly hypnotic and rhythmic "The Beginning After the End" to the energetic rock of "Bitches in Tokyo." While *In Our Bedroom After the War* is mostly rock, some tracks like "The Night Starts Here" will remind long-time fans of the band's more electronic origins. Stars have grown yet again in their skill and style with this album and have delivered an album beyond expectations.

4.5/5
—Mathieu Biard

Basil Bulat Oh, My Darling

Hardwood Records



Maybe it was the title that threw me off, maybe I was expecting something with shades of Huckleberry Hound, but "Oh, My Darling" knocked me right off my seat. To say that Basil Bulat sounds like Norah Jones would be oxymoronic. To compare one carefree, one-of-a-kind artist to another is like comparing seashells on a beach; no two are like, but they're alike in how they are unique. That being

said, few of the songs stick out, with the exception of "Snakes and Ladders." My initial enthusiasm withstanding, this 24 year old artist still has ways to go before she becomes deserving of Polaris.

4/5
—Christopher Olson

Plants and Animals Parc Avenue

Secret City Records



With relaxed jams and engaging lyrics, Plants and Animals have put together an enjoyable and well-rounded album. "A Lorée Des Bois" in particular is the best encapsulation of Montreal, making the taste of a cold beer and the feeling of the hot sticky air come rushing back to me. None of the tracks are particularly bad, but a few of them are somewhat forgettable. It's a strong album overall, but clocking in at nearly an hour it probably could have lost a couple tracks to make for a more concise record.

4/5
—Sebastien Cadieux

Kathleen Edwards Asking For Flowers

MapleMusic Recordings



When Kathleen Edwards said the words, "You're the Great One and I'm Marty McSorley" in "I Make the Dough, You Get the Glory," I decided I liked this album. Edwards' sound is countryish, with strong vocals and even stronger songwriting. I kept going back constantly to lyrics that caught my attention. Edwards' no bullshit style and genuine, heartfelt lyrics combine to make a powerful album that anyone who enjoys the style should check out.

3.5/5
—Mathieu Biard

Go-Go Grannies

A generation of feminists enlists in the fight against HIV

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

American feminist Gloria Steinam once said, “An army of grey-haired old women may quietly take over the world.”

Brenda Rooney, co-producer and narrator of the film *The Great Granny Revolution*, serves as both general and platoon in this documentary film about Canada’s contribution to the war against AIDS (considered a worldwide war), but with Africa currently suffering the worst of it.

With every indication of being produced on an independent budget, *The Great Granny Revolution* documents the work of a group of grandmothers from Wakefield, Quebec as they team up with the Alexandra Gogos, a group of grandmothers in Africa—gogo being the local term for grandmother.

Already having suffered the unbearable loss of burying their children, these grandmothers must once again contend with the unthinkable: that they might have to bury their grandchildren as well.

Combating ignorance and superstition is a large part of the Wakefield Grannies’ mission. “Hiding is a disease,” says one of the gogos interviewed by Rooney, after recounting a tale of the shame that befell her family when one of them contracted the disease. “The stigma,” rather than the disease, “was killing us.”

It’s a tradition in Alexandra that a widow must shave her head and forsake all joyful activities such as singing and dancing, or even leaving the house, for a period of time to be decided by the husband’s family.

It’s gratifying to know, then, that a staple of the Alexandra



Grannies fighting against AIDS. GRAPHIC KETAN PATEL

Gogos’ gatherings include public recitals of song and dance, and open expressions of joy.

Aside from the financial contributions made to the Eastbank Clinic in Alexandra, totalling \$8,000 so far, counselling and emotional support are one of the Wakefield Grannies’ chief exports. A better example than this couldn’t be found than when a resident of Wakefield must inform her fellow gogo in Alexandra that her grandchild has been diagnosed as terminally ill.

The Great Granny Revolution is as much a film about empowering women as it is an advocate for AIDS organizations like the Stephen Lewis foundation, which hosts one hundred autonomous Granny organizations across Canada.

Rooney credits the contraceptive craze of the 1960s for giving Canadians “the good fortune to have families when we want them,” and points to the lack of reproductive rights in Africa as the cause of so much of its suffering.

A climactic moment in the film

comes when one of the Alexandra Gogos speaks at a Wakefield church, having flown in for a special gathering. “I’ve never seen a community so united,” she says to a crowd of Wakefield residents. “And I’m just wondering: why do we have to come all the way to get the love?”

“The experience of being a Wakefield Granny has been uplifting, life enhancing and empowering for all of the Wakefield Grannies,” says Rooney, whose follow up effort will be a film about the next generation of African children. “It turns out that with anti-retrovirals, children are no longer dying of HIV/AIDS. Given proper care and a healthy diet they can live happy and productive lives.”

The Great Granny Revolution will be shown this Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Avenue, Westmount. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. Info: (514) 931-6202. A Q&A with Brenda Rooney will take place after the film.



The Flatliners coming to Montreal on Oct.10.

Ship Talk

Punk rockers The Flatliners find surprising success with their latest record and tour

• BARBARA PAVONE

A relentless ferry attendant didn’t stop singer Chris Cresswell of the The Flatliners from taking a few minutes to talk about the origin of the Toronto-based band, while he and the guys boarded a Canadian-bound ferry in Washington, D.C.

The self-proclaimed music nerd “just wanted to write [...] there was no real grand plan,” explains Cresswell. Along with bass player Jon Darbey, Cresswell grew up on the same street and met guitarist Scott Brigham when they were just five years old. Drummer Paul Ramirez joined them in grade nine.

When coming up with a band name, they went the unconventional route and picked the title of a movie none of them, to this day, have ever seen. “If the Misfits can name their band after a movie that’s probably horrible then [we] can do the same,” says Cresswell.

Once their latest album *The Great Awake* was written he revised it with “a fine-toothed comb [and] realized it’s a really

dark record.” The tracks deal with all forms of death from family members and friends to feelings and relationships but, “there [is] still that beam of hope at the end. [There’s] an optimistic feeling you still can get from listening to a heavy and darker record.”

For the past month the group has been forced to tour without Brigham, who stayed at home thanks to “a big gash in the hand he strums his guitar with.” Filling in has been Patrick Mathers from Hostage Life. If healing goes well Brigham should be back on the road sometime in October.

Deciding to go with what he calls “the cheesy route,” Cresswell was impressed with the amount of reaction they’re gotten touring new locations. “The first time we come to a new city and there’s people waiting for us, it’s really shocking in the best possible way.”

The Flatliners play Metropolis (59 Sainte-Catherine Street East), opening for NOFX on October 10th and 12th. Tickets cost \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door and are available at ww1.ticketpro.ca (search NOFX).

Bombay culture clashes

Indian struggle marks Bollywood Film Festival's penultimate screening

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Ethnic divisions that had already been simmering for a century finally boiled into a froth of violence, shaking the very foundations of Bombay India on Jan. 5, 1993.

Bombay (1995), director Mani Ratnam’s cinematic treatment of the 1993 riots, filmed scarcely two years after the fact, will be the penultimate feature presentation at Cinéma du Parc this Wednesday, as part of its Bollywood Film Festival.

With over 800 films produced every year, the seven films selected

for the festival represent the cream of Bollywood’s cinematic crop.

Director Mani Ratnam’s *Bombay* bares resemblance to Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet*, with shades of *West Side Story* thrown in. Like that film, *Bombay* avoids the tragic but integral ending of *Romeo & Juliet*. That is, the poignant sacrifice made by the latter’s titular star-crossed lovers, by whose deaths a peaceful but mournful end to the violence is achieved.

Based as it is on historical events, *Bombay* can’t exactly gloss over the tremendous loss of life between

both Hindu and Muslim communities.

Ratnam lays on the symbolism a little thickly. In one of Bombay’s beautifully filmed and choreographed musical sequences, Shaila’s veil attaches itself to an anchor while rushing to embrace her Hindu lover, forcing her to remove the garment and throw it, and caution, to the wind.

Bombay presents a highly secular view of religion, depicting Islam and Hinduism as nothing more than diverging paths on the same spiritual journey. But also represents a



Bombay will be screened this Wednesday at Cinéma du Parc.

move towards a reconciliation of India’s two largest ethnic groups.

Shekhar makes the film’s defining statement when confronted by an armed gang that demands to know what community he hails from.

“We don’t belong to either community,” says Shekar. “We’re

all Indians.”

Bombay will be screened in Tamil, Hindi and Telugu with English subtitles this Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., at Cinéma du Parc, 3575, av. du Parc. The closing film of the festival will be *Om Shanti Om*, directed by Farah Khan, which will be screened on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

The Walkable City and other possibilities

Or why I brought my bike to Drawn & Quarterly

• MICHAEL SABELLI

I rode my bike up to Drawn & Quarterly, just east of Parc, to check out a double book launch by two Canadian authors last Friday.

What I found was a quaint little shop filled to the brim with friendly and interesting people; and on second thought, perhaps it was a little too crowded. It was the launch of Mary Soderstrom's *The Walkable City* and Anik See's *Saudade: The Possibility City*, published by Véhicule Press.

I asked See what inspires her, and seemingly without doing much of it herself, she replied, "thoughtfulness." I just happened to catch her at a bad time, I guess, as by then the place was bustling with conversation.

Cutting through that thick screen of noise, I finally managed a private audience with See.

The title of her book, *Saudade*, is a Portuguese word for something that you can't as of yet and might never again be able to recapture. This would foreshadow a line in her chapter on a suburban town in Amsterdam, "A wind like this doesn't help people think twice." If you know you know, and if you don't care, that probably won't help you understand.

See says she had a hard time labeling her collection of essays a "travel book." But after realizing that each of her essays took place in different parts of the world, she concluded that reading the book constitutes a form of



Will the cities of tomorrow be unfriendly to those on foot? GRAPHIC MAX ROSENSTEIN

"travel" for the reader.

Though it may be considered travel writing, See says she doesn't go to destinations with the expectation of finding great material for stories. Instead, she records her impressions when she is far removed from the scene

and can afford some quality time to reflect on her overseas journeys.

See abstains from cell phone use, and even as she keeps close contact with her editors by e-mail, she does all her writing by freehand. Her opening chapter is a letter to a friend

back home who is stuck with the unenviable position of caring for a parent dying from cancer.

On the other side of city life, Mary Soderstrom's *The Walkable City* is a thesis-driven nonfiction that explores how a city's infrastructure affects its denizen's mobility. Though express lanes and metro tunnels make city life possible, it's obvious that Soderstrom is a fan first most of muscle-powered mobility. Observing trends in urban planning and development, she concludes that cities might one day become, for lack of a better word, unwalkable. What cities should be providing is more green space, or the "green stuff," says Soderstrom.

But if her expansive bibliography is any indication, I might yet have a chance to learn her opinion on the subject.

After all, this isn't her first foray into the subject of city infrastructure. Her last book, *Green City*, was included in the *Globe and Mail's* 100 best books of 2007.

Cutting her reading short, Soderstrom merely laughed and encouraged us to read the rest ourselves.

I left Drawn & Quarterly with my fill of wine, feeling quite satisfied with my experience. A feeling of nostalgia swept over me as I unlocked my bike and rode off, with the words of Anik See stuck firmly in my mind: "Homesickness not for a place, but open space."

Great Karoo, and Prairies too

From the Albertan Prairies to the South African desert

• PASCALE ROSE LINCINO

"I was often told that nothing scares a horse more than a moose," says Fred Stenson, native Albertan and prolific author of historical fiction. "Because for a horse, a moose really looks like a nightmare horse."

From the Albertan Prairies to the South African desert of the Great Karoo, Stenson's latest historical novel is the story of a young Canadian cowboy named Frank Adams, who leaves his Albertan home for the first time to fight for the British Empire in what would later be called the Second Boer War.

Adam's first exposure to the Great Karoo, a "desert like no other," according to Stenson, is like an Albertan Prairie stretching for miles without fences.

Stenson visited that vast desert for the first time while conducting research for the setting and characters. "The ground looks like a broken pavement," says Stenson. "When it rains, flowers grow through it in separate round bouquets, as if someone had planted brides' bouquets."

Adams, Stenson's contemporary within the novel, fights in the name of an empire he does not really feel a part of, against an enemy that he finds difficult to hate. He has difficulty adapting to the constraints of military life. He

also discovers a new kind of violence, produced by the organized brutality of the army and the routine cruelty of men.

He builds a strong but bashful friendship with two soldiers from his home region, Ovide Smith, a taciturn French cowboy, and Jefferson Davis, a mysterious "half-breed."

The Great Karoo paints a vivid picture of wartime through the eyes of a down-to-earth Canadian soldier. It is a frank, precise, vibrant and meticulous account, but not for those looking for an openly introspective prose about initiatory journeys.

Emotions are often discreet, hidden or left for us to figure out. Yet, Stenson transports us where we never imagined that we would linger—one century ago, in the most inhospitable desert, in the middle of a fierce war, under the tents of plain and rough soldiers.

Stenson is best known for his award-winning novel *The Trade*, about the last days of the fur trade in the Canadian West. He has written fiction and non-fiction, including contemporary and historical novels. He's also a prolific documentary film writer and writes a humour column for *Alberta Views* magazine.

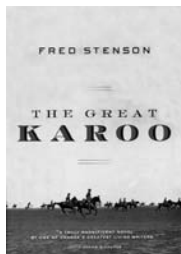
Stenson says that with *The Great Karoo*, he wanted to illustrate a turning point in the history of how war is managed. With the Second Boer War, the

20th century entered a stage where "it became possible to shoot an enemy that you could not see," says Stenson. "It was the beginning of the machine age, and from that moment on, it has only got worse and worse."

The more Stenson researched the Boer War, the more it began to remind him of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There are tremendous parallels," he stated. "The British went to South-Africa saying that they were there for reasons of democracy when, obviously, it was for resources—gold. And just like the U.S. now, Britain at the end of the 19th century is a country that has been extremely powerful for a long time." he explained.

"It is [a country that is] starting to become self-conscious, not sure of itself anymore, and it still feels that it has to get involved in things all over the planet. It also thinks that it can easily win all those wars, no matter how many times it has failed before. People say: 'This time, we will win that war in a month'."



The Great Karoo
Fred Stenson
Doubleday Canada
September 2008
496 pp
\$32.95

Book Fair brings new meaning to classics



Roch Carrier signs autographs. PHOTO RACHEL TETRAULT

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The McConnell Building was host to the 25th anniversary of the Antiquarian Book Fair Saturday and Sunday, the 27th and 28th of September.

"The fair was a huge success," reported Adrian King-Edwards of the Word Book Store, who organized this year's events.

With 10,000 books, some ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, and over 30 dealers from Quebec and Ontario, the Antiquarian Book Fair is by far the largest book fair in the province.

Author Roch Carrier was on hand to hand out free signed copies of a chapbook about his adventures as a book collector in Istanbul.

Video Light is no poppyshow, for real

Caribbean-Canadians get a good word in

• BONNIE ZEHAVER

Delia Chinn is a beautiful dancehall vixen. Ryan Wright is a humble high school history teacher. Although both first generation Caribbean-Canadians, they come from dissimilar backgrounds and in many ways couldn't be more different.

Stacey Marie Robinson's *Video Light*, her first published work and the first novel in her *Urban Toronto Tales* series, is the story of Ryan and Delia, two unlikely lovers brought together on one Caribana weekend.

The novel chronicles their brief courtship and the resistance they face from loved ones—as well as from each other—as they grow to understand one another in a whirlwind romance.

Much more than a love story, however, *Video Light* and the *Urban Toronto Tales* are in many ways, according to the author, a

“social mission” to educate and broaden the knowledge of Canadian readership about the “urban” experience.

One of the most remarkable qualities of Robinson's writing is how she employs a Caribbean-Canadian vernacular throughout. It's an absolute joy to read for anyone familiar with the distinctly musical and humorous properties of Caribbean speech when transmuted through a Canadian identity.

Robinson acknowledges that while the dialogue might initially limit an external audience from the story, for readers less familiar, *Video Light* provides entry into a “lifestyle and experience they might not otherwise encounter,” thereby simultaneously educating and entertaining readers.

The novel is also rich in cultural signifiers that enhance the realism of the story, the depth of the characters and provide further

enjoyment for readers particularly of Ryan and Delia's generation.

“I am committed to documenting the specific experience of ‘urban’ Canadians and details such as clothing, language and activities are what make the story personal,” maintains Robinson. “I want to make sure that my stories are authentically Canadian.”

Readers already familiar with Robinson's previously disseminated works—printed at the author's own expense and distributed freely—commonly respond to her use of real places and events, and of believable characters that could easily be people they know.

“While many can relate to African-American or Caribbean-African tales, there is something priceless about the urban experience in Canada that needs to be acknowledged and consumed,” says Robinson. “It is very rare to pick up a novel and hear about the 401, particular malls and restau-

rants, and even events like Caribana,” she explains.

While contemporary Canadian literature in many ways successfully reflects the diversity of experience in this country, *Video Light* effortlessly punctuates where representations of that diversity have previously fallen short in published fiction.

“Naturally, publishers are looking to find authors and literature that will generate sales, and appeal to a large audience. Unfortunately, at a glance ‘urban’ Canadian fiction may not appear to have that type of power,” concedes Robinson.

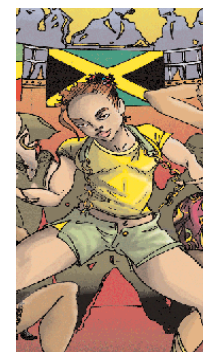
That is why she chose to release *Video Light* through her own publishing company, Kya Publishing, to make sure that characters like Ryan and Delia have a place in Canadian fiction, “even if they are not accepted by the mainstream and powerful publishing houses.”

“I hope to document and cele-

brate the lives of urban Canadians and ensure that we are written in history, acknowledged for our experiences, and that our depictions in society exist beyond negative news reports and public misconceptions,” says Robinson.

“*The Urban Toronto Tales* are my attempt at promoting the lifestyle and showing a balanced picture of our current experience in Canada.”

To order *Video Light*, log on to kyapublishing.com



Video Light:
Urban Toronto
Tales
Stacey Marie
Robinson
Kya
Publishing
September
2008
130 pp
\$14.95

Lit Writ

Batteries

• PASCALE ROSE LICINIO

I could sleep all day long. All I need is a place where I can lie down safely. I wouldn't want to give people the opportunity to do me harm. Because there are some crazy people out there. Crazy.

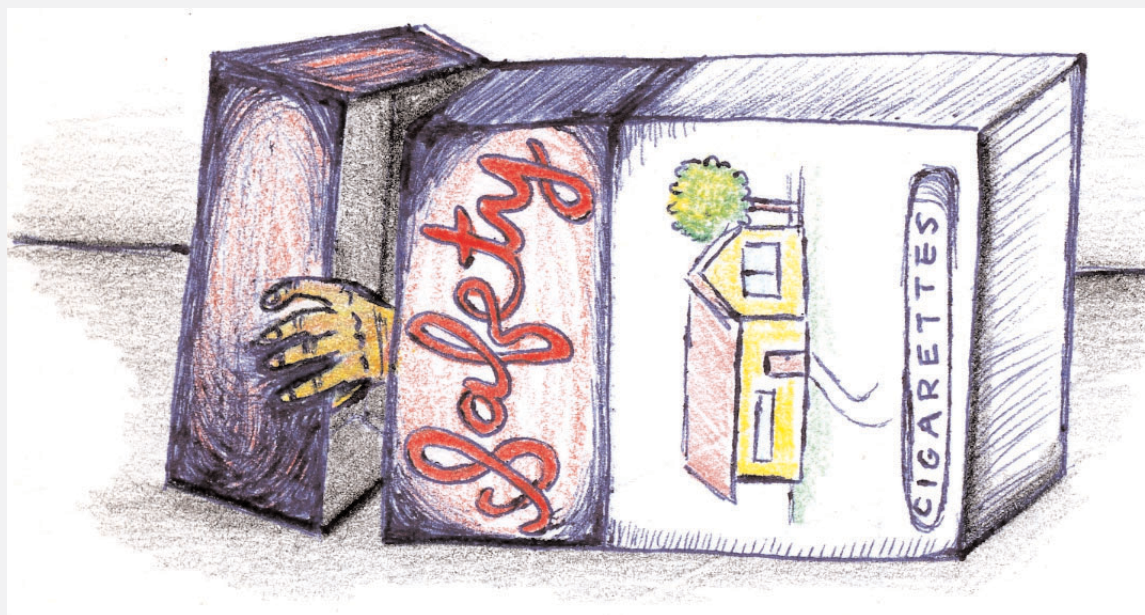
The other day after school, I spoke with Nicolas in front of the post office. He is always sitting there, on the stairs, waiting for someone to give him cigarettes or to have a conversation with him. I gave him my pack of cigarettes. The entire pack. I had just decided to quit. That I had been able to make up my mind while I still had a full pack to blow really impressed him. It showed fortitude—that's the word he used.

I asked how he was doing. He didn't warn me. He rolled up his pants. Just like that. Pink and swollen flesh. I thought that I was going to be sick. I could barely hear him. He explained that some people had burned his ankles with a lighter while he was sleeping on a bench.

“Didn't you wake up?” I cried.

He had been too drunk to feel anything while it happened, he said.

“But when I woke up, oh when I woke up... And now...” he said.



A pack of cigarettes. A full pack. GRAPHIC MADELINE COLEMAN

He made a face and shook his head. I crossed the street and bought him a croissant at the baker's. I could feel my heart beating hard in my head. Why had I given him a full pack of cigarettes? And would he lend me one of his?

There I am, sitting at my desk and staring at the pages of my textbook. I like complex numbers. I am glad that they exist. They are neither simple, nor complicated. They're complex. Just like life. And they are twisted too. For years and years, you learn that square numbers can never be negative. You take it for granted. Enters i and $i^2 = -1$.

I picture aloof characters, never afraid to do what it takes to push limits and never judging those who aren't brave or skilled enough to do so. I hear them telling me to play with the rules. “Give it a try,” they seem to say. “Give it a try.” I follow the curve with my finger; that's the furthest I can go on their path.

I am sitting at my desk. My eyes slowly close. I can hear the humming of a large truck that washes the pavement under my window.

I can hear my clock ticking. A simple task, that one. Just ticking. Sometimes you think it's going to stop. After that tick maybe, or the

next one. But it doesn't stop. And when the clock is finally out of batteries, it's always at night when you sleep. You never quite notice the moment when it hesitates, and finally stops.

Flesh. Nicolas also told me that one night some people took him and threw him into the river. It was summer but the water was so cold that he nearly died of shock. He was taken to a hospital. They called his brother, who gave him ten euros and then left. He told me that he had done some terrible things to his family and that they no longer cared about his being on the street. He didn't say what he

had done, and I'm still not sure that I want to know.

The biology teacher is talking about DNA. A part of me thinks that that is fascinating and wants to know everything about it. The other part is struggling against sleep and praying for the bell to ring. When it finally rings, I feel exhausted. I stand for ages in the corridor, looking in one direction, then the other. I don't even pretend to do something. I breathe at the rhythm of the blood beating in my head. Finally, I grab my backpack and I leave school.

Nicolas is in front of the post office, as usual. I say hello and ask if he needs anything. But he doesn't notice me. He's too drunk to notice anything. I slip my hand inside his front coat pocket, and extract a pack of cigarettes. A full pack. I'll give him something next time, I tell myself.

The beating in my head gets louder and louder. Maybe it's going to stop after that beat, or the one after. Or the one after that?

The apartment is empty. Everybody is at work or at school, doing what they are supposed to be doing. I go straight to bed. Maybe the beating will stop while I sleep.

To submit your fiction or poetry to the Lit Writ column, e-mail them tolit@thelink.concordia.ca

Back on track

Concordia's baseball squad puts pitching problems behind them with crucial 9-5 victory over McGill

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 9 McGill 5

Pierre-Marc Lebel pitched a no-hitter into the fifth inning last Tuesday, as the Concordia Stingers cruised to a 9-5 victory over the McGill Redmen at Trudeau Park.

The Stingers came into this game with a 4-6 record thanks to recurring problems with their bullpen. Stingers shortstop Marco Masciotra suggested this was due to the fact that the team was missing players.

"At the beginning of the season, we weren't quite full. We had a couple of guys out, and now that we have a full staff it's looking a lot better," said Masciotra.

The Stingers' pitching woes looked to continue at first as Lebel walked a couple of players to start. Once the second inning came around, few opposing players got on base until the sixth inning.

The Redbirds were having pitching issues of their own early on. In the bottom of the first inning, McGill pitcher LJ Aguinaga walked four players, allowing Con U to score the first two runs of the game. Stingers hitter Martin Chasles took advantage of Aguinaga's poor pitching and scored a double to end off the inning leading 4-0.

In the second and third innings, both teams got on base, but none managed to score. The Redbirds made a pitching change in the fourth inning, pulling Aguinaga in favour of reliever Jacob Gallinger.

Unfortunately for the visitors, he didn't fare any better. Gallinger loaded up the bases twice in the inning.

Stingers hitter Edward Evans cashed in a run with an RBI single, then Emilio Pampena added a double to score two more and give the Stingers a comfortable 7-0 lead.

The Stingers added two more runs to their lead in the fifth inning, as Andrew Diorio and Mark Nadler crossed home plate to nearly put the game out of reach.



Stingers baseball coach Howard Schwartz. PHOTO ION ETXABARRIA

"[Lebel] pitched a gem. He had a no hitter going into the sixth inning, how could you complain about that?"

—Howard Schwartz,
Stingers coach

However, Lebel appeared to run out of gas. McGill centre-fielder Adam Gordon hit a double, and catcher Justin Cloutier added a single to score the first run of the game for the Redbirds.

At the top of the seventh inning, Gordon hit an RBI double to score two

more runners, but the Stingers bullpen held the fort for the victory.

"Tonight I think we put in a pretty good effort," said Stingers captain Jason Katz. Stingers head coach Howie Schwartz agreed, saying that until Tuesday night they hadn't had a better game all year.

"I think this was our best game of the year," said Schwartz.

Given the team's concern about its pitching depth, the team was particularly thrilled with how this night went. "[Lebel] pitched a gem. He had a no-hitter going into the sixth inning, so how could you complain about that?" asked Schwartz. "He could've gone another three or four

innings, he was dynamite tonight."

"I think we've been a little more patient," said Katz describing the team's improved hitting. At the beginning of the season, Katz suggested that the team was swinging too early, and not waiting for the right pitch. "We're making the pitchers work a little more, being more selective, and looking for our pitch."

The Stingers won three of their four games over the weekend and now have a record of 9-7. Their playoff opponent is yet to be determined as other teams in their division have yet to finish their regular season schedule.

THE LiNK

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

thelinknewspaper.ca

On the road again

Women’s hockey squad takes two out of three in pre-season tourney

• DAVID S. LANDSMAN

**Concordia 1
Markham 0**

Looking to continue their pre-season winning streak, the Stingers headed into the Marion Hilliard Tournament with confidence and poise which helped them to the victory via shutout. This young team appears to be the real deal.

“Overall it was a really good weekend,” said Stingers rookie Mallory Lawton. “We did a lot of really good things this weekend and I was really proud of the way we played.”

The game was tight for most of the 60 minutes of action. Rookie goaltender Stephanie Peck recorded her first career shutout, and third year forward Devon Rich scored the lone goal of the game.

**Concordia 2
Toronto 0**

On Saturday, with the team given the day off from practice to rest and recover, they stepped on the ice hoping to extend their three game winning streak. Stingers’ coach opted to start Audrey Doyon-Lessard in goal, and she kept their shutout streak alive at the tourney.

Concordia came out strong against the Toronto Varsity Blues both offensively and defensively. Stingers forward Donna Ringrose potted her first goal of the new campaign, while Kelly Feehan notched her second goal in four games.



Stingers forward Mary Jane O'Shea battles for puck. PHOTO ION ETXABARRIA

**Concordia 0
Durham 3**

Hoping to cap off the impressive feat of winning both of their opening tournaments, the Stingers showed signs of fatigue after their third game in as many days, and the overall lack of focus led to the end of the Stingers’ four game winning streak.

“We really wanted to make a statement to the league about what kind of team we are.”

—Kristen Clements,
Stingers defenseman

Concordia’s coach opted to go with the more experienced Doyon-Lessard between the

pipes on less than 24 hours of rest. She still played a strong game despite the 3-0 final score.

“Obviously, it would have been nice to go 3-0, but there were a lot of positives throughout the first three games,” said third year defenseman Kristen Clements. “We really wanted to make a statement to the league about what kind of team

we are this year.

Clearly, the team was full of optimism despite the loss in the final game of the tournament. “It’s still very early in the season, but we’re improving steadily every time we’re on the ice, and we have the determination and discipline to take it to Nationals,” said Clements. “This is our year!”

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Women’s soccer	Montreal 7 Laval 4	Concordia 0 Concordia 0	0-6-0
Men’s soccer	Montreal 6 Laval 1	Concordia 0 Concordia 1	0-5-1
Men’s rugby	McGill 31	Concordia 5	0-3-0
Women’s rugby	Ottawa 3	Concordia 42	3-1-0
Baseball	Concordia 9 Carleton 2 Carleton 0 Concordia 7	McGill 5 Concordia 5 Concordia 2 Ottawa 0	8-6-0
Men’s football	Concordia 12	Laval 21	2-2-0
Women’s hockey	Markham 0 Toronto 0 Durham 3	Concordia 1 Concordia 2 Concordia 0	3-1-0-0 (pre-season)

schedule

	Who	When
Men’s rugby	@Bishop’s	Friday, 8 p.m
Women’s rugby	@ Bishop’s	Friday, 6 p.m
Football	@Montreal	Saturday, 1 p.m
Women’s soccer	vs. Montreal @ Bishop’s	Friday, 6 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m
Men’s soccer	vs. Montreal	Friday, 8 p.m.

thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

The search continues

Concordia's soccer teams still can't find a win

• DIEGO PELAEZ-GAETZ

Concordia 0 Montreal 7

Concordia's women's soccer team couldn't find an answer for the Université de Montreal Carabins Friday night, as they were dismantled 7-0 on the road by the top-ranked team in the country.

Despite the final score, the Stingers showed some mettle against their formidable opponent early in the match. The first major scoring chance came with a little more than 29 minutes remaining in the first half, when Carabins forward Eva Thouvenot-Heber took advantage of a miscue defensively by the Stingers to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

For the rest of the first half, the Stingers managed to prevent the Carabins from running away from them.

Stingers keeper Jessie Davis played aggressively early on—she came out of the net on several occasions to challenge Carabins forwards and cut off dangerous passes through the box.

However, the game started to turn at the 17 minute mark, when UdeM midfielder Veronique Miranda raced past the Stingers defence and received a perfect pass from forward Veronique Laverdiere that she calmly converted to give the Carabins a two goal cushion.

The floodgates opened from that point on, as Concordia seemed to be a step slow for the rest of the match. Three short minutes later, Carabins forward Isabelle Dumais pounced on a loose ball after a scramble in front of the Stingers' net and blasted it by Davis to make the score 3-0.

Things went from bad to worse for the Stingers when forward Monica White was forced to leave the game with an apparent ankle injury. However, there was still hope.

"We were feeling good after the first half," said Stingers forward Karen Stewart. "We were playing well together and we were upbeat at the half for one of the first times all year. It just didn't work out."

Their enthusiasm was dampened almost immediately once the teams retook the field. An outstanding cross from Dumais was punched into the low left corner by Laverdiere to put the game farther out of reach.

Leaving the Stingers no time to

regroup, UdeM struck again two short minutes later, as Carabins forward Catherine Parizeau-Lamoureux scored with an elegant flick over the head of a charging Davis to stretch the lead to five.

The onslaught didn't stop there, as the Stingers narrowly missed giving up another goal when Laverdiere got behind the defence yet again and just missed on a shot from close range.

Davis did her best to keep the Stingers close—she made a brilliant, diving one handed save on a deflection by Laverdiere. She cut off Laverdiere again a few minutes later on a breakaway, as she attacked the Carabins forward aggressive and dove in to steal the ball away.

"This was probably my hardest loss in my seven years at Concordia."

—Jorge Sanchez,
Stingers coach

Though the Stingers managed to stem the bleeding for more than 30 minutes of action, the Carabins threw salt in the wound with Parizeau-Lamoureux's second goal of the match off of yet another giveaway by the Stingers.

With minutes remaining in the game, Parizeau-Lamoureux took a clever pass from forward Marylise Monchalin and completed her hat trick to add insult to injury for the Stingers.

"This was probably the hardest loss in my seven years at Concordia," said Stingers coach Jorge Sanchez after the match. "It's frustrating that we know that we aren't maximizing our potential."

The team seemed somber after the game, and visibly shaken Stingers captain Allison Burgess summed up her coach's feelings. "I'm so disappointed in our effort," said Burgess, as the team tried to deal with the prospect of a winless season.

"We have half of our team changing every year," said Sanchez. "It's hard to build in that situation."

Concordia 0 Montreal 6

The second half of the double-header on Friday night was eerily reminiscent of the first game, as the men's team started out strong but were ultimately badly outclassed by the Université de Montreal Carabins in a disheart-

ening 6-0 loss.

Despite the difference in ranking between the teams (the Carabins are ranked fifth in the country while the Stingers have yet to win a game), the Stingers kept things interesting early on and seemed to play with a confidence and purpose that one wouldn't expect from a winless team.

"We played hard for the first 15 minutes," said Stingers midfielder Mauricio Soto.

However, Lady Luck smiled on the Carabins with 30 minutes remaining in the first half: Carabins forward Guillaume Couturier could hardly believe it when the ball landed at his feet after a shot had bounced off of the left post. He handily beat sprawled Stingers goalkeeper Kyle Prillo-Guiani to give Universite de Montreal a 1-0 lead.

Despite the early deficit, the Stingers actually managed to control much of the action in the first half. The midfield was more in synch than in weeks past, and the Stingers avoided mental lapses on defense that have plagued them throughout the year.

Just as it seemed the Stingers would escape to halftime down only 1-0, Carabins midfielder Blaise Woodler-Elie scored on a header off of a cross from midfielder Demarcy Mael that snuck under a diving Prillo-Guiani with only seconds remaining in the half.

The Carabins came out swinging to start the second half, taking only three minutes to add to their lead.

However, on the goal, a Concordia player struck his head on the goal post and became entangled in the net. The ensuing injury timeout lasted a considerable period of time, as it appeared that trainers were afraid to move the injured Stingers player. Play was stopped for over half an hour as officials waited for an ambulance to arrive to field to cart off the injured player.

The Stingers managed to keep the score close with some heroic defensive efforts, including a remarkable header by Stingers defender Kouyabe Ignegongba that prevented a goal.

Concordia finally managed to put some pressure on their opponents with 35 minutes remaining in the second half, as Stingers forward Alfred Gordon Moody narrowly missed on a close range



Stingers midfielder Mike Al-Tork hones in. PHOTO CAT TARRANTS

opportunity, the first serious scoring chance of the game for Con U.

Their hopes were quickly dashed as Carabins midfielder Anasse Brouk took advantage of a free kick opportunity and blasted the shot right into the right side of the net to give the home squad a 4-0 lead.

With a few minutes remaining in the game, Mael managed to sneak behind the Con U defense yet again, and took a perfect feed from Brouk to finish off the scoring and give the Carabins a 6-0 lead.

The loss drops the Stingers to

0-5 on the season; both soccer programs are still desperately seeking their first win. "We really need to step it up," said goalkeeper David De Palma, who replaced Prillo-Guiani in nets for the Stingers in the second half. "Our team just has to stay patient."

The Men's and Women's soccer teams play this Friday at home against the Université de Montreal Carabins. The Women's team also plays on Sunday on the road at Bishop's at 1 p.m

—with files from David S. Landsman

Word in the Herd

—Compiled by Annabelle Blais and Johnny North
GRAPHIC HADLEY GRAHAM

International students, how concerned are you about international tuition hikes?

✉ Letters@thelink.concordia.ca

Dear your pseudonym is tacky,

[Re:Reggie's Report: September 23, 2008] I am truly sorry for spicing up your seemingly boring existence by making a cameo at Reggie's. Clearly you are a person whose judgmental tendencies leaves no room for us ghastly girls and Kris Kross enthusiasts. Next time I will spare you, but in the meantime please take my well-intended advice and remove your bitch-tinted glasses

All The Best,

—Mrs. *Obsessive Compulsive Liar*

A question in conflict

Contrary to last week's letter, "On Fair Journalism" by Dmitijs Feoktistovs, I would like to congratulate *The Link* on publishing advertisements for events like "Artists Against Apartheid IV."

Unlike well-known media across the country, *The Link* acknowledges events that are promoting awareness and justice in a conflict that has been going on for 60 years that the international community is afraid to criticize.

But what is really going on in Israel/Palestine that brings up the question of whether or not it is "xenophobic," "bias" or appropriate to call Israel an apartheid state?

Jeff Halper, a well-known Israeli activist recently said, "apartheid comprises two elements; the separation of populations according to race, religion or nationality and the subsequent domination of one privileged people over others institutionalized into a permanent system supported by law."

Apartheid is an Afrikaans word meaning separation.

According to Halper, not only does this description define Israel's actions towards Palestinians but also the Israeli government itself refers to the system as *hafrada*, which means separation in English.

Halper has also interviewed many well-known South Africans, including John Dugard, a prominent South African Judge who lived during South African apartheid.

Dugard says that the, "many aspects of Israel's occupation surpass those of the apartheid regime. Israel's large-scale destruction of Palestinian homes—18,000 homes since 1967—leveling of agricultural lands, military incursions and targeted assassinations of Palestinians far exceed any similar practices in apartheid South Africa. No wall was ever built in South Africa to separate blacks and whites."

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, a former South African deputy minister of defense and current member of parliament said on a recent visit to the West Bank, "the lack of freedom of movement, the Israeli army presence everywhere, the total separation between Jews and Palestinians and the extensive destruction we saw... what I see here is worse than what we experienced in South Africa."

It is our responsibility as students to investigate and get to the truth of controversial matters. We shouldn't shy away because there are "two views" of a certain issue. Apartheid South Africa also had its defenders and there were "two views" there as well but there were enough people who spoke out against the injustice and it ended.

—Leah Van Meer Mass
Sociology

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

Don't eat your ballot

• JESARA SINCLAIR

While I appreciate my right to cast a vote in the upcoming election, where is my right to vote for "none of the above"?

While my ballot may be my direct link to democracy, it belongs to the government of Canada from printing to destruction.

And the federal government takes issue with defacing ballots.

The problem stems from my riding of Laurier-Sainte-Marie, a Bloc stronghold. So strong, in fact, that Mr. Duceppe himself is our member of parliament.

So, in the quirky way that "democracy" tends to work, the rest of the parties toss in a weak candidate as a pathetic alternative, and no one is surprised with the results.

I don't want to cast my vote for a "lesser evil." I want to protest the fact that I don't particularly want any of the candidates to represent me in Ottawa.

"I'm going to spoil my ballot," I told my roommate.

There is something incredibly satisfying at

the thought of walking into a polling station at a busy time of day, taking the ballot to the middle of the room and ripping it loudly between my teeth.

I suppose I could do just that. But the penalty is 3 months in jail or a \$500 fine. Neither of which are worth the brief moment of glee.

"No person shall willfully alter, deface or destroy a ballot."

—Section 167, subsection 2, line a, Canada Elections Act.

I'm a little disconcerted at the choices I face. I could hang around the Big House until January, missing two semesters of school. I could vote for an alternate candidate just to take one vote away from the Bloc. I could leave my ballot unmarked and unnoticed, or I could join the ranks of the apathetic and stay home.

The vote should be our chance to be heard, but I've never felt more insignificant.

"I am an independent student and with the special agreement between France and Quebec, I pay the same fees as Quebec students."

—Maxime Rohr
JMSB
France



"I signed a petition against the de-regulation and the international student tuition increase. When I applied to Concordia, the fees were about \$3,300 per semester, but when I got here it changed to \$4,300. I get a small scholarship but I have to finance most of the fees myself."

—Ali Sefidpour
Computer engineering
Iran



"I was informed by email of the provincial de-regulation and international tuition increase. I think it's unfair but what can I do? I have to pay \$15,000 for my diploma. I get a scholarship from the Rotary Club. It makes no sense that I have to pay more...the education is the same."

—Christiane Miethge
Journalism
Germany



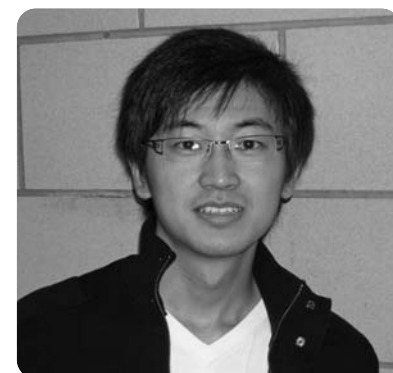
"I haven't heard of the provincial de-regulation but I don't think I would be affected since I pay my fees directly to my private school in France. For this year, I had to pay 5,000 Euros [\$7,555 CAD]."

—Caroline Desplanques
Computer engineering
France



"I haven't heard of any increase or de-regulation. I pay \$6,000 per semester and I haven't got a scholarship, but my family helps."

—Xin Gu
Economics
China



"I haven't heard of the provincial de-regulation, but France has a special agreement with Quebec and I pay the same fees as any Quebecer does."

—Stephanie Moisan
Fine Arts
France



WEEKLY QUAGMIRE

Quagmire - noun: a situation from which extrication is very difficult

The Large Hadron Collider

The recent coverage given to CENR's LHC led *The Link* to write a Weekly Q on the subject. Each article was given 400 words to defend a point of view.

CERN is a deadly threat to scientific illiteracy

Why is it that the only thing nowadays that galvanizes public interest in the sciences is when some new technology poses a deadly threat to the existence of mankind?

Forget that the Large Hadron Collider built by CERN (which stands for Organisation Européenne pour la Recherche Nucléaire) is safe beyond all reasonable doubt.

Fears that it will produce a black hole that'll consume the Earth are nothing but an egregious example of scientific illiteracy, or worse, the kind of literature that passes for science fiction these days.

Really, what greater evidence do we need that something's not true than the fact that Dan Brown has already written a detective novel claiming that it is?

Whereas evolution posed an immediate and obvious threat to creationism when it was first announced, the only vague threat that could be condensed from CERN was that enough antimatter could be produced to create a bomb to destroy the Vatican, as figures heavily in the plot of Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons*.

In reality, it would take a billion years to produce enough hazardous material at CERN to create a weapon that could equal one hydrogen bomb, of which we already have roughly 10,000.

But don't get me wrong, CERN really should be a top news story, whether or not it produces the cataclysmic effects yearned by so many Hollywood producers with their visions of a blockbuster script.

We live in a world where discoveries about the very structure of the world itself are relegated to top news story status alongside “Kid gets stuck in a candy machine,” and “Dog rides skateboard: the Oprah interview.”

Rather than hiding under our beds in fear that the apocalypse will happen not with a bang, but with the Large Hadron Collider, why don't we all cross our fingers and hope that the tests actually confirm the existence of the Higgs boson, the theoretical particle which would finally explain how particles gain mass?

With all this talk about black holes and antimatter, did anyone bother to learn what the intention of building the Large Hadron Collider was in the first place?

It's probably just natural that with every scientific discovery some great taboo must be broken. But with all the great taboos already in tatters, it's no wonder that fear for fear's sake has risen to play the time-honoured tradition of devil's advocate.

—*Christopher Olson*
Literary Arts Editor

The audacity and waste of CERN's science

The work of nearly 8,000 scientists and engineers, representing 80 countries, has materialized in a northwest suburb of Geneva; at 27 kilometres in circumference, the Large Hadron Collider is the most expensive scientific experiment in history.

A product of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the LHC's stated goal is to collide two opposing beams of protons into each other at 99.99 per cent of the speed of light, the result of which is a \$9.6 billion best guess.

At a time when the European Union is wagging its haughty finger at the world over climate change, population growth and poverty in Africa, its highest scientific priority has been to determine the existence of the Higgs boson.

As should be expected from the largest, and some might say most dangerous, high-power particle physics experiment in history, scientists from around the world have raised concerns about the safety of the experiments to be conducted at the collider.

Doomsday scenarios forecasting the production of stable micro black holes and the creation of dangerous hypothetical particles called strangelets have yielded a strong reply from CERN.

A panel of physicists commissioned by the European institution ruled that the LHC's risk is minimal due to a theory about black hole evaporation, segments of the Hawking radiation theory and a fundamental misreading of superstring theory. Humanity could be hanging in the balance, but not to worry, a theory about a theory, when understood through another theory, says that possible black holes should collapse on themselves.

Relieved?

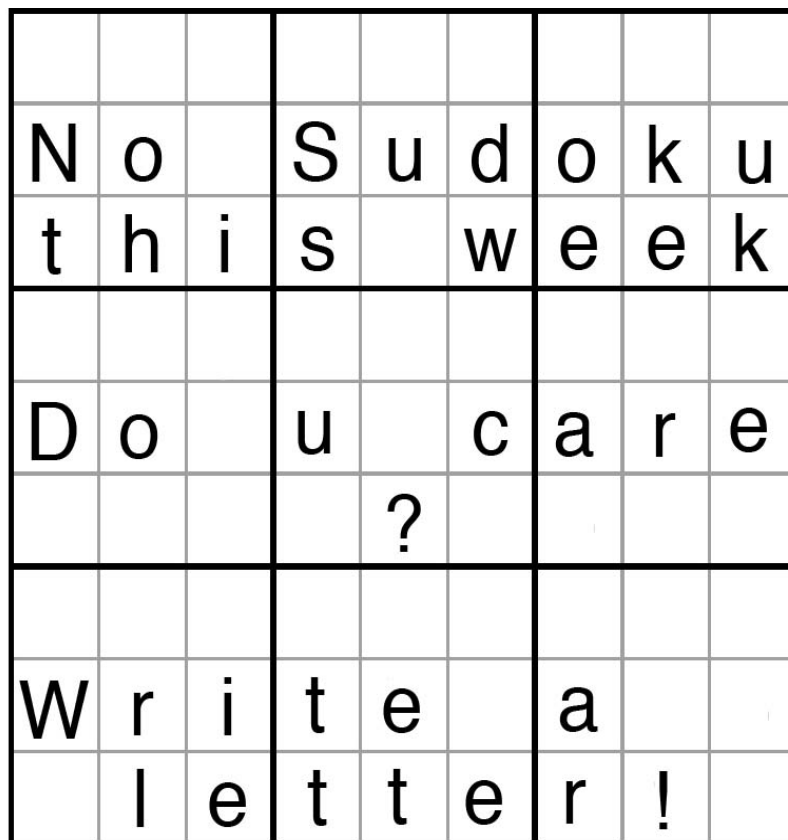
The problem at hand is not one about scientific discovery or the rate of progress; it is about massive waste of finite resource in a time when problems on Earth are demanding a rethinking and retooling of civilization.

The audacity of the 8,000 scientists at CERN is unbelievable, although they understand that the LHC poses a danger, they are prepared to go ahead. A picture of the Higgs boson is simply not worth putting humanity's existence at risk.

Since the cancellation of the United States' Superconducting Super Collider in 1994, planned to be a much bigger and much more powerful particle accelerator, CERN's LHC is the world's sole functioning high-power particle accelerator.

For the moment, humanity is safe from the LHC as the failure of one of the superconducting quadrupole electromagnets has pushed experiments back to spring 2009.

—Justin Giovannetti
Opinions Editor



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click.



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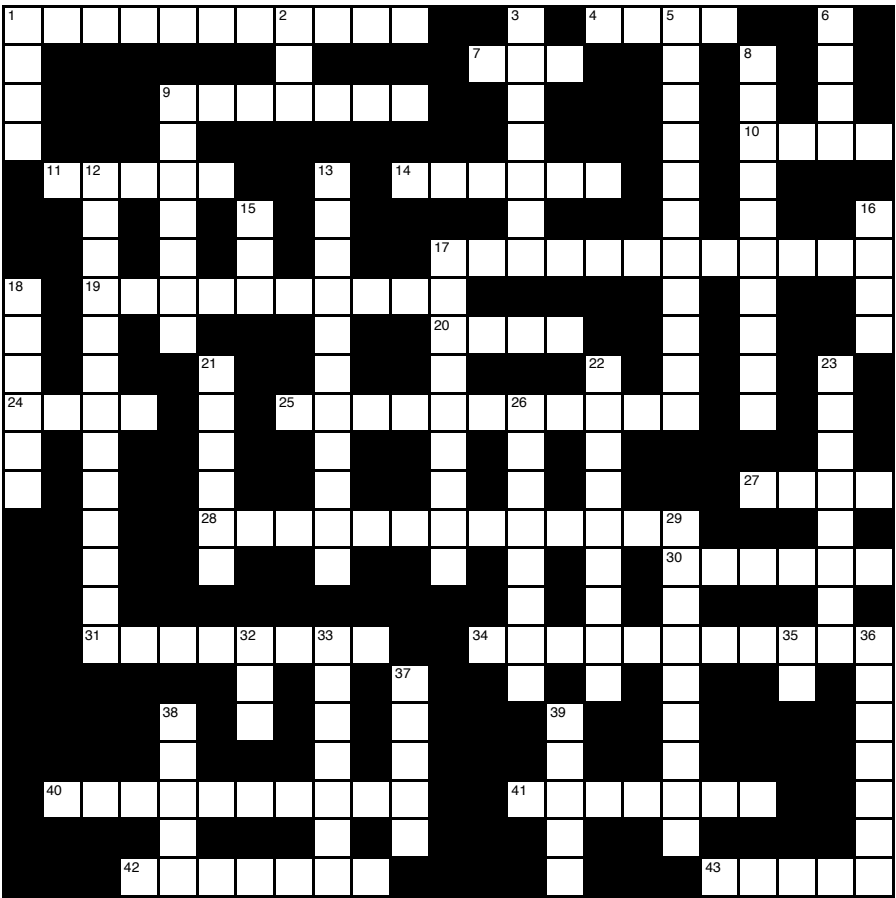


crswrdpzzlol

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Across

- 1. US policy against communism until 1980
- 4. UN body where great powers exercise veto
- 7. Britain's Middle East mandate created a nation for this group
- 9. name given to US peace process in Middle East
- 10. theory in which you can actually win a nuclear war
- 11. previous UN Secretary General
- 14. seat of Soviet defense alliance
- 17. city where UN Charter was signed
- 19. city after which the modern state system is named
- 20. western military alliance
- 24. first arms control agreement between US and USSR
- 25. a nuclear capability afforded by submarines
- 27. an innovation to trump missile defense systems
- 28. the central organization of the international system
- 30. UN agency that is busy every October, near the end
- 31. Reagan's policy with communism
- 34. what missions, like that in Afghanistan, are now called
- 40. nations given veto
- 41. the Roosevelt whose UN is finally coming true
- 42. seat of UN
- 43. Reagan wanted to put what in space?



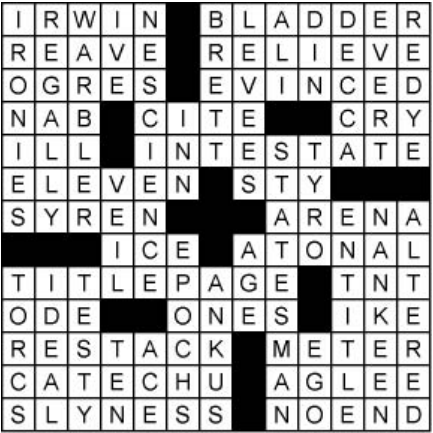
Down

- 1. Caribbean nation with central place in Cold War
- 2. the main theory of nuclear war during the Cold War
- 3. Canadian PM with a Nobel Peace Prize
- 5. growth pattern advocated by UN HABITAT
- 6. thinker responsible for starting Idealists stream
- 8. group of nations free of superpowers during Cold War
- 9. theory where life is 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short'
- 12. George H.W. Bush announced a _____ in the absence of the USSR
- 13. these were so violated in WWII, that they are a central component of the UN
- 15. program that distributes more than \$1 billion of food aid
- 16. British war in Southern Africa was against this

- group
- 17. to punish a nation by economic or diplomatic means
- 18. his "points" led to the League of Nations
- 22. central component of relations among nations
- 23. number of points proposed by Wilson
- 26. British PM with iron will who defended islands
- 29. ICBMs, bombers and _____ are the nuclear troika
- 32. no more biological weapons
- 33. arena of conflict between superpowers for fifty years
- 35. the UN is one of these
- 36. second war allowed by UN resolution
- 37. WWII conference in Africa, named Sextant
- 38. the central player in the international system
- 39. realist thinker who wrote on use of force

issue 6

solutionz



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY SEPTEMBER 25, 1992

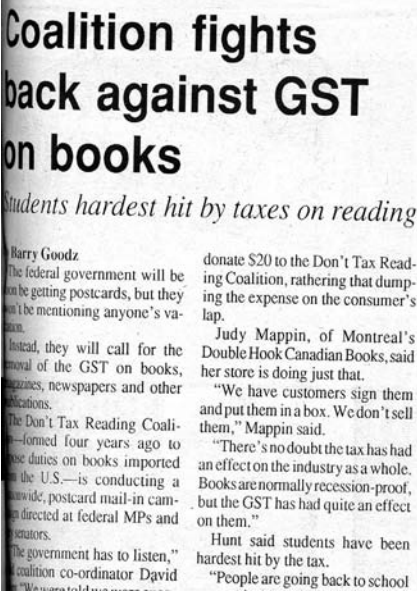
Coalition fights back against GST on books

With the second anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax within sight, the full impact of the tax was becoming obvious to Canadians as students realized they were hardest hit.

One of the most controversial items to be taxed were books. "The addition of a 13 per cent GST has lead to a drop of 20 per cent in book sales and as much as a 50 per cent drop in magazine and newspaper sales," reasoned David Hunt.

Hunt was responsible for forming the "Don't Tax Reading Coalition," a group committed to carrying out a mail campaign against MPs who voted in favour of GST.

According to Judy Mappin of Montreal's Double Hook Canadian Books, "books are normally recession-proof, but the GST has had quite an effect on them."



Taxes add up for students already paying hefty for textbooks

Many students were caught off guard by the tax. When students had left Concordia during the summer semester, there was no GST on books, when they returned in the fall all books and course packs were 13 per cent more expensive.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney had promised to review taxed items on October 4, leading many people to think the tax would be rescinded. Sixteen years later it is still here.

—Justin Giovannetti

editorial

Dignity for drug users

The city of Montreal has toyed with the idea of hosting the second safe-injection site in North America, and the proposal gained steam after an announcement by former Quebec Health Minister Philippe Couillard last June. Unfortunately his replacement, Yves Bolduc, has delayed plans with vague excuses calling for more information and studies.

Insite, operating in Vancouver for the past five years, is currently the only safe injection site in North America.

Safe injection sites do more than provide shelter for drug users, they turn the drug debate on its head. By shifting the emphasis to health care and medical services, safe injection sites create an important paradigm shift: intravenous drug users are not ingrates or criminals, they are sick.

Drug users are dealing with an illness that is extremely difficult to treat without a proper support network. These are people whose lifestyles fall so far from acceptable societal norms that they fall victim to judgments that exclude them from rights and privileges that most people take for granted.

What do the words "drug addict" normally bring to mind? The unwashed, unshaven man sitting on a street corner yelling incomprehensible babble to no one in particular may be the most visible sign, but he is not the only drug addict in our community.

People suffering from prescription drug addictions are provided with hospitalization, treatment facilities, counseling and sympathy. In a word: dignity.

Whether they live in glass towers, behind white picket fences or in dumps, people from all socio-economic backgrounds abuse illegal drugs—some just have the money to cover up their dirty little habit.

Insite describes those using the centre as "men and women who use more than one drug; people who experience both addiction and mental illness; people with a history of trauma; people who are homeless, live in shelters or live in substandard housing; men and women of Aboriginal descent; and people who have tried unsuccessfully in the past to beat their drug addiction."

Injection site users are also the most marginalized and most vulnerable members of society, unable to support their addictions safely, they are in no position to provide a safe place to inject their drugs themselves.

A safe-injection site doesn't provide a direct route to rehabilitation—that has yet to me discovered—but it is, as proponents argue, a point of entry into seeking other medical services.

Who can blame disadvantaged drug users? A distrust of the society that's marginalizing you is only natural, so in providing a judgment-free facility where those in need can use the services they need, a trust for medical treatment can be fostered.

A safe injection site is a step further than a needle exchange. Users are permitted to bring in their own drugs to inject, with no legal implications for the possession of these drugs. Nurses are on staff to supervise and prevent complications or death by overdose. Counseling and rehabilitation services are made available to those seeking them, but those who aren't ready to accept help are still protected from doing themselves serious and further harm.

You can't legislate morality. You can't stop people from taking drugs, but you can offer them an alternative to shooting up in the park where you walk your dog, or the bathroom of the pizza joint down the street.

This isn't an attempt to remove personal accountability for drug addiction, but civic ideals are no reason to turn a blind eye to people who have let their drug addictions reach a point of unmanageability. Heroin, cocaine and morphine addictions take more than good resolution and civic pride to shake.

As the problem grows worse in our inner cities and our suburbs, the federal government is providing cheap excuses to keep safe injection sites out.

Federal Health Minister Tony Clement called safe injection sites "palliative care," saying that medical professionals should be working to help addicts with their problem, rather than to perpetuate it.

But Clement never offers a solution to the problem of addiction. By denying the need for safe injection sites without offering an alternative, he appears to be trying to turn a blind eye to addicts in back alleys, ignoring the fact that current rehabilitation programs aren't an all-encompassing solution, as they exclude those without the incredible amount of strength and willpower that's needed to conquer an addiction.

The majority of government spending on illegal substances is on law enforcement, with less than 10 per cent left for rehabilitation programs. That's just placing addicts in prisons, further alienating them and their trust in "the system."

Hopefully, with continued advocacy of safe-injection sites, like the upcoming lecture dealing with advocating, "the right to healthcare for injection drug users," by Gillian Maxwell at Concordia next Thursday, the Quebec government will come around to recognizing the benefits of providing the Montreal community with one of their own.

—Jesara Sinclair
Student Press Liaison