

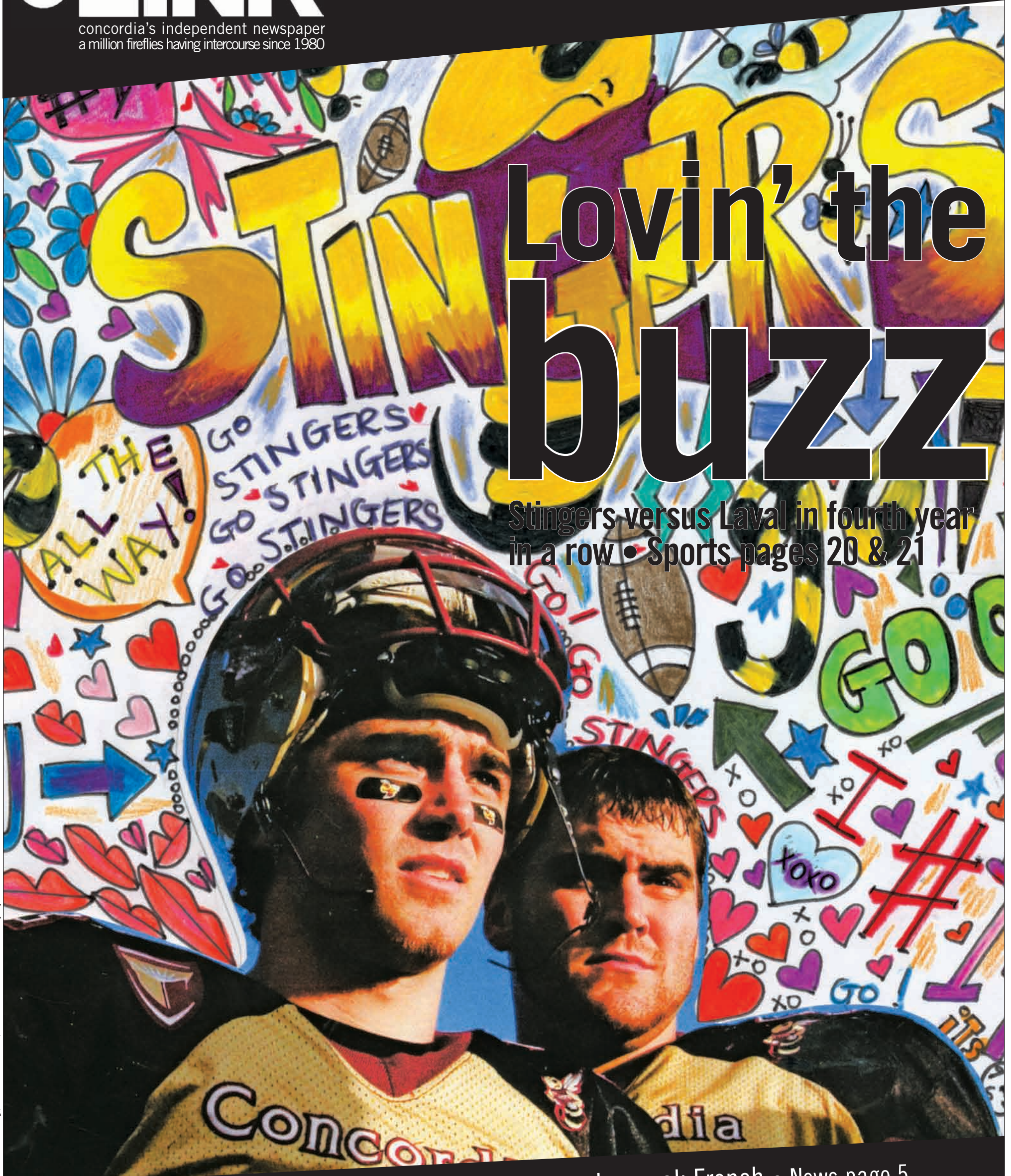
THE

LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
a million fireflies having intercourse since 1980

Lovin' the buzz

Stingers versus Laval in fourth year
in a row • Sports pages 20 & 21



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Quebec immigration minister wants you... to speak French • News page 5

Prisoners escape... into a world of reading • Literary arts page 9

Wait, Ctrl-Z that! • Opinions page 22

No man left standing

CEO jumps ship after promising not to 'rock the boat'

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Former chief electoral officer Jason Druker stood outside room AD 210 at the Loyola campus last Thursday contemplating entering the room.

Druker, a former employee of the Concordia Student Union since March 2007, was supposed to oversee the smooth running of the heated referendum last week, including hiring and managing the office's employees.

But Druker, who now works for a small accounting firm in Montreal, is no longer an undergraduate student. Although Druker plans to return to Concordia next semester, he finally admitted he was holding his position illegally.

When Druker entered the room, confused and speculative chatter stopped and all eyes were on him.

"Hi everybody, I'm Jason Druker," was his opening line after being called to the front of the room for questioning.

During the heated discussion,

Druker turned the focus to the negligence of the CSU.

"I just got an email saying 'Would you please mind running the election'," said Druker, claiming he was never asked to provide information about his student status.

"[I] will have to be paid for my time."

—Jason Druker,
former CSU election CEO

As the meeting with Druker came to a close, he recommended current deputy electoral officer Nestor Sanajko to take over the electoral office.

In response to this revelation, former judicial board chair Tristan Teixeira had but two words: "Oh gosh."

Teixeira, whose term with the JB was cut short last month, says it's obvious the cycle of hiring buddies will likely continue with Sanajko's appointment.

"They're good friends, if I'm not

mistaken," Teixeira said of Druker and Sanajko.

"They're just going to get one of their friends to run and they're just going to vote their friend in," said Tony Alfonso, former CSU councillor. Alfonso, a member of the People's Potato collective, says the pattern of CEO appointments points to transparency issues.

But the pressing issue of finding a new CEO pales in comparison to the possibility of holding a referendum right before exams, no matter who's running the show.

"[Students are] not going to be worried about applying to be CEO, they're going to be worried about their final exams," added Alfonso.

In the end, Druker didn't have to sign a letter of resignation because according to CSU standing regulations he was never CEO this semester.

But Druker didn't forget to remind the CSU: "[I] will have to be paid for my time."

—with files from Sebastien Cadieux

Day in court turns out to be only an hour and a half

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The lawsuit filed against the Concordia Student Union has been dropped, mainly because the referendum was cancelled.

The 10-day injunction, filed by former CSU president and Montreal lawyer Patrice Blais, was based on the CSU's disregard for its own bylaws.

Blais said he was told the CSU referendum had already been cancelled when he approached the judge.

"[The court appearance] was very short," Blais added, "the judge looked at me and said, 'Well, you got what you wanted'."

The CSU officially halted the referendum hours before ballots were to be cast. In a notice sent by email, the CSU's VP Communications, Elie Chivi, cited the CSU's responsibility, "to ensure that proper procedure is followed at all times," as reasonable grounds to cancel the referendum.

Chivi said the CSU intended to look into the claims of its chief electoral officer and "more information is to be announced shortly."

Tony Alfonso, member of the People's Potato collective, is still waiting to hear about the status of the Potato's referendum question and possible rescheduling of the referendum.

"We're supposed to submit expense reports tomorrow," Alfonso said, "if we're following the rules of the referendum."

What happens in Montreal...

Gambling study surveys Concordia students

• JENNIFER FREITAS

Concordia University, in collaboration with Université de Montréal and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, is conducting one of the first university surveys on gambling and substance use in Montreal.

The University Student Gambling Habit Survey 2008, which started just two weeks ago and will run until mid-December, will assess the individual and environmental factors involved in gambling and substance-use behaviours as well as the interaction among them.

The survey is broken down into five parts: gambling habits, alcohol consumption, drug use, health status, and personal background. Gambling is the main focus of this study and has approximately 76 questions out of 110 centered on students' gambling activities such as purchasing lottery tickets, playing table poker, and betting on sports over the past 12 months.

According to Evelyne Dubois, faculty member in Concordia's Sociology and Anthropology department, the success of the project can be measured by the financial backing of the Fonds Québécois de la

recherche sur la société et la culture.

"If [the FQRSC] gives us the green light, it's because the project is good," said Dubois, who is also project field coordinator of this study.

To try to understand new gambling domains, researchers have also simulated Internet gaming. "There are many different dimensions to this [gambling] problem," Dubois said. She also pointed out researchers are trying to be "innovative in surveying students about their use of internet."

This study has been approved by the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec, responsible for protecting personal information, and by the Ethics committee at Concordia University.

The principal investigator of the study, Sylvia Kairouz of Concordia's Sociology and Anthropology Department, said the purpose of the study is to mimic the real world.

"We want to better describe the reality of gambling in order to provide clear recommendations for prevention," Kairouz said, adding "people experiencing problems with gambling are more likely to experience other addictions related to alcohol and illic-



Students don't get a free pass on gambling and addiction. PHOTO RACHEL TETRAULT

it drug use."

Kairouz said that by examining gambling "behaviours that could potentially become addictive," gambling addiction intervention could be redeveloped to include pre-existing substance abuse problems.

A total of 6,000 full-time undergraduates, with a valid Quebec address, have been

randomly selected from Concordia University, Université de Montréal, UQAM, HEC Montréal, École de Technologie Supérieure de l'Université du Québec, and Polytechnique Montréal to participate in the survey.

Kairouz said she expects a response rate of more than 50 per cent.

700

number of completed online and paper questionnaires produced by the study to date

6

per cent of students who gamble that have a moderate or severe gambling problem

13

per cent of students who gamble that are at risk of developing a gambling addiction

1,000

approximate number of Concordia students, chosen at random, participating in the survey

60

per cent of students who gamble in a typical year

—stats courtesy Dr. Kairouz

A green with voting envy

• ION ETXEBARRIA

Diane Randolph, an American expatriate living in Canada for the last 26 years, looked out her window on Nov. 2 and found that her pro-Obama sign was missing from the front lawn of her Westmount home.

Randolph, a self-proclaimed “fervent Barack Obama supporter,” is eager to sink into the hot politics of our southern neighbour, especially since she couldn’t vote in last month’s Canadian federal election; “the U.S. government precludes its citizens from voting in any other elections,” Randolph said.

Diane has already cast her vote for Democratic nominee and senator Barack Obama as an overseas absentee with hopes of social policy reform.

“The healthcare situation in the U.S. is an embarrassment and the education system has declined significantly with the ‘No child left behind’ failed policy of George Bush,” Randolph said of the current American president.

Although Randolph had to skip out on the Canadian political mambo, she thinks the significance of participating in the American election means much more to the world.

“I don’t think that in Canada, regardless of the outcome of the election, the change to the country or to the world would have been as dramatic as what the potential exists in the U.S.”

As for the sign, Diana found it a few blocks from her home attached to a car in place of its plate, which she assumes is most probably the work of some Halloween partygoers.

Montreal’s chapter of Democrats Abroad will be gathering at Burgundy Lion Pub (burgundylion.com) to follow the U.S. presidential election results. No gathering is organized by its Republican counterpart in Montreal.



Diane Randolph lawnsits her Barack Obama yardsign in Westmount. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Don't vote or die another day

Youth rock the vote in American election

• JULIEN MCEVOY

Young Americans are about to do exactly what Canadians didn't: vote in massive numbers.

Although Canadians saw a dismal turnout at the polls last month, the lowest voter turnout since confederation, all signs indicate that today's electoral contest in the United States will reach a record high, on the way to surpass the 64 per cent voter turnout for former U.S. president John F. Kennedy in 1960.

The race to the White House between senators John McCain and Barack Obama is tight and according to polls, the young vote is where it's at. Rock the Vote, a website dedicated to reaching younger demographics through political advocacy, studied the youth vote in the primary elections. Survey says youth participation has increased 103 per cent from 2004. With a 2:1 ratio, this

is the biggest raise of any age cohort.

Alex Leduc, an American citizen studying at Concordia, made the trip down south with three friends last weekend to help “get out the vote.” Leduc, a Journalism graduate student, said he and his friends are jumping on the campaign trail “because it’s an easy way to have a direct impact, and to feel like we’re taking part in history.”

“I’m almost going to be sad when it’s over,” Leduc continued, “but if Obama wins it’s fine.”

“My impression is that young voters are more interested than ever,” said Malcolm Reed, a fourth year student at Mississippi Valley State University. “I believe that happens at every election though, because the media becomes more advanced every four years and candidates get more exposure.”

In addition to the usual cameo appearances on

Saturday Night Live and hosts of interviews on leading American television networks, Obama has gone beyond the power of traditional media to reach out to young voters by being the first presidential candidate to buy ads inside video games. From Guitar Hero 3 to Madden NFL '09, no less than 18 X-Box games feature in-game ads reminding Americans to register for early voting—and suggesting how to vote.

“It has been like waiting for the Super Bowl!” Reed said. “It’s been a long wait and I’ll be glad when everyone has something else to talk about on TV.”

Young electors are of course preoccupied by the economy and the war in Iraq, says Rock the Vote, but they also want a candidate to address issues affecting them directly: healthcare, access to University, the environment, employment, and immigration, which were all major aspects of Obama’s campaign.

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Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

editorial: (514) 848-2424 ext. 7405
arts: (514) 848-2424 ext. 5813
advertising: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8682
fax: (514) 848-4540
business: (514) 848-7406

editor@thelink.concordia.ca
<http://thelinknewspaper.ca>

editor-in-chief
SEBASTIEN CADIEUX

news editor
TERRINE FRIDAY

features editor
CLARE RASPOPOV

fringe arts editor
JOELLE LEMIEUX

literary arts editor
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sports editor
DIEGO PELAEZ-GAETZ

opinions editor
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managing editor
JOHNNY NORTH

layout manager
MATHIEU BIARD

web editor
BRUNO DE ROSA

business manager
MICHAEL TOPPING

business assistant
JACQUELINE CHIN

ad designer
CHRIS BOURNE

computer technician
OPEN

distribution
ROBERT DESMARAIS
DAVID KAUFMANN

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CONTRIBUTORS

Leila Amiri, Jennifer Aouad, J.R.A Casey, Ginger Coons, Ion Etxebarria, Jennifer Freitas, Marie-Eve Gagne, Chris Gates, Bettina Grassman, Cody Hicks, Elsa Jabre, Viven Leung, Jackson MacIntosh, Julien McEvoy, Ketan Patel, Barbara Pavone, Sinbad Richardson, Shawna Satz, Molly Sowiak, Chris Snow, Teresa Smith, Rachel Tetrault, Natasha Young, Nicola Jane Young, Bonnie Zehavi

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Get French or get out

Immigration strategy would have immigrants sign on to the Quebecois way of life

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The new immigration strategy announced last week by Quebec Immigration Minister Yolande James is lauded by some as long overdue and a step in the right direction.

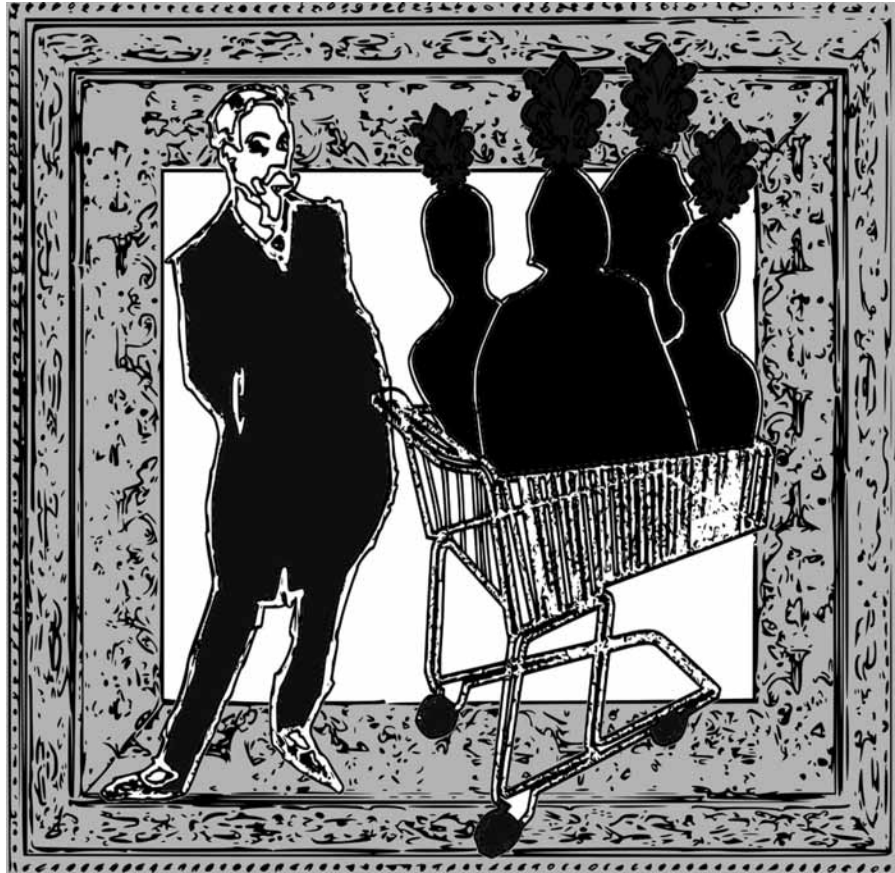
The new plan, which requires prospective Quebecers to learn French in their native country and take cultural workshops upon arrival, is intended to integrate immigrants into the province and encourage foreigners to get to know the nation before moving. To make things official, prospective Quebecers must sign a statement promising to abide by the requirements, all before getting off the plane.

Fo Niemi, director of Montreal's Centre for Research Action on Race Relations, says the new legislation is a good move for the province and will make "a very clear distinction between immigrants coming to Quebec and people from minority groups who are already here"—an ambiguity that Niemi attributes to an outdated immigration policy.

Quebec is the only province in Canada with its own immigration policy, which is considered more liberal than Canada's Immigration Policy. In other words, a rejected applicant to Canada may still be admitted to Quebec.

Niemi says the new legislation will protect newcomers and give deeper meaning to Quebec's values.

"It's a form of a pledge of allegiance that may include all residents of Quebec," Niemi, a McGill University alumnus, said. But, as Niemi stressed, "before we require newcomers to do something, we have to make sure we



Emigrants to Quebec try to fit in and meet the language requirement. GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

live by those values."

Niemi cited the findings of the recent Bouchard-Taylor commission, such as discrimination based on gender, as examples of where Canadians can step in and set a good example for newcomers. "In [most Quebec] cities you'll find a strip club, licensed and supported by the state" which is a "kind of exploitation" and contradicts the principles of women's rights, Niemi said.

Sima Aprahamian, anthropology and sociology professor at Concordia, agreed with Niemi.

"There's still gender discrimination," Aprahamian said, "but still not as horrible as in other places."

Aprahamian said that although Canadian values of gender equality should be considered when accepting newcomers, priority should be given to all minority groups facing persecution.

According to Immigration Quebec, the number of newcomers to the province who can speak French has hovered around 60 per cent for the last three years and has edged up from 56.7 per cent in 2005.

Canada Day not like the others

Quebec confirms which holidays warrant time off

• ANDREA PARÉ

Quebec's weak Canadian identity might continue to fade, thanks to proposed legislation in the National Assembly.

A new bill introduced by the province could make it law for grocery stores to be closed on five major holidays, including Christmas, St. Jean Baptiste, Easter Sunday, New Year's Day and Labour Day, but still require Quebecers to work on Canada Day.

Current Quebec law states that the stores can be open on these holidays—as well as Canada Day—during limited hours and under reduced staff. In exchange for the proposed mandatory holiday closure, the stores can increase their staff on other days.

The proposed bill, drafted with the help of unions and grocery store chain representatives across the province, was developed because the understaffed holiday rush at stores was considered problematic.

Quebec's Minister of Economic Development Raymond Bachand said that if the bill becomes law, it would help reconcile customer service with the right to family time for

store employees.

Annie Lalonde, a Subway employee at Place Alexis Nihon, disagrees. As a mother of two, Lalonde thinks the closure of stores will be a huge inconvenience.

"I don't think it's a good thing because if you need something at the last minute you have nowhere to go and buy it," she said.

But not all employees are against working on holidays. Cashier Maria Mylonas said that she enjoys working on holidays, including Christmas, for cash flow reasons. "I get time and a half, so I don't mind working," she said. Mylonas pointed out that many of the store's customers don't celebrate holidays like Christmas, so the store's closure doesn't make a difference to them either.

"I don't think it's fair," said Martika Truchon, a shopper at Alexis Nihon. Truchon thinks the closures wouldn't be too much of an inconvenience for shoppers, who she says should "just organize their time" around the holidays.

"We have our holiday, too," Truchon said of Quebec's anglophone minority. "I think it's as important as St. Jean Baptiste."

Clean slate?

• TERRINE FRIDAY

An open letter sent to Concordia president Judith Woodsworth Nov. 3 criticizes the administration's façon d'agir.

The letter, sent from Liberal Arts professor Vesselin Petkov, denounces the administration's transparency and demands Woodsworth remind the administration "they are at the university to serve the students and the faculty members, not the other way around."

As the Concordia president attempts to disassociate herself from the failed leadership of Claude Lajeunesse, Petkov insists Woodsworth address issues that "might have contributed to problems in the past and which might cause problems in the future."

You wear what you eat

• SARAH TOOTH

The first-ever Montreal World Vegan Day Fashion Show took to the stage last Saturday. Organized by the Concordia Animal Rights Association, the event was held to draw attention to puppy mills in Montreal.

Taking a stance against the 1,500-plus active puppy mills on the island of Montreal, hosts Adam Reid and Rachele Segal urged guests to get involved before and after the shows by either signing a petition against animal cruelty or bidding at the silent auction.

A variety of items, from clothing featured on the catwalk to an assortment of gift certificates, were auctioned off at the show and all proceeds went to the prevention and eradication of puppy mills in Montreal.

The event also featured musical performances by Montreal-based band The Hot Streak and an acoustic performance by Andree Sophia.

Remembrance day games

• SHAWNA SATZ

Concordia will host Word Cafés next week where a variety of randomly-selected students, faculty, and staff, as well as president Judith Woodsworth, will take part in an intimate game-styled event, to better outline the direction that the university should be heading.

The game will have participants sitting at tables for 20 minutes per round, where they will discuss constructive ideas and directions for Concordia to take.

The event will take place on Nov. 11 at the SGW campus in the Library Building's atrium and Nov. 12 at the Loyola campus in the CJ building from 3 to 5 p.m. For more info, please visit president.concordia.ca.

C'est qui?

• SHAWNA SATZ

U.S. vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin fell victim to a prank call by local Montreal radio hosts Les justiciers masqués on CKOI fm.

The host, Sébastien Trudel, lead Palin to believe that she was speaking to French President Nicolas Sarkozy for nearly seven minutes, while dropping hints the entire way through that he was not who he said he was, including references to his U.S. advisor Johnny Hallyday and Quebec Prime Minister Richard Z. Sirois.

When Palin was told she had been pranked, the conversation ended quickly.

To listen the to prank, please visit justiciers.tv.

Statement of blame

Palestinian village sues Quebec companies for building condos in the West Bank

• RICHARD A. JOHNSON, RYERSON FREE PRESS (RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP) – In what is sure to be a landmark case for both Canadian and international law, a Palestinian village is suing two Quebec-based companies for constructing condos in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

The village, Bil'in, is located 15 km northwest of Ramallah, and a scant four km from the 1949 armistice line between Israel and a number of neighbouring Arab nations. It has, for almost two decades, been unsuccessfully fighting, through popular demonstrations and in Israeli courts, the encroachment on its land of the Israeli settlement of Modi'in Illit.

The Quebec case marks the first time that Bil'in or any other Palestinian entity has brought the issue of the legality or illegality of Israeli settlements into the courtrooms of western democracies.

On Sept. 25, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East hosted a panel discussion at the Steelworkers Hall in Toronto. Mark Arnold, the Canadian lawyer for the village of Bil'in, Adam Hanieh, a doctoral student at York University and the former head of Defence for Children International in Palestine, and professor Michael Mandel of Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, an expert in international criminal law and constitutional law, were all invited to speak.

"I was approached a year ago about the Bil'in situation," Arnold said, addressing the audience.

While noting that cases such as this often turn out to be ill-conceived actions with no legal legs on which to stand, he contended that the Bil'in case was different.

"When I was convinced [the people of Bil'in and their advocates in Israel and Palestine] were serious about this case, well, off we went to Israel and to Bil'in," said Arnold.

In Bil'in, Arnold saw first-hand the dire situation of the Palestinians and the inefficacy of, even Israeli, court rulings to halt the constantly growing construction—which critics deem illegal under international law. The expansive ultra-orthodox settlement of Modi'in Illit now has a population of over 40,000. There are 1,700 villagers in Bil'in.

Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 states that, with respect to territories acquired by war, "the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territories it occupies."

What made this lawsuit possible is the Canadian Geneva Convention Act of 1985, which in principle, makes the protocols of the Fourth Geneva Convention Canadian law.

This means Canada would hold its own citizens accountable for violations of international law.

Since 1991, the Israeli Land Redemption Fund, a project of billionaire diamond magnate Lev Leviev to buy or seize Palestinian land for Israeli settlements, has requisitioned 200 acres of Bil'in land.

Since then the villagers of Bil'in and various human rights groups have been fighting the creep of what is now the largest Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

At least as far back as 2004, Green Park International and Green Mount International, two corporations registered to the same address in Montreal, have been under contract to build as least 3,000 housing units in Modi'in Illit.

"When we knew about these companies, we followed things to the Israeli courts," said Abdullah Aburahma, a representative from the Bil'in Popular Committee, whose interview was pre-taped for the presentation. "We found no justice, and so we decided to go even further to the Canadian court and [its] following of the [Fourth] Geneva Convention."

Arnold, having plainly drawn the lines connecting two Canadian companies involved in a business activity that he alleges violates Canadian law, filed the lawsuit in the Quebec Superior Court in July.

Arnold is also seeking \$2 million in punitive damages for the village of Bil'in—not a recompense for lost land, but a punishment for the company's activity and a warning to others. The trial is expected to begin in three or four months.

Arnold has previous experience with similar matters, making him

an amply qualified attorney for this groundbreaking case. In 2004 he co-represented Houshang Bouzari, the Iranian-born Canadian who sued the government of Iran for torture. Bouzari accused the Iranian regime of kidnapping and torturing him 10 years earlier while he still lived in Tehran.

The Ontario Superior Court and ultimately the Ontario Court of Appeal rejected the case on the basis of the 1982 State Immunity Act, which prevents a citizen of Canada from suing a sovereign state for alleged crimes committed outside of Canada.

While unsuccessful, the case of Bouzari v. Iran highlighted the fact that the State Immunity Act, in preventing prosecution of crimes against international law, such as torture, clashed with other Canadian laws, including the 2000 Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, the Geneva Conventions Act, and arguably even the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Bil'in case may have a few similarities to Bouzari's. Arnold's statement of claim to the Quebec court alleges that the two companies, "on their own behalf and as de facto agents of the State of Israel, are and have been illegally constructing residential and other buildings and marketing and selling condominium units [...] thereby creating a new dense settlement on the lands of the village of Bil'in. In so doing, the defendants are aiding, abetting, assisting and conspiring with the State of Israel in carrying out an illegal purpose."

None of these accusations have been proven in a court of law.

In essence, because Arnold and Bil'in are suing a

contracted agent of a sovereign state, the defence can invoke the immunity law and request the case be thrown out.

Arnold is nonetheless optimistic the case will hold up.

"The law is clear. The facts are clear. Why are we going to lose?"

Mandel, an expert in international law, is plainly pessimistic.

"You can't get a fair trial in a political case in Canada," he said at the presentation, prompting abrupt applause. "Canadian courts aren't democratic. The [Canadian] judges are appointed by Liberals or Conservatives. They are chicken-hearted. That's why we're going to lose."

Arnold prefers to trust that Canadian laws will prevail over the delicate politics involved in a case such as this.

Hanieh, an academic and activist, also looks at the long-term impact of the case.

"Court cases like this play an important educative role in Canadian society," he said. "The impact of this case is the awareness of Canadian complicity in the occupation [of Palestine]. We need pressure from the streets [...] pressure on these institutions in the model of [resistance to] South African Apartheid."

Bouzari might agree with this approach. After losing his case against Iran, he started a grassroots initiative, the International Campaign against Torture, specifically to lobby the Canadian government to repeal the parts of the State Immunity Act that exempt violators of international law from prosecution.

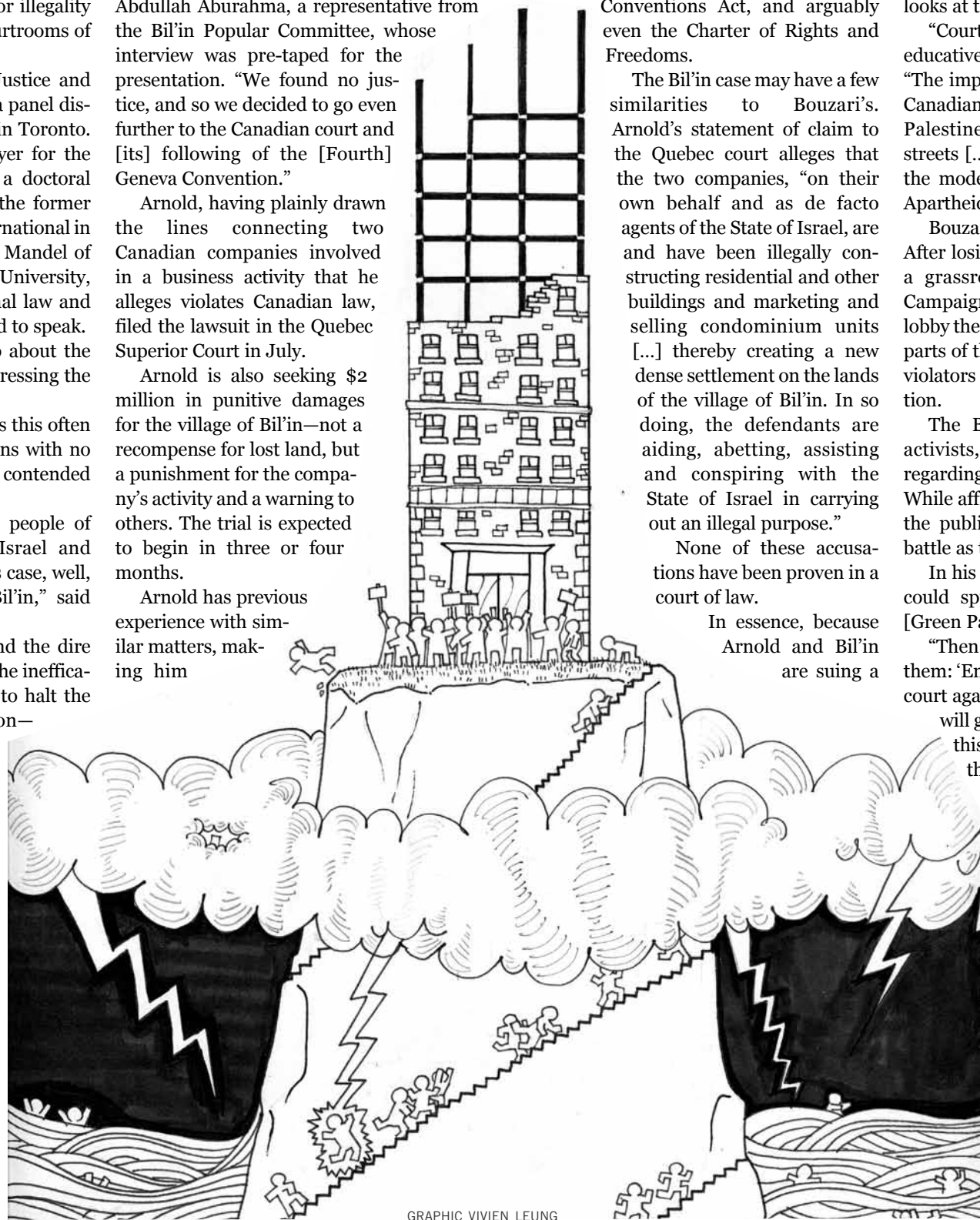
The Bil'in case clearly has galvanized activists, despite the prevalent cynicism regarding justice in Canadian courts of law. While affirming the importance of educating the public, Arnold sees the looming court battle as the best hope for the village.

In his best-case scenario, he says the case could spur "a cease and desist order on [Green Park and Green Mount]."

"Then we'd take it back to Israel and tell them: 'Enforce the judgment of the Canadian court against these two companies.' Nothing will give me greater pleasure than taking this to my Israeli counterparts. But that will be the bigger roadblock," he said.

Stopping the construction of settlements on Bil'in and other Palestinian land may be too much to hope for in this case. Nevertheless, for Arnold and his clients, setting a firm precedent in Canada that collaboration with crimes against international law will not be tolerated would be no small victory after so many years of hopelessness.

"If you turn around and become a cynic, you might as well give up the ghost, move to a foreign country and water-ski," Arnold said.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

A different kind of green house

Co-op La maison verte makes sustainability sustainable



This friendly shop holds all you need to begin your sustainable lifestyle



Sophie serves the cake up on Earth Day

• ANDREA PARE

When is a store not just a store? When it's a solidarity co-op, a fair trade café and an eco-friendly product store all rolled into one. Contrary to most businesses, Co-op la maison verte is not just in it for the money.

"Our mission is [...] to be broader than a store and to provide a space for the community for education on different issues that are important in today's society as people are becoming more aware," says store co-owner and coordinator, Kurt Houghton.

Houghton, like many following the eco-lifestyle, has a soft, clean look, but also has tattoos of a bar code and a bracelet adorns his arm and wrist. He has a round rubber "plug" earring in one ear and wiry, '60s inspired glasses. As he serves a soy chai latte to a customer it is clear he is at home here.

space that promoted sustainability after they lived through the disastrous Montreal ice storm in 1998. The result was Co-op la maison verte.

Now nearly eight years later, there are about 7,300 share members of the co-op. Members get a 10-15 per cent discount on store products when they buy a share. They can also feel good about donating to a community-based initiative, says Houghton.

Clearly, this formula has worked well. According to Houghton, Co-op la maison verte made about \$600,000 in sales and \$13,000 in surplus profit last year. And he says the profit has been rising by about 10 per cent every year; "One of the things we're happy with is that we have been growing at a reasonable rate—probably a bit above most retail businesses of our size."

Regular customer Madeleine McBrearty, an NDG resident and part-

"It brought a lot of people in who suddenly realize they have an impact, whether it be local or global."

—Ken Houghton, co-owner and coordinator of Co-op La maison verte

At the co-op's entrance, there is a rack of lefty-political magazines, and an assortment of soaps and oils, conjuring up a garden scent. There are bags recycled with juice box cartons and homemade candles, biodegradable garbage bags and hipster hemp clothing hanging on a rack. The space is open and bright and the floors are wooden. The café's counter—lined with barrel crates—is on the far right of the room, and the tables in the middle. On the far left of the room and book ending the tables, are shelves and displays of the products. It has a serene, almost oasis-like feel to it.

Houghton says people shop here because it's hard to find products like these at a typical grocery store. Many of those worried about the environment are happy to have an alternative.

"It brought a lot of people in who suddenly realize they have an impact, whether it be local or global," says Houghton. Luckily, they don't have to spend a lot of money to make a difference. A cup of fair-trade coffee at the co-op sets you back \$1.40, and phosphate-free detergent in bulk costs \$2.70 per litre.

Co-op la maison verte was founded in 2000, by a group of NDG residents: Dan Ahmad, Jennifer Auchinleck, Jean-Martial Bonis-Charancle, Roger Haughey, Hans Heisinger, Jason Hughes and Marc Poddubiack. They were moved to create a

time faculty at Concordia, has been coming to Co-op la maison verte for five years. Although it would be easier to shop at the grocery store just a block away from her apartment, McBrearty goes out of her way to buy here.

"I buy coffee, fair-trade chocolate, I buy soap [...] paper sometimes—I've bought clothes," she says. Like Houghton and the founders of the co-op, she believes in sustainability. "It just inspires me [...] I think there's a movement internationally where people are being more environmentally, ecologically friendly."

Houghton says the store's purchasing policy is a stringent one, and that the customers respect them for working hard to be green. They don't purchase products that are toxic or are refined through a petroleum process.

He says that because the products are difficult to make they are sometimes more expensive, but for the most part, are competitive in price. "Some (eco-friendly products) are way cheaper and they work really well, and other products are really hard to produce, not using all these chemicals."

Co-op la maison verte is located at 5785, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. You can get there by taking the metro to Vendôme and then getting on the bus #105

You have the right to remain literate

Concordia's Open Door Books makes the case for prisoner literacy

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Reading a book, any book, can be a good way to pass seven hours on a plane, or seven minutes on the way to the next metro stop. It can also be a good way to keep sane during a seven-year prison sentence. But what if the prison library is closed for six months of the year? That's three and a half years in solitary confinement with only your thoughts.

Open Door Books, an organization partnered with the Quebec Public Interest Research Group of Concordia, has made it their mission to put books in the hands of prisoners. Because if their wardens won't, who will?

As a member of QPIRG-Concordia, ODB is the recipient of student funds, which means your money goes to pay for its annual operational costs. But what's at stake for students?

"Concordia students should care," says Liam Michaud-O'Grady, one of ODB's 12 collective members, where he has been working for the past two-and-a-half years of its roughly 15 years in operation. "Our work is rooted in the acknowledgment that many of us are only a few steps away from being incarcerated behind prison walls."

The money raised from student fees doesn't go towards buying hard cover editions of that new, overpriced Tom Clancy novel. In fact, no hardcover books are allowed, and neither are spiral bound books, a cautionary provision best left to the imagination. All donations are themselves donated to ODB, which does its best

"Books are an essential part of my life. Reading helps me to escape from these four walls. When I'm refused access to books, I feel like I'm more a prisoner than ever."

—*"Political prisoner" Ivan Sancho*

to supply vague requests for bestsellers and young adult fiction from its various drop-off locations.

"Once a year we do a spring cleaning," says Amy Schwartz, who has been working with ODB for five years, and who liaisons with the librarian at the Joliette Federal Women's Prison in Quebec. No book is ever wasted, though, as everything that doesn't make the cut goes to the Salvation Army, including, as of recently, a boatload of Barbara Bush biographies.

Unlike the prison system, where the division of power couldn't be more unbalanced, ODB operates as a collective of equals. "[Which means] we all share all the work and have the same responsibilities," including acting as a liaison with

prison librarians, says Michaud-O'Grady, who manages all of ODB's donations to the Bluewater Youth Detention Centre in Ontario.

During his time at ODB, Michaud-O'Grady has seen just how difficult it is to bypass the bureaucracy and neglect at US and Canadian prisons. Although US prisons are notoriously packed beyond breaking point, Canadian prisons have stricter rules against donating books directly to prisoners. But because each prison enforces its own series of rules, it can be difficult to navigate the fine rope of regulations and censorship that deny prisoners access to books.

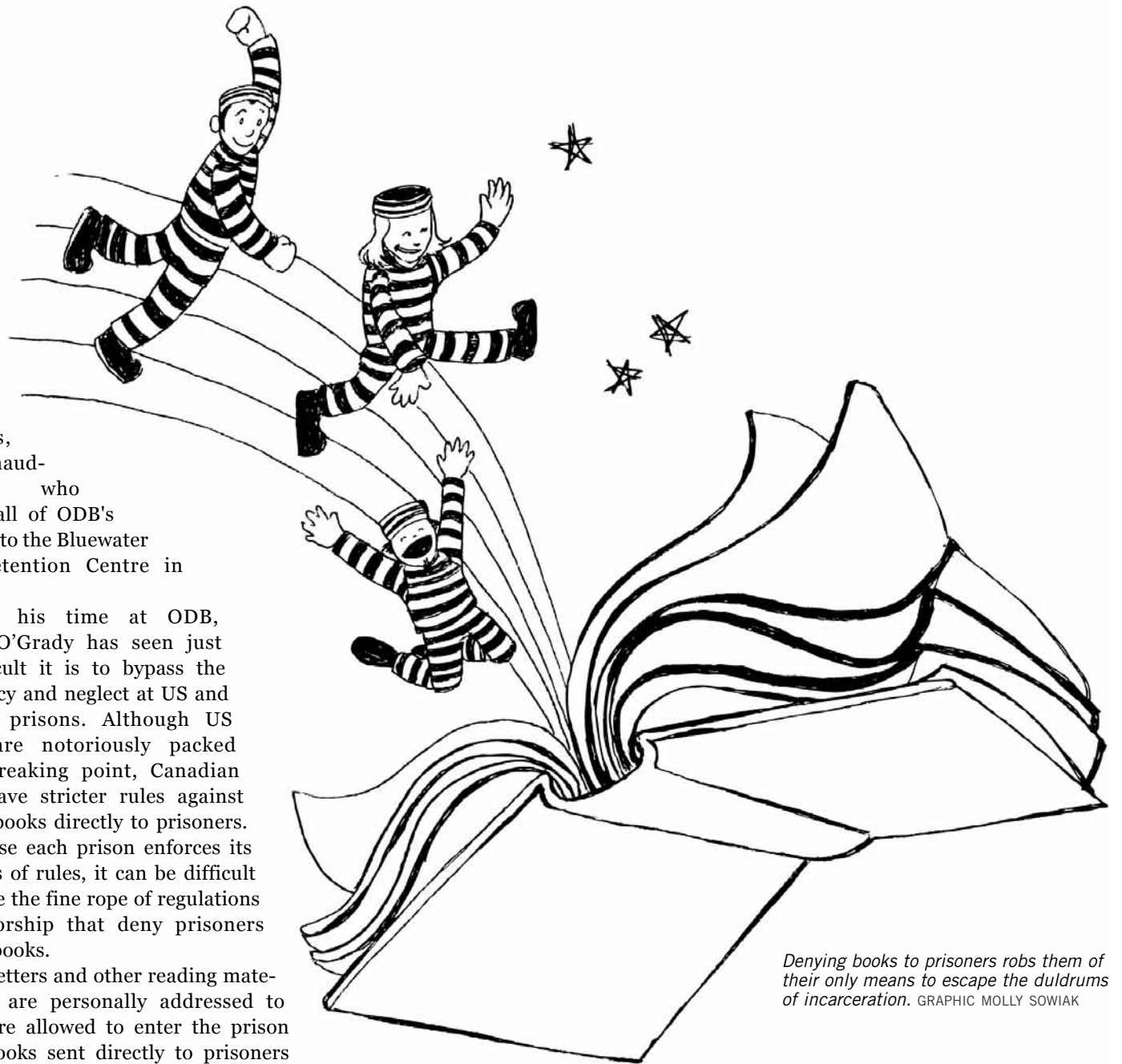
While letters and other reading materials that are personally addressed to inmates are allowed to enter the prison system, books sent directly to prisoners are considered valuable property, and end up with all their other belongings, in storage (to be returned to them at the end of their prison sentence).

Half the time, Michaud-O'Grady and others won't learn whether or not a book reached its intended destination, or whether the ugly head of censorship has struck again.

"Explicitly political material is often not allowed," says Michaud-O'Grady, "and neither is sexual material," which can make it difficult to provide inmates with educational resources and safer sex manuals.

Denying prisoners books takes the idea of punishment to harmful, ridiculous levels, says Michaud-O'Grady. "Books provide an important distraction, and even a life line for some inmates. We get a lot of requests for books on how to learn practical skills, or technical volumes on learning how to write," he says.

Various publications have arisen to supply an outlet for prison writing, such as Books Beyond Bars (which published a book of fiction from female prisoners



Denying books to prisoners robs them of their only means to escape the duldrums of incarceration. GRAPHIC MOLLY SOWIAK

called Words Without Walls), which offers a constructive tool for self-expression and perhaps a voice for the voiceless.

The most famous Canadian case of a prisoner who was denied reading material was "political prisoner" Ivan Sancho, who was deported this past month to Madrid, Spain after a year-long incarceration on what some have called false terrorism charges.

During his incarceration at the Rivieres-des-Prairies detention centre in east Montreal, Sancho told well-wishers that "books are an essential part of my life. Reading helps me to escape from these four walls. When I'm refused access to books, I feel like I'm more a prisoner than ever."

The RDP closes its library for the summer months, or from Apr. 1 to Sept. 30, leaving its roughly 600 prison inmates with nothing to entertain themselves with for six months of the year, except fantasizing about life outside their prison walls.

ODB maintains that it isn't an advocacy group, whether or not its members advocate on behalf of prisoners rights on their own time and their own terms. Rather, the group operates on the "basis of solidarity with prisoners," says Schwartz and Michaud-O'Grady. But when prison libraries infringe on the liberties of

inmates, and the simple desire to read a good book, sometimes it's okay to step in and advocate for a prisoner's right to read.

So what does Michaud-O'Grady like to read? "I like reading books about queer politics, about prison abolition and its roots in the abolition of slavery, and books about HIV/AIDS prevention. These also happen to be the exact kinds of books to which prisoners are systematically refused access," he said.

Open Door Books is looking for the following items:

- bestsellers (John Grisham, Stephen King, Dean Koontz, Anne Rice, Tom Clancy, Michael Connelly, Fred Vargas, Marie Laberge, Chrystine Brouillet)
- books for youth/young adults
- books on native/indigenous issues, decolonization, etc.
- books on prison issues, abolition, black liberation, civil rights
- multilingual dictionaries
- how to or other instructional books (skills, trades)

Drop off locations:

- Le Cagibi / Esperanza 5490 St. Laurent
- Head and Hands 5833 Sherbrooke W.
- Casa del Popolo 4873 St. Laurent
- QPIRG Concordia 1500 Maisonneuve W. suite 204 (only open M-Th, 1p.m.-6p.m.)

Burn before reading

How one of the greatest novels never written is finally finding a publisher



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

• LEILA AMIRI

Normally it wouldn't be a problem getting one of Vladimir Nabokov's works published. But it has been a tumultuous *vas et viens* for his one and only child, Dmitri Nabokov.

Now 73, Dmitri must decide whether to burn his father's last unfinished work, as per his wishes, or to have it published, much to his readership's delight. This isn't a controversy found in the pages of his previous masterpieces, but among the passages of his unfinished and last piece of literature.

Written literally on his deathbed and never finished because of our ever-human mortality, *The Original of Laura* perished with its author Vladimir on June 2, 1977; but what of the cue cards, containing the blueprints of what could have been, perhaps, his greatest work to date?

What brings such controversy to an already stirred professional career was Vladimir's dying wish to have the building blocks of his final work burned once he passed away, a decision handed down to Dmitri from his mother Vera, who died in 1991.

Some say publish, while others want Dmitri to respect his father's dying wish. Both sides of the argument have given Dmitri much to think about, but the controversy could give his father's work much publicity—publicity he can greatly profit from if he chooses to publish.

Vladimir is known for his casual narrative style and the repartee among his characters, enveloped in a more serious and often controversial context. His 1955 book *Lolita* is ripe with seduction, socially perverse desires, the loss of innocence and all kinds of love. He worked on his projects until he thought them to be immaculate and ready for the trenches of his audience of readers and critics. His last work consisted of 50 cue cards, all of which are locked up in a safe in Switzerland. His desire for the ultimate perfection of his work may mean that no one will ever get to read it, save his son.

After months of teasing and tantalizing us with Dmitri's idolatry and marvelous depiction of his father's last work, claiming it to be the "most concentrated distillation of [my father's] creativity" and a "totally radical book," Dmitri has, for now, decided that it will be published after all.

But will *The Original of Laura* cast a shadow over Vladimir's earlier masterworks? Would it produce the same sort of outcry from critics as *Lolita*? Or will it provide closure for his curious readers, a last taste of his genius and creative force, the cherry on top of his stacked sundae?

All we can do is wait. But it has at least brought our thoughts and our minds back with greater force and interest on this writers' great works.

Gained in translation

The nominees for the QWF Translation prize speak in their own words

• PASCALE ROSE LICINIO

Sophie Voillot has never translated a book she didn't like, and doesn't think she would be able to do so.

"You have to be able to vibrate," she said. "The translation really comes out with your own sensibility." Voillot, a professional translator, is a nominee for the Quebec Writers' Federation Translation Prize for her translation of Rawi Hage's *De Niro's Game*, or *Parfum de poussière* in French, and is presently working on an English to French translation of Hage's award-winning *Cockroach*.

The QWF will reward Quebec's best English-language writers and best translators at this year's 2008 QWF Literary Awards, to be announced on Nov. 19. Every year, it alternates from honouring translations from French into English to translations from English to French. This year, the shortlist for the Translation Prize consists of translations into French.

Also competing for the prize are Hélène Rioux for *Les artistes de la mémoire*, her translation of Jeffrey Moore's *The Memory Artists*, Lori Saint-Martin and Paul Gagné for *Big Bang*—their translation of Neil Smith's *Bang Crunch*—and Voillot with *Parfum de poussière*.

"We work behind the scenes," said Gagné. "We don't do it for the honours but it feels good to have our work

acknowledged, especially by our peers at the QWF."

Gagné and his wife Saint-Martin work as a team. Together, they have translated 40 books and have already won two QWF awards. Gagné usually writes the first draft, which they revise alternating afterwards. "I often say that we argue about a bit of everything except translation," he laughed.

"It takes time and energy and, every day, it's a new battle for the right word."

—Sophie Voillot,
QWF Translation prize nominee

Translating Smith's collection of short stories has been challenging and fascinating. The couple had to find a new tone and a new voice for each story. "Neil Smith's work is also full of puns and inventions for which we had to find juicy translations," explained Gagné. "We've worked a whole summer on the book and it was actually hard to pull away from his world."

Voillot also immersed herself into Hage's novel, set in Lebanon. The translation work became a very intense experience. "I've lived with the book. I did everything I could to feel close to it. I've listened to a lot of Lebanese music, eaten Lebanese food," she said. But it wasn't always so easy, since the novel is some-

times violent and disturbing. "It is a very poetic and dark story. It tells you about massacres and torture. You get affected," she said.

Voillot and Gagné both enjoy translating authors like Smith and Hage, who live in Montreal, speak French and are able to read and approve of the translations before they are published. However, neither of them contacted the authors during the translation process.

"Usually, what we do is that we get in touch with them once it's done, to resolve ambiguities," explained Gagné. Voillot said the Internet was of a great help when it came to looking for terminology, especially about weapons and Lebanese culture in the case of Hage's novel. "It prevents you from pestering the author," she said.

When she translates fiction, Voillot puts out an average of around 1000 words a day. "It takes time and energy and, every day, it's a new battle for the right word," she said.

For now, each of the nominees must do battle for the ultimate honour—but in good spirits.

They're also competing for the Governor General's Literary Award for translation from French to English on Nov. 18. Gagné and Saint-Martin have been nominated for a GG award for *Big Bang*, and Voillot for her translation of Thomas Wharton's *The Logogryphe*.

Mark your reservation for *The Retreat*

Author David Bergen sets his sights on the Ojibway occupation of Anicinabe Park

• BONNIE ZEHAZI

Beautifully rendered with stark prose and cinematic nuances, the latest offering from prize-winning Winnipeg author David Bergen is a haunting story of love and loss at the intersection of cultures in the Canadian landscape.

The Retreat begins just outside Kenora, Ontario in 1973, when 18-year-old Raymond Seymour, an Ojibway youth, is taken by a local police officer to a remote island and left for dead.

A year later the Byrd family arrives in Kenora to participate in a summer commune, a spiritual respite in nature for a motley set of soul-seeking urbanites, hippy intellectuals and broken hearts. "The Retreat," as it's called, is the brainchild of self-styled guru Doctor Amos, whose proverbial truisms trigger doubt and repulsion in 17-year-old Lizzy, the eldest Byrd child, who seeks solace in the companionship of her younger siblings and in long afternoons spent sun-bathing by the lake.

When Lizzy meets Raymond, the peculiar tediousness of "The Retreat"

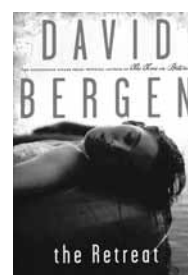
and her parents' disintegrating marriage fall away as she propels heart first in love. However, she soon comes to understand that she will never be able to fully enter Raymond's world, nor comprehend the reality of a young Native man in a deeply bigoted and, at times, violently racist environment that offers limited options for escape.

The Retreat is a novel that unfolds much like a film, one that has you [...] unable to stop watching.

Set in the summer of the Ojibway occupation of Anicinabe Park in Kenora, *The Retreat* is not only the story of impossible romance, but of families and communities both brought together and wrought apart by pain and tragedy. It is the tale of Raymond and Nelson, two brothers reunited after ten years, whose unyielding bond surmounts their divergent experiences that might otherwise divide them. It is also the story of the Byrd family, of a mother, unable

to care for her children and ultimately for herself, a father who struggles to hold them together, and of four children, each gaining acute insight into the world and themselves as they come of age in most unusual circumstances.

The Retreat is a novel that unfolds much like a film, one that has you peeking through your fingers at the most horrifying parts yet entirely unable to stop watching. For anyone who has truly loved and lost, Bergen offers a story that resonates with heartbreaking realism and evocative poignancy. Visceral, erotic, and sparsely written, it is a testament to Bergen's exceptional storytelling ability and masterful narrative skill.



The Retreat
David Bergen
McClelland &
Stewart
September 2008
328 pp
\$29.99

Saving faces (and teeth)

Hockey as art

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Lifeless. Menacing. These adjectives tend to be used when people describe the goalie mask, considered to be probably the biggest improvement to the game since its inception over a century ago.

First invented as a way to protect goalies' grills (and first regularly worn in the late '50s by Jacques Plante, Montreal Canadian and a native of Shawinigan Falls), it has evolved into much more than a simple face-protector; from necessity to fashion statement, the mask is an ever-present reminder of the immediate danger that hockey players are placed in.

Saving Face is a fascinating look at the hockey mask as technology, protective wear, as well as its associated fashion connotations. The birthing pains of the mask are explored in depth in the book, as well as the various experiments to perfect the mask to make it a marriage of design and convenience.

From the simplistic look of the first mask (white, with straps to hold it in place) to some of the more elaborate designs that have come out through the years (a hawk-like mask that droops down to protect the neck, for example), the book's intentions are to explore the various themes and to perhaps even mythologize the hockey mask as more than a simple piece of equipment.

Profiles of the likes of Greg Harrison and Michel Lefebvre (of Brampton, Ont. and

Montreal, respectively) are featured, showing that much like anyone else involved in an artistic trade, they have their distinctive styles and influences that show up in their work.

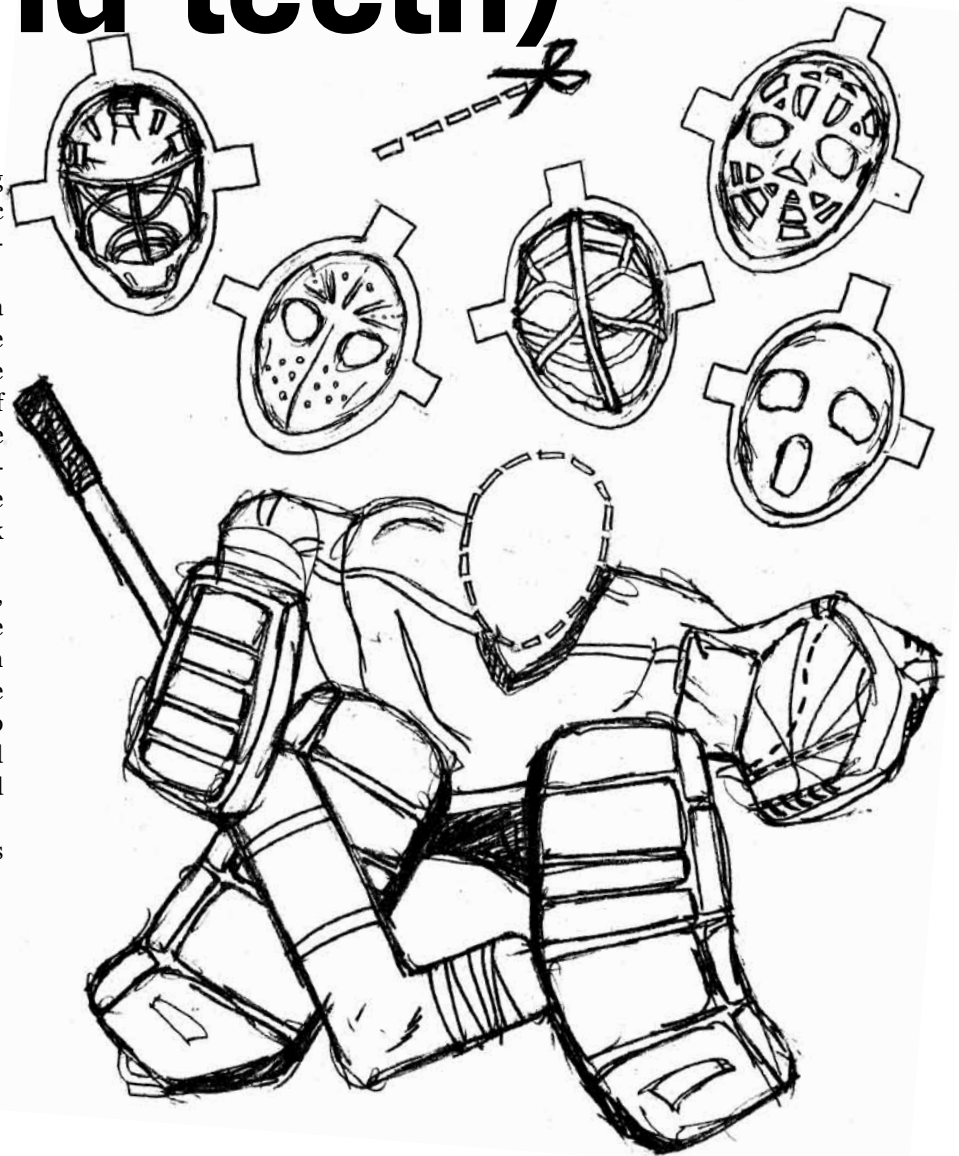
Artist Mike Meyers, for example, designed a mask for goalie Josh Harding that depicted the classic goalie masks that have come out on the scene throughout the game's history (the likes of Dryden, Esposito, Sawchuk and Larocque are mask-checked), providing a sort of meta commentary as the mask as a piece of art, all at once celebrating its history, acknowledging its artwork and serving as a face-protector.

The pictures take centre stage in this tome, taking precedence over the text and allowing the words to contextualize what appears on any given page. Gorgeous and well-framed, the pictures are given room to breathe and allow the reader to take in the different designs over the years, and provide the reader with a history of the mask and its associated culture.

An excellent read for hockey enthusiasts as well as pop culture junkies.



Saving Face: The Art and History of the Goalie Mask
Jim Hynes and Gary Smith
Wiley Press
August 2008
160 pp
\$38.95



Who says hockey can't at least be fashionable? GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

"The Natural" fightin' machine

Heavyweight Champion Randy Couture charts his rise to stardom

• JOHNNY NORTH

Battling as the underdog in an Ultimate Fighting Championship match or in amateur wrestling has always put a smile on Randy "The Natural" Couture's face—he thrived even in grueling military training.

At 45 years old the man, also known as "Captain America," is still the reigning UFC Heavyweight champion. He has been defying the odds by beating 20-something-year-old fighters and long-time favourites ever since he broke into UFC at age 33. Couture is one of the fighters responsible for bringing mixed martial arts out of the taboo sport category and into the pop culture level—his natural charisma and ability to beat the odds over and over has made him the poster boy for MMA.

In his memoirs, *Becoming The Natural: My Life In and Out of the Cage*, Couture brings you into his world of MMA and how he was first introduced to the sport. Couture goes into great detail on how he had a tough time growing up with his mom switching husbands every so often. The lack of a father figure weighed on Couture a lot in his youthful rebellious years, which led him to be a college dropout at 19 with a wife and a kid.

Couture went to the army to support his family and kept up with the amateur wrestling training that he got while in school. Couture trained constantly in order to become a multi-time wrestling world

champion. Three years in a row he came up just a little short in his bid to become an Olympian.

Entering the cage, or octagon, was a big step for Couture. "What the hell am I doing?" was one his first thoughts going out to compete against someone who could punch him in the face. Couture, never one to shy away from a fight, excelled and racked up impressive victories, using his Greco-Roman wrestling skills to defeat kickboxer Mo Smith for his first UFC title win.

Couture soon found out that the business side of UFC could be difficult to handle. Current UFC boss Dana White, during contract negotiations with Couture, was "so irrational and emotional, screaming and yelling and cussing." White ended up going behind Couture's managers' backs, telling Couture that they were nothing but "hair fags." Couture did find some common ground with White during the taping of *The Ultimate Fighter's* first season.

"He invited me and [Chuck] Liddell to his house to watch a boxing match, and his office was plastered with UFC posters and memorabilia. It was obvious that this was more than just a job for him. I think that was something that we both saw in each other that changed our relationship. We had been adversaries throughout the years of contract negotiations, but this was the first time we were ever on the same side."

The book wraps up as of July, 2008, with

his last contract dispute undecided. Since then, Couture has signed back with UFC for UFC 91 on Nov. 15, to fight the 265-pound Brock Lesnar, who was once referred to as a "manster."

Couture's passion to push new limits makes this book difficult to put down. Couture's life is filled with drama, either on the mat, with his friends, or in his home. Couture's open honesty when it comes to cheating on his two ex-wives is disheartening, but as with the other brutally honest statements made throughout the book, they show that he has come to terms with his mistakes. MMA journalist and ghostwriter Loretta Hunt does an excellent job bringing out Couture's personal side.

MMA fans will love how much detail goes into some of Couture's biggest fights. From his three bouts with Liddell, his upset win of the UFC lightweight championship against Tito Ortiz and his battles with "The Phenom" Viktor Belfort, are all must-reads for fans wanting to know what goes through the mind of one of the greatest clinch and ground-and-pound fighters.



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Lil' Lit Writ

No Trip to Cuba

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Under bright white lamps, clamped
Beneath some vulgar suns

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At compliments and shrug a shoulder
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—J.R.A. Casey

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Goalie masks as art

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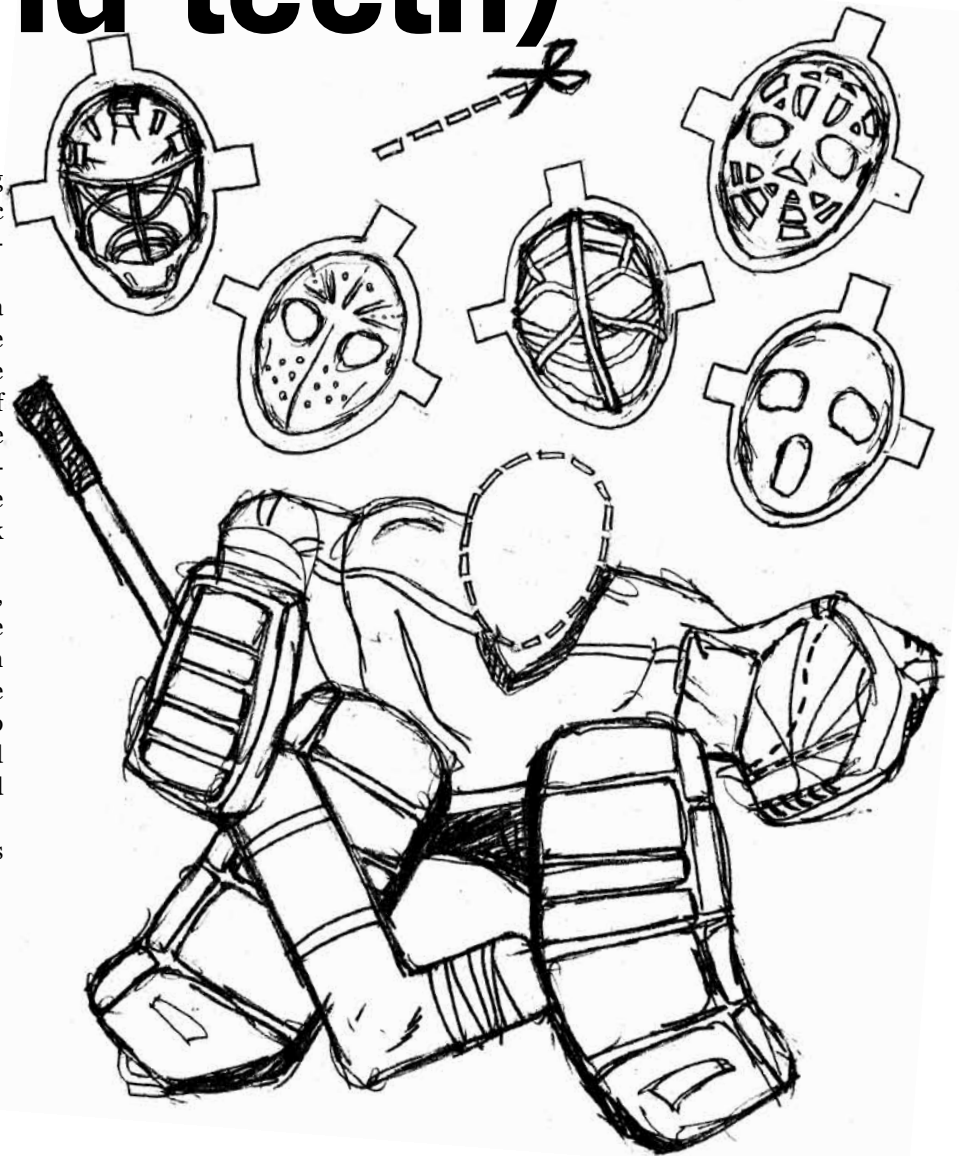
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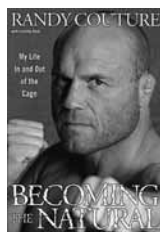
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POLYSICS OR DIE

Cody Hicks hunts a band he's been searching for since high school

• CODY HICKS

Snap out of your post-Halloween coma and throw on your coveralls for the return of POLYSICS, second only to Andrew WK in my list of "Most Fun Shows of all Time."

The first time I heard the Japanese DEVO-worshipping party band was at a pool party in grade 10. I'll never forget the sheer manic joy I felt when I first heard these candy-coated spaz-rockers as I chugged a contraband Colt 45 in the sauna. I couldn't understand a word that came from the singer's mouth but the slashing guitars and whizzing analog synths spoke to me. What they told me to do was naked cannonballs into the pool, only to come up for a chance to hear more glorious noise filtered through the chlorinated water in my ears.

Flash forward to 2005, on one of my first weekends of residence here in Montreal. As I sat inhaling my first poutine, my eyes scanned an ad in a local weekly saying POLYSICS were in town. I nearly choked on a squeaky curd when I saw that they were playing that very night. I washed the poutine down with my heavy Quebecois beer and ran up St. Laurent only stopping to grab (and drink) a high potency 40-ounce.

I remember being blown away by how cheap the ticket was as I burrowed my way to the front of Main Hall and planted myself to the right of the stage, unsure of exactly what to expect. I was giddy when I scanned the venue, which was blurred with a diverse array of nerd-punks and party animals.

Although I can't remember what song they played first, it was definitely a doozy. People lost their shit, immediately giving into the insanity. Every song was played with lightning precision even though the band looked like they were about to careen off stage in a flurry of flailing limbs.

The bassist hopped around like she was on a kiddie trampoline and the drummer bashed the tubs like an outer space Keith



POLYSICS invade Montreal Nov. 4 following Jaguar Love and Black Gold.

Moon. The robotic keyboard player stood anchor still, only moving her fingers to tickle the keys and her lips to emit heavily vocoded robot choruses. This was all tied together by the human tornado of singer/guitarist Hiro Hayashi, who, despite flying all over the stage, headbanging and balancing the guitar on his head didn't miss a slashing guitar note.

The manic energy emanating from the robo-punks had everyone convulsing like sweaty drunken metronomes, only punctuated by super-excited proclamations of POLYSICS' love for Canada or for founder and lead singer, Hiro, to sloppily chug a beer, spilling it all over those fortunate enough to be front row center.

I was blown away by the amount of people

in the audience, as I was unaware of their popularity. Apparently, so was Hiro, who I spoke to via a translator.

"Last time we were there, [there were] a lot of under age fans, [who] even though they are not allowed to get in, came to the venue," he says. "They made a sign saying 'We Love POLYSICS!' and gathered just around the building for the sound leaking from the stage—it was just like they were joining the gig from outside. I was so surprised, and touched."

Hiro assured me that they "will play with much more hyper energy than [they] had last time" which is a promise that both excites and frightens me. So, come feed off the madness! You wouldn't want to disappoint our esteemed overseas guests, would you?

If you're unfamiliar with the band, head over to myspace.com/polysicsna, crank up your speakers, put on the tune "Dry or Wet" and do back-flips all over your bedroom. For those of you stuck in the library or unable to throw yourselves about, let the band do all the work and check out their music videos on Youtube. I recommend "Electric Surfin' Go Go," which features meowing kitties and some of the most fluid animation I've seen in a music video, and "Rocket," which has some pretty tense quiet/loud dynamics.

Be there or be a fool. Or, as the band says: "POLYSICS OR DIE."

POLYSICS will be playing Tuesday Nov. 4 at 8:30 p.m. at Club Lambi, 4465 St-Laurent. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Watch your crotch

Animation Show 4 offers a variety of humour and mind-blowing animation

• SEBASTIEN CADIEUX

With nearly 30 different cartoons, the fourth edition of *The Animation Show* is as much of a grab-bag as ever. The styles of animation run the gamut—there is the beautifully stylized computer animation of *Burning Safari*, the claymation of *Yompi the Loveable Crotch-biting Sloup*, and the minimalist animation of *Angry Unpaid Hooker*, that makes *South Park* look like a gargantuan feat of animation.

Likewise, the types of comedy here vary from the sophomoric *Crotch-biting Sloup*, to the quiet British humour of *John and Karen*, which features a polar bear apologizing, and reuniting with a penguin over tea and biscuits.

A few of the cartoons veer away from comedy and more towards the wonders of animations,

with a stop motion piece in which household objects, like a Rubik's cube, are turned into dinner, or an animation that has numbers morphing into things. These are fun to watch but don't hold ones attention as the fast-paced slap-fight of *Psychotown*, or the epic paintball war of *Love Sport Paint Balling*.

From its heavy-metal-Vikings intro, to the idea that \$10 for a blow job just isn't enough in our world of \$3.75 Frappuccinos, *The Animation Show 4* is a fun step away from your usual cinema fare. With most shorts lasting about two minutes, the few you won't like are completely bearable, and the rest just aren't long enough.

The Animation Show 4 is running now until Nov. 6 at Cinéma du Parc.



The Animation Show 4 has a little of something for everyone.

Music combined with art

Local band to perform at Musée Nocturnes, selected for contemporary art aesthetic

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Montreal band Think About Life recently played a gig in the Magic Kingdom—"We did a show at Disneyland," confirmed multi-instrumentalist Graham Van Pelt, who, along with Martin Cesar and Matt Shane, rounds out a highly danceable trio.

Their next show will be a little closer to this side of the animation/live action divide. This catchy, fast-paced band is playing Friday night at the Musée d'art contemporain. They will be the latest in a line of musicians to play at the museum's monthly Musée Nocturnes event—a happening which showcases not only live music, but also access to ongoing exhibitions and even a bar.

"[Nocturnes] gives the people of Montreal the chance to experience the museum in a different way," said coordinator Louise Simard.

Think About Life is not the first well-known local band to haul their gear to the MAC since Nocturnes' inception last year. Past performers include We Are Wolves, The National Parcs, and Duchess Says, among others. This time around, however, the band will blend right in—the museum's current exhibition is coined *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll since 1967*.

Does that make Think About Life feel like rock stars? Van Pelt laughs, "This is as close as I'm ever gonna get to being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame."

Whether they acknowledge it or not, Think About Life has achieved a certain celebrity status among the city's young and hip. Currently working on a second album, the band opened for Wolf Parade's North American tour even before releasing their first self-titled record. Their inclusion

in Nocturnes (hand-in-hand with a rock-focused exhibition) seems evidence of the museum's bid for young people's attention.

While Simard admits that recent efforts are intended to make young people feel at home in the museum, the selection of Nocturnes' musicians has less to do with the "hip" factor and more to do with what Simard calls, "a contemporary art aesthetic."

"I choose artists [and] musicians who distinguish themselves," she says. "That which interests me is the [creative] search, it's innovation."

This description is certainly in line with Think About Life's music, "Our shows are always like we're battling the space we're in," says Van Pelt, citing a desire to put band and audience "on an equal plane."

Anyone stopping by the museum Friday night had better be ready to participate. In a setting



Their one-night-only show has everyone talking.

like Nocturnes', musicians are enabled to interact with the audience and influence museumgoers' experience in a way a traditional venue doesn't allow.

"We try to make it kind of a cult experience," explains Van Pelt.

This is one cult you'd be a fool not to join.

Think About Life is playing at 7 p.m. at the Musée d'art contemporain this Friday, visit macm.org for more information.

Everything has its end

Heavy metal band In Flames' drummer discusses the aging band and expanding their horizons en route to Montreal

• JOHNNY NORTH

"We love doing this, we can't see ourselves doing anything else," said Daniel Svensson, drummer of In Flames, a heavy metal band that came together in 1990 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"In the beginning In Flames wasn't really a band," he continued. "It was a project. When we wanted to tour, some didn't want to. If you want to progress as a band you have to tour."

In Flames came together under the vision of guitarist Jesper Strömblad—currently the last original member of the band. The first record *Lunar Strain* found a home in the Scandinavian death metal scene. Compared to the recent release *A Sense Of Purpose* Svensson finds the music and the band has evolved.

"We're a very democratic band," he said. "We deal with problems like grown-ups. Sometimes we fight, but we're like brothers. As long as we progress and continue to improve as a band we'll continue doing this. We haven't had any real downfalls in our careers [...] yet."

Svensson joined the act in '99 when In Flames released *Colony*, an album that helped them sell out venues in the U.S., Europe and Japan. Their 2002 album *Reroute to Remain* helped score them the top spot at Ozzfest. To this day, In Flames has sold over two million albums worldwide.

"We've been growing steady, but not fast," Svensson said. "I think we made some good decisions on who to tour with. It's a lot about timing. We've been the minor band on tours with Slayer and Mudvayne and off that we've gotten a wider audience. I think it's good not to limit yourself."



In Flames aren't too old to headbang—yet.

A Sense Of Purpose is their ninth full-length album and while Svensson has enjoyed touring and producing death metal, he believes the band realizes there comes a time when it will have to stop.

"It kind of scares us, as you get older you realize there will be an end to the band and you wonder what the hell should I do now?" he said. "We don't have any plans for it,

but we're all over 30 with kids. I can't see myself playing in this band when I'm 45."

In Flames will be performing at Metropolis, 59 Ste. Catherine Street E. this Thursday at 8 p.m. All That Remains, Gojira and 36 Crazyfists are scheduled to open. Tickets are available at 514-844-3500.

What's going on

Events listing
for the week
Nov. 4-10

Comedy

Artsy Fartsy: The Weekly Variety Hour
Not your typical variety show.
Tuesday, 9 p.m.
Theatre Sainte-Catherine, 264 Ste. Catherine E.
Tickets \$5

Dinkus

Toronto Sketch Comedians Chris Locke, Brian Barlow and Graham Wagner, with special guests
Saturday, 9 p.m.
Theatre Sainte-Catherine, 264 Ste. Catherine E.
Tickets \$7

Music

Amanda Mabro
Wine Flows EP and "Nuit Blanche" video release.
Thursday, 8 p.m.
Le Cabaret Juste Pour Rire, 2111 St-Laurent
Tickets \$12

The DUHKS + guest
Thursday, 8 p.m.
Petit Campus, 57 Prince Arthur E.
Tickets \$20

Lee Melor + guests
Thursday, 9 p.m.
Theatre Sainte-Catherine, 264 Ste. Catherine E.
Tickets \$8

Subversive + The Expecterated Sequence
Friday, 8 p.m.
Barfly, 4062a St-Laurent
Tickets \$6

Ladyhawk + Attack in Black
Friday, 8 p.m.
Les Saints, 30 Ste-Catherine Street O
Tickets \$12

Michael Jerome Browne, "This Beautiful Mess"
Montreal's roots music king returns with a killer five-piece band and a knock-out new CD!
Friday, 8 p.m.
La Sala Rossa, 4848 St-Laurent
Tickets \$20, \$10 for students

Matt and Kim & Best Fwends & Black Feelings
Friday, 8:30 p.m.
Club Lambi, 4465 St-Laurent
Tickets \$12

Bison B.C. & Barn Burner & Vile Intent
Monday, 10 p.m.
Bar St-Laurent II, 5550 St-Laurent
Tickets \$10

—compiled by Joelle Lemieux



The Darling Demaes from left: Alec Ellsworth, Erik Virtanen, Marc-Andre "Buz" Mongrain, Tasha Cyr and Sami Kizilbash.

Can I borrow a feeling?

New indie band The Darling Demaes' singer reveals the inspiration for their debut album

• JOELLE LEMIEUX

"You have to use what you've got to create something new," confirmed Erik Virtanen, singer/songwriter of the Montreal soon-to-be indie hit The Darling Demaes.

He was talking about "Stomach Ghost," one of the tracks on his band's debut album *A User's Guide to Raising the Dead (Songs of Spring)*. "We're using the drum beat from an old song called "Be My Baby" [...] it's a really happy boyfriend/girlfriend song from the 50s we use the pieces of that song and put it in a song about abortion and two people breaking up and singing it in a really happy way."

But the band isn't all about borrowing. In fact, the band isn't even about being a band: "I didn't set out to start a band, we just kept going with the flow and everything kept happening."

So, how did the album happen? "We went and made an acoustic demo about a year and a

half ago [...] around Christmas time we learned about this company F.A.C.T.O.R. [The Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Recordings] and they fund most of the recording artists in Canada," Virtanen says.

"We applied without thinking we would get anything, and we're also competing against really well-established artists. We didn't think we would get it, so we pooled together whatever money we had and found a studio that could offer us what we needed to record."

They got the funding and, as Virtanen put it, "a stamp of approval from the industry. Before we were knocking on doors that weren't answered and suddenly all the doors opened up and I was going and visiting the best producers in Montreal and hanging out in their studios."

"People were really interested in recording this record. We ended up doing it with Joseph Donovan who does The Dears and Sam Roberts."

The band hasn't always been Virtanen, guitarist Marc-André "Buz" Mongrain, bassist Alec Ellsworth, drummer Sami Kizilbash and vocalist Tasha Cyr (who also plays a mean glockenspiel); "We've had different members come and go. People have different lives, are just sort of passing through."

But the current arrangement seem sort of sweet on each other, as Virtanen laughs off my inquiry into Francophone Buz's possibly ironic taste in indie rock. For Virtanen, though, it's originality all the way, "I like things that are kind of different, and a little bit fresh." Can you blame the man for wanting the things he himself offers to the world?

The Darling Demaes will be launching their album *A User's Guide to Raising the Dead (Songs of Spring)* this Friday, 9 p.m. at Club Lambi, 4465 St. Laurent. Receivers and Open Fields will also be playing, tickets \$7.

spins

Surefire Machine *Surefire Machine*

Surefire Machine Records



I've been searching for a great rock album that isn't from the '80s, but to no avail. When I put on SFM's self-titled album I couldn't help but grin—I finally found one! The tracks deal with the classic pillars of rock, booze and women, but in a way that's original and refreshing. The sound and mood change from hardcore rock to a bluesy, mellow sound and back again in a fashion that is pure musical genius. The guys even manage to make a harmonica (which makes a guest appearance in "Paparazzi") sound dirty and very rock n' roll. The lyrics, including my favourite tongue-twister chorus of "Blue Bloods (Bleed Red)," will grip you like nobody's business and won't let go until the last track. At which point you're bound to press 'play' again. I like to think of SFM as the perfect marriage of Alice Cooper (in his Trash days) and Motley Crue, resulting in a supernova of rock and male pompousness (check out "Walking Tall") that no rock fan or, on second thought, no sane person could

resist. The one downside? There are only eight tracks and I simply need more SFM!

4.5/5

—Barbara Pavone

The Darling Demaes *A User's Guide to Raising the Dead (Songs of Spring)*

Independent



Montreal's The Darling Demaes debut album is an indie rock classic waiting to happen and how could it not be, with such a perfect band name. The album, originally a solo venture, could not exist so perfectly without its "arranged by The Darling Demaes" signature. The male-female-male harmonies of tracks like "Young Mothers" and "She Took Off Her Glasses" are album staples, reminiscent of Belle and Sebastian—minus the subtlety.

The band's sound is at times dancy, up-tempo in a folksy old-country kind of way. Singer/songwriter Erik Virtanen's voice is awkward in the fashion of Neil Young, reminiscent of Radiohead's Thom Yorke (circa 1993) and there's nothing to not like about that. Sometimes an invasion of every sense, the gloomy-tunes sound of tracks like "Into the Night (Pt II)" had me missing the light-

hearted strumming stylings of "A Day In Her Life (Obituary Version)." The intro of "Girl Soldier" is as good as they come, and the track is solid enough to follow.

Highlights of the album include "The Ghost on Gwangali Beach," "Young Mothers," and "Winter in Montreal."

4/5

—Joelle Lemieux

Eagles of Death Metal *Heart On*

Downtown Recordings



This, EODM's third album in six years, is easily the strongest to date, but loses a bit of the fun the band is renowned for. Rock riffs, and anthemic choruses return for Jesse Hughes and Josh Homme's latest outing, and with a few of the songs keeping with the band's old, tongue-in-cheek attitude fans should still be happy. With this album, we see the band head in a slightly different direction; a more serious side of the band with songs like "Now, I'm a Fool." While they still sound like a garage rock band with a bit of a western twang, Hughes' voice sounds a little more emotional. They've also added a few more poppy sounds to their

arsenal, making for a nice and varied album.

4.5/5

—Sebastien Cadieux

The Dears *Missles*

Dangerbird Records



Montreal's indie darlings are back with their fourth full album, and it's just dreamy. The group's latest offering combines an ethereal pop-rock sound with lead singer Murray Lightburn's Damon Albarn-like vocals to make for a very strong, but not overly exciting album. That's not a slight against the album; it just takes the scenic route with the average track length being just shy of six minutes. Lyrically this album is interesting, and difficult to just space-out to unless you're in the midst of one of the wonderfully retro guitar solos. "Crisis 1&2" with the haunting vocals of Natalia Yanchack is one of the album's highlights along with the awesomely creepy "Demons," and the album-ending opus "Saviour." This offering is awfully reminiscent of Blur's 13. It has a similar sensibility, but slightly softer and less grandiose.

4/5

—Sebastien Cadieux

War is never easy

Cinema Politica warns of the dangers of a complacent media

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

War Made Easy, Cinema Politica's Nov. 10 feature, lies half-way between a Michael Moore documentary and an Errol Morris film, and with Sean Penn sitting in as narrator how could we expect it to be more than a one-sided documentary?

Yet, the complicated questions it brings up can't be ignored. No more than one can ignore Moore, the elephant—literarily, and figuratively—in the media's Situation Room.

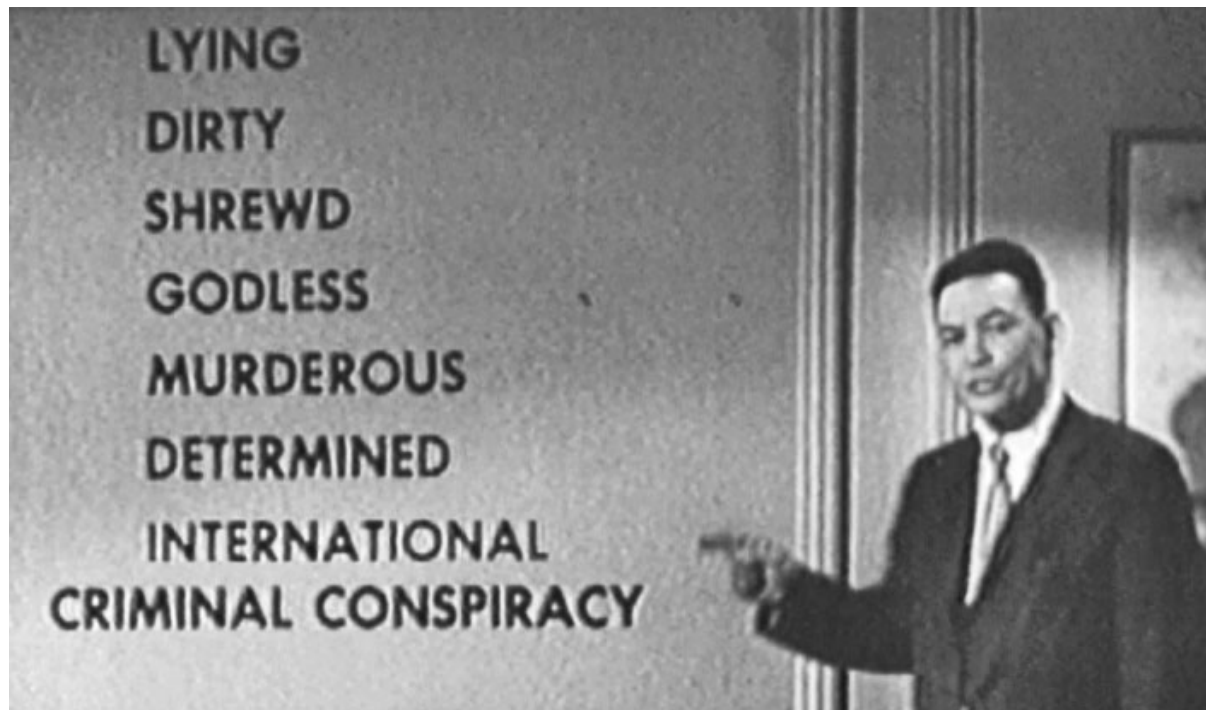
The film's greatest asset is how it weaves an impressive array of archival footage. The effect is that of a 24-hour news cycle reporting nothing but war, baldfaced lies, and false reassurances that everything will be okay—a showcase of the most egregious examples of blatant propaganda in the past 70 years of U.S.-led wars.

Much-needed context is supplied through selections from media critic Norman Solomon's

book of the same name, or by Penn, who does a good job cataloguing the media's distortions, but whose own subtly distorted views come to replace those manufactured by the Pentagon.

As complicated as the origins of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War have been, says Solomon, "the public face has not reflected this complexity." And neither does *War Made Easy*, which compares the propaganda efforts that accompanied each with the same venom, despite their relative reasons for being waged. Even the classic propaganda piece *Why We Fight* (made to bolster the Second World War's already enormous approval rating with the public) fails to escape evisceration, as the film compares it with Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*.

By now the obscene complacency of the media, and especially that of FOX News, has been debated and analyzed to death. As Solomon says in the film, "often



War Made Easy is a frightening look at the future of media, reminiscent of Mike Judge's dystopian trajectories.

journalists blame the government for the failure of the journalists themselves to do independent reporting."

Yet, for a film criticizing the

U.S. media's inability to question its government in times of war, *War Made Easy* is edited far more tightly, and with far more discretion, than the nightly news.

War Made Easy will be screened on Monday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m., Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve. For a full list of screenings, visit cinemapolitica.org/concordia.

Above ground pools versus underground hip-hop

Rapper Atherton talks shop over breakfast

• NICOLA JANE YOUNG

At 25 years old, Devin Francis Atherton stands at six-foot three inches, prefers RC Cola to any other soft drink, and if he's late for an interview, he'll offer to pay for your coffee and buy you a Spin Doctors tape for 25 cents. Unless you prefer Boyz II Men.

On a brisk Thursday morning, Atherton, a rapper from Ottawa relocated to Montreal, strolls into Bagels, Etc. 17 minutes after he was supposed to. He lives a block and a half away and claims he's been up for two hours making music. Which is hard to believe, considering I could tell he hadn't brushed his teeth yet.

Our waitress informs him that eggs florentine with hollandaise sauce is only available on weekends and Atherton joins the ranks of high-strung divas before him—in an embarrassing scene that involves flying ketchup and an outrage over the fact that tap water deserved a place at our booth.

Seriously?

Truth is, Atherton was happy to settle for the classic; eggs over medium with rye toast.

"Breakfast is my favourite meal," he says. "If I always had the same thing, I'd get tired of breakfast. It's the same with hip-hop. I never just stick with one style of writing, or one sound. It might work against me, but I don't like staying in one place. You want weed-smoking music? Cypress Hill. You want to get amped up? MOP. If you're not sure what you want, you might like my music."

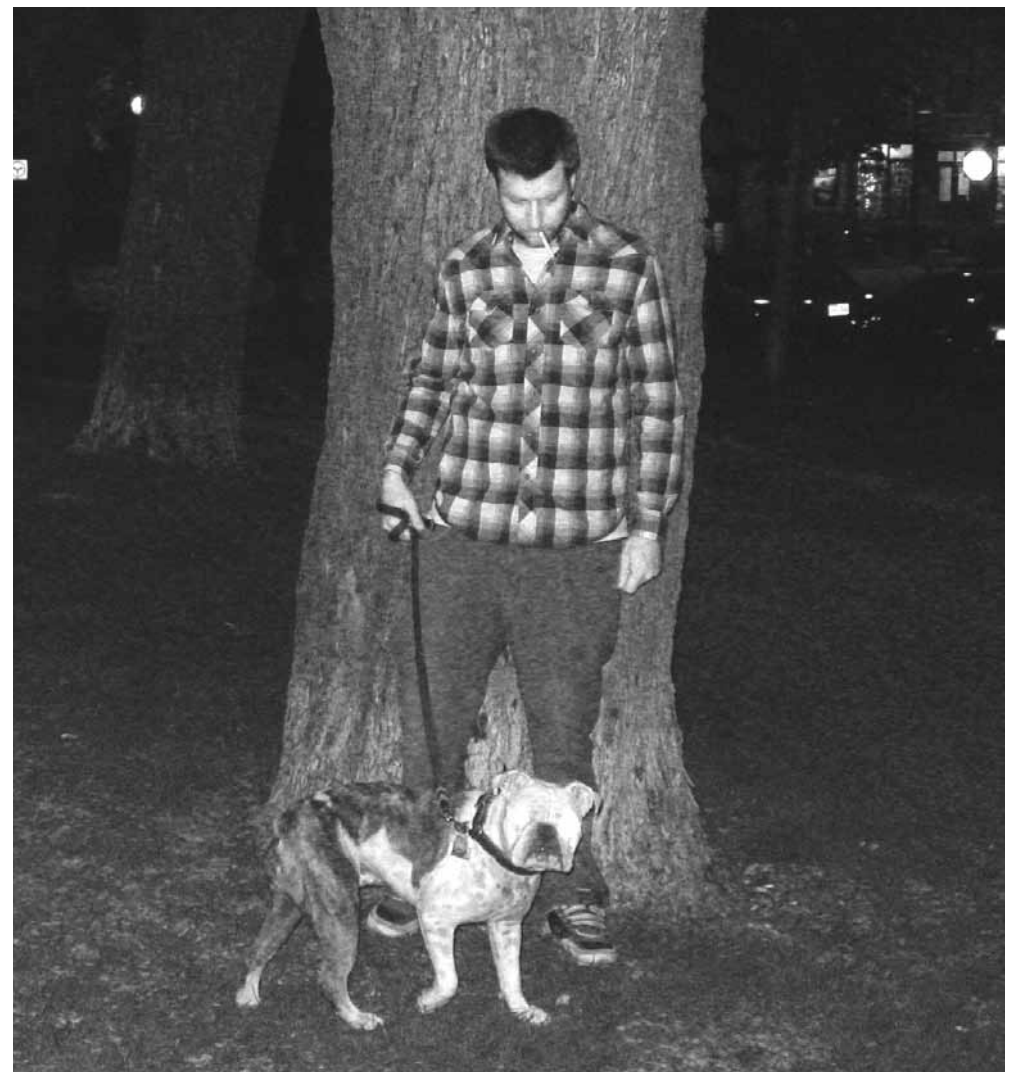
He asks how many flavours Baskin Robbins started out with, and when I tell him 31 flavours he hits me with real talk: "[My music is] like Baskin Robbins. I'll give you 31 little spoons and you can try it all!"

I'm not sure what to say because I just ordered coffee and it's kind of lukewarm. So I tell him that I woke up to Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World." He agrees that's a great way to start the day, "Tears for Fears are cool. They have poppy songs and then they have Mad World. There needs to be more room to move around like that in hip-hop. The general public perceives it as all about glimmer."

"You'd think by now [hip-hop] would stop selling, at least not at the same rate that it does. It's part of what I like about hip-hop, though. That broad perception is a motivator for me, it means there's room for change, which makes it worth being involved in."

These days, Atherton is more involved than ever, as he embarks on his biggest rap tour to date, hitting 25 cities across Canada and the United States, including Montreal this Thursday. He'll be opening for the legendary Prince Po, best known as half of Organized Konfusion (the other half being Pharohe Monch), a duo that changed underground hip-hop in the early 90s, and reinvigorated it into its golden age.

Despite his previous outrage at the lack of eggs florentine, Atherton was quick to praise the kitchen of Bagels, Etc. "I like it



Atherton likes his eggs over-medium and his music scene evolutionary.

when I say over-medium and people know what I mean. A lot of people fuck up over-medium."

Atherton will be rapping at Alize (900 Ontario Street E.) at 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Cat proves 'laws of silence don't work'

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof deals with everything from love to greed to alcoholism—and it's just fabulous!

• BARBARA PAVONE

Written by legendary playwright Tennessee Williams and first performed in 1955, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* remains transcendent, dealing with real-life issues that, to this day, enthrall us. The honesty of the script combined with a cast of the highest calibre and a spectacular setting result in two-and-a-half hours of genius.

The play is set in the 1950s in the Mississippi Delta attic of the Pollitt family mansion. The characters find themselves entangled in a web of lust, fear, greed and anger on the night of Big Daddy's 65th birthday. That same night, they find out he is dying of cancer, and a fight for Big Daddy's fortune (from a successful cotton plantation) begins between his two sons and their 'catty' wives.

The cast delivers an emotionally charged performance worthy of a world stage. Todd Sandomirsky shines as Brick, the younger son who battles his guilt with Echo Spring whiskey. He drags himself around the stage with a crutch, one foot in a cast, becoming increasingly drunk as the performance progresses. "Mendacity is the system we live in," he angrily explains, which is as true today as it ever was. His wife, Maggie The Cat played by Severn Thompson, is as determined as "a cat on a hot tin roof," continuously struggling for her husband's love. One can't help but feel her desperation and sadness through her mannerisms and careful articulation.

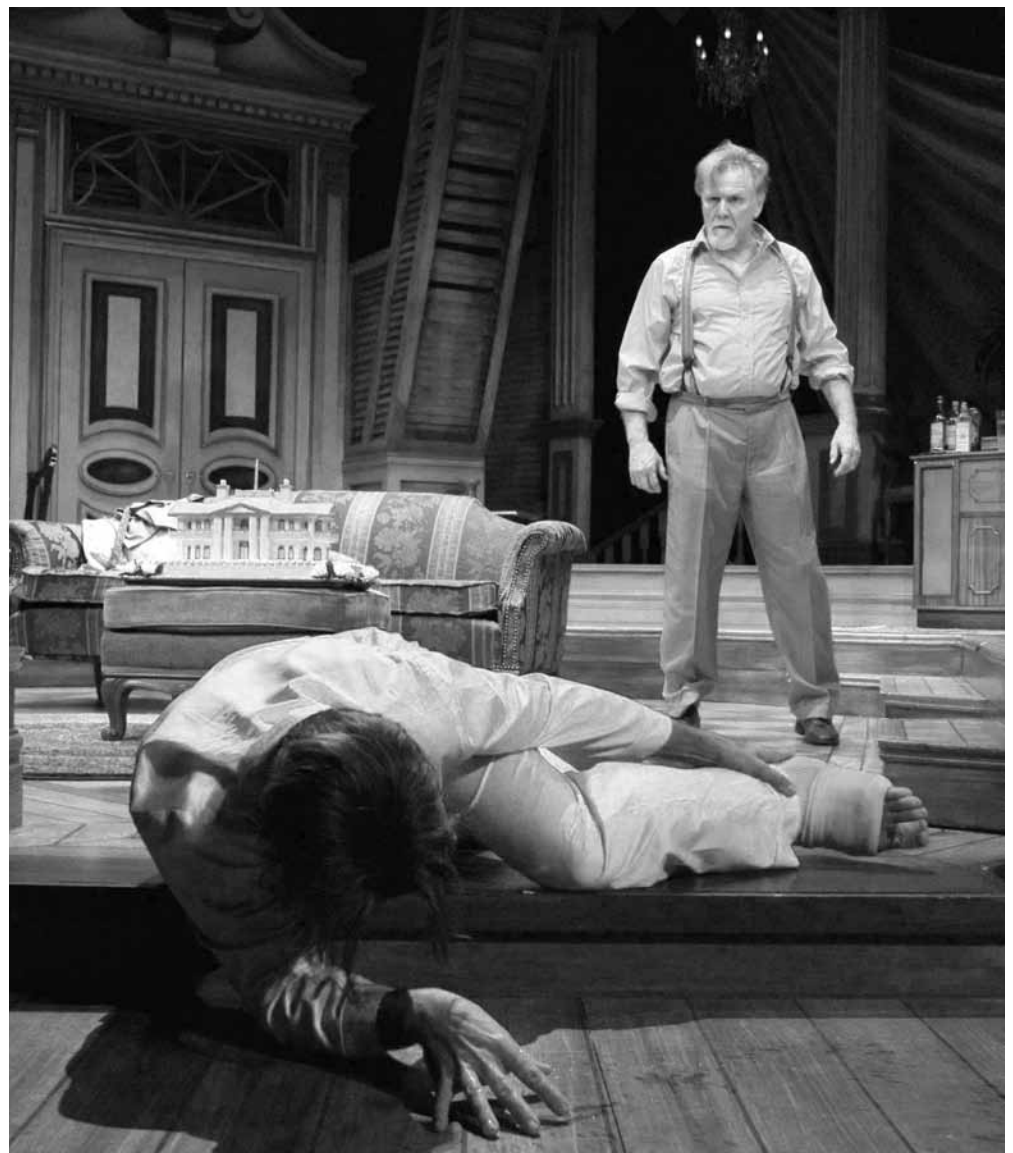
However, the shining star is Big Daddy,

Barry Flatman, who is both funny and intelligent. His brash character has no need for niceties. Flatman's performance explodes with passion, lighting up the theatre in love and rage. He raises the fundamental question underlying the play, "Why is it so damn hard for people to talk?"

All of the artistic aspects of the performance add to the authenticity of the play, setting an ambience that appears to have been cut out of the 1950's South and dropped into the Segal theatre. The set, the mansion's wooden attic, was filled with luxurious details and the Southern accents were charming and never overdone. In a stroke of ingenuity, the cast would freeze in their positions on stage, like wax figures, before intermissions. Lastly, the costumes, as if handpicked from the 1950s American South were never amiss.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof showcases the eternal complexities of human relationships. It engages the viewer to think about the, at times harsh, realities of the world we live in, trying to arouse truthful conversation. As Maggie says, "Laws of silence don't work! [...] Silence about a thing just magnifies it."

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof plays until Nov. 16 at The Leonor and Alvin Segal Theatre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd. Tickets are \$22 for students. Call box office at (514) 739-7944 (to save on service charges) or visit admission.com



From left: Todd Sandomirsky as Brick and Barry Flatman as Big Daddy.

Pushing the limits?

Tim Clark exhibit explores preconceived notions of literature and art

• NATASHA YOUNG

Upon entering the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, I was confronted with a shirtless man on a television screen, yelling unintelligibly, down on his knees in an empty room with his eyes covered. An eerie silence followed before the tape looped, and the shirtless man with a leather gauntlet on one arm began to yell all over again.

The man featured in the video is Tim Clark, reading an excerpt from Thomas à Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ* entitled, "On Obedience and Discipline." He projects his voice loudly and reads the excerpt with a sharp staccato, making the words difficult to interpret and adding a raw, unset-

ling tone to the performance.

This bizarre and unsettling air is typical of Clark's work spanning from the mid-70s to his final presentation of 2003. Clark, a Montreal native, attended Sir George Williams College (an integral part of what was to become Concordia) and then Concordia University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Photography.

Though initially regarded as a photographer, much of Clark's well-known work is that of performance art. Incorporating philosophy and literature into a raw and often violent physical manifestation.

In addition to his performance art, the exhibit shows Clark's photography, much of which was produced while still in university. A

collection of photos entitled, "Room" shows one sort of faceless wooden box in an empty white room with different things in it: one is a woman's undergarment-clad torso, appearing armless, legless and headless in the way the image is cut off to fit inside the wooden box. The image, though not actually portraying a decapitated and amputated body, gives that very unsettling effect to the viewer just the same. Another photo shows a pile of old light bulbs all lit and connected through the same wire sitting in the box.

Though his photography appears minimalist, presented black and white, its intent remains complex and at times, convoluted.

Many of his performances are shown in the exhibit with only two images and a summary of the process, which are written by Clark. One example of this, is an installation in which Clark held an eight millimetre film projector on one arm, which projected a short porno film onto one wall, and a 35 mm slide projector in the other, which projected a paragraph from Georges Bataille's *The Story of the Eye* onto the opposite wall.

Clark read the intensely sexually paragraph aloud while playing the porno, shirtless with his leather gauntlet on one arm. Performed in 1978 at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, I felt I was missing out by not at least being offered a recording of the event.

Tim Clark: Reading the Limits is altogether an intensely surrealist exposition. The interpretation and physical manifestation of texts ranging from *The Birth of Tragedy* by Friedrich Nietzsche to the "Lord's Prayer," straight out of the Bible provides a sort of black humor, while still offering insight into some of the most broadly read texts in history.

Rarely do we get the chance to see an artist so exposed in his own work; and, although eerie, the experience is definitely worthwhile.

Tim Clark: Reading the Limits will be available for viewing at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery until Nov. 29.



Stingers left-winger Maggie MacNeil chases down loose puck. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Overwhelmed, but improving

Women's hockey team not deflated after tough loss to bitter rivals McGill

• JOHNNY NORTH

**Concordia 0
McGill 5**

"It's been tradition," laughs Audrey Doyon-Lessard, the Concordia Stingers women's hockey starting goaltender when questioned about the paper Halloween witch saying "Kill McGill" on their dressing room door.

Concordia came out pumped for last Friday's encounter at the Ed Meagher Arena with the number one team in the country and their cross-town rivals, the McGill Martlets.

Con U was looking to avenge a 10-0 loss two weeks ago on McGill's ice, and McGill was looking for their 26th consecutive win.

Despite Con U's best efforts, McGill was clearly the aggressor early on, bombarding Doyon-Lessard with a flurry of shots. Doyon-Lessard held her ground on breakaways and partial breakaways, stoning McGill's Vicky Wells on several occasions.

McGill was not denied for long. From behind the net, McGill's Marie-Andree Leclerc-Auger passed off to Ann-Sophie Bettez, whose shot was tipped in by pesky McGill defender Cathy Chartrand.

Seven minutes later, Bettez tagged along on a 3-on-1 break and was fed a perfect pass to increase McGill's lead to 2-0. A little more than four minutes later, McGill's Vanessa Davidson wired a shot glove side on Doyon-Lessard to increase the lead to 3-0.

Frustration set in on McGill's fourth goal—Doyon-Lessard clearly did not see the puck on Rebecca Martindale's goal with all the traffic in front of her.

"They have a tendency to score goals in bunches," said Les Lawton, head coach of the Stingers. "We just got caught flat-footed on a few of their goals. For us to be successful against them, we can't have those types of lapses."

"We worked a little slow in our zone in the first period and had some cough-ups, but we managed to comeback," said Doyon-Lessard.

The second period saw the Stingers press hard on their fore-check, resulting in their best scoring chances. Penalties slowed down Con U's momentum, but they killed them all off effectively.

"We really limited their chances, but we also didn't give them the opportunity to get on the

power play," said Lawton. "Last time we played them we might have had 10-12 penalties, but today we had four. We did a good job of staying out of the box, it's key to being successful against them because when they get their five best players on the ice, I don't think there's a team in the country that's going to stop them consistently."

"Much, much better than the last time we played them when we hardly even touched the puck - it's a step in the right direction."

—Les Lawton,
women's hockey head coach

"I'm proud of the way we played, we never gave up," said Esther Latoures, captain of the Stingers. "I think 5-0 is a big improvement compared to last time. Last game we played like 20 minutes of PK, which is pretty bad."

The third period saw McGill continue to get their opportunities, but Doyon-Lessard kept the game from going to double digits again.

"Audrey was solid. She played extremely well in the third period," said Lawton, who found not only was she great on stopping

McGill's breakaway "but she is also very good down low. Both our goalies have played well against McGill and she [Doyon-Lessard] kept the score respectable."

Doyon-Lessard was frustrated with the fifth goal since it looked like she stopped McGill's Lainie Smith on a 2-on-1 with her blocker. "I had it on my arm and the ref didn't blow the whistle," said

a step in the right direction," said Lawton.

"I thought Concordia came out very strong. I think they had something to prove," said Amy Doyle, assistant head coach of the Martlets filling in for head coach Peter Smith, who was away for a training camp with the Team Canada women's hockey team. "They put a lot of pressure on us and I thought we reacted relatively well to that pressure—we were able to move the puck quickly and get the puck to the net with support."

Last game, Con U only got five shots and gave up 45 shots. This time McGill had 48 and the Stingers had 19. McGill goalie Gabrielle Smith recorded her first career shutout.

"We had a lot of opportunities today, but we have to be confident that we can score," said Latoures. "Don't just shoot to shoot, but shoot to score and crash the net—we need more intensity towards the net."

"I think we're ready for a win," said Lawton. "I think they learned a lot about themselves today. We can get better every week and we have been. If we play like this against Carleton and Ottawa, we'll have a lot of success."

Doyon-Lessard. "[Smith] pushed me, so I lost it."

Lawton finds clearing the McGill players from their net is difficult for his young team since McGill's upper body strength "is a little better than ours. That's their style of play and that's something we have to look at in film to see if we can make some adjustments to clear the puck a little better."

Compared to their last encounter Lawton found it was a solid team effort from each line.

"Much, much better than the last time we played them when we hardly even touched the puck. It's

Ravens keep Stingers winless

Women's hockey team shutout for second game in a row

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

**Concordia 0
Carleton 4**

The Concordia women's hockey team early season struggles continued on Sunday afternoon at Ed Meagher Arena as they were shutout 4-0 by the visiting Carleton Ravens.

The Stingers came out of the gate strong in the game—they battled the Ravens to a scoreless draw through the first period of play. Con U forward Maggie MacNeil had a chance to put the Stingers ahead on a partial breakaway, but was robbed by a pad save from Ravens goalie Valerie Charbonneau.

However, the wheels started coming off when Carleton forward Tara O'Reilly scored on a rebound 10 minutes into the second period after Stingers goalie Audrey Doyon-Lessard stopped the original shot by Ravens centre Claudia Bergeron.

Con U ran into penalty trouble following the goal, as defender Laurie Proulx-Duperre was sent off the ice, followed by Valerie Lepage-Barrette a few minutes later. The Stingers managed to kill off the first penalty, but the Ravens capitalized on the second. Carleton forward Jennifer Gordon jammed home a rebound at the side of the net to give the visitors a 2-0 lead with just over six minutes remaining in the second period.

A mental lapse by the Stingers allowed the Ravens to charge right down after the goal and score a mere 30 seconds later to stretch the lead to 3-0 on a goal by forward Kristen MacDonald.

"After they scored the first goal, we hung our heads and started feeling sorry for ourselves," said Stingers coach Les Lawton. "For a team that practices every day, it was unacceptable to come out as



Stingers captain Esther Latoures surveys the action. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

flat as we did."

Stingers captain Esther Latoures agreed with her coach. "We stopped skating once they scored, and they capitalized," said Latoures.

"It's our mental approach to games. We've got to play with much more pride."

—Les Lawton,
Stingers women's hockey coach

The Stingers came out strong to start the final period — forward

Donna Ringrose broke free on a breakaway early only to have the shot turned away by Charbonneau. Con U forward Mallory Lawton had another opportunity in close, but

Charbonneau again slammed the door with a glove save.

Carleton added insult to injury with less than five minutes remaining, as Ravens centre Claudia Bergeron beat Doyon-Lessard with a slapshot from the left circle.

"We need to have more confidence, more desire," said Latoures. "If we get scored on, we can't give up."

It was a disappointing finish for the Stingers considering the progress they showed in their loss to the top-ranked McGill Martlets.

"It's our mental approach to games," said coach Lawton. "We've got to play with much more pride."

Despite the tough start to the season, the Stingers still have hope. "We're still seeing the light," said Doyon-Lessard. "We know we can do it, but there's little things we need to do better."

Concordia's women's hockey team travels to Ottawa to take on the Gee-Gees Saturday at 2 p.m.

Stingers win wild one with comeback win by shootout

Concordia's men's hockey team ties game up in dying seconds of third period

• JOHNNY NORTH

**Concordia 3
Carleton 2**

With only 12 seconds left in regulation, Stingers fourth-year centre Mike Baslyk found a hole past the Carleton Ravens net-minder Alexander Archibald en route to a 3-2 comeback win at Carleton last Friday in a shootout.

Concordia played from behind

the whole game in front of over 140 fans at The Ice House Arena. The Ravens got on the board in the first period when Carleton defenceman Christian Bourdeau-Miffelen beat Stingers second-year goalie Maxime Joyal almost eight minutes into the game. Derek Wells and Ryan Medel assisted on the goal.

The start of the second period saw Con U go down 2-0, when a little after the six-minute mark

Ravens forward Justin Caruana increase his team's lead. Tony Manitta assisted on the goal.

Joyal was solid the rest of the way, stopping 26 of 28 shots on the night.

Close to five minutes afterwards on a Stingers powerplay, rookie Stingers right-winger Nicolas D'Aoust scored to bring his team within one. Baslyk and Nicolas Lafontaine assisted on the goal.

With the win Con U improves their record to 3-3-1 on the season. The Stingers are four points behind Carleton in their division, but have played one less game. This marks the second meeting between the two teams this season. Last time Con U lost 4-3 in a shootout on home ice on Oct. 11.

L'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes lead the division with 12 points and a five-point cushion over Con U.

Concordia returns home for two games this week. First up is the Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Following that is the Ryerson Rams on Saturday at 2 p.m. Both games will be played at the Ed Meagher Arena.

The men's hockey team plays at home this week on Friday at 7:30 against Toronto and on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Stingers crush Sherbrooke

Concordia football squad marches on to face Laval for the Dunsmore Cup

• JENNIFER AOUAD

Concordia 41 Sherbrooke 20

The Stingers are headed to the Quebec conference final once again this year after a 41-20 win against Sherbrooke at Loyola Field on Saturday.

With a 49-yard pass to Cory Watson in the first few minutes of play, Concordia quickly took the lead and set the stage for this semi-final conference game, showing the attending 2,214 fans what they were made of.

The second quarter proved to be equally promising with an additional 17 points to secure the lead. Fullback Colin Bennett ran for a touchdown, giving his thanks to his blockers.

"I had great blocking up front by the O-line, they made it possible," he says.

The Stingers followed up with a field goal by kicker Rene Paredes and a two-yard pass to Tony Testa for yet another touchdown. Sherbrooke finished the half with a 44-yard field goal by kicker William Dion, cutting Con U's lead to 24-4.

The strong lead led head coach Gerry McGrath to sub in a few backup players.

"There was bad weather all week, but the boys were ready. We were able to offensively cash in on good field position, so we gave everyone some game time," said McGrath. "The backups played well in the second half."

Indeed, the second half saw the likes of Nicholas Arseneault-Hum intercepting a pass by Sherbrooke for a 58-yard touchdown in the first two minutes of play, his second of the game. In keeping the momentum, slot back Blake Butler caught a six-yard pass from Mahoney to add another touchdown to



Stingers safety Bryan Charleau (#41) drags down Ver-et-Or runner. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Concordia's scoreboard.

Though it seemed like an easy win, the Stingers didn't let up and continued to play strong on both offence and defence. Con U sacked the Sherbrooke quarterback a total of three times, twice by defensive end Jean-Phillippe Binette and once by rookie linebacker Ricky Zieba, who also lead the team with a total of six tackles.

Sherbrooke's only touchdowns were in the last quarter, but didn't threaten the Stingers one bit. "When it's 41-7, you let down a lit-

tle bit," said Arseneault-Hum.

"Five of the last eight years we've been in the final... hopefully this year we'll win it!"

*-Gerry McGrath,
Stingers head coach*

Quarterback Liam Mahoney played a solid game, rushing for 63 yards and completing 17 of his 24 passes for a total of 254 yards and three touchdowns.

This week's big win leads the Stingers to the Quebec University Football League finals against the undefeated Laval Rouge et Or. This is the third consecutive year these two teams confront one another in the conference final. "Five of the last eight years we've been in the final," coach McGrath said, "hopefully this year we'll win it!"

"Next week will be a challenge," Bennett said, "and we can overcome it. We just have to keep it up all game. We can't slack off; just keep pushing." Hopefully, the

Stingers can push past Laval and all the way to the Vanier Cup for the first time since 1998.

The Quebec conference finals will be held just outside Quebec City, in Ste Foy at 12:30 p.m. at PEPS Stadium on Saturday. The Stingers come in as the underdogs, having lost 21-12 in their last match-up this season, but after this week's performance, the team is ready. "We did good, everyone did what we had to do and it worked," says Arseneault-Hum, "We have to do the same thing next week."

THE LINK

Sex and Sexuality Special Issue Brainstorming

- coordinated by news editor Terrine Friday

Friday, November 7

H-649 • 4 p.m.

- editor@thelink.concordia.ca for more info

TheLinkNewspaper.ca

Concordia and Laval renew gridiron rivalry

Rivalry for Dunsmore Cup has been one-sided... so far

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

The Concordia Stingers travel to the Université de Laval to face off against the Rouge et Or for another chapter in their yearly rivalry on Saturday afternoon.

The Rouge et Or have been an insurmountable obstacle for the Stingers in this decade. Con U has been eliminated at the hands of Laval in five out of the last seven years.

They lost both meetings to the Rouge et Or this year, as record-setting quarterback Benoit Groulx picked apart the inexperienced Stingers secondary.

However, after getting beat up 36-13 at home by Laval, Con U played much better in their second meeting, losing only 21-12.

Laval had an impressive 11 players named to the Quebec All-Star team this year, the most of any team in the province.

Among them was Groulx, who completed a Canadian record 75.2 percent of his passes, along with Montreal-born kicker Christopher Milo, who set another Canadian record by kicking 25 field goals in a season, which included a whopping seven in the first game against the Stingers.

The Stingers had two players named to the All-Star team this season; linebacker Cory Greenwood, his second straight nomination, and safety Nicolas Hum-Arsenault.

Concordia's last win against the Rouge et Or came nearly six years ago, but there is reason for hope this year. The offence came to life in the last game of the regular season and quarterback Liam Mahoney has been a potent dual threat; he



Stingers quarterback Liam Mahoney rallies the troops. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

passed for nearly 1500 yards and ran for almost 600 yards, leading the Stingers in both categories.

For the Stingers to be successful in knocking off the defending provincial champions, they'll need to get the running game going

against an aggressive Laval defensive front. The Stingers averaged 226 yards a game when not playing the Rouge et Or. Against Laval, they only managed 109 yards a game.

Despite their recent struggles against the Quebec powerhouse,

the Stingers have good reason to believe this is their year. Mahoney showed his improvement as a passer in their first round match-up against the Sherbrooke Vert et Or. He threw for 254 yards in the 41-17 romp.

Though Laval has history on their side, records are made to be broken. Greenwood, Mahoney and the Stingers hope to create a little history of their own this weekend in yet another chapter in this great Quebec rivalry.

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Men's Basketball	Vermont 77	Concordia 69	0-0-0
Men's Hockey	Carleton 2	Concordia 3	3-4-0
Women's Hockey	Concordia 0	McGill 5	0-6-0
	Concordia 0	Carleton 4	
Men's Rugby	McGill 41	Concordia 0	0-6-0
Football	Concordia 41	Sherbrooke 20	5-3-0

schedule

	Who	When
Men's hockey	vs. Toronto vs. Ryerson	Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m.
Football	@ Laval	Saturday, 1 p.m.
Women's Hockey	@ Ottawa	Saturday, 2 p.m.
Men's Basketball	@ Rhode Island @ BYU @ Utah State	Monday, 7 p.m. Thursday, 9 p.m. Saturday, 9 p.m.

 Letters@thelink.concordia.ca

Hot Potato

The People's Potato would like to respond to the recent referendum fiasco. The CSU's incompetence and lack of professionalism has resulted in a lot of wasted time and energy in our efforts to campaign for a fee levy increase.

We were misguided, misinformed, and even ignored by the CSU during this campaign. When we initially submitted our request for the student fee-levy increase, CSU VP Priscilla Gomez told us we had to gather 750 signatures. Once we got close to a thousand signatures, CSU VP Colin Goldfinch informed us that the gathering of signatures was unnecessary and that our referendum request would be added to Council meeting agenda scheduled for the following day.

At the council meeting our fee levy request was added to the referendum scheduled for the end of October. Although we were happy with the early date, we did feel like the process was rushed and somewhat unorthodox.

Over the campaign period we had difficulty getting timely feedback from the CSU. We were compelled to make a series of phone calls, send emails and make a number of visits to the CSU and the CEO in order to acquire basic information such as the official campaign and voting dates.

Despite our early requests, we were only given a copy of the rules and regulations days into the campaign. Finally, the fact that the CSU neglected to directly inform us of the referendum cancellation and have not apologized for wasting our time shows their lack of respect for student-run groups.

This is more than evident in the CSU's move to put SAF funding to a referendum question without the appropriate notification. Although our campaigning work has been seemingly wasted, we are happy that the referendum is being halted.

The undemocratic ways in which the SAF was forced into referendum by the CSU is an attack on all student groups. It creates a precedent in which the CSU can shut down student organizations as they please by using underhanded schemes to punish dissent.

We strongly urge students to use this incident as a platform to dive headfirst into student politics and make the changes necessary to allow student groups to fulfill their mandates without the meddling of the CSU.

Thanks for your support and we hope to see you at the People's Potato on the seventh floor of the Hall Building.

—The People's Potato Collective

An ode to the "Bedrock"

Hypocrisy. Oh, wading in the shallows of murky evenhanded intentions pursuing the golden loon, sunken below sustainability.

This Knight from Bar of Mouth Piece, the hired champion for the accredited bedrock of the undergraduates, aims to thwart the bludgeoning "kings." Yet this is the same assassin who banded last spring, skirted the fortress of due process in the forest of graduate students and slew the white elephant.

Perhaps our young aspiring Athenians, nay Spartans apprentice all too well for the throne. The jeweled and burnished scabbards conform

and shape the finishing touches of these young swords that thrust and meddle with whim and wit.

Robin Hood on crack, anyone?

One wonders about the order of sanctum that forges the pages that this utopian playground breeds.

All the while, the geese continue to lay eggs.

Is there a Themistocles, to rise out of the Sophists and lead the geese like the pied piper to a new castle founded by the student building levy? Or is there another murky intention beset upon that golden loon too?

Evenhanded = Justice, fair and unbiased

Golden loon = Canadian dollar, can't stand on its own two feet

Sustainability = Democracy, executive power, the fee levy

Mouth piece = Lawyer

Bedrock = Constitution, CSU

Kings = Executives, CSU

Fortress = Bylaws, GSA

White elephant = GSA election regulations, nasty little thing that hasn't been corrected in decades

Athenians = Democracy

Spartans = Oligarchic

Scabbard = Role models, such as administrators, politicians...

Robin Hood = Protecting the commoners from corrupt officials

Sanctum forges = Moral, ethics, values

Pages = On the way to knighthood awaiting to be squires at law school

Geese = Aesop's goose that lays golden eggs, i.e. the students who pay for everything

Themistocles = Convinced the Athenians to leave their ruined city

Sophist = Argue to convince truth exists where it doesn't

Pied piper = The students are not seen for what they are and considered to be a nuisance that gets in the way of things and will easily follow the next whoever.

—Justin Ible
Educational Technology

Where we rank

I'd like to take issue with *The Link's* article on *The Globe and Mail's* recent ranking of Canada's universities based on student satisfaction.

Firstly, I find it disappointing that your article misrepresented how well Concordia actually performed in the survey, seeing as how our school ranked highly in most of the important categories such as quality of education and overall student satisfaction.

I realize that it's important to take a long, hard look at our school and be able to constructively criticize the education we receive, but *The Link* blatantly misrepresented Concordia's performance in the ranking by titling its article "Con U gets failing grade in student satisfaction" when, in fact, we didn't fail in that category at all and the school itself did quite well in the rest of the survey.

My second objection is in regards to *The Link* publishing these types of surveys in the first place. Most academic rankings are deeply flawed in their methodology, a criticism which

extends even to rankings that Concordia does very well in, such as the Ecole des Mines de Paris' ranking where Concordia ranks 33rd in the world.

Accusations of shoddy methodology should most certainly include *The Globe's* ranking, which basically asks university students to give their own school a grade, then ranks schools according to student's responses. This means that schools such as McGill and Queen's, whose students have never been known for their realism in regards to the quality of education they're receiving (anyone remember those "Harvard: America's McGill" T-Shirts?), can wax delusional, awarding their schools A+ grades for everything from cafeteria food to academic reputation while schools like Concordia are ranked lower because their students give level headed answers to survey questions.

I don't mean to denigrate schools like McGill or Queen's for their school spirit, but simply say that any ranking which allows schools to essentially rank themselves is pretty suspect, even if you call it a "student satisfaction survey."

There's nothing wrong with *The Link* casting a critical eye on Concordia's educational quality. I would argue, however, that giving any additional press to rankings such as *The Globe and Mail's* is a waste of space right off the bat, but that if you still choose to fill the pages of *The Link* with this "news" you at least have a duty to accurately represent how our school performed.

And besides, a C+ for Reggie's is criminal.

—John Murphy
Honours Political Science

Editor's note: The title of the article in question is "Con U gets failing grade in career preparation," and not "Con U gets failing grade in student satisfaction." The subhead, "But students still happy enough to stick around, *The Globe* reports," acknowledges the high level of student satisfaction in the report.

Rovins Returns

The Concordia Student Union can justly be extremely proud of its Global Awareness Week. The panels it set up in the Library Building alerting us to everything from the dangers of poverty to nuclear weapons was the finest effort of any student government in my many years here. I hope they make the exhibit permanent.

—David Sommer Rovins
Independent

Time to mobilize

As we head to a provincial election with Charest in majority territory, it's a shame the CSU is bogged down with fallout from a painfully broken referendum.

As usual, students seem more concerned with petty in-housing than actually moving forward on the things that matter, affordable education for starters. Who is going to kick into gear for the potential Dec. 8 elections?

We will know by this Wednesday, Nov. 5, whether or not Quebecers and Quebecoise are headed to the polls. Concordia students should be working on a grassroots campaign against Charest soon. Even Liberals are beginning to

question his intentions.

Student groups should all be meeting up and working on this, and a divided student body will get us nowhere. This is a call for unity as much as it is a call for action.

A major problem with student activism against tuition hikes is protests have been too centralized. There are actually 125 elections, one for each seat in the National Assembly.

So while we're protesting in the city, there are 124 other ridings getting away with no serious student-based opposition. An organ-

ized protest would send students to swing ridings to vouch for the PQ and chip away at a Liberal majority.

Where's the vision? I want our student leaders and student-funded organizations to start caring for those not fortunate enough to be in our position, in a great academic institution with the time to read a humble letter. Let's do something about this tuition overhaul.

—Matthew Brett
English Literature, Honours

I love Louise

★ Oct. 31 2008

Dear Editor,

I am writing to make a Public Déclaration:

Louise Birdsell-Bauer is my HERO

She really, really is. She stands up to corruption; she fights for what's good + right. She is the voice of reason in the din.

And I think we should all be happy that she is doing all that she does for the Concordia Community: CSU·ASFA·SASU·CO-OP BOOKSTORE·ETC.

THANK YOU LOUISE! ♥ Larissa Rana

—Larissa Dutil
Manager of the Concordia Co-op Bookstore

viennapitts.com presents



By Sinbad Richardson

Previously: Jennifer realised that it was too late to second guess her decision to go mainstream. Tonight is her big night: the first show!

Alright, wow. Thank you. I'm Jennifer Harris and it is getting late! We have a great show for you tonight folks.

Here is my co host Eddy O'Conner. How ya Eddy?

I'm doing alright Jen. Great to be here.

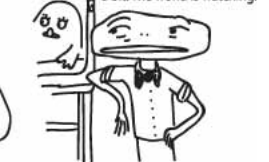
Have I ever told you how much I love your little hat?



Yes, Jennifer you have. You tell me every single day.

I wish I had a hat like that.

C'mon Jen. Spice it up a bit. The world is watching.



Wait, Ctrl-Z that! No I don't!



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.

crswrdpzzlol

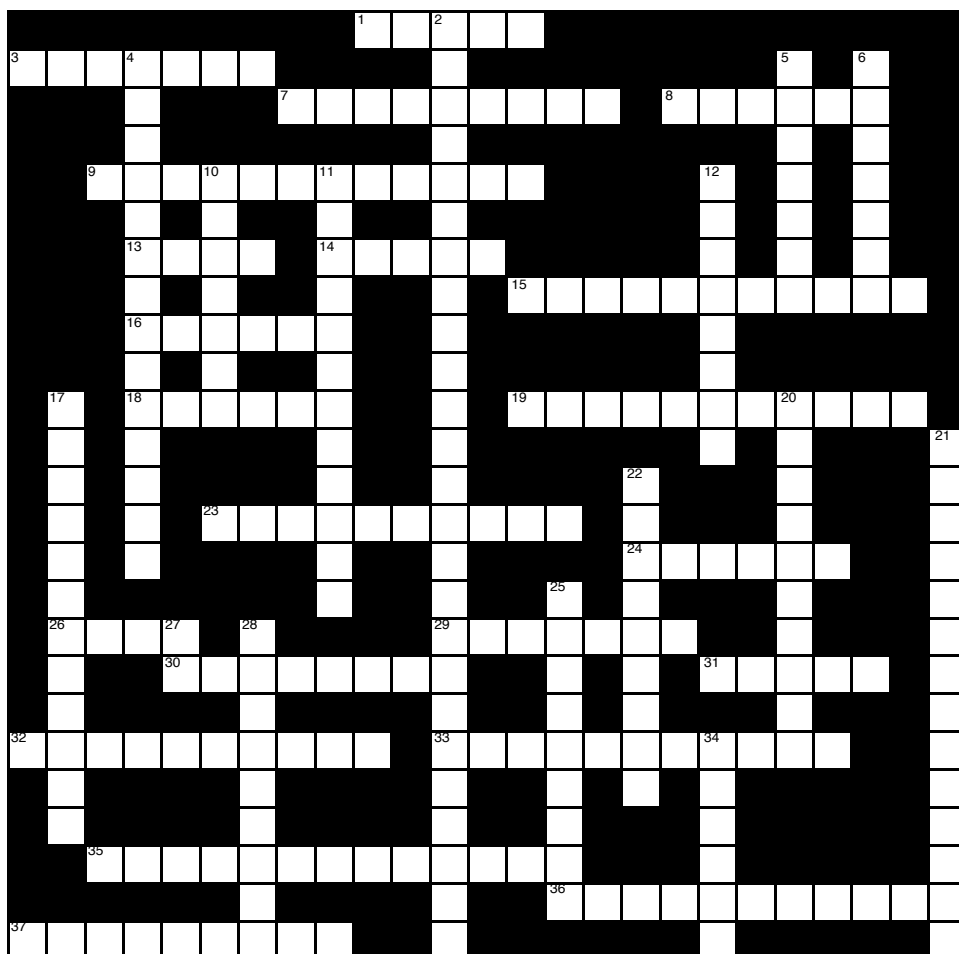
BIG MACHINES • R. BRIAN HASTIE & BRUNO DE ROSA

Across

1. Ron Paul's aerial answer to terror
3. big machine that brings in big money
7. truck whose purpose is to move stuff
8. large generator created for a power plant
9. half-robot and half-dinosaur, all fire-breathing and truck-destroying machine
13. enthusiast whose behaviour is borderline obsessive
14. one who wields a weapon or guitar
15. Delorean or black hole
16. what certain critics of technology consider big machines to be
18. y dimension of any big machine
19. turns bark into pulp... violently
23. big vessel that can be sunk, provided you enter the right coordinates
24. English clock of doom
26. centres where big machines are nursed into existence
29. giant computer that detects mutants in X-Men lore
30. aerial machine... with wings
31. tool that picks things up, also the worst game at the fair
32. tunnel used for the testing of machines
33. evil dome with wheels, used against teenaged superhero turtles
35. large evil lizard, made of metal
36. Russian in design, made to be fast on train tracks
37. used to dig deep into the ground

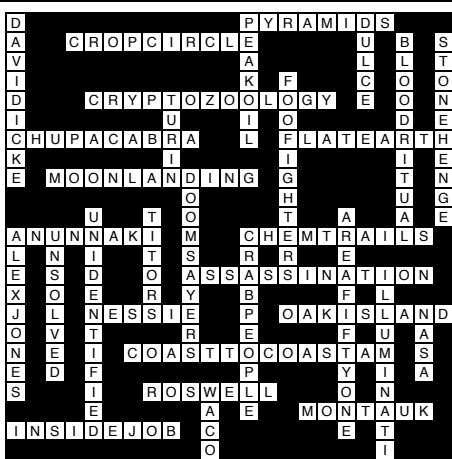
Down

2. orbital station that watches us all
4. giant particle smasher that may bring about the apocalypse
5. bigger than smallish
6. comes in five parts, adds to nostalgia
10. unfit for human food; junkyards are the big machine equivalent to this
11. two hydrogen rocket boosters, one big tank, all to end in 1010
12. giant combination live action robot



17. the heart of the consumer industry
20. Google owns the largest of this; think of CPUs instead of cows
21. wreckless excavation machine
22. giant mechanical planet, home to famous fighting robots
25. evil's answer to the life star
27. Sexoholics Anonymous; no giant machines here
28. nice-looking robot, too bad it has Vin Diesel's voice
34. better than a nudge jet; efficiently at speeds around Mach 3

issue 11
solutionz



editorial Speak French or die

Tremors from last year's Bouchard-Taylor commission on reasonable accommodation are still being felt in Quebec's bureaucracy as the Liberal government passed legislation last week that requires immigrants to sign a declaration pledging that they will adhere to "Quebec values."

Although notions of gender equality and separation of church and state make sense, as well as containing a certain sense of 'duh,' the stipulation that immigrants learn French through a seminar entitled "How To Live In Quebec" is disturbing. Especially when viewed through the lens of immigrant relations in Quebec's largest city.

The Link is dismayed to think that this seminar, which would have the audacity to suggestively call itself by its name, would be clearly demonstrative of how to live in one of this province's metropolitan centres. Cities like Montreal or Sherbrooke are teeming with a multiplicity of personalities, from many different and contrasting backgrounds, living together in an atmosphere of decency and respect.

There exists a suggestion that this seminar could outline the only "proper" way to live, as passed down from Quebec City. This is a slippery slope towards making other "declarations of common values." The whole situation makes immigrant groups uneasy, as they fear this could subject prospective immigrants to a policy line invented by people who have their own interests at heart.

This plan appears to be little more than a thinly veiled attempt by the Liberal government to appear tough on issues associated with French. In a run-up to the December election, the Liberals have adopted a strong position with French as the principle language in Quebec.

With new ads so silly that they attack the word "hello," the government's program appears to be a hastily agreed-to plan that was designed to appease voters; a short-term solution to a short-term problem that has many long-lasting consequences.

This whole affair raises many questions about the rights that government has when trying to decide on immigration policy.

Should we be forcing immigrants into learning a language before coming here, as well as subjugating them to social rules predicated on political and racial theory? I would hope not, but it's becoming apparent that this trait may be in vogue.

Only time will tell, but if the present policy-makers are any indication, we're in for a rough battle over the next few years for basic rights that should be free from the tempted hand of politics.

—R. Brian Hastie
Copy editor

Goodnight, OPUS

People use the metro when they need to go somewhere, usually with a purpose and a tight timeframe. The Société de transport de Montréal's goal is to accommodate those people.

Why then was a blond STM worker at the Mont-Royal metro doing nothing more than looking on as 12 people were in line for a single OPUS machine, which no one knew how to use? She rolled her eyes. She arched her eyebrow. The message in short: we were being irrational for being upset.

We're irrational? I'm irrational?
Please explain to me who thought it was a good idea to replace two workers with one semi-functional machine. If you're making a switch for efficiency, you need more machines, not less. The alternative is to watch as 12 people stumble through a digital maze, trying to figure out how to use a confusing new machine.

If this is all part of an effort to make things more efficient and save money, please explain to me why Blondie McSneerington was making jokes with two other STM workers—who also refused to serve the rest of us, despite our pleas—about our situation as eight people slipped through the gates unobserved and without paying.

I had to wonder if they were laughing at us because we were too honest to just give them the finger and ride for free.

My rage isn't directed against the Mont-Royal metro alone. I've lost track of the number of times some poor schmuck in line in front of me has had to go to the kiosk with an OPUS card and tell the man behind the glass that the machine screwed up and they couldn't fill up their card.

The OPUS card fiasco is only part of the STM's problem and is proof that the public transit system is being managed with a fair level of incompetence. A recent program to save money has involved slowing down the escalators in stations, this is not only silly, it is counterproductive.

But those escalators only serve to deliver you to OPUS machines with stickers all over them because you can't pay with cash or cards. Do tell me STM, if we can't pay with cash or card, how are we supposed to buy a ride on your underground marvel?

I can't wait to see the streetcars, assholes.

—Clare Raspopov
Features editor

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 1, 1988

Students fare badly in transit fees

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Students were up in arms as the Montreal Urban Community Transit Corporation (MUCTC) introduced a new magnetic card as part of an "expansion of services."

Unlike the current troubles with the touchless OPUS system, the outrage with the new magnetic cards was due to an increase in price.

As the MUCTC unveiled its new ticketing system, it attempted to deflect attention from the monthly fare increase, from \$29.75 to \$32.60. The 10 per cent increase was nearly double the normal inflation rate and much higher than the 1.6 per cent recommended by student groups.

Student groups from Concordia and McGill were gearing up for a campaign to convince the MUCTC to reduce fares, something that they expected within "two to three years."

In 1984, CEGEP John Abbott College's students "protested adult fare for students over 18 by paying their fares in pennies. But the MUCTC wouldn't budge," said David Hemmings, a fourth year Commerce student.

The MUCTC explained that the increase was necessary due to its projected \$33.5 million deficit, expected to rise to \$93 million within five years.



The announcement came as a blow to the Montreal Citizens' Movement, the ruling Montreal party at the time, who had campaigned on a platform of free public transit.

The new magnetic cards would prove to be a lasting change to the metro system, before their introduction, MUCTC users simply flashed their monthly passes at the ticket booth attendants.

The price of the monthly pass corrected with inflation would be \$52.53 in 2008, making the current \$36 passes a bargain.