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NO HOPE?

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Time is running out

Ex-Concordia student still sentenced to beheading by sword

• CLARE RASPOPOW

Mohammed Kohail, a former Concordia student, finds himself one step closer to execution as the Saudi court of appeals has decided that his original sentence should be upheld.

The court of appeals, which had rejected Kohail's sentence three times since it was originally announced in March 3 of this year, made a complete about-face in supporting the call for execution.

"At least in March there was a glimmer of hope for the appeal. We've now exhausted all legal avenues."

—Mahmoud Al-Ken, Kohail family friend

"This has never happened before," said Mahmoud Al-Ken, the Kohail family's friend and spokesperson. "That the court [of appeals] should rule three times one way and then change their verdict like that."

"In a way, this is worse than the original verdict in March," asserted Al-Ken. "At least in March there was a glimmer of hope for the appeal. We've now exhausted all legal avenues. The

only hope now is high level diplomacy."

Last week before the verdict had been handed down Lisa Monette, a spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, remained noncommittal about what steps the government was willing to take on behalf of the 23-year-old Canadian man, telling CBCNews.ca in an email that the Canadian government "has and will continue to pursue all avenues."

Monette has, however, assured the media that Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon has directed his officials to meet with the Saudi charge d'affaires in Ottawa and raise the issue again.

The Canadian embassy in Saudi Arabia has denied the execution (by beheading) is final, despite statements from government officials and reports from several media outlets, and is working on getting clemency for Kohail.

Al-Ken and the Kohail family have yet to hear from the government since the verdict was announced but hope to hear from them "in the next few days," said Al-Ken.

The clock is ticking and Kohail's friends and supporters fear that the young man doesn't have much time left.

"Right now we fear that it could be a matter of days or weeks before [the sentence is carried out]," speculated Al-Ken.

Kohail's court papers will now be sent on to the Saudi Supreme Court and from there on to the King. Al-Ken said that the possibility of the verdict being overturned by the Supreme Court is around five per cent and the chance of it being overturned by the King is slim to non-existent.

"We're trying to figure out what to do next," said Al-Ken. "Right now we need everyone, especially people from the Concordia community, to write letters to the government to encourage them to take action. People need to know that by taking action in this case they'll be saving three lives [Kohail, his brother Sultan Kohail and Mehanna Sa'd who's also accused of the murder]."



High school friend Sana Abuali holds on to Kohail's memory. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

Not so far from home

Social activist speaks about living with HIV, TB

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Winstone Zulu, a former writer for Zambia's independent national paper *The Post*, left his country four months ago to pursue graduate studies in Canada.

Zulu, now a journalism student at Ryerson University in Toronto, is not only an aspiring reporter, but a social activist who travels around the world to speak out about the ravages of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis sweeping his country.

"HIV is a stigmatized situation," Zulu confided, sitting down with *The Link*. "If you hide, you're basically agreeing with the people that think it's a problem."

According to Zulu, speaking openly about HIV in Zambia was unheard of almost 20 years ago, even though most people were affected by it to some degree.

"Almost everyone [in Zambia] has seen someone in their family die," Zulu continued. "And yet, I haven't seen somebody write about survivors. I mean nobody's interviewed my mother. How are [survivors] feeling emotionally? That's what I'd like to write about."

Zulu and his four brothers contracted tuberculosis in the late 1990s, but Zulu was the only one to survive the disease. Zulu is not only a survivor of TB, but he has been living with HIV for the past 18 years. The two diseases, he said, are found together about 80 per cent of the time.



Winstone Zulu paints a picture of the devastation of HIV and TB in Zambia. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

Zulu was the first person in his country to speak openly about living with HIV, in order to break barriers and stereotypes about the disease. Now Zulu takes anti-retroviral drugs that would cost him \$2,740 a month in Canadian dollars and that if he didn't have "private insurance, and friends as well."

Although treatment for TB in Zambia is free, access isn't always easy. And with the financial crisis sweeping the developed world, Zulu is afraid donor countries will scale back their contributions to help fight the disease.

"Whatever happens, the donor countries shouldn't reduce their support," Zulu said, because it will make the TB situation worse. In Zambia, most TB-contractors die when they stop their six-month treatment, making the disease resistant to stronger drugs.

According to the United Nations, at least one in six Zambians between the ages of 15 and 49 are living with HIV/AIDS and more than one in 10 children under the age of 18 are orphaned due to AIDS. The Zambian government currently funds HIV/AIDS educa-

tion for youth with \$2 million a year—that's about 30 cents per youth under the age of 20.

The Zambia Demographic Health Survey published 10 years ago showed that 64 per cent of girls and 70 per cent of boys thought they were at no risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. Today, less than eight per cent of the population lives past 49 years old. In comparison, 32 per cent of Canadians are older than 49. More than half the Zambian population is less than 18 years old.

Zulu also wants Canadians to know that HIV and TB are not foreign diseases in a far-away land. Although the Public Health Agency of Canada reports a low incidence rate of active TB, the airborne illness still kills Canadians every year.

Zulu has tried lobbying the American government in Washington, D.C. to put money from their war fund towards what he considers to be better use.

"What's going on in Pakistan is nothing compared to [the social implications associated with] TB and HIV," Zulu said.

But Zulu contended he's happy to be in Canada where social activism can cause governmental intervention.

"If 300 people were dying every week [in Montreal], everything would come to a standstill and people would ask, 'What's going on?'"

Zulu was invited to speak at Concordia as part of the Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS.

Veteran spreads his wings

Air Force squadron pays tribute to one of its own

• VINCENT DESTOUCHES

As Canadians honour our troops this week, a World War II veteran living in Quebec is about to do something never done before—fly a CF-18 fighter jet at almost 90 years of age.

Gilles Boulanger was invited to fly the fighter jet, also called a CF-18 Hornet, in the next few weeks by the 425 Alouettes Squadron of Bagotville, located in the Lac-St-Jean area. Back in 1942, during the Second World War, Boulanger was a member of the Alouettes, the only French-Canadian squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Prévost, the Alouettes' commanding officer, Boulanger will fly the plane, which includes a one-hour trip around the Sherbrooke area and Boulanger's hometown of Montmagny.

"It'll be a wonderful, wonderful adventure," said Boulanger, who is now living in Sherbrooke.

Though he has never stopped flying, the challenge Boulanger has been offered is impressive. The aircraft can reach Mach 1.8—almost twice the speed of sound—and is worth about \$40 million.

According to the Canadian Forces, the CF-18 is well-known for its "superior power and speed"

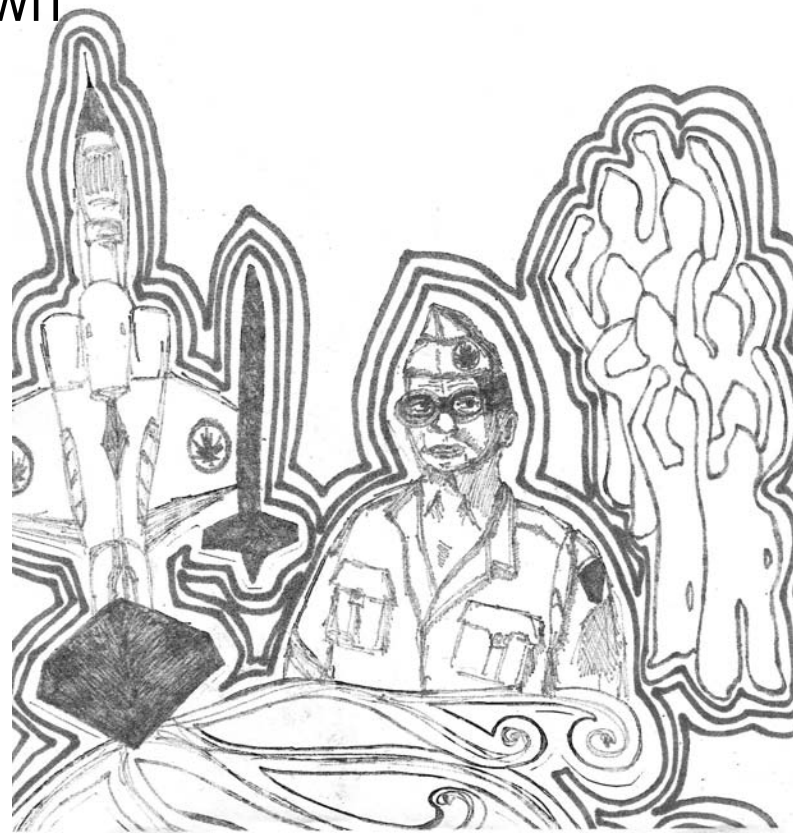
created the Anciens combattants québécois association, entertained the thought of Boulanger's upcoming venture with enthusiasm.

"In Quebec, it is very rare to hear about veterans' activities," Bertrand said, "so I'm very happy, this is very pleasant news."

But Bertrand regretted the lack of attention given to world war soldiers. "We don't even have a monument with the names of fallen soldiers, not in Ottawa, neither in Quebec. [...] How do you want people to be proud of their soldiers' actions?"

Even with the seeming lack of national recognition, these veterans still make it a point to keep in touch. "I'm one of the last remaining live members of the Alouettes Squadron so they are really taking good care of me," Boulanger said. "They're wonderful people."

In December 1942, Boulanger sailed on the Queen Elizabeth from New York to Liverpool to join the Alouettes squadron. Boulanger fought over Italy, bombed



GRAPHIC KALI MALINKA

"We don't even have a monument with the names of fallen soldiers, not in Ottawa, neither in Quebec."

—Robert Bertrand, Canadian Forces veteran

If all goes according to plan, the 86-year-old will be the oldest person to ever fly a CF-18. Although he will be accompanied by Paul

and has had "great success in hundreds of military operations in Canada and around the world."

Robert Bertrand, a veteran who

Germany, and flew sorties during the invasion of Normandy.

Boulanger was initially scheduled to fly the CF-18 on Oct. 22 but

due to medical reasons, the date was postponed. Although take-off has not yet been fixed, it is slated for early 2009.

The re-education of Russell Copeman

Former Liberal MNA joins Concordia as VP government relations

• PALOMA FRIEDMAN

Former Quebec National Assembly member Russell Copeman announced his retirement from politics on Oct. 22, after 14 years of public service.

The former Liberal MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grace graduated from McGill with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and from Concordia with a graduate degree in Public Administration.

When Concordia offered Copeman the position of associate vice-president (government relations), Copeman could not resist the opportunity to go back to school.

The Link: Welcome to Concordia. How has the transition from politician to university official been so far?

Russell Copeman: Thank you. I think it's going well. I say to people, this is the first time I've changed jobs in 14 years, so there's a necessary period of adaptation that's happening. But I'm very excited to be here. This is a very dynamic and interesting place. I'm working with a lot of smart people.

You had said in interviews that you were tired of politics. Was that the main factor in deciding to come to Concordia?

In my view, doing the job of an elected official well requires 100 per cent commitment and requires a [...] fire in the belly or "feu sacré." I felt in the last year or so that the level of commitment had slipped somewhat, and that I couldn't in all conscience, given this wonderful opportunity, commit to another four years. I wasn't actively looking for a new job, but this opportunity arose.

How is this job different from a parliamentary position?

I view my role as a mirror of the university to various government officials. In order to do that, I need to understand how the university works, what it does, what its strengths are. I've been taking the first couple of weeks to try to do that. Very clearly my knowledge and contacts at various government levels will be put to good use on behalf of Concordia. Fundamentally it's different in the sense that I'm now a private citizen. I don't have to respond to 42,000 electors and 60,000 constituents.

Well, you do have to respond to 40,000 students.

Absolutely, but it's a very different dynamic. I've rediscovered a private life that one does not have as an elected official. I've been putting in long hours at the university and will continue to do so, but it's quite novel to go home at night and sleep in my own bed. I've been taking the shuttle bus. I live near Loyola, so to be able to get to work in about 20 minutes using a form of mass transit is a significant improvement in my quality of life.

Do students and staff aboard the shuttle bus know who you are?

Some do, I've been walking around campus a little bit to try to get a flavour and a feel for the university. I've been stopped by a couple of students—some friends of my son's who recognize me, some staff people. Politicians are not rock stars. We don't generate the same buzz. But one does get used to the look, that little double take. So far, it's



Former MNA and new Concordia VP looks forward to sleeping in his own bed. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

mostly been, "Welcome to Concordia."

Having worked within the provincial government, what challenges do you think you will face in dealing with your former colleagues to fulfill your mandate?

The same challenges that Concordia and

other sister universities face: maintaining quality education, attracting and retaining professors, the financial support for universities, and the funding of research. My very intimate knowledge of the government and contacts will be helpful.

ASFA to meet Thursday

• TERRINE FRIDAY

In light of the Sustainability Action Fund referendum scandal, members of the Arts and Science Federation of Students will table a motion to remove its current SAF Board member, Audrey Peek, at their meeting this Thursday.

Proposed by Political Science student Greg Johannson, the motion calls for an election of an ASFA representative for the SAF Board since Peek was never elected.

Macleans makes Concordia participate anyways

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Concordia placed last in the Macleans' University Rankings, even though Concordia has boycotted the listings for three years.

The university report, released Monday, is a third-party ranking system that relies heavily on reputation and input from university presidents across Canada, as opposed to The Globe and Mail's more comprehensive report, which has students rank their own schools.

In Macleans' Medical Doctoral ranking, McGill maintained their first-place finish, even though the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia are considered Canada's university leaders worldwide.

CFS-Q says vote...again

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The Canadian Federation of Students-Quebec will release another report card as Quebecers head to the polls next month.

The report card will grade provincial parties based on their platforms and whether or not their policies appear to be in the best interest of college and university students.

Although the CFS-Q is still waiting for provincial parties to get their platforms in line, they're encouraging young voters to register—which is not required during a federal election—and head to the polls on Dec. 8.



Amy Goodman lectured on the role of broadcasting in a socially responsible context. PHOTO Josh Brown

Broadcasting a message of hope

Amy Goodman speaks on Obama's victory and the role of the media

• JOSH BROWN & BRIAN HASTIE

Democracy Now's Amy Goodman brought a cautious optimism to the podium last Friday as she delivered a speech about the plights of being both host and correspondent in community media.

In her speech, entitled *Independent Media on War and Elections*, Goodman married first-person accounts of her time in a media role with an informal state-of-the-union-style address about the potential of community media and the public's right to access lines of communication that already exist.

The keynote address, held at McGill University's Leacock auditorium, was part of the 25th anniversary symposium of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, also known internationally as AMARC.

Host of *Democracy Now*, a daily nationally-syndicated independent radio and television broadcast, Goodman spoke on such topics as the recent U.S. elections, her personal experiences at the Republican, as well as Democratic, National Conventions and the right and need for independent and public media.

Goodman started by describing her immediate reactions to the Nov. 4 election night and how media played a defining role in getting information and updates.

"It could have been New Year's Eve,"

remarked Goodman, referring to driving through Times Square during the frenzy and watching revelers celebrate Obama's victory.

She seguewayed from discussing the elections with a first-person account to the role media and grassroots organizing had on the recent race and its subsequent outcome.

"These [community] stations, radio and television, are critical all over to the world to give voice to the grassroots, authentic voices that are fighting at a community level for greater equality."

—Amy Goodman

"These [community] stations, radio and television, are critical all over to the world to give voice to the grassroots, authentic voices that are fighting at a community level for greater equality, for peace in their communities, and these voices are the most believable because they're going through the point, they're at the target end of policy."

A discourse upon potential problems the U.S. is facing vis-à-vis regulation of the Internet was also touched upon.

"We have to keep the Internet open and free," said Goodman. "We can't let cable companies and telecoms write the legislation that will let one tier use the Internet faster [...] this is the way we communicate with each other and we all have to protect

it together."

A quick shift towards the political ensued, as Goodman said "[the public has] an incredible line, not just because of who is elected, but because people are on fire everywhere, and we can't let the flame go out."

"The youth vote in the United States has skyrocketed," Goodman continued, "this is where media comes in, the way we talk to each other, we don't know each other, but through the media, and you see that the media stretches across the globe that we all sit around and debate and discuss the most important issues of the day: war and peace, life and death, and anything less than that is a disservice."

Goodman closed by discussing the impact that media has upon people's senses, and how embedded reporters have soiled the profession, citing the fact that people in war zones have to depend upon soldiers for survival, indicating a resistance towards nay-saying their protectors. To this, Goodman pronounced, "War is not the answer to conflict in the 21st century."

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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 RASPOPOW

fringe arts editor

JOELLE LEMIEUX

literary arts editor

CHRISTOPHER OLSON

sports editor

DIEGO PELAEZ-GAETZ

opinions editor

JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

copy editor

R. BRIAN HASTIE

student press liaison

JESARA SINCLAIR

photo editor

JONATHAN DEMPSEY

graphics editor

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managing editor

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layout manager

MATHIEU BIARD

web editor

BRUNO DE ROSA

business manager

MICHAEL TOPPINGS

business assistant

JACQUELINE CHIN

ad designer

CHRIS BOURNE

computer technician

OPEN

distribution

ROBERT DESMARAIS
DAVID KAUFMANN

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CONTRIBUTORS

Jennifer Aouad, Thom Bator, Laura Beeston, Justin Bromberg, Josh Brown, Nick Carmichael, Madeline Coleman, Ginger Coons, Elisabeth De Grandpre, Vincent Destouches, Anthony Di Domizio, Ion Etxebarria, Jennifer Freitas, Pamela Friedman, Marie-Eve Gagne, Bettina Grassman, Cody Hicks, Elsa Jabre, Dominique Jarry-Shore, Kate Lamothe, Pascale Rose Licinio, Viven Leung, Jackson MacIntosh, Kali Malinka, Alex Manley, Julien McEvoy, Melanie Meloche, Paolo Mingarelli, Devin Morrow, Alexandra Murray, Johnston Newfield, Ketan Patel, Barbara Pavone, Nora R., Sinbad Richardson, Michael Sabelli, Shawna Satz, Molly Sowiak, Joey Tanny, Rachel Tetrault, Shawn Thompson, Paul Traunero, Sam Unger, Natasha Young, Bonnie Zehavi

Cover art by Amy Smith
Insert cover art by Kali Malinka, Sam Unger



Churchgoers in Little Burgundy celebrated the win of American president-elect Barack Obama. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Evolution of a people

Montreal celebrates Obama's triumph

• ION ETXEBARRIA

No one would have believed a year ago that an American presidential election could raise as many hopes and emotions as the ones felt by people gathered at St. Joseph's Church in Little Burgundy following the results last Tuesday.

Reverend Darryl Gray, pastor of Imani Family and Full Gospel Church and organizer of the gathering, described the heterogeneity of the crowd, ranging from teenagers to people in their 80s.

"People we see here resemble the diversity of Barack Obama's campaign," Gray said. "They reflect that the idea of bringing people together, of unity, has taken root in Canadian cities as well."

"Living in South Carolina, I lived in a segregated community," recounted Gray, who was born in the United States and was actively engaged in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. "I went to a segregated school, I drank out of segregated water fountains and used segregated toilets. I have seen the KKK. I have seen the cross burnings. I have seen the lynching of black males. I have seen it all. So for me to have witnessed that, to have known people like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Daisy Bates and Herbert Lee who died to make this dream a reality, it is of huge significance for me."

Grey said that young minorities in Canada should feel motivated too, because "maybe in our life time we can see the election of a person of colour as prime minister here in Canada."

Asked about the relevance of civil rights and social movements after Obama's victory, Grey said, "There are things that the president can do, but

there are things the president can't do. The president cannot march, the president cannot boycott, the president cannot do civil disobedience, and so there is still work to be done because racism has not been destroyed; it has taken a big blow, but has not been destroyed."

**"Rosa sat so Martin could walk.
Martin walked so Obama could run.
Obama ran so [our] children will fly."**

—Full Gospel Church congregation

Bianti Curry, a young voter from Wisconsin, cheered Obama on and finally declared herself an American.

"For the last eight years when I was asked where I was from, I would say that I was Canadian," Curry said. "This U.S. election campaign has inspired people from all walks of life."

At 11 o'clock, after Barack Obama won seats in Pennsylvania and Ohio and was declared the 44th American president and the first president of colour in American history, emotion exploded in the room. Cheering and crying churchgoers slowly embraced each other as they united their voices singing, "Lift every voice."

The final cry of churchgoers was, "Rosa sat so Martin could walk. Martin walked so Obama could run. Obama ran so [our] children will fly."

To find out about how to travel with the Full Gospel Church to watch the Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20, please send an email to imanimt1@hotmail.com.

H2O: a world crisis

• THOM BATOR

The issue of access to water in the developing world has reached a crisis point, says Concordia's chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

In an effort to see how engineers can help solve the problem and raise awareness about lack of access to water, EWB invited a panel of experts to take part in last Tuesday's discussion called International Development talk on Clean Water Provision.

Eric Abitbol, a professor and lecturer at both Concordia and Toronto's York University, explained the nature of the crisis in stark terms.

"Twelve million children die annually for want of clean water and sanitation," Abitbol said.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, approximately 2.5 billion people worldwide lack adequate sanitation facilities, and almost a billion do not have access to safe water sources.

"We are interested in the development of skills and technologies [...] that can bring us closer to our diverse yet overlapping goals," Abitbol continued.

Ella Lazarte, operations analyst for the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, discussed her organization's work assisting governments in achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015.

"In the past 14 years, 1.3 billion people gained access to water and sanitation services," Lazarte said of past successes in water sanitation.

One of the biggest problems the WSP faces, said Lazarte, is the fact that even different regions in the same country may have very different technical and cultural issues that cannot use a one-size-fits-all model for dealing with crises. "You can have a nice little model that works in one community," she explained, but "scaling up [in another community] is another story."

Many existing programs to help the world's poor depend too much on governments and NGOs, said Camille Baker, president and CEO of Canada's Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology. Baker said this is a problem because most water-support infrastructure breaks down after governments and NGOs leave which, according to Baker, they always do. Her organization seeks to train local communities to handle their own water and sanitation needs "so they can manage their programs after the NGOs have left."

If Baker gets her way, CAWST will "impact 15 million people by 2015," which is still only a dent in the overall crisis. But in time the combined efforts of concerned citizens like Lazarte, Baker and EWB members hope that one day, those living without clean water and sanitation will get the services they need and deserve.

Voting made easy

How to get upcoming provincial election right

• JULIEN MCEVOY

Although Canadians may be tired of the just-passed North American election frenzies, Quebecers must head to the polls yet again in just a few weeks to cast their votes in the provincial election.

Voters below 30 turned out in record low numbers for the Canadian election and record highs for our American counterpart; here's what you need to do to turn out in masses on Dec. 8:

To vote in Quebec, you must be entered on the list of electors. Three conditions apply: you need to be at least 18 years old; you must be a Canadian citizen; and you must have lived in the province for at least six months (meaning at least since June 8).

You will receive a notice of entry this week; the government sends one to every address in the province. With that in hand, you'll know exactly who is registered at

your address. If it isn't you, don't panic! Keep the notice anyway, as it contains important information, like where to go vote on V-day.

The revision period starts Nov. 17. That means every addition or correction to the electoral list must be done between this date and Nov. 25 at the revision office.

You'll need two pieces of ID to register and only one to vote. Valid pieces of ID include: a Quebec health insurance card; a Quebec driver's license; a Canadian passport; a certificate of Indian Status; or Canadian Forces ID.

For those too busy to vote on Dec. 8, advance polling will be held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fewer polling stations are available for advance polling, so make sure you verify where you need to go to vote early.

For more info on how and where to vote, please visit electionsquebec.qc.ca.

Harming Haiti

Are NGOs harming the people they should help?

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Haiti was the second country in the Western hemisphere to declare its independence—the first being the United States—in 1804, when the French forfeited the island and named Haiti a republic in the city of Gonaïves.

Over 200 years later, Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the West, has the highest number of non-governmental organizations per capita in the world, and the great city of Gonaïves is a wasteland of tree stubs and starving people who resort to eating pies made out of mud in order to stave off death.

The question cannot be avoided: is Haiti being punished for being the first country to overthrow the slavery inflicted on its African descendants?

Gonaïves has been the site of mass deforestation that, during rainy seasons, has led to flash floods destroying homes and creating massive food shortages.

Local political and social activists like Yves Engler attribute this to the aftermath of Haiti's Jan. 2004 coup d'état in which the office of then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown and the city of Gonaïves was taken over by the rebel group Cannibal Army—later renamed the National Revolutionary Front For The Liberation Of Haiti.

Gonaïves [...] has yet to recover from 2005's hurricane Dennis, 2006's hurricane Ernesto, 2007's hurricane Dean and 2008's hurricane Gustav.

Aristide, considered a “rebel” by the American government, was removed by the U.S. from his position of president for the first time in 1991—then reinstated shortly thereafter, in 1994. Although it cannot be confirmed, independent groups say this was a move to undermine the Haitian government and implement foreign economic and social policies that may not have been in the best interest of Haiti.

Although rebels didn't succeed in gaining full control of the country in 2004, before the United Nations stepped in, the damage was already devastating, said Jean-Laurent Nelson, the former deputy mayor of Gonaïves from 1995 to 1999.

Nelson had been a resident in Canada when he returned to Haiti in the early 1990s to get involved in politics. There, he took up the post of Gonaïves' deputy mayor soon after but fled the country a few years later during the coup d'état of 2004.

Nelson, now residing in Canada, says he remembers the Haitian city he helped govern and the wreck it is currently in.

“The situation in Gonaïves is terrible,” Nelson said, “the situation still remains difficult.”

Nelson, a Montreal-based activist and journalist who works with CFMB radio station and French language-based stations in Miami, Florida, keeps up to date with the devastation in his home.

Gonaïves has again made headlines as the Haitian city hardest hit by mudslides, due to the city's mass deforestation, and has yet to recover from 2005's hurricane Dennis, 2006's hurricane Ernesto, 2007's hurricane Dean and 2008's hurricane Gustav.

The United Nations' emergency relief coordinator, John Holmes, reported last month that the situation in Haiti is a “dramatic and grim site,” that over 30,000 people in Gonaïves alone were seeking refuge in shelters and funding from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund initially estimated at \$4.3 million would be increased to \$10 million.

For Nelson, not all hope is lost for his former home; there are what he calls “militants” that are fighting for those in Haiti who cannot be heard, people like Engler.

Engler, a former Concordia Student Union VP who was arrested during the university's Netanyahu riots of 2002, is a Montreal activist and author who leads the grassroots organization Haiti Action Montreal, a working group of Concordia's branch of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group.

According to Engler, the extreme poverty and government corruption is not only tied to the 2004 coup, but also the large number of non-governmental organizations in Haiti.

“It's primarily actually a political disaster;



Clockwise: Children struggle in the wake numerous natural disasters, Haitian women try to go about their daily lives as the streets of Gonaïves are flooded, Jean-Bertrand Aristide preaches to a Haitian congregation.

there's very limited discussion of the political aspect of the disaster,” Engler said.

A major problem, Engler says, is that NGOs can actually cripple a country's social and political reform and innovation. “Foreign intervention has weakened the Haitian government's ability” to provide aid, Engler said.

American activist and United States Army veteran Stan Goff wrote, in 1999's *A Brief Account of Haiti*, that there exists “a steady trickle of project dollars flowing through the almost indeterminable list of NGOs infesting every corner of Haiti” and predicted the overthrow of Aristide's regime: “Through backchannel funding for the notorious Reaganite National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. is spending money like a drunken sailor to cobble together a 'coalition' that enough of the Haitian bourgeoisie can get behind to win a U.S.-designed election.”

Paul Farmer, a medical professor at Harvard University and founding member of Partners in Health, says the recent hurricane devastation on top of the pre-existing unstable government is like “adding insult to injury; Haitians were already hungry.”

Farmer, who has dedicated over 20 years of work to infectious disease research and global inequities, contends the best way for Haiti to recover is to make “long-term investments in infrastructure” and to “stabilize democracy.”

But part of the problem is Haiti's economic crisis, which can be attributed in part to the economic program it adopted in the 1980s.

Over 20 years ago, Haiti bought into a new program created by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund called the Structural Adjustment Program. The SAP, which was also adopted around the same time in other developing countries like Jamaica and Guyana, was intended to boost Haiti's economy on the global scale and thus increase production and profit.

But the SAP, which reduced trade barriers with Western countries and opened the country up to foreign investment, among other implications, actually threw Haiti into severe debt, today totaling over \$1.6 billion US—which is \$200 per capita, about the same as the average Haitian family's yearly income. In Canada, the debt per capita is close to \$20,000 per capita.

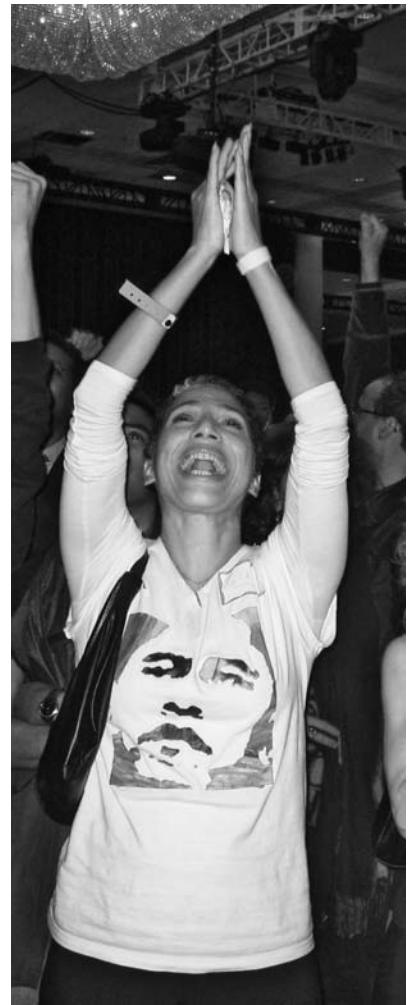
World Bank president Robert Zoellick claims that half of Haiti's debt has already been forgiven through “programs that have already been created by donors” and announced a few weeks ago that, “If the process stays on track, there should be forgiveness of the rest of the debt by sometime, maybe, in the middle of next year.”

Until Farmer's recommendations are taken and the Haitian government is supported and reinforced, basic infrastructure will continue to crumble and implode—foreign aid workers are still digging through the rubble of La Promesse College, which collapsed Nov. 7, looking for bodies of school children and their teachers, and hopefully signs of life.



Numerous NGO members fight against the chaos that natural disasters and political instability have visited on the citizens of Haiti.

Live from New York, it's el



Obama pulls into an early lead that McCain was unable to reduce. PHOTOS MELANIE MELOCHE-HOLUBOWSKI

An account of the night that changed

• MELANIE MELOCHE-HOLUBOWSKI

NEW YORK — “Obama! Obama! Obama!” The sound of cheering democrats still rings throughout the streets of New York and the U.S. New York has been mesmerized by Barack Obama's electoral win and the city celebrated all night. Hope has swept over U.S. citizens, confident that Obama will revitalize the country.

An electrifying night

Tuesday night, thousands of people poured into Times Square and Rockefeller Center to watch the real-time unveiling of the results. CNN had set up a large screen in the Square. NBC had a more elaborate setup at Rockefeller center—their theme: the race to 270.

Two scaffolds slowly climbed the face of Rockefeller building, a red one for McCain and a blue one for Obama. As each candidate won electoral votes, the scaffolds rose, a large ribbon unfurling underneath each. There was cheering as Obama's scaffold was raised and booing when McCain's was brought up.

People hovered over the free plasticized maps of the U.S. they'd been given with the number of electoral votes and closing times for polls for each state. As results were announced, people coloured in the Republican-won states red and in blue the Democrat-won states. Colour spreads over a map drawn on the ice rink in the square as McCain or Obama claimed more and more states.

Two women from New York City but originally from Brazil were astounded by the num-

ber of people in Rockefeller Center. They came downtown to share this moment with thousands of other democratic partisans.

“I can feel it. He is going to change the U.S. It's amazing. I am so impressed by how many people are here,” said Angela Macgarian. “I wondered really how many people voted Obama. Now I know.”

The win

A few minutes after 11 p.m., the networks announced Barack Obama had won the presidency. The crowd went wild. People started chanting, “Obama! Obama! Obama!” while dancing and hugging the people around them. In Harlem, people wept for joy and fell to the floor to pray. Many couldn't believe that a black president had just been elected. A new day had come and Obama would truly change their country. A band led a procession along the streets, inviting people to dance and sing the night away.

At the New York Sheraton hotel, more than 2000 democrats celebrated the election of the president. It was a sea of people of all colours, all races, and all creeds that came to show their support for Obama. People were dancing, cheering, crying and hugging each other, relieved that their pick had won.

“Just like the fall of the Berlin Wall, the march on Washington, this is a historic moment of that magnitude,” said Democrat Linda Jay. “This is a night generations to come will talk about. These are the visions of Martin Luther King and Ronald Reagan that are taking shape tonight with the election of a black president.”

Walking through the streets of New York

after the announcement, it felt like most New Yorkers were sighing with relief. The tension from the nerve-racking wait for the results had finally dissipated. The party lasted into the night, cars honking and pedestrians cheering.

The NY police, frazzled by this display of emotion and the amount of people blocking the streets downtown, had anticipated riots in the event Obama was not elected. But that night the celebrations were peaceful.

“Just like the fall of the Berlin wall, the march on Washington, this is a historic moment of that magnitude.”

—Linda Jay,
Obama supporter

The speech

At the Democratic election night party, you could have heard a pin drop as Obama gave his speech in Chicago. The crowd watched intently as Obama thanked his supporters.

“It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment change has come to America,” pronounced Obama. The crowd applauded nodding with every word he said. These were the first words of their new president.

“If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer,” he continued.

A young girl from Sweden, Lea Korsgarv, wept as she listened to Obama's speech, “Obama brings hope not only to America, but to the world. It's going to be a different world.”

Obama and NY

Everywhere you looked, there was an Obama supporter, an Obama t-shirt, or poster. The financial crisis, the war, and the need for more social programs were on everyone's minds.

“People around world don't seem to like us, because of Bush. We need fresh face. A lot of countries don't respect us and Bush's done more harm than good,” said Dolores O'Kalan.

Eighty-two-year-old Christine Karner also voted Democrat. She says Obama knows how to talk to everyone and doesn't look down on anyone.

“I think it is time to recognize black people, yellow people, and all people. It's about how they behave, what they do, how they treat people with respect,” she explained.

Angie Pascale, a self-proclaimed Obama-mama and social worker for a drug addiction center screamed at passing pedestrians to go vote. As director of the center, she has seen the cuts done by the Republicans.

“The first things to go with the

election night!



Obama supporters take to the streets and exchange over-joyed hugs.

history

Republicans are the social programs. Obama is looking at economic reform. I don't want to see people who need services not getting them. I don't want to die of hunger, that's why it's time for something different," Pascale said.

For many, the VP nomination of Sarah Palin was the deciding factor. Pascale believes McCain, who would have been the oldest president, would have likely died in office, and that Palin would have been president; "That terrifies me. She doesn't have political background we need in this crisis."

Karner said that as a feminist, she didn't believe Sarah Palin was a real woman. "Women can be just as lousy as men."

It's hard being Republican in NY

On the streets, it was difficult to find Republican partisans. McCain was obviously not popular with New Yorkers. The NY state voted 62 per cent Democrat and 39 per cent Republican.

The Republican election night was a sober one, with no more than 200 people present. Many looked defeated, all the while trying to stay optimistic. One Republican, Joy Porson, explained why it's hard being a Republican in a Democrat state.

"We should have focused on the experience McCain has instead of a popularity contest," she lamented. She said that young voters didn't understand the importance of experience and didn't truly understand what was at stake. She said it's frustrating trying to convince New Yorkers to vote Republican.

"I live in NY and you can't go anywhere without meeting uneducated people stand-

ing with Obama pins, reading extremely Democratically-slanted newspapers," she said.

"I think that his ideas are socialist. The initial reason we broke away from Britain was because we didn't want our government to be so involved. Obama wants the government to be in control of a large portion of people's lives and that's scary," said one young Republican.

Another young Republican, Scott Fisher from Colorado, spent Monday night demonstrating in Times Square with a pro-life banner reading "Badchange.com."

"Change has been the platform in this election. People need to realize that change can be good or bad," he said. He wants the government to be less involved in people's lives, but stressed the need of more restrictions on abortion.

He believes Obama's "socialist views" would limit Americans in pursuing the American dream. His main issue with Obama is his stance on abortion. He is afraid Obama will allow women more access to abortion. As he spoke of abortion, a tear streamed down his face, a visible sign of the large discrepancies on important issues between U.S. citizens.

As Obama said in his speech, the task of breaking the divide between republicans and democrats will take time and effort. "The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there."



Crap for sale! Democratically themed crap for sale!

Commercializing the commonwealth

Participating in an election never tasted so much like Ben and Jerry's

• MELANIE MELOCHE-HOLUBOWSKI

T-shirts, pins, mugs, flags and even condoms related to the elections filled New York's Times and Union Squares. "Vote for Obama," "Black folk must vote," "Palin: hell no," and "Obama is the new black," were some of the slogans.

Nov. 4 was a historic day in the United States. Record numbers of Americans were engaged in the political process, but to some it represented more than just an opportunity to have their voice heard—it represented an economic opportunity. But how easy is it to draw the line between getting political and cashing in? What's the difference between promoting democracy and promoting yourself?

In Times Square a man named Alex sold condoms named after the candidates. Obama condoms read "Use with good judgment," McCain's had "Old, but not expired" and Palin's said "When abortion is not an option." Buy all three and you've got the "erection election pack."

Alex is with the organization "Practice safe policy" that promotes safe sex. They thought poking fun at the elections was a great way to promote their organization and lighten the tension of the elections. "It's about having fun and laughing at the elections. This whole election has been a little out of control," he explained.

People posed with giant life-size cut-outs of Sarah Palin, Barack Obama and John McCain. An artist, Jeffery Raymond, brought two giant paintings of Obama and McCain to Wall Street. He encouraged people to write a comment—red for Republicans, blue for Democrats—on the election and the candidates. He expects to sell these painting for \$15,000 each.

At the Virgin Mega Store on Tuesday, free t-shirts, drinks and pins were given out. There were Obama dolls and books about "72 things younger than McCain." Across the street, CNN was offering popcorn, coffee, pretzels, towels and pins.

CNN had set up a giant screen to let people watch live the results in Times Square. Starbucks offered free coffee, and Ben and Jerry's gave out free ice cream to anyone who voted. In Rockefeller Center, NBC was giving plasticized maps as well as red and blue markers, a way for people to colour in each state as it was won by McCain or Obama.

After Obama's speech, people poured onto the streets to celebrate. Even Obama Girl, made famous by her YouTube video, was in Times Square, promoting herself. She pulled up in an SUV, got out, shaking hands and dancing a little on the top of the vehicle.

Ain't democracy grand.

Wrestler created pop culture

Why Gorgeous George's innovative mannerisms are still emulated today

• JOHNNY NORTH

How many people can say they were Muhammad Ali's role model growing up?

Gorgeous George Wagner, born in 1915, also inspired Bob Dylan, by giving him "the look." The late James Brown said, "After I saw him and the special flamboyance he added to his matches, that helped create the James Brown you see onstage."

In John Capouya's *Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad Boy Wrestler who Created American Pop Culture*, the first-ever biography on the legendary professional wrestler, we learn how George transformed from a high school drop-out to one of the first-ever television actors, who touched a frightened and hero-seeking audience in the United States in the 1930s and '60s. George was an anti-

hero-the first-ever snobby blonde, cowardly wrestler.

While people looked for a hero, they enjoyed watching George get beat up every week. Wrestling was easier to market since TV technology was not yet advanced enough to keep up with the speed of baseball or football and boxing was unpredictable. At the time, wrestling was more profitable than Major League Baseball on TV. Bob Hope even joined in on George's celebrity status on more than one occasion.

So many wrestlers have copied his persona or made slight variations of it. From Ric Flair to Hulk Hogan, (a photo of Hogan in a toupee is featured in the book) there have been many household names that took many of the antics George first introduced.

Even today World Heavyweight Champion Chris Jericho showcases mannerisms similar to "The

Human Orchid." Copycats in name and gimmick were around when George was competing, thanks to greedy promoter Jack Pfefer, who tried to make as much money off George without paying him.

...without George there would be no Madonna, Liberace, Jesse Ventura, Dennis Rodman and the like.

Although the self-proclaimed "Toast of the Coast" died the day after Christmas in 1963, Capouya is able to put together a lot of details on George's life thanks to his first wife Betty—who is currently 93 years old—his second wife, wrestlers, files from George's arch nemesis Pfefer, and many more.

George is pictured as a kind and gentle soul outside of the ring, but

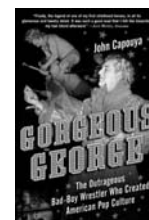
inside the ring he has no problem calling his opponents "chink" or threatening to kill one of his opponents for messing up his "gorgeous hair."

Stardom took a toll on George. He became an unsuccessful gambler and an abusive alcoholic. It is believed he had a girlfriend in almost every state. Eventually Betty got fed up. George went on to brood until he found a stripper who looked similar to Betty. His second divorce was blamed on spousal abuse.

Capouya's extensive work on George is not limited to the fact that some issues with his life remain unknown. Unlike a lot of World Wrestling Entertainment propaganda books that stretch or hide the truth to protect the WWE, Capouya is not afraid to admit that some of what he has been told may not be completely accurate considering he

is dealing with a sport of fakery.

This book is a great history lesson for wrestling fans wanting to know about one of the first true gimmicks and one of the true innovators of sports entertainment. It is filled with wrestling terminology, but enough explanations are provided. Chapters on Ali and Brown's backgrounds seem unnecessary, but Capouya argues that without George there would be no Madonna, Liberace, Jesse Ventura, Dennis Rodman and the like. But that's something only readers can decide after reading this unique biography.



Gorgeous George
John Capouya
Harper Collins
September, 2008
304 pp
\$27.95

Lit Writ

Freewheeling

• PASCALE ROSE LICINO

Lola's brother bought a car and decided that they should travel. She told him that they would look like morons in the outside world. He said that they wouldn't. Their father said he was looking forward to a few days of rest without them, but Lola knew that he didn't mean it.

"That's the positive side of having a brother who's a hopeless bachelor," he said to Lola before leaving. "He has plenty of time to take care of you."

"You are so mean," said Lola, but she still couldn't stop from laughing.

She told her boyfriend that she was leaving for two weeks. He was disappointed.

"Like you're going to miss me," she said, knowing just how much he would. He insisted. He told her he'd miss her, but it sounded so unnatural that she laughed at him and was still laughing on her way back home.

He was not the boyfriend she had dreamed of having, but what could she do? She needed to find someone at some point. Like everyone else, she wanted someone to turn to from time to time for warmth and comfort.

They left on a Saturday morning. Their father told them to be careful, but they dismissed his concerns with a wave. They had their passports ready, and plenty of music to listen to on the way. On the highway, Lola's brother suddenly turned to her and said: "We've never been to Germany."

"We've never been anywhere," she answered back.

It was true. Their family rarely went on

holiday. They were the kinds of kids who spent all their summer holidays at the local youth center trying to win table football contests.

"We should go to Germany," he said. She turned and stared at him. He was watching the road.

"I thought we would start with Italy first," she said.

"I just think it's a great opportunity to finally go to Germany," he replied. Thinking about it, she shrugged and said yes.

For a long time, all they could hear was the sound of the rain on the windshield and an old tape of Bob Dylan that they knew by heart. Lola sat in the passenger seat watching the landscape pass her by. It looked exactly as television predicted it would.

She asked her brother: "Can you still speak German?"

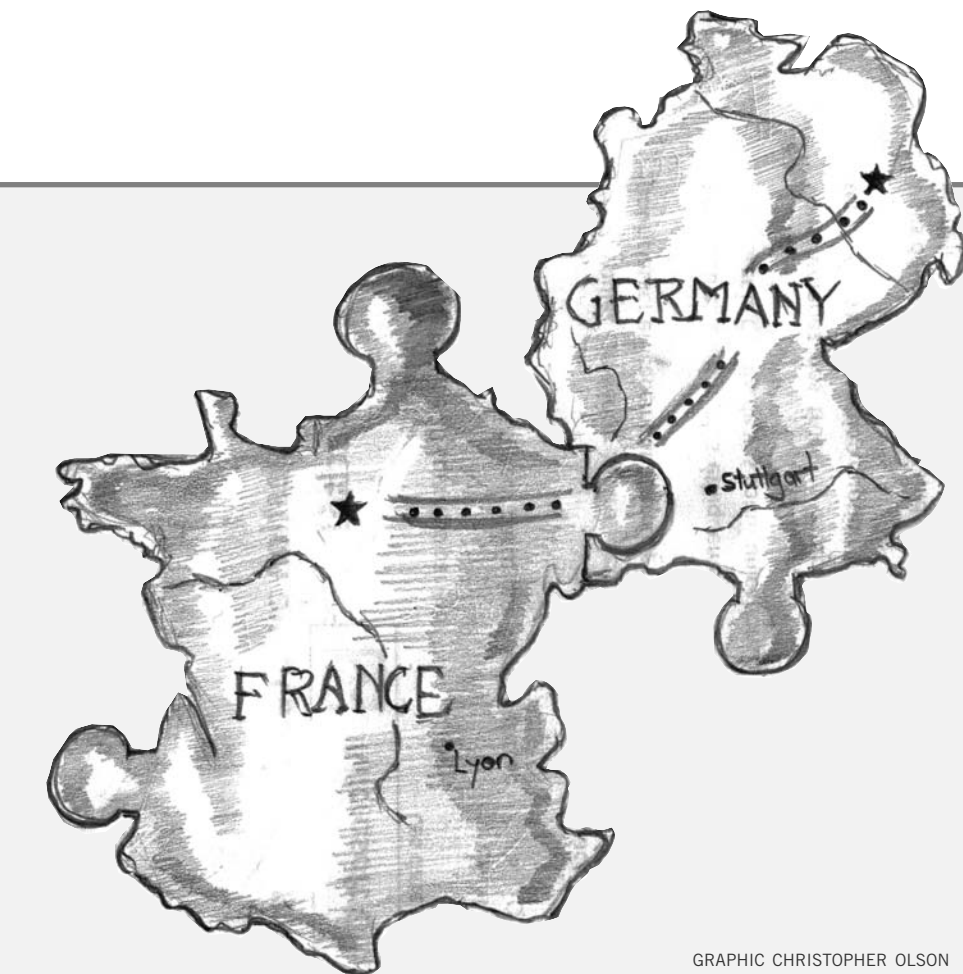
"I think I can," he replied. "And you?"

She thought that she might still be able to, but she was too shy to try.

They went up north, and the more they drove the more it rained. They knew where they were going—near the border, to the old French military occupation zone, to Freiburg. That was where their mother was from. She had met their father during his military service there.

They stopped at a hotel, where the receptionist confused Lola for her brother's girlfriend. They were speechless for a few seconds. It was the first time anyone had made such a mistake. Then Lola's brother repeated what his father had said only a few short days ago: "I don't have a girlfriend."

"Any normal guy would have said 'that's



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

my sister.' Not what you said," said Lola, sitting on the corner of her hotel room bed. Her voice was high-pitched all of a sudden. She was clearly trying to play with his emotions—she got like that whenever she felt restless, but he didn't get mad. He sat on his bed and looked sad. She felt sorry. She no longer wanted to fight.

He read and she pretended to be asleep. What she wanted to do was to scream, jump on his bed, throw his book on the floor, pull his hair out and kiss him on the cheek. But she was probably too old for that now—fierce demonstrations of love and hasty apologies.

He knew that she wasn't really sleeping, and she knew he knew it.

"I don't even know why we're going there. That won't bring her back," she said.

She turned to the wall. When she felt calmer, she said: "I know why you want to go to Germany. You think that if Dad managed to find a wife there, you may be able to find one too."

He laughed and threw his pillow at her. She jumped on his bed. While she was pulling on his hair, she realized that she didn't know anything about the life that their father had had when he was young, before having them.

To submit your fiction or poetry to the Lit Writ column, email them to lit@thelink.concordia.ca

Putting on the blitz

The (still) controversial tactics of World War II

• PASCAL ROSE LICINIO

In World War I, 10 per cent of all casualties belonged to civilians. During the Second World War, that number jumped to 50 per cent. Today in Iraq and nearby Afghanistan, 90 per cent of all casualties belong to civilians.

As Randall Hansen explains in his new book, *Fire and Fury*, which begins with a description of the bombing of Hamburg in July 1943, aerial bombing campaigns forever changed the way we wage war, and who suffers as a consequence of it.

“Werner and his family cowered in the cellar. As the fires caused by the incendiary bombs lit up the neighbourhood, the temperature in the cellar began to rise. They could either wait there or take their chances in the street,” writes Hansen.

Fire and Fury reads like a novel, opening the doors of military headquarters, cabinet ministers’ offices, fighters’ cockpits, air-raid shelters and dank cellars.

“I wanted to reconstruct the

bombings through the eyes of those who were governing and were directing them,” says Hansen. “[But] I also wanted to explain what it was like to be on the ground during the terrible 20 or 60 minutes during which a city was destroyed. The way to do it, I thought, was to see it through the eyes of the people who lived the bombings.”

To grasp the hellish experience on the receiving end of the bombing raids, Hansen researched archives and memoirs but also used interviews and eyewitness reports. “I put an ad in the paper and dozens and dozens of people responded and sent me their reports,” he said.

Between 1942 and 1945, the Allied forces’ bombing campaign flattened cities, including Dresden, Hamburg and Darmstadt. With 40,000 Canadians serving in Bomber Command, Canada was “by far the second largest contributor to the British bombing campaign,” explains Hansen, who is a Professor of Politics and holds a Canada Research Chair at the University of Toronto.

The bombing campaigns, it should be noted, were the Allied forces’ response to the Blitz—the bombing of British cities in 1940 and 1941 by German planes.

Different strategies were explored by the Allied Nations. British Bomber Command soon turned to a policy of area bombing that aimed at destroying the morale of the Germans by demolishing their facilities and their cities. It proved particularly destructive—it killed nearly 600,000 Germans and rendered five million homeless—and yet for all this blood and treasure, it failed to accelerate the fall of Germany.

The American strategy was different. It focused on daylight precision bombing against industrial plants and transportation networks, and had a greater impact on Germany’s resources while taking fewer civilian lives. But the campaign was also fatal to many Allied soldiers: 80,000 aircrew members, 10,000 Canadians among them, died during the campaign.

To this day it remains a sensitive

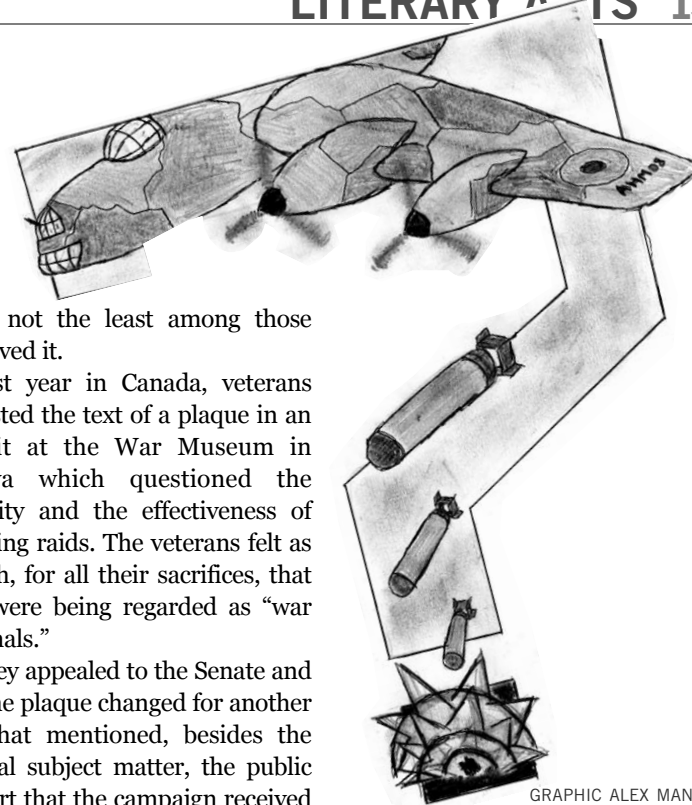
topic, not the least among those who lived it.

Last year in Canada, veterans protested the text of a plaque in an exhibit at the War Museum in Ottawa which questioned the morality and the effectiveness of bombing raids. The veterans felt as though, for all their sacrifices, that they were being regarded as “war criminals.”

They appealed to the Senate and had the plaque changed for another one that mentioned, besides the original subject matter, the public support that the campaign received at its inception, and the heavy losses on the Allied side.

According to Hansen, the Museum should have kept the plaque as it was instead of “rewriting history in the face of public pressure” by modifying a text that was accurate and which did not blame the veterans for taking part in the campaign.

“It’s about having history recognized,” said Hansen, only a week before Remembrance Day. “It does not question at all the respect that



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

one has for people who were young men, following orders, serving their country, and who were fighting for freedom.”



Fire and Fury
Randall Hansen
Doubleday
Canada
October 2008
352 pp
\$34.95

Saul rides on a turtle's back in an ocean of lies

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

What are you up to, Canada? You used to be the polite shy kid at the table who made smart interjections when they were most needed.

Now you seem intent on copying the schoolyard bully; you are a crass and vulgar pariah whose intellect is often at question.

If anything, that is the main question in John Ralston Saul's new book *A Fair Country: Telling Truths About Canada*. Saul argues with solid arguments and often-brilliant prose that we are not a British or French civilization, but a Métis construct.

Through our parliamentary institutions and the monarch on our currency, Saul contends that we are deceiving ourselves. We are Métis and we are better for it.

Decentralization, egalitarianism, horizontal structures and multinational negotiations; all these concepts were pioneered by the Métis over a hundred years before they became trendy. Being Métis is not only accepting our past, it is our future.

That is only one of the three myths that Saul asserts we will need to overcome if we are to move forward as a country.

Saul argues that “peace, order, and good government,” which has defined Canada since Confederation, is a distortion of what was originally conceived by our nation's founders. According to Saul, the word “welfare” originally stood in the place of “order”, a symbol of our initial commitment to egalitarianism.

The last hurdles on our road to national

reconciliation are our elites. Saul says these men and women do little for Canada, they are business leaders with a massive inferiority complex and little faith in the country around them. Saul leaves one name lingering between the lines of text: Brian Mulroney.

It is easy to argue that capitalists don't make the best patriots, especially not in a branch plant economy like Canada, but Saul seems in an awkward place to argue about the “lazy elite.”

It is hard not to laugh when a doctorate from London's King's College who established Petro-Canada and made the most out of his time as the husband of Canada's Governor General belittles the capitalist elites. If Saul does not see himself within the elite structure of this country, he is only kidding himself.

Despite its flaws, *A Fair Country* is a brisk and refreshing look at Canada and has all the makings of a bestseller. Over the course of 300 pages the author removes the dirt of our collective illusion and questions the foundation of everything around us, from our historical record to the names we use.

With our country's superstructure exposed, ask yourself if you are satisfied.



A Fair Country
John Ralston Saul
Viking Canada
September 2008
320 pp
\$34.00

Radius of Light strives to be both political and lyrical

• BARBARA PAVONE

Joshua Auerbach never seriously considered becoming a writer. But with his first full-length compilation of poems, entitled *Radius of Light*, now competing for the Quebec Writers' Federation's A.M. Klein Award, his career is taking off.

This Montreal writer's journey, discovering his passion for the art form, was a long and unusual one. He began at Harvard University studying architecture and soon switched into the visual arts where he was required to write about the ceramic pieces he was making.

“Eventually the writing became more important,” says Auerbach, and he didn't want to make “a large ceramic piece each time [he] wanted to write.” That's when he switched gears again, and found himself in the literary world.

When asked to name the source of inspiration behind *Radius of Light*—a title his publisher wanted changed—Auerbach jokes “good coffee and chocolate.”

Long nights spent toiling over the book aside, Auerbach says his first book of poetry began as an environmental project stemming from the “environmental mishaps and small disasters” taking place around the world today. The collection slowly evolved to include an international perspective, thanks to his travels, as well as some translated works.

“Normally politics stay out of poetry,” argues Auerbach, “So I wanted it to have a lyrical impulse.”

Perhaps it was a little too lyrical. I often

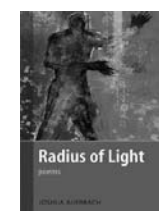
found myself searching for the politically-charged underpinnings of his poetry, and failed. The wide myriad of topics is in fact lyrical but some never find their niche in the wider environmental scheme.

The beauty of poetry, says Auerbach, is that it's “more compressed, more intense language than sustained prose writing [and that] a quality of receptiveness is needed in poetry writing.

The language and analogies he uses are often intense and intricately woven together to paint an image in the reader's mind. However, his insistence on using the fewest words possible denies the material its full potential. If only more had been written, more parallels made, then the result would have been more poignant. Instead, they are often cut short and paint fractions of an image rather than the whole.

However, the critics are raving about its resonance and power, and Auerbach will know soon enough if he wins the A.M. Klein Award, when the QWF Awards are announced Nov. 19.

It would be “nice to win the \$2000 [cash prize],” laughs Auerbach. Having worked on *Radius of Light* for a number of years, it'll be great to “draw some attention [...] especially from people who aren't normally exposed to poetry.”



Radius of Light
Joshua Auerbach
DC Books
December 2007
77 pp
\$16.95

The fatal food market

Competitors for QWF non-fiction prize battle over what you put on your plate

• JUSTIN BROMBERG

Scrolling through the names of upcoming literary awards nominees, the pointer slows down at G, stopping between Taras Grescoe and Adam Leith Gollner. Hmm...

In addition to living within minutes of one another, it seemed these Montreal writers

shared some other, less physical, common ground.

The trail unfolds: both have just been pegged by the Quebec Writers' Federation for their recent non-fiction work, each for a book that waxes poetically about food; both foods, despite starting with the letter 'f' and being quite tasty, are rapidly shaping (and have

been shaped by) our ever-globalizing world.

So as the QWF Literary Awards Gala hits town next Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Lion d'Or cabaret, these two books remind us that the road ahead extends beyond words. In discovering the charted histories of both foods—from their source to your belly—you'll discover character-infused

tales of humankind that challenge our traditional knowledge of fruit, or inspire caution in the consumption of fish. There's also a lot of eating along the way.

To read the full interviews with Taras Grescoe and Adam Leith Gollner, visit *The Link* online.

Bottomfeeder

• JUSTIN BROMBERG

"While culinary trendsetters have the power to drive fish to commercial extinction, a person who convinces the public to rethink its eating habits can actually save a species," writes Terry Grescoe in the first chapter of *Bottomfeeder*.

He goes on to explain how the efforts of individuals have led to dolphin-safe tuna and why public awareness campaigns were effective in slowing the use of Chilean sea bass.

With that in mind, the book explains why things are far from well in the seafood world and highlights how, especially in North America, our eating habits are feeding us in the wrong direction.

Bottom-trawling, a sea-sweeping process that damages coral reefs and leaves the seabed looking like a paved highway, is decimating entire fish populations in an attempt to catch more lucrative seafood, like monkfish. Shrimp farms in India have actually contributed to social and ecological devastation, including a role in the 2005 tsunami.

The consumption of some fish, particularly its flesh, can be extremely toxic; farmed salmon is laden with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and carcinogenic dioxins. The journal *Nature* estimates that 90 per cent of the top-level predators (including tuna, swordfish, and sharks) have already been caught; at this rate the world will run out of fish in our lifetime. And there is no food regulation agency that monitors this.

Despite such figures, Grescoe doesn't advocate an end to fish consumption. In fact, following his elaborately detailed journey to some of the world's largest fish catching and consuming regions, his prognosis is quite the contrary. The author even describes, at length, how his everyday fish consumption keeps the omega-3s high and his brain feeling sharp.

The solution he advocates is bottom-feeding. In other words, eating the fish at the bottom of the food chain: jelly-

fish, sardines, and oysters, to name a few. We don't have to leave our plates empty, and by changing our eating habits we allow the fish stocks to replenish themselves—they are completely capable of doing so.

We also need to enlist the support of governments, in creating marine reserves and imposing a moratorium on bottom-trawling (to which Canada is currently opposed).

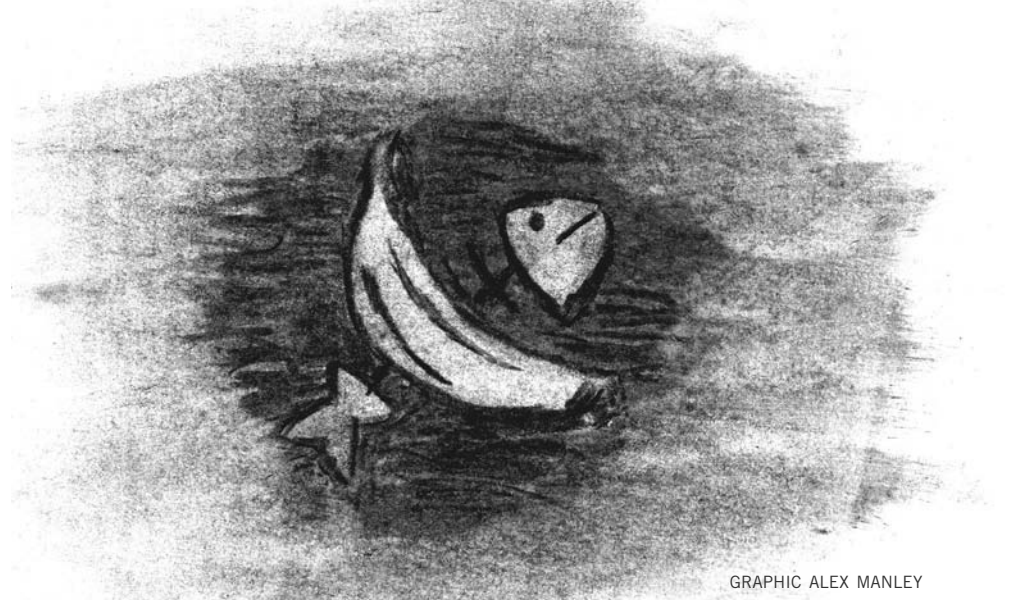
"I think that politicians would score a lot of points by setting up marine reserves," says Grescoe. "For one, they'd be very popular with tourists. [But] it's not exactly a priority for the Conservatives, or for any national politicians, for that matter."

Bottomfeeder, in addition to taking us through Japan, India, and a Red Lobster in North Carolina, is an eye-opening account of why we all need to reconsider that next can of tuna or salmon filet. At the very least, the book's appendix is a must, offering an extensive list of fish-buying principles, questions to ask your fishmonger, and an alphabetical "yay or nay" of the fish you should, and shouldn't, eat.



Bottomfeeder
Taras Grescoe
Bloomsbury
April 2008
336 pp
\$24.99

The Fruit Hunters



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

• JUSTIN BROMBERG

Believe it or not, but just about everyone has his or her own story with fruit. Many, for example, might recall the memories evoked by the simple act of biting into a fresh-picked apple, or the scent of an exotic tropical fruit.

The fact is, according to Adam Leith Gollner, that fruit shapes our everyday human experience. Realizing that, says the author, was the beginning to an international fruit-hunting journey, one that would eventually cement itself in book form.

"I was being summoned to tell this story; the fruits needed to have this story told, and I didn't have a choice—it was either do that or perish," recalls Gollner, discussing how the fruit hunt (and eventually, the book) was inspired by a trip to Brazil.

"It was a very clear sensation of 'I have to do this.' It's not something you feel too often, and I'm honoured to give that weirdness to the journey and the signposts along the way."

As humans, our love for fruit is not unusual; in fact, biophilia, or the "love of life," is a theory that attempts to explain this connection. Fruits are omnipresent, they are colourful, and they hold "inherently erotic" qualities.

In *The Fruit Hunters*, Gollner visits Borneo, Seychelles, Hawaii, and Cameroon, and acts as our guide through his biophilic maze. Some of the characters he introduces us to are more exotic than the fruits they

admire; people like Ken Love, the Fruit Detective, and a guy simply named S.

Throughout the book, the significance and encyclopedic histories of each fruit are described with novel-like quality—the introduction alone contains enough obscure facts to induce anyone into some fruit-like trance. This romantic sort of prose, almost poetic, evokes a literary pleasure that may have you reading excerpts to anyone within earshot—tell your bus driver how the McIntosh apple or the Hass avocado got its name.

"You remember *James and the Giant Peach*?" asks Gollner. "Well, I felt that Roald Dahl kind of quality was important. There were aspects that I felt were out of a fairy tale, and as fruits were a common symbol in mythology, I felt I had to honour that."

The Fruit Hunters also explores some very current issues, including the multi-million dollar illegal fruit-smuggling industry and the departments our governments employ to stop it. Next, the geopolitics of fruit, including how the 30-year ban on Indian mangoes in the United States was not related to pest control, but to the solidifying of nuclear treaties between the two countries. A chapter on "permanent global summertime" highlights the year-round availability of perfect-looking fruit in our grocery stores, and the lesser-known intricacies that the fruit industry doesn't advertise.

Indeed, some parts of *The Fruit Hunters* are best compared to a detective story; a chapter on why miracle fruit was never approved by the Food and Drug Administration, for instance, involves eerie car chases and the bad guy figures of a crime novel.

At other times, the book reads like a treasure hunt, rekindling the childish pleasure of a choose-your-own-adventure story. A pleasure perhaps similar to one Gollner describes, sneaking out of the house as a child to visit the candy store.



The Fruit Hunters
Adam Leith Gollner
Scribner
May 2008
288 pp
\$25.00

We don't have to leave our plates empty, and by changing our eating habits we allow the fish stocks to replenish themselves.

"I was being summoned to tell this story; the fruits needed to have this story told, and I didn't have a choice—it was either do that or perish."

—Adam Leith Gollner, author

THE

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concordia's independent newspaper

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UNITY

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SKY

La Mystique

Mado
PARKING

Bienvenue à
the village

La Mystique



Beyond The Village

The Link's annual
Queer Issue

In compiling this issue, the question was raised, “Why do we still have the Queer Issue? Why not cover queer issues all the time?”

In its mandate as a progressive paper, The Link aims to maintain coverage of issues in Montreal's queer and trans communities as they arise. Still, we feel it's important to allot a few extra pages every year to open the dialogue more and allow these communities to represent themselves on our pages, as opposed to only reporting on things in a timely manner.

The Link's first Queer Issue—then called the Gay Issue—saw an estimated 5,000 copies destroyed due to its contentious nature. Luckily, commonly held ideologies have come a long way. And in keeping with the constant evolution of what “queer” entails, for the first time, we've decided to separate articles dealing with “queer” issues from those relating to transgender or transsexual issues in an effort to expand the issue's scope and explore a largely marginalized segment of the population, giving trans

subjects a proper place in the issue.

We've chosen the overarching theme of “Beyond the Village”, referencing both the geographical location of Montreal's gay village, as well as using it as a metaphor for mainstream queer culture. The issue aims to explore ideas that are sometimes maligned in queer discourse and offers differing points of view that offer up many points of thought.

The issue also explores the city of Montreal as a whole under a queer lens; the places many of us have walked by and whose lineage we've taken for granted has actually changed a lot over time and we've taken the time to try to demonstrate this agenda of change.

It is our aim to look beyond the glossed-over, widely accepted and largely capitalistic face of the mainstream gay image to dig deeper and examine more organic communities.

What's in a word?

A look into the semiotics of the word 'queer'

• ANALYSIS BY LAURA BEESTON

'Queer' is a declaration that breaks the definitional mold.

In its understood contemporary vernacular, 'queer' grew up alongside the increasing deployment of sexual categories in the '60s and '70s such as 'gay' and 'lesbian,' but is significant in its difference from these terms through its lack of gender specificity.

We also know what 'queer' is largely because of what it is not: it is not 'normal,' but is the binary of 'normality.'

'Normalizing queer would be its finish,' insists Judith Butler, an American post-structuralist philosopher, and hers is exactly the point. 'Queer' is hard to pin because it represents a complex range of sexualities countering straightness and is fluidly applicable to the many varieties that are inevitable in sex, gender, and desire.

'Queer' is unique as a sexual definition because it lacks concrete definition; it subsists as an umbrella term for the LGBT and beyond, representing unity while simultaneously advocating diversity. It is a site of inclusiveness, a pan-sexuality, while concurrently existing as indeterminate, un-definable and flexible.

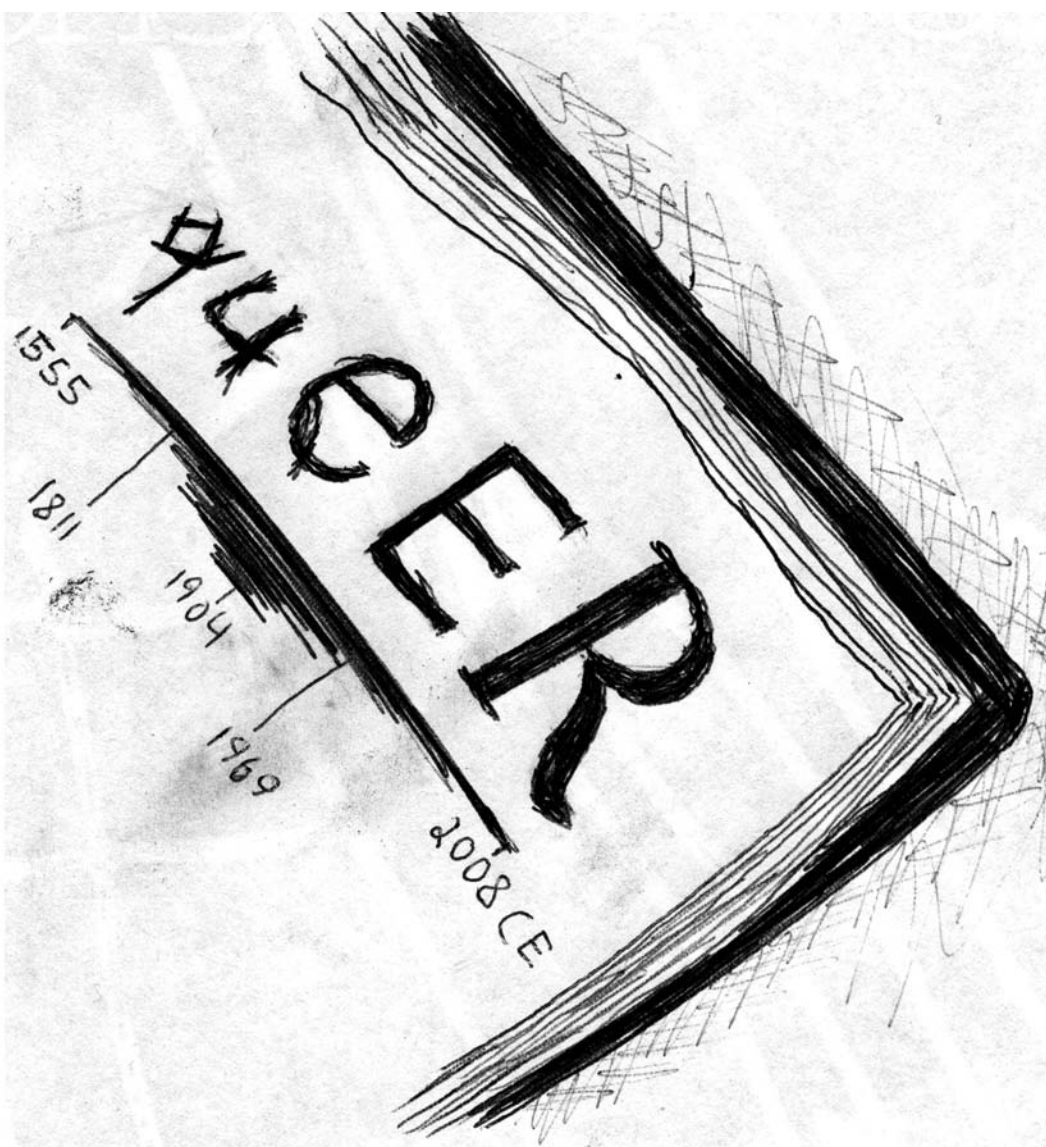
But even more importantly, 'queer' is a political term of resistance. To challenge oppositional structures and practices, words are commonly taken back from former aggressors and redeployed. This 'war of words' has proven to be

common contemporary arsenal for many marginalized groups. To repossess a word that was originally intended as a pejorative is ultimately powerful, demonstrating the radical potential words can hold.

There are many examples of the way that 'word control' has been exercised: the 'N-word' has been inclusively reclaimed in slang (and rap), Inga Muscio and her Declaration of Independence attempts to recoup the word 'cunt' for womyn everywhere, and Bush (well, actually it was Adbusters) enlightened us as to who the real 'terrorists' are.

In terms of its own revolution, 'Queer' has undergone a transformation from a colloquial meaning of 'strange' or 'odd,' to a self-identifier (predating the term 'gay') for homosexual men in the early 1900s, to its modern understanding as a re-appropriated term describing orientation and identity that will not conform to a normalized culture.

This is what sets 'Queer' apart from the other signifiers is its terms of meaning and content. Semantically, words are everything and beg definition. Our understanding of reality is structured and organized by language, and words are used to regulate concepts and to make them concrete. 'Queer' is committed to deconstructing these ideas by defiantly questioning the approved categorization of sexuality and rejecting the prioritizing traditions of identity.



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

Help wanted

Queer Concordia holds it together

• JESARA SINCLAIR

The rainbow flag hanging in the window of Queer Concordia's office on Mackay Street may not be backlit as frequently as it was last year. The collective's executive board found itself with only two members at last spring's Annual General Meeting.

Joey Donelly and Nick Comilla are trying to hold the collective together this year, and to build the groundwork for strengthening the group.

Both feel that QC is more than just a club. They feel it's an important focal point of Concordia's queer community—a space for those who identify as queer, especially those who are just coming out, to find supportive peers, reading materials, safer sex information, and to get away from discrimination.

“To have this sense of community is a good way to protect yourself against the trials and tribulations of big city life,” says Donelly.

They feel the focus on community is missing from the most visibly gay space in Montreal—the Village.

“Having something around that doesn't fit into the assimilation and commercialization that is the village is really important,” says Comilla, who parties in the village with his friends now and then. “I have a really big problem with all the political issues that the village leaves out.”

Excluded from the village; queer kids (who aren't old enough to “go out and get laid”), women and trans people (who aren't allowed in some clubs), and people who can't afford to buy into the capitalist culture.

He also finds the “addiction culture” scary, especially to those new to the scene who may “think that's the only way that you can live a 'gay life'.”

Last year, QC threw parties, protests, fundraisers, workshops and hosted discussion groups. This year, with just the two full time students in charge, the focus is mostly on establishing their presence and recruiting active members to the community.

To get involved with Queer Concordia, drop by their office at 2020 Mackay when the light behind the big rainbow flag is on, find the group on Facebook, or write to queer-concordia@gmail.com.

Queer Concordia's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov 13, at 7:30 p.m. at QPIRG (1500 de Maisonneuve, suite 204).

The social and sexual consequences of ignorance

The elimination of medical choice in Iran

• DEVIN MORROW, *THE UNITER* (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Sexual freedom and Iran are not words often put together. The state has a reputation for its hard-line Islamic government that seriously curtails sexual promiscuity. But it's worse than most people realize.

The extent to which the state goes to protect itself from openly homosexual individuals has been recently examined in *Be Like Others*, a documentary by Tanaz Eshaghian, a New York-based, Iranian-born filmmaker.

The rest of the world has roughly been aware of Iran's stance for some time. When Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited the United States and, in front of liberal minded-Columbia University students, proclaimed that homosexuality simply did not exist in Iran, the issue became more mainstream.

The comment influenced a more careful examination of Iran's sexual policies by a

number of independent thinkers. One of these examinations resulted in *Be Like Others*.

The film reveals that Iran is pushing a shocking program to “fix the problem” of homosexuality. Iran has started using official identity rosters as a way to diagnose people with a specific sexual orientation.

A number of gay and lesbian people have been diagnosed as transsexual in order to escape becoming pariahs in their communities. But the agenda doesn't stop at a diagnosis or an identity card.

The Iranian government, as well as religious leaders, are advocating that individuals diagnosed as being transsexual undergo sex-change operations in order to “fit in” with the rest of society.

Homosexual and being transsexual are two different things, but in a state where homosexuality is regarded as a shameful lifestyle and is illegal, being transsexual is lauded because it is “fixable.”

While the state and religious officials push

surgery, it is not the end of the issue. Eshaghian examined the consequences for those who undergo sex-change operations within their socio-economic class.

In major centres, those identified as transsexuals may bypass the social radar, but Eshaghian notes that for lower-class Iranians who come from small communities, having a sex change does not immediately allow for their acceptance and they are often greeted with shock by the rest of the population.

Discrimination exists in every society, but the extent to which Iran has gone to destroy sexual freedom is despicable and tragic.

Without understanding the lifestyle consequences this program has, people undergoing surgery are forced to re-evaluate their entire existence.

While the West is pre-occupied with talk of Iran's nuclear testing and the possibility of oil there, we are ignoring the real social issues that exist within the state. And by ignoring them, we're allowing them to continue.

A jihad for peace

Gay flimmaker's struggle with religion

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

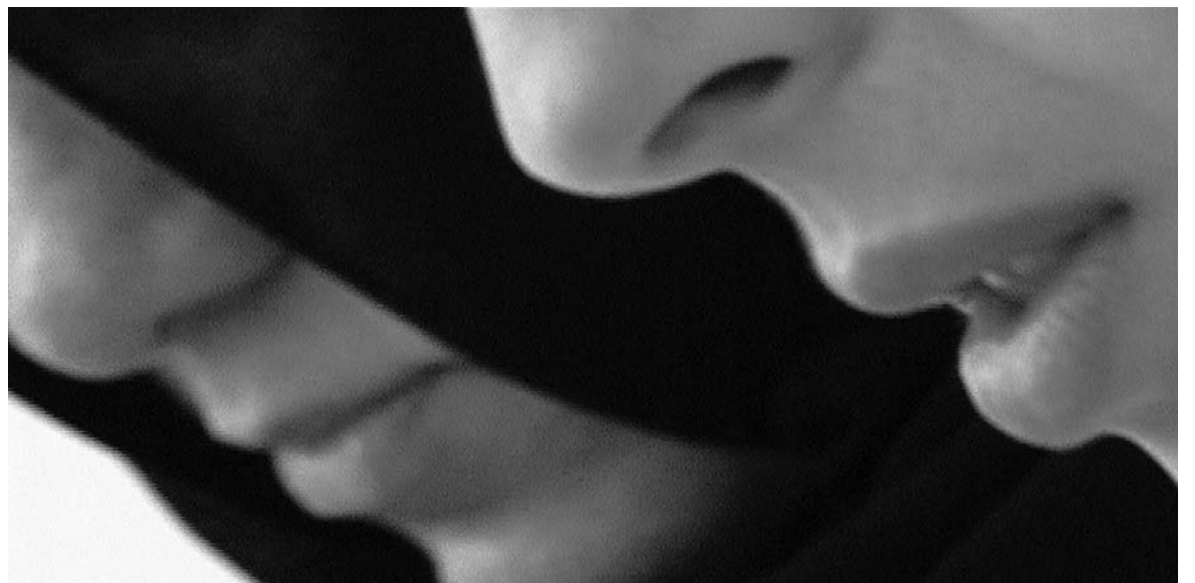
Coming out to his family and friends wasn't a problem for director Parvez Sharma. The question was, how would he tell his next-door neighbours that he's a Muslim, and how would they react?

Coming out of the closet in his home town of India was one thing, but fessing up to his religion after a declaration of holy war on America was one hurdle too far for this newly minted American citizen, who arrived in the States only a year before the Twin Towers fell.

Navigating the harsh inroads of Islam while being true to one's inherent sexuality is the topic of Parvez Sharma's first film, *A Jihad for Love*.

In fact, the greatest advocates for Islam depicted in the film are not those who adhere stringently to dogma, but those who seemingly have the least to gain from reinforcing scripture. The film's insistence on balancing these two seemingly opposing forces, scripture and sexuality, shows almost as much faith in human beings as it does in an almighty god.

But when simply being a woman in Islam was enough to turn Ayaan Hirsi Ali into an avowed atheist, what hope do openly gay men and women have for retaining their faith in Allah?



“I think the success of the film has to do with the fact that it doesn't attack Islam,” says Sharma. “The only thing people really objected to was the belly dancing scene,” in which one of the film's stars dresses in drag.

Filming in 12 different countries, from his home town of India to Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey and Iran, Sharma failed to achieve the blessings of the local governments he visited, and relied on a film crew mostly consisting of himself to avoid gathering attention.

The real difficulty, says Sharma, was in convincing the film's stars to take part. “It took years of convincing some people to show their faces,” he reveals. Sharma was ret-

icent to speak about his own experiences coming out of the closet.

Just as the gay pride movement has sought to reclaim words originally used derisively, Sharma would like to reclaim the word Jihad from the fundamentalists who have wielded it as an epithet for violence, sometimes directed at Sharma and his contemporaries in the gay community.

“A lot of the labels used [by the gay community] don't translate [into Arabic],” concedes Sharma, so the use of a term already familiar to Muslims made greater sense.

“Jihad has been used to denote a variety of things,” says Sharma. “Unfortunately, it's that primary term [as a declaration of war] that

has become synonymous in people's minds.”

Jihad, in the literal sense, refers to a struggle, and a jihad ul-Nafs is a struggle with the self. Each of the film's participants is said to be struggling with a personal jihad, either with scripture or with themselves.

To hear people say “two tickets to *Jihad*, please,” says Sharma, showed the word was starting to gain traction with audiences. Critics have also started to take notice. This past week, Sharma made it onto *The Out* magazine's 100 Men and Women Who Made 2008, a list of influential artists and individuals in the gay community.

A problem for all

Concordia prof makes case for addressing issues surrounding sexual minorities

• JESARA SINCLAIR

Dr. Thomas Haig says it's important not to look at HIV/AIDS as a "gay issue," but that it's important to address the issues faced by affected populations, including the gay community, and other sexual minorities.

"Preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections requires that we talk openly and supportively about sex in all its diversity."

—Dr. Thomas Haig

"Preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections requires that we talk openly and supportively about sex in all its diversity and equip people to take control of the decisions that affect their sexual health," he says. "Yet homophobia, HIV-phobia and other forms of inequality and discrimination continue to undermine prevention efforts by silencing, shaming and disempowering gay people, members of other sexual and gender minorities, and HIV-positive people."

He teaches both the six credit INTE 270: HIV/AIDS: Cultural, Social and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic, and the three-credit INTE 398G HIV/AIDS: An Interdisciplinary Introduction. The class looks critically at discrimination around

HIV/AIDS and human violations related to the virus worldwide.

"The course provides insight into the ways in which these abuses can and must be combated if we are to make any headway in reversing the pandemic," says Haig.

Students are also given the opportunity to understand why HIV/AIDS was first labeled as a "gay disease."

"Because HIV can be transmitted sexually, the course necessarily looks at sex and sexuality in all their diversity, but not limited to gay issues," says Haig.

While the class examines the negative impact of HIV/AIDS on the gay communities in the '80s and '90s, it also looks to groups, including LGBTQ communities, "who have been at the forefront of responding to HIV/AIDS."

And Haig says that men who have sex with men are "disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS for a variety of reasons." He cites statistics that show that 45% of new infections of HIV in Canada are in men who have sex with men, and around 12% of gay or bisexual men in Montreal are living with HIV.

With a 4-hour-per-week internship on top of lectures and assignments, INTE 270 is a rigorous endeavor that for many is well worth the effort.

"Quite a number of the students [...] come away with the feeling that it was one of the highlights of their undergraduate career," Haig assures.

—with files from Jose Espinoza

Becoming invisible

Minorities are the majority

• ANALYSIS BY SHAWN THOMPSON

Gilles Deleuze, a French philosopher, wrote that "what defines majority is a model you have to conform to...A minority has no model, it's a becoming, a process."

According to this model, opposition defines things; if you're not a man, you're a woman and if you're not having sex with partners of the opposite sex, you're gay. It's a binary process of inclusion and exclusion. Being the norm is invisible. The "norm"—which stands for the majority—is by definition the ultimate measure by which everyone and everything is judged and classified. It's the natural way to be.

In our socio-historical context, "normal" is a white heterosexual male that comes from a Christian background. I say "male" because "females" are still visible. An example of this is how everybody notices the overwhelming majority of women in universities. It's not just a naïve observation. It's not "normal."

Furthermore, why do we witness so often in the media that a "black" man robbed or killed or whatever? Is it relevant to now that he's black? And why do we notice that for example the person we're talking to is Asian or Indian? It's because they aren't the norm: they are visible.

The same mental process applies to homosexuals and transsexuals, because in our society being heterosexual is taken as a given. Heterosexuality is perceived as "non-deviant,"

but any other model of sexual behavior is perceived as deviant.

In our society, the whole notion of "normality" has been defined by the dominant discourse—the White Heterosexual Male that comes from a Christian background. Dominant discourses have the power to produce the signs of marginalization. Therefore, there is always a rupture in the dialogues between dominant groups and minorities. It's an unequal distribution of power.

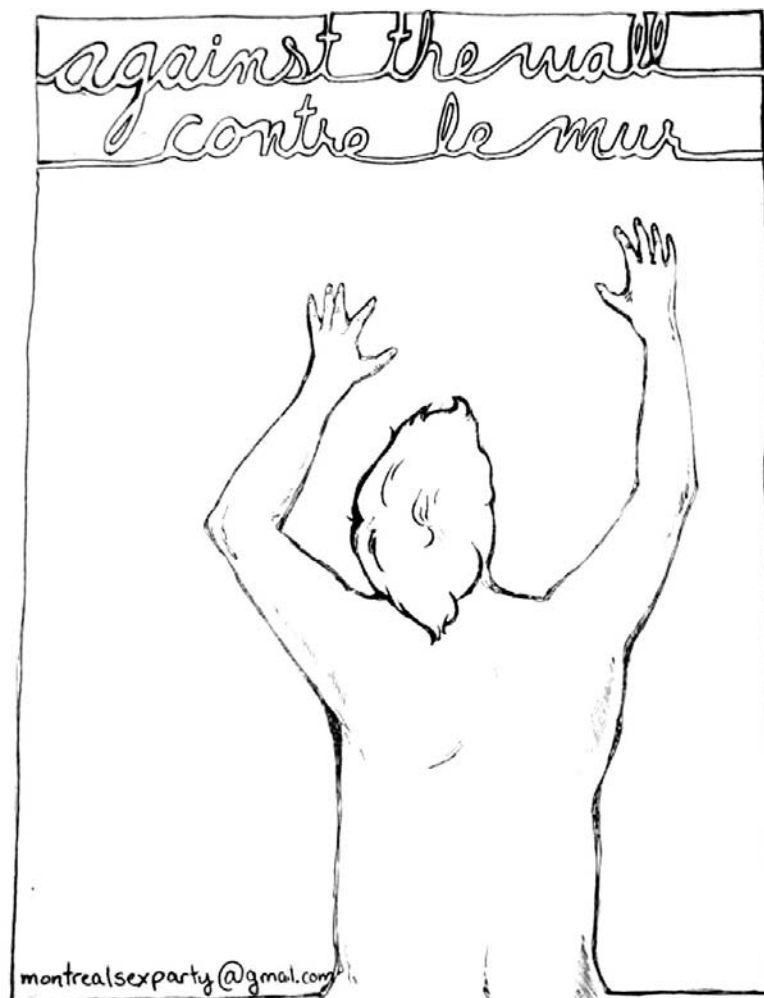
It's not surprising that minority struggles of gender, race, language, borders, culture and sexual orientation are constantly rising here and

The whole notion of "normality" has been defined by the dominant discourse—the White Heterosexual Male that comes from a Christian background.

there and make their way into the public space.

Discussions about these issues shouldn't take place in the same mental structure of the dominant discourse, which has ossified our perceptions with time.

Social order is never stable. Lines that define the so-called "categories of people" are in constant motion. Society is an assemblage of individuals, its a multiplicity, its a whole, its a becoming, it's a process.



'We won't check your genitals at the door'

Women and Trans sex parties

• SHAWN THOMPSON

Playing "spin the bottle" takes an "adult" turn at the bi-monthly sex parties organized by the collective Against The Wall.

At first called the Woman/Trans Adult Party, the collective threw their first bash during the last edition of Pervers/Cite, an off-Pride festival created by a group of radical queers to counter the growing commercial side of the LGBT festival Divers/Cite.

Against The Wall aims to provide a clean, safe and drug-free place for queer and trans people in Montreal.

"Right now, there are no secure venues for this kind of event. The "adult events" out there, are not secure for women and especially not for transpeople," said the 20 year-old Eli Mess, one of the five main organizers.

In addition, Against The Wall's sex parties provide active listening support as well as promoting safe-sex practices.

"But harm-reduction is there to meet where people are at," said Kate Lamothe, another organizer.

The party space is divided in different areas: a space to play games and talk, a space for cajoleries and a closed-off space for some "action." Sometimes there are mattresses, sometimes not.

"That's why we are called

"against the wall," laughed the 25-year-old Kate.

The parties are still nomadic events that have no permanent venue.

"It's hard to find people that want to rent us their space," said Eli.

To complicate matters further, organizers look for venues that have both features of separateness of the rooms and wheelchair accessibility.

Upon arrival, people are asked to sign a waiver to ensure they know the nature of what is going on in the adult party.

"Everyone is welcome as long as they are respectful...and 18-years-old and over," added the younger of the two organizers.

"We're not checking people's genitals at the door," added Kate with a laugh.

Against The Wall plans to have before-party workshops on topics like "negotiating consent," "dealing with rejection," "BDSM 101," and "how to cruise ethically." They are also thinking about hosting performances and live porn during the parties.

"Another good thing about it is that it's a way to share our knowledge within the community," said Kate.

"It's a learning experience. We can teach each other tricks," she added.

The next sex party is scheduled for mid to late December.

Pride throughout the ages

Fighting against the system and the brutes for the right to be queer

• JUSTIN BROMBERG & DOMINIQUE JARRY-SHORE

Before queer life became associated with the Village in the early 1980s, Montreal's gay bars and hangouts were spread out around the downtown core and the Main, north of Sherbrooke Street. Indeed, a vibrant but careful gay scene included such classic locales as Dominion Square, the Peel

Pub, and the streets and alleyways along Ste-Catherine West. “Even when I came here in the mid-70's, the concentration of the bars was on Stanley, a little bit on Ste-Catherine,” recalls Ross Higgins, an anthropology professor at Concordia. “There were some bars over towards the Village, but not quite that far.” The Village earned its status after a series of frequent police raids which, among other things and

combined with then-Mayor Jean Drapeau's 'morality' policies, convinced owners to move east. While some of the most historically significant places in the gay community are still standing, others have been reduced to parking lots. The following is a suggested historical tour of queer Montreal, to get you walking and thinking about the city that was.

1. Babyface Disco – 1235 Dorchester West (now René-Lévesque Ouest)

A downtown parking lot beside the high-end Queue de Cheval Restaurant is all that remains of what was once Babyface Disco—the first exclusively lesbian bar in Montreal. Denise Cassidy, AKA “Baby Face,” opened the bar in 1972 after waitressing and managing other gay bars around town. Babyface Disco was the kind of place you had to find out about through word of mouth; Cassidy didn't advertise. But she did guard the door, reportedly with a baseball bat, to fend off homophobic attackers. Cassidy was also strict about preventing illicit activity in the bar and even though the legal drinking age was 18, you had to be 21 to get in.



2. Le Mystique (and the former Truxx) – 1424 Stanley

Opened in 1972, Le Mystique is Montreal's oldest standing gay bar and, at 36 years old, is one of the downtown area's three remaining gay establishments. This wasn't always the case, however, and back before the city hosted the Summer Olympic Games of 1976, things were quite different. “There were many bars before Drapeau 'cleaned up' the downtown core,” says Le Mystique's manager and bartender, Steven Wells. “The Olympics were coming and these were excuses to close down anything that was gay.” The mayor wanted all such 'immoralities' relocated east of downtown, and offered tax breaks as incentives, says Wells. “And there were raids on the places that refused to close.” Indeed, in the early morning hours of October 22, 1977, “more than fifty uniformed and plainclothes police from the divisional morality, mobile and technical squads carried off the raid” on Le Mystique and the (now-closed) neighbouring Truxx, reported The Body Politic (Issue 39, Nov. 21, 1978). “The heavily-armed members of the technical squad entered with bullet-proof vests and at least two machine guns.” In the largest mass arrest since the War Measures Act, this raid—known as Montreal's “Stonewall”—ended with 146 men held for up to 15 hours at police headquarters, with some given VD tests. “They came in with machine guns, I mean, the most that was going on was that someone was getting a blow job,” said Wells, 41. The harassment was frequent, notes Wells, and not always in the form of a raid. “People were getting beat up outside the clubs by policemen, getting their money taken, a lot of shit was going on like that.” But the raid would prove to be the last straw for the gay community, and for Montreal. The following night, October 23, 1977, over 2,000 people blocked the intersection of Stanley and Sainte-Catherine to protest the raid. The demonstration snarled traffic and sparked a riot (also broken up by police, with more arrests.) The response was clear. Because of the heavy-handedness of the police and the Victorian-era 'morality' laws used in the charges, the media sided with the

homosexual community. Quebec legislators, pressured by the Association pour les droits des gai(e)s du Québec (ADGQ) and gauging the protests as public support, amended the Quebec Charter of Human Rights to include sexual orientation (Bill 88). On December 15, 1977, Quebec became the first province, largest political jurisdiction in North America, and second place in the world (after Denmark) to provide legal protection for homosexuals. “With Bill 88, the raids, the protest [...] this is when the world started to know what was going on,” adds Wells. The charges against most of the men in the 1977 raid were eventually dropped-five years later, when they went to trial on December 14, 1982. For more information: archives.cbc.ca/politics/rights_freedoms/clips/3231/



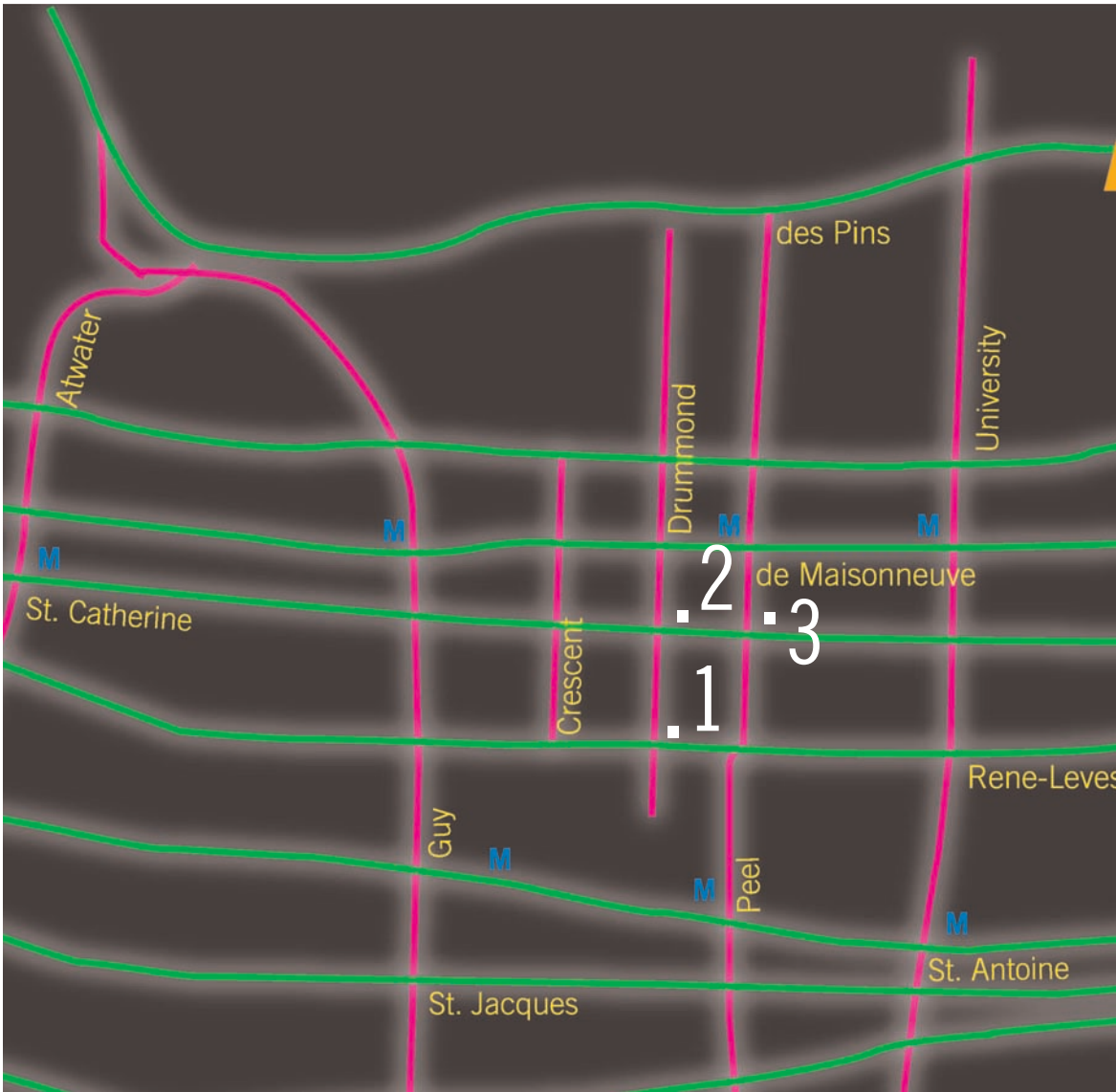
3. Tropical Lounge – 1422 Peel

Known by the pseudonym “Burning Flame,” this downtown bar opened in 1952 and catered to an exclusively homosexual clientele—straight people were not admitted by the bouncer. The Tropical was the first place in Montreal that gay men were allowed to dance together in 1957. Patrons of the bar reportedly “jumped for joy” when they found out about the new policy. The Tropical also was a popular tourist destination for gay travelers. It is now the home of cheap Mexican food and drink, in its current incarnation as Carlos and Pepe's.



4. Aux Deux Canards and Ponts de Paris – 1276 St-André

Aux Deux Canards (later the Ponts de Paris) was the most popular cabaret-show bar among Montreal lesbians from the 1950s to 1970s. It opened in 1955 and featured a raised stage and an orchestra that played for performers and dancers alike. To minimize the risk of harassment from other patrons, lesbians were segregated within the bar and were seated on the left of the stage, while straight women, and gay men sat on the right.



5. **Librarie L'Androgyne – 1436 Amherst (formerly 3636 Saint-Laurent, and somewhere on Ste-Catherine West)**

Started under the name Androgyny-Alternatives Bookstore back in 1973, this independent bookshop was created when three men decided to take action on the lack of available gay literature in Montreal.

"There was nowhere to go. You would hear rumours about this or that bookstore carrying this or that gay title, but that was it," Will Aitken, one of the founding trio, told *The Mirror* in 1998. Aitken, along with Bruce Garside and John Southin, realized the struggle of finding such literature when they began a gay consciousness-raising group at McGill, two years earlier. Eventually the trio handed the shop keeping to a collective of volunteers, beginning in 1975. In 1979, with the influx of francophone gay literature and clients, the shop became Librarie L'Androgyne.

In its later days, circa 1998, it was privately owned by two francophone women. The shop was still stocking a majority of anglophone books, while the clientele was primarily francophone. But issues of gender and language were always secondary to the bookstore's main objective.

"To be honest, the political dilemmas just don't come up that often. If the subject matter or author is queer, we'll stock it," noted then-owner, France Desilets, to *The Mirror*.

But with the rising popularity of L'Androgyne came a parallel availability of



queer literature in major bookstores. Like all independent shops, queer bookstores have fallen prey to the their competitive pricing (as well as the Net's). Librarie L'Androgyne closed its doors in 2002, and its last location is today a warehouse that stocks sex toys for a local shop.

6. **Gay Montreal Association, Gay Women's Centre/Labyris – 3664 Sainte-Famille**

This non-descript greystone in the McGill ghetto was the home of the Gay Montreal Association and the Gay Women's Centre from 1974 to 1975. Here, the activities of the Gay Women's Centre (representing the anglophone lesbian community) expanded to include a listening and referral service, a documentation centre and two discussion groups (one for lesbian mothers and another for lesbians over 30).



7. **Coop-Femmes – 3617 St-Laurent**

The development of Montreal's francophone lesbian community began in a decrepit office space on the third floor of this building on the Main in 1977. The group called themselves Coop-Femmes and they were tired of being forced to have meetings in bars. Concerts, dances and discussion groups were held in the space over the years, but the co-op closed its doors in 1979 due to confrontation between radical and feminist lesbians who had differing views of the direction of the organization.

Today, patrons at Euro Deli consume pasta and lattes below this very office.

8. **Colonial Baths – 3963 Coloniale**

When Aaron Adler, a Jewish Romanian immigrant, opened the Colonial Baths in 1914, it was the first Turkish bath in the city. Perhaps the first of the city's spas, its original clients were mainly immigrants, already familiar with this type of social bathing.

Back then, most of the cold-water flats and run-down apartments of today's hip Plateau streets didn't have any bathrooms or hot water. The baths were therefore a place to clean oneself, for instance amongst religious Jewish immigrants before High Holiday services. It is also said that some of the high-profile business owners on the Main were regulars, and that Mordecai Richler drew inspiration for his book's characters here.

But it's no secret that the baths were also frequented by privacy-seeking men, looking for time away from their wives, as well as a closeted gay community. These days, le Bain Colonial—now run by grandchildren Joy and Howard Adler—remains a discreet, men-only establishment (though there was a short-lived Lady's Day on Tuesdays, stopped in 2000 due to low turnout). The majority of its clientele are openly gay or bisexual, often students and young professionals. As Joy Adler told *Place Publique* magazine in 2003: "In the last 15 years, the gay community has been more open. Our clientele also changed, with more clubs opening all the time."



9. **Powerhouse Gallery / La Centrale – 4296 St-Laurent (formerly 460 Sainte-Catherine Ouest and 1210 avenue Greene, 2nd floor)**

The first feminist art gallery in Canada is still going strong, 35 years after its founding in 1973. With its roots in the feminist art movement of the time, the gallery was founded by the Flaming Aprons group in response to the under-representation of women in Canadian visual arts.

The Flaming Aprons placed an ad on a billboard, inviting all women artists to meet and discuss the difficulties related to exhibiting their work. The Powerhouse Gallery / La Centrale was born a year later, and over the coming decades would host creative exhibitions, performance events, and publications based in contemporary gender and feminist theory.

Though it has changed locations a few times, the gallery maintained a regular role in the lesbian community and was the site of events organized to support the Gay Women's Association. Its current location, a storefront window boutique on the Main, was opened on its 30th anniversary.

In 2007, La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse altered their mandate "to keep up to date with modern feminist studies," notes Onya Hogan-Finlay, programming assistant at the gallery. The mandate was expanded to reflect on postcolonial and non-Western feminisms, as well as incorporate the growing discourses of trans-feminism and masculinity.



Cisgender privilege checklist

This list is intended for those who are interested in considering how their privilege as a cisgender (non-trans) person affects their lives, and how that makes their experiences in the world substantially different from transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming people. It is NOT intended to be a list of things that all cisgender people have and all transgender people do not have.

Many of the privileges here are specific to having two or more kinds of privilege. However, in these cases, there is still significant reason to list them as cisgender privileges.

This list was originally written in the United States in 2007; its applicability to citizens of other countries and to other times will vary.

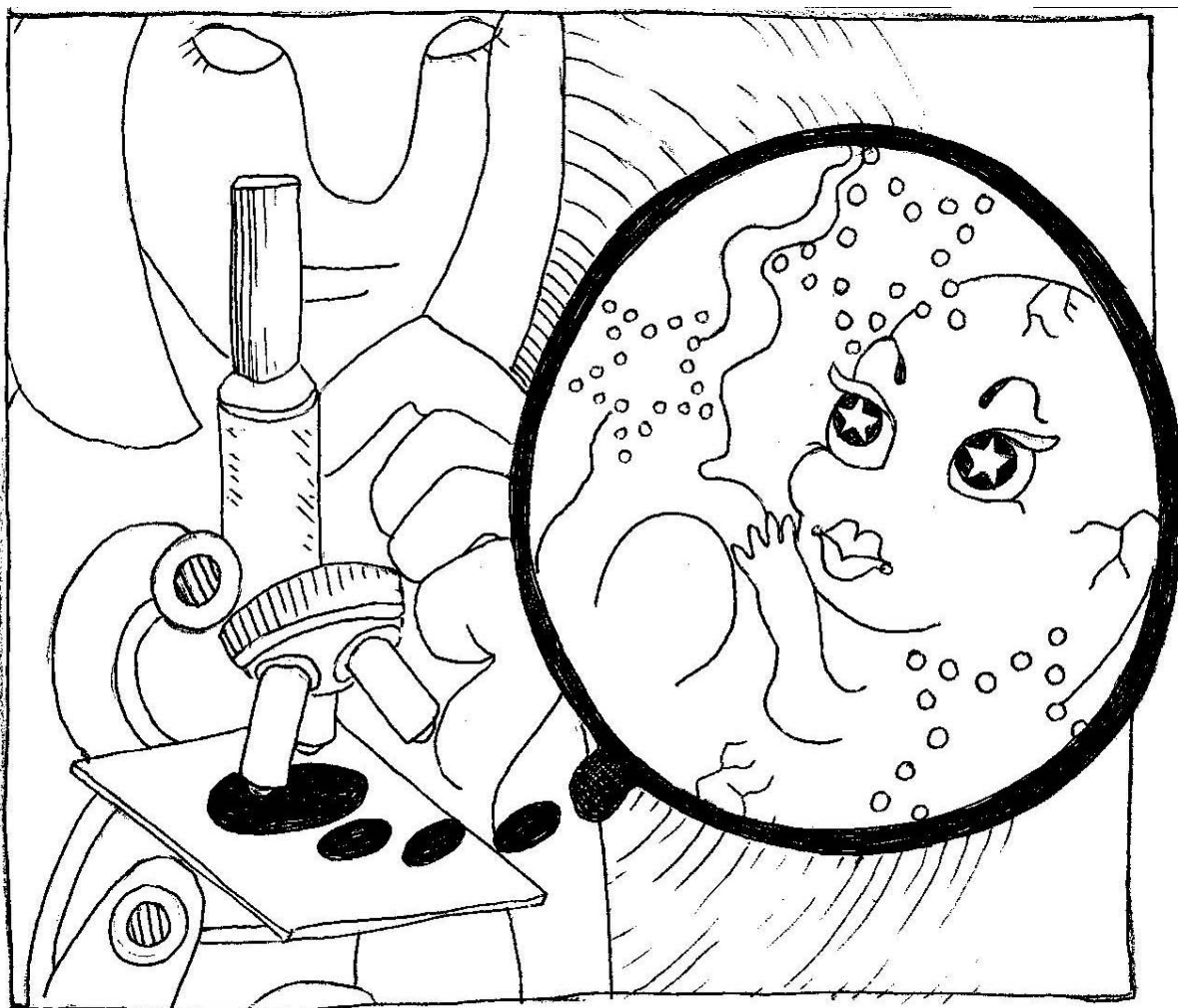
Cisgender is a neologism meaning "not transgender," that is, a gender identity or performance in a gender role that society considers to match or be appropriate for one's sex.

- I expect non-discrimination acts that apply to me to cover the most prevalent vectors of discrimination against me. I expect laws banning the creation of a hostile work environment will ban the use of offensive language about me.
- I expect my government-issued identification to accurately represent who I am.
- I expect access to healthcare.
- There is information about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in my community.
- Clothing works for me, more or less.
 - a. I am a size and shape for which clothes I feel comfortable wearing are commonly made
 - b. Clothes are designed with bodies like mine in mind.
 - c. If I am unable to find clothing that fits me well, I will still feel safe, and recognizable as my gender
 - d. If I have a restriction on what clothing I will buy (e.g. vegan, allergy, non sweatshop), I can expect that specialty stores will have them in my size/shape.
- I expect my gender to not unduly affect my ability to travel internationally.
- Perception/acceptance of my gender is generally independent of:
 - a. My clothing choices, how my clothing fits
 - b. My adherence to traditional roles of my gender (both "too much" and "too little")
 - c. Holding sexist, sex-negative, or rape-culture beliefs
 - d. Holding feminist or sex-positive beliefs
 - e. My sexual choices/desires
 - f. Being assertive, aggressive, or passive
 - g. Being in a position of power
 - h. Being intellectual
 - i. My dietary habits
 - j. My weight
 - k. My height
 - l. My occupation
 - m. My musical taste
 - n. My hairstyle
 - o. My hobbies
 - p. Wanting gendered things/actions labeled "immature" or "childish"
 - q. Whether or not I have had a medical procedure
- Bodies like mine are represented in the media and the arts. It is easily possible for representations of my naked body to pass obscenity restrictions.
- I expect the privacy of my body to be respected. I am not asked about what my genitals look like, or whether or not my breasts are real, what medical procedures I have had, etc.
- Institutions and authority figures do not force me to adopt a different gender presentation, or deny me medical treatment.
 - a. Parents, foster care
 - b. Juvenile justice systems
 - c. Schools (all K-12 schools, some religious universities)
 - d. Drug rehabilitation
 - e. Nursing homes
 - f. Prisons
 - g. Hospitals/Mental Hospitals
 - h. Close relative/spouse unless otherwise specified, in the event of a medical emergency
- Commonly used terminology that differentiates my gender from other genders/sexes implies that I am normal, and that I have unquestionable right to the gender/sex I identify with. The implications these terms make about my gender, my body, my sex, my biology, and my past are all acceptable to me.
 - The sex/gender dichotomy does not have consequences in my life.
 - a. Insistence on strict adherence to one interpretation of difference between "sex" and "gender" (if the dichotomy is used "accurately") does not mean that different words should be used to describe me than adherence to another interpretation does (if 'sex' and 'gender' are "conflated").
 - b. I am not categorized differently if someone categorizes by "sex" when "gender" is more relevant. (e.g. my ID will read the same thing whether it says "sex" or "gender," no matter how the authority interprets the dichotomy; I will have the same access to sex segregated facilities, etc.)
 - For me, there is little-to-no conflict between being recognized as a member of my gender, and resisting sexism.
 - My control of my body is independent of the good will of oppressive institutions.
 - Recognition of my gender is independent of the good will of oppressive institutions.
 - My gender is acknowledged universally, immediately, and without hesitation
 - My potential lovers expect my genitals to look roughly similar to the way they do, and have accepted that before coming to bed with me.
 - I expect the privacy of my body to be respected.
 - Others accept my control over when, whether, and how I talk about any given event/period in my life, according to what meets my needs and desires best. Others accept my determination of what events and periods in my life I wish to talk about or deem significant.
 - My gender, and my access to gender-specific services and medical care, are upheld no matter how important or unimportant I consider that to be. Even if I consider medical treatment to maintain an appearance matching my gender to be inconsequential, it will still be available to me, covered by health insurance. Likewise, even if I find the use of the appropriately gendered language about me inconsequential, it will still be taken as a serious, unproblematic need by others.
 - My right to inhabit my currently chosen gender is universally considered valid, regardless of my gendered behavior as a child, or how I felt about being forced into the gender I inhabited then. If I require medical treatment to keep up an appearance that matches my gender, it will be granted immediately and without question.

—compiled from t-vox.org

Under the microscope

Media representation of trans-people two steps forward, one step back?



GRAPHIC MOLLY SOWIAK

• CLARE RASPOPOW

On Apr. 3, 2008 Thomas Beatie, a female-to-male transsexual, sat on the set of Oprah next to his wife Nancy and answered a volley of somewhat intrusive questions about being the world's first pregnant man. He was asked questions concerning everything from how he became pregnant, to his physiology, all the way to his sex-life with his wife, and answered all questions candidly and calmly.

Exactly five months later on Sept. 3, the media again whipped itself into a frenzy when Isis King, a male-to-female transsexual appeared as one of the contestants on the eleventh season of America's Next Top Model. She was placed under a microscope as various people opined on what her presence would mean for the show and some of the other contestants referred to her pejoratively as "he/she" and "drag queen."

These members of the trans community are asked and expected to answer questions most people in a similar position might balk

at. Their lives and personal habits are put under intense scrutiny without a second thought.

But Olivia Jensen, a McGill professor, says that these instances, thought at times crass or insensitive to the individuals in the situation, are steps forward towards an eventual acceptance and understanding of the trans community.

"There's an evolution of understanding," she explained when asked about these examples. "Are we ridiculed? Yes, to some extent. But every example of the trans community in the media serves to desensitize people, and make the story less potent. Everybody knows about transgender people now, so it's not so shocking."

Carly Boyce of Project 10, a Montreal organization devoted to helping and educating LGBTQ youth, agrees that, despite the lack of understanding sometimes present, the increasing representation of trans people in the media is a good thing, but adds that the scarcity of role models can cause problems.

"There's a pressure for these

people [featured in the media] to represent everyone," she said. "This can lead to a lack of freedom to be who they are."

And this is one of the most common criticisms of media portrayals of transgender individuals. In an effort to reduce things for the public, it's often assumed that there is only one trans story or that these people on the vanguard can encapsulate the entire trans experience.

"It's pretty common to get the tragedy story or quirky story. Boys Don't Cry is a good example. But it's so important to get the other side-depictions of trans people living happy, fulfilling lives," said Boyce.

For her part, Jensen believes that we're on our way towards that; "I keep my eye out when I watch movies. In the new Sex and the City movie there's a small transgender roll. It's only three seconds and not a big issue, but more and more transgender characters are put into films-because they have to be, because they're just there, because not including them would seem strange."

Mutual intersextions

Who you fuck isn't necessarily who you are

• KATE LAMOTHE

LGBT. This four-letter acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. It is a term commonly evoked by journalists, academics, talk show hosts and, hell, even some of my dearest friends as a way of describing the various facets of the “queer community.”

The problem in evoking this framework is that it effectively equates sexuality (who one fucks) with gender identity (who one is). In other words, the term LGBT gets thrust upon individuals as a way to demarcate them as either a lesbian, a gay man, a bisexual, or a transgender person but never more than one of these categories at a time. For trans people, what typically ends up happening is one of two things: a) either straight-identified trans folk are subsumed by the queer agenda simply due to their trans status, or b) queer-identified trans folk are read as queer but for the wrong reasons.

Firstly, there is a broad range of trans people (transsexual, transvestite, and otherwise) whose identities are forged completely outside of the typical Anglo-queer narrative: heterosexual sex workers, trans women who transition later in life/after marriage, and kids, and non-Anglophone trans people.

As the trans academic/activist Viviane Namaste has so astutely pointed out, what tends to happen to these communities is that their issues become co-opted by the politics of the more dominant Anglo-queer community. So, in the street-active heterosexual sex worker community, for example,

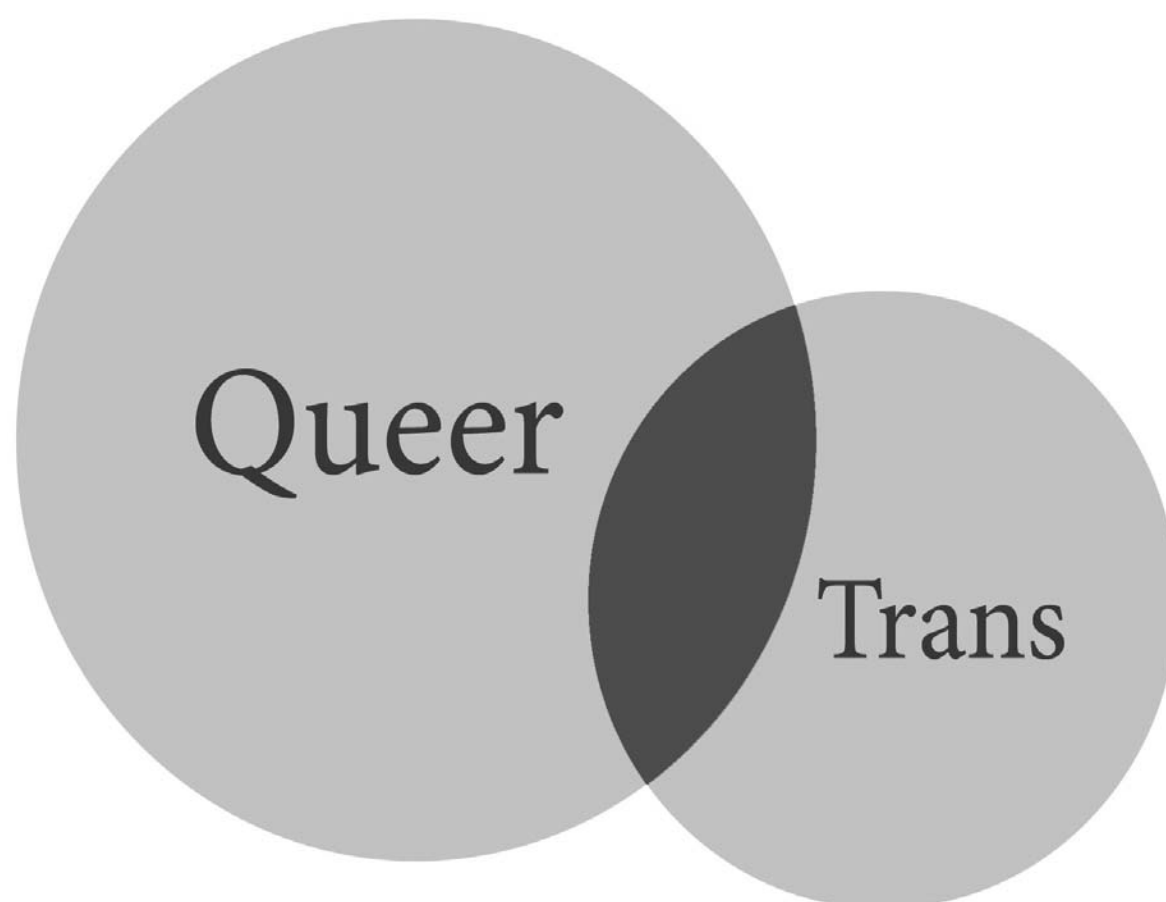
the main political goals may be that of decriminalizing solicitation laws and fighting police brutality. However, because of the relative power of the larger queer community, these goals are erased from the queer agenda of job protection for those trans people working in legal economies

Now, as for what happens when queer-identified trans people get labeled queer for the wrong reasons, allow me to get personal for a moment. I am a transsexual lesbian: I was assigned to the category of male at birth. I transitioned to female a few years back, and now I primarily look towards other women to sustain me with the physical, emotional, and sexual support that I need to survive in this world.

The reason I am comfortable slotting myself into the LGBT paradigm is because of the fact that I am a lesbian. It is not my gender identity-my sense of myself as a woman-that makes me queer. Rather, I am queer because of my sexuality-the fact that I see myself as a kinky dyke.

More clearly, I mean that transitioning from one sex to another did not inherently make me queer, nor did changing my name from the male one I was assigned to the female one I now use, nor does the fact that I take 12 pills a day for hormone replacement therapy.

None of these parts of my life makes me innately queer, what makes me queer is the fact that I am a woman who primarily fucks other women. Suffice it to say that in my day-to-day life I tend to think of myself as a queer woman



GRAPHIC BRIAN HASTIE

first and a transsexual woman second.

These two aspects of my identity are akin to Venn diagrams in that they are separate, but connected via the overlap. Moreover, instead of being equally sized, the queer circle is much larger, and more centred, whereas the trans circle is smaller and off-centre.

So what can be done discursively to make this distinction clearer? Well, what I have started doing in my daily life is referring

not to the queer community but rather to the queer & trans (or queer/trans) communities. Or, if LGBT is really the lingo you are most comfortable with than, by all means, stick with it but add an and/or in between the B and T-the LGBand/orT community.

Also, another way of being inclusive of all trans people is by making material space within queer/trans communities for non-queer identified trans people-publishing their books, funding

their films, putting their issues on the queer political agenda. This is important because more often than not queer/trans spaces have more cultural capital-book publishing companies, film festivals, and lobby groups, for example-than non-queer trans spaces.

It is my hope that sometime in the not-so-distant future we can speak honestly of a queer/trans politic that is inclusive of all trans people, regardless of how they understand their lives.

Resource list

Project 10

Project 10 works to promote the personal, social, sexual and mental well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersexed and questioning youth and adults 14-25.

Services are free of charge, confidential and anonymous, and are offered in English and French.

6 Weredale Park
Westmount
514 989-4585

The 2110 Centre

The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy is committed to fighting gender oppression, especially as it relates to communities of colour, First Nations and Indigenous people, transsexual, transgendered and/or intersex people, LGB & queer people, and people with disabilities.

2110 Mackay Street, 1st floor
Montréal QC
514 848-2424 ext. 7431

Head and Hands

Head & Hands envisions a society where all youth are participants and are inspired by the endless possibilities available to them. Their mission is to work with youth to promote their physical and mental well being. Their approach is preventative, non-judgmental, and holistic with a fundamental commitment to providing an environment that welcomes youth without discrimination.

5833 Sherbrooke West
514 481-0277

Sero-Zero

Séro Zéro is a community organization dedicated to promoting the sexual, social, and emotional health of gay and bisexual men in Montréal. Although Séro Zéro is primarily a French-language organization, we will do our very best to serve you in English.

2075, rue Plessis local 207
514 521-7778

Simone de Beauvoir Institute

Although the Institute concerns itself primarily with women's studies, its collection of writings on gender is extensive and a great place for research.

2170 Bishop
514 848-2424 ext. 2373

More bang for your buck

• WRITTEN AND CONCEIVED BY NORA R. • PHOTOS BY RACHEL TETRAULT • STARRING NOISY NORA, CLAIRE ST. CLAIRE AND HOT CARL.

Our intrepid kinksters, tired of toys that are overpriced and looking for some bedroom spice, delve into decadence and delight at the dollar store.



Saran wrap can be used as a barrier for safer oral sex...but be careful, the microwavable kind does not protect against STIs.



Saran wrap can also be used to make a sexy see-through dress or for explicit dollar store silliness!

A wide range of implements for spanking can be found from spatulas to spoons.



Who needs to spend \$75 for a paddle when you can have this much fun for a dollar?



Candles can be used to pour hot wax on your lover. Be sure to find candles with a low melting point. Plain white tapers work best (no beeswax).



Or for a little romantic mood lighting...



Clothespins cause titillating sensations! Try not to keep them on for more than 15 minutes.



Leashes can be used for wrist restraints or to provide much needed discipline.

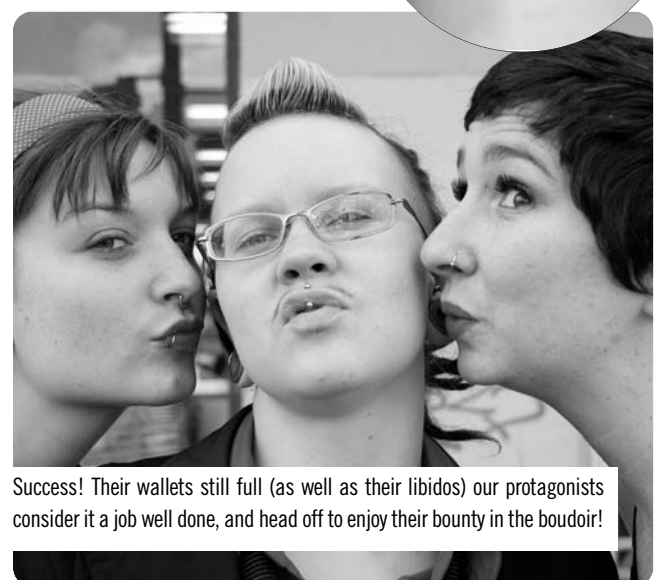


A walk around the block gets these little doggies on their best behaviour.

To make a ball-gag out of a handkerchief, tie a knot in the middle and tie the ends at the back of your partner's head. Do not put a wad of fabric in someone's mouth without having it secured on the back as it can obstruct breathing.



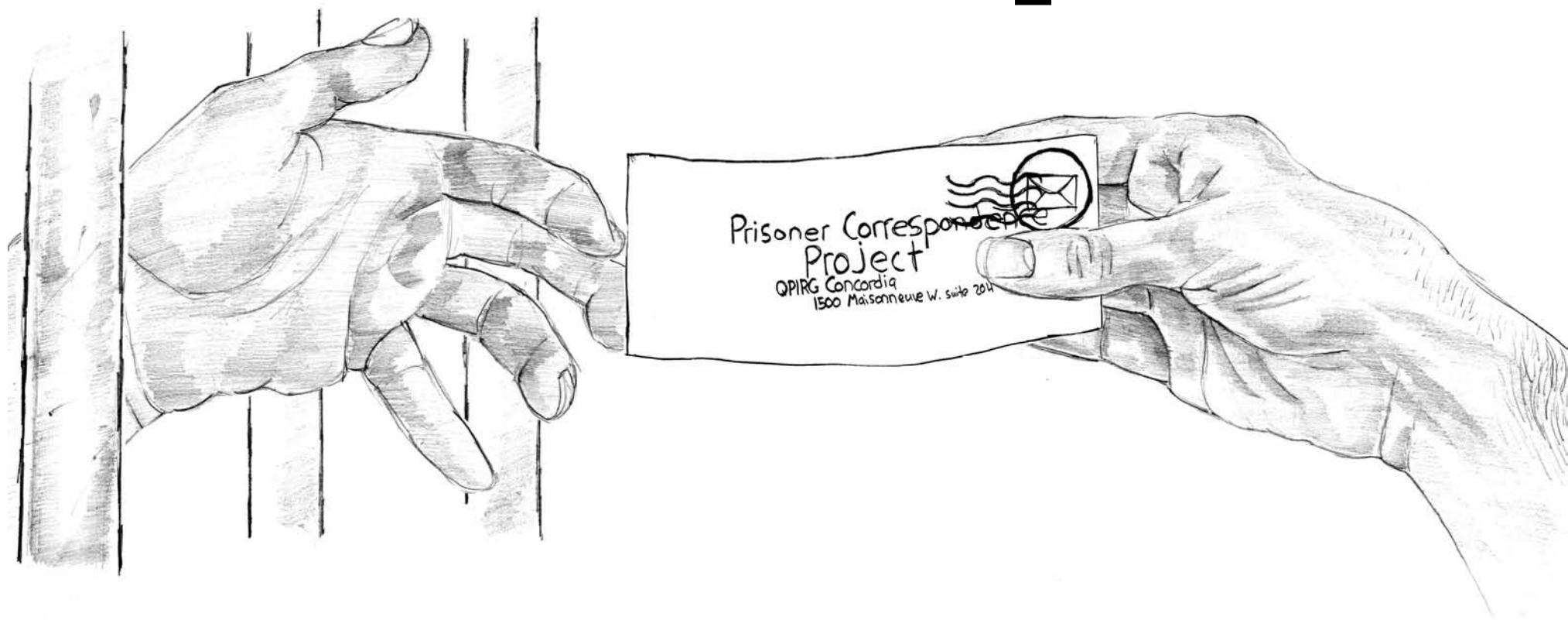
Blindfolds and ball-gags only a dollar? Say it ain't so!



Success! Their wallets still full (as well as their libidos) our protagonists consider it a job well done, and head off to enjoy their bounty in the boudoir!

You can't imprison pride

Concordia's Prisoner Correspondence Project helps prisoners coping with coming out in prison



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Being a trans man or woman, the body you were born into can sometimes feel like a prison. But those who find themselves lost in the prison system face a far worse reality than most, where one's orientation is not only decided by prisons which segregate prisoners based on genitalia-not gender-identity-and where protection from violence is often indistinguishable from punishment.

The Prisoner Correspondence Project, a working member of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group of Concordia, aims to offer LGBTQ prisoners solidarity, as well as the comfort of expressing their feelings with conscientious listeners on the outside. One of the things that distinguishes PCP from similar groups, says Josh, one of the group's collective members, is the breadth of its scope.

"There are three aspects to what we do," says Josh, who currently has two pen-pals, which he converses with on a range of topics from celebrity gossip to the difficulties of navigating the prison system. "We hook up prisoners on the inside with pen-pals on the outside; we provide a resource library for harm reduction; and then there's a popular education component."

In addition to information on safer tattooing, the PCP's resource library includes information on "safer drug use, safer sex, hormone use, etc. As well as some basic informational resources on sexual and gender minorities"

To date, PCP has developed between 120 and 150 members-including both prisoners across the United States and

Canada, and participants on the outside.

The Project started in the spring of 2007, and kicked off with a summer screening of *Cruel and Unusual*, about the lives of transgendered women forced to serve out prison sentences in all-male prisons. The film follows five in-transition male-to-females who began estrogen treatment before their period of incarceration, and whose bodies have stopped producing hormones. Denying a trans prisoner continued estrogen treatment, the film argues, is like denying a woman hormones after a hysterectomy, due to the often embarrassing and life-changing consequences of discontinuing their medication.

The lack of visibility for LGBT people in modern society, as well as the lack of visibility for prisoner's rights, means that people in prison suffer from a double-invisibility.

The overrepresentation of transpeople in prison can't simply be attributed to "a larger structural issue," and so-called "tough on crime" policies, suggests Josh, "though those clearly don't serve to help the matter. Rather, its bound up in larger issues of systems of poverty, [and] diminishing employment security."

The lack of visibility for LGBT people in modern society, as well as the lack of visibility for prisoner's rights, means that those in prison suffer from a double-invisibility.

"One of the core principles of the project is harm reduction, or minimizing the structural risk of prisons," says Josh. "We don't advocate on either side of whether prisoners should come out in prison or not,

understanding that decision to be one of risk management."

Earlier this year, the Correspondence Project sent out a questionnaire to prisoners asking how the concept of LGBT pride plays in their lives, which were then assembled into a public panel entitled "Imprison Pride," and later added to the collective's resource library at the QPIRG offices.

"The difference between prison Gay Pride, and the outside Gay Pride, is almost like fire and ice," writes Willie McMillian, from a prison in California. "There are thousands of gay-lesbian-trans-queer folk in the penal system, so how is it that such a major minority group [...] not given more attention by the gay society?"

"We have no unity in here," wrote Jonathan Earl, from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. "They single you out. Even going as far as putting you in a single cell because of being you."

Prisoners who have been threatened with physical violence are often placed in protective custody. "But to the other prisoners, this would simply be called solitary confinement," says Josh.

"Prison support is not something people immediately understand, like other advocacy groups," says Josh, who laments the "popular vilification of prisoners." This lack of interest on behalf of the population means abuses in the prison system go unchallenged, and greater issues of

transparency go overlooked.

"[Prison] bureaucracies function in isolation, where things are kept away," he explains, "and prison structures in general are largely rendered invisible."

"We can never conclusively say that the mail is not monitored [once it enters the penal system]," says Josh. "Some prisoners have written back saying that their mail has been opened, or that things have been removed."

One of the items removed was a sexual education zine, produced by the Head and Hands organization, which contained illustrations considered too explicit by most prisons. The alternative was simply to blot out the illustrations. "[It was] a fairly simple problem and not really a stumbling-block," says Josh, but one that illustrates the unpredictability of prisons, and what they will-and won't-allow. Other sexual education resources for prisoners fell short on their intended goals, referring to proper condom use when access to condoms is spotty and irregular in prisons, and the suggestion that an individual visit a gay bar as a means of coming out is utterly useless.

While a showing of solidarity with LGBT prisoners is a progressive leap forward, "meaningful prison reform will necessarily only come out of prisoner organizing," says Josh.

To join the Prisoner Correspondence Project, consult: queertrans.prisonersolidarity@gmail.com. The Prisoner Correspondence Project's resource library can be found at QPIRG Concordia 1500 Maisonneuve W. suite 204 (only open M-Th, 1p.m.-6p.m.)



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Gregg Gillis aka Girl Talk, likes a little bit of everything.

Not just for girls

Pittsburgh native Girl Talk mixes pop, hip-hop and '90s grunge rock

• MADELINE COLEMAN

I'm not a fast knitter. I'm, in fact, extremely slow. Old women shake their heads when I bring my needles on the bus.

Before yesterday, I saw no solution short of popping amphetamines every time I hauled out the wool. That was before I tried knitting to Girl Talk.

The Pittsburgh musician otherwise known as Gregg Gillis (my stitch-speed saviour) is a mash-up artist, a celebrated denizen of the grey area between copyright laws.

Every Girl Talk song is a frenetic pop music tapestry, weaving samples from artists as disparate as GZA, Nirvana and Dexy's Midnight Runners into music that practically drags you onto the dance floor. Or, in my case, to your unfinished knitting; I know my

stitch just got tight.

Former biomedical engineer Gillis, whose Jazz Fest '07 show has become the stuff of a YouTube legend, never thought he'd give up his day job for music. Since releasing his 2006 album *Night Ripper*, Girl Talk has been raking in the critical acclaim and luring countless young'uns onto the dance floor.

Gillis cemented his rep with this year's *Feed the Animals*. Haven't heard it? No worries—it's offered up on the Girl Talk website for the gorgeous price of "pay as you can."

If you decide to download gratis, be prepared to answer for your thrift. You'll be faced with a poll asking why, with possible answers ranging from "I might donate later," to "I don't like Girl Talk."

"There was seriously a large chunk of people who said, 'I do not like Girl Talk,' which I thought was great," said Gillis, on the phone from Nashville last Thursday. He professed not to be a big downloader himself, something I find hard to believe considering the huge breadth of samples woven into *Feed the Animals*. I doubt Gillis paid for that Avril Lavigne soundbite I heard on "Shut the Club Down" for one.

Gillis might not be down with this assumption; the great thing about Girl Talk is Gillis' sincere appreciation of everything pop.

Gillis overcomes many media pundits' assumptions about recent generations' irony obsession by disagreeing with the idea that "any music is more credible than any other."

Is it possible for the hip and

discerning to openly enjoy Top 40 offerings alongside the "cooler" genres of old school hip-hop and early '90s grunge? If Gillis has anything to do with it, absolutely!

"I think that's the guilty pleasure system," he said of the perceived inability to enjoy mainstream music sans irony. "That's not really the level I'm at."

The Lavigne and Eminem samples are discernable in Girl Talk's musical alchemy. It means one thing—Gillis actually likes their music. He reasoned that he "won't spend time sampling songs [he's] not into" because there are "so many songs [he] could have chosen."

His sincerity was exemplified when I asked him what pop music he's been into lately. He cited the new Busta Rhymes song, Britney Spears' "Womanizer," and

Beyonce's new song, "Single Ladies," which he called "phenomenal."

I suggested he slip some Serge Gainsbourg into a set, just for me. He laughed and said he was indeed excited about getting into some different stuff, "I'm really into the idea of sampling Christmas music."

Time to shed your inhibitions and air your secret love of pop music! Get yourself to Club Soda this Thursday for one man, one laptop, and several hundred slaves of the groove.

I know I'll be there; I'll be the one sweating through my self-knit leotard.

Girl Talk plays at Metropolis (59 St. Catherine St. East) Thursday, Nov. 13 with the Death Set and KIDTRONiK.

Life outside of the womb

Free your mind and your art will follow

• CODY HICKS

It's a fact: I'm obsessed with sex. There's a substantial part of my mind that is devoted to thinking about all sorts of naked bodies committing explicit acts at all times. The difference between you and I is, I'll admit it.

Another fact: most of my friends are better visual artists than me. It's not that I'm not creative; I just always thought that if I could somehow crack my brains open and spill that shit out on a canvas, I'd blow everyone's mind.

For most of my life I've been content to tap out word pictures, leaving the fantastically grotesque sexual images up in a dusty corner of my psyche.

This all changed recently, when I attended my first Drink n' Draw. I first

heard of this social phenomenon from a friend of mine who hosted one at a bar this summer, and apparently things got pretty loose.

People wound up with more drawn on their naked bodies than on the canvases supplied. There's a slim chance that this was due to the psychoactive effects of copious free Red Bulls, but I'd like to think that people were just so comfortable in this kind of environment that they would bare their bodies as well as their minds.

I had never been to such a large-scale event and my social drawing experiences were limited to a pen and a pad being thrust in front of me while slugging back beers on Saturday nights. I was hesitant the first time, but as soon as I saw that even the most accomplished artists in the

room were doodling sex organs in the book I let loose.

I realized that all people need is a little bit of confidence and a comfortable environment to let out their inner freak. It was at these events that I learned how fun and spontaneous art could be. It was also here that I learned I'm actually really good at drawing penises.

Now, if you've never had this opportunity or can't afford art supplies and you still want to experience the glory of a Drink n' Draw, Art Matters has got you covered. They're throwing an Art Book Creation Party at Korova on St. Laurent this Wednesday night, where people are encouraged to come draw whatever they please.

At the end of the night, submissions will be gathered for review at a sober, later

date and the best of the batch will be compiled and released as a limited edition art book at the upcoming Expozine festival.

Anything goes at this event, and you don't have to get depraved, but how badass would it be to drunkenly scrawl a big veiny cave-art dick and then get that shit published?

So, let alcohol, good company and good music be the key to unlocking the beautiful or disturbed imagery in your mind. I know that my hand never flows as fluidly as when I've had a few pints, and the lack of inhibition allows all the bizarre sex organs stored away in my deranged mind to come spilling all over the page.

The Art Book Creation Party features DJs The Girls & The Dogs tomorrow at 10 p.m. at Korova (3908 St. Laurent).

What's going on

Events listing
for the week
Nov. 11-17

FILM

Rencontres international du documentaire de Montreal
11 days, more than 100 films representing more than 30 countries, 23 world premieres.
Thursday until Nov. 23
For various films, locations, and prices check out ridm.qc.ca

MUSIC

Holly Golightly & The Brokeoffs
with Buddy McNeil & The Magic Mirrors and Delaney Davidson.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.
La Sala Rossa, 4848 St-Laurent
Tickets \$15

The Sea and Cake
with Death Vessel.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m.
La Sala Rossa, 4848 St-Laurent
Tickets \$18

Molly Sweeney
with Alden Penner.
Thursday, 9 p.m.
Casa del Popolo, 4873 St-Laurent

Jack's Mannequin
with Fun and Treaty of Paris.
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Le National, 1220 Ste-Catherine E
Tickets \$21, \$23 at the door

...And The Saga Continues
Record release with Preying Hands.
Saturday, 9 p.m.
Barfly, 4062a St-Laurent
Free

THEATRE

Down Dangerous Passes Road
Written by Michael Marc-Bouchard, translated by Linda Gaboriau and directed by Emma Tbaldo. A vortex of lies, regrets and silent promises; a story about three brothers trying to annihilate each other.
To Nov. 15, 8 p.m.
Matinee Saturday, 2 p.m.
Tickets \$25, students \$20

Almost Blue
An Altera Vitae Production written by Keith Reddin and directed by Carolyn Fe.
To Nov. 16, 8 p.m.
Matinees Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.
Mainline Theatre, 3997 St-Laurent
Tickets \$18

GALLERIES

Original drawings by Marc Bell in conjunction with the launch of *Illuztrajuns for Brain Police*.
To Nov. 25
Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore, 211 rue Bernard W.

"The Inner Space/ The Outer Place"
Large scale photomontage created by a group of adults involved in a literacy program.
To Nov. 28
FOFA Gallery, 1515 Ste-Catherine Street W.

—compiled by Joelle Lemieux

To tour or not to tour

The Winter Sounds frontman Patrick Keenan talks about his first time in Canada and having a girl in the band

• JOELLE LEMIEUX

I felt a bit like a groupie after talking to Patrick Keenan, the driving force behind the Athens, Georgia-based band The Winter Sounds. This lead vocalist and bassist was polite, modest, and when I told him I thought he was deep, he laughed and said, "That's awesome."

He's also a lyric freak, "I love to take the time, all of a sudden you get the lyrics and it all connects. You get that kind of wave, that flush of like, 'Holy shit this is deep.' I love it."

He would have to, considering that the band is almost always broke and often touring. "Mostly because I believe [that] touring is the thing that's going to solidify us as a band." But it's not all about practice, "The touring thing brought us a lot of really cool things, like we got a label." Livewire Recordings encouraged them to get their names out there and sell CDs across the country.

"It became a lifestyle. I just really enjoyed it. We were getting tour support from the label at the time. So it was kind of like, tour and pay your bills by touring, or pay your bills by waiting tables."

Guitarist Clayton Taylor, keyboardist Gina Asalon, drummer Ryan Durdin and Keenan live a life on the road. Three guys, a girl,

and a van—how does that work?

"[Gina]'s really funny. It's definitely hard and I know she could write a novel about it. It's interesting because, well, from a guy's perspective, you meet a person, you're really good friends. You click on everything, even if they're really liberal and progressive which we all are in the way that we think about things."

"But then, put them in a situation where you're around a girl and you're around her constantly and all of a sudden it feels like we're not so liberal and progressive. Especially when there's three. [...] She's outnumbered in mentality. If we were typical guys it would be impossible."

Whatever the chemistry, it works. The band is sounding better than ever. In fact, they just got back from Halifax, Nova Scotia where they played in the Halifax Pop Explosion 2008 festival where they played with Montrealers, Bad Flirt.

And how was their first time in the Great White North? "We had a show in Toronto last year and [...] we got denied at the border for a bunch of reasons. This time, we were like, if we got rejected this time we just weren't supposed to play Canada because we had everything. We didn't even have beer in the car."

Although their impression of



The Winter Sounds are (from left): Ryan Durdin, Clayton Taylor, Patrick Keenan, and Gina Asalon.

Canada may be a little more than strict, that didn't keep the band from enjoying what Halifax had to offer, "We were all freaking out about wanting to move out there."

Keenan isn't ready to settle in anywhere, just yet. "We actually just did our routing for next year. We're going to try and see if we can help [Bad Flirt] out with some shows in the Southeast and then head up to Montreal."

I asked him how old he was, he responded 29, I couldn't believe him. "I definitely don't feel 29," he said. "Standing around with my friends here in town who have gone down the path of marriage and kids it's like it's weird, it's kind of surreal. I feel like I have more in common with some 18-year-old kid who hates his job."

Check out The Winter Sounds on myspace.com/thewintersounds

spins

Stars
Sad Robots EP
Soft Revolution



Montreal's Stars' new 6-song EP, *Sad Robots*, is independently released and therefore only available through the band's official website or during their fall 2008 tour—which is hitting up Metropolis on Nov. 28. The album opens with an instrumental piece entitled "Maintenance Hall, 4 a.m." which sets the atmosphere for the tracks that follow; a mix of electronic, and acoustic with an 80s vibe. Fans will be excited to know that this release includes a revamped live version of "Going, Going, Gone" originally off their 2001 release, *Nightsongs*. The album closes with the title track, a Francopop tune sung by Amy Millan, which revolves around a robot left in the rain, fearing that he will be forgotten and rust during the night. Millan manages to make you feel sympathetic towards this sad, tin man. The album keeps with the band's indie pop roots and leaves you wondering if underneath it all, we're just sad robots, slowly rusting from our tears.

4/5
—Paul Traurner

Dirty Beaches
The Horror
Fixture Records



Dirty Beaches is the solo act of Alex Zhang Hungtai whose brief circuit of gigs in Ontario this summer, as well as involvement in Pop Montreal form his slim resume. *The Horror* is an experiment in noise, concerned with the concept behind the music rather than the product itself. The music incorporates organic samples recorded on low fidelity (read: primitive) equipment structuring a "horrific" soundscape, littered with bouts of empty space. Unfortunately, there's not enough innovation to justify this approach, and the noise pollution becomes more obnoxious than curious.

The album was initially intended as "road music, something that you can pop into your car stereo when you're driving on the road at night." Well, this reviewed "road-trip" doesn't trigger an endorphin-kick, paint a colourful landscape or even convey the bleak minimalism that the wise would recognize as profound or beautiful. In fact, the album makes you wonder, "Wouldn't you rather have stayed at home?" The album's empty and uneventful banter between instruments (without any trace of musical or technical

command) is devastating, especially considering Hungtai's 1962 Gibson 120-T. If this review gets the message across, he should know: if he's not going to use it, I'm willing to buy it from him.

1/5
—Nick Carmichael

Stompin' Tom Connors
The Ballad of Stompin' Tom
EMI Canada



If you're a hockey fan or a country-folk fan, you've probably already heard all of the best songs from Stompin' Tom Connors new record. The 50th album is still a treat for those wanting to hear a slightly updated version of "The Hockey Song," "My Hockey Mom" and "The Olympic Song" which includes a new verse about the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. "The Ballad of Stompin' Tom" is a neat song Connors tells about himself battling through life as a kid with a teenage mom and having to beg on the streets to survive. Connors displays through the soul and energy of the track, that despite all his suffering, it was worth it in the end. A wave of strong Canadian patriotism is also apparent

throughout the album. I don't think anyone would expect anything less from a Canadian icon.

3/5
—Johnny North

The Winter Sounds
Pinebox EP
Livewire Recordings



It's hard to say a lot about an EP that has only three tracks, but The Winter Sounds work hard to solve that. The title track "Pinebox" is the best of the three, opening with a synthesized-out sound that leaves you prepped and ready for Keenan's brit-pop voice. "Life took it's toll on me, so they put me in a box made of pine where I sleep alone," he croons as the instrumentals wind down. "Autumn Movement" is the second track, and immediately goes in a faster-paced direction which Keenan counteracts with softer, higher-pitched vocals; it's romantic, without being overly so. Lastly, "the Heart is Scarlett" is darker, with a more subtle intro. The vocals are deeper, the sound is more ominous, and The Winter Sounds rock-roots become evident in this slow, ballad-esque contribution.

4/5
—Joelle Lemieux

What happens next yEAR?



Native Montrealers aRTIST oF tHE yEAR “are the type of group that’s going to revolutionize music”—at least, according to them.

• NATASHA YOUNG

A handful of heavy dance beats, a pinch of 1970’s cut disco funk, add four musicians who know how to put on a show and you’ve got aRTIST oF tHE yEAR.

Conceived in Montreal, lead guitarist Camille Jacques and bassist/keys player Nathael Duhaime met in kindergarten, as did guitarist David Richard and live drummer Louis. Since 2002, they’ve cranked out four albums, most recently *vELOUR bRIGADE*.

Richard got his BFA right here at Concordia. “Concordia is the coolest campus in Montreal,” Richard says.

Surprisingly, even with their

urban-electronic-disco-funk flair, there is no DJ to be found. The guys play your standard guitar, bass, drums and keys set-up, but with their own unique, twisted style. When they play live, sometimes sporting sequined dresses and lofty afros, the crowd comes together in a whirl of limbs that lies somewhere between dance floor and mosh pit. It’s a glam rock show plopped down in the middle of a dance club full of intoxicated party people—and what could be better?

Their Hallowe’en show at Le National, almost two weeks ago now, was wall-to-wall with said intoxicated party people decked out in their sickest costumes. The

stage lights intensified, the tinsel gowns sparkled and shone, and the distortion started kicking.

The party had begun.

If you didn’t catch them last time, never fear: the boys rock Montreal regularly. Or, if you don’t do crowds, check out *vELOUR bRIGADE*. The title track, decked out in dance beats and distorted guitar riffs, demands the listener to “forget about whatcha mama told ya/and get naked right now.” Yes, sirs.

aRTIST oF tHE yEAR will be playing Nov. 14 at Bain Mathieu (2915 Ontario Street E.) at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Race wars meet radio waves

Cinema Politica gets to the heart of community broadcasting

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Roxanne Two Bulls wants her two kids to enjoy the fireworks display on July 4, but is afraid one of them will wave a miniature American flag, or swear the pledge of allegiance. As a member of the Lakota Nation, tampering with symbols of American independence could mean terrible things.

Look at what happened to John Trudell; he burned an American flag, and so someone burned his house down, killing his wife and three children. But, before you express your sympathies, know this, says Trudell: “People have been sympathizing with Indians forever. As soon as the first European came off the boats, they’ve been sympathizing with Indians.” It’s about time people stopped giving a damn, and gave them some space. Some land would also be nice.

Trudell and Two Bulls are subjects of Swiss filmmaker Fanny Bräuning’s documentary, *No More Smoke Signals*, to be

screened at Cinema Politica.

Many of the inhabitants of Pine Ridge, South Dakota can’t remember a time before the white man. Many others, like Two Bulls, can’t recall a time before Kili Radio, the official “Voice of the Lakota Nation.” But if the former has had a devastating impact on Native cultural cohesion, Kili Radio has strengthened and solidified it.

Like any small town in America, Pine Ridge has its share of crime and substance abuse, with children as young as 15 overdosing on methamphetamines, and alcoholism rampant among adults.

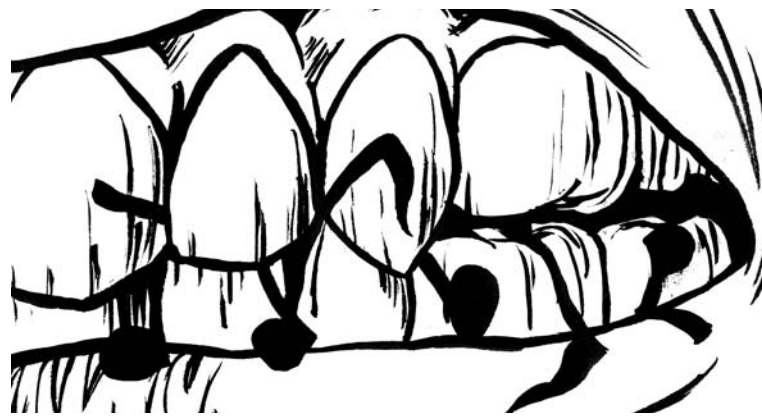
It’s the hemp that attracts the interest of the authorities, even if it’s use is making clothing (the THC levels are too low to actually get high off of) and not for getting high.

In fact, hemp production accounts for a large part of the local agricultural economy. It’s no wonder people turn to hard drugs, when the government takes away the perceived drug actually being used productively.

Before Kili Radio, the only news that got around was typically bad news. But a dedicated radio station, a small piece of modern technology for a culture that has resisted the temptation of modernization, changed all that.

For example, when not assuring accountability from their local council members, Kili Radio is hosting music competitions, including an American Indian take on American Idol. It may sound laughable, but make no assumptions when you walk into the theatre: this film has an excellent soundtrack. The beats may be borrowed, as one young rapper argues, but the lyrics could only have come from five hundred years of cultural displacement and broken promises.

No More Smoke Signals will be screened on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m., Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve. For a full list of screenings, visit cinemapolitica.org/concordia. Check out the interview with Bräuning at thelinknewspaper.ca



Ya hurrd

This week:
Stompin’ Tom
Connors—“Bush
of Buctouche”

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Canadian songwriters have a strong tradition of name-checking faraway places that are hard to pronounce and even harder to find on a map of the country.

The venerable Stompin’ Tom Connors continues this tradition with “Bush of Buctouche”, a tragic tale of love lost due to an escaped shotgun wedding, a character who is cursed into living and working in a town named Buctouche (located in New Brunswick), the love in-between two small-town figures and a continued lineage who may or may not be damned into the same life of servitude.

It’s a fine existential tale of woe and malice; who shall win? Is it the man, or the bigger machinations that control the governing elements of his life? Is Bob (our protagonist) truly free, or is he just another puppet, meant to live out his life as it is dictated to him by other constructs? The song leaves these concepts open-ended, though drops several hints along the way.

Let’s be honest: Bob is obviously conflicted. Shall he pick the strange lights of Buctouche, or go back home to the tiny Nova Scotian town of Tatamagouche? Connors is unsure and leaves ambiguity linger, forcing the listener to decide upon this issue before moving on.

The song’s first stanza sets up all of the information we need to know: Bob may or may not have angered his girl’s parents to the point where her father has found him a job far away. This can only mean one thing, folks: Shotgun wedding. Nothing either forces a boy out of town or into marriage faster than threats of a double-barrel kiss-off.

But, as we find out, the girl loves Bob too much and they both take off to work in that rural Nova Scotian town that has been so good to Bob. They are both so

Lyrics

I had a gal in Tatamagouche
Til her old man gave me the push
He said there’s job in New Brunswick, Bob
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
I said goodbye to Tatamagouche
And I’m workin the bush of Buctouche

But my gal in Tatamagouche
She didn’t want to give me the push
She missed her Bob and she got herself a job
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
She’s workin in the bush of Buctouche
She said goodbye to Tatamagouche
And she’s workin in the bush of Buctouche

Now my gal from Tatamagouche
She didn’t have to give me a push
She married her Bob right here on the job
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
I married the gal from Tatamagouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche

Well I came from Tatamagouche
And It didn’t take much of a push
I got a house and a job and a son called Bob
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche
I’m a long way now from Tatamagouche
Workin in the bush of Buctouche

devoted to their professions that they get married at work and live out their days together as such. This piece of information points out that Connors is of the belief that he cannot escape what others have determined him to be.

The song can perhaps be seen as a metaphor for Connors’ own struggles with his own desires to join the Canadian Navy.

The HMCS Buctouche was launched in the early 1940s, while Connors was still a youngish boy with aspirations of greater things. His dreams of being a big star with his name in lights was perhaps subverted as he watched the battleship pass by, seeing the ship’s logo (a caricature of Hitler being tossed off of a bucking bronco) and being inspired into greater things. He missed out on seeing wartime action, and being on a boat during peaceful times kinda sounds a little boring, honestly. Perhaps Connors saw it the same way I do and decided against serving.

Or... maybe Stompin’ Tom just really liked saying Buctouche.

C’mon.

I dare you to say it five times fast and not enjoy it.

Yeah.

You know I’m right.

King of the castle

Nardwuar showcases years of interviews in DVD *Welcome to My Castle!*

• JACKSON MACINTOSH

For those that came of age in the '90s, and expressed even a passing interest in MuchMusic, the name Nardwuar should ring a bell.

With short segments of only three to four minutes, Nardwuar came off as a curious but endearing character, sent out to confuse the celebrities he interviewed.

Armed with his trademark tartan tam, gifts for the interviewee, and a prepared barrage of very personal and detailed questions Nardwuar's standard procedure reads more like a laundry list of gimmicks. However, when coupled with repetition ad nauseum over the course of his DVD, *Welcome To My Castle!*, one necessarily gets more familiar with some of Nardwuar's less obvious tics—his obsession with D.O.A. and The Sonics, for starters. And while you may think his interview technique would begin to annoy, in practice it has the opposite effect.

The interviews on the five-and-a-half hour long, two-disc set are mostly sourced from the early '90s when Nardwuar was working for the UBC college radio station, CiTR. It's a low-stakes, low-pressure setting, and it's the kind of interview that most performers will only consent to grudgingly.

Interviews included on the DVD are Henry Rollins, Sonic Youth, Courtney Love, Kurt Cobain, Nimrod, and many more. All of those questioned are aware that the interview they are conducting will be broadcasted on a small college radio station and as a result, are a lot less guarded than they'd normally be.

In the end, some try shoeing him away like an irksome fly; some, like Sonic Youth, go so far as to break his stuff and beat him up; or like Henry Rollins, point out how bad his breath is. But some, like his viewers, find him charmingly weird and develop a grudging respect for his encyclopaedic knowledge of rock history.

Courtney Love, for example, sits down for a number of 20+ minute conversations, clearly enjoying a chat with a fellow obsessive rock fan, is far more open than usual—even by Courtney Love standards.

His interview technique is fun to watch, resulting in either a train wreck or a genuinely interesting, if skewed, conversation. Less interesting are the included performances by his band The Evaporators, who play sub-par garage rock adorned by Nardwuar's screechy vocals.

When asked about his interview techniques, Nardwuar claims he doesn't have one. "I

just need them to show up," he said. "I learn something every time I do an interview. The minute I learn how to do an interview is the minute I quit."

Although it's doubtful that Nardwuar will ever quit, based on the dedication he's shown to the persona he's cultivated. He's legally changed his name to Nardwuar, remembers the exact date his band The Evaporators first played a show (Feb. 20, 1987 if you're curious) and even goes as far as to release all of his albums on 8-track.

I guess this means we can look forward to other DVD releases from Nardwuar in his twilight years, and will almost certainly still be lecturing about The Sonics or D.O.A. to his interview subjects. And really, isn't there comfort to be found in that? Especially if he remains as bizarrely compelling as he is in *Welcome To My Castle!*

Footage of the DVD can be found on Nardwuar's Youtube channel, and the DVD can be ordered from mintreco.com



The ever-persistent Nardwuar strikes again.

What's in a name?

Multidisciplinary artist goes beyond the pages of *Don Quixote* in the Canadian premiere of Dulcinea's Lament

• ELISABETH DE GRANDPRE

What happens when you are named after an idealized female character from one of the greatest books of all-time? If you're Dulcinea Langfelder, you create theatre—or something that looks kind-of like it.

A native New Yorker, Langfelder's company is anchored in Montreal and showcased around the world before landing in front of a Montreal audience. *Dulcinea's Lament*, running this week at the D.B. Clarke theatre, is an innovative piece using film,

projection, dance, puppetry and song (to name a few).

"My work is very personal [and] often autobiographical. Kind of like opening up your diary on stage."

—Dulcinea Langfelder, multidisciplinary artist

A self-proclaimed multidisciplinary personality, Langfelder doesn't let the guidelines of what theatre should be, determine what she does and how she tells her story. "My work is very personal [and] often autobiographical. Kind of like opening up your diary

on stage," she shared during our phone interview.

Named after the unseen love interest Dulcinea del Toboso in Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Langfelder has always made references to her literary namesake. However, this is the first time it has been her vehicle in storytelling; if Dulcinea del

Toboso had a voice, what would she say?

The piece had a long creative process that started in 2001, as the world was changing in the wake of 9/11 and she began to discover the Internet for herself; finding knowledge at her fingertips.

Dulcinea's Lament grew through discovery and research, becoming a personal quest for Langfelder through the lens of Cervantes' fictional del Toboso.

The piece asks poignant questions; what happens after righteousness fails? Who is underneath the ideal woman? Can she have a

voice? These hard questions are explored in a whimsical fashion, often having Langfelder adorned in sequence, or just simply a sheet.

Although it may be more enjoyable for those who have read *Don Quixote*, it isn't a prerequisite for appreciating the journey that is *Dulcinea's Lament*.

Dulcinea's Lament starts tomorrow and runs until Nov. 19 at the D.B. Clarke Theatre (1455 de Maisonneuve W.) at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$28, \$22 for students, (514) 790-1245.

Concordia shuts out Toronto

With 47 saves Maxime Joyal gives the Stingers their first shutout in 8 years



Stingers defenceman Jesse Goodsell waits for game to commence. FILE PHOTO JOEY TANNY

• PAOLO MINGARELLI

Concordia 3 Toronto 0

Despite a slow start against the top ranked Toronto Varsity Blues, the Concordia Stingers held on for a gripping 3-0 victory at Ed Meagher Arena.

The Varsity Blues were in complete control of the game early on, as they conceded just one shot on net after nine minutes, and took nine of their own in the process.

However, the shots that the Stingers allowed on net were no challenge for Joyal. The Stingers would end the period with five shots on goal compared to Toronto's 12.

"There was no flow in the first period," said Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby.

One can only imagine the speech Figsby gave between periods. Regardless of what was said, the second period was clearly the turning point in what would

eventually become a beautiful win for the Stingers. "The home crowd was great, the football team loosened the mood," said Figsby.

The team agreed. "[The] crowd was awesome today, good encouragement for the team," said Stingers forward Matt David.

The second period began with Toronto taking two hooking penalties. Although both were killed, Con U didn't give up.

At 13:24 in the second period, David positioned himself in the slot. He set himself up perfectly for a pass from the left corner that he tipped into the net, lighting up both the goal light and the home crowd.

"It felt really good [...] needed it for confidence, being on the fourth line you don't really get a lot of ice time," said David. "Max deserved it [the shutout], eight years without a shutout, we worked hard and we did our best to get it for him."

The crowd was barely finished

soaking in the moment from that last goal when a Con U penalty expired, leaving some time for a Con U powerplay.

The Stingers wasted no time, as captain Simon Pierre Sauve brought the puck over the blue line and dropped it to Nicolas D'Aoust. D'Aoust unleashed a slap shot on goal much too hard for the Toronto goaltender to contain—the rebound headed right to a waiting Nicolas Lafontaine, who scored with a wrist shot at 12:18 in the second period.

"Our goal is to lead the league in shorthanded goals."

—Kevin Figsby, Stingers head coach

The rest of the period was marked by a series of penalties to both teams. Concordia endured five penalty kills and took 14 penalties throughout the entire game.

The Stingers' penalty kill leads the league in shorthanded goals

this season.

"Our goal is to lead the league in shorthanded goals, we have four defensive tandems which gives us great depth and chemistry," said Figsby. "As a coach, you're pleased in knowing your team will kill them [penalties]."

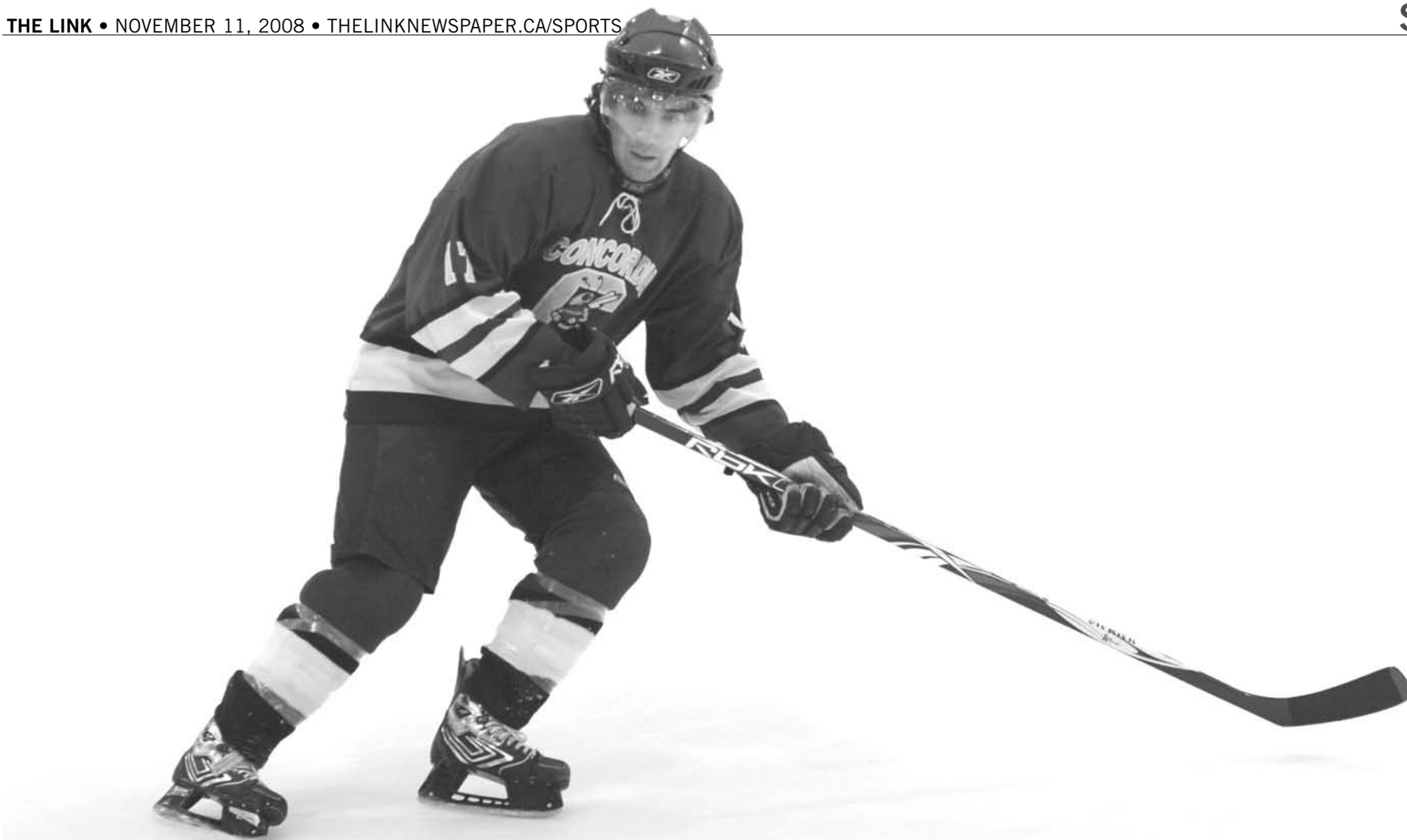
The third period saw a switch in offensive pressure. For the first time, Concordia finished the period with more shots in the third (15-13). Standing on his head was Joyal, who was huge in robbing Toronto of key chances

up short and the Stingers ultimately saw Michael Blundin send a pass off the right side boards to a streaking Mike Baslyk. Baslyk made no mistake in releasing a wrist shot while crossing the blue line into an empty cage, sealing the deal for the Stingers with 24 seconds left on the clock.

With a 3-0 victory to add to the books, Joyal broke the eight-year shutout drought for Con U.

"47 shots? I didn't even know, it feels good. I did my best to keep us in the game during the first," said Joyal. "At the end of the game the guys worked their back off to get that empty netter [...] we wanted the shutout but it's a bonus, you play for the win first. I helped them and they helped me, it was a team shutout."

"Joyal was the difference—the guys wanted to play for him," Figsby said. "He helped the D and they helped him in return. The guys are afraid to lose right now and tomorrow we have to come out hard."



Stingers left-winger Marc-Andre Rizk tracks down puck. FILE PHOTO JOEY TANNY

Stingers win third in a row

Early lead lost, but regained in rough game

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Concordia 5 Ryerson 3

Despite some uneasiness after a quick start, the Concordia Stingers held on to defeat the Ryerson Rams 5-3 at Concordia's Ed Meagher Arena on Saturday afternoon.

The Stingers wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, as forward Nicolas Lafontaine connected on a one-timer in the slot a mere 52 seconds into the game.

Before the rink-side announcer could finish giving the details of that goal to the crowd, the Stingers struck again. Centre Mike Baslyk capitalized on a goalmouth scramble to give the Stingers a quick 2-0 lead less than two minutes into the game.

The Stingers couldn't stay comfortable for too long—Rams forward Greg Payne snapped a wrist shot into the top left corner to cut the lead to 2-1 just under three minutes into the game.

The first period scoring flurry didn't stop just yet. Two minutes later, Baslyk once again got into great position in the slot and cleaned up with a nifty wrist shot to give the Stingers a 3-1 cushion.

The Stingers were shorthanded for much of the rest of the first frame. They received three penalties, and Ryerson took the opportunity to aggressively attack Stingers goalie Maxime Joyal.

"They started running our goalie," said Con U coach Kevin Figsby. "We've gotta show discipline in the face of that kind of play, but we're a big, tough hockey team that won't be pushed around."

"They should've called [goalie interference] earlier," said forward Nicolas Lafontaine. "[Ryerson is] known for cheap shots."

The second period started on a sour note for the Stingers, as a bad giveaway in front of their own net resulted in Rams assistant captain Brent Small finding centre Kevin

Krasnowski for a perfect one-timer to cut the lead to 3-2.

Though the home team endured a few more penalties, the penalty kill continued to play well, with Stingers defender Jesse Goodsell just missing on a scoring opportunity shorthanded.

We're a big, tough hockey team that won't be pushed around."

—Kevin Figsby,
Stingers head coach

However, the Rams would tie the game once both teams were out of the penalty box. Centre Josh McNair strolled down the left side and ripped a shot by Maxime Joyal to tie the game 3-3.

The third period opened with a scare for the Stingers, as Rams defender Jeff Grenier hit the post less than a minute in.

The final frame was very physical, as the Stingers started getting increasingly upset with the dirty tactics of their opponents.

"It was a rough and tumble hockey game," said coach Figsby. "A few of our players could have ended all that stuff immediately, but I chose not to play the game that way."

After a physical first 10 minutes of the third period, the Stingers scored first. Stingers forward Nicolas D'Aoust made a nifty play in front of the net, feinting as if he was going to shoot before dropping the puck to Lafontaine, who netted his second goal of the game to give Con U the lead.

With under a minute remaining, the Rams appeared to have tied the score, but the goal was disallowed due to goaltender interference on Rams forward Michael Paolo. Paolo was furious as he stormed off the ice, breaking his stick and throwing it into an empty part of the stands.

A fight broke out behind the

Stingers' net following the hit on Joyal, who was shook up on the play. D'Aoust and Ryerson forward McNair were sent off for roughing.

Goodsell sealed the outcome for Con U in the dying seconds as he scored into an empty net, as Ryerson had pulled their goalie for the extra attacker and a chance to tie.

"When we play teams from Ontario, they use it as an opportunity for young refs," said coach Figsby. "There was no supervisor in the building. It's important to develop referees, but they need supervision and guidance off the ice."

The win was the Stingers' third in a row, and they celebrated with a round of beers.

"We had fun out there, that's the most important thing," said Lafontaine, who finished the night with two goals and three assists. "We don't panic, we were 100 per cent sure we'd get the winning goal."

Doyon-Lessard shuts down Gee-Gees

Women's hockey squad win first game of the season, coach's daughter pockets first goal, winner

• JOHNNY NORTH

Concordia 2 Ottawa 0

Head coach Les Lawton said the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team was due for a win after their hard work against the undefeated McGill Martlets—the Ottawa Gee-Gees

felt "the sting" last Saturday 2-0 in Ottawa.

Lawton's daughter, Mallory Lawton, got the first goal of the game at 4:14 of the first period, beating Gee-Gees goalie Marie-Helene Malenfant. It was Mallory's first goal in a Canadian Interuniversity Sport regular season game and ended up being all Con U needed.

Donna Ringrose, a third-year veteran for-

ward on the team, finally ended her scoring slump by recording her first goal and point of the season on the powerplay. Ringrose scored the goal at 15:15 mark of the first period with Catherine Desjardins assisting on the goal.

Second-year starting goalie Audrey Doyon-Lessard shut down all 35 attempts by Ottawa for her first shutout this season. Ottawa led in

shots as Con U could only muster 20. Ottawa had nine tries on the powerplay, but failed to capitalize on any of them.

Concordia (1-6-0-0) travels to McGill this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. for another battle with the Martlets (5-0-0-0) at the McConnell Arena. Admission is \$5 for students with a student identification card.



Stingers forward Kristin Portwine (#6) fights for rebound. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Playoff rematch home opener

Women’s basketball team looks to improve on impressive last season

• JOHNNY NORTH

For the first time since the 2004-2005 campaign, the Concordia Stingers women’s basketball team is coming off a great season—making the play-offs and finishing last year with an even record of eight wins and eight losses.

Even though the Stingers started the season 0-4, Stingers head coach Keith Pruden did not let the women give up. He pushed his team every game to improve their ball protection and rebounds, while battling questionable officiating.

“They’re starting to get comfortable with each other now. We just have to keeping moving the right direction,” said Pruden last year during the team’s turnaround.

Con U did go in the right direction—jumping from last to third place in the Quebec division. Come playoff time, the Stingers were set to face off against l’Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins on UQAM’s home turf. The Citadins jumped on the Stingers early and never let up,

and opened the game with an impressive 21-8 run. Concordia struggled mightily with the aggressive full-court press employed by UQAM. In the end, Con U fell 77-67.

“They came at us all guns blazing,” said Pruden.

“They hit their shots, we didn’t. They got important rebounds, we didn’t,” said Krystle Douglas, third-year Stingers guard, who led the Quebec division in scoring last year.

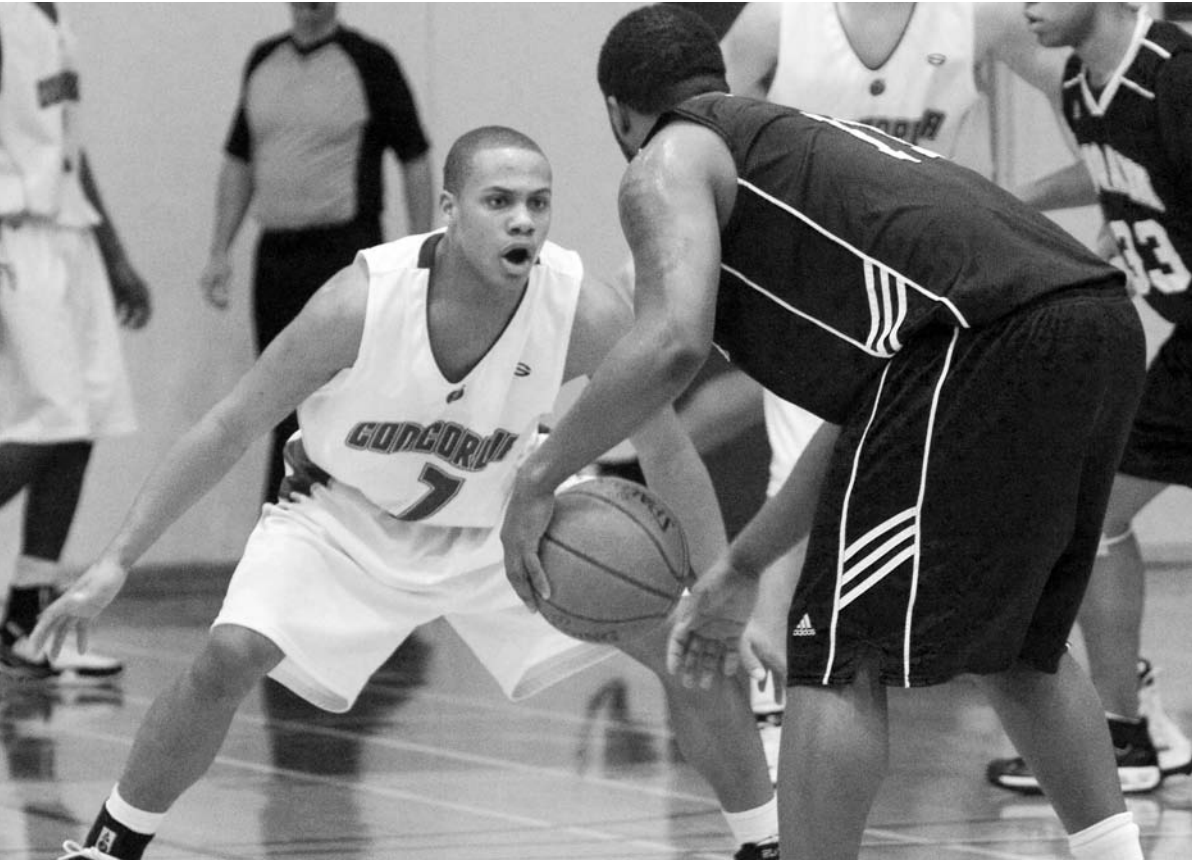
Now with some playoff experience, two new rookies on the team: forward Andréanne Grégoire-Boudreau and guard Magalie Beaulieu, a whole new season begins all over where last season ended, but this time with new hope and higher expectations.

A home and away series will start off the season for the Stingers. They host UQAM at Loyola Gym at 8 p.m. this Friday. On Saturday they travel to UQAM for a 5 p.m. showdown.

—with files from
Diego Pelaez Gaetz

Basketball team ready to ride high

The return of the Buckley Bros. spells success for Stingers



Stingers guard Pierre Thompson (#7) sets up on defense. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

The Concordia men’s basketball squad begins this season with high hopes, thanks in large part to the dynamic sibling tandem of Damian and Dwayne Buckley.

The return of Dwayne from knee surgery is particularly important to this team, who seemed to be one player short of making Nationals last year.

“He’s a great player,” said Stingers coach John Dore. “He had over 20 points against Illinois last year before he got injured.”

Damian had a fantastic year in his brother’s absence, averaging 20.9 points, 5.9 rebounds and 5.8 assists. He was named to the All-Canadian team, won the 2008 Concordia Male Athlete of the Year and was one of the top point

guards in the country.

The Stingers started out strong in pre-season play, as they won the 43rd annual Concordia-Nike Men’s Basketball Tournament with a 102-101 overtime win over the St. Francis-Xavier X-Men. Damian was named tournament MVP. In addition, Dwayne and first-year player Evens Laroche were named to the tournament all-star team.

Laroche provides a particularly intriguing dimension for the Stingers. He is an explosive athlete around the rim that was missing from last year’s team, as he finished many plays around the rim with his impressive leaping ability.

Despite some recent struggles during a pre-season tour of the United States, the Stingers are still respected nationally, as they

are ranked number three in country.

The key to the Stingers’ success this year will be the Buckley bros and the two newcomers from Dawson College; Laroche and guard Hamza Ruhezamihigo. With Dwayne averaging nearly 20 points a game in the Nike tournament, he seems to be close to fully recovered. “I’m very close to being back 100 per cent,” said Dwayne after the preseason tourney. “I’m not quite as explosive, but I’m close.”

Though the Stingers can’t quite seem to escape the injury bug (guard Levi Vann went down with an ankle injury in the pre-season), all the talent is there for the Stingers to make a lot of noise this season. Laroche made it clear after the preseason tournament; “The goal is nationals.”

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Men’s Basketball	Rhode Island 123 BYU 96 Utah State 74	Concordia 84 Concordia 54 Concordia 60	0-0-0 (Pre-season)
Men’s hockey	Concordia 3 Concordia 5	Toronto 0 Ryerson 3	5-4-0
Women’s Hockey	Ottawa 0	Concordia 2	1-6-0
Football	Laval 28 (Dunsmore Cup)	Concordia 17	5-3-0

schedule

	Who	When
Men’s hockey	@ Ryerson @ Toronto	Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m
Football	@ Laval	Saturday, TBA
Women’s Hockey	@ McGill	Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Men’s Basketball	vs. UQAM @ UQAM	Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m



The Stingers head off after another disappointing chapter to Dunsmore Cup rivalry. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Outscored, but not outplayed

Football team end season with a heartbreaking loss to Laval

• JENNIFER AOUAD

**Concordia 17
Laval 28**

The Stingers fought a long and hard battle in Ste. Foy this weekend, watching their hopes of making it to the Vanier Cup shatter in the last two minutes of play, as they suffered a heartbreaking 28-17 loss at the hands of the Laval Rouge et Or.

"I never cry," head coach Gerry McGrath declared after Sunday's defeat before adding, "it's probably the toughest loss of my career."

The Rouge et Or had the lead well into the fourth quarter, before the Stingers' Thomas Kuchiran recovered a fumble and ran the ball 26 yards for Con U's first touchdown of the game. Con U's intensity picked up as Laval failed to gain yards. The Stingers marched down the field and produced another touchdown by Dan Rodriguez.

Only three points behind, Con U allowed Laval no yards. Despite a missed immunity call on the punt, the Stingers drove the ball hard into Laval's red zone with a 12-yard catch by Watson and 40-

yard run by Donnelly.

Just when it looked like the Stingers would take it home, the Rouge et Or's Alex Surprenant intercepted a pass by Liam Mahoney intended for Sanchez Deschamps. With under one minute left in the game, the next play was the Stingers' undoing—Sébastien Lévesque of the Rouge et Or ran the ball 90-yards for a touchdown.

"It's probably the toughest loss of my career."

With the Stingers unable to recover, Laval took the game 28-17.

"I'm very proud of how our team played," said McGrath. "We really battled back, and we were very resourceful on defence. We really kept finding ways to hang around. When Liam got hurt we didn't even know if he could come back in the game. [He] toughed it out, came back with a bad thumb, threw some good balls and we managed to hang around."

The stats reflect McGrath's side of

the story.

Con U dominated the first half, with a total of 20 minutes of possession time, double that of the Rouge et Or. They finished the game with 37 minutes in possession and 21 first downs, while Laval had only 22 minutes and 18 first downs.

Despite his injury and three sacks, Mahoney completed 21 of 42 passes, including Rodriguez's touchdown, for a

—Gerry McGrath,
Stingers Head Coach

total of 254 yards and rushed for an additional 34 yards. His Laval counterpart completed 17 of 28 passes for a total of 170 yards and rushed another 17, while being sacked four times by the Stingers defence. Both quarterbacks threw two interceptions.

The Stingers proved McGrath right in saying both teams held the best defences in the country. Cory Greenwood finished the game with an impressive nine solo tackles and a total of 10. Thomas

Kuchiran and Ricky Zieba were not far behind with six solo tackles each.

"It kills me," said Zieba. "When you get so close, and it gets ripped out of you, it's really tough to deal with. We fought hard until the end of the game, but we just couldn't pull it off."

Zieba admits the road was tough. "When this team gets the ball rolling it's hard to stop them."

For five Stingers, the conference final also marks their last career game. "I really enjoyed myself, but times are done now," linebacker Nathan Agadzi said. He, along with Connor Smith, Darnell Danglade, William Miller and Blake Butler leave the Stingers after completing their five years of eligibility.

"I loved playing with my team, and next year, hopefully, we'll do a lot better," Agadzi said looking back. "Other than that, enjoy life!"

With Laval taking the Quebec title, they host Calgary next Sunday in the Uteck Bowl national semi-finals. The other semi-final will be battled between Western and Saint-Mary's in the Mitchell Bowl.

Walls and trenches

The Decarie of the east is born

Montreal's plan to build an eight-lane highway in the east end is threatening to cut tens of thousands of people off from "Le fleuve." GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

A river of concrete is coming, threatening to cut off a neighbourhood's access to the St. Lawrence.

Residents worry that they will need to board up their businesses and watch as the health of their children deteriorates. They already have visions of dying trees and a community in ruins. To the residents of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, hope is far away.

A.J. Kandy lives on Notre-Dame St. East, a road he calls "a de facto highway with 18-wheeler truck traffic and rush hour drivers." With 65,000 vehicles rumbling down Notre-Dame East every day, the street is among the most congested and dangerous on the island of Montreal.

To solve the street's serious traffic woes, the City of Montreal announced the Notre-Dame East modernization project Nov. 21, 2007 as a simple upgrade of the existing six-lane thoroughfare, adding bus lanes and synchronized traffic lights at rush hour.

That project then underwent a year of negotiations between the city of Montreal and Quebec's Transport Department. What emerged is a nightmare: a nine-kilometre, eight-lane concrete trench between downtown and Highway 25. The cost rose with the ambition, from \$750 million to \$2.5 billion.

Street suspiciously highway-like

Residents were aghast and rightly so, building highways in

urban cores hasn't been in vogue for nearly 40 years. The last such experiment in Montreal, the Decarie expressway, decimated a vibrant neighbourhood and turned the surrounding area into a rush-hour service zone.

This also presented a serious problem for the mayor Tremblay. Barely six months before the initial Notre-Dame East announcement he had headlined his delivery of Montreal 2025, a grand plan for the city's development, by stating that Montreal was turning away from car-centred developments towards public transit.

Of course the new eight-lane multibillion dollar expressway wasn't a car-centred expense, in perfect bureaucrat speak it was relabelled an "urban boulevard."

The last experiment, the Decarie expressway, decimated a vibrant neighbourhood.

The government greenwashed the project. Forget the 35 per cent projected increase in traffic, they argued cars would burn less gas if they didn't idle. Two dedicated bus lanes would be a bonus for commuters and new bike paths and park space would be added.

Despite the rhetoric, the planned Notre-Dame East is obviously an attempt to stretch the Ville-Marie expressway from its current end near the Jacques Cartier Bridge to Highway 25. This might make sense in Quebec City, but to the people who will live

near the eight-lane highway and hear its midnight rumble and breathe its toxic air this isn't a sound plan.

The anachronistic view from Quebec

Notre-Dame East is the main service road for the Port of Montreal facilities that line its southern side. Nearly 20 per cent of the traffic on the road is in the form of heavy trucks destined for the port. Many of those vehicles cannot use the Lafontaine Tunnel because they carry dangerous cargo under the St. Lawrence and as a result, they must use the whole expanse of the road. The weight and number of those trucks is expected to rise as the port expands.

The new expressway would ensure a viable link to the port, but it would do so by sacrificing modern urban planning. In the era of Kyoto and sustainable development, Montreal would build a quick and expensive solution that would only delay the problem and solve little in the long run.

This criticism has not gone unheard and recently it has made its way to the halls of power. In late October, two weeks before Premier Jean Charest plunged Quebec back into an electoral cycle, Louise Harel, the MNA for

Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, walked into the National Assembly and deposited the last of a petition signed by 5,100 East Enders.

She made it clear that the petition wasn't about the second-rate health care or the shocking crime rate in her riding, although it could have been. The petition was about even more than the future of a neighbourhood; it was a defence of the future of Montreal.

Harel argued before the Assembly that, "an investment of \$2.5 billion seems like a unique opportunity to redesign and restart a part of the south of the island of Montreal, and to establish a pivot for a project of sustainable development based on public transit and a harmonious relationship between the city and its river."

The east fights back

The citizens of Harel's riding didn't wait for their MNA to defend them. Less than a month after the "urban boulevard" was unveiled they established La Coalition pour humaniser la rue Notre-Dame. Through their blog, *Non à l'autoroute Notre-Dame!*, the citizen's group has put together an alternative plan for the city to follow.

The plan is a true urban boulevard and follows the central tenants of Montreal 2025: it is sustainable and centred on public transit and pedestrians.

They have proposed cutting Notre-Dame East to four lanes, divided by a light rail transit sys-

tem. On either side of the tree-lined street they have called for a wide bike and pedestrian sidewalk.

This sustainable plan would fit closely with the recent unveiling of a massive project by the Société Radio Canada to create over 2,000 homes and business in the parking lot of the Radio Canada tower. The citizens group is calling for a stretch of three floor buildings, built in an older style to match the area's buildings, to house businesses and apartments.

The final product would be a sustainable street with high-density construction, very much like the Plateau area, and completely unlike the current Notre-Dame East. As it stands now, the area between downtown and the Highway 25 is an industrial wasteland, a section of road dominated by 18-wheelers and dilapidated mattress dealerships.

The current area has potential. The north of Notre-Dame East is dominated by houses built with the outdoor iron staircases that characterize Montreal, and the people who live there are obviously showing pride in their community and want to better it.

In a sad display of complacency, opponents of the alternative plan have called these citizens unrealistic and utopian. But I must ask, why is a tree-lined boulevard with bike paths and proper public transit considered overly ambitious when an eight-lane highway sunk into a concrete trench isn't?

Welcome to the back of the bus

California's Prop 8 makes gays second-class citizens

• ANTHONY DI DOMIZIO

Last Tuesday saw the election of the United States' first black president. It was a momentous occasion for an America whose history of racism and discrimination is not too far behind.

Despite the significance of Obama's victory, Nov. 4 will also be remembered as a day when America almost, but didn't quite, leave its historical baggage trailing in the dust. As American civil rights leapt forward, they took a step back due to the passing of Proposition 8, banning same-sex marriage in California.

Exit polls showed an alarming trend in the outcome of Prop. 8 as the state of California was split down the middle. Whites narrowly voted against it, 51 to 49 per cent; Latinos voted narrowly in favor 53 to 47 per cent; Blacks, who turned out in record numbers to elect Obama, voted 70 to 30 per cent in favour.

Prop. 8 was the most watched ballot measure in the 2008 election and the result has all but officially relegated gays to the back of the civil rights bus. The irony saddens me.

California was the second state to recognize same-sex marriage and has weathered a history of ballot measures to remove the right. If the battle for gay marriage ever needed a victory, it was in "liberal" California.

Gays hoped that a victory in California would turn the tide against state referendum after state referendum denying their legal right to form a committed relationship before the law. However, Prop. 8's supporters also knew how important it was to stop the parade in its tracks.

Over \$74 million was spent in the Prop. 8 campaign, mostly by gay-rights groups campaigning against it and religious groups warning about the moral destruction that two dudes getting hitched would cause to their fragile little lives.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has a problem with Mormons campaigning against gay marriage. This is the biggest hypocrisy I have ever seen. Mormons can have 15 wives, including teenagers, and I am not allowed to have one husband?

What gives these people a right to interfere in other people's lives?

One of Jesus' most prolific teachings is that people shouldn't judge one another. This goes well beyond that. Why deny two people the right to love each other? Why deny them the right to promise themselves to one another for the rest of their lives?

When gay marriage was passed in Canada, Jean Chretien proudly said that he could never see the Constitution used to deny rights to other people. San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsome, echoed that sentiment last week.

Some asked me why it mattered what California voters did. After all I'm Canadian and I can get married here. For the same reason Canadians recognized the importance of the U.S. electing a black president, gay rights activists argue that once the U.S. passes a law on same-sex couple rights, the path to equality will become a lot smoother.

As the history of last Tuesday begins to wear off and the real work to fix the American economy gets underway, a lesson must be learned; that nobody needs to be left behind. This is a time for leadership. It's time we get off this bus once and for all.

Canada Student Loans impoverishes the future

• DANIELLE WEBB,
CUP ATLANTIC BUREAU CHIEF

ANTIGONISH (CUP) — There's something seriously wrong with a country that allows its future—its students—to begin their adult lives weighed down by a mortgage-like debt.

Earlier this year, I received a student loan balance update informing me that in my quest for higher education, I have so far accumulated \$30,000 in debt to my province and country. Upon graduation, I will be expected to pay about \$400 a month—a sum that has been set for me, regardless of my state of employment.

Graduates are rarely able to pay these loans back in a timely manner. They are often shackled with tens of thousands of dollars in debt up to 10 years after graduation, when many are also trying to build families and save for their futures.

The Canada Student Loans Program has been taking advantage of naïve, newly graduated high-school students by allowing them to withdraw upwards of \$10,000 a year, without any introduction to financial management or a promotion of alternatives.

A 2007 study conducted by the Coalition for Student Loan Fairness, a group that advocates Student Loans reform, states: "Even people with mortgages or car loans rarely encounter the problems that graduates experience with the administration of student loan debt."

This same study found that CSLP loans are financed at prime plus five per cent, translating to anywhere from 8.5 to 11 per cent interest rates. This is more than double what it costs the government to borrow the money. And struggling graduates are

being forced to pay higher interest rates than they would on a new car or even their mortgage.

Meanwhile, CSLP is annually turning a profit on their debt repayment program. The federal government expected the program to produce a \$550-million surplus in 2007.

A study conducted by Winston Jackson, a former professor at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, said student loans were just the beginning of an individual's financial problems.

Jackson found that graduates who took out loans in university make nearly 20 per cent less in terms of annual income than those who went through school loan-free.

Unfortunately, many students feel that they have no other option but to take out loans.

Had I realized just how much money \$30,000 was, or how long I would be paying it back, when I applied for a student loan, I might have reconsidered my options. I might have researched other forms of financial support, thought about attending school part-time, found higher paying summer or year-long jobs, or tried for more scholarships.

While Canada Student Loans imagines itself as a saviour to those who could not otherwise afford an education, reality is it's a for-profit agency more than prepared to saddle those same young students with debts that will follow them long into their adult lives.

In an age when the value of post-secondary education is so high that you almost can't get a job without graduating from university, the government must be taking steps to ensure that Canada's future generations aren't being forced to live under the poverty line because of their degrees. Education should be about increasing potential, not holding people back.

Word in the Herd

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON AND JOELLE LEMIEUX

Why do you think Charest decided to call an election?



"The same reason as Harper. It's the shortest amount of time to call an election, and if it worked for Harper it could work for Charest."

—Clifford Moscovitch

"I find [another election] useless. I'll vote anyway, but I think nothing's going to change, and the Liberals will still have the same position they had before."

—Guillaume Noury



"I only follow federal elections, because I'm not a Quebec resident and can't vote for Charest either way."

—Thomas Prince



"I don't really know. I don't follow elections."

—Katia Desautels



"If I'm going to be predictable, I'd say it's to win a majority government."

—Cassandra Porter



"It's election period and [Charest] wanted to take advantage of the other two [Dumont and Marois]."

—Pina Luscri



A lesson on Obama from McCain country

How I learned the true meaning of “yes we can”

• MICHAEL SABELLI

Obama won, and to be honest, no one is really all that surprised.

Across the United States, the need for change is real and the atmosphere is soaking up hope. Even down in the dark red South, in Birmingham, Alabama, people embrace the new energy in America.

The feeling is real, but will the necessary action follow? People are crying out that history is in the making; that this generation will witness some kind of revolution that will finally bring equality, world peace and happiness for all mankind.

It all seems somewhat superficial. Sure the U.S. has never had a black president, but there have been plenty of black presidents throughout the world, cue Nelson Mandela. There has been a black woman as head of state.

That's why skepticism is required. Obama gives me goose bumps with talk of limitless possibilities, but I was always told that talk is cheap.

Action is what distinguishes those people who make things happen from those who talk. It's easy to be caught in a feeling, but it something else entirely to live what you preach.

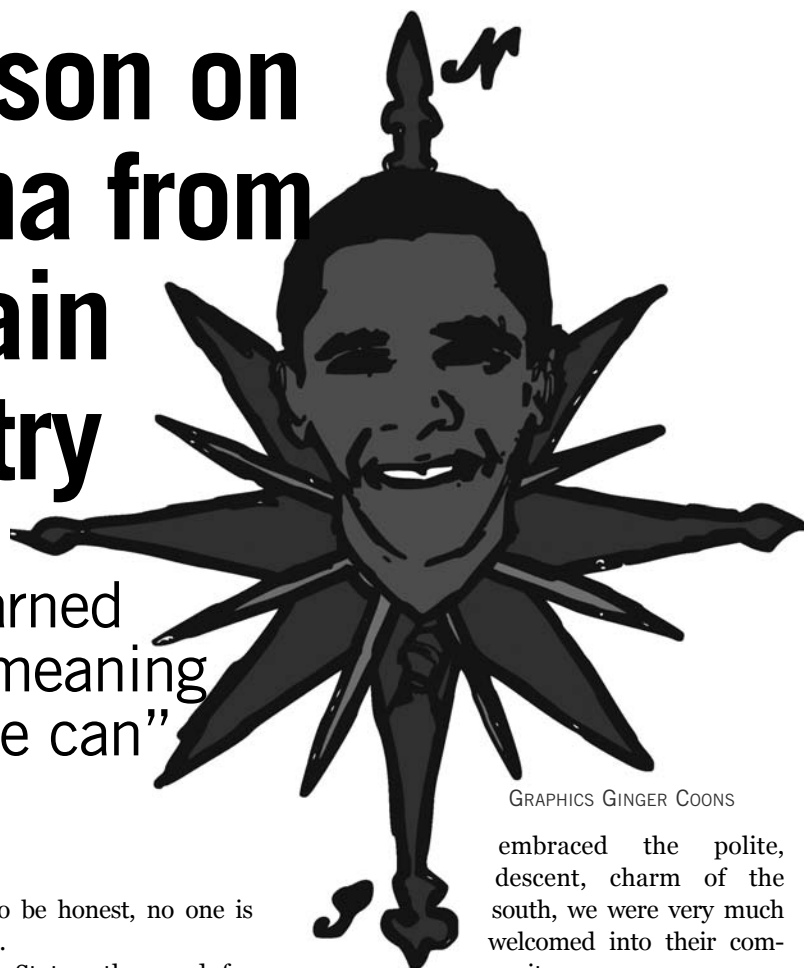
With the Northeast and the Pacific coast dedicated to “Yes we can,” I was surprised to find the true meaning of Obama in the warm hospitality of the South.

I went to Birmingham with my cousin to check out a Tom Waits concert the day before July 4. We promised each other that we would be on our best behaviour. That promise was destined to be unnecessary.

Connecting with a kindred spirit before departing, I made the acquaintance of a woman that would prove that I could love Americans. She hosted us for our stay and showed us a small town they call “B’ham,” Bama.

Her perfect southern identity was sealed by her name—Jennie Leigh. The form of what a Southern Belle really should be, Jennie turns kings into beggars and beggars into kings. Her kindness as well as the respect people showed her demonstrated a community that loves each other.

Although Jennie made us happy with a full stomach, it was walking around with her later that night that displayed Alabama's magic. It's easy to know everyone in such a small city—therefore my cousin and I were easily spotted as outsiders. Since we adapted to our environment by tipping our hats to dames, smiling and saying hello to everyone, and generally



GRAPHICS GINGER COONS

embraced the polite, descent, charm of the south, we were very much welcomed into their community.

Leigh invited us to her family's BBQ pool party for the fourth. Instead of feeling nervous or shy, we felt at ease. We were the grateful guests and they were the gracious and generous hosts. That's where I found the American dream wrapped in Southern hospitality. Work hard, earn a good living, create a beautiful family, love the people close to you and share what you can.

The South doesn't know much about politics, but it sure knows a lot about relating to people. I could forget the slavery of the past—you can't judge Germans for being Nazis yesterday. Southern hospitality is more than an expression, more than respect and generosity, it is a whole culture based on treating the people around you as best you can. Not for selfishness reasons of personal gain, but for the sake of sincere kindness.

Upon returning from Birmingham, I tried to bring the Southern hospitality with me. It didn't last long. Old ladies, who I acknowledged with a “ma'am” didn't trust me. People don't even use flasher while changing lanes because that would be acknowledging a neighbor's existence.

Last Tuesday, downtown was filled with people celebrating Obama's victory. I wonder how many of them voted in our own election? How many of them actually live the ideals and not just praise them?

The cheering people in those crowds most likely believe the negative stereotypes of the South without taking a look themselves. That view is endemic of our recent behaviour as a country and Canadians should be embarrassed. We are resting on a dumb and foundationless attitude of being the nicest, instead we have shown ourselves to be shallow and ignorant. We are the self-centred, rude oil barons with questionable motives.

As a city, Bama wasn't for Obama politically, but socially they embrace the attitude of “yes we can” and understand love of thy neighbour better than anywhere I've seen. The dreamy change Obama serenades about is what I saw to be true on the streets of Bama.

Now that Obama is set to take over the White House, the feeling of change is in the air everywhere. But the U.S. will need more than hope to achieve change; it will need everyday, positive actions.

✉ Letters@thelink.concordia.ca

It wasn't broken, so Gerald did

In an Oct. 28 letter to *The Link*, “The new laptop lending service doesn't work,” Randy Pinsky has argued some very strong points and asked significant questions.

When the library administration presented the new laptop policy to the Access Services Staff in January, staff members immediately responded with many of the same concerns that Randy Pinsky and other students have identified this semester.

Unfortunately staff input was not considered nor valued. Not only has the Library Administration not responded to our concerns, they never even offered any sense of a plan or vision. Instead, we've been told that centralizing services simply fits into a more universal trend throughout academic libraries.

Certainly many services have been centralized; cramped, that is, into a very tight physical space at the Circulation/Reserves desk. Laptops, inter-library loans, reserves, holds, fines and regular loans are all available at this desk. But this is far from “one-stop shopping” for the student. Access Services Staff have been resigned to adapting on the fly to the changes and are doing their best to provide optimum service under difficult conditions.

Patrons with inter-library loans questions are still directed to the Inter-Library Loans office. Media equipment and materials are still kept near the third floor service desk. Students with laptop problems are sent to the Information Services desk where staff members trained to provide academic research support must now offer technical support.

Meanwhile, service hours at the former Periodicals & Media Desk have been reduced and the staff on the third floor, who have a wealth of expertise and experience with laptops and public service in general, have been spending an increasing amount of time scanning articles for the library's expanding Article Delivery Service. Inter-Library Loans and Periodicals and Media staff would gladly take back those services that have been reassigned and regain

the all-important human interaction with students and faculty.

In short, all the changes that were rushed into place before the arrival of the new University Librarian have done little to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our library.

When Gerald Beasley, the new University Librarian, spoke to Library staff in August, he stressed the importance of what he called the three “E's”: Equity, Expertise and Efficiency. It is clear however, at least to students and staff anyway, that the Library Administration's three “E's” are in fact much closer to a single “F” for Failure.

—Concordia University Library
Employees Union Executive

“Stop clowning around,” says CSU

One week into the provincial election, and all we've heard from the Concordia Student Union is a newsletter stating: “it's important that students vote in large numbers so that provincial politicians take us seriously and stop clowning around with our education!”

That's a surefire way for politicians not to take you seriously, and holding that stance will effectively relegate the CSU from playing any role this election.

Pick a party, and endorse it. Contact the McGill Student Union and have them do the same. Then let the French press know. Hold a press conference with the candidate you're endorsing or hold a rally, but don't remain neutral unless you want to disappear.

The weight of this election on students is intense. A Liberal majority will absolutely prove retrogressive for accessible education. Let's not forget premier Jean Charest made a very good running for the federal Progressive Conservative leadership.

Take a stance sooner than later, please.

—Matthew Brett
English Literature, Honours

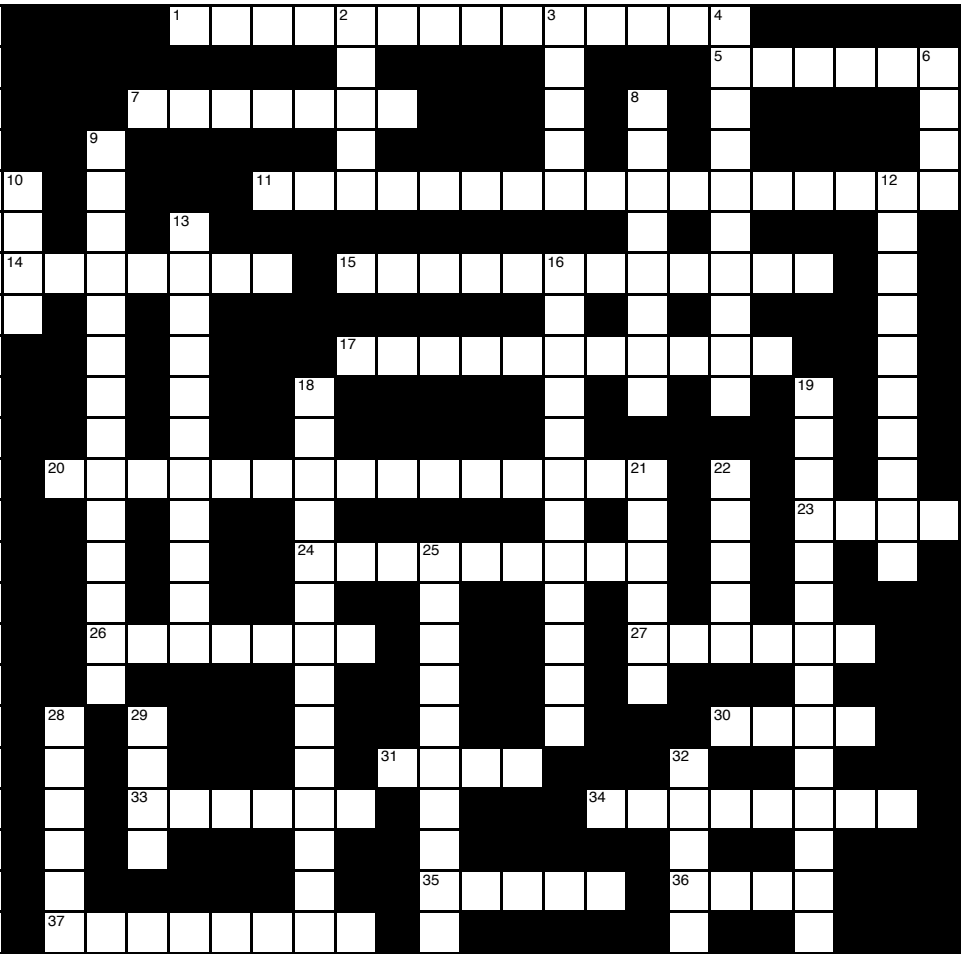
The Link's letters and opinions policy: The deadline for letters is 4 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. *The Link* reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libelous, sexist, homophobic, racist or xenophobic. The limit is 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.



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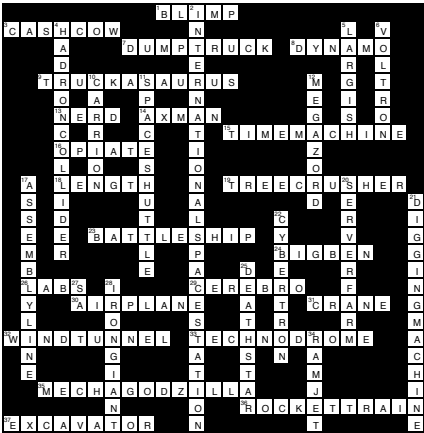
HOUSEHOLD DANGERS • R. BRIAN HASTIE & BRUNO DE ROSA

- Across**
- 1. used on plants, not on people
 - 5. smoking while doing this causes a fire
 - 7. explosive contents in a neat package
 - 11. stick your fork into this for harm, but plug your Nintendo in for good times
 - 14. the clogged roof accessories that can crush you
 - 15. can cook your mini pizza, can burn your house down
 - 17. new-age way of powering your house or shiny black sheet of plummeting doom
 - 20. the gardener, the butler, the housekeeper and the driver all hate you
 - 23. comes in collapsible flat form or hazardous slanted form
 - 24. used on grass, not on people
 - 26. “what’s that smell?” Followed by explosion
 - 27. if you are this, you need not worry about the police
 - 30. junior disaster creators
 - 31. used on ski slopes, wobblier than the chair
 - 33. spiraling or ascending doom, nemesis of the elderly
 - 34. from lukewarm to face-melting
 - 35. tetanus lives here
 - 36. loves fire more than their parents do
 - 37. age-acquired forgetfulness leads to all of the above



- Down**
- 2. this process can cause things to become toxic
 - 3. skull and crossbones means ‘don’t drink this!’
 - 4. cutting board catastrophe leads to this dangerous bacteria
 - 6. carriers of fleas and rabies
 - 8. choking hazard filled with voice-changing gas
 - 9. two feet away from falling on you in all parts of your house
 - 10. they live in your walls, your bed, your basement and even on your food
 - 12. rots the brain and can crush the feet when moving
 - 13. whizzing blades of doom that can fall down
 - 16. licking these can bring about a terrible shock
 - 18. flavouring found in things like mouthwash
 - 19. bad blueprints lead to bad starts
 - 21. used on hands, can get you drunk
 - 22. tiny sharp objects, can become deadly when coupled with hammer
 - 25. may be secret spies, sociopaths or werewolves
 - 28. used on steaks, thrown by the deranged
 - 29. hidden in nooks and crannies, these can clog your lungs
 - 32. easiest place to slip and fall in the house

issue 12
solutionz



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY NOVEMBER 9, 1993

Sharing food and shelter

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Connie C. Wu should have known better. Just because an institution is trying to do good didn’t mean they are free of criticism, and Benedict Labre House was a case of good intentions gone wrong. One can understand Wu’s predicament; Benedict Labre House was a soup kitchen in Griffintown that provided meals for nearly 150 people a day. But she should have been surprised when she heard about the House’s housing deal. For \$200 a month and four hours of weekly unpaid help, student volunteers could rent a single room with a shared bathroom and no kitchen. When the price of 16 hours of labour at the minimum wage of the time, \$5.70, is added to the rent, the real price is \$291 a month. When adjusted for inflation, the real price in 2008 would be nearly \$400. That is a significant amount of money for a student, especially for a room in a soup kitchen in one of the most impoverished neighbourhoods of the city. The same amount of money would easily get a nice apartment in NDG or Saint-Henri, with a roommate of course. The director of the soup kitchen defended the setup: “we’re not a soup kitchen. We’re a hospitality house. We



give an extended home to our guests.” Quite literally it would seem. The problem with Wu’s coverage wasn’t that she reported the situation; it was the fact that she didn’t ask questions and portrayed the housing service as though it were on par with the free food. If the Benedict Labre House wanted to supplement their budget by providing housing to students, it was well within their rights to do so. But to call the housing affordable and hide it within their other community offerings was wrong.

editorial
What we remember

*“In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row. . .”*

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month will be special this year—it will mark the 90th anniversary of the end of the Great War. In typical Canadian fashion, we will pay tribute to the death of 20 million people by wearing a flower: the poppy. The red poppy’s central place in Remembrance Day was secured by a poem all schoolchildren of the Commonwealth can recite, John McCrae’s In Flanders Fields. As a result, men and women in countries on every continent will wear a simple poppy for two weeks to remember the slaughter of trench warfare in the rolling fields of tiny Belgium. But the red poppy is not enough. Just as McCrae had to sketch out his poem during a lull in the bombing, Canadians should create a moment of silence in their own hectic days.

*“That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly. . .”*

Lately those moments of silence have become increasingly scattered, especially among students. It is easy to believe that we increasingly take advantage of our yearly minute of peace to plan shopping sprees, dream of groceries or revisit past insults. But the Remembrance Day moment of silence should be more than a confused mental scramble; it should be a reflection on the military service of all of Canada’s soldiers, sailors and airmen—both past and present. Calling for what might seem like a moment of unabashed internal patriotism is controversial to some in Canada’s present reality. We are a nation at war. But an academic line must be drawn and understood: to appreciate the work of our military personnel is not to show support for the war.

*“Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago. . .”*

Remembrance Day is more than a celebration of the sacrifices of those who served in the decades-old world wars, it is a recognition of all our sacrifice, all our victories and all our armed conflicts. There are a lot of veterans who have served in the Canadian Forces and have spent time abroad engaged in combat and peacekeeping missions aimed at bettering the world. While those veterans now work at local businesses or study beside us at university, there needs to be a widespread recognition of their efforts. This is not about Iraq or Afghanistan, it is about recognizing the work and sacrifices of soldier of the modern era.

*“We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields. . .”*

The Canadian population has suffered heavily in its recent military excursions. The Canadian Forces have been bloodied in Afghanistan and since the mission’s inception in 2002 this country has lost 97 lives. Those people, who selflessly gave their lives for their country, should also be remembered on this day. We, the public, need to rethink the Remembrance Day paradigm. We need to be able to be more inclusive about celebrating those people whose lives were given in the service of this country. We should not attempt to place a timer upon this fact.

*“Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high. . .”*

The current glorification of past wars, a mythologizing of events bordering on romantic excludes people participating in present military action. Perhaps we don’t agree with the missions these men and women have undertaken, but it doesn’t mean that they shouldn’t be honoured and remembered for their service. There should be nothing controversial about sacrifice and we should recognize all our veterans equally. Members of the Canadian Forces have stood up for our country in the past, whether in the Sinai or on the banks of the Red River, and they shall do so continually into the future.

*“If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.”*

—Justin Giovannetti and R. Brian Hastie,
Opinions editor and Copy editor

Our dysfunctional JB

The current state of the student body’s main body of oversight:
The Judicial Board.

Days since the JB Chairman and another member were removed for doing their jobs:	32
The official reason for the removal was to “free up” space on the JB. The number of empty seats at the time:	6
Number of seats filled in the last 32 days:	0