

THE

LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
kerning the Golden Arches since 1980

Dare to be bare

NAKED YOGA HELPS
MONTREALERS LEAVE
IT ALL BEHIND • PAGE 9



Living in the library for literacy • News page 5

Men's basketball team respond to McGill Tribune's criticisms • Sports page 19

Use door handles, not door buttons & drink to Obama's inauguration • Opinions page 21

CSU Chair rejects recall petition and resigns

Recall moves to Judicial Board as battle continues

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

On the afternoon of Jan. 13, Concordia Student Union Chair Jessica Nudo rejected a petition to recall the student union executive. Twenty-five hours later she resigned.

“I cannot be a part of this continuous war over power and some individuals’ ‘claim to fame,’” wrote Nudo in her resignation letter, received nine minutes before the scheduled start of a CSU Council meeting on Jan. 14. “An on-going battle remains between the CSU and certain individuals, who have formed their life goals around an attempt to impeach anyone who stands in their way.”

In an email sent Jan. 13 to Patrice Blais—a lawyer and president of the CSU in 2001-2002—Nudo wrote that she had “generated an electronic database from the data in [Blais’] petition and compared it with the electronic CSU membership list.” She claimed that only 1,300 of the 3,600 handwritten signatures on Blais’ petition matched those of undergraduate students.

“Had she checked the petition properly, she would see that that isn’t true,” Blais said of Nudo’s ruling. “But to say that two out of three signatures are false is only a way of creating doubt about the validity of the petition. I was not very surprised, this is part of a pat-

tern to stall the whole process: the longer it goes, the better it is for the CSU.”

Nudo declined a request for comment by *The Link*.

In the Jan. 13 letter sent to Blais, Nudo also stated that the recall violated the provisions of section 247 of the Standing Regulations of the CSU. Those provisions, approved by the CSU Council three days before Nudo received the 3,600 signatures, set new guidelines for all recall petitions, invalidating the campaign Blais had already set in motion.

“I filed a complaint with the Judicial Board, if that doesn’t work then I will file an action in Superior Court,” said Blais, who has thus asked the JB to overturn Nudo’s rejection of the 3,600-signature petition and invocation of section 247.

The head of the JB, Tristan Teixeira, confirmed that the JB planned to meet on Jan. 20 to discuss Blais’ contestation. “I’ve read the complaint and I’ve gone over the evidence,” Teixeira said.

In the event that the JB overturns Nudo’s ruling, the CSU’s new Chief Electoral Officer, Oliver Cohen—elected Jan. 14—would need to validate the petition, Teixeira said.

“I don’t even know if he’s been given access to his CSU email yet,” Teixeira said of the new CEO.

CSU President Keyana Kashfi isn’t

worried about Cohen. “The CEO has the documentation everyone else has, so he will have to make a decision. He will also have access to the bylaws and the student lists, just like the Chair did.”

Upon a request for interview, Cohen declined and asked that a list of questions be submitted only by email.

Blais confided that even if Nudo’s rejection is overturned, it might be too late. “With an election scheduled for March, the CSU will say, ‘It’s too late now,’ even though they are the cause of the delay.”

According to Blais, a solution exists to the current disagreement. “The logical conclusion is to go the university registrar and say, ‘Hey can you check this,’ and have them compare the student names, but the CSU doesn’t want to.”

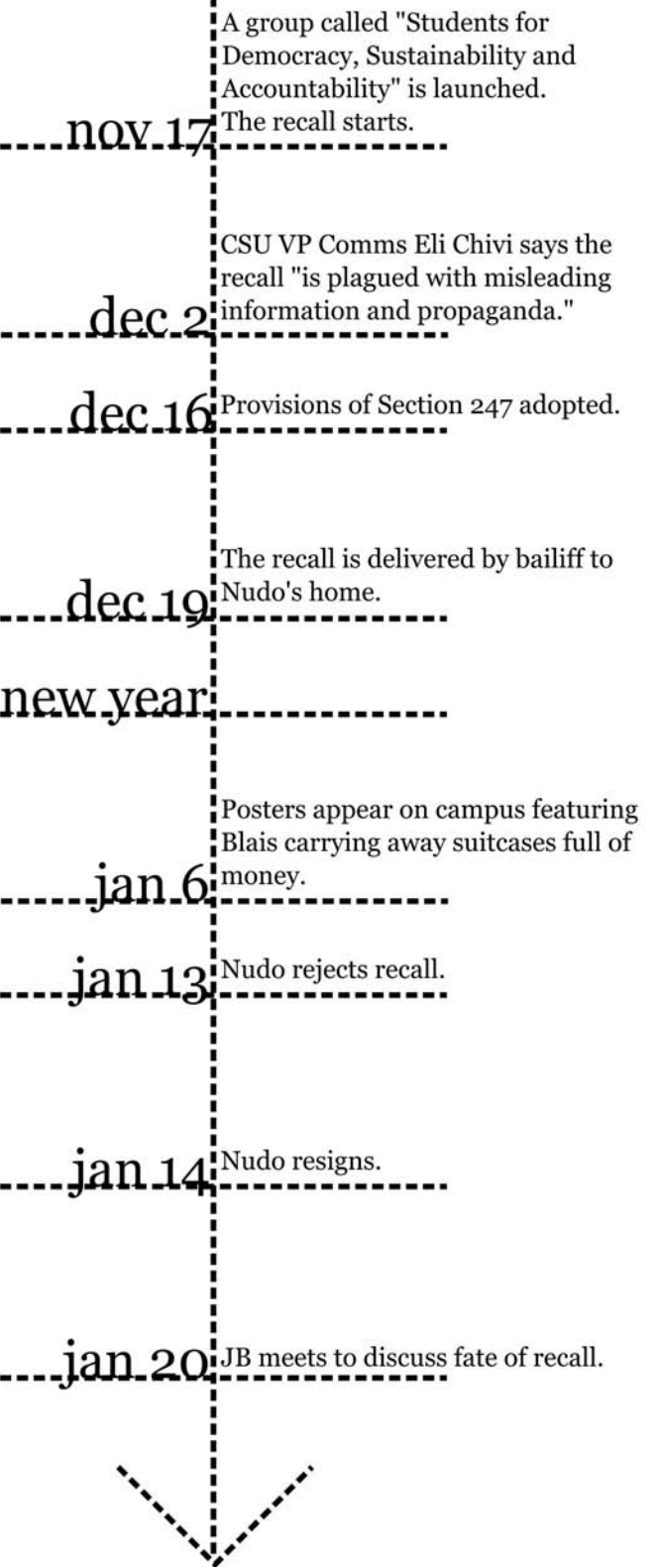
Kashfi argued that Blais had yet to contact the CSU with the proposal.

The president also told *The Link* that she had had no contact with the Chair before she resigned, but did confirm “the last week was stressful for her.”

“I respect her for completing her duties,” Kashfi concluded about the now ex-Chair of Council.

The current interim-Chair of Council is Brent Farrington, former CSU president from 2003-04 and current National Deputy Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

the recall a timeline of events



Shh! We're tearing down prison walls

Roundtable discussion on prisoners' rights weighs pros and cons of radical reform

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Two prisoners currently serving life sentences used their once-a-month reprieve from their prison walls to discuss the effects of Concordia's grassroots activism in their now-native environs.

The two men were invited to take part in the roundtable discussion, called "Tear Down the Walls," at Concordia's Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore on Jan. 15. The talk, hosted by the Quebec Public Interest Research Group of

Concordia, aimed to help various working groups to improve conditions in Canadian prisons.

Just how much must be compromised in the pursuit of prison reform was up for debate: "Termites will [tear down] the walls, not a hurricane," said one prisoner.

Former inmate George LeClare, who spent 32 years in prison before finally achieving parole, owed his easy transition into a free life to groups like ReCon, a working group of QPIRG-Concordia.

"Were it not for these guys," said LeClare, "I probably would have gone back into the institution within a year. I had a bad reputation, nobody would hire me. [But], when the need was there, they took me under their roof, under their wing."

LeClare later joined ActionVie, a group that prepares prisoners for their parole hearings and, eventually, life outside of prison.

Helen Hudson of the Certain Days calendar committee said that schools and institutions of learning are the direct opposite of prisons, where personal improvement is squandered instead of fostered.

It is an imperative of the educated, argued Hudson, to lend their support to those without it. "As students, we have access to information about human rights. [We] take what we're learning from one institution and use it to

change another institution."

One former prisoner could not make the meeting, however, as he had found a job and was working that night, although his absence spoke to the successes achieved by ReCon in reintegrating those under their care back into society.

Said one prisoner, "It's nice to know that those who are forgotten [by the prison system] aren't actually forgotten."

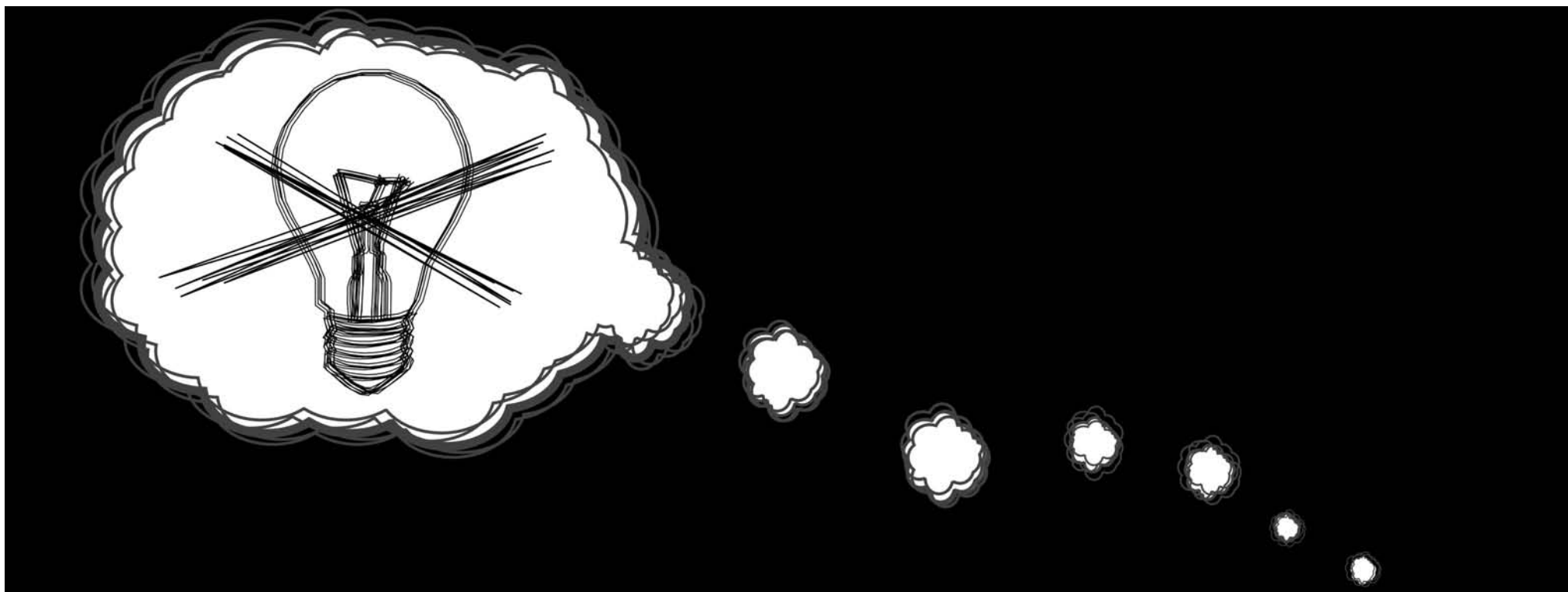
Proceeds from the Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar go towards helping prisoner advocacy groups and can be purchased at the Concordia Community Solidarity Co-Op Bookstore or from certaindays.org.

To find out more about ReCon or to get involved, email recon_ftc@yahoo.ca or call 514-848-7583.

232,800
number of adults admitted to some form of custody in Canada in 2005-06

33,440
number of adults in custody across Canada in 2005-06

3,500
number of those prisoners currently serving life sentences in Canada in 2008



Don't get any bright ideas; most councillors have been left in the dark. GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

Former CSU bookkeeper sued for \$363,238.25

'I can't even fathom the secrecy,' says councillor

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Councillors of the Concordia Student Union are outraged that they've been left in the dark about the union's finances.

Several members of Council—the governing body of the CSU—say they haven't been given any concrete numbers about money missing from the union's piggy bank. Some also claim they were not aware that a lawsuit, signed by the CSU's legal team on Dec. 23, had been filed against former CSU employee Marie Lyonnais for the total amount of \$363,238.25.

Crunching the numbers

On Jan. 12, *The Link* inquired about a pending lawsuit of nearly \$350,000 in an interview with the CSU's VP Communications, Elie Chivi. The conversation was soon redirected to the CSU's nearly \$500,000 deficit.

"[CSU President Keyana Kashfi] did not mention the lawsuit at the last Council meeting," said Arts and Science councillor Prince Ralph Osei. "And if that has been done, councillors should be the first to know."

Lyonnais, a Chartered Accountant and former CSU bookkeeper, was hired by Patrice Blais in 2000—after almost \$200,000 was embezzled by a former CSU executive. Lyonnais worked under former CSU presidents Mohamed Shuriye and Khaleed Juma when the money went missing.

Even so, Lyonnais is the only defendant named in the lawsuit that, in the statement of claim, details "negligent behaviour" on behalf of the CSU and its corporation, CUSACorp.

Although Lyonnais is being sued for a

hefty amount, the statement of claim—filed at Quebec Superior Court on Dec. 29—shows her only official debt is a negative credit card balance of \$6,893.98. The remaining balance is "unaccounted for in the [CSU and CUSACorp's] accounting books and records."

The legal document also claims Lyonnais is responsible for failing to file provincial and federal payroll deductions amounting to \$56,350, with interest included.

Osei argued that "if the CSU really wanted the students' money back, the CSU should have also sued the [Order of] Quebec Chartered Accountants," which represents its members. "I don't know who advises them legally."

Arts and Science Councillor Nicole Devlin, who was also at the Jan. 14 Council meeting, was shocked at the claim amount.

"That's even more than I thought it would be," Devlin said. "I can't even fathom the secrecy, why they wouldn't let any amount out, even to Council."

"We were told they couldn't give us any numbers because the investigation is still ongoing," echoed Arts and Science councillor Amine Dabchy.

Although it may "make them look bad," Dabchy said the CSU should disclose pertinent information to its governing body—Council.

"Unfortunately, Concordia politics is turning into African politics," Dabchy continued. "It's a Mugabe government in power."

Shuriye, CSU president from 2005-06, said he could not foresee the financial disarray and that there was no negligence on his part.

"Let's talk about negligence," Shuriye said. "Has the CSU been negligent with all

the bylaws they broke this year? Of course."

Kashfi maintains that former CSU president Shuriye should have seen the warning signs of unbalanced books.

"You're managing a corporation, really," Kashfi said. "Just like if the cash is short at Starbucks, it's your job to find out why from your employees and to rectify it."

Financial controls and improvements

Kashfi said the current executive is doing everything it can to rectify the financial shortcoming and isn't being secretive about the numbers.

"I'm not withholding information from the student body," Kashfi repeated.

Various measures the current executive have taken include:

- Creating the Director of Financial Accounting position, whose responsibilities include payroll and tax issues
- Outsourcing payroll to CERIDIAN, a firm who specializes in payroll services
- Renegotiating the Student Health and Dental Plan, which increased benefits and saved students \$100,000
- Tighter control on all cheques issued
- Completing all GST and PST filings quarterly
- Monthly reconciliation of bank statements
- Increase in sponsorship to boost external revenue
- Fiscal prudence to prevent over-spending

The statement of claim filed by the CSU and CUSACorp against Marie Lyonnais is available at thelinknewspaper.ca.

The Players:

An overview of the names

Council

- Officials elected by student body
- The CSU's only mandated decision-making body

Keyana Kashfi

- Current president of the CSU

Fauve Castagna

- CSU VP Finance: 2007-08

Mohamed Shuriye

- CSU President: 2005-06
- Co-founder of the Sustainability Action Fund

Patrice Blais

- CSU VP Finance: 2000
- CSU President: 2002-03
- Former lawyer of SAF

Marie Lyonnais

- CSU bookkeeper: 2000-07

Khaleed Juma

- CSU President: 2006-07

Saleena Hussein

- CSU VP Finance: 2006-07

Sheryll Navidad

- CSU VP Finance: 2000

—compiled by Terrine Friday

Corrections

The headline appearing on the cover of last week's issue of *The Link* should have read "Disclosing the Deficit: CSU" and not "Disclosing the Debt: CSU." The cover photo was by Ian Lawrence, not Jonathan Dempsey. *The Link* apologizes for the errors.

The view from the top: a midterm retrospective

The CSU's head honchos share their successes and failures

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The Link sat down with Concordia Student Union President Keyana Kashfi and VP Communications Elie Chivi to discuss their initiatives for the remainder of their mandate.

The following are the key points Kashfi and Chivi wanted to share with the student body.

The Link: If you could sum up in one sentence what you provide for the student body, what would it be?

We provide essential services, great events and successful campaigns because we want to be able to develop on previous proj-

ects to make sure that we're always growing.

What are you doing for students now?

To name a few events, we just had a very successful Frost Fest, which was bigger than in previous years. We also screened *Step Brothers*, which drew a huge crowd that almost filled the auditorium. We've also launched our Fair Copyright campaign in order to save students money and prevent them from being charged multiple times for the same item. We're trying to be proactive, not reactive.

What about the international

tuition fee hikes?

Although it was reactive, we did fight to stave off the hikes for a full year. With regards to the international tuition fee deregulation, we've been in talks with Concordia president Judith Woodsworth.

How have student services improved?

We're currently lobbying the government and working with the university to revamp the computer labs at Loyola. We're also making strides to ensure student advocacy groups are actually working for students. For example, our Legal Information

Clinic, which was launched just last year. It's the baby of our organization.

Our speaker series can also speak for itself. We've hosted such successes as Chuck D. and Stephen Lewis, and we look forward to hosting Spike Lee during Black History Month.

Are there any newer initiatives in the works?

Actually, our food and clothing bank will launch at the end of January. Students will be able to drop off clothing and non-perishable food items and pick them up if they're in need. We're working on a sustainable business model

so it can last year after year.

You've lost two executives this year. How are you coping?

Managing the workload has been trying, but we've found a happy balance. It's been a good learning experience.

What's the status on gender-neutral washrooms?

Gender-neutral washrooms have been given the go-ahead and space has been secured. We're just waiting for the university to add it to their construction plan.

For more info about the CSU's campaigns and services, please visit csu.qc.ca.

Obama set for disappointment

'Not the second coming of Jesus Christ,' says Cobb

• GENEVIÈVE TRUDEAU SENÉCAL

On the eve of the inauguration of the United States' first black president, distinguished journalist and former member of *National Geographic Magazine's* editorial staff, Charles E. Cobb, Jr., spoke to Canadians about how far his nation has come.

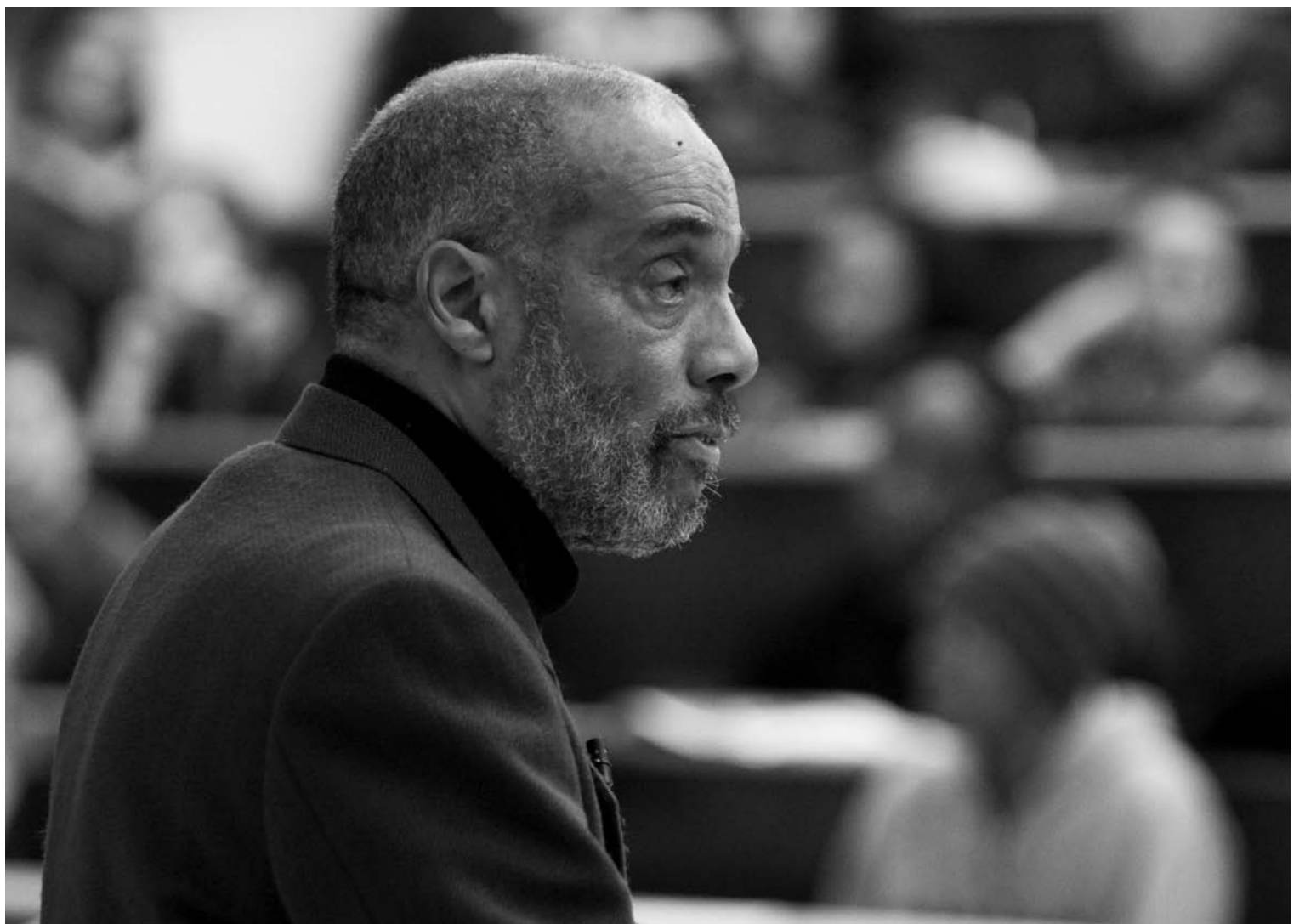
Cobb, a veteran of the battle against segregation in the 1960s, focused on the forgotten fighters in American equality movements in his speech at Concordia University on Jan. 19.

"I do not know why those important people vanished from history books and conversations despite their significance," said Cobb, who was hosted by the Concordia Caribbean Students' Union and the African Students' Association of Concordia. "We must remember them because they are those who led to the inauguration of Barack Obama as 44th president of the United States tomorrow."

Cobb admitted in an interview with *Le Devoir* that he was skeptic of Obama. "I thought that racial obstacles would once more overcome the charm and potential of this good young man," he told the Montreal daily.

Concordia Political Science Professor Graham Dodds was also surprised that Obama was elected. As an expert in American politics, he didn't think he'd live to see the day a non-white president would be elected in the U.S.—especially since Obama is very unlikely to fix all the country's problems within his mandate, Dodds said.

"People will have to realize that Obama is not the second coming of Jesus Christ [...] They think he can change everything, but he cannot possibly do so," Dodds continued. "What America has to overcome will take years to get through. There



Cobb, an American journalist, engaged students in an intimate conversation about President Barack Obama. PHOTO IAN LAWRENCE

will be disappointment."

Regardless of nationality, Concordia students are thrilled Obama will be sworn in within their lifetime.

"People are really excited about the inauguration, they're buzzed about it," said Tseli Moshabesha, president of the African Students' Association of Concordia. "It's a

monumental event [and] it's an historical moment."

Fred Kassangana, the President of the Caribbean Students' Association, was equally as enthused. "I won't lie; it stills feel a little bit surreal that he's even elected, to have the first black African-American President," Kassangana said. "From slavery to presiden-

cy there has been some 400 years, so it is gratifying."

The "Yes We Can!" event will take place Jan. 24 at Flunkies on Mackay street to celebrate Barack Obama's inauguration. Some of the drinks will be named after politicians from the campaign trail.

Students pitch a tent for a good cause

Concordia students live in the library to help raise money to combat illiteracy

• SARAH TOOTH

Living in the library may be a reality for some university students.

Concordia students Neeka Fedyshyn and Sharone Daniel have taken up house in the Webster Library to help raise funds as part of the Live-in For Literacy fundraiser.

In efforts to help this year's goal met Fedyshyn and Daniel will be living, sleeping, and eating in Webster library from Jan. 16 to 25—not to mention their 24-hour live feed via webcam.

Allowing themselves only a five-minute break every hour, the girls have decided it's their duty to skip class to raise money for literacy.

"It's not too bad," claimed Daniel, "we talked to our professors beforehand and they were pretty understanding."

Daniel said the event is specifically timed in order to coincide with

the beginning of the new semester when students' workloads are the lightest. She explained this not only benefits the volunteers of the event but also allows "more time so [students] are able to stop and ask questions about what we're doing as opposed to exam time when everyone is too busy to sleep, much less stop and chat to us."

According to the Live-in For Literacy's website, India is home to 35 per cent of the world's illiterate people, a statistic they say can easily rise to 50 per cent by 2020 if necessities such as education and appropriate public school curriculums are not addressed. These numbers made it easier for Daniel to volunteer her time.

"It was a simple decision," said Daniel. "I am from India and [...] I wanted to do it because I think illiteracy is a huge issue there."

This is the first year Concordia is



Neeka Fedyshyn and Sharone Daniel take in some lit for a cause. PHOTO IAN LAWRENCE

taking part in the Live-in For Literacy fundraiser, which was kicked off by two Queen's University students in 2006. Since \$6,000 was raised that year to help build a computer lab in Cambodia, the charity's website has reported increasing support and participation from universities around Canada. This year seven different universities across Canada are par-

ticipating with the common goal to raise \$40,000 to build nine new libraries in India.

Librarian Gerald Beasley said the library staff are equally as enthused to host Daniel and Fedyshyn.

"We're all very excited about it, we think it's a great project which has great objectives and we really want it to be the best."

Beasley also ensured that Fedyshyn and Daniel are being well cared for.

"We naturally made sure that the safety of the students were taken care of [...] The building's security makes sure they are safe."

To see the live feed of Fedyshyn and Daniel, or to make donations, please visit liveinforliteracy.com.

Senate soundbytes

Top stories from last Senate meeting

• MATTHEW BRETT

Concordia Senate changes hit roadblock

Recommendations to change the university's Senate operating procedures received a cool reception from senators during the Jan. 16 Senate meeting.

Provost David Graham said the recommendations aim to make the operation of Senate more efficient and participatory, but senators reacted to the proposals skeptically.

The recommendations include the addition of a consent agenda, which would allow the Senate's steering committee to select uncontroversial items to be voted on as a single item without discussion.

Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of two voting members of Senate.

The consent agenda would make Senate less participatory, opponents argued.

A two-hour time limit for Senate meetings was also recommended, but some senators worried a time limit would further constrain debate.

The recommendations will undergo further review to be revisited during the February Senate meeting.

Thousands of grades outstanding

New measures implemented during the

Senate meeting will gradually increase pressure on departments to have students' grades submitted at an earlier date.

As of Jan. 12, approximately 4,806 grades were still outstanding from the fall semester.

Some of the pending grades are required in order for students to advance to another course. Some students in this predicament were unable to graduate.

Course drop deadlines tighten

Students will have to finalize their schedule by the third week of each semester if new regulations are implemented by Senate.

Political Science Chair Peter Stoett requested that departments have the discretion to impose earlier deadlines, but undergraduate representative Robyn Wilcox stressed that the registration deadlines should be clear and straightforward.

The course add/drop deadline modifications will undergo further consultation before approval.

Course repeats limited

A motion to limit the number of times a student can repeat a course was passed by Senate despite clear opposition from student representatives on Senate.

Effective as of the 2009-'10 academic year, students can repeat a course "only once,"

unless they submit their individual case for review.

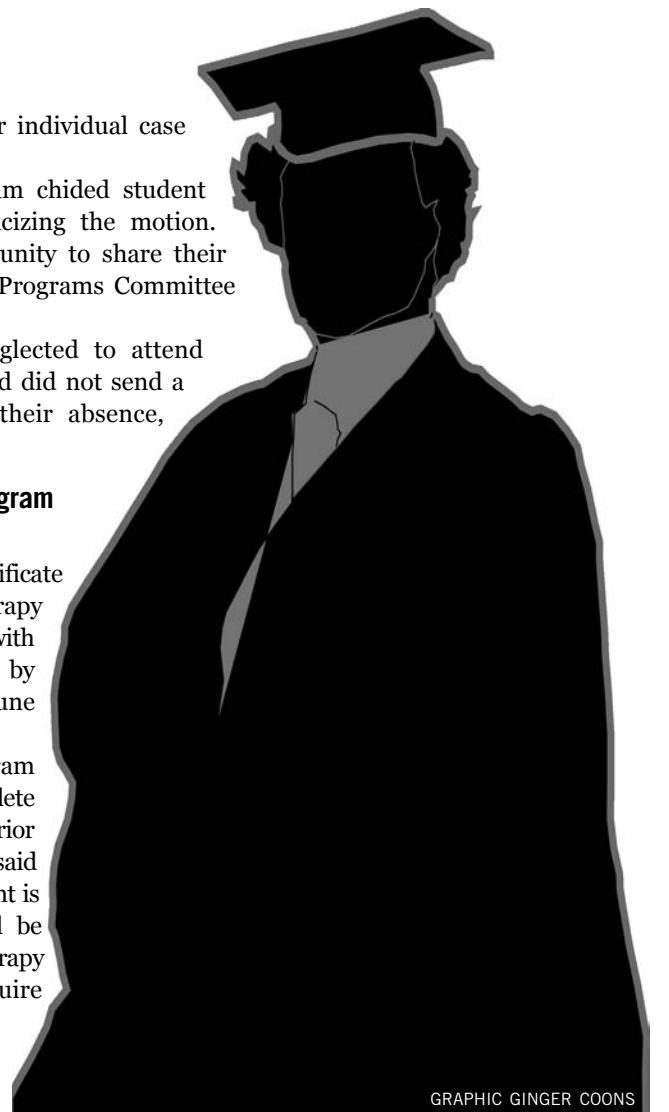
Provost David Graham chided student representatives for criticizing the motion. They had ample opportunity to share their input during Academic Programs Committee meetings, Graham said.

Student senators neglected to attend recent APC meetings and did not send a notice to account for their absence, Graham said.

New music therapy program introduced

A new graduate certificate program in Music Therapy was approved by Senate, with the sole abstention made by psychology Professor June Chaikelson.

The certificate program requires students to complete 24 credits in Psychology prior to entry, and Chaikelson said the Psychology department is already bloated and will be unable to seat Music Therapy students that may require psychology courses.



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

Something academic

It's not easy being green

• KARIM BOULOS

Karim Boulos is currently the deputy mayor of the Ville-Marie borough, and also the executive director of external affairs for the John Molson School of Business. Boulos received his undergraduate degree in Education at McGill and his MBA from Concordia's JMSB. He is also currently the president of the City of Montreal's committee on urban planning and development.

Well it seems Kermit the Frog was wise beyond his years; it is definitely not easy being green.

Sustainability is a word that is often thrown around in conversations and political circles to demonstrate that we politicians are aware of the latest environmental trends affecting our surroundings and challenges facing our constituents. However, real urban sustainability is much more than a trend or a promise made during an election year, as is the case in 2009. It is something that Montreal needs to start acting on immediately.

According to the United Nations department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, presently over three billion people live in an urban environment, and that number is expected to exceed five billion by 2030. This means, for the first time in history, the urban population will surpass the rural population of the planet, making cities the epicentre of 21st century life.

“I’ve noticed that most people seem to be looking for a sustainability touchdown, rather than working towards gaining some yardage. The task of being sustainable is enormous, and we need to tackle it one step at a time.”

—Karim Boulos,
city councillor

We need to start thinking about new strategies to manage our swelling urban populations; sustainable societies with effective and affordable public transportation and policies that will ensure that our urban environment is green, clean and protected.

Before I continue there’s something I should mention; I am not a sustainability expert. I did not study environmental sciences nor do I have advanced knowledge of renewable energy practices. In fact, I grew up in an era predating recycling—it was called the 1970s—and I would assume that many of my colleagues fall into the same category. That is why now more than ever it is important to involve fresh perspectives from a younger generation.

I have begun to see a difference in attitudes among the generations. When I was growing up the trend seemed to be that the ends justified the means. We didn’t consider the consequences of our actions, we simply wanted results. Today’s youth are putting new emphasis on how and why things are done, instead of being endlessly preoccupied with when we can see results. To every action there is a reaction; this is a truth that we are quickly coming to terms with.

So what does it all mean? Can a modern city truly make the leap into being fully sustainable? In all honesty, I’m not sure.

The first thing we need to remember is that our city was designed and developed in a time when talk of sustainability hadn’t even been conceived, which means we need to do something much more difficult than building a sustainable city, we need to implement sustainable practices to a city that was not built for it.

By now, we are all very familiar with challenges Montreal faces; a dilapidated infrastructure, a deficient underground water and sewer system, an aging public transportation system, old and energy-inefficient buildings and an overbearing winter. None of these things are easy or cheap to fix, and they are as pressing as is developing sustainability practices for the city.

However the one silver lining in all this is that we have a rare opportunity to tackle everything at once. If we’re going to rebuild the city, this is our chance to do it right.

Montreal is not the only city seeking to develop sustainable practices. Other cities in Europe, Asia and South America have similar ambitions, and in the age of information we should be looking to our fellow metropolises and working together to develop the best practices in order to benefit from what others have already learned. These changes aren’t about being right, or getting there first, the changes we need are for our very survival as a city.

From Reykjavik, Iceland to Klamath Falls, Oregon, they are developing geothermal snow melting systems that heat the roads and walkways, instead of constantly trying to fight the elements with snow plows, sand and salt.

Curitiba, Brazil has developed a low-cost, environmentally-sensitive public transportation system based on double-articulated buses that serve approximately 75 per cent of commuters.

Tucson, Arizona developed a Neighbourhood Investment Program to offer low-interest loans to finance community environmental and social programs.

Baden-Wurtenmberg, Germany has partnered with the Center for Technology Assessment to tackle their heavy industrial sector while simultaneously managing urban growth and development.

And Geneva, Switzerland has initiated the Agenda 21 project with the goal of developing the first fully sustainable city in the world.

Around the world, ideas are being generated and efforts are being made. Montreal needs to be open to the practices that other cities are developing and should use the best models to create what I like to call a ‘Sustainable Infrastructure.’ Other places in the world tackle the same problems we do, and many of them have already made inroads towards building sustainable practices that will improve their urban services, as well as their urban environment.

I’ve noticed that most people seem to be looking for a sustainability touchdown, rather than working towards gaining some yardage. The task of being sustainable is enormous, and we need to tackle it one step at a time. Billion-dollar, 20-year plans are necessary but take very long to negotiate and implement; we need to make some



GRAPHIC SAGINE CAVE

small progress now.

The methods and technologies already exist, from waterless urinals, which save millions of gallons of water, to energy-efficient light bulbs that save money and power. By planting more trees in urban environments, we can curb global warming and reduce CO2 levels.

We can encourage more people to bring their own bags when they shop, or use portable coffee mugs instead of the disposable alternative. There are countless projects being developed by institutions, communities and individuals, such as the Loyola Campus composting project and the Shaughnessy Village “Green Alley” (with a composter) created in association with Eco-Quartier Peter-McGill.

Finally, there is a greater need for the youth to take a leadership role and open lines of communication with older generations in order to express how easy it is to effect major changes through simple actions. I’m not saying that older generations don’t care about the environment; I’m saying that the habits that have been instilled in people all their lives are often difficult to change. I still smile whenever we go shopping and my six-year-old daughter gently tugs on my arm and says, “Did you remember the bags?”

Not everyone will be open to changing their habits, and there will certainly not be a 180 degree shift in people’s attitudes, but the one thing I am sure of is that every little bit helps.

THE LINK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 29, Number 19
Tuesday, January 20, 2009

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
OPEN

photo editor
JONATHAN DEMPSEY

interim graphics editor
GINGER COONS

managing editor
JOHNNY NORTH

layout manager
MATHIEU BIARD

web editor
BRUNO DE ROSA

business manager
RACHEL BOUCHER

ad designer
CHRIS BOURNE

distribution
ROBERT DESMARAIS
DAVID KAUFMANN

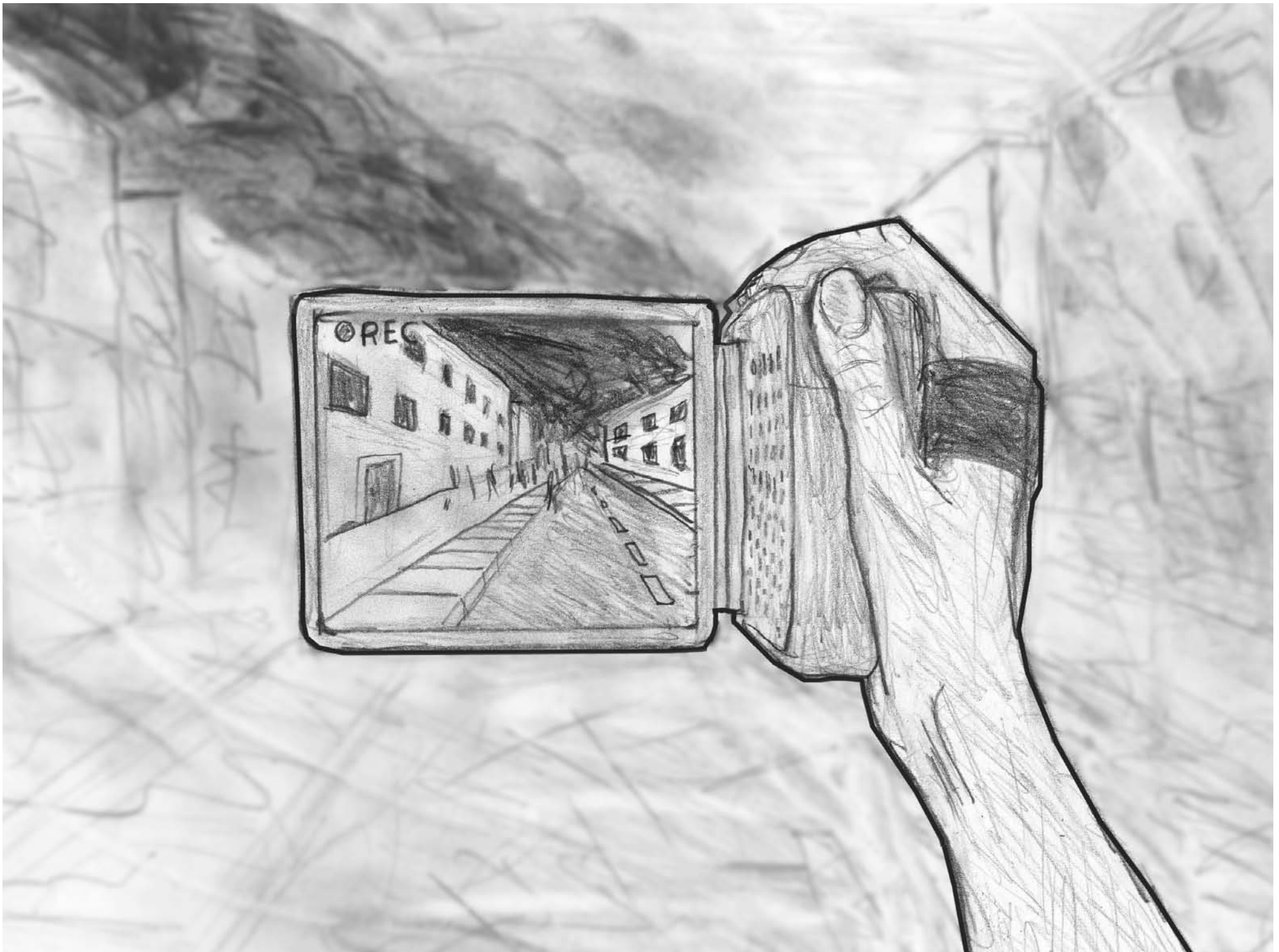
The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by the Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the University and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *The Link's* constitution. Any student is welcome to work on *The Link* and become a voting staff member. *The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec. Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from *The Link*.

Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. Letters deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libelous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link's* statement of principles. Board of Directors 2008-2009: Giuseppe Valiante, Ellis Steinberg; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Sébastien Cadieux. Typesetting by *The Link*. Printing by Transcontinental.

CONTRIBUTORS

Leila Amiri, Matthew Brett, Sagine Cave, Madeline Coleman, Benjamin Croze, Ion Etxebarria, Bettina Grassmann, Owain Harris, Elsa Jabre, David Kaufmann, Ian Lawrence, Vivien Leung, Charlene Lusikila, Alex Manley, Julien McEvoy, Paolo Mingarelli, Sohrab Massaded, Evita Mouawad, Alexandra Murphy, Sinbad Richardson, Michael Sabelli, Mohammed Shamrani, Genevieve Trudeau, Giuseppe Valiante

cover graphic by Ginger Coons
last week's cover credit should of gone to Ian Lawrence



Heb2 empowers Palestinians who otherwise might have turned to violent retaliation and lets the world see through their eyes. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

Refocus

Israeli and Palestinian filmmakers combine forces to empower Hebron citizens

• PACIN THE MATTAR
(RYERSON FREE PRESS)

TORONTO (CUP) – It's a city of ghosts. Empty streets. Stores boarded shut. Vacant apartment buildings.

This is Hebron, a city in Israel's occupied territories. Home to about 166,000 Palestinians and 800 Jewish settlers, what was once a bustling downtown shopping district is now a lifeless reminder of the violence and desperation that grips the second largest Palestinian city in the West Bank.

"Hebron is the utter failure of the concept of co-existence," said Mich'ael Zupraner, 27, an Israeli who participated in Voices Forward, a Toronto festival about life in Palestine and Israel. This year's theme, Hebron: In The Eye of the Storm.

The festival included screenings of over a

dozen films, musical performances, book launches, readings, multimedia presentations, and discussions.

The festival's focus surrounded the reality of life in Hebron, the only city in the West Bank that has a Jewish settlement in its midst, and the only city where Jews and Palestinians share adjacent house walls.

"If you want the worst possible scenario for what could happen in the rest of the country, eventually, God forbid, Hebron is that," Zupraner said at the festival.

Unfortunately, Zupraner is not exaggerating.

A single horizontal line divides the city of Hebron, known as El-Khalil in Arabic, into two sections: H1 is home to most of the Palestinian population and under Palestinian jurisdiction; and H2 is home to Jewish settlers and is controlled by the

Israeli government.

For Palestinians who live in H2, this means being forbidden from walking or driving on main roads, being forced to climb ladders to enter their homes from the rooftops because Israeli soldiers have welded their front doors shut, and being prohibited from leaving home except for a few short hours a week to buy groceries and other necessities when Israeli soldiers impose a curfew. One such curfew lasted 500 days during 2002 and 2003.

Zupraner gathered with Palestinian Issa Amro at XEXE Gallery to present their project: the creation of an experimental documentary channel that broadcasts out of Hebron.

This is no typical television channel. Zupraner and Amro distribute video cameras to Palestinian families living in hot

"People were horrified. Israelis were horrified, I think because for the first time they saw these things from the eye of the Palestinian. Not a journalist, not an Israeli, but you're seeing it as a Palestinian."

—Mich'ael Zupraner,
Israeli director
and co-creator of Heb2

Hebron is the utter failure of the concept of co-existence. [...] If you want the worst possible scenario for what could happen in the rest of the country, eventually, God forbid, Hebron is that."

—Mich'ael Zupraner,
Israeli director
and co-creator of Heb2

spots—near Jewish settlements or Israeli military checkpoints—so they can document their lives and highlight the human rights violations that occur in their surroundings.

The footage from these cameras is then collected by the two of them, edited, and broadcast over the Internet on the Heb2 website.

The project, run in collaboration with an Israeli human rights organization, B'Tselem, has been in effect for a year and a half. It offers a perspective on life in Hebron that is rarely, if ever, shown elsewhere.

"The project started from giving out cameras to ordinary people," explained Zupraner in the small, brightly lit gallery, before the audience of 19 people arrived.

"Most of them have never had a video camera, never used one, and the kind of footage you get back is very strange sorts of home movies because people will use the camera, and we encourage them to use the camera, not only to film human rights violations, but to also film their daily lives."

"That means that we get back video tapes that have, say, a wedding, a family celebration, and then the tape jumps to, let's say, soldiers searching the house or some kind of confrontation with settlers, and then the tape will jump back to baby pictures," he said. "And so this kind of reality—where this is daily life—where these things can happen right after the other almost, is what kind of launched the idea for the project."

The project has the potential to cross over political borders.

"We can use the cameras not only to document human rights violations, but also to try to show what life is like in a place like Hebron, which has a very specific and extreme situation, but that's never really shown elsewhere, and that's impossible to access from the outside."

Amro further explained the reasons why life in Hebron is so different from life everywhere else.

"The settlers who are living inside Hebron are the most radical, the most fanatic settlers in the whole strip," he said. "And they have this ideology where they want to transfer all the Arabs out of Hebron. They look at it as their land, and believe that the Arabs don't have any rights to stay there."

This is a recipe for disaster.

"It's come to the point where Jews and Arabs are separated to such a degree that the downtown area has become a ghost town," said Zupraner, who visited Hebron two years ago for the first time and was struck right away by what he saw.

"The logic of what's happening in Hebron, the logic that the Israeli army is imposing and the way it's dividing the city, the way it's preventing Palestinians from using the main roads where Jews are [...] that logic is basically saying that Jews and Arabs can't live together, and if they do, the result is this kind of ghost town, which is what the downtown area of Hebron has become," said Zupraner.

"It's like walking on the moon," he said slowly. For him, it was that feeling that prompted the idea for the project.

Footage from their website made headlines all over the world in the summer of 2006, when a particularly troubling incident took place involving the Palestinian Abu Ayesha family, whose house has a fence around it to protect them from bottles and stones that were sometimes hurled at them by neighbouring settlers.

They had frequently been attacked by settlers, but were always unable to prove this to police, who chose to believe the Israelis. That is, until they were provided with a video camera.

"One major incident involved a neighbouring settler woman, by the name of Yifat Alkobi," Zupraner recalled. "One early summer day, there was an argument with her outside their house, and she forced the family back into the house yelling at them, 'Go

back into your cage!'"

"The settler woman continued to curse at the camera calling them—these two daughters and their mother—whores," Zupraner continued.

Being that both women involved in the altercation were religious women, this kind of exchange was very disturbing to watch once it made its way to Israeli television.

"People were horrified. Israelis were horrified, I think because for the first time they saw these things from the eye of the Palestinian. Not a journalist, not an Israeli, but you're seeing it as a Palestinian, having someone curse at you and at the camera, directly into the lens, with such conviction [...] It shook people," said Zupraner. "It was shown internationally, all over the world, in Canada as well on CBC, but also everywhere else, throughout Europe and Japan."

The tape had an effect.

"It started a committee in the Israeli parliament, the Israeli prime minister said he was ashamed of what he saw, Condoleezza Rice mentioned this video clip. This coming out of a 14-year-old Palestinian girl with a cheap video camera. So that kind of shook things up and helped the project along."

Currently, there are 150 cameras in the West Bank and 25 in Hebron City, and Zupraner and Amro move the cameras around based on the levels of violence in certain areas and families' willingness to take part in the project.

Its effects, says Amro, are priceless.

"The families, before the cameras, they were acting in a violent way, you know, to throw back stones," he said. "They had nothing to react with. But with the cameras, they started believing in the effect of the camera."

"We consider it is a non-violent tool to react to the violence of the settlers. [...] And they don't give in to their emotions, they just keep filming, not fighting. It's a very good method of empowering the society."

Zupraner agreed.

"Kids throwing back stones do so out of frustration, because you're not gonna change anything," he said. "When you can't do anything else, you throw stones. But the moment you have a camera and you have a sense that that can be helpful, that that could provide evidence. And cameras deter people, most people, from doing anything too stupid."

The project is also causing changes in the Israeli side of town.

"Settler violence has gone down, because now they realize that a Palestinian 10-year-old who's filming you with their video camera, that's something that can be shown on their own national television," Zupraner said.

"The moment that you're aware that you're being watched, forget by the Palestinians, but by your own home front, you're aware that you're responsible, you're accountable for your actions, to your own society and that serves as a check, a balance, to people," he said.

"Because you're not in the West Bank, you're not in the middle of nowhere outside of your society where no one can really see you. No. Your parents will see what you're doing. Your family. Your friends. And that has a great effect."

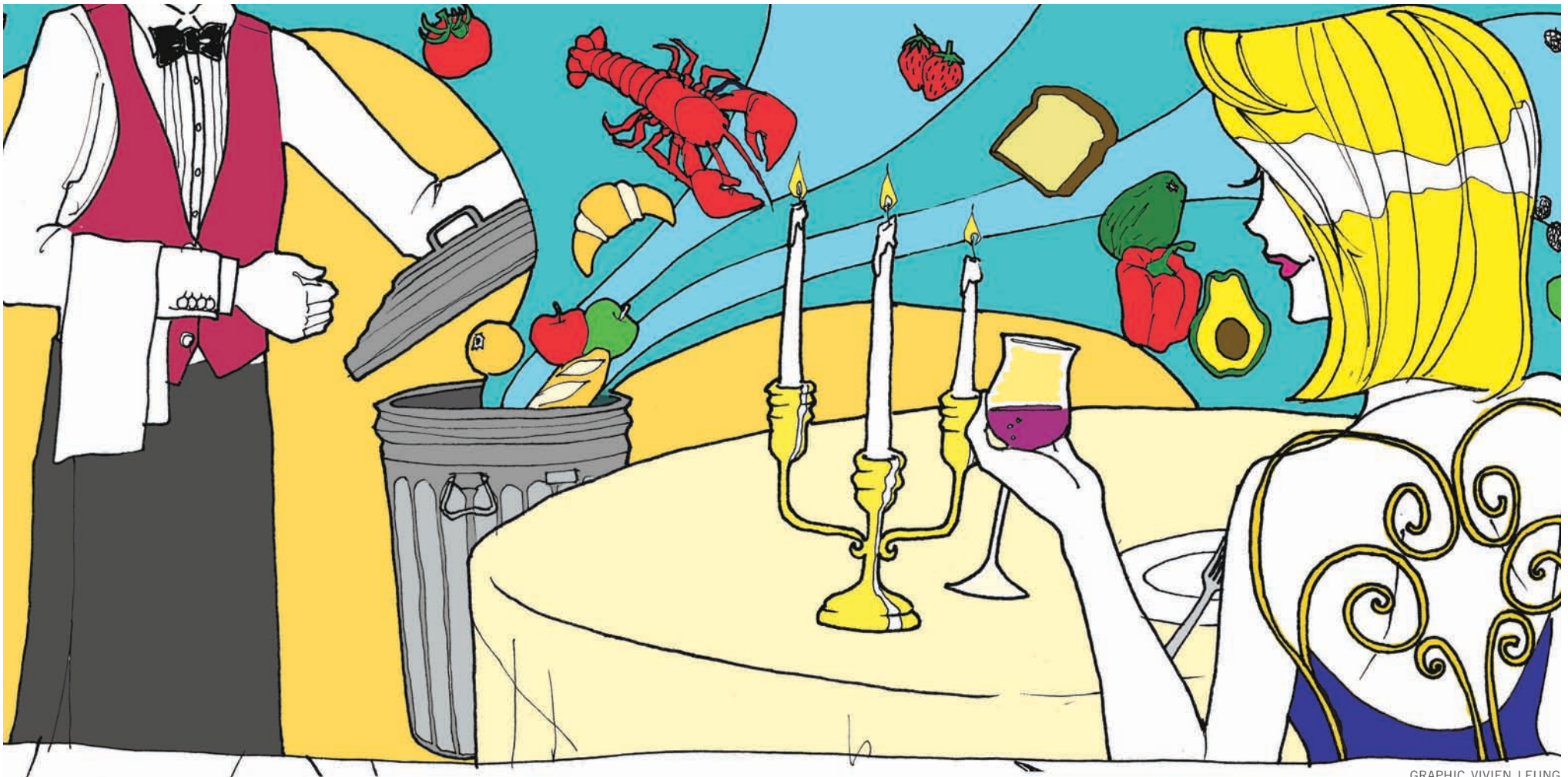
For Zupraner and Amro, it is no big deal that they are working side-by-side, as Israeli and Palestinian.

"I'm using his privileges as an Israeli," Amro laughed. "He has an army protecting him. But we're close friends. We don't feel any difference between Palestinian and Israeli."

Amro then pulled up his sleeve, nodded at Zupraner and smiled, pointing to his wrist.

"And I think his blood is red, like mine."

To see the homemade videos on the Heb2 website go to heb2.tv



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

One person's trash is another person's meal

A look inside the dumpster-diving scene

• MEAGHAN KERR, *THE MARTLET*
(UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA)

VICTORIA (CUP) – I get my food out of garbage cans.

It can be a necessity, a social activity, or a way of life. It draws a cult-like following from all backgrounds. Where laissez-faire attitudes and consumer-environmental concerns mix with balmy weather and bike lanes, you've got the perfect conditions for an underground culture: dumpster diving.

Its attraction is as varied as the individual divers themselves. There are those who can't afford food, period. There are free-gans who choose to eat only free food.

Then there are university students subsidizing their studies with a little dumpstering on the side. Most agree on one stance, though: Dumpstering food circumvents the commoditized assembly-line of store shelves that have become our society's food source.

"There's a surplus of food available in the world, and the production of more food is completely unnecessary when so much is thrown away," said Barry McEwan, dumpster diver.

His roommate, Nate Carrick, agrees.

"Throwing away food is basically wrong," Carrick said. "There's so much energy that goes into [producing] it. I don't want to support a system like that—one that's so wasteful and harmful to the environment."

The members of McEwan and Carrick's household are not only seasoned divers, but also boast a chicken coop in their backyard, constructed from foraged wood. They estimate that 95 per cent of their food is free and self-sought.

These days, Carrick only goes into grocery stores to buy ice cream.

"I don't feel tempted to buy food at all

anymore," he said. "When I do, it's special."

My own freezer is stocked with bread loaves and cases of identical teriyaki sauces, while the fridge houses baffling varieties of humus—all loot from various dumpster scores over the past semester. Still, after two weeks of winter vacation, my kitchen feels a little sparse. It's time for another dumpster run.

We pile into a friend's car, a sure sign this will be a big night. Driving seems counter-intuitive to dumpstering environmental ethics, but a milk crate bike basket only holds so much.

Our first stop is a bakery, where we score the morning's leftover loaves.

Six months ago, I would have dived right in, ready to chow down on whatever score I'd find inside.

For us (dumpster divers motivated more by conscience than need) the satisfaction of maintaining uncompromised ethics while getting free food overpowers all the messiness.

Now, my experience has given me a discriminating palate, demanding nothing less than whole wheat. The less desirable items we leave behind. Undoubtedly, they'll be picked up by someone else.

We scope out the neighbourhood with measured success: a box of oranges here, a bag of apples there. The rain is flooding some of the hunting grounds. Produce bobbles up and down in puddles, ruined. It's not the best night, but we have one more stop.

We head to a favourite place, where there's always a friendly backroom clerk who couldn't care less what we're up to. It's also enclosed by a six-foot-high fence, perfect for eluding disdainful store customers.

"Four of you, eh?" says a teenage boy

hauling milk crates. We greet him and continue our work. Mostly avocados and peppers. He comes back with a loaded box of fruit and a medley of bakery goods.

Paralyzed by surprise, no one moves to take the box.

"Here; I've got one more coming," he tells us.

A girl appears with an equally weighed-down box of produce. The group is ecstatic, and we dance our way to the car and head for a pub. With weeks of grocery shopping—and grocery bills—taken care of, it's time for a few pitchers.

Grocery store managers are reluctant to comment on the amount of food discarded each day, but all it takes is a look in the dumpster to see what sort of swag is available.

Milk and tofu days before due, canned

more by conscience than need) the satisfaction of maintaining uncompromised ethics while getting free food overpowers all the messiness.

There are perks to the dumpster life as well. A dumpster diet doesn't equal a sacrifice in food quality. In fact, it enhances it, incorporating high-quality cheeses, organic produce, and fine deli selections. Divers who garden also have a plethora of ready compost at their—ahem—disposal. The back-alley biking is fun and initiates a back-of-the-hand knowledge of city streets. Then there's the meals.

"Dumpstering leads to more interesting culinary creations, [and] forces you to work with what you've got," said Casteneda.

McEwan reminisced about his own concoctions.

"I'd normally never make a lobster tail sandwich," he said. "I mean, lobster tail is 20 bucks. Who's going to waste it on a sandwich?"

Casteneda recently started work at a market that allows employees to take home end-of-the-day food.

With less time devoted to garnering food, the housemates have plans for more enterprising dumpster dives.

"Construction sites have a huge waste bin that they don't remove until the site's complete," she said. "So you can go through it anytime."

McEwan is already amassing a collection of bike parts and furniture. The ideas they have marinating range from practical to pure pleasure.

"Drum shack!"

"Sauna!"

"Compost toilet!"

Looking out the window at the hens nestled inside their coop, I think they just might be on to something.

For us (dumpster divers motivated

We're cool, right?

Mass Media finally returns climate researchers' love letter in Global Warming documentary

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Three men stand by a roadside huffing the exhaust from a 1975 Mercedes. No, they're not a metaphor for our suicidal embrace of fossil fuels, but the proud new owners of a car that runs on biodiesel and emits harmless french fry grease.

Ten years have passed since General Motors killed the electric car, a three decade-old station wagon now has zero greenhouse gas emissions due to the efforts of one citizen concerned with his planet's future.

In *Everything's Cool*, to be screened at Cinema Politica next week, reality hits the frontlines of the mainstream media when the Earth holds a major American city under water as ransom for a new carbon tax. But how many knocks to the forehead does one need before seeing a doctor, or at the very least, slapping on a band-aid?

Two decades and counting, answers directors Judith Helfand and Daniel B. Gold.

"The problems unaddressed, have the potential for turning the world into a form of chaos not greatly different from that produced by Global War," said George Woodwell in 1988 before a Senate Committee on the ramifications of Global Warming, along with the testimony of James Hansen. Woodwell's claims seem prescient when the filmmakers show a man on the street a picture of an arid landscape in France, which was hit by a massive heat wave, and he immediately mistakes it for the



Heat wave or atomic blast? You decide— No, it's a heatwave.

site of an atomic blast.

But the George H. W. Bush Administration stifled that earlier report on Global Warming, and the subject remained dead last among issues important to voters during Bush Jr.'s re-election campaign in 2004. But it's the gullible press, which permitted a few paid apologists for the oil companies to dictate the discussion on climate change—according to the filmmakers—that receive the most scorn.

One of the film's major insights is a behind-the-scenes career retrospective of

Dr. Heidi Cullen. The film follows her attempts to get the word out about climate change at, of all places, The Weather Channel, where she is stifled by image experts more concerned with her looks than her message, but who still won't provide her with a makeup artist. It's the Mary Tyler Moore Show meets An Inconvenient Truth, and a compelling drama all its own for fans of women in the workplace.

The film acknowledges the media's newfound fascination with Global Warming and its regretful sensationalism in movies like

The Day After Tomorrow, but it also points out how much has yet to be done now that people are gripped with concern about the planet's future.

Like watching a polar bear adrift on a piece of slowly melting ice, it'd almost be funny if it weren't so sad.

Everything's Cool will be screened on Monday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m., Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.. For a full list of screenings, check out cinemapolitica.org/concordia.

Life outside of the womb

The dawn of Arbutus Records

• CODY HICKS

They say the record industry is dying in this post-digital age. Although MP3s and vinyl are fucking things up for CDs, one brave local has decided to create Arbutus Records.

Vancouver transplant, Lab Synthese and *Beaubien Magazine* figurehead Sebastian Cowan is ready to unleash his new record label this weekend on a hibernating Montreal. I sat down for an angry breakfast with an impossibly sunny Seb, beam-ing like the father of a strong 10-pound newborn bursting with tales of its birthing, naming and dreamy plans for its future.

After coming up with a few meaningless empty-shell names Seb chose to label his label after the Arbutus tree, a prominent Mediterranean transplant on Vancouver Island, and subsequently the name of the street he

grew up on in Vancouver proper. But don't read too much into transplant metaphors. He claims he named the label on a whim. This serendipitous moniker mirrors his approach to his various projects including his venue Lab Synthese and *Beaubien Magazine*.

I've never seen so many people crowd surfing at a solo acoustic show played by a guy with an infected foot.

"As soon as you start thinking about things, that's when they screw up," he says stoically. "If you start considering what you're doing you make mistakes." Seb initially came up with the idea to start the label last fall in order to spread the music of local experimental-folk act Oxen Talk. What started as a small project eventually snowballed when Edmonton freak-pop artist

Sean Nicholas Savage rolled into town with a burning desire to get busy in the studio. In little over a month's time Sean and Seb bashed out Little Submarine, which will be the flagship release for Arbutus records. Although it's been available in a few select stores around town for a while,

the launch party is set to go down at Seb's own Lab Synthese this Saturday, January 24.

Seb will split everything with his artists 50/50, a business plan started by the post-punk Factory label in Manchester in the late '70s. "Factory was the first label to do it that way, but most indie labels have adopted that method because it's the only ethical way to do it." Sebastian cites the local

Constellation Records as the biggest influence on his business model because of their accessibility and willingness to offer advice to fledgling label-heads.

Seb's ethics extend all the way to the consumer. He plans to sell all releases for eight bucks a disc, something inspired by local record-slinger Warren Hill, who sells his Mississippi Records releases for peanuts. Although Seb's dreams are coated in vinyl, the first few releases will be CDs due to the immediacy of their production and cost effectiveness.

So come celebrate the birth of Seb's bouncing baby Arbutus. Sean Nicholas Savage is proud to be the first out of the gate at Arbutus and is ready to rip Lab Synthese apart. Fresh off a blazing homecoming show in Edmonton, Sean is gearing up for the more challenging Montreal crowd. "It's nice that

I'm established with friends in Edmonton, so there are lots of kids there who go nuts," he says before cackling maniacally. "But it's nice to be challenged. Here, people don't like me as much... yet." I can confirm that the kids did go nuts. I've never seen so many people crowd surfing at a solo acoustic show played by a guy with an infected foot.

There's nothing quite like seeing a gang of piss-drunk 18-year-old boys singing Sean's lyrics wistfully into each other's eyes. Now, I don't think papa Seb is too fond of cigars, but come and give him a pat on the back and soak up some of his paternal glow.

BYOB, and 5 bucks at the door at Lab Synthese—435 Beaubien St. O. Openers are Floridian psycho-pop ex-pat Andy Summers and mysterious experimental cellist Hume from Washington D.C.

The DOWN-LOW

Events listing Jan. 20-27

ART GALLERIES

Show Me What You See in the Other That I Do Not
Now until Feb. 9
La TOHU, 2345 Jarry Street E.
Free

MUSIC

Israel Proulx Annie & Lissa Wai-Yant Li
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Cabaret Mado, 1115, Ste. Catherine E.
Tickets \$5

Flotilla
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
The Pound, 377 Richmond Avenue
Tickets \$5

Kamikaze Baby
Wednesday, 9 p.m.
Club Lambi, 4465 St. Laurent blvd.
Tickets \$5

Paper Route & Cale Parks & Passion Pit
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Divan Orange, 4234 St. Laurent blvd.
Tickets \$12

The Scroll & Mother/Father
Friday, 8 p.m.
Hemisphere Gauche, 221 Beaubien E.
Tickets \$7

Krishna Das
Saturday, 3:30 p.m.
St. James United Church, 463 Ste. Catherine W.
Tickets available via krishnadas.com

Basia Bulat
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Il Motore, 179 Rue Jean-Talon W.
Tickets \$10-12

Annuals & Jessica Lea Mayfield & What Laura Says
Sunday, 8 p.m.
Sala Rossa, 4848 St Laurent Blvd.
Tickets \$12

THEATRE

Diabuzzlique!
Sunday, 4 p.m.
1248, Bernard Avenue West
Tickets \$10, \$7 for students

Un capitalisme sentimental
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
1248, Bernard Avenue West
Tickets \$6, \$5 for students

—compiled by Johnny North

JBM's captivated crowd

A first-person perspective on a Montrealer's debut album launch

• LEILA AMIRI

Chilling out by the bar, eating and grabbing a beer. All very cliché, but the lights get low; my back is turned away from the stage as I eat a chorizo. I grab my beer and turn around. It barely touches my lips when I am stopped by the smooth, mellow and deep sounds of the lead singer.

Intense, eyes closed, fingers trickling down on the guitar, mouth pressed up to the mic, Montreal native Jesse Brian Merchant begins the show and has everyone mesmerized. People begin to get closer, some sit down on the floor by the stage as others are just stunned, fixed to their spots and simply listening and looking. The crowd is proud and damn happy that this local guy is one of our own.

The close and intimate atmosphere of La Sala Rosa was the place for the launch party for JBM's debut CD, *Not Even in July* last Tuesday.

JBM started with an education at McGill University in Engineering, switched to Finance and dropped it all a semester before graduation to follow a new path in the Big Apple. Having moved to New York at the age of 19 to fulfil his

acting dreams, this was not his first encounter with the arts. Trained since the age of 7 on the guitar, Jesse plays a smattering of instruments—guitar, piano, harmonica, and even the ukulele.

Marchant has maintained clear control over his music and professional appearance since his first days recording and producing music on his laptop in his bedroom. Nothing fancy just him and the music, which is still the same today. For *Not Even in July*, Marchant teamed up with producer Henry Hirsch, whose credits include Lenny Kravitz and Vanessa Paradis.

Setting up a production house in an old church in Hudson N.Y., the architecture of the church leads to an added level of acoustic sound; his recording studio is a sanctuary away from the city.

Hirsh's personal statement on his website seems to compliment Marchant's work ethic and values; where the music reigns in as a collaboration of interests, styles and acoustics. The production of this creative labour slips out confidently as the sounds, beat and rhythm of his songs comes out smoothly but strongly, taking centre stage.

Simple, casual, and unassuming, his clear

eyes and intense gaze lock you in. This is translated through his work, focused and intense, and back out to the crowd. There is a deep connection with his music, a part of his soul printed on the very way that he moves with it, an honesty that the crowd appreciates.

Marchant says he doesn't particularly get a rush nor does he bring out his alter ego like so many other artists when they hit the stage. It is the collaboration of playing with the others in the band that creates a nice energy on stage and as for the crowd, "I like playing for people who listen," he says.

Writing from his own life, JBM writes what he knows, and it is his truth that comes through in his voice and in the intimacy he shares with his craft, his instruments, his sound.

Marchant's sound has brought him to L.A., and New York, where there has been an audience at the foot of the stage. He hopes to go on tour in the U.K., leading the life of a musical nomad until he settles down again to put together another album.

For more information about Jesse Brian Merchant go to jbm-music.com.

spins

(hed) p.e. *New World Orphans*

Suburban Noize Records



Full disclosure: I used to be a nu-metal kid. Back at the turn of the century, I was all about the drop-D-tuned, single-note power chords and rapping over rock jams. But as time passed by and I came to my senses and grew out of my primordial music listening patterns, I still revisited certain albums that I thought had passed the test of time. (hed) p.e.'s self-titled first record is one of those albums I can still stand; atmospheric and sonically-pleasing, the record is the best in a bad genre.

The same, unfortunately, cannot be said of (hed)'s seventh studio album, *New World Orphans*. The music, which is a mash-up of bad punk, bad reggae and bad rap-rock, has its lyrics tinged in odd discussions involving conspiracy theories. Lyricist Jahred (alias M.C.U.D.) seems preoccupied by Bohemian Grove, championing fringe authors like David Icke for their work in uncovering "the truth." Unfortunately, this mixed bag of bad intentions almost makes me want to forget the band they once were.

I miss you/5
—R. Brian Hastie

Paul Reddick *SugarBird*

Northern Blues Music



SugarBird is the fourth album from Toronto blues singer Paul Reddick. From the outside, it looks fantastic. It has a sexy gatefold case in shades of beige with vivid illustrations of birds and flowers. In fact, it has the best possible bird illustrations: those of John James Audubon. Unfortunately, the packaging is quite possibly the nicest part of the album.

How is the music, you might wonder? At times, *SugarBird* sounds like it might approach the truly dreamy. Sadly, it's at those moments that the cheap gimmicks get added to the mix. The dreaminess ends abruptly with the addition of vocal distortion. Having said that, there are worse contemporary blues albums. The accordion on "Climbing Up The Hill" is lovely and Paul Reddick does have a profoundly relaxing voice. Sadly, no matter how relaxing the vocals are (when not distorted), the cover art is still the best part

of the album.

2/5
—Ginger Coons

Thursday *Common Existence*

Epitaph Records



Common Existence finds New Jersey's Thursday at a crossroads: having been ditched by major Island after their less-than-stellar studio album (2006's *A City By The Light Divided*) and ending back up on their former home Victory Records, the band released a b-sides/rarities compilation in late 2007 entitled *Kill The House Lights*, and then last year dropped an EP with Japanese band Envy. The b-sides release showcased the driving, urgent rhythm that ignited what is arguably their best album, *War All The Time*, while the split with Envy showed a pensive, adventurous side that was willing to let songs build up, crescendo and explore space.

Common Existence melds these two versions of Thursday quite well; "Resuscitation Of A Dead Man" serves as an awesomely powerful opener, kick-starting things and allowing the band to put the naysayers to rest. Conversely, "Time's Arrow" brings out moody, slow-driving Thursday, incorporating an acoustic guitar, a slow midsection made up of a wall of backwards sound and singer Geoff Rickley's most melodic performance in a while.

The record satisfies me in ways that their previous studio records couldn't; it's a "best of both worlds" scenario that caters to fans of all versions of Thursday that doesn't sacrifice any of its potent musicality to please any fans of a particular version of the band.

4/5
—R. Brian Hastie

Straight Reads the Line *The Author*

Epitaph Records



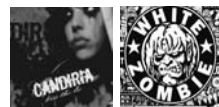
Straight Reads the Line is a five-piece metalcore band from from Stoney Creek, Ontario. Unlike Distort Entertainment labelmates and fellow Ontarian metalcore band Cancer Bats, Straight Reads the Line features a plethora of singing styles—growling, screaming, a more melodic singing, and, of course, the requisite gang backup shouts. The diversity of the vocals, however, do not make for interesting songs, and neither does the intensity of the music.

Most of the riffs lack a sense of purpose; they don't seem to build towards any sort of conclusion; more heavy, chugging place-holders than anything. The album is not without its merits. A few of the songs—"The Jig Is Up," "Last Call" and "The Orchid Killer"—all feature a degree of melody, but as a whole, the technical proficiency in place of song writing skill will probably only appeal to the most metalcore-leaning. Thankfully, The Author's running time clocks in at less than 26 minutes; apparently, this author is a short story writer.

3/5
—Alex Manley

Candiria *Kiss The Lie*

Type A Records



Putting in White Zombie's *Let Sleeping Corpses Lie* anthology can be a life-changing experience. Witnessing the progression from weird garage stomp to a band capable of monstrous, epic jams is a sight to behold. The four-disc set spans the band's entire career from New York City art hipsters to going on tour with groove metal legends Pantera.

All tracks appear in remastered form, ready to rock, roll, horrify and delight. Single "I Am Hell" (culled from the *Beavis And Butthead Experience* compilation) is a definite highlight, showcasing the best parts of the band: loud drums, Zombie's raspy growl, the use of vintage movie samples as well as an insanely catchy chorus.

Likewise, the band's cover of Sabbath's 'Children Of The Grave' adds a pseudo-electronic aspect to the original, as well as higher production values, making it a winner. The pre-1990 tracks (which had been, up until now, very hard to find) are also contained within, bringing with them a Butthole Surfers-like vibe. The track 'Shack Of Hate' is a...

Oh wait.

Fuck.

I was supposed to review the album mentioned in the title. ...Uhhh. Hm. Well, uh, the Candiria album was... It was full of harmonies, blastbeats and classic NYHC action. I give that album a 3, or something. But fuckin' White Zombie still rules. Let's be honest, here: Candiria is a decent hardcore band that likes to experiment, but White Zombie is an American rock and/or roll institution. Solo Zombie... Not so much.

(White Zombie: 16/5)
(Candiria: 3/5)
—R. Brian Hastie



\$16-18 is all you need to check out Bigger and Better Things along with Funeral for a Friend and A Texas Funeral.

Bigger and better shows

Getting to know West Island band Bigger and Better Things

• EVAN LEPAGE

“I just really want to get intimate with a 40-year-old woman before I get old.”

Not the most typical start to an interview but not much is typical about the pop-punk fivesome Bigger and Better Things. With only five shows under their belt, BABT was scouted to be an opening act for the internationally-known band Funeral for a Friend.

The status of the opening slot was put into question when guitarist Logan Kowarsky deleted multiple MySpace messages from the concert’s organizer, confusing them for junk mail. Luckily Kowarsky ran into the organizer at a Lights concert, and the project was set in motion.

Kowarsky formed BABT in 2007 with part-time Concordia student (and drummer) Matt Bernstein, and guitarist/pianist Luc Sylvestre. After struggling to find a

singer, and weeding through countless “Creed or Alice in Chains impersonators,” the band saw a Facebook video of Mike Bellizzi performing at his high school talent show. Bellizzi joined the band soon after along with bassist Tristan Giardini who rounds out the five.

Why Bigger and Better Things?

“I broke up with a band,” said Kowarsky, “and just out of spite I named the next band BABT so that when people ask if I’m still with that band I say ‘no I’ve moved on to bigger and better things.’ It’s a joke that never ends!”

Beyond the jokes, insults, and stories about pedophile concertgoers with a fetish for eating hair (I dare not explain), this band takes their music and independent status seriously.

“We have like, a punk rock ethic, I find. We like working hard and planning things and executing them ourselves. That involves everything from Matt booking

our own shows, photocopying our own flyers and giving them out for our own shows. Down to just working hard, we practice and work very hard on each individual song and part. Musically we’re interested in pushing and changing things.”

“Changing things” may come naturally to a pop-punk band whose musical influences range from Lil Wayne and the Spice Girls to Guns n’ Roses and NOFX.

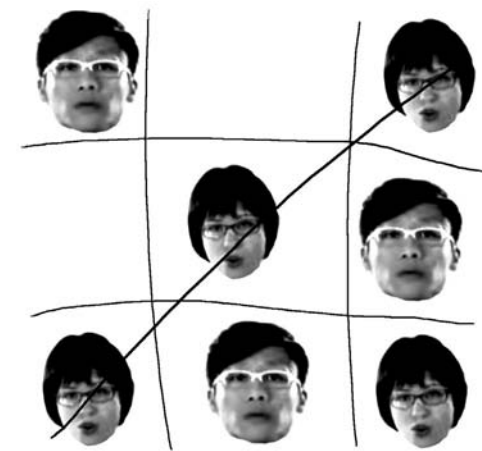
So what exactly can someone expect from a BABT show?

“Bad mid-song banter,” replied Bernstein, laughing. “Wait I mean between song banter. Though we actually have some mid-song banter.”

Bigger and Better Things will be performing with Funeral for a Friend, The Sleeping, Emarosa, This Is Hell, and A Texas Funeral on Jan. 27 at La Tulipe, 4530 Papineau. Sample the goods at myspace.com/biggerandbettershit

Tic-tac-Oh!

Local duo Hexes & Ohs on live shows and Montreal’s harsh musical climate



• NATASHA YOUNG

Cute, fun, energetic electronic pop may not often be considered serious business, but for Montreal’s dating duo Hexes & Ohs, it most certainly is.

Despite their hometown success, Edmund Lam and Heidi Donnelly have taken off across Canada in the past few years, with their current release, *Bedroom Madness*, garnering mainstream attention. And with this indie outfit’s infectious, lovey-dovey microcosm of synth and funky rhythms it isn’t hard to see why.

All of the performing experience has helped shape their sound. “On our first record,” Lam explains, “the songs were good, but... not so much fun to play live. Now, we just write songs that we enjoy playing.” The joy is felt by the audience, and the success so far is definitely a result of this spirited effort.

The band’s couple dynamic has also proven to make for a good working relationship. “We live together, so we’re used to working together,” Lam says. “When we’ve worked with other bands, it’s a very unnatural environment. We’re used to travelling together, too, so it’s a very organic way of working.”

In an effort to keep it as organic as possible, Hexes & Ohs doesn’t tend to tour with supplemental musicians. For their current album, a drummer and trumpet player were brought in, but “we’ve adapted the live show to be the two of us. It’s more innovative, and it keeps it minimal,” says Lam. This includes Donnelly alternating between her bass, synthesizer and laptop and Lam switching from guitar to drums.

With all these ways of mixing it up, their live performance definitely brings something different to the table than their studio efforts. “It’s more stripped-down live, more energetic, more raw,” Lam says.

According to Lam, it’s the competition of the local music scene that keeps their drive alive. “There is probably the highest amount of artists per-capita in Montreal out of all the bigger Canadian cities,” Lam says, “which forces you to up your game. You can’t really get away with doing anything half-assed.” Taking their adorable synth-pop style very seriously, you’d be hard-pressed to find any of Hexes & Ohs’ music half-assed.

Jan. 22, Hexes & Ohs will be at Jupiter Room 3874 St-Laurent Blvd., along with bands Winter Gloves and Politique. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available through indiemontreal.ca, as well as at Cheap Thrills, Phonopolis and Atom Heart, or \$15 at the door.

THE LiNK

The Link
by-elections
Feb. 6, 2009

The following positions are open:
Graphics Editor
Student Press Liaison

To apply, post a letter of intent along with three relevant contributions up on the board in The Link office by Friday, Jan. 30.

The following staff members have contributed to at least four issues and are thus eligible to run:

Shawna Satz, Cody Hicks, Amy Smith, Teresa Smith, Jesara Sinclair, Barbara Pavone, David Kaufmann, Ketan Patel, Andrew O’Kill-Griffin, Christopher Olson, Julien McEvoy, Sarah Tooth, Charlene Lusikila, Michael Sabelli, Elsa Jabre, Madeline Coleman, Ginger Coons, Alex Manley, Pascale Rose Licinio, Sinbad Richardson, Vivien Leung, Michael Sabelli, Alexandra Murphy, Paolo Mingarelli, Justin Bromberg, Pamela Toman, Jackson Macintosh, Leila Amiri, Cat Tarrants

Sentences won’t sit straight? Grammer no good?

Come to *The Link’s* Editing workshop for tips on making your sentences sparkle

Hosted by Gieuseppe Valiante

Montreal Gazette

National Post

Canadian University Press Quebec Bureau Chief

Friday Jan. 23, 4:00 p.m.

Tales of the Bard for the digital nomad

DailyLit.com promises Shakespeare in a 1,000 words or less

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

With reading rates in sharp decline and the compressing tendencies of text messaging and Twitter feeds at their strongest, DailyLit.com has set for itself a near impossible task: make reading cool again.

To appeal to the digital nomad—that individual with a constantly chirping Blackberry on their hip and a constant connection to the Internet—the website has divided books into easy-to-read 1,000 word blocks. These bite-sized chapters are emailed to recipients at a user-designated time.

With DailyLit you can now read a five-minute installment of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* on your Blackberry during your coffee break, in 663 manageable parts. Many of the books on DailyLit are classics, making them free to consume. Unfortunately, newer books are not in the public domain and will cost between \$4

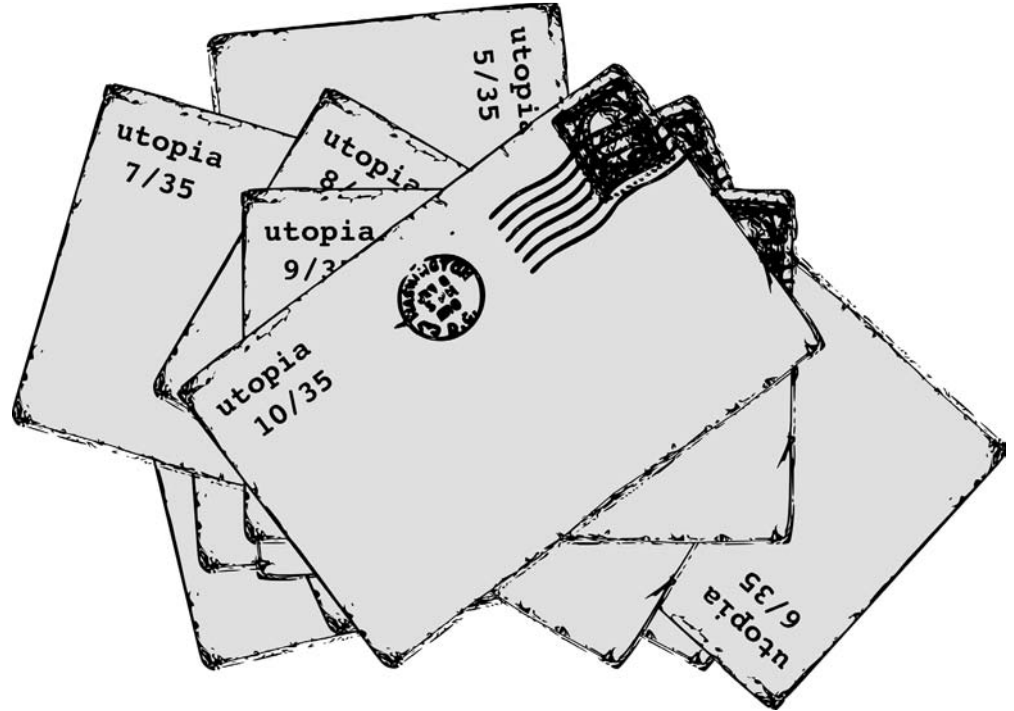
and \$7 to read.

The website's current selection of nearly 1,500 books is eclectic and ranges from Christopher Marlowe's *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus* to 355 Harlequin romance novels.

A series of Wikipedia tours are also available, providing a 1,000 word daily package about a world capital or a Wine 101 course detailing everything from the grape varieties to proper tasting methods.

The construction of reading around manageable segments is a concession to the results of a National Endowment for the Arts survey in 2002 that found that only 47 per cent of the adult population reads for pleasure on a regular basis. One of the most registered reasons was a lack of time.

On a personal note, I signed up for Thomas More's *Utopia*, a piece of satire from the 16th century delivered in 35 installments.



DailyLit is perfect for those with low attention spans who nevertheless want to tackle *War and Peace*. GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

Lit Writ

Wishing She Was Her

• MICHAEL SABELLI

He went to bed wasted. It was his first night back in his own bed in over a month, and the comfort that that brought replaced all sense of physical place with a feeling of home.

That night had been a smokey haze of live jazz, a debacle of mixed concoctions and of course beautiful women, that by now seemed more than ordinary in his streak of happiness. That in itself implied that he could be anywhere.

Lucid drunk dreams flooded his mind with hundreds of different emotions, memories, and fantasies. It provided an environment that proved to be the bait for his heart's one true desire. Katarina's turquoise eyes cleared away all other thoughts as he focused on them so intently that he saw his own reflection.

They were at the corner of the island of Zadar where wind chimes catch the sea's breeze, on the steps that descend into the water which whistle a soothingly deep whale's hum. She stared softly at his lips. Her eyes smiled bright, contently absorbing the silent communications their bodies expressed. The waves of the Adriatic splashed rhythmically on to the steps and within the space of a breath, the sun went from high noon to setting behind other islands as the water rose two steps.

In a blink of the mind, they were back on the ferry where they first met—the communal area dark with sleepy passengers. She slept as he drank whiskey from the bottle, smoking cigarettes off one another as he unconsciously waited for her. The swaying of the boat ceased, as excitement induced a floating sensation within him and she awoke. She approached him with an unlit

cigarette and asked, "Aren't you going to offer me a drink?"

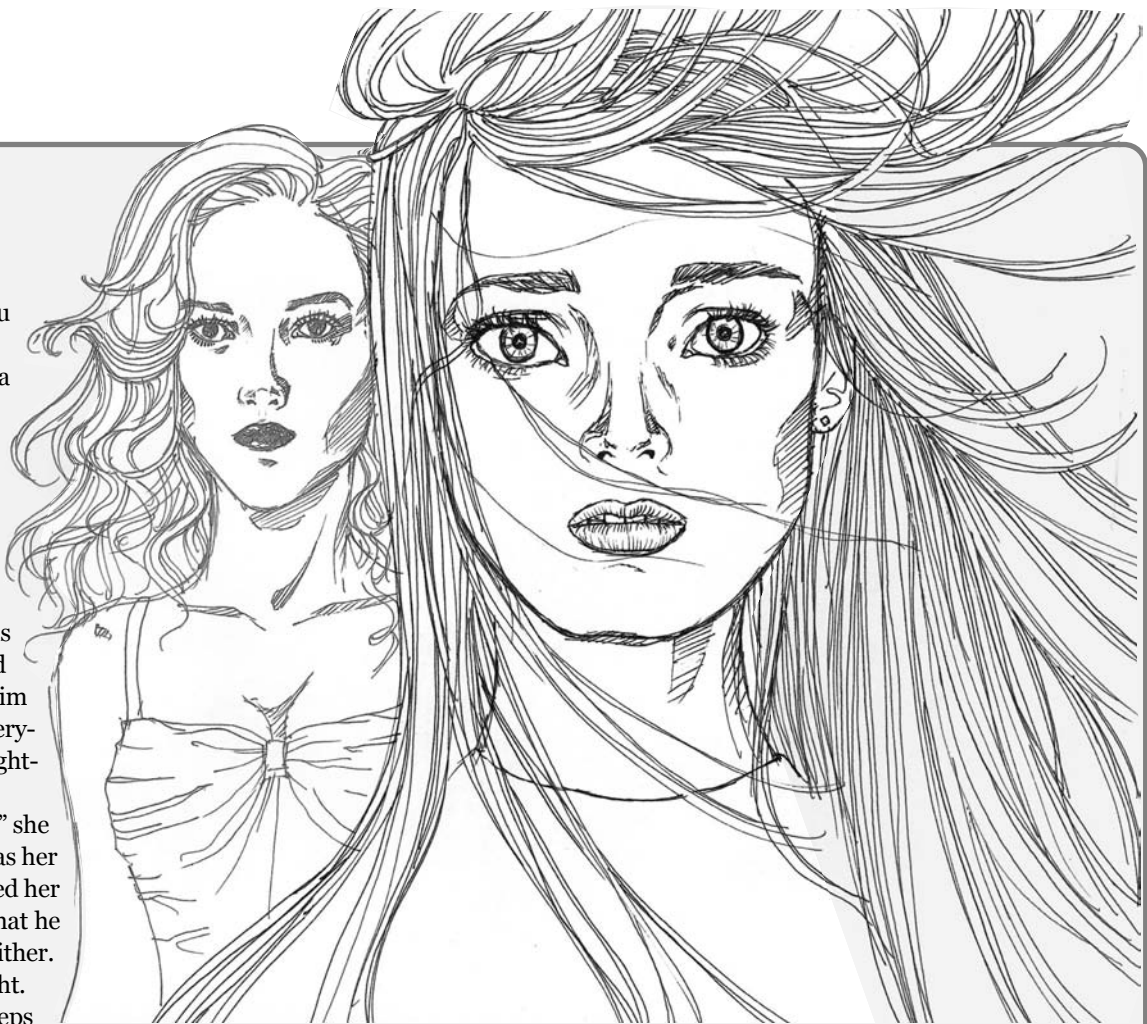
That was it, he was hooked: a drunken Romeo in love with his exotic Juliette. In his dreams he replayed the events they shared scattered in a timeless, passionate, redundant loop. Her emerald eyes; their focus that followed him throughout. Those eyes would forever be vivid in his mind, for they were truly the end of him, from the look she gave him when he told her that she was everything he ever wanted, to her delighted exhale of their first kiss.

"You kiss me with your mind," she said before telling him that he was her first, and to be gentle. She laughed her anxiety away when he told her that he had never made love on a boat either. He gave her the slow ride all night.

Now, they were back on the steps and she was walking away. His dream changed the memory as she turned around and ran back to him. They were lying in bed together. In his wrecked sleep, he felt like he was waking. He felt her presence all around him. His dreams of Katarina were actualized.

He felt physically happy at the thought that they were still together. His mind smiled because his lips were busy kissing hers, and now he was awake to a dream come true. She's really here, he thought, as all his dreams collided with reality creating sparks of real love. He thought it was real in every sense.

Consciousness sprang and reality crushed the grin he held inside. He was aware that he was in his room. Even though he felt Katarina everywhere, he knew that



What you see isn't what you get. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

she was not there. His hazed senses crippled his ability to understand the situation, for all the while he continued to kiss the warm body next to him.

His eyes opened at the idea that his true love was like most true loves. Looking into the blank eyes staring back at him, he didn't recognize the face. The kisses felt different now. He knew it wasn't Katarina and he wondered if this girl felt those thoughts. His mind cleared the drunken fog from his memories and found his last recollection.

He remembered that he had been speaking French most of the night. He had left the gates of an outdoor show with a gorgeous, dark haired, olive skinned woman. He was still radiating the beautiful aura he devel-

oped from his travels, and this woman became attracted. She must have gone home with him.

Trying to remember her name, he closed his eyes again. In every corner of his mind he thought of Katarina—her embracing touch and angelic scent, but most of all, the hypnotizing gaze from her mystical eyes. The excitement of his dream had manifested a passion that this woman thought was meant for her. She was turned on and had wakened him for more. Whoever she was, he made lover to her wishing she was Katarina.

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

Stingers trounce Martlets

Women's basketball team starts to turn around a lackluster season

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Concordia 74 McGill 53

In a fight between two teams currently vying for the last available playoff position in the Quebec conference, the Concordia women's basketball squad made a statement with a thorough 74-53 dismantling of the McGill Martlets Friday night at the Loyola sports complex.

Both teams felt the rust from winter break in the first quarter, as it took nearly three minutes for either team to register a point. Both teams struggled throughout the quarter, with neither team managing to score more than 10 points.

"We got off to kind of a rocky start," said Stingers head coach Keith Pruden. "We made some mental errors throughout the game, and we have to deal with that."

The second quarter continued to be evenly matched—both offences woke from their slumbers—McGill forward Elise Lepine and Concordia forward Kendra Carrie both hit three-pointers in the opening minutes. Carrie has connected on a stunning 48 per cent of her three point attempts on the season.

"I don't have a problem with shooting a lot of threes," said coach Pruden. "They just have to be good decisions."

The long-range prowess of the Stingers was the catalyst for their charge in the second quarter. Guard Ebony Morris knocked down a three, before Con U's leading scorer Krystle Douglas hit two consecutive bombs from long-distance to give the Stingers a 32-19 lead. Douglas finished with 23 points, including five three-pointers.

47

Three-point shots made by Concordia's women's basketball team, good for second place in the Quebec conference.

"We have a lot of shooters," said Douglas. "When we're on fire, we'll keep taking those shots."

The Stingers kept the pressure on, with guard Melissa Campbell swiping an inbound pass before scoring on an impressive mid-range bank-shot. McGill guard Nathifa Weekes closed the scoring with a layup in the dying seconds to cut Con U's lead to 34-24 heading into halftime.

The Stingers wasted no time continuing their long-range assault in the second half, as Douglas and Carrie both scored from beyond the arc to extend the lead to 40-26.

The Martlets could not cut the

lead to less than 10 after that point, as they struggled mightily with Con U's full-court pressure defence. The visitors continually turned the ball over or settled for difficult shots.

Stingers centre Kristin Portwine sealed the Martlets' fate late in the third quarter. Portwine first showed off her impressive shooting touch on a midrange shot, then made a powerful catch in traffic before hitting a layup and drawing the foul for a three point play to extend the Stingers' lead to 19 points.

Despite the lopsided score, the fans in attendance were still rabidly behind their squad, as a questionable charging call against Con U was loudly booed by the crowd.

Despite the Christmas break, Con U showed great focus and preparation for their first game back. "We had a great week of practice and a good tournament," said Douglas. "We're finally doing what we've got to do."

The win was critical for the Stingers, as both teams entered the game with identical 1-5 records. Despite their early season struggles, the Stingers remain confident in their chances.

"I think we're better than last year," said coach Pruden, referring to the squad that snuck into the playoffs a year ago. "We're fairly comfortable with where we are, but every game is important now due to our crappy start."



Stingers captain Krystle Douglas drives to the hoop. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Con U can't make it two in a row over rivals

Women's basketball comeback falls apart in fourth quarter, playoff race even closer

• JOHNNY NORTH

Concordia 65 McGill 72

The McGill Martlets were primed for a come back last Saturday at McGill's Love Competition Hall, as they avenged an embarrassing defeat the night before by beating the Concordia women's basketball team 72-65.

Both teams started slowly, similarly to their last encounter. At the seven-minute mark of the first quarter, McGill only led 4-2. McGill's Nathifa Weekes netted the first basket, and led all players by the end of the game, finishing with 21 points.

The scoring started to pick up late in the first quarter, as McGill got six points straight to give them a comfortable 12-9 lead.

In the second quarter, McGill demonstrated more hustle than the Stingers—the Martlets were quicker to rebounds both offensively and defensively and made the most of their opportunities, taking a 34-28 lead at half-time.

"They outworked us," said Keith Pruden, head coach of the Stingers. "They got critical

offensive rebounds when they needed it. We didn't make very good decisions with the ball."

"We let them take control of the game," said Krystle Douglas, captain of the Stingers squad. "All together, we didn't play as a team the way we wanted to."

A 10-0 run by Con U early in the third quarter quickly changed the game and helped give them the lead. Fans quickly blamed the officiating, as the majority of points came from foul shots.

"Even if we're down by 20 we're not going to stop playing," said Douglas, who led her team with 14 points on the night.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Stingers' lead quickly vanished—McGill came out and made two big steals right after two baskets. Con U responded with frustration towards the officials instead of focusing on a comeback.

"Yelling at a referee is like yelling at a cloud that is pouring on you," said Pruden. "Except the cloud can't throw you out. There is nothing to be gained by abusing the officials."

"It's the type of game we were expecting to have for a while," said Ryan Thorne, head

coach of McGill, who was pleased to end McGill's losing streak and keep his team in the playoff hunt. "It's a group that is now coming together and understanding their roles and how they should be playing."

"Yelling at a referee is like yelling at a cloud when it's pouring on you [...] There is nothing to be gained by abusing the officials."

—Keith Pruden,
Stingers head coach

McGill's guard Stephanie Bergeron was huge near the end, nailing a couple of three-pointers—she ended the game with five three-pointers and 16 points.

"This is a breakout game for her," said Thorne. "One of the things we changed was to attack the basket more. With us attacking it opened it up for Steph."

With the split, both teams are tied for the last playoff spot with a 2-6 record. Pruden questioned his team's lack of drive and focus

against their cross-town rivals.

"Do you think they were just going to lose?" Pruden asked. "I'm a little frustrated with them right now. It's not like it's the end of the world or the end of the season, but we just talked about how consistency and preparation are critical [...] you have to be ready."

"We're going to start hard on Monday and get our game back," said Douglas. "We shouldn't be losing these games. This was an easy game, we should've won it by 20 again, maybe even more."

The fact that Con U has yet to put together two wins together on a weekend has caused a bit of stress for Pruden.

"I'm a bald fat man with high blood pressure and I drink bourbon [...] I lose sleep over [our inability to win two games straight]. It drives me insane."

Concordia continues their season with a home and away series against l'Université de Montréal Carabins. The first game takes place this Friday at 8 p.m. at Concordia's Loyola Gym and the second game takes place at UQAM's Centre Sportif on Saturday.

Blanked at home

McGill's top line totals 18 points in victory

• PAOLO MINGARELLI

**Concordia 0
McGill 10**

Defending national champions McGill Martlets defeated the Concordia Stingers women's hockey squad on a Saturday afternoon so cold it could only be compared to the hearts of the McGill players who ran up the score in a 10-0 drubbing.

The first period began and immediately the Martlets had control of the puck in the Stingers zone. Con U did not give up, and looked very well placed on defence for the greater part of that interval.

However, five minutes into the game they would concede a goal, as a wrist shot went top corner glove-side. The following goal again was on the glove side, as the puck just skimmed the post on its way in to the net. McGill would add another to finish the period up three.

On a brighter note, during the three penalties against Con U, McGill only scored one power-play goal.

The second period started with the Stingers shorthanded, but they managed to kill the penalty. The downside was that the puck had not left the zone for the first three minutes, and McGill would make it 4-0 shortly after with a wrist shot to the blocker side.

The Martlets added two more goals from their first line in



Stingers forward Catherine Rancourt fights off McGill defender. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

the period.

However, looking back on this period, one can only imagine how much more damage the Martlets would have inflicted had Stingers goalie Stephanie Peck not been in net. She robbed

McGill of at least two sure goals, the first coming off a breakaway and the second off a two-on-one. In that period alone McGill posted 16 shots on net compared to six from Con U.

The third period started off

rather unfortunately for the home squad with a quick goal by McGill.

The Martlets didn't let up. McGill enjoyed two more powerplays and didn't give their first unit a break, as they added two

11

The number of McGill players who have more points than anyone else in the Quebec Conference.

more goals. When asked about McGill's first line, Les Lawton, head coach of the Stingers said, "It's tough to defend when they score eight out of 10 goals". Two other goals were scored on even strength to finish the game 10-0.

The best chance to score for Con U came in the third period when Donna Ringrose was taken down on a breakaway and given a penalty shot. However, Ringrose was stopped, ultimately leading to Con U being shut out.

Peck, who finished the game with 31 saves, many of which were spectacular, was one of the reasons that the game did not finish as it did the previous time these two clubs met. "She did very well and made a lot of big saves," said coach Lawton.

Despite the lopsided defeat, the Stingers remain upbeat. "Compared to last time we played them, we played the full 60 minutes, we didn't stop skating all game and we made them work much harder to get their goals," said coach Lawton.

"We're not discouraged, and as a coach I'm impressed with the team."

Shootout goes to McGill

Special teams play a major factor in a close loss in men's hockey match

• DAVID KAUFMANN

**Concordia 3
McGill 4**

The Concordia Stingers men's hockey team played a hard-fought battle, but couldn't put the finishing touches on the McGill Redmen last Wednesday at the McConnell Arena in a 4-3 shootout loss.

Although they ran into penalty trouble the Stingers got off to a good start—right-winger Nicolas Daoust found the back of the net midway through the first period to give them the lead. The defence also managed to keep the Redmen at bay—both teams were limited to seven shots apiece.

Within the opening seconds of the second period things got a little heated. Players from both sides began pushing and shoving, yet the Stingers put that behind them quickly as right-winger Nicolas Sciangula got the puck behind McGill's goaltender Danny Mireault to put the

Stingers up by two.

However, it soon became clear the Redmen weren't going down that easy. McGill centre Sam Bloom netted his ninth of the season against Stingers' goalie Maxime Joyal. Bloom nearly tied it up a few minutes later, but Joyal shut the door on him.

Later on in the period, Stingers left-winger Marc Andre Rizk took a tripping penalty. On the penalty, Stingers left-winger Cory McGillis hit a slap-shot past Mireault three seconds later to get the two-goal lead back.

Although the Stingers were able to recover from their mistakes, it wouldn't be long before their sloppy play caught up to them. Minutes later, McGill captain Eric L'Italien scored a powerplay goal off of the same penalty where the Stingers scored shorthanded.

Not long after, left-winger Evan Vossen scored a shorthanded goal to tie up the

score at three. To add to their newfound momentum the Redmen were outshooting the Stingers 16-7 in the second.

Both teams focused on defence in the third period. There were times when it seemed like the opposition was going to take the lead but Joyal stood tall when they fired 15 shots on him in the period.

It was the same scenario for Mireault when D'Aoust got a breakaway midway through the third period. Although he almost scored, the opposing goalie wasn't going to let him through.

The two teams couldn't settle it in regulation or in overtime so the game had to be settled in a shootout. Unfortunately for Con U, Nicolas Lafontaine and McGillis failed to get the puck past Mireault. McGill snipers Guillaume Doucet and Simon Marcotte-Legare took care of business, giving McGill the 4-3 win.

Despite the turnout of the game, Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby was

pleased with the result. "I thought we had a good game tonight," said coach Figsby. "Anytime you steal a point on the road, especially against a team like McGill you know it's a good effort."

Although they didn't come out on top, Figsby then went on to point out that the Stingers got three out of four points against the Redmen, which is something that they hadn't accomplished in five years.

The Stingers' locker room was also satisfied with their performance. Joyal, who stopped 37 out of 40 shots, said the outcome was a team effort, and then pointed out how it's always a big rivalry with McGill and that the game could have gone either way. Daoust also agreed, saying that his team had good intensity and emotion throughout the game.

The Stingers are in Trois-Rivières tomorrow night to play the top-ranked Patriotes at UQTR. Game time is at 7 p.m.

Bad blood rising

Concordia-McGill men's basketball rivalry heats up

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

**Concordia 82
McGill 69**

The Concordia men's basketball squad was angry after being beaten by the McGill Redmen in their first game back from the break, but they exacted their revenge with an 82-69 victory over their cross-town rivals on Saturday night at McConnell Arena.

Both teams came out of the gate misfiring offensively. Concordia's defensive pressure was ramped up in the early going, as they trapped aggressively and managed to cause numerous steals and deflections. "We came out with more energy today," said Stingers point guard Damian Buckley.

"We just came to play," said Stingers head coach John Dore. "Yesterday we didn't execute well, we didn't play defence well. We had the same game plan yesterday."

McGill managed to gain the upper hand in the first quarter thanks to star forward Michael White. White showed off his versatility by scoring on a layup and three-point shot in the early going, as he finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds after torching the Stingers for 35 points the previous night.

The teams remained evenly matched throughout the first half. Con U guard Dwayne Buckley was sent to the free-throw line with a chance to give the Stingers the lead in the final minute of the first half. While he missed the second free throw, centre Jamal Gallier gathered the offensive rebound and found the slashing senior guard for a layup to give the Stingers a 29-26 lead heading into halftime.

The Redmen came out swinging in the second half, as their raucous home crowd spurred them to an early 15-9 run to take the lead in the third quarter. The Stingers found themselves in foul trouble early, and Redmen forward Sean

72.1

Points-per-game allowed by Concordia's men's basketball team, the best mark in the Quebec conference.



Stingers forward Sebastien Martin has a laugh during a break in the action. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

Anthony took advantage, hitting three of four from the foul line. Anthony finished with 17 points and six rebounds.

Con U's final quarter didn't have an impressive start. Rookie forward Evens Laroche fouled out right away, as he finished the night with only six points in eight foul-plagued minutes. White added a hellacious dunk to tie the game for the Redmen in the opening minutes of the final frame.

However, the remainder of the final quarter belonged to Gallier, Con U's imposing centre. Gallier answered White's dunk with a vicious two handed slam of his own before connecting on a sweet hook shot down low to give the Stingers a four-point lead. Gallier's tear wasn't over, as he found Stingers forward Sebastien Martin with a beautiful pass down low before throwing down another rim-rattling slam a few

minutes later.

Con U had some inspiring bulletin board material to get themselves fired up for this encounter. "We took yesterday's game personally," said Gallier, who led the Stingers with 19 points and an incredible 17 rebounds. "I read an article [in the *McGill Tribune*] disrespecting me and the team, saying their guys had neutralized me in the previous game. It got us fired up."

"We felt kind of disrespected," added Damian. "[Gallier] came out with energy, and we fed off that."

The Redmen quickly fell apart in the last quarter, turning the ball over on three consecutive possessions at one point. Damian was a big factor, as he used his superior quickness to get into passing lanes and bother McGill's offence. He also provided the final nails in the Redmen's coffin at the offensive end, as he connected on a three

"We took yesterday's game personally. I read an article [in the *McGill Tribune*] disrespecting me and the team [...] It got us fired up."

—Jamal Gallier,
Stingers centre, referring to
Friday's loss to the Redmen.

pointer and two slashing baskets in the final minutes to secure the victory. Damian finished with 20 points on the night.

The teams showed some bad blood at the end of the game, as a skirmish developed between the teams as they were leaving to the locker room. McGill guard Moustafa El-Zanaty, grabbed onto a Stingers player, and a shoving match ensued between the teams. El-Zanaty, the leading scorer in

the Quebec conference, was limited to 15 points on the night, down from his average of 22.7.

"El-Zanaty was upset because we tried to score in the last minute with the game out of reach," said a Stingers player who didn't wish to be named. "What they have to understand is margin of victory can be the deciding factor for the playoffs, and they had just beaten us."

With the teams squaring off twice more, the bad blood is sure to be resolved the good old-fashioned way—on the basketball court. "We're just going out to win games," said Gallier.

The Stingers will face the UQAM Citadins in a home-and-home series this upcoming weekend. Friday's game takes place at the Loyola Sports Complex at 6 p.m, while Saturday's game takes place at UQAM's Centre-Sportif at 7 p.m

scoreboard

	Home		Away	Record
Men's Basketball	Concordia 82	— vs —	McGill 93	5-3-0
	McGill 69	— vs —	Concordia 82	
Men's Hockey	McGill 4	— vs —	Concordia 3	11-9-0
	Guelph 3	— vs —	Concordia 5	
	Brock 3	— vs —	Concordia 2	
Women's Basketball	Concordia 74	— vs —	McGill 53	2-6-0
	McGill 72	— vs —	Concordia 65	
Women's Hockey	Concordia 2	— vs —	Ottawa 1	3-10-0
	Concordia 0	— vs —	McGill 10	

schedule

	Who	When
Men's hockey	@ UQTR	Wednesday, 7 p.m.
	@ York	Saturday, 2 p.m.
Women's Basketball	vs UQAM	Friday, 8 p.m.
	@ UQAM	Saturday, 5 p.m.
Men's Basketball	vs UQAM	Friday, 6 p.m.
	@ UQAM	Saturday, 7 p.m.

The conflict in Gaza has adopted a global character

The debate has moved to the streets

• EVITA MOUAWAD

I went home for Christmas. That may sound innocuous, but when home is Lebanon and the country to the south suddenly finds itself at war, Christmas is anything but merry.

Two days after Christmas, Lebanese television came alive with heartbreaking stories and footage from Gaza. I soon learned that unlike Western media, television in the Middle East is not so selective in the images it chooses to broadcast.

Disturbing images of corpses laying on top of each other, children with bloody faces and emergency rooms conquered by panic and chaos became part of every evening news show. With the images came shock. When I learned that Red Cross teams were banned from entering the Palestinian territory, I was livid.

Two weeks later I found myself in New York, meeting with a friend interning at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Thousands of kilometres from the chaos and destruction in Gaza, she told me about the mood at the world's premier forum of debate. I learned how three days of meetings resulted in a resolution that was buried and forgotten in hours.

The Israeli offensive continued, and as General Secretary Ban Ki-moon touched

down in Cairo, the UN found itself on the receiving end of Israeli Defence Force bombs. The UN buildings that were bombed had been sheltering Palestinian families that had been told to leave their homes by the IDF.

Surrounded by peacekeepers and the protection of international law, those families must have felt safe. But according to the Israeli foreign minister, a rocket was somehow launched from the compound—defended by blue-helmeted UN peacekeepers—and Israeli forces bombed it and killed more than 40 refugees in response.

One strike, that is all it takes. After three weeks of strikes you end up with 1,000 casualties. Last Saturday, there was talk at the UN about labelling certain Israeli actions as war crimes.

You might say that people die every day and that those affected by the conflict in Gaza are not the only ones dying. But the tragic difference between Gaza and natural disasters or ethnic conflicts is that it could have easily been prevented, especially on the scale that the Israeli offensive has been waged.

Israel has the right, like any country, to defend itself, but by responding to rockets with massive air strikes targeted at one of the most-populated areas on earth, many have questioned the means of the response.

Throttling information has its price

The Israeli narrative: from Joe the Plumber to Twitter

• MOHAMMED SHAMRANI

Moshe Dayan, a former Israeli Defence and Foreign Minister, explained Israeli occupation policy as follows: "We have no solution, you shall continue to live like dogs, and whoever wishes may leave, and we will see where this process leads."

Against the backdrop of a 41-year-old occupation that took the form of a blockade of the Gaza Strip for the past 18 months, Dayan's words carry much weight. History seems to have been forgotten as Israel launched into this current conflict with an official narrative of rockets falling on Israeli cities, backed by the United States and the world's media.

There has been a considerable effort to sustain this narrative, but Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* exposed the cynical reality. In a piece entitled "Disinformation, secrecy and lies: How the Gaza offensive came about" on Dec. 27, *Haaretz* wrote that Defence Minister Ehud Barak ordered his generals to start preparing the current offensive six months ago.

Those preparations included a propaganda strategy drafted by recent Israeli UN ambassador Dan Gillerman. "This was something that was planned long ahead," admitted Gillerman. "I was recruited by the Foreign Minister to coordinate Israel's efforts and I have never seen all parts of a very complex machinery."

The official Israeli position was defended

by more than traditional briefings, conference calls and interviews. YouTube and Twitter were mobilized to reach a wider audience. The goal of the Israeli media control campaign has been simple, to remove "occupation" from the language of debate.

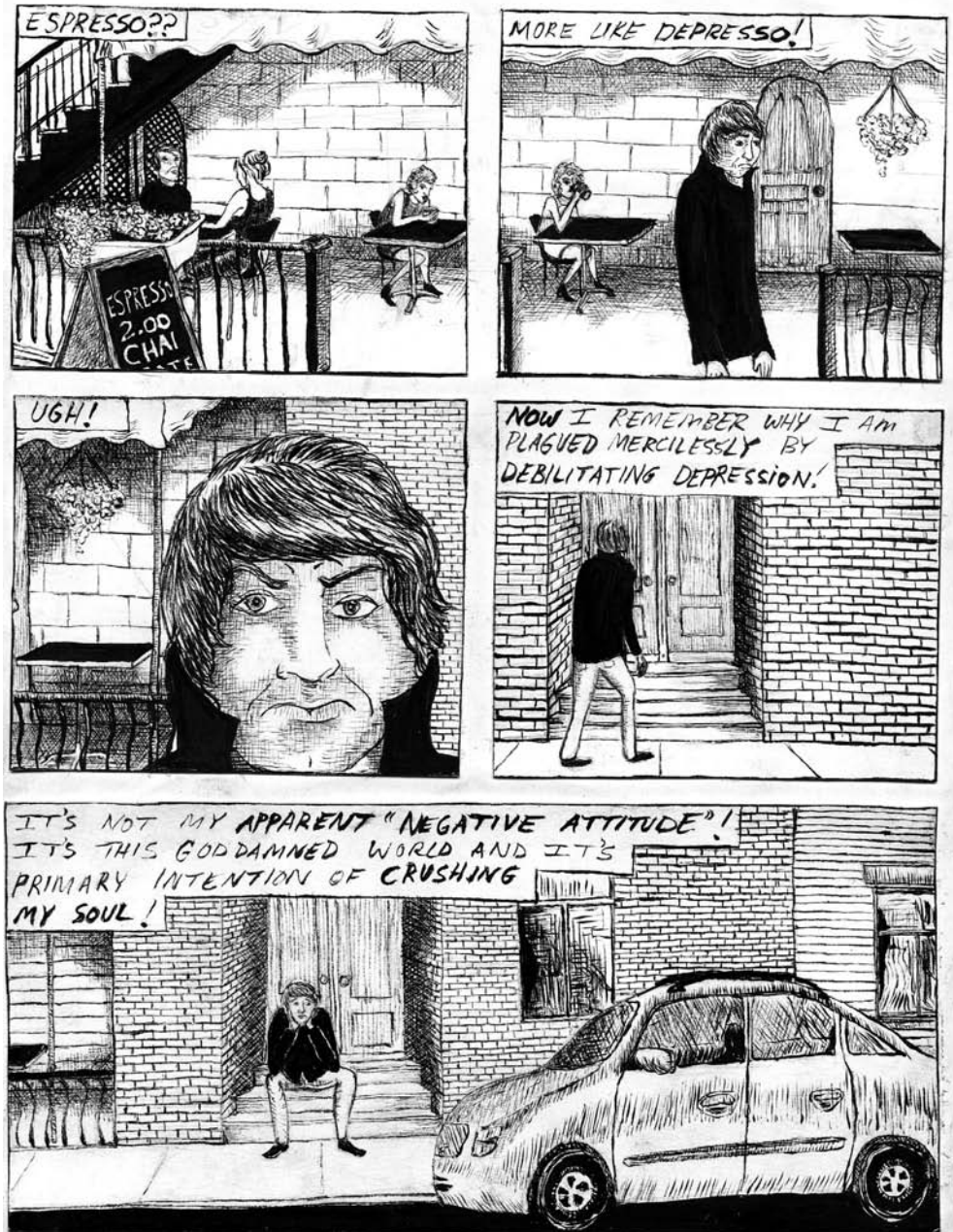
Even Joe the Plumber—real name Samuel J. Wurzelbacher—was flown to the south of Israel in a public relations stunt. Working for an American conservative website, Joe concluded while he was in Sderot that, "residents can't do normal things day to day like get soap in their eyes in the shower for fear of rockets."

This strategy reached its height when the Israeli Defence Force barred foreign journalists from entering Gaza. Despite the objections of Israel's Supreme Court, the IDF argued that journalists "inflated Palestinian suffering." As a result, the West's foreign correspondents were on hills overlooking Gaza City as the Arab media reported from the streets.

The IDF had previously ignored a Supreme Court ruling ordering the dismantling of a 41-kilometre concrete barrier.

For the most part, Israeli propaganda has been exposed rather quickly, but its volume is still immense. Mass public demonstrations from Paris to Indonesia are proof of a critical rejection of the narrative emanating from these official sources. By seeing through the distortions and rhetoric, the global public has vowed to end the madness.

...continued from last week



COMIC MARLEE MACMILLAN



Hoist a pint to the new commander-in-chief

Drinking games and excuses for Obama's inaugural

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

The Link has largely minimized its reporting of the recent American election due to the overwhelming coverage already devoted to the occasion. Fortunately, we've decided to wave that policy to participate in the Jan. 20 inauguration, an event unlikely to be forgotten.

As President-elect Barack Obama descends upon the White House with his brood in tow, the Party Of The Year—trademark pending—is going off today. Never one to miss a party, we feel like it's our duty to help you, the Con U student, maximize your potential for mischief and good-natured fun.

Now, we don't condone reckless drinking, but we definitely condone responsible partying. With that in mind, we'd like to suggest a drinking game that could potentially benefit all of its participants.

The fact that his speech comes down the pipe at noon is no reason not to imbibe. This is prime drinking time. Getting sauced for one's afternoon Poli Sci class is acceptable under the circumstances.

To misuse Obama's winning

buzzwords in the name of truancy—"It was a creed, written into the founding documents, that declared our destiny 'Yes we can skip class for change' and 'together, from coast to cost, we can strengthen our future ties with three simple words, 'yes we drink'"—is perfectly reasonable and should baffle teachers into forgetting tardiness.

If that should fail, unleash a Howard Dean-like scream of "HOOOPPPPEEEE." That should set your prof straight and silence the critics that claim that you reek of booze and that your manner of dress has deteriorated since they saw you on the metro this morning.

Now onto the drinking contest, the best place to do it is in the comfort of the cavernous den that is Reggies. Grab yourself a booth that's not too close to the screen, along with a couple of people and a few pitchers or a variety of shots and wait for the magic.

The trick is to not use the overtly obvious words. The old stand-bys of 'change' and 'progress' should be discarded, they are the easy targets and everyone expects them. The phrase 'Yes we can' is also played out; campaign slogans are a no.

Instead, creativity is necessary; responding to what the camera's showing is also an effective way of playing this game.

In short, this is nothing but a primer for the myriad of potential ideas at one's disposal for good times. Think outside the box, act like an inauguration maverick.

Rules:

- When you hear the following phrases:

- "Regime change" **Take a shot.**

- "Despot" **Take a shot.**

- "Economic battleground"

Take two shots.

- "A giant snake from the future is going to crush us all if we don't give me divine powers" **Run off with the nearest bottle of scotch and take liberal swigs from it.**

• Every time Obama has to stop his speech due to thunderous applause. **Take a shot.** (Turn that into two shots if the camera cuts to people giving him a standing ovation.)

• If someone who is clearly not Caucasian is shown on-camera tearing up.

Take a shot.

• You see a family hugging each other. **Take a shot.**

• The camera cuts to troops abroad clapping. **Take three shots.**

Comments are made about Obama's choice of dog. **Take a shot.**

• Every time Obama's cult of personality is mentioned. **Take a shot.**

A conversation with a door snob

Stop pushing my buttons, or else

• SOHRAB MOSSADED

What's wrong with you? I saw you using the large handicap button to open the door, and when it didn't work you tried again, and then again a third time. Wondering whether you didn't apply enough pressure, you hit it harder.

It couldn't possibly be broken, how then would the handicapped get into the library?

Is the effort of extending your arm and contracting a few muscle fibers so unthinkable? It's not like licking your elbow, just open the door. Perhaps you're in a study zen and don't want to risk distraction. You'd rather stand there, wait and watch the door open.

Maybe you are a germaphobe? You think you'll contract something from the door handle? Wrong. Cold metal surfaces are a poor environment for bacteria to survive or grow. In fact the more metal surfaces are touched, the cleaner they become.

Of course the door and the button are made from the same metal, but you can punch the button and use the back of your hand to push it, much lower risk of infection. Nice thinking, not really.

Or maybe you just love pushing buttons? Are you the kind of person to double-push elevator buttons. That's right, you enter the elevator, your floor's button has already been pressed but you get in there and push it...again. FYI, Urban Dictionary defines "elevator button" as an extremely short johnson.

You're pushing my buttons right now, what other

excuses are you going to come up with?

You were being chivalrous to yourself? Self-chivalry? Chivalry might be dead but your arms still work. Use them or lose them.

Most of all, you're not being green. You can carry around the metal mug, the organic hemp bag and eat all the dry vegan muffins you want, but if you are pressing the large metal button, your carbon footprint is growing with every step.

A recent replication of the 1961 Milgram experiment showed that ordinary people are very willing to torture others by administering painful shocks when ordered to do so, by pushing a button. Some conclude that under the right circumstances any one could display the same behavior as the Nazis did. But the missing variable that the researchers did not control for: buttons. The bigger the better, even if someone is being hit with a 450-volt electrical shock in the other room. Buttons are evil.

Whether it's bubble-wrap therapy at home or the morphine button at the hospital, buttons can relieve pain, but you know what happens when you use the buttons that are meant for disabled students? You disable them, and you cause pain to those who rely on their good functioning. The motors running the doors very often do break and malfunction through overuse.

Thank you to whomever recently put up the signs at the downtown library reminding able students not to use the handicap buttons; I now have far fewer and less threatening conversations with myself.

Word in the Herd

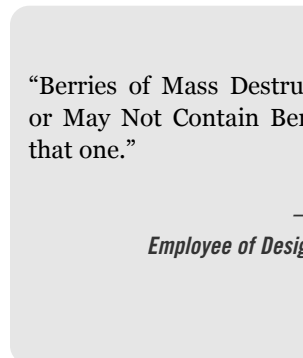
—compiled by Christopher Olson and Owain Harris

After Ben and Jerry's revealed "Yes Pecan," we wondered what flavour the Bush Administration would be?



"GuantanaMarshmallow. I think he used Guantanamo in a bad way."

—LaTavia Desmarais,
Political Science



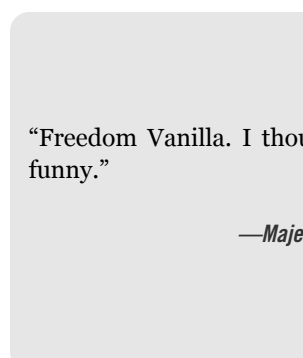
"Berries of Mass Destruction: May or May Not Contain Berries. I like that one."

—Erin Watson,
Employee of Design One Habitat



"Katrina Krunch. Yeah, that's it."

—Michael Luccisano,
English Lit



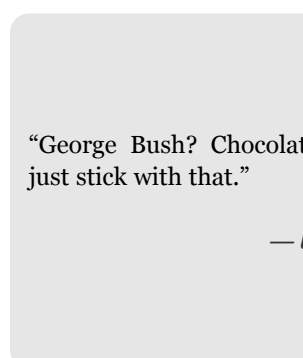
"Freedom Vanilla. I thought it was funny."

—Majeanne Behzadi,
Sociology



"I dunno. It's George Bush...no comment."

—Vince Spinelli,
Environmental Science



"George Bush? Chocolate Shit. I'll just stick with that."

—Omar Mustafa,
History



Green space

This crisis is an opportunity to rebuild green

• BETTINA GRASSMANN

As this sea of financial doom and gloom washes over us, we are all finding it difficult to come up for air. Yet this current slump may prove to be an opportunity to rethink and rework a system that is fundamentally flawed.

Many economists now argue that the current economic system cannot be financially sustained and the current failure is an inevitable consequence of an unrealistic goal: eternal growth. The heavy environmental impact of the current economic system should not be overlooked.

A fact frequently ignored is that the words “ecology” and “economy” come from the same Greek root: oikos, meaning “home.” The two are inextricably linked. We cannot address these issues separately.

Not only have David Susuki, the Sierra Club and radical lefties alike been saying this for years, but also financial insiders. One of these people is Herman Daly, an economist who worked for the World Bank for six years. Disillusioned, Daly quit 15 years ago and in his resignation speech said that banks needed to see the world with “new eyeglasses and a hearing aid.”

The problem is the fractional reserve system. In effect this system allows banks to lend out more than they actually have. The central banks can effectively create money out of nothing and lend that money at interest. Every bank has a reserve requirement: that is, they must have in their reserves a certain percentage of the money they lend. These percentages are low, too low according to Daly, but not low enough for the banks.

The only solution is the abolition the fractional reserve system, putting real wealth in balance with virtual wealth. This is one of his proposed 10 steps to attaining an ecologically viable economic future.

Herman Daly developed the concept of a steady-state economy, a model based on that very feature that allows nature to sustain itself—balance. In a steady-state economy, this balance maintains a realistic level of financial prosperity. There comes a point, says Daly, where growth makes us poorer, not richer due to the overwhelmingly negative environmental costs of pollution, waste and climate change.

Among Daly's proposed policies are the re-regulation of international commerce, the limiting of the range of income distribution and ecological tax reform that acknowledges the whole cost—environmental, social and financial—of a business. Daly also wants to reform GDP so that the national account shows both costs and benefits, allowing a cap to ecologically expensive growth.

Nothing can grow forever. One-year-olds learn about the limits of growth when their first tower of blocks comes tumbling down, yet some of the world's smartest, economists are behaving on the assumption that gravity does not exist. The solution to our financial crisis is not deprivation, but a system wherein financial prosperity translates into real world prosperity.



Letters@thelink.concordia.ca

Know nothing. No problem.

I applied for the position of Chief Electoral Officer for the Concordia Student Union. Not only did I not receive any confirmation of receipt of my application, despite my emailing several times, I wasn't even granted an interview when I showed up to the council meeting.

Apparently the Appointments Committee had done their “work” and pre-selected the three most qualified candidates. I am not discouraged by the fact that the Appointments Committee did not consider me qualified; I am discouraged by how they define “qualified.”

The “qualified” candidates were as follows: one with no knowledge of current by-laws and standing regulations, another was an employee of the previous corrupt CEO, and the last candidate was well-deserving. Guess whom the CSU Council, on the urging of the executive, selected as CEO? If you guessed the candidate with no knowledge of the standing regulations and by-laws, you are right.

Apparently not knowing anything qualifies one as a good CEO. What has our student government become and why are we, the Concordia students, not raising hell?

—Adrien Severyns
Political Science and History

CEO comes president approved

Is it me or is the Concordia Student Union hiding more than financial mismanagement? Not only have they not released any financial figures or a statement, the current executive has once again politicized what is supposed to be an independent position: Chief Electoral Officer.

At the last council meeting a councillor asked CSU President Keyana Kashfi if Council would see all applicants for the CEO position. Keyana responded in the affirmative. Shamefully ignoring their duty, the Appointments Committee met the night before Council and contrary to Kashfi's earlier promise, only forwarded three of the eight candidate applications to Council. Furthermore, the committee violated standing regulations in that they did not even interview the candidates.

But wait, it gets better: the Appointments Committee claimed that the three candidates were chosen because they were not graduating, therefore providing much needed stability to the independent position of CEO. However, two out of the three candidates confirmed they were graduating

this semester, leaving CSU Council with one option.

Well done Ms. Kashfi: you lied, then manipulated council and now have a CEO of your choosing. Let me ask, when are we planning on stuffing the ballots, now?

—Louise Birdsell Bauer
Arts & Science Councillor

We didn't start the fire

In an article from one of Montreal's free publications, *24 heures*, a Université de Montréal history professor stated that he feared an “importation of the Palestine/Israel conflict” to Quebec. After having thought about this, I'd say he's right; but not about who's doing the importing.

People are dying in the Gaza Strip—men, women, and children—whether they have a gun or they're transporting food aid to a population that was made dependent by a siege imposed by an occupying army. It's worth reminding people that in less than a month there have been over a thousand casualties.

However here at home, what's happening is that those who sympathize with Israel and its war crimes have taken it upon themselves to abuse their positions of power to deliberately misinform the public. Worse still, they have punished those who are trying to stop the war, by putting obstacles in their way.

Let's talk about Concordia. Many of us read the fear-mongering from *The Concordian's* Opinions Editor Conor Lynch, who on Jan. 6 proceeded to tell a romanticized depiction of rockets raining down on a thriving European-style democracy from a hostile dark neighbor who just can't accept living in an open air prison. I wish I were exaggerating, and I wish it were the only article in that issue sorely lacking facts.

The war of information aside, ethics quickly turn to corruption when we have those in the Concordia Student Union's Council and the administration taking action against students who advocate for Palestinian rights. A quick look at the action and reaction reveals that after having printed some material and publicly stating facts that certain individuals didn't agree with, they turned around and tried to suspend a sanctioned student club and sent a threatening letter to another student. Our tuition pays their salaries; this conduct should not be tolerated.

Logically, if groups are demanding that this war on the Palestinian people living in Gaza be halted, they are simply

trying to catch the ear of the public and government with hopes of changing our current ways. The same logic applies for both sides. But when those in positions of power and influence start to take rights away from those who don't share their opinion, this begs an important question. Who's actually importing the conflict here to Quebec?

—Doug Smith
Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights

New CEO is bad news

I would like to inform the Concordia student body of the recent crooked happenings in the Concordia Student Union. A new Chief Electoral Officer was just elected to run the elections this coming March. The process of how this individual was elected, however, was completely undemocratic and made me sick to my stomach.

A sub-committee of the CSU, called the Appointments Committee, decided that they were only going to let a select few individuals who applied for this position present their case to council. Everyone else was forbidden from even having the chance to present themselves.

In the CSU's standing regulations, it specifically says that the Appointments Committee has the right to “recommend appointees” to council for election, but it does not have the right to choose who can be present. The committee is supposed to tell council who they believe to be the best candidates, but council is supposed to have the chance to make up their own minds. The committee completely over-stepped their boundaries and this time they have gone too far.

What is even more sickening about this act is that President Keyana Kashfi is the chairperson of this committee, meaning she chose the individuals who she thought were “eligible” to apply for CEO. The CEO is the only person who governs the elections, and it is of utmost importance that their position be unaffiliated.

Is it just me, or should the politicized executive of the CSU not choose the CEO? What is happening in this school? Why is no one doing anything about it? It is events like this that make me wish I went to a different university. All I can do now is hope that someone will finally step up to these vigilantes and get them out of our student government's office once and for all.

—Laura Schülke
Political Science

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.

A message from the president of the CSU

Dear members of the Concordia Student Union,

Over the last few months you may have heard rumors about the financial status of the Concordia Student Union. These rumors have been propagated largely by an inaccurate article in the Nov. 25 issue of *The Link* and exploited by sometime student, part-time lawyer and long-time back-room politico Patrice Blais.

As I am President of the CSU, it is my responsibility to set the record straight about the finances of our student union. In early 2002, Patrice Blais took control of the CSU after the recall of his previous executive amidst serious questions about the union's finances. Marie Lyonnais was hired in 2002 to act as the CSU's financial controller/bookkeeper yet she began to be absent from work regularly because of “personal issues” from 2005 until her resignation in June 2007.

Mohammed Shuriye, President in 2005-'06, and the President and VP Finance of 2006-'07, all failed to properly follow up on her work, despite it being their legal and fiduciary responsibility to do so, setting the course for the problems to come. During this time Lyonnais failed to open tax assessments for unpaid taxes from the Provincial and Federal governments, misplaced payroll records, and neglected to perform many day-to-day tasks essential to keeping the CSU in good financial standing.

From June 2007 until now, the CSU executive lead by Angelica Novoa in '07-'08 and me in '08-'09 have taken direct action to ensure the CSU's financial security and accountability. In June 2007, the Executive mandated a tax lawyer to initiate discussions with the federal and provincial tax authorities to negotiate payment schedules and hired a Forensic Accountant to perform a forensic audit of all CSU accounts. The executive also hired a Director of Finance and Administration, a certified accountant with in-depth knowledge of the CSU's accounting system in August 2007, and a qualified bookkeeper that all provide scheduled updates to the President or VP Finance.

In addition to the changes to improve the CSU's organizational structure, the CSU's financial controls have also been drastically strengthened—for example, all disbursements now require at least two authorizations before a cheque is produced—and all dealings with the government and external organizations are up to date and properly documented in an efficient manner.

This year, my Executive and I have continued to improve on these positive changes while pro-

viding new services and larger events to students than ever before. For example, Orientation 2008 featuring Talib Kweli and The Stills and the upcoming Spike Lee CSU Speaker Series lecture are some of the biggest events we've ever hosted yet we've managed to actually save student money and fund them almost entirely through sponsors due to our aggressive fundraising.

After a two-month negotiation process, I also managed to obtain several more benefits for our Student Health and Dental Plan while incurring no extra costs to us, the members of the Concordia Student Union. In addition, I secured an extra \$100,000 from our insurance provider to go directly into the cost of CSU's Health Plan which will help offset the expenses incurred due to the CSU's financial problems.

In November, the investigation into Lyonnais' negligence finally provided us with enough concrete information to present our findings to CSU Council. The investigation is still ongoing, making it difficult to discern the extent of the legal action to be taken. Financial transparency is a top priority for the CSU Executive and Council and we have already spent many hours working to rectify this problem.

I also feel as though I must clarify that I provided Ms. Friday with all financial documentation she requested, contrary to the statements made in the article and editorial. Ms. Friday was also under the false impression that former VP Finance, Fauve Castagna, had prepared a lengthy document that I refused to disclose to her, when no such document exists. It is my full objective to provide the student body with all the documents you have rights to and it concerns me that Ms. Friday was claiming otherwise.

The current CSU executive will continue to work tirelessly to keep you informed, as I hope you will since this is your union. Despite everything that my executive and I have had to deal with this past year, it is imperative that students know that their union is now doing very well and has weathered people's negligence to survive and become stronger than ever. As always, feel free to approach me should you have any questions or comments regarding the CSU or Concordia as a whole.

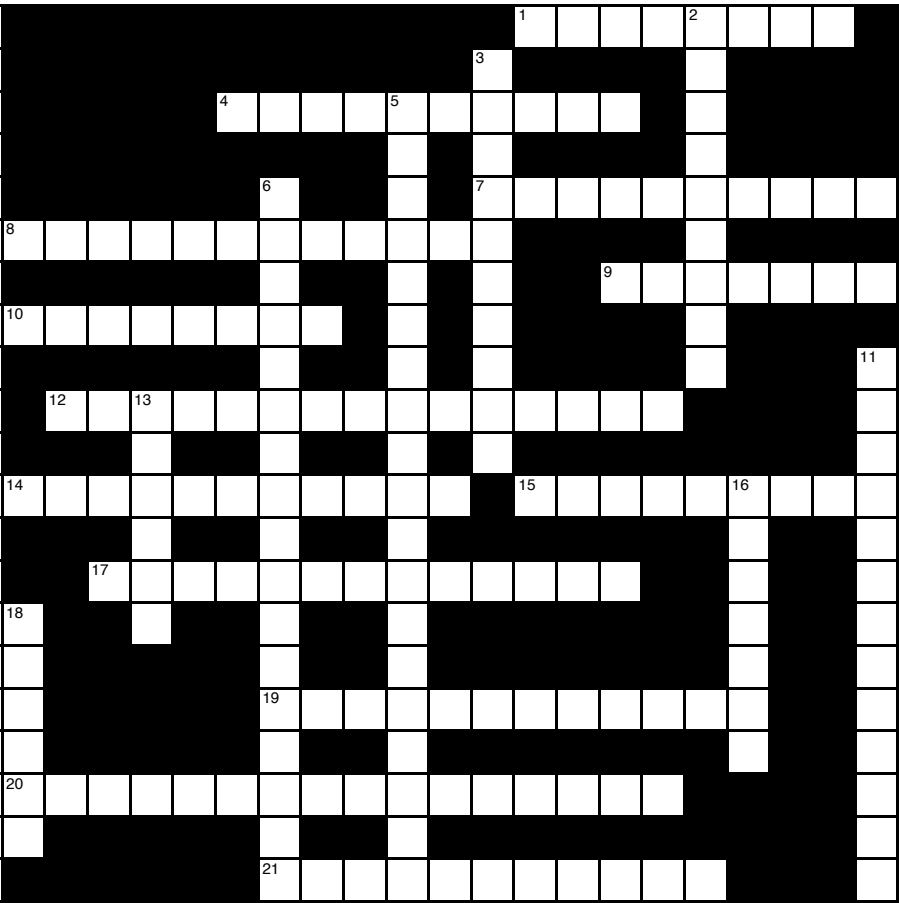
—Keyana Kashfi,
President of the Concordia Student Union

crswrdpzzlol

EXTREME SPORTS MADE EXTREMER • X. BRIAN HASTIE & BRUNO XE ROSA

ACROSS

- 1. Skiing and shooting...but with way more shootin' this time
- 4. This European racing sport would be much better if Segways replaced the cars
- 7. This combat sport would be fantastical if punches and kicks were centered on the crotch area
- 8. Smokey the Bear does not approve of this admittedly "smoky" winter downhill sport
- 9. These accessories make every potential event extreme, and deadly
- 10. A long, long run. No seriously, it's long. Like running-backwards-up-the-stairs long
- 12. The most badass of extreme sports; all you need is one gun and one bullet
- 14. One wrong pick choice and this sport will send you tumbling into the dark; global warming may render this sport obsolete
- 15. The fastest of all races on Earth, in the air. Boeing does not endorse this form of competition. Also known as air racing
- 17. Free running, only there are no buildings, only sand and cacti
- 19. World's most famous bike race. Could use more cougars...the animal
- 20. The fun of medieval chivalry with the benefits of modern technology. A shocking event for all
- 21. Competitive stomach-centered event, with light bulbs, windows and bottles

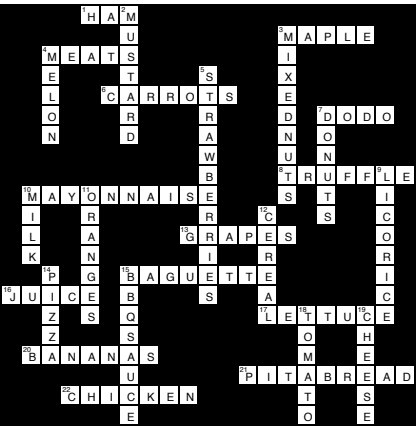


DOWN

- 2. Bowling would be much better if they played this "hot" children's game with the ball
- 3. "Dribble, dribble, broken leg" is the hearty refrain of this sport
- 5. Event normally found at the Highland Games involving a telephone pole or similarly-shaped piece of wood...Only upside down!
- 6. A classic test of strength, with a 21st century twist, thanks to the use of robotic limbs
- 11. This sport gets infinitely more extreme when one

- takes away its life-saving elastic
- 13. Team sport whose death toll would increase if the ball were to be replaced by a timed explosive that was activated when kicked
- 16. This slow-as-molasses team sport can benefit from the occasional interruption of stampeding elephants
- 18. Icy team sport that is in desperate need of rocket-propelled players, as well as a bonus machete round

issue 18
solutionz



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY JANUARY 25, 2000

“Concordia going private?”

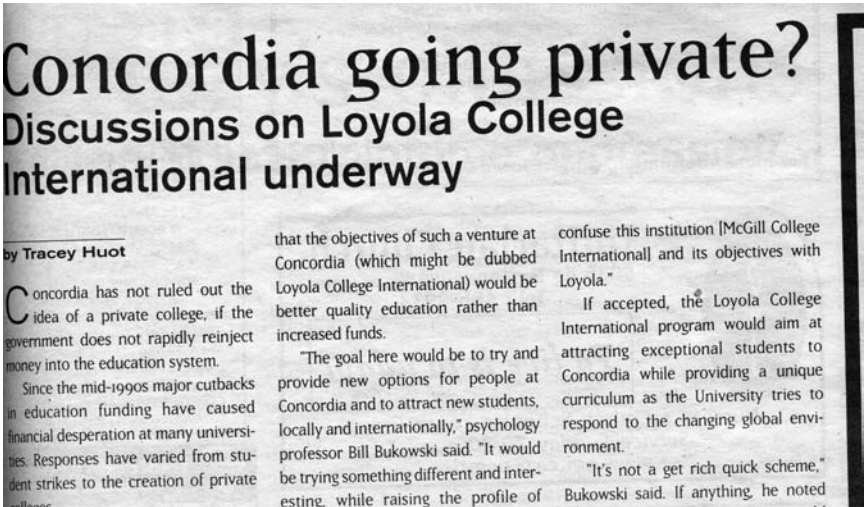
• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Loyola International College was founded in 2001 as an acknowledgement of the historically strong Arts and Science program at Loyola campus; at least that's the official story.

In early 2000, Concordia planned to create the Loyola International College as a private appendage of the university, based on the planned McGill College International—rejected later that year. Seen as a solution to Concordia's financing woes, the private college would have accepted 3,000 students paying nearly \$28,000 a year in tuition.

Providing courses in philosophy, literature and languages, the private venture was seen as a means to provide “new options for people at Concordia and to attract new students,” explained Psychology professor Bill Bukowski.

The university described the proposed college as an internationally advertised program with a unique curriculum to respond to a changing glob-



al environment. Pardon me, but does this seem right: philosophy as both a ‘cash cow’ and a means of adjusting to globalization?

The university's official response to questions about the private college was a somewhat revelatory tragicomedy. When asked about the heavy tuition, the school responded that the college was revenue neutral. Just because the money is redirected to Concordia's cof-

fers does not make it revenue neutral.

Furthermore, the university downplayed the capitalism and elitism of the private college by claiming that its mandate was devoted to diversity and pluralism.

Doublespeak is a shaky foundation on which to establish a venture, especially when that undertaking is likely to be as controversial as a private college would be.

editorial

e(Concordia?)

Quid pro quo, a Latin term that translates in English to “this for that” is a commonly used phrase in the world of negotiation.

Imagine my surprise when, upon calling eConcordia (which I always assumed to be an electronic extension of my dear alma mater), I was told a press pass to the eConcordia extravaganza in March would cost me—or rather it would cost *The Link*.

With press passes at a premium, I was told that the major news organs had already been granted theirs. If Concordia student media wanted access to the eConcordia event, the disembodied voice at the other end of the phone told me, we would need to make advertising space available to them for free.

Why are we complaining, you ask? It's normal that a business expects something for a service they're providing. That is true. But is it normal for a school to require free advertising from their student press in order to attend a school-sponsored event?

Concordia University has always paid its student newspapers for the advertising space it uses. From speaker series to school events, the budding journalists have always been welcomed and their papers paid, simply in the interest of sharing information with students.

So why the change? The price tag on this event is a hefty \$425 a head—a price some might call prohibitively expensive for the average student—so it's unlikely that many ConU kids will be filling the seats for this spectacle.

Instead, an elite of the informed and those with serious money to burn through in this toughest of tough times, will sit and enjoy the smart presentations of an imported intelligencia.

Steve Wozniak and assorted other gifted speakers are sure to deliver brave words about the future of eLearning as their plump audience enjoys the opulence of their surroundings. Only one thing will be missing, the muted voice of those receiving the learning.

With students largely absent, you would think eConcordia would be eager to find a way to involve the student body at large. It is after all Concordia students who take the online courses and pay the fees that keep eConcordia alive, and by extension, could end it—even eConcordia's target demographic, professionals, need to enlist as independent Concordia students.

The truth is that eConcordia is a wolf in sheep's clothing; it is an independent corporation that, while owned by the umbrella Concordia University Foundation, remains distinctly separate from the university we know and love.

But eConcordia should still have our best interests in mind, right? Our tuitions are their profits, and greed has been known to motivate. That may be so, but teachers and critical education are being sidelined in favour of cyber-efficiency. So with that in mind I ask, where's our quid pro quo?

eConcordia, you're hosting an event with a who's who of the technology world coming to town to speak about the sweet symbiosis of electronics and learning, and every one seems to be on your guest list but students. A raw deal, if you ask me.

—Clare Raspopov,
Features editor

In 2007,
eConcordia had **26** full-time workers
and **13,038** students.