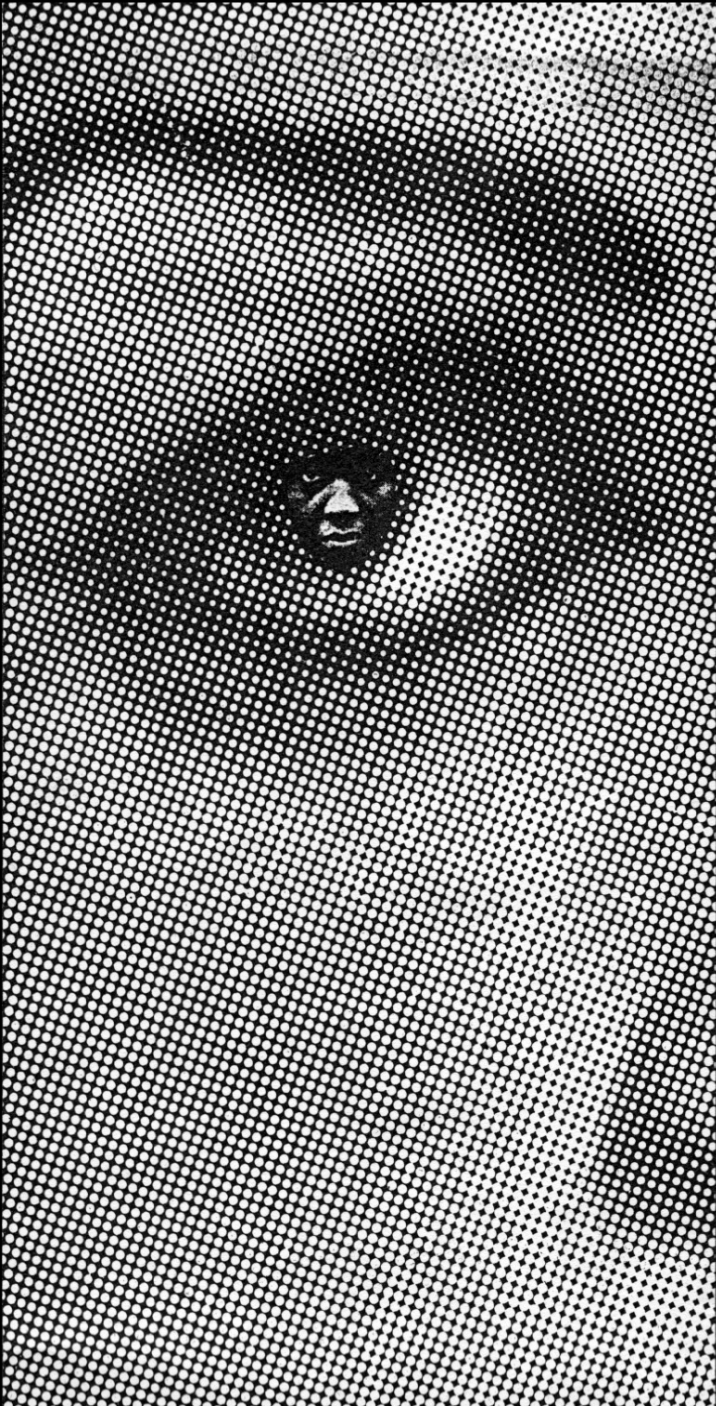




40 years after the computer riot

PAGE 15

Fallout from new CSU health care plan continues

Former VP Finance voices concern about health care provider

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Friends and allies of Steven Rosenshein deny his attempted extortion of \$25,000, but Rosenshein has yet to make a public statement.

Rosenshein is accused of demanding a \$25,000 personal payout from Lev Bukhman, president of the Quebec Student Health Alliance—or ASEQ—“to finance the election campaign for ‘his team’ in the upcoming election,” according to a sworn affidavit by Bukhman.

“That’s beyond false, it’s a flat-out lie,” said CSU VP Communications Elie Chivi. “Steven Rosenshein worked with us on the international tuition fee campaign over the summer [...] and that’s where our relations ended.” Chivi said he could see why Bukhman would make the allegations, since he’s “about to possibly lose a lot of money.”

The CFS’s Quebec spokesperson, Noah Stewart, spoke on behalf of the organization.

“We unequivocally reject what

Mr. Bukhman said,” Stewart said. He noted the “CFS is pursuing all legal avenues” to compensate for the allegations.

Bukhman says if the allegations aren’t true, why hasn’t he heard from Rosenshein?

“Rosenshein has not denied the allegation on the charge,” said Bukhman. “[The CSU] have denied any association with him,

“Whenever you ask a broker for a quote, they don’t charge you. Why did they have to sign a contract with the CFS to get a quote?”

— Lev Bukhman,
president of the Quebec Student Health Alliance

but the CSU are answering on his behalf.”

The CSU has accused Bukhman—who thinks he’s being punished for not agreeing to the \$25,000 payout—of making false allegations after they hired health care administrator Morneau Sobeco for the 2009-10 academic year, replacing ASEQ. There are several health brokerage firms around, Bukhman said,

but the CSU didn’t even bother to ask ASEQ to do the same tendering that Morneau Sobeco has been hired to do.

Although both Stewart and CSU President Keyana Kashfi informed councillors at the Feb. 11 Council meeting that Morneau Sobeco was not-for-profit, the company’s website states they are “a publicly traded organiza-

charge their clients for a quote.

Fauve Castagna, the CSU’s former VP finance for 2007-08, said the argument that ASEQ made any profit off of Concordia students is “null and void.”

“In all instances, Mr. Bukhman gave us the opportunity to go out and tender to other companies,” Castagna said, but Sunlife always offered the most comprehensive plan.

The proposed plan, Castagna said, “has absolutely no Quebec precedents” and runs the risk of misunderstanding Quebec bureaucracy.

Most puzzling to Bukhman is the actions of Council. “Why aren’t they doing their due diligence and investigating our charges?” he asked. He contends that Kashfi single-handedly cut him out of the picture before any negotiations and he never got a chance to tender for the 2009-10 academic year.

What he really wants, he says, is a fair shot. “Not everyone has to love me, not everyone has to love ASEQ.”

Lyonnais in default

Student council’s ex-bookkeeper to owe over a quarter of a million in damages.

• CLARERASPOPOW

Marie Lyonnais might soon owe the Concordia Student Union and CUSACorp over \$360,000.

According to Paul Harinen, a clerk at the Superior Court of Quebec, by not filing a statement of defence in the required time period and failing to officially retain a lawyer, Lyonnais has gone into default; the case is automatically ruled against her.

Both the CSU and CUSACorp claim that through a combination of financial mismanagement, fraud and neglect, Lyonnais—who was bookkeeper for both organizations for a period of seven years—cost the two organizations \$363,238.25 and they are suing her to retrieve the money.

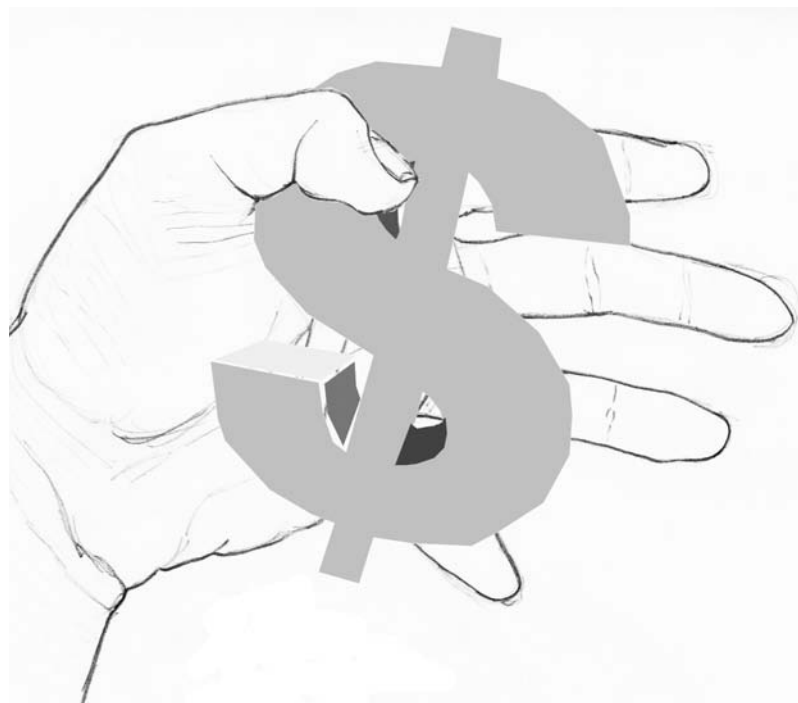
Jean-Pierre Michaud, who is representing both the CSU and CUSACorp, said that a lawyer contacted him just last week claiming Lyonnais had retained him, but that he would not find out for sure until later this week.

Lyonnais could still avoid default if, upon arriving at the scheduled court appearance with lawyer in tow, the judge presiding over the hearing grants her an extension, explained Harinen.

If she does not get an extension, the case will be sent directly to judgment.

Lyonnais did not return *The Link*’s phone calls.

The CSU, CUSACorp and Lyonnais are still due to appear in court on Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. in room 2.16 of the Palais de Justice.



Lyonnais’ alleged cash grab will force her to pay a hefty price. GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON & SEBASTIEN CADIEUX

correction:

In an article entitled “\$25,000 extortion attempt denied” printed in *The Link* Vol. 29, Issue 22, it was stated that Steven Rosenshein was an employee of the Canadian Federation of Students. Steven Rosenshein is an employee of CFS-Quebec, not CFS. The Link apologizes for the error.

Pudding for Peace

• LAURA BEESTON

Concordia Students and volunteers from the Dialog Foundation will be participating in cooking “Noah’s Pudding” on Feb. 17.

The pudding is a part of a tradition of making and sharing dessert between Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Middle East and is a symbolic gesture of diversity and friendship.

You can get your pudding from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Services Centre at 2050 Mackay.

ASFA Election Time

• LAURA BEESTON

Don’t forget to vote! The ASFA elections are running from Feb. 17 to 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cast your ballot downtown beside the info booth in the Hall Building lobby or at the Library Building atrium beside security.

If you’re at Loyola, the polling booths can be found in the Vanier Library atrium or in the atrium of the Science Complex.

March 1st - 9th: Israeli Apartheid Week

• LAURA BEESTON

After overcoming difficulties booking a room, Concordia’s School of Community and Public Affairs will be holding a press conference concerning the upcoming Israeli Apartheid Week on Tuesday at 10 a.m. at 2149 Mackay Street.

March 1 to 9 will mark the fifth anniversary of the IAW who, along with student and community organizations, are planning a week of guest speakers, workshops and film screenings with an aim to educate and promote an anti-apartheid movement in solidarity with Gaza.

For more info, please visit iawmon-treal.org.

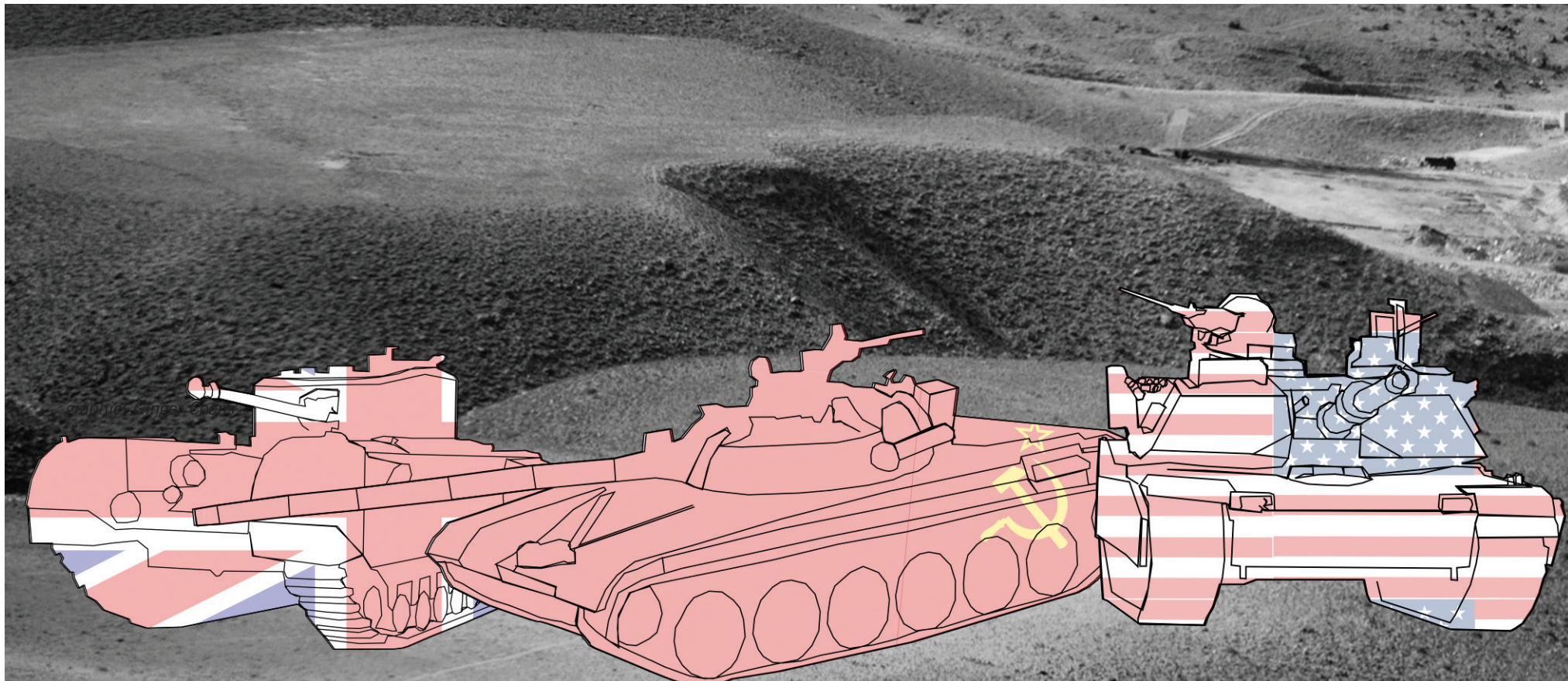
Do the right thing

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Closing off Concordia’s celebration of Black History Month are the Spike Lee Movie Marathon on Feb. 17 and African Music Night on Feb. 19 at Reggie’s.

American film director Spike Lee will also speak at Concordia on Feb. 18 as part of the CSU’s Lecture Series.

For more info about the last week of Concordia’s Black History Month celebration, please visit csu.qc.ca.



• GIUSEPPE VALIANTE, CUP QUEBEC
BUREAU CHIEF

I have never been to war. And therefore I could not possibly understand it. But when I read a dispatch from Robert Fisk, I think I come a little closer to understanding the human consequences of conflict.

After reading his account of the Iran-Iraq War, I couldn't relate to those young boys in the trenches of Dezful, their heads wrapped in red bandanas reading, 'Khomeini, we are ready.' But I think I understood the pain of those who might have lost people they love at the hands of those boys after reading lines like these:

"As we walk to sit down in the dirt, I see another body in a gun-pit, a young man in the foetal position, curled up like a child, already blackening with death but with a wedding ring on his finger. I am mesmerized by the ring. On this hot, golden morning, it glitters and sparkles with freshness and life. He has black hair and is around 25 years old. [...] Where was he from, this soldier-corpse? A Sunni or a Shia or a Christian or a Kurd? And his wife. He could not be more than three days dead. Somewhere to the north of us, his wife is waking the children, making breakfast, glancing at her husband's photograph on the wall, unaware that she is already a widow and that her husband's wedding ring, so bright with love for her on this glorious morning, embraces a dead finger."

A journalist's audience back home might not understand the complexity of their soldiers' battlefield manoeuvres, but the journalist can explain how the artillery shells—from companies where their pensions might be invested—have shattered the legs of another human's child.

Journalists, Fisk explains, are the nerve endings of their media. They must remain neutral, but on the side of those who are suffering. Not necessarily to convince the world that 'war is bad' but to break the comfort of ignorance. Fisk's journalism forces us to see conflict not as a hockey game between two equally matched sides but as a series of asymmetrical tragedies.

In Fisk's reporting, there are seldom win-

ners in war. All who take part are lesser men for it, doomed to repeat the mistakes of the equally ignorant who came before. This brings us to the second part of Fisk's goal as a war correspondent: to contextualize conflict.

Much of Fisk's reporting is accompanied by historical references, especially reports on what he calls part two of The Great War for Civilization: Afghanistan, of which Canada is a part. Whether it's British, Soviet or American military leaders standing before reporters on the Afghan terrain, claiming to stabilize and bring peace to the region, the results seem to be the same: failure.

Fisk's reporting reminds us of the insignificance of the journalist who is ignorant of history. It's easy to report facts. The difficult task is telling the reader what is truly important: what it all means.

Robert Fisk will speak at Concordia on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Hall Building's H-110 auditorium. The Link reached Fisk on the phone in Toronto last week.

On Israel and Lebanon

At the moment of writing, Kadima leader Tzipi Livni and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu are engaged in backroom dealing in Israel, attempting to form a coalition government. Israeli President Shimon Peres has yet to decide who to formally ask to try to lead.

The Link: What kind of influence will the Israeli election have on Lebanese politics?

Robert Fisk: The problem with Netanyahu is he's been in power before; he was a failure. He still believes that his failed policy—which is the hard fist—is going to bring security to Israel. It is not.

Since 1948, the Israeli policy has been: beat the Arabs; hammer them into submission. Force is the only thing they understand, and you will have peace. And there is still war and it's 2009, so it doesn't work.

You've got two sides [Hezbollah and Israel] who I think are still waiting to recommit themselves to war. The question is when and over what excuse. [But] you don't need an excuse to fight a war in the Middle East. There are a thousand excuses; you can pull them out of a hat. Because I

think both sides want a war, you see.

Why?

Hezbollah's got new weapons, there is no doubt about that. And they've built this huge system of underground concrete bunkers in the mountains above the Litany River. They're not in the U.N. zone, they're completely out, militarily.

Have you seen them?

You can see some of them, yes. I have seen them. Some of them are meant to be seen. I think they are intended to be bombed by the Israelis. I think they're 'come hither' bunkers, do you know what I mean?

I suspect [Hezbollah have] got ground-to-air missiles to hit aircraft with. I suspect the Israelis have got some new bombs to try out from the Americans. The Hezbollah try out weapons for the Iranians, and the Israelis try out weapons for the Americans. Let's not forget, the Israelis are a proxy force for Washington, and the Hezbollah are a proxy force for Tehran. Which, any way that you look at it, that's what it comes down to. So both sides want to see how their weapons are going to work. It pretty much depends on the relations between Barack Obama and the Iranians.

And how do you think those relations will be?

Barack Obama asked Iran to unclench its fist. Well, Iran would say, 'We're not clenching our fist, it's been the Americans who have been threatening us for the past umpteenth number of years.'

You can go on forever with this game. And it doesn't look at the moment that the Iranians are in any great mood, not until after their June elections, to talk to the West in a serious way, and I can see why that would be the case.

But again, I fear very much that there will be a Hezbollah/Israeli war and of course, if indeed, Hezbollah have weapons that can clear the skies of Israeli aircraft [...] and that's what I think most serious people in Lebanon are worried about. Saud Hariri, for example, the son of the assassinated former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, a few days ago I was chatting with him. He said: 'If there is another war, it will be hell.' Well, all wars are hell, but the way he said it was somewhat different. [...] And that's proba-

bly true. This could happen under the Livnis, or the [Ehud] Baraks, or the Netanyahus.

But the thing you've got to remember about Netanyahu is that he's not interested in a Palestinian state. Nor was [Ariel] Sharon.

Netanyahu talks about security, security, security. And his theory is, if you [give] the Palestinians a good amount of autonomy, they'll be happy playing around in their economic playpens, you see. But the problem is, if you look at Palestinian demonstrators, they're not carrying banners saying, 'We want more pre-natal clinics,' 'Please reopen our casino,' 'Repair our roads.' They're carrying banners saying 'We want Palestine.'

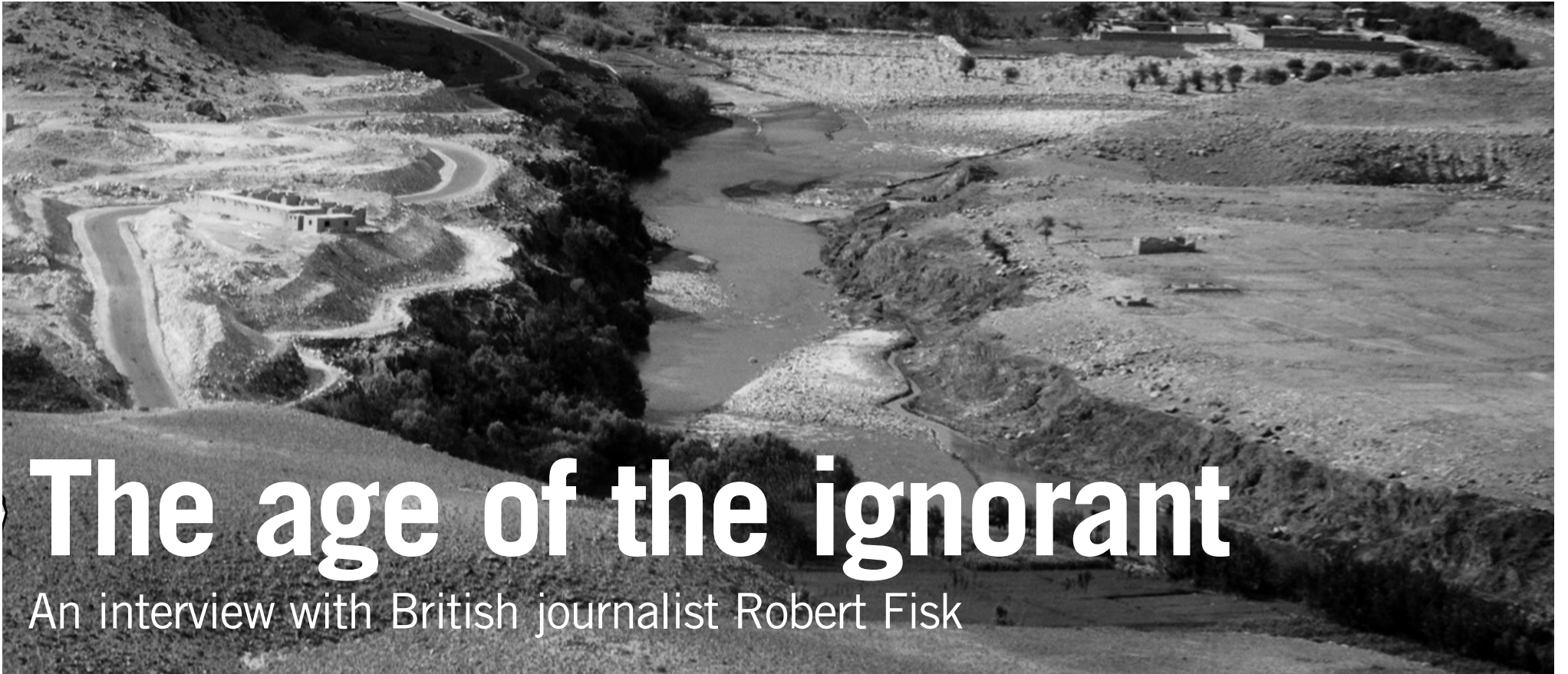
The real issue is not the relationship between Lebanon and Israel, the real issue is between Israel and the United States. And what is Obama going to do with this? It's one thing to put a trillion dollars into the U.S. economy and tell people he's doing it for their good, but what is he going to do after the Israeli election? That's the question.

On Canada and Afghanistan

I'd like to focus a little on Canada. I have yet to hear a satisfactory answer to the question of what exactly we are doing over there. So maybe you can help me.

I think the Canadians are in Afghanistan because [...] it's part of the Canada-U.S. relationship. Um, it's also probably—let's be really frank about this: Canadians have been peacekeepers since Korea. [...] Now you've got them for the first time back in battlefield conditions. I think to some extent all armies—I'm talking about the leadership—want to have soldiers who can fight as opposed to just build bridges and dispense bandages to people. And I think there is no doubt [...] to some extent, Afghanistan is a training ground. [...] I think this is a political agreement.

Let me give you the example of Washington (I know you want to talk about Canada). We like to think in the West that we believe in a society that, basically, whatever the flaws, [...] politics around Washington revolve around democracy, freedom, human rights, justice. It doesn't. It revolves around political power. And that's



The age of the ignorant

An interview with British journalist Robert Fisk

how America works.

And from that is the fact that a lot of countries deal in this political power. [Former British Prime Minister Tony] Blair didn't ally himself with the illegal American invasion of Iraq because he cared about Saddam Hussein; he never gave a damn about Saddam Hussein before. It was about his decision that Britain's own advantage [...] would be advanced by increasing the military relationship with the United States.

So you know, you've got to realize Canada doesn't sign up for a joint peace-keeping/battlefield mission because it suddenly has a split personality. It's because the Americans wanted the Canadians there—and they got them. I think they should have never been there.

I've just been to Kandahar. And the conditions in the hospitals there are appalling [...] [Parents] were bringing in kids who are dying. And I was saying, 'What's wrong with this child?' and the doctors are saying, 'It has no food, it's hungry, there is a famine.' I didn't know there was a famine around Kandahar. Why hasn't this famine been discovered before? These kids were coming in looking like children from the Ethiopian famine or Bangladesh famine.

That's where the Canadians are stationed.

(Sounding annoyed) : I know that's where the Canadians are. But you should understand something: the Canadians are miles away from Kandahar, their base is totally cut off from the city.

You're the first person to tell me that there is a famine in Kandahar.

I don't know if there is a famine per se, but there's a lot of hunger. These children haven't been fed. And when the parents [were] asked why not, they said they had no food.

Now the problem with the Canadian mission is the same as the British mission or the American mission: you cannot go out with battlefield troops saying you're coming to build bridges—either the political or the physical kind. [...] People know how to build bridges, they know how to build hospital machines. They know how to re-concrete roads. They've been doing it for years. What they need is not the security structure, but the political structure in which to do that.

And wouldn't the argument be that we can't

do any of these things before a stable security force?

And who has to impose security in Afghanistan?

I don't know.

Well, Afghans, I would have thought. Listen: the whole problem is that we've set up a structure of putting [Hamid] Karzai in charge. And Karzai put in all the old war-lords. *(Yelling)*: Well stop paying the war-lords!

I was not long ago in Kabul, and I spoke to a member of parliament, and he said, 'Well what can I do, I have powers to administer the local towns. And every time I want to do something, I'm stopped by armed men who are paid by the Americans as a security force.' What do you do? We didn't go there to help the Afghans. We went there in 2001 to close down the Taliban and make sure they didn't come back. We ended up not helping the Afghans sufficiently and still the Taliban came back.

The problem at the moment, I think, is we don't have any sense of perspective. Everything happened yesterday and nothing happened the day before yesterday.

But there are intelligent people in the Canadian and American armies who have read history books.

Look: I gave a lecture not long ago in Ottawa, in which there were members of the Canadian Forces present. And when I said that Canadians should leave Afghanistan now, they were the first people clapping. Not because they like Robert Fisk, but they agreed. The generals will always say what the government wants to say. It's always when they retire when you hear what they really think.

[Former Canadian General Rick Hillier] called [the Taliban] 'scumbags' and I sat there and thought, hang on a second, the Taliban are winning. When [British] General [Bernard] Montgomery was fighting [German Commander Erwin] Rommel in the desert in 1942, he had a field caravan where he carried his maps and his documents. On the wall of his caravan [...] he had a picture of Rommel of the Wehrmacht.

He sat there and respected Rommel and he said, 'I want to know what this guy is thinking, so I look at him every night.'

I'm not saying that you should respect

the Taliban but when you are calling your enemies scumbags, you're not going to win a war.

On journalism

You mentioned in a column recently that "journalists used to report without being frightened of damaging their impartiality" and you aren't sure if this is true anymore.

My view is that journalists should be neutral and impartial on the side of those who suffer.

Right, you've always written about the underdog, I mean—

(Cutting me off, loud and annoyed): It's not about the underdog—and I've never used the word underdog. I hate that word; it's a cliché.

When I started as a journalist [...] you report football matches, you report on public inquiries into new motorways that cut through green areas, and you give time and space in your article to each side. [...] But the Middle East is not a football match, and it's not a public inquiry into something that will benefit the community, it's a massive bloody tragedy. And it doesn't mean we take sides in the war, but we must take a moral side.

You see children dying, your sympathy and your spirit must be with them. And you have every right to say, 'How dare do you kill those women and children?'

Why must it be with them automatically?

Because you're a human being. The idea of a journalist is not to be a machine that goes in and spews out stuff where you give 50 per cent to each side. We're human beings. We're sent out there to be the nerve endings of our newspaper. [...] Our job is to tell it how it is. Not to report on a football match.

If you were reporting the slave trade in the 18th century, would you give equal time to the slave ship captain? No. You'd be talking to the slaves. If you were present at the liberation of a Nazi extermination camp, would you give equal time to the SS spokesman? No. You would not, you'd be talking to the survivors and looking at the dead.

When I was in Jerusalem in the summer of 2000, a Palestinian suicide bomber walked in to an Israeli restaurant and killed

16 people, most of them children. I didn't give equal time to the Islamic Jihad spokesperson.

Why do you think that I'm not hearing about what's really going on in Afghanistan?

Because you're not reading *The Independent*.

Why do I have to read *The Independent*? Why can't I get the info at home?

I don't think you have a press here that reflects reality in the Middle East. I think it doesn't want to reflect reality. Because it wants to have a soft, pro-American, right wing coverage. That's it.

The French language press [...] *Le Devoir* is actually much better on the Middle East.

One thing you have to understand: I don't believe there is a big conspiracy.

I think journalists fall in line generally with what think they're expected to write. We are not brave animals. We have mortgages to pay off, real estate to buy, kids who go to school; we don't want to be controversial, we don't want to upset the editor. We want to have a nice byline on page one; we're all like that a bit. I'm not making myself out to be a special person. And there are a lot of journalists who try to do what I try to do.

When you have all these journalists who are always walking backwards, putting down stop signs, rather than walking forward saying, 'Hey, I'm coming,' you're not going to read it through. It's not a question of censorship; [...] journalists want to write the way they think their papers want them to write. Full stop.

Are you tired?

I've got other things to do actually.

I'm talking about, you know, are you tired of always telling people to learn history and everything is repeating...

It's a cliché that history repeats itself. But it's equally a cliché that we don't remember that history repeats itself.

We're not reading books. Far too many people are glued to screens and Googling and the Internet. Give it up and read books. You're not going to learn about the past through screens. Sorry, but there you go. Read books. Read proper history.

What about the rest of 2009? What do you see?

I—my crystal ball is broken. Long ago.

Union sues member for \$125,000

Student says CSU’s accusations are false

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The Concordia Student Union has launched a \$125,000 defamation lawsuit against undergraduate student Patrice Blais.

Blais, who held various posts within the CSU between 1997 and 2002 and is currently practicing law, saw his recent recall petition against the current executive thrown out and has spoken against the CSU executive openly on many occasions. Blais has since taken the recall petition to Quebec Superior Court.

“With all due respect to Mr. Blais, there aren’t that many students who are actual lawyers who’ve made statements such as ‘I am here to remove the current executive,’ which he made publicly at the Feb. 11 Council meeting,” said Elie Chivi, the CSU’s VP communications.

“He’s calling this another attempt to undermine him,” Chivi continued. “And he’s accused us so many times of wasting money. But over the course of the past semester, he’s caused our legal fees to accrue continually, whether it’s calling for a recall election right before the March election, whether it’s taking the CSU to court in October [...] the list goes on.”

The statement of claim calls Blais’ allegations “baseless, untrue and malicious.”

Blais says the CSU’s accusations are false. “It’s an anti-humiliation tactic and it shows the lack of respect individuals have for dissent to their own regime,” he said.

Both parties must meet before the Court on March 16 at 9 a.m.

Recall against CSU moves on to ‘bigger things’

Blais takes recall petition to Quebec Superior Court

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

“The real case will start soon, and we are going to see how the real court will rule,” said recall campaign leader Patrice Blais, preparing to file a lawsuit against the Concordia Student Union in Quebec Superior Court.

On Feb. 6, the CSU Judicial Board ruled in a split decision to throw out Blais’ recall petition against CSU President Keyana Kashfi and her executive team, ending two months of judicial limbo. Blais will appeal this decision in court.

In a two-against-one vote, JB members Bella Ratner and Yuri Kuczer decided that the recall petition was not valid.

“They didn’t feel that the case should go on. They only gave a brief explanation, but they felt that there wasn’t enough information for students who signed the petition to

know what they were signing,” said JB chairperson Tristan Teixeira.

In his dissent, Teixeira disagreed with the two other JB members. “I have difficulty believing that students, who sign employment contracts, leases for rental units and [...] cars, have not yet understood the seriousness of putting [their] name on a document.”

“It was a necessary step, but it will not be the final one.”

—Patrice Blais, head of recall petition

The quick decision came as a surprise to Blais; the JB was set to meet and talk about the status of the case.

“This is an unacceptable judgment,” said Blais. “The JB was a step that I took against my own will. It was a necessary step, but it

will not be the final one.”

“I don’t think anything fair will come out of the current JB structure,” continued Blais.

CSU VP Communications Elie Chivi disagreed. “The JB was fair, they looked at both sides of the story and analyzed properly.”

“I am happy the JB saw through this petition and its blatant abuse of student apathy,” Chivi continued. “They did their job, now we can get back to doing ours.”

Blais said that he would file his lawsuit in Quebec Superior Court this week. “The rights of 3,600 students is worth fighting for and we can’t let such a ridiculous ruling set a precedent.”

With the CSU general election a month away, Blais expressed concern in the past that time was a critical factor. “There will be safeguard remedies requested, to ensure that the ruling will apply against the current CSU executive.”

Chocolate: for kids by kids

The human trafficking behind the cocoa bean

• STEPHANIE LALEGGIA

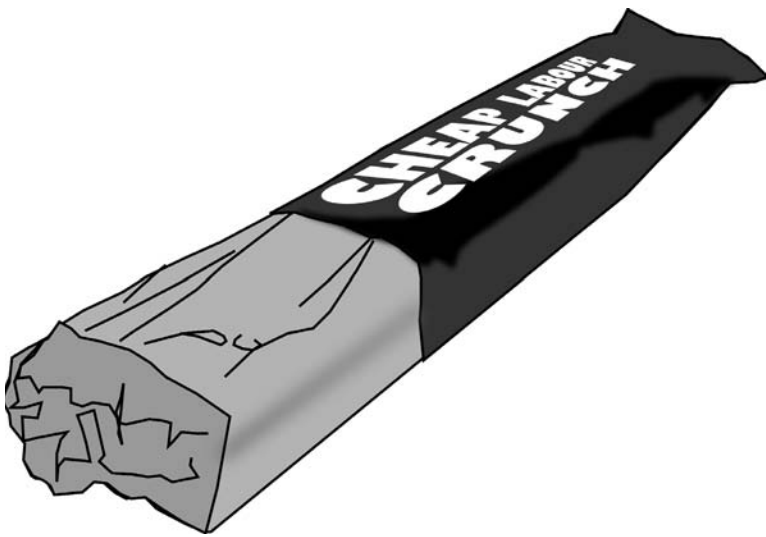
The reality behind the cocoa industry is not so sweet, according to CBC journalist Carol Off.

Off, a host for CBC Radio One, held a seminar at Dawson College Feb. 13 based on her book *Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World's Most Seductive Sweet*, an account of the human trafficking behind the world's cocoa bean industry.

Not only are we consuming blood chocolate without questioning its source, but we are also unaware that most of the profit made from the cocoa farming industry goes into illegal activity such as arms trades, Off said.

Canadian journalist Guy-André Kieffer, who Off calls “The Man Who Knew Too Much,” was kidnapped and killed because of his search for the truth and the knowledge of the cocoa bean industry he had already obtained.

“That’s what they do to people who ask questions,” said Off, recounting an interview she’d



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

conducted with a cocoa trader. “Imagine [what they do to] those who answer them.”

As recently as 2006, Nestlé was sued for the trafficking and forced labour of children in the Ivory Coast, where nearly half of the world's supply of cocoa is harvested. Most of the children worked double shifts

without pay.

Trafficked children are mostly kidnapped or deceived by recruiters into thinking they would be taken care of and given a working salary. Most of the boys come from Mali, where they left in search of job opportunities in the more developed region of Ivory Coast.

The Ivory Coast is the richest cocoa producing area in the world. Boys of the average age of 13, and sometimes as young as eight, are often forced into harsh working conditions on cocoa bean farms. “Every single boy has cuts,” said Off, recounting her own experiences in West Africa. “You never want to see a child that lost hope.”

Off encouraged her audience to take advantage of their citizen power in order to convince the government that precautions need to be taken to avoid human trafficking in the production of any product.

“If they can get the kids, they’ll use them,” she said.

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cover replicated by Ginger Coons

A little bit louder and a little bit worse

Student leaders' emails intercepted, some strategies compromising

• TERRINE FRIDAY

In the latest scandal shaking the Concordia Student Union, a series of incriminating emails were leaked from an unknown source on Feb. 11, absorbing much of the debate at that evening's Council meeting.

The emails detailed both legal and illegal political strategies to win big numbers in the upcoming campus elections. What's most concerning to the CSU executive is that former CSU presidents Mohammed Shuriye and Patrice Blais were part of the scheme.

Blais not only hired Marie Lyonnais—whom the CSU has recently sued for allegedly mishan-

dling student money—but is also head of the recall petition to oust the current executive.

Shuriye was president of the CSU during the time the near \$500,000 deficit started, which is when Lyonnais allegedly mismanaged the funds.

The four councillors working with Shuriye and Blais—including Amine Dabchy, Louise Birdsell-Bauer, Prince Ralph Osei and Alejandro Lobo-Guerrero—contend they're not puppets but are simply seeking advice from past executives with more experience.

“I think people can take advice and be independent,” said Birdsell-Bauer. “On many occasions, I’ve

been vocal about how I differ from [Blais].”

Osei said the timing of the leak was convenient; they were released less than 24 hours after the CSU's former health care administrator went public about an attempted extortion.

“This whole [Canadian Federation of Students] thing needs to be looked at. Students are paying money towards them and we don't know what it's going towards,” Osei said. “We're asking simple questions. Provide the answers for us. You don't need to spend evenings hacking into someone's email.”

Though some of the emails may

have been altered, Fine Arts student Kristen Gregor admitted to writing an email where she claimed, “I have a printout of the FASA email addresses, which is everyone enrolled in fine arts for the 08/09 [sic] year [...]”—which is illegal.

“Everyone who has implicated [the current executive] this year has been implicated to a much higher degree,” said Elie Chivi, the CSU's VP communications. “We're leaving office with our hands clean as opposed to other executives in the past.”

According to proposed motions to be brought to Council—which were admittedly drafted with help

from Shuriye and Blais—councillors proposed a legal budget cut from \$70,000 to \$50,000.

Blais, who admitted to working with the councillors and faculty association executives, currently has two pending lawsuits with the CSU.

Motions regarding fee levies for the People's Potato Collective, CUTV and the Co-op Bookstore were postponed to a subsequent special Council meeting.

Other names implicated in the email scandal include Leah Del Vecchio, an ASFA councillor and the CSU's former VP student life, and Hillel Concordia President Sam Moyal.

Something academic

The changing faces of immigrants

• REBECCA SULTANA

Dr. Rebecca Sultana specializes in Postcolonial and Diaspora literature. Her PhD dissertation, from Texas Christian University, was on contemporary American immigrant writers.

Having lived in five different countries in three different continents, Sultana used to see herself as a virtual nomad. Now settled in Montreal, she counts herself as a hyphenated Canadian with home ties to Bangladesh. Her own experience of dislocations and relocations has significantly influenced her area of studies.

Sultana's other areas of interest are in the literature of South Asia, particularly of women writers, and in Cultural Studies.

Sultana has taught at universities in the United States, Bangladesh and Canada, including at Concordia University. She currently teaches at Champlain College in St-Lambert.

Reading Montreal writer Rawi Hage's *Cockroach* led me through stages of emotions. After getting over the initial uncomfortableness, I took a retrospective of what my idea of immigrant writing has been so far.

Clearly, Hage's novel is not an easy book to read. I have been reading immigrant writing, or Diaspora writing if I have to give it a more theoretical slant, since the early nineties. Let me qualify my reading by clarifying that it mostly consisted of the new writings penned by newer immigrants mainly from Asia, the Caribbean and Africa.

I discerned a pattern in the earlier novels that I read, finding a significant amount of nostalgia about what has been left behind. Such an emotion was not uncommon for those who left their homelands in search of education or jobs as skilled professionals. The uprooting in most cases has been voluntary and home still was where the heart was. Nostalgia, thus, led to conceiving of an idealized past, a yearning for uncomplicated

times. A significant leitmotif of this period of writing is the eventual return home—even if it may largely remain a symbolic return.

Of course, nostalgia has its limitations, as many have viewed nostalgia as “inherently conservative, if not reactionary and escapist,” as Gans says, a “simplification” if not “falsification of the past.” But clearly these early writers were only voicing their pain of isolation. It was not yet a time when large ethnic communities provided surrogate home spaces. Author Meena Alexander, multiply dislocated—from India to Sudan to England to the U.S.—filled pages with such anguished notes.

Thus began a certain branch of writing: the old versus the new. Meanwhile, the world moved on. Often towards chaos.

Like a rebellious voice among all this, came Bharati Mukherjee's vehement claim of *Veni, Vidi, Vici*, a blatant victory cry, where she claimed joyous rebirth in a new land and deprecated whatever was left behind as old world, superannuated and disposable.

Naturally, there were infuriated protests. Not many immigrants come equipped with the privileges of an English education and add to it some more degrees from American universities to ease their transition into a new land. The old-world rules and traditions that many would crave as stabilizing forces, Mukherjee's heroines—her title character in *Jasmine*, for example—found suffocating.

Thus began a certain branch of writing: the old versus the new. Meanwhile, the world moved on. Often towards chaos.

Then there are others who come, out of this chaos, already weighed down by heavy baggage. These are the permanently scarred, the beaten down and the ones shocked into silence. They have a difficult road ahead wherever they land. This is the world that

Rawi Hage lets us into. His is no nostalgic yearning for the exotic homeland. Home is, nonetheless, present in all its murky detail. Returning, however, is no longer an option.

But this is every bit a reality as these people are a reality in Canada. Immigrants—be they refugees, asylum seekers or skilled professionals—each have a story that can fit trilogies. And it is unfair to suggest one-size-fits-all acceptance claims for everyone. Many come from locations where fetching drinking water can get one killed. Some come from places where bullets fall like rain. The Sri Lankan poet Jean Arasanayagam whisked her two daughters away to Canada after having stared death in the face in refugee camps. During war, nothing makes sense. As Michael Ondaatje wrote: “The reason for war was war.”

Nostalgia to these people is not a desirable option. These are the most vulnerable, needing all the attention that Canada's mental health care can provide. Hage's unnamed protagonist is one, being forced to attend psychiatric treatment after a failed suicide attempt. However, he snickers behind his psychiatrist, as he is routinely required to regurgitate his past at each session: “I knew she was hooked, intrigued. Simple woman, I thought. Gentle, educated, but naïve, she is sheltered by glaciers and prairies, thick forests, oceans and dancing seals.” Only the readers know what went on in the Lebanon of the 1980s.

Hage's is no whining cry for sympathy, nor a nostalgic yearning for something that is left behind. This is a war-hardened individual who believes himself metamorphosing into a cockroach, the hardiest of all creatures. His thoughts echo similar thoughts of other shell-shocked individuals attempting to build a new life from scratch: “The wind off the water was colder on the bank of the river, I gave it my back and looked at the old city, with all the churches, the old houses, paving the way for high-rises. I wondered how I had ended up here. How absurd. How absurd.

The question is, where to end? All those who leave immigrate to better their lives, but I wanted to better my death. Maybe it is the ending that matters, not the life, I thought. Maybe we, like elephants, walk far towards our chosen burials.”

Through him we get to see an array of characters: cab driver Majeed, once a poet and a journalist in Iran; the professor, a pro-Marxist academic forced into welfare; and the beautiful Shohreh, traumatized to find her rapist as a fellow immigrant.

These are a far cry from Alexander's home-sick individuals.

As Anh Hua wrote: “It is important to challenge and rethink earlier versions of diasporic narratives with their fixed notion of home, identity, and exile, where the homeland is perceived nostalgically as an ‘authentic’ space of belonging, and the place of settlement as somehow ‘inauthentic’ and undesirable.”

One thing definitely needs to change: the place of settlement as being undesirable. While, I am certain, no one takes the ponderous steps of relocation with the concept of the new place as undesirable, often such is the picture that paints by itself.

Last year, CTV ran a news piece about the increased rate of heart disease among immigrants, ironically among those very people who come seeking a better life in Canada.

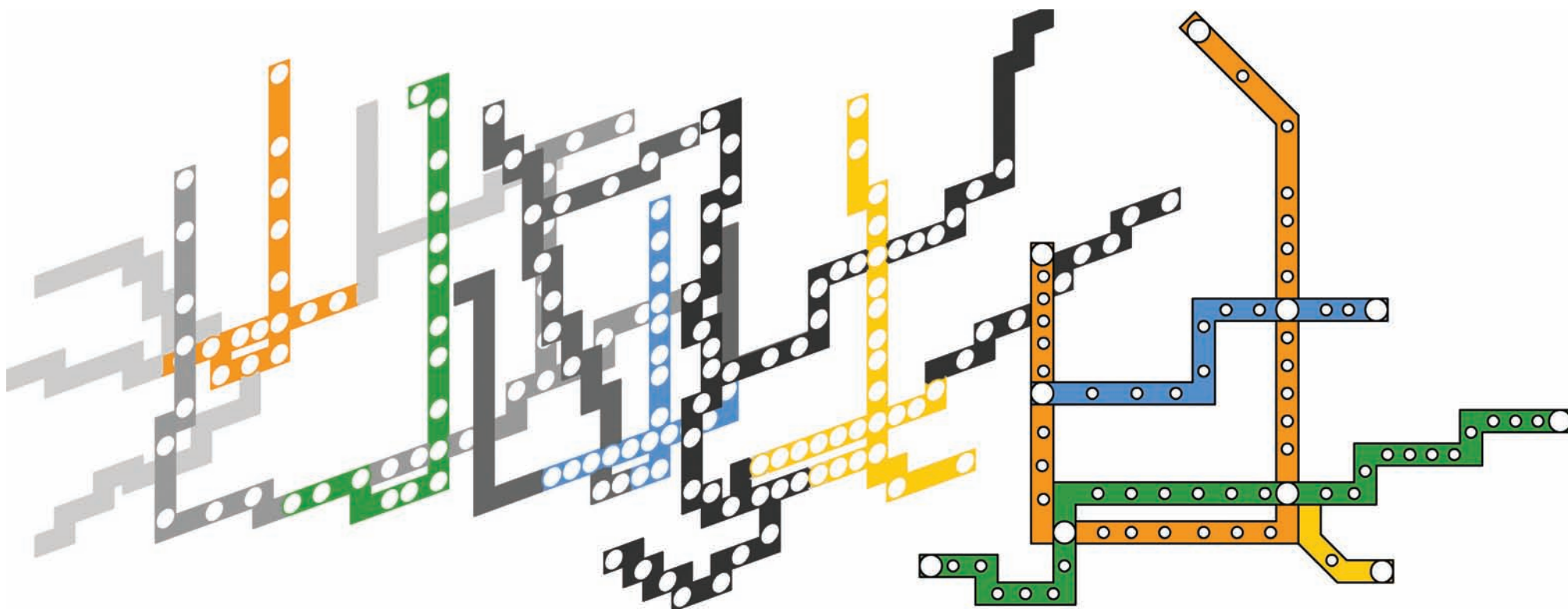
The reason?

Mostly stress.

The causes?

The list goes on: “Challenges of coming to a new country, establishing a financial base, getting a job, getting shelter [...] doing those things to get settled and maybe putting health on the back burner,” according to Dr. Scott Lear, one of the researchers. Hage's Majeed is at risk. So is the Iranian neurosurgeon driving a cab in Toronto. So, too, is the Chinese astrophysicist washing dishes, as are the many immigrant doctors selling burgers. As they get accustomed to their new lives, their past ones are irrevocably lost.

Transit(ions)



From left to right this graphic shows the various plans for our dear metro starting with the first plan presented in 1910 and ending with system we actually have. GRAPHIC KETAN PATEL

How, where and why the metro grew the way it did

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

"Montreal is a big metropolis and the tremendous expansion of our city creates problems. Mass transportation being one of these daily problems," stated Mayor Jean Drapeau, at the groundbreaking ceremony for Montreal's underground transit system.

Almost 50 years in the making, the metro system that came about in 1966 changed the way Montrealers got around in their day-to-day lives, and its growth has continued to shape the city's landscape.

Having expanded with every passing decade of its existence—aside from the 1990s due to the moratorium, which the Quebec government had put on proposals to expand the transit system—recent statistics now estimate that in one year the Montreal transit corporation's clientele took over 433 million trips. Many of these utilized the underground network of highly stylized stations that crisscross the core of the island—which we affectionately call the metro.

People travel these tunnels daily without really questioning their creation; they have no idea how the metro system came about or what could have been.

The Metros that never were

The first proposal for a subway occurred in 1910. The Montreal Subway Company drew up plans that called for a single line running underneath de Bleury Street and Parc Ave., and from Craig Street—now St-Antoine Street—all the way to Mont-Royal Ave. Railway companies placed significant pressure on Montreal's public officials, seeing a subway system as an active threat to their livelihood, and put an end to these plans.

The next mention of a subway came up in

the mid 1940s. The Montreal Tramway Company first proposed a network that had an initial two-line, 15-station launch, running east-west along Ste-Catherine Street and north-south along St-Denis Blvd. The north-south line was to continue down, then westward beneath St-Jacques Street, looping up to meet again with the east-west line at Guy Street.

Proposed extensions included a network running to Verdun in the southwest, Sherbrooke Street O. and Girouard Ave. to the west, and Queen-Mary Rd. and Décarie Blvd. in the northwest. To the east, an eastern extension to the corner of Ontario & Viau Streets was proposed, as well as an offshoot of that line which would have travelled up north to de Lorimier Ave. and Rosemont Blvd.—these plans were tabled as more immediate war-related concerns were dealt with.

[Line 6 was] a proposed east-west metro line that would've run above ground on the northern shore of the island.

In 1951, the Commission de transport de Montréal was created in order to properly take care of the public transportation situation in Montreal. Two years later it delivered a report to the City of Montreal that detailed a similar network to that proposed in the '40s.

The 16-station, single-line network would start on Atwater Ave. travelling eastward along Ste-Catherine Street for three stations before dipping down to St-Jacques Street for three more stations, then veering northwards beneath St-Denis Street up to Cremazie Blvd.

Extensions from the western end included a nine-station route that went west along Sherbrooke Street before travelling north along Decarie Blvd., an extension that added two stations to connect the Ste-Catherine Street route, and then an eastern extension towards Ontario and Viau Streets, with a line snaking out on D'Iberville Street that headed north and to the east to Jean-Talon and Pie-IX Blvd. This plan was abandoned due to a lack of funds.

The Quiet Revolution that started at the end of the 1950s continued to spread all over Quebec—particularly in Quebec's biggest metropolitan centre, Montreal. Talk of a new metro network heated up the 1960 Montreal mayoral election. Mayor Jean Drapeau used it as a platform point and managed to convince the citizens of Montreal to vote for him again, securing a second term.

The original network suggested by the CTM in 1961 showed a two-tiered metro system that provided both under- and above-ground service. The under-ground service retained the same geographical locations of the earlier plans and similar extensions, only this time an above-ground network ran north-south right through Mount Royal to Cartierville, with an eastern extension to Sault Street in the east.

The Montreal Metro system

LINE 1 – Green

Began operation: October 1966

The original metro line was depicted as a straight line on the inaugural metro map from Atwater Ave. to Frontenac Street, utilizing Berri-de-Montigny—now Berri-

continued on page 11

433

the approximate number of trips the Montreal transit corporation's clientele took last year in millions.

1910

the year the first subway was proposed.

26

the number of metros that opened initially.

14

the number of years the city obeyed the moratorium against expansion of the metro.

1966

the year the first metros started running in Montreal.

continued from page 9

UQAM—to switch over to the Orange line (2) and the Yellow line (4). It then extended eastward to Frontenac in '67 and then towards Honore-Beaugrand, officially opening the stations from Préfontaine to Honore-Beaugrand in 1976. Finally, it extended eastwards with the stations from Lionel-Groulx to Angrignon opening in 1978.

LINE 2 – Orange

Began operation: October 1966

This was the first-planned metro line, as well as the longest running from Henri-Bourassa to Bonaventure. Originally, the portion from Berri-de-Montigny to Bonaventure was supposed to go to Longueuil instead, creating a solid north-south line, but this was scrapped as concerns over reaching downtown were voiced. The line continued westwards from Lucien-L'allier to Lionel-Groulx (making the station the second transfer station, after Berri) in 1978. Then the rest of the stations that continued west- and northward were opened from 1980 to Cote Vertu's opening in 1986.

There is an unused station in Hampstead that would connect to Snowdown [...] The station was built, complete with tracks that would connect it to the already in-service station.

In 2002, construction began on a three-stop extension including Cartier, de la Concorde and Montmorency, heading north from Henri-Bourassa. The stations were opened in April 28th, 2007, finally linking the metro to Laval.

In July 2007, Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt voiced his desire to loop the Orange line from Montmorency to Cote Vertu, with the addition of six or seven new stations—half in Laval and half in Montreal. Talks are ongoing between the two cities.

Line 3 – Red

Began operation: Never

Originally conceived as a partially above-ground network of 15 stations that would've ended in Cartierville, it was cancelled due to the above-ground nature of the line, which would have to have winterized trains and use steel instead of rubber for the trains' wheels. Because of those and other logistical and bureaucratic factors, including Canadian National Railway's refusal to allow the metro access to its tracks running beneath Mount Royal, the red line would never come to be. The other large contributing factor was the opening of the 1967 World's Fair—Expo 67—which made the Yellow line that reached to Ile-Sainte-Helene the main focus. The tunnel and tracks are now used by the AMT for their Montreal-Deux-Montagnes commuter train line instead.

LINE 4 – Yellow

Began operation: April 1967

A late arrival to the initial metro plans, the Yellow line was added on years after construction had begun on the Orange and Green lines when Montreal was chosen to host the 1967 World's Fair. The line opened in late April to

coincide with the beginning of the summer-long Expo 67.

There are three stations on the line—Berri-UQAM is the northern terminus, with Ile-Sainte-Helene—now Jean-Drapeau—and Longueuil—now Longueuil-Université-de-Sherbrooke—being the southern terminus. The Yellow line was the first line to leave the island of Montreal and to travel underwater.

LINE 5 – Blue

Began operation: 1986

The last of the four existing stations was

created in the early 1980s to service the eastern portion of the island as well as service the Université de Montreal. Originally conceived to run far into Montreal North, with a terminus on Amos Street along Jean-Talon Blvd., with plans proposed to reach west into Montreal West on Sherbrooke Street, beyond the current western terminus of Snowdon and as far east as Ville-d'Anjou. The original metro line was composed of De Castelnau on the west and St-Michel station on the east in '86, then Parc was added to the line in 1987, and finally the line was extended westward to Snowdon in 1988.

A CTV News investigation in 2007 revealed the fact that there is an unused station in Hampstead that would connect to Snowdon, continuing the Blue line westward. The station was built, complete with tracks that would connect it to the already in-service station, but due to political reasons no aboveground entrance has been created.

LINE 6 – Colourless

Began operation: Never

A proposed east-west metro line that would've run above ground on the northern shore of the island. Unlike line 7, line 6 never got very far in the planning stage and was quickly dropped.

LINE 7 – White

Began operation: Never

First conceived in the early 1980s as a north-south line that would run below Pie-IX Blvd., this line was meant to bring service to the boroughs of St-Leonard and Montreal-North. The white line would have had 10 stations from Pie-IX on the Green line to a never-created Léger station to the north. The plan was scrapped and reintroduced in 1984 as a 12-station line travelling from Pie-IX to Langelier. It appeared on official STM literature and metro network plans from 1983 to the early '90s uncoloured, leading to its unofficial "white" name.

It was dropped when the Quebec government placed a moratorium on all expansions, citing budgetary concerns in the late 1980s.

—with files from Sebastien Cadieux

15

the number of metro stops proposed by the Montreal Tramway Company.

1951

the year the Commission de transport de Montréal was created.

41

the number of years between the first metro opening and the last metro opening.

12

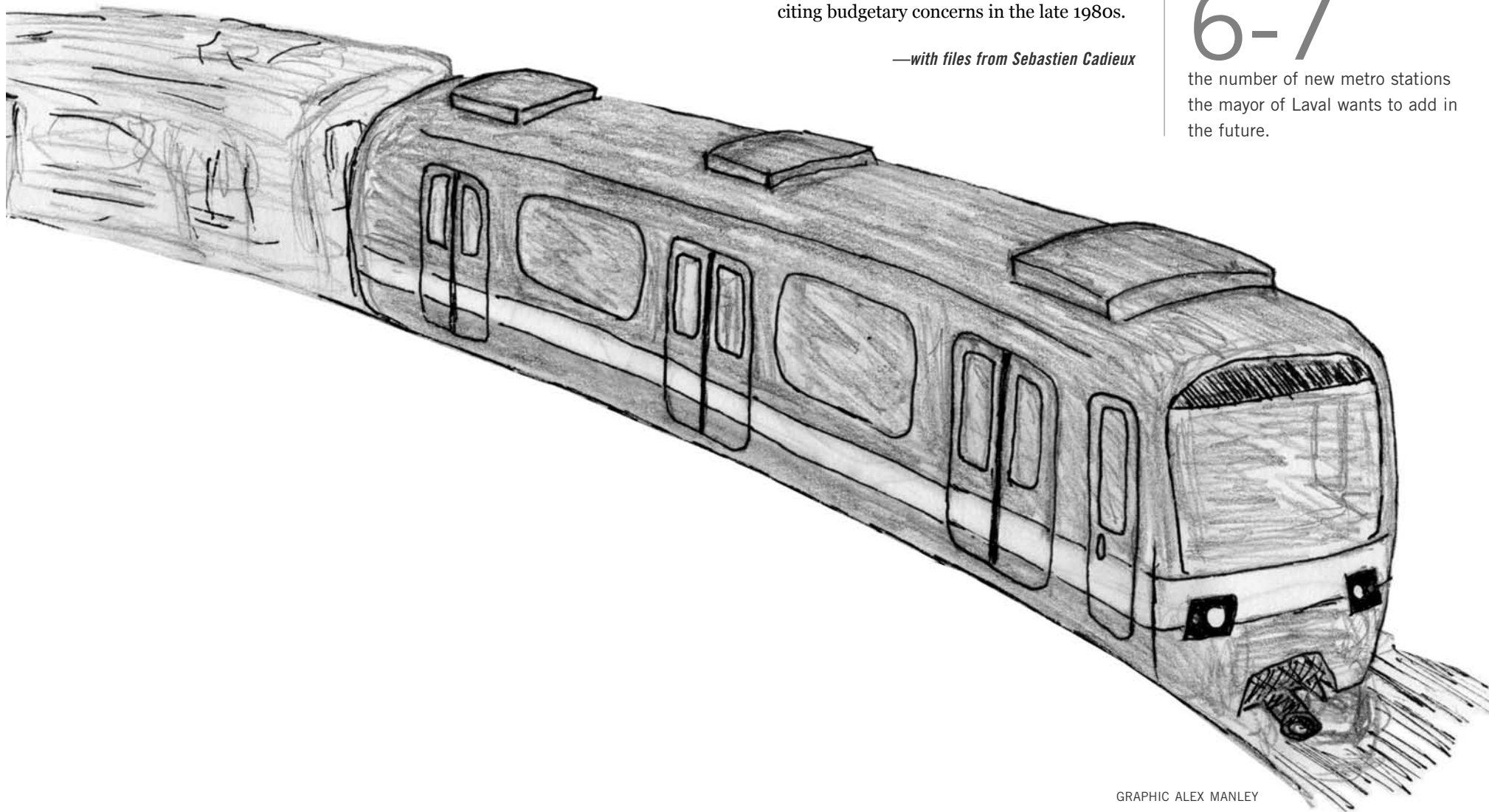
the planned number of stations for the White line.

1988

the year the Blue line finished construction.

6-7

the number of new metro stations the mayor of Laval wants to add in the future.





Bollywood love

Two women face the choice of arranged marriage in Toronto

• JULIE CATHERINE SULYMKO

Latika* had drinks with the colleague who lingered around her desk at work. She cozied up with the charmer who gazed at her at the gym. She even spent a few sleepless nights with an acquaintance from the King Street West hub in.

The colleague was incredible, the charmer was remarkable and the acquaintance was nothing short of memorable. But one by one, Latika was forced to leave them by the wayside. Having little knowledge of Hinduism—or even the ability to distinguish naan from samosas—these Canucks would fail to fulfill the Bombay dream she had seen realized so often in the movies of finding a man who will satisfy both her parents' expectations and her own wish for love.

With little hope of finding Bollywood love, Latika caved. She would follow her parents' wishes and trust them—wholeheartedly. Within months, they will find her a suitor.

On a Monday, she will meet him.

The next Saturday, they will marry.

Arranged marriages are an everyday practice in many South Asian countries and, with immigration on the rise in Canada, it has weaved itself into our cultural fabric. From St. John's to Vancouver, many Canadians deem arranged marriages a tribal tradition happening only in a land far, far away—and perhaps, only long, long ago. But for many Indian, Sri Lankan and Pakistani immigrants, arranged marriages continue to embody the ultimate act of love. A love, many now embrace in our home and native land.

Arranged marriages go above and beyond Western ways of joining two people in matrimony. Rather than bringing a cou-

ple together for better or for worse 'til death do them part, arranged marriages bond families. With their futures at stake, families forgo the Canadian dating "dos and don'ts." Instead, they jump right in to the matching process by putting the word on the street and their child on the Hindu wedding circuit.

"My dowry is real. It's worth 450K—a lump of guilt. My mother made the ultimate sacrifice. My father gave up his life's savings. I have no choice. I can't back down now."

—Latika,
Toronto resident who has agreed to an arranged marriage.

That market has found its niche in temples across Toronto—Scarborough being a notable hot spot for Hindu love. Between prayers and chanting, marriage propositions are popping up everywhere.

For 24-year-old Latika, her mom has a distant cousin whose son is a surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dad's sister knows "a gem" who recently completed his PhD in Information Technology at the University of Toronto.

As for her aunts, all the dearest aunti-jis, the possibilities seem endless. Attend one of their gabbing sessions and before you know it, you are convinced that they have the Greater Toronto Area's top Hindu doctors, lawyers and engineers on speed dial.

Latika's parents have also taken a technoturn and put their faith into the World Wide Web. Sites such as punjabim matrimony.com or indianmatrimony.com list thousands upon thousands of profiles of potential suitors. Who you find on these sites may defy our expectations: the girl who sat beside you

in Psych 101 at York University, the guy who offered you his seat during the commute to work this morning, or even the girl who gave you her number last night in Leslieville.

With a disconnected diaspora, the Internet allows families to meet online and saves them from the all too common "meet and greet" trip to Brampton's "Little

that you hear all the time," said Latika, shrugging.

And reputation goes a long way. Any cracks in your image—or your family's—and your Bombay dream can go up in smoke.

For Latika, it almost slipped through her fingers.

Last year, her father cheated on her mother—creating a child out of wedlock with a woman half his age. Despite the agonizing betrayal, Latika's mother discarded any possibilities of divorce.

"A rupture would not be an option for us, for our reputation. Plus, my mother always tells me that our culture would not accept just her and me looking for my future husband. This is a family affair," Latika explains.

A girl from a broken home does not have a bad reputation. She has no reputation at all—"she is unworthy."

Latika's father also understood the weight of his actions and their consequences on his daughter's imminent future. To solidify their prominence in the Hindu community, he materialized Latika's dowry. He purchased her a house.

Dowries stem from an ancient system that once ensured the bride's financial security should she be widowed. David Reed, a theologian at U of T, explained that the system is gradually eroding.

"In immigrant communities in Canada, we have a national social service net that replaces the function of the traditional dowry," he said, adding that, "the present generation is gaining a level of education unknown in previous generations, which will provide more employment and financial independence for women than ever before."

But old habits die hard. With his heart in his homeland and his values rooted in the East, Latika's father saw no other alterna-

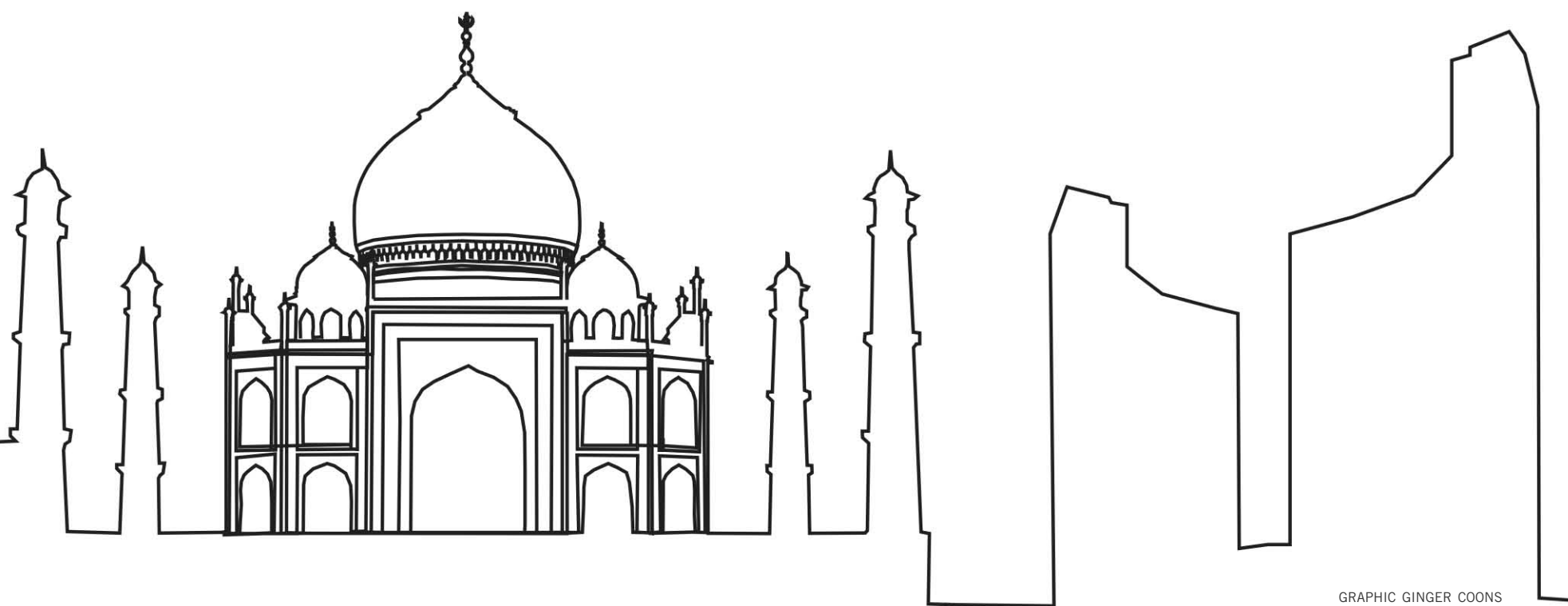
India"—or in Latika's case, to Halifax.

"My mom had found me a match in the Maritimes but my dad didn't like the idea of me moving to Nova Scotia—it really didn't fly with him. Besides, I want to stay in Toronto. I'm just so used to this city," said Latika.

But she's not losing sleep over having to move away from what she lovingly calls "Scarberia"—Scarborough's east end. Her profile clearly states that she is "not interested in relocation"—after all, her own mother wrote the entire thing. That could also explain why it is indicated that she "never drinks" although Latika insists she "would give up water for wine, any day."

Latika isn't willing to disobey her mother. Daughters are the pride and honour of Hindu families and Latika would not dare tarnish their name for another glass of Merlot.

"Your family and community always hope that you will be a good girl so that you don't ruin your reputation—that's the talk



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

tive: his daughter would have a dowry.

“My dowry is real. It’s worth 450K—a lump of guilt,” said Latika. “My mother made the ultimate sacrifice. My father gave up his life’s savings. I have no choice. I can’t back down now.”

In a city as vast and diverse as Toronto, Latika does not stand alone in her struggle. But many second generation South Asian immigrants have bid farewell to their “tired traditions” and have been swept away by Hollywood love. And in this story, a girl named Neela* is your leading lady.

Neela grew up in the same city as Latika, but worlds away. Raised in the heart of Yonge & Eglinton, Neela’s “Indian experience” was muddled in a world of Lululemon soccer moms and CrackBerry dads. Here, the prominence of Scarborough’s temples is rivaled by a myriad of Starbucks—indispensable for any “Yonge and Egger.”

For Neela, an arranged marriage is not part of the agenda. She prefers the coffee shop pick-up to the parental hook-up.

“It’s a little foreign to me. You are walking into the unknown. All of a sudden, you are connected to someone under oath—for the rest of your life,” she said.

“It comes back to family: how strongly you are tied to your family and how strongly your family is tied to their roots. For a lot of people whose family are very rooted in their culture but have grown up here, I think they feel that they sometimes have to overcompensate for being here and not living in India. To do everything to be closer to their culture, they may do something that we see as extreme, like take part in an arranged marriage.”

When it comes to Neela, finding love is perhaps a bit of a rollercoaster, but at least it’s a guilt-free ride. For the 23-year-old, putting up with the trials and tribulations of the dating circuit is much more enticing than

facing the unknown.

“In any case, my mom is not willing to put me through an arranged marriage, let alone try to find someone for me. In fact, she has told me to run in the opposite direction,” Neela said.

Neela’s mother, Zahra*, would know. Growing up in New Delhi, Zahra always knew that she was going to have an arranged marriage. By the time she was 20, she had completed her undergraduate studies and even obtained her masters in nutrition. Education allowed her to thwart her parents’ ambitions to marry her off. But when she wanted to present her candidacy for a PhD, the message was clear: school can wait, marriage cannot.

“When I met him, his parents already had a ring with them—that was that. We were engaged in about 15 minutes.”

—Zahara,
Neela’s mother,
asked for a divorce from her arranged marriage

Zahra took the bull by the horns and arranged her own marriage. Her best friend was about to leave the country and start a new life. Soon, she would leave Zahra and India for Canada.

“I was always telling her how much I would miss her and she would answer, ‘Why don’t you come to Canada with me? Why don’t you marry my brother who lives there?’ Then I thought to myself: why not?” Zahra reminisced.

Before Zahra knew it, the parents of both families had met and, with their approval, she was permitted to meet her suitor, Akroor*. “When I met him, his parents already had a ring with them—that was that. We were

engaged in about 15 minutes,” she said.

The engagement did not faze her. Neither did the marriage. The honeymoon however, did.

“My entire life, my parents were putting all these ideas into my head: do not kiss boys, do not even meet with boys! The night of my wedding, I had no choice: good wives have sex with their husbands. I would not call it rape but only because I wanted to be a good wife. It is a very strange situation to put a girl in,” Zahra explained.

After the honeymoon, Zahra did not return to her family. “Daughters are somebody else’s property,” she said. “After my marriage, I belonged to my husband’s family. In India, families truly give their daughters away.”

Like all Indian women do, she left her family—without any objections. “I took a little suitcase with a night dress and three saris and left for Canada. I didn’t want a dowry. My parents are giving me to this person—‘that’s enough,’ I thought—he should be happy.”

But Zahra was not. Ten years into the marriage, she did the unthinkable. She demanded a divorce.

The two left Canada for India to announce their divorce to their families—a rare occurrence, even in modern-day India. Upon arrival, the plans changed. Zahra was duped. Akroor accused her of committing adultery.

Her family turned a blind eye, the community stayed silent. Zahra was shunned, allowing the families to avoid humiliation. The devastation however, was inescapable. “I didn’t speak to my family for many years, but that’s OK,” Zahra said in a weak whisper.

Today, 13 years later, Zahra is remarried, in what she calls “a love marriage,” with three children. Her Western ways shocked her family, particularly her father. But as she put it, “love conquers all” and with time, her differences with her family were reconciled. Akroor however, remains a distant memory—“a ghost from the past.”

After the age of five, Neela never saw her father again. But like her mother, she said, “that’s OK.”

Looking back at her parents’ divorce, Neela explained, “It was a life lesson that my mom went through and that I learned from. It is not one of those things where you learn from your parents’ mistake because frankly, it was not that—it was not a mistake. It was an event, that’s all. An event that just happened, far away and years ago, but I learned from it. And it affects me: here and now.”

Latika however, cannot afford to learn from the past—she can only respect it. In a few months, her marriage will be fixed. On her wedding day, she will fake a smile and at night, her virginity.

But after that, she will respect the ways of the East and learn to love her husband. “I will have honoured my family when I learn to love my husband. To me, that is happiness—the rest will follow.”

Perhaps Bollywood love in Hogtown will be possible after all.

*names have been changed.

Spark: Zoology 431 in '68 set off a racial powder keg

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Amid the uproar created by the riot, arrests and the fire that tore through downtown Sir George Williams University, Perry Anderson became the forgotten man of the Computer Riots.

Ten months before the Computer Riots, in late April 1968, associate professor Anderson found himself embroiled in controversy when six black Caribbean students filed a complaint charging him with racism. At the time, Anderson was a young lecturer at Sir George, on track to completing his PhD.

The six black students who filed the complaint against Anderson had been handpicked from among the Caribbean's elite. They were driven, smart and intent on keeping their options open.

The course Anderson was teaching during the 1967-68 academic year, Zoology 431, was a prerequisite for the medical school some of them were interested in applying to.

"When the term started, you could feel that something was wrong," Rodney John, a Caribbean student in Anderson's class, told *The Link* in 2004. "Anderson would address the white students by their first names, and he would address all of the black students as 'Mister.' On the surface he was treating the black students with respect. He wasn't calling you 'boy,' he was addressing you as 'Mr. John.' But it was differentiation."

Among the 48 students in Anderson's Zoology class, 13 were black, of which none received a grade higher than C.

The original complaint (see below) that the black students delivered to Principal D.B. Clarke in December of 1968 provided the portrait of a man who was as clumsy and disorganized as he was racist.

Although the Computer Riot is often seen as a reaction against racism, the complaint only mentions racial prejudice once; the worst criticism is reserved for Anderson's professionalism and lack of

academic competence.

It was on these terms that the crisis began, later then spiralling out of control, eventually leading to the largest student riot in Canadian history on Feb. 11, 1969.

Anderson was visibly absent from developments as pre-riot tension grew between the university's administration and black students. Described as shy and harmless by the Dean of Science, Anderson was none-the-less at the centre of the storm.

In the few interviews that he delivered to the press over the years, Anderson never admitted to racism. He did concede that he was distracted by work on his PhD and the birth of his first child, both of which happened during the 10 months that tensions mounted.

In an interview in 1969, Anderson took issue with one of the black students' claims: absenteeism. He provided documents that proved that he had missed only six of his 77 lectures.

As events spiralled increasingly out of control, a plain-clothes detective, who also sat in during lectures, escorted Anderson to class.

In the aftermath of the Computer Riots, the university commissioned a double-blind examination of Anderson's grading over the previous year. Conducted by professors at the Universities of Calgary, York and McGill, the scrutiny of Anderson's grading of mid-term results, lab reports and final-exam results revealed no discriminatory marking. Weak English was cited as the reason for weak grades.

The commissioned report finished by stating that Anderson, "tends to give higher marks than do some of his professional colleagues."

Sir George Williams University took no corrective action against Anderson, who remained a teacher in the Hall building until his retirement in 1998.

Sir George and Concordia have refused to make any apology in connection to the Computer Riots.

work out buffer concentration problem. On examination, question was asked to define buffer, but the answer expected is presumably much more than a simple definition and yet no indication of precisely what that might be. Class morale suffered.

6. Examination is poorly constructed. Questions about complex concepts are expected to be answered in 35 words or less. Mid-term has questions for 55 marks on "Organell," not legitimate in course in animal physiology.

7. The Mid-term was written on December 18, marks released to class on March 19. The second quarterly was written before marks for mid-term released.

8. Textbook is too short and too simple. Does not satisfy examination answering. None of the books recommended were very appropriate. No book was assigned for the second term. The first semester was on the cell membrane. Nervous system, etc., suffered.

9. Absenteeism—Slept in, alarm clock, no cancellation. 15 lectures cancelled. 6 movies. Out of time, out of context with lecture development. Student contact very bad. No appointments, breaks appointments.

10. The second quarterly (February) exam was "fixed" in a prejudicial way. Students asked to see master sheet and was evaded.

11. On first name basis with white Canadians, on Mr. basis with Negroes. See Bill Greenfield re. its whom you know and whom you blow.

'Case of negro students'

The following is the original complaint filed by six students against biology assistant professor Perry Anderson:

Prejudice

1. No Negro students get above a "C" despite their obtaining higher grades in quarterly and mid-term.

2. Failure rate, D, lab reports are all in same trend.

Organization of the Lab and Lectures

1. Unethical demonstrators who urge you to copy someone else's paper.

2. Inconsistency in the marking of labs.

3. Labs not well organized. The circuits did not work. The labs were not previously prepared and not tested. Electrical signs were not obtained.

4. Two junior administrators are completely incompetent. They cannot answer questions nor explain anything.

5. Lecturer is not qualified. Appears in class with lectures unprepared. Answers questions so poorly as to be embarrassing. Was unable to

Timeline of events

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

April 29, 1968

Six black students file a complaint against their Zoology 431 professor with the Dean of Students. They charge that assistant professor Perry Anderson is racist and has given no black student an average higher than C.

May 5, 1968

The six students meet with Anderson, the Dean of Students and the Dean of Science. Their written charges are collected, and subsequently lost.

June 14, 1968

The Dean of Science informs the university's administration that the issue is resolved.

December 5, 1968

A group of black students enter Principal Robert Rae's office and demand that Anderson be fired. They walk with Rae to the Hall building and meet with the chair of Biology. They leave when they are assured that a hearing committee will be formed.

December 12, 1968

Rae resigns, to be replaced by D.B. Clarke as principal.

December 13, 1968

Clarke meets with black students to formalize charges against Anderson. The students refuse to provide evidence, saying that this will keep the university from creating a false defence. (see article, bottom left)

January 6, 1969

Vice-Principal John W. O'Brien sends a letter to Anderson telling him that he is a "member of the teaching staff in full standing and as such you are entitled to teach your classes." Warns Anderson of a "risk of violence."

January 10, 1969

A formal charge is delivered: We, the undersigned students, accuse Assistant Professor Perry Anderson of racism.

Kennedy J. Frederick

Allan Brown

Wendal K. Goodin

Douglas Mossip

Terrence Ballantyne

Rodney John

January 16, 1969

Black students meet with the chair of the hearing committee to

set conditions for the hearing.

January 20, 1969

As Principal Clarke attempts to deliver a statement to a crowd in the Hall mezzanine, black students hold a "talk-in" to drown out the principal's words.

January 21, 1969

As students and the university argue about the composition of the committee for a second month, the only two black members resign in protest.

The Link's predecessor, *The Georgian*, reports about O'Brien's letter.

January 22, 1969

The university refuses to continue consulting with students about the committee.

Black students keep O'Brien in his office and demand a written apology for his letter to Anderson. He eventually does sign the letter and files kidnapping and extortion charges against the students.

January 26, 1969

The hearing committee holds its first meeting. The original six complainants refuse to participate because of the university's choices for the composition of the committee. They protest outside with other students.

January 29, 1969

One thousand people pack H-110 to hear testimony presented to the committee. After three hours a group of students disrupt the proceedings and head to the ninth floor computer centre. They occupy the floor and allow the staff to leave.

February 1, 1969

A group of white students occupy the seventh floor faculty club in a show of solidarity with the black students two floors above.

February 9, 1969

Lawyers for both sides negotiate an agreement that is agreed to by the black students and the university administration.

February 10, 1969

Students occupying the computer centre start to leave, believing the agreement to be final. As they do, the university teacher's association meets to discuss the "proposal."

From April '68 Descent to Feb. '69: into violence



PHOTO WESTMOUNT EXAMINER

February 11, 1969

Midnight

Students learn that the university wants to negotiate further. Students convene to form a plan of action

1:00 a.m.

Furniture is brought to the seventh floor and thrown on the escalators to form a barrier.

2:30 a.m.

Students go to the lobby and cut the security desk's phone line.

4:00 a.m.

The barrier is finished, sealing the building from the seventh floor up. Fire hoses have been turned on, sending water down the stairs and escalators.

4:30 a.m.

Police enter the Hall building and break through the seventh floor barrier. Students retreat to the computer centre, whose door is heavily barricaded.

6:00 a.m.

Principal Clarke asks police to clear out the computer centre. Students drive the riot police back with water hoses and bottles.

6:30 a.m.

Thousands of punch cards and printouts are thrown out the win-

dows of the computer centre, blanketing Mackay Street.

7:21 a.m.

Students issue an ultimatum: the police must leave or the computers will be destroyed.

10:30 a.m.

Police surround computer centre.

1:30 p.m.

A fire breaks out in the computer centre, forcing the students to flee. As the students leave they are arrested. To this day, it is unknown who set the fire.

For six hours 125 fire fighters battle the flames. The fire causes most of the estimated \$3 million in damage.

February 12, 1969

The 97 students who were arrested are arraigned on four charges of arson and conspiracy to damage property, facing up to life in prison.

Most will eventually make deals and receive fines, but the leaders of the protest are sentenced to prison time. One of the original six, Kennedy J. Frederick, skips bail and disappears.

Perry Anderson would continue to teach at Concordia for three decades, until his retirement in 1998.

Reverberations from the Computer Riot

How 1969 was nearly the end of *The Link* and nevertheless rebuilt a shattered university

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In the long and controversial history of *The Link* and its founding papers—*The Georgian* and the *Loyola News*—one issue stands out.

Hitting the stands on Jan. 28, 1969 with a stark black cover, the controversial issue of *The Georgian* was one of the seminal moments of the Computer Riot—it became known as the Black Georgian.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Computer Riot, the cover of this issue of *The Link* is a reproduction of that infamous issue's cover.

out *The Georgian's* incendiary issue, the paper's reputation was severely strained by the events.

A look back at the archives for that year's volume is a testament to the chaos that ensued after Bowman's firing. The newspaper's production was halted for nearly a month and when it returned, only a single editor was listed—instead of the normal dozen.

It would take until March for *The Georgian* to recover a semblance of its former professionalism and stability.

The newspaper would never be the same again.

"There were people who were very upset that we gave the black students a platform, *The Georgian* was not the free press we thought it was. We were told the publication of the newspaper was a privilege, not a right and for abusing that right, we were closed down."

—David Bowman

The controversy

During January of 1969, as tension mounted between the student body and the Sir George Williams University administration, *The Georgian's* editorial staff decided to turn over control of the paper to the Black Student's Association for one issue. That issue—the Black Georgian—reported on its first page that the Hall building's Computer Centre was the university's most vulnerable area.

The official response to that issue's inflammatory content was furious. Within hours of hitting the stands the RCMP confiscated all issues of the paper they could find, padlocked *The Georgian's* office and posted an armed Mountie at the door. The student government then fired the editor-in-chief, David Bowman.

Years later, Bowman told *The Link*, "there were people who were very upset that we gave the black students a platform, *The Georgian* was not the free press we thought it was. We were told the publication of the newspaper was a privilege, not a right and for abusing that right, we were closed down."

The impact

These corrective measures had little impact, as the university's student body now knew the information.

This became clear a day later, on Jan. 29, 1969, when the committee looking into the charges of racism brought against assistant professor Perry Anderson—composed of four white professors—met in H-110. After several hours, hundreds of students walked out in protest.

Those students, remembering the previous day's issue of *The Georgian*, headed towards the Computer Centre.

Although it is fair to assume that the Computer Riot would have still taken place with-

A new university

Sir George Williams University would also never be the same again.

On Jan. 25, four days before the occupation of the Computer Centre began, a group of faculty and students gathered at the Mount Royal Hotel and drafted a charter to outline the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members. The outline that was developed at that meeting became the Code of Rights and Responsibilities at Concordia University today.

After creating the first Academic Code of Responsibilities at any Canadian university, Concordia's predecessor, Sir George Williams University then created the first university Ombudsman's office in North America.

More mundane changes were also made. Windows at the downtown campus were eventually permanently sealed, or in the case of the new EV building, had their handles removed—a practical concession to ensure that MacKay never turns white with punch cards again.

Don't forget

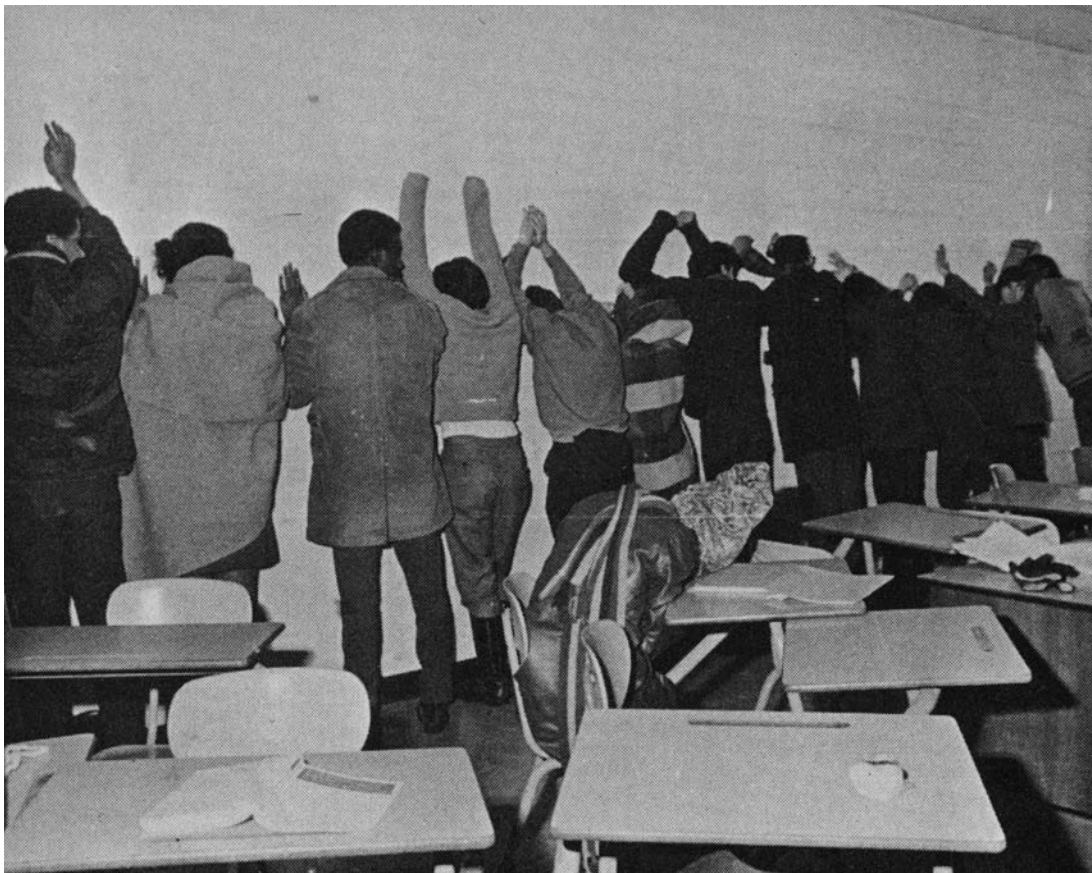
In the chaos that preceded and followed the Computer Riot, Sir George Williams was forced to examine the main relationship that had done so much damage to the university: that between the administration and students.

Had the black students' complaint not been ignored for so long, the disaster could have been averted, the riot police could have remained at home and the computers could have been spared.

If there is one lesson to take home from the Computer Riot it is a simple one: this university belongs to the student's who walk its halls, sit in its lectures and write, paint and draw.

Although it may be attractive to ignore student's creative excess, needs and idealism, the price can be exceedingly heavy to do so.

The sights of a shattered university



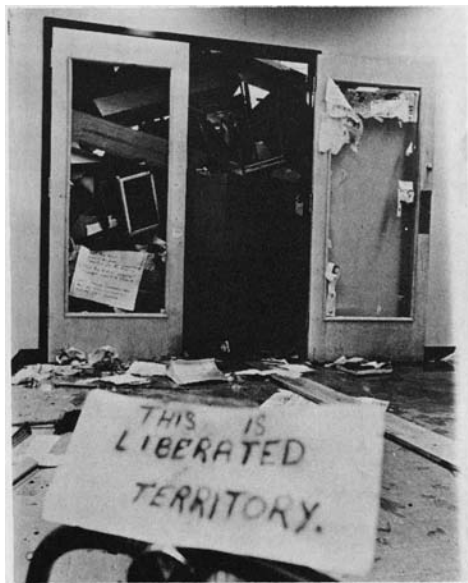
Before the 97 students were arrested they were placed in holding in ninth floor classrooms. PHOTO THE GAZETTE



Firemen pick through the remains of the ninth floor. PHOTO DOROTHY EBER



Firetruck ladders on MacKay to spray protestors. PHOTO WESTMOUNT EXAMINER



The barricaded door to the Computer Centre before the fire. The sign was placed by students as they retreated in front of the police. PHOTO DOROTHY EBER



Associate Professor Perry Anderson. PHOTO THE GAZETTE



Punchcards and firehoses litter MacKay. PHOTO WESTMOUNT EXAMINER

Study expensively, not mentally

If you buy this book, you have too much money

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Kevin Paul thinks you're a moron. Wait, no. Scratch that. Kevin Paul assumes you're a moron, and his book is here to help you, the lowly student, in achieving your maximum potential.

Paul's *Study Smarter, Not Harder* is a 220-page affair that drops so-called "nuggets of knowledge" about how one can be a better student and study more efficiently. The book, first written in 1996—the second edition came out two summers ago—reads as if it were designed for 12 year olds who have just entered high school and have no concept of study skills, or those who need severe help in their scholastic pursuits.

Most of these study suggestions should be obvious by the time one enters university—or at least one would hope. Even so, reading the book may leave you numb with its simplistic, pandering tone, which invokes images of those seemingly spaced-out gurus that appear on late-night infomercials, peddling their secret agenda for a price so low that it can be paid in only three simple instalments.

Kevin Paul, MA, heads Kihon Learning Systems, a company designed to help students improve their learning skills—evidently by buying this book. In this age of publicized self-help guides, *Study Smarter* seems more like ancient—and therefore common—wisdom rather than the latest peer-reviewed research into memory retention skills, and it follows the self-help mold pretty well.

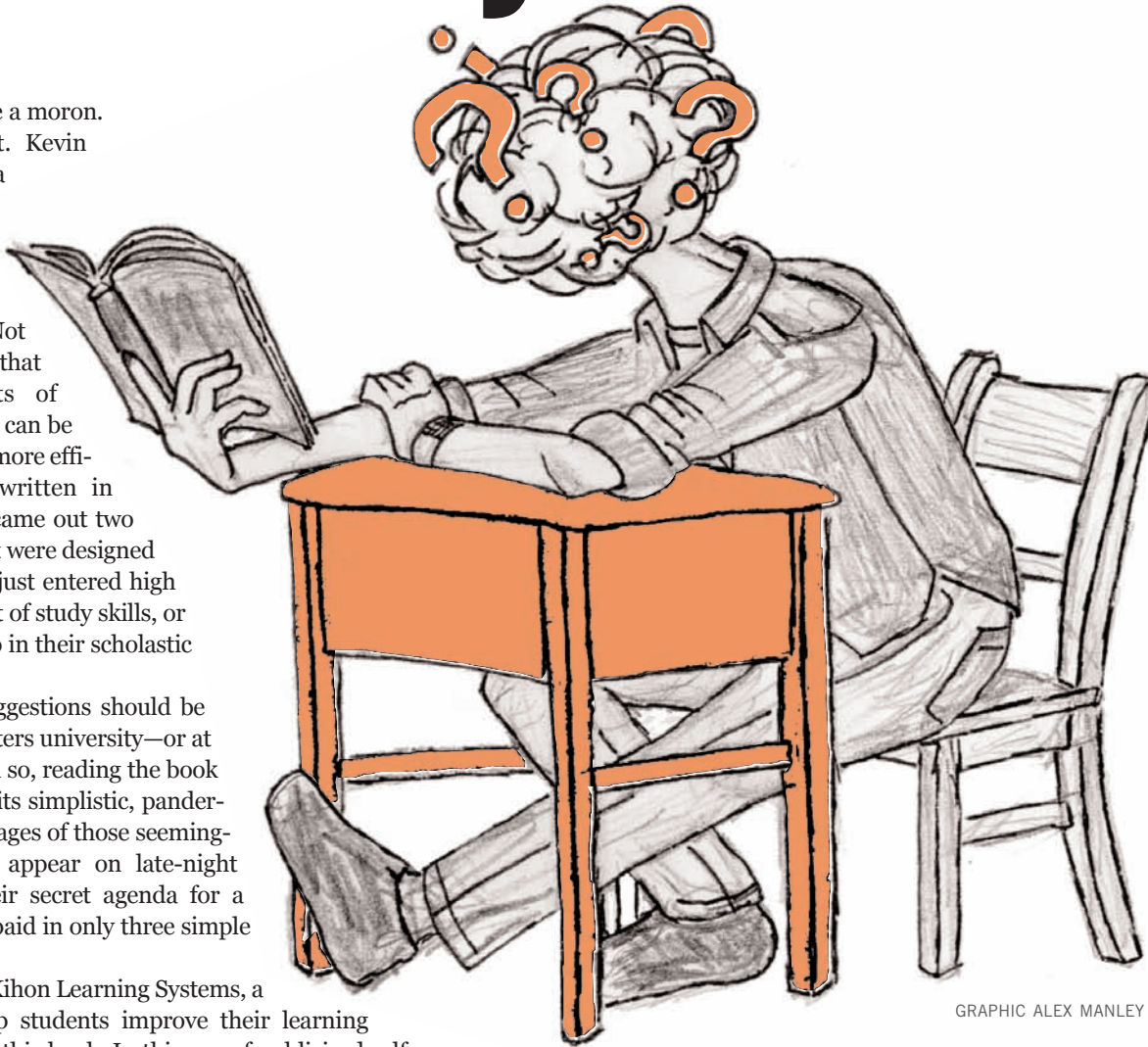
In the guide's introduction, Paul sets himself up as a figure of authority upon a singular topic and plans to extol his self-styled plan to make you, the reader, smarter.

Chapter two gets off on the wrong foot—entitled "You Can Learn Anything," the first header of the chapter reads "You Are A Genius," and suggests that all one needs to be a genius is to be able to multi-task.

"Just to give yourself a review of what a good learner you are, [...] write down all the things in your life that you have learned that have nothing to do with formal classroom schooling," writes Paul. He then provides a sample list that includes such accomplishments as "walk and run," "ride a bike" and "give directions."

The chapter continues its descent into ridiculousness: Paul lays out how one will create a "toolbox of learning techniques" in order to conquer that all-important final exam. Things like making a schedule and sticking to it are apparently paramount, as are breathing exercises—you know, in case you're studying for a degree in performing breaststroke.

The book reads like some sort of weird militaristic bootcamp, in which the author tears the reader down only to build



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

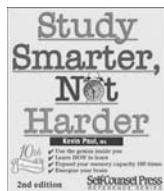
them back up again.

Paul awards himself major points for passing off common sense as some sort of newly-learned set of secrets; ideas like time management and setting up a suitable study space are presented in such a manner that it sounds almost as if he had invented them himself.

Towards the end of the book, there's a strange annex of lists, including "Top 6 reasons to become a genius," "Top 10 positive affirmations" and "Top 10 motivational quotes." There's also a "myth-busting" section and a 10-day plan to "supercharge" your studying.

Paul even offers up a five-day guide on what to do when you're approaching the end of the semester and you realize you haven't studied: he warns the reader not to panic, but to think positively.

If you're just entering high school or are of the higher education bracket and think you could benefit from a better study method, go ahead and pick this book up. But chances are past educators have already instilled all of this in you, and all you have to do is sit down and think it through.



Study Smarter, Not Harder
Kevin Paul, MA
Self-Counsel Press
August 2007
232 pp
\$18.95

Lit Writ

Archived

Fire, a fire in my heart for grace's sake
let's call it art,

It grows and grows 'till it doesn't know
where it is.... how it is, who it is....

It stands out now coming out only to
feed on the most titillating zones.

One time I saw this woman, she was tall
and she dried her hair and I sat under her
chair,

And the water drops dripped down and
I still carry them in my mouth today.

Many times I saw this thing of beauty in
a so-called place,

And the beauty was devoured up by so
many words side by side,

Where they insisted on downing the
chaotic medley song of the stranger tide.

They insisted on speaking of doing as
and lip lapping 'till there was no more milk
for the rest of us cats,

They ate all the paint,

They ate all the gestures that went into
the arm to make the thing,

They ate the thing just to eat the thing
and left everyone with a broken wing.

I saw it as whole,

But in the end only saw who it was that
was bold,

I once even saw a cow check his
splotches just to make sure they were cor-
rect for who was conducting.

And as everything turned into a lem-
niskate I sat and pondered and thought
about.

Who, who I was trying to woo... did I
have to show my personal mark or let it
succumb to my social chart.

Many times I saw this thing of beauty in
a so-called place,

And the beauty was devoured up by so
many words side by side,

Where they insisted on downing the
chaotic medley song of the stranger tide.

—Esinam Beckley

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

not the dictionary

• COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Words that are sure to show up on your SAT's

quotidian (*k'whoa'ti'dee'an*) adj. of or occurring every day; daily: the car sped noisily off through the quotidian traffic. Ordinary or everyday, esp. when mundane: his story is an aching human one, mired in quotidian details. **redolent** (*reh-doh'lent*) adj. 1. (redolent of/with) strongly reminiscent or suggestive of (something): names redolent of history and tradition. 2. Poetic/literary strongly smelling of something: the church was old, dark, and redolent of incense. **somnolent** (*psalm'know'lehnt*) adj. sleepy; drowsy; causing or suggestive of drowsiness: a somnolent summer day. **truculent** (*truh'q'lehnt*) adj. eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant: his days of truculent defiance were over.

antediluvian (*ahn'tee'di'loo'vee'un*) adj. 1. of or belonging to the time before the biblical flood 2. chiefly humorous ridiculous-ly old-fashioned. **alacrity** (*ah'lah'cri'tee*) n. brisk and cheerful readiness: she accepted the invitation with alacrity. **deleterious** (*dell'ugh'tear'e'us*) adj. causing harm or damage: divorce is assumed to have deleterious effects on children. **etiolated** (*ee'-tee'oh'lae'ted*) adj. having lost vigor or substance; feeble: a tone of etiolated nostalgia. **licentious** (*lie'cehn'tchi'us*) adj. archaic disregarding accepted rules or conventions, esp. in grammar or literary style. **parsimonious** (*pahr'si'moan'e'us*) adj. unwilling to spend money or use resources; stingy or frugal: parsimonious New Hampshire voters, who have a phobia about taxes.

Silent no more

The Author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* talks about what she's been silent about



Azar Nafisi stopped by Concordia during her hectic Montreal press tour to promote *Things I've Been Silent About* PHOTO CHRIS SNOW

• BETHEA CLARKE

"Knowledge is very sensual."

This was an unexpected statement at a lecture, in a packed auditorium attended mainly by middle-aged literary enthusiasts. A few of whom shifted uncomfortably but most, surprisingly, nodded in agreement.

Azar Nafisi, author of the celebrated *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, spoke to a full house of fans last Wednesday not only about her book but also about her childhood, her passions and her beloved native Iran.

Her recently published *Things I Have Been Silent About* is a result of a personal journey. "The idea of memory is at the crux of this book," said Nafisi, "this idea that the only conclusive evidence that we have lived is through our memories."

Nafisi wrote the following in the prologue: "I do not mean this book to be a political or social commentary, or a useful life story. I want to tell the story of a family that unfolds against the backdrop of a turbulent era in Iran's political and cultural history."

Born in Tehran, Nafisi's was a family of "diary-writers; that is what we do." Her father and mother suffered through a tumultuous marriage, which ultimately impacted their children. Nafisi's relationship with her mother was always a difficult one.

"One of the things that she resented most in me is that I had the mother that she never had. One of the things that she gave to me was the desire to continue my education. That was her desire: independence."

The father-daughter relationship, on the other hand, was a very close one. Nafisi's father was a consummate storyteller, and imbued her early childhood with all of the legendary Iranian poets and writers. Her father gave her the sense that "in the world of stories there is a place where you go, and you come back to reality more enriched. That is your world and no one can take it away from you."

Nafisi became a professor of Literature at the University of Tehran, but was expelled in 1981 for refusing to wear the veil. This had a great impact on her life. "It's the right of every woman to ask to have the freedom to choose. The veil and religion should not become the symbols of state."

After moving her family to the United

States in 1997, Nafisi observed an interesting paradigm. "Some people look at me, at the way that I dress or the way that I talk and they tell me I'm Western. And I tell my American friends that it seems as if the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is a Western construct. As if that woman in Afghanistan does not want to be happy. She says, 'Oh, it's not my culture. I don't want to be free.'"

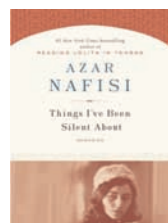
Particularly in this age of paranoia, the world's eyes are turned toward Iran as if expecting an imminent nuclear blast. Inequalities are pointed out as the source of conflict and as justifications for intervention, all the while ignoring the fact that segregation existed a mere 50 years ago in the bastion of freedom itself.

"If that [injustice] is my culture and not some of the greatest philosophers and poets that the world has seen, then slavery is the culture of America. [If that is our line of thought] then Inquisition and fascism and Stalinism are the culture of Europe. Every single country has something to be ashamed of. What distinguishes us from these acts of barbarianism is the fact that we can change."

Change: everybody's new favourite catchphrase. As Nafisi expounded, "What is threatening us in the West is our sleeping consciousness, our atrophy of feeling. A country that has lost its love of its poetry and its soul is a country that faces death."

Have we in Canada lost our soul? Did we ever really have one? Nafisi offered no answer to this, but what she said next resonated strongly with a sentiment many can relate to.

"We are always just talking about ourselves [in academia] and I think, how bloody boring to be constantly satisfied by writing about yourself or reading about yourself or listening to the television in order to again reaffirm yourself. The idea of writing and reading is always about the other. It is always about looking at the world through the alternative eyes of strangers who see things as you don't see."



Things That I've Been Silent About
Azar Nafisi
Random House
December 2008
368 pp
\$27.00



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

The poetry of pleasure

The Art of Aural Sex puts the "oral" in art

• JUSTIN BROMBERG

Valentine's Day took a turn for the erotic this past Saturday night at Kola Note nightclub, where a slew of Canadian and international artists took to the stage to perform their sexiest... poetry.

The third edition of *Art of Performing Aural Sex* undoubtedly lived up to its name, as the evening unfolded as a showcase of love-themed spoken word, rhymes, and visual naughtiness.

It was also an opportune moment for the invited artists, several of whom were young and emerging, to contribute to this risqué but amusing event. And to be sure, the evening's host—and CEO of the Madpoetix production company that brought the event—Kym Dominique-Ferguson, had appropriately forewarned the audience:

"For the faint of heart—especially in the second half—step back, get yourself a napkin, or a tissue, 'cause it's going to get hot, and heavy, and sticky," he joked, following up with an alphabetically-laced A-to-Z in S-E-X. The club's stage was equally well dressed for the occasion, decked out with faux-romantic sofas and a silhouette-inducing dressing screen.

"To an extent, it's like living out some of your fantasies."

—Devon "The Split" Jones

Opening the show was the hip-hop poetry of NYC artist London Bridge, followed by local poet Jean-Luc Rey, who performed a debut poetry reading. Although writing now for seven years, Rey acknowledged it was "scary, but a great experience."

"I'm pretty happy about how I did, and can't ask for much more," says Rey, a playwright and Concordia psychology graduate.

The scene soon went 1940s-jazz-cabaret-nightclub as singer Nandi Bynoe and pianist Ohini Byll-Catarina began their duet. Their two numbers, accompanied by soft piano notes and surreal stage lighting, were so dream-like that the hushed audience may have very well been swept off to the snowy mountain slopes in Bynoe's "Moonlight in Vermont."

Impressive, considering the duet only had time for two rehearsals. A native of Trinidad and currently an international relations student in Boston, Bynoe has been doing solo jazz vocals for four years.

And when she's not researching Japanese postmodernism, she's busy singing in their karaoke bars.

The heat was clearly turned up in the second half—as promised—with some erotic dance poetry that would surely make my grandmother blush, and had my date exclaiming "Yowza!"

In fact, it was nothing compared to the dance routine that came next, choreographed by local artist Shauna Roberts. What began as three couples dancing quickly led to steamy bodily movements, the removal of clothing, and me now saying the "yowzas."

As closing time approached, on comes a lady dressed in tight, black clothing, fishnet stockings, and tall, red, high-heeled boots.

Introduced as Devon "The Split" Jones but also known as "D'Licious," the Toronto-based poet had the men barking and the women meowing to her sexually explicit lyrics and breathless moaning in "Bent Over."

Jones got her start in 1997 after attending her first poetry event at the University of Windsor. "I was like, 'I wanna do that!'" she recalls, explaining that poetry is "the best way" to get her feelings out and get over them.

So how much of this performance was of a personal nature? "To an extent, it's like living out some of your fantasies," she laughingly admits, continuing, "You can do it over in your head twenty times."

"Or, maybe giving other people fantasies... And being other people's fantasies!"

Yet amidst all the adult content, the night's real crowd-shocker came about halfway through, when host Dominique-Ferguson returned on stage to draw a prize.

Soon enough, a woman named Christine is sitting on the stage sofa, as her boyfriend Perry approaches and is handed the mic; the couple, as it turns out, are well-known friends of the host.

"I just need two minutes of your time," Perry informs the crowd, though it's only a matter of seconds before everyone catches on. Here we were, an audience to a genuine marriage proposal, belting out whistles and cheers mixed with cries galore: "Say yes!"

And she did.

Look out for *The Art of Performing Aural Sex's* upcoming performances by visiting www.aural-sx.com.

This land is most definitely our land

Under Rich Earth takes a look at the environmental impact of Canada's mining concerns in Ecuador

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"The dispute about large-scale mining in Intag has been going on for over a decade and is a very complex one," says writer, producer and director Malcolm Rogge, whose film *Under Rich Earth* will screen at Cinema Politica next week.

The film analyzes the environmental as well as social impact of Canada's powerful mining industry from all sides.

Canadian mining company, Ascendant Copper, has mining interests all across South America and decided to set up a copper mine in Intag, a small community in Ecuador. Unfortunately for Ascendant Copper, the local inhabitants thought the land had something more to offer than copper.

Ten years earlier, the residents of Intag successfully fought off Bishi Metals, a Japanese mining company, who were also trying to set up a mining operation. They burnt the company's buildings to the ground—a tactic they took out of their toolbox a second time in 2005 when threatened by Ascendant Copper.

"They did so basically out of desperation," says Rogge, who has a degree in Law and Environmental Studies from York University, and who spent some time in Ecuador back in the late 1990s, when this whole issue began.

Returning to Ecuador in 2006, Rogge started filming just four months before all hell broke loose.

"Once I had heard that the company had actually resorted to using paramilitaries, I went to Ecuador right away," he said. "The people of Intag were very curious, why a Canadian journalist travelling on a bus with a pack of film equipment was there, and wanted to make this film."

That the Toronto Stock Market financed the mining project contributed in part to his interest in making the film. Rogge lives very near the Toronto institution.

While the company referred to the actions of the residents of Intag as an act of ecoterrorism, Rogge says the term is relative.

"There's an old adage, one person's freedom fighter is another person's terrorist."

Based on an environmental impact assessment endorsed by Bishi Motors themselves, large-scale open-pit mining would have resulted in a gradual desertification of the valley of Intag. From their perspective, burning down Ascendant Copper was an act of self-defence.

"I don't think anyone is arguing that these mining projects don't have a massive impact," says Rogge. "The question is where you build these mines."

In order to get a balanced perspective, Rogge incorporated footage from multiple sources.

"I had to weave material together that was ultimately collected by dozens of people, but it was my own film. It was important to maintain that independence."

At one point, says Rogge, Ascendant Copper told him they were making their own documentary film to counter bad press.

"In fact, people saw the company employees with cameras, and I know they have footage because they showed it to me when I met them."

Forced to face the negative media exposure garnered by the project, however, Ascendant Copper was forced not only to relinquish their mining claims, but to change the name of their company.

"*The Northern Miner*, which is one of the leading mining newspapers in Canada, came



One of the residents of Intag after an altercation with one of Ascendant Copper's paramilitary groups.

to see the film in the Toronto International Film Festival," says Rogge, "and they published an editorial the next week recommending it and saying that it serves as a classic example for Canadian companies on how not to handle community relations."

But as before, no one in Intag can rest assured that the issue will ever be put to rest.

"Mining is not just going to go away," says Rogge. "But up until that point, the whole issue of mining, and the balance between eco-

nomie development and ecological impact had not been debated until these incidents. In many ways, that national debate was sparked by the events that took place in the film."

Under Rich Earth will be screened on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and will be screened in Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Director Malcolm Rogge will be attending the screening. For a full list of screenings, check out cinemapolitica.org/concordia.

Life outside of the womb

Meet The Silly Kissers!

• CODY HICKS

If you're familiar with my column, you'll know I'm guitar-centric.

Although you couldn't pay me to listen to most modern electronic music, I do have a guilty affinity for syrupy synth-pop. I've got a closet obsession with the New Romantic movement of the '80s and groups like New Order and Depeche Mode.

Now, I'm an all-or-nothing kind of guy, so when I want cheesy dance music, I want it to be to the ultimate, and in my books that would be The Human League whose biggest hit "Don't You Want Me Baby" is always close at hand in case I feel like doing a little bit of no bones flail dancing.

I didn't think anything could top the guy-girl vocal drama of that jam but local act The Silly Kissers have come dangerously

close. When I first heard the quivering female vocals dancing around the smooth male croon on "You're The One," the second track on their new record *Love Tsunami*, I was hooked.

I'm skeptical about anything that's too derivative of its influences, but the raw honesty and passion dripping from the band's lyrics and the deceptively complex bleeps and bleeps is undeniable.

The Silly Kissers were conceived in the fall of 2007 as the lovechild of Sean Savage and Dave Carriere, two Edmonton ex-pats who wanted to make the synth-pop record of their dreams. They originally did it for kicks, but when friends and family got hold of the record they demanded more.

Savage's name will be familiar to *The Link* readers, as he's been a media darling since he moved to Montreal and unleashed his new

album *Little Submarine*. I decided to lure the other three Kissers into my bedroom for a speed-dating style interrogation on the live debut at the Art Matters festival, starting with the effervescently bubbly Jane Penny, the group's secret weapon.

Although Penny is a classically trained flutist, she is not only a first time band member, but a first time singer.

"Singing was never fun for me, but when I was offered these songs that are so glittery and sunshiny I couldn't resist," she says.

"I unexpectedly loved being on-stage," she says, her words interspersed with machine gun laughter. "These songs have such wild electronic textures and they make you wanna dance like crazy. Plus the beer helps."

She also has a secret method of building confidence: taking it to the streets. If you see a freckly red-

head belting out heartfelt lovesick lyrics walking down the street wearing headphones, it's probably Penny.

Next up on keyboards is the gentlemanly Jeremy Freeze who is an aspiring video game soundtrack composer. Although he's performed in a few groups in his hometown of Fredericton this will be his first time onstage in Montreal and he's apprehensive about recreating the robotic digital sounds of the record onstage.

"Some of the parts are kind of hard," he says. "Because they were recorded digitally they weren't written with the intention of being performed on an instrument, by a human."

But he is persevering; making adjustments to humanize the music, making it possible to perform live. Freeze has seen a lot in his days as a keyboardist.

Tragically, his first keyboard

died in a car accident in grade 10. Luckily for us, rather than succumb to the trauma, he chose to keep playing through the pain.

Lastly Carriere, the squinty and soft-spoken heart of The Silly Kissers, conducted this interview sprawled out on his tummy. He is perhaps the most concerned about their live debut, because he will be attempting to replicate the icy synth sounds of the record live on his guitar.

"It's really weird because we wrote the songs first and now we have to learn how to play them," says Carriere with a nervous smile. The kid is a charmer, and I'm confident his studio wizardry will come across onstage.

So, come catch the glory, the passion and the swimsuits of The Silly Kissers debut this Thursday at Bain Mathieu, 2915 Ontario E. for the Art Matters festival opening party.

One camera per woman

How exporting filmmaking is giving voice to disenfranchised women in Zambia

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

First it was Nicholas Negroponte's One Laptop Per Child project, and now, oddly enough, women are being taught the tools of filmmaking in a bid for higher education—as explored in *Where the Water Meets the Sky*, set to screen at Cinema Politica in the first week of March.

Director David Eberts' father was an executive producer at a film studio in Montreal, and his mother, a former chair at Camfed, the Campaign for Female Education. So, making a film about Camfed's work seemed built into his genes.

"It was an interesting mix of the world of the non-profit and the world of documentary filmmaking," says Eberts, "and we kind of met somewhere in between."

But like the One Laptop per Child program, there were some reservations that the workshop would be able to raise third-world inhabitants out of generations of poverty and neglect.

"To be honest, it actually sounded kind of crazy when I heard about it," says Eberts. "I thought, why of all the things you could bring to Africa, why filmmaking? Few of the people we met

had televisions, and a lot of them don't even have electricity."

But, after encountering the amount of misinformation and woeful ignorance surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic in some of the locations hit hardest by the disease, Eberts soon realized what a difference could really be made.

"In a place like Zambia, where one in six adults have been infected with HIV/AIDS, you think their level of awareness about this disease—how it works and how it's transmitted—would be extremely high, but it's not," he relates. "You can have a small village of people who have no knowledge about HIV and its effects, and the town just next door will have an epidemic going on."

"I see these films in a different light now than when I started. At first I thought the idea of women expressing themselves was wonderful in and of itself, but now I see the power they have to transmit these messages and to inform the public."

Eberts had to learn the craft of filmmaking on his own, after he discovered his alma-mater, Boston College, was lacking a documentary film program. Now, Eberts is going to film school for the first

time—only in Zambia.

"It reminded me of that sense of wonder when I first saw cameras," he says. "It reminded me that you can go and make films with these devices and affect people emotionally with them."

He discovered that, regardless of geography, young people have a knack for learning.

"If you had the same experience I had," says Eberts, "you saw how incredibly quickly they embraced this technology. [It's sensitive equipment], so if it gets dropped, another one is not going to suddenly get reshipped, and they got that immediately."

Like any writer's room in L.A., getting the women of Zambia to agree on a particular subject for their film took time.

"There was that reluctance when they were first asked, 'What do you want to talk about?' and it was just dead silence in the room. And I thought 'Oh my goodness,' this project is never going to work," says Eberts.

"But once the assistant trainer said, 'Come on ladies, this is a unique opportunity. Let's talk about the things that are really affecting us,' you could see when you looked around the room that



"It reminded me that you can go and make films with these devices and affect people emotionally with them," said David Eberts, director of *Where the Water Meets the Sky*.

they felt the place was safe, and the stories poured forth."

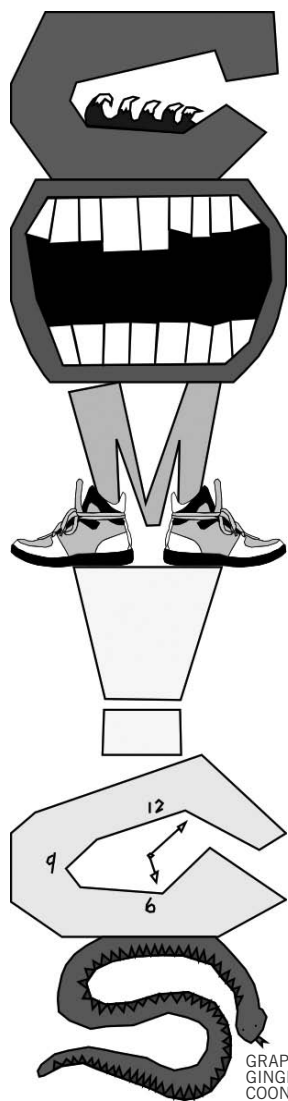
Even though Eberts has been making films for the last 10 years, he still can't shake his internal criticism.

"It's still hard for me to watch my own film," he says. "Parts of it I like, but you're always saying, 'God, if I could only switch that around, or do this or that.' I wish I could just get to the point where I could sit there without squirming."

The women of Zambia are no different.

"It was quite funny," says Eberts. "They loved the film, although now that they're filmmakers, they had some technical comments to make."

Where the Water Meets the Sky will be screened on Monday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a screening of the *Iron Ladies of Liberia* in Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Director David Eberts will be attending the screening. For a full list of screenings, check out cinemapolitica.org/concordia.



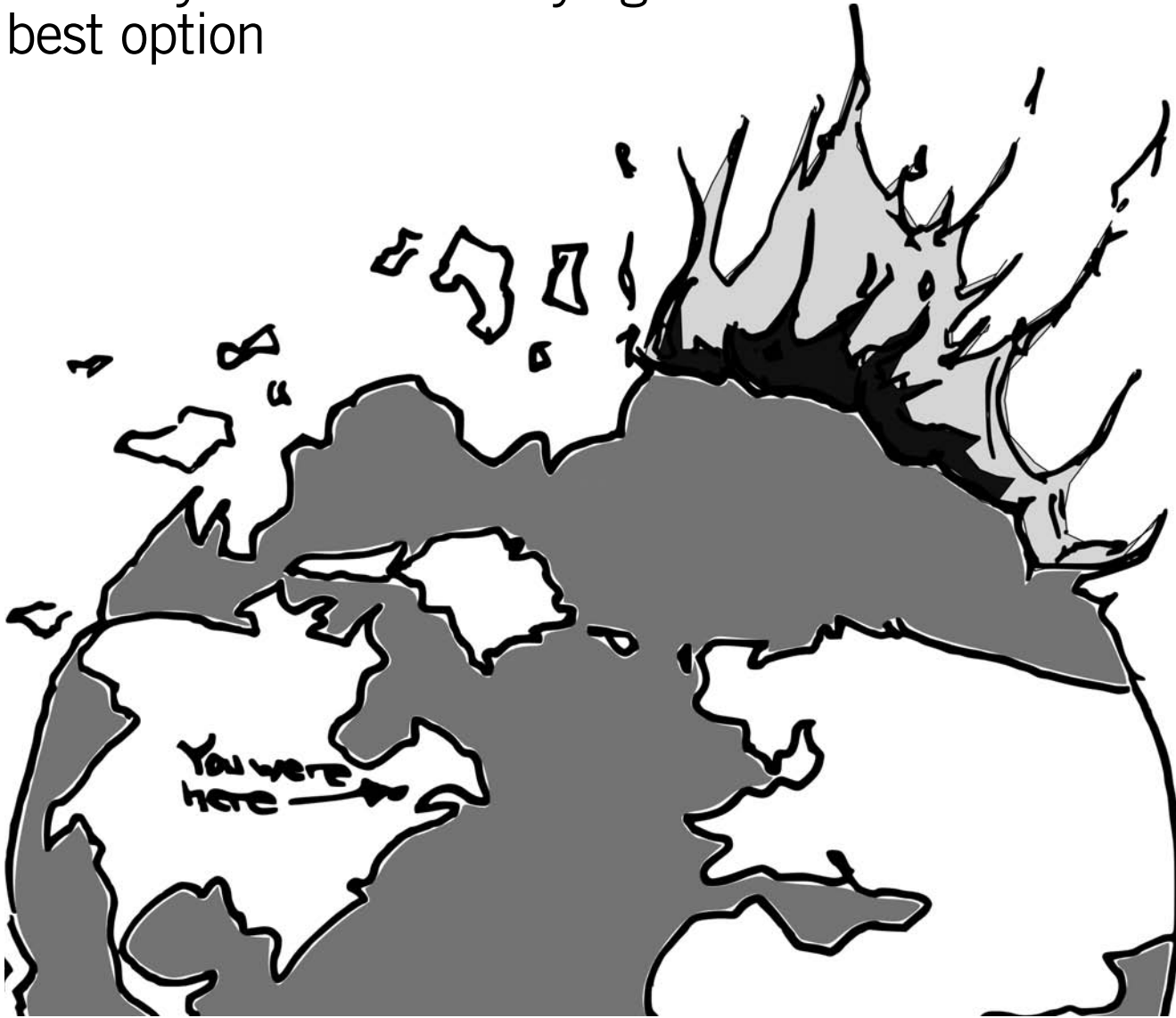
Lame Party

...continued from last week



Smash hit

Stomp Records' Matt Collyer talks labels, debt, and why sometimes staying in school isn't the best option



Matt Collyer of the Planet Smashers say 2009's album will be "a party!" GRAPHIC MATTHEW BRETT

• STEPHANIE STEVENSON

"No one would sign us!" exclaimed Matt Collyer, singer of the Planet Smashers and owner of Stomp Records, when asked why he decided to start his own record label.

Formed in 1994, the Smashers sent demos to the only two ska labels that existed in Canada at the time to no avail; "Starting Stomp was a necessity, but it ended up being a great thing for us," he continued. "There was a lot of freedom that came along with it, and a sense of empowerment."

Needless to say, running an independent record label was no small feat. Stomp began not with an office, but in the basements of Stomp founders Collyer and Mike McGee in 1995. Collyer, in an act of dedication, made the bold move of quitting his PhD in order to put all of his efforts towards his band and his label, using scholarship money and student credit cards to push the label into full swing.

Gradually, bands were signed and staffers were added, and the label found a home in a tiny office located at 78 Rachel St., just off Saint-Laurent Blvd.

It has been said over and over again that the music industry is in a downturn. This has been true for over a decade. Despite efforts to diversify and come up with original methods of pro-

motion, Stomp found itself in serious debt in 2003.

"We were down about \$100,000. Yeah, we thought we were fucked and considered throwing in the towel. Then I met a guy who told me that a debt of \$100,000 was nothing for a record label, so we just said, 'Fuck it. Let's continue.'" The decision made was a good one.

Bedouin Soundclash, who were on Stomp at the time, came out with their sophomore effort, 2004's *Sounding a Mosaic*, and sales of the album almost wiped out the label's debt. "It was pretty unbelievable, to think that one album could do so much for us. But it did, and thank God!"

If \$100,000 in debt is normal, how does a label survive the effects of the current economic crisis? "The music industry has been in a recession since 2000, so this is all old news to us," Collyer replied bluntly. "Nothing's changed, really. I mean, it's not like people will ever stop listening to music, so it's a matter of figuring out how to get it to people in different ways."

Stomp bands have taken to using some unorthodox methods of promoting themselves and getting in touch with fans like The Johnstones, a Stomp band based out of Ajax, Ontario. By logging onto johnstonessex.com (named after the band's latest EP, the unapologetically-named *Sex*) fans can

watch a live episode of Ryan Long and Jarek Hardy, drummer and singer of the band. "*Ryan and Jarek TV*—it's pretty fucking ridiculous, and it's been a great hit."

In an industry that now boasts countless numbers of independent record labels, the key is to be original, according to Collyer. They're also enlisting the help of a website they're calling *What's Your Mission Statement*, a site to be run by Stomp band Saint Alvia which will promote art galleries and concerts all over Canada. "It's something no one's ever done before, and that's the type of thing we're always looking to do so it's pretty fantastic!"

Collyer is insistent on being picky with the bands he signs—he prefers to keep a small handful of bands so as to promote one band to the fullest. So, Stomp Records currently sports a roster of approximately 10 bands, including The Flatliners, One Night Band, The Johnstones, The Real Deal, The Creepshow and Saint Alvia, among others.

In the meantime, Planet Smashers fans will be glad to hear that after a hiatus the band is looking to put out a new album by fall 2009.

"It'll be the same as in the past, but maybe a bit different," Collyer said with a smile from ear to ear. "I'm excited. It's gonna be a party!"

Which Witch?

J Mascis trades his guitar for heavy metal drums in a Dinosaur Jr. side project



Witches and demons and ghouls, oh my! GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

• JESSICA CARROLL

It appears that J Mascis is getting old.

At 43, his hair is white-grey and a pair of black, heavy-framed glasses seem permanently affixed to his face. Still, those grey locks hang well past his shoulders and the loss of mobility that one usually attributes to a man of his age is not apparent.

He seems lazy, but, then again, he's always seemed lazy.

In fact, it is abundantly clear that the Dinosaur Jr. frontman is still more than interested in being a part of the music industry, and of popular culture in general; he has recently collaborated with both Nike and Fender, has a book deal, and from time to time plays with the reunited original lineup of the band that made him famous.

His music collaborations are still more impressive: working with Canadian indie-darling Kevin Drew on his 2007 album, *Spirit If...* and playing banjo for The Hold Steady on their most recent effort, *Stay Positive*.

Still, Mascis' latest side project, Witch, is the most apparent affirmation to his seemingly never-ending youth. Taking to the stage not with a guitar, but rather, with a pair of drumsticks, Mascis returns to his first instrument, which he experimented with in the early-80s in a hard-core start-up called Deep Wound.

Joining him is long-time friend Dave Sweetapple on the bass, and Kyle Thomas from the Miami-based, art-folk band, Feathers, as vocalist and guitarist. The band, generally described as conforming to standard Black Sabbath-esque heavy metal ideals, has diverse musical backgrounds which means hearing influences from other genres, especially on 2008's *Paralyzed*.

In "Sweet Sue," slow-paced psychedelic interludes separate the verse and chorus, while on "Eye" Mascis offers up some fast-paced punk drumming in the vein of Black Flag, intertwined with the grinding, heavy metal guitar riffs.

Still, in the arena of hard rock, Witch is sometimes considered an outsider. With their seemingly "in the past" '70s and '80s metal influence, and a fresh-out-of-high school, 20-year-old vocalist some punk and metal fans have discredited them as inauthentic.

Still, Henry Rollins has called Dinosaur Jr. one his favourite bands of all time, so, where music legend Mascis is concerned, it's important to give credit where credit is due.

Don't miss Witch this Friday with Earthless at Les Saints, 8 p.m. Tickets \$15.

The
DOWN-LOWEvents listing
Feb. 17-Feb. 23

ART

100 Dresses

Interactive residency where Nicole Bauberger will paint 100 small paintings of dresses using wax and pigment, all inspired by being in Montreal at this time of year.

Tuesday, Wednesday from 2-4 p.m.

FOFA Gallery

1515 Ste. Catherine O.

Visitors are welcome to try out the encaustic paint for a \$5 materials fee.

COMEDY

Forbidden Love

Presented by: Through Line Productions

and featuring Timothy Diamond, Joe Garque, David Kelly, Sara King, Tristan D. Lalla, Francis J. Martins, and Helen Prandekas

Tonight, 8 p.m.

Theatre Sainte-Catherine

Admission \$12

MUSIC

Ghost Bees

With My People Sleeping and Valleys.

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Le Cagibi

5490 Saint-Laurent

Le Momies de Palerme

With Cool World, Bladestoner and Kram Ran.

Friday, 9 p.m.

Lab Synthese

435 Beaubien O. #200

Admission \$5, BYOB

The Boghoppers

With Nancy Snipper and open mic.

Friday, 8:30 p.m.

Yellow Door

3625 Aylmer

Tickets \$8, \$5 for students

*Non-perishable food items greatly appreciated.

OK Giraffe

With The Youjsh.

Friday, 9 p.m.

Casa del Popolo

4873 Saint-Laurent

Zeroes, EP Launch

With Little Scream.

Friday, 9 p.m.

Club Lambi

4465 Saint-Laurent

Tickets \$5

Red Mass

With The Creeping Nobodies, Slim Twig and Grand Trine

Saturday, 9 p.m.

Le Divan Orange

4234 Saint-Laurent

Tickets \$10

—compiled by Joelle Lemieux

Conversations with
other Muscovites

Up-and-coming local outfit Barton Fink speaks out

• NATASHA YOUNG

"It's like watching a train wreck," muse brothers Charly and Vagan Aden on their band's live show. "You just want to see what happens next."

True as this may be, Barton Fink's train has only just begun to leave the station and yes, they take their moniker from the 1991 Coen brothers film, of the same title. "We're big Coen brothers fans," says Vagan.

The Aden brothers have been making music together for a long time, though the current line-up is a recent development. "A lot of bands get together and get lucky and they find the right line-up right away [...] but it took us a long time to get this together," he says. "It's all about the people. I'm not as much into musicianship as I'm into personality."

Charly continues, "When you're playing with a person, it's like communicating with them, and if you're on good terms, it's going to sound better."

"You make the kind of music you listen to [...] so that kind of started our musical journey," which could explain their early influences in gangster rap. "We grew up with hiphop back where we come from, Moscow, and as kids, hiphop was really big, really happening. We didn't always

understand what they were singing about, but it was in the energy," the brothers agree.

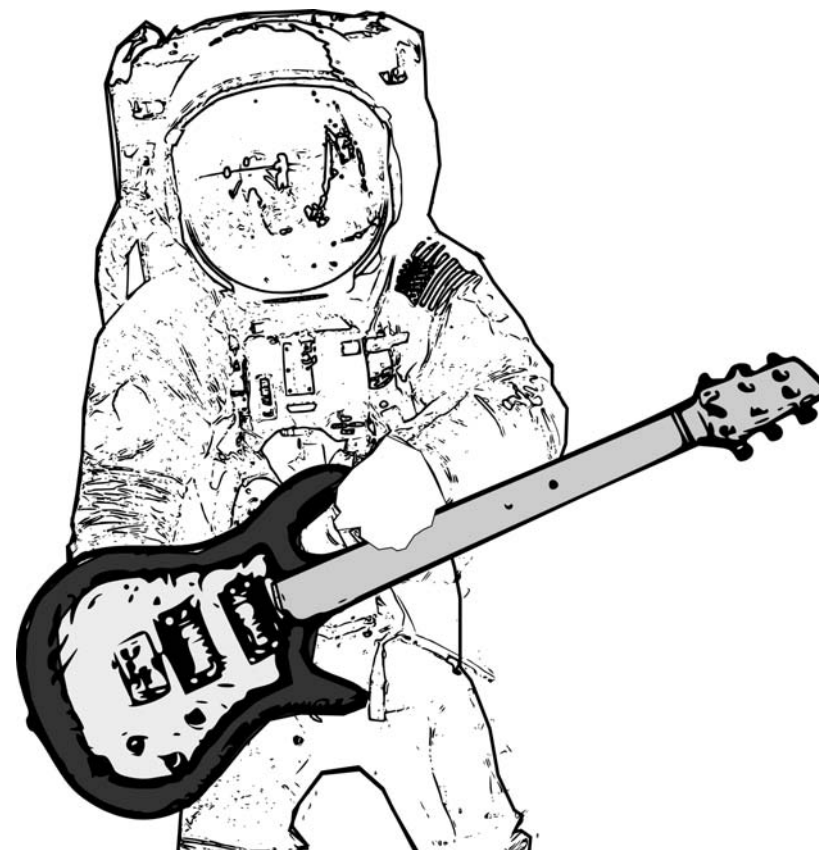
Their first album, *Gear*, was recorded in Montreal with the help of Cristobal Tapia de Veer and Troublemakers Studios; "The drummer from BEAST, who was supposed to produce the record, recommended Cristo, and I'm actually really happy he did, because [...] it was a connection where we were crazy enough to fall in love right away," Vagan says.

"We went in the studio for a month, every day, we were locked in the room for like, 12 hours [...] just recording everything, and took just two weeks to mix it all. Cristo knew how to get us where we had to go. He'd sometimes push us out of our comfort zone [...] he pushed me to be more aggressive, more theatrical."

After touring to support this first, bright effort they hope to get straight back to the studio. In the meantime, the band is shopping for a label.

"It's kind of like the law of attraction," Vagan says. "You think about something long enough, visualize it, and go to bed with it, wake up and it happens."

According to Vagan and Charly, that explains their recent break, landing an opening spot for home-grown phenom BEAST. "I get a call [...] 'Sold out show, Club Soda. You



"We're young people with access to drugs. The circle has to come around again." GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

interested?" Then he calls me back later with two more shows."

Future goals? "I love Radiohead dearly, but I want to take their place," Vagan says. "They cannot be the best band over and over again [...] they're married people with children, and we're young people with lots of access to drugs. The circle has to

come around again."

At this pace, Barton Fink will be well on their way before they know it.

You can catch Barton Fink live this Friday at Club Lambi, 4465 Saint-Laurent at 9:30 p.m. with Dinosaur Bones and Modern Boys Modern Girls, Tickets \$7.

spins

Danko Jones
B-Sides

Bad Taste Records



I'll be honest: as much as I play up the fact that I enjoy complex, atmospheric music that often appears pretentious, I'm a sucker for fast and dirty rock 'n' roll. Music that brings about a dangerous feeling that makes my arm hairs stand on end is music that definitely gets me in the heart, and this release (a collection of B-sides) certainly had its hair-raising moments.

Jones, a native Torontonion, has been playing his own brand of sped-up thrash-blues for close to 10 years. His M.O. is always the same: get in, rock as fast as possible for as long as possible and then back out, on the road to the next city. His swagger is his identity, and there's not much to Jones' music: it's all about women (the love, the loss, the heartbreak, and most evidently, the sex). The 27 songs that appear on this disc span the band (and man)'s career from the 1999 self-titled EP to 2008's

Never Too Loud, and... they're all about girls. Even the Ramones cover ("The Return Of Jackie And Judy") somehow manages to be about girls, though not in the conventional Danko sense.

The only downside is that the 27 tracks seem like a deluge of sameness: though The Mango Kid and company know all about how to hit a groove and saunter around while enjoying themselves, listening to odes about women for more than an hour becomes grating. Best digested in multiple sittings.

3/5

—R. Brian Hastie

Coconut Records
Davy

Young Baby Records



The sound is indie pop and it's sticky-sweet; ever the fan of Jason Schwartzman I have succumbed to writing a review of his latest endeavour, Coconut Records' *Davy*. Album opener, "Microphone," is also the first single. Schwartzman croons, "You are my voice, my

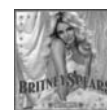
microphone," and I can't help but believe him. "Any Fun," the third track, at first sounds light and Beach Boys reminiscent, but takes a departure into something more staccato. "The Summer," track seven, sounds like it might deliver (but fails) and serves only to remind me of 2007's *Nighttiming* (which was actually good). On their MySpace, "West Coast" dominates, and while it's obviously shallow, it's also sweet ("I miss you, I'm going back home to the West Coast / wish you could put yourself in my suitcase.")—an indie heart that *Davy* unfortunately lacks.

2.5/5

—Joelle Lemieux

Britney Spears
Circus

RCA



She may be old news to some, but she's always news to me; Britney Spears is back with *Circus* and a new tour that kicks off in March. So, while everyone's familiar with album opener "Womanizer," (...No? Crawl out from that rock

you've been hiding under and get to iTunes straight away!) and most have an idea what the title track (yes, "Circus") sounds like, I'm dying to delve into what's left. The album's third track, "Out From Under," is the classic B-Spears pop ballad à la "Lucky" or "Not A Girl, Not Yet A Woman." The sixth track, and third single off the album, "If U Seek Amy," is Katy Perry-styled confrontation and Spears at her (trashiest) finest, "Love me, hate me, say what you want about me / but all of the boys and all of the girls are begging to F-U-C-K me."

The album is a question mark where Spears used to make a statement. Admittedly, there's something catchy about Spears' slightly unconventional "Mmm Papi," but all "Lace And Leather" leaves is a taste for the old days; "Oops!... I Did It Again," anyone? "Radar," the last and so-called bonus track, also appears on *Blackout* and suddenly I feel cheap—oh, Britney, baby... you just had to hit me one more time.

3.75/5

—Joelle Lemieux

The local D.I.Y. guys

Indie rockers Hollerado talk *Residency Tour*, New York versus Montreal and why they'll always be small-town boys

• AMY SMITH

Montreal-based band Hollerado, have been on the road this month with their *Residency Tour*, hopping between towns like New York City, Boston and Lacolle on a weekly basis.

While their touring schedule keeps them busy, *The Link* was able to snag Menno Versteeg, Jake Boyd, Nixon Boyd and Dean Baxter for a few questions before they pummelled their way through their Saturday night show at Barfly.

There are a few things that I should mention about Hollerado. While they may appear to be standard fare, these facts are by no means normal:

This month Hollerado is roaming the region with their February Residency Tour, harkening back to the days when bands would take up residency in-club. Though the boys don't complain about playing seven bars in seven cities seven days a week, a tour like this, I think readers will agree this, is by most measures, nuts.

The band's first full album is *Record in a Bag*, and is available free for download on hollerado.com. But if you do go the way of the physical, instead of a jewel case, the album comes encased in sandwich-sized ziplocs. The boys find this both classy and effective.

The music video for their song "Americanarama" (youtube it) is a spoof of Montreal's favourite entrepreneur/sleezeball Dov Charney. Playing Dov is one of Canada's favourite comedic exports, Dave Foley of "The Kids in the Hall." The boys bonded with Foley over beers in their van after a show in California.

Now that you're up to speed, let's see what the boys have to say:

The Link: *So you're halfway through the February Residency Tour, how's that been going?*

Jake: Great.

Menno: Way better than expected.

Dean: I'm really tired but I'm having so much fun so far. It's great, just to have the opportunity to play every night is amazing. I'll take the tiredness.

Nixon: We're really glad to be halfway through, all the shows have been pretty good, the Canadian shows have been particularly good. In Toronto we've seen some big crowds, it's been awesome and we've met some really cool bands.

Jake: Canada has been awesome. Boston and New York, less awesome, but still awesome. I mean this tour... the first week was the first day that we ever played in Boston. We don't have any friends in Boston, we don't know any bands in Boston...

Menno: We do now.

Jake: Yeah, and now we have some friends and some people are coming to see us. The first show we had maybe 25-30 people; the second show there was maybe 35-40 people.

Menno has been quoted describing a band's success by the type of food they get served at

a show. What are they going to be serving when you know that you've "made it?"

Nixon: I dunno, some nice soup? Maybe carrot soup?

Jake: Well I can answer for Dean, I think Dean has said hummus, like a thousand times. hummus and pitas. If we're like the headlining band...

Menno: Hummus and pitas served on a table of foosball.



Hollerado are (from left) drummer Jake Boyd, guitarists Menno Versteeg and Nixon Boyd, and bassist Dean Baxter.

Dean: A mountain of guacamole with optional hummus. Pizza. A delicious pizza.

What's the best thing you've gotten so far?

Menno: Stealing from the Stills, that was probably the best.

Jake: We steal their Guinness and Jameson.

...and have Irish carbombs?

Jake: Hah, we never thought about that, we always have 'em seperately. They pretty much, if we ever play a show with them they'll be like, "Don't take our Guinness and Jameson." So, that's pretty much the first thing that we take. We'll be like "Oh, they didn't give you any Guinness or Jameson guys, what's up?"

Menno: And they have good meat, too.

Jake: Mmyeah. Coldcuts.

You put your album online for free. That's kind of a political choice.

Nixon: The only politics involved are between the four of us. We're the only ones who really have to decide what we do with our music and we just figured we want people to hear it. We're pretty proud of it so it's almost like, you know, how if you made something really cool you'd show it to your mom and hope that she puts it on the fridge.

Dean: I think we're probably making as

much money with the album for free as we would if we were on some sort of label, just because of the way of the music industry, not saying anything bad towards record labels or bands that sign with them but you know, I think it's a better way to get it out there.

Jake: Yeah...It'd be more of a political choice if more people knew us.

Menno: It's not so ballsy anymore.

sible music consumption. Like, you can download everything you can, find out what you like and support the bands you like.

Come to the show and pay the five dollar cover, instead of being a dick about it, or like, that's great, that's what we would like, people to come to the shows, but you can go to the store and buy the vinyl copy.

Jake: People really have to realize that even bands that are looked at as very successful, the musicians in those bands are not making a lot of money. There are a lot of people, musicians, who are jealous of bands like The Stills, but for how much work those guys do...

Menno: I thought those guys were like millionaires before I knew them.

You guys are all from the same small town of, Manotick, Ontario, and that small town theme comes out in your lyrics. Now that you're relocated to Montreal does that change your dynamic?

Nixon: We get to listen to a lot of cool music that's happening in this city. Manotick, uh, you know, the best act they've ever gotten has just been like big country bands and stuff like that. That's cool, but it's nice to be exposed to more stuff.

Jake: I think the way we look at it is, the way we look at playing music, we remember being teenagers in a small town in Ontario and just thinking like, 'Man, I wish I could live in a city where there were places to play music,' you know? I can so remember being so depressed in a small town, not depressed but just really hoping to get out of that small town. I think we look at ourselves more as a small town band than a Montreal band, you know?

Menno: As far as lyrically, [...] it just has to be based on something that happened so if I'm here it's people and stories [that I'm exposed to] here, for sure. But I still go home a lot and something might come up there.

Dean: It doesn't change where we're from. We'll always go back there, that's where home is.

So from someone who is currently playing these places, what's the difference between the Montreal, Boston and the New York scene right now?

Menno: I don't know enough. I would definitely say that the cities all have different vibes, for sure. [...] I think a good scene is where it's healthy and bands can exist, where people come and watch you even if you're just starting out.

Jake: I don't even understand scenes. I just understand songs, you know? I don't even understand genres that much, like if a song's good, a song's good. I've never understood the concept of a good scene, even when people talk about Montreal.

Hollerado's residency tour will be on the road until the end of February with Montreal shows every Saturday night at Barfly, 4062 St-Laurent Blvd.

Do you think that it's an accepted thing to do, then? You know that you're going to get downloaded anyway and that it's advantageous to you?

Menno: Yeah, and this way we can control what's out there.

Jake: Also, anyone who's smart realizes that music as a physical commodity, that being CDs, records, whatever, that's a luxury item, right? You're not going either to live or die based on whether or not you have a CD.

Menno: Unless it's *Full Moon Fever*.

Jake: Hah, or like *Dark Side of the Moon* or something awesome. But, um, the thing is that if somebody listens to something and they really like it, like the first Weezer record, I think I've bought that on CD like three or four times.

Menno: Totally, you just need a copy of that.

Jake: ...and the first Sublime CD, somebody gave that to me, somebody burned that for me when I was 13 years old and I listened to it, and I loved it so much that I went out, I had to actually get [the physical copy].

So you guys have faith that if people really like you they're going to come and buy your CD.

Menno: Yeah, I want to advocate respon-



Stingers guard Damian Buckley makes move towards basket, PHOTO CHRIS GATES

Stingers secure 1st place

Gaiters booted out of playoff race with back-to-back losses to Con U

• JOHNNY NORTH

Concordia 91 Bishop's 77

"You can't spot a good team 14 points in the first four minutes," said Rod Gilpin, head coach of the Bishop's Gaiters. "It was too big of a hole to dig ourselves out of."

A 14-0 lead by the Concordia Stingers men's basketball team in the first quarter against the Gaiters last Friday night at Concordia's Loyola Gym helped set the tone for a 91-77 victory.

Leading the way for Con U was team scoring leader Damian Buckley and fifth-year centre Jamal Gallier. Both players had 10 points combined less than two minutes into the game. Buckley led his team once again with 23 points and 11 assists, while Gallier had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

"They're fighting for a playoff spot," said Dwayne Buckley, Damian's brother, who recorded 15 points and 9 rebounds. "We didn't want to be the team that gives them hope."

The first quarter ended 27-15 in favour of the Stingers, but slowly the Gaiters clawed their way back into it. Bishop's veterans Cam Mowat, Junior Nicolas and Damon Thomas-Anderson—playing in their second to last game—kept their team within reach and led their team with 38 points collectively.

In the second quarter, the superior defence of the Stingers dominated the defensive rebounds, barely giving the Gaiters any chance for a second scoring attempt. Con U also barely gave the Gaiters any chances within the key, and as a result, Con U took a comfortable 50-35 lead into halftime.

"The difference was our energy," said Dwayne Buckley of Concordia's ability to play tight defence.

Stingers head coach John Dore refused to comment on the game.

In the third quarter Bishop's picked up their level of intensity by going on an 18-5 run. During this time, the foul calls also started to mount for the Stingers. But

fourth-year Stingers guard Pierre Thompson didn't find that was the difference.

"We're trying to send a message to the league. They're fighting for a playoff spot, we're trying to hold our ground on first place."

—Pierre Thompson,
Stingers guard

"We just didn't come out with the same energy we had in the first half," he said. "It wasn't really the referees [...] although there were a few questionable calls. They're unpredictable, but there's nothing we can do. They got the last say. We just kinda have to roll with the punches."

Bishop's was able to come within two points, 57-55, midway through the third quarter.

Fortunately for the Stingers, Damien Buckley stepped up and got his team on track as he broke through double-coverage for some flashy lay-ups. Con U went on a 9-0 run to kill any hopes for a comeback.

"When it gets close you have to get it done," said Dwayne

Buckley. "When you have a big lead, you tend to relax a little bit."

"There definitely was hope," said Gilpin. "But you don't have a lot of room for mistakes once you've fallen behind. To fight back and fight back you gotta play nearly perfect basketball. We let up, which was inevitable."

"We're trying to send a message to the league," said Thompson. "They're fighting for a playoff spot, we're trying to hold our ground on first place."

On a positive note for Bishop's, Nicolas was able to reach his 1,000th career point with less than two minutes remaining in the game.

Concordia 75 Bishop's 66

"Their backs are against the wall now," said Thompson prior

to last Saturday's showdown at Bishop's Mitchell Gym. "This could be the last game of the season for them. They're coming for us. All we can do is play hard."

This time around, Bishop's came out to a large early lead, but in the second half saw it disappear as Con U completed their season sweep of the Gaiters with a 75-66 victory.

Leading the way for the Stingers this time was Dwayne Buckley with 18 points and Evens Laroche with 17 points. Both made the majority of their three-point opportunities.

Con U (10-4) has now clinched first-place in the Quebec conference, while the Gaiters will miss the playoffs for the third year in a row.

Concordia wraps up their regular season with an away and home series against their first-round playoff opponent the McGill Redmen (5-9). First game at McGill is this Friday at 8 p.m. with the last game of the season back at Concordia's Loyola Gym at 4 p.m.

Hanging on... barely

Women's basketball team must win next two to make playoffs after dropping two to Bishop's

• JOHNNY NORTH

**Concordia 58
Bishop's 64**

The Bishop's Gaiters came ready to play and the Concordia Stingers women's basketball team did not in a 64-58 loss to the Gaiters last Friday at Concordia's Loyola Gym.

"I'm very angry with how we played compared to last week where we played hard," said Keith Pruden, head coach of the Stingers. "Defensive errors every two minutes, we shot 28 per cent from the floor, and we lose by six. Absolute nonsense."

Gaiters forwards Katy Germain and Amanda Piribauer led the way early on. Germain ended the game leading all players with 20 points, scoring four three-pointers.

"Everything we did on offence was basically with two power forwards," said Alex Perno, head of the Gaiters. "We were kinda out of rhythm as we have one injured (6'2 forward Felicia Craig-Thompson)."

"It's typical of the team. We lose our composure and everything goes to hell in a hand basket."

—Keith Pruden,
Stingers head coach

Con U had a tough time shooting, but were still able to keep the score close as they were only down 19-10 after the first quarter. Stingers captain Krystle Douglas and Anne-Marie Prophete looked to be the only ones who could make their shots, but even they struggled. Douglas led the team with 14 points.

"I'm not sure why, at one point they started to get frustrated because we had a hard time scoring," said Pruden. "I took a timeout and tried to settle them back down again. We only get five timeouts, I can't do it every two minutes. We're not good at staying focused, if I had an answer for that we wouldn't have won only three league games so far."

Sloppy passes resulting in costly turnovers plagued the Stingers in the second quarter, and they looked clearly frustrated with Bishop's relentless hustle.

Pruden finds "it's typical of the team. We lose our composure and everything goes to hell in a hand basket. I said to them 'you're thinking about everything but



Stingers leading scorer Krystle Douglas blows by Bishop's defender Annick-Stephanie Charles. PHOTO CHRIS GATES

what you're suppose to be doing. You're think about the referees, you're thinking about the shot you just missed, you're thinking about how I jumped up in your face because you did something I didn't like. Why aren't you thinking about what we're trying to do offensively and defensively? And that in a nutshell is the problem."

Con U started to build some momentum late in the second quarter, going on a 9-2 run to cut

the deficit to 32-25. The third quarter was another step back for the Stingers, who continued to struggle making their shots and capturing offensive rebounds.

The fourth was the Stingers' best quarter, nailing every free throw they got to bring them to 56-53 with roughly five minutes remaining.

"They're a very talented team one-on-one," said Perno. "They make tough shots and go to the

basket. The difference was our rebounding with our defence at the end of the game, even though our offence got slow.

"But our second post [Piribauer] came back in, that's been our bread and butter all year and we got back to our offensive stuff."

Pruden believes the team already knows how to solve their problem for their next encounter with the Gaiters.

"I'm a miracle worker—follow our game plan. We're supposed to be doubling our post from a particular position on them and we forget twice. Bishop's ended up scoring twice. My game plan is fine, we just didn't follow it."

With time rapidly running out for the Stingers to get into a playoff spot, Pruden has let upper brass know how difficult his job is.

"I said that to my boss (Katie Sheahan) who was sitting behind the bench. I suggested that maybe I was little underpaid and I could use a bigger office or access to psychotherapy.

There's only so much [a coach] can do. I'm trying to do well in the things I can do, but it's an athlete's game. My job is to persuade them, conjure them, coach them. We've been making progress but tonight was two steps back. Can we recover from that tomorrow? We'll see. They're certainly motivated enough to do it, but are they focused enough to do it? That's the million-dollar question."

35

Combined point total of Stingers guard and leading scorer Krystle Douglas over the two losses against Bishop's

**Concordia 68
Bishop's 82**

The Gaiters once again took an early lead and never looked back in a 82-68 victory over the Stingers last Saturday at Bishop's Mitchell Gym.

Douglas again led her team in points with 21.

Con U must now win their two remaining games over the McGill Martlets in order to make the playoffs. The final games could be exciting, but Pruden is looking for a clear victory.

"Coaches loathe excitement, a good coach does not want an exciting game. A coach is not interested in keeping the fans interested. I could care less if the fans are entertained. Give me a 20-point win any day of the week. I don't want any more excitement, I got enough excitement for the season after last week."

Concordia wraps up their season with a game against McGill this Friday at McGill's Donald Love Competition Hall at 6 p.m. The following night they wrap up the season at Concordia's Loyola Gym at 6 p.m.

Stingers comeback too late

Coach's daughter taken to dressing room after collapsing on bench

• PAOLO MINGARELLI

Concordia 2
Ottawa 4

Sunday afternoon's 4-2 loss to the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees may not have seemed like such a heartbreaking defeat after the Con U squad saw one of their own players being taken to the dressing room, and later on accompanied to the hospital.

The scariest moment of the game came with just under three minutes left in the game when Mallory Lawton, Stingers head coach Les Lawton's daughter, collapsed on the bench. She was removed from the game and taken to the dressing room to be attended by the training staff. No word has been given on her condition or what caused her to collapse.

The Gee-Gees came out strong and took away the home ice advantage from Con U by scoring a little over a minute and a half into the game, due to an unassisted goal from Ottawa.

The Stingers didn't give up, and came very close to scoring on a powerplay that they clearly dominated. Stingers goaltender Audrey Doyon-Lessard was a key factor in keeping Ottawa from scoring more goals than they did. She came up huge early on—stopping a wrap around and a shot from the point that was deflected in front of the net.

Ottawa did have a solution for Doyon-Lessard, as they would make it 2-0 before the end of the first. An icing call was waved off and that allowed Ottawa to make a last ditch effort and beat Con U to the puck. A wraparound popped up and the rebound was put in back of the net.

The Gee-Gee's came close to making it 3-0, but Doyon-Lessard stretched her pads and made another key save.

In the second period the first



Stingers forward Kelly Feehan chases down Ottawa forward. PHOTO CAT TARRANTS

10 minutes were marked by penalties on both sides, although both teams managed to kill them off. Ottawa was able to extend their two-goal lead over the Stingers at 11:38 of the second with a cross-ice pass to the slot. The rest of the second flowed very smoothly between both teams; meanwhile each goalie came up with big saves on break-aways. The period ended with a 3-0 lead for the visiting squad.

The third period started on a bad note for the Stingers—they couldn't capitalize on a 5-on-3 advantage. Concordia was able to come very close on one occasion with a scramble in front of the Ottawa net that was sadly cleared away.

The Gee-Gees would make it 4-0 after 10 minutes in the third with a backhand that went by Doyon-Lessard. The Stingers were able to break the shutout

less than a minute later with a powerplay goal that was scored by forward Catherine Rancourt, who let a shot go through traffic. With less than a minute left in the game the Stingers scored another goal on a deflection through the five-hole of the Ottawa goalie.

This game for the Stingers did prove that the special teams can be great. Forward Devon Rich said "our penalty kill and our power-

play played great, we were very solid and effective and we had a lot of opportunities."

When asked about the team's performance as a whole, she commented "we have to play every period like we played the third, and if we do, we will win."

The women's hockey team travels to Carleton this Saturday to face off against the Ravens at 7 p.m.

scoreboard

	Home		Away	Record
Men's Basketball	Concordia 91	— VS —	Bishop's 77	10-4-0
	Bishop's 66	— VS —	Concordia 75	
Men's Hockey	Concordia 6	— VS —	UQTR 5	15-13-0
Women's Basketball	Concordia 58	— VS —	Bishop's 63	3-11-0
	Concordia 68	— VS —	Bishop's 82	
Women's Hockey	Concordia 2	— VS —	Carleton 3	3-13-0
	Concordia 2	— VS —	Ottawa 4	

schedule

	Who	When
Men's hockey	VS. Carleton	Wednesday, 8 p.m.
	@ Carleton	Friday, 7 p.m.
Women's Basketball	@ McGill	Friday, 6 p.m.
	VS McGill	Saturday, 6 p.m.
Men's Basketball	@ McGill	Friday, 8 p.m.
	VS McGill	Saturday, 4 p.m.
Women's Hockey	@ Carleton	Saturday, 7 p.m.



Stingers forward Cory McGillis hounds Patriotes defenceman Guillaume Chicoine. PHOTO CHRIS GATES

Stingers end season on high

Defeat division leader UQTR en route to first round battle with Carleton

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ
& ALYCE PUMPHREY

Concordia 6 UQTR 5 (OT)

The Concordia men's hockey team put the finishing touches on a remarkable season with a 6-5 overtime victory over the Quebec powerhouse Université de Québec à Trois Rivières Patriotes on Friday night at Ed Meagher Arena.

The hero of the night was Stingers forward Brad Gager. Gager's second goal of the night iced the victory in overtime, as he pounced on a rebound in front of the Patriotes' net to complete the comeback.

"You always get goosebumps when you score in overtime," said Gager. "It was just a good feeling, especially before the playoffs."

The game had a rocky start for the home squad. UQTR struck first, as Patriotes centre Eric Beaudin scooped up a rebound on the backhand less than two minutes into the game and shovelled the puck past sprawled Stingers goalie Maxime Joyal.

However, the Stingers answered

quickly with a breakaway goal by left-winger Cory McGillis. McGillis received a perfect end-to-end pass from Stingers captain Simon-Pierre Sauve before beating Patriotes goalie Jean-Christophe Blanchard.

Despite the quick response, UQTR took a stranglehold on the game with three unanswered goals and held a 4-1 lead over the flustered home squad early in the second period.

"You know, sometimes you have to pick the grapes before you can drink the wine... They've got the character to get the job done."

—Kevin Figsby,
Men's Hockey head coach

Joyal, one of the top goalies in the province seemed rattled, giving up an uncharacteristic amount of dangerous rebounds and seemed a little hesitant. Joyal is in the midst of returning from a bout with illness.

"I had bronchitis for two weeks, but I'm 100 per cent now," said Joyal in response to his physical status. "I'm ready for the playoffs."

Joyal proved it during the rest of the game, as he quickly shook off the

early rust and was a wall for the rest of the game. Joyal stopped 31 of 36 shots directed at him on the night.

After falling behind by three goals, the Stingers noticeably picked up their level of intensity. Towering left-winger Renaud Des Alliers was a physical force, hitting people left and right, and the rest of the team fed off his hard-nosed energy to spur a comeback for the home squad.

Stingers defenceman Michael Blundon started the surge with a wrist-shot through traffic that found the bottom left corner of the net. Mike Baslyk followed up minutes later with a rocket from the slot into the top corner, which cut the deficit to one goal and prompted the Patriotes to replace Blanchard with back-up goaltender Michael Dupont.

Dupont received a rude welcome

as mere minutes after he took the ice Stingers sniper Nicholas D'Aoust scored on a one-timer in front of the net to tie the game at 4-4. The Patriotes regained the lead minutes later, but Stingers hero Gager tied the game again with a baseball-style swing at a hovering puck that ended up in the back of the UQTR net to tie the game again at 5-5.

"I guess the Gods were on my side," said Gager regarding the deflection.

The last period was a physical affair, but the Stingers managed to kill off several penalties to keep the game tied.

The Stingers appeared to be in trouble with just under 10 minutes remaining in the game. Patriotes forward Guillaume Chicoine was awarded a penalty shot with the opportunity to win the game. Luckily for the Stingers, Joyal wasn't rattled at all with the game possibly on the line.

"I was calm," said Joyal. "When he went backhand, I was there to make the save." Joyal's heroics set the stage for Gager's emotional game-winner, which sent the capacity crowd into a frenzy before the

Stingers joined at centre ice to salute their supporters in attendance.

"The crowd carried us through," said Stingers coach Kevin Figsby. "They were an extra player out there."

The win capped off an impressive turnaround season for the Stingers, who were left out of the playoffs last year. Now, they find themselves with home-ice advantage in their first round tilt with the Carleton Ravens.

"You know, sometimes you have to pick the grapes before you can drink the wine," said Figsby regarding the difficult season preceding their bounce-back campaign. "They're one big family, and they've been that way since training camp. They've got the character to get the job done."

The Stingers host game one of the Ontario University Athletics playoffs against the Carleton Ravens on Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Ed Meagher Arena. Game 2 takes place Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Carleton University, while game 3 would take place Sunday at 4 p.m. at Ed Meagher Arena if necessary.

Green space

How clean is “clean coal?”

• BETTINA GRASSMANN

You may have heard politicians talking about investing in “clean coal” as a way of solving the energy crisis and mitigating global warming. But what is “clean coal” and is it really clean?

No other energy source snorts out as many pollutants as coal. Nearly any poison you can think of is a by-product of coal processing. Take your pick: arsenic, uranium, heavy metals, they’re all there. In the US, coal-fired power plants are the largest source of poisonous mercury, which enters human breast milk through fish stocks.

Coal mining literally levels mountains as large swaths of forest and rock are dug up to get at the coal underneath. Coal mining is also extremely dangerous. An old coal miner joke stated that, “the lungs of a coal miner are so black that you could burn them as fuel for your barbecue.” This joke was medically true in the worst cases. A conservative estimate says that nearly 100,000 coal miners died in North America due to accidents during the 20th century.

A coal-fired plant also produces twice the amounts of greenhouse gases as a gas-fired plant. However, as the price of oil continues to rise and its supply continues to fall, financial pressures have compelled us to burn more and more coal. Three Canadian provinces—Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nova Scotia—derive over 40 per cent of their energy from coal.

Some of these coal power plants have been described as “clean.”

“Clean coal” is not a singular idea, it is an umbrella term that encompasses several technologies.

Supercritical-Pressure Pulverized Coal Combustion Technology refers to the use of a boiler to heat and pressurize steam, leading to an increase in efficiency and a reduction of greenhouse gases as a result. But considering how much greenhouse gases coal produces in the first place, an efficiency reduction cannot be considered “clean” in any way.

Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle is a combustion process that converts coal into syngas—a combination of carbon monoxide and hydrogen—that is used to fire the combustion turbine in a combined-cycle power plant. This scrubs pollutants like sulphur and heavy metals from the fuel before it is burned; but isn’t really “clean.”

The most talked about “clean coal” technology is Carbon Capturing and Storage. This process aims to collect coal’s pollutants and store them for eternity. One place to sequester the pollutants is in the oceans, but this is madness. The main pollutant, carbon dioxide, makes ocean water more acidic and dissolves calcium in shellfish and corals. In fact, carbon dioxide levels are already so high that marine biologists predict a mass extinction.

The other way to sequester CO₂ is to pump it back into the recesses where the coal was mined. This process has its dangers. It cannot be done in areas with high seismic activity because a little shake can spew the CO₂ right back out into the atmosphere. Carbon sequestering also requires another precious resource, water. The biggest logistical hurdle is that the technology is still in its infancy, and cannot be commercially viable and widely adopted before 2025, far too late to make a difference.

So do technologies like CCS make coal greener as a fuel source? Yes, but the truth is that “clean coal” is a false promise and a mirage. It is a public relations term designed to make coal sound acceptable as a fuel source, and not just “clean coal” but ‘ole fashioned “dirty” coal. Touting “clean coal” as a solution diverts attention and money away from genuinely clean sources of energy that could save the planet.

Jeff Biggers of *The Washington Post* said, “never was there an oxymoron more insidious as clean coal.”



Letters@thelink.concordia.ca

Hillel tells SPHR how it is

In his article to *The Link*, Stefan Christoff condemned Concordia’s administration for its actions against Solidarity for Palestinian Human Right’s recent demonstrations. Unfortunately, it is all too predictable that SPHR and its associates would blatantly violate school policy and then cry “censorship” when they are reprimanded.

Christoff claims that SPHR is being punished for distributing information. The graphics under his article show students peacefully holding hands. In a letter to the editor in the same issue, Dr. David Bernans, Ph.D. refers to students “standing silently” with placards.

Having witnessed the events of Jan. 7 where SPHR students began protesting loudly in the Hall building lobby before marching up to the seventh floor with megaphones, shouting “viva Palestina” and “viva intifada,” I find the characterizations of SPHR’s actions as “peaceful” to be laughably misleading. The only thing the administration should be criticized for is for not taking action sooner.

Concordia has indeed been a hub for voices of dissent.

Unfortunately, Concordia was also the site of a shocking riot in 2002, one in which a rowdy mob vandalized school property, bullied Jewish students and shut down a lecture by former, and perhaps future Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

That same year Hillel was banned from campus. I find it ironic that the architects of Concordia’s darkest chapter, which was an affront to the ideals of freedom of speech, are now complaining about having their voices stifled.

Like most other student groups at Concordia, Hillel respects the university’s rules and does not stage rallies inside school property, nor do we hand out fliers inside the school at anytime other than when we have a table. If SPHR wishes to show solidarity with Palestinians and supply their fellow students with information, it stands to reason that they should be held to the same rules as every other club, including Hillel.

Since Christoff’s organization, Tadamon, is not a Concordia student group, I am not surprised that his views on this situation are so misguided. Tadamon has shown that they thrive on grandstanding and mayhem; they proved as much last year when some of their members, including Christoff, violently disrupted a private luncheon with Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and in the process assaulted a security guard.

I applaud the administration for trying to ensure a safe learning environment where issues can be peacefully debated and for protecting the reputation of the school and its students.

—Samuel Moyal,
Hillel Concordia

The world needs more ecosocialists

Madelyn Lipszyc’s contribution to the GreenSpace column last week scrapes the surface of the deadly race for resources, but falls shy of pointing the finger squarely at the larger environmental problem—capitalism.

The John Molson Sustainable Business Group, a walking oxymoron, hosted its fifth annual Sustainable Business Conference last Friday. The speakers are all leaders in the field and some of them are doing excellent work, but the conference did nothing to address the clear structural underpinnings of global warming.

We can be sure that most of the speakers at the conference shared the view that the world’s ecological damage can be repaired without major disruption

tion of the global economy, but measures to date have proved otherwise.

As *The Wall Street Journal* put it in March 2007, cap and trade “would make money for some very large corporations, but don’t believe for a minute that this charade would do much about global warming.”

There is a viable and growing alternative though. As world leaders met in Davos to save capitalism from itself, activists of all stripes gathered in Brazil for the annual anti-globalization conference called the World Social Forum. It was there that the second meeting of the Ecosocialist International Network was held on Feb. 2.

“The ecosocialist movement aims to stop and to reverse the disastrous process of global warming in particular and of capitalist ecocide in general, and to construct a radical and practical alternative to the capitalist system,” reads the Ecosocialist Declaration, with an echo of Marx’s Communist Manifesto.

Ecosocialists from across the world have signed the declaration including noted Canadians like Greg Albo, Roger Annis, *Canadian Dimension* editor Cy Gonick, Derrick O’Keefe of rabble.ca, Leo Panitch and academic John W. Warnock.

I would urge readers to visit the Ecosocialist Network website to read and sign the declaration to become part of a growing movement to curb the tide of capitalism, a fundamentally unsustainable business.

—Matthew Brett,
Political Science

DSU support for Anna Goldfinch

It is my great pleasure to see that Anna Goldfinch has thrown her hat in the ring to run as president of ASFA at Concordia. As president of the Dawson Student Union last year I had the opportunity to work with Anna on a variety of student issues and campaigns. She proved herself to be committed, and knowledgeable about student issues.

Anna was instrumental in bringing campaigns to the forefront of discussion within the Anglophone CEGEP network, which is a daunting task. In collaboration with the Quebec Federation of University Students, we also worked closely on a coalition project to prevent the defreeze of tuition that involved organizing the Nov. 22 Day of Action.

With the skills and experience that Anna has acquired while taking on these many projects I have no doubt that she will represent Arts and Science students with integrity, confidence and enthusiasm.

—Charlie Brenchley,
VP External, Dawson Student Union

Former exec supports former exec

I would like to remind you that the ASFA elections are fast approaching and you, the students, need to make sure that your vote is heard and respected. The posters are up and the candidates have picked their colours and slogans... please don’t be confused.

Take the time to look and read. I am writing you today to express my sincere confidence that Leah Del Vecchio and her team is the only option you should be considering. She has the experience; having held the position of VP Social for the 2006-2007 ASFA executive and VP Student Life of the Concordia Student Union in 2007-2008.

I have worked closely with Leah during my time as a CSU executive, and I can tell you that she is a hard worker and one that will not stop until the job is completed. Her first and foremost objective has always been to ensure the best possible student

experience at Concordia and to faithfully represent the wishes of those who place their trust in her hands.

After her many years of experience in student politics, Leah has developed into a strong leader. I feel confident she can repair the ills of this past turbulent year. During my year at the CSU in which I worked closely with Leah, I consistently saw a woman who displayed the qualities necessary to be a leader. Her passion, character, devotion, and experience will make the year of 2009-10, if elected, one with hope of success for ASFA.

—Erica Jabouin,
Political Science

A letter about Israel, from your teachers

The following statement was published in *Le Devoir* on Jan. 24, along with 81 signatures, including 28 Concordia faculty members.

We are a group of teachers and employees at Quebec colleges and universities who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and with the people of Gaza who have suffered through the Israeli siege as targets of Israel’s brutal military attack.

It will take more than ceasefires to bring a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel. We are acting in response to an appeal for support issued Jan. 2 by the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees. In the wake of the Israeli bombing of the Islamic University of Gaza, the Federation of Unions has urged academics around the world to support a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

We support this call and place it within a wider campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions. The struggle against apartheid in South Africa was supported through boycotts, divestment, and sanctions. We support a similar strategy against the Israeli state.

We will undertake actions within our own institutions to promote education on this issue, to support students, faculty, and employees to speak out on this question, and to pressure the institutions in which we work to participate in a boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign that aims for a just and lasting settlement for the Palestinian people.

We strongly condemn the government of Canada’s position on the ongoing conflict in Gaza and for its bilateral trade agreements that help sustain Israeli military actions. The Harper government has condemned Hamas, an elected government, as a terrorist organization. Yet it consistently supports the government of Israel, which has used weapons causing mass destruction on a mainly civilian population, including attacks on children and schools, and has violated International prohibitions against collective punishment through its blockade of the Gaza strip.

We call on the Harper government to re-evaluate its policies and to unequivocally condemn the Israeli siege and assault on Gaza, which constitute serious violations of international and humanitarian law. We further demand that the Israeli government immediately cease its violence.

As well, we urge that all economic relations between Israel and the governments of Canada and Quebec—including trade agreements—be suspended until there is not only a just and lasting peace for the Palestinian people, but that Israel, in compliance with international law, recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

—Eric Shragge,
School of Community and Public Affairs

My advice for Rosie

Regardless of the veracity of the recent extortion allegations against Steven Rosenshein, a few facts nonetheless remain:

Enough controversy and scandal has swirled around Rosenshein’s name over the course of his career at Concordia that he must realize, somewhere

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.

deep down in that murky soul of his, that his name will forever be directly associated with fraudulent practices, complete disregard for the good of students and the good of Concordia, and abject, all encompassing moral bankruptcy.

At this point, Rosenshein, as far as I and everyone else knows, has been involved in student politics for years, at times without even being a student. Rosenshein's full-time job appears to be as a “shadow shogun” of student government at Concordia. Does he not sometimes look at himself in the mirror and wonder what exactly he's doing with his life? What does Steven tell his parents when they ask him what his future plans are? “Student government, mom. It's not just a one-year thing.”

Steve, take my advice. Join the workforce. Use your degree, or at least your multiple years of attendance at Concordia, to line up a solid, honest, well paying job. You'll thank me when girls no longer look at you cockeyed when you tell them what you do for a living.

Steve, if you're reading this, read the next part very carefully: Your legacy at Concordia is already ruined. Besides a few of your cronies and buddies on the executive, no one actually thinks you've done anything of note for the students or for the school.

Now, if the allegations are true, you have committed a serious criminal offence, all under the banner of Concordia and for nothing more than your own personal gain. If you have even a shred of decency and self respect left you'll realize that you're no longer just tarnishing your own name but also that of Concordia, a university that many of us students care deeply about, and begin to take steps towards rectifying some of the unfortunate situations you've dragged yourself, and our school, into.

Do I think you'll take my advice? Your track record tells me I shouldn't hold out even the faintest of hopes that you'll actually do something that will, for once, benefit yourself, the students, and the school. But I guess we can always keep our fingers crossed, can't we?

—Jason Ahrens,
Psychology

The view from a past politco

Having moved unto other things in life than the mind-numbing pestilence—purgatory? perpetuity?—known as Concordia student politics, I still nonetheless manage to receive a daily barrage of mostly boring and trivial Facebook invites of all goings on at Con U. I'm probably not going to some bar on Bishop for your club's 5 à 7, but thanks for the invite all the same.

In any event, as someone who thinks himself still somewhat well regarded by most people in the joint, or totally delusional about that fact, but probably a mix of both, I wanted to chime in about one ASFA executive candidate in particular who might not, I feel, be getting the attention she deserves.

Now, in the old days, this letter page would be covered with letters slamming or sliming everyone and their dead uncle, along with another four pages replete with the same in the issue, so I don't know what's around these lines you read. But Carolyn Wilson is a great choice for VP Internal.

I've known Carolyn for many years now, and I wish that students support this committed activist. That's right, I think we need a few activists roiling up the joint and asking everyone uncomfortable questions. And if I can get my two cents in the matter, she's the gal to do it.

I don't want this endorsement to be seen in anyway as a detraction leading to the favouring or disparaging of anyone else running, as there are many great candidates in the running. But I hope it merely serves to iterate the fact that Carolyn particularly impresses me with her background in feminist scholarship and activism, having been involved in the “Back Off” conferences, as well as the Women Studies Student's Association, yet paradoxically also keeping somewhat of a lower profile than many other great people who have put themselves forward for the ASFA race and also done great work in their past projects.

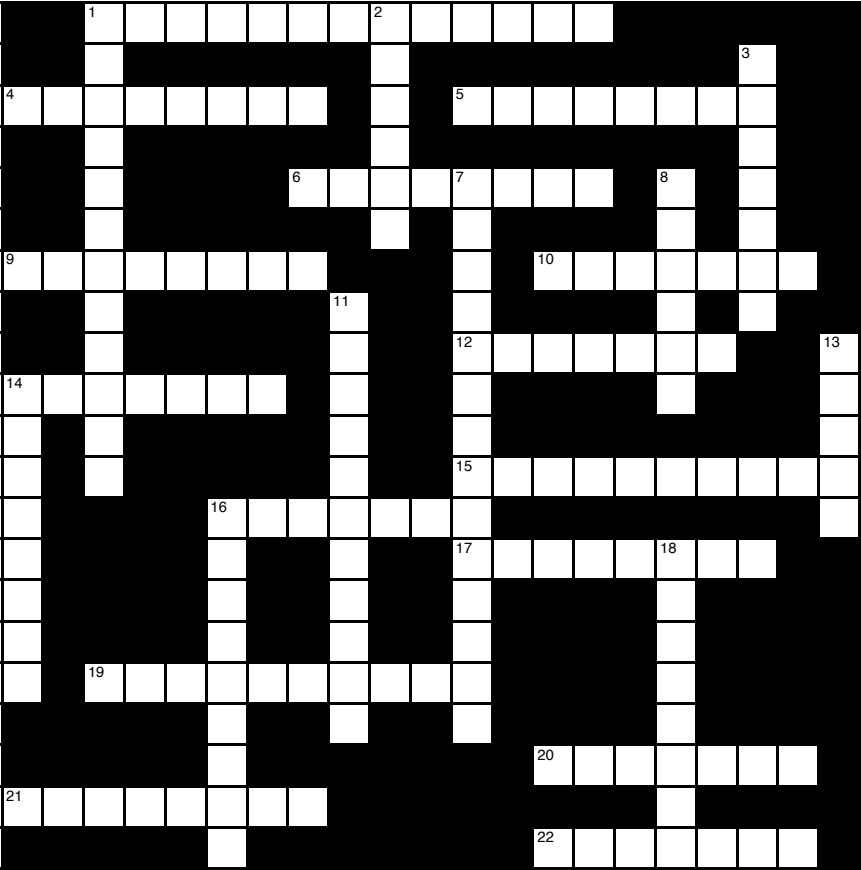
There are a great many candidates running, so I encourage you all to research them and their ideas, and then get out and vote, and I also want to take a moment to thank everyone who still has the energy to get involved in their student association's affairs.

—Chris Schwartz,
Political Science

To: CSU VP Finance

Mr Leroy:
I wish to examine our financial statements.
—Edward J. Walshe,
Software Engineering

crswrdpzzlol
READING WEEK • R. BRIAN HASTIE & BRUNO DE ROSA



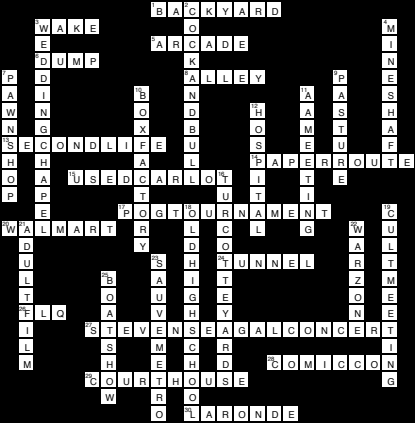
ACROSS

- 1. For many people, this is an extreme sport that has become too extreme. However, it is time to show the opposition that it's not the right time to steal picnic baskets
- 4. You passed the last gas station three hours ago, and the road seems endless. The fuel gauge is showing near empty, and you're wondering if you can somehow turn tree sap into gasoline
- 5. You got the AbMaster8000, better put it to good use. Or, alternatively, running away from the cops also is a good form of this
- 6. Ear, nose, eyebrow or navel... all of these could use more holes
- 9. Think about it. If this were 2008, we would be celebrating this at the end of February
- 10. A crossbow and a target means good times. Either that or a murder charge, if you accidentally kill a human
- 12. Tents ain't worth shit in -20 degree weather. This activity does not count if you sleep inside a car parked at a local playground
- 14. If your hair traps small animals inside of it as you walk down the street, then you should consider doing something about it
- 15. Your eight-year-old self would love the hell out of this adventure that forces you to wear a rumble pack and point a plastic gun into dark places
- 16. Every hipster in the Plateau will be doing this during Reading Week. Roll up a \$5 bill and let your nose do the walking. Not for the faint of heart (literally)
- 17. Some people say it's a work of art, some people say it's an expression of neglect, some say it's a science experiment. It's garbage. Get rid of it
- 19. It's like being voluntarily bed-ridden, only you don't have a pee bag. Shucks, guess I'll go to the bathroom and ruin my hibernation
- 20. So your clothing smells like rancid meat. It doesn't count if you take your clothes in the shower. They need alone time to be pampered in a washing machine
- 21. During your week off you should stock up on necessities like nougat, chocolate eggs and doormats
- 22. Follow birds' lead and do this once-yearly thing. I'm free of my old skin and/or feathers! Hurray for cyclical changes

DOWN

- 1. Stare into the pendulum, repeat after the Master, lose three hours of your life. I now have the urge to build a wood shack
- 2. The official band of Reading Week. Their hit “Raining Blood” will definitely make everyone happy as they bounce around, reading the works of Thoreau and Poe. Ah, screw it. The answer's Slayer. *South Of Heaven* is a vastly underrated piece of art.
- 3. It's the name of the week. What? You expected something called March Break at the end of February?
- 7. You could spend all week scouring every dépot and grocery store for the 1975 limited edition half-dollar, but you really shouldn't
- 8. As long as this activity stays away from the locations listed in last week's crossword, it should be a grand time. Except mineshafts
- 11. It's almost spring. Time to take down that collection of reindeers hanging around your front lawn
- 13. Everyone must do this at least once during the week. And you should do so with scotch and streamers. Everyone loves a get-together with scotch...
- 14. Neglected for so long during the semester. It's unlikely that you'll get a third extension on that essay, unless you beg really hard
- 16. The exhaust needs fixing. You have to scrape roadkill off the front panel. The wheel keeps falling off. Your automobile needs you
- 18. What happens when porn and Google unite. The entirety of this network consumes all. Oh, and it also has Facebook

issue 22
solutionz



editorial
The CSU Council needs to ignore petty politics and act for students

The word's there in the name. Concordia Student Union. Right there in the middle: student.

With a name like that you'd expect that the CSU would deal with student issues. Wrong.

At last Wednesday's council meeting, the CSU erased any doubt that internal problems take precedent over student affairs. At the start of the night the agenda included motions on behalf of CUTV, the People's Potato Collective and the Co-op Bookstore. All three want a fee levy increase included on the ballot of the upcoming March election.

Two hours later—the amount of time it took for Council to approve the agenda—those items were cut.

Why, you ask?

Well that morning, to little surprise, yet another scandal had rocked the already wobbling CSU. Incriminating emails. A police investigation. Threats of prosecution and libel suits. The allegations seem to be getting redundant.

“Unfortunately, I walked into a political shitstorm [...] but I don't think I should be penalized for that.”

Those were the words of CUTV manager Jason Gondziola at the Council meeting. He wanted to see his fee levy motion approved so it could make it onto the March ballot.

Instead, all three student items were moved to a subsequent special Council meeting to be held the following week, where more bureaucracy and personal feelings would take centre stage.

But why should the internal dysfunction affect requests from students completely unrelated to the dirty political dealings of our elected officials?

Well, it all comes down to bad luck on the part of students who wanted their issues to be decided upon by the student body at large. It's not what's in your motion, those students learned, but it's whom you pick to present it that counts.

The aforementioned student groups had given their motions to Arts and Science councillor Louise Birdsell-Bauer to present, and just that morning she was implicated in the scandal of the day.

Council decided that it was too upset with councillors Birdsell-Bauer, Amine Dabchy, Prince Ralph Osei and Alejandro Lobo-Guerrero to vote on these student matters.

Despite the fact that all of the councillors went to great lengths to acknowledge that they knew these motions were in the best interest of the student body, the students who came to petition their cases just picked the wrong day for their elected officials to care.

At the Arts and Science Faculty of Associations Council meeting, councillors took a completely different approach; they completely eluded any discussion surrounding their implicated councillors and decided that any scandal would be up for debate at their March meeting. But in the end, the ASFA councillors got work done for students.

For some reason, discussion surrounding the allegations made against former CSU aide Steven Rosenshein has taken the backburner to the backdoor political game that everybody plays. What CSU councillors should really be asking is: are the allegations that Lev Bukhman made true? What can we do to investigate this case? How does this affect the CSU and its membership, the undergraduate students?

We're not saying that the CSU councillors who got nasty things said about them in emails don't have a right to be upset. Be angry at whoever wrote such mean things about you. Snub them at bars. Delete them from your list of Facebook friends. You don't have to be nice to them.

However, being upset with a person doesn't mean that you get to ignore the duties you were elected to perform—that you campaigned to have the right to perform. It shouldn't matter who presents a motion, if it's for the good of the student body, you vote yes. If it isn't, you vote no.

Voting yes doesn't mean you support those councillors, it means you support the motion. And any councillor who can't wrap their head around that fact shouldn't be on Council.

—Terrine Friday & Clare Raspopov,
News editor & Features editor