

# What now?

**NEWLY-ELECTED EXECUTIVES INHERIT  
A STUDENT UNION IN UNREST • NEWS PAGE 5**



# Recall petition charges ahead, even after general election

Student union lawyer suspicious over motives behind court case

• CLARE RASPOPOW

Students, the Concordia Student Union executive and Patrice Blais should soon have a decision regarding the validity of the petition filed on Dec. 19 of last year requesting that the current CSU executive be recalled.

Legal counsels for both the CSU and Blais, leader of the recall petition, presented their cases before a judge at the Palais de Justice this past Friday.

More than just the recall petition was brought up in the courtroom. CSU lawyer Jean-Pierre Michaud wanted to know if there was any relation between Blais and the Quebec Student Health Alliance—or ASEQ—which the student union recently fired.

“Is [ASEQ President] Lev Bukhman paying your legal fees?” Michaud asked Blais before the court.

Blais’ counsel, Yan Boissonneault, quickly objected to the question because it wasn’t relevant. The real issue, Boissonneault said, was whether Blais and his associates had collected enough valid student signatures to recall the current executive and trigger a by-election.

The judge upheld the objection, but did allow a line of questioning to examine Blais’ motives for launching petition.

When asked with whom he “participate[d] in partisan politics [with] at this moment in time,” Blais admitted to working with former CSU President and Vision campaign co-ordinator Mohamed Shuriye and independent



The recall petition is still before the courts at the Palais de justice. PHOTO CLARE RASPOPOW

councillor-elect Ethan Cox.

“We have some common objectives,” said Blais in reference to his work with Shuriye.

Shuriye has recently been criticized for encouraging the CSU’s deficit during his 2005-06 mandate.

Michaud later admitted in an interview with *The Link* that he had no evidence to support the allegation of Blais’ possible financial backing, but remained suspicious none-the-less.

“Blais usually represents himself in court,” Michaud said. “He’s currently being represented by Heenan Blaikie, not the cheapest law firm in town.”

According to Michaud, Blais had brought up the issue of the near-\$800,000 health plan reserve as part of his motivation to pursue legal action to validate his recall petition, despite the fact that the CSU elections had finished just the day before the court hearing.

Blais simply calls Michaud’s suspicions “a witch hunt and conspiracy theories.”

“I’m taking care of my legal bills,” Blais continued. “I know many people in the legal profession. I can make arrangements with my attorney—that’s nobody’s business but mine.”

The presiding judge has taken all evidence under advisement and will allow until March 31 for the interested parties to submit written remarks before making his judgement. Testimony included that of Dean of Students Elizabeth Morey as well as statements made in affidavits.

Both parties remain confident that they will prevail.

“I think we’re going to be very successful [in proving the validity of the petition],” said Blais.

“We’re pretty confident that the recall will be thrown out at this point after speaking with [Michaud],” asserted Elie Chivi, VP communications of the CSU.

\$363,238.25-plus pending

• CLARE RASPOPOW

A resolution in the case of the Concordia Student Union and CUSACorp versus Marie Lyonnais could be as far away as September.

Lawyers for both parties filed a schedule with the court on March 27, extending their timetable by two months to file all of the necessary court documents.

William Desmarchant, Lyonnais’ lawyer, is also in the process of filing a motion against the insurance company that backed Lyonnais while she was an accountant for the student union and its profit making wing in 2005—in effect notifying them that legal actions have been taken against their former client.

The motion against the insurance company would allow the CSU and CUSACorp to recover a significantly larger proportion of the damages should Lyonnais again be found guilty, explained the plaintiffs’ lawyer Jean-Pierre Michaud. It is also a necessary step should both parties decide to file out of court.

Desmarchant remained tight-lipped as to whether an out of court settlement was likely.

## Chair under fire

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Andrew Haig, a student who independently monitored the Concordia Student Union election, has filed a request with the CSU Judicial Board to remove Brent Farrington, an employee of the Canadian Federation of Students, from his post as CSU Council Chair.

According to CSU bylaws, only undergraduate students may hold the position. Farrington, who was appointed interim-Chair in January, was given honorary CSU membership in February in order to qualify his permanency as Chair.

On March 23, Farrington was told by the JB that he could no longer speak on behalf of the Council to other bodies.

Farrington and CSU President Keyana Kashfi have until April 2 to communicate with the JB and respond to the complaint.

## Book it to the books

• LAURA BEESTON

Concordia’s Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore “Crazy-Talk Used Book Sale” ends on March 31.

The literary bunch will be on the mezzanine in the Hall building to sell their fares from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Prices range from \$1 pocketbooks to \$10 textbooks.

The sale is one of the Co-op’s fundraising strategies since the Concordia Student Union Council denied them a fee levy.

# Food for thought

Concordia may get greener with new Food Studies minor

• IAN LAWRENCE

A minor in Food Studies at Concordia University is imperative to understanding world issues, Concordia professors say.

The Food Studies minor, an interdisciplinary program exploring the issues surrounding food, is expected to be available to students in September 2010. If approved, it would be the first interdisciplinary program of its kind at a Canadian university.

“Interdisciplinarity is key here,” said Rhona Richman Kenneally, a Design and Computation Arts professor, who’s spearheading the campaign for a Food Studies minor. “There’s no subject you can engage with that doesn’t trail around the area of food [...] A lot of the things we are worried about today—globalization, sustainability, global warming—you can’t get very far without looking at food.”

Though Concordia already offers a variety of food related courses—such as BIOL 203:

Fundamental Nutrition and RELN 498N: Food, Sex and Death in Judaism—most of these courses are reserved for students enrolled in those course’s respective programs. With a new minor, students would be able to take the food studies courses from a host of departments.

“While oil was the reason for global conflict over the last few decades, sociologists predict that the next world wars will be fought over food and water,” said Communication Studies Professor Elizabeth Miller, who currently teaches COMS 435A: The Politics of Food and Film. “This generation needs the materials and analysis to confront the range of challenges we will all be facing with regards to food production and distribution.”

In order for the minor to be accepted, students have to show interest, Kenneally said. “If we would have a sense that students would be interested in such a thing, then the minor can get off the ground.”



At an in-class potluck for COMS 435: The Politics of Food and Film, students fill their plates with food and discuss the cultural relevance of each recipe to their upbringing. PHOTO IAN LAWRENCE

For more info about the prospective program, contact professor Kenneally at foodstudies@fofa.concordia.ca. The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture will be host-

ing Professor Warren Belasco for his lecture “The Ethics of Eating: Can a Clean Plate Save the Planet?” The talk will take place on April 16 at 4:00 p.m. in EV 1.605.

## CSU general election results pending

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The general election candidates for the Concordia Student Union have until April 2 to file all outstanding contestations with the Chief Electoral Officer.

All of the CEO's decisions that are appealed by the interested parties will be forwarded to the Judicial Board. The JB will then have 20 days to make their decision.

"Just because the voting is over, it doesn't mean we know who's in charge," said Tristan Teixeira, chairperson of the JB. "We're looking at a solid month before the dust has cleared."

### CHANGE claims dirty politics

CHANGE will have 20 electoral contestations before the JB by April 2 and is calling for the election to be thrown out.

"Given the circumstances of Vision's negative campaigning, our chances of winning were greatly skewed," said CHANGE spokesperson Audrey Peek.

### A sample of contestations

- Vision, March 13: suspend CHANGE from campaigning because Matthew Parker-Jones, a hopeful CHANGE executive, illegally canvassed John Molson School of Business students via John Molson Marketing Association mailing list.

- Vision, March 23: disqualify CHANGE slate for illegally obtaining student phone numbers, seeking campaign help from CSU executives Elie Chivi and Colin Goldfinch and generally undermining the Vision campaign.

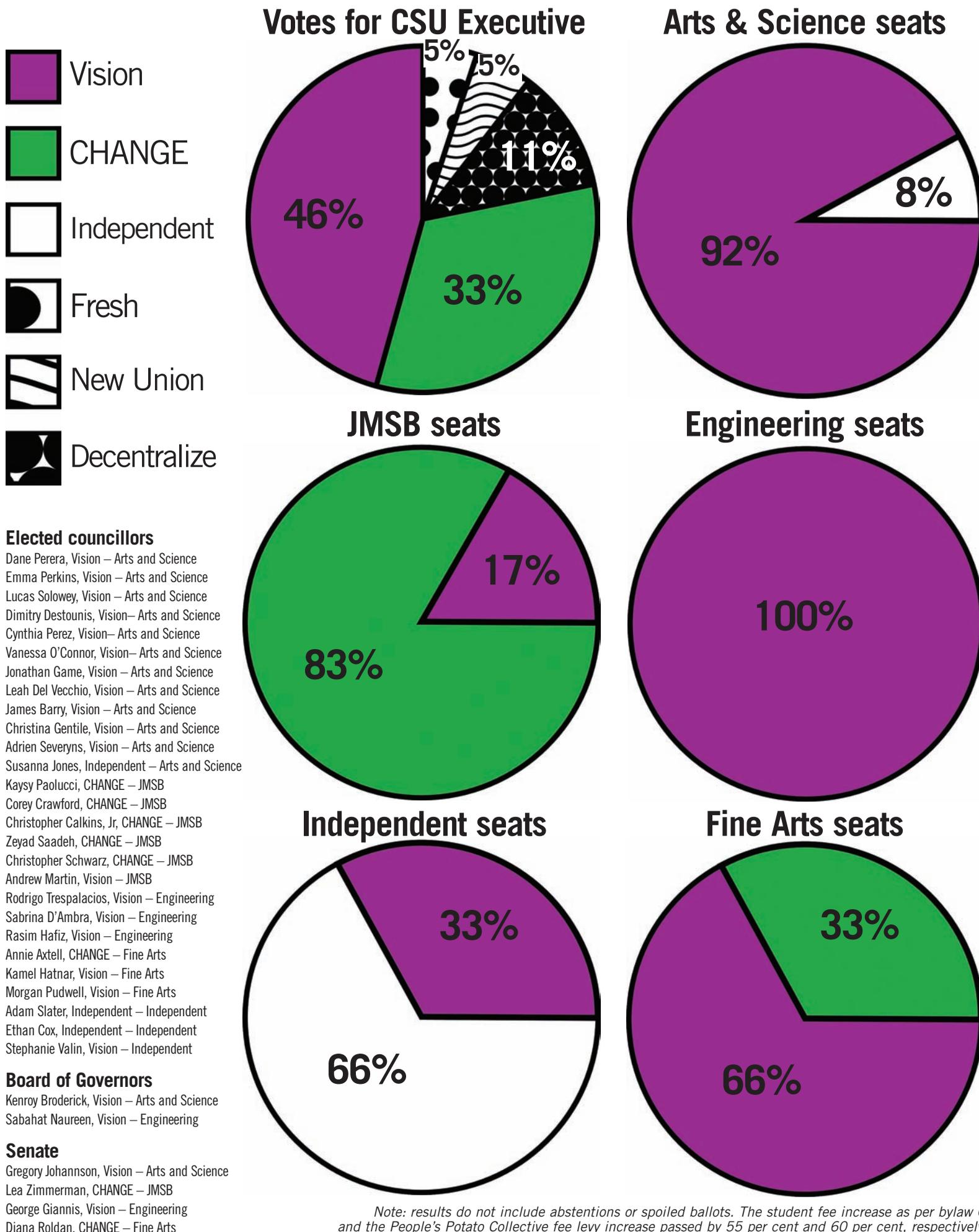
- CHANGE, March 16: issue a verbal warning to CSU President-elect Amine Dabchy for making an alleged sexist statement. According to CHANGE candidate Audrey Peek, Dabchy allegedly told her "Women shouldn't swear [...]. Where did you get your education?"

- CSU executive, March 16: fine Vision \$400 for making false claims about the CSU's deficit.

- CHANGE, March 17: disqualify Senator-elect Gregory Johannson and fine Vision \$100 for a video Johannson posted on CHANGE's Facebook page. The video showed people singing a farewell song to former American president George W. Bush.

# Concordia votes

## Results from the Concordia Student Union general election



### Elected councillors

- Dane Perera, Vision – Arts and Science
- Emma Perkins, Vision – Arts and Science
- Lucas Soloway, Vision – Arts and Science
- Dimitry Destounis, Vision – Arts and Science
- Cynthia Perez, Vision – Arts and Science
- Vanessa O'Connor, Vision – Arts and Science
- Jonathan Game, Vision – Arts and Science
- Leah Del Vecchio, Vision – Arts and Science
- James Barry, Vision – Arts and Science
- Christina Gentile, Vision – Arts and Science
- Adrien Severyns, Vision – Arts and Science
- Susanna Jones, Independent – Arts and Science
- Kasy Paolucci, CHANGE – JMSB
- Corey Crawford, CHANGE – JMSB
- Christopher Calkins, Jr, CHANGE – JMSB
- Zeyad Saadeh, CHANGE – JMSB
- Christopher Schwarz, CHANGE – JMSB
- Andrew Martin, Vision – JMSB
- Rodrigo Trespalacios, Vision – Engineering
- Sabrina D'Ambra, Vision – Engineering
- Rasim Hafiz, Vision – Engineering
- Annie Axtell, CHANGE – Fine Arts
- Kamel Hatnar, Vision – Fine Arts
- Morgan Pudwell, Vision – Fine Arts
- Adam Slater, Independent – Independent
- Ethan Cox, Independent – Independent
- Stephanie Valin, Vision – Independent

### Board of Governors

- Kenroy Broderick, Vision – Arts and Science
- Sabahat Naureen, Vision – Engineering

### Senate

- Gregory Johannson, Vision – Arts and Science
- Lea Zimmerman, CHANGE – JMSB
- George Giannis, Vision – Engineering
- Diana Roldan, CHANGE – Fine Arts

Note: results do not include abstentions or spoiled ballots. The student fee increase as per bylaw G and the People's Potato Collective fee levy increase passed by 55 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively.

<b>THE LINK</b> CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER Volume 29, Number 28 Tuesday, March 31, 2009 Concordia University Hall Building, Room H-649 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 editorial: (514) 848-2424 ext. 7405 arts: (514) 848-2424 ext. 5813 advertising: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8682 fax: (514) 848-4540 business: (514) 848-7406 editor@thelink.concordia.ca http://thelinknewspaper.ca	editor-in-chief <b>SEBASTIEN CADIEUX</b> news editor <b>TERRINE FRIDAY</b> features editor <b>CLARE RASPOPOW</b> fringe arts editor <b>JOELLE LEMIEUX</b> literary arts editor <b>CHRISTOPHER OLSON</b> sports editor <b>DIEGO PELAEZ-GAETZ</b>	opinions editor <b>JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI</b> copy editor <b>R. BRIAN HASTIE</b> student press liaison <b>OPEN</b> photo editor <b>JONATHAN DEMPSEY</b> graphics editor <b>GINGER COONS</b> managing editor <b>JOHNNY NORTH</b>	layout manager <b>MATHIEU BIARD</b> webmaster <b>BRUNO DE ROSA</b> business manager <b>RACHEL BOUCHER</b> business assistant <b>JACQUELIN CHIN</b> ad designer <b>CHRIS BOURNE</b> distribution <b>ROBERT DESMARAIS</b> <b>DAVID KAUFMANN</b>	The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by the Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the University and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member. The Link is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec. Material appearing in The Link may not be reproduced without prior written permission from The Link.	Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. Letters deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libelous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles. Board of Directors 2008-2009: Giuseppe Valiante, Ellis Steinberg, Matthew Gore, Jonathan Metcalfe; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Sebastien Cadieux. Typesetting by The Link. Printing by Transcontinental.	CONTRIBUTORS Laura Beeston, Randy Corriveau, Benjamin Croze, Lee Eeks, Ion Etxebarria, Matthew Fiorentino, Edward G. Fuller, Kamila Hinkson, Owain Harris, Cody Hicks, Elsa Jabre, Ian Lawrence, Vivien Leung, Madelyn Lipszyc, Jackson MacIntosh, Alex Manley, Sinbad Richardson, David Sommer Rovins, Xan Shian, Cat Tarrants, Giuseppe Valiante
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# Vision's vision

## Newly-elected slate lays out their 2009-10 promises

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Vision is looking forward to settling into the Concordia Student Union offices on June 1, after a 600-vote win in the CSU general elections.

Vision, the breakaway faction of the current Unity executive and main opposition to the CHANGE slate, got the news of their win 12 hours after ballot counting started and almost 16 hours after polls closed last Thursday.

President-elect Amine Dabchy still has trouble believing it.

"We're very honoured by the mandate the students have decided to give us," Dabchy said. "After three weeks of hard campaigning, we finally see the light."

Both Vision and CHANGE filed a flood of contestations against each other. Dabchy maintains he was never focused on a CHANGE attack campaign. "We didn't run a campaign against anyone," he said. "We ran a positive campaign. We stayed focused on our platform points, on what we could offer to students."

The John Molson School of Business students were the only ones who showed a trend of voting for CHANGE councillors.

"The CHANGE slate had three JMSB students on their slate and only two from Arts and Science," Dabchy said, although almost half of Concordia students are in Arts and Science and only one in five are from the JMSB.

Prince Ralph Osei, incoming VP Services and Loyola, wants to thank the students for speaking clearly in large numbers.

"We want to thank the students for the mandate they've given to us. It's not a victory for Vision, but it's a victory for every student in the university," Osei

said. "We as the executive promise to work hand in hand with every student to make sure that the best interests of the student body is served."

### Campaign promises

#### 1. Full financial transparency

Vision will host a press conference when their mandate begins to open the financial books to let the students know what the financial situation is. They will host bi-monthly financial updates in order to inform students what steps they are taking with any financial decision-making.

#### 2. Interfaculty book exchange

Starting in September, students who need cheap books can take part in the interfaculty book exchange. Vision will work hand-in-hand with Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore to advertise what the Co-op has in their database and work with the faculty associations on how to best run the exchange.

#### 3. Student Centre

Vision will get accurate numbers regarding the planning and construction of the Student Centre.

They want to host a competition between Engineering students for the best plan that's also sustainable. Vision will work with the university to finance the Student Centre and look forward to buying real estate and launching the construction as soon as possible.

#### 4. Subsidized tutoring database

Vision will build off of the already existing tutoring program the CSU offers. More specifically, Vision will implement a database on the CSU website with contact information of tutors for every class.

"We want to extend what the



The CSU executive-elect (from left to right): John Kryas, Sam Moyal, Stephanie Siriwardhana, Amine Dabchy, Ayoub Muntasar, Helen Downie and Prince Ralph Osei. Absent: Kristen Gregor. PHOTO JONATHAN DEMPSEY

CSU already has to make it accessible to all students," Dabchy said. "We want to provide the services to make it for the students, by the students. No fees, nothing."

#### 5. Green Month

Vision plans to have an entire month dedicated to sustainability. They will have workshops and conferences to promote more sustainable living. They're working on lobbying coffee shops surrounding the campus to give reductions to students who bring their mugs.

(Also, though not specifically limited to Green Month, Vision will imbed in the CSU bylaws rules that will disallow club reimbursements for CSU-sponsored events if non-reusable items are used at these events.)

#### 6. Café at The Hive

Vision will open a café at Loyola

where students can hang out, chat with their friends or work on a paper. It will be open from the morning until the evening and will increase the food options at Loyola, which currently include Chartwell's and the G-Lounge.

#### 7. Faculty-Specific Career Fair

Vision will bring one career fair per semester to Concordia, hopefully hosting the top 10 employers in North America. A faculty-specific Graduate School Fair will also be offered, one during the fall and one during winter, where representatives from top schools will come to Concordia. Vision will work with member associations and faculty associations to make this happen.

#### 8. Fight tuition increase

"We've seen in the past that tuition has increased, but service

has remained the same or decreased," Dabchy said. "So we would like to lobby the university to stop the tuition fees from increasing for international students."

Osei added Vision's intention to work with students at McGill, the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Université de Montréal to prevent all tuition hikes. "We have 170,000 students in Montreal, which is a strong force," Osei said. "Right now we're going through a global financial crisis. Right now we need to implement a tuition freeze to ensure students remain in school."

Osei also noted Vision's plan to put as much pressure as possible on the provincial government to freeze tuition fees.

For further information, consult [csu.qc.ca](http://csu.qc.ca) after June 1.

## Joke's on Galloway

### British member of parliament denied April 1 talk at Concordia

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The federal government officially denied controversial politician George Galloway entry into Canada on March 30, thus making his April 1 appearance at Concordia University impossible.

This decision came 10 days after the federal government declared Galloway "persona non grata"—meaning he cannot legally enter Canada—for his views regarding the war in Iraq, as well as his social and political affiliations. The decision was upheld yesterday by federal court justice Luc Martineau.

The Concordia chapter of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, the group hosting Galloway, won't even get their request for a Skype feed in H-110 authorized by the university.

Concordia's Event Analyst Mahdi Ziani informed SPHR their "request to broadcast [George Galloway's talk 'Resisting War from Gaza to Kandahar'] through an Internet live feed at Concordia University will, unfortunately, not be possible" on March 27.

Doug Smith, member of Concordia's SPHR chapter, wants more answers—especially since the booking was cancelled after 5

p.m. on a Friday, he said.

"These things are sent to us at a time when we have no ability to react or communicate," Smith continued. "This is the second time they've confronted me with a huge change of plans regarding booking within an unreasonable time frame."

Smith also said he doesn't understand why the talk cannot be broadcast via Skype, since Galloway will not physically be in Canada.

"It's not that [a Skype feed] is impossible [...] the university just thinks [denying Galloway] is a good idea."

"These things are sent to us at a time when we have no ability to react or communicate. This is the second time they've confronted me with a huge change of plans regarding booking within an unreasonable time frame."

—Doug Smith, member of Concordia's SPHR chapter

# Tweet!



## The rise of Twitter and social networking sites

• KAMILA HINKSON

 University students and the members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly aren't all that different when it comes to paying attention in class/in session. Everyone gets distracted when they're bored and, thanks to the Internet, few can resist the temptation to socialize.

Chances are that at some point during a lecture, most laptops in a classroom will be open to a web browser. And most of those browsers, at some point, will flash the familiar blue bar with the word "Facebook" in the upper left corner.

But during question period, some Alberta MLAs curb their boredom by browsing their Twitter accounts—to the point where they were recently reprimanded for it.

### Tweet!

What is Twitter, you ask?

You might not be using Twitter, but you've probably been hearing about it a lot lately. Twitter is a micro-blogging service,

and the latest trend in social networking sites, also known as SNS. Micro-blogging is exactly what it sounds like: a smaller version of a regular weblog.

The site is designed to keep people updated with what's going on in the lives of others. It asks the question, "What are you doing?" and Twitterers post tweets, 140 character updates, in response.

Tweets can be sent by text message, instant message, or online. Twitter

essentially looks like the new Facebook wall; real-time status updates from whomever you choose to receive them from. In Twitter's case, they come from the people you follow, instead of the Facebook equivalent of your list of friends.

Users can follow just about anyone, from a second cousin, to Ashton Kutcher, to CNN. Even Barack Obama uses Twitter, although his posts have not-so-mysteriously tapered off since Jan. 19, the day before his inauguration. Twitter allows people to connect and keep in touch in a

quick and condensed way, which some may argue is well suited to the fast-paced lifestyle many find themselves living.

It's a simple concept, and the site prides itself on its simplicity. But whether or not it appeals to you depends on if you're interested in what Jimmy Fallon is eating for lunch, or which news story CNN thinks you have to know about at this second, because that's what Twitter does—it brings you the news as it happens.

Yes, tweets can be very mundane. But Clive Thompson, blogger and contributor to *New York Times Magazine*, makes an important point in his article, "Brave New World of Digital Intimacy." Taken alone, tweets may

seem tedious and boring. Piece them together, though, and they form a pattern, like a connect-the-dots picture. He calls this pattern ambient awareness, and says it creates a recognizable rhythm in someone's life that's impossible to create in the real world, because "no friend would bother to call you up and detail the sandwiches she was eating."

### Web 2.0 and professional amateurs

The web wasn't always the buzzing, ever-changing space it is today. Social networking sites are one of the web applications that started popping up after the concept of Web 2.0 was popularized in 2004.

Web 2.0 is hyped as being more participatory and collaborative. Instead of just surfing websites and passively consuming what we read, now users are creating the content through blogs, Wikipedia (which is part of another Web 2.0 innovation, the Wiki), and many other ways. The participatory nature of cyberspace has its pros and cons.

In his book *The Cult of the Amateur*, Andrew Keen argues that Web 2.0 has produced a "cult of the amateur" that's killing our values, economy and culture. His idea is that with Web 2.0, anyone can become anything—through his blog, your neighbour becomes a journalist. Through her MySpace page, your sister becomes an artist.

His view of this cult has a decidedly negative connotation, but if you think

#### 1985—WELL

Short for Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link, WELL is one of the oldest virtual communities. It started out as a bulletin board system, but later turned into an online community.

#### 2002—Friendster

Friendster focused on helping people meet new friends and maintain old ones. Users were encouraged to fill out in-depth profiles that would let them meet similar people. Friendster was a precursor to Facebook.

#### 2004—Facebook

Originally a rip-off of Harvard University's rip-off of the popular website Hot or Not, Facemash, Facebook focused on social networking exclusively for university students. On Sept. 26, 2006 Facebook opened itself up to anyone over the age of 13.

#### 1994—theGlobe.com

Launched by students of Cornell University, theGlobe.com attracted over 44,000 users in its first month. The company went public in 1998, making the largest first day gain of any public company to that date. Their shares are now worth pennies.

#### 2003—MySpace

MySpace was founded as an interactive SNS community. Users are allowed to post profiles, photos, music and videos. In June 2006 it was the most popular SNS in the U.S.



Taken alone, tweets may seem tedious and boring. Piece them together, though, and they form a pattern, like a connect-the-dots picture.



about it, without Web 2.0, Perez Hilton wouldn't have a job and Lily Allen wouldn't have a career. Both relied on the participatory nature of the cyberspace, the former through his blog and the latter by posting songs on a MySpace account, to make names for themselves. This cult of the amateur allows people to voice their opinions, stream their music, and post their videos for all to see. It's debatable if that's a good or a bad thing.

### SNS meets real life

Daniel Trottier, PhD candidate at Queen's University, says the allure of social networking sites is cyclical: "as more people join, and there's more information on these sites, they become more appealing." He himself joined Facebook mainly because he was curious, and watched the popularity of the site grow.

Erica Lane, a religion student, says she uses Facebook because all her friends do. "If no one else used them, I wouldn't

either, but since literally all of my friends use Facebook, it's a really easy way to keep in contact with them." Deidre Gordon-Foster, a Political Science student, adds, "we live our lives in such a "fast-paced" instant way. We want all our information and friends available whenever we want."

When asked about the effect of social networking sites on offline relationships, Trottier echoed what many students I spoke to touched on. He said he'd "like to think that [SNS] make it easier for people to coordinate and interact offline, as well as give them something to talk about in person."

### The danger of TMI

Of course, there are dangers associated with pouring so much personal information onto the unregulated Internet. Trottier's PhD thesis is based on surveillance on social networking sites, and he warns that, "We may consider [these sites] to be private spaces, but anything you put on them will generate a fair

amount of publicity. Something as harmless as a comment on a photo or wall post can be linked to your identity, and these things end up accumulating over time without our knowledge."

Just try typing in your name on Google. This little experiment might not work if you have a relatively common name. But when I typed in my own name, I was shocked to find that the first 10 results all have a direct link to me. It doesn't matter if you don't get any hits when you type in your name, your information is still out there for someone to find if they really wanted to.

Trottier gives some suggestions on how to preserve what little privacy we have on the web. "Familiarize yourself with their privacy settings, and revisit them every few months to see if they've changed. As well, don't put anything online that you wouldn't want your friends, family, coworkers and employers to discover."

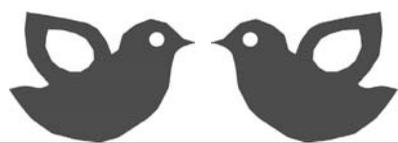
### Growth spurt

With 175 million active users, Facebook is still the king of the social networking

castle. Alexa, a web traffic tracking website, ranks Facebook as the site with the fifth highest web traffic, MySpace in eighth, and Twitter way back in 289th.

That may seem like a pretty unimpressive ranking for such a hyped website, but techcrunchies.com, a blog about internet statistics, says that from January 2008 to January 2009, Twitter went from 2953rd to 291st in Alexa's rankings. That's a 974 per cent growth rate, the site calculates, which is noteworthy.

There are a host of questions that appear with each new SNS evolution. In this case: Does Twittering actually count as communicating? Can someone really convey what they're feeling in 140 characters or less? Do we really need to know every little thing someone's up to? Maybe. Maybe not. One thing is for sure though; Twitter is changing the way people relate to each other, whether it is a celebrity, a politician, or a relative. Whether these changes will save or destroy the world is yet to be seen.



#### 2005—BEBO

An acronym for "Blog early, blog often," BEBO launched in January 2005. It has become immensely popular in the U.K. It was bought by AOL in 2008.

#### 2006—Twitter

Twitter began as an intra-office mode of communication for employees of a podcasting company called Odeo. In November 2008, Forrester Research estimated Twitter had 4.5 million users.

#### 2007—Open Social

On Nov. 1 Open Social launched a set of application programming interfaces that would allow users of SNSs to program their own applications, giving them even more power over their platforms.



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

# Softcover doesn't mean soft coverage

Despite cutbacks and a smaller print space, *The Gazette's* Book editor pushes forward

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"We've all heard the old expression 'don't judge a book by its cover.' Well, I spend a lot of time judging books by their cover," said Edie Austin, *The Gazette's* Books editor.

Austin stopped by the Atwater Library and Computer Centre for its Lunchtime Series last Thursday. She has been in charge of *The Gazette's* book beat since 2002 and has worked within an increasingly constrained printing space as newspapers nationwide gut their books coverage and minimize staff through relentless budget cuts.

"There are a lot of great books that we don't have time to write about unfortunately," said Austin. "As our print space declines, that becomes all the more true."

Compared to other newspapers, the *Gazette's* Book section is doing quite well, said Austin.

"*The Globe and Mail*, as you may have noticed, no longer has a weekly books tabloid, which used to be the most extensive English one in Canada. [...] Even in the United



Edie Austin has been in charge of *The Gazette's* Books section since May of 2002. PHOTO KENDALL ROW

States, the *Los Angeles Times* have folded their books section."

Although reviews of books from big-selling authors tend to bring in readers, they're likely to be the first thing to go when limited resources pit story against story.

"If we do something it's at the expense of something else," she said. "It's really a zero sum game when you're dealing with only one newspaper page [per week]."

One solution to dwindling newspaper space is to improve the paper's presence on the web. For example, one of Austin's many duties as Books editor includes updating Narratives, *The Gazette's* book blog.

Often, Narratives becomes a place to post stories and reviews that don't fit into the print copy. But it has the potential to provide book coverage that's not only fit to print,

but impossible to print, such as video content.

"I'd like to be able to make the *Gazette* [website] a jumping off point for people who want to do web surfing for books," said Austin. "What *The Gazette* has to offer—what I have to offer—is a Montreal perspective, [which] means looking

"What *The Gazette* has to offer—what I have to offer—is a Montreal perspective."

—Edie Austin,  
*The Gazette* Books editor

at what's happening locally, [and] bringing a Montreal sensibility to books on certain topics."

Although Austin doesn't consider herself an expert on the publishing industry, she's seen a downward trend in the number of books published in recent years.

"One thing I've noticed is that titles are being pushed back, [...] either because authors are not finishing manuscripts or maybe for economic reasons."

It's harder and harder to get books published these days, says Austin, "because publishers are struggling to keep up with the commitments they already have, and are not in a rush to take on new ones."

Following Austin's presentation, several authors lined up in the wings of the Atwater auditorium with their own books in hand, ready to make their individual cases for coverage in *The Gazette*. Most, if not all, slipped their paperbacks and hardcovers back into their travelling cases and wandered off. One handed me a hand-written business card.

"I'd be happy for any coverage at all," she said, and then made her way to have some free food and drink.

The Atwater Library and Computer Centre's Lunchtime Series continues with Newfoundland writer Kathleen Winter on Thurs., April 2 at 12:30 p.m. and Bernard Gotlieb, director of the Montreal Scrabble Club, will give a presentation of Scrabble on Tuesday, April 14 at 12:30 p.m.

## Pastry lab rats

Former Concordia professor Denise Roig takes on a Montreal pastry school program

• E.G. FULLER

Former Concordia professor Denise Roig's biography *Butter Cream* chronicles her experiential foray into one of Quebec's vocational school programs, following her down the rabbit hole of a yearlong course in "pastry making" at Pearson Adult and Career Centre in Lasalle.

The book offers up a cornucopia of insights on the trials and tribulations behind the sometimes factory-like fabrication of your favorite desserts. In fact, it should be required reading for anyone considering taking the course.

I myself earned a CEP in Pastry, and a DEP in Professional Cooking. Roig's description of her experiences as a pastry student ring frighteningly true.

Yet for all its forthrightness, in some ways *Butter Cream* is somewhat meagre in the depth of its exploration of the subject. But then it is categorized as a biography, and not investigative journalism—even though Roig taught journalism at Concordia.

Roig envisioned from the time she enrolled in the program that she would write a book about it, if not end up actually working in the pastry industry—as I will call it.

It does, for the most part, tell it like it is: a long program that takes people who may have never baked a muffin before into potential pastry apprentices who can bake

cakes, make frozen soufflés, apple turnovers, croissants and chocolate truffles and maybe get paid \$8.50 or so an hour once they've graduated.

The book focuses on Roig's experiences, but we also learn about the character and determination of her fellow students, the teachers and the program itself. She blends in a recipe or two per chapter, which seems like an unnecessary add-on; if I want a recipe, I'll read a cookbook. One supposes that after describing the involved process of learning—sometimes melodramatic—of how to prepare, say, the dreaded mocha pastries, readers would want to make some themselves. But I doubt it.

The program really puts the class of primarily female students of many different ages—Roig is the eldest of the bunch—through their paces. One can envision them in battle trenches testing their mettle time and time again, even if they are only dealing with such deceptively safe substances as flour, sugar and chocolate.

Roig could have just as well called her book *Pastry is Hell*, but it sometimes seems she is the back pocket of the program, promoting it while at the same time exposing it's underbelly; substandard teaching facilities, the dueling egos of the teachers, a bomb scare and infighting and intrigue that go on between the 12 or so students of the class.

It comes as a relief when Roig leaves pastry school behind to talk about her



It's unlikely Remy the Rat would have been allowed into Pearson Adult and Career Centre in Lasalle. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

home life and juggling her family's needs, be it her lost cat, dropping her daughter off at school, visiting her family in LA where her mother is recovering from an illness or reminiscing about when she was a dance student with an eating disorder at Juilliard.

These vocational programs are rough and tumble and only the truly committed make it through; and surely these programs work, to some extent, since they provide trained staff—some who have become acclaimed chefs—for kitchens across the province and beyond. But as the head of the program asserts, it takes 10,000 hours to truly become an expert at something and since this course is under 2000, it just scrapes the surface of their apprenticeship.

Roig does make it through to the end of the program, and is now said to be living in Abu Dhabi—and not working in the world of pastry. May she continue writing because her prose is indeed genuinely flavorful.

And it's true: as tough and flaky as pastry school may sometimes be, it's nonetheless a damn sweet hell, especially when it's all over.



**Butter Cream: A Year in a Montreal Pastry School**  
Denise Roig  
Signature Editions  
October 2008  
176 pp  
\$18.95

## quick reads

## Twice as good as you'd think



*Dear Canada Council/Our Starland*  
Emily Holton  
Conundrum Press  
October 2008  
160 pp  
\$17.00

Emily Holton has created two charming illustrated novellas that are bound back-to-back in one little book. The stories unfold, each word a gift—much like poetry—and you can open the book at any page at random and the story and illustration you turn to can stand on its own.

The first half, “Dear Canada Council,” is set in Hamilton, where the narrator lives with her deaf mute parents, her mother attempting to allow the crickets to thrive by not cutting the lawn. But since Hamilton has no stars and only crickets, the narrator of the story decides to build a small town of her own. In order to get the town she wants, she needs the help of the Canada Council to pay for plane tickets and some money for travel allowance—the stars are closer in Belize, so that’s where she wants to go.

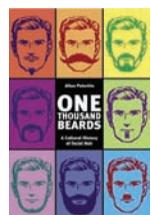
The second half, “Our Starland,” which is set in the Okanagan Valley, is told in bits and pieces, like a dream. In it, a sleepless child follows a boy past her home and past the tents of the migrant apple pickers who reside in Okanagan. The boy, she discovers, was found in the British Colombian wilderness at the age of six, a feral child then. Fearing he may still be wild, she stares at him until he gently reaches forward and pulls on her ear.

Read it for an hour, read it for days, pick it up today and be reading it a year from now; Holton has made something that will make you want to open your mouth and lie in the sand, listening to the crickets with the stars above.

4/5

—Lee Eks

## Not worth the hairs on my chinny, chin, chin



*One Thousand Beards: A Cultural History of Facial Hair*  
Allan Peterkin  
Arsenal Pulp Press  
2008  
250 pp  
\$21.95

There’s nothing I like more than a 70s-inspired dirtstache. I don’t know if it was my non-stop consumption of syndicated *That ‘70s Show* or the tickle of my first kiss with Joe Walter—he thought he was so cool!

My crush on the prepubescent ‘stache developed into a full-blown love affair with the pornstache that was so popular in the seventies. All the men in my family still have them—their love affair with fashion trends died when their youth did.

When I stumbled across *One Thousand Beards: A Cultural History of Facial Hair* I was seriously ready to dig in. I even took it to Europe with me, thinking I’d read it on the train. I’ve recognized, since, that there are some books you read at length, and others that serve to sit on your coffee table and occasionally skim for the highlights. Allan Peterkin’s *One Thousand Beards*, as you may have guessed, is the latter.

I dipped into it every time I got onto a train, but only out of obligation. For a concept I can honestly say I found interesting, Peterkin managed to completely alienate me as a reader. The introduction is both non-informative and masturbatory—it failed to keep my attention.

While the margins are amusingly filled with Wordsworth, Coleridge, Italian proverbs and biblical verses, the chapters fail to deliver. Highlights included lists like “A Timeline of Queer Facial Hair” with notable Marcel Proust, John Maynard Keynes, Walt Whitman, Tennessee Williams and the mustachioed Freddie Mercury.

While some books are time-consuming, demanding of you to read every word without end—until, that is, the gut-wrenching end—*One Thousand Beards* rewards the casual glance of a friend or colleague who’s picked it up while you’re gone to get coffee. Nothing more, nothing less.

OK, maybe a little less.

2.5/5

—Joelle Lemieux

## Not weary of writing

Learning for a Cause is putting student fiction in books, stores and on library shelves

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Michael Sweet is a Quebec high school teacher, and he’s not going to take it anymore.

“I felt like my tires were just spinning, I wasn’t getting anywhere,” says Sweet. “Either I was going to have to leave teaching or do something.”

Upon entering the public school system in 2004 at Lester B. Pearson high school in Montreal North, Sweet felt powerless in his role as an educator. He knew he wanted to teach his students creative writing, but overcoming the apathy and ennui of the public school system proved challenging.

“Here I am with this classroom of students and there’s all this great writing, and I’m putting a number on it and watching them throw it in the trash on the way out the door,” says Sweet.

It was clear that the old way of doing things simply wasn’t going to cut it anymore.

“The natural thing seemed to be, hey, if we’re writing and we want to make it real, then shouldn’t we be writing books, shouldn’t we be publishing what we’re writing?”

Making use of technologies that were widely available at the time, and still are, Sweet converted his classroom into a self-publishing house.

“In the beginning there was about 40 students who published this collection of poetry and we pretty much just distributed it to our local community. But over the years, we’ve become a publisher ourselves.”

That publishing house became Learning for a Cause, which serves two important functions, he says: making class work more enlightening and engaging for his students, and building an archive for young writers.

“Some of these people will ultimately become Margaret Atwoods or Farley Mowats, and maybe those guys don’t have a lot of their early writing from when they were in [primary school], because nobody was saying this is worth keeping.”

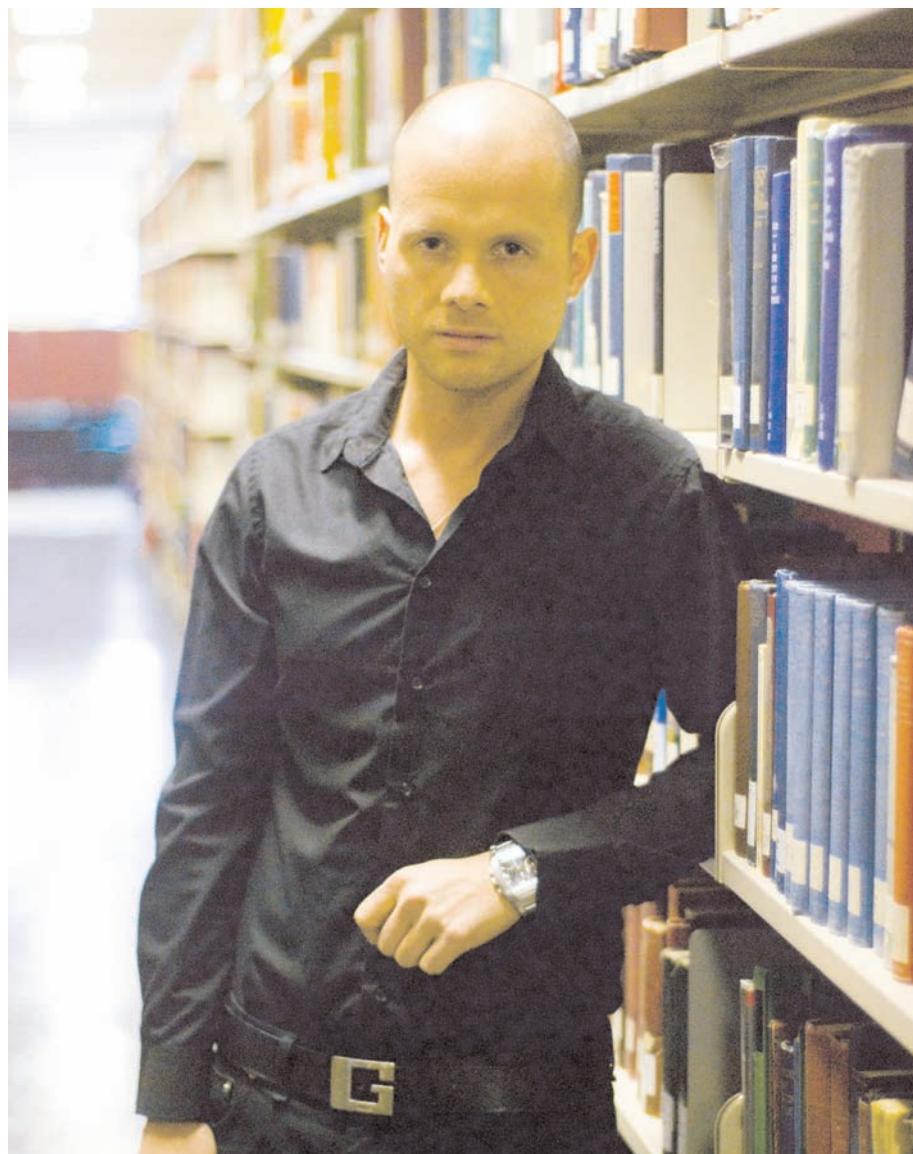
In the past five years, Learning for a Cause has gone from exclusively publishing the work of Lester B. Pearson students, to reaching classrooms in New York and British Columbia.

The students are able to do most of the work themselves, with Sweet functioning as editor, as well as taking charge of typesetting and graphic design.

“Writing a book with 120 authors and taking it from nothing to putting it in your hands in eight months is a phenomenal amount of work,” says Sweet.

In addition to the annual volume of student fiction, there’s also the Learning for a Cause teaching model.

“There’s three or four schools that are actively working on a book right now. There’s one school in the Riverside board that has actually published. They used our



Michael Sweet is the editor and founder of Learning for a Cause, an annual compendium of student fiction. PHOTO CAT TARRANTS

model, but I didn’t act as the publisher. [...] The teacher had attended one of my seminars and took the model and the teaching guide and used it to produce the book themselves.”

Although he’s managed to change his own classroom, Sweet still thinks the school system is in huge need of repairs.

“If we’re going to have public schools that are wholly inadequate, we’re going to produce a society that follows suit.”

Instead of simply occupying our adolescence and keeping us moderately informed, education can be a transformative force in society, says Sweet, and one of the first steps is to give teachers more control over their classrooms.

For example, in Quebec, the Ministry of Education forces teachers to select from a series of pre-written comments to print on student’s final reports.

“What ultimately ends up happening, and I can assure you this is what we do, we just tick in a comment, and a lot of us just give the same comment to everybody because we know it’s meaningless.”

Teachers should not only feel free to speak their opinions, but they should feel obligated to editorialize, says Sweet.

“I’m definitely a black sheep, and not only in my school, but in the system,” he says.

“What better compliment could you

have than to be known as someone who’s a bit radical, someone who digs into the issue? That’s what needs to happen. But everybody’s too scared. Too scared about job security.”

Despite studying for a law degree, Sweet decided to become a school teacher after his grandmother, a teacher for over 40 years, passed away.

“There were literally hundreds of former students at the funeral. They were standing on the street because they couldn’t get inside, and I heard one story after the other from students whose lives had been changed and positively affected. I realized [...] that that was what I wanted to be doing.”

This year’s anthology, *Raising Humanity*, is set to land on store shelves soon and features a foreword by actor Martin Sheen and Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau. Last year’s forward was written by Dr. Roberta Bondar.

“It just so happens that it’s been an astronaut two years in a row,” laughs Sweet.

“So if Martin Sheen and Marc Garneau are picking up our books, what is it that we really needed from a publisher?”

Visit [learningforacause.vpweb.ca](http://learningforacause.vpweb.ca) for more about Learning for a Cause, and to order *Raising Humanity*.

# In defence of juvenilia

## George Elliot Clarke reads for the Atwater Poetry Project

• JACKSON MACINTOSH

As far as Canadian poets who aren't named Atwood, Ondaatje, or Cohen go, George Elliot Clarke is about as big as they come.

He's won the Governor General award, he's been named a member of the Order of Canada and he's been short listed for the IMPAC Dublin literary award, the largest and richest award of its kind.

But seeing him read at the Atwater Library on Friday, March 27, it was easy to forget about his reputation—there was anything but gravity to the occasion. Clarke walked into the room, greeted half the people present by name, and started defending his recent verse novel, *I & I*, against the spate of bad reviews it's received since its publication in January.

In his words, "you've got to let the work speak for itself? No, hell no!"

I've never seen a writer address bad reviews so specifically in public. It's usually done in private: one grouses to their friends about how their work has been misinterpreted or given short shrift, but Clarke was taking it in stride and with a smile.

One gets the feeling he anticipated some of the criticism; the book takes a lot of its subject matter from poetry Clarke wrote between 15 and 18 years of age and



George Elliot Clarke is a member of the Order of Canada.

has been criticized for being a violent piece of juvenilia trotted out as if it were the mature work of an established poet.

In other words, Clarke's hard-won reputation and the expectations it creates is exactly the problem people have with the book.

But it was Clarke's ever-present smile and levity that kept the proceedings from

ever approaching solemnity—he clearly relishes the violent passages and references to grindhouse cinema and considers the work an accurate reflection of his teenage appetite for "chrome, sex, wine, rock 'n roll and blue jeans." He was concerned about the derision he'd received for using material from his adolescence, mostly because of what this says about "negative attitudes toward the teen mind," and the scorn reserved for teenaged interests.

"You've got to let the work speak for itself? No, hell no!"

—George Elliot Clarke,  
author

Clarke clearly maintains his youthful interests—he was visibly excited as he read, counting off the cadences with his left hand as his digs into the internal rhymes and wordplay of the work, approaching it as if it were a piece of music. It brought something out of the work that wouldn't be as evident if one were reading it instead of hearing it. In fact, I'm not sure I'd enjoy *I & I* on paper as much as I enjoyed seeing him read fragments of the book.

The organizer of the reading, Katia Grubisic, a coordinator of the Atwater

Poetry Project, noted after the reading that "it's half stand-up, half poetry reading with George" and she has a point. He really is trying to entertain and engage the audience, but he is also dealing deftly with weighty themes of racism, sexism and religion.

Clarke is well known for his writings about the Black Canadian community of the Atlantic provinces, specifically Nova Scotia and his latest sortie follows that same path. The book follows a young interracial couple from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Corpus Christi, Texas and back again, with detours at a bible college and prison, and with lots of fucking, beating, killing and grotesqueries along the way. He makes reference to Italian grindhouse films, *Naked Lunch*, exploitation cinema, and Homer along the way.

His rhythms hint equally at the beats and the cadences of rap—it's a playful work by one of the few canonized Canadian poets, and an interesting insight into how his poetry has developed.



*I & I*  
George Elliot Clarke  
Goose Lane Editions  
January 2009  
200 pp  
\$24.99

## Lit Writ

### Retrospect

• XAN SHIAN

What does it all mean? It made her wonder. And she sat down with a packet of cigarettes and a bottle of water.

Not whiskey anymore.

The thoughts she pondered while she was awake were the same thoughts that haunted her while she slept. Lucid nightmares crafted to look nothing like the things they might represent.

Interpretations.

She paused to light another cigarette and stared at the empty world below her. The vacuous space she'd so easily filled with late night trips to la-la land. A place she wouldn't describe now, even to her darkest fears.

Where had she been all those years? Between the days sat reading in a dimly lit hallway while 12-year-old toes two-stepped their way around her cocoon, and the nights she'd spent howling at the moon. Caught in a world that meant nothing to her and the people she'd surrounded herself with—until now.

Where was she now? Suspended in a limbo, between a place that had seemed so full while she was filling it yet so empty in retrospect, and a place that held all the possibilities in the world. Literally. If she knows what they all were.

Which direction could this world take her if she let it?

Ash fell from the cigarette she'd hardly smoked. It burned a hole in the corner of her notebook. 200 pages, half of them written on, but how many held real meaning?

Answers. The solution to every problem, to every inkling of a question is an answer. Or is it?

Is an answer all we really need, she wondered, to be satisfied? Does an answer quell our drive, our thirst for the recognition of a problem? Or is an answer empty as well? Because with every answer comes an end. If answers to everything came about, then wouldn't we—everything—be at an end?

The existentialist tripper, they called her, when she wasn't fighting for air. In the days she let herself drift, covering landscapes in a footprint and welding the trees to let herself pass. The earth was her canvas but she didn't paint pretty pictures. She stamped seals on lakes and turned mountains upside down. Somebody else had kept this together, she didn't need to do that now.

The places her dreams could take her. She often wondered if they were real.

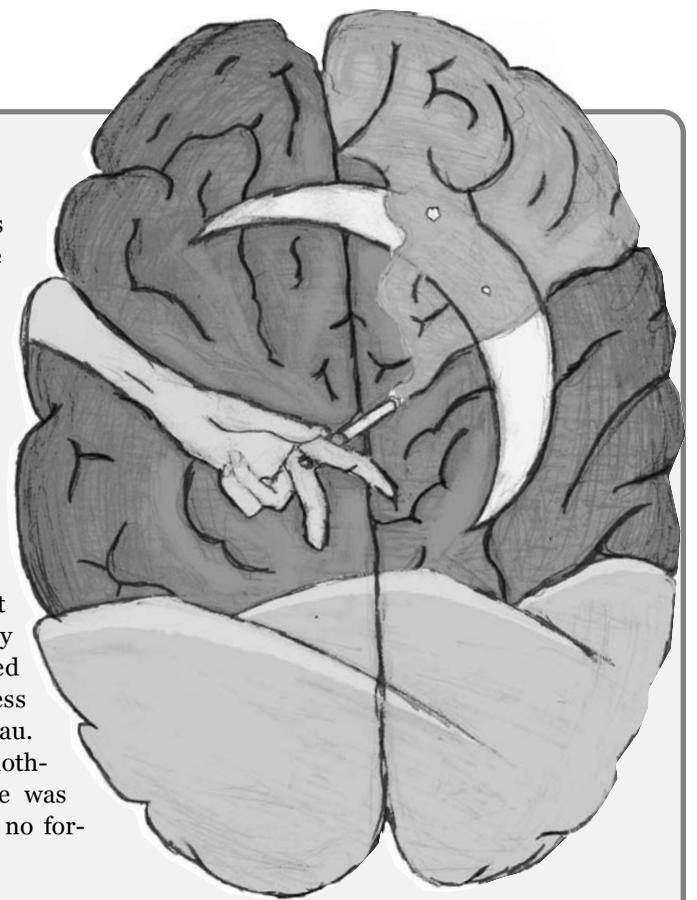
How powerful is the mind, she needed to know, does it make or is it sown?

The cigarette went out as it burnt her fingertips. The last light of day turned to ash. The night could take over, leave day for the memory like so many other things that have come to pass. The distant taste of a breeze that brought life and vitality to the things it nourished, and yet was so overlooked that until it disappeared nobody knew it was there. She wasn't any closer. Hours stretched before her like waterless weeks on the Saharan plateau. No clues crept toward her, nothing yelled out its aid. She was alone in a world that held no forgiveness.

Not even for the dead.

And yet she kept searching, digging, delving for clues to the age old question that had plagued so many before. She didn't think to ask why none of them had ever figured it out. This was her battle. The journey she'd been given.

All those nights suspended between delirium and poetry, aided by whiskey and cocaine in a vile. Sometimes she'd thought she'd found the answer four days into an



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

existentialist's nightmare. Only to wake up and see daylight, hear birds chirping, saluting a new day; only to wonder anew.

What does it all mean?

To submit your fiction or poetry to the Lit Writ column, email them to [lit@thelink.concordia.ca](mailto:lit@thelink.concordia.ca).

Exclusif >  
**WASTE NOT,  
WANT NOT**

**Biomass could save  
the school**

PAGE A4



PHOTO IGUANA JO

**UNITY  
GOVERNMENT  
HERE TO STAY**

NEWS PAGE 2

**DUCEPPE  
TO DIG WITH  
LASER EYES**

NEWS PAGE 5

Exclusif >

**Giant to sue city over lost property**

Serge the Giant is suing the city of Montreal for damages after returning home from sculpting busts in the Easter Islands to discover that opportunistic Montrealers had ravaged his lunch. "I come home after a long and taxing trip to find out that some asshole has opened the milk I left sitting safely on top of a roof downtown, causing it to go bad, and some weirdo has started a juice business inside of my orange. This is unacceptable," he raged. "Thank God they didn't find my sandwich." BUSINESS PAGE 3

ACTUALITÉS



**Economic crisis**

The new terrorism

LIFESTYLE PAGE 1

**NETENYAHU IS MAKING A RETURN  
APPEARANCE AT ACCORDIA A4**

Former planeteer Ma-ti uses  
power of heart to make movie  
come back

CINEMA PAGE 2



PHOTO WOODY WONDER WORKS

18-25 year-olds terrified as  
**STI's gain power of flight**

HEALTH PAGE 7

FOOTBALL

**ONE  
MORE  
TIME**

Accordia beats  
the Aval Red and Gold

Fifteenth straight championship win  
SPORTS PAGE 1



PHOTO LE LIEN

**Feng Shui for kids makes comeback in playgrounds**  
LIFESTYLE PAGE 2

Exclusif >



**Accordia opts for  
legwork instead  
of biodiesel**

NEWS PAGE 5

**Baby Away**

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## ACTUALITES

# Unity coalition takes Accordia by storm

## Ayseehue, Meen hold hands and move forward

MONK E. CIE

The two major opposing political parties of the newly elected 2009-10 Accordia Student Union have decided to form a coalition with the students' best interests at heart.

The Same and Schism slates will form a unity government as of June 1, sharing the responsibilities of the executive as well as holding 11 Council seats each. The remaining five Council seats will be reserved for unaffiliated councillors.

"So instead of wearing emerald t-shirts and violet t-shirts, we can all just wear baby blue t-shirts," said ASU President-elect Idoant Meen, originally affiliated with the Schism slate. "I mean, in the name of fashion, it all makes sense to me."

P'kabou Ayseehue, incoming VP Accordia, originally affiliated with Same, says she's excited about the unity present in council—especially since the Same slate lost in the general election upset.

"The Same slate is ready for a new vision and we're willing to work together for the sake of students," Ayseehue said.

Before last week's ASU general election, 16 official contestations had been filed between the two slates.

The other 263 contestations were never received,

said Chief Electoral Officer Leonard Twist. According to Twist, his server crashed over the weekend and he is taking strides to repair the glitch.

Not only are the two parties willing to work together, but they're also willing to take advice from the current ASU executives.

"I'm prepared to not only drop the contestations against Same, but also work with [Dalaydis] Arkhül," Meen said. Arkhül, who proposed the unity between Same and Schism, is currently VP Extinguisher of the ASU.

Not only is there a coalition in store for the 2009-10 academic year, but Ayseehue and Meen are also taking strides to abolish the slate system and implement a more comprehensive scheme. A slate system only hinders political independence and encourages petty bipartisanship, they said.

Besides getting the ball rolling on the new unity government, Meen said he's eager to ameliorate the student union's relations with Accordia President Laura Hardwood.

Members of both slates have yet to come up with an official name for the unity government.

"Nothing obvious has jumped out at us yet," said Meen.



PHOTO MARQUIS SPRINGSUM

Meen reports that Ayeseehue's handshake was firm and dry.

## Resolution brings sandwiches and blowjobs to all

### 'Yeeeeeeaaaahh!' says councillor

MONK E. CIE

Accordia Student Union councillors resolved to compensate working overtime with perks at yesterday's Council meeting.

*"This is our work at its best. Good job guys, good job." said Levy Scotch, VP Talking Head.*

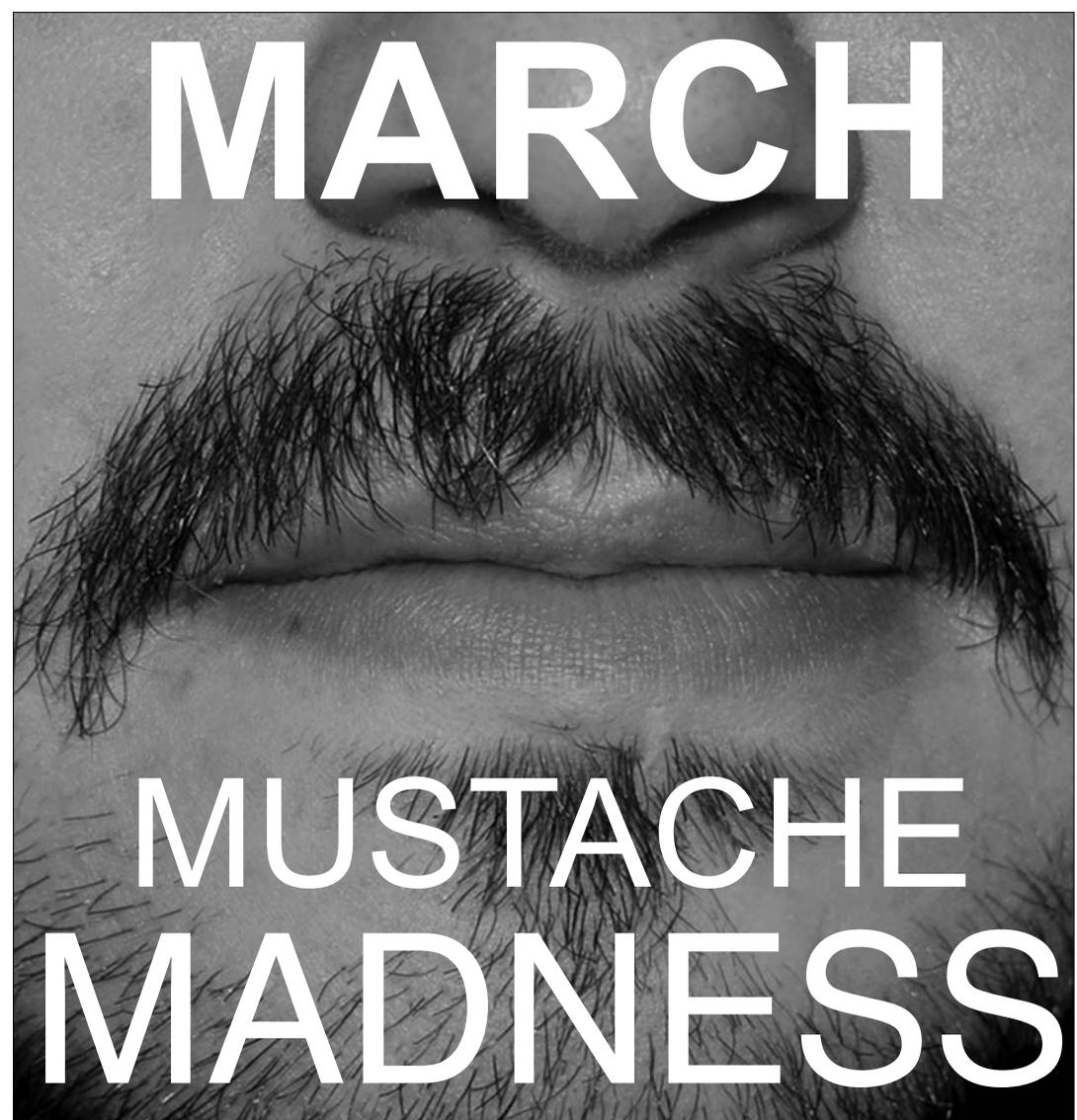
In a unanimous decision, Council voted on a motion to supply the councillors with their choice of a sandwich or blowjob—but only if meetings exceed three hours.

Councillors were eager to let Accordia

know just how happy they are about the motion. "Yeeeeeeaaaahh!" said Roynek Narrowrick, an ASU Arts and Science councillor. Narrowrick said the context of the motion was especially important: getting satisfied with minimal blows—to the union's budget.

"I think councillors are showing a great deal of restraint by putting a minimum time limit on calling their orders in," said Levy Scotch, the ASU's VP Talking Head. "We're really trying to save students money here; this is our work at its best. Good job guys, good job."

The same suppliers of the Lawson Student Union will provide the ASU's sandwiches and blowjobs.



# Lavieillesse finds missing student money in little-worn coat

**Student union now ready to plunge back into debt**

**CHARLIE FACTRY**

Former Accordia president Claude Lavieillesse found \$800,000—the amount of the Accordia Student Union's well-known secret deficit—in the pocket of his spring jacket early yesterday.

"Oops, did you want that back?" he asked

*"[The zipper] broke off last year and I just got around to sending it in for repairs this season," said Claude Lavieillesse, former president of Accordia.*

members of the ASU.

The student union deficit of over \$800,000 has consequentially been recovered, the ASU executive announced at a press conference last night.

"We, as an executive, have worked so diligently to ensure that these funds were recovered," said Levy Scotch, the ASU's VP Talking Head.

The ASU will therefore drop their pending

lawsuit against former ASU advisor Ginnie Wolfe. As of four months ago, the ASU claimed Wolfe alone was responsible for negligence amounting to almost a million dollars in missing student money.

They have since retracted all claims made against Wolfe and are working on Wolfe's compensatory package of \$800,000.

"We think it's the fitting thing to do with student money," said Scotch.

Lavieillesse blames the time delay in the discovery of the money on his jacket's broken zipper.

"[The zipper] broke off last year and I just got around to sending it in for repairs this season," Lavieillesse said as he flipped burgers on his Destructive Offender

3000 series grill during yet another of his famous informal Barbeque meet-and-greets for his new employer the Canadian Aerospace Institution. "I'm just glad I didn't throw that puppy into the dryer.

Jacket manufacturer Southern Shoulder stands by their product and blames the zipper malfunction on the user's negligence.

"We strive for excellence in the quality of all Southern Shoulder products," said a statement



PHOTO MARQUIS SPRINGSUM

The jacket, now marked exhibit A, is warm in the fall and breathes remarkably well.

released by the company yesterday. "We cannot be held responsible for misuse or incompetence."

According to the Board of Wardrobe Statistics, almost 4,000 zipper malfunctions were reported in the province of Quebec in 2008 alone.

At least three zipper malfunctions in the Montreal area have resulted in discovery of large sums of "pocket" money, including the

Lavieillesse finding.

In 2000, almost \$200,000 was found in former ASU President Patrick Wheatey's all-season windbreaker. Lawson College's student union also recovered over \$30,000 from Wheatey's sports jacket just last year.

Wheatey declined to comment.

University president Laura Hardwood also declined to comment.

**JOHNNY NORTH P.I.**



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# Exclusif >

# Sustainability is ours at last

## School to run on biomass

CLAUDE TERFUK

"I never thought I'd be so excited about faecal matter," exclaimed Accordia University president Laura Hardwood to a room full of press.

Administrators announced Friday that the school will soon switch over to a completely renewable energy system fuelled exclusively by student biomass.

"It's a great idea," she said enthusiastically.

*"For years people have been telling the student union that we were full of shit. One day, it just sort of clicked," said Mohamed Fremengineering, ASU president.*

astically. "I love school projects that students get to take part in."

Hardwood went on to tell reporters how proud she was that the student union members came up with the idea themselves.

Accordia Student Union president

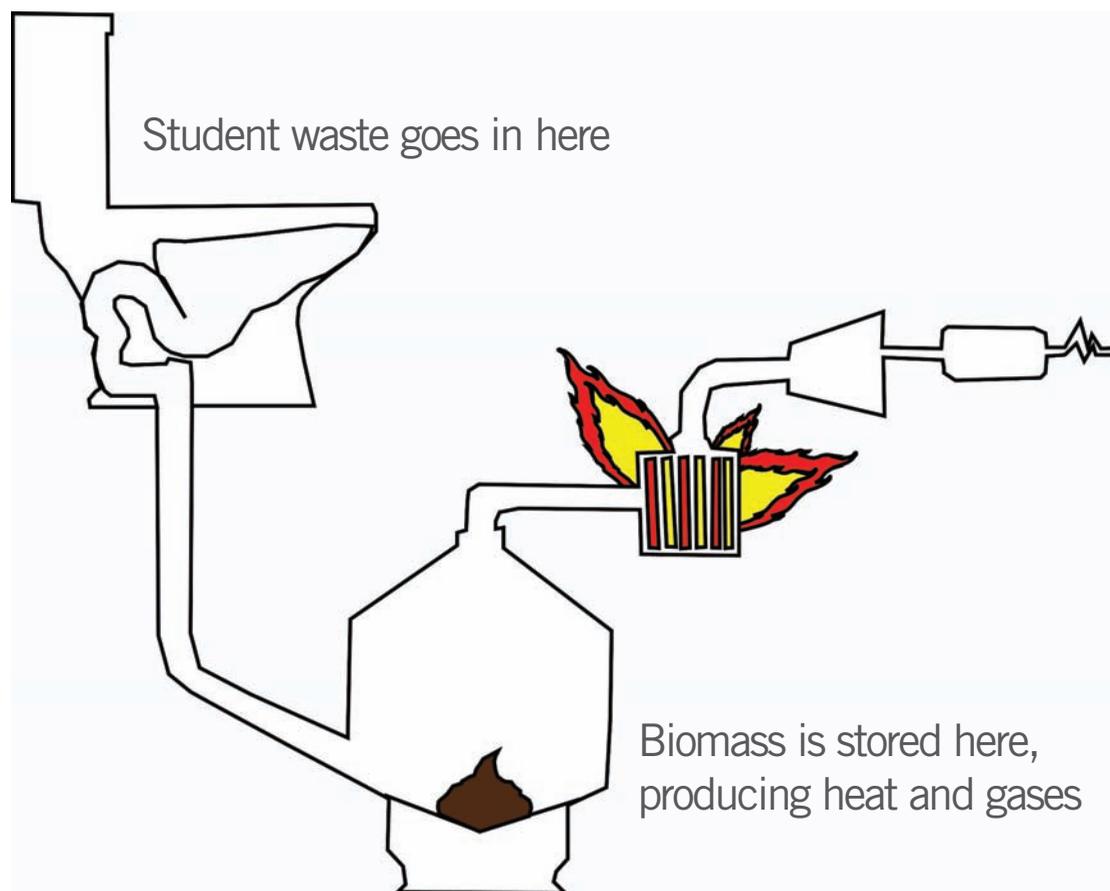
Mohamed Fremengineering, who will be finishing his mandate as of June 1, was modest when asked to explain how the plan came about. He said the idea just came to him.

"For years people have been telling the student union that we were full of shit. One day, it just sort of clicked," he said, beaming with pride.

Fremengineering confided that the student union alone would produce enough waste to fuel the entire school.

The ASU has come up with a plan to sell off the rest of student created biomass to universities eager to follow in Accordia's footsteps. The profits from the sales will be put directly back into the school and will lower student fees to almost nothing.

"This student government made a promise when we came into power that we would promote sustainability and lower student fees. We figured that we could kill two birds with one stone," he continued. "And what kind of government doesn't keep its election promises?"



GRAPHIC MICK GARBEDGERAT

## Barak is back! (not that one)

### Netanyahu and his Defence Minister to address students on conflict resolution

BENSON ROCKAFELLAR

After winning the Accordia Student Union election, the new unity government executive decided as its first order of business to invite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak to Accordia for a conference on conflict resolution.

"It's been a little tense around here lately, with the heat of the elections and all," said incoming ASU VP Culture/Club Don Fryas. "I think these world leaders will help mellow out the student body. Who better to talk about peace than those who have been fighting for it for decades?"

Fryas acknowledged that just a few years ago, the presence of Netanyahu caused a riot at the university, but doesn't think it will be a problem this time.

"That was a while ago. I think we've gotten over it," he said, adding that he was in high school when the riot occurred.

When contacted, Accordia University's Security Office had no comment to make, but



PHOTO WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Netanyahu says that he's really excited to see Accordia's smiling students.

the officer manning the security desk rolled her eyes at the suggestion of Netanyahu's visit.

University spokesperson Jordan Motts later confirmed that the university had no problems with the visit; "We aren't too worried, our windows are shatterproof now."

## Concordia to fold

### Unofficial report says university will fold and fly off like 'Superman's underwear'

RUSTY STABIE-ANGRIGUI

A student riot that erupted in early 2008 could lead Accordia University to close, said a secret document obtained by *Le Lien* last week.

The document, entitled *Clusterfuck: The Future of Accordia University*—meant to be limited high-level administrators—said that the university would need to "fold and fly off like Superman's underwear to survive."

The "Riot about riots over the right to other riots," as the 2008 riot was eventually dubbed, was started by students over the lack of rioting space for an aborted riot about the right to be pants less on both campuses.

The riot caused almost a half-million dollars in damages and caused university officials to rethink their long-term strategic plan, which originally called for expanding the Sir Boy George campus to overtake other surrounding buildings by a process of quiet symbiosis.

The university, which has been under fire recently for a number of controversial decisions both on the administrative and student side, is reviewing its future course of action,

according to official university spokesperson Jordan Motts.

Motts claims, "Accordia is embarrassed of itself and needs to cut off its head to spite its body," a quotation that is both bizarre and puzzling given that the metaphor itself is misused.

When asked to expound upon it, Motts reiterated what she had said and then sputtered that she hoped to score a job at another educational institution in precipitous moral decline.

The university grounds themselves could be left derelict as thousands search for a new educational institution with a better reputation that potential employers will not point and laugh at.

Possible post-fold activities include: opening up the Department of Tumbleweeds, electing a Dean of Vagrancy and Larceny and a Bachelors in White Trashitude.

Motts says that even though these plans are preliminary, she isn't worried about what will happen to students. "They can go smell like patchouli elsewhere," she contended.



PHOTO DARKROOM PRODUCTIONS

Though he has recently admitted to having powers of mind control and laser beam eyes, Duceppe has remained tight lipped about whether or not he also has the power of flight.

# Moat to be dug with laser beam eyes

## Duceppe reveals plan, alien technology at anticipated press conference

MATT SVIDS

Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe announced that his eyes are in fact alien technology yesterday at a press conference.

*"I knew human eyes couldn't be that blue," said Quebec Premier Jean Charest.*

The conference, originally scheduled to discuss Duceppe's revolutionary plan to dig a giant trench to separate Quebec and Ontario, was side railed by questions regarding

the logistics of executing such a massive project.

"I didn't mean to give it away so early in the game but I plan on using my laser beam eyes to do most of the digging," the charming politician admitted. "If we can't separate legal-

ly, we'll just have to do it geographically."

He went on to say that as a child he found a ring in a meteorite that granted him this laser

vision and his powers of mind control.

"I knew human eyes couldn't be that blue," said Liberal leader Jean Charest.

"If only the mind control worked over television, we would have a Quebec Libre," Duceppe joked, beaming a beautiful smile at the press, who looked on almost hypnotized. He went on to boast that the Bloc had already bred enough radioactive brook trout to stock the moat that will soon separate the two provinces.

If this project is a success, Duceppe has hinted at plans to take control of the Parti Québécois.

# Pedal cars are the way of the future

## Shuttle buses to fall by the wayside

BONNIE FIDE

In keeping with the new executive's sustainability revolution, the incoming Accordia Student Union executive has pressured the university's administration to replace the shuttle buses with giant pedal cars.

The idea to replace the shuttle buses running between Sir Boy George and Joyola campuses was first presented by incoming ASU VP Culture/Club Don Fryas during the electoral debates earlier this month.

"Let's be honest," Fryas said seriously. "Biodiesel, schmiodiesel. You're not really, saving the environment when you leave a bus idling for half an hour on the street. Pedal cars have a minuscule carbon footprint and we're keeping the student body healthy!" The proposal was met with high praise from the university administration.

"We don't have to pay for gas now, and Montreal doesn't even require us to provide students with helmets," boasted the director of distribution, transportation and mail, Fortinbras Conroy.

The new pedal cars will arrive this September. School officials have thus far dodged the question of what will be done once Montreal's brutal winter sets in.

"Exercise makes people warm," consoled Conroy.



PHOTO BATBOB

Accordia's will get its pedal cars from the same maker who supplies the law firm of Ernst & Young. The law firm got rid of its shuttle bus in favour of pedal cars in early 2006. In 2008 the law firm was proud to report a record-low number of on-road fatalities and only one myocardial infarction.

# Cockroaches

Coming to a Haul Building floor near you!



BROUGHT TO YOU BY WAHLAWBOY

## ACTUALITES

# Accordia to close library, sell Haul building

## Administration needs money and space to expand

R. DANEEL OLIVAW

"Welcome to education in the 21st century," said Accordia University President Laura Hardwood on Tuesday, announcing a bold new strategic vision for the university whilst riding a Segway.

Surrounded by an inclusive crowd of corporate executives, Hardwood unveiled new measures to cut costs and modernize services, among them the conversion of the university's library into office space and the sale of the downtown Haul building.

"The Haul building no longer fits into our strategic vision," said Hardwood. "Accordia has changed. We are getting faster, sleeker and more profitable, we can't let a silly thing like students stand in our way."

With administration offices in the GMO building, half of the VE building, the Sir Boy George Library building, the Lord's Court building and the ADD building at Joyola Campus, Accordia's administration needs room to expand.

Accordia expects to have 50 per cent more administrators by 2015.

"The numbers don't lie, there are more administrators than students at Accordia, but students have more space. That isn't fair," said university spokesperson Jordan Motts. "Selling the Haul building will solve Accordia's space issues."

Built in 1966, the Henry F. Haul building has been the centre of Accordia's downtown campus since it first opened its doors. In four decades the building has seen many



PHOTO MATTHEW GORE

University officials feel that the Haul Building's penchant for looming will naturally lend itself to being an home for Accordia's administration.

scandals; a history the university looks forward to severing like a gangrenous limb.

said Motts as her voice trailed off. "But we will get rid of all those problems [students' she coughed]

profit to be had in either of those." The money saved from getting rid of the Haul building and its thou-

platform—and to convert the building into additional offices.

"This is a logical choice," said Hardwood at the initial announcement as she winked at a representative from Nokia. "Books are dead. Textbook by text message just makes sense."

***"The numbers don't lie, there are more administrators than students at Accordia, but students have more space. That isn't fair," said Jordan Motts, Accordia University spokesperson.***

"Haul has broken escalators and a huge security budget to keep an eye on all those social science students,"

with the building. I mean c'mon, look at Haul, it's all student space and classrooms, and there is little

sands of students will be used to replace the library with a single computer terminal-based on an Apple I



## Here comes the Spidermann

**"I'll do YOUR taxes for YOU!"**

**Maury Spidermann  
Chartered Accountant**

# Dan the Answer Man



**DAN  
HANDLIN**  
ANSWEROLOGIST

*Each week Dan the Answer Man answers the questions big or small that vex us all!*

Dear Dan,

**I have this argument with my wife every time I come back from the grocery store with some bananas-her favourite fruit. My wife says they're a vegetable, because they don't have any seeds. I've argued with her dozens of times over this, but I admit she has a point. Do you know whether bananas are really a fruit or a vegetable?**

—“I still think bananas are a fruit”

Dear I Still Think Bananas Are A Fruit,

You're absolutely right! Bananas are indeed a fruit. You see, years of artificial selection have resulted in a banana that is seedless. This is a good thing! The lack of seeds has actually produced a healthier looking and far more tasteful product for human consumption.

The next time you go grocery shopping, remind your wife that just because a fruit doesn't have seeds doesn't make it inadequate. Suggest, for a moment, that a human being were to have a low sperm count. Just because their sperm count is low, doesn't make them any less of a man... right?

In fact, I would say that bananas are just as beautiful and fun to have around as any other fruit with a large seed count. I mean, it's not like they haven't been a reliable partner in bed for over 20 years.

Wait... does Helen think that?

Dear Dan,

**My mother likes to help me with my homework every day after class. But while preparing for a crucial science test, she claimed that light is both a particle and a wave. How can that be correct?**

—Timmy “I wish I could be in two places at once”

Dear Two Places at Once,

You're right. That doesn't make any goddamned sense at all. How can light be both a particle and a wave and thus be in two places at once? And how can you expect a father to be at his son's baseball game at the same time he has a pressing deadline to meet? How can you expect a person to be both a loving father and manage a steady job that pays the bills?

It's a particle, Timmy. Don't let your mother tell you otherwise.

Dear Dan,

**I can't tell you how much your advice last month**

*That's all for this week's column! Check in next week when Dan the Answer Man will offer advice to an estranged husband who wants to make nice with his wife, and how you can effectively petition your boss to reverse his decision to can you after 15 years of loyal service without even so much as a retirement package.*

**has improved my marriage! However, I can't help but think that your advice is spun from your own experiences at home. Does even a gifted advice columnist have marriage troubles from time to time? Is everything all right in the Dan household?**

—Anne, aka “I hope things are alright with you and Helen”

Dear Anne,

What damn business is it of yours how my marriage is doing?

Sorry, sorry. I mean, I'm glad I was able to help. But you know, we can't all fight with our spouses over which vacation spot to hold the anniversary of our 20 wonderful... wonderful years together.

We don't all have pensions left over in this terribly economy that we can splurge on romantic getaways and expensive bathroom refits. And we can't all ask for raises at work, even though we've been steady and reliable employees at the paper when it was still considered to be on its last legs.

“Gifted,” huh? Tell that to someone who cares.

Dear Helen,

**Why did you cheat on me! We were together for 20 years! You knew I was going to take those “enhancement” pills, and cut back from my column to spend time with you and the kids. Why are you so HEARTLESS!**

—Who gives a damn, anyway

Dear Who Gives a Damn,

Sounds like your wife's a real harpy. You should leave her and start a better life for yourself. She had her chance.

She can take care of the kids. What you've got to do is focus on the career you always wanted: writing mystery novels set in the small European villages you visit during your travels, making money along the way for bus tickets by resurrecting your nascent singing career that she made you give up.

And you never know; you might meet someone really special that'll make you forget you ever had Helen.

## ACTUALITES

# Man takes out second mortgage to support *Second Life*

First life suffers as a result

RONALDO DRANEI

Nick Brody has a stubbly beard, clothes stained with sweat and itchy eyes. He has the look of someone who hasn't seen a decent paycheck in some time or maybe it's the lack of sun.

Despite not one, but two virtual jobs on the popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game, *Second Life*, Brody was forced to take out a second mortgage in order to pay for his virtual crib.

“It's tough having two [virtual] jobs,” says Brody. “Much harder than one in the real world.”

Losing his apartment and his job as a stock boy at a local pharmacy after becoming obsessed with *Second Life*—a virtual community where almost anything is possible, but where not much actually happens—Brody took out a mortgage to support his \$40 monthly habit and crippling Dominimos' pizza addiction.

Sharon Gainer, Brody's now-estranged fiancée, has made several attempts to reconcile their relationship on the condition that he close down his *Second Life* account, and re-embrace the wearing of pants.

“He's a fat, lazy sack of shit,” the former “future” Mrs. Brody told Le Lien. “All I want to know is when I can get him back.”

“I've thought about closing down my account before,” claimed Brody. “I miss my fiancée and all, but I could never delete Sarah. That's my *Second Life* wife.”

Mrs. Sarah Brody, an avatar that Brody based on various women he's never met in real life, is programmed with an expensive shopping habit, decorating Brody's virtual apartment with tacky polygonal obscenities, including a cymbal-playing monkey whose eyes glow red and a lampshade shaped like Darth Vader's helmet.

“She's become a real drain on my resources,” admits Brody, who paid a 3D illustrator \$300 to make Mrs. Brody, “hot, and not just cute like Pam on The Office is cute, but I mean really drop-your-pants gorgeous. I mean drop-dead gorgeous.”

## Politico-Os

Now With  
**15% MORE**  
Rhetoric!



\* Contains your recommended daily intake of vitriolic bile.

# Commercials coming to Accordia

## Students prepare for ads before class



GRAPHIC SIMON WILLISON  
AND DORIS MUDZWINGER

### R. DANEEL OLIVAW

Starting in the fall semester, all classes at Accordia University will start with a five-minute commercial. This new partnership with Montreal's Scotsbank Theatre creates \$5 million of annual revenue for the indebted university.

"This is a marvellous, untapped market," said Scotsbank Theatre spokesperson Breton Caper. "Each class already has projectors, it just seems natural."

Scotsbank Theatre has already sold commer-

cials spots to Toyoma, Pfizer, Monsanto and the RAND Corporation; each commercial will be linked with relevant course matter.

Accordia Student Union President Mohamed Fremenginering has expressed concern that the university has not reserved the right to screen commercials for content that may offend students.

"This could be risky," said Fremenginering. "Students could be shown ads for maple syrup farms, or worse, children's novels."

The ASU president had no problem with the

ads he had already been shown.

The RAND Corporation commercial—to be aired before POLI 391 Middle East and Global Conflict class—began with the tagline, "The RAND Corporation, spanking America's enemies for 60 years." The commercial was aimed at undergraduates interested in working in the bowels of America's military-industrial complex.

The Pfizer commercial, an advertisement for the company's popular Viagris pill, will air at the start of all classes after 6 p.m.

"These commercials send the right message to students: keep up the hard work and you might eventually finish—but not too quickly," said a serious Jordan Motts, the university's spokesperson.

Mott denied that the ads infringed on the learning environment.

"We already put ads in the bathroom stalls," Motts defended. "How can you infringe on someone more than that?"

# Authors riot due to lack of proper narrative conclusion

## *Two books injured after being accidentally thrown*

### LES S. MOAR

Canadian authors rioted on Wednesday after learning that the delightfully illustrated comic strip, *The Adventures of Fiduciary Fred*, gracing the back of Politic-Os cereal boxes, will end its run on a cliff hanger.

"I believe that the choice to leave the audience hanging is indeed a brave one," said literary critic Maurice Moo as he picked up a brick to throw at Country Mills' corporate headquarters.

"This is really evidence that Country Mills is not afraid to risk losing part of its core audience while making risky artistic decisions," Moo continued as he shook dust off his ascot.

"We need a proper conclusion," authors yelled as they marched around the corporate tower, some authors breaking off to smoke cigarettes.

A crowd of Christian authors was seen to mouth "deserve" instead of "need" during the chants.

"Imagine my confusion, upon reaching for that coveted conclusion

to Fred's adventures in the breakfast aisle of my local grocery store, to find that the story not only lacked a proper ending, but had actually been removed entirely," said protestor Craig Savage. "My comics were replaced with instructions on how to prepare marshmallow squares. Why the hell would I want that?"

When reached for comment, Country Mills responded that this was not a problem. "This isn't like the time we changed Snap's ethnicity," they answered by email.



Some say riot was a foregone conclusion.

PHOTO TITO SLACK

# Paradise Lost regained

## One-man play promises puppets and CGI

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

How many one-man plays can boast impressive CGI, puppets and a bona fide script by John Milton?

Paul Van Dyck, who plays the entire cast of characters in an upcoming stage adaptation of Milton's *Paradise Lost* at Theatre Ste. Catherine, moves seamlessly from Adam and Eve to Satan and the embodiment of Sin.

"When I was reading [*Paradise Lost*] for the first time, within the first few chapters, I thought, this book is amazing," says Van Dyck. "Just reading the thing out loud to myself, I realized this would make an amazing theatrical piece in some form. [But] I had no idea at the time that I was going to add puppets and CGI and that sort of thing."

Van Dyck audited a class on John Milton at Concordia University last fall with Prof. Judith Herz to ease himself into the role. The class was the first time Van Dyck had returned to Concordia since studying film and theatre as a visiting student from Queen's University in Kingston.

Attending the classes with him was Jeremy Eliosoff, a high school buddy who provides the show's CGI elements.

"I was vaguely acquainted with what [*Paradise Lost*] was about, but that was the first time I had read it," says Eliosoff. "It's a very, very visual poem, and there's a lot of imagery that's really striking. It

can really get these images in your head."

While the character of Sin, a half-woman half-serpent, is more conducive to CGI, says Eliosoff, characters like Adam and Eve worked better as puppets.

"If you read the poem, they are treated as these helpless pawns in this large, epic rivalry between God and Satan. And so I think that appeals to Paul, the idea of making them literally puppets. When [Paul's] acting as Satan, he picks up the puppets and treats them as his own little play things."

Eliosoff studied Fine Arts at Concordia, and later Computer Animation at Sheridan College. Although the training he received at Sheridan prepared him for his later career, Concordia's Fine Arts helped ground him in the play's traditional setting.

"I've always wanted to do something in CG that's a lot more imaginative than what's done in the industry, where it's a lot of photo-realistic stuff which is just very constrained, [where] you just don't have a lot of room to take chances."

Eliosoff began work on the play after wrapping up a labour-intensive, two-month working schedule on the movie *Watchmen*.

"I've done a lot of work in computer animation in the industry, but I've never done anything that combined computer animation with a live theatre setting," says Eliosoff. During the show, Van

Dyck will be wearing shoulder mounted fabric wings that will be projected with CGI feathers, and for his scene in the garden of Eden, Van Dyck will be projected with scales.

The decision to use The Rolling Stones as the play's soundtrack came from the documentary *Gimme Shelter*, about a Stones concert gone badly, says Van Dyck.

"I watched it and thought it resembled to some degree 'hell on earth.' This '60s concert, which could variably be this utopia of peace and love, and yet it just all went terribly, terribly wrong. And that sprung the idea [of] the 60s being a potential Garden of Eden that we were cast out of."

Despite the mixture of modern elements, Van Dyck has a feeling Milton would approve.

"He would probably like it, even though I had to cut about 280 pages out of it."

Choosing what to cut was pretty clear.

"The character of Satan really grabbed my attention right off the bat, and I think that was the same for a lot of people who read it. God is basically cut out of [the play] entirely," says Van Dyck, noting Milton's own apparent lack of interest in the supreme deity in the original poem, and his fixation on Satan as a curiously sympathetic character.

"I think [God] has had his fair share of things," says Van Dyck. "In the Bible it's all 'God this' and



Paul Van Dyck is wearing shoulder-mounted fabric with projected CGI wings provided by Jeremy Eliosoff.

'God that.' Come on, give some other people the spotlight for a change."

Satan's sentiments exactly.

*Paradise Lost* will be presented at 264 Ste. Catherine Street E. from April 2-4 and 7-11 at 8 p.m. and April 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$15.

## Life outside of the womb

### Goals

• CODY HICKS

What have I done to myself?

I hope you didn't take my advice as seriously as I did. I don't normally go back on my word, but, man, am I ever suffering from a stress hangover; a severe caffeine dependency compounded by the fact that I have a 12-page paper due a week EARLIER than I originally thought... I'm wound tighter than Richard Lewis on acid.

So, take a deep breath and let me backpedal a bit.

Last week we talked stress, this week we're going to talk release. I guess I missed a key part of the equation, which is payoff.

I ranted about getting all worked up and the joys of

scholastic stresses coupled with medicinal uppers but now it's time to find a place to deposit all of that nervous energy. Let's call it a treat, a goal.

If you're contorting your body and mind into a pretzel all week long make sure you've got an outlet to shoot your pent-up energy towards.

It could be something as decadent as a fancy dinner or as simple as drinking a large, potent malt beer in a back alley with some pals. If you're like me, and demand a bit of structure to your celebration, it could be a raging party.

I recommend Sala Rossa this Saturday, where Blue Skies Turn Black presents an orgasm of a show featuring a collision of four of the most cathartic, sweaty and

exhausting party bands Brooklyn and Montreal have to offer.

Opening the night with a blast are OOTW veterans and party freaks Dead Wife, whose fiery passion and dissonance will light a fire under your school weary ass. Next up are heavy-hippie-psych head bangers Black Feelings, who were responsible for my severely cramped neck at the Art Matters opening party.

Their heavy drones are bound to channel all the tension that Dead Wife helped to dissipate in order to wind everyone back up to snapping point for our two foreign headliners.

Ninjonik is a Brooklyn-based rap group whose MySpace designation is punk/club/crunk. I don't claim to be any kind of authority on rap music, but I

know a party when I hear it and I'm finding it impossible to sit still, much less tap out a sentence listening to the beyond hyper fun of the tracks on their website.

There's not too much of this severe genre surfing in this town, but I'm confident Montreal's weird punks will be open-minded enough to cut loose.

Finally we have the wildly popular bass/drum/telephone-microphone duo Japanther who do a Rap/Ramones better than anyone else (is there anyone else doing this?). Despite shattering rigid genre designations these guys utterly demolished Le Divan Orange alongside Brutal Knights and Career Suicide at the most traditional hardcore night of the Weird Punk series of last year's Pop Montreal festival.

I've seen this refreshingly simple band three times and no matter how tired/drunken the crowd is pre-show there always manages to be a legion of crowd surfers catching waves on the slippery, sweaty backs of skinny shirtless party kids to their songs about River Phoenix and dumb school principals.

I can guarantee that this will sell out, so act accordingly. Whether I see you at Sala on Saturday or not, I implore you to find a stress-release or else you're bound to end up like me: with fingernails chewed to the bone, teeth ground to the nerve and a straightjacket for a sweater.

Seriously though, have you ever tried typing an essay with your toes?

# The DOWN-LOW

## Events listings Mar. 31-Apr. 6

### ART

#### Living With

Telling the story of Rwanda's struggle with HIV/AIDS through pictures

Until April 4

Atrium of the Webster Library

1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. O.

#### Raw/Medium Rare/Well Done

Showcasing Concordia University's ceramics program, past and present

Until April 14

FOFA Gallery

1515 Ste-Catherine Street E.

Exhibit of more than 20 unique and original paintings

Until April 10

Burritoville

2055-B Bishop Street

### LECTURE

"Interfaces Montreal: Immersive & Sensory Cinema"

Digital meets business, workshops and conferences on innovation in digital interfaces

Today,

SAT,

1195 St-Laurent Blvd.

For info: [interfacemontreal.org](http://interfacemontreal.org)

### THEATRE

#### City of Wine/Oedipus

April 2-3-4, 8 p.m., April 5, 2 p.m.

F C Smith Auditorium

Loyola Campus

\$10 adults, \$5 students

### MUSIC

Concordia University Department of Music presents Chales Ellison Quintet

Monday, 8 p.m.

Oscar Peterson Concert Hall,

7141 Sherbrooke Street O.

Tickets \$15, \$5 for non-Concordia students, free for Concordia students

#### The Queers

With The Roman Line

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Foufounes Electrique

87 Ste-Catherine Street E.

Tickets \$10

#### Catherine Guérine vernissage

With Trancelvania, Noot and Your Highness

Friday, 9 p.m.

Lab Synthese,

435 Beaubien Street O. #200

Tickets \$5

#### Mamatschi

With The Aww Shucks and Slow Down, Molasses

Friday, 9 p.m.

Le Caigibi,

5490 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets \$6

#### The Presets

With The Golden Filter

Sunday, 8 p.m.

Le Studio Juste Pour Rire,

2111 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets \$20

—compiled by Joelle Lemieux

# Slavery in the age of the Internet

Documentary filmmaker Bienstock exposes the sex trafficking industry

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

You get a call in the middle of the night—you're told that your wife has been sold into slavery. The man calling you is the one who made the transaction. He's got a guilty conscience and was hoping that maybe the two of you could still be friends.

That's the kind of deception you'll encounter in *Sex Slaves*, a documentary film about the world of sex trafficking, which will be screening at Cinema Politica next week.

"With *Sex Slaves* I was really floored by what was going on with women who were being trafficked and enslaved," says director Ric Esther Bienstock, who has been making documentary films for 20 years.

"I can't shake the images of many of the women that I've met, some who are still living in really difficult circumstances."

Bienstock felt compelled to do a film about sex traffickers after she made the mistake of booking a hotel room in a brothel in a remote part of China—a hotel that was too clean and too expensive to belong to such a poor neighbourhood. There, she encountered two women from Russia who recounted their horrifying ordeal.

"They were told they'd be getting jobs as domestics or hotel cleaners, and the moment they crossed the border their passports were taken away and they were beaten and they were raped," says Bienstock.

"We were beside ourselves, we didn't know what to do. We said, 'Well, we'll call the police,' and they said 'You can't call the police because the police use



Tania, a victim of the sex trafficking industry, reunited with her daughter.

our services.'

"Their stories and their faces haunted me," says Bienstock. "I just felt like we had met people who were in living hell and we weren't able to do anything and that drove me to do the film."

Although *Sex Slaves* features interviews with several victims, Bienstock also managed to get Vlad, a sex trafficker with a surprisingly clear conscience, to speak in front of the camera.

"One of the reasons he agreed to [speak to us] was because, shockingly, Vlad sees himself as a victim too."

Instead, Vlad thought he was helping the women he was forcing into prostitution to find paying jobs.

"The morality of it is so screwed up. It's mind boggling."

Despite winning an Emmy for Investigative Journalism, Bienstock hopes the film's lasting legacy will be its role in advocacy.

"I would have been way less satisfied if *Sex Slaves* aired on TV and got its Emmy and a bunch of great reviews, and that was it. You really do want to feel like you're contributing to something," says Bienstock, who has given talks to

undercover police and RCMP officials about her research into the film since its release.

"Maybe I do it to appease my own guilt at being Canadian and not enslaved," says Bienstock.

"It makes me feel good, it makes me feel like I'm continuing to help the cause."

Director Ric Esther Bienstock will be present during the screening of *Sex Slaves* on Monday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Room H-110, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. For a full list of screenings, check out [cinemapolitica.org/concordia](http://cinemapolitica.org/concordia).

## spins

### Isis *Wavering Radiant*

Ipecac Records



Isis has always been a band that has polarized music fans: their brand of post-metal-meets-sweeping-atmospheric-elements has drawn its fair share of praise (stellar production and interesting musicianship) as well as criticism (overly-long songs and little variation within the songs themselves). Their fifth full-length finds singer Aaron Turner reverting back to his growling ways, leaving behind the singing that permeated the vocal landscape of 2006's *In The Absence Of Truth*. Instrumentally, it also deviates from their last record, leaving a lot of the quieter elements behind and returning to a sound more akin to their 2004 effort *Panopticon*, a sound that is

more abrasive and forward. The seven-song set is strong, and clocking in under an hour, is just long enough to make its mark and leave before overstaying its welcome.

4.5/5

—R. Brian Hastie

### Buried Inside *Spoils of Failure*

Relapse Records



Ottawa's own Buried Inside once again managed to redefine themselves with their fourth LP, *Spoils of Failure*. 2005's symmetric concept album *Chronoclast*, found the band exploring the depths (and highs) of musical peaks and valleys, alternating in-between quiet passages and blast beat goodness. *Spoils of Failure's* eight-song, hour-long descent into dark territories is

aided by Converge guitarist-cum-recording-genius Kurt Ballou manning the producer's chair. He brings an extra attention to ensuring that the record pushes sonic boundaries, letting the harmonic elements shine through where appropriate and then allowing the mammoth guitars and distorted voice to cut through when needed. The album is definitely a step forward for the Canadian quintet, and it even sounds great in a live setting, to boot.

4/5

—R. Brian Hastie

### DOOM *Born Like This*

Lex Records



If you only listen to 90 seconds of rap music this year, listen to "Ballskin." It's the

third track on *Born Like This*, the new album from DOOM—formerly MF DOOM, but also known as Viktor Vaughn, King Geedorah, and a plethora of other names. "Ballskin" is everything that's good about DOOM: it's short, the beat is sick, and the rhymes are classic polysyllabic DOOM greatness. When it's done, all you want is more. I wish I could say the same for the album as a whole. While DOOM's talent level is still head and shoulders above the average rapper, none of the beats really stand out, and for his first album of new material since 2005 there are a frustrating number of filler tracks. *Born Like This* is like the Alexei Kovalev of the rap world; it evinces an incredible talent, but you know he's capable of doing so much better.

3.5/5

—Alex Manley

# Fighting her way to the top

Stingers women's hockey captain looks back on her time at Concordia



# 9

Number of points scored during the 2008-09 season by Esther Latoures, tied for first on the Stingers.

Esther Latoures (left) in action against the McGill Martlets. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

## • RANDY CORRIVEAU

When I first met Esther Latoures, she was on her way to study at the Vanier Library. She said she was stressed for the end of the semester, but by the way she acted, I never would have guessed.

Much like her idols and role models, she stayed calm and kept her head up high.

Latoures is a five-year veteran and former captain of the Stingers women's hockey team. At 5'6, she plays bigger than her size with a gritty style that shows her perseverance and dedication to the sport. She played forward this past season but has proven her versatility in her time with the Stingers, spending two of her five years playing defence.

Although she was born in Oloron Ste-Marie, in the south of France, Latoures mostly grew up north of Montreal in Blainville, where her passion for hockey and sports developed.

As a child Esther enjoyed soccer, swimming, ringette and learned how to skate at the age of three.

Latoures played ringette competitively for eight years before switching to hockey.

"All my girl friends played ringette and all my guy friends played hockey. When I first tried hockey at the age of 12, I ditched ringette and started practicing hockey right away," she said.

During her teen years, Latoures attended five high schools, including Cap-Jeunesse, where her passion for hockey flourished. The school was focused on hockey and it allowed her to play hockey at least three or four times per week.

Latoures continued her education in Ste-Therese at CEGEP Lionel-Groulx where she played for the Axion of Montreal during her spare time. As a part of the team she met former Stingers teammate and current team trainer Lisa Marie Breton, a person whom Latoures now admires.

"She is so determined, always smiles and pushes harder every time. Lisa Marie was always there to cheer people up and she passed her attitude on to many players,"

said Latoures.

Following her years as a student in Ste-Therese, Latoures continued to play hockey but had no idea where to go career-wise. She was interested in physical education and psychology, but she did not feel like she had the grades to make it to a higher level. The idea of Concordia's hockey team was raised by one of her friends.

"My friends called me up and told me to come play for the Stingers, they said it was going to be fun and worth it," said Latoures. "I wasn't really thinking about going to university, all I knew was that I wanted to play hockey."

It didn't take too long for her to give it a shot even though she hardly knew a word of English.

Latoures is finishing her degree in Recreational Therapeutics at Con U and hopes to continue in the sports world for years to come.

The Recreational Therapeutics program was a perfect fit, as she said it was a great mix of both physical education and psychology. The program has taught her to create pro-

grams for disabled individuals using recreational activities.

"In the end, we try to improve their quality of life using physical activities," she explained.

Last year, Latoures took an internship with the Rehabilitation Centre Lizette-Dupras, where she discovered her interest for helping the disabled.

Although her student life went well, her hockey life got more complicated very quickly.

"Two weeks before the beginning of my first season [with the Stingers], my friend ran over my foot with his car. I came to practice the following Monday and my foot was huge," said Latoures. "I was out for a bit more than a month."

The injury itself was not the biggest problem for her, but the fact that she had to drive from Blainville every morning to attend a university that operates in a language she was not familiar with was.

Nevertheless, Latoures kept her head up and continued her education. She is now on the verge of completing her degree and plans to work

in her field for a long time.

"I got a job offer [with the Special Olympics] not long ago. They want me to be a sports councillor," explained Latoures. She also said that if she stayed in this organization she could possibly become a coach someday.

As for her hockey career, Latoures was presented with role of captain at the beginning of the Stingers' 2008-09 season.

"I was kind of expecting it, knowing that I was the only fifth-year player, but this had to be one of my proudest moments," said Latoures. "As a first-year player I would have never thought to wear the C. All I can say is wow, that's all. Wow."

The Stingers will look to improve their record next year without Latoures, building on their 3-9-1 season. The former captain wishes her team well, and sees a bright future for the young squad.

"We had a young team this year and we were short on players. Once we get more players, the team will develop just enough competition between us to push us forward."

# Working out their issues

Le Gym deals with their growing clientele, possible supplement epidemic and summer changes

• JOHNNY NORTH

Excellent location and the cheapest student membership fee have made Le Gym a hot spot on Concordia's downtown campus, but with membership continuing to rise, space is becoming a problem.

"We are full," said Vladimir Pavlicik, head director at Le Gym. "I believe the growth we've witnessed is something we anticipated in three to four years. This semester we've registered over 6000 people for Le Gym and around 2000 for the instructional programs."

Though Le Gym offers 10,000-square feet of training space, the machines or training rooms are used up at peak hours during the evening and weekends. With exams coming up, attendance is slowly declining.

"It's like Highway 13, it's kind of empty during the week, on Friday afternoon it's not big enough or in the evenings it's not big enough again," said Pavlicik. "We are eagerly awaiting expansion to the third floor so we can focus on our personal training, games room, maybe small martial arts room and a wellness centre."

Dylan Normandin, a Fine Arts graduate and trainer at Le Gym, wants to see the expansion, but believes it will be a while before it happens.

"There's talk about [the third floor] but there's been talk about that since Le Gym opened," he said. "There's a [glimmer] of hope that it will happen, but I don't think it will happen anytime soon. I really don't expect the third floor to open up until the new complex at Loyola is built."

Despite the large membership, Pavlicik says Le Gym will not turn away any students or interested members to Le Gym. Even if you're not taking courses in the summer semester as long as you were a registered student or will be next year you will still be charged the regular student price.

## Nutrition

"We encourage healthy lifestyles: eat well, rest well, train well and don't take shortcuts," says Pavlicik. "People overestimate short-term benefits. We're not in the nutrition business, so that gets complicated. We're not in the business of telling people about supplements simply because it is not congruent with the daily role of the institution we have. We're not the Monster Gym, there's more to it than muscles."



photo caption

Le Gym can give nutrition tips to its clients, but for liability reasons Concordia's Health Services can only make recommendations for what they should eat.

"That can be difficult sometimes," says Normandin. "You can't just get your requirements from eating two meals a day. For me to explain a proper diet would take three hours, so it is kind of frustrating that I can't share all my knowledge with them. [...] It is a bit of a handicap."

Pavlicik finds an epidemic is occurring with the amount of supplements advertised to students in magazines and with supplement stores opening up in the downtown area.

"It doesn't take much imagination to make the connection," says Pavlicik. "I think it is unfortunate that so many people are not well versed in what they put in their body. We look forward to working with Health Services at Concordia. They provide information and they will directly tell you that supplements are a waste of money."

"It can be helpful to have some nutritional supplements, but this is in the realm of extreme athletes who train two to three times a day,

their energy levels are very high."

"I don't think they're overly used, just inappropriately used," said Normandin. "I think people are using supplements that they don't need. People think it adds that much more to their training, but they overlook other things. If your diet is not dialled, if your training program is not dialled, no matter what supplement you're going to take it's not going to help you. If you don't have the foundation down, you're just wasting money."

Diego Czul, a third-year Engineering student who became a trainer after working out at Le Gym, finds there have been some supplement issues, but as long as the clients get informed "it's not super extra mega fucked up. I'm sure there are issues at other gyms too. [...] You have to make the client understand they have to have good nutrition so they don't need any supplements."

## Atmosphere

I think what makes this place work is staff," said Pavlicik. "It's the atmosphere that we've managed to create [...] Our machines are second to none [...] We're in a

fantastic location, when the tunnel opens we'll be even more accessible to the John Molson School of Business students without even having to go outside."

With a strong diversity of programs: badminton, various types of dance, soccer, tennis, yoga and more; Le Gym offers more fitness programs than any other gym in Montreal, according to Pavlicik.

"It's full of different types of people," said Czul. "There are people that want to be healthy, just lose fat, those that want to gain weight, there's a lot of variety and that's what makes it fun."

"Realistically, I find the location and the price of Le Gym sells itself," says Normandin. "I'd like to say the staff has a big influence, but the fact that it's right downtown and super cheap, I don't know why you would go to another gym."

"I think the staff makes it a little more chill. People have told me staff at other gyms are always angry or meatheads. We share the same philosophy or principles as our clientele."

Registration for Le Gym's spring instructional classes begins on April 1. Registration for Le Gym

begins on April 6 with a fee of \$45 plus tax due to construction starting on June 22. Photo identification is required in order to register at Le Gym's main reception desk at 1515 St. Catherine W in room S2-206 in the EV building. A full list of instructional programs can also be found at the reception desk.

## Cross-Country Club looking for new members after successful race

This past weekend, the Concordia Cross-Country Club had an impressive showing at a local race in Lasalle, as several runners eclipsed their previous best times.

Concordia's Ryan Hodge won the 5 km event in a time of 15:57, 28 seconds better than his previous personal best.

Amelie Roy also had an impressive showing, finishing fourth in the women's 10 km run.

The Cross-Country Club meets every Monday and Friday at Le Gym downtown at 5:30 a.m. All levels of runners are welcome.

For more information on the Cross-Country Club, contact John Lofranco at john.lofranco@gmail.com



Concordia's women's soccer team looks to rebound from a disappointing season with an infusion of new talent. PHOTO ION ETXEBARRIA

# Looking for redemption

## Concordia Stingers women's soccer team building up their squad with four new players from British Columbia

• JOHNNY NORTH

The 2009 soccer season starts at the end of August for the Concordia Stingers women's soccer team, but preparations for the upcoming season have already begun, following Con U's indoor season.

"We're trying to play a more controlled style—focusing more on our skills, playing at a quicker pace, playing more possession," said Jorge Sanchez, head coach of the Stingers. "We spent a lot of time working on the offensive side. Last year we were defending, defending, defending all the time. A lot of the indoor practices were spent on the speed of play and our attacking style."

Con U finished the indoor season in fifth place, losing in the quarter-finals to the McGill Martlets by a score of 1-0. This was without a full roster and without the new recruits.

For the second year in a row, Sanchez has recruited from western Canada. Sanchez, who started recruiting earlier this year, managed to get four players from British Columbia to sign letters of intent to play for the Stingers next year. Due to new Canadian

Interuniversity Sport rules, their letters can only be made null and void if the players are not chosen for the first program of their choice.

"A little over a year ago, I started to go to B.C. on a regular basis," said Sanchez. "As part of my recruiting, I've gone to their showcase that they hold in February. These are players I've been in very good contact with. I think they're going to add depth to our team, they're going to add a lot of experience—these are players that have played in the North American league and [on] provincial teams."

Sanchez feels the new recruits will fill specific needs for Con U next season.

Ashley Doktor, a 17-year-old from Surrey, B.C., is a midfielder/forward and played a part with the Fraser Valley School Academy. Sanchez is impressed by her size, which will help build up Con U's small roster. "She has trained in Holland with some fairly big clubs," said Sanchez.

Sarah Sullivan, a midfielder from Port Moody, B.C., is "a very technical player, a very good distribution player that we wanted to add in our midfield," says

Sanchez. Lise Hannah, a midfielder from Duncan, B.C., "brings a certain type of size and toughness to the team."

Catrina Guglielmucci, a midfielder who played in the Super Y league with Abbotsford as its team captain, is one player Sanchez wanted due to her maturity and soccer sense.

**"We've grown as a team, and this makes me optimistic as to what we can accomplish next year."**

—Fanny Berthiaume,  
Stingers goalkeeper

"With her leadership, she is probably going to be the playmaker in the midfield, one that we haven't had in a long time," he said. "They all bring something unique that fits into the puzzle properly."

"Personally I'm really looking forward to next season to see how they will perform with the team," said Fanny Berthiaume, goalkeeper and one of the Con U captains. "Ashley (Dokter) and Catrina (Guglielmucci) had visited us back in the Fall when we were still in our pre-season and did a practice with us. They showed a lot of potential, and I think both on and off the field

they will be great assets for the team. I appreciate the fact that a lot of the recruits for next year are also excelling in the classroom, because being a student-athlete at the university level requires setting priorities in the right places, and being able to manage your time and schedule according to those priorities."

With the amount of defenders returning, Sanchez found beefing up the midfield was what the team needed most. Sanchez admits the lack of goal-scoring last year was a big reason behind the search for offensive talent that would make Con U a greater threat offensively.

"We wanted players that understand the game technically. We had a lot of athletes [last year] but we didn't have a lot of players that played at a high level."

While bringing in players from B.C. instead of Quebec has resulted in 17-18 year olds being

recruited instead of 19-20 year olds, this is not a concern for Sanchez.

"The adaptation is harder," says Sanchez, "but the assumption is that you will get them for at least four years instead of three. The advantage of playing in B.C. is they play 12 months a year. You're getting a more well-rounded soccer player; their competitive seasons go from October to end of March early April. A lot of them play with various showcase teams during the summer."

The veterans returning also plan to play a major role next year after three straight losing seasons. The core of this team has been here for a few years now and has gone through a lot of disappointments over the years, says Berthiaume.

"I feel like this winter we were able to take all this negative and finally put it behind us," she said. "We've grown as a team, and this makes me optimistic as to what we can accomplish next year. Of course since it will most likely be my last year, I have a very strong personal attachment to next season's outcome. I definitely won't let my last season be a losing one."

# Montreal → 2032



## Build a metro that serves all of Montreal

As the centerpiece of Montreal's transit system, the metro will grow to better serve the entire island of Montreal. This will require a large investment by the provincial and municipal governments, but the heavy price will be justified by the environmental and social impact of having an island tied together by a fast and cheap public transit option.

### Green Line

One of the metro's longest lines, the Green Line will undergo the least expansion. Three additional stations will be built north of the current terminus at Honore-Beaugrand, expanding the line's reach to Montreal East.

In the southwest, four stations will be built past Angrignon, providing better serv-

ice for LaSalle. The line will end by linking with the Blue Line at a new terminus to be built at the Montreal Ouest AMT station.

### Orange Line

The site of recent work, the Orange Line's proposed expansion, looping the line through Laval will be finished with the addition of four stations. Two of those stations will be on the island of Montreal.

### Blue Line

The most disappointing expansion project in the metro's history, the Blue Line will be made relevant with large expansions towards the east and west. Eight stations will be added in the East, linking the Metro with the metropolitan highway, St-Leonard and Montreal North before ending near College Marie-Victorin.

In the west, the Blue Line will expand into Hampstead, Cote Saint-Luc and NDG

with five stations, including one at Loyola. The line will end at a terminus in Montreal Ouest linking the Blue and Green lines with the new Red Line.

### Yellow Line

The shortest line in the system, three stations will be added to improve service to South shore communities.

### White Line

Part of the original planning of the metro, the White Line was postponed indefinitely when Montreal won the 1967 Expo and the transit corporation's focus was shifted to the Yellow Line.

The new White Line would leave from Bonaventure station on the Orange Line, head north linking with Peel station, and continue with a station at the northern end of McGill campus—near the end of McTavish street—and a station at the top of

Mount Royal, increasing accessibility to Montreal's highest park. The line would end at Edouard-Montpetit station on the Blue Line.

### Red Line

The central focus of the 2032 expansion plan, the Red Line, would provide a new public transit backbone for the West Island. A 12-station line stretching from the Montreal Ouest terminus to the Fairview shopping centre in Pointe-Claire, the Red Line would provide direct access to the terminal at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

The Red Line would be a huge upgrade for transit service in the West Island, providing focal points along which bus lines could be organized. The cities of Lachine, Dorval and Pointe-Claire would be served for the first time by the metro. If the service proved to be popular, a parallel line on the northern end of the island would be a future possibility.

## Become vegetable self-sufficient

The city of Montreal will encourage the gardening of local varieties of vegetables to achieve a level of self-sufficiency. From east to west, lawns will be made useful again as gardens are planted. Downtown Montreal will see the introduction of collective gardens and legacy fruits like the Montreal Melon which will be grown on the slopes of Mount Royal, as they were in the late 1800s.

By law, 90 per cent of grocery stores' produce will need to be local.

## Island-wide Bixi system

Montreal's new Bixi system, where bikes can be rented from automated stations and driven to any other automated system, will be established in all boroughs of the city.

To help the spread of Bixi, a dedicated bike transit system would be established. Every decade a quarter of major thoroughfares on the island would be turned into bike paths and bike-only streets would be established in bike heavy neighborhoods.

## Regionalize transit

A new Societe de transport du Quebec will manage buses, metros and trains operating in all cities south of Quebec City. The Societe de transport de Montreal will be retained as a department within this centralized public transit system. This new system will increase coverage, quality and interoperability as fares, transit cards and schedules are harmonized.

By 2032 someone should be able to board a bus in Shawinigan, transfer to a fast intercity train, transfer to the metro in Montreal and walk to school at Concordia. All within 45 minutes, using the same transit card and paying only once.

# 12 predictions for your city on its two hundredth birthday

## Municipal Internet coverage

With Internet enshrined as a basic human right, the city of Montreal will establish a WiMax 2 system—similar to WiFi, but for a larger area—to provide all Montrealers with access to the internet. This will create new economic opportunities for the city as traffic jams could be plotted and cars rerouted in real-time. Internet access will be available in all parks and on public transit for free.

Although inferior to speeds available for home or business use, this Internet will provide basic on-the-go access. The possibilities would be infinite.

## The mass transformation of the suburbs is underway

The destructive legacy of low-density suburbia will be slowly undone as large houses are converted into triplexes in Montreal's traditional style. Streets will be redesigned into grids as additional houses and commercial buildings will be built into the spaces between existing houses. Some houses will see their walls transformed into vertical gardens.

The suburbs will begin to look like Notre-Dame-de-Grace as sustainable building practices return the spaces to productive use.

## Build a fourth public transit option: water

With the Decarie expressway flooded and turned into the Decarie Canal—linked with the Lachine Canal in the south and the des Prairies River in the north—a new waterborne public transit option would be created.

Gondolas going back and forth on the Decarie Canal, passing under overpasses turned into graceful arched bridges, would revitalize the neighborhood decimated by the Decarie's construction. Waterbuses would also go up the canals and operate on the St. Lawrence River, providing a fast connection to South Shore communities, Laval and the shoreline of the entire island of Montreal.

Trucks and trains would be taken off the streets, as waterborne trucks would also chug up and down the canals, cutting back on traffic and pollution.

## Ste-Catherine street is tram only

To encourage the pedestrianization of downtown Montreal, Ste-Catherine Street will be off-limits to all motorized vehicles. The street will be tramway-dedicated, with wide sidewalks and ample room for cyclists.

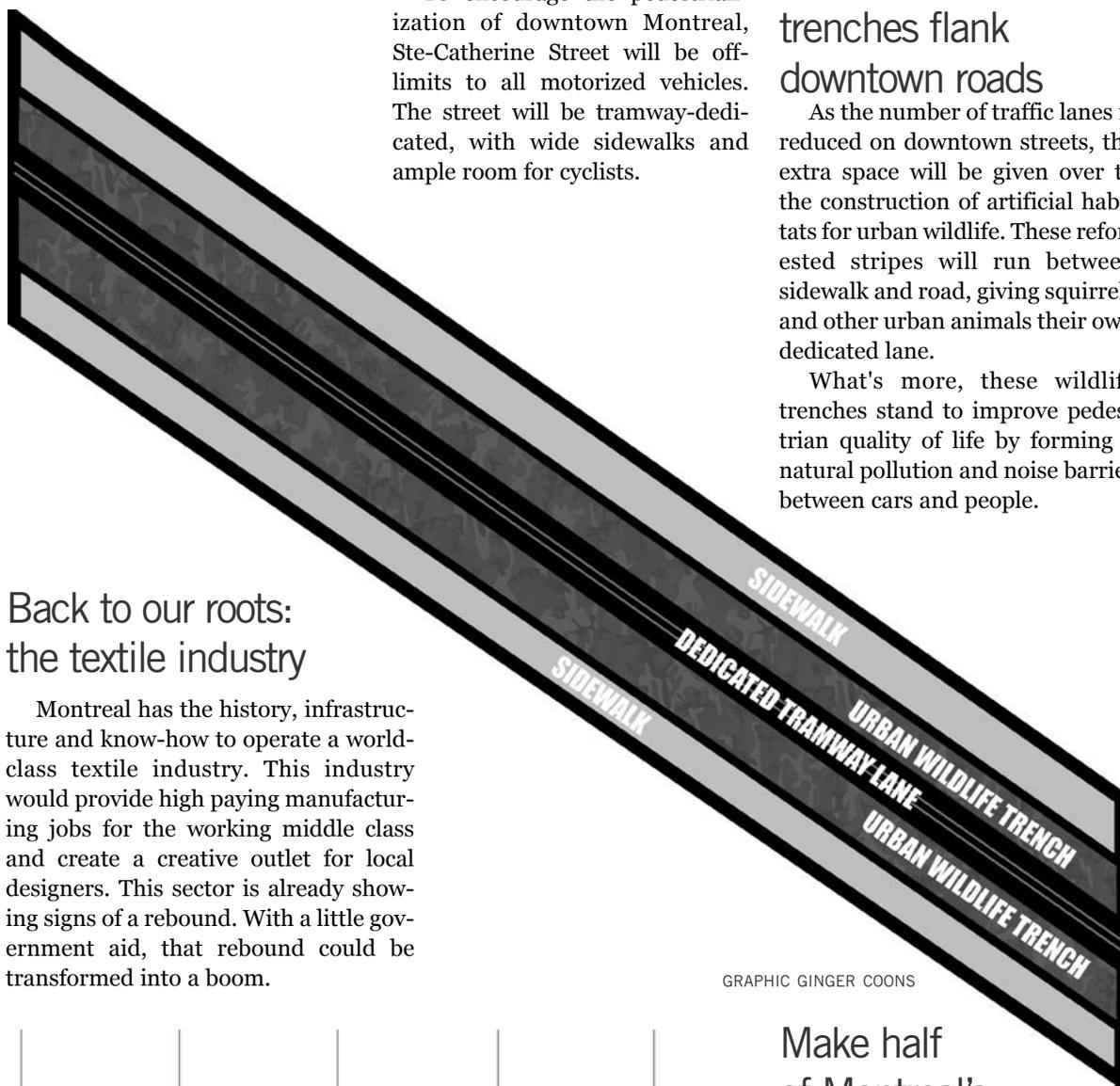
## Urban wildlife trenches flank downtown roads

As the number of traffic lanes is reduced on downtown streets, the extra space will be given over to the construction of artificial habitats for urban wildlife. These reforested stripes will run between sidewalk and road, giving squirrels and other urban animals their own dedicated lane.

What's more, these wildlife trenches stand to improve pedestrian quality of life by forming a natural pollution and noise barrier between cars and people.

## Back to our roots: the textile industry

Montreal has the history, infrastructure and know-how to operate a world-class textile industry. This industry would provide high paying manufacturing jobs for the working middle class and create a creative outlet for local designers. This sector is already showing signs of a rebound. With a little government aid, that rebound could be transformed into a boom.



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

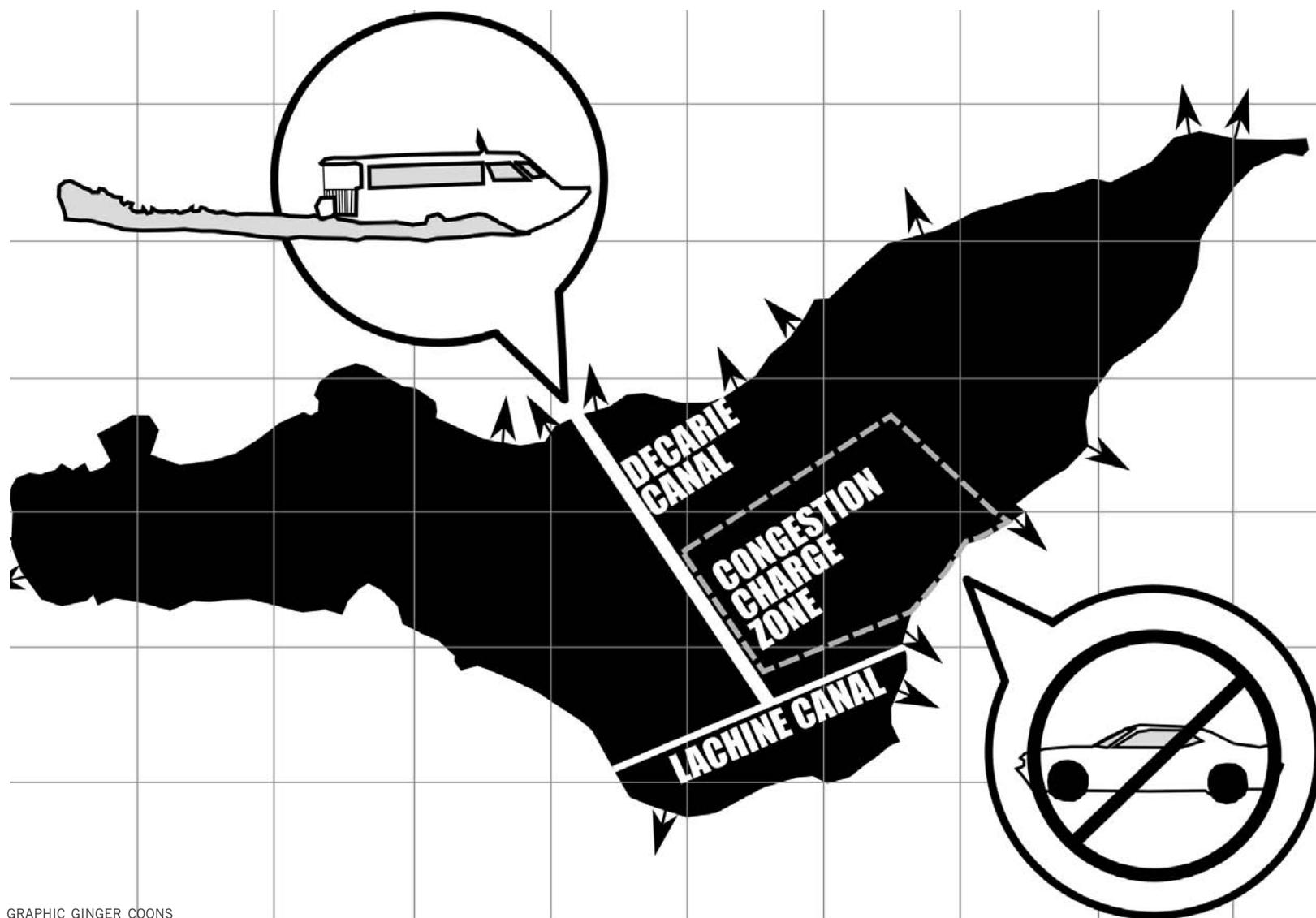
## Make half of Montreal's bridges green

The island of Montreal currently has 15 bridges connecting it to off-island suburbs. To encourage the adoption of green technology—hybrid or electric cars—and to help non-motorized transportation get off the island of Montreal, half of the island's bridges will be restricted to pedestrians, cyclists, emergency vehicles and hybrid or electric vehicles equipped with electronic tags.

## Congestion Charge

As a revenue source and to provide a further disincentive for downtown driving, a congestion charge zone would be established in the area between the Decarie Canal, the Ville-Marie highway, the metropolitan highway and Papineau ave. The cities and boroughs of Westmount, Ville-Marie, Outremont, the Plateau, Mile-End, Villeray and Mont Royal would fall in this zone.

With proper public transit, the congestion charge would not be a detriment to the movement of people.



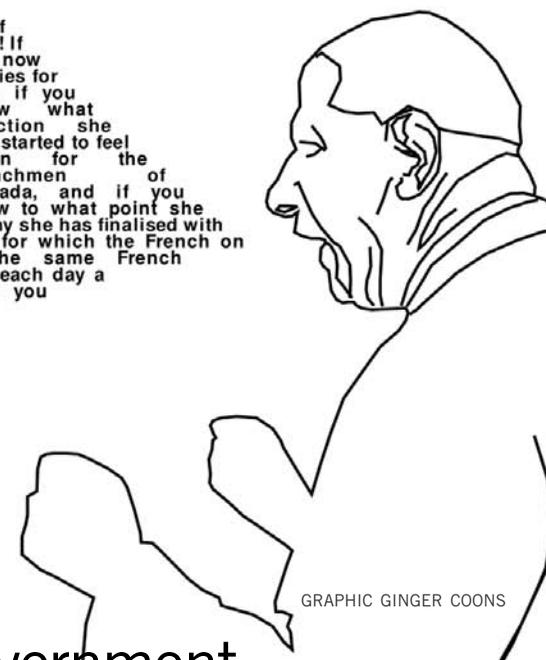
GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

It is a great emotion that fills my heart Montreal! In the name of the old salute you! I salute you with all that you cannot repeat. Here this trip, I found myself in the the Liberation! And all the addition, I have noticed efforts of progress, of consequently of here, and that it statement, because, if there modern success, it is yours! I say it is you knew what confidence France,

feels obliged to further your march the Government of Quebec, with my this side and the other of the undertaking. And, of course, little more, she knows well that are building the best laboratories, which will be for all, and which, one to aid France. This is evening to say, and that I will unforgettable Montréal reunion, entirety of France knows, sees, hears

to see before me the French city of country, in the name of France, I my heart! I would tell you a secret evening, and all the length of my same sense of atmosphere as length of my trip, in what development, and empowerment that you have is to Montréal, that I must give this is a city in the world exemplary of yours, and I permit myself to say, it is ours! If waking up after immense troubles, now carries for you, if you knew what affection she has started to feel again for the Frenchmen of Canada, and if you knew to what point she

that is before you, to your progress. It's why she has finalised with friend Johnson here, the agreements for which the French on Atlantic can work together towards the same French the aid that France brings here, each day a you will reciprocate because you factories, enterprises, an astonishment day, I know you will allow what I have come this bring back from this an unforgettable souvenir! The that which is happening here, and I



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

# Le woof-woof, là

## Quebec's separatists need to forget about the French government

• BENJAMIN CROZE

As I was surfing the web for the daily news last month I fell upon some juicy gossip. Did you hear? The separatists are pissed off at French President Nicolas Sarkozy for saying that Quebec sovereignty is not really his thing.

Well, this isn't the first time scandal breaks out over French and Quebec relations and in the midst of my reading, my head turns to the sky and everything around begins to fade to the gentle sound of a harp...

We are in July 1967. Charles de Gaulle, the liberator of France, is making his famous "Vive le Québec libre" speech to a crowd of Montrealers bursting with joy every time they hear the word "Montreal" or "libre." Some aren't so happy, and this heart-warming speech is followed by de Gaulle's trip being cut short and a cold response by the Lester B. Pearson's government in Ottawa.

Who is this Frenchman coming into my yard telling me how to grow my tomatoes? Pearson gave de Gaulle a stern rap on the fingers as the French leader left, telling him "Canadians don't need to be liberated." Indeed, this whole affair of Quebec separation doesn't really concern France, apart from the fact that it abandoned Quebec to the hands of the English in the first place. Good move Charles, get ready and brace yourself because you've got one more year before all hell breaks lose in your own yard.

I make a leap in time and land in 2006 just as Ségolène Royal, the French socialist presidential candidate of the time, is greeting Quebec politicians. When asked about the

issue she responds "Vive le Québec libre." Unlike Pearson's earlier finger wagging, this time the Quebec separatists are the ones that aren't pleased. In fact, they seem pretty uneasy in the meeting.

The thing is, Royal, you have never been to Quebec and no one really believes you. The very people she is supporting claim she doesn't know enough about the issue to be making such a remark. I guess they don't need the help; they are big enough to handle themselves... but then why ask the question?

Charles de Gaulle, the liberator of France, is making his famous "Vive le Québec libre" speech to a crowd of Montrealers bursting with joy every time they hear the word "Montreal" or "libre."

I snap out of it and contemplate my dream for a bit, before getting to the point.

Sarkozy is asked about the issue. "It's not my thing" he replies, sighing occasionally, basically letting everyone know there are more important things worthy of his attention. Life would be a bit easier if this whole sovereignty thing was forgotten. Ah... do you feel a storm coming? Once again the Quebec party leaders are pissed. Measures must be taken! The event makes headlines, and an angry letter is sent demanding excuses.

They are still waiting on a response.

How ironic: I look out the window and see one of those really cute little dogs—that look more like a decorative rat than a companion—getting all worked up at this big unfazed muff-muff over god knows what... that's called a Napoleon complex, isn't it?

The fact that France is totally unfazed by this both politically and in the media makes Quebec party leaders' response that much more comical. Sarkozy didn't even answer the letter that was sent to him. Furthermore, I've not seen anything about it on French TV news, while it was covered everywhere in Canada and most of those I asked in France didn't know about it, and honestly didn't really care.

What can you do? From what I've seen, you can't really say anything. Whether supported or ridiculed by the French and whether it comes from a left or right wing politician, Quebec party members respond with the same aggressive tone.

The little Chihuahua barks and barks and the big dog just ignores it. One can wonder, then, whether France's opinion is really that important, or if it's just an occasion to start barking at the parent that abandoned you.

In both recent cases, the politicians were asked about their views. It's not like they blurted these "unacceptable remarks" out of nowhere. If you ask a question, take the answer. Otherwise save yourself the trouble. The reaction always seems to be the same and I don't see what else is left to do but ignore. Even so, I bet a "no comment" would have generated the same amount of controversy.

Maybe barking around is just a way to get heard.

# 'Market forces' to decide the future of Concordia

## The university's new strategic plan was our creation, its implementation is our responsibility

• MATTHEW BRETT

Through World Cafés, meetings with students and near-constant consultations, Concordia President Judith Woodsworth's new administration has been dominated by its focus of crafting a strategic plan for the university.

The strategic plan is now nearing its final stages, but its timing could be a god-send or a curse for Concordia. The current recession is the cause of this uncertainty as it will likely drain much of the university's energy, perhaps causing a good deal of harm by overreacting to market forces.

The strategic plan, designed to set the university's goals until 2014, is a sweeping document scheduled to be approved at the

June 18, 2009 Board of Governors meeting.

President Woodsworth set out some of the guiding principles of the plan during the March Board meeting. Concordia must "remain nimble to be able to adjust quickly," she said, invoking the recession as a threat. Woodsworth added that Concordia must also "maintain, introduce or delete programs based on their relevance and competitive advantage, always mindful of our values and mission."

Budgetary decisions made to achieve these principles will be "targeted, focused, decision-based, sustained, regular, and data and market driven," according to documents associated with the proposed plan.

Peeling back the language, a targeted

program deletion means that jobs will be transferred or lost and academic disciplines may disappear. To suggest otherwise runs entirely counter to the spirit of transparency so valued in the strategic plan.

Jobs and pensions were likely to suffer

"[Concordia must] remain nimble to be able to adjust quickly."

—Judith Woodsworth,  
Concordia President

from this recession despite the strategic plan, but what this plan does is crystallize the university's vision towards cuts, invoking markets forces at a time when red ink is

creeping into balance sheets.

There are, however, checks and balances, students and staff chief among them. These groups had a voice in the strategic plan's formulation and their role is no less vital during the plan's implementation.

This is not just the university's vision we'll be discussing for the next few years—these are livelihoods, families and programs created through years of debate and maintained through painstaking care.

It's comforting to see that the fruits of our collective discussion on the strategic plan have created a document with clearly ominous tones. We built this plan which makes our responsibility that much greater in implementing it.

# We let these people run the country?

Petty partisan politics in Ottawa defeat the purpose of government

• ETHAN CABEL—*THE UNITER*  
(UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

**WINNIPEG (CUP)** — Our House of Commons is not plagued so much by our lack of messianic instruction as it is by the carpet-bagging and the opportunism of our political left.

Canadians don't have to embrace any prophetic political visions. We don't have an executive family that, if given a chance, could advertise and sell Pepsi-Cola. We have yet to see bobbleheads, key chains, T-shirts, or poker decks bearing the likeness of our Dear Leader. There is no such thing as Harpermania—and this, contrary to popular belief, is probably a good thing.

I would rather have a leader that is questioned and at times disdained by the majority than one who is unknown and unconditionally loved.

Canada doesn't need its own Barack Obama. The character of the presidency is unique to American society and unique to their history. We should remember that there's a slippery slope between political adoration and unaccountability.

But our parliament is fractured by the unprincipled ambition of our federal politicians.

On Nov. 27, 2008, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty delivered the fiscal update. Within that update, the Conservative government sought to abolish voter subsidies—a mecha-

nism of public funding that keeps smaller parties like the Green Party afloat.

The Liberal Party, which relies on the subsidy for 63 per cent of its funding, would have been in dire financial straits after their historic defeat, unlike the Conservatives, who only rely on it for 37 per cent of their funding.

However, disregarding these circumstances, cutting the voter subsidy makes sense.

**There is no such thing as Harpermania—and this, contrary to popular belief, is probably a good thing.**

Despite claims that it levels the playing field, subsidies disproportionately favour the governing party. The party that receives the most votes receives the most money. Perhaps this is why Jean Chrétien instituted it near the end of his reign shortly after limiting corporate and individual campaign donations. With a cap on donations, and without the wherewithal to earn plenty of small contributions, where would the Liberals find their money?

Cutting the subsidy would, in principle, level the playing field. Rather than parties like the Bloc receiving federal funding, each party would work to fundraise from their own supporters.

Yet, in practice, upon cutting the funding, each party does not start at zero. The Conservatives would be financially stable. The Liberals would be broke. It was a low partisan tactic to put forward a cut of that magnitude in November 2008.

But could the issue of voter subsidies have been handled in a mature way by seemingly competent parliamentarians? I think so.

Why wasn't it?

The coalition was touted as a way to avoid an election while still opposing the fiscal update in a confidence motion. The problem, of course, is that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in response to the opposition threat, backtracked from the subsidy cut. It would no longer be a part of the fiscal update. The coalition proceeded but shifted its justification: the opposition parties were committed to economic stimulus that would benefit Canada while Harper was merely playing partisan games.

We watched as political enemies shook hands for the acquisition of power on Dec. 1, 2008. Then-Liberal-leader Stéphane Dion, who had criticized the NDP platform as an experiment with "monopoly money" in October, smiled and embraced a grinning NDP leader Jack Layton.

Dion, author of the Clarity Act—legislation that, in effect, killed the possibility of Quebec's separation through referendum—firmly gripped the hand of Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe, a strident separatist.

And yet, on Jan. 28 of this year, the federal budget passed, with a Liberal amendment. Could the fiscal update have been amended in a similar fashion? Certainly. And it could be argued, as the Conservatives backed away from subsidy cuts as well as several other motions, that the update was amended. So why wouldn't the opposition parties support the amended fiscal update and simply wait for the tabling of the budget in January?

In the aftermath of the coalition fiasco we have witnessed the pouting, preliminary opposition of the NDP. They decided to vote against the January budget before having read it.

We saw the final resignation of Dion and the "anointment" of Michael Ignatieff who, as his first decision in a Parliament hinged on party discipline, decided to support the Tory budget while allowing four MPs from Newfoundland and Labrador a temporary vote of protest.

We were forced to hear, further, that Green leader Elizabeth May was vying for a Senate seat during the coalition discussions. And, after the Green party's recent policy convention, May is still debating over whether or not to continue her stunt of running in the ultra-Conservative riding of Central Nova Scotia.

And we take these people seriously?

Canada doesn't need a prophetic figure. A little competence and a handful of real convictions should do.



Canada's Parliament

143

Conservative MPs

77

Liberal MPs

49

Bloc MPs

37

New Democrat MPs

2

Independent MPs



# Green space

## InGREENious Ideas

• MADELYN LIPSZYC

To make the world greener there are a plethora of minor adjustments that can be made to change wasteful habits. Being mindful of consumption is first among those adjustments. Here are a few suggestions about what you can do:

### Shop wisely

It is important to remember that the stores and corporations you support with your buying power have varying manufacturing processes. So you must use your buying power to support businesses that have a greener and ethical approach to production.

Buying local is important because it limits the toxic emissions associated with transporting goods and the products organic conditions can be guaranteed. Organic food and clothing stores provide products that are free from chemical pesticides, animal bacteria and antibiotics, and limit methane and waste contamination.

Besides, choosing to make greener purchases isn't that hard anymore with chemical-free food and clothes offered at many locations and at increasingly competitive prices.

Some of the things that get overlooked, like, toilet paper and computer paper are now available in 100 per cent recycled form. Many organic dish soaps, laundry detergents and beauty products are available in a wide variety of prices, scents and origins, and do not contain any chemicals, alcohols or dyes.

Best of all, these products do not pollute the environment with their use. But beware: look closely at blurbs and ingredients to understand exactly to what extent a product is "green." Make sure products live up to what they are marketed to be.

### Cut the cord

Many people think cutting energy costs can be accomplished simply by turning off the lights when they leave a room—that is far from the truth.

Appliances, especially those associated with heating and cooling are the most energy-dependent; try to turn the heat off or as low as possible. Even when an appliance is turned off, it still uses energy when plugged in. Unplug appliances that aren't used often.

The most energy consuming appliances are humidifiers, electric clothes dryers, freezers, heaters, hot tubs and fridges. Do you really need all this manufactured temperature?

### Get creative

Instead of buying, why not reuse old materials to give obsolete or useless things a new purpose. Learn how to sew, and turn old ripped pants into a chic sac. Try making your own household cleaner with baking soda and water.

When grocery shopping, instead of putting vegetables into a bag just pop them into your cart and wash them when you get home. Also, make dinner at home as often as possible, the environment and your pocketbook will thank you. Instead of buying expensive containers to store your leftovers, re-use your margarine and cream cheese containers.

### Dispose safely

Items like batteries, cell phones, ink cartridges, CDs, DVDs and light bulbs are made from sensitive chemical materials and must be disposed carefully to prevent lethal harm to animals and the environment. Concordia's R4 initiative—rethink, reuse, reduce, recycle—has begun this type of collection at the CSU office.

Remember that your contribution has and will continue to make a difference in the fight for a cleaner world.

Although this is the end of *GreenSpace*, we hope that we have helped you in your quest towards a more sustainable life and conscience.



Letters @thelink.concordia.ca

### Hillel's stand on Shabbat protest

I see Yesse from Young Jews for Social Justice has taken offence to Hillel's comments that questioned his group's self-proclaimed Jewish identity.

It doesn't take "an authority on Jewish identity" to understand that protesting a Shabbat dinner on Shabbat is not in line with Jewish values. Moreover, the failure of the demonstrators to articulate what exactly they were protesting against makes their actions all the more absurd. How can Hillel rebut your points, Yesse, if you don't make any?

Yesse and his group's lack of a clear and concise position on Israel and Zionism has led most people at Hillel to surmise that their only mandate is to be different from the vast majority of Jews that are Zionists and who support Israel. More than anything, their outlook is reminiscent of a slighted child who is rebelling against his parents.

Like many of the more significant anti-Israel groups on our campuses, the Young Jews for Social Justice are willing to overlook the social injustices of terrorism, fanaticism, political corruption, homophobia and human rights abuses practiced by Israel's enemies in order to paint the Jewish state as the sole barrier to peace. This group is nothing more than a logo; a tiny collective whose sole purpose is to shield those who flagrantly demonize the Jewish state from charges of anti-Semitism.

The fact that the attendees of the dinner did not see their protest perfectly encapsulates Young Jews for Social Justice's standing on campus in general.

—Mick Mendelsohn,  
Hillel Concordia

### Democracy's guardians

Clare Raspopow's classic editorial (Vol. 29, Issue 27, pg. 27) on the ideals of an educated democracy should not only be required reading for all students but be reprinted in the four Montreal daily newspapers and our two national newspapers.

Every human being above a certain level of consciousness has a moral obligation to determine who will have the power in society to govern them until there is no need for any individual or party to rule over anyone else and humanity evolves into a self-governing body where every human being is truly equal to every other human being.

—David Sommer Rovins,  
Independent Student

### Fur is mean, not green

It was disturbing to open up *The Link* last week (Vol. 29, Issue 27, pg. 19) to images of skinned animals featured in Jennifer Freitas' "Sustaining the wild." This article is not only one sided and pro-fur but continues to promote false and misleading information perpetuated by the Fur Council of Canada.

Just as Sarah Palin told the story of Joe the Plumber, the fur industry likes to tell the story of the rustic trapper who loves nature and is simply trying to make a living and survive off the land.

Trapping is extremely cruel; one million animals are caught in traps each year in Canada, including the leghold traps, conibear traps, snares and the drowning trap. These animals are left, often for hours or days, with no food, water or shelter in extreme temperatures. One in four animals will chew off their own limbs to escape, and will go on to die of gangrene or other secondary infections. When the trapper finally comes to collect the animals, they stomp or beat them to death to avoid damaging the pelt.

Fur is natural on animals, but once it has been treated with a soup of toxic chemicals to keep it from rotting, it is an environmental nightmare. It takes 20 times as much energy to produce a fur coat from a farm-raised animal that to produce a fake fur coat.

There's nothing "green" about killing animals for their fur. Fur farms are notorious for polluting waterways from the runoff of the caged animals' waste and every year hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats, birds, and other animals—including endangered species—are accidentally crippled or killed by traps. Animals trapped for fur in the wild suffer excruciating pain before they are bludgeoned or stomped to death by trappers.

Besides being a filthy industry, the fur trade is also violent and bloody. Trapping, beating, drowning and ripping animals' skins from their backs while they are still conscious and able to feel pain is absolutely indefensible.

In the 21st century, people can choose to be cruel or kind. With so many fashionable, comfortable leather and fur alternatives out today, there is no excuse for wearing any animal skins.

I urge Concordia students to join us in condemning cruelty and speak up for animals.

—Lucas Solowey,  
Sociology

### CHANGE: the empty eye candy

When I think about it, I have to admit that CHANGE had the best Concordia Student Union election campaign of all-time to capture the vote of those who are ignorant about the issues and what is going on at their student government.

The name CHANGE implied change. But when you look at the platform of CHANGE there is nothing new, it is more or less the same platform and ideologies of the past. The name of the slate is smart, as it captures the eyes of those who do not know. People may have believed that the slate would bring about change, in fact, it probably would not have.

CHANGE was simply a name to capitalize on the Barack Obama effect, where the world was thriving for change. In reality, the slate's name is only eye

candy.

Another example is the colour green. Green is a colour that appeals to people as it represents the environment. But, when we look at the slate, they probably were the slate that cared less about the SAF.

—Minh Dang Nguyen,  
JMSB Student

### More needed for international students

I am happy *The Link* printed an article about new immigrants adjusting to Concordia University and Montreal. Currently, I'm a Continuing Education student at Concordia studying English as a second language.

I agree with writer José Espinoza that Concordia needs to take more responsibility and give more assistance to undergraduate international students. However, Continuing Education students also have the same issues as Concordia undergrads.

New international students at Continuing Education have trouble finding apartments or knowing their way around Montreal. Continuing Education should help and guide them.

Continuing Education has greatly helped me improve my English, today, I can understand TV shows, get involved in conversation and take care of my daily activities comfortably—this make me feel happy and integrated into Montreal's society.

I believe that Continuing Education can help new international students more.

Thank you *The Link* for discussing this important issue.

—Mohammed Mira,  
Continuing Education Student

### Noah A. Timmins' tour

Noah A. Timmins Jr. wishes to present his latest accomplishments to the gentle readers of *The Link*. Playing this week at the York Theatre, 1487 Ste-Catherine Street O: a self-guided walking tour of the theatre relics.

Pamphlets with tour directions can be found scattered around the EV building, specifically on floors five, six and seven of the Fine Arts tower. Written by the ghost of Noah A. Timmins Jr. himself, the tour highlights murals, chevrons and other decorative elements from the York Theatre.

Also playing: Chevrons. During business hours, Art Deco chevron accents like those in the original York Theatre can be found in the offices of the Department of Design and Computation Arts, located on the sixth floor of the Fine Arts tower.

Admission to see these wonders is free to all. Exhibits promise to be most educational and stimulating. Popcorn will not be provided.

—Noah A. Timmins Jr.,  
Industrialist and builder of the York Theatre

**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.

# The Link's Annual General Assembly

## Friday, April 3rd at 4 p.m. @ H-649

for more information email [business@thelink.concordia.ca](mailto:business@thelink.concordia.ca)

# crswrdpzzlol

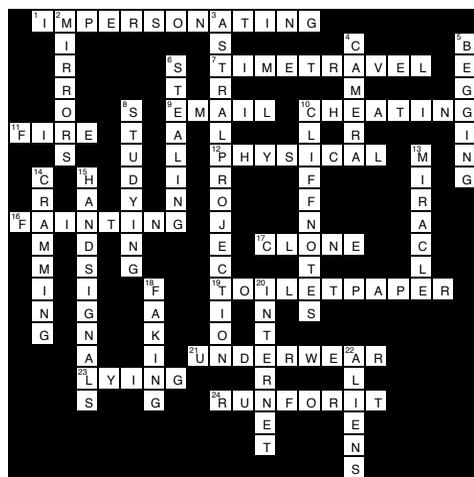
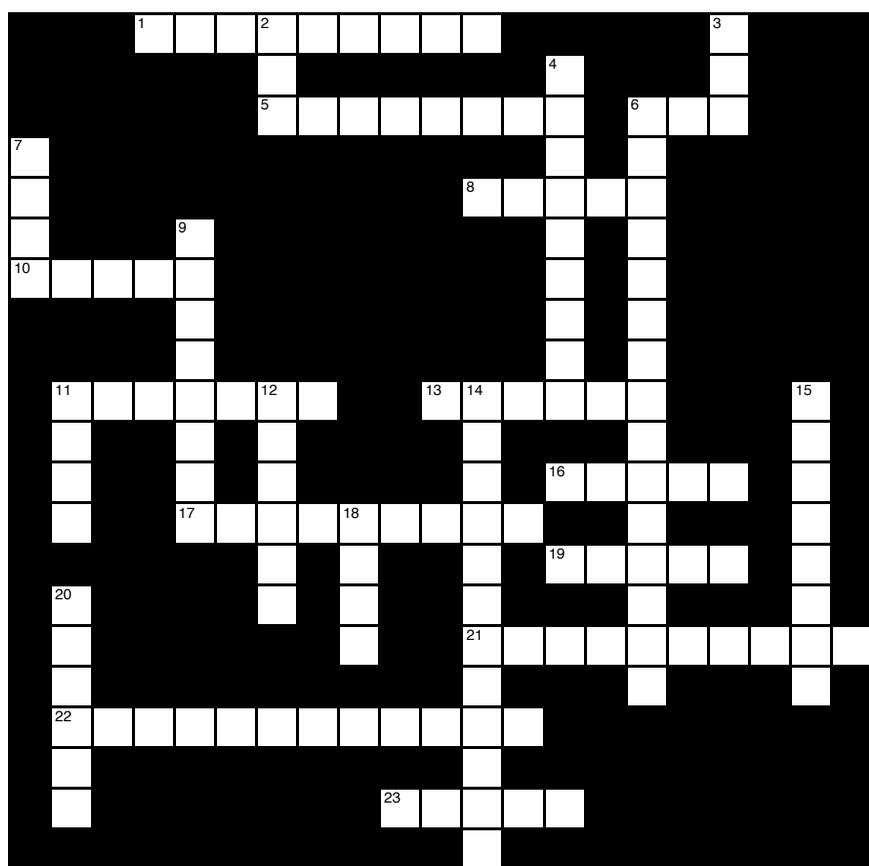
MAGIC AND DRAGONS • R. BRIAN HASTIE & DRAGONSLAYER DE ROSA

## ACROSS

- According to Urban Dictionary, these are humans that believe they have the souls of dragons and claim to have magical powers
- As dragons attain this, they grow stronger in a variety of manners
- To cast an evil spell upon someone; conversely, a numerical system with a base of 16
- These live under bridges, make horrible bogeymen and harass other Internet users
- An archaic word for dragon
- Evil wizards that harness demons and ride around on pitchforks
- Another word for sorcerer or magician. Can be used as a term for acknowledging one's depth of knowledge upon a subject
- Voodoo, evil eye, shapam... All of these mean bad news if directed at you
- An evil sub-race of dragon
- These inhabit the dragon's mouth, though they are better suited for vampires or wolverines
- A large sword with a big blade and two different cutting sides
- Introductory spell that can be used to attack the darkness
- Word associated with females who partake in the usage of magic. They can be good, bad, or somewhere in between

## DOWN

- A sub-race of dragon that is too self-centred to be considered good or bad, also known as the "teenage girl" of the dragon world; the word can also mean precious stone
- An infectious disease that is considered to be the cause of being cursed. One of these would be placed upon your house, as Shakespeare once famously wrote
- A condition that causes people to fall in love with the act of burning things. Very dangerous in the case of dragons, as they already have a flamethrower for a mouth. Thanks a lot, Mother Nature
- Sacred item used to slay the fictional killer the Rabbit of Caerbannog, but has since gone on to be used by fanboys everywhere in their tabletop RPG games
- The tool of choice for those wishing to utilize magic. Harry Potter's got like three, you should have one too
- The good sub race of dragon
- A snake-like dragon
- A religious wizard, especially gifted at healing and punching dolphins in the blowhole. Okay, maybe that last bit was a lie, but he's really good with his hands
- You don't necessarily need a cloak for this one. Look mom, now you can't see me, I'm taking 20 bucks from your purse without your knowing
- Dragons hoard this, usually located in a cave or den
- A type of magician, considered to be a potent magic user but also physically weak
- A medium in-between the living and spirit worlds. Also called a cuerandero



issue 27

If you complete this crossword before 4 p.m. on Wednesday you have the chance to win a free editorial position!

April fools! Did you actually think you'd get one of those for free? What, are you the guy who jumped off a roof after drinking Redbull? You're the person disclaimers were made for.

Happy April fools day Concordia.

## editorial

# Putting the pieces back together again

The Vision slate dominated last week's general election, putting an end to the so-called Evolution, Not Revolution/ New Evolution/ Blue Evolution/ Experience/ Orange Unity/ Blue Unity dynasty of the last six years.

But is this really a new beginning or just a branch off the current political empire?

Although the CHANGE slate got slammed for being heir to the Evolution lineage, former Concordia Student Union presidents Mohamed Shuriye and Patrice Blais helped pull the strings behind the current Vision slate.

### Mohamed Shuriye

Shuriye was president of the CSU when there was a deficit and former CSU bookkeeper Marie Lyonnais was on the payroll. How much was the deficit when Shuriye was president and where exactly did that money go? No one knows, since the CSU's auditors had a "denial of opinion" regarding money missing between 2005 and early 2007.

Although Shuriye has since said his VP Finance at the time did not keep him up to speed, it's hard to believe the president of an organization would not have a snapshot of the actual financial books.

### Patrice Blais

Blais is not only the defendant of a \$25,000 defamation lawsuit filed against him by the CSU, he's also the leader of the recall petition to get rid of the current executive. Blais has brought the petition before the Quebec Superior Court, even though the general election has already come to pass. He has argued that defending the recall petition in court is mostly a matter of principle, since it was unrightfully thrown out by former CSU Council chairperson Jessica Nudo.

### Lev Bukhman

The CSU has fired former healthcare administrator Lev Bukhman, who is head of the Quebec Student Health Alliance, also known as ASEQ. The CSU claims Bukhman, who has been doing business with the CSU for the past 12 years, was not working with the interests of students in mind and banked money that was rightfully ours. They also claim Bukhman is using bogus allegations of bribery to guilt students back into an ASEQ contract.

Coincidentally, it was councillors affiliated with the Vision slate who fought to defend ASEQ in February and March.

To returning students: ask questions about your money when you walk back into Concordia next semester. Actually, ask yourself over the summer who our health care administrator should be? Why did the outgoing executive decide to fire ASEQ, even though the incoming one may rehire them? Who is accountable for the deficit of nearly \$800,000? Will the deficit be repaid by July, which is what the current executive claims?

To the incoming executive: it's understood that information may not come to the foreground immediately upon discovery, but as a concerned student, I expect you to keep me informed. And as such, it's vital to note that transparency, legitimacy, inclusion and disclosure are essential. For an ignominious student union that's been plagued with undue discord and scandal, let's hope the executives-elect have learned from the mistakes and negligence of their predecessors, will execute a well-structured plan of action and will engage the student union membership.

You will be inheriting a multitude of problems to be fixed, and governing for the next year will not be easy, but you ran and were elected to do just that.

Its time that the CSU's pieces be put back together again.

—Terrine Friday,  
Outgoing News editor,  
Editor-in-chief-elect.

