

Unequal healing

The state of aboriginal women's health in Canada
Features 10+11

McGill nurses promote holistic care

Challenging traditional roles through research
Mind&Body 12

Pay equity bill hurts women's rights

Unions to face fines if representing their members on pay equity disputes
News 3

Teen hotties, skinned bodies

Violence in horror movies problematizes female bodies
Culture 17

Beautification of campus continues

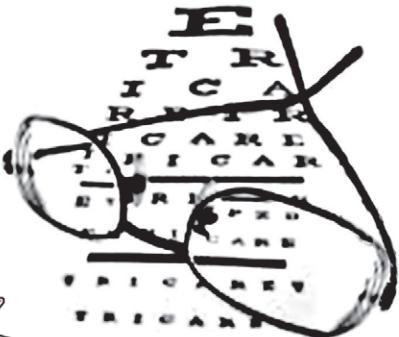
Master plan culminates in same path as before, less stairs
Compendium 18

THE
McGILL
DAILY

Smoke and mirrors since 1911



ONCE A YEAR IT'S IMPORTANT TO DO YOUR EYE EXAM



YOU PAID FOR IT!
USE YOUR SUNLIFE
INSURANCE!!

McGILL STUDENTS
AND STAFF
Eye examinations given
by an ASEQ Authorized
Optometrist
Dr. A. Wootten

ONLY A FEW
STEPS AWAY...

1460 Sherbrooke W.
(corner of Mackay)

514.286.8020

**OPTIQUE
TOWN**



**“Be a volunteer
and like me, celebrate life!”**

Philippe Charbonneau, actor in *Annie et ses hommes*
Spokesperson for the Daffodil Days

Teach English Overseas



TESOL/TESL Teacher Training
Certification Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- ESL Skills Development
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Interactive Teaching Practicum
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719/416-924-3240
www.oxfordseminars.ca

**Want to be a
Daily Editor?**

**Elections for
all positions
are coming up
Applications
due at 11:59 p.m.
on March 27**

Visit
mcgilldaily.com/elections
for more information



McGill

FACULTY OF ARTS

Moyse Travelling Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Moyse Travelling Scholarship. One scholarship for distinction will be awarded to a student in the Faculty of Arts. The scholarship is intended to support a year of advanced study, preferably in a British or European university, but not to the exclusion of other institutions approved by the Faculty of Arts.

Value: \$11,000

Application instructions and full details of the scholarship are available in ARTS 110

DEADLINE: Wednesday, APRIL 1st, 2009

**JOURS DE LA
JONQUILLE**
DAFFODIL DAYS



Canadian
Cancer
Society
Société
canadienne
du cancer

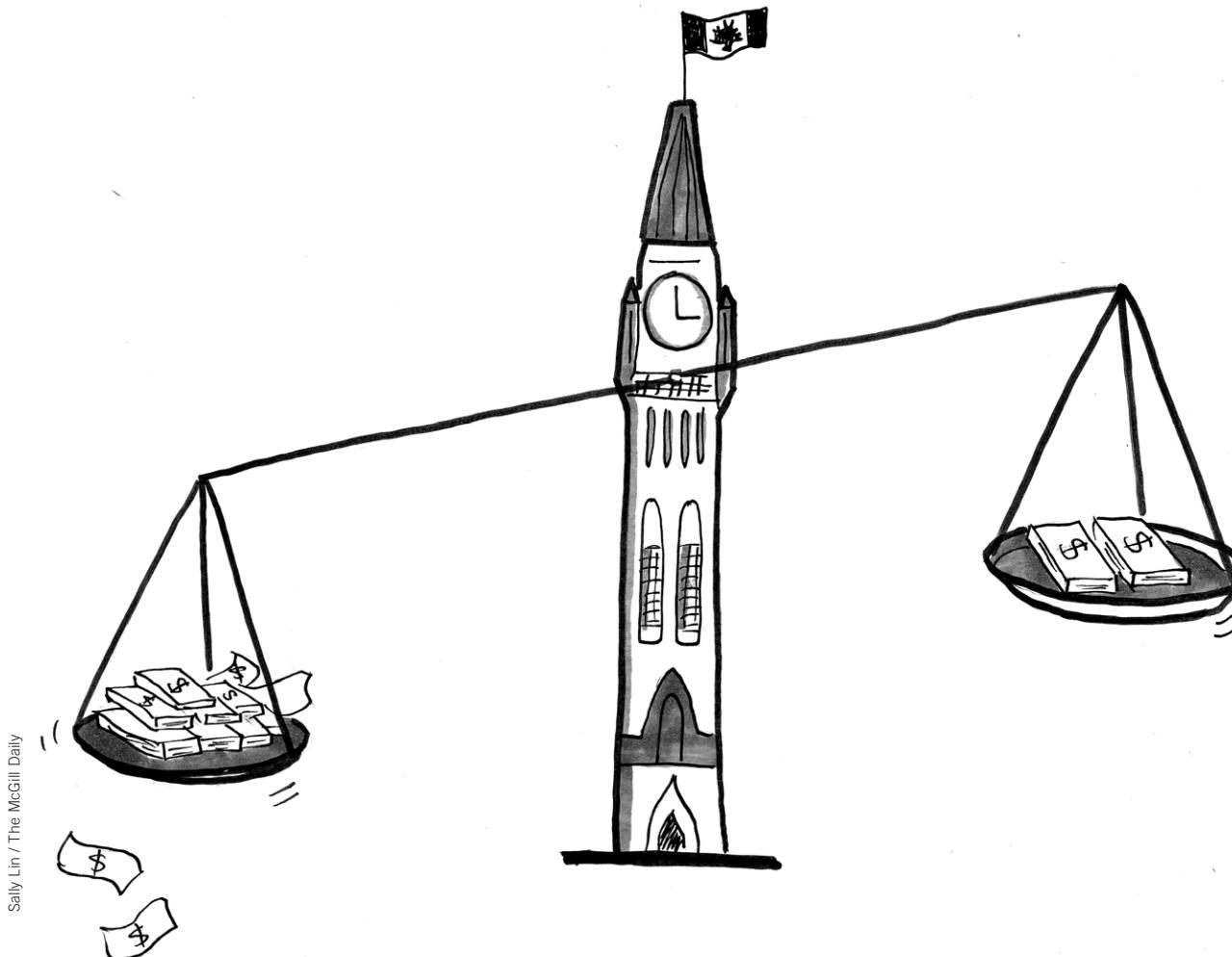
From April 2nd to April 5th,
step forward and give a few hours to the *Daffodil Days*.

1 888 939-3333
jonquille@quebec.cancer.ca



<http://mcgilldaily.com/>





The changing status of women under the Harper government

- 1) Stopped funding to the Court Challenges Programme
- 2) Changed funding criteria for Status of Women Canada's Women's Programme, precluding support for advocacy or lobbying for law reform
- 3) Cancelled the Status of Women Independent Research Fund
- 4) Ended child care agreements with the provinces

Pay equity bill hurts women's rights

Unions to face fines if representing their members on pay equity disputes

Alison Withers
The McGill Daily

Women in the federal public service may soon see their right to pay equity negotiated away at the bargaining table, which some say will critically undermine women's internationally-recognized human right to equal pay for equal value of work.

According to the Harper government, Canadian taxpayers have covered over \$4-billion in pay equity disputes and settlements heard at the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) since the right for equal pay was introduced in 1977. The government's proposal – known as the Public Service Equitable Compensation Act – would forbid CHRC from hearing pay equity complaints from federal public servants – a body of 400,000 workers – and instead make it an issue for negotiations during collective bargaining, claiming that both the employer and the union will be responsible for ensuring equitable compensation.

The Act is rolled into Bill C-10 – the Budget Implementation Act, which includes urgent provisions for an economic stimulus – which cleared the House of Commons on March 4, despite criticism from all three opposition parties, and moved to the Senate the same day, where it presently being studied.

The Act received heavy criticism in the Fall Economic Update, contributing to a decision to prorogue Parliament.

Removing a Human Right

Patty Ducharme, the National Executive Vice-President for Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) – a 166,000-member union that represents federal public service workers – was furi-

ous that a convention of the Canadian Human Rights Act might be removed.

"You're negotiating a human right at the bargaining table," said Ducharme, explaining that pay equity may just get swapped in favour of other benefits. "It's oppressive. It's repressive. It's ideologically-driven and heavy-handed."

PSAC believes its members may be further jeopardized because the union is not allowed to assist its members in filing a pay equity complaint without receiving a \$50,000 fine.

"Last time I checked, unions have a mandate that says they must represent their members," said Ducharme. "There's no public servant employee who has pockets deep enough to take on the federal government."

In 2000, after over 20 years in court, PSAC settled the largest pay equity case in Canada, leaving the federal government accountable to paying PSAC members \$3.2-billion in wage-gap differences and interest.

Sue Genge, National Representative (Women and Human Rights) for the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), a federation of unions nation-wide, agreed that the bill has put PSAC in a difficult position.

"They're caught," Genge said. "PSAC has to represent their members, but they'll be fined hundreds of thousands of dollars if they do."

Ducharme admitted that PSAC was unsure how to proceed if the legislation passed through the Senate.

"To bring a pay equity case requires a lot of research studies," Genge explained, noting that funding had been cut from many women's groups that provided support during pay equity complaints. "You can't only know how you do, but how everyone else does relative to you."

Two Rights Regimes

"There will now be two regimes of pay equity in Canada," explained Genge. "Federal public service workers will be subject to new legislation, while other federal sector employees – like crown corporations – will still be able to file under the Canadian Human Rights Commission."

Over 80 female lawyers, academics, and professionals sent a letter to the Harper government urging the removal of the Act from the budget, on the basis of human rights violation.

"It undermines, rather than fulfills, the commitment to eliminating sex discrimination from pay practices, and does not provide women federal public servants with effective access to a remedy if their rights are violated," the letter read.

Canada's position on pay equity lies in stark contrast to recent policy shifts in the United States, as Obama's first bill signed into law on January 29 improved the conditions for women to sue over pay equity.

"Obama committed to not balance the budget on the backs of working women, which is exactly what this government is refusing to say," said Ducharme. "It's a very sad day when we in Canada allow the removal of human rights from a section of our population."

Non-equitable expansion

While the current bill targets federal public service workers, London, Ontario Member of Parliament Irene Mathyssen, the NDP's critic for the Status of Women, was concerned that this federal policy shift could expand to other federal sectors or set a precedent for provincial legislation, where labour law issues are regulated.

"It sends a bad message to provinces and territories that proactive pay equity doesn't matter," said Mathyssen. "It tells employers that this government isn't going to fight for women."

Genge noted that the Harper government's focus on federal public service workers may expand.

"If they can get away with this, then they will keep pushing [pay equity reform] to other sectors," Genge said.

Mathyssen and others called for a proactive approach to pay equity – forcing employers to pursue strategies for equitable compensation, rather than operating on a complaint basis.

In 2004, the Federal Pay Equity Task Force – appointed by the Federal Ministers of Justice and Labour to review the equal pay provisions of the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Equal Wages Guidelines in 1986 – released their recommendations for adopting a more proactive pay system federally after a three-year-study, none of which have been implemented by the Liberal or Conservative governments, the latter of which has presided over the removal of the Task Force's report from the Department of Justice's web site.

"The Act makes it appear that the government is legislating to advance pay equity, yet many dimensions of the new legislation will undermine existing protections," explained McGill Law professor Colleen Sheppard.

"Normally we see additional rights included, rather than legislation that discriminates against existing rights," Sheppard said.

Presently, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba have proactive pay equity laws.

Harming recruitment

With a large wave of expected retirees from federal public service jobs in the next five years, Mathyssen expected that the Act would diminish recruitment of women to the federal sector.

"It sends some really upsetting messages to young women who may have considered a job in the federal public service," Mathyssen said. "It's telling young women that there is no future here."

Canadian women with university degrees earn 68-cents on the male dollar – an average 2.5-cents below women's earnings nationally, according to statistics from the CLC. Unionized women receive 93-cents for every male dollar, on average.

"Young women are starting to recognize the 'gapzilla,'" said Genge, noting that most don't note the profound difference in wages that still exists.

Systematic Inequality

Mathyssen explained that the Act was part of a trend to systematically undermine equality for women.

"Their reforms are part of a trend to cut out women's rights," she said. "I'm expecting that we'll once again be censured by the United Nations, and that will be the umpteenth time in the past few years that we're going to hear that Canada isn't doing enough for the status of women."

"This government is profoundly anti-equality and anti-women," Genge agreed. "We're talking about the removal of a right."

Both were expecting that either a change in government or a court challenge on the basis of violating human rights would be necessary courses of action if the Bill passed the Senate.

"There is a significant fight ahead," Mathyssen said.



Jump-start your career

Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA)

Concordia's Graduate Diploma in Business Administration is for all students wanting to strengthen their undergraduate training with solid business fundamentals. Prior work experience and management tests, such as the GMAT, are not required. No matter your field of study, you'll have the professional skills to put your vision into motion in less than a year.

Now accepting applications for September, 2009.
Visit johnmolson.concordia.ca/gdba to find out more.



UNIVERSITÉ
Concordia
UNIVERSITY



Union representative, equity and human rights

The Canadian Media Guild and CWA-SCA Canada seek a Staff Representative to develop and implement strategies to promote equity, human rights, diversity and accessibility within our union and at the media employers where our members work. The job is unionized and based in Toronto. Salary is \$80k plus benefits.

We are looking for candidates with:

- A strong understanding of relevant human rights and workplace legislation
- At least 5 years' experience in a labour, community or advocacy organization
- Experience in a union-management environment or a desire to learn

- Well developed written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment
- Familiarity with the North American media industry
- Working knowledge of French is a significant asset

We encourage applications from women, Aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, people with disabilities, and persons of all sexual orientation and gender identity. Please self-identify if you feel comfortable doing so.

Email a covering letter and resume to hiringcommittee@cmg.ca. For more information, visit www.cmg.ca.

The deadline is Friday March 20, 2009.

Want to be a Daily Editor?

Elections are coming up
Applications due at 11:59 p.m. on March 27

Visit mcgilldaily.com/elections for more information

McGILL DAILY le délit
DPS SPD
DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ DES PUBLICATIONS DU DAILY

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the *Daily Publications Society* (DPS), publisher of *The McGill Daily* and *Le Délit*, will take place on

Thursday, March 19 in Leacock 232 at 6pm.

Members of the DPS are cordially invited.
The presence of candidates to the Board of Directors is mandatory.

For more information, please contact the Chief Returning Officer, at cro@dailypublications.org

SSMU Elections and Referendum Questions!

Last day to vote!

Vote and WIN the GRAND PRIZE of \$250 or one of two \$125 runner-up prizes!

Polling station – Leacock lobby

Vote online at www.vote.electionsmcgill.ca

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Shatner, salle 405
Téléphone: (514) 398-6474
contact@electionsmcgill.ca

elections
mcgill



Jimmy Lu for The McGill Daily

Leacock was closed for nearly five hours Monday after a fire on its sixth floor.

Fire and explosion ignite Leacock and Otto Maass

Students evacuate safely, one student injured

Tomas Urbina
News Writer

Monday afternoon, McGill's downtown campus was shaken by an explosion in the Otto Maass chemistry building and a fire on the sixth floor of Leacock – forcing the evacuation of hundreds of students and staff and the closing of both buildings for several hours.

Pierre Barbarie, Associate Director of University Safety, said McGill Security has yet to determine

the cause of the Leacock incident, and that the fire department is investigating what appear to be suspicious circumstances.

Though no one was hurt in the fire, a student was injured in the explosion on Otto Maass's third floor, when his chemical reaction accidentally detonated. The student suffered cuts on his hands, face, and chest, and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The office of the Dean of Students could not be reached for comment on the student's status.

Barbarie said, though, that he was

pleased with how both of the situations were handled, and that buildings' occupants took the alarms seriously.

"I want to commend everyone who evacuated quickly. The co-ordination of the response to these incidents went very well," Barbarie said.

According to McGill Security Services, the Leacock fire originated in boxes that were stacked up in the 617 seminar room. Once the alarm was activated at 1:08 p.m., Leacock and the attached Arts Building and Dawson Hall were safely evacuated as fire trucks arrived on the scene.

Security services personnel blocked indoor and outdoor access to Leacock until 5:45 p.m. – a full five hours after the fire broke out.

Barbarie explained that Security was delayed in reopening the building because the fire panel, which controls the building emergency system, had to be reset by the contracted company, and Security needed to clean up to ensure safety. However, certain students and staff were escorted back into the building to recover important belongings before Leacock was re-opened.

As of 6:15 p.m., the smell of smoke still hung in the air on the ground floor, in the elevator, and on the sixth floor where fire department and security personnel were still on-site.

In Otto Maass, researchers on the fourth floor reported hearing the fire alarm and evacuating between 3:30 and 4 p.m., but did not report hearing or feeling any impact from the explosion. The 911 call at Otto Maass was taken at Security Services at 3:37 p.m. and the building was evacuated, re-opening at 4:35 p.m., except for the third floor.

Montreal engineer crosses Egypt-Palestine border

Recent conflict closes the border, restricting aid workers and goods from reaching Gaza

Humera Jabir
News Writer

Ehab Lotayef, a Montreal writer, activist, and engineer arrived in Gaza on February 19 after two unsuccessful weeks of trying to cross the Egypt-Palestine border, which was closed during recent conflict.

According to Lotayef, Egyptian control of the crossing has made access to Gaza unpredictable, leaving many aid workers and activists stranded at the border for days on end. He said, however, that government at the crossing can be swayed by the presence of large groups, because they do not want to see too many international travellers stranded at the border.

"It is very difficult to cross the border. You have no recourse. If they decide the borders are closed, there is nothing you can do about it," Lotayef said in an interview from Gaza.

Lotayef was repeatedly turned away from the border until he joined a delegation of 60 aid workers organized by CODEPINK – a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement. The delegation was the first of its size to cross the border since July 2007.

He noted that border restrictions have had a severe impact on civilians, as all goods entering the region



Courtesy of Ehab Lotayef

are now brought through tunnels – resulting in skyrocketing inflation.

"The needs of the people of Gaza are not satisfied.... These tunnels also support weapons smuggling. If you want to stifle the tunnels, then open the borders. It would be much more difficult to smuggle weapons across an official and legally monitored border," Lotayef said.

His real work will begin now that he is in Gaza. Delegations such as CODEPINK allow activists from around the world to collect photographs and first-hand accounts of their experiences, so that they can be taken back to their local communities.

Mohamed Boudjenane of the Canadian Arab Federation – one

of the groups sponsoring Lotayef's travel – commented, "Lotayef is well-respected within the Canadian humanitarian community. By sending someone like Lotayef, we will have a first-hand report of what is taking place in Gaza."

Lotayef said he has spent his time connecting with Gazans, documenting cases, taking photographs, and

blogging in order to better inform Canadians about the current humanitarian crisis.

"The devastation is enormous. I believed that I had a good idea of what the devastation was like, but over the last few days I have seen more destruction than I expected: of agricultural areas, houses, and city centres. In the north of the Gaza Strip, the American School of Gaza has been completely flattened," he said.

"I met a 12-year-old who told me how many of his friends had died in the conflict. He told me, 'I don't want to make friends anymore; it is too painful when the die.' This alone was the most striking moment for me so far. I just froze; I didn't know what to say."

The CODEPINK delegation is composed of 50 women and ten men from the United States, Canada, Australia, Pakistan, Turkey, and Egypt. They were joined by the Viva Palestina Caravan led by British MP George Galloway that arrived March 9, after travelling 5,000 miles from Hyde Park in London.

According to Lotayef, the arrival of both these delegations has helped to uplift spirits in Gaza for the moment.

"The Palestinian people need to see that there are people in the world far away, people of different colours and nationalities that understand their plight and support them in their struggle."

Students hope web will inspire student activism

EngageMcGill to launch an online subject-sorted list of campus clubs and services

Josh Nobleman
News Writer

A group of students calling themselves EngageMcGill are trying to streamline student activism through the McGill web site.

Scott Martones, U2 IDS and Sociology, and six team members have begun the project as part of Professor Marcos Ancelovici's sociology class, Contemporary Social Movements.

They want to modify the myMcGill portal by linking it directly to a SSMU web site listing campus clubs and services with accurate descriptions, sorted by subject rather than alphabetically, along with a detailed event calendar with weekly updates.

"SSMU's web site should be the place to find out about what is going on, how to get involved, but the newly-launched web site is not adequately publicizing events or opportunities for involvement with student groups," wrote the group in an email to The Daily. "[Now] students have to go through multiple menus and broken links, and the events calendar does not include the majority of student events."

noted several examples of successful reactive protests, including responses to the many threats to space for the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Student Society (SACOMSS) and the Architecture Café, as well as the teaching assistants' strike.

"Students tend to mobilize in response to something being taken away; when there is no particular group, it is very hard to mobilize," Alfaro said, a statement with which EngageMcGill agreed.

"We believe students are not necessarily apathetic, but appear so because of barriers to engagement," wrote the group.

The supervising professor said that the proposed web site changes could help spur interest in campus groups.

"This idea of making campus activity accessible through the myMcGill page may not lead to huge action, but it can foster networking and create synergies," said Ancelovici, although he cautioned students to move quickly for fear of the idea falling off the radar.

"Time is perhaps their worst enemy. Between courses, papers, and exams, basically, they have a window of two months. And lack of experience: very often they just don't know where to start," said Ancelovici. "But two or three people who know what they are doing will quickly spread their efficiency."

Alfaro also said that the McGill bureaucracy inhibits student activism.

"To a certain extent, large organizations tend to be conservative," Alfaro said. "The bias is to continue doing things as they have been done before."

Ancelovici also noted that McGill

"Another problem... is the career-focused student body of McGill, who don't really care about local issues. They just came here to study"

Marcos Ancelovici, McGill sociology professor

SSMU recognizes the problem, according to outgoing VP External Devin Alfaro, but lacks the funding or staff to run a web site as they would like.

"[The web site is] definitely something that needs work," said Alfaro. "It's a really important way to communicate with students."

"The most important thing I learned from Reclaim Your Campus was how to draw links together between issues on campus," Alfaro added.

Although Reclaim Your Campus – a campaign to increase student mobilization on campus – attracted very few committed students, Alfaro

had challenges specific to the University.

"Another problem is the career-focused student body of McGill, who don't really care about local issues – they just came here to study, not wanting to invest time in local issues."

Martones, however, thought that rather than assign blame, this project could actually produce some positive results.

"It's easy to blame someone else – students can blame administration, or the administration could blame the students' disorganization," said Martones. "But really, it's a shared responsibility."



Doug Bruer for The McGill Daily

Quebec wants you to stay

New work permits allow grads more opportunities

Laura Mojonnier
The McGill Daily

introduced in April 2008 that allows recent graduates to stay in Canada for up to three years without a specific job offer.

"It used to be this vicious cycle where companies wouldn't want to hire you without a work permit, and the government of Canada wouldn't give you a work permit without a job offer," said Sam Imberman, an American who decided to stay in Montreal after graduating from McGill in 2008 with a B.A. in Geography.

Imberman currently works as a marketing assistant under this new permit as he awaits the status of his permanent residency application, which is now a common practice, according to Turner.

Caroline Leamon, an American who graduated in winter 2009 with a B.A. in Cultural Studies and a minor in French, rethought her decision to stay in Montreal after attending one of the information sessions.

"It looked like quite the undertaking," she said. "There are a lot of processing fees, and it comes out to over \$1,000 in the end.... Hearing all of the steps and how expensive it was really made me think, okay, this would be a big commitment settling in Montreal, and do I really want to be here for the next three years at such a cost? And that's what really got me thinking, maybe not so much."

Securing permanent residency is a complicated process in Quebec that entails an elaborate point-system, a mountain of paperwork, and often a series of interviews assessing applicants' French and English language abilities and personal characteristics.

According to Rhonda Turner, McGill Advisor to International Students, these sessions are part of a government effort to attract qualified immigrants to work in Canada.

"It's made very clear in the presentation that they want you to stay in Quebec," she said.

International students, who account for almost 19 per cent of McGill's student body, can either apply for permanent residency if they wish to remain in Quebec – a process that generally takes six to nine months – or apply for a Post-Diploma Work Permit - a special visa

also rewards those whose could fill positions in industries that are currently experiencing shortages in the province, including the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Faris Alfarhan, U3 Electrical Engineering, hopes to return to Quebec after he fulfills a two-to-three-year obligation to a Saudi Arabian oil company that has paid his tuition at McGill.

"Most [international students in engineering], I'd say 70-75 per cent, would want to work here," he said. "The diversity of people is very welcoming for people like me – immigrants – and the work environment is appealing. Flat organization, less bureaucracy, less hierarchy – that's something very attractive for engineering firms, at least."

While Alfarhan only possesses a basic knowledge of French, he said that he plans to learn the language, especially if he decides to pursue citizenship.

But for some, the cost outweighs the benefit. Faye Hughes, an American U3 IDS and Hispanic Languages major, said that she plans leave Montreal largely because of her limited French. "I've had trouble finding an off-campus job," she said. "Some of the on-campus jobs you have to speak French, and I've really felt limited by that. While I'd like to learn French at some point, languages are hard. I'd rather just find somewhere where my Spanish is useful."

For those who are fluent in French, the appeal of Montreal as a city can be motivation enough to get through the paperwork.

"It's a good starter city," Imberman said. "It's good for people in this age, in this stage of life. Sure, I could move to New York at this point, but where would I live, and how long would my commute be, and could I even afford to go out and drink? It's true, you're paid less here, but it takes a lot less to live."

- with files from Shannon Kiely

Medical staff don't wash hands, audit shows

Lack of cleanliness has contributed to bacterial outbreaks in some McGill hospitals

Jeff Bishku-Aykul
The McGill Daily

As few as one in four doctors at some McGill-affiliated hospitals wash their hands between patients, according to a hospital audit conducted by the *Montreal Gazette* and published on January 6.

This rate is not unusual, according to Dr. Laurie Taylor, the Director of Operations of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. Nurses fare only slightly better, according to the audit, scoring an overall rate of around 40-50 per cent.

The issue of sufficient hand washing in health professions hits home due to *C. difficile*, a potentially fatal bacteria that can cause fever and diarrhea. Canada has taken heavy hits from *C. difficile*; it spread like wildfire through Quebec hospitals and nursing homes in 2003 and 2004, and was responsible for nearly 2,000 deaths.

According to Wendy Nicklin, President and CEO of Accreditation Canada – a national, non-profit, independent organization that helps develop health safety standards – *C. difficile* has become a bigger problem during the past decade.

"There's been an increased focus on infection," noted Nicklin. "We've seen an increase in *C. difficile* and MRSA [another dangerous bacteria that often spreads in hospitals], and because of this, experts in infection prevention and control are trying to understand why. Hand washing has become an area of focus [for] health care organi-

zations to improve their rates."

A McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) employee, who wished to remain anonymous, was unfamiliar with the source of the data but offered the opinion that the variation in rates of hand washing are due to differences between high stress and low stress areas in the hospital.

"When you have [doctors] running around in the emergency department, these people are working very hard," the health employee said. "Washing hands 100 per cent of the time is virtually impossible. In some areas, it's easier than others."

However, emergency environments such as MUHC's intensive care units were the areas of the hospital in which 60 per cent of doctors – the highest of any area in the hospital – washed their hands in between seeing patients.

Taylor warned that varying institutions' statistics can mean different things.

"[It depends] on how the data was collected – you have to be careful about comparing data between different organizations," she said. "You have to be careful about how many observations there were and what time of the day and night they were being [collected]."

Nicklin noted that any organization with hand washing rates similar to MUHC could be prone to infection problems – though MUHC's rate of handwashing is average.

"I would say in any health-care organization [infections could take hold]. I'm not sure the MUHC is any



Rebecca Chapman for The McGill Daily

Doctors in busy emergency wards are least likely to wash their hands.

different from other health centres. I'm not sure that I would single out the MUHC," Nicklin said.

Taylor suggested that patients

should help themselves by keeping an eye on their doctors.

"You can be your own advocate when it comes to hand hygiene,"

she said. "There is nothing wrong with asking your provider if they have washed their hands before they examine you."

NEWS BRIEF

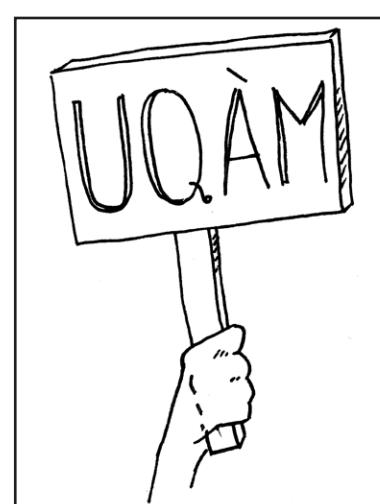
UQÀM professors strike

Nearly 1,000 professors from l'Université de Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) voted on whether to strike next week – with 76 per cent in favour, after being left without a contract since May 2007. This follows four one-day strikes by the professors, organized during February and March.

Class schedules, however, will likely not be affected by the strike – as they were not by the walk-outs – because many are taught by lecturers, who are part of a different union.

The professors claim that the student-teacher ratio and their average salaries are well below the provincial average. They are asking the administration to hire 300 new professors and raise salaries 11.6 per cent over the next three years.

According to figures released by Statistics Canada on Monday, the average salary of a professor at UQÀM is \$90,000 a year, which is \$14,000 less than at McGill and Université de Montréal, but \$6,000 more than at



Sasha Plotnikova / The McGill Daily

Concordia.

UQÀM says its massive debt – brought on by two badly-planned expansion projects that incurred overruns so large that the provincial government had to step in – has kept them from making an offer. As a stipulation of their \$465-million bailout, the government required they carry out a study comparing their salaries to those of provincial professors. The study will be completed in a few weeks, after which an offer can be expected.

— Nicholas Smith

There are only **SIX** issues of The Daily left this semester!

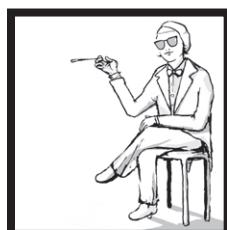
Get involved before exams consume your life.

Take the plunge.

news@mcgilldaily.com

No experience necessary.

Improvisers' lessons on present-mindedness



The conversationalist

Rosie Aiello

Western society's communicative ability has been ruined! Ruined by advertising, and all that second-by-second grabbing of our attention with bright lights and colours and naked bodies appealing to our urges and whatnot.

Harold Innis foresaw this threat back when television was just coming to popularity: he characterized the threat as "present-mindedness," and as the "continuous, systematic, ruthless destruction of [those] elements of permanence essential to cultural activity." Knowing what we know now, there is little to argue about Innis's theory – we are all acutely aware of the pernicious effects of media and advertising on our psychology; but I believe that there are forces at work, right here in our present midst, that are in direct and positive opposition to these threats.

Philosophy of music professor Eric Lewis speaks of a sort of communication relying on an individual's instantaneous response, in the present moment: something that could be construed as present-mindedness. This communication is not verbal, nor is it written, nor physical, but is communication through musical improvisation. This present-mindedness is not an unfortunate symptom of the modern world and its discontents; improvisation has gone on since

music-making began. In the case of improvisation, present-mindedness describes a state of engagement, of "laying yourself out there," in Lewis's words.

And if we look at the rules they follow, musical improvisers seem to be championing some of those attributes that are most laudable in any individual. In sympathetic circles of musical improvisers, no communicative "rudeness" is permitted: talking on top of someone, talking too loudly, etc. According to Lewis, there are "three sins of improvising: a) not listening, b) not knowing when not playing is also contributing, c) not being honest and authentic to your own musical sensibilities, i.e. being what you are not."

Whether or not they intend to, people really reveal themselves when they are improvising. "When I improvise with the people I improvise with, I come out with a more nuanced understanding of who they are," Lewis says.

Musical problems are set up, and then the musicians attempt to solve these problems, as a group. "You might learn that someone might not like leading an idea, but is happy to follow, that another is pigheaded, and won't let something go until he's tried it again and again. Others might prove to be subtle and care-



Professor Eric Lewis studies the philosophical basis of musical improvisation.

Rachel Wine / The McGill Daily

ful modifiers. Some might have the ability of leading without seeming to lead."

Refined stuff, one's musical identity, and I would argue that many of these subtleties of personality would not be accessible through verbal or written forms of communication.

It was the Greeks' ability to strike the perfect balance between verbal and written communication that Innis had idealized. Looking at the Greek root of the word "dialogue" – "to flow through meaning" – we see that Lewis's understanding of communication through improvisation might be even closer to the original meaning of

the word than was Innis's.

According to Lewis, "A lot of people who improvise will say that there are a number of stages, of cognitive states that they find themselves in, 'The Zone' being this ultimate state. I'm loathe to characterize it in any way, but it is some precognitive, non-discursive, not-thinking state. There's something about this state that seems to be different than normal thinking; your responses seem to bypass the brain. This sort of embodied knowledge could come in very sophisticated forms. When it seems to be working quite well, I lose the sense of linear thought."

This state of mind, therefore, is not exactly present-mindedness, but is something like no-mindedness – quite elevated for a society that has been habituated to television commercials. What Lewis taught me, in other words, is this: All is not lost. Our modern world is not full only of bright lights and flashing colours. Look deep, listen deep, and you will find those whose primary concern is to listen.

Listen up: another dose of Rosie's interesting academia will be back in a couple weeks. Send thoughts and queries to theconversationalist@mcgilldaily.com.

HYDE PARK

Putting an end to token translation

William Burton

Following my last article on the poor translation of the Arts Undergraduate Society's (AUS) listserv, here are some questions I wish had been asked, particularly by Maia Frieser and Louis-Michel Gauthier, the candidates running for VP Communications of AUS.

What's your problem?

Aside from asthma, a weak stomach, and a negative attitude, my problem is that I have principles. I'm no saint, but as a student translator, I believe in and want to defend ethical translation. Not everyone, it seems, understands translation the way apprentice-translators and translatalogists do, so I've taken it upon myself to popularize the fundamentals of the domain.

What is translation? What are its so-called ethics?

Translation is an art and a ser-

vice. The art, "literary translation," has fluid procedures. Its objective varies from translator to translator; the service, "pragmatic translation," has strict rules and clear goals. Restrictions apply.

Pragmatic translators perform a service for people who do not speak the original language of a text. The language these translators use must conform to standards of accuracy, clarity, and usage – that is, the translated text ought to say all that the original text says, in completely normative language, following contemporary usage patterns to the letter: no surprises, nothing inventive. Pragmatic translation should not feel translated; it should read as though it had been composed in the target language.

McGill is an English-speaking school, and AUS's translations aren't mandatory. Can't you be happy with what you've got?

No. Translation is a service, and a service poorly executed is nothing

more than unethical tokenism.

Some tokens are good. Learning a little French so you can chat with cashiers in the Plateau is a wonderful, symbolic gesture of respect towards the local culture. Translation, however, is not symbolic. It's a practical action with specific utility. It helps those who would not normally understand a text to access its meaning. A mangled translation, in addition to disgusting and/or confusing the target audience, doesn't even have token value; if anything, it is a token of disrespect.

What's the goal of the French listserv? If it's to help integrate francophone students, there's little hope that it'll work as long as it remains gibberish. If it's to show respect, then there are better ways than massacring the French language to do it.

You're not even a francophone. Why do you even care about this?

See the first question.

How can I find a qualified translator at McGill, if you insist that I use one?

The best way to get in touch with aspiring translators would be to write to the French Literature Students' Association (AGELF) at agelf.communications@gmail.com. Ask them to send a message to all undergrads in the Lettres et traduction françaises program. (Be sure to mention if it's paid or pro bono; I suspect this will affect the number of responses received.)

What makes a qualified translator? Who should I pick?

The first criterion: What is the translator's strongest language? If you're looking for a translation into French, and the mother tongue of your candidate is English, *pick somebody else*.

Next, look at their grades and work experience. Though bilingualism is essential, not just any bilingual can translate well. Ask for a translation sample. Have it evaluated by a francophone. If you can't find someone

qualified, keep looking: no translation is better than a bad translation.

Do you hate Adil Katrak and AUS's translator?

Absolutely. Psych. Julia Wilk, AUS's translator, is someone I know and like, and is very qualified to translate French into English. As for Katrak, I don't know him, but have nothing against him; this is purely a professional and ethical matter. His motion on bilingualism at AUS Council is a step in the right direction; I hope the next VP Communication will follow his lead (and my advice) and put an end to token translation.

William Burton is a U3 Lettres et traduction françaises student, and Vice-President (External) of AGELF (Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants de langue et littérature françaises). He also sits on the Commission des affaires francophones, but the views expressed here are his own. You can reach him at william.burton2@mail.mcgill.ca.

Re: "Righting our wrongs over Iraq" | Commentary | February 16

Kreitner might have converted me, but I think it'll take far more than prostrating and seeking forgiveness to convince the Iraqis.

Sana Malalai Isa "You convinced me, but how about the Iraqis?"

Anti-Semites do care about other issues

Re: "Where might a new anti-Semitism take root?" | Commentary | March 9

Defenders of Israel often accuse its critics of being anti-Semitic for focusing attention on Israel while ostensibly ignoring human rights abuses elsewhere in the world. Ironically, Ricky Kreitner brings this up in the context of Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) – an event which seems explicitly about trying to make connections between important struggles.

In fact, IAW's keynote address featured Ronnie Kasrils, a former leader within the African National Congress (ANC). He discussed the long history of common cause shared by the Palestinian and South African liberation movements. As Kasrils emphasized, despite their own efforts to end racist rule, ANC organisers spoke out frequently for anti-imperial movements around the world.

Kreitner's criticism bothers me personally – as someone who has organised a Burmese solidarity event, who has organised against the repression of environmental activists in China, who has taken action for Coca-Cola workers in Colombia, who has donated to the Lac Barrière Algonquin community, and so on. The occupation of Palestine is only one among many oppressions that I care about ending.

Yet I have concentrated my organising on Chinese issues. How many people generally come to my events? Certainly not the hundreds and thousands who come out in support of Palestine. Jewish and Palestinian organisers have made great progress educating and mobilising, and have reached the point where they can employ broad-based, peaceful pressure such as boycotts and sanctions. Their dedication and success is truly impressive.

Some day, perhaps I will be accused of being a self-hating Chinese, or a self-hating Canadian. I hope that too will signal that my movement for peace and justice is so successful, and takes up so much of my time, that my critics can only muster the trite claim – that I must be a racist.

Trevor Chow-Fraser
B.A. 2008

You convinced me, but how about the Iraqis?

Re: "Righting our wrongs over Iraq" | Commentary | February 16

I was impressed by the intellectual acuity displayed by Ricky Kreitner, and thus in my eyes he is forgiven. However, will the mere 1.5 million Iraqis who died as a result of the war find it in their hearts to forgive him?

One is blown away by Bush's ideology regarding the war and should recognize his prophetic nature. As Kreitner pointed out, who can disregard the success brought about by this morally upright war? I propose that the Iraqis who have died during this war and who did not decide nor calculate the loss they were about to incur in consequence to the demolition of the Saddam regime should probably answer this.

Kreitner gives us an insight of what the Iraq war was really about, and in comparison I might seem very ignorant to assume that Iraqis might just value their family and homes over the deposition of a unsympathetic dictator and eradication of non-existent nuclear weapons. I'm sure in Kreitner's point of view, the statue of the shoe thrown at Bush recently made in Tikrit is the result of the Iraqis honouring a shoe that was in such close contact with the ever-so-noble Bush. Undoubtedly, this flawless plan of the U.S. government to liberate Iraqis and punish exploiting dictators has been misinterpreted and is free of hidden motives, even though in other countries, such as Pakistan, the U.S. administration supported a dictator that put the constitution in abeyance.

As a critic of the Iraq war, I think I might need to rethink my criticism. After all, I do not want to be "under the bizarre illusion that this would have just happened one day, no violence required?" – violence that Iraqis neither instigated nor showed a willingness to indulge in it.

The deaths, the instability, and the insecurity in Iraq can be overlooked by the fact that the U.S. had good intentions while inflicting this damage. Kreitner might have converted me, but I think it'll take far more than prostrating and seeking forgiveness to convince the Iraqis.

Sana Malalai Isa
U1 Political Science and Philosophy

I demand that you take a stand

Re: "Bloody Iraq is no success" | Comment | March 5

It's generally my policy not to respond to criticism of my columns in letters to the editor, because I think this space is for the readers. However, after reading David G. Koch's article last Thursday, "Bloody Iraq is no success," I feel obliged to clarify my position on the Iraq War and demand Mr. Koch reveal the true nature of his.

Koch takes issue with my statement: "After all the uproar about Bush's surge – the Iraq War is well on the way to being a success." In the comments section of The Daily's web site, Mr. Koch noted, "Kreitner did not make a straightforward cause and effect claim. Nor did he directly praise the 'surge.' Instead, he offered this vague formulation." He is absolutely correct that it was a vague formulation, and I intended it to be so, because the jury is still out on what exactly contributed to the new calm, the reality of which he never disputes.

One component was certainly the Anbar Province's Awakening Council militias, a ragtag group of Sunni ex-insurgents whose salaries were paid by the American government. This idea, too, was ripped apart in the media as being foolishly optimistic. Its success, however, is indubitable. The only reason Mr. Koch ignored it is because he'd then have to admit that coalition forces actually did something right.

He wrote, "I am not nostalgic about the days of Saddam Hussein's regime." While convincing, that does not go far enough, so I hope no one thinks me rude for rephrasing and repeating my original demand: Mr. Koch, I will be forced to consider your position merely silly blathering unless you are willing to write in these pages the following sentence: "Because of the American-led invasion, the Iraqi and Kurdish peoples are worse off today than they would have otherwise been."

Ricky Kreitner
U1 Humanistic Studies and Philosophy
Daily columnist

Choose free speech

If Voltaire could hear all you bastards, he would be rolling in his grave. Many people in this world-class institution have viciously attacked SSMU for allowing the Choose Life club to exist.

Is McGill not a bastion for free speech? Should my fellow students be silenced because their opinion, humble or not, does not jive with another's? Riddle me that, good people. It is one thing to engage in discourse with Choose Life's members, possibly tell them to what extent you jive, or not, with their ideology.

However, the notion that SSMU is the problem in granting them full club status is completely wrong. SSMU Clubs & Services exists to help students form groups of like-minded people with whom they can share ideas and engage in open discussion. In this respect, they have done a superb job in ignoring the large student voice urging SSMU to violate the individual's right to free speech. When you are for free speech, you must accept that you will hear ideas that you like, as well as ones you don't like so much.

So please, people of his esteemed institution, choose free speech.

Elliot Wiechula
U2 Geography

I'm just not that into being treated badly

Re: "How suburban education brain-washes women" | Commentary | March 5

With the recent hype surrounding *He's Just Not That Into You*, there has been a collective *voilà* moment: the root cause of women entering bad relationships is because they were told a couple of times as children that boys tease girls they have crushes on. Is this really the best explanation we can come up with?

Was I the only one who was told: you deserve to be treated like a princess? Was I the only one who admired mutually respectful relationships rather than emotionally abusive ones? As a perpetually single gal, I perhaps am not the best authority on relationships, but I think that women's selling themselves short of what they deserve is part of a broader societal trend.

For example, the main reason for such significant gender-based pay discrepancies (even now, 20 years after the Ontario Pay Equity Act came into force, women earn 71 per cent of what men earn for the same work) is because when women negotiate their contracts they do not ask for what they are worth. Similarly, when it comes to relationships, women often do not set and enforce their standards for treatment high enough.

There are many great guys out there, but even those who fall into the douche-bag category can respect you if you demand and deserve it. Those that don't, simply aren't worth your time. Instead of rewarding assholes by dating them, women as a whole would be better served by socially sanctioning disrespectful behaviour. I think that if we buy into the *He's Just Not That Into You* mantra which blames bad relationships on women's psychotic tendencies inscribed in childhood, it lets disrespectful men off the hook too easily.

Honey, if he's just not that good to you, tell him to take a hike!

Joan Christiansen
U3 Honours IDS and Women's Studies

Come on Daily, I thought I knew ye

Re: "Lessons from South Africa" | News | March 9

Seriously, Daily? Is this what passes for hard-hitting questions right now? When a speaker comes to campus promoting a highly contentious position (i.e. that Israel is an apartheid state), then questions that assume his position to be objective truth, like the ones published here, are irresponsible and misleading journalism at best – and reek a lot more of deliberate misrepresentation of the truth.

Mookie Kideckel
U1 History
Daily contributor

The Daily received more letters than it could print this issue. They will appear in the next issue. Send your letters to letters@mcgilldaily.com from your McGill email address, and keep them to 300 words. The Daily does not print letters that are racist, homophobic, or otherwise hateful.



A recent McGill study found that Inuit women in Nunavik face a much higher risk of acquiring sexually transmitted infections like human papillomavirus (HPV) and consequently, cervical cancer, than other Canadian women. Up to one in three Inuit women may have HPV, and in women aged 16 to 20, this probability jumps to one in two.

With Inuit women three times more likely to die from cervical cancer than other Canadian women, it is clear that there is a vast health discrepancy here. The researchers conjectured that lack of awareness and lack of resources in many Northern communities could explain these poor health outcomes. They saw many women who were unable to get proper treatment for HPV, and many health professionals – themselves a scarce resource – who were unfamiliar with procedures such as Pap smears.

The prevalence of HPV among Inuit women is a symptom of widespread trends in aboriginal health throughout Quebec and Canada. Nearly every kind of illness is more prevalent in aboriginal communities, and women are at an even greater risk. Certain health concerns – diabetes, HPV, obesity – are becoming especially common among aboriginal people, occurring at rates two to six times that of the general population.

The prevalence of substance abuse, violence

against women, and suicide in aboriginal communities contributes to poor health outcomes due to the connection between mental, physical, spiritual and overall community health. Access to care is inconsistent, and many women report experiencing discomfort, discrimination, and racism in the health care system.

The factors contributing to increased illness among Canadian aborigines are diverse, and vary by region and community. As a result, there is no simple, straightforward solution.

Poverty is a major player in poor health outcomes for any group of people, especially those that are culturally marginalized. "Poverty and ill health go hand-in-hand, and aboriginal people are among the poorest in Canada," the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples declared

in 1996. Poverty mediates broad health determinants, such as access to good nutrition, safe housing, running water, and electricity.

Geography can also contribute to health outcomes. In remote areas of the country, especially in the North, fresh food can cost significantly more than elsewhere. Communities in these regions may also only have access to doctors once every few weeks.

Another important consideration when looking at aboriginal health is that many First Nations view health much more holistically than traditional Westernized medicine, where the idea of health has often been limited to the body's physical state.

"When you're talking about health, one thing that aboriginal people and their leadership try to stress is that health is a fairly wide concept,"

"Because there is no access to land, community, and family, there is a disconnect which impacts health incredibly"

Erin Wolski Director of health programming, Native Women's Association of Canada

explains Professor Christa Scholtz, who specializes in aboriginal politics at McGill. While physical health is important, a more inclusive definition is crucial – what Scholtz describes as, “health of communities, healing, and forming better relationships both within the community and outside the community.” Not only are body, mind, emotions and spirit interconnected, but the individual and the community are linked as well. Well-being is said to flow from balance and harmony between all these elements.

For many aboriginal communities, these elements are not in balance because of a long history of political, socioeconomic, and cultural marginalization. Though illness rates have improved since the 1960s, the goal of equal health for all Canadians is far from being met. Income inequalities remain a fundamental source of health inequality for aboriginal communities, reflecting the need for a more holistic approach toward aboriginal health.

It is only in recent years that Canadian governments have recognized and addressed their role in perpetuating health inequality. The Residential School system’s legacy of physical and emotional abuse, as well as cultural destruction, has left indelible marks on many aboriginal people and their communities.

“A lot of [aboriginal] parents struggle with alcoholism and with lingering affects of residential schools. They have their own issues to deal with and can’t always intervene [for their children’s health],” says former McGill student Sarah Needles, speaking of her experience volunteering at a children’s literacy camp in the Nishnabi-Aski Nations, the treaty lands north of Thunder Bay, last summer. Her observation exemplifies the ways in which various aspects of health are interconnected.

And for aboriginal women – members of two marginalized groups – these health determinants can have even graver consequences. Erin Wolski, director of Health Programming at the Native Women’s Association of Canada, explains that “aboriginal women are impacted the most by the [health] determinants, and therefore have less access to services either because many just can’t afford things like child-care [and] transportation, or [because] health services may not be available on the reserve.”

Many women leave their reserves and their communities in search of an education or a better quality of life, but often end up living in poor conditions in unsafe neighbourhoods, vulnerable to illness and violence, says Wolski. Facing gendered racism, violence, single motherhood, and low rates of employment, many aboriginal women find themselves without access to culturally and gender-appropriate health care and often suffer poor health outcomes for it.

“Seventy per cent of women live off the reserve. If [aboriginal women] can’t afford to get around, how can we get access to our traditional land, where ceremony and traditions occur? Because there is no access to land, to community, and family, there is a disconnect which impacts health incredibly: mental, physical, spiritual and community health. It’s another

one of those barriers created by poverty,” says Wolski.

Wolski believes bringing more aboriginal women into health care decisions will lead to more effective gender and culturally-appropriate health services. “I think it can be as simple as having aboriginal women at the table. Whether we’re talking about on or off reserve, I think that aboriginal women’s perspectives are not considered because they are not at the table. On a fundamental level [the Native Women’s Association of Canada] advocates for engagement in policy, programming... anything that impacts them,” she says.

The Canadian government has certainly tried in recent years to improve health among aboriginal people. In 2004, the nation committed to spending \$700-million on improving aboriginal health. A look through Health Canada’s most recent First Nations and Inuit Health program compendium reveals projects as diverse as the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative and the Health Careers Program. But a different approach may be necessary in order to achieve the goal of equal health for all Canadians.

There is some consensus among aboriginal communities, organizations, and individuals that there is a need to address broader ideas surrounding health and access to health care in the context of inequality, and today, more aboriginal people are speaking out about the broader health problems they face in their communities.

SOS, a week-long conference on suicide awareness, is put on every year by the community of Wapekeka, in Nishnabi-Aski Nations. Needles witnessed the conference while volunteering in Wapekeka this past summer. Almost 1,000 people came from all over the Nishnabi-Aski Nations for a week of workshops, seminars, and community meals. Although the conference dealt with a sombre topic, it emphasized positive attitudes toward community health.

Needles explains that the conference was started in the past two or three years in response to a suicide epidemic in Nishnabi-Aski. “Probably every child I worked with this summer knew or was close to someone who’d died or committed suicide,” she says. “But the people who I spoke to said that since then, they’d seen a change in the suicide rates.... Many said that Wapekeka was a very different place back then.”

Communities like Wapekeka are demonstrating an interest in taking control over health services to meet the needs of their communities, and Needles thinks that this is why the SOS conference has been successful. When programs and services come from within the community, they are likely to be best suited to its needs. One aspect of this is making programs more culturally relevant by embracing a return to tradition. “In [the community of] Nibinamik, there was an emphasis on returning to traditional foods – hunting, fishing, living off the land,” Sarah explains. “There was a moose for the summer festival feast. Watching

these guys skin a moose in 30 minutes, it was incredible.” She tells me that there is even a version of the well-known Canada Food Guide that includes traditional foods like bannock, wild rice, and deer. Instead of the familiar rainbow food guide, the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Food Guide is a circle, a shape that connotes balance, cycles of life, and nature. She expects that by reflecting traditional foods and values, literature like the Canada Food Guide will have a greater impact on nutrition and health in these communities.

These kinds of culturally-adapted services exist for urban native people as well. Pamela Shauk, an outreach worker at the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, spoke with me about the Friendship Centre and its current programs. As an outreach worker, Pamela tries to promote health and healthy lifestyles, making sure that her clients have full access to the services to which they are entitled. She explains that even though they have been without health funding since last year, the Friendship Centre continues to supply health services, because it is such an important resource to the urban aboriginal community.

“[Aboriginals] can feel welcome, comfortable that someone aboriginal is helping them out.... In other places, they don’t always feel comfortable, maybe because they don’t speak the language,” Shauk says. “So we try to get programs going. We have posters that teach diabetics what to eat; we teach safe sex.... We teach those kinds of health issues, for people to take care of themselves.”

With HIV/AIDS on the rise in urban centres, the socio-economic conditions that many urban aborigines experience have contributed to high rates of infection. Shauk runs prevention programs, and also does outreach for people with HIV/AIDS.

“When you’re really into alcohol and drugs, you know, sometimes [you] don’t give a shit.... You think, ‘I’m not gonna catch it’...but it’s not true. So [we] teach them about that. I work with a lot of HIV/AIDS clients. I refer them to places to go or I’ll go with them [to get tested] if they’re really scared to find out if they are or not. That’s the scariest part. I help them to calm down and think positively about it,” Shauk says.

Shauk knows there are barriers preventing aboriginal people from accessing mainstream health care. The Friendship Centre has a nurse who comes once a week and a doctor who comes once a month to give medical advice. The services are popular, Shauk explains. “Most people hate to go to the hospital,” she says. As a hospital liaison worker, she visited people who had come to the city from their communities for treatment. She explains that it is extremely hard for them to be away from their communities, often not knowing the language and encountering discrimination.

Although the Centre does not have any programs specifically for women, they coordinate with other organizations in Montreal to promote women’s health. “I work together with the Native Women’s Shelter...because

they have women – urban natives who are living here, and are in need of shelter. They stay there for a few days, before getting back on their feet. The shelter helps them find an apartment, helps with groceries, with finding school for their children,” Shauk says.

Programs at the Friendship Centre are carried out within an aboriginal context, often combining traditional practices like the smudging ceremony – in which herbs like sage and sweetgrass are burned in a clam shell and dusted over the body – with the demands of urban life. The connection to tradition is important for many people, like Shauk, who may feel a disconnect between urban life and the traditions they grew up with.

“There are still a few people who prefer to use their own medicine,” she smiles, “Like me, I would prefer to use my own medicine. You know, going out to the country and picking up the herbs.... I learnt from my parents.”

Health has been part of the dynamic between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples since European settlers first brought their unfamiliar germs to the “New World,” wiping out nearly three-quarters of the indigenous population. In light of this legacy, health is seen as having an impact on politics.

“If you’re talking about land claim policy or self-government negotiations, or you’re talking about aboriginal justice, all of these things keep feeding into a wider definition of community health,” Scholtz explains. The argument goes that direct involvement in health-related policies produces more effective programs, leading to better health outcomes for communities. “Self-government negotiations are supposed to set up the conditions that will make it possible for aboriginal communities to function as strong, healthy communities,” Scholtz continues.

The Native Women’s Association of Canada, echoing the sentiments of many other aboriginal voices, has recommended transferring the health services jurisdiction to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. With greater control over the services delivered to them, these communities could expect better-designed services with better impacts, particularly for aboriginal women, who face discrimination, sexism, and violence both from within and outside of their communities. In a press release, the Native Women’s Association of Canada insisted that transferring jurisdiction over health to the communities will “ensure that health and social conditions that perpetuate aboriginal women’s inequalities will be eradicated rather than exacerbated.”

For practical reasons, self-government is not an option for each and every aboriginal community or nation. Yet, one of the most important ideas is incorporating more aboriginal voices into the generation of policy and the delivery services. And this is exactly what many aboriginal men and women are doing to combat health inequality. By taking matters into their own hands, they are empowering themselves to work toward health solutions for their communities.



The McGill Nursing class of 1893, courtesy of the Montreal General Alumnae Association

Nursing has long been seen as traditional women's work; it took until 1994 for McGill nurses to gain recognition as PhD researchers.

The McGill Model, 30 years in

Nurses strive for partnerships with patients and their families

Shannon Kiely
The McGill Daily

Catherine Gros, a nursing professor at McGill, wants her students to look up from their medication sheets and take closer notice of whether their patient went for a walk through the hospital corridors, finished every item on their lunch tray, or visited with family.

According to the McGill Model Gros teaches, the big picture rules.

The McGill Model of Nursing – a health care approach developed in the 1970s in the Faculty of Nursing under Professor Moyra Allan – privileges the relationship between nurses and families, and takes a holistic look at patient care. According to the McGill School of Nursing web site, the McGill Model of Nursing encourages patients and their families to participate more actively in treatment.

"Nurses are caregivers and families are caregivers, so we have a natural connection.... If we can see the strength in [the family], we can see the strength in our profession," Gros said in an interview.

This family-centric ideology of the Model is why Gros invited Simon Boyer, a 12-year-old boy diagnosed

with an ulcerative colon condition, Chron's, this past summer, to give a presentation at her Practice of Nursing Part 1 class last Wednesday.

Chron's disease, a chronic autoimmune disorder of the digestive tract, usually manifests itself as an inflammation of the bowels. Although management of symptoms is possible through treatment, there is currently no known cure.

While hospitalized at the Montreal Children's Hospital, Simon worked on a Powerpoint presentation called "Me and My Chron's," which he presented to the class of 21 male and female students.

The students, who were floored by Simon's presentation, queried him, his ten-year-old brother Ethan, and his mother Genny about how their lives changed when a family member got sick. From their questions, it was clear the students were raised on the McGill Model, and believed strongly in the power of active family support to heal patients.

Simon mentioned that when diagnosed, he wondered if Chron's was fatal, a topic the class took particular interest in during the question-answer session.

"[The possibility of dying] was the first thing that went through my mind

– 'I have a disease.' They said I could die and that made me really nervous. But the doctors told me I'd die only if I don't take meds, which gave me motivation to take the meds," Simon said.

A student later told Gros how inspiring it was to listen to Genny and Ethan's stories of coping with Simon's illness. It was difficult for Genny to watch Simon in so much pain when doctors performed a colonoscopy on the ulcerated part of his bowel. It was an exhausting and invasive procedure that required Simon to stay on clear fluids and take vile-tasting laxatives. Every time Simon was hospitalized, Ethan was scared it was that the last time he'd ever see his brother.

Gros thanked the family for their responses, letting them know that this sort of insight into their personal feelings was exactly the kind of information her students needed so that they could learn to become more effective nurses.

Gros then led the class in acknowledging the strength of the Boyer family in a time of crisis. Positive feedback on family caregiving is central to the McGill model and sometimes lacking in traditional doctor's visits, which focus on medical strategies or unsatisfactory test results.

Looking back on her 24 years in the McGill nursing faculty, Gros pointed out that it's taken a long time for the health-care community to recognize the value of the McGill Model. McGill itself resisted establishing a PhD program that would allow nurses to develop and refine their own theoretical approach. The nursing PhD program was finally approved in 1994.

"[The McGill] School of Nursing fought very hard to get a PhD pro-

she said. "Under the hierarchy of the health-care system, nurses were always seen as assistants who carried out the doctor's orders, handmaids for the doctors, mini-doctors. But we are doing something completely different."

The McGill Model, as a dynamic, ever-expanding model, is a result of the reevaluation of the nurse's role in health provisioning. A study performed soon after the PhD program's establishment showed that patients

"We wanted the ability to direct research and develop theory."

Catherine Gros Professor of Nursing at McGill

gram because we wanted the ability to direct research and develop the theory [of the McGill Model]" Gros said.

She attributed the resistance of the academic community to a nursing PhD program to the way society sees women and nurses.

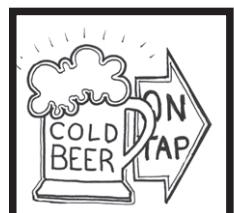
"The biggest hurdle is still society's view of women. Unfortunately, nursing has not always been valued by society – it's related to women's work, mothering and nurturing,"

treated with the McGill Model have more favourable health outcomes.

In explanation of its growing acceptance over the past 30 years, Gros offered that members of the health-care community have become increasingly accepting of more holistic care. She mentioned the recovery-based model in psychiatry, which values patient goals over those of the system, as another example illustrating how patient-based care is gaining momentum.

Breaking into the boys club

How female brewers are looking to change the face of beer culture



All hopped up

Joseph Watts

Errol Morris, the Oscar-winning director of *The Fog of War* and *The Thin Blue Line*, is also the director of a lengthy campaign of commercials for Miller High Life extolling the virtues of being a man and enjoying a beer. Each spot has a 1950s air of male hegemony and revels in it, thick arms, hairy knuckles, and all. In one commercial, the gruff narrator asks a newlywed housewife standing before a supermarket beer cooler what kind of man she wants her husband to be. She chooses a High Life man, of course. Another asks a shirtless beer belly, "Is your name Sally? Sally, the salad-eater? No, you're a High Life man and you don't care who knows it."

It's not hard to admit that the prevailing undertones of the beer world are masculine ones. If we are to believe the dated notions that beer is the working class beverage and working class families are supported by a sole (male) breadwinner, then the brews in the fridge must be Dad's, right? Wrong, says the growing number of women who drink, brew, advocate, and otherwise enjoy beer, and they want you to know it.

In honour of last Sunday, International Women's Day, I propose a look into the crusade to eradicate gender discrepancies from beer. With goals ranging from the promotion of female presence in the brewing community to the eventual erasure of fratboy beer marketing, there are women upsetting the male-dominated breweries of North

America.

Alyson Tomlin was drawn to beer after teaching others how to brew at a brew-on-premises store 11 years ago. But when she decided to pursue her love of beer in a career as a brewer, she was met with negative feedback. "I even had one old guy say, 'You can't brew; you're a girl,'" says Tomlin. "Well, then I had to do it."

Now, at 31, Tomlin is the operations manager at the R&B Brewing Company in Vancouver and one of the relatively few female brewers in Canada. Even though the staff of R&B is 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men, she still sees herself as "one of the guys." Entrance into the "old boys club" of professional craft-brewing is difficult, Tomlin says, due in part to the physicality of brewing on small, manual systems. "When I was hired, my boss said, 'If you can't physically do it, we're letting you go.' I'm sure he doesn't say that to guys."

Such constraints hinder the development of a female presence in the brewing profession and reinforce the stereotype that women don't know beer. For the record, Tomlin believes women make better beer drinkers with better palates, and I agree. Just take a look at the Pink Boots Society, which counts Tomlin among its members.

Started by Teri Fahrendorf in Portland, Oregon, the Pink Boots Society was "formed to inspire, encourage, and empower women to become professionals in the beer



Sasha Plotnikova / The McGill Daily

industry." The society has members from all over the world but most successfully advocates for the recognition of female brewers in North America. "It's a sisterhood," says Tomlin, "It says we can do this and we worked our asses off to do it."

At this year's Craft Brewers Conference in Boston, the Pink Boots Society will participate in seminars on women in craft-brewing and women as a target audience for

craft beer. If you want more evidence that the gender wall is breaking in the world of beer, just look locally: Laura Urtnowski co-owns and brews Boréale, Ellen Bounslall co-owns the McAuslan Brewery, and Jeannine Marois founded Montreal's major beer festival, Le Mondial de la Bière. It may be a small community, but it's growing fast.

With gender more equalized in the brewing world, perhaps a unified

Canadian beer culture might more easily emerge. Tomlin is optimistic. "Maybe that's the secret part about being a girl that the guys don't see – the idea that if we work together, it's going to benefit us all in the long run."

Tell Joe about your favorite High Life ad at allhoppedup@gmail.com. All Hopped Up will be back with more brew-news every other Thursday.

A new look at Nightline

McGill's student hotline provides services beyond crisis management

Emma Gray
The McGill Daily

According to their official tagline, McGill Nightline is a confidential, anonymous and non-judgmental listening, information, and referral service. But to many McGill students, this service is either unknown or seemingly useless.

McGill Nightline, which is supported by student fees and staffed entirely by students, is often perceived exclusively as a crisis hotline, according to Publicity Coordinator Jamie Bucklandfoster. Yet crisis help is only a small portion of the services that Nightline provides. The individuals who answer Nightline's phones

are trained in crisis management, but less serious, information-seeking calls make up an equal portion of Nightline's services.

"Students can call us anytime that we're open and ask us anything – [random trivia] or where they can get a referral to go to a doctor," Bucklandfoster said.

While Bucklandfoster wants students to understand the purpose of the Nightline before discounting its usefulness, some at McGill are already familiar with the extra-crisis services Nightline has to offer.

"I called [Nightline] while driving with three friends through Nebraska," said Paul Gross, U3 Anthropology. "They got me directions from where I was on the freeway and stayed on

the phone with me until I got to the Goodwill in Lincoln. I felt like they were on the road trip with me."

Nightline is a confidential service, meant to make the phone line a resource that all students can feel comfortable using. Those who choose to access the nightline can ask and reveal anything without a fear of judgment on the other end. Furthermore, the nightline's staff remains intentionally anonymous.

"Just call us once," says Bucklandfoster. "It's going to be a friendly voice [on the other end] whose primary objective is to help you in any way they possibly can."

McGill Nightline is open from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., seven days a week.

BRIEF

A US\$410-billion spending bill, passed by the Senate yesterday to keep government operations running through the end of the fiscal year, will also reverse many Bush-era policies, including controversial provisioning for abstinence-only sex-education spending.

The spending plan will cut abstinence-only sex education funding by US\$14.2 million and will increase expenditure on family-planning initiatives by US\$7.5 million.

Abstinence-only sexual education programs have seen little by way of scientific backing to explain their prioritization in U.S. policy during the Bush years, pointing to a largely ideological reasoning behind such provisions. Counter to this line of reasoning, the spending bill has

introduced a clause making "scientifically accurate" programs a priority for funding.

The reorientation toward more scientifically-backed policies may have effects beyond U.S. borders. The Bush administration's global HIV/AIDS action plan, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), required that one third of prevention funding going to recipient states be geared toward abstinence-based sexual education. Though such specific requirements were removed under PEPFAR's 2008 reauthorization, the moral overtones of the Bush administration remained committed to abstinence-based education.

– Nadja Popovich

Financial Statements

April 30, 2008

RSM Richter

RSM Richter S.E.N.C.R.L.
 Comptables agréés
 Chartered Accountants
 2, Place Alexis Nihon
 Montréal, (Québec) H3Z 3C2
 Téléphone / Telephone : (514) 934-3400
 Télécopieur / Facsimile : (514) 934-3408
www.rsmrichter.com

Auditors' Report

To the Members of
Daily Publications Society -
Société de Publication du Daily

We have audited the statement of financial position of Daily Publications Society - Société de Publication du Daily as at April 30, 2008 and the statements of earnings, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at April 30, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

RSM Richter LLP

Chartered Accountants

Montreal, Quebec
 July 11, 2008

RSM Richter LLP is an independent member firm of RSM International,
 an affiliation of independent accounting and consulting firms.

Daily Publications Society - Société de Publication du Daily

Statement of Financial Position As At April 30, 2008

	2008	2007
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 15,820	\$ 31,257
Term deposits (note 4)	185,982	177,225
Accounts receivable	72,746	58,590
Prepaid expenses	6,857	4,703
Service receivable	930	3,368
	282,335	275,143
Equipment (note 5)	37,555	22,003
	\$ 319,890	\$ 297,146
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10,348	5,751
Salaries and commissions payable	18,042	18,875
Service to render	2,616	-
	31,006	24,626
Commitment (note 6)		
Net Assets		
Restricted	262,555	22,003
Unrestricted	26,329	250,517
	288,884	272,520
	\$ 319,890	\$ 297,146
<i>Approved on Behalf of the Board</i> <i>[Signature]</i> <i>[Signature]</i>		

Daily Publications Society - Société de Publication du Daily

Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended April 30, 2008

	Emergency reserve	Operations reserve	Invested in equipment	Unrestricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,003	\$ 250,517	\$ 272,520	\$ 266,023
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	-	(9,633)	25,997	16,364	6,497
Internally imposed restrictions (note 7)	150,000	75,000	-	(225,000)	-	-
Investment in equipment	-	-	25,185	(25,185)	-	-
Net Assets - End of Year	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,555	\$ 26,329	\$ 288,884	\$ 272,520

Daily Publications Society - Société de Publication du Daily

Statement of Earnings For the Year Ended April 30, 2008

	2008	2007
Revenue		
Advertising Students' fees		
	\$ 212,052	\$ 172,039
	220,612	218,562
	432,664	390,601
Expenses		
Printing and production		
Selling		
General and administrative		
Financial		
	213,160	204,985
	54,551	48,674
	154,473	135,164
	2,673	2,314
	424,857	391,137
Operating Income (Loss)		
Interest income	7,807	(536)
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 16,364	\$ 6,497

Resuscitating the club scene, a show at a time

Keys N Krates take their instruments to the DJ booth

Adrienne Klasa
The McGill Daily

Anyone at all acquainted with the current Montreal music scene will know that it is oversaturated with two kinds of acts: pseudo-experimental indie bands and club-oriented DJ-based groups. This trend is not unique to our fair city – every major metropolis worth its underground is experiencing something similar.

Of late, the club scene has been particularly noxious, as electronic club music has moved from underground innovation to an Urban Outfitters cult with a marketed lifestyle to match. Since the boys of Justice enjoyed their meteoric rise to the mainstream, every 14-year-old girl with an AA headband and fake ID is now joining in the fray, praying for the day when she too will be able to pronounce that she is “with the DJ.”

That’s not to gloss over the good stuff out there – check out Booka Shade, the Bug, and Flying Lotus. However, true to the laws of supply-and-demand, as the market for the scenester club music has expanded, so has the volume of club-gearied groups. In the realm of artistic production, mass demand inevitably leads to an exponential increase in the volume of uninspired, unoriginal, and superficial crap – Uffie or CSS anyone?

Enter Keys N Krates, a Toronto-based outfit that is currently taking on the North American club scene, proclaiming to have “reinvented the



Natalie Gottlieb for The McGill Daily

remix.” The group, formed about a year ago, comprises three members: DJ Jr. Flo (turntables), Matisse (vocals/keys), and Adam Tune (drums). All three were working on different projects in the Toronto area before uniting based on their mutual desire to bring something new to the realm of nightclub music by fusing a live band with a DJ.

“The idea was to create a group that was more of a band, with the DJ as the lead singer,” Matisse explained in an interview with The Daily. “We rehearse live for hours, like a band would, and then we perform the mixes we work out on the spot as part of a set.”

So far, the group has released a number of remixes that are available for download online. Their process of creating a track begins with a

sample, usually taken from hip hop or RnB, that the group then remixes, retools, layers with instrumentation, and records live in a studio. Artists used for sampling have included Jay-Z, Aaliyah, Janet Jackson, and Lionel Ritchie.

“We like to call them ‘live remix demos,’ because they are jammed out live and recorded in the same way things were done during the Motown era,” said Matisse. “We were basically just in a room with a lot of seventies vintage amps.”

The tracks themselves are catchy, danceable, and solidly woven together, both technically and musically. They avoid being overly repetitious by constantly evolving and building on the main sequence through subtle variations to create a fugue-like structure.

However, the sound in itself as a concept, though enjoyable, is not the main innovation. Rather, it’s all about the “vibe.”

There is something intangibly different about the energy that comes from live instruments as opposed to pre-recorded or electronically generated ones. While quality of sound is definitely part of it, it is also about the connection between performer and audience – the knowledge that the experience is unique in time and space, never identical to another performance. Keys N Krates is bringing this versatility back into the nightclub, one that has long been missing as laptops and digital programming have all but replaced even records and tapes.

“Live musicianship in a nightclub

is a totally different experience,” Matisse commented enthusiastically. “You have real instruments with moving parts in there, and because we are actually ‘performing’ a set live it brings energy like what you would get with a band in a live concert.”

About a month ago, Keys N Krates played their most recent show in Montreal, and a high-energy, rollicking good time it most certainly was. The group’s music is by no means experimental; instead, they are taking a solid model that has morphed into something mechanical and giving it back a little soul.

Keys N Krates will be playing a show at Academy Club on Saturday, March 14.

Bollywood and beyond

An introduction to the soulful sounds of Kiran Ahluwalia

Erin O’Callaghan
The McGill Daily

Born in India, raised in Toronto, and now living in New York City, Kiran Ahluwalia truly is a “citizen of the world,” as she described herself to The Daily over the phone Tuesday.

Ahluwalia developed a love for music at an early age; by the time she was seven, she would listen to the radio avidly, waiting for a particular Bollywood song to come on, one that she liked and wanted to learn. She recounted how her mother would then come running and write down the song lyrics for her so that she could try and learn the melody, and after two or three times, she would have learnt the song.

Juno award was even better. It was a great feeling; if your own country has awarded you something, it [makes it] so much easier to tour in the U.S. and in Europe.”

Ahluwalia’s influences come from all over the world. Most prominently, *ghazals*, the Indian love songs she sings, and the Bollywood music of her youth, have shaped her music. Another source of inspiration to Ahluwalia is her husband, Rez Abbasi, a jazz guitarist who has played on many of her tracks. Performance-wise, she draws from a ballet by the Canadian dancers Karen Kain and Rex Harrington. She saw the performance when she was attending high school in Toronto, and went into the show expecting to be enthralled by the gorgeous Harrington; however, she was unable to take her eyes off of Kain, “because she was so beautiful with her movement, so sensual, yet at the same time so peaceful.” Ahluwalia aspired to have the same effect on an audience one day, and through

her beautiful voice and combination of Indian, jazz, and Portuguese fado influences, she hopes to give listeners and audiences a lyrical and enchanting relief from the day.

When asked about her favourite album, she explained, “It’s always the latest one, because that is the [album] most representative of me now.” *Wanderlust, her most recent release*, is worldly in the literal sense; Ahluwalia travelled to Portugal for a week to record three songs, then to Toronto to record a few more, and then the last part was recorded in New York. She said an album takes her “forever [to make]. A good year at least.”

Ahluwalia begins her tour in Quebec City March 12, and will be in Montreal on the 13 to promote *Wanderlust*. When asked about the tour, she said that she loves Montreal and wishes she had more time in the city; she has visited twice for the Montreal Jazz festival and once with a classical organization. This time around, she’ll be perform-

ing a mixture of songs, some from the new album *Wanderlust*, including the title track, “Yakeenah,” and a personal favourite, “Koka,” from her first album.

Performing live is very important to Ahluwalia. “The connection with the music and singer is much more potent [for the audience],” she explained. “[The music] enters you more deeply and is more fulfilling.... All music is a better experience live, same for performing.”

Ahluwalia has high hopes for the concert. “I hope to give an audience the same thing that I hope to get when I am part of an audience. I want to walk into the concert and forget my day, feel something in a different way, and feel release in a different way,” she explained. “I want them to leave feeling entertained, and I want to have taken them away to another place for a short time.”

Ahluwalia will be at Le Savoy, Friday March 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be found online at lesavoy.ca.

Made in Canada

McGill band Braids brings Calgary to Montreal – and vice versa

Kate Panzetta
Culture Writer

Braids is an edgy experimental pop band fresh to the thriving music scene of Montreal. The band is a collaboration of four friends: Austin Tufts, Taylor Smith, Katie Lee, and Raphaelle Standell-Preston. They all met at high school in Calgary and came together out of their mutual love of music. Their distinct aesthetic melds layers of intricate melodies, creating a calming yet haunting effect.

The quartet formed a strong bond as a band when they won in the best song writing category at the Calgary Folk Music Festival in 2007. This event boosted their confidence as musicians. From this stage onward, says Tufts, the band "just kept playing and the music evolved very quickly [into] something completely different."

The band members describe their song-writing process as highly meticulous without becoming overly intellectual, aiming to gradually develop a great deal of feeling and emotion. "The band will write the music first," says Tufts, "and the feelings that we convey in the music usually result in the lyrics [Standell-Preston] writes." "The songs reflect my current feeling of sexual understanding and sexual growth...[and] being at peace with oneself," Standell-Preston adds. Their music reflects this revelation as the songs gesture toward an emotional eruption, which never really occurs. Instead, the emotion is gradually levelled, reflecting what Standell-Preston calls "a point of peace with everything."

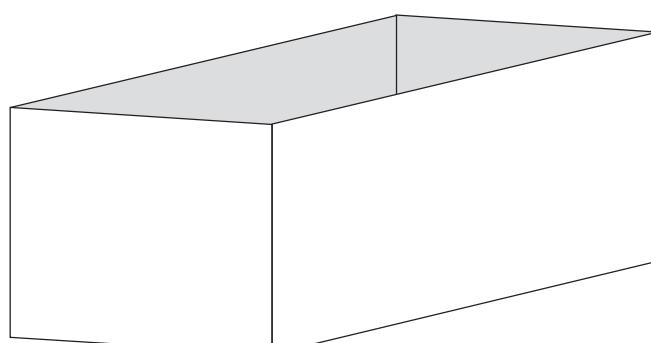
The band members remain very connected with their roots in

Calgary. They especially draw inspiration from fellow Calgarian groups: Azeda Booth, Women, and Knots. In discussing differences between the music scene in Calgary and in Montreal, the four agree that there is definitely more of a base for art and culture here. Yet Tufts is quick to add, "I wouldn't say that one is better than the other. We didn't move because we wanted a better scene. We had a lot of fun in Calgary; we had a real good fan base." What they do note, however, is that they ended up performing to the same fans at every show. Tufts sums up the state of Alberta's music scene by saying that "the bands are there, the music industry's not." This is due to a lack of promoters, venues, and management, as well as an absence of an all-ages scene.

In Montreal, Braids shares a rehearsal space with rappers and metal bands who all encourage one another – a foreign concept for a band more used to getting noise complaints than praise from neighbours.

Despite the difference in opportunities between the two cities, the band tries to erode the gap between the two. "I feel like Canada's Canada," Standell-Preston says. "I really don't want to separate this Calgary and Montreal thing. I'm getting kind of tired of that because we really like both places; we don't want people to get the impression that we left Calgary behind because it was a dust hole. It's all one big picture." Tufts adds, "I was really thinking we could bring a little bit of Calgary here and bring a little bit of Montreal back."

Braids play Green Room (5386 St-Laurent) with Women and Special Noise on Friday, March 13.



Let's say you have a box...

An empty box, a fourteen and one quarter inch by ten and one half inch box, a box to fill with words and pictures and drawings and advertisements.

What would you do?

Design next year's Daily.
email design@mcgilldaily.com



Crass lyrics make for one of the most shocking performances to hit the SSMU lounge.

"I'm too gay to have straight teeth!"

Miss Lady Swamp Pussy is the filthiest person alive

Mary Tramdeck
Culture Writer

Miss Lady Swamp Pussy steps onto the stage of the Shatner Lounge to the general disinterest of everyone exiting the room. Her performance during McGill's Nuit Blanche program follows that of Effusion A Capella, and almost everyone who has just endured their admissions brochure-ready display of amateur soulfulness is leaving. She introduces herself shyly, and after a few beats of her discordant backing track begins a set that blows the few remaining spectators' minds.

Equal parts spoken word, abrasive noise, and general vitriol, the performance is like a drag rendition of a mental breakdown. Every lyric shouted over her minimal, harshly hypnotic electronic backing riffs is more violent, hilarious, and disgusting than the last. No one can stop laughing, but they seem bewildered, as if expecting someone to provide an explanation as to what this lipstick-smeared male in a muumuu, teen-girl tights, tied-on hair, and snow boots is trying to accomplish by yelling, "I bet your mother wanted to abort you but she spent all her money on cigarettes!" It occurs to me that the Shatner Lounge might be one of the few venues in the city in which this spectacle might seem truly shocking.

Because it's true: hearing Miss Lady Swamp Pussy chant, "I came in your ass and I pulled my dick out / I licked off the semen and I pulled my knife out / I cut off your nose and I pulled my teeth out / I licked off the blood and then I got the fuck out" in a room generally dominated by students having loud phone conver-

sations about why they can't come to Bifteck that night is a genuinely bizarre experience. The aggressive normality of the space helps turn Miss Lady Swamp Pussy's set into the most incongruous, challenging, and hilarious performance I have ever seen at McGill.

Miss Lady Swamp Pussy is the creation of Bobby Chirila, U3 French Translation. He originally conceived of the character as a "sloppy drag performance to go with some Windows Sound Recorder sound collages," and only later began recording vocals to "add some personality and pare down the noisy factor." He considers the persona a "third-generation male" alternative to the female performance artists admired by many other gay men. Chirila cites one of these artists, Karen Finley, as his main inspiration, followed by the "shouted word" of Toronto cult icon Corpousse. He uses samples from the video game Street Fighter in some of his backing tracks, and the repetitive nature of early video game soundtracks is a clear influence on the musical strategy Chirila describes as "trying to hypnotize my audience by hitting them over the head with a hammer."

"I'd say my whole concept is an exploration of camp in unexpected places," Chirila explains. "Camp in feminism and queer politics, camp in fat camp." He considers his thematic emphasis on filth, sex, and violence (sample song titles: "My Pussy Abhors a Vacuum," "Threw Up On My Cat," "Don't Motherfucker") an integral component of this exploration. "It's used in a purposely immature gross-out way in the hope of abstracting the concept of disgusting things."

"I'm not very interested in all the squeaky clean gay imagery in the

popular media. It really excludes the more interesting aspects of the gay community," says Chirila, a former bathhouse attendant. "I'm interested in the backroom situations, you know, just being filthy and disgusting." He makes a very serious face. "It's an important tool in the battle against heteronormativity."

When Chirila performs for a Radical Queer Semaine event on March 8, it is in an atmosphere totally devoid of the cognitive dissonance that characterized his Nuit Blanche performance. Everyone is queer, everyone is wearing challenging outfits, and all the performances that have just occurred are about as unusual as his. Though he gets fewer surprised laughs, he gets more informed ones; there are sustained cheers when he introduces an extended rant entitled "Skinny Naked Boys" with the dedication, "This one goes out to all the gay artists who work primarily in the medium of being very, very hot."

Whatever the audience, Miss Lady Swamp Pussy's attitude and wit prove to be nothing less than commanding. As the performance ends and I exit, I overhear a girl laugh and exultantly tell her male friend, "Eat shit."

Miss Lady Swamp Pussy (www.myspace.com/missladyswampussy) will be performing at the Radical Queer Semaine Monster's Ball on March 13 at La Chat des Artistes.

Teen hotties, skinned bodies

Spoiler alert: the newest *Friday the 13th* delivers exactly what you'd expect

Rosa Saunders
Culture Writer

Last month's Friday the thirteenth was a typical one, full of accidental injuries, unfortunate computer failures, and job rejections throughout campus and beyond. And in the spirit of predictable misfortune, our movie theatres were greeted with yet another version of *Friday the 13th*. There have been over ten remakes or sequels since the 1980 original, including *The Final Chapter* (1984) and *Jason Goes to Hell: the Final Friday* (1993). The *Friday the 13th* franchise has become the veritable *Land Before Time* of the slasher genre – with one notable difference: we know the dinosaurs eventually died, but we can't seem to get Jason out of our lake house.

The *Friday the 13th* originals served the vital cultural function of warning horny teenage camp counselors not to bang each other when they're supposed to be ensuring children don't drown. The original

depicts an angry mother who seeks to avenge the drowning of her son Jason by systematically murdering the (completely unrelated) next generation of counselors at Crystal Lake.

After Mommy dearest gets decapitated by the final remaining counselor, the next film comes out and reveals a big, bloody misunderstanding: Jason wasn't dead at all (woops), but now he's really pissed off and continues in his mom's shoes. He kills the next group of kid-loving, bright eyed young hotties...except for one, who shoves a machete in his shoulder. But Jason survives, so in the next movie he gets an axe in the head. But Jason survives. And so it continues until the sequels run dry and the franchise must find new ways to strike fortune on the unluckiest day of the year.

And so we have the remake.

The 2009 remake condensed the first three films, but put the main story in the much sexier setting of a rich kid's parents' lake house. The murders take place during a weekend bash full of underage drinking, skinny-dipping, excessive marijuana consumption, and steamy premarital sex. Like the originals, it featured large-breasted, barely-legal girls getting stripped of their clothes and, finally, their skin. And like the origi-

nals, it effectively made the image of a well-used goalie mask terrifying rather than sporty or practical.

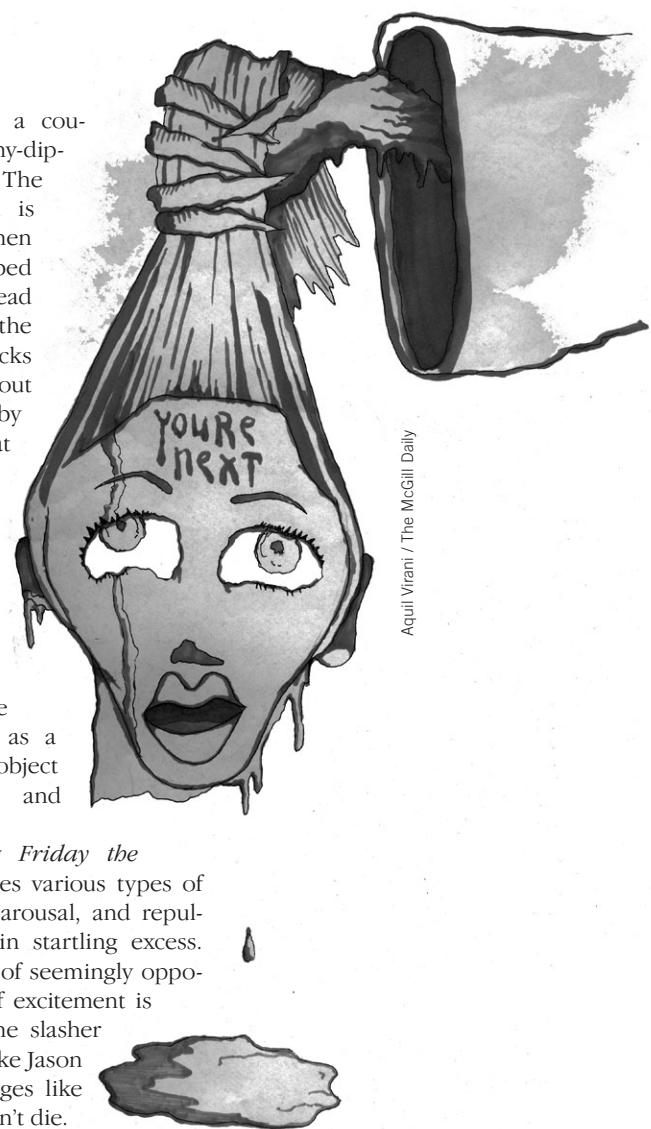
Yet the subtle differences in the film are quite revealing about the evolution of horror movies as a whole. The original movies often placed the audience at the whim of the terrifying killer. The suspense here lies not in the possibility of running into the killer, but in turning around to find a potential victim who will be dismantled before the viewer's eyes. The heavy breathing and unstable camera angle breed terror and, at the same time, identification with the killer, implicating the audience in the scene through the camera's voyeuristic, sadistic gaze.

In the new remake, identification with Jason comes rather from gentle sympathies generated in the backstory. The first-person perspective is usually that of the gasping, terrified, often female victim. The film's obsession with the heavy breathing of a woman before her demise is a perfect synecdoche for the sadomasochistic fantasies of the horror film. The hyperventilating gasps sound both helpless and erotic, building up to the wild, guttural scream that accompanies penetration by the phallic knife.

One notable scene takes place under a dock after a murderer

intrudes on a couple's skinny-dipping session. The girl's breath is silenced when she is stabbed in the head through the wooden cracks and lifted out of the water by the knife that killed her. As blood streams from her head over her naked breasts, she is displayed before the camera as a fetishized object of desire and repulsion.

The new *Friday the 13th* generates various types of fear, sexual arousal, and repulsion — all in startling excess. The overlap of seemingly opposite forms of excitement is central to the slasher genre and, like Jason himself, images like these just don't die.



Aquil Virani / The McGill Daily

MISS MARCH

SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION

WWW.MISSMARCHMOVIE.COM

**AFTER FOUR YEARS IN A COMA,
EUGENE IS GOING TO BE REUNITED
WITH HIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART...
ON PAGES 95-97.**

IN STORES NOW

IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FRIDAY, MARCH 13!

DPS SPD
DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ DES PUBLICATIONS DU DAILY

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the *Daily Publications Society* (DPS), publisher of *The McGill Daily* and *Le Délit*, will take place on

**Thursday, March 19
in Leacock 232 at 6pm.**

Members of the DPS are cordially invited. The presence of candidates to the Board of Directors is mandatory.

For more information, please contact the Chief Returning Officer, at cro@dailypublications.org

Classifieds

To place an ad,
via email:
ads@dailypublications.org
phone : 514-398-6790
fax : 514-398-8318

Cost :
McGill Students & Staff : \$6.70/day; \$6.20/day for 3 or more days. **General public :** \$8.10/day; \$6.95/day for 3 or more days. 150 character limit. There will be a \$6.00 charge per contract for any characters over the limit. Prices include taxes. **MINIMUM ORDER \$40.50/ 5 ads.**

Housing

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BROOKLYN-BELLE ÉPOQUE
McGill ghetto
RENOVATED apartment to rent, fridge & oven.
(514) 499-3455
www.cogir.net

Employment

MASTER SCHOOL OF BARTENDING
Bartending and table service courses
Student rebate
Job reference service
• 514-849-2828
www.Bartend.ca
(on line registration possible)

"LAZY EYE"

Have you had a since childhood? McGill Vision Research is looking for study participants. Please call Dr. Davar Nikneshan at 514-934-1934 ext. 35307 or email mcgillvisionresearch@gmail.com for further information.

OPPORTUNITY downtown Montreal.
See www.marincom.ca
Email CV to fmh@marincom.ca

GET YOUR CLASSIFIEDS ON THE WEB!

Place your classifieds in The McGill Daily and for only 10\$ more, we'll add it to our website! www.mcgailldaily.com/classifieds

Rising up from the work desk

Worn down from hours in computer chairs, **Rupert Common** reveals his love for the outside

I'm tired of sitting. So tired of it that I don't feel relief when I sit anymore, I feel relief when I stand. It's like I go on "sits," really long sits, and then when I finally stand: that's when I appreciate the day's inactivity. My butt feels flabby. It's due to a lack of movement and way, way too much reading.

I have sat down more this winter than any other winter in my history. I get back pain from not doing things. I'm okay with throwing out my back lifting rocks, but if I tweak a disk loggin-in, then I feel like a limp zero. I am aware of my belly when I sit, of my slouched spine, and of shoulder blades that creak a little. My pasty chest, blessed by the promise of hair and cursed with the tail-ends of adolescent pimples, desperately fiends the light. I can see my veins.

It's like every day begins with the

rising of a fluorescent light bulb and ends with the offing of a screen.

I miss the sun, I don't care if she blinds me, I want to look into her eyes and tell her that I love her, tell her that I won't take her for granted if she comes back to me.

My bare feet need to breathe. Boots have imprisoned them and socks have kept their odours and moisture captive. My neck needs to be warmed, but not by a neck warmer. My hair is fed up with my toque. My toque is about due for some serious storage time, along with all his friends. I look forward to the moment when I walk my pallid self out onto the grass, trip over my atrophied legs, and expose my ghostly torso. I want to drop that first Frisbee toss and feel my ankle click. These books are staring at me. They need to go back to their boring shelves and let me play.



Evan Newton / The McGill Daily



Spencer Duffy / The McGill Daily

McGill makes path between fences

Students stroll through culmination of year-long construction

Harriet Rocco
The McGill Daily

After converting the once-thriving green space near the Milton Gates into a construction war zone over the past year, McGill has finally revealed the result of all the work: a direct path between the Arts Building and University Ave.

"It was pretty simple – all we

needed was to uproot a small forest, remove dozens of bike racks in front of McConnell Engineering, reconfigure the slope of the hill, and tear up the roads in front of James Administration," said one University maintenance staff member.

McGill has also taken steps to ensure that the walkway stays safe.

"They paid me 50 bucks just to stand there in my burglar's costume with my bike!" said Steve, the man

modelling the safe bike stance at either entrance to the new path – which is strikingly similar to the one that used to be there.

Steve added that he doesn't know why they Photoshopped out his neck, but that airbrushing is pretty big in the industry these days.

"It's like, I try to be me, but I just get turned in to whatever society wants, y'know? I try so hard to be free. To be, me."



Sterling Street will be back next Thursday. Until then, sweet dreams.

Margot Nossal / The McGill Daily

volume 98
number 39**editorial**

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-24
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone 514.398.6784
fax 514.398.8318
mcgilldaily.com

coordinating editor

Jennifer Markowitz
coordinating@mcgilldaily.com

coordinating news editor

Shannon Kiely

news editors

Erin Hale
Nicholas Smith
Alison Withers

features editor

Claire Caldwell

commentary&compendium editor

Max Halparin

coordinating culture editor

Braden Goyette

culture editors

Joshua Frank
Whitney Mallett

science+technology editor

Nikki Bozinoff

mind&body editor

Nadja Popovich

photo editor

Stephen Davis

graphics editor

Sasha Plotnikova

production & design editors

Will Vanderbilt
Aaron Vansintjan

web editor

Ian Beattie

copy editor

Hannah Freeman

cover design

Sasha Plotnikova

le délit

Maysa Phares

redaction@delitfrancais.com

Contributors

Rosie Aiello, Scott Baker, Jeff Bishku-Aykul, Doug Breuer, William Burton, Rebecca Chapman, Rupert Common, Juliana Dalley, Natalie Gottlieb, Emma Gray, Humera Jabir, Adrienne Klasa, Sally Lin, Jimmy Lu, Simone Lucas, Laura Mojonnier, Josh Nobleman, Margot Nossal, Evan Newton, Erin O'Callaghan, Kate Panzetta, Rosa Saunders, Mary Tramdeck, Tomas Urbina, Aquil Virani, Catherine Wallenberg, Joseph Watts, Rachel Wine

DPS SPD
DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ DES PUBLICATIONS DU DALY

The Daily is published on most Mondays and Thursdays by the Daily Publications Society, an autonomous, not-for-profit organization whose membership includes all McGill undergraduates and most graduate students.

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-26
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone 514.398.6790
fax 514.398.8318

advertising & general manager Boris Shedor
treasury & fiscal manager Pierre Bouillon
ad layout & design Geneviève Robert

dps board of directors
Angel Chen, Ana Gray Richardson-Bachand, Bradden Goyette, Lauren Chang MacLean, Jennifer Markowitz, Lawrence Monoson, Maysa Phares, Perrin Valli, Eric Van Eyken (chair@dailyproductions.org)



The Daily is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

All contents © 2009 Daily Publications Society. All rights reserved. The content of this newspaper is the responsibility of The McGill Daily and does not necessarily represent the views of McGill University. Products or companies advertised in this newspaper are not necessarily endorsed by Daily staff.

Printed by Imprimerie Transcontinental Transmag Anjou, Quebec.
ISSN 1192-4608

EDITORIAL

No more acclaimed positions

When Alexandra Brown – SSMU VP Internal candidate against Brendan Sullivan – came into The Daily office to have her photo taken, she joked that she was in a good old democratic race. We're dismayed that only two of the six SSMU exec positions were contested in this year's election. This disturbingly low turnout leaves students little choice over who will direct their student union next year.

The overwhelming attendance at this semester's General Assembly featuring the controversial Gaza motion proves students aren't always apathetic. Though the motion dealt with an external issue, the participation it generated gives us faith that the student body's energy could be harnessed to butter SSMU's daily administrative bread.

Studies have shown that involvement in student politics reflects larger involvement at a national or provincial level, so the sparse election doesn't bode well for our generation's future in politics.

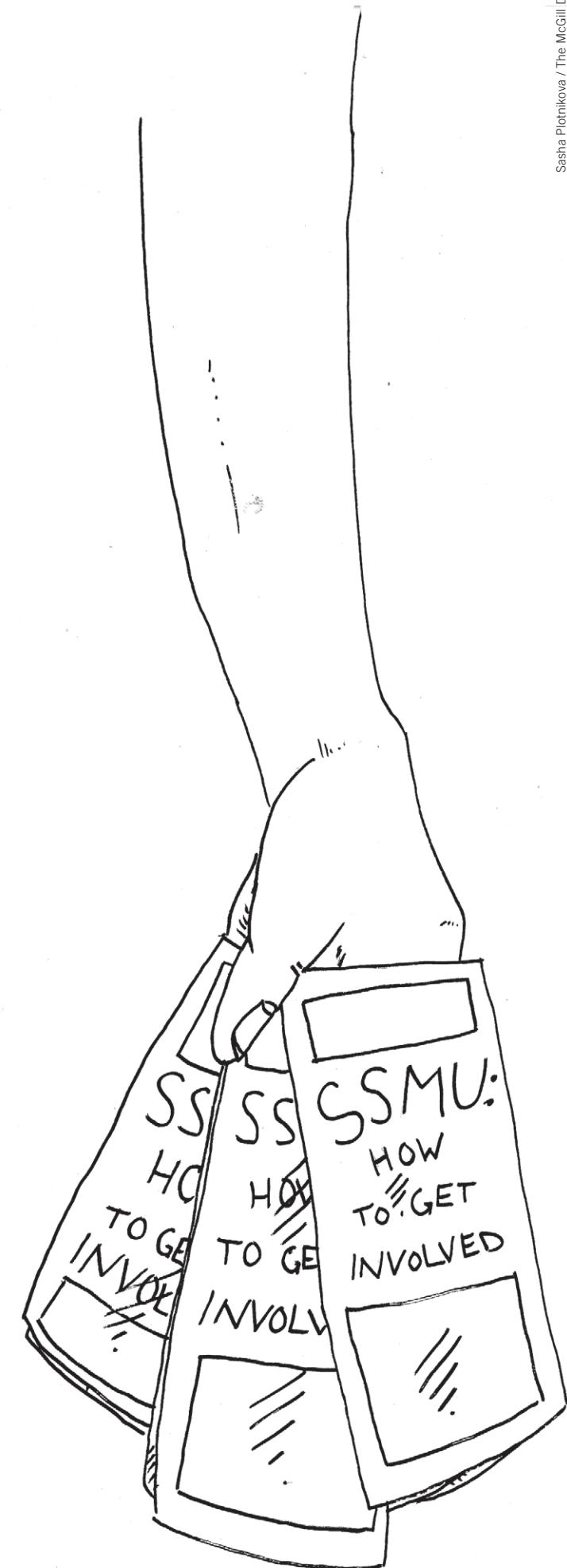
Unless SSMU makes a sincere effort to reach out to students before election season, apathy may become the rule in executive elections. Every year, candidates promise to inform students of what exactly SSMU does and how it can help them during their time at McGill, and this year has been no different. Many of the candidates reiterated the same hopes to engage students, without offering much in the way of specifics. Such platform promises speak to a larger structural problem within SSMU, namely that its functions and power remain a mystery to most students. The recently revamped web site – which, as of press time, didn't even include a mention of the current election – should be used to demystify the Society. Including an administrative tree of the names and objectives of all SSMU positions and committees would be a good first step.

We suspect the majority of bright, politically-minded students are unaware of the opportunity to gain experience through a SSMU executive position – the Students' Society doesn't even publicize that executive positions come with a salary of more than \$20,000. And at SSMU-hosted events like Frosh and SnowAP, we've never seen information disseminated about ways to get involved in SSMU and what executive platforms consist of.

The requirements on eligible candidates are minimal – hopefuls only have to be undergraduate or Law students – and should stay that way, since it guarantees that independent political voices will have the chance to make it to student government. But we believe that SSMU should create other, part-time positions through which students can gain experience with the Society before running for exec or Council positions.

SSMU Council recently reprimanded Elections McGill for its lackluster performance this year. While we agree that they dropped the ball on some basic communicative tasks, such as failing to post the referendum questions on their web site before voting began, their primary duty is to ensure that elections run smoothly and fairly, not to market SSMU.

There are a variety of simple things that SSMU could do to buck this alarmingly apathetic round of elections for its top positions, including the following: more classroom announcements in advance of and during elections; making the Council agenda more publicly accessible; adding more office hours and a general open-door policy for students wishing to meet with executive members; a SSMU job-shadowing program in the month leading up to the election for students interested in getting involved; more outreach to faculty and departmental associations; and a bulletin in the Shatner building and online, detailing upcoming SSMU events and issues discussed at Council. Whatever changes they decide to make, SSMU needs a game plan to make sure we don't see another election like the current one.



Errata

The photo for "Out of Africa" (Mind & Body, February 19) was attributed to Rachel Kutler when in fact it was taken by the article's author, Talia Gordon.

The March 9 cover was attributed to Ming Lin, when in fact the featured work was by Cara Hanley.

In "SSMU debates draw minimal turnout" (News, March 5), The Daily spelled SSMU presidential hopeful Ivan Neilson's name incorrectly.

In "Endorsements" (Commentary,

March 9), The Daily wrote that Ivan Neilson is a management student, which in fact he is in Arts. In the same article, The Daily wrote in the event of a tie between candidates, the SSMU President Kay Turner would determine the winner, when in fact the SSMU by-laws state that Elections McGill would draw lots. In the endorsement for Sarah Olle, The Daily wrote that she wasn't vocal enough at Council this year. However, Olle does not sit on

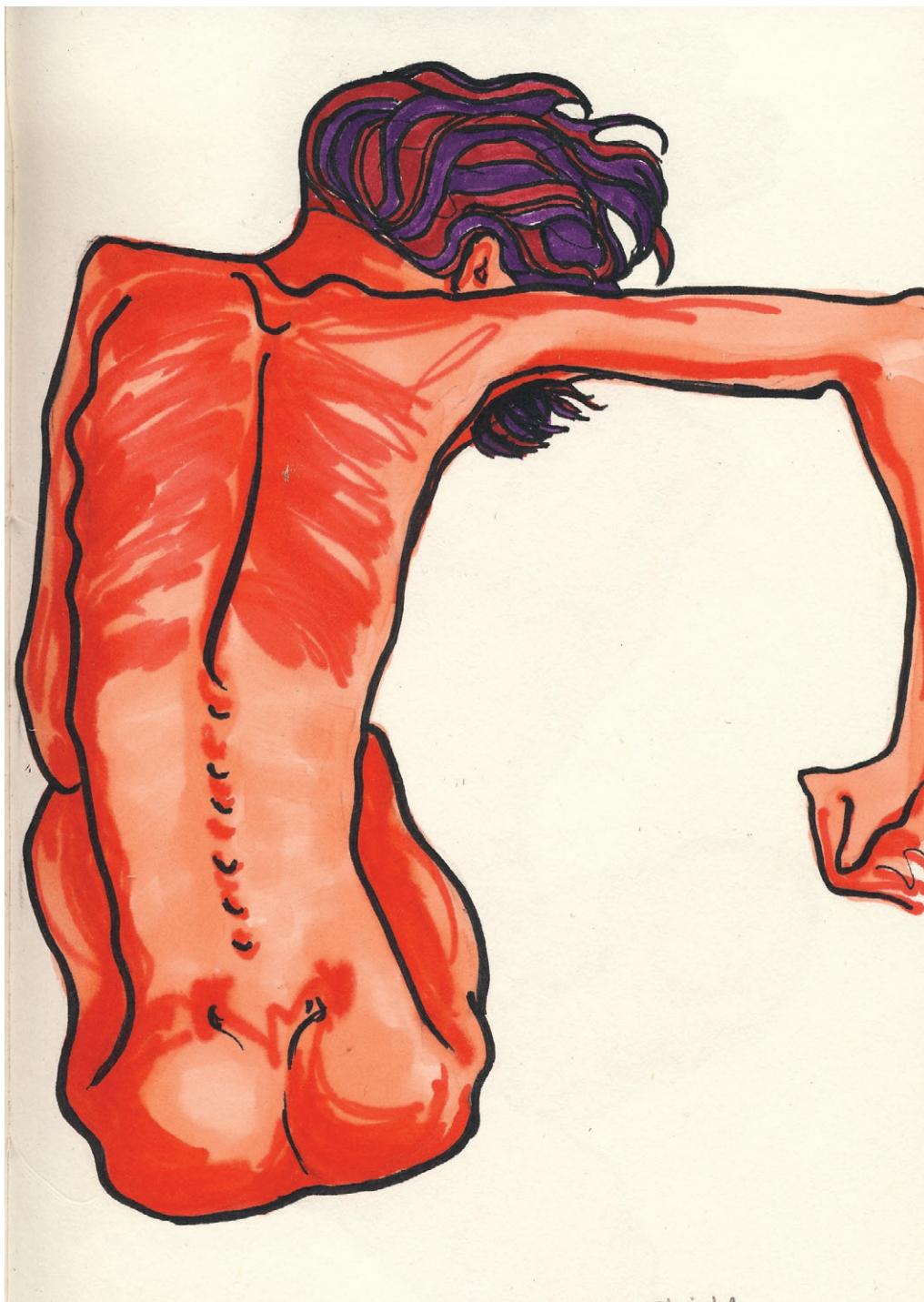
Council. Further, The Daily claimed that Rebecca Dooley's intention was to revive Reclaim Your Campus (RYC) by providing students with information kits. In fact, Dooley does not plan to restart RYC, though she does believe students are lacking information on issues pertaining to student politics.

In "SSMU Elections 2009" (News, March 9), The Daily truncated interviews for all candidates. To clarify, Ivan Neilson believes

SSMU should reinforce the rights of francophone students to submit work in French, and that SSMU should report on previous General Assemblies sooner.

In "An island divided" (Features, March 9), The Daily wrote that 300,000 people in Sri Lanka have suffered as a result of the civil war in the past 30 years, when in fact this statistic is true for the past three months.

The Daily regrets the errors.



Ich spiele mit Schiele
Sally Lin