



## THEFRONT

### QUOTE

### Students amp up

Quebec students opposed to Jean Charest's planned tuition hikes say the fight is only just beginning. To kick off the winter semester, they'll be meeting for an rally in Berri Square on Friday, Jan. 27 at 9 a.m., according to Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, spokesperson for student group ASSÉ (Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante). After the one-day action last Nov. 10, when as many as 30,000 students marched in protest in the streets of Montreal, Charest did not budge on his plan to increase tuition by \$325 per year over the next five years. Instead, Nadeau-Dubois claims, Charest responded with sleazy tactics to promote the tuition hikes, further infuriating student groups. The next move, says Nadeau-Dubois, is an all-out general strike, beginning in February. "If the government turns things around then we won't have to walk out, but we seriously doubt that will happen," he says. The last big student strike took place in 2005, after Charest cut \$103-million from the bursary program. After a total of eight weeks, with various student groups participating at different points in time, the government and the students reached an agreement, and the money was returned to the program for a limited amount of time. See [bloquonslahauss.com](http://bloquonslahauss.com) for more info. -HEATHER ROBB

### Homefishing

Project Genesis thinks they may have found something fishy going on at the Régie delogement. The Côte-des-Neiges-based housing advocacy organization noticed that the rental board's hearing wait times for tenants with non-emergency problems is suspiciously much longer than for landlords complaining about non-payment of rent. "The delay for general complaints is 15 months for the first hearing," says Project Genesis's Sheetal Pathak. "But for non-payment of rent, it's four to six weeks." To draw attention to what she calls the arbitrary and random nature of getting hearings, her organization is holding an urban ice-fishing event today, Thursday, Jan. 26, where "tenants fish for hearing dates," she says. Pathak says the Régie divides complaints into four categories: urgent, priority, general and nonpayment. Project Genesis will be using the stunt to present their demands: that all cases are heard within three months on a first-come-first-served basis, and that urgent cases are heard within 72 hours. According to Pathak, those were the norms 15 years ago; due to increased number of complaints, staffing shortages and inappropriate scheduling procedures, wait times have ballooned. The event takes place outside the Régie du logement (1425 René-Lévesque W.), beginning at 11:15 a.m. See [genese.qc.ca](http://genese.qc.ca) for more info. -PATRICK LEJTENYI

### ANGEL & INSECT

**ANGEL:** Shrooms When you're still up as the sun breaks, giggling at cloud formations and tripping on magic mushrooms, odds are you aren't aware that activity in your brain's medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) and posterior cingulate cortex (PCC) is being dampened. Fortunately, researchers in Britain are, having studied the effects of psilocybin via an MRI on 40 lucky volunteers. Two studies found that magic mushrooms' active ingredient had significant effects on parts of the brain dealing with depression and self-identity, suggesting that psilocybin may have therapeutic benefits. And while this newspaper, like the study's authors, is certainly not advocating irresponsible magic mushroom eating, studying the fungus's effects on the brain in a clinical manner-free of anti-drug hysteria-is long overdue. **INSECT:** Trudeau delays In what will likely come as no surprise at all to anyone who has flown into Montreal, our Trudeau airport ranks among the bottom in terms of customs wait times. According to statistics compiled by the Canada Border Services Agency, Trudeau travellers were more likely to wait more than 20 minutes to get through customs than at any other airport except for Vancouver and Ottawa. Customs agents say the airport's design, staffing shortages and crowded late afternoon/early evening arrival times are to blame for the chronic congestion.

### CKUT's neverendum

Life never seems easy for CKUT and QPIRG McGill, two of the university's more controversial student organizations, and especially when it comes to money. Last fall, the two groups thought they had it made when a student referendum ensured their continued funding for the next five years. But the two are now saying there's a new bureaucratic wrinkle. According to CKUT undergraduate board member Myriam Zaidi, a university administration rep considered the referendum question unclear, and that may hinder negotiations for their next contract, which are due to begin this spring. Students can choose not to pay the \$4 per semester for each organization through the university's online portal and, thanks to what Zaidi says was a "defamatory campaign against certain independent student groups," about 15 per cent of students opted out last year. The referendum proposed a measure that would force opting-out students to collect their money at the station and at QPIRG offices, rather than simply be reimbursed by the university. But Zaidi says the administration rep felt the question involved two

different questions-whether the voter supported the organizations' ongoing existence and whether they approved on the reimbursement changes-and suggested they may have to hold another referendum as early as next month. -PATRICK LEJTENYI OF THE WEEK: "It's essentially amovement orchestratedfromthetop,whereveryfewpeoplehaveanythingto sayapartfromMr.Legaulthimself"- UdeMpoliticalscientistPierre Martin, on the Coalition Avenir Québec and its leader,François Legault. TheCAQ officially swallowedthe rump ADQ in amerger Sundaytocreateaunified right-wing provincialpoliticalparty.

## Howlat theTories

We are lucky enough to live in a city where it'sstill possible to work as amusician, painter, writer or yarn bomber. Thus, it's important to occasionally use this freedom for something alittle bit more socially conscious than drinking tall cans of Pabst at aloft party. The Howl! arts collective hopes to do some good by working for social justice through artistic expression. While their past events have revolved around music, their latest is apresentation entitled Art + Activism, gathering different grassroots artists to discuss, well, how theycombine artand activism. "It's such abig topic; it's really important and relevant, given the Conservative government and how funding is being cut for artists," says graphic artist Kevin Lo, who will moderate the talk. "Wewant to encourage morecooperation between artists and forge asense of solidarity." Speakers will include committed social activist and visual artist Freda Guttman, visual artist and queer and migrant rights activist Coco Riot, poet Vincent Tinguely and filmmakerMalcolm Guy,president of Productions Multi-Monde, which creates socially conscious and political documentaries all aroundthe world. Art +Activism takes place tonight, Thursday,Jan. 26 at 6p.m. at le Cagibi (5490 St-Laurent). For more info, visit howlarts.net. -ROXANE HUDON

## REAR-VIEWMIRROR

12YEARSAGO-JAN.27-FEB.3,2000 On the cover: Twomen pummeling each other, for astory on extreme fighting in Quebec, and in Kahnawake in particular.While the International Fighting Championships circuit boasts "no-holds-barred" fighting, fighter Travis Fulton says that'sjust a marketing tool: "You can't bite. You can't eye-gouge. Those are holds, kind of. But they're barred." \*Straightedge band Earth Crisis advocates animal rights, adrug-, alcohol- and promiscuous sex-free life, says drummer Dennis Merrick, but "There is still disagreement within the band about abortion and how to solve the abortion problem. But we are against racism and homophobia. We identify with feminist politics." \*Sidebar identifies other straightedge bands: Minor Threat, Snapcase, Straight Faced, Fugazi, Gorilla Biscuits, Strife. \*Discussing the Montreal shoot for his film Eyeofthe Beholder,Aussie director Stephen Elliot says, "The crew in Montreal was fantastic. The first day on set Inoticed that afew crew members had T-shirts saying, 'WE DON'T CARE HOW THEY DO IT IN L.A.' Neitherdid I, so it was perfect." ? MONTREAL MIRROR JANUARY26-FEBRUARY1 2012 5

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