

IN BRIEF

Strike negotiations took break in December

Negotiations between Montreal's Concordia University and its full-time faculty will resume this month, after breaking for the holidays.

In late November, the council of directors of the Concordia University Faculty Association, which represents full-time professors and librarians, voted unanimously to ask its membership for a strike mandate.

Looking to make the Bible more appealing, "The Brick Testament" is using logos to get their message across

They're hip, they're glossy, and they're reaching out to a slightly different generation of worshippers.

While these modern renditions of the King James Bible aren't direct translations, they may be reaching audiences that the traditional text may have never attracted.

One version, The Brick Testament, is a series of short, hardcover books. On the cover, biblical scenes are illustrated using Lego blocks, put together entirely by Reverend Brendan Powell Smith. Actual block sets are also available, which the website promises are made of "the finest Danish plastic."

With files from the Canadian University Press

Cold, snow blasts prairies

Campus gets hit hard by a winter blast, with temperatures the coldest seen since 1966

SASKATOON (CUP) - Baby, it's cold outside.

That's the tune many students in the prairie regions were whistling as they returned to university Monday, amidst record-breaking temperatures and relentless snowfall that persisted throughout the winter holidays.

"When I walked to school today, it was so cold so I bundled up to the point where all you could see were my eyes," said University of Saskatchewan student James Pepler of his 22-minute walk to campus Monday morning.

"When I got inside, my eyes were encrusted with ice crystals," he added.

Although the temperature was still a nasty -25 Celsius in the morning, it was a welcome relief from the previous day.

On Sunday, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan experienced the coldest temperatures the city had seen since 1966, at -39 C, with a wind chill of -45 C.

Regina wasn't much better. University of Regina student Dan Shier said heading to school Monday was difficult.

"It's pretty cold outside still, but I guess it's better than the



The University of Saskatchewan is buried under snow this week. CUP photo

last few days," he said Monday, adding that he caught a ride in the morning rather than taking the bus like he normally does.

Thankfully for Saskatchewan residents, that nasty blast of cold and snow promptly left Sunday night, but only to head east to Manitoba.

Both provinces were under wind chill warnings Jan. 4 because of the chance unexposed skin would freeze in under 10 minutes.

"It sucks," said University of Winnipeg student Rod Beilfuss Monday. "It's very cold, and we've had a lot of

snow in the last few days."

The extra powder made for a nightmarish commute, he says. His bus was over 20 minutes late.

Though classes at the University of Winnipeg did not resume until Jan. 6, there were still a lot of students on campus Monday, stomping through several inches of snow. Ensuring a campus is free of snow when people return from holidays is no easy task, says Murray Zook, manager of grounds keeping with the U of S facilities management division.

He says the effort to make

the U of S campus ready for students, employees, and faculty began at the end of December, when casual workers removed snow from doorways and some sidewalks. Regular staff came in on Jan. 2 to clear all of the walkways, and private contractors worked on the parking lots with snow removal vehicles.

While he doesn't know exactly how big the snow-removal budget is at the U of S, he does know that some years it costs between \$25,000 to \$30,000 to clear the parking lots alone.