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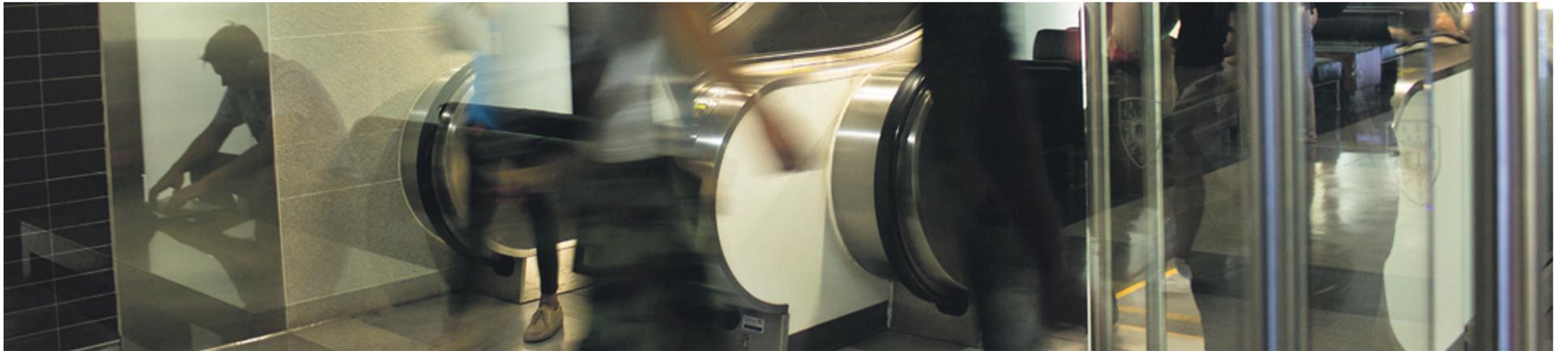
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ASFA REBRANDED

Who's in Charge And What's Being Done to Change Its Blighted Culture?



BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

On the front page of asfaorientation.ca, there is a digital clock counting down the seconds until the “Launch Week” for Concordia University’s Arts and Science Faculty Association (ASFA) on Sept. 3.

The countdown to the annual orientation for first-year students, and the departure from its former “Frosh” moniker, could signal a shift from a hostile and unsafe environment revealed to the local community only last semester.

Media coverage in March exposed that Paul Jerajian and Sean Nolan, ASFA’s former President and VP Social respectively, exchanged sexually and racially explicit Facebook messages about a female colleague with Chinese and Italian heritage in 2013.

The victim, Mei-Ling (a pseudonym to protect her identity), saw those messages on a shared computer in the office. She continued her executive role for the remainder of year, but was denied an honorarium of \$1,500 and additional bonus due to minor financial discrepancies on her year-end report.

She didn’t receive her money until January of this year after meeting with ASFA’s financial committee. Since then, she has filed complaints with the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission against both ASFA and the two individuals for discrimination and harassment.

The Centre for Research Action on Race-Relations is representing Mei-Ling as the complainant. Fo Niemi, executive director of CRARR, says they are seeking moral and punitive damages totaling \$10,000, as well as assurances that institutional culture changes will occur to address what he labels “systemic discrimination” within the association.

“We don’t want it to be left to individuals,” Niemi told *The Link*. “[We want] culture change that is conducive to learning, where people feel respected and whole at the university.”

ASFA has agreed to “fully cooperate” in mediations with Mei-Ling, according to a statement recently released and devised by its council. Both parties are waiting for the commission to set a date, Niemi says.

“There is a new leadership and I have faith that they will do their best to restore equality, and work towards changing the culture in a grassroots manner,” Mei-Ling told *The Link* in an email.

Council’s statement further reads, “ASFA

takes responsibility for the environment that its members and Mei-Ling experienced during the years in question, including a racially and sexually aggressive atmosphere.”

Apologies can be made easily, Niemi says. What CRARR is focused on is the student association creating a procedural mechanism that can better protect a victim of discrimination and lead to less retroactive action, he adds.

The newly rebranded orientation begins soon, and Niemi is hopeful mediation starts before then so that “any frosh activity will not carry seeds of sexual bias and violence.”

Council decided against hiring a lawyer and has appointed independent councillor Mariah Gillis and VP External Jenna Cocullo as their representatives.

“[The] best thing we can do is resolve it in a way that helps everyone achieve closure and convince people that we’re really serious about [a culture change],” Gillis said.

The investigation against Jerajian and Nolan is ongoing, and could take anywhere from two to six years for the commission to complete, according to Niemi.

“We believe have enough evidence to support the complaint,” he said.

Since Mei-Ling went through the Dean of Students and the Office of Rights and Responsibility for help, and they ultimately could do nothing, Niemi says that the university is legally liable for negligence. At this point, they have not formally pursued a complaint against the school, but they are still within the time period to do so, he adds.

LOOKING AHEAD

Melina Ghio, last year’s VP Finance, had a motion to annul Jerajian’s 2014-2015 honorarium, which passed in May. At this same meeting, council spontaneously appointed Ghio as interim president until by-elections in October.

Ghio resigned in July. All executives are on an interim basis due to ASFA’s failure to meet quorum in its March general elections.

According to Lianne Barnes, ASFA’s VP Communications, the interim executive team’s roles are “all over the place” as they prepare for “Launch Week.”

“Losing Melina was a big hit,” Barnes said. “Luckily, she left in the very early stages where nothing was set in stone.”

Negative connotation surrounding the “Frosh” name for orientation led to its change which will subsequently mark a culture shift

within all of ASFA, says Barnes, who served as VP External last year.

“I’m hoping ASFA can get positive visibility moving forward,” she said.

New students bonding through excessive alcohol intake is less of an emphasis for “Launch Week.” Past alcohol-fueled events, such as a pub-crawl or a beer party at an overnight camp, are no longer part of the festivities, according to Barnes.

“It doesn’t have to be just about drinking,” she said. “[We] want to orient them, which is the point.”

The supervision over orientation is also experiencing changes. In the past, ASFA just had volunteer “Frosh leaders” who would be put in charge of groups of “Froshees.” This year, they will also have 30 coordinators to oversee the leaders, according to Gillis, who chairs ASFA’s Sensitivity Training Committee and is part of the Orientation Committee.

Leaders can drink, but coordinators cannot, and their job is to ensure that leaders behave appropriately, Gillis says. Also, all supervisors are now restricted from having sexual relations with “Launch Week” attendees and would see dismissals for violation of this rule, she adds.

The Centre for Gender Advocacy will provide two days’ worth of sexual consent training to coordinators, which coordinators will then in turn help provide for the leaders, according to Gillis.

The Centre will also provide a two-to three-hour consent workshop for “Launch Week” attendees on the first day. This will address last year’s issue of consent becoming an afterthought to the proceedings, according to Barnes.

“It was a ten-minute thing where people were already drinking,” she said. “Before anything starts, they’ll have a sit-down meeting.”

Coordinators will be paid \$50 per day for four or five days of work, according to David Ness, ASFA’s VP Finance. Leaders are not paid, but they have reduced admission prices for events, says Cocullo.

Upon request, Ness told *The Link* he is unsure whether the “Launch Week” budget can be released publicly yet, but that it probably will be before winter. A portion of the budget has been allocated to ASFA’s member associations so that they can hold their own orientation events, according to Barnes.

“[We want] more MA autonomy so they can stand out, and people can learn who they are,” she said.

Multiple sources confirmed with *The Link* that Ness has been asked by council to step down for breaching procedure with confidential documents. Ness says this is not the case, and that if council asked him to resign, he would, but they haven’t.

“If I resign, all of ASFA’s accounts would be frozen because you need two signing authorities,” he said.

Beyond orientation, parties within ASFA are planning a potential restructuring of the association’s role for its approximately 15,000 undergraduate constituents. For this, it was brought up at a June 18 council session to hire a coordinator, according to minutes taken from that meeting.

On ASFA’s Facebook page, a post advertised the position as aiding the Strategic Planning Committee in a “culture change over the summer.” Requirements included being an undergraduate student and working in student government for at least a year.

Former Concordia Student Union President and current CSU councillor, Benjamin Prunty, has been hired to this position. The same post advertised its pay as \$15 per hour for an average of 10 hours weekly, which maxes out at \$900. Ness could not confirm Prunty’s contract.

Prunty told *The Link* that his intention in applying to be coordinator was to help facilitate a visioning process for ASFA. To discover this vision, he recommended the Strategic Planning Committee hire another consultant, Ayla Khosroshahi, he has previously worked with.

Cocullo is also on that committee, and she says Khosroshahi will act as a “facilitator” in the process of defining a new vision for ASFA. Council still needs to approve these plans, and a potential meeting with executives from all the member associations is in the works for September, she adds.

“I hope to see ASFA give more agency to MAs and take on a more coordinating role to help with finances and events,” she said about her personal vision for the association moving forward.

In the council session where Jerajian was dismissed from his role at ASFA, a motion also passed to have mandatory sensitivity training implemented for all forms of ASFA leadership. As chair of the Sensitivity Training Committee, Gillis says that working on this initiative is postponed until after orientation. “[It] is a whole other animal and logistical nightmare,” she said.



PHOTO LAURA LALONDE

File photo from June 2015 CSU council meeting.

Reggie's to Open in Late October, CUSACORP to Dissolve in Winter

Council Approves Budget to Hire a General Manager and Other Expenses, Bar to Transition into a Not-For-Profit

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

Students should have a newly renovated and redesigned bar and eatery on the downtown campus by late October, according to Concordia Student Union President Terry Wilkings.

Closed since October 2013, Reggie's—located next to the Hive Café on the Mezzanine level of the Hall Building—will open approximately a month after construction is completed by the end of September, Wilkings says.

“It's almost been an entire generation of students who have never been to Reggie's,” he said.

The bar will be operated by a new, not-for-profit entity as the CSU is planning to dissolve its old for-profit entity, CUSACORP, which has been inactive since May 2014.

The long-awaited project of the CSU has experienced slight delays after Katherine Soad Bellini, former VP Clubs and Internal Affairs, told *The Link* in May that it would open in September.

“[The month's time] is going to allow us to open it in a way that we're not scrambling,” Wilkings said.

The Hive Café will reopen around school's start on Sept. 8 because it already has a staff and governance structure in place, Wilkings says. The Hive underwent renovations because it shared bathrooms with Reggie's and needs to be completely separate to fulfill the requirements of alcohol licensing laws.

At the special session held last Wednesday, councillor Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis addressed council with the hope that steps will be taken to make sure Reggie's is a safe and inclusive space for all students.

Wilkings says that a new logo, banning the sale of pitchers of alcohol and sensitivity training for the staff will ensure that Reggie's is a welcoming space for all.

“Excessive drinking will not be promoted at Reggie's, unlike in the past,” he said.

AWAKENING OF CUSACORP AND ITS NEAR DEMISE

To have Reggie's open by October, council also needed to approve a motion to “awaken” the CSU-run, for-profit entity known as CUSACORP. CSU executives Wilkings, VP Finance Anas Bouslikhane and VP Clubs and Internal Affairs Lori-Marie Dimaria will run the entity as its temporary board of directors.

The new direction is temporary because the CSU has a framework in place to dissolve CUSACORP and transfer its assets to a new not-for-profit entity in the winter.

CUSACORP is still affiliated with the incorporated liquor and business boards, the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, and the Registraire des entreprises, which allows for a “degree of acceleration” in opening Reggie's, according to Wilkings.

The CSU will sub-lease Reggie's space from CUSACORP at a “fair market rate.” This will allow the space to receive tax recuperation for the \$1.4-million project cost that only profit-driven entities can earn, according to the proposal approved on Wednesday.

Wilkings says Reggie's failed in the past because it had to make profits and couldn't, and this led to the CSU covering any deficit. As a not-for-profit, he's hopeful that focusing on “financial and social sustainability” will allow any surplus to be put back into the community.

“CSU culture avoids making profit off

student activity,” he said. “We shouldn't be making a profit off of a service students desire.”

A board of nine directors will govern Reggie's. Four of the directors will be undergraduate students and two will be non-undergraduate students from the “local community.”

The remaining directors include a CSU executive, the CSU general manager and an employee from the bar that is not the GM. The Reggie's GM will be expected to attend board meetings, however.

REGGIE'S TO GET A FINANCIAL HEAD START

At a special session on Wednesday, CSU council approved a motion to take \$98,000 from its Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) fund for “start-up and transition costs” of Reggie's.

The SSAELC fund collects fees from students for space-related initiatives run by the CSU.

In its general election last semester, the CSU had a referendum question asking for \$1.2 to 1.8 million out of the SSAELC fund to be used for Reggie's renovations approved by the student body. That was approximately 15 per cent of the fund.

Council chose construction firm Doverco at a cost of \$1.4 million during a special closed session in May.

“Doverco has been extremely professional,” Wilkings said, adding that they have weekly meetings to check progress.

In a proposal presented to council, the recently approved \$98,000 is divided into four parts: approximately \$40,000 for general equipment, \$10,000 to hire a project

manager and for promotions, \$10,000 for legal fees and another \$40,000 for Reggie's operational startup, which will cover a predicted first year lost of \$4,000, \$30,000 worth of initial inventory and \$6,000 for an emergency contingency fund.

Interviews to hire a project manager, who will then transition into the bar's general manager, will begin this week, according to Wilkings. The GM will receive a salary totaling \$7,400, which is necessary so that they can begin working, creating a menu and hiring staff, Wilkings adds.

The GM must have a minimum of two years experience in the bar or entertainment industry, according to the job description written by the CSU.

Outside of the GM's approved initial salary, Reggie's staff will not be financed by the CSU. Part of the reasoning behind providing \$40,000 for startup costs is to allow their first months' worth of revenue to go directly to salaries, Wilkings says.

The batch of food and alcohol purchases will “basically be free” so the bar can focus on maximizing profits and develop a base of clients, Wilkings adds.

The staff will be comprised of the GM, bar manager, kitchen manager, bookkeeper, cooks, servers, bartenders and bussers.

Wilkings says CSU executives are aware that the new Burritoville solidarity co-op—which the CSU financed \$100,000 for last semester—is opening soon, and they're wary of creating a competitive environment.

“There will be a high degree of communication between the establishments to work in a collaborative way” he said, listing the Hive Café as another potential conflict.

A Rescue in the Fog

Entanglement Rates for Whales Are Much Higher than Commonly Believed

BY JUSTIN TAUS @JUSTINTAUS

A dense early-morning fog set into St. Andrews' harbour for a second consecutive day, making it difficult to see the end of the wharf from the shoreline. For the boat named Quoddy Link Marina, this meant deciding if the day's whale watching tours would be postponed until afternoon or completely cancelled. For a juvenile minke whale located kilometres away off the coast of Blacks Harbour, the outcome of this decision would be a matter of life and death.

At noon the fog started to lift and, to the satisfaction of its couple-dozen passengers and crew, the catamaran left port at 1:30 p.m. and headed for the almighty Fundy Isles. The fog, now composed mostly of scattered, thick patches, provided hauntingly beautiful visuals of ghostly lighthouses and cliff edges, but made the task of spotting wildlife difficult. After a few hours on the water, no whales had yet been seen.

Then, just as the boat was scheduled to return to port, a minke whale was spotted just off of Bliss Island.

As the vessel slowly approached, however, it became clear that the whale's behavior was unusual. While minke whales normally surface from a series of shallow dives before finally diving deep for three to five minutes,



An entangled juvenile minke whale surfaces off the coast of Blacks Harbour, NB, Canada.
PHOTO JUSTIN TAUS



Members of the Campobello Island Rescue Team attempt to untangle the whale.
PHOTO JUSTIN TAUS

this one appeared to be resting just below the water's surface. It seemed to be struggling to hold its rostrum and blowholes out of the water, without moving any considerable distance. This was the first time that the team of naturalists on board, including Danielle Dion, who has been collecting research on whales since 2002, had seen a whale behave this way.

Alarmed, the crew decided to investigate.

Upon reaching the whale's side, the source of its problems became clear. The juvenile whale, estimated to be no more than a year and a half old at most, was anchored to the ocean floor by a rope looped tight around its lower jaw. With every breath, it struggled to lift whatever was at the opposite end of the rope just high enough to be able to reach the water's surface before briefly diving, probably to alleviate the tension.

The crew alerted the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS), a charitable organization dedicated to marine mammal conservation that coordinates rescue missions in Atlantic Canada, who then dispatched the Campobello Whale Rescue team from the nearby Campobello Island.

With that, all of the eyes on the boat, many

of them teary, turned towards the whale as the vessel slowly drifted away to give it space. Everyone on board was now a spotter, as it was important not to lose sight of the whale in the heavy fog as we stood by, awaiting the rescue boat. Tension rose as the whale began to dive for longer periods, and people feared it would drown. The only comfort came from knowing the tide was at its highest and that the whale was able to reach the surface.

Every year, an average of 12 entanglements are signaled to MARS, says Andrew Reid, response coordinator and treasurer for the organization. Ten have been reported so far in 2015, but most of them were in July, making it a busy month.

In the St. Lawrence gulf and river, a further three entanglements have been reported this year, two of them deadly. Both a minke and a fin whale were found lifeless in Quebec's Gaspésie, region according to Josiane Cabana of Marine Mammal Emergencies. One was entangled in a lobster trap while the other's carcass showed entanglement scars. In total the organization has confirmed 29 entanglements in the St. Lawrence between 2010 and 2014.

In the United States, the Center for Coastal

Studies (CCS) has had 19 reported entanglements this year in the geographical region stretching from the Bay of Fundy down to Florida, according to Doug Sandilands, a member of the centre's Marine Animal Entanglement Response team. Some of these reports may overlap with those of MARS, however, as rescue organizations share their information through the Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network. Nine of the 19 entangled whales reported to the CCS have been successfully freed.

Nevertheless, Sandilands explains that the rates of reported entanglements nowhere near reflect the actual rates of occurrence. Research conducted by the CCS has found that 70 per cent of the humpback whales in the Gulf of Maine population have scars from at least one entanglement and that 10 to 15 per cent of the population acquires new scars in any given year, he says. When the number of reported entanglements is compared to the number of whales found to be scarred each year, it demonstrates that fewer than 10 per cent of entanglements are found and reported, he adds.

"Thus, given the 19 reported entanglements this year, we might expect that there were 190 total entanglements so far," says Sandilands. "With a reporting rate somewhere under 10 per cent and disentanglement rate of around 50 per cent, it makes it clear that disentanglement is, alone, not a solution to the problem."

While both Sandilands and Dion believe that the public awareness campaigns, the creation of hotlines for mariners to report entangled whale sightings and the existence of response units have been vital, they stress that it's most important to continue research into developing fishing methods that do not entangle non-target species in the first place. On a related note, many fishermen have been reluctant to report entanglements altogether because of fears that they will lead to increased regulations

of their fisheries, says Sandilands.

Eventually, the hum of another engine could be heard off the whale-watching vessel's starboard side. Within minutes, the Campobello Whale Rescue Team's large Zodiac boat ripped through the fog. Standing on its bow was Mackie Greene, a certified level-five first responder who trained with the CCS in Provincetown, MA. Over the years, he and his team have risked their lives again and again to rescue dozens of whales from entanglements.

The rescue team quickly navigated past the catamaran as shouts of encouragement rang out from some of the whale watchers. Within minutes, they were on top of the whale. Struggling to keep his balance while holding a long pole with a sharp blade at its extremity, Greene carefully waited for the perfect moment to attempt to sever the rope. At lightning speed he lowered the pole into the water, and seconds later he could be seen fighting against the powerful shaking of the whale's head as it pushed to break free. Water splashed chaotically and the Zodiac was completely turned around by the whale's sheer force.

And then, after a few very long seconds, complete calm had returned.

A voice came on over the loudspeaker, breaking the silence. "That whale is gone!"

A trail of fluke prints, made by the whale displacing water with its tail, could be seen for hundreds of yards into the distance. The passengers erupted into applause. Tears flowed once again as passengers and crew digested what had just happened and the success of the operation, which took less than two hours from start to finish.

"I can't believe how lucky we were to find the whale in the fog, to be able to stay with him until help arrived, and that the whale was freed so quickly," says Dion. "It was so hard to watch him struggle to surface and take a breath but I am very, very happy we found him and played a small role in saving him."

University Taking TRAC For a Ride

Pay Scale Negotiations Between Union and Concordia Put on Hold

BY PAUL MOLPECERES @PAULMOLPECERES

Talks between Concordia and its Teaching and Research Assistants (TRAC) have been adjourned until September after the university initially proposed a new pay scale with cuts of up to 43 per cent to the union in May.

Pay grades were the only items left over from last year's amendment to the collective agreement, as both parties agreed to resume negotiations in November 2014. The negotiations were delayed due to internal conflict within the union.

A collective agreement is an agreement between an employer and a union usually reached through collective bargaining and establishing wage rates, hours of labour and working conditions.

During negotiations this June, Concordia's offer was not what TRAC's bargaining committee was looking for.

On TRAC's Facebook page, a post from June 15 read that the first proposal of a cut up to 43 per cent on the pay grades was "unacceptable."

Then, in July, Concordia contacted TRAC to tell them to forget about that offer.

"McGill lowballs its unions as well."

—JONATHAN MOONEY, FORMER MCGILL TA

"We are going to have a cooperative environment between the employee and the employer at Concordia University," TRAC president Nader Jafari Nodoushan wrote in a post on July 14. "However, we care about the value of our members' job as TA or RA, and we are strongly standing against any loss of salary."

Both these posts have since been removed from TRAC's Facebook page, but still appear on TRAC's website.

According to Robert Sonin, a former TRAC President, bargaining committee member and signatory for the current collective agreement, TRAC is partly to blame for where negotiations are at now.

TRAC conducted a poll among its members during negotiations last summer and saw that they in fact wanted a simplified pay scale, i.e. one fixed rate for each TA level of education—undergrad, masters and PhD.

What was to be negotiated in November was the amount that each rate would be. The TRAC bargaining committee agreed to enter those negotiations with a game plan to walk out with the best numbers possible.

Then, in November, a scandal emerged.

Executives of TRAC were removed from their posts after an independent report called them "fully dysfunctional." The report, which was voted down multiple times, was ordered by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the union's parent organization, and eventually thrown out.

Negotiations had to be postponed until the spring, when Nodoushan was reelected as president.

Sonin has not rejoined TRAC after serving at the union since 2010, describing it as an organization that has an extremely hard time relaying important information to its members.

"I don't think they have the experience or the knowledge necessary to do their job," said Sonin.

These types of negotiations often become contentious, according to Jonathan Mooney, a former teaching assistant and bargaining committee member with the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM).

Mooney took part in the 2011 pay grade negotiations between AGSEM and McGill. "Going in, from everything that we'd been told, we knew it wasn't going to be a walk in the park," said Mooney. "McGill was known, and I think wanted to be known, for being a tough negotiator."

"The largest union at McGill, MUNACA [McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association], was on strike at the time. That bitterly divided the campus population," he continued.

"Negotiations were therefore very contentious. Relations between McGill and the unions were not great."

AGSEM wanted wage increases of about 3 per cent per year, which was about on par with inflation, but McGill's proposal was a 1.2 per cent increase per year, according to Mooney.

"McGill lowballs its unions as well," Mooney said.

They drew inspiration from TRAC. "At the time of our negotiations, we were in communication with TRAC, and I remember that other people on the AGSEM bargaining committee were really impressed with the approach that TRAC was taking in their own negotiations, the kinds of things they were demanding and how they communicated with their members," Mooney recalled.

"We definitely respected and admired the approach they were taking to their negotiations."

Currently, salary for TAs depends on both their education level and the kind of work they're doing.

In the Faculty of Arts and Science, Grade 1 TAs make \$24.68 per hour. According to the current collective agreement, Grade 1 TAs are tutorial leaders or lab demonstrators.

Only PhD and masters students can be Grade 1 TAs.

Grade 2 TAs, defined in the collective agreement as "responsible for a subset of the duties described above for Grade 1 Teaching assistantship," make \$20.01, \$17.79 and \$14.47 an hour for PhD, masters and undergraduate students respectively.

The Grade 2 TA definition is not clearly understood. It's understood that markers belong to that category. However, Grade 2 TAs do more than just marking.

According to the McGill teaching assistant collective agreement, TAs are paid \$26.83 per hour, regardless of department or whether they are a PhD candidate or in a masters program. Vacation pay (4 per cent) and statutory holiday compensation is included in that rate.

At McGill, only graduate students can be teaching assistants. "Depending on department, markers at McGill are paid between \$10 and \$12 an hour," says Mooney.

However, TAs sometimes mark exams. In that case, they still get paid the \$26.83 per hour.

It's difficult to do an exact comparison between Concordia and McGill's pay rates; they have different systems for paying their TAs and markers. According to Mooney, however, TAs at University of Toronto make more.

In fact, TA wages at U of T are \$42.47/hour for this year, according to a union representative, after months of striking. Graduate students have a minimum funding guarantee of about \$15,000 per year, but their union, CUPE 3902, says they often won't receive more than the minimum. Graduates are expected to work 200 hours at the \$42.47 wage and receive the rest of their funding from fellowships and RA work—which falls outside of U of T's union for teaching assistants—on top of their academic research work.

Over the strikes this past winter, TAs won a new bursary graduate students can apply for, to supplement their funding to total \$17,500.

Concordia never comments on ongoing negotiations, according to university spokesperson Chris Mota. She did, however, reveal that the next meeting between TRAC and Concordia would be in September.

TRAC refused to comment on the matter.

WAGES 2014-2015

CONCORDIA

Grade 1 TAs

Masters & PhD Students

Lab & Tutorial Leaders

\$24.68/hour

Grade 2 TAs

A subset of Grade 1 TAs

Unclear

\$20.01/hour
\$17.79/hour
\$14.47/hour

*this doesn't apply to engineering students

MCGILL

TAs

\$26.83/hour

Only graduate students

U OF T (2015)

TAs

\$42.27/hour

Available to all students

Graduates have a minimum funding guaranteed of \$15,000, and can apply for a \$2,500 bursary



Multinational Aramark Replaces Chartwells After Its 13-Year Reign

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

Concordia University will have a new, yet familiar food service model in its cafeterias and around campus now that Aramark, a multinational corporation, has signed an exclusive five-year contract following Chartwells's 13-year reign.

Looking for change in a "tired" environment, the Philadelphia-based corporation beat out its competitors during the Request For Proposal process in March and May due to its environmentally sustainable practices, according to Sabrina Lavoie, an executive within the Office of the Vice President at Concordia.

"This is the one that really cut it for us," she said about Aramark's proposal meeting the school's criteria for sustainability.

Lavoie said their colleagues from McGill University, where Aramark is already the food provider, spoke of "remarkable improvements in sustainability" because of the company's presence.

The student-run Concordia Food Coalition—a fee-levy group that attempted to coordinate a localized bid for the contract—says it is worried about Aramark "greenwashing" its mandate to appease critics.

"I just don't see it as any different than Chartwells," said CFC coordinator Lauren Aghabozorgi.

One of the RFP's clauses asks for percentages of food to be procured locally and seasonally. Aghabozorgi and Paige Hilderman, another CFC member and one of The Hive Café Co-op coordinators, say they question what constitutes locality for the school's administration.

The maximum distance for local procurement is 500 kilometres, according to the RFP, and Lavoie says most food will be sourced within a 150-kilometre radius.

The RFP process came under scrutiny as the CFC-coordinated consortium bid, led by the organization COOPSCO, pulled out last minute, previously telling *The Link* they weren't prepared enough for a formal proposal.

Hilderman says the "quick and crazy" process was designed to not give smaller bidders a chance. She says reading through the entire document was difficult without an extensive legal team.

Concordia's administration specifically opened the process to include consortiums—like the one involving COOPSCO—which Lavoie says is not standard practice. She adds that Concordia has been "super transparent" in the process, saying there was enough time and the option of an extension for all bidders.

The school has specific needs to serve its community, says Lavoie, and she suggests that COOPSCO or any other smaller consor-

tium partner with a "bigger guy" as a supplier.

"Volume alone is the challenge," University spokesperson Chris Mota told *The Link*. Concordia admits about 46,000 students a year and employs close to 7,000 people.

Aghabozorgi says the admin delayed the proceedings until the last minute and that information from the RFP should be more accessible to students. The school only wanted to provide a month's time for bidders to hire a legal team, Hilderman argues.

According to a FAQ document on Concordia's website, the original timeline had the RFP's development and completion set by spring 2014, with the evaluation process of proposals occurring from summer 2014 to winter 2015.

"I just don't see it as any different than Chartwells."

—LAUREN AGHABOZORGI,
CFC COORDINATOR

As it did for Chartwells, Sysco will continue to act as a food supplier for Aramark, specifically with regard to proteins and non-produce/dairy products, according to Lavoie. In a story last year, former Concordia Food Services General Manager Newton Jegu Jr. attributed the lack of alternative foods for people with specific diets, such as gluten intolerance, to complications from the third party.

"It's not affordable for them, so they don't want to carry those products anymore," Jegu previously told *The Link* about being at the "mercy" of Sysco's business model.

In response to this issue Lavoie says monthly meetings with residents have and will continue to provide the necessary feedback to make sure meals are satisfactory, but adds that student residences may not be for everyone.

"Maybe it's better that somebody that is so allergic or so sick shouldn't be in residence to start off with," she said.

It appears Jegu, who offered *The Link* a full-access tour of the Grey Nuns facilities in response to complaints from a first-year student with gluten intolerance, will not be returning after suggestions that he was the one person they were in negotiations to keep. Lavoie could not confirm this but says now the search for a new food service director will be concluded and announced by the end of summer.

All other management staff will also be new,

but the majority of the service staff is staying next year, Lavoie adds. In addition, they hired Daniel Poulin, a chef who has worked for Aramark for over 10 years, including at McGill, to create a new menu.

The 2015-2016 rate for the meal plan is \$3,990 for two semesters, according to Lavoie. First-year students in residences must purchase the plan, which allows "unlimited" food during cafeteria open hours. She says Concordia's pricing is very low for similar plans at other universities and uses McGill's rate of \$4,400 as an example.

ARAMARK'S COMPLICATED PAST

The company, founded in 1959, rejoined the New York Stock Exchange for the third time under the symbol ARMK in 2013. On its website, it identifies as a "customer service business in food, facilities and uniforms."

It was announced as one of Canada's Greenest Employers in 2015 in a special feature by the *Globe and Mail* on Earth Day earlier this year.

Ethisphere Institute, a quarterly publication and evaluator of corporations, also named the company as one of 2015's most ethical companies.

Its website advertises that it serves "thousands of clients" with a staff of approximately 270,000 employees in 21 countries.

However, Chris Hedges, a Pulitzer Prize Winning journalist, wrote a column two years ago denouncing the company for lobbying politicians and aiming to profit off the American prison system. A corrections officer from the Burlington County Jail in New Jersey told him, albeit anonymously, that the prison food Aramark supplied was "not only substandard but often spoiled."

Within a week's span last summer, two Michigan prisons reported finding maggots near servicing areas, and one prison treated 30 inmates for food poisoning.

Two Ohio prisons dealt with the same maggot food contamination problem only days later. Students of Wayne State University, a school in Detroit, Michigan, responded to the scandals by petitioning on Facebook to remove Aramark as its food provider.

Despite these recent public setbacks, Aramark remains a profitable organization. The CEO and President since 2012, Eric Foss, received \$6.8 million in salary and a bonus, plus \$24.4 million as stock compensation in the 2014 fiscal year. Four other Aramark executives made an average of \$1 million each in total compensation.

TIME TO REGROUP AND PLAN

Despite the formalized new food provider, the competition for spaces between students, third parties and Aramark is still yet to be

finalized. "Every square footage downtown is wanted," Lavoie said.

The RFP outlined nine spaces downtown and at Loyola that were available, which Aramark now has. Aghabozorgi says availability of space for students is important. A space across from the bookstore in the LB building, as well as the Jugo Juice and Van Houtte spaces in the EV building, are either up for bidding or going through renovations by a new contractor, according to Aghabozorgi.

Lavoie quelled any rumour of the People's Potato cafeteria—which offers free vegan lunches daily—on the seventh floor of Hall building downtown being taken, saying it is "meant to stay." The former downtown residential cafeteria, also on the seventh floor of the Hall building, is also a space many parties want, including the CFC.

Aramark's contract lasts only five years, which is the perfect amount of time to come up with a second CFC-coordinated bid, according to Aghabozorgi and Hilderman. Although there will be a turnover of students, Aghabozorgi says they have more experience now to impart onto the next group.

One of those students, Bibi de Medeiros, just completed her first year at Concordia. The CFC name-dropped her "food revolution" project, La Tuque, as one of the main projects they will support going forward.

La Tuque, which features a red cap as homage to the French revolution, is what de Medeiros says is an initial branding to collect ideas and contributors to rethink food procurement at Concordia.

"Moving from a centralized to a more localized, self-sustainable food economy is a type of food revolution," said de Medeiros about the project's mandate.

She is currently applying for a special funding grant from the Concordia Student Union, after recommendations from meetings with multiple executives. The money will be used for "awareness marketing" to increase student input, de Medeiros adds.

"No one has the perfect idea out there," she said about the project's early stages. "The more people that want to get involved, the better."

Aghabozorgi wants to change the corporate-favoured model of the bidding process for next time, possibly through a mandate voted on by the student body. After speaking to a knowledgeable student insider within the community, she says that a referendum question during a CSU general or by-election could enact greater change.

"I'm interested in learning what we can mandate the administration to do," she said.

A change in the RFP process may allow a student-led, localized consortium to become Concordia's food procurer in the near future. "Why not?" Lavoie said.

MODEL, PRESENCE, PHENOMENON

Montreal Character Series:
Colbert Lapomme Casimir



PHOTO ZACH GOLDBERG

BY ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

It was hot when I met Colbert Casimir and their two partners (preferring to be nameless, we'll call them E and J) at a McDonalds on Ste. Catherine. I had called them (Colbert's preferred pronoun) earlier in the day from the cool confines of *The Link* offices and was intrigued by their sultry voice on the line.

"Can you be a doll and gift some beer? I'm much more interesting."

I showed up at the McDonald's beerless and sweaty, my hair a frizzy mess and my pit stains obvious. Colbert and company, for their part, were all gorgeous, sleek and well-kept, Colbert wearing a flowing red silk robe (their mother's) and ripped black leggings, E in black jeans and a black and gray crop top, and J in a long electric blue, low cut tank and black cutoffs. I was outclassed, out matched and pretty nervous.

Ostensibly, I was there to interview Casimir, originally from Haiti, about their upcoming runway show at Festival Mode et Design, where they would be modeling for Field of Ponies, a new Montreal-based clothing line. However, I knew that they had a lot more to offer than that.

Besides being totally stunning, Casimir is a fiendishly alluring personality—totally hilarious, outspoken and endearing. We ended up talking, myself, Casimir, E and J, for over four hours. I stumbled home from the interview more than a little drunk, and completely shook by the energy of the threesome.

What follows is a transcript of our conversation, edited for length, but largely intact. It's a fabulous precedent for the Montreal Character

Series, in which I attempt to sketch a portrait of Montreal through the personalities of some of its residents.

To me, Casimir, in their difference, their eccentricities, their devastating allure and frank demeanor (they are exactly who they are, with absolutely no fucking around about it), is a perfect illustration of all the things I find so beautiful and enchanting about this city.

Name: Colbert

Age: 19

7 Years in Montreal

When did you get into fashion?

Where I actually knew what I was doing? Last year. Everyone thinks they have a sense of fashion, are really cocky about it, but I didn't know what I was doing, wasn't actually learning looks and what works, until last year. It's not about keeping in touch with what's popular, it's my fashion. No one's wearing what I'm wearing.

What do you think of Montreal fashion?

It's a good town for it. I've lived in multiple cities...Miami fashion isn't on the forefront, people don't think about the impact of what they're wearing. Everyone's just following... there's no advancement.

New York is so crazy and sporadic that it kind of matters and kind of doesn't. It's not consistent. You can wear trends from three years ago and it's just...whatever.

I just started shopping at Stop Shop Boutique, and they're so original. They're making their pieces and if you like it, you like it, and that's what it is. Everyone's just looking to find their niche.

What's been your experience in music here? Who do you want to see blow up?

Jeï Bandit. The Montreal scene has been very welcoming, I always feel at home at every show. Everyone's always trying to be engaging. I don't feel as one or as engaged in other cities. I don't feel like it's as cohesive as here.

What brought you to Montreal and what's kept you here?

Citizenship. [Laughs]. We were living illegally in the U.S. for years, and we were hearing stories about how much easier it is to get residency in Canada, and it was true.

We literally walked up to the border and became residents. Now I have to apply to be a citizen but that's work...I'm really happy with where I am now.

What's your experience being a person of color in Montreal?

Better than America. There're still the basics of everywhere: How I'm stared at, how the police perceive me. But it's not as bad as Miami. It's fucking intense in Miami.

I grew up in North Beach, which is an intense ghetto, and it's a lot more chill and relaxed here in comparison. There are a lot more white people here. I didn't go to school with my first white person until 9th or 10th grade.

And then I came here, into St. Michel, where there's a strong Haitian population, so I didn't even get the full white thing at first.

Let me ask you a series of favourites: Favourite place to dance.

Drones [Club]. I don't go there for shows, I'll usually pre-drink forever and show up at 3 a.m. Before it was [Cabaret] Playhouse, but now it's

dead. It's gone. It's a restaurant now. They moved the strip karaoke to Café Cléopatra.

Favourite Places to Eat

La Belle Province. You should eat there at 3 a.m. when you're piss drunk. You can get steamed hot dogs for like \$1.30.

Favourite Place to Throw Up

Blue Dog. I have a photo of me posing with my thrown up two-dollar chow mein there.

Here are some words. Give me your immediate thoughts:

Facebook

Dead.

Twitter

Dead.

SPVM/STM

Fuck 'em.

Drake

Shouted out a sex trafficker in his music.

Canada

You like it here, but it's because it's the best option you have. The rest of the world sees Canada as this super happy superpower, like it's Geneva. It's not. Under Harper, we've actually been worse than America.

Crossdressing

Depends what you mean. Crossdressing as the fetish is whatever, but me, I mean, I'm wearing tights and my mom's lingerie. It's just what I feel. Clothing is what I feel. I don't even know how to explain my gender expression.

Fashion's Future

I don't think it's progressing. Trends are being recycled. Every season usually has a new thing, but since leather came back there hasn't really been a new thing. It was the last big thing, in like '08. You don't think about it, but it totally wasn't a staple a couple years back, it was just fetishists and punks and now it's everywhere.

Montreal Hip-Hop

There are artists like Jeï Bandit and D'Trick [Von Furst] who I love, but besides him and a couple others, there's just the pew-pew scene and a bunch of stagnancy. Jeï and them are progressing and yet they're not blowing up, and then there are people who shouldn't be progressing, and yet they're on the same level.

The scene is so imbalanced. As a DJ, I'm getting booked for shows I shouldn't be. I'm capable of booking shows that I shouldn't be able to. For my birthday show, I had WIFEY and [Klyde] Drexler and Jeï at Fattal with over 200 people. I had every DJ I wanted and I didn't pay them shit, and that's not right. I mean, I meant to pay them, but there was property damage. But you know what I mean.

Hair

People are so free with their hair here. There's more freedom of expression with hairstyles here.

Beards

I hate beards. It's so Montreal, long-hair hipsters with beards. But I hate them. Even your length of beard isn't cool. I didn't realize how much I hated beards until I started kissing dudes.

Asses

Not impressed by Montreal's buns.

GENERATION Z BREAKS THROUGH THE CLUTTER WITH GLITCHED FASHION

BY ROXANNE BARIL-BÉDARD

Friday night, the cream of the Montreal emergent fashion crop paraded their new looks in the runway show *Génération Z, un événement mode 360*, presented by the internationally renowned fashion design school LaSalle College.

The crowds gathered around the Casino de Montréal runway, the corporate sponsor trying to lure a hip, young crowd into spending their dough at the gambling establishment with a carefully-crafted advertisement. This catwalk was the crown jewel of Montreal's very own fashion week, Festival Mode et Design, rolling out all week from Aug. 17 to 22 at Place des Festivals.

Several themes and ambiances struck through the runway show. Apocalyptic or futuristic, minimal or architectural, opaque or translucent, prude or revealing, the show illustrated ideas about silhouette and style, winking at contemporary expectations yet imposing itself as a manifesto for de-constructivism and playfulness. The layering game was on fleek, here and there in monochrome for a very industrial feel, elsewhere in bubbly pastel pink fit for dreams of a better world, or of a self-aware insouciance.

On the whole, the event, as one can expect of an announced avant-garde show, broke the moulds and gendered stereotypes of normalized, mainstream fashion. It featured leggings, skirts and crop tops for boys, sometimes paired with a leathery face mask that underlined the visible skin the stylist chose to bare.

On the opposite end of the slim-fit spectrum, and in a very androgynous move forward, oversized silhouettes were all the rage: loose tees going all the way down to mid-thighs; cargo shorts and pants reminiscent of the '90s rave scene; capes and ample boxy coats. Contemporary designers dared to use more fabric, sometimes for a very *ingénue* look, other times allowing the flowing drapery of the fabric to float in an almost regal way behind the models who, on a side note, were refreshingly out-of-the-corporate-box and predominately multicultural.

The show was punctuated by performances by contemporary dance crews shuffling and vogueing to trap remixes. Acts featured DJ band Qualité Motel, repurposing electronic music and Québécois hits alike, all clad in daring colourblock ensembles. From drone to rap, the beats were bumping while the

models walked down the platform. The visuals behind them, oftentimes glitched, referenced the virtual communities we all live within, presented in quick flashes, alluding to the sheer volume of information one processes day after day. The complex and layered silhouettes confronted us with the consequences of superstimulation, while demonstrating the continuum of identity construction, in a place where the creation of the self happens in contrast to the expectations and legacies of clothing.

The atmosphere flowed with festivity, but still had a revolutionary, if not angry, undertone. Clothes as armour, flowing capes and coats of the urban nomad, masks and scarves, ready to fight. You do you, Montréal, make and take your place, millennials, reify the change you want to see in the world.

Well, that's what I took from it. Can one really disentangle body politics and the creative outlet that is fashion? Surely, the social struggles of the youth, the famous Generation Z, that crafted these pieces cannot be left behind, and they have to be accounted for. After all, the future is a vision that is drafted *au quotidien*, like the clothes we wear on our backs.



PHOTO COURTESY SERGEI BERGEN

With a (Somewhat Gentle) Rebel Yell Concordia's Documentary Screening Group Closes Summer with Global Rebellions

BY JULIA MIELE

Everyday Rebellion, a documentary produced by Golden Girls Filmproduktion and Film Services GmbH, will close Cinema Politica's summer screenings at La Place de la Paix on September 1.

The film was written and directed by the Riahi Brothers, Arash and Arman T. Riahi, known for works like *The Souvenirs of Mr. X*, *Exile Family Movie*, and the short film *Elektrotrash*.

This particular film, however, was a collaboration between the two brothers as well as a cross-media documentary that sheds light on how the struggle for rights can be won through nonviolent actions rather than violent ones; tactics that were formulated specifically so as not to provoke police officers into attacking and arresting the protestors immediately, avoiding negative confrontation rather than spreading distress and fear.

Everyday Rebellion covers varied international economic, social and political issues. The film includes interviews with members of different activist groups, including Occupy Wall Street and the Ukrainian radical feminist group FEMEN, and shows scenes of the unity and freedom protests in Iran and the economic strikes in Madrid against eviction.

Each of these protests may be fighting for different ideals, but their numerous nonviolent tactics connect these seemingly disparate movements. The film thus

draws parallels among rebellions around the world through strategies such as training protestors on how to approach police officers nonviolently, what they can do to avoid confrontation and what kind of questions they can pose to the authorities to avoid being arrested or worse.

The film targets youth, identifying ways they can help with their respective rebellions and why they should, as well as giving tips and advice on what kinds of action they can take to avoid violent encounters in protests and strikes.

If you're curious about nonviolent protest or rebellion in general, then I strongly recommend you check this documentary out. Not only is it highly informative, but the cinematography is stunning, switching between interviews to scenes of protests that seem cheerful or take violent turns. Combined with well-chosen music, the film sets a consistent and appropriate atmosphere for the topic at hand; it keeps you intrigued, hooked on learning the fate of these people who are feverishly fighting for what they believe in.

Everyday Rebellion is scheduled for a premiere screening on Tuesday, Sept. 1, outdoors at La Place de la Paix, presented by Concordia's fee-levy documentary screening group, Cinema Politica.

To learn more about the film, its directors, the people that were interviewed, or if you're interested in donating and giving feedback, check out everydayrebellion.net or cinemapolitica.org.



PHOTO COURTESY CINEMA POLITICA



Memorial Cup champion and former QMJHL player Luca Ciampini was formally introduced as a recruit for the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team

THE CIAMPINI IS HERE

Memorial Cup Champion Luca Ciampini Continues Hockey Journey As Concordia Stinger

BY JULIAN MCKENZIE @JULIANTHEINTERN

There's a trophy and memorabilia room in Luca Ciampini's home. Hockey medals, pucks, framed photos and jerseys can be found in almost every corner. There are a few soccer trophies as well—the 21-year-old began playing soccer in his youth around the same time he took up hockey—but those days are behind him now.

"Being a hockey player, that was my dream," Ciampini said, swarmed by hockey jerseys from his playing days in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, in Halifax and Baie-Comeau, on a couch. "It still is. And that's where soccer ended."

He has yet to step foot onto the Ed Meagher Arena ice for a full game, but there is a notable omission from Ciampini's smorgasbord of hockey memories: a Concordia Stingers hockey jersey.

Ciampini is the first announced recruit for interim men's hockey bench boss Marc-André Element, who will lead the program through its first season in over 15 years without departed head coach Kevin Figsby.

Element has seen Ciampini play from his junior days and praised him for his goal-scoring ability as well as his championship pedigree. Ciampini won a Memorial Cup

Championship as a member of the Halifax Mooseheads in 2013, with fellow teammates and future NHL stars Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin.

"You need a guy like that in your program," said Element. "I know a couple of schools who wanted him, but I'm really happy that he decided to come here to Concordia."

With his major junior hockey days behind him, and the door leading to the National Hockey League seemingly closed at the moment, Ciampini figured now would be a good time to make his university education a priority.

"I needed a backup plan," he said. "You need to have a plan B. One injury leads to another, then you can't play hockey anymore."

Ciampini will enter Concordia as an independent student, but he wants to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Studies. He says he's always had an interest in working with children, and he organizes hockey camps for kids in the summer.

"I enjoy working with little kids," he said. "For me, teaching them would be a fun job."

Since his youth, Ciampini has drawn attention from hockey scouts as a goal-scoring talent. While attending classes at nearby Loyola High School, Ciampini played Triple-A hockey for the Chateaugay Patriotes and even represented Quebec at a U-17 Canada Tournament in 2011, where he scored seven goals in six games.

Ciampini would then move to Halifax to play for the Mooseheads of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League after being drafted second overall by the club in the 2010 QMJHL draft.

*

In a corner of Ciampini's trophy room is one relic that would make a Montreal Cana-

diens fan cringe: a Boston Bruins banner with every year they have won the Stanley Cup. Ciampini is unashamed of his Bruins fandom; his favourite player is former Boston Bruin power forward Joe Thornton, despite living in a city that has been known to have bleu-blanc-rouge coursing through its veins.

However, the Bruins didn't come calling to Ciampini during, nor after, the 2012 National Hockey League draft. Ciampini had just gone through his first ever year in junior, where he underwhelmed with only 35 points in 68 games.

"Obviously, not being drafted, I was hard on myself," he said. "I didn't have a good year, so I was ready for next year."

Despite this, it was the Bruins' rival team the Montreal Canadiens that extended him an opportunity to try out for their franchise, giving him a chance to play at the highest level much closer to home. But doubt, in the form of a pending lockout that threatened to wipe away both NHL games and his tryout, crept into Ciampini's mind.

The 2012-2013 strike-shortened season ended in time to play half of the regular 82-game season, but because there was no training camp for rookies, Ciampini didn't get his chance to impress the Canadiens. He hasn't received any tryout offers since.

"It was a great opportunity," he said. "I was ready for it. I was really excited for it and getting some experience with the pros."

Although his NHL dream was thwarted by labour negotiations between owners and players, Ciampini carried on with his QMJHL season, the best of his junior career, scoring 25 goals and 71 points in 65 contests. By season's end, Ciampini and the Mooseheads captured a Memorial Cup after defeating the best junior teams and opposing top prospects in the country.

Over his five-year junior career, Ciampini accumulated 243 points in 303 career QMJHL

games, while facing off against future NHL talents and even future Stingers teammates. He is grateful to his coaches, his educators who taught him in classes between games, and his teammates, recounting numerous stories with them. It's a time that Ciampini looks fondly upon.

"[Concordia hockey] is going to take a turn for the good."

—LUCA CIAMPINI

"[I] definitely miss it, it was the best five years of my life," he said. "I'm thankful for the opportunity I had, I wouldn't change it for anything."

Now, Ciampini is preparing for a new step in his journey: university hockey. Despite the uncertainty that looms for the Stingers men's hockey program, whether it be the status of players past this upcoming season, or even Coach Element's own job prospects, Ciampini is confident that he can find success as a member of the Maroon & Gold.

"I know a bunch of guys on the Concordia team and I feel that there's something there for the next year and on," he said. "I'm really confident with the group of guys,"

"[Concordia hockey] is going to take a turn for the good."

If Ciampini is as confident as he says he is about his team, there's a good chance that he'll have to make space in his trophy room for more memorabilia, including a Stingers jersey that could easily rest alongside his other uniforms.



PHOTO SHAUN MICHAUD

The Stingers men's hockey team will have a new but familiar face behind the bench this year as former Stingers athlete Marc-André Element becomes the new head coach.

In His Element

Newest Head Coach for Stingers Hockey Team Returns to His Roots

BY VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

In the midst of their rebranding, the Concordia Stingers have stressed one very important theme—family. In the last 18 months, the Stingers have made changes to their athletic programs by hiring former Stingers to lead the way—the Donovan brothers for the football team, Ratsko Popovic for men's basketball, and now interim men's hockey head coach Marc-André Element.

After longtime coach Kevin Figsby left the team to pursue a new position with Hockey Canada in late July, the Stingers were left to fill a hole at head coach. But it didn't take long to find a replacement.

"We had to find someone who was willing, who had the capability of coming in and certainly the short notice availability and interest in coming in," said Patrick Boivin, the Athletics director of the Stingers.

Element was a winger for the Stingers for five seasons from 2006 to 2011, where he was once awarded the prestigious Guy Lafleur Award of Merit for proficiency in athletic and academic ability. Soon after retiring as a player, Element took a position as an assistant coach with the Stingers for two years. He also played a key part in recruiting players to the program.

"[Marc had] been assistant coach for us for a number of years," said Boivin. "He obviously knew the team really well, so for us, with all those factors behind it, made it a pretty easy decision."

Boivin added that Element had already been helping former head coach Kevin Figsby with recruiting.

The new bench boss couldn't help but jump at the head coaching opportunity once it became vacant.

"When [Boivin asked] me if I wanted to join Concordia as the interim coach I jumped on it right away," Element said. "This is where I played, this is where I went to university, this is where I graduated from, and I met my wife here. I'm happy to be back home."

Element left other opportunities to go home and join the Stingers as he was offered the head coaching position with the Lachine Maroons—now called the Gatineau Flames—in the Quebec Junior AAA Hockey League.

"I was coaching junior AAA and I had to tell them that I was leaving to come here," Element said.

Despite being given the interim tag, with no guarantees that he'll be returning with the team for next season, Element is committed to his new position with the team, and is already at work bringing in recruits for the program.

"This is where I played, this is where I graduated from and I met my wife here. I'm happy to be home."

—MARC-ANDRÉ ELEMENT

"I'm here to do my job. I'm here to coach and to bring a good team on the ice," Element said.

"It's going to be a hard training camp, a lot of players are going to be here," he added. "It's going to be good challenge for some guys, but it will also bring some competition to the team."

Element also raved about leading scorer and team captain Olivier Hinse, a recent winner of both the Guy Lafleur Award and the Dr. Randy Gregg Award, awarded to the player who best exemplifies excellence in hockey, academics and community service.

"I know Olivier pretty well. He's a good player but he's also a good person and I think when you're a head coach you want to have a captain like that," Element said. "You want

somebody that's going to show up every day."

As the Stingers gear up for training camp and the upcoming season, Element understands the team is transitioning. With the last playoff series victory being in 2001, Element hopes that he can use his previous coaching experience to bring a different approach to the team, and that the team will improve throughout the season and prepare for a playoff run.

"I learned a lot last year coaching junior AAA and I'm going to bring all the knowledge that I got last year here at Concordia," said Element.

"I think this year we'll have a good team, not only on the ice [...] We'll be one family, one team, so it's going to be fun I'm really excited about the challenge."

Hey Officer, I'm Filming Here

Please Don't Ticket Me



BY MATT D'AMOURS @MATTDAMOURS

So it finally happened. After covering dozens of Montreal protests with—relatively—little incident for *The Link* and *99% Media*, I was detained on the evening of July 24 by a police officer and given a ticket under Article 500.1 of Quebec's Highway Safety Code, for a sum of \$504.

This happened at a small downtown demonstration in solidarity with the Unistot'en Camp in British Columbia, with a total of approximately 70 participants. I was there live-streaming the event, as I often do.

I will be contesting this ticket in court for the following three reasons:

1. I am not guilty of the offence described under article 500.1.
2. My press freedom was flagrantly encroached on by a member of the SPVM.
3. They got my name wrong.

WHAT HAPPENED?

As my viewers can attest to, I have a general policy of adhering to police orders when I'm live streaming protests. If an officer tells me to move from a specific spot—say, like moving to the other side of a street—I'll generally comply. The reason for this is simple: if you give the officer a hard time and stand (literally) on principle, you're increasing the risk of being detained sooner rather than later. In the pursuit of news-gathering, this helps no one; you're taken out of play, and your ability to report on events is severely—if not completely—compromised.

On the evening of the 24th, however, there was no direct warning or order. Around 6 p.m., police moved in on marching protesters and began detaining a handful of them on the intersection of Stanley St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. As I was filming the incident, an officer grabbed my wrist, moved me to the front of his police van and told me I was getting the ticket. I offered no resistance, yet he still felt it necessary to keep a grip on my wrist—despite the fact that I was not under arrest and was cooperating fully.

The officer claimed that I had failed to follow police orders given over a loudspeaker to the people marching: please protest on the sidewalk.

In response, I pointed out the obvious:

I was not present for these events as a protester and was not marching for the cause. I was there to capture images for journalistic purposes, and my press credentials were fully visible. The officer was having none of it, and said that police had had their “eyes on me” since the start of the march. Without explaining this peculiar statement further, he asked me twice to turn off and put away my phone, which I use to livestream. I politely said that I would not be doing this.

The officer became slightly agitated, and I could feel his grip on my wrist tighten slightly. He then grabbed my phone and placed it in

my pocket—thus ending my livestream. As I stared at him with a mixture of bewilderment and frustration, he asked for a piece of I.D. and told me to stay put while he wrote up my ticket.

“Too many times, I've seen these reporters denied access, assaulted and mocked.”

Let's get back to why I'll be contesting this ticket:

First, I am not guilty of the offences described in the document. I say “offences”, plural, because the French and English sections actually describe two different infractions. In French, roughly translated, I am accused of “occupying a public road in the course of a concerted action meant to block the circulation of vehicles.” In English, I am guilty of “having occupied a road used as an alternate route for traffic diverted from a public highway [huh?] by placing an *obstacle* [emphasis is mine] so as to obstruct vehicular traffic on the road, without authorization [sic].”

The offences described are clearly different, and I am guilty of neither. I did not occupy a public road as part of a concerted action that meant to block traffic. That's just not what journalists do. Furthermore, I did not place any obstacle meant to obstruct vehicu-

lar traffic on the road. On this point, I asked another officer if my *person* would constitute an obstacle, to which he answered:

“Yeah, that's you. You're the obstacle.”

It's also worth noting that the flow of traffic was obstructed by *police vehicles* stationed on various intersections of de Maisonneuve Blvd., not by protesters—and certainly not by the handful of journalists present. At no point did my physical presence ever impede the movement of a motor vehicle.

But putting aside the language of this ticket, we have a larger issue to contend with here. In detaining me, plucking the phone from my hand

and ending my live stream, the officer directly encroached on my press freedom, as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms article 2 (b), and the right to expression guaranteed by the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms (provision 3). On what grounds was this action taken? I wasn't under arrest, and me holding a phone up at about chest level posed a threat to absolutely no one.

Except...well. You know.

Oh, and he spelled my name wrong on the ticket. The officer had my government-issued I.D. in hand, and still managed to make the ticket out to “Mathieu d amour.”

I'm Mathieu D'Amours. I don't know who that other guy is.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Montreal police chief Marc Parent will be stepping down from his post soon, and Mayor Denis Coderre has chosen Philippe Pichet as his replacement. Pending approval by city council, Pichet will start his new job in September, which may mean a change in police tactics during protests.

This coincides with an impending flurry of student, union and general strike activity this fall. Spring 2015 had some moments of intensity in Montreal, but it never materialized into something on the scale of the Maple Spring in 2012. Activists seem to have taken this to heart, and many organizations have been working on a game plan over the summer. For those of us with our ear to the ground, there have been ever-growing rumblings of some serious protest activity coming up.

These two factors—a new police chief and upcoming social unrest—raise several questions about how this fall will shape up for journalists. Large and intense protests are newsworthy events, but for student and independent journalists, they can be fraught with danger. Too many times, I've seen these reporters denied access, assaulted and mocked. The SPVM treats them like shit, while their mainstream counterparts are mostly left alone—although they sometimes get their share of abuse as well. The SPVM has previously stated that it does not discriminate between different types of media, but it's been almost impossible to see this policy at work on the streets of Montreal.

So one must wonder: will the new police chief try to turn a new page on the way police and media interact? Or will he reinforce the current system, where non-mainstream journalists are routinely kettled along with protesters? It's important to note that Pichet has previously worked with SPVM units dealing with protests and counter-terrorism—résumé entries that reek of “the old ways” of police tactics.

However, a journalist should always keep an open mind, and I'm looking forward to seeing how this all plays out. One thing is certain: student and independent journalists will be out in droves this fall—I certainly will be. We're not going to stay home under the spectre of being targeted by the police. I sincerely hope the SPVM realizes that the best way forward would be to respect everyone's press freedom, so we can all stop sending our contested tickets back to city hall, with increasingly frustrated written reminders of our Charter rights.

GRAPHIC LIZ XU



PREGNANCY: HORROR INCARNATE

Why I'm Not Interested in Hosting a Baby in my Body

BY BLARE COUGHLIN

I peed on a pregnancy test and wiped and stood up and pulled up my pants all while looking at the tiny window that would have either one line or two appear, depending on whether or not there were levels of a pregnancy hormone in my urine.

I went into my room and sat on the bed and looked at the test again as the wick inside it pulled the pee up with capillary action. Slowly one line formed, then nothing.

“My body is a vessel, but it's my vessel.”

I said, “Hail gay Satan,” out loud and then said it again to the computer sitting next to me. End scene.

The thing about having a body that can create new life is that it is kind of a gift in the way that a gift you'd rather return to sender is a gift, like, “Okay, great that I can squeeze out a tiny human being after nine months of

uncomfortable gestation, but please can I give this capability to someone who has their life together more than me? Someone who has that knee-jerk reaction to babies' cries to help the baby? Someone who stares at pictures of babies when they're on their period?”

I feel a total lack of maternal instinct and the idea of gestating something feels like a betrayal to myself, like purposefully introducing a parasite into a part of me that I have been categorized by all my life. My body is a vessel, but it's *my* vessel and sharing it with another entity seems horrifying in a way that is usually

only articulated by movies like *Alien* where the sharing is strongly unwanted and clearly painful. An involuntary, horrifying intrusion.

Plus, I have enough trouble loving myself as it is. Having to love myself as a plural, as myself-and-this-thing, seems an insurmountable obstacle.

Another mystery of the pregnant is the

person carrying the baby's reduction to a living fortress for a collection of cells; reducing the person's personhood and focusing on this other life swimming in amniotic fluid. Why are we so focused on new lives rather than on the lives we already have? Does the new generation have that much promise or are we just relieved someone is going to come behind us and save us from the mess we've made? Will we help pay for our children's college educations only to use it as a bartering tool for when we're old and need to take advantage of the medical technology our children have made?

In queer theory there is a term called *thanatos*, or the death drive, talking about the inherent lack of new life created by homosexual/queer means. New queer lives appear from heterosexual couplings and then they grow old and then they die. The heterosexual goal of reproduction gets interrupted. The babies stop appearing and the elders die off and instead of generations there are cohorts, enormous groups that live, and die, and fail to reproduce.

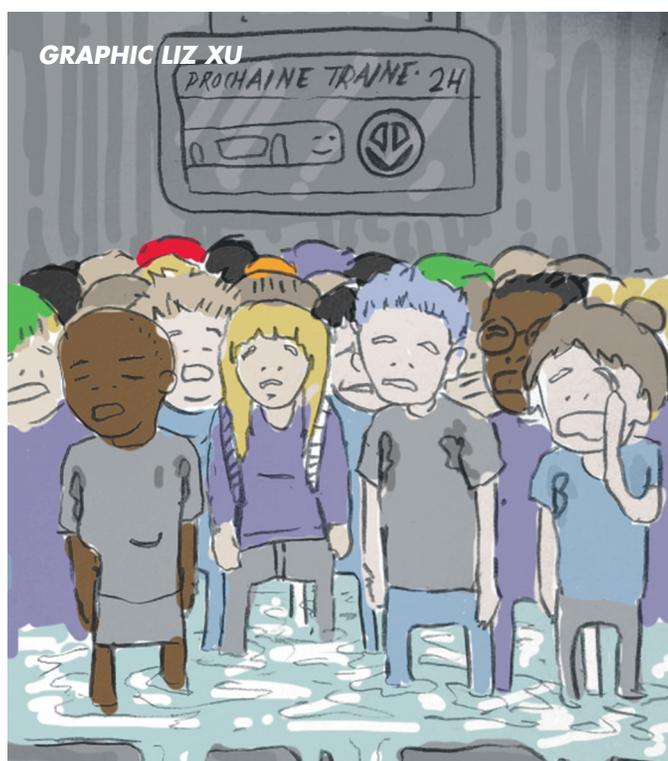
This is immensely comforting to me. I like the idea of a self made legacy, a self made family tree. I think also this *thana-*

tos situation makes those of us who are currently alive a lot more aware of what our actions precede, more aware of consequence, less likely to put our mistakes on the new cohorts' shoulders.

And besides, having a baby is basically like creating a tiny horrible clone of you mixed with someone else, and why would I want another sort-of-me running around this hellscape of late capitalism?

I am terrified of babies because they mean I am getting old, but I am terrified also of babies because they represent that I am not completely in control of my body in a way that is viscerally horrifying. I am not in control of the hundreds of eggs that have been inside me since birth. They were gently placed in my ovaries, rolling out every month, waiting to be fertilized but never quite having it happen successfully.

If I could control my eggs I'd tell them all to go home, to get out. To leave this *thana-* *tos*-aligned body and find someone else who coos at infants and finds their tiny hands cute instead of sausage-y and who will one day have sex with someone they like well enough in missionary position for the purpose of procreation.



Nah'msayin?

An ode to station Guy-Concordia, a.k.a. Metro Hell

BY MICHELLE PUCCI
@MICHELLEPUCCI

It's hard to breathe, standing on your platforms. It smells like someone soaked an old dirty rag in some of the water I can hear ominously dripping down the mysterious pipes hidden in your cavern. And the only respite from the densely packed oxygen-drained-carbon-air is the people walking slowly past me. Still, their stride makes more of a breeze than the metro platform can afford to produce, lacking one of God's greatest and most-underrated gifts: ventilation. Which you have none of.

I won't pretend to know how to design metro sta-

tions. Sometimes instead of being full of completely stagnant air, they're too windy. The strong unsettling gust of hot air coming from the doors I'm trying to exit make me feel like I'm in some hurricane disaster movie, desperately inching forward. And other times I wish someone would just rip off the 30 feet of concrete dividing me from the outdoors as my stomach wrings the last real breath I took before descending seven flights for 10 minutes to get to the platform (Lucien L'Allier, that's you).

I just know I'd never bring my grandmother here. I feel a heat stroke coming on, my heart beats faster—this is a health hazard.

And the metro doesn't come for another 11 minutes.

Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



Caity Comics by Caity Hall

CAITY COMICS



Filbert by L.A. Bonte



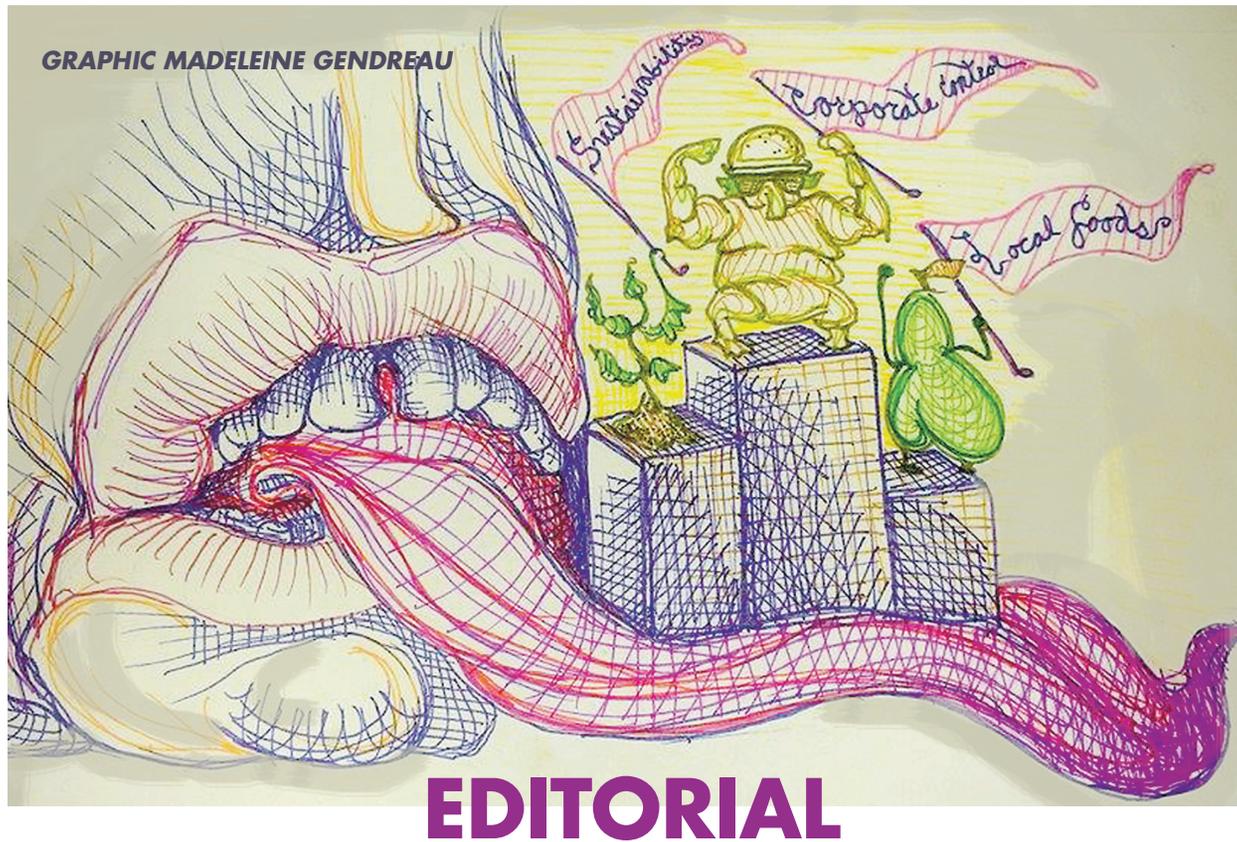
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Concordia's Food Contract Shows Improvements, But Still Isn't What We Need

On-campus food will look a little different for the next five years, but Concordia's new food service contract is still a long way from becoming an example of community and sustainability.

Months have passed since the university announced Aramark as its new food provider. The contract began on June 1, but most of the nine locations are still being renovated.

If there's one thing Montreal is good at, it's food. There's no lack in variety, if you make it past the Second Cups to the family-run bakeries and restaurants across the city.

Which is why it's difficult to understand why Concordia isn't innovating in its food services. Université de Montréal and UQAM operate their own food services and don't force students in residence to buy a meal plan. Even McGill is making concrete efforts to improve food on campus, moving away from ready-made items towards setting quotas for certified produce. And it lost its lonely Tim Horton's last year, replacing it with a Première Moisson bakery.

Time has passed since 2001, when Sodexo-Marriott (now Sodexo) ran Concordia's food services, and the student-run group Residents Against Sodexo demanded changes after 37 students in residence suffered food poisoning from eating chicken fajitas in the Loyola cafeteria.

Students wanted a refund; instead they got some free juice and snacks, and by May 31, 2002, Sodexo was out of the Concordia food-providing business, replaced by another multinational corporation: Chartwells. What followed was 13 years of uninspiring menus that were actually punishment for students with dietary restrictions.

Aramark's proposal is slightly revolutionary in comparison. But that doesn't mean Concordia should stop striving to become the UBC of Eastern Canada when it comes to food.

Aramark has been praised just this year for its green and ethical practices, but the company is still dealing with backlash from food safety issues in Michigan prisons throughout 2014.

The university's requirement for locally sourced produce within a 500 km radius is encouraging, but without any way of verifying whether Concordia has graduated beyond Sysco as a food provider, those promises may prove empty.

A commitment to provide healthy food to students is also a step forward, but it's in no way groundbreaking.

Installing a new Starbucks in the LB Building, for example, is definitely not an accomplishment; the LB Building is all of a one-minute walk away from the nearest Starbucks beside Place Norman-Bethune (the next closest Starbucks is in the Faubourg, a two-minute walk

from there). And we won't even talk about Tim Horton's presence downtown.

Changes in standards could very well solve the issues faced by students with dietary restrictions, but contracting the nutritional needs of 900 students to a multinational based in Philadelphia is still a far cry from promoting local business, especially when many of the alternative dining options are also multinational franchises.

Financially, the meal plan should also fit into a student's budget. With the \$3,800 All-U-Care-to-Eat Meal Plan (a nice twist on the "all-you-can-eat" plans, which give students the wrong idea about food consumption) and the \$190 Dining Dollars Plan, getting fed in rez costs \$3,990.

Self-serve stations on each campus are included with the Aramark meal plan, giving students access to groceries and kitchen space so they can prepare food themselves, which is welcome, along with promises of vegetarian, vegan and foods to accommodate dietary restrictions.

But anyone with severe allergies is still taking a chance eating in rez and, unsurprisingly, there's very little Aramark can do about that.

Their FAQ states "students with severe food allergies or restrictions should note that we cannot guarantee the total prevention of cross-contamination in prepared foods."

The university has admitted that student residence might not be for everyone, because meal plans don't fit everyone's needs. In reality, mandatory meal plans don't fit everyone's needs. Concordia should focus on offering residences that encourage students to be self-sufficient adults (i.e. furnished with kitchens that don't require parental supervision).

With food services set to begin operating soon in all nine locations across both campuses, there's still no public information on what will be offered. The fall menus and hours of operation weren't available online on Aug. 24, although services are supposed to be offered as of Aug. 29.

A new Tim Horton's at Loyola's SP Building will offer what every other Tim Horton's in the city (maybe the world) is offering—although the proposed "Euro-Market" is a little more ambiguous.

The Loyola Campus could use some new food outlets, but instead of financing a new mega coffee franchise, Concordia would do better to support student-run initiatives like the G-Lounge or the Hive Café—the same goes for The Hive in the Hall building and Café X in EV and VA buildings downtown—which provide decent food (though some items are better-priced than others) as well as a space accessible to everyone.

THE LINK

Volume 36, Issue 01
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015
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The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member.

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Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016: Colin Harris, Clément Liu, Jake Russell, Graeme Shorten Adams, Erin Sparks, Verity Stevenson; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Michelle Pucci.

TYPESETTING by The Link. **PRINTING** by Hebdo-Litho.

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Cover: Laura Lalonde

thelinknewspaper.ca/opinions • Aug. 25, 2015

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