

#LINK

UP SHIT CREEK

WITH PADDLES

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WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM CONCORDIA'S NEW SUSTAINABILITY POLICY?

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Notice of election
The Link Publication Society
Board of Directors
Three (3) Board Staff representatives

Eligibility: You are a member of the Link (paying fees) and you have the staff status with 4 (four) or more contributions and not a masthead member of the Link.

Candidates must present a **letter of intent by Tuesday October 13, 2015 at 5 p.m.** to the secretary of the board of directors by email to business@thelinknewspaper.ca

Election will be held Tuesday October 20 at 5 p.m. in the Link's office, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649.

Come to an open discussion to share your thoughts on the new policy that will act as a framework moving forward.

Tuesday, October 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Room GN-E-104, Grey Nuns Building, Sir George Williams Campus

Thursday, October 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Room GE-110.01, Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, Loyola Campus

Go to concordia.ca/sustainability to learn more about the consultations, to read the draft sustainability policy and to register for one of the events.

THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE A COLLABORATION OF:

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  SUSTAINABILITY ACTION FUND
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  Concordia

ASFA: PAST PROBLEMS, FUTURE SOLUTIONS

With Elections Around the Corner, Candidates Promise Change

BY JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISCHYNEWSWATCH

This year hasn't been pretty for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations. The organization representing approximately 15,000 Arts and Science undergraduates at Concordia University has been subject to some harsh criticism over the past few months for various issues, including a high-profile sexual harassment scandal and a failure to meet quorum at its general election in April.

The executive and independent council candidates hoping to lead ASFA for the upcoming academic year have promised a multi-level restructuring of the federation in the next months. Voting for its next election is scheduled for Oct. 20 through 22.

"More than anything else, [we need] accountability at all levels," said Robert Young, an ASFA presidential candidate and current councillor. "Accountability of the executives to council, accountability of council to its membership, accountability of everyone to the general populace of ASFA."

Addressing the Problems

The most glaring issue within the federation was brought to light by last year's Mei-Ling scandal, in which former executives were accused of sexually and racially harassing a female colleague.

Jenna Cocullo, another presidential candidate, explained how restructuring the organization's bylaws can prevent future cases of harassment from happening.

"We are going to try to put in place a code of conduct and procedures for executive or council members who are accused of sexually harassing other members," she said.

Consent and sensitivity training is now mandatory for anyone in a position of authority in ASFA. This same training was also made mandatory for students who participated in the association's annual orientation event, which was rebranded from "Frosh" to "Launch Week."

"I think that the initiatives so far have been fantastic," Young said. "How much it's actually led to tangible results remains to be seen."

The federation's previous general election, which took place in April, failed to meet quorum by 127 voters. The winners were appointed on an interim basis.

Mariah Gillis, a candidate for VP Internal, said last election's low voter turnout was due to apathy.

"I think people were really just so jaded with hearing about everything that was going on [with the Mei-Ling scandal], and didn't really want to participate," she said.

Many of the candidates felt they didn't need to work hard to attain their positions and failed to promote their campaigns properly, she continued.

"This time it's really contested, so most people are really working hard to get their name out there," Gillis said.

All executive positions are currently open, and should be filled in the upcoming election, according to Chief Electoral Officer Julia Vera. Only one position—VP Communications—is uncontested.

Transparency within the federation is also a priority in the wake of allegedly "unprofessional" conduct of former interim VP Finance, David Ness. Ness resigned from his position after council said he failed to properly distribute documents.

Moving forward, the financial committee will be mandated to provide documents to all committee members. The committee is responsible for approving budget proposals from ASFA's member associations (MAs), among other budgetary responsibilities. Failing to do so will render anything the committee does as invalid, according to Cocullo.

"We want to create more accountability for the finance committee," she said. "We want to implement monthly financial reports to council, at every council meeting."

Restructuring the Federation

Cocullo and Gillis will push for complete overhaul of ASFA in the coming months, according to Cocullo, and both are running on the "Support Change" slate in the upcoming elections.

"Should we both get elected, we would work together to restructure ASFA internally," she said. "We want to change around the positions, that way they'd focus more on supporting MAs, rather than focusing on just ASFA as an organization."

Cocullo plans to work with each executive member individually to push forward multiple projects. These include working with the VP Finance to put together funding for long-term projects and working with the VP Sustainability to re-write their sustainability policy to include "social justice issues, and develop an ethical purchasing policy."

Cocullo would also push for an abolishment of the president position in ASFA.



Jenna Cocullo is one of three ASFA presidential hopefuls. PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

"I would probably work towards making everyone have coordinated roles, that way it kind of eliminates the centered hierarchy in the association," she said.

Young also is in favour of reducing the power of the president, in particular the current Presidential Decree. In bylaw 164, it states that with two-third majority vote of the executive team and an inability to hold a special council meeting, the president can be granted the decision-making power of council for "unforeseen events."

Young said that it is "not a terrible idea in principle," but that it either shouldn't exist at all, or should be available for anyone on the executive team to utilize.

Another issue Gillis mentioned is a voting "monopoly" that certain departments have within ASFA. Some departments have more member associations representing them in council, which could lead to an imbalance in voting power.

"[The solution] would be to get them accredited under a federation

themselves, and then they would send just one councillor to represent all of them," Gillis said.

Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (CMLL) has the most representation on council. This hasn't caused problems as of yet, but may in the future, according to Gillis.

Re-igniting Student Interest

Jared Buck, a third presidential candidate, believes that reaching out to students is an important aspect of the much-needed change.

"If you walk around campus, either Loyola or SGW, and ask students about ASFA, a shockingly large amount of people don't even know who we are or what we do," he said.

Buck claimed that the federation's low level of student attention has to do with their "lack of accessibility and organization both online and within the office."

The low voter turnout of the last election was due to the high profile sexual harassment scandal, according to Young.

"It was the absolute disgust that everybody had for ASFA in the wake of the Mei-Ling case," he said.

Additionally, many of the positions were uncontested at the last election, which caused disinterest among students.

The increase in number of candidates running this time and the fact that there is a campaign will, "by its very nature," get more people involved, Young said. Promotion for the election will also be increased through in-class speeches and extra standing boards on campus, according to CEO Julia Vera.

Additionally, there are two upcoming candidate debates on Oct. 13 at Loyola in the RF building room 110 and Oct. 15 downtown in the Hall building room 762. Vera says not all candidates are campaigning, but the ones who are have been promoting themselves well around campus.

"ASFA needs to find a way to reach out to more students and it starts with becoming more open and thorough," Buck said.

Montreal Takes a Dump



Protesters gathered around Montreal City Hall on Friday to protect the river.

PHOTO WILLIE WILSON

The St. Lawrence River Ecosystem is Under Threat From Sewage Disposal

BY ZACHARY GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

A small circle of men sat on chairs beating a drum in unison outside Montreal's City Hall. They, along with a swell of protesters, were dubbed "Protectors of the River" this past Friday evening.

After some precursor roadblocks, the City of Montreal plans to follow through with an eight-billion-litre dump of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River.

Under opposition from the beginning, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre has assured the city that he "didn't have a choice" in the decision to release roughly 13 cubic metres of raw sewage per second into the river for seven days beginning Oct. 18—but activists and scientists think otherwise.

Environmental Impacts

"This could potentially have considerable short and long-term effects on the entire aquatic ecosystem," said Grant E. Brown, a biology professor at Concordia University.

He explained that many aquatic organisms' behaviours are direct responses to chemical stimuli. This chemosensory is used to find food, to detect and avoid risk, and to find suitable habitats. Pollutants like hydrocarbons, wastewater and pesticides, can disrupt these cues, Brown continued.

"These short term behavioural effects can

snowball and have long-term population effects," he said.

Though the city of Montreal has assured the public that eight billion litres of waste will be diluted by the comparably massive amount of water flowing down the St. Lawrence River, it is unclear how aquatic life will be affected in any of the 26 source release points.

Even though the pollutants can be diluted by the time it gets downriver, Brown says that high concentration at the initial dumping point can have dramatic effects on the local ecosystem.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the St. Lawrence River's aquatic life, however, is simply due to the rapid nature of this dump.

Brown explains that increased foreign nutrients will create algae blooms, which will rapidly deplete oxygen sources. These types of immediate environmental changes can have considerable consequences on aquatic communities.

"Unfortunately, people making these decisions are basing them on hydrodynamic models and economic models, not the ecological models," Brown said.

Montreal Won't Have It

Despite Coderre's attempts to alleviate worry, many Montrealers hold steadfast against the plans.

The Friday protest was held at the foot of city hall with the express purpose of "saving

the river." Organized by several indigenous groups and activists, including many from Kahnawake, the protest bulged despite the rain.

As drum beats roared, indigenous dancers performed before the crowd. At one point, the activists organizing the affair addressed the people there.

"Tonight we're here to protect the St. Lawrence River as much as we can. Everyone should get involved, not just Kahnawake—everyone along the river should participate," said organizer Karina Okwaho.

Okwaho respects that Coderre may not have other alternatives, but she argues that the sewage must be filtered first to minimize the effects.

"The three problems we're going to have—the floating objects, the medical waste, and the pollutants—those are going to affect our river," she said.

Sunshine Deer, an activist from Kahnawake who was dancing at the protest, echoed Okwaho's thoughts, saying the city has the money and resources to filter the sewage before dumping it.

"They're killing the environment. This is our mother Earth," she said. "We live here. This is going to affect us all, everyone on earth."

The protest held out through the rain, culminating in the formation of a large dance, in which protestors linked arms and moved rhythmically around drummers at the circle's centre. After a while, the activists packed up

and headed home.

Political Waves

This will be the third major dump into the river since 2000. Mayor Coderre revealed only last week that two other dumps of equivalent amounts occurred in the St. Lawrence in 2003 and 2007, though apparently with the blessing of federal environmental agencies. Quebec's Environment Department approved this month's plans back in February.

Though Environment Canada has had information regarding the dumping plans as early as September 2014, Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq asserts that her office only learned of the plans at the beginning of this month.

Environment Canada has since announced its own plans to, "explore options to prevent this sewage dump while [it receives] further science-based information and analysis on the environmental impacts of what Montreal is planning."

In the wake of so much opposition, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard announced his support for Coderre's lesser-of-two-evils plan.

"Each time we've looked at this and Mayor Coderre and his team have looked at this, we always come to the same conclusion," he told *The Canadian Press*.

Environment Canada is expected to give their full response to Montreal's dumping plans on Tuesday.



Renovations to the gazebo were originally estimated at \$379,000. Montreal raised the budget to \$535,000 due to unforeseen issues.

PHOTO HÉLÈNE BAUER

Mordecai Richler and the Decaying Gazebo on Mount Royal

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER
@HELENEVBAUER

Four years and half a million dollars later, the Mordecai Richler Pavilion on the foot of Mount Royal still hasn't seen the light of day.

Every world coincides on the mountain: joggers, cross country skiers, ravers, drummers, sword fighters, ice-skaters, mountain bikers—all year round, you can do just about anything on Mount Royal.

Walking on the mountain, green grass stretching ahead of you, the skyline poking out, the smell of drugs, the sound of tam tams echoing in the background—and a gazebo is left dilapidating in its place.

Mount Royal always served as a place for leisure and recreation. The gazebo overlooking Park Ave. was built in 1928 in order to accommodate communal concerts that were often held on the mountain.

In the 2000s, the gazebo was left to decay. In keeping with its spirits, “Gazebo Mont-Royal,” an electronic rave scene, had taken over, giving some life back into it every Sunday night. However, the city shut down this initiative in June this summer. Camuz Musique Montreal announced on its website that the city claimed the event attracted too many people, was a fire hazard and created noise pollution and litter.

In 2011, the Ville-Marie borough announced it would renovate the gazebo standing on the southwest corner of the mountain.

The renovations were fired off by the initiative to name the gazebo after Montreal-born author Mordecai Richler, best known for his

novel *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*.

Richler's narratives and journalism commentary raised questions relating to the city, the Jewish community and identity, and the French-English language dichotomy in Montreal. The author was and still remains a controversial and marginalized figure for his writings against Quebec nationalism and anti-Semitism.

“The city kept it going as a bizarre idea, that’s the embarrassing part.”

— Professor Norman Ravvin

“Richler willingly presented himself as a possible target. A lot of that came from the satire and the use of sometimes sharp-edged humour he employed in his writing,” said Professor Norman Ravvin of Concordia University.

Ravvin has a doctorate in English literature and was involved in an academic publication titled *Mordecai Richler Then and Now*.

Nevertheless, 10 years after his death, the city chose to honour one of Montreal's most successful authors with a decaying gazebo on the mountain, a lieu that had no relations with the author himself.

According to Ravvin, the slope of the

mountain where the gazebo is located is not connected to the author, who lived in and romanticized about the Mile-End neighbourhood—and more precisely St. Urbain St.

“The city kept it going as a bizarre idea, that’s the embarrassing part,” Ravvin said.

Montreal would have been better off renaming a street in the Mile-End after Richler, according to the professor. However,

there had been speculations that a former councillor of the Plateau Mont-Royal borough refused to honour the author, because of Richler's political stance on Quebec nationalism, Ravvin continued.

Years into the conflict, in the midst of the controversy, a library in the Mile-End was finally named after Richler in March this year—a move much more fitting to his persona.

The various Jewish organizations in Montreal contacted by *The Link* did not want to make a statement about the subject, saying the issue had nothing to do with the community.

Montreal has been working hard to preserve

the mountain as the urban oasis it is today.

In 2014, the city spent \$16 million in their fund for large parks and green spaces. This year, the city budgeted \$6 million more than last year, raising the fund for parks to \$22 million.

The cost of the renovations to the gazebo was originally estimated at \$379,000, with the repairs lasting from May to mid-September. Later on, Mayor Coderre raised the budget to \$535,000 due to unforeseen issues with lead paint on the structure.

In 1928, when the gazebo was first built, a budget of \$4,800 was allotted to build seven music pavilions around the city.

Jeanne-Mance Councillor Alex Norris, part of the city hall opposition party, agrees that Mordecai Richler was a controversial person, but said that's not why the project has been dragging on for so long.

“It's a problem of mismanagement with a dose of incompetence,” he said.

According to Norris, the city should have foreseen the possible problems revolving around restoring a heritage structure like the gazebo. Lead paint is common in old structures, and it shouldn't have been a last-minute surprise, adding to the costs of the renovation and stalling the project, he said.

This summer, Mayor Coderre promised that if the project wasn't finished by the end of the season, he'd build it himself, Norris recalls.

Well into the month of October, and four years after the initial deadline, the gazebo is still fenced off and covered by a tarp and the mystery around the gazebo and Richler's Montreal legacy lives on.

How To Send a Message

Controversial BDS Posters Appear Downtown — Different Sides Weigh In

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

Balancing education and sensationalism is something all forms of media struggle with. In recent months, social media users were debating the ethics of sharing and retweeting photos of dead Syrian refugees, even if the images illuminated the true extent of the crisis.

Now, commuters downtown are confronted by posters featuring a dead Palestinian child, as the group Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) Quebec tries to raise awareness about the international movement attempting to debilitate the Israeli state.

“I understand the strategy of shocking,” said Concordia University President Alan Shepard, who admitted he hadn’t seen the posters around campus yet. “I’m much more in favour of education rather than shocking.”

The posters have been seen attached to street light posts on de Maisonneuve Blvd. around the Concordia campus and near McGill on Sherbrooke St. Due to scheduling conflicts, BDS Quebec couldn’t be reached for comment by press time.

A referendum asking the Concordia Student Union to participate in the BDS movement against Israel passed in last fall semester’s by-elections, despite heated backlash and last-ditch appeals to have the

question removed from ballots.

A pro-BDS group, organized by members of Concordia’s Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), successfully campaigned for the initiative. But SPHR says it has no role in the street campaign.

“Unfortunately, when people look at that poster, they will automatically assume that SPHR is involved,” said Javier Hoyos, a member of the group and a key player in last year’s BDS campaign. “We are our own independent group. We have nothing to do with BDS Quebec.”



PHOTO JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK

There are different ways to advocate for BDS and Palestinian human rights, according to Rami Yahia, another member of SPHR and a CSU councillor. He referenced the Montreal collective Tadamon!, which organizes cultural events to advocate for peace in the Middle East.

Concordia’s BDS campaign last year mainly used infographics and quotes from historical figures like Nelson Mandela to promote their cause, without becoming sensationalist, Hoyos adds. “We don’t necessarily approve of using the picture of a dead child to gather

support or solidarity,” he said, describing the image as shocking.

For Yahia, the main concern is that the issue of illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land and the Palestinian people’s right of return is discussed here at Concordia and in Montreal. “Whether or not we agree with these posters, they’re going to stay there,” he said.

SPHR places more emphasis on organizing informational events like its recent talk downtown by award-winning journalist Robert Fisk, who spoke about his time covering conflict in the Middle East, Yahia adds.

The BDS Quebec signs are just another failed attempt for the BDS movement to legitimize themselves, according to Lauren Luz, president of Concordia’s Israel on Campus. She says the posters’ text, which makes claims that Israel “assassinates” Palestinian children, is false and in violation of federal campaigning laws.

“All of the students who I have spoken with are disgusted by the sensationalist tactics employed by BDS Quebec,” she said.

Plans for how the CSU will implement BDS are ongoing, according to Yahia, but he says an announcement about projects is coming up. Those projects though will be more informational than BDS Quebec’s sensational campaign, Hoyos says.

“You will not see SPHR use that tactic on our campus,” he said.

Montreal Activists Welcome Refugees, Denounce Ongoing Deportations

BY MARIE BRIERE DE LA HOSSERAYE
@MBDLH

Cries of “Immigrants in, Harper out” resonated around downtown Montreal to a backdrop of festive Middle Eastern music and dancing families on Saturday.

Four groups of activists for migrant justice joined forces for a unity march to call for an end to the deportation of migrants and to welcome refugees.

Participants gathered at Norman Bethune Square to follow the lead of organizers, including Solidarity Across Borders, Let’s Unite, Le Comité d’action des personnes sans statut, and Le Comité d’action contre la décision 168-13 de la République dominicaine, which advocates for Haitian rights in Canada and in the Dominican Republic, where the country’s constitutional court denationalized Dominicans of Haitian descent a few years ago.

Most of the protesters marching against the pipeline projects earlier in the day joined in solidarity, as environmental issues often force migrants to relocate.

Ellen Gabriel, a Mohawk activist, expressed her support for people struggling with racism and Canada’s colonial history. Justice for migrants cannot be asked without acknowledging indigenous struggles for self-determination, said the organizers.

“Canada has led you to believe that the theft

of our land is normal. You need to change it, otherwise you are part of the problem,” she told the crowd. “Learn your history.”

Rosaline Wong from Solidarity Across Borders explained the group supports families and individuals targeted by the immigration system. The committee addressed a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who did not respond.

“The government propaganda is operated on the politics of fear: fear of the niqab, fear of terrorists, fear of migrants,” she said.

Wong also talked about the thousands of vulnerable people living without status in Montreal and without access to health or education for their children.

“We cannot talk about welcoming refugees without addressing the systemic barriers that exist in our own local institutions,” said Wong. “Change will only come when people stand up and demand it.”

One of the issues addressed Saturday was the situation for people from Zimbabwe and Haiti. A moratorium on deportations to those countries was lifted, now that the federal government considers that conditions there have significantly improved.

Members of those communities had a six-month period to apply for permanent residency. Those who did not apply on time may be forced to leave. For those who did, resident status is granted on a case-by-case basis. Some members of the community, who have



PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

received provincial recognition and have been working here for years, are nonetheless asked to leave the country, according to organizers.

Aristil and Judith along with their three children are a family who must leave Canada on Oct. 17. The children have a dual citizenship, English and Haitian. Their expulsion letter, received three weeks ago, was handed to the crowd.

Frantz André, founding member of the committee for Haitian rights, saluted the crowd following his community tradition of shouting, “Honour! Respect!” Montreal is home to about 3,000 Haitian migrants, he said.

The refugee crisis has been put at the fore-

front after the photo of a deceased Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi, emerged online. Those in attendance held a minute of silence for refugees who have died trying to reach safer countries.

While chanting, “No one is illegal,” the participants walked until Phillips Square, where the police first blocked entrance before clearing out when students and families started dancing in response.

Anais Gagnon marched with her three children to make them aware of their fortune to have a home where they feel safe and free. She explained their father is Mexican, and the immigration system makes it really difficult for him to visit them.



No Home Movie captures the waning moments of the Chantal Akerman's mother's life.

PHOTO COURTESY RIDM

In Memory of Chantal Akerman

RIDM Pays Tribute to Belgian Filmmaker

BY OLIVIA FREY

In light of the tragic death of Belgian filmmaker Chantal Akerman, the Montreal's international documentary festival will pay tribute to the exceptional figure of the cinema community. Renowned worldwide as the author of original and audacious films, Akerman reportedly committed suicide on Oct. 5 at the age of 65.

"Many important filmmakers of today, such as Gus Van Sant, Todd Haynes or Michael Haneke, regard Chantal Ackerman as a key influence on their work, not only through her idiosyncratic approach to form, but in her profoundly personal engagement with her subjects," said Charlotte Selb, who is the artistic director of Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montréal.

Selb, a Concordia film studies graduate, emphasized Akerman as a major cinematic voice for women. Her body of work investigated time and space, identities and human relations, sexuality and religion, all from feminist perspectives.

Fiercely independent, working within an intimate, loyal circle of cast and crew, Akerman projected the depths of her spirit, and that of her characters, in their naked truth.

Her final film, *No Home Movie*, presented in the official competition at the Locarno Festival this summer, will be screened at this November's RIDM, as will a portrait of the director, *I Don't Belong Anywhere—The Cinema of Chantal Akerman*, directed by Marianne Lambert, who will be in attendance for the film's North American premiere. These two films were originally planned for screening before the news of Akerman's death.

Early features, such as *Hôtel Monterey* (1972) and *The Room* (1972)—for which the 20-year-old had carefully saved money from her job as a cashier in a gay porn theatre—signaled her rigorously minimalist aesthetic approach and complete independence from mainstream film philosophies.

Influenced by the structuralist works of experimental directors Michael Snow, Stan Brakhage

and Jonas Mekas whom she discovered in New York, her work became closely tied to meditations on duration. She does so through the use of long takes, in which objects veer to abstraction.

The period also marks the start of her collaboration with Babette Mangolte, the director of photography for most of her subsequent films. Famously, Akerman was determined to make movies at the age of 15, the night after having seen Jean-Luc Godard's *Pierrot le Fou* (1965).

Charlotte Selb highlights *No Home Movie* as particularly heartrending. It captures the waning moments of the director's mother's life and her "mixed feelings of tenderness and malaise" toward her.

Filming the old woman in her Brussels apartment and through a Skype window, Akerman examines the mother figure that has haunted her work throughout her life.

The film echoes Akerman's 1977 short film *News from Home*; composed of static shots of glimmering, run-down New York City streets—to which she had moved from Brussels with close to nothing. Her own voice

is heard reading letters sent between her and her mother, a Holocaust survivor whose life of monotonous domestic confinement provided inspiration for Akerman's landmark film *Jeanne Dielman, 23, quai du commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975).

Jeanne Dielman won international acclaim as a momentous feminist masterpiece of a daring minimalism, in which the repetitive activities of an isolated housewife are meticulously, hypnotically deployed for the camera, building second by second, frame by frame, the existential vacuousness of a life prescribed by a paternalistic society. The film is a penetrating study of domestic confinement, which ultimately forces a woman to violent exertion.

In a genuinely "auteurist" fashion, her sensibility is rendered in its sincere entirety and nakedness, through real-time observations of her characters' physical and mental wanderings, in each and every one of her films.

Her 1978 film *The Meetings of Anna* is one of her most penetrating character study. Anna, an accomplished filmmaker (played by Aurore

Clément, one of her very close friends and collaborators), makes her way through a series of European cities to promote her latest movie.

Via a succession of eerie, exquisitely shot, brief encounters—with men and women, family and strangers—we come to see her emotional and physical detachment from the world.

This sense of personal estrangement surfaces in many of her films, including those in which she features herself, such as her 1968 feature debut, *Blow Up My Town*. To make this short film, Akerman subsidized the film's costs by trading diamond shares on the Antwerp stock exchange. Here, she frames herself alone in long shots, in a closet-sized kitchen, attempting to perform the domestic activities expected from women. But instead, she makes an enormous mess and, finding nothing to do, suffocates herself to death by leaving the stove on.

Festival-goers will also have the chance to rediscover Akerman's *From the Other Side*, her 2002 documentary about Mexican migrants trying to reach the United States.

This film was added to the original selection, in the aims of representing Akerman's contribution to the realm of social documentary. The film is part of a tetralogy of travelogues, which took her to post-Communist Eastern Europe in *From the East* (1993), the American South in *South* (1999) and Israel in *Down There* (2006).

Akerman sought to give expression to marginal inner lives, to the thoughts and feelings of immigrants and racial minorities from around the world.

"As one of the most dedicated independent filmmakers, Chantal Akerman never stopped working," said Selb, "having made around 40 films—experimental, documentary and fiction, as well as solo museum installations based on some of her films."

RIDM's selection will not be exhaustive and aims simply to pay homage to a woman who will be deeply regretted. The Cinémathèque Québécoise will curate a retrospective of her work in January 2016.



I Don't Belong Anywhere director Marianne Lambert will be at the North American premiere.

PHOTO COURTESY RIDM



PPHOTO COURTESY DAVID K. ROSS

CONNECTIONS AND POSITIONS

Visual Artist David K. Ross Explores Spatial Perspectives

BY JULIA MIELE

In the quiet and dimly-lit space of the Dazibao Gallery, large projection screens show video footage; photographs and drawings are installed in their own niches—all showcasing images of largely disregarded perspectives.

Positions, presented at the Dazibao Gallery, is a collection put together by artist David K. Ross, containing three moving-image works, two of which require the use of headsets to listen to accompanying audio, and a set of sketches done by Ross himself.

Ross has been working in film and photography for seven years now, but only began the *Positions* collaboration a year ago.

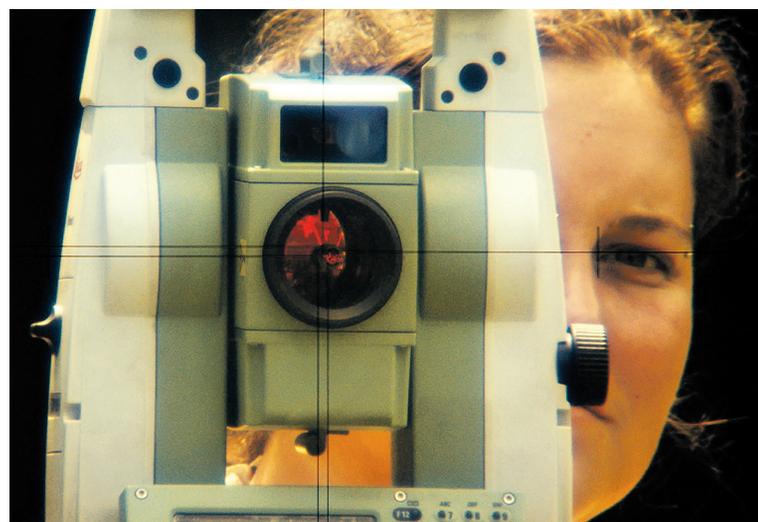
“But at that point,” Ross said, “I had two of the films finished.”

Each piece plays with camera perspective, toying with perceptions of space in both of the films, and how sight and sound can manipulate this.

Through the use of customized lens-based tools, Ross gives his audience insight from locations that would normally be inaccessible to audience viewership, such as the wings of a theatre’s stage midperformance, or the strange rooms of a foreign house.

Each piece of the collaborative exhibition is connected by an interest in the space being filmed, how we observe space and how it’s created.

“I tend to work with people that I know, or even with friends,” said Ross,



“Depending on the orientation of the device, it either looks like a zoetrope or, in other angles, it starts to look like a telecommunication satellite.”

— David Ross

chuckling. He was in charge of editing and post-production. “So how it went, collaborating, was good because I know what I’m dealing with.”

Every piece presented depicts something different; *Théodolitique*, completed sometime in 2015, is a video documenting a group of student surveyors conducting fieldwork from the point of view of a theodolite—a surveying instrument with a rotating telescope for measuring horizontal and vertical angles. Another piece, *Horologica*, is a set of drawings—12 in total—that show the movement of a zoetrope—a cylinder-shaped optical tool with photos inside that gives an illusion of motion when spun.

“One thing I liked about that piece was how, depending on the configuration or the orientation of the device, it either looks like a zoetrope

or, in other angles, it starts to look like a telecommunication satellite,” said Ross. “It kind of references both the past, the present, and the future.”

Another film piece completed in 2014, *The European Rooms*, was shot with a slow-moving camera that takes the viewers into bedrooms, dining rooms, and hallways, each room boasting finely detailed interior design.

These rooms are really just miniatures, courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago’s *Thorne Miniature Rooms* collection.

Finally, *Parados* is a dual channel production—two screens display dancers during a play, shot from the left and right wings of a stage.

Certain styles of filmmaking, particularly structuralism and experimental films from the 70s, inspire Ross’s work.

“People like Michael Snow’s early work from the 70s were very influential,” Ross said. “But I wouldn’t say there is one particular person that stands out.”

The way the dancers are represented in the *Parados* piece share a strong connection to artists like Caravaggio, who use very strong sources of direct light in their artwork.

In addition to *Positions*, there is a compilation of video footage from the artists that helped Ross complete his own production called *Connexions*. This piece, curated by Ross, serves as an extension to *Positions*—a homage to said helpful artists—and is part of the Festival de Nouveau Cinéma lineup.

“The thing is, when you work on film projects, you end up having to collaborate, just because there’s often a lot of equipment to move around,” Ross said.

Dazibao plans to travel with the exhibition to a university in Texas sometime next year, according to Ross.

“That’s a kind of physical expectation that I have for it,” he said. “But my expectations are mostly around the fact that I hope that it resonates with some people, maybe shift the way they see the world.”

Positions // Dazibao (5455 Gaspé Ave.) // Until Nov. 7 // 12 to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday // Free

"FOR OUR BROTHERS"

Men's Rugby Team Hopes To Return to RSEQ Finals Despite Changes to Roster

BY VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

For Concordia's men's rugby team, the expectations are always high. The Stingers are the reigning champions of the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec after finally defeating their rivals, the McGill Redmen. Concordia has reached the RSEQ championship game for the last five seasons, all against McGill, but only won over their cross-town rivals last year.

This year, the Stingers are looking to repeat their win for the second time since 2000, but the team is fighting an uphill battle. The Stingers lost this past Friday to the Université de Montréal Carabins and have now fallen to a 2-3 loss-win record in the season. Their hopes to lead their pool are pretty much gone.

"Our tackling was absolutely atrocious tonight, again," said Stingers head coach Clive Gibson. "This is not new, this is something we've had a problem with through the season, and we're still having a problem with it."

But Gibson has called the team possibly the best he's ever trained. Aspirations were high coming into the season. Instead, Gibson and his team struggled to replace departing veterans from last season.

"We had a 50 per cent turnover between kids graduating, kids failing and kids deciding not to come back to the team," Gibson said. "Out of eight front row forwards that I had prepared to come back this year, I ended up with three."

"That shows where we are in the scrum, when five out of eight front row forwards are not coming back, you're going to pay for it—and we are," he added.

With many rookies on the team, some adversity was expected. The team has lost 18 players from last year's squad, including former captain Joseph Fulginiti.

"We lost huge pillars and it's hard to put them back," said Stingers captain Andreas Krawczyk.

"[We have] a lot more talent," said Graeme McClintock, a second-year player. "We figure we can use all this talent to break the line and make some wins, but we just go to put the fine-tuning details, the basics, perfect them and bring them together."

Concordia also has to deal with a new playoff system. The RSEQ has now been separated into two pools of three teams, but still have only four playoff spots. Previously, all teams were in one division, and the top four would make the postseason.

The first-place teams in their respective pools automatically advance to the semi-finals, what is normally called a "bye," while the second-place teams must play a wildcard game to advance to the semis.

One pool has the McGill Redmen, the Bishop Gaiters and RSEQ newcomers the École de technologie supérieure Piranhas. The Stingers are currently second in their pool, below the division-leading UdeM Carabins, whom the Stingers lost to this past Friday



The Stingers men's rugby team has to bounce back from another loss and gain momentum going into the playoffs.

evening, and above the Sherbrooke Vert et Or.

Concordia, who had prioritized getting first place in their pool, are seven points behind the Carabins, and have seemingly settled on the reality that they will have to enter the playoffs as a second-place team in the pool. The Stingers will have two more games against bottom-feeders Sherbrooke and ETS

to improve their standing.

"[The Stingers] are going to have to work harder, they're not going to get the bye," said Gibson. "They're not going to get the rest. They got a lot more work to do."

"It means we get to play some more rugby and I love training with these guys, they're my family, my brothers, so if there's

one more game to the finals, then it's going to take one more game to the finals," said Krawczyk.

Bleeding from a cut during the game, McClintock summed up his thoughts for the rest of the season.

"We got the taste of blood, we're going to want it more," he said.



PHOTOS NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

SURF'S DOWN

Quebec Surfing Community Protest Dumping Sewage in River

BY SANDRINE PELLETIER

There was a weird ambiance at the Lachine Canal's dock station among the young surfers who had paddled the whole morning on the choppy waters. Most of them had their lips pulled back, grinning as they enjoyed their last paddle session of the season. But underneath those temporary smiles, bigger concerns were hiding.

On a gloomy Sunday morning, 50 people from Quebec's surfing community united to protest against Montreal's plan to dump sewage into the St. Lawrence River. Kayakers, surfers and paddle boarders gathered around the Lachine Canal, close to the marina, to voice their displeasure.

"I surf here about four to five times a week," said Jade Chretien, a 20-year-old river surfing addict. "For the small surfing community that lives here in Montreal, the river represents our little escape from town. The raw sewage discharge is really infuriating everyone here."

Approximately eight billion litres of untreated wastewater will be dumped into the St. Lawrence River for "necessary week-long repairs" beginning Oct. 18. In total, the equivalent of 2,600 Olympic swimming pools filled with raw sewage coming from industries, homes and hospitals will be released from 26 exit points from LaSalle to the eastern tip of the island.

This is coming from a province that recently released a multi-year strategy to enhance the St. Lawrence River's image as an international tourism attraction.

The reason behind the controversial maneuver is because of major construction

work concerning the Bonaventure Expressway, which will move an important snow chute. Nearby sewers need to be drained out so workers can carry out repairs and work. The plan has been qualified as necessary and unavoidable by the city.

"There is no other solution," said Pierre Desrochers, chair of the city's executive committee, at a news conference on Oct. 2. The city also estimated that the cost for an alternative option, such as a temporary sewage treatment plant, would be more than \$1 billion.

The impact on drinking water in the surrounding communities will not be significant. City spokesperson, Philippe Sabourin, warned kayakers and surfers from Montreal to be aware of the discharge date, advising them to stay out of the river.

Among the most affected spots, the well-known and popular Habitat 67 has been temporarily banned of any aquatic sports, creating deep feelings of anger and powerlessness throughout the surfing community.

"Nice bodies of water are becoming very scarce in Quebec, and it is very sad," confessed Aurélie Vachon, owner of H2UP, a stand up paddle school located off the island of Montreal. Although not directly touched by the raw sewage dump, Vachon can relate to the anger of owners of water sports schools around the river.

"Like other owners, the relationship I have with water is at the center of my life," Vachon said. "We are very lucky in Quebec to be able to use our natural resources for sports."

Every year, between 18,000 and 25,000 surfers from Quebec and its surroundings



hit the eternal waves of the Lachine Rapids. The surfing industry has seen an incredible growth in popularity among Quebec's youth, giving Montreal recognition as one of North America's best river surfing spots. Indeed, on its busiest days, the "Vague à Guy" hosts up to 300 urban surfers a day.

Hugo Lavictoire, founder of Kayak Sans Frontières, has always been concerned with the water quality and confessed he had several eye and ear infections over the past few years as a result. Lavictoire also asks urban surfers to stay home on rainy days because of draining overflow.

"It's nothing compared to 20 or 30 years ago—even if the city still has to do something to resolve the problem," he said.

Alex Lépine, one of the organizers of the paddle out on the Lachine Canal on Sunday morning, doesn't hold much hope that the city of Montreal will reverse its stance on the sewage dump.

"We're doing our best to show our deep love for the river to the city council, but I am fairly certain that their position on the dumping will remain the same," he said. "I feel like it's a huge step back for the environment."

"I feel like it's a huge step back for the environment."

— Alex Lépine, Surf Quebec



Surf Quebec paddled out last Sunday in protest of the sewage dumping.



PHOTOS NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Vote Goddammit

BY BIBI DE MEDEIROS
@BIBIDEM

Indifference is the tool of the dead. If you're reading this, you're not dead and have an opinion. Even about politics.

Unfortunately, you're not encouraged to formulate critical opinions, or even think too hard about complex topics. Politics regulate every fibre of our society, but we're trained to process it peripherally. "Yeah, I've heard of that mass corporation changing the legal definition of 'lake' so they could bypass protection laws and dump a bunch of chemicals in. Sounds pretty shady... so anyway, what do you want for lunch?" We might not agree, but we feel powerless about it.

There are indeed a lot of flaws in our system: unrepresentative elections, disinterest in the plight of indigenous people, a disgustingly near-sighted disregard of our environment, coupled with increasing corporate lobbying, to name a few examples. But we still have a democracy—something we should not be taking for granted.

"Power to the people" has been repeated so often it's become a cliché. We forget that Canada's democracy, every citizen's right to have their interests represented in government, was only recently ripped out of the bloody



GRAPHIC MADELEINE GENDREAU

hands of monarchy, and to a certain extent is still represented by it. Rights are much easier to lose than to gain. While people are dying to escape tyranny a few thousand miles away, we passed Bill C-51 and put constitutional freedoms at stake. Maybe it was unwillingly, but it was also easily done.

Vote.

Democracy isn't just taking 20 minutes every four years to check a box, but that is a big part of it; it's a symbolic action that shows you're involved, that you're paying attention and that you have an opinion. Some people say it doesn't make a difference, and that a single vote won't flip the scale. Well, sometimes it does. So many of us lose sight of how

heavily we actually depend on each other as a society. Even if you "hate humanity," you enjoy it every single time you leave the house, go online or even get into bed. It's not meant to be your "single" vote making the difference; it's everyone's vote together. That's the point. But for everyone to be heard and respected, you need to speak up too.

Vote.

Even if none of the options appeal to you, scratch your ballot. Fill in all the boxes or none at all. And by doing so, you're saying, "I do not approve of anyone running because my views are not well represented by anyone's campaign." But more than just voting, democracy is activism. Quebec knows this first hand. Canada prints bad press about our student strikes, propagating fallacies like "They're so spoiled, they have the lowest tuition fees, yet they still clang pots and complain," failing to admit that we have the lowest tuition fees, because we fight for them. It's not an accident. Do not let yourself be persuaded into thinking that your voice is white noise, that your opinions are invalid. Students are the best and brightest of society—you're being trained to think critically. You are going to be running things soon. So get informed, get involved, and take control. You want better systems?

Then vote goddammit!

Letters

The Link publishes letters to the editor. If there's an article, event, issue or general happening you want to comment on, send us a letter under 400 words before 4 p.m. on Friday at letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Vote for Mariah Gillis and Support Change

I had the pleasure last year of working with Mariah Gillis on the Urban Planning Association and witnessing the enormous amount of work she has put into ASFA, first as our representative and then as an independent councillor.

She clearly believes in the potential of ASFA to improve the student experience, but is also very aware of the amount of work it will take to get ASFA running smoothly.

She has already been working tirelessly to keep ASFA going after the election last semester didn't make quorum, and she is only just getting started in the good that she can do.

Mariah is a dedicated representative of students, who passionately and fearlessly pursues change when necessary. Now is one of those times and I believe Mariah and the Support Change team are the right people for the job.

—Yette Gram, Urban Planning undergraduate student

ASFA rape culture. Concordia has heard this phrase and other variations of it a lot this past year. As an involved arts and science student and executive of a student association, it has brought shame to those I try to represent, and this is an issue, to say the least. Since the last (failed) attempt of the ASFA elections, a different direction was taken towards creating a safer space, including effective educational and fun activities around campus. This change has been the best thing possible for ASFA and has been largely initiated by the current Support Change team, with Mariah Gillis currently running in the ASFA elections.

I have specifically worked with Mariah multiple times and cannot give her enough praise. This woman has re-energized ASFA since she was elected as independent coun-

cillor. She was one of the amazing people who pulled off this year's Launch Week, and continues to fight for safer spaces. Before getting involved at ASFA, she was an exec of the Urban Planning Association, and I shared an office with her. Mariah was the only person that was in the office more than I was. She shows dedication rarely seen these days. I urge you to learn about who is going to represent you as an arts and science student next year. Mariah Gillis is already involved in the positive change that is happening on campus, so let's keep this momentum! I urge you to go and vote for Mariah Gillis for VP Internal on October 20, 21 and 22.

—Genevieve Nadeau Bonin, VP Finance
GUSS and CSU Councillor

Vote Jenna Cocullo for President

My name is Melina Ghio, and I am a fourth-year Concordia student. I am minoring in English Literature and am finishing the Honours Program at the Liberal Arts College.

At the Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA), I began as an Independent Councillor and moved on to the role of Vice President of Finance. Upon Council's request, I stepped in as Interim President for the majority of this past summer. I have supported student success at the Liberal Arts College by working on the Undergraduate Academic Conference held there.

With full confidence, I endorse Jenna Cocullo as the upcoming ASFA President.

ASFA is undergoing a transitional period right now and would benefit from a strong executive. What do I mean by strong executive? One that not only looks at strengthening the ASFA community, but also one that is diligent and hard-working.

Jenna thrives in her ability to focus and get tasks done efficiently and professionally. I know this because I have seen it in practice.

She cares about her student body and will do anything and everything to make sure they have access to the best Concordia and Montreal has to offer them.

She supported my decisions in the past with regard to the well-being of ASFA's student body, and I know that as President, her work ethic and sound judgment will allow ASFA to end this year on a high note.

This incredible woman's vision is as great as the work she puts in to her projects. She is charitable and respectful, but does not let negativities slide by without going unaddressed. She will promote the well-being of fellow students and a sustainable environment where you can flourish. ASFA may not be so prominent in your life, and that is all the more reason to know that someone like Jenna is sitting at a desk, making sure that you are properly represented, and that your ASFA fee is being put to good use.

Your vote will count this October. And in the end, voting for Jenna is voting for you, because her values are at the core of her fellow students' best interest.

—Melina Ghio, former Interim President of ASFA

volume 36 by-elections

ARE ALMOST HERE

Tuesday Oct. 20 @ 6 p.m. in The Link's office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Room H-649)

The Link is made possible by our team of staff and editors, a.k.a. masthead. We're looking to grow our team and need editors to fill our Volume 36 masthead. All staff members (those who have contributed four (4) times or more) are eligible and encouraged to vote in the elections.

HERE ARE THE OPEN POSITIONS:

CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

If you're interested in longer-form journalism, then this is the position for you. The Current Affairs Editor fills the print edition every week with longer, in-depth features and profiles of news around Concordia.

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

News is a demanding section. Keeping up with everything around Concordia needs a strong tag-team. The Assistant News Editor is important in ensuring coverage runs smoothly.

OPINIONS EDITOR

Students at Concordia are diverse and the Opinions section is a place to have their voices heard. The Opinions Editor works with writers to develop their voices and arguments.

ELIGIBLE TO RUN: Graeme Shorten Adams, Jennifer Aedy, Alex Bailey, Roxane Baril-Bédard, Hélène Bauer, Alison Bertho, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Morag Rahn Campbell, Alex Carriere, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, Josh Fischlin, Madeleine Gendreau, Caity Hall, Sam Jones, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, Sarah Lozinski, Gabriela de Medeiros, Chris Michaud, Julia Miele, Nick Pevato, Riley Stativa, Willie Wilson, Michael Wrobel.

If you've contributed to this year's volume four (4) times in four (4) separate issues, you're eligible to run for a position. **Applicants must submit a letter of intent and three (3) samples of contributions at The Link's office by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13.**

COPY EDITOR

A lot of words pass through *The Link* every day. The Copy Editor is the last person to edit each printed article and ensures fact-checking and a consistent style. They are also the strongest defence against typos and style-guide errors.

PHOTO/VIDEO EDITOR

We know, everyone looks at photos and watches videos, which is why it's important to have a Photo/Video Editor making sure photo and video journalists are where the visually interesting news is at.

GRAPHICS EDITOR

The Link has always emphasized creative visuals and interesting design. The Graphics Editor ensures graphic content is consistent with *The Link's* mandate, and that it works with our content.

MANAGING EDITOR

Journalism works because deadlines are enforced. The Managing Editor oversees the print production, keep editors and staff on their game, make sure the paper comes out on time (no pressure).

THE LINK

GUEST EDITOR SERIES

The Link's Guest Editor Workshops end on **Tuesday Oct. 13 @ 6 p.m.** with Nunatsiaq News reporter David Murphy, who will be giving critiques for this issue (the one you're holding).

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SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT ISSUE WORKSHOP/ BRAINSTORM

The Link's Workshop series continues on Friday Oct. 16 @ 4 p.m. with *Montreal Gazette* assigning editor and former environment reporter Monique Beaudin. We'll be talking about beat reporting ahead of our Environment and Sustainability Special Issue in November. Come by and bring your ideas for the special issue.

Friday Oct. 16 @ 4 p.m.



Free the Free-Trade Deal

What We Know About the Trans-Pacific Partnership

BY BEN MAYER-GOODMAN
@BENTHEBMG

The possible fate of Canada and much of the world was decided last week. This fate rests upon a single bill, which was negotiated in secret.

It's called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): a free trade deal between 12 countries, which represent 40 per cent of the world's economy. Canada, the U.S., and Japan are just a few of the countries that want a piece of this legislative pie, which has the potential to give the private sector more power over public policy, including pharmaceuticals and dairy industries. The bill was signed into agreement on Monday after years of unpublicized negotiations, which consulted many corporations and lobbyists, but no public consumer groups. The bill still needs ratification by each country, and must pass through the Canadian House of Commons after the election.

While many corporations including Citibank and Gap praise the deal, claiming it will improve global growth and create jobs, many citizens are worried that it transfers too much power to wealthy nations and industries, ultimately leaving most people worse off.

Though the public has not been presented with many provisions of the TPP, some crucial

elements have been revealed via WikiLeaks.

Copyright and Internet Freedom

The final version of TPP's international property rights chapter was leaked Friday, revealing stricter copyright laws and increased penalties.

Under the legislation, Internet service providers are given permission to block websites without a court ruling, copyrights have been extended by 20 years, and new criminal penalties have been created for the circumvention of digital locks.

The language within these provisions is so broad that governments and corporations have the right to take down any websites or information they want from the Internet.

Curtailed Public Trials

The leaked bill includes a clause that would give countries more power to keep important information both about the government and corporations under wraps. The free-trade deal allows countries to censure or cut-short legal proceedings if the information released were "detrimental to [its] economic interests, international relations, or national defense or national security." This gives countries the right to withhold information that could be

embarrassing if publicized. They can also do so if the trials "are related to a product or service in national or international commerce," i.e. when dealing with large corporations.

Bypassing National Health and Safety Laws

An early version of TPP's Investment chapter leaked in March, which included an investor protection act allowing companies to sue governments if laws are enacted that infringe on their profits. This provision would make it harder to pass public safety laws including environmental policies that hurt oil industries or health policies that affect tobacco or junk food companies. The bill stated that "supranational" tribunals would be created to hold the lawsuits and bypass national law. This clause is similar to NAFTA's investor protection act, where Canada has lost or settled several cases and paid more than \$170 million in damages along with tens of millions in legal costs, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Lone Pine, an oil and gas company who lost their rights to frack in the St. Lawrence River after Quebec banned the process, is one of the latest corporations to file suit.

What our politicians say

The Conservative government helped

negotiate this deal, so it's no surprise they unequivocally support it.

"This is a further example of our determination to diversify our exports and to create jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for Canadian families," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said at the G20 summit in Mexico.

The Liberal Party generally supports the deal, but leader Justin Trudeau has criticized the Conservative government's level of secrecy surrounding its negotiation.

"We will ratify this properly in the House of Commons after a fulsome and responsible discussion," Trudeau said at an event at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The NDP is staunchly against the TPP and Tom Mulcair has vowed to scrap the deal if he's elected Prime Minister.

"I would never bring this deal to the Canadian Parliament," he said on Global's *The Morning Show*.

The full text of the partnership has not been revealed and there's still much speculation, but what is known (either leaked or officially presented), has sparked much controversy and cause for concern. There's a reason the negotiations are secret and nothing is up for public debate: if we knew everything proposed, we probably wouldn't like it.

GRAPHIC MADELINE GENDREAU

Nah'msayin? Respect Sidewalk Etiquette For Runners

BY RILEY STATIVA
@WILEYRILES

Montreal, I'm begging you to get out of my way. We've got social etiquette for bike lanes, crosswalks and even escalators—we are the only city I've ever visited with its escalator game on point—but we suck at sidewalks.

Yesterday, I almost got flattened by a Honda Civic because I had to dash around a pair of people holding hands, Publicly Displaying their Affection. They didn't move as I awkwardly chugged towards them in slow motion. (Note: not actual slow motion, I just run slow.) I lost the game of pedestrian chicken. I stepped off of the curb—that was when the

Civic rounded the corner. If I'm going to die in a case of vehicular manslaughter, there's no way in hell I'm going down flattened by a Honda.

This blatant lack of courtesy for sidewalk sharing needs to end. This is Canada: it's a point of national pride that we're polite, goddammit. That just makes it even more baffling that people don't make room for someone who's kicking their own ass.

Even when I come up behind you, you can step aside. I know you can hear me; my running breathing is like a predator slasher in a B-grade horror film.

I'll gladly move around the elderly, strollers, wheelchairs and anyone else who can't otherwise. I'm talking to the able-bodied ambulators, chain smoking and refusing to

make the *minimal effort* it takes to step aside.

Running's hard enough to do in a straight line, let alone around everyone who thinks they personally own the sidewalk. If I wanted

an obstacle course, I'd sign up for the Spartan Race. I'm just trying to crack out my daily dash and get home so I can binge watch Netflix. I'm begging you, step up, or step off.



GRAPHIC JENNIFER AEDY

Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



Filbert by L.A. Bonte



Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell



Balloon Ventures by Mangekko Jones





EDITORIAL

GRAPHIC SAM JONES

Montreal, Your Sewage Plans Are Full of It

Montreal has taken heat for its plan to flush the city's crap directly into the St. Lawrence River—but it might be the push we need to fix our underwhelming sewage treatment system.

The story isn't new, but the eight billion-litre untreated sewage dump scheduled for next week is being discussed widely in Montreal and across the country. A U.S. Senator, Charles Schumer, has even spoken against the project, asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to intervene, even though the EPA has no jurisdiction in Canada.

The city needs to drain sewers to carry out much-needed repairs while preparing for reconstruction of the Bonaventure Expressway and the snow dumpsite currently beneath it. Before this, Montreal's sewage management was already struggling to accommodate waste.

The St. Lawrence was treated like a municipal toilet for decades before the 1990s. Dozens of beaches were open until about the 1970s, when the amount of waste dropped into the waterway grew beyond the river's self-cleaning capabilities. Sewage, snow and rainwater were dumped directly into the river and surrounding lakes without any treatment, before restorative measures, such as a \$2 billion

sewage processing plant that was installed in the city's east end, were taken.

In the 2003 spring season, Montreal dumped 10 billion litres of untreated sewage in spring season and another 7.6 billion litres in the fall, according to CBC. Scientists say the eight-billion-litre dump won't change the river's ecology, since the current moves fast enough to dilute the sewage.

In an average year, Montreal, like many other North American cities, has a persistent problem with sewage, specifically when it comes to storm water management. Heavy downpours overburden the city's water system, when rainwater (which is untreated) connects with sewage (which is treated), overflows and bypasses treatment altogether. Homes risk flooding and beaches are closed, because fecal bacteria levels exceed safety standards.

Next week's expected eight billion litres of waste makes up only one-third of the city's weekly sewage—which says a lot about how much is being flushed into the system by homes and businesses.

Montreal needs to reconsider water consumption and the way we use our sewers, starting with small measures. The city of Laval and Montreal made it illegal for homes

to have their gutters drain directly into street sewers. Residents must now collect rainwater from gutters in a barrel or have it drain into yards. In Toronto, it's technically illegal to wash your car where the water and suds will enter street drains (though the bylaw isn't really enforced). Reflecting on the way we use the sewage system is one step, but upgrading our substandard treatment plants is also a must.

In 1999 and 2004, Sierra Club, an environmentalist group, produced sewage management report cards and gave Montreal an F for its system both times. According to Sierra Club, the upside of Montreal's network is nearly everyone is connected to the sewers that pump all our liquid garbage to the treatment plant in Rivière-des-Prairies. The bad part: it only goes through primary treatment, removing solid waste, garbage and phosphorus and dumps pretty much everything else in the river. This means pharmaceuticals and other toxic substances for marine life are already being dumped in the river.

The city has plans to install an ozonation system by 2018, with provincial and federal help—but some reports question the effectiveness of the process.

Cities like Calgary, meanwhile, received

top grades for a sewage system that handles storm water without overflowing, pumps all wastewater through treatment that turns it into compost used on farms and disinfects the water with UV treatment. In D.C., the city's water utility is implementing Norwegian technology to transform sewage sludge into clean energy, which in turn can help power the waste management plant's treatment system.

On the 2004 Sierra Club report card, the only city to score worse than Montreal is Victoria—which doesn't even have a sewage treatment plant. Montreal's treatment plant is called the third largest in the world—and is one of the youngest. But size isn't everything when it constantly requires repairs and isn't even all that great as a system.

Weeks before the federal election, the Canadian government has suddenly taken an interest; Mayor Coderre handed over documents about the dump to Environment Canada on Friday and is expecting a response by Tuesday.

It will take a lot more investment in Montreal's treatment plant before it catches up to the 21st century. We need a culture shift in how much shit we flush into the river—and that's worth making a stink about.

THE LINK

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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.

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 ET LA NUIT
 DES SANS-ABRI
 PRÉSENTENT

VOUS AUSSI SOYEZ
 À LA RUE

LE TEMPS D'UNE SOUPE

DU 15 AU 18 OCTOBRE 2015
 PLACE ÉMILIE-GAMELIN

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 ET SOLIDAIRE AVEC LA RUE
 LE 15 OCTOBRE DE 16 H À 23 H
 LES 16-17-18 OCTOBRE DE 12 H À 23 H

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