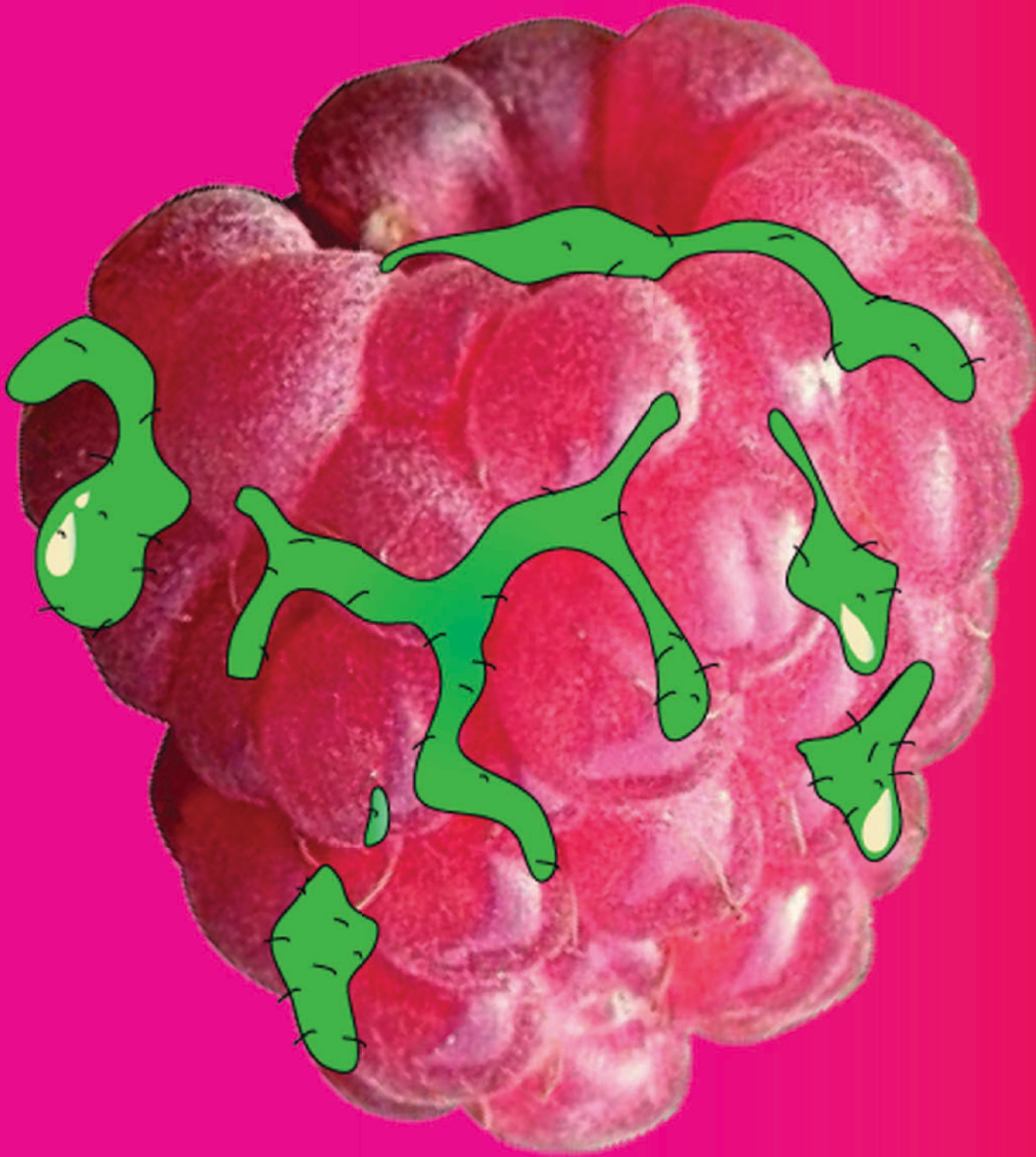




LINK³⁵

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980



the food & sustainability special issue

a taste of things to come.

p. 10

EDITORIAL: LET'S SEIZE THE CHANCE TO MOVE BEYOND CHARTWELLS P.23

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The Doug Leslie Bursary

THE LINK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

The labour of love at a student newspaper provides a wealth of training and connections gained only through countless hours of volunteering, and is a necessary entry in the resumes of budding industry hopefuls.

However, the sacrifice of long unpaid hours serves as a deterrent for many looking to break into their field. To help young contributors in financial need, The Link Publication Society has decided to create a bursary in the memory of Doug Leslie, the first editor-in-chief to lead *The Link*.

Leslie was an English literature student who overcame financial difficulty to champion the newspaper through its teething stage as the two campus papers merged. He was coaxed into becoming the first editor; his first words in print as EIC were "Frankly, I never thought I'd be doing this."

According to his colleagues, Leslie left behind his reservations and began a column that became "the heart and soul" of the new paper, which was beset with short staff and other organizational issues in its inaugural year. Leslie also fought to keep the paper independent of the student council. He died in August 2012, leaving *The Link* as his legacy.

The award will be available to a registered, returning student who is in financial need and is a staff member (reporter, designer, photographer, artist, etc.) of The Link. Staff members are defined as those who have made four (4) contributions to the newspaper in a semester. Contributions may be rolled-over from the prior semester before the applications are due.

The deadline for submission is Friday November 21, 2014 at 4 p.m.

Applicants must include a letter explaining their level of financial need, merit and motivation for the bursary, along with three (3) clippings from *The Link*.

Send application to:
business@thelinknewspaper.ca.

The bursary recipient(s) will be announced the third week of January.

The following contributors and masthead members are eligible to apply:
Justin Blanchard, Mattha Busby, Alex Callard, Alex Carrière, Jonhatan Cook, Noëlle Didierjean, Matt Garies, Madeleine Gendreau, Caity Hall,

Daniele Iannarone, Brandon Johnston, Laura Lalonde, June Loper, Athina Lugez, Julian Mckenzie, Shaun Michaud, Vince Morello, Erica Pishdadia, Michelle Pucci, Graeme Shorten Adams, Ester Staussova, Verity Stevenson, Leigha Vegh, Mariana Voronoska, Shane Wright, Michael Wrobel.

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CINEMA



November 19 at 7:30 PM
PRIDE
By Matthew Warchus
with Bill Nighy
and Imelda Staunton



November 22 at 5 PM
GANGS OF WASSEYPUR
By Anurag Kashyap
with Manoj Bajpayee
and Nawazuddin Siddiqui



November 25 at 7:30 PM
SUD EAU NORD DÉPLACER
A documentary
by Antoine Boutet



November 26 at 7:30 PM
DAYS OF GRAY
By Ani Simon-Kennedy
with Viktoria Rós
Antonsdóttir and
Davið Laufdal Arnarsson



November 27 at 7:30 PM
ELLE QUÉBEC fait son cinéma: THE MISFITS
By John Huston
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Resistance Is Fertile

Hundreds Express Opposition to Shipping Albertan Oil Eastward



by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

Hundreds of students denounced the construction of oil pipelines in Quebec by taking to the streets of downtown Montreal on Saturday.

The protest was organized by Étudiants et étudiantes contre les oléoducs, a new coalition of student associations looking to block Albertan oil from being transported to eastern Canada through TransCanada's proposed Energy East pipeline and a reversal of the flow along Enbridge's Line 9 pipeline. The Concordia Student Union is a founding member of the coalition.

Anthony Garoufalīs-Auger, an ÉCO spokesperson and the CSU's VP External and Mobilization, said students were speaking out "in the face of a government and of industries that want to continue with business as usual, even if it means condemning future generations to a precarious existence."

"The pipelines will allow for the expansion of the tar sands, and the tar sands are completely incompatible with meeting our climate obligations," he told *The Link*.

"This has been said by the scientific community and, unfortunately, our government isn't listening. We need to take matters into our own hands and not compromise on trying to reduce our emissions and transitioning away from fossil fuels."

The demonstration started at Norman Bethune Square at 1 p.m. Protesters marched west to St. Laurent Blvd. along Ste.

Catherine St. before making their way south to Victoria Square, where the protest came to an end. There was a heavy police presence including riot officers, but the protest remained peaceful.

Although the political message was serious, the tone was festive along much of the route, with protesters dancing to music that blared from loudspeakers mounted atop a truck. Some participants carried signs shaped like trees, while others carried a makeshift whale and pipeline.

"It's really nice to be part of something that's so joyous. I mean, there's a lot of anger here, but everyone's showing it creatively," said protester Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, a CSU councillor for the faculty of arts and science.

ÉCO now represents 90,000 students, thanks to the Students' Society of McGill University joining the coalition. Undergraduates at McGill voted to join ÉCO first at a general assembly in October and then in an online ballot last week.

The SSMU's VP External Amina Moustaqim-Barrette participated in the protest on Saturday. She said Canada needs to transition to a "renewable-sourced economy" and building more pipelines "is the opposite of solving the problem."

"We need to cut emissions very drastically to avoid catastrophic climate change," she told *The Link*. "We're here to say no to these projects [and] tell the government we need action on this now."

"We need someone in the next federal election to represent the community [...] that is calling on these projects to stop. We're looking for a candidate to do that."

Participants expressed skepticism that climate change could be resolved through the political process, however.

Garoufalīs-Auger accused the Conservative federal government of "gutting environmental protections," but was also critical of the opposition New Democrats and Liberals.

"It's not just Harper. Thomas Mulcair and Justin Trudeau are also in favour of fossil fuel expansion," he said, eliciting loud boos from the crowd.

Mulcair and the NDP oppose the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would ship oil to the United States, as well as the Northern Gateway pipeline that would bring oil to British Columbia's coastline for export. But New Democrats have thrown their support behind the idea of a west-to-east pipeline bringing oil to refineries in Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Trudeau and the Liberals have also voiced their opposition to Northern Gateway and have raised environmental concerns about the Energy East pipeline. However, Trudeau has previously stated his support for the southbound Keystone XL, saying it's "in the national interest."

"This makes them all culprits in the assault against humanity," said Garoufalīs-Auger. "The failure of our politicians and the business community to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions has been demonstrated time

and time again."

Protester Natasha Way, a student involved in environmental group Divest McGill, said she doesn't expect much to change, even after the 2015 federal election. According to her, we need to turn our attention away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energies.

"There's been a lot of moves lately towards creating new technologies, not to fix climate change but to stop contributing to it," she said, adding that countries like Denmark inspire her because of their plan on having their the capital city, Copenhagen, be carbon-neutral by 2025.

"The technologies already exist so that we can transition away from fossil fuels," said Garoufalīs-Auger. "The issue is not economic or one of technology; the issue is a political one. The fossil fuel lobby, unfortunately, has too much control over the government, and the government is listening to industry and not the science."

ÉCO is promising it will continue to mobilize, with plans for more events in the spring. Speaking to the crowd at the end of the march, Garoufalīs-Auger simultaneously issued a rallying cry to activists and a warning to politicians and "titans of industry."

"Respect existence or expect resistance," he said as the crowd cheered.

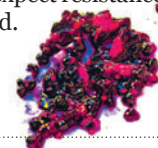


photo Michael Wrobel



Downsized but not Downtrodden

Thousands Take to the Streets to Express Dissatisfaction with Public Broadcast Budget Cuts

by Jane Lakes

A sea of red, white and blue flags emblazoned with the Radio-Canada logo flooded the streets of Montreal on Sunday afternoon, as over 25,000 people marched to protest recent budget cuts to CBC and Radio-Canada.

Organized by Amis de Radio-Canada, a volunteer organization aimed at defending Canadian programming, the protest denounced government funding cuts to CBC/Radio-Canada and expressed concern on the real cost of the issue.

Chanting "Radio-Canada, c'est à vous, c'est à nous, c'est à toi, c'est à moi!" meaning "It's yours, it's ours, it's yours, it's mine," protesters made it clear they believe government budget cuts pose a huge threat to democracy and inhibit the public from having a voice on the radio.

Cheering, singing, air horns and whistles echoed throughout the city as impassioned CBC listeners of all ages marched from Square Victoria to the Radio-Canada headquarters on René-Lévesque Blvd.

"[The protest is] important because Radio-Canada is a public service that is an instrument of culture and an important democratic platform," said Kamel Boulebdjen, a volunteer for the event. "When you take away from a

public service, it's democracy that will suffer."

The Conservative government has cut over \$115 million from CBC/Radio-Canada's spending since 2012.

"It's because Radio-Canada is not a program that's in Harper's pocket," said protester Guy Poulin. "If it was [...] someone who was in complete accordance with the government, Radio-Canada wouldn't have been cut."

In response to the cuts, CBC will eliminate 20 per cent of its employees over the next five years and reduce its office space in Montreal and Toronto.

CBC/Radio-Canada has not had a budget increase since 1973.

"We need CBC/Radio-Canada," said Pierre Maisonneuve, a spokesperson for the protest and retired employee of Radio-Canada. "We needed it in 1936 and we need it more and more in 2014. Radio-Canada is owned by the people and it's for the people."

The protest, which lasted about three hours, reached the Radio-Canada headquarters around 1:20 p.m., where organizers took to the stage to denounce the lack of government funding and emphasize the importance of CBC/Radio-Canada for Canadian democracy.

"We are here for democracy and to defend our culture," said Nicolas Bédard, the orga-

nizer of the protest's Facebook group.

Even the character Dame Plume from 1970s Radio-Canada TV show *La Ribouldingue* showed up to voice her concern over the closure of the costume department, which would result in the loss of hundreds of costumes, many of which represent important pieces of Quebec's cultural history.

Protester Chantel Champagne said that the costumes stored by the CBC are synonymous with preserving culture, and that eliminating the sector would "take away all of the richness, all of the history, all of the youth of Radio-Canada."

Many protesters were also concerned about the effect the cuts might have on Francophone culture.

"I believe that it's the quality that will definitely suffer," said Francine LaCoste, who came to show her support for CBC/Radio-Canada. "I think it will be very damaging for artists, like the costumiers that lost their jobs not too long ago and to this culture that has been building for such a long time."

LaCoste, like many others, explained how CBC has played a constant and important role in her life. "When I was little I would listen to Radio-Canada with my mom, so I was

surrounded by Radio-Canada all of my childhood, my teenage years, my life as a young adult, and still now."

Many protesters criticized Radio-Canada's President, Hubert Lacroix, and his close relationship with the Prime Minister.

Protester Andre Emond said that one of the most important steps going forward "would be to dissociate political power from Radio-Canada." Emond is worried that Radio-Canada's president is more concerned with political power than the quality of the media outlet.

Last year CBC lost the broadcasting rights for *Hockey Night in Canada* to Rogers, representing another obstacle for the organization.

Protests also took place in Gaspé, Matane, Moncton, Quebec City, Rimouski, Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Sept-Îles, and Trois-Rivières on Sunday.

Organizers of the event hoped that this citizen initiative would help shed light on the issue for the rest of the country.

"It's not a pipeline we need to unite us," cried one protester as the mass gathered outside of the CBC/Radio-Canada building, "it's a strong Radio-Canada."

photos Matt D'Amours

Concordia Student Union by-elections are taking place Nov. 27, 28 and 29. Councillors are running for all faculties except Fine Arts. The only uncontested position is the Independent councillor. Here are your candidates:

ARTS & SCIENCES (1 SEAT)

Armani Martel

A political science undergrad, Martel has already volunteered for Québec solidaire and the NDP and supports CSU initiatives like the Hive cooperative café. But he says he doesn't see how the CSU will take action against austerity, considering their budget hasn't been affected.

David Ness

Ness told *The Link* he was dropping out of the race to focus on his campaign for VP External and Sustainability Affairs for the Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations. A geography student and current council member of the Geography Undergraduate Student Society, Ness also sits on five ASFA committees.

Jason Poirier Lavoie

Lavoie is a second-year political science student looking to increase student involvement. He wants to see the CSU take a decisive stance against unpaid internships. He supports anti-austerity movements and initiatives to install a day-care and promote more student housing.

ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 SEAT)

Faddy Kamel

A major in mechanical engineering, Kamel served as the senior vice-president of a business club he co-founded at Champlain College Saint-Lambert. He also put in three years as a sergeant in a Royal Aviation Cadets squadron before then. His main goal is to ensure that student services and clubs are held to the highest standard.

Kyle Arseneau

A past CSU councillor, current president of the Concordia University Building Engineering Society and an Engineering and Computer Science Association executive, Arseneau thinks the loan referendum question contradicts the housing referendum question. He also disagrees with the separation of the International and Ethnic Associations Council from the CSU. Arseneau was disqualified from running for council last year for an offensive Facebook post. The post read "Hey u baggots, CSU eRections. Go vote. K thx. (Ps dont vote for ____)."

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (3 SEATS)

Kevin Gemme

A first-year JMSB student, Gemme is concerned about the disconnect between the business school and the CSU. He said he'll be voting against the BDS movement.

Taimur Tanoli

In his last year as a finance major, Tanoli serves as VP Finance for the Commerce and Administration Students' Association. His goal is to figure out how student funds are being distributed and to make sure the CSU's mandate promotes equality for the whole student body.

Simon Dansereau

An economics-to-JMSB transfer student, Dansereau wants to make sure students are more informed about CSU affairs. Although he is pro-Palestine, Dansereau thinks the BDS movement alienates students that aren't. He also hopes the CSU's stance against austerity doesn't lead to another Maple Spring.

Scott Carr

Last year's CSU VP Finance, Carr wants to clarify the CSU's finances to the rest of council, including bringing transparency to the union's referendum question on approving a loan for The Hive. He's also critical about the number of referendum questions being asked this by-election.

Maylen Cytryn

Academic Coordinator for the John Molson Case Competition committee and last year's JMSB councillor, Cytryn was unable to be reached for comment on her positions by deadline.

INDEPENDENT (1 SEAT)

Marie Briere de la Hosserraye

De la Hosserraye is taking business classes this year with the hope of being accepted into the Journalism Graduate Diploma program. Her main priorities as a council member will be promoting fee-levy groups, moving Concordia toward a more sustainable future and improving the quality of education.



Room and Board Students Can Afford

CSU Invites Development Organization to Present Student Housing Studies to Council

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci

Finding decent housing as a student is the hardest part about settling into a new city. How much should students be paying? Which areas are best? What are tenant rights in Montreal?

At the request of the Concordia Student Union, L'Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant (UTILE) presented its research on the student housing market in Montreal. The group is a not-for-profit development organization working with student unions in Montreal and at the Université de Laval in Quebec City to eliminate unfair treatment of student tenants.

The median rent paid by students from outside Quebec living in the city is \$605 per room with services, while the equivalent for students from the province is \$495. University residences in Montreal can only house five per cent of students, while for-profit student housing, like Varcity515, charge between \$650 and \$1300 per bed.

Laurent Levesque, Gabriel Filion and Laurent Deslauriers, urban planning students at UQAM, Université de Montréal and McGill University, presented UTILE's month-long

study at last week's CSU council meeting. Their goal is to develop affordable student housing. They also provided information on student housing to prevent students from getting taken advantage of by landlords by not knowing their rights.

UTILE and the CSU cooperated on the market study along with Concordia's Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank (HoJo).

"It showed that student tenant rights aren't being respected and there's a lot of exploitation and abuse in the tenant market in general, especially against international students or students that are from out of province," said Terry Wilkings, the CSU's VP Academics and Advocacy, of the group's findings.

According to UTILE's research, students will often pay higher rents than other locals and families. Out-of-town students are sometimes asked for illegal deposits, personal and financial information and documents from landlords. Landlords don't have the right to ask for passport information or social insurance numbers. Findings also showed that a higher proportion of students live in inadequate housing conditions in comparison to non-students.

"Proportionally they face issues in

the greater sense, probably due to the language barrier and also the choice of district where they live," Wilkings said. International students tend to live closer to the university, whereas individuals that grew up in Montreal know of non-central neighbourhoods to live in.

Wilkings says the end goal is to remove students from the tenant market. He's looking forward to working with UTILE on its pilot project, converting old buildings, and financing new constructions.

In the CSU's upcoming by-election, one of the referendum questions asks students to let the CSU treat student housing as a student space initiative. This would mean any future investment would come from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund—a fund that's already under pressure to pay off The Hive Café Co-op.

"In my opinion, I absolutely see a link between student housing and student space," Wilkings said.

UTILE is already working on a pilot project in the South-West borough that should create 140 bedrooms for students. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$9 million, and the group received \$2 million from

the Quebec government last year. It's looking to the city, student groups, the provincial government and any interested investors to support future developments.

"Our first project comes with state money," said Levesque. "We can't say that will always be the case."

But until the referendum passes the CSU isn't talking digits, saying there are various ways it could invest—either by equity, which will give the union a level of ownership, or loans that can be reimbursed with interest. Any assets made from one project could also be used to build more, says Wilkings.

"We're a student city and we have to recognize that—in terms of our housing policies."

photo Shaun Michaud





Police Injures Onlooker as Austerity Protest Concludes

Protest Against Austerity Ends with Intervention from Police

by Jonathan Cook

A woman twisted her ankle and was left limping due to physical aggression from a police officer toward the end of a protest against austerity Wednesday night in downtown Montreal.

According to the police, no one was injured or arrested in the group of approximately 100 people. However, in front of the Copie Express on de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Labrecque St., a police officer in riot gear holding a shield and baton pushed Martine Parquette, causing her to twist her left ankle.

"I wasn't protesting. We were just walking through. We were going to a party at Le

Belmont and this big cop just shoved me against the glass," she said while her friend held her up.

She had to bandage the injured ankle and was assisted to the nearest Metro station by her friend.

The protest was declared illegal by 9 p.m. due to the absence of a planned itinerary and the use of facemasks, according to the police. For Christophe Bolduc, who participated in the protest, his mask was a scarf used to protect his face from the cold.

Bolduc was seen arguing with police about this fact as they asked him and others around him to remove their scarves from their mouths. The argument ended without any incident.

"They were saying, 'Take off your mask,' and stuff," Bolduc said about the confrontation. "He was kind of holding me [and said], 'If you don't come with us, then you'll be arrested and fined.'"

Police in riot gear arrived almost immediately at the protest's outset. The original path began north on Berri St. with a left turn onto Ontario St. and then south on St. Denis. Police with large riot shields blocked Ste. Catherine St. West, so the protesters went east.

A construction detour at St. Timothée St. led the group toward René-Lévesque Blvd. East. Multiple police vans attempted to kettle the protesters on the main street, but they spontaneously reversed direction. On

Wolfe St., the first dispersing of the protesters occurred as many began sprinting north.

They reconvened on Ste. Catherine St. and headed eastward. Protesters fashioned "projectiles" from construction cones and debris around this point, according to the police. Some protesters were seen moving traffic signs and cones to block the path of oncoming police vehicles.

Additional police in riot gear caused the last, destabilizing dispersal around de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Labrecque St. where Parquette was injured. The protest officially came to an end at approximately 10:45 p.m., according to the police.

photo Shaun Michaud

weekly calendar

CURRENT

Transgender Day of Remembrance
Thursday, Nov. 20, 5 p.m.
Norman Bethune Square
Free

Queer Concordia will pay tribute through a candlelight vigil to all the victims of transphobic violence in 2014. This international day of remembrance is set to honour and memorialize the lives of those lost to this type of violence worldwide. Music, art and community projects will be presented for the occasion.

Harm Reduction Workshop
Nov. 20, 6 p.m.
1500 Maisonneuve St., #404
Free

The second workshop of the "Be a Better Friend and Ally" series will focus on teaching tips on how to be a better friend and a better listener. The topics that will be covered by this series include sexualities, sexual health, consent, ageism, racism and privilege.

ART

Loud and Clear Design Market
Friday, Nov. 21, 12-9 p.m.
EV Building Atrium
Free

Featuring over 40 of Concordia's designers' and creators' collections, the Loud and Clear market will provide all kinds of designer items from furniture pieces to crazier objects such as the "tricycle espresso machine" for sampling or purchase.

Urban Arts Festivals in Canada
Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thompson House McGill (3650 McTavish St.)
Free, RSVP: misc.iecm@mcgill.ca

Organized by the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, this symposium aims to create a dialogue on the history, politics, economics and aesthetics of urban arts festivals across the country. 20-minute panel presentations relating to this significant feature of the Canadian cultural landscape will include film, music, theatre, performance, art and design.

MUSIC

M for Montreal Workshops
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.
Société des arts technologiques (1201 St. Laurent Blvd.)
\$10

Focusing on the fast-changing spaces in the music industry, this year's M for Montreal panels will offer a guidelines on dealing with the "new" music business of this past decade. Wednesday's speakers include Glastonbury Festival promoter Martin Elbourne and programmer of the St. Jerome's Laneway Festival Travis Banko, among others.

POETRY

Discordia Poetry Slam
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Hall Building, 2nd Floor Mezzanine
Free

A second edition of the Discordia Poetry Slam will be happening at Concordia's Hive Café Solidarity Co-op in the downtown campus. 12 spots will be available for poets and amateurs to try their hand at slamming. The slam will close with a mysterious "poetry cypher," which will be explained in more detail at the event.

CINEMA

Last Year at Marienbad Screening
Sunday, Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Cinema J.A. de Sève (LB-125)
\$8 general admission, \$6 students/seniors

One of Alain Resnais' great classics Last Year at Marienbad (1961) will be screened by Concordia's Film Society in 35 mm film cinemascope format. The film will be followed by a second screening premiering Thierry Loa's 20-22 (2014). Following the lineage of Powaqatsi, Koyaanisqatsi and Baraka, this short film shot in black and white is sure to hold many surprises. The film's director will close the evening with a bilingual discussion on his complex piece.



Business and Sustainability, Sitting in a Tree

Sustainable Business Entrepreneurs on Why Business Needs to Effect Change

by Verity Stevenson @vestevie

Hope for social and environmental change is in the hands of small private sector businesses, according to one of Rise Kombucha's founders.

"It's kind of obvious that business as usual is terrible," Julian Giacomelli said to a room filled with business students interested in sustainable ventures. "Business as usual is actually what's making the world spin too fast."

Giacomelli was the first of three speakers at the Sustainable Business Night organized by the John Molson School of Business Sustainable Business Group Wednesday evening in the Floating Room at MB 2.130.

He helped found the Crudessence restaurants in Montreal and Rise Kombucha—a fermented health drink—and says he's onto starting a B corporation, a type of business that supports positive change.

He told the group that to survive in the future, businesses would have to collaborate and work on a platform that "benefits everyone," rather than compete. Business should be modeled after nature, Giacomelli said.

"I believe that ultimately we can get to a place where business can be generative [...] a place where all the parties that touch it are thriving," he said. "When life is thriving there's a greater output than what goes in." That's the good news.

Meanwhile, it's difficult for banks and

other big businesses to stray from investments that are harmful for the environment, Rosalie Vendette, a senior advisor at Desjardins, told the room a little later.

Vendette manages "socially responsible investments"—investments into companies that are finding ways to give back. Desjardins has certain standards big corporations including Big Oil have to adhere to, like a "checklist," Vendette told *The Link*, to be a part of the folder.

When they don't live up to the expectations, as a shareholder, Desjardins can bring a motion to their board of directors meeting to get them back on track. If the company it is investing in doesn't comply with its standards, it can also group with other investors to put pressure on it and "if it doesn't work, then they risk the possibility of divestment."

The downside, Vendette conceded, is bankers haven't yet found a way to not follow stock market proportions. They invest in the same industries, at the same proportion as everyone else.

"It's a huge deception," she said. "And I know you'll have a lot of questions about that later."

One of the first came from VP External Relations of JMSB's Sustainable Business Group Pierre Sieur, who wondered why the natural gas sector continues to be invested in. Vendette explained stock market regulation prevents even socially responsible investments.

"I just think that instead of saying, 'Yes, I'll give you the money, but you're going to have to change,' stop giving them the money," Sieur said.

In speaking with *The Link* after the talk, Sieur said he understood where Vendette was coming from, but added, "I just feel that there are things that they can further do to help invest sustainably by promoting it more than they do now."

"It's true that, in the end, socially responsible investment doesn't seem to differ that much from normal investment."

Vendette later reiterated the limitations set out by the stock market to *The Link*, but further explained the standards to which Desjardins holds the companies it invests in.

She said there are seven standards for the credit union. The first is to "eliminate the worst," Vendette says.

"The first thing we do is we exclude nuclear, weapons and tobacco. So, those are three sectors that we don't tolerate," she told *The Link*.

For example, Desjardins did not invest in TransCanada this year because of the company's involvement in nuclear activities, while they did invest in Enbridge "because they take their environmental responsibility seriously."

She also added that the company has been in conversations with the company about "security issues" with its proposed pipeline.

"In fact, [we've been] in a continuous dialogue since 2009 approximately," she

said of Desjardins raising the issues to Enbridge's board of directors.

Wayne Burke and Steve Shoiry, the cofounders of DNE Resources, an energy consulting firm, also took the floor. The firm is looking for ways to keep a small-company feel among their employees as their business expands.

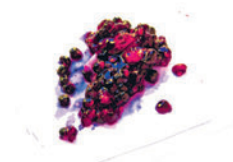
They echoed Giacomelli's statements, saying they worked on holding their clients accountable in their mission to be more sustainable.

After the speeches, the crowd of about 50 drifted to the third floor for cocktails.

Back at Desjardins, Vendette says her team dedicated to "socially responsible investments" is "trying to create products that would be investing less in fossil fuels," but the stock market is a difficult place to effect change.

"As an industry, there's lots of hope for research and development and innovation. That said, the financial sector, it can be creative, but it's a very conservative sector," Vendette said. "No one wants to play with their money."

photos Verity Stevenson





BAROQUE -BACK MOUNTAIN

Montreal Artists Recreate Lavish 18th-Century Opera House Experience with Modern Twists

by Jake Russell @jakeryandrussell

Like a Justin Timberlake-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart hybrid, Montreal classical musician and interdisciplinary artist Aleks Schürmer wants to bring sexy opera back.

After having received a Master's in 18th-century Historical Performance Practice from McGill, he feels that today's stuffy renditions of opera are far removed from what they were in their glory days.

"If you've ever gone to an opera, a lot of times it's really boring. It's really not accessible, and it's pretty elitist," Schürmer told *The Link* in an interview at the Société des arts technologiques, where their latest show *Le Pop d'époque* is being showcased.

"It's not accessible financially; it's not accessible because you don't necessarily want to sit there and listen to people speak some language you don't understand."

But Schürmer said if you turn back the clock a few centuries, the opera house wouldn't turn down for anything.

"We're pretty disconnected from this, but three or four hundred years ago, this was culture. This was like going to any kind of show—this was the primary, not just cultural form, but like, social form," said Schürmer. "If you combined all of cinema, all music, the Internet and social media into one thing, that's like the 18th century opera. You go there because you want people to see you, and because you want to see that person, and it's the thing to do."

Wanting to recapture this lost idea of what the opera house once stood for, Schürmer created the art collective Party Like It's 1699 with his partner-in-art Frances McKenzie, who received her BFA in Studio Art at Concordia.

Revitalizing opera from its current state as a "dying art form" is the group's goal: their most recent show, *Le Pop d'époque*, is a trip through time and space into their other-worldly opera house at the SAT, where both

artists currently have a residency.

"We're pretty interested in trying to figure out ways to create that same spirit. It's obviously super-anachronistic," Schürmer said.

The 360-degree screen in the Satosphere, which truly brings the opera house aesthetic to life, allows Schürmer to bathe his audiences in his and McKenzie's conceptual world of romance, tragedy, sex, art and more.

"You really have to wander around and be compelled to get out of your seat and be a part of that environment. [...] There's people who are in costumes who are audience members, who sort of blend between the audience that is digitized in the digital theatre that we have, and the audience that comes and sits in. But it's actually weird, because they look like the people that are to-scale that are in the wall."

Schürmer explained that even the sound in the dome blends dimensions: with over 30 channels of different speakers, he was able to isolate tracks for specific conservations of the virtual opera-goers in his piece. This means that by walking around the perimeter of the dome, show-goers can pick up on many different conversations that the digital 18th-century ghosts are having among the cavalcade of other sights and sounds.

"It usually leaves people mostly slack-jawed," Schürmer laughed. "If you just look at a picture of the audience, no one is looking at the same thing, and everyone looks like they're like, 'What the fuck is happening?'"

Schürmer compared *Le Pop d'époque*'s experience with an anecdote about one of the first *tragédie ballets*, when a performance enacted a storm scene and made it rain in the theatre—and on the audience.

"People kind of quite literally lost their shit, they didn't understand," Schürmer said.

Response to Schürmer's modern-day storm-in-the-theatre has been mostly positive, minus a few of the more tightly-wound reviewers who may have lost their wits like those at the *tragédie ballet*.

"I think that, generally, people are pretty supportive of the things that Frances and I do. I mean, it's totally nuts, but it's probably the most normal thing we've made," he laughed.

While the show's format may be something audiences have never experienced before, the narratives within the show are nearly as old as time itself. *Le Pop d'époque* showcases "all the juicy, good stories. The stories of forever," according to Schürmer.

The classic themes of doomed lovers, tragic deaths, and gods harbouring some of humanity's worst traits are prevalent in *Le Pop d'époque*.

"It's always like, the god of the winds decides to be like, 'Ha ha, let's just make this guy drown, just 'cause.' And then, so, [his lover] will kill herself," he said.

"And then the moral of the story will be like, you know, the gods might kill you, and love is fickle. I don't know, it's weird. [...] Most of the

time you're supposed to feel bad about most things," he said.

Schürmer and McKenzie recruited dozens of fellow Montreal artists to act, sing or dance (or all the above) in their bombastic show, including members from local bands such as Mozart's Sister and iFLIST!

"In the end, there's probably over 100 people that we digitized for it. [...] That's what makes it very Montreal, it's very 'from-now,'" Schürmer said.

Le Pop d'époque will be presented at the Satosphere this week as part of the M for Montreal Festival.

Le Pop d'époque & Foodlab Banquet [18+] // Nov. 19, 20, 21 // La Société des arts technologiques (1201 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 7 p.m. // \$42.25

photos Shaun Michaud



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Materializing the Land of the Rising Sun

UQAM Exhibition Focuses on Japanese Aesthetics in Industrial Design

by Athina Lugez @AthinaLugez

The essence of Japan's heritage can be found condensed into the aesthetics and design of the country's material culture.

Considered one of the leading innovators in the field of industrial design, the nation's success is partly attributed to a particular concept found in Japanese traditional art, design and lifestyle—that of “Wa” (和), a kanji character that refers to the concept of harmony and Japanese culture itself.

The Design Centre at UQAM, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation, will be hosting an exhibition called “L'objet Japonais: A Panorama of Contemporary Design in Japan,” focusing on material objects of Japanese culture. Showcasing 100 contemporary objects of everyday use, these products were selected for display because of their quality of execution and uniquely Japanese characteristics.

“This is an important event because in the world of design, Japan is one of the most advanced,” explained Georges Labrecque, project manager at the Centre of Design. “It will expose their strong material culture and [...] their ability to combine traditional values and craft with modern technological means to produce [objects.] This is what sets them apart from other cultures.”

“All the objects on display are well-designed and combine

function and style,” Labrecque continued. “They are presented in a sensible and refined way, related to [Japan's] arts and crafts tradition as well as modern life. But these objects are never too loud; in fact [they are] quiet.”

The concept of “Wa” (和) in Japanese culture centers on the idea that harmony exists between the cosmos and the Earth, meaning that lessons should be learned from nature. In traditional Japanese design this concept is expressed through the choice of natural materials. Japanese design embraces nature, minimalism, subtlety and calmness.

Art scholar and author Okakura Kakuzo considered the Japanese to be masters of the “art of imperfection” because of their tendencies to produce crafts that are slightly disproportional, a reflection of the asymmetry of the natural world. In these crafts, beauty lies in the non-overt directness of expression, in order to favour the subtle.

“Japanese material culture is sophisticated, but not ostentatious. It's not something flamboyant; it's very subtle and very refined and that's the most important characteristic,” Labrecque said.

One of the first countries to set an emphasis on technology to stimulate its economy, Japan succeeded by stressing an obsessive desire to craft objects of technological quality. The exhibition intends to highlight this point while portraying the

history of post-war Japan through the selected objects.

“They created a strong and persistent desire to produce goods that were well-built,” explained Labrecque. “11 of the objects on display are deeply rooted in Japanese culture, such as the saucepan, the rice cooker or the Kikkoman soy sauce bottle, produced now for more than 60 years.”

“As you go through these objects, you also go through the postwar efforts Japan went through to start a new life. You notice the evolution of material culture and its history defiled in front of you.”

Opening Nov. 20 and on display until Jan. 18, 2015, this exhibition hopes to attract designers, design enthusiasts and the simply curious to an understanding of Japan's culture exemplified through objects.

“This exhibition is important to see for designers in Montreal and those who like design, because it is very rare,” said Labrecque. “We hope it serves as a base to understand the Japanese material world.”

L'objet Japonais: A Panorama of Contemporary Design in Japan // Nov. 20, 2014-Jan. 18, 2015 // UQAM Centre of Design // Free

photo courtesy of Japan Foundation

RE-REMEMBERING THE FUTURE

Alisha B. Wormsley Brings a Mythical Perspective to the Narratives of the African Diaspora

by Mariana Voronovska

Artist Alisha B. Wormsley challenges the future post-industrial capitalism has set up, imagining a time-transcending science-fiction fantasy.

The artist's goal is to re-envision the history and future of African diaspora, using the medium of audiovisual installations.

Wormsley is a multidisciplinary artist who focuses her work on retelling the collective human narrative. This narrative, along with the concepts of Afrofuturism, ancient futurism and cyberfeminism were introduced to Montreal audiences from Nov. 7 to Nov. 15 as part of Studio XX's 11th edition of the HTMlles Festival, titled *ZÉRO FUTUR{E}*.

Drawing inspiration from current gender and racial relations, her passion for science-fiction and her master's training in anthropology, Wormsley prompts her audience to consider the cultural status quo from a mythical and feminist perspective.

“We have the ability to remember the beginning,” Wormsley told *The Link*. “As far as showing it visually, that's what I wanted to do.”

“It's coming from [the Atlantic slave trade] into today's technological American capitalism, with all these people getting here in different ways,” she said of her project.

The installation and performance was personalized with a tower of old televisions arranged as part of a winged totem, playing videos of the artist's friends and acquaintances.

By incorporating what Wormsley considers “the most ancient, most singular cultural phenomenon in history,” she hopes to represent a spiritual connection of ancient cultures, First Nations communities in Montreal and indigenous communities across continents.

Influenced by science-fiction writer Octavia Butler as well as her own literary work-in-progress titled *children of NAN*, the Pittsburgh artist co-created the performance *PROOF* with composer Lisa E. Harris, using

elements of other joint projects the artists have undertaken over the last ten years.

“Lisa disperses the sound, creating another layer of time as another dimension in these stories,” said Wormsley.

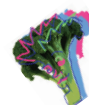
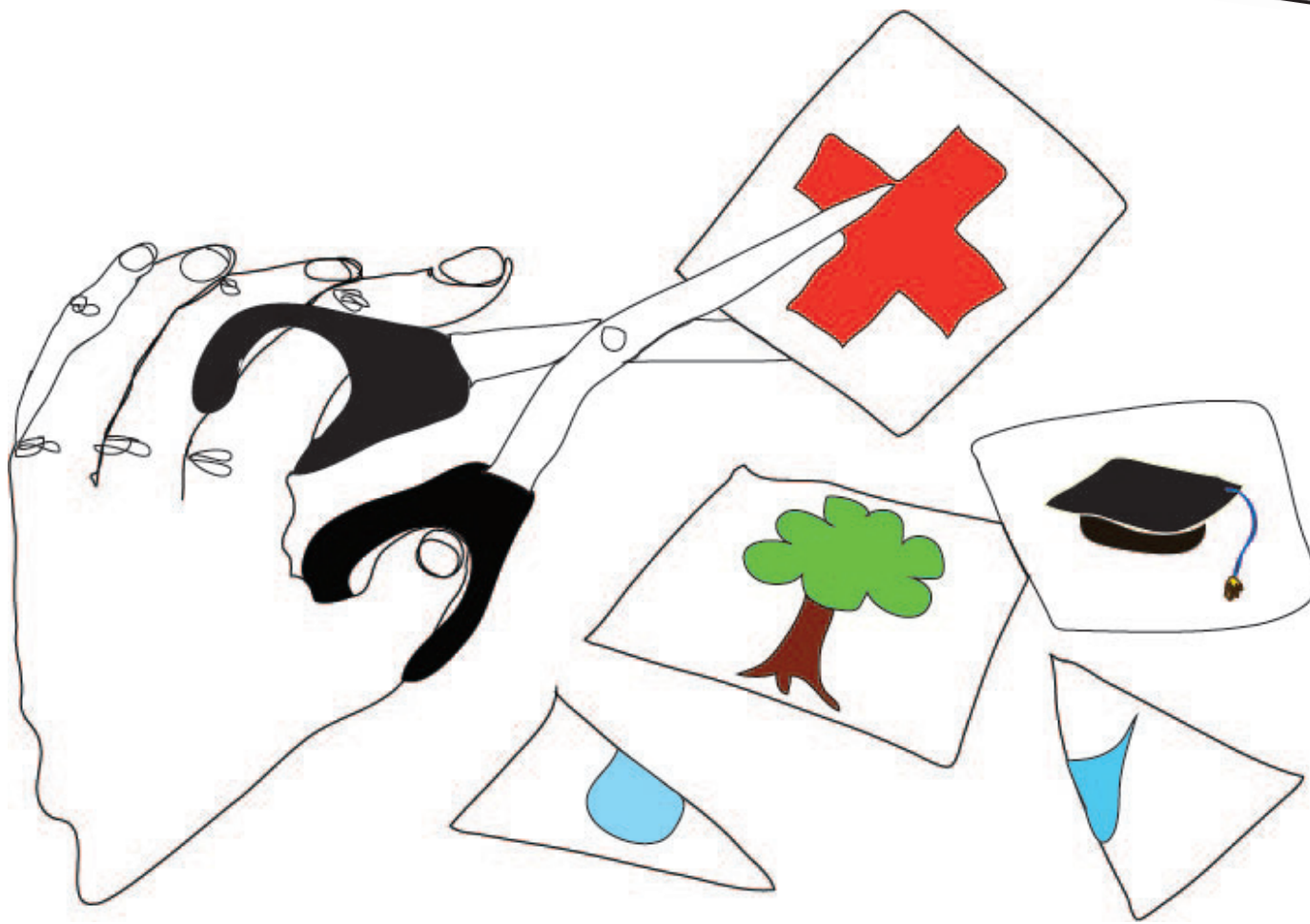


The festival also held a panel on Nov. 9 called “A Conversation on Afrofuturism,” featuring Wormsley, Harris, author Ytasha L. Womack, along with other speakers who discussed the meaning of empowerment and the importance of role models in widespread cultural stories. The talk showed the way each speaker envisioned the future of African-American cultural movements and was followed by a free performance from musicians GAYANCE and tobias.dj.

Events throughout the week showcased a total of 40 projects from Canadian and international artists dedicated to innovative proposals about possible futures. Some of these events included a free digital performance workshop by artist and theorist micha cárdenas at Concordia's Loyola campus, a performance by Julie Matson of Echo Beach at the Eastern Bloc, Christina Goestl's Clitonics exhibition, and special video presentation *FRAGMENTED MEMORY* by claRa apaRicio yoldi, to name just a few.

photo courtesy of HTMlles Festival





Growing Up Without Growth

The Sustainability Movement Learns to Recognize Social Justice

by Mike Fink

The sustainability movement is growing up.

It now recognizes that a sustainable world hinges not on a development-focused model, but on three pillars: social justice, ecological health and economic equality. We saw this attitude during the Concordia Student Union's Rethink Sustainability Street Fest at the beginning of the semester, which reached out to groups that maintain these ideals, like the Quebec Public Interest Research Group and the Centre for Gender Advocacy.

However, the sustainability movement at large is still in the process of realizing that its initiatives don't exist in silos. These groups are finding that they cannot work on just one pillar at a time—all three are deeply interconnected.

We are seeing this growing awareness at Concordia as austerity measures have struck the university. There was the immediate loss of the Sustainable Transportation Coordinator, the dropping of teaching assistants, staff reductions in the health centre, the Voluntary Departure Program and complaints in student departments about fewer assignments. These are jarring reminders that we must acknowledge the larger economic context in which we operate.

Austerity has massive implications across the board. In September, Sustainable Concordia received a letter asking for support from Eco-Quartier Peter-McGill, a community sustainability organization in the downtown district where the Sir George Williams campus is located. They said they were losing half of their budget and would be forced to let go of half of their staff.

Several years ago, the Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes, a network of envi-

ronmental groups based in Montreal, had its budget cut by 15 per cent. We can see how decreases in government funding impede environmental organizations' functioning.

The trend continued with Quebec's Department of Environment, which has seen its budget repeatedly slashed since its inception in 1979.

When the title "sustainable development" was tacked on to the department in 2003, the core mission of protecting the environment was overridden by that of "sustainable" resource extraction. In "sustainable development," there is only development.

Today, we see Minister David Heurtel allowing work on the TransCanada Energy East pipeline and encouraging the construction of an oil export terminal at Cacouna, a municipality just outside of Rivière-du-Loup, despite the repeated warnings of diverse community and environmental groups. This shows that the department's "sustainable development" is, in fact, greenwashing.

This process is occurring throughout Canada. In 2012, we saw \$88.2 million in cuts to Environment Canada, \$79.3 million in cuts to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the scrapping of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy.

This is just the most recent aspect of an ongoing dismantlement project. In the mid-1990s, we saw 35 per cent of Environment Canada's budget cut, as well as a cut of 44 per cent in the Ontario Ministry of Environment. These cuts set the stage for the 2000 Walkerton Tragedy. Seven people died in the small town of Walkerton, Ontario, when the water supply became poisonous. This was because of a slackening of monitoring and testing practices due to budget cuts and poor policy.

The logic of austerity beats on the rhetoric of deficit zero, fetishizing the need to get out of debt but ignoring the process by which we got into it. Over the past 50 years, the provincial government has reduced corporate tax rates from 40 to nearly 20 per cent, reduced the capital tax of 0.6 per cent to 0 per cent between 2006 and 2011 and reduced income tax brackets from a progressive 16-division scheme to one using only 4.

Previously, people making very high salaries would pay higher rates of taxes on the higher portions of their salaries. The inverse of this (and the direction of the aforementioned reductions) is Alberta's flat tax, or one-bracket system, where people making \$20,000 per year would pay the same rate as those making millions. By reducing government revenues by reducing various forms of tax revenues, principally benefiting the rich and the private sector, these deficits have been manufactured.

The process by which austerity functions is akin to subsidization, whereby cuts in health, education and the environment become profits for corporations and the ultra-rich. Quite literally, as cuts to corporate tax rates lower state revenues, cuts to public services make up the difference. The poor subsidize these profits with their health, while students do the same through brutal reductions in quality of education and increasing fees. The environment subsidizes through its destruction. It must be mentioned that all of this rests on the oldest national subsidy of all—the initial and ongoing theft of land and attempted cultural genocide of indigenous peoples.

Austerity is the ongoing process of privatizing profit and socializing costs. We see this at large when we look at climate change, the

explosion in Lac-Mégantic, the deregulation of environmental protections, the de-financing of environmental protection agencies and the dismantling of our public services as represented by health, education and cultural production in the CBC.

Furthermore, this process is global. Britain's environmental agency is being forced to let go of 1,400 employees—half of their staff—between 2013 and 2016. In 2012, there was a massive amount of smog over Athens as austerity-induced rates of poverty forced people to use less efficient forms of heating fuel.

Through Sustainable Concordia's definition of sustainability reflecting social justice, ecological health, and economic equality, the Sustainability Actions Fund's application form's inclusion of social justice as a stipulation and the CSU's Rethink Sustainability Street Fest, we see that sustainability groups at Concordia are beginning to recognize that they don't exist in a bubble.

While reforms of operations in an institution like Concordia are important, understanding and addressing the root causes of un-sustainability is essential. The government policy which feeds this economy which turns social well-being and the environment into private profit must be tackled.

Alternatives to social injustice, economic inequality and ecological destruction exist. We must build within our movements the courage and political power to demand and implement them, together.

Join us on Nov. 24 at the Concordia Town Hall on Austerity, from 5-7 p.m., where we will further discuss the implications of and potential solutions to austerity.

graphic Jennifer Aedy

Bean Me, Cleanly

Montreal Hops Aboard the Third Wave Coffee Movement

by Athina Lugez @Athinalugez

Coffee has become Canada's fuel. Every day approximately 65% of adult Canadians consume coffee, according to the Coffee Association of Canada. Whether it's to provide a caffeine boost before an early morning class or to stay awake for a late-night crunch, it's clear that both Canadians and the world at large love their java—in fact, coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world. But how much do you know about what is inside your cup of Joe?

Coffee is mainly produced in the southern hemisphere, in the latitudes between the Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn, known as the Bean Belt. Over the last decade views on coffee have been reconfigured, particularly with the emergence of the third wave movement, an initiative that focuses on a producing high-quality coffee. Distinctive features of this wave include direct or fair trade relations with farmers, with the goal of producing high quality beans that can earn the designation of "specialty coffee" (scoring 80 points out of 100 on a scale devised by the Specialty Coffee Association of America). These new practices involve improvements at all stages of production, but most important are better working conditions for small farm producers.

Brûlerie Santropol, a Montreal coffee distributor established in 1976, was one of the first adherents to importing, roasting and distributing fair trade and organic coffee, while empowering local and small-scale producers who sustain our coffee addiction. They currently distribute their coffee to Concordia's student-run café, the Hive.

"When officially fair trade-certified coffee first became available in Quebec, our history and reputation led Santropol to be the first café to offer it in Montreal," explained James Solkin, Brûlerie

Santropol's director of business development. "We then decided to try to import and roast fair trade-certified coffee ourselves. For myself, it has always been the fair trade aspect of this business and the direct contact with southern producers which has appealed to me most, which gives meaning to what I'm doing."

Fair trade is an organized social movement which seeks to help producers in developing countries regulate better trading conditions and promote sustainability—although in recent years, the term has lost some of its legitimacy.

Many producers have neglected their original missions, attracting multinational corporations and private landowners while refusing to improve social standards for farmers. Transnational corporations have caused massive unemployment and led to unregulated trading activities and environmental disasters, while empowering a small nucleus of economic and political entities.

"Conventional fair trade is now being independently redesigned and relaunched in the south by producers themselves," explained Solkin. "This new initiative is called the 'Small Producers' Symbol.' It is designed to be a real engine for change in both local and global economies, to correct the errors made in conventional fair trade strategies and to return to the original mission and enhance the legitimacy of the movement."

"Our company wholeheartedly endorses and is committed to this new initiative," Solkin continued. "This system is the first fair trade certification in the world to be owned, operated, designed and governed by small farmers in the south. They maintain extraordinarily high standards of transparency in its governance and administration."

The Small Producers' Symbol is an initiative that launched in 2006 by the Latin American and Caribbean Net-

work of Small Fair Trade Producers to effectively dignify the lives of affiliated producers, families and communities. Its democratic structure allows for all members and sectors to participate in the collective interest. Self-managed by local social groups, it fights against the interference and manipulation of outside interest groups.

The group's economic basis relies on the fact that producers need dignified living with enough food, adequate health and hygiene conditions as well as access to education, housing and sources of employment to generate income in both rural and urban sectors. Running on a small-scale production model, this form of labour generates revenue that allows reinvesting in the local economy and enforcing direct trade relations between producers and consumers, hence strengthening its structure. Today, many young consumers and coffee shops are expressing interest in these alternative business models.

The Third Wave Coffee movement works to bridge the gap between consumers and producers by sharing coffee connoisseurs' wealth of knowledge. They're attempting to show increasing support for alternative business models and product certification systems that adhere to positive environmental, labour and development standards.

"Third Wave Coffee culture represents an attempt to personalize and legitimize the coffee-consuming culture, not only by cultivating a discerning culture of 'quality', both in coffee origins and preparation, but also by strengthening links and awareness between producers and consumers," said Solkin. "Everyone knows by now that our mainstream economic model represents a recipe for global political and environmental disaster."

graphic Laura Lalonde

65%
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drank coffee
yesterday

coffee is the
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second to oil

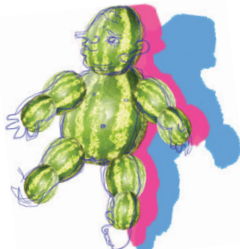
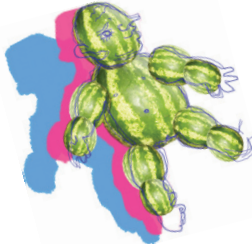
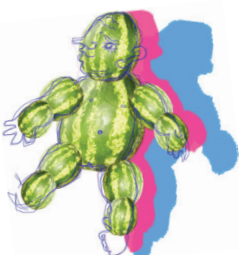
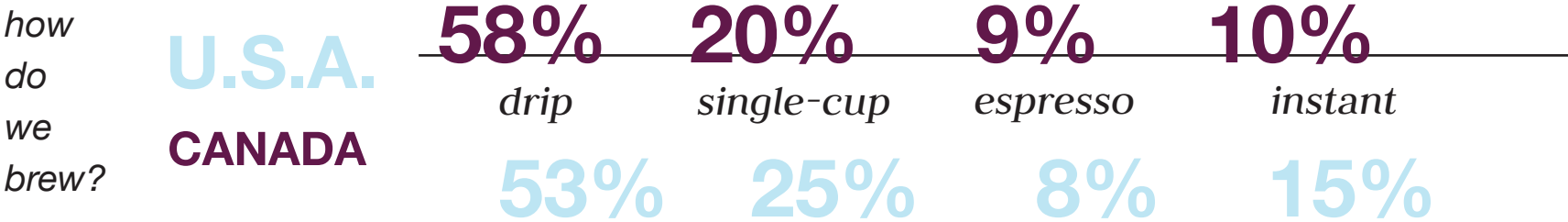


know your
beans:



- arabica*
more complex,
balanced flavour
- robusta*
less acidic and
smoky

THE BEAN BELT all of the world's coffee grows between the tropic of Cancer & Capricorn





Students on line for People's Potato, one of the alternatives to Chartwells run cafeterias on campus.

A Mealtime Epic

Chartwells, Sysco and the Future of Food at Concordia

by Jonathan Cook

A request for proposal (RFP) for a new campus-wide food service provider is under negotiation between many groups, including students; it will be ready by the end of the year, according to Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota. It's been almost 12 years since Chartwells signed an exclusive contract with Concordia University.

According to Chartwells' website, the multinational food service employs a "diverse family [of] expert chefs and registered dietitians" and "takes pride in meeting expectations by ensuring that all student and client needs are met and understood."

Anisa Ben-Saud, a first-year biology student living in Loyola's Hingston Hall residence, said that multiple members of the Buzz Bistro cafeteria, including the kitchen manager, asked her what gluten was on separate occasions. Ben-Saud has Celiac disease and is also lactose-intolerant.

"It affects both my physical and mental [health]," Ben-Saud told *The Link*. "If I eat [gluten] in large amounts, then I'll have a stomachache, or I just can't eat at all [after]."

"It affects my concentration, my mood—everything gets harder."

The Buzz Bistro and Grey Nuns Dining Hall both claim to offer gluten-free options as well as vegan and vegetarian choices. Ben-Saud recounted a mere few instances where they catered to her intolerance. Once they made gluten-free pizza for her and also served gluten-free brownies.

Ben-Saud paid a flat rate of \$1,975 for the "Freedom Plan", one of a handful of meal plan options all residents are obligated to choose from. However, her options are more limited.

Unlike most of her neighbors, Ben-Saud includes \$150 worth of monthly supplements in her diet, like magnesium, tyro-trypt and amino acids, plus \$50 worth of weekly gluten-free groceries. The Jesuit residence of Loyola possesses a kitchen for students, but Ben-Saud said management has yet to let her use it.

An Industry Congealed

Newton Jr. Jegu, the general manager of Concordia Food Services and a representative

of Chartwells, is aware of Ben-Saud's predicament and is working toward a resolution. He said that she should be in direct, consistent contact with the kitchen's chef to address her specific needs. He added that she is part of a group that is less than one per cent of the population he feeds.

"There are no students we want [to see] starve. We want them to eat," Jegu said. "But on the other hand, they need to realize we have some parameters to work in. Our hands are tied."

Sysco is the food supplier for Concordia University. Any company that is ordering food orders from Sysco, according to Jegu. Sysco is the main culprit for situations like Ben-Saud's and that Concordia is at the "mercy" of suppliers who don't have the required amounts of specific dietary products, he added.

"It's not affordable for them, so they don't want to carry those products anymore," Jegu said of Sysco's business model. "So if they don't carry them, we have to find a way to accommodate students. This is the type of gymnastics we have to do."

Leonardo Barardinelli, the executive chef of Concordia's Grey Nuns Dining Hall, echoed Jegu's sentiments. He said that Chartwells wants to supply "good products," but they have a budget to maintain when dealing with the food supplier.

"Sysco has some problems, [like how] they don't keep everything on stock," Barardinelli said about trying to order new products. "Sometimes we have to wait three weeks before we get it."

Jegu recounted a recent exchange of approximately 15 emails between him, Barardinelli and a sales representative from Sysco to obtain one single item. In addition, trips to the grocery store are frequent for both Jegu and Barardinelli as they both work around company policy to buy unavailable products. They have "no choice" but to take risks, Jegu said.

"It's not Chartwells; it's the industry," Jegu said. "The industry right now, I would say, is five years late with the process of [handling new diet trends]."

In response to learning that some of his staff do not know what gluten is, Jegu said that more training and coaching are necessary to educate employees who aren't food "savvy" enough.

"The biggest challenge we have right now is that we're open all day from seven [a.m.] to nine [p.m.]," Jegu continued. "When do I have time to train people? We had some training, yes, but we need to get more in-depth."

The Alternatives

The Concordia Food Coalition is one of the potential bidders in the RFP process. Lauren Aghabozorgi, the office coordinator of the coalition, said that their plan is to get a "consortium" of different, local food businesses to form a single bid together.

"The objective is to have not one huge corporation controlling all of the food outlets on campus [but] to actually have more of a diversity of different businesses that work to our values and our ethics around healthy and sustainable food," Aghabozorgi said.

The process will be done in the next month or so and no more than eight businesses will be involved, she added. However, Aghabozorgi remains "skeptical" about the university administration's future decision, adding that these processes often come down to choosing the bidder with more money and a stable business, which is usually a corporation.

The Concordia Student Union is also actively involved in the negotiations for the RFP. CSU president Benjamin Prunty, a member of The Hive Café Co-op board, said he supports the Concordia Food Coalition's bid.

Prunty called The Hive Café Co-op, located at both campuses, the "potential cornerstone of the future food systems." Acknowledging it's an ambitious goal, Prunty added that the CSU wants to ensure the next contract is shorter than Chartwells's 12-year agreement so they can make a future bid for The Hive Cafés to be the main cafeterias.

According to a press release from Concordia University, its Services Department conducted a survey of the "entire campus community" and identified many "important factors" for the next contract. The report stated that students are important stakeholders in the "overall food system procurement landscape."

Prunty said he disagreed with the diction chosen by the university, stating that students should be "key stakeholders" in "developing

a food system" rather than choosing a food procurement process.

"We have a vibrant food and sustainability culture on the student level," he said. "When we negotiate with the university, we say there's room for growth in that area."

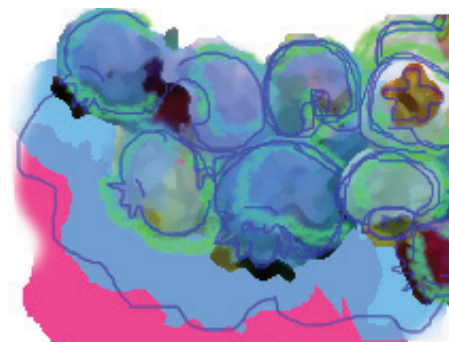
The CSU president continued by acknowledging that help from the university is necessary to implement any major changes because students don't have the resources for "large construction projects." He added that Concordia University VP Services Roger Côté was helpful in facilitating projects like The Hive Café and Reggie's.

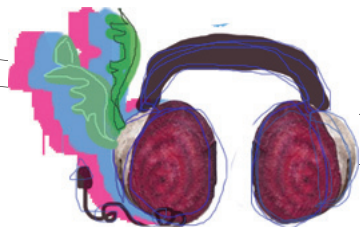
In its first three months of operation, The Hive Café gained approximately 2,300 new members, according to CSU VP Sustainability Jessica Cabana, who also serves on The Hive's board.

Cody Jacobs, a barista at The Hive Café in the Hall building, said the new student lounge and eatery has been doing "great" since it began full operations in September. Initiatives to garner more student support include a new honour system for buying coffee, where students can bypass long lines to self-serve their own mugs and drop money into a jar under no guise or watch.

"I think we all think of The Hive as a place where people not only have a space where they can study and feel welcomed to, but also to provide kids with sustainable food options, which is not always available on campus," Jacobs said.

photo Brandon Johnston





Guerilla Gardeners

NDG-Based Cycle AlimenTerre Brings Produce to Food Desert

"This is where guerilla gardening can really help. We really want to get this idea of growing food out in front of people's faces where they can't ignore it."



by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

Saint-Raymond is a food desert. No produce is available within a range of 500 metres in the Upper Lachine neighbourhood. But residents have access to a pizza parlour and corner stores stocking processed products.

From this produce-barren landscape emerged an unusual sight last summer. Every Wednesday, a normally unremarkable street corner was hijacked and transformed into an impromptu farmers' market by little more than a bike trailer and some fresh produce.

The culprits? Cycle AlimenTerre, a group operated by four friends who hail from academic backgrounds as diverse as aerospace engineering, urban planning and permaculture design. Max Godber, a lanky and bespectacled urbanite of Australian origin, set the project's wheels in motion.

Godber grew up on an organic farm and studied permaculture design in Thailand before moving to Quebec, where he was surprised by the amount of people who had never grown food.

"There was not such a great disconnect between food and people [in Australia]," he said.

His experience in permaculture, which entails growing more than one crop in the same plot, helped him conceptualize the urban agriculture initiative.

"Permaculture is looking at natural ecosystems, looking at how they thrive [...] and mimicking these same symbiotic relationships that exist in nature," Godber said, adding that permaculture can be implemented not just in rural areas, but also in backyard plots and

even on city blocks.

"In permaculture, we're always looking into the future, and looking to make as many links as possible within one system," Godber said. He cited as an example multi-functional plants and perennials, plants that will grow back year after year.

The system is the opposite of monoculture—vast farms where only one crop is grown—which is how most food is produced in North America.

"You ask any permaculture designer and they'll say that the monocultural industry is the most evil, wicked, genius [initiative] that has been created, and it will be the most difficult to override," he told *The Link*.

What he would like to see is "decentralization" and more of a culture of subsistence farming, where families and communities grow food together.

Cycle AlimenTerre aims to introduce food to the urban environment, literally bringing it to residents' backyards. The group farms the lawns of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, keeping its food production hyper-local—its five plots are within a range of two kilometres of each other.

The initiative follows a small-plot intensive, or "spin," model of farming, which allows crops to be grown in relatively small spaces. Godber was inspired to put the method to practice after attending a presentation on the subject at a conference on food sovereignty at Concordia last year. There, Curtis Stone, a farmer from Kelowna, B.C., explained that he was driven to use people's gardens when confronted with the high cost of land.

Residents receive a share of Cycle's harvest

in exchange for the use of their backyards. Providing fresh produce to residents, however, is just one facet of a broader goal. The members are focused on fostering a sense of community among NDG residents, explained Iman Khailat, one of the group's founders.

"Most of Cycle AlimenTerre is based on this human relationship," she said. Some landowners felt so comfortable they handed over their house keys to the gardeners to allow them access to their backyards.

"We're just members of the community and we want to involve people in the community," she said.

The importance of connection wasn't lost in the transition from soil to sale. The plots are harvested with the help of volunteers to reduce the food's cost. Rather than being charged prices based on typical locally-grown produce, Cycle AlimenTerre sells its vegetables at supermarket prices. If someone couldn't afford the cost, they would bargain.

"I was so dead-set on people walking away with produce that was growing around the corner from their houses, if someone couldn't afford it I'd say, 'Well, what can you afford? What do you think this carrot is worth?'" Godber said.

Attempts to keep the group's costs low are the reason why it hasn't been certified organic. The process is very costly, and requires each swath of land that is used to be certified. As Cycle AlimenTerre has multiple plots, it would be too expensive to certify them all.

Godber posited that while organic certification may have been started with good intentions, many companies have a line of organic produce not for ethical reasons, but

simply to charge a higher price for it.

"Not only is it not worth it for [Cycle AlimenTerre] to certify all the plots, I also think it's not necessary, because [there's] such a close relationship between the source of the food and where the food is being consumed," he said.

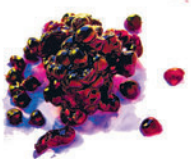
Equally paramount to providing fresh food to the community is re-conceptualizing the urban environment.

"You have to redefine the way you look at space. You have to start questioning, 'why is the space there and what is the use for it?' Or, 'why is it not being used for something else?'" Mauricio Buschinelli, group founder and graduate student at Concordia, explained.

"I'm a big fan of re-appropriating public space to serve better functions," Godber said, mentioning that de-paving cities and growing gardens in their place is a possible way to create an "edible streetscape" in Montreal and other cities.

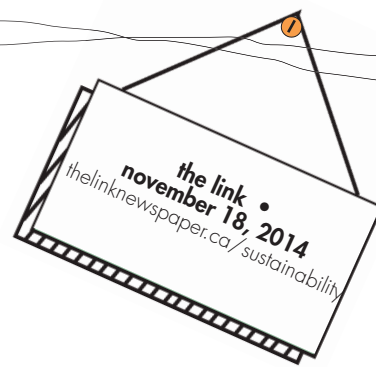
"This is where guerilla gardening can really help," he said. "We really want to get this idea of growing food out in front of people's faces where they can't ignore it."

photo courtesy Cycle Alimenterre



Provender Takes on the Food Industry Middleman

Montreal Startup Seeks to Spread the Seeds of Localism



by Mattha Busby @itsmattha

The movement to simplify and localize the food system has a new ally in Montreal.

Provender is a unique new farm-to-fork startup that seeks to create more sustainable, cost-effective trade relations between producers and restaurateurs.

Provender's platform creates a virtual marketplace where chefs can order food directly from the farmers listed on the platform. It's often harvested to order while the food is still alive, then transported by the farmer to the restaurant,

eatery or café in question.

"Typically if a chef orders lettuce then the iceberg will still be in the ground," said Jason Stanley, the Strategy, Research and User Experience director at Provender, said of the startup's practices.

"When [most] chefs want to order food they call trucking companies," Stanley told *The Link*. "Their food may sit in refrigerated supply chains for several weeks. In Montreal much of our food is grown in California."

"Our software platform is a potentially global tool that creates and helps strengthen local food systems," he continued.

Localism—a preference for one's own area or region—creates more sustainable food systems.

Provender seeks to overcome the perverse contemporary reality of global food systems. As the system currently works, food can be grown in one continent, flown to another continent to be processed and packaged and transported to yet another continent for consumption.

The massive reduction in food miles that local food systems create has immense environmental benefits.

These local economic relations allow for a greater distribution of wealth, as multina-

tional corporations—who pay fewer taxes than small and medium-sized businesses—are rarely involved.

The Link spoke to several chefs that use Provender's online platform to see exactly how it works and how it's tried to revolutionize the traditional, estranged relationship between farm and kitchen.

Pelo Brisson-Tsavoussis, head chef at Montreal restaurant Bishop and Baggs, has been using Provender for around nine months. Provender's "[elimination of] the middleman" has allowed him to save money and have a better idea of where his produce comes from, he told *The Link*.

"Since I've been using Provender I'm more sure of where my greens are from, which can be difficult when you're dealing with a bunch of random butchers and vegetable suppliers who are always looking for the best deal possible," he added.

"Big buying companies have so much buying volume [and] can muscle farmers into lowering their prices [which results in the] farmer losing money," he explained. The "decentralized system" which Provender has created allows for a far more sustainable and cheaper business model, he said.

"It's not so much the future but the past re-represented. Slowly and surely the people with the buying power are starting to lose the power they had to smaller suppliers who have a sustainable business model."

Emile Balk, head chef at Lorbeer, believes local food will inevitably become more popular as people realize how much healthier it is.

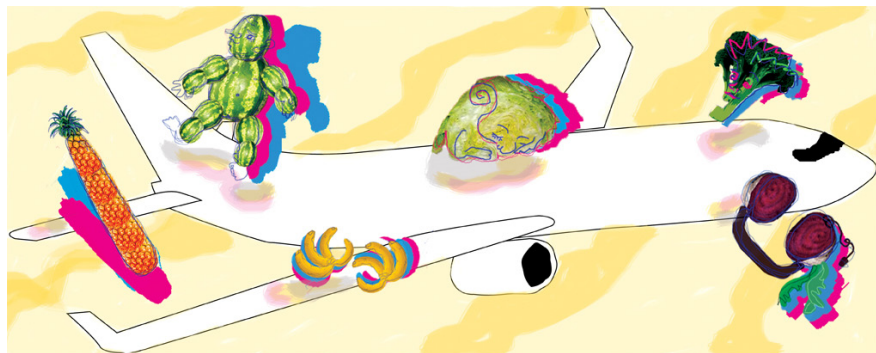
"Eventually people will start realizing that to be healthy you have to eat healthier," he remarked, adding that local food doesn't require additives or extra pesticides for storage, which is, in contrast, necessitated by trans-national shipping of mass-produced groceries.

"It is not just about eating vegetables, but what types of vegetables that you're eating," he said. "We have to recreate the way we eat."

If the consumer doesn't adopt this mentality at home, where they consume most of their meals, then this idea won't take off. The mass market is at the stores, not the restaurant, Balk explained.

"Changing the way people think about food and sustainability is the way to affect real change."

photo Mattha Busby



Transatlantic Fine Dining

How Trading with Europe Can Make Canada More Sustainable

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci

French cheese, Italian wine, and Spanish jamón make up a basic European diet, right?

While Canadian cuisine pales in comparison to some of Europe's food capitals, ongoing negotiations to open trade between the two may see more delicacies like Polish vodka in Canadian stores.

The Canada-European Union free trade agreement (officially known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) will loosen some restrictions on trade for both parties. Canadians can expect a bit more French cheese on market shelves.

But the issues are complicated for agricultural industries in Canada and Europe, which are both heavily subsidized by governments.

Big dairy companies in Quebec are worried about European cheeses overriding their market—and with good reason. Some regions in Europe are so renowned for their food they have rights over their names (think champagne and feta).

In the EU, cheese produced outside of Parma can't be called Parmesan—a regulation that doesn't exist here. Instead, trademark law guides Canadian products, like Maple

Leaf's Parma ham.

The new trade agreement won't take away from Canadian producers already using these regional names. However, it will force new cheese makers to call their products "feta-style" or even parmesan but not *parmigiano-reggiano*.

Amy Verdun, an expert on European policy from the University of Victoria, says this might not hurt local dairy producers in places like Quebec as much as they think. It's expected the amount of cheese imported from the EU will rise from five per cent to nine per cent.

But in a world where buying local is becoming increasingly important, local producers are still in demand. "It offers smaller farmers the opportunity to produce differently and in tune with local consumers," Verdun said. "They could even be a little more expensive and people would be happy to buy it."

The Canada-EU agreement doesn't come without other faults—issues like public procurement and controversial conflict resolution courts are another discussion altogether—but this time Canada has the chance to help define a new kind of free trade and avoid repeating the mistakes of the North American Free

Trade Agreement, which devastated Mexico's vulnerable economy.

"Because of the changes in investment laws, issues around safety standards and tariffs, you had a situation where a lot of the feed was being produced in the United States, pork was being raised in Mexico, cattle in Canada and then they ship it back to the United States for slaughtering," said Karen Hansen Kuhn of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy earlier this year.

"All of this was facilitated by NAFTA, so in the process the bargaining power of farmers goes down a lot."

Cooperating with Europe can force Canada to ease off its dependency on the US, which buys most of Canada's products.

"If we're open to the U.S. we get all the Monsanto problems, their big agriculture and the way Americans do things," said Verdun.

"If we open ourselves up to the European Union, we get complaints about oil sands and seals, organic food, fair trade and GMOs," she said. "Their way of looking at issues around food is not your standard US way."

Introducing more European products might also break Quebec's linguistic isolation—importing more foreign goods makes translation laws less contentious.

Holding Canada Accountable

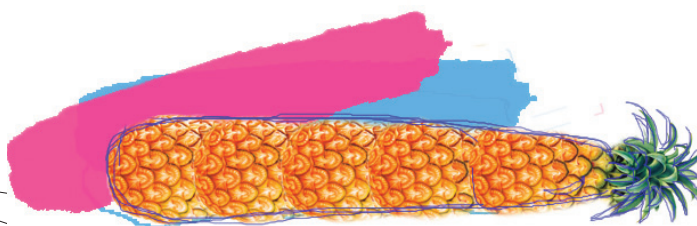
On a global scale, Canada's leadership in adapting sustainable models has largely fallen apart. Notable shortcomings include the government's poor progress on its Copenhagen target, where it promised to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 17 per cent, dropping out of Kyoto and skipping the UN's climate change conference this fall.

Across the Atlantic, European countries have been at the forefront of renewable and efficient energy initiatives. With respect to environmental issues, the initiative to bring Canada closer to the EU through a free trade agreement can only put more pressure on Canada to live up to its promises, according to policy researchers like Verdun.

Even China surprised some critics through the China-US climate pact, where it agreed to derive 20 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The US upgraded its targets as well.

If there's something Canada can take away from a free trade agreement with the EU, it's their commitment to new energy sources.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau



by Jessica Cabana

Having green, student-run urban oases year-round has both direct and indirect benefits for students, and we need to encourage student initiatives looking to create new sustainable spaces on campus.

Greenhouses are a source of sunlight in the winter and an opportunity to share research and knowledge, in addition to contributing to urban agriculture and providing a connection to growing plants.

The Concordia University campus is currently home to two greenhouses and there are plans for a third. One of the greenhouses is found at the Loyola campus in the Science Pavilion; not open to the public, it's mainly used for research by the biology department. The more popular of the two is therefore the publicly-accessible Concordia Greenhouse, a student-run fee-levy group found on the 13th floor of the Hall Building downtown.

If you haven't been there yet, you're missing out. Step into the greenhouse atrium and experience fresh air, sunlight and a great community. The space is key to surviving the cold winter months.

"So many people talk about—especially students that are not used to Montreal winters—how it helps them get through the winter to be in a space that is warm and sunny and full of plants," said Jackie Martin, the coordinator of the Concordia Greenhouse's City Farm School.

"People make connections and meet each other and maybe get involved in projects that way."

The greenhouse grows microgreens and supplies them to many on-campus organizations, such as Le Frigo Vert, the Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative, the Concordia farmers' market and other conscientious organizations like Burritoville.

"Since the greenhouse is a controlled environment and it's an environment that can be used to grow all year round, it has the poten-

tial to expose people to growing and to plants and to techniques," said Stephanie Dimitrovas, coordinator of the greenhouse's Four Seasons Growing Project.

"However, what we need to keep in mind is that it is a simulated environment so there are a lot of things we need to stimulate. For example, in the winter, we do need heat and supplemental lighting."

Dimitrovas added that Concordia Green-

houses in an institutional setting in Montreal.

"We didn't have what we needed to reconstruct [the old greenhouse], but we had to demolish it because it had become a problem," said Michel Poncelet, the director of equipment services at the CEGEP. "At some point we got the necessary funding to build the one we currently have."

Why plan for another new greenhouse



Sprouting Green Thumbs on Campus

Greenhouses Provide Students with a Year-Round Urban Refuge

house will soon purchase supplemental lighting with the funds they received from the Concordia Council on Student Life. The greenhouse does not have the latest, most cutting-edge technologies, but maintenance and small adjustments like additional lighting can help to deal with increasing demand for its produce.

Collège Ahuntsic, a CEGEP in the north end of Montreal, has recently upgraded to an automatic greenhouse that is more energy efficient and increases growing capacity. It's one of the newest green-

at Concordia when we seem to have one that provides so much already? Not only would another student-run greenhouse allow for more initiatives, it would also provide for more local, student-run food options on campus.

"I'm excited personally because it means more growing," said Dimitrovas.

A new greenhouse could address the limitations of the greenhouse atop the Hall Building, providing more space and making use of newer technologies.

Concordia students have previously demonstrated strong support for student-run and sustainable food options on campus during Concordia Student Union elections, so more urban agriculture projects are likely right around the corner. Since the Concordia Greenhouse focuses on urban sustainability and community building and raising awareness of the issues surrounding food security, the new greenhouse would focus on food production and urban agriculture.

Summer is the best growing season in Montreal and, to maximize growth production, seedlings can be started in greenhouses.

"The more greenhouses we have, the more seedlings we can produce at low cost for gardens all over the city," Martin said.

Last year, Vert Ta Ville sold \$8,000 worth of seedlings, or roughly 3,000 plants, which went out to 14 organizations and many other urban gardeners who normally would not have access to seedlings at the price they are offered.

Concordia, especially through student initiatives, has been expanding and building a potentially exemplary sustainable food system.

From production to distribution and waste management, we can alleviate the stresses transportation and mass food production have on the environment by internalizing and hyper-localizing the process. Greenhouses allow students to feel a connection to their food and give them the opportunity to learn how to grow in an urban setting, to share knowledge and to experience local organic produce at an affordable price.

This is the system we must continue to germinate on campus.

Jessica Cabana is the Concordia Student Union's VP Sustainability.

photos Brandon Johnston





From Stinger To Gaiter

Former Concordia Stinger Kyle Desmarais (left photo, middle, and above photo, left) returned to the Concordia Gymnasium in a Bishop's Gaiters uniform this past Thursday night. The fifth-year player opened up on his time as a Stinger, and his time with head coach John Dore (above).

Former League MVP Kyle Desmarais Returns to Concordia—But This Time as an Opponent

by Julian McKenzie @JulianTheIntern

The Concordia Gymnasium is no longer Kyle Desmarais's home.

It is no longer a place where Stingers fans can celebrate his three-point shots and athletic plays. When he falls to the ground after being fouled, Concordia's coaches will no longer plead his case. Instead, they'll defend their own players.

This is the new reality for Desmarais, who left the Maroon and Gold for the Bishop's Gaiters this past summer. In the first matchup of the season between the Stingers and the Gaiters, the now 26-year-old guard led his new team to victory, scoring 18 points in a 76-69 win.

If Desmarais took any pleasure in exacting revenge on his former squad, he tried not to show much of it.

"It was nice to come back [to Concordia]," Desmarais said. "It was nice to have a good game."

Once upon a time, Desmarais was a huge part of the Concordia Stingers, leading the team to back-to-back provincial championships in 2011 and 2012, earning himself All-Canadian and co-MVP honours in the process.

"I had a lot of fun," Desmarais said. "Winning is fun. For the majority of our games, we did just that. We won games. We had a winning record in the conference every year that I played and it was always a very close group of guys on and off the court. So I really enjoyed that."

While Desmarais maintained a great rapport with some teammates at Concordia, playing alongside fellow former league MVP Evens Laroche and current Stinger Xander Jean, it was a different story with coach John Dore.

"We just didn't see eye to eye," said Desmarais.

Following the game, Desmarais and the Stingers head coach exchanged a short handshake before they each walked their

separate ways. There was no conversation or pleasantries shared between the two. If you blinked, you may have missed it.

The handshake was "respectful," according to Desmarais, but it's clear that whatever positive relationship was once present between the two has dissipated. Desmarais and Dore have had their differences, differences which ultimately prompted the fifth-year star to leave Concordia.

"I watched the other coaches in the [Réseau de sport étudiant du Québec] conference," Desmarais said. "I spoke to them more than I spoke to my own coach. This was after I asked [Dore] to stay in contact with me, stay in close contact with the teams, make sure guys were staying in shape."

Desmarais revealed that despite his team's success in the conference, he felt that Dore didn't do enough to ensure the team could accomplish more when it reached the nationals. This prompted his decision to join the Gaiters, a squad that lost their last two provincial championship games to the McGill Redmen.

In 2011 and 2012, both years that saw the Stingers reach the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Final 8 national tournament, the Stingers lost every single game they played.

"I didn't believe that we could compete at the national level and for me it's all about winning and winning at the highest level," Desmarais said.

The final blow to Desmarais and Dore's relationship occurred before the start of the 2013-2014 season, when Desmarais attended the annual draft for the National Basketball League of Canada on the same day as the Stingers' first practice of the year.

"Since I hadn't heard from John [Dore], I wasn't going to reach out and tell him what my plans were," Desmarais said. "After he heard that I was at the draft, and that I didn't come to practice, I think that was the straw that broke the camel's back."

After not being selected in the NBL

draft, Desmarais returned to Concordia. Upon his return, neither he nor Coach Dore reached out to each other to address the situation.

"No one was going to contact the other one and be like 'listen, I messed up,'" Desmarais said. "Eventually his door closed and that was the end of our relationship."

Desmarais still has respect for Dore and his accolades, but confesses he wanted more out of his experience with the long-tenured bench boss.

"I [also] have a few friends on [Bishop's] that I played with at Vanier, but at the end of the day, I'm a Stinger, they're Gaiters. It's the enemy. As long as we play against each other, there [are] no friends on the basketball court." —Stingers forward Michael Fosu

"He's done some great things in the past, I just needed more out of that situation," he said.

While Desmarais ended up missing the entire season last year, he did finish his undergraduate degree in economics at Concordia, continued to train and played in a recreational league before leaving for Bishop's University in time for the new season.

At Bishop's, Desmarais feels he's in a more hands-on and collaborative environment with his coaches and teammates.

"Right now, it's a very tight-knit group here," he said. "The team is close, as well as the coaching staff."

"I'm constantly asked for my feedback from the coach and the assistant coach

after practices, after games, after workouts, after training sessions."

Desmarais believes the pieces are in place to capture a national title with his new team, and is clearly focused on the task at hand in his final year of CIS eligibility. While he does miss his family, his friends and the city of Montreal, a fresh start at Bishop's seems to be ideal for him.

"I think being out of [Montreal] is the best thing for me," he said. "I've got a great group of guys [at Bishop's], a great coaching staff, the basketball [team is] good."

"This is a really great situation for me." Back at Concordia, not everybody on the Stingers basketball squad feels as if Coach Dore has slighted them.

"I have a good relationship with Coach [Dore] on my part," said Stinger guard Mukiya Post.

"I feel close to Coach [Dore]. I feel like I could, for the most part, reach out to coach [Dore] and speak to him on a bunch of levels."

Post transferred from Bishop's to Concordia last season, and missed out on an opportunity to play with Desmarais as a teammate. However, both players are still friends and have worked out and hung out together.

Regardless of what Desmarais may feel about the Stingers or their head coach, it doesn't appear to be any of the Stingers players' concern. The Stingers have clearly moved on from the Desmarais era.

"He's just another player," said Coach Dore. "He's just a regular player to us," added Stingers forward Michael Fosu, who played with Kyle Desmarais in 2012.

"I [also] have a few friends on [Bishop's] that I played with at Vanier [College], but at the end of the day, I'm a Stinger, they're Gaiters. It's the enemy. As long as we play against each other, there [are] no friends on the basketball court."

photos Shaun Michaud



120 athletes including rugby players, football players and soccer players, took part in the recent Try 4 Gold Talent ID Camp at the Concordia Stinger Dome this past Saturday. Athletes were tested on their 10m, 30m, and 40m sprints, as well as their broad jumps.

Rugby Canada Wants You!

Athletes Seek to Be on Rugby Canada Radar at Try 4 Gold Talent Camp

by Julian McKenzie @JulianTheIntern

Rugby is two years away from making its Olympic debut at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, but Rugby Canada is wasting no time identifying potential prospects that may be worthy of representing their country overseas—whether they're knowledgeable of the game or not.

"Rugby is a combination of [many] sports," said François Ratier, head coach of the Canadian senior women's national rugby team. "You could be a judoka and [play] basketball and be a great rugby player."

"Rugby is pushing, lifting, sprinting, jumping. Everything is there."

This past weekend, Ratier and his fellow coaches hosted the Montreal edition of the "Try 4 Gold Talent ID Camp" at the Concordia Stinger Dome at Loyola Campus. 120 athletes, male and female, attended the camp, where they were evaluated on their broad jumps and 10m, 30m, and 40m sprints.

"We're looking at athletes coming from soccer, from hockey, football," said Dana Agar-Newman, one of the rugby coaches on hand at the camp.

It was the first of four camps being held across Canada, as three other camps will take place in Sherbrooke, Red Deer and Burnaby.

"It's just about testing today," Ratier added. "I just tried to identify the fastest and the strongest male and female players in this area. From this, we're going to call back the fastest and the strongest to assess them and to see how they can play rugby."

Once the coaches separate the physical specimens and top athletes from the rest of the pack, they will test them on their rugby IQ and see if they're capable of representing Canada in future sevens rugby tournaments, which

differ from the larger 15-a-side version, included in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

The camp featured athletes from the ages 15 and up, from various parts of Canada and the United States.

"My mom told me there was this rugby [camp] going on in Canada," said Prosper Bayer, a five-foot-four 15-year-old native of Kenya who flew from his home in Washington, DC to Montreal the night before in order to attend the camp.

Bayer took up the sport when he was three years old in Kenya and even represented his home country in youth tournaments. However, Bayer, whose parents are Canadian, desires to represent Canada in future tournaments, and eventually hopes to acquire Canadian citizenship to play.

"I love this sport," he added. "If someone told me to stop playing rugby, I would rather die because I love this sport."

Even various Stingers athletes were on hand for the camp, including men's soccer player Vincent Murray, who is planning on switching to rugby from soccer. The second-year forward wanted to try a new sport after dedicating himself to soccer for most of his life.

"For the past year and a half I've been looking at the rugby team here at Concordia," he said. "Pretty interesting squad; [they've got a] good coach. Just really looking to change scenery and try a contact sport."

Of course, rugby players from both the men's and women's teams were participating in drills, and they certainly didn't take them lightly.

"I was uber-stressed about obtaining good results," said prop Erika Ikononopoulos, from the Stingers women's rugby team. Ikononopoulos participated at the camp, but admitted she didn't feel 100 per cent as she's still recover-

ing from a broken leg she suffered months ago.

The rugby players also took note of the athletes from other sports that participated at the camp and how they fared in comparison to rugby players.

"You could tell that different [athletes] have different form, different ways of doing things," added Ikononopoulos. "It was actually quite interesting that Canada is open to having that broad perspective on not just sticking to rugby [players and] that other [athletes] could actually be included."

Rugby is still distant from hockey in terms of popularity, but there's reason to believe that with the viewership from this past summer's Women's World Cup of Rugby in France, the upcoming Games in 2016 and with more efforts to spread the game, the sport is due for a rise in attention.

"A lot of people don't even know we have [rugby] clubs in the summer," said Caleb Jordan from the Stingers men's rugby team. "They don't talk about the school teams much so I think that promoting around schools in general would be good."

"Sevens is a really exciting game," added Agar-Newman. "Lots of sprinting, real quick games. [I'm] really curious to see how the Canadian public views it when it's shown on the big screen."

photos Julian McKenzie



Blue Down, Red to Go

Stingers Clinch Fifth Straight Finals Appearance Versus McGill Redmen



The Stingers men's rugby team edged the UdeM Carabins 16-14 in their RSEQ semi-final game at Concordia this past Sunday. They'll be in the RSEQ final versus McGill for the fifth straight time this coming Sunday.

by Tristan D'Amours

On one side of the Concordia Stadium stands, there were chants from the Stingers fans. On the other side, Carabins fans tried to outscreeam their rivals. Needless to say, it was an emotional semifinal game for both teams and their fans on Sunday afternoon.

The Stingers secured their fifth straight appearance in the Réseau de sport étudiant du Québec final with a hard fought 16-14 win over the Université de Montréal Carabins in their semi-final matchup. It will be the fifth straight final to pit the Stingers and their rivals McGill Redmen against each other. The Redmen have won all five times in the championship game.

"Heading into another one against McGill I'd really like to win one," said Stingers head coach Clive Gibson. "It's getting a little monotonous losing to McGill over and over so hopefully we can turn this one over."

Concordia hosted Montreal for the second time in two weeks, having beaten the Carabins in their season finale a week earlier. The Carabins looked to exact revenge, but it was the Stingers who struck first.

In the 27th minute, a scrum awarded to Concordia in Montreal's territory gave Concordia an opportunity to score. A quick pass from scrum-half Connor O'Hara to winger Fred Kacou, who ran down the sideline and

into the try zone, was enough for the Stingers to put up the first points of the game.

"It was a play that we worked out in practice, and it worked out in the game perfectly," said Kacou about the try.

Having broken the ice, the Stingers didn't hesitate to get another try on the scoreboard as fly half Yannick Fortin added to the score with a try of his own. Unfortunately for Concordia, those two tries weren't converted as fullback Joseph Fulginiti missed both kicks, leaving the Stingers with a 10-0 lead.

Things didn't get better for the Stingers' kicker as Concordia was awarded a penalty at the 38th minute and he still missed the opportunity. Regardless, Concordia carried their 10-0 lead to halftime.

As the second half began, the Stingers finally began to convert their kicks. Anthony McQueen converted a penalty at the fifth minute to raise the lead to 13 points. Fulginiti broke his cold streak by converting one as well, giving the Stingers a 16-0 advantage.

"I tried to focus on technique and form," said Fulginiti on how he brought his kicking game back at the half. "Sometimes you get out of focus during the game so you kind of lose your technique. So you just try to bring it back to the basics."

Despite the 16-0 lead, the Carabins still made an effort to get back into the game and chip at the lead.

Pierre Constantin of the Carabins busted through the Stingers defense in the 61st minute for the Carabins' first try of the game. The Carabins converted their ensuing kick, cutting the deficit to nine points.

Four minutes later, Clément-Olivier Mainville scored another try, trimming Concordia's lead to only two points. At that point, the only thing one could hear from the stands was UdeM's famous chant "Allez les Bleus."

This put the Stingers on their back heels and nervousness was felt all the way from the wooden seats of Concordia stadium.

Not long after that, at the 37th minute, Fulginiti had a chance to increase the lead to five points with a penalty but missed his attempt, keeping the score at 16-14.

In the final minutes of the game, the Carabins were allowed a penalty. The team decided to pass on taking the penalty kick, but they got stopped in their tracks by the Concordia defence.

"If they opted to kick that penalty and take three points, we [would've been] one point down with three minutes to go," said Gibson. "Instead, they chose to go for it and thank God for this, because it worked for us. We could have just as easily lost that game by one point as we could have won it by two."

"You know, testosterone-filled men don't make the best decisions."

UdeM's decision indeed benefitted the Stingers, as the Carabins did not have enough time to get points on the scoreboard. A roar of joy came from the right try zone where all the Concordia players were defending an incoming try. The referee whistled the end of the game, sending the Stingers to the finals and allowing them to breathe a sigh of relief.

"[The Carabins] know they didn't play a good game. We got lucky, quite frankly," said Gibson. "There was joy and relief because it was touch and go right to the end."

Unlike last year, the Stingers will host the championship game against McGill at Concordia Stadium, something that Coach Gibson feels his players will take advantage of.

"Psychologically, it's good for the boys," explained Gibson. "They know that they won [home field advantage] and they'll go in the game with the 'we're on top' mentality. That's the thing with having home field."

As for the players, the idea of another final against McGill couldn't be better.

"It's going to be a big game, that's for sure," said first-year prop Stephen Martinez. "We want to get them back. They've had it for God knows how many years and I think it's time for us."

photo Tristan D'Amours

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF NOV. 11 TO NOV. 18

THURSDAY

13

Women's Basketball—Concordia 87, Bishop's 24
Men's Basketball—Concordia 69, Bishop's 76

FRIDAY

14

Men's Hockey—Concordia 1, Waterloo 7

SATURDAY

15

Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Wilfrid Laurier 6
Women's Hockey—Concordia 0, Ottawa 2

SUNDAY

16

Men's Rugby – Concordia 16, UdeM 14

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

WEDNESDAY

19

10:30 a.m. Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)

FRIDAY

21

7:30 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Western Mustangs (Ed Meagher Arena)

SATURDAY

22

2:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Guelph Gryphons (Ed Meagher Arena)
6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball at McGill Martlets
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at McGill Redmen

SUNDAY

23

12:30 p.m. Men's Rugby vs. McGill Redmen (Concordia Stadium)
3:00 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. UdeM Carabins (Ed Meagher Arena)

SEX & PANCAKES

We're All That Kind of Girl

SEX & PANCAKES

by Melissa Fuller @mel_full

Recently, excerpts from Lena Dunham's book *Not That Kind of Girl* made the rounds online. In these, she described childhood memories of being seven years old and looking at her then one-year-old sister's vagina, bribing her with candy to kiss her, and masturbating next to her in bed. In response, the Internet exploded with articles accusing her of child molestation.

Evidently, these stories made people uncomfortable. In addition to the accusations, people started boycotting her book readings and even calling on organizations she is affiliated with to drop her. While people's discomfort is understandable, the issues raised with Dunham's stories aren't about molestation or child abuse; rather they point to our discomfort with childhood sexuality. It's about how uncomfortable and scary it is for adults when children engage in sexual exploration and then show no shame for doing so. I know it's uncomfortable for many to think about but these are realities for

many children when they're learning about their bodies.

It is overdramatic and dangerous to refer to what Dunham described as "child molestation." Sexual play and a curiosity about how one's body works are quite normal and are common examples of childhood sexual development. Most of us have experienced it, actively engaged in it, and even reflected on it as adults. However, many of us have also forgotten or repressed any memories we have of it. Despite how common it is, it's rarely spoken about and many people who do have vague memories of exploring alone, with their siblings or close friends as children are left not knowing how to interpret what they remember.

We regularly shame children for sexual play and exploration by interpreting their actions in the same way we would for adults. We talk as though children have malignant or predatory intent, rather than understanding that they are acting out of curiosity and exploration. Adults distort these innocent actions as they project

their internalized shame about sexuality onto them. Responding with punishment rather than education makes children internalize this shame, thus ensuring the cycle of shame continues.

We frame these actions as nonconsensual, labeling the kids as sex offenders and their actions as assault. Yet the law holds that people are incapable of giving sexual consent until the age of 16, and consent remains a concept that even adults are struggling to get right. Then why do we expect children to know what it is and how to ask for it?

I'm glad these stories are making people uncomfortable and are being talked about. I hope this discomfort makes people reflect on their own internalized shame about sexuality and how that shapes how they respond to these types of situations. The fact is that we all have this shame to some degree; and the only real way to make progress is for each of us to commit to looking within ourselves, identifying these aspects of our thinking, and then working to shed them.

The sort of childhood sexual play that Lena Dunham describes in her book is normal. We need to work towards normalizing rather than stigmatizing it. Though difficult, part of this will require people becoming comfortable sharing their childhood sexual experiences, as well as creating a space in which it's safe for people to do so. Once we do, we will be in a better position to deal with children's sexuality in a way that is healthy rather than damaging. One such place has already popped up as a result; you can find it at thosekindsofgirls.tumblr.com.

In light of all this we would do well to keep in mind the words of sex researcher Michael Flood: "Protecting children from sexual harm does not mean protecting children from sexuality."

For more check out sex-pancakes.com and like "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook. Quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SextEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!

Psychospiritual Healing in a Capsule



Could an Illegal Drug Change the Way We Treat Psychological Trauma?

by Gonzo Nieto

In the last 11 years, the Iraq war has resulted in the deaths of approximately 4,500 United States soldiers. In contrast, 6,500 war veterans committed suicide in 2012 alone, amounting to roughly 18 veterans taking their own lives every day of that year. The failure of the US government to appropriately take care of war veterans' mental health and well-being is resulting in far more casualties for the nation than war itself.

Nicholas Blackston, an American war veteran who was stationed in Iraq twice, was on his way to becoming one of those statistics. The horrific situations he witnessed and was involved in during his deployments left deep psychological wounds, the full effect of which only unfolded upon his return home. His attempts to reintegrate into civilian life were significantly hindered by hyper-vigilance, recurring flashbacks, panic attacks, sleep disturbances, and other classical signs of severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

He sought treatment, but he was unable to find the healing he needed. The medication he was given only served to suppress the symptoms without dealing with the root of his problem: the traumatic memories he brought back from war.

Luckily, he was able to participate in a research study investigating the potential use of MDMA as an adjunct to psychotherapy in the treatment of PTSD in war veterans. While MDMA is heavily associated with partying and the rave scene, it holds significant potential for psychospiritual healing when administered in the appropriate context and with the right support.

One of MDMA's therapeutic effects is the dissolution of psychological defenses such as fear and anxiety, replacing them with an inner clarity that permits oneself to engage with difficult psychological material without the various resistances that are usually encountered. In addition, one's ability to communicate about these issues is amplified, and empathy is also heightened. MDMA is often referred to as an empathogen for the way it intensifies empathy and emotional processing.

Through his participation in the study and his six sessions with MDMA in a therapeutic context over the course of six months, Blackston was able to directly confront, integrate, and overcome the traumatic memories that had been so detrimental to his well-being.

"MDMA saved my life," he told a crowd of several hundred at a conference in New York this October. "I wouldn't be alive and I

wouldn't be here—I wouldn't be able to speak to you [about my experiences] without having an anxiety attack." Yet just minutes before, he had outlined haunting stories of being badly wounded by bomb shrapnel, watching his friends burn alive, and dealing with feelings of guilt and responsibility over the death of his comrades, all while remaining calm and collected. His progress was tangible in the very way he was able to speak about his experiences.

Unfortunately MDMA remains illegal and therefore inaccessible to all but a tiny fraction of those who need it, namely those lucky few who are able to participate in one of these research studies.

The results from these projects are encouraging: two months after treatment, 83% of participants no longer fit the criteria for PTSD, and a follow-up more than three years later showed that these improvements are maintained over time.

This differentiates MDMA psychotherapy from conventional psychiatric treatments. While currently prescribed medications for PTSD are taken daily for years on end or perhaps the rest of the individual's life, treatment with MDMA catalyzes a powerful healing experience with lasting effects. Once the person is healed, there is no need for further treatment.

It is these results that led Dr. Michael Mithoefer, principal investigator in this MDMA study, to feel that it was malpractice to know that these compounds that could provoke these healing states existed but couldn't be mentioned or used in therapy.

The progress that's been made in this research is certainly promising. However, it is incredibly disconcerting to consider that the US government and military have not spent a single dollar to support this research; nor has the FDA chosen to fast-track this research, an option that is available for much-needed medicines. Such lack of cooperation in the face of dire need and promising results is shameful and unethical. While the government is comfortable sending young people into these combat zones, their commitment to these people's health and well-being upon returning is certainly questionable.

Email the author at gonzonieto@gmail.com.

graphic Sam Jones



PRO

by Javier I. Hoyos

Concordia undergraduates, from Nov. 25 to Nov. 27 you will be asked to vote on an important referendum question which would end our complicity with human rights abuses against Palestinians, while also sending a strong message to Concordia about our commitment to equality.

Undergraduate students will vote on the following question: “Do you approve of the CSU endorsing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel’s occupation of Palestine until Israel complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights?”

Before you vote, let’s unpack that question.

This Isn’t the First Time

The BDS movement has its roots in the international boycott of South Africa, which played a key role in reforming that nation’s institutional frameworks to eradicate apartheid. It proved to be an effective form of global non-violent resistance. The South African boycott movement inspired Palestinian civil society to initiate its own global BDS call in 2005 to hold Israel accountable before international law and encourage her to end its apartheid system.

A Growing Movement

The BDS movement against the State of Israel quickly gained traction around the world. Driven by a sense of moral responsibility and solidarity, human rights organizations, unions, churches, journalists including Naomi Klein and academics such as Israeli historian Ilan Pappé and philosopher Slavoj Žižek have endorsed this BDS campaign.

South Africa’s ruling party, the African National Congress, adopted BDS against Israel during its 2012 annual conference, declaring that “the Palestinians are the victims and the oppressed.”

Jewish organizations of conscience inside both Israel and North America actively support BDS because, simply put, many Jews oppose the occupation and the denial of rights to Palestinians. They include Israel-based BOYCOTT!, Canada-based Independent Jewish Voices, and US-based Jewish Voice for Peace, among many others.

Over the past several years student associations across Canada, including the Concordia Graduate Students’ Association, joined the movement in ever increasing numbers.

Why is there such resounding support around the world, in Canada and at Concordia, for the BDS campaign against the state of Israel?

Documented Apartheid and Illegal Occupation

For one, many scholars note the parallels between South African apartheid, where citizens were segregated by race and held to different legal rights systems based upon their race, with the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories where Palestinians face systematic segregation and discrimination mandated by the state of Israel.

According to a UN Human Rights Council report by Richard Falk, “It seems incontestable that Israeli measures divide the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory along racial lines, create separate reserves for Palestinians and expropriate their land.”

Palestinians living in Israel are effectively second-class citizens. Adalah, an NGO in Israel, states that there are “more than 50 Israeli laws that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel in all areas of life, including their rights to political par-

ticipation, access to land, education, state budget resources, and criminal procedures.” This system based on ethnicity is a system synonymous with apartheid.

This segregation is also physically upheld by Israel’s construction of a wall, which has been ruled as a breach of international law by the International Court of Justice. The ICJ stated, “All States are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction.”

Israel’s occupation and settlement of the Palestinian territories stands in clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and international law, according to the UN Security Council, Resolution 68/82 of the UN General Assembly, the European Union, and the advisory opinion of the ICC rendered on 9 July 2004.

Israel’s occupation steals Palestinian homes, places of worship and farms and grants them to illegal settlers, according to the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions.

It is an occupation that deprives Palestinians of their basic right to water, prioritizing its access to illegal settlers, according to Amnesty International.

It is an occupation that forces Palestinians to take segregated bus lines in the West Bank in order to be kept apart from illegal Israeli settlers, according to Israel’s most prominent newspaper, Haaretz.

And finally, it is an occupation that treats Palestinian children as if they were adults, arbitrarily arresting them at gunpoint and interrogating them without a family member or lawyer present, according to Human Rights Watch.

Responding to the above violations of international law, the BDS movement demands that Israel end its occupation and colonization of Palestinian lands and dismantle the wall; recognize the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and allow the right of exiled Palestinian refugees to return as stipulated in UN resolution 194. BDS tactics are directed against the State of Israel and institutions that aid the occupation and oppression of Palestinians.

All members of the international community and civil society have the right and obligation to oppose any nation acting in clear violation of international law and human rights—especially in our case, when both our government and our university are complicit. It is not fair that Israel be exempted from this norm.

Back to Concordia

In our case, Concordia is connected with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, which has strong ties to the Israeli military and its occupation and is involved in research and development of technology reinforcing the illegal wall.

By voting “YES” to BDS, Concordia undergraduate students will be able to join their graduate counterparts to strengthen efforts to have a Concordia that we are proud to stand by. Since Palestinians do not have legal channels to voice their grievances and fight against injustice, let us use the channel of Concordia to stand with them to oppose apartheid.

Our message is simple: as critically -thinking students, why should we agree to be complicit when we have the choice?

That choice should be YES to BDS.

Javier I. Hoyos is the chair of the “Yes” to BDS Committee.

BOY

DIVES

SANCS

CON

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

When Concordia undergraduates head to the ballot boxes next week, they will be asked to vote on whether or not their student union should endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement opposing Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories. BDS supporters at Concordia mean well, but the movement as a whole amounts to little more than a clever propaganda campaign, and I encourage students to check off the "no" box.

By singling out Israel for punishment, the BDS movement implies—whether intentionally or unintentionally—that Israel is solely to blame for the ongoing conflict, which is simply untrue. Both sides in the decades-old conflict have perpetrated war crimes and violated human rights and international law.

Numerous resolutions at the United Nations have argued that Israeli settlements in Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights violate international law because the UN Charter makes it illegal to acquire land by force and the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits altering the demographic makeup of occupied territories. Israel also continues to impose a blockade on Hamas-controlled Gaza, hindering reconstruction, and restricts Palestinians' freedom of movement.

But the Palestinians' aren't blameless, either. A 2002 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Hamas has openly encouraged and endorsed the use of suicide bombing attacks against civilians. Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas, have launched thousands of rocket attacks against Israel throughout the past decade. According to HRW, most of these rockets are fired indiscriminately toward populated areas.

Though Israel's military response is sometimes disproportionate to the threat posed by Palestinian rockets—far more Palestinians than Israelis have died due to the conflict in recent years—Israelis have legitimate security concerns and a right to defend themselves. No civilian should have to live in fear of a rocket destroying their property or killing a loved one.

Peace is achieved bilaterally. Aside from Israel's actions, meaningful progress toward peace is also hampered by Hamas' refusal to renounce violence and the disunity that existed until recently in the Palestinian leadership. This past April, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which is dominated by political party Fatah, agreed to form a unity government; it's the first time there'll be a unified Palestinian leadership since 2007.

By vilifying Israel while staying silent about the Palestinian leadership's own human rights abuses, the BDS movement vastly oversimplifies an armed conflict and a human rights crisis that is actually very complex. This only serves to further a particular agenda while doing little to actually promote lasting peace.

Beyond the one-sided nature of this campaign, the referendum question is also problematic because of its vague nature. How would one go about determining a company's complicity with the occupation of Palestine? What's the threshold for determining whether or not we should boycott a company or divest from it?

I think we can all agree that our universities should divest from weapons manufacturers and refuse to engage in research activities with them, whether or not they do business with Israel. But as for other companies in fields as diverse as telecom and beverages, it's more difficult to determine a course of action. Does doing business with Israel in and of itself constitute collusion with the "occupying power" or a desire for the conflict to continue?

Aside from demanding an end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories, the BDS movement also calls for the recognition

of Palestinian refugees' right to return to their ancestral lands, which is highly problematic.

There is little support for such a "right of return" among the international community, as such a right would threaten the very existence of the state of Israel. Established in the wake of the Holocaust in 1948, Israel is, by definition, a Jewish nation-state. Asserting the Palestinian right to return is therefore tantamount to a demand that Israel cease to exist.

Whole generations of Israelis and Palestinians have grown up having only ever known the present-day geopolitical reality. The only feasible solution is a two-state one and the BDS movement's demand that the Palestinian right to return ought to be recognized isn't constructive.

The precedent for the current BDS movement targeting Israel is, of course, the academic boycott of South Africa that began in the 1960s in response to white minority rule and systemic racial discrimination by the state. A boycott against Israel can't be defended on the basis that a boycott was in place against South Africa because the two situations don't lend well to comparison.

Whereas the South African regime was deliberately racist, Israel is motivated not by racism, but by self-defence. Although Israel is defined as a Jewish state, it is also—on the whole—a pluralist society. There are Arab Israelis in the Knesset, Israel's national legislature, whereas whites were the only enfranchised group in apartheid South Africa.

A clearly racist and oppressive regime made the case of boycotting and divesting from South Africa an obvious choice. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is far more complicated and both sides are at least partly—though perhaps not in equal measure—to blame for ongoing hostilities.

If the intent of the BDS supporters was truly to bring forward a constructive position statement for students to vote on, they would have asked if we would like the Concordia Student Union to join other advocacy groups in demanding that our staunchly pro-Israel federal government adopt a more nuanced and balanced approach to the conflict. The CSU would have a clear goal to work towards as a result, rather than a vague endorsement of the BDS movement that no one will be sure how to apply.

Such a position statement could also have condemned both sides for their respective human rights violations, making it clear that not only do we oppose Israel's violations of international law, but also Palestinian militants' deliberate and illegal targeting of civilians.

Encouraging Israel to stop building settlements and to re-enter the peace process with a renewed willingness to compromise is likely to be far more productive than isolating it economically, culturally and politically through boycotts.

One of Concordia University's greatest strengths is its multicultural, pluralistic student body. This campaign seeking an endorsement of the BDS movement is proving to be highly divisive, with some students saying that they feel less welcome on campus because of it.

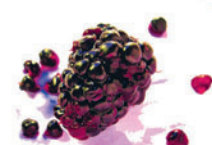
Let's refrain from adopting a position that would unfairly place the blame solely on Israel while also alienating many students. Instead, let's remain an inclusive campus where a plurality of voices can thrive—including moderate ones who see fault on both sides of the Israel-Palestine separation barrier and who would like to see true progress towards a two-state solution, not just more unproductive posturing.



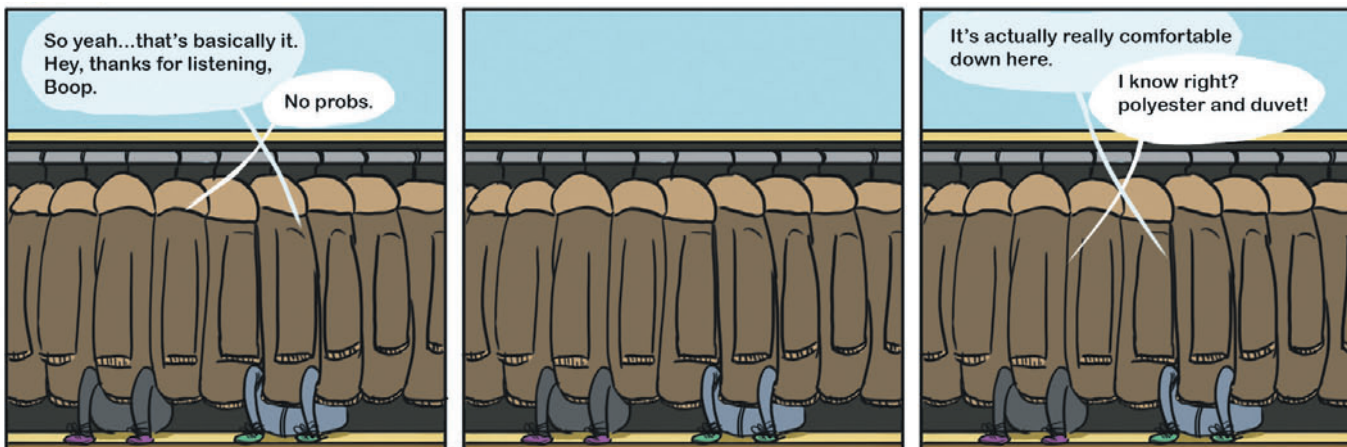
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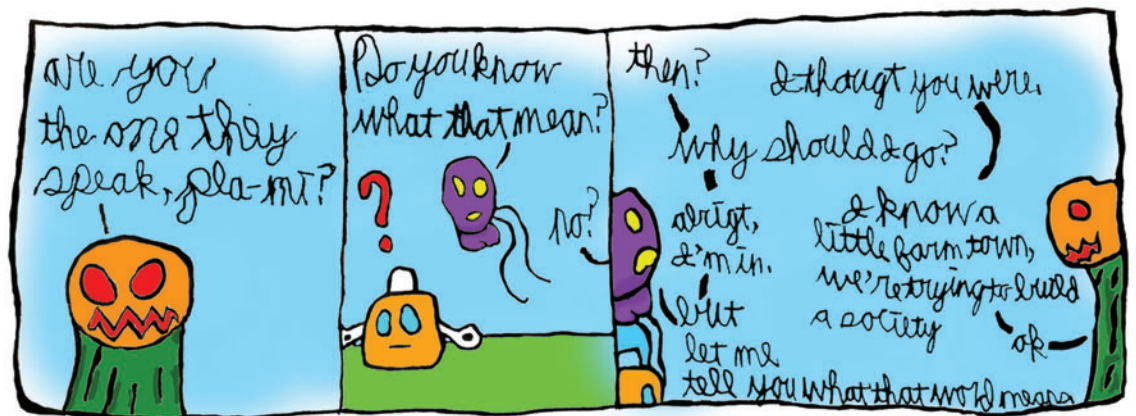
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BOOP by Caity Hall



Balloon Ventures by Mengekko Jones



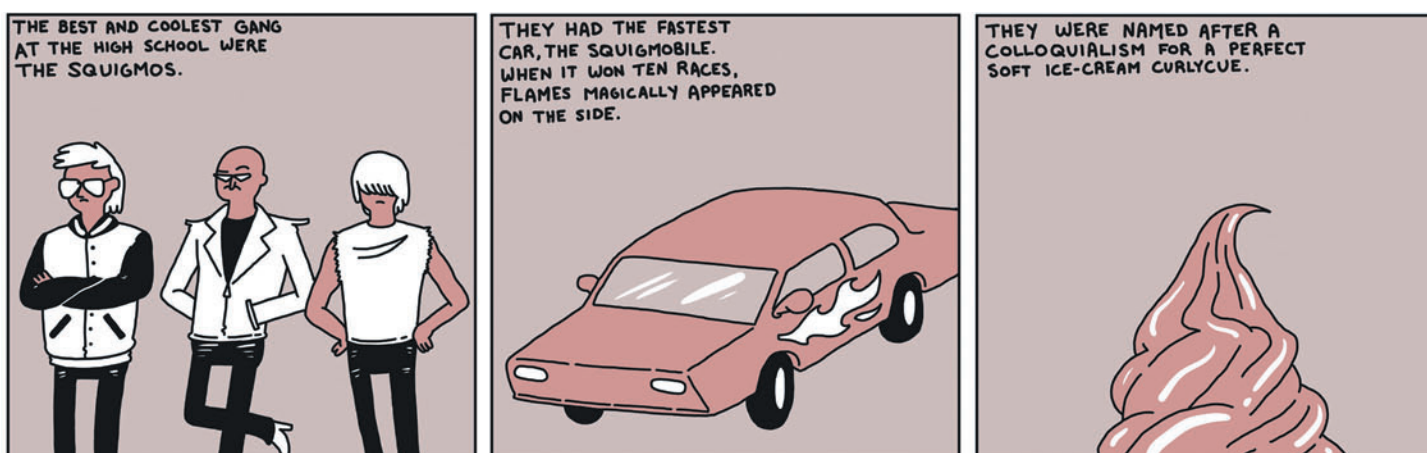
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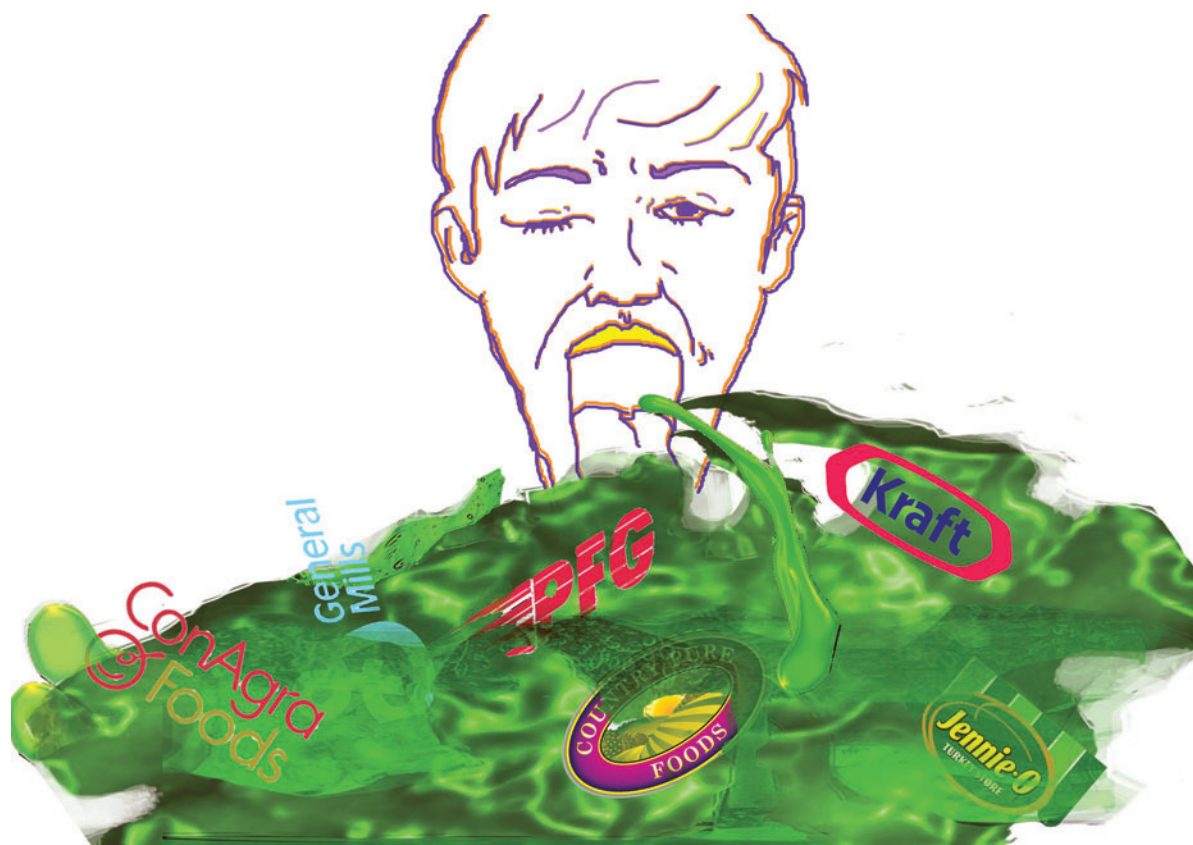


False Knees by Joshua Barkman



Power Theatre by Alex Callard





Editorial

Ending the Reign of Chart-Hell

With Chartwells' contract up for negotiation in 2015, Concordia's community has the chance to rethink its options in terms of food services.

Chartwells is a food service management company that has held an exclusive contract with Concordia since 2002. It also happens to be a subsidiary of Compass Group, the multinational known for being a food service provider for prisons, offshore oil platforms, and schools worldwide and reported an income of approximately \$10.5 billion CAD in 2013.

First-year students who live in residence are required to purchase a Chartwells meal plan. The cost of that plan is exorbitant, at \$1,975 per semester—more than a semester of tuition fees for a Quebec resident taking the maximum amount of credits allowed.

Concordia has a duty to serve a diverse and

multicultural student body, and Chartwells has failed to fit the needs of students with certain dietary restrictions.

Vegans, as well as students with gluten or lactose intolerance, often have difficulty finding any option that complies with their diet.

When first-year biology student Anisa Ben-Saud, who lives in Loyola's residence, showed up for breakfast one day, she encountered that difficulty firsthand.

"I was awake really early, and I went there, and they didn't have anything ready," she said. "[An employee] was like, 'You can have the baked goods and stuff,' and I said, 'I can't.' 'Well, you can have yogurt.' I can't. That's inconvenient if you can't give me something."

A company making billions in profit every year should be able to provide options for students with common allergies.

Not only is the meal plan expensive and restrictive, but the food served by Chartwells isn't particularly healthy, neither for student's bodies nor their futures. Although Chartwells claims to make efforts to provide healthy, sustainable meals to students, we doubt this statement is accurate. The company gets massive rebates from major food corporations including Kellogg's and Coca-Cola and thus has a financial motivation to push their products. It goes without saying that these industrial food giants are not the best example of local, organic or sustainable choices.

The Concordia Food Coalition is working to get a maximum of eight local businesses to form a single bid to replace Chartwells next year. This bid would be beneficial for both students and the Montreal community at large. It would provide greater accountability on

the part of food service providers and allow students to have a better idea of where their meals are coming from. Thus, if a group feels they are not being justly accommodated, they would have greater means to go straight to the source.

We have seen the benefits of such changes in recent years with The Hive student-run co-op, which replaced the Java U café on the Hall Building's second floor. Other great alternatives, such as the People's Potato and Café X in the EV and VA buildings, have also proven very popular among students. Concordia should engage in more local food production and work towards emancipating itself from an industrial conglomerate while simultaneously reducing its environmental footprint.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau

THE LINK³⁵

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Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8
editor: 514-848-2424 x. 7405
arts: 514-848-2424 x. 5813
news: 514-848-2424 x. 8682
business: 514-848-7406
advertising: 514-848-7406
fax: 514-848-4540

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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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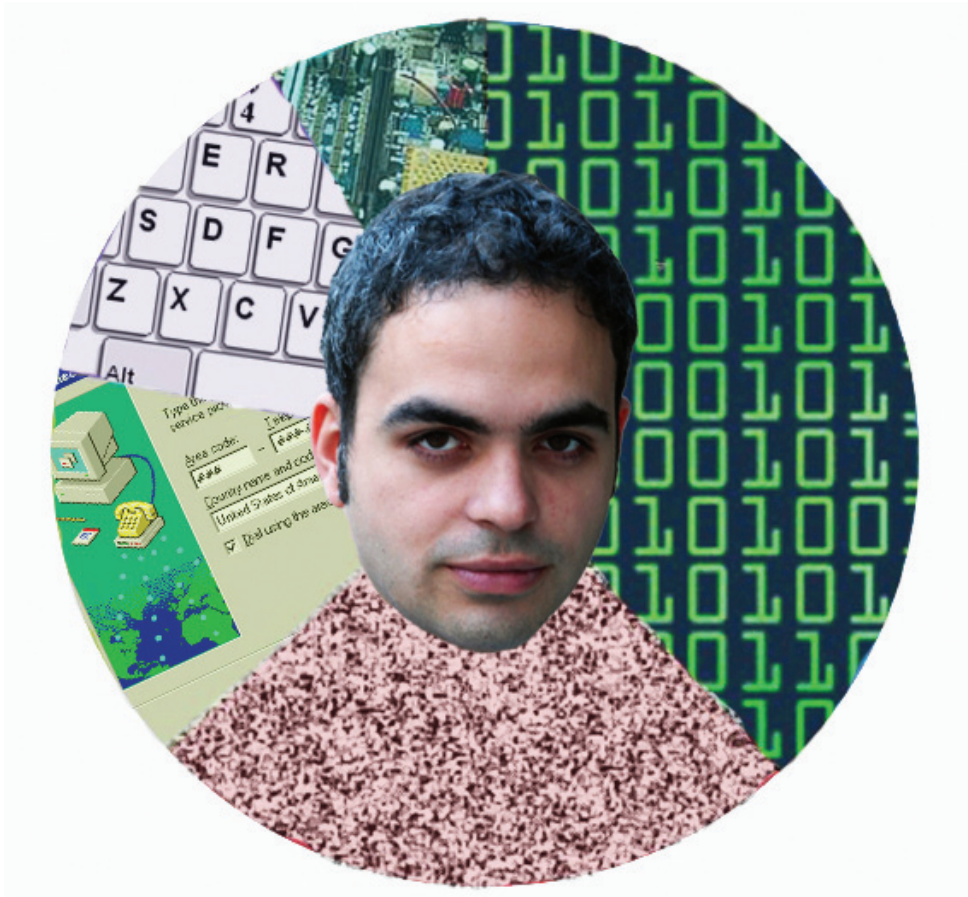
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Contributors: Jane Lakes, Tristan D'Amours, Melissa Fuller, Gonzo Nieto, Javier Hoyos, Jennifer Aedy, Frederick Nackos, Matt D'Amours, Andy Fidel, Jake Russel, Mottel Zirkind, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Erica Pishdadian

Cover Laura Lalonde

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DATA JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

Does “data journalism” sound like an alien language, or music to your ears? Either way, we’ve got the hands-on workshop for you. Roberto Rocha, the innovator behind *The Montreal Gazette’s* data journalism, will be hosting a free workshop where you can develop, enhance and consolidate your skills in creating interactive maps and making stats sexy.

This tremendous tutorial will be held on **Friday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. in The Link’s office (H649)**. Everyone shall be welcomed with open arms! Please bring a laptop with a copy of either Microsoft Excel or LibreOffice installed—otherwise you might be left thumb twiddling.

graphic Sam Jones

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