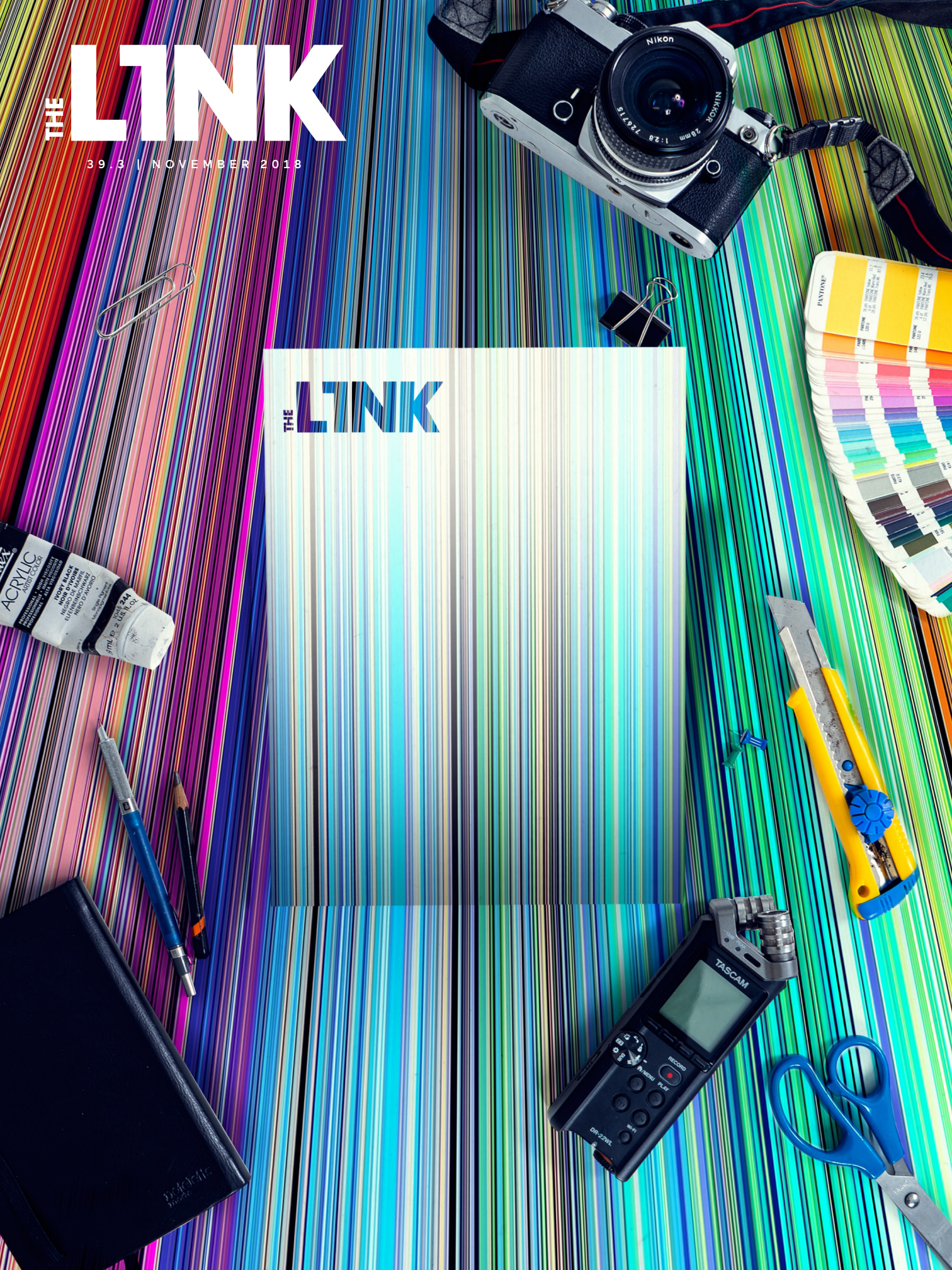


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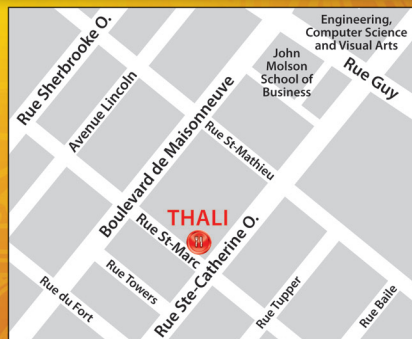


Table of Contents

Volume 39, Issue 3

p.	5	EDITORIAL
p.	6	THE FLAWS OF CONCORDIA'S ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
p.	11	GENETIC DISCRIMINATION IS MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK
p.	14	WORKSHOPS UNDOING TOXIC MASCULINITY
p.	19	IS FREE EDUCATION IN QUEBEC EVEN A POSSIBILITY?
p.	23	OUR GRAPHIC ARTIST OF THE MONTH
p.	24	MEMES ARE INDEED AN ART FORM
p.	29	SPARKLES AND SINGING AND ACTIVISM: OH MY! EXAMINING THE ART OF DRAG
p.	32	SECOND YEAR, NEW MISSION: THE EVOLUTION OF CONCORDIA CHEERLEADING
p.	35	PHILIPPE HUDON'S "DO OR DIE" YEAR IN HOCKEY
p.	38	MAURICE SIMBA'S FOOTBALL ODYSSEY: FROM THE DRC TO CONCORDIA
p.	41	PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF CANADA: MEDICAL GRAVE ROBBING IN QUEBEC
p.	45	DON'T @ ME: (MOST) NATIONALS DAYS ARE STUPID
p.	46	SEX ED(ITORIAL): SEX (AND MEN) SHOULD BE BETTER
p.	48	COMICS



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PODCASTING 101

Podcast Coordinator Andre Goulet from Ricochet Media will be at The Link office on Nov. 17 for a round of podcasting 101. Join us at 4 P.M. and learn how to edit and run the tech so you can get your own podcast started and out into the world.



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EDITORIAL:

Why the Decriminalization of Drugs Could Be the Solution Canada Needs

Canada made history this October, becoming the largest country to legalize cannabis.

This decision marks a new chapter in Canadian history and reflects the changing attitudes of the 21st century.

Decriminalizing illicit drugs is not a revolutionary idea: Portugal, always cited as an example of the practice's potential for success, decriminalized all drugs in 2001. The result? A decrease in the rates of drug use, overdoses, HIV infection, and drug-related crimes. Actually, the number of people seeking treatment for drugs increased.

It's actually a very logical outcome. When we destigmatize drug use, treating it as the social and health issue it is and not as a moral failing, we can treat the roots of addiction like poverty and mental illness. Jail time hardens and traumatizes inmates, so sending people with addictions to treatment instead of prison can reduce recidivism and crime.

With the decriminalization of drugs, we can bring conversations about mental issues and addiction to the forefront. The education surrounding drugs in public schools is limited. It often provides a fear-mongering approach. Rather than allowing students to fully understand how each drug works individually and the differences in how each impacts your mind and body, in our experience, we found that radically different drugs tend to get grouped together. With decriminalization, we can accept that drugs are in our society, and not shame or name users as outcasts, which doesn't help the problem. With better education we can understand that addiction is part of mental illness, and just as discussions of mental illness are providing more understanding and accepting to

those who experience mental illness, we must also do so with addiction.

Following the rise in opioid-related deaths in Canada, one of the ways to reduce overdoses was by introducing safe injection sites. At these sites users can test their product for fentanyl contamination and inject drugs, and healthcare practitioners on site can provide aid if an overdose happens. However, these sites faced some backlash and were difficult to implement, as under Canadian law the injection of black market drugs is illegal. This was once not the case, as the first legal safe injection site in North America was opened in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver in 2003. This was permitted by the former Liberal government at the time, by exempting that facility from certain provisions relating to trafficking within the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. But once the Conservative government came into power, harm reduction was eliminated from Canada's anti-drug policy, creating barriers for the Vancouver injection site and threatening the site's immunity from the act.

Despite Health Canada approving safe injection sites that have become established places in their respective communities there is still backlash towards these sites. Some believe it draws more drug users to the area while others say it causes more drug use, without considering the overdoses and deaths it prevents. Decriminalization of drugs and promotion of drug education can prevent these thoughts, by helping us understand how addiction can control and alter one's mind, reducing the thought that those who use are less than those who don't. Criminalizing some drugs and not others creates a false dichotomy

wherein some people are considered addicts and others are just seen as taking their prescriptions.


Speed or crystal meth from the street and some kinds of stimulants used to treat people with ADHD are chemical cousins, yet people who use the former are considered lesser than, and are treated poorly thanks to the stigma that comes with being characterized as an addict.

Decriminalizing drugs does not mean encouraging people to use them, but rather to lessen the negative social or criminal effects on those that do.

Two Canadian cities have officially recommended the federal government consider decriminalizing drugs. Vancouver was first, Toronto being the second.

Decriminalization and legalization are not the same thing. What these cities and we at *The Link* are recommending, is not that the federal government regulate illegal drugs like they are doing with marijuana but rather, revoke the criminal consequences for their possession.

The New Democratic Party became the first major Canadian party to come out in support of decriminalizing all drugs. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh said drug addiction is a social problem, not a criminal one, and said drug policies should reflect this. He noted that many people who are arrested for drug possession are on the fringe, and are often low income, mentally ill, or addicts, making it a healthcare issue.

Portugal shows us what happens when drugs are decriminalized. It could be a valid and radical solution to the opioid crisis Canada is currently facing, and allow us to take better care of those who are most vulnerable. 

Divergence & Curl

Students Working the System in Order to Succeed in Engineering

Problems Within the Program Lead Students to Share Past Assignments, Quizzes and Exams in Order to Succeed

SAVANNA CRAIG
@SAVANNACRAIG

For many students, attending classes, studying hard and seeking help from their professor may guarantee their best chance at a high GPA. Four students in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science who spoke on record, and one who spoke off-record, feel that this doesn't seem to be the status quo, with one student finding a combination of relying on teachers and outside sources to both be beneficial for her. For most to obtain the best grade possible and inch closer towards graduation in a degree that requires many hours studying, information sharing or outside tutors can be advantageous. Some buy or find access to past exams, assignments or quizzes from former students—as some professors often repeat their material. Off campus tutoring resources are also utilized, when students find the professor cannot help them.

A student in industrial engineering, Andrew Abouaccar said he had an “all star team of bad teachers” in his first semester and wasn't ready for the workload required in engineering. Abouaccar said when he first began his degree, he was not aware that learning only through your teachers and studying from the course notes is not enough to do well.

“So come midterms, first semester of fall 2015, I basically flunked all my midterms and ended up dropping out of school,” Abouaccar said.

He eventually came back the next semester, switching disciplines from mechanical to industrial engineering,

with the understanding that outside resources would help him succeed.

“It's a lot of group studying and a lot of crash courses, extra-curricular tutoring,” he said. “After understanding the name of the game and how it's played, I did super well coming back.”

Abouaccar said he went from failing his classes to having a 3.9 GPA the next semester. “All it was [is] understanding that your teachers aren't going to be the ones that are gonna help you pass,” he said.

Abouaccar said for many students, access to former quizzes, tests, assignments and exams are what helps them obtain a passing grade. Abouaccar said a lot of students work together by sharing drives of information of former assignments, tests or exams, to memorize and study the answers.

“If you see someone in fourth year, they're trying to plug you as much as possible with past exams, past midterms, and that's sort of a culture within engineering where we hold on to [information],” said Abouaccar.

Hamza Malik, a student in aerospace engineering, said there are some teachers who repeat all their finals and quizzes without changes to the material. “Basically what ends up happening is you're

not learning like you should, and you're relying on past students and they're really carrying you to success,” said Malik. “The

result of all this pressure to do well ends up creating a bunch of engineers who seem like they're super competent, but in reality aren't,” said Abouaccar.

Cynthia Ferullo, a student in industrial engineering and co-president of Women in Engineering at Concordia, said she

does not believe the material is the same from year to year, but reviewing past content is helpful to study. “If we do have access to past quizzes and material from other students we do utilize them, but most people in engineering do it's very common to have a lot of material from previous semesters,” Ferullo said.

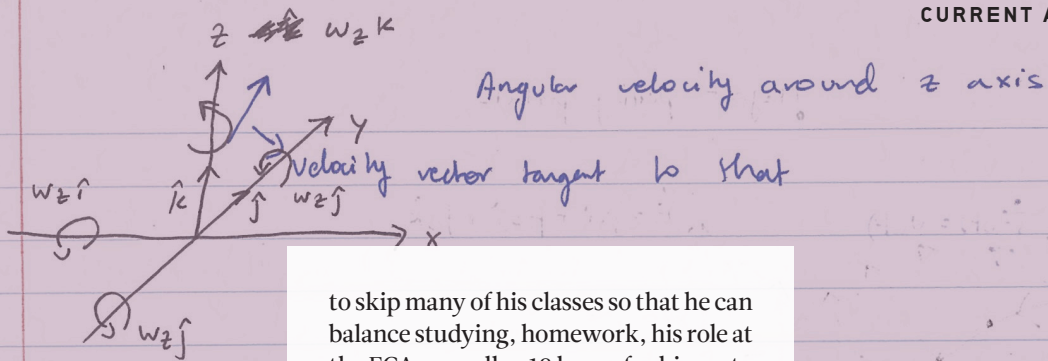
Besides shared information, many attend outside tutoring instead of class, because they find it to be a more beneficial use of their time, said Mehdi Ziani, student in industrial engineering and Chair of the Engineering and Computer Science Association.

“I don't attend any of my classes anymore, it's so demanding to attend all of the lectures because normally most professors are really bad,” said Ziani.

Amin Bouabdellah, a student in mechanical engineering and VP of External Affairs at the ECA, said he has

“You're not learning like you should, and you're relying on past students and they're really carrying you to success.”

—Hamza Malik



Angular velocity



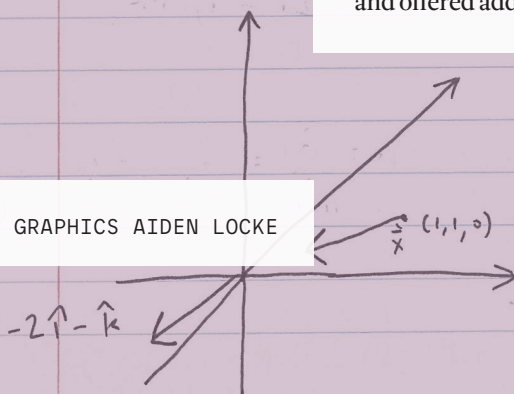
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curl @ point

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GRAPHICS AIDEN LOCKE



to skip many of his classes so that he can balance studying, homework, his role at the ECA, as well as 18 hours for his part-time job per week.

Bouabdellah said the Engineering Accreditation Board writes the rules for what constitutes a proper engineering program in Canada, requiring programs to provide a certain number of hours for classes, lectures, and tutorials per week, so this is why engineering students at Concordia have such heavily packed schedules.

Bouabdellah said he pays more than \$200 every semester in addition to his school fees to use an outside tutoring service. He knows he will do well if he attends the tutor instead of class, he said. "We do skip a lot of classes, but we do find our way to learn the material and compensate for it."

However, Ferullo said she doesn't often skip class. But she said she will skip and teach herself when she doesn't agree with the teaching style of a teaching assistant or professor. "Most of the classes I attend and the few that I don't [are] very limited," said Ferullo.

Regarding that some find sharing information a need to be successful in the program, University spokesperson Mary-Jo Barr responded on behalf of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. Barr said that course evaluations, the performance of professors and the anecdotal feedback received from students is closely monitored. "In recent years, we have substantially increased the teaching assistantships and offered additional tutorials for chal-

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ y & 2xz & ze^x \end{vmatrix}$$

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$$(-2x, -ze^x, 2z-1)$$

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$$+ [\sin^2 t - \sin t \cos t]$$

6

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lenging courses,” said Barr. “Faculty members are also available during their office hours [and] students are encouraged to use these resources.”

RESEARCH OVER TEACHING

“It’s like that for all undergraduates, teachers don’t really care about [us],” said Malik.

He said he noticed that professors are sometimes cold and rude to undergraduates, “whereas when you’re a master’s student they’ll sit you down, they’ll talk to you nicely.” Bouabdellah said the department and the university obtain a lot of their status from the research conducted within the institution.

“They do amazing research at the PhD and master’s level and no doubt that all the profs they have—all the PhDs—they’re geniuses, they’re amazing in their field,” said Bouabdellah. “But part of [having] a PhD at a university is that you do need to teach courses.”

He said as a result, many of them who have excellent research skills are greatly lacking in teaching skills. “I totally get it on [the professor’s] end, but at the end of the day we’re the ones who pay the price.”

Ziani said he’s had a professor showed up two hours late for the final exam.

“It was supposed to start at 7 p.m., he showed up at 9 p.m., so regardless if anybody had other arrangements after the exam, were planning to catch a flight or anything, he showed up at 9 p.m. with the exams,” said Ziani. “We sat in a classroom with nothing to do, no cell phones, no nothing for 2 hours waiting for him to show up.”

The name of the professor was not given, however, both Ziani and

$$= \frac{\| \dot{T} \|^2}{\| \dot{r} \|^2}$$

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③

Abouaccar were in the exam room and corroborated this story. Bouabdellah said he was in the other exam room for the same course taught by another professor. He said his exam started on time, but he ended up waiting for his friends in the other exam room to finish, as a result of their professor being late.

Ziani said despite cases like this, he still has had some very good professors at Concordia. He said the ratio of excellent professors 20/80. “80 per cent don’t care, 20 per cent are amazing at their job,” Ziani said.

Bouabdellah believes there are some great professors who really care, however, he said it’s reoccurring that there are professors who just don’t care. “At the end of the day we do get screwed because about half of our professors care and half of them don’t.”

There needs to be a culture shift from professors being based on research, to students being a main point of their priority, according to Bouabdellah.

Ferullo said it’s a change from high school or CEGEP, but as long as the teachers post the slides and the solutions to problems, they make it easier for the students.

Barr said professors must make themselves available for students outside of class time during their office hours, which is reinforced by the department chairs at the beginning of each term.

Barr said course and professor evaluations are monitored by the faculty. “The vast majority of our faculty members are very dedicated to teaching our future engineers as corroborated by these evaluations,” said Barr. “Faculty members who do not perform well on teaching evaluations are encouraged to attend teaching workshops offered by Concordia’s Centre for Teaching and Learning.”

Regarding the late exams, Barr said professors are expected to submit their exams to the Examination Office beforehand to ensure the exam will start on time. Ziani said he is not sure if the professor submitted the exam, however, he said the exam was not initiated until the professor finally arrived.

SCHEDULING

Late grading and long waitlists for classes can cost some students a lot of time and money by delaying their graduation. Ziani said a lot of mandatory classes are given one semester per year, so if you fail a class it can result in needing to take it next year, delaying graduation by a year. Malik said this may start a chain of delays, as one it may be a prerequisite for another class, and that class a prerequisite for another class, and so forth.

Malik said scheduling for classes and labs are often inconvenient. He said some of his friend’s classes from Monday to Thursday would start early in the morning until late in the night, with classes spread out and long breaks or laboratories—where students get to put their learning and theoretical knowledge to use by performing scientific experiments or by building real world models—are placed in between.

“I know [for] a lot of my friends it took a toll on them; there’s a lot of people who drop out of engineering first semester because they realize this is too much,” said Malik.

Ferullo finds sometimes she can have these long schedules with large breaks or laboratories in between, but she sympathizes with the department, that there are a large number of students to accommodate within different classes.

Scheduling conflicts sometimes may cause students more stress during finals, as Malik found. “[Once] I had three finals in the span of 24 hours,” he said. Malik said he had an exam at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., then the next day he had an exam at 9 a.m. and a final exam at 2 p.m. that same day. “Honestly I thought I was going to be ok, but then I got to the 2 [p.m.] to 5 [p.m.] one,” said Malik. “Thirty minutes before the [exam] I had to drop the class because it was too much; my brain was fried and I couldn’t do it.” Malik said he feels the exams should be planned better.

Wait lists have generated issues for some students, as Malik recounts being on waitlists to get into classes required for graduation, which were at time

longer than 10 people. This is not often the case, as Malik said this has happened to him two times. He often gets into the class when others drop the course.

Students in the co-op engineering program have some priority over students in regular classes, so they often do not face being waitlisted for mandatory classes. Barr said co-op students are not automatically enrolled, but they have access to registration before non co-op students. “Therefore, it could be more likely that non-co-op students are waitlisted because the class is full by the time registration opens for them,” said Barr.

Concordia President Alan Shepard said there’s a strain in the system around lower level math and physics courses, and the university is working on being able to offer the right number of classes.

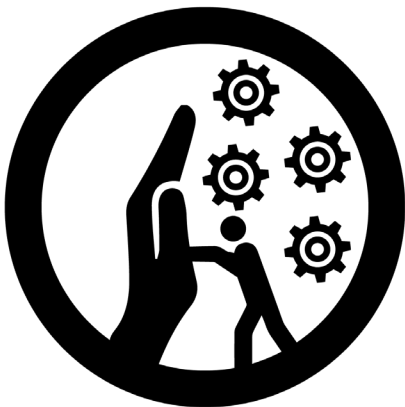
“What’s happening in engineering is that our engineering program is so successful and its reputation is climbing so amazingly that the ratios by which we admit students and assume they will come are no longer accurate,” Shepard said. He said historically, if the university admitted ten students, four of them would come, however, now an average of six accept their offer.

“We’re trying to adjust our offerings to accommodate the need,” said Shepard. “We’re not trying to [prevent] people from graduating.”

Barr said traditionally core courses such as math and science, have long wait times, and along with new students, there are also those that repeat these courses to obtain a better grade.

“It is, therefore, difficult to predict the number of students registering in such courses, but we try to be as flexible as possible to ensure that all students for whom the courses are required are able to enroll,” she said. “Where needed, we increase the cap size for sections in high demand and also offer additional sections.”

The department started a pilot project this year, reserving a section of math courses for engineering and computer science students, according to Barr. Based on the results, this idea could be expanded to reserve mandatory courses



offered by Arts and Science.

"We are also looking at the possibility of having a predefined timetable for all newly admitted students," Barr said. "We hope that this initiative will ensure that all newly admitted students have a reserved spot in core courses in their first year and do not fall out of sequence due to wait lists."

GRADE CURVING

In engineering, a grade curving system is used. Grades are raised or lowered on a bell curve, to deter the average grade from being a fail, and to also prevent everyone from having too high of a grade. Bouabdellah said a lot of time the grade curving is luck.

"Depending on where your grade is on the curve, you can shift from one per cent to like a full 40 per cent down or up," said Ziani.

Malik said there's an expression called 'riding the curve'—a guessing game to see if your grade will be lowered or raised. He said if there's an exam where two or three students get 40 per cent and most of the class receives 50 per cent, the students who received 60 per cent will receive a final grade of A+ and the ones with 40 per cent will not be curved up and fail the class. In a similar scenario, students who receive 60 per cent in class, where the average was a 75 or 80 per cent can end up failing the class due to grade curving. "I find it's not really fair," said Malik.

Bouabdellah said it's just the way the bell curve works, you either curve high or get curved very low. "Riding the curve is sort of praying that when you get your grade, you're surprised, but you're surprised in a good way," said Bouabdellah.

Shepard said when grade curving is used, it's aimed to be beneficial for students. "You're not passing people who should have failed, that's a different thing; you're trying to be fair to the students and adjust the difficulty of the exam to the kind of appropriate standards for the course or the discipline," said Shepard.

MENTAL HEALTH AND CULTURE OF USING

Abouaccar said his mental health has been negatively impacted by his workload and the pressure of school. As a physical trainer outside of Concordia, he says he no longer has enough time to workout.

"I experience a lot of academic stress and anxiety related to academics, which negatively affects me, my performance in school and the gym," said Abouaccar. In terms of how he deals with his stress, Abouaccar said he tends to drink and smoke as a way to ease his stress. "There's a huge culture of drinking within engineering that's not something you can get away from," he said. "Within engineering, [drinking] is almost mandatory, and the people that don't drink are obviously smoking and doing other things."

Bouabdellah said there's a lot of students in engineering who use drugs to study.

"You'd be surprised at the people who use Adderall as a study aid where they weren't prescribed so they got it illegally," he said. "These are people who [are] straight A students [...] straight arrow types of people who don't smoke and drink."

With skipping class, crash courses, tutors and the sharing of information among students, Bouabdellah said engineering students need to do everything they can in order to get a job after graduation.

"You need to set yourself apart and in order to do that you need to either work part time, be involved in the school, so being involved in associations or playing a sport," said Bouabdellah. "These are things that take [...] time, so if you want to do well in your career search and have the best opportunities for your jobs you need to sacrifice your time."

Barr said that for specific complaints towards the program, students should reach out to their department chair to have their individual situation reviewed at a higher level. □

Genetic Discrimination: A Reality for Both Residents and Immigrants

Genetic Tests Used by Insurers and Immigration Officers

VICTOR DÉPOIS

Montreal resident Harriet Smith* was in her mid-thirties in 2013 when she got tested for BRCA1 gene mutation for the first time. A pseudonym has been used to protect her employment opportunities and her children from accessing insurance.

The BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are responsible for producing proteins that prevent the development of tumors. A mutation in one or both genes can increase the likelihood for women to get breast cancer dramatically. Smith's family has a history of cancer: her mother had died of breast cancer in her forties. The results soon came in, and were positive. Smith was at a higher risk of getting breast, ovarian and endometrial—uterine—cancer than average. She had in fact around a 60 per cent risk of developing the disease.

Smith decided to take action. She underwent a preventive double mastectomy (the removal of both breasts) and a preventive hysterectomy (the removal of the uterus, and in her case her ovaries) in 2014, reducing her risk of getting breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancer to around one per cent. In other words, she now has the same risk of getting cancer as the average Canadian.

"I am more healthy than most since I can't get breast cancer or a cancer of the uterus," she said.

Smith first received life insurance

when she and her husband bought their first house in 2011. She had not been tested for the BRCA genes at the time, and had no problem getting insured at MIB Group, Inc.

When Smith and her husband bought a new house, they both decided to change insurance plans to cover larger costs. While her husband had no problem finding a life insurance plan, Smith was refused by many providers. In the summer of 2014, she applied to get a new plan at MIB. They refused to insure Smith due to her gene mutation, regardless of her surgeries.

Smith eventually found a life insurance plan at Desjardins, however, the contract stated she would not be covered if she developed, "a cancer diagnostic or a benign brain tumor."

It was difficult for Smith to find a disability insurance in 2015. Her only

option was to accumulate multiple small insurances so she could get a monthly allowance in case she had to stop working suddenly. "I thought it was weird, because I am healthy, I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't have heart problems," she said.

The Genetic Non-Discrimination Act became law in Canada on May 4, 2017. The act prohibits insurance companies, schools, adoption agencies, employers, and other third-parties from requiring genetic test information in a contract negotiation.

Quebec's government challenged the constitutionality of the act arguing it infringes on insurance regulations, which is a provincial jurisdiction. It

was referred to Quebec's Court of Appeal. The verdict on the law's constitutionality will be known on Dec. 12. Should it be overturned, it will likely be referred to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Bev Heim-Myers, the chair of the Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness, has fought for eight years to pass this law, and hopes that it will not be overturned in December. She was the CEO of the Huntington Society of Canada until she realized many were

not seeking genetic testing for Huntington's disease, a hereditary brain disorder that causes the progressive death of brain cells.

"The Huntington Society wanted to experiment a new treatment for Huntington's disease but only a few people came forward because genetic tests could be accessible," Heim-Myers said. Because of the risk of getting sacked by

"We need to start using these tests for the right reasons, most of the time, it is not discriminatory to use genetic tests, but often, vulnerable are targeted, and that's when it becomes a problem."

—Yann Joly, Research Director for the Centre of Genomics and Policies at McGill

their insurance, people suffering from Huntington's disease refused to come forward to test a possibly life-saving treatment, said Heim-Myers.

"When you signed an insurance contract, insurance companies went to your family doctors who were basically forced to give them the information because otherwise you could not get an insurance contract," continued Heim-Myers.

However, genetic discrimination does not only apply to insurance companies—employers, schools, and many other third-parties can inflict unjust treatment on people because of genetic tests, said Heim-Myers.

Yvonne Bombard, a researcher at the Institute of Health Policy of the University of Toronto, conducted research on genetic discrimination in the context of Huntington's disease. She reported in 2009 that 29.2 per cent of the 233 Canadian respondents who tested positive or are at risk of having Huntington's experienced genetic discrimination in insurance. Along with that, 15.5 per cent reported discrimination in their families, and 12.4 per cent in social settings. Genetic discrimination by employers was only rarely experienced by people who were tested or at risk for Huntington's disease, but is still a problem. Hence the importance of the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act.

Heim-Myers does not lack examples of people having suffered from genetic discrimination, and she said one in particular haunts her. In 2016, a young man living in Ontario was 22 years old when he got tested for the Huntington Disease mutation because of his family history. She said he shared with his employer on a Friday that he had the mutation but would not get the disease for at least three decades, or even never if he received proper preventive treatment. The following Monday, he was fired, because the employer was worried about the safety of the employee using their equipment.

"The reality of it is this law is not just about insurance," Heim-Myers said. "It is about contracts and service providers that have access to genetic test information.

The law actually is the government using their criminal law power to stop an action like genetic discrimination that is harmful. Quebec doesn't agree with that."

Yann Joly, the research Director for the Centre of Genomics and Policies at McGill, has conducted research on genetic discrimination in Quebec. According to Joly, the main issue around genetic discrimination is the lack of information. Not only do patients often not know about genetic discrimination, but doctors also have trouble bringing up the topic.

"Doctors don't always know how to inform people in procedures like consent forms. Sometimes, genetic counsellors are uncomfortable, and act according to their intuition rather than reliable information," Joly said.

The result of the study conducted worldwide revealed that genetic discrimination was not that prevalent. Rather than affecting everyone, it seemed like most of the people affected suffer from monogenic diseases. These are diseases that are caused by a mutation in a single gene, meaning that if one of your parents has a disease, you have a 50 per cent chance of getting it yourself. And if you have that mutation, you have a very high risk of getting the disease.

These diseases include Huntington's disease, and mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.

"For insurers, it meant that these people are at risk of dying earlier than the average, and it is for this reason that they refused to insure them," he said. That is one example of how people can be discriminated based on their genome.

The problem, according to Joly, is not about genetic tests themselves.

"We need to start using these tests for the right reasons," he said "Most of the time, it is not discriminatory to use genetic tests, but often, [the] vulnerable are targeted, and that's when it becomes a problem."

Certain groups are more at risk of developing certain diseases. For example, Ashkenazi women from Eastern Europe have a higher probability of developing breast cancer at some point in their lives.

"They have a higher risk of develop-

ing this disease, and, on top of that we're going to discriminate them based on a genetic test," he said. "That's a problem."

However, Joly said that genetic discrimination goes even further than insurers, employers, or landlords. It is used regularly on immigrants. Joly believes that another issue with genetic testing is that it targets those who immigrate to Canada.

"Immigration Canada has used genetic testing for 15 to 20 years when a Canadian citizen wishes to sponsor one of their family members for immigration," he said.

When an immigrant applies for Canadian citizenship, they can be asked to pass a genetic test in the case that they want to sponsor their children. "Apart from the realm of immigration, Canada recognizes that all families are not necessarily linked biologically," he said. Consequently, an immigrant may discover that he is not the father of his child, which may therefore result in the child not be able to immigrate.

Undocumented immigrants are also affected. If they refuse to cooperate with the Canadian Border Services Agency, they may be forced to pass a DNA test in order to help authorities decide where to deport them to.

VICE News revealed earlier this year that the CBSA used family ancestry websites to do so, like FamilyTreeDNA.com. This is very problematic in that those sorts of websites are not fully reliable.

"To find your ethnic origin, you need to compare your DNA to the DNA of people from every ethnic group of the planet," said Joly. "But if the company does not have the DNA of every ethnic group, the picture can't be fully accurate."

Ethnic origin does not reveal one's nationality. In fact, over 200 ethnic origins were reported in a 2011 National Household Survey in Canada. "If I passed a genetic test, it would probably tell me that I am from northern Europe," said Joly. "But I am a Canadian citizen."

It is virtually impossible to rely on such tests to affirm someone's citizenship, and that is the problem, said Joly.

Insert Blood Vial

here

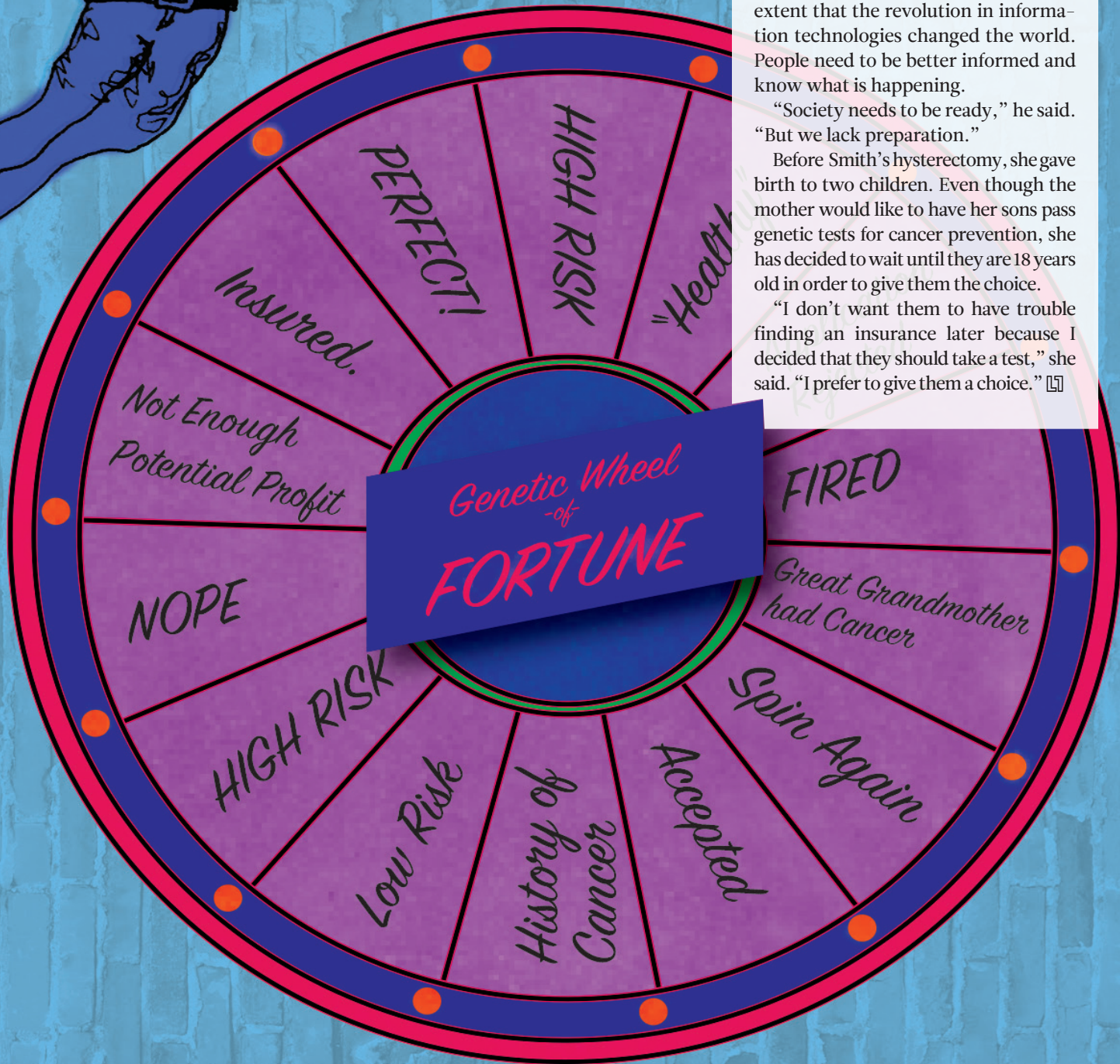
Joly believes that the evolution of genetics is going to change the way humans see themselves, to the same extent that the revolution in information technologies changed the world. People need to be better informed and know what is happening.

"Society needs to be ready," he said. "But we lack preparation."

Before Smith's hysterectomy, she gave birth to two children. Even though the mother would like to have her sons pass genetic tests for cancer prevention, she has decided to wait until they are 18 years old in order to give them the choice.

"I don't want them to have trouble finding an insurance later because I decided that they should take a test," she said. "I prefer to give them a choice." [E]

Genetic Wheel -of- FORTUNE



Picking Apart the Roots of the Patriarchy

How Arno Pedram's Workshops Aims to Help Men and Masculine People Discover Their Masculinity

IRELAND COMPTON
@IRELANDCOMPTON



Arno Pedram is working to smash the patriarchy one workshop at a time. As someone who identifies as non-binary, Pedram, a McGill student, first explored the idea of a workshop for men and masculine people, after shaving their own head.

"I've had a lot of different moments with my gender and I have been presenting more feminine for a long time," they said. "Because of some events in my life, I was like 'I'm going to shave my head and change,' you know like when you're going through a major life crisis and you decide that shaving your head is going to be like the image of your inner self changing."

This was the first time in a while in which they presented as more masculine, inciting them to reach out to other trans and non-binary friends to discuss what it felt like to be read as more masculine after so long. Pedram has said they felt anxious during the points in time they presented more feminine, worrying people would continue to perceive them as a man. The experience of shaving their head made them increasingly certain they are not a man, making them more comfortable with people being wrong about their gender identity.

This got Pedram thinking: What are their responsibilities as a person who had been assigned male at birth and was socialized as a man? What is their responsibility as someone who has the ability to

move through spaces?

"I've spent a lot of time where I've been like 'I'm just going to get out of gender, and just do my thing,' which is very valid and which has been central to a lot of my thinking," said Pedram. "But then I was moving towards 'How do we go about people that do not want to leave their gender, do not want to leave potentially an idealistic and positive conception of their gender?'"

What feeds the patriarchy is this idea of masculinity, and how Western culture tends to paint this picture of what a man should be. In much the same way that the media imposes upon women its impression of an ideal body type, society tends to impose upon men and masculine individuals a set of criteria that they should meet. Our culture equates masculinity with strength, both physically and emotionally, which can create a toxic environment by making men and boys feel like less of a man for showing signs of vulnerability or emotion.

Pedram began reading about the role of positive masculinity, which lead them to imagine a place where individuals could rethink the concept of masculinity in order to move away from the toxic masculine culture that our society is deeply entrenched in.

"All these things made me think 'Well, yes, we want to end patriarchy, yes, a lot of the toxicity of patriarchy comes from masculinity, but maybe masculinity can be re-envisioned by several people,' and I don't think that there's only one vision," they said.

One of the things Pedram emphasized was the idea of cultural respect. They feel particularly close to the issue being Ira-

nian, and realizing how the West imposes its conceptions of sexual liberation and gender liberation on other cultures, including the Iranian culture.

"I was thinking about that, as an Iranian person, that the term gay doesn't have a history in Iran," they said. "But because the internationalization of the sexual liberation as conceived by the West is growing like that—which I think is helpful and necessary in many ways—there is also a cultural loss."

In this context, Pedram envisioned a space where a diversity of individualities would be accepted, free of imposition of a single solution to the oppressive gender

concepts Western culture subscribes to. Pedram said this can be mainly inaccessible to everyone due to lack of knowledge of specific technical terms and concepts such as "gender construction" and "performance of gender."

They felt there may be a way to add this respect

for cultural diversity and individually respect self-identification in order to make things more accessible so people don't have to make this radical departure from their gender.

"That's how this came about, I thought 'Well, I should actually do workshops about this,' and so I sent out a survey," they said.

Pedram's survey pitched some ideas they'd been having for potential workshops, including one on #MeToo, one on men amongst men, and one surrounding emotion and vulnerability, which ended up being the main topic for their first trial workshop.

"I spent some time putting everything together during the summer and I was also doing my own readings, to just have

a more holistic view of what I wanted to do," they said. "I started them maybe a month ago."

Pedram's first workshop was put on for a group of four men and masculine individuals in late September, in their home. The concept behind hosting the workshops in someone's home is to ensure an intimate and comfortable environment, given the vulnerability aspect of the workshop itself.

The structure of the workshop centres around exercises exploring the nature of masculinity and how society has conditioned men and masculine to believe that the root of masculinity is strength. A discussion period also takes place in which the participants discuss topics pertaining to the concept of masculinity and gender, and from that stems the idea of emotions and vulnerability. By the end of the workshop, participants should expect to have developed their own sense of what masculinity and gender means to them. The content of the workshop is still in the development stages, said Pedram, as only one workshop has been hosted so far.

It was definitely a learning experience, they said. One of the main challenges they faced was the question of demographic. Pedram gathered many of their participants from a men's group that skewed heavily white, leading the demographic of their workshop to be three quarters white, straight men. This caused some tension in the atmosphere, and some participants expressed feeling vulnerable, but as the workshop progressed a discourse was had on representation in the space.

"The intent of the first workshop was to remain open to people who don't identify as men but who still want to work on their masculinity," said Pedram. "Even though I enjoy the work of working with cis-hetero men—where I think is more difficult for me, but I still think is very interesting—I hope to do more in the future closed for queer people."

These workshops have the potential to be highly beneficial to the Montreal and McGill communities, as these are spaces

"We want to end patriarchy [...] a lot of the toxicity of patriarchy comes from masculinity, but maybe masculinity can be re-envisioned by several people, and I don't think that there's only one vision."

—Arno Pedram





Pedram feels their eyes, rings and cape are some elements that represent their femininity.

PHOTOS ELISA BARBIER

associated with exploring masculinity or offering a safe space for men and masculine people to express vulnerability.

“I think this can be very beneficial in a sense that there aren’t a lot of spaces or workshops like that in which people can explore masculinity,” said Jennifer Drummond of Concordia’s Sexual Assault Resource Centre. Drummond also feels that a workshop like this would be beneficial to the Concordia community.

While Concordia and SARC do not currently have a workshop or activities with a similar goal to what Pedram is doing, Drummond recognizes a need within the community, especially given what she describes as a lack of resources on sexual violence and assault for men and masculine individuals. Given departmental restrictions, there are no plans in place just yet, but Drummond says she would like to see such a project in the future.

“The topic is definitely something that is interesting,” said Drummond. “At this point, because of capacity issues I can’t commit to any additional groups or activities other than what we need to put in place to comply with Bill 151 requirement, but it’s definitely interesting and I think there’s a need for it. I think



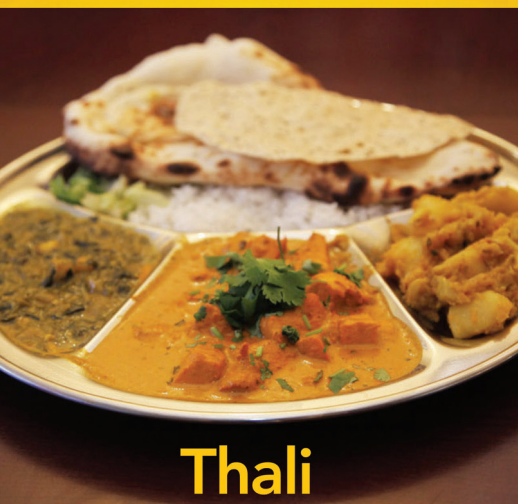


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there would be people interested in attending a workshop like this at Concordia, so it's definitely a possibility."

Ryan White, who attends a men's group in Montreal—which came about in the wake of the #MeToo movement and serves as an informal safe space for men and masculine people to talk about issues they may not feel comfortable speaking about in other spaces or even with close friends—feels that sometimes men and masculine people may have a hard time opening up, which can sometimes be a scary for some people.

Pedram's workshops serve much the same purpose, but with a touch more structure, allowing for exercises and a discussion period in which Pedram participates himself, taking on more of a participation role for a moment, rather than acting solely as a facilitator.

"What they're doing is a pretty different direction from what we're doing in our men's group," said White. "But, when we first started we weren't really sure what direction we were going to go, we could kind of see two paths before us, one more resembling what we do now, and one more closely resembling [Pedram]'s workshop which is more structured and directed."

White hopes to attend one of Pedram's upcoming workshops, to experience firsthand the differences between these workshops and what the Montreal men's group is doing. Some topics he would like to see explored include accountability, emotional engagement and listening skills.

"I think there's a few taboo topics among men that everyone is kind of ashamed or embarrassed to talk about. I'm always interested in finding supportive places for those conversations to exist, conversations around sexuality and pornography for example," White said. "I feel like most men learned about sexuality through either pornography or sexualized media and it's not a good place to learn from because it's not reflective of reality and it's highly objectifying most of the time, so I think it's always interesting when a topic like that comes up."

Pedram agrees that there are not many resources targeted towards men and masculine people on how to work on their masculinity. Because of this they want to gear the workshops towards individuals who are interested in learning more about the patriarchy and sexism and how it affects them and those around them, without ignoring the fact that men are the main benefactors of the patriarchy.

"When I started looking at alternative conceptions of masculinity, a lot of them were completely devoid of political discussion and what role masculinity plays in the political sphere," they said. "I really wanted to have a conversation about masculinity that's not just 'oh, do this better,' no, you're doing this in a context and you're actually trying to transgress rules imposed on you by the patriarchy. You're going to do all these things that are not just about you; they're about brothers, society, and especially about the oppression of women and non-conforming folks."

With their first trial workshop behind them and the necessary adjustments made, including in the way in which they gather participants, and their style of facilitation, Pedram hopes to have at least three more workshops before returning to France at the end of November. They then hope to continue facilitating these workshops in their community in France.

Pedram believes that the workshops will translate well in France. The question of vulnerability touches individuals across the world, and the workshop works in the sense that it does not offer one sole solution.

"It's about everyone having space to express vulnerability, and vulnerability means different things to different people," they said. "It might end up that the components may stay the same but the discussions will be different, or the exercises will be practiced differently. But the goal, I think, will be similarly reached in that everyone will develop their own way of thinking about vulnerability." □

The Controversy Within Access to Education

Weighing Both Sides of the Spectrum of How Free Education Can Be Obtainable

SAVANNA CRAIG
@SAVANNACRAIG

Red squares, protest signs and chanting filled the Montreal streets for many spring and summer nights in 2012, as thousands upon thousands crowded the streets to protest the projected tuition hikes. The Liberal government, at the time led by Jean Charest, imposed tuition hikes of \$1,625 over five years for university students. This initiated a series of protests, some nights drawing in crowds of thousands, with the peak of the protest in March of 2012 drawing in 200,000 people to protest within one day. By the end of May, the Quebec justice system was overwhelmed with arrests, more than 2,500 students having been arrested. Many more were arrested later that season.

The fire of inspiration that drove many to the streets is still alive today for some, as free education is still an important topic, addressed when the government suggests or imposes tuition hikes. There hasn't been a movement as influential since 2012, however, activism has remained strong at Concordia, as 16 students underwent a tribunal process for tuition hikes for protesting in 2015. This drew a campaign hosted by the Concordia Student Union to dispute these charges in 2016.

The topic of free education in Quebec has recently been brought to light again during the provincial elections. In the debate on student issues held at Concordia on Sept. 21, inviting one party member from six provincial parties in

the running for leadership to discuss issues related to students, the Coalition Avenir Québec representative in the Sainte Rose district, Christopher Skeete said the CAQ does not endorse free tuition, however, he said their party will not impose tuition hikes.

The CAQ and Skeete did not respond for further comment before the deadline of this article.

Free education may not be a reality under the ruling of the CAQ, but Québec Solidaire, a democratic, socialist and sovereigntist party, is still fighting for free education.

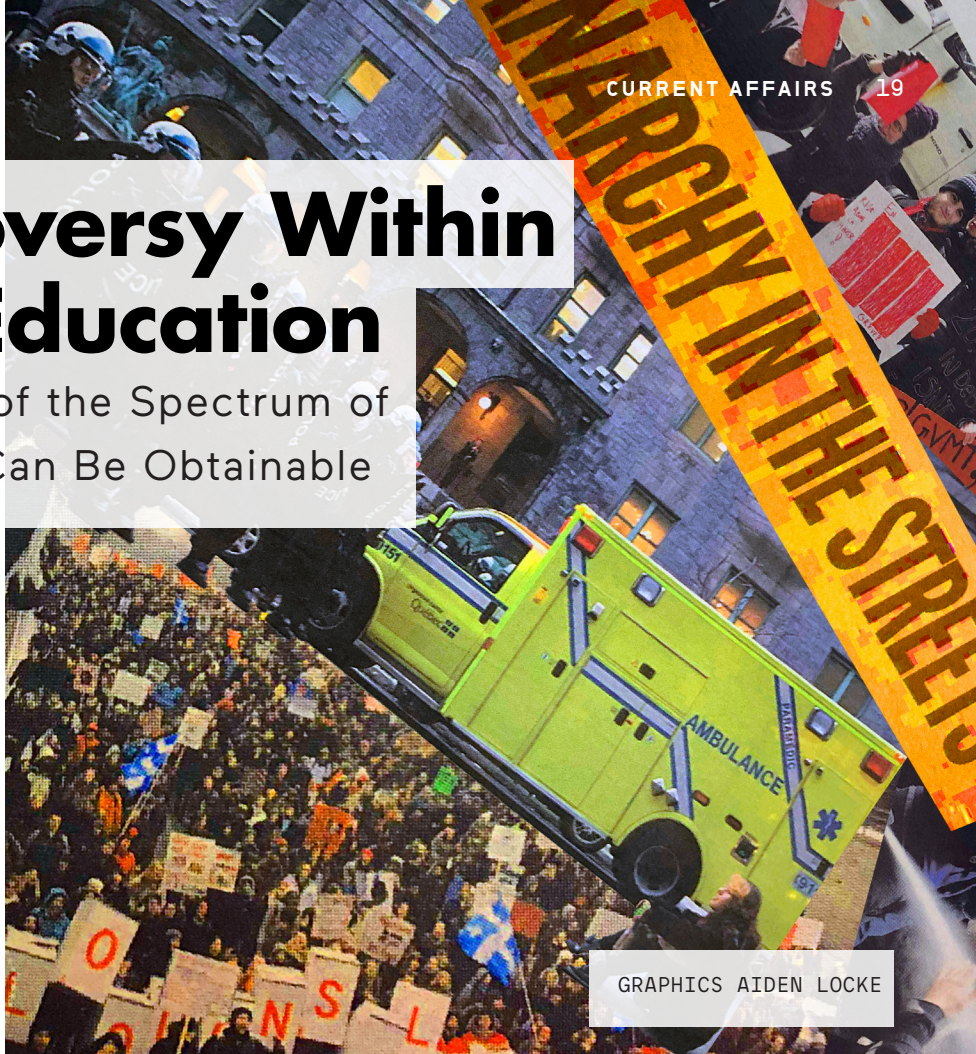
Co-spokesperson of Québec Solidaire Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois is a former spokesperson for Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, a now defunct coalition of students opposed to the tuition hike. In 2012, Nadeau-Dubois fought alongside with thousands and thousands of students and community members to

oppose and resist the tuition hike.

CLASSE intended to fight for free tuition to be available within the province of Quebec by 2016. While their hopes of free education did not succeed, Nadeau-Dubois continues the fight further than the borders of Montreal, but within the realm of Quebec provincial politics.

CLASSE's aspirations didn't come true, but this large mobilization was inspiring for some, including Concordia Student Union Finance Coordinator John Hutton, who attended Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia at the time. Hutton said this is where he saw anti-austerity activism happening in Quebec. "In that case [of the Maple Spring protests] Quebec [was] showing some national leadership, and we should certainly keep pushing further," said Hutton.

"Education is not something that is a privilege, it is a right for everybody, education is something that gives you the tools to understand the world around you,"



GRAPHICS AIDEN LOCKE

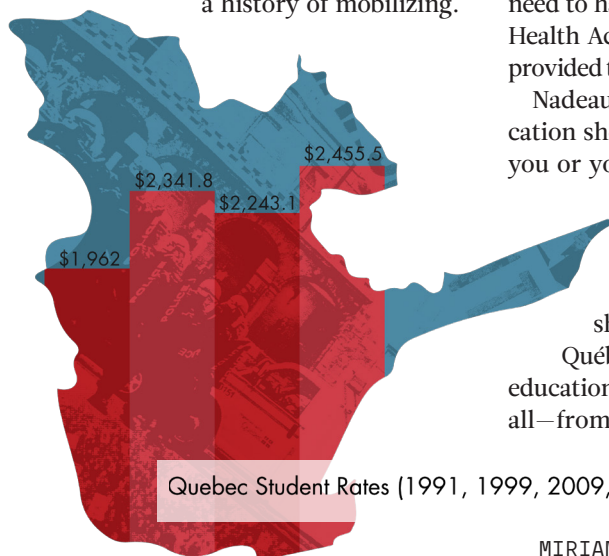
said Hutton. “It’s not just something that individually benefits me, everyone around me benefits—someone else getting a medicine degree benefits me.”

Everyone should have access to it, Hutton continued, because it not only empowers people, but the current average student debt in Canada is approximately \$30,000 upon graduation. Recent data provided by Statistics Canada in 2017 show that the average debt of Canadian graduates is \$26,000.

More than 70 per cent of all jobs require some form of post-secondary education, according to Universities Canada. “It’s not just something that empowers individuals, it’s something that people need just to meet the basic requirements to feed yourself and survive in society,” said Hutton.

CSU External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator Camille Thompson said her opinion on education changed when she was told in 2012 that education is a way for people to climb the social ladder. “The more you increase the price of it, the more you make sure that people who do not have the revenue cannot access those higher social ladders,” Thompson said. She said the cost of tuition and hiking these prices is increasing the division between the rich and the poor.

CSU supports free education for all, as stated so within their official positions book. The student union has had a history of mobilizing.



Quebec Student Rates (1991, 1999, 2009, 2018)

Notable events in recent years are the CSU voting to strike during the Maple Spring protests in 2012, and CSU hosting multiple anti-austerity campaigns—including Concordia Against Tribunals—in support of students undergoing tribunals and facing sanctions, as a result of protesting professors hosting classes within a department that voted to go on strike.

Hutton said tuition has risen for all of Canada, since the federal government, under the leadership of Liberal prime minister Jean Chrétien and finance minister Paul Martin decided to make \$12 billion in cuts towards university education and health transfers between 1994 and 1998.

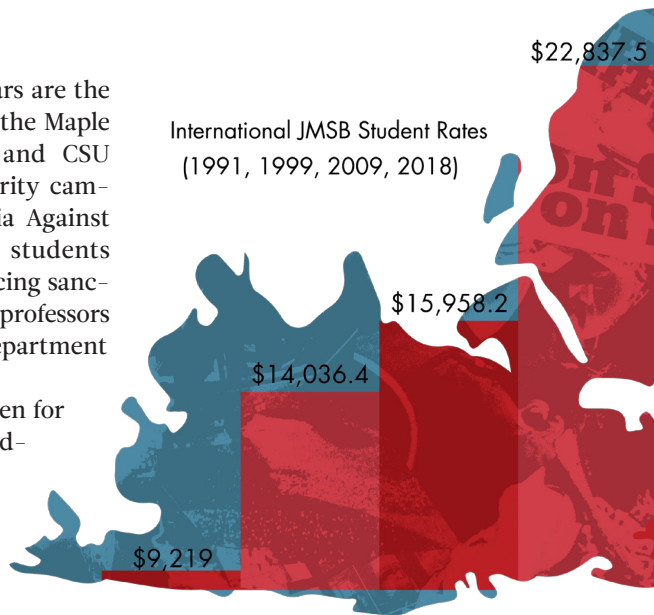
“It used to be that [provinces] had a lot of federal funding, but now you have this idea that education is a provincial responsibility only,” said Hutton. He said once the federal government made cuts, all of the financial burden was placed on provincial governments. “They couldn’t take on that load, so they put it onto students,” said Hutton. “That’s when you start to see tuition fees soaring in Canada, that’s when you start to see student debt rising in Canada.”

Instead of Quebec raising fees, Hutton said, we should be seeing the federal government re-invest in education. “We need to have something like the Canada Health Act, where federal transfers are provided to the provinces for education.”

Nadeau-Dubois told *The Link* education should not be about how much you or your parents have, but education should be accessible for everyone and the revenue you have should not be the determining factor of who should go or not to university.

Québec Solidaire’s platform for free education intends to fund schooling for all—from preschool to the PhD level.

International JMSB Student Rates (1991, 1999, 2009, 2018)



Out of all Canadian provinces, Quebec has the lowest tuition with prices ranging depending on chosen study. Tuition for Quebec residents ranges from \$3,775, with out-of-province students paying \$8,675 and \$19,802 for international students. These statistics are based on Concordia’s rates, which include health and compulsory fees, and account for 15 credits taken for both fall and winter semester, excluding summer.

Moshe Lander, lecturer in the economics department at Concordia, is not in favour of free education and doesn’t think it’s a beneficial idea. He believes that only some programs should be free, ones that he says are beneficial to all, such as positions in the medical industry.

He said when he worked in Alberta he often heard on the radio the need for nurses. Lander said in a case like this, free education should be given to nurses to motivate people to work in this field. As for who he thinks should pay for a nursing degree, Lander said it should be the institution benefitting from nurses, which are hospitals.

“Hospitals should be willing to put up thousands of dollars in essentially scholarships to anybody who wants to go study, because they’ll be the benefit of it when you come out on the other side with a nursing degree, [the hospital] can immediately hire you,” said Lander.

INFOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

MIRIAM LAFONTAINE AND CARL BINDMAN

Nadeau-Dubois said Québec Solidaire has a similar intention, but towards all programs. The party proposes to collect revenue to put towards free education by taxing large corporations, not small businesses, but large companies with more than 500 employees. “Those are companies that can pay their fair share of taxes,” said Nadeau-Dubois.

Similar to Lander’s proposal for free education for nurses, Nadeau-Dubois said these corporations will benefit from having an educated workforce.

“In the last years, governments in Quebec have systematically lowered the taxes on big corporations,” said Nadeau-Dubois. He said that’s less than what most Quebecers pay.

If elected in the future, the party intends to raise taxes on these corporations from 11.9 per cent to 14.5 per cent. Nadeau-Dubois said this proposal is not even half of what it was in the early 2000s, so they are not asking for so much. He said the taxing of corpo-

rations will result in \$2 billion of revenue to put towards education. The cost of higher education for Quebec residents, out of province and international students would cost \$1.3 billion, according to independent think tank Montreal Economic Institute.

Lander fears if taxes are raised on corporations, they will leave to other provinces and cities and feels this will impact the economy by pushing large businesses away. “How much of that big business is going to resent having to pay taxes, that they say we’re going to relocate [...] we’re out of here,” said Lander. “You need to have a better economic plan than just the politics of rail against the rich and speak for the poor,” said Lander.

However, Nadeau-Dubois said he doesn’t understand that hypothesis. “I think the facts contradict that argument, when you look at the countries where education is free [...] those countries have one of the most prosperous economies,” he said.

Nadeau-Dubois said the argument seems short sighted, as “employers and corporations, they take advantage a lot of the fact that

they do business in a educated society and that they can have an educated workforce.”

“When you look at places like the United States, where the tuition fees are the highest in the world, it does not make the United States a model in terms of having a stable and strong job market,” he continued.

Lander proposed instead of free education, certain industries could fund programs within the field of their business, or follow a similar model to Australia, where students can receive loans and pay their tuition back if they make over a certain annual salary.

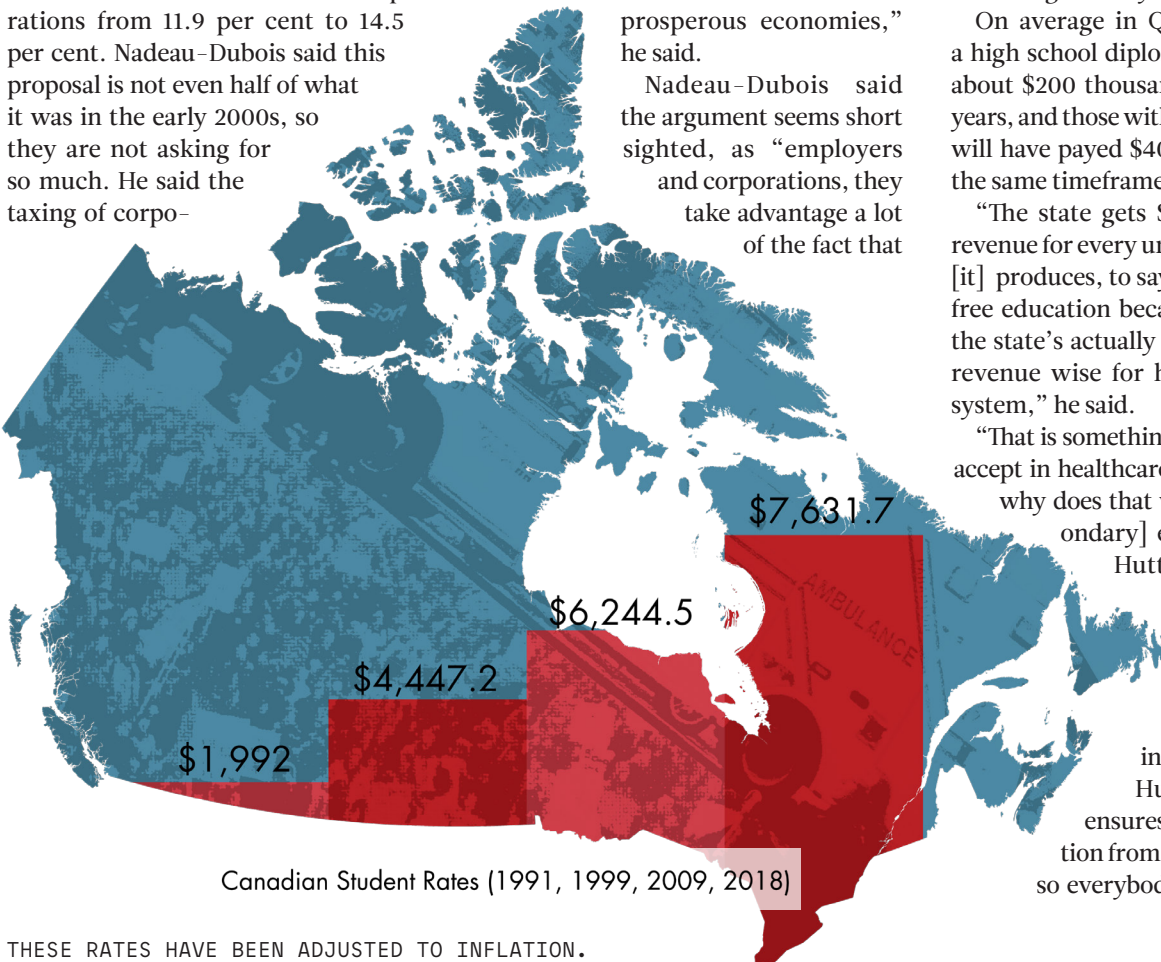
James McIntosh, a professor within Concordia’s economics department, echoed a similar sentiment as Lander. He believes more money should be put into bursaries, or that students should be able to take out loans for tuition and pay them back if they make over a certain salary. He said that the government has enough money to pay for education.

On average in Quebec, those with a high school diploma will have paid about \$200 thousand in taxes over 45 years, and those with a university degree will have paid \$400 thousand within the same timeframe, said MacIntosh.

“The state gets \$2 thousand in tax revenue for every university degree that [it] produces, to say that we can’t have free education because it’s so costly—the state’s actually doing very well tax revenue wise for having a university system,” he said.

“That is something that we would not accept in healthcare or for high school, why does that work for [post-secondary] education?” argued Hutton. “We already have a system where people who make higher incomes fund education, it’s called the income tax system.”

Hutton added this ensures there’s redistribution from the rich to the poor, so everybody can access public



THESE RATES HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INFLATION.



services. “You don’t need to create strange bureaucratic schemes where the government measures your income after graduation,” said Hutton. “The income tax system is a much more effective way of doing that, we can have free tuition under it too.”

However, McIntosh believes that low fees tend to encourage those to go to university who shouldn’t be in university, who are not as committed and don’t work as hard. “That’s expensive, because the state has to provide places for them in university and the state pays the university on a per capita basis, so the more students a university has the more money the university gets,” said McIntosh. “You want everybody to go to university if they deserve academically to go to university.”

Nadeau-Dubois said he noticed irony within the Liberal’s campaign during the recent provincial election with the Liberal’s stating they would abolish tuition fees for CEGEP programs that had a lack of employees in the workforce the diploma prepared them for, in order to support more enrolment. “It was a very interesting announcement because it really reveals [...] that free tuition is a good way to encourage people to go and educate themselves,” Nadeau-Dubois said.

He added that it’s ironic to see a government that, only a few years ago, said tuition fees have no impact on post-secondary enrolment are now saying they will provide free tuition for certain diplomas to encourage students to apply. “It really shows that we were right when we were saying all along that the price of education actually has a real impact on the decision to go and study or not,” he said.

McIntosh believes that those with financial burdens due to economic or income disadvantage should utilize bursary programs and other methods of financial support.

Dipjyoti Majumdar, an associate professor in Concordia’s economics department, had similar feelings to Nadeau-Dubois. Majumdar not only thinks free education is beneficial for students, but it is beneficial to the overall society at large. He said in countries like Germany—where education is free—the quality of life is better, considering the average lifespan, level of wealth, access to food, in comparison to Quebec.

Majumdar agrees with McIntosh, and believes there needs to be a merit-based system. “If education is free here there will need to be a selection procedure

to get students into different streams [of study],” said Majumdar.

Mikayla Harris, the research and pedagogy coordinator for Association pour la voix étudiante au Québec, a student association which operates on the provincial level, said protest is the strongest form of resisting tuition hikes and fighting for free education, to make our voices heard at the governmental level. Harris said obtaining free tuition and opposing hikes is most beneficial when protests are hosted through student unions. Harris said action must be taken through student organizations, because they can stand united as a voice to put pressure on the schools deans and directors, who will then put pressure on the government.

Hutton feels free education can be obtained. He said this issue is moving into the mainstream, such as one of the three largest parties, the New Democratic Party of Canada, being in favour of free education.

“When I first got involved in my undergraduate, making the pitch to students that we can reduce tuition fees, by even 10 per cent, I was [titled] as a radical,” Hutton said. “Now we’re seeing in places like the United States, the U.K., huge movements are arising around free tuition—we’re seeing it in Canada too.”

Thompson is not as hopeful as Hutton, considering the political climate, “but I think that each fight counts,” said Thompson. “I’m hoping that one day education will be accessible to all,” she said.

Despite the argument varying from both sides, the fight for free tuition will last as long as the mobilization within student bodies remains strong and parties like Québec Solidaire continue to fight at the provincial level. □

Artist Profile

Chris Michaud

Chris Michaud is a Montreal based writer, illustrator, and educator. He studied fine arts at Concordia, where he also was a contributing illustrator and cartoonist for *The Link*. He is the creator of *The Link*'s Epic Adventures of Every-Man as well as a number of comics, stories, poems, paintings, and everything in between.

Catch more of Chris' work on Instagram (@iamsidchurch) or at thelinknewspaper.ca.



Meet the Artists of the Future: @goldnoser and Aiden Arata

Examining an Art Form That Combines Silliness, Seriousness, and Aesthetics: The Meme

AYSHA WHITE

It's 2018 and everything is digital. You might be reading this on your phone, laptop or tablet. You likely know what a meme is.

There is a new generation of artists, who mix social justice concepts with witty observations on day to day life, esoteric knowledge, and a visually pleasing aesthetic creating a whole new form of art: the meme.

What is considered art has radically shifted in the internet age, with the expansion of digital artwork as a genre.

Oftentimes digital art, sometimes

referred to as computer art, crosses the boundaries of different mediums and disciplines. Picture a hand drawn graphic uploaded to a computer, altered in photoshop, with a digitally created graphic superimposed over it.

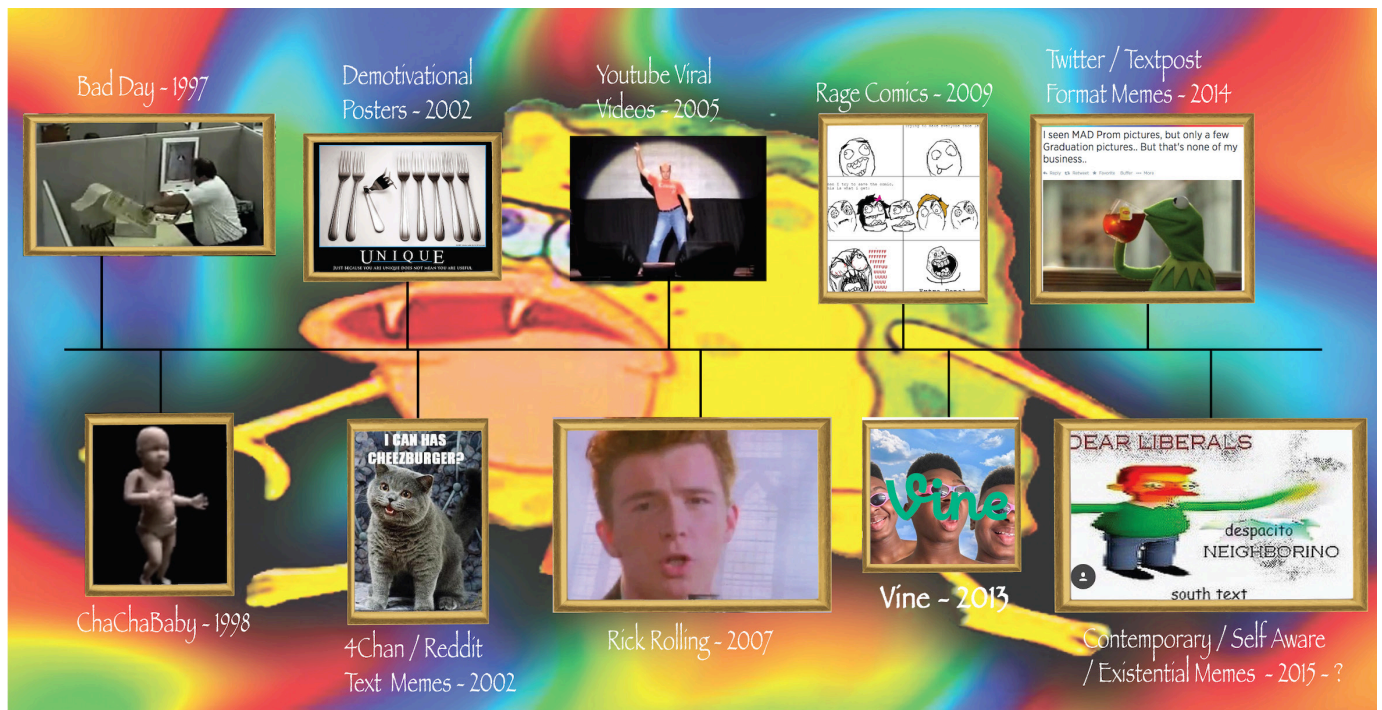
The meme, as artistic form, is the intersection of modern art, digital art, and internet culture.

A 2009 academic article by Elizabeth L. Bolick titled, "Absurdism in Post-Modern Art: Examining the Interplay between 'Waiting for Godot' and 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'"

argues that post-modern art, defined as the period after World War II, is "permeated by Absurdism," which basically means the idea that life is irrational, illogical, silly, and nonsensical.

The concept of memes as an art form situates them within this artistic practice. Memes often point out the weirdness of everyday life and often have a nihilistic tone. Many memes feature dark humour relating to poor mental health, failed relationships, or the crushing weight of capitalism.

Bolick also notes that existential-



GRAPHIC AIDEN LOCKE

INTERVIEW

The anti-racism meme artist taking Instagram by storm



ist philosophy, popularized by writers like Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre, had an effect on the development of Absurdist art.

The art world is still statistically male-dominated, meaning that women and femmes are often blocked by male art-world gatekeepers. In the United States and the United Kingdom, between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of artists represented by commercial galleries are women. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has never had a female director since opening in 1870.

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, full-time female artists make 81 cents to every dollar that a full-time male artist makes.

Anyone with an internet connection can put their work out there to be judged by the digital community. Arguably it makes a person's ascent to fame as an artist democratic in a way that the celebrated artists who are carefully selected by a handful of critics, whose taste is deemed superior can not claim.

@GOLDNOSERING

In contrast to some meme artists, @goldnoserling is anonymous. Their creations feature social justice concepts

and they often use images of vintage Bollywood starlets. Their feed is an acid trip bursting with bright colours and laughter.

"I think what I'm doing is that I'm taking social justice constructs and I'm bringing them to a meme atmosphere," @goldnoserling said. They began making

"We're just people and I think that's the interesting question of this mass experiment we're all in, exploring what it actually means, the idea that the line between just people and not just people is so thin it moves back and forth. We've never had this chance before."

—Aiden Arata

memes in late 2016, eventually going on hiatus for a while before returning in the spring of 2018.

@goldnoserling also uses their platform to talk about mental health and esoteric practices, or to 'signal boost' people from

MEME COURTESY @GOLDNOSERING

marginalized communities reaching out for help. @goldnoserling noted that information like astrology can be considered Indigenous knowledge.

"Instagram is a gallery. Instagram is a very interesting platform for sharing all types of ideas."

They have seen an evolution in content from lattes to "Posting ugly selfies being like, 'Lol my ex talked to me today.'"

They draw a comparison in the 'is-the-meme an art form?' debate between the debate as to whether or not a hotdog is a sandwich, which is ultimately something that comes down to the individual. "The definition of art is ever-changing," said @goldnoserling, who also observed that memes are a form of cultural commentary.

"I think it would be a great disservice to the creative process to limit creative freedom," said @goldnoserling. They have participated in two meme art shows, the most recent being one

held in Atlanta, Georgia in October. The show was a mix of of mediums including projected memes, old laptops and tablets painted as an art installation, and a four foot tall sculpture of Eminem.

While they acknowledged that to some, making comedic images on the internet isn't talent, they pointed out that some very notable artists, such as Andy Warhol, employed comedic and absurd elements in their work, citing the example of Warhol's

1964 Brillo Box (Soap Pads) exhibit.

"When people see my amount of followers they think I have power," they said. @goldnoserling observed that the internet can distort people's view of this by equating number of followers with

power in the physical world.

Their following has grown steadily to 22,000 and they described having that many strangers look up to them as a bizarre feeling.

“I think it was Tina Belcher who said, ‘I’m no hero; I put my bra on one boob at a time like everyone else,’ and that’s exactly how I feel about it. The only thing I’m doing is providing entertainment, maybe self-reflection and I think that’s definitely a worthwhile thing for folks to be interested in but I don’t think it makes me a better person. I don’t think it should give me access to anything just because I have all these followers,” said @goldnoser.

One of their most reposted memes was a flow chart explaining who should be allowed to use the N word (hint, only Black people.) The meme also pictures a young South Asian woman pointing to the flow chart.

@goldnoser is of Pakistani descent and said in their experience, many South Asian people are not sensitive to anti-Blackness racism, and adding the young South Asian woman was an attempt at a subliminal message

to their community. “If I don’t call out my people who will?”

They noted that some people shared their flowchart without crediting them but left the watermark. It isn’t ideal, but okay with them as they’d rather have the message out there than not at all.

But someone went further than just reposting their meme.

The meme was plagiarized. They never ended up figuring out who did it, though they did try.

Someone had taken it and made it into what they described as a, “cutesy, Pinterest, shabby chic” version of the original, removing the young woman. The colour scheme had been changed from bright to muted tones.

Everything except the young South Asian woman pointing to the chart was in same exact position as their original meme, “clunky lines” included.

“How did my meme just get gentrified?” they remembered thinking to themselves.

While they have been able to create friendships with other meme artists, there are also some strange feelings that

being prominent in the meme community bring up for them.

Sometimes they notice their real life friends reposting memes on Twitter, by meme artists they know personally and think of as “terrible” because of their intimate involvement inside the meme community.

“But people like their content and I wouldn’t have known this information had I not been involved with memes, so it’s a pretty inter-

esting place to be,” said @goldnoser.

Their choice to represent South Asian women and a vintage aesthetic was a conscious one.

“I think there’s something very poetic about old Bollywood beauties,” said @goldnoser.

They noted that old Hollywood glamour is very alive in the American cultural mindscape and they wanted to represent that other cultures had their own versions occurring concurrently.

“They were so beautiful but they were going through so much pain and I think that’s just a very interesting concept because that’s how I think folks who aren’t men are navigating through the world. We look great but we’re navigating through so much pain,” they explained.

They were inspired by the meme artist @ada.wrong, who is of East Asian descent and represents that demographic in her creations. Coming across her account made them realize, “Wait, I don’t have to use stock photos of white people, even though America is programmed like that,” said @goldnoser.

“South Asian women can be weird and quirky too. Memes about having yeast infections can’t be limited to pictures of white women laughing with salad. Brown women should be able to laugh at salads and have yeast infections too. We can be weird and quirky and absurd [...] Give us our agency,” they continued.

AIDEN ARATA

@aidenarata’s handle is her real name, Aiden Arata. “I think I’m the only one,” she said laughing.

Arata’s memes have a distinctly feminist tone but she also shares her everyday experiences with humour. Picture your friend’s effortlessly cool older sister who also manages to come across as sweet, likeable, and self aware.

Arata has been making memes for approximately a year now. She began using her personal Instagram to create meme art, out of the desire to do something pleasurable for herself during a

.....

Wanting to see Kodak Black get locked up long term for sexually assaulting someone but then remembering that jails and prisons need to be destroyed



low period.

Arata studied poetry while she was in university and found the creation of memes and using social media complementary to that experience.

There she learned poetry is a niche form of art, and not to worry about being unmarketable, or selling her poems to mainstream media.

Plus, memes involve writing, which is what she wants to do for the rest of her life. She currently works as a television production assistant.

Arata didn't know much about Photoshop before starting to make memes and what quickly became proficiency is completely self-taught. Her following has grown to almost 9,000 in a short time.

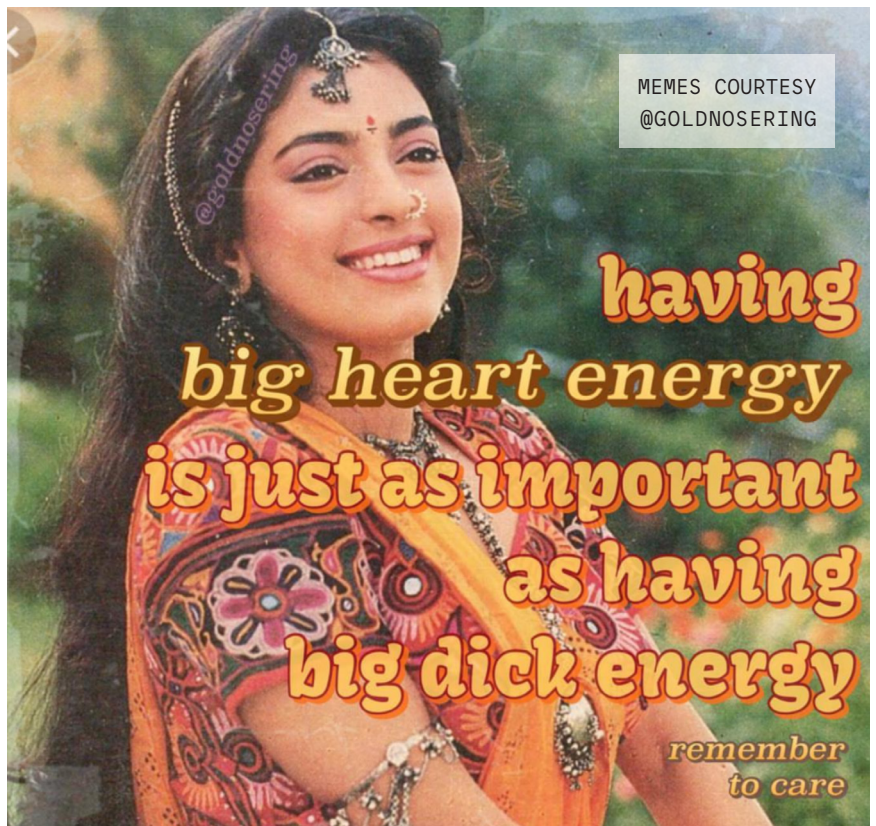
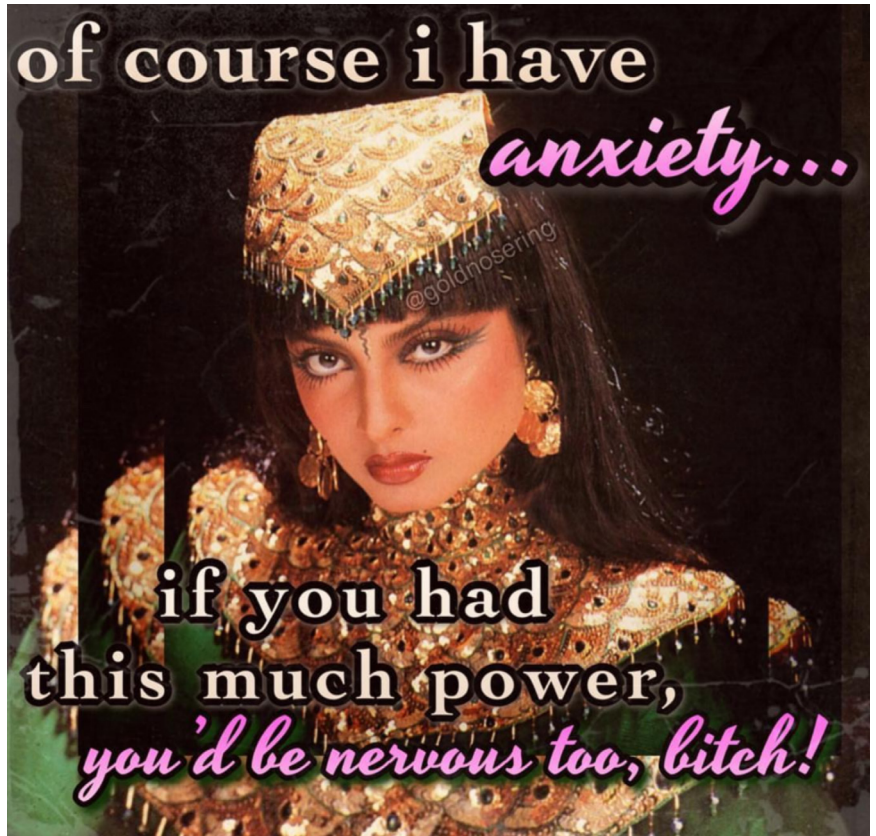
"Oftentimes the strongest voices that emerge in the internet world are weird, women, non-binary, people of colour. These conversations are happening on the sidelines of white, cis, masculine experience and their narratives of, 'this is what life is,'" said Arata.

She observed that oftentimes people who are not white men grow up reading books written by white men that position themselves as the default by saying, "'No this is just like a book about life and you will relate to it because this is what experience is like.' To sort of have all of these other forms of communication and these other ways of speaking that don't depend on that and that are like, this is valid too and that don't need to be mainstreamed in the same way to be legitimate."

"Using the internet as an artist does create a completely free space where you can post what you want without worrying about getting it into a gallery and putting it into a system of commodification," she continued.

This is in contrast to her creative writing projects that can take months to work on, submit, and hear something back about (or not). The internet in contrast, provides instant feedback.

She noted that there are certain downsides that come with using the internet for artists, like having their work stolen or appropriated without permission.



Arata views the connection between the acceptance of spirituality and esoteric practices in the feminist corner of Instagram as natural.

She sees a similarity between esoteric information and that of the internet as both are coded and steeped in symbolic language.

She agreed with the statement that memes are an act of normalizing everyday life.

"I love that phrase 'normalizing life.' What an interesting phrase because obviously we're all living in it," said Arata.

She often posts about her personal experiences, everyday life and sometimes posts selfies, allowing the internet to see what she looks like. Visibility is one of the boundaries that the Instagram artist blurs, in comparison to previous generations of creators.

Arata has been grappling with the after effects of alleged non-consensual sexual encounters she had with a man who is prominent in the meme community.

"I'm a human being who is dealing with the repercussions of having someone violate your consent," Arata said.

The name of her alleged abuser is Alan Wagner and he posts under the Instagram handle of @truewagner. His following is close to 61,000, situating him in a position of prominence within the leftist corner of the meme community.

He has not responded to *The Link's* requests for comment across multiple platforms as of Oct. 29, 2018.

"I feel like it's unethical for me to not say something if this is someone who harms women's bodies in a very physical present way. It's not just a question of appropriation or a post he shouldn't have made. This is a physical prediction and I'm figuring out what my responsibility is to say something versus will there be backlash," said Arata.

She feels a sense of personal responsibility towards her followers, as well as the values the feminist corner of Instagram has carved out.

"I can't just not say anything because this is what this community is about like the whole reason that we're allowed to post silly astrology memes and talk about our experiences is because this is understood to be a safe space and if we're not upholding that who is?" explained Arata.

Arata ended up going through with the decision to post about her experiences with Wagner, using her Instagram story to do so. An alleged number of other women privately messaged her sharing that they had experienced similar occurrences with Wagner.

"I think that ethically for me the right thing was [and] is to talk about this—about [Wagner] specifically and also about how this sort of manipulation and abuse works more generally—but it's definitely not fun," she said.

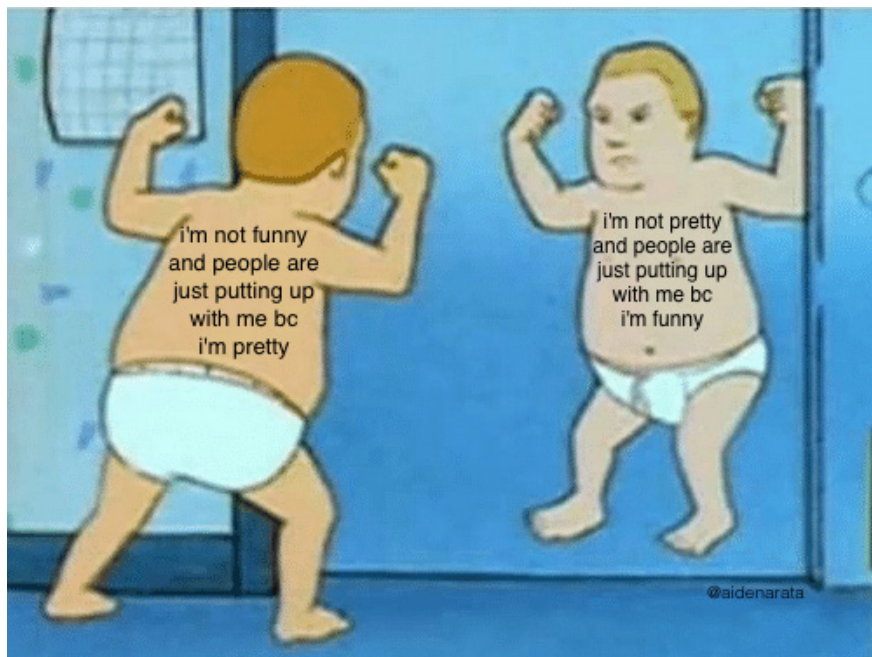
Since posting about the traumatic experiences she allegedly endured with Wagner on her Instagram story, she has experienced people leaving messages in her DMs saying she just wants attention.

Arata noted that ultimately the people behind these famous meme accounts are just that, fallible people.

"We're just people and I think that's the interesting question of this mass experiment we're all in, exploring what it actually means, the idea that the line between just people and not just people is so thin it moves back and forth," explained Arata. "We've never had this chance before."

"So much of internet humour is observational, so it's kind of interesting to see this mass cultural shift towards being OK or being obsessed with seeing how other people process the world.

The internet has normalized the desire to get into people's heads." □



MEME COURTESY AIDEN ARATA

The Intersection of Art and Activism: Drag Artistry

Discussing the Struggles of Being a Drag Queen of Colour With Manny and The Vixen

BRENDA ODRIA

RuPaul Charles calls out, “Tens, tens, tens across the board” jubilantly starting off the first episode of the tenth season of the reality show RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Chicago-based queen, The Vixen announced her entrance declaring “I’m just here to fight.” She would later become known for the opening phrase.

Offscreen, the aroma of jasmine tea added to the warmth radiating from Montreal queen Manny as she sat in a cafe. Her animated personality quieted as she explained that she hates being introduced as a legend.

She is a makeup artist, performer, and mentor for young local queens. She has been around for a long time, and is a respected figure in Montreal’s queer community.

During the past few years the drag community has begun to garner mainstream media attention.

It’s difficult to pinpoint exactly when drag was launched into the mainstream. Perhaps it was Drag Race winning an Emmy award in 2018 or Lady Gaga’s 2017

appearance on the show’s ninth season.

Mainstream celebrities such as Miley Cyrus tweeted regularly about it, potentially aiding its rise to mainstream consciousness. Additionally, two seasons of Drag Race became available to stream on Netflix.

Now it’s not just the queer community that has access to subversive forms of drag, but the whole world.

As a result of the larger platform, some queens of colour have begun to address the unique issues they face in LGBTQ+ communities.

In an interview with *The Link*, The Vixen explained that while she has been an activist since childhood and all throughout college, she felt timid about speaking out against race issues in the queer community. But then, as they became more and more pressing she felt unable to keep quiet about it.

The Vixen opened the discussion for the basis of discrimination that is experienced and how it eliminates the idea of a safe space within the queer community.

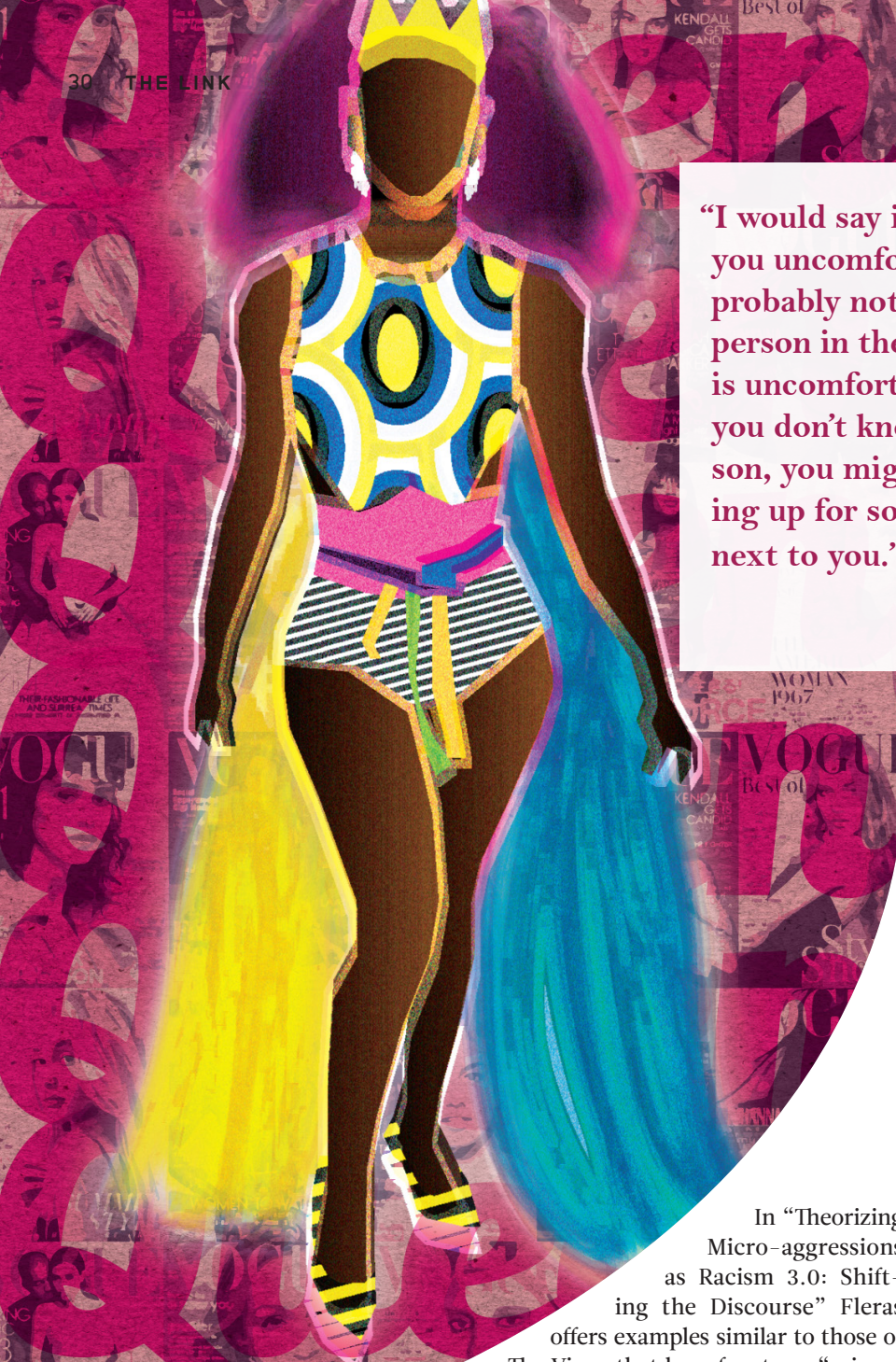
In the academic article “Theorizing

Micro-aggressions as Racism 3.0: Shifting the Discourse,” sociology and legal studies adjunct professor at University of Waterloo Augie Fleras described the concept of racism 3.0 as the presence of microaggressions, categorized as words or actions perceived as offensive by a minority, that exist due to the presence of a subconscious racial bias.

Local queen Manny is optimistic about inclusivity. She is of Filipino descent. She also mentors young up and coming queens; in that she helps with getting young people started in shows and feeling comfortable functioning within Montreal’s queer community.

Manny addressed the idea that drag is currently part of mainstream culture. “[This] is a way of reaching and opening up a lot of eyes, there is still a long way to go but I am glad,” she said, expressing an optimistic view of what this means in terms of acceptance.

In an interview with *The Link*, The Vixen explained the impact of micro-aggressions in her everyday life. “The perception is that they feel comfortable



“I would say if it’s making you uncomfortable you’re probably not the only person in the room who is uncomfortable, even if you don’t know the person, you might be speaking up for someone right next to you.”

—The Vixen

the supposed modernity of 2018, but within an oppressed minority group such as the queer community.

What The Vixen is addressing with her activism is this “new face of racism” that Fleras describes as the presence of unconscious animosity as perceived by the marginalized individuals regardless of intention.

Cited in Fleras’ article is professor of critical race and gender studies at Antioch University, Philomena Essed, from her book *Understanding Everyday Racism: An Interdisciplinary Theory*.

Everyday racism can be defined as practices with racist implications that become in themselves familiar and repetitive, that function to reinforce underlying ethnic relations through routine everyday situations.

Fleras used this definition to argue that everyday racism consists of subtle but significant forms of normalized bias.

In his article, Fleras describes how normalized racism may function to reinforce a hierarchy of privilege, and how it is only direct traditional racism that is rarely expressed openly because people know better, unless they want to commit social suicide.

In an interview with *The Link*, Fleras commented that he thinks The Vixen’s experiences reflect “‘Micro-aggressions as racism 3.0’—that is, how Vixen defines the situation and acts/responds to it.”

When The Vixen worked in drag clubs, she experienced microaggressions that made it apparent that she was being treated differently than the white queens. She thinks that microaggressions are still heavily present in the world.

Manny has had a similar experience in Montreal. She could not think of many working queens of colour in Montreal, and as she counted her fingers Manny

inconveniencing the person of colour, they feel comfortable telling them to step aside.”

She went on to say that in 2018, modernity makes this type of discrimination hard to measure because it is “normalized.” She explained that this is something that has been internalized and so ingrained that the person has no idea they are being racist or why it is wrong.

In “Theorizing Micro-aggressions as Racism 3.0: Shifting the Discourse” Fleras offers examples similar to those of The Vixen that he refers to as “micro-aggressions” or “the new face of racism.” He analyzes how an individual will choose to inconvenience people of colour because they assume they are used to it or it’s not as bad as inconveniencing a white person. These actions could be categorized as microaggressions, that go unnoticed since they are so ingrained in day to day actions.

This dynamic is what The Vixen was referring to, as it is difficult to measure or define the level of racism not just in

said, “I think it is very sad that there is very little representation.”

She explained that some events tend to feel whitewashed, and when the majority of the performers are white, it leads her to think she was chosen as the token person of colour.

“I don’t feel like I’m included,” she said. Oftentimes if Manny wants to perform at an event she must ask the promoters, as opposed to being invited. “That needs to change,” she said.

Manny said more club promoters need to reach out to queens of colour: “I think there needs to be more consciousness.” She explained that in Quebec there is sensitivity to the divide between anglophones and francophones, but that that binary often leaves out “Asians, Blacks, and Latinos.”

In response to the issue of the unique challenges and microaggressions queens of colour face in supposedly safe spaces, The Vixen began her show in 2016 titled *Black Girl Magic*, a drag concert of storytelling and performance, that featured only queens of colour, as a celebration of queer Black joy.

The Vixen described it as a way to create a safe space, where people are able to be their authentic selves and not have to worry about entertaining an audience. She explained that her show is a place for drag performers to vent and perform numbers, political or not, that they wouldn’t feel comfortable performing elsewhere.

The Vixen thinks of the art of drag as a form of activism and a way to celebrate the strength of Black women. She described it as “a homage to the women I grew up with and look up to” because they are powerful, resilient and strong.

She noted that in 2018 everyone wants to appear to be a “cultured” individual, and therefore a decent person. She expressed that what lies in contemporary racism differs from the classic idea of it. Oftentimes it is undertones that alert a minority to the presence of a bias.

“I think people want to believe that they are for change, once it inconveniences you personally that’s when

you really find out if you’re an ally. It’s easy to say #BlackLivesMatter or it’s easy to say whatever hashtag is trending. When you have to give up or acknowledge your privilege it becomes uncomfortable for some people,” said The Vixen.

The Vixen went on to describe racism in her own words, as an idea that spread, but “love can spread just as easily.” She said she is flattered that now people turn to her to fight back whether it is in person, or on social media.

She explained this role she has chosen is a hard one to bear, because the majority of individuals will stay silent. The Vixen has inspired a movement within the drag community by using the platform offered by the television show

Rupaul’s *Drag Race* to address racial issues in the queer community, it gained traction on social media because so many individuals felt the same way.

“I would say if it’s making you uncomfortable you’re probably not the only person in the room who is uncomfortable, even if you don’t know the person, you might be speaking up for someone right next to you.” ☒



GRAPHICS AIDEN LOCKE



Cheer On!

Concordia Cheerleading Growing and
Redefining Mission After Successful First Year

NOAH BRENNAN

You may not have heard of them, but the Concordia cheerleading team has established itself as a formidable team of competitive athletes with a clear mission: to raise school spirit.

In the midst of efforts from the Dean of Students Office to enhance student life, Concordia Cheerleading has become an example of what it takes for students with a vision to make it a reality. Managed by a group of ambitious student-athletes, this team shouldn't be flying under anyone's radar much longer.

Paola Escudero was a full-time cellular and molecular biology student working two jobs when she started Concordia Cheerleading more than a year ago. Both Escudero and her co-captain, Lea Pandelidis, were unsure of what to expect at their first tryouts, but were overwhelmed by a turnout of almost 50 hopefuls.

After forming a team of more than

20 members, the team set to work learning, practicing, and synchronizing their stunts and tumbling skills. Between September 2017 and November 2017, the team practiced on the field at Concordia Stadium with the support of former head coach of the football team, Mickey Donovan.

When it became too cold to practice outdoors, the team was forced to rent space. "We had to spend the remainder of our budget on a room [...] downtown," said Pandelidis, highlighting the team's biggest obstacle: money.

While other university cheerleading teams charge membership fees and set mandatory fundraising quotas, Concordia Cheerleading only asks for members to be passionate and dedicated. In order to cover their costs, the team held multiple bake sales and bar nights throughout the year. For their debut at the Concordia vs. McGill home

football game last season, the cheerleaders dressed in all black, donning handmade bows and pom-poms.

Since their formation, Concordia Cheerleading has become one of the larger clubs at Concordia, performing at over a dozen different Stingers events, including basketball and football games. In May 2018, the team received the award for Best New Club from the Concordia Student Union.

Despite these achievements, the team is not well known amongst the student body and don't feel that they are taken seriously as a sports team.

"Many individuals view us as a pompom team that just cheers and dances," said co-captain Pandelidis. "But we are way more than that. Our team is composed of serious athletes that are dedicated and perform amazing feats."

"We want to be recognized by the sports community at Concordia," says

Manuela Simo, who has been on the team since day one. “I thought it was just pompoms. It’s so much more. We throw girls in the air and we run and sweat as much as any other sports team.”

Simo hopes that the Stingers community will come to see that cheerleading is something that Concordia can invest its time and money in.

For many of the cheerleaders coming from athletic backgrounds and club sports teams, being on the team allows them to stay active and learn new skills, which are not second nature to a lot of the athletes who have no previous cheer experience.

“Most girls who joined didn’t know anything about cheerleading,” said Simo. “We learned all of this together.”

Concordia Cheerleading is now focused on the year ahead. Armed with new funding for the year, the team has gone into their sophomore season with custom-printed uniforms, gold pompoms, and new objectives.

“This year we are focused on redefining who we are and what we stand for,” said Arianne Bellerive, who runs the team’s social media accounts and also contributes choreography for the team’s performances. “Supporting the Stingers athletic community and student body is still one of our priorities, but we’re also focused on being a competitive team.”

They train twice a week in addition to cheering at home games and organizing fundraising events to meet

the team’s financial needs. On Sept. 8, Concordia Cheerleading, in partnership with Concordia Swarm, held a large pre-game event at the Concordia Stadium with face painting, BBQ, and family friendly entertainment. It’s an effort which has continued into many Stingers events so far this season.

Their aim is to perform as a level 4.2 competitive cheer team (level four stunts, level two tumbling, with level five being the maximum) and also participate in a friendly competition with other university teams in the spring.

Despite this new direction, Concordia Cheerleading remains committed to being open and inclusive.

“If we get a bunch of girls who aren’t at the level of competing but are passionate, we’ll find a place for them. Even if it means having a secondary pompom team,” said Bellerive.

Having joined the team as soon as she arrived at Concordia, Simo found a family and a place to belong on the team.

“As a new girl at Concordia, I didn’t know anybody. I was looking for friends [...] I found a family.”

“As a new girl at Concordia, I didn’t know anybody. I was looking for friends,” said Simo. “I found a family, honestly. That’s really how I feel about it.”

In addition to training together and learning the ropes of running a student cheer team, the athletes support each other outside of the team, helping each other with their homework, exams, and raising each other up to be the best team that they can be, according to Simo.

The main challenge that the team continues to face is the cost of renting training space, which is necessary in order to practice their skills and routines. But as Pandelidis notes: “Nothing worth having comes easy.”

In setting forth to become Concordia’s first competitive cheerleading team, the team knows that their work has only begun and, as is now clear, this is not a team to underestimate. □

— *Simo Manuela*

Lea Pandelidis, Paola Escudero, Arianne Bellerive, and Ellie Paxton with their new custom printed uniforms and gold pompoms 2018.

PHOTOS
ELISA BARBIER



GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!



I wish you all the best on your upcoming exams
and final projects.

After the term ends – enjoy the break!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Alan Shepard'.

Alan Shepard
President
alan.shepard@concordia.ca

Passion Revived

Philippe Hudon Goes Into Pivotal Final Year With New Outlook

DUSTIN KAGAN-FLEMING
@DUSTINKFLEMING

“It’s a do or die moment for me. Make it or break it.”

That’s how Stingers men’s hockey captain Philippe Hudon sees the year ahead of him. Heading into his fifth and final year of eligibility as a student athlete, as well as his final year of studies, Hudon is on the final pages of an important chapter in his life.

Last year was an up and down one for Hudon. The Stinger missed time early in the year and experienced a weak first half of the season. Despite that, he ended on a high note of a powerful play-off performance that propelled his team to their first berth at nationals in over three decades.

Thanks to that turnaround ending, Hudon is headed into the 2018-2019 season with a new perspective on hockey.

He’s pushing harder than ever to secure a future in the sport as a professional while finishing his studies and looking for a place in the workforce.

That’s plenty to handle on top of captaining a team facing sky high expectations after being one of only eight teams in the country to make it to nationals.

Stingers men’s hockey head coach Marc-André Élement believes Hudon can handle it,

though. When Élement talks about his captain, the words “professional” and “leader” are stressed and often used.

“The way he acts on the ice, the way he prepares himself, the professionalism that he has, that’s [what] makes him a great, great leader,” said Élement. “[His teammates] see it and they know that he’s a good leader.”

Hudon has earned himself a reputation for stepping in when it comes to new players in particular. For a rookie player coming out of a junior league and suddenly playing against big and fast 25-year-olds in a new city, having an experienced player take you under their wing can mean a lot.

Second-year Stinger and alternate captain Carl Neill got that treatment first hand from Hudon last

season. Hudon had been drafted by the Detroit Red Wings several years earlier, so he had some insight on what his new teammate might be feeling.

“We went through kind of the same thing,” said Neill, who was drafted in the fifth round of the 2015 NHL entry draft by the Vancouver Canucks. “We were really on the same page [...] he showed me the ropes when I came in.”

Now a leader himself and a member of U Sports’ all-rookie team, Neill sees his captain lending a hand to this year’s large rookie class. One of those new recruits is Hudon’s new linemate, centre Hugo Roy who’s already looking to the captain as an example to follow both on and off-ice.

While having his teammates’ respect is surely helpful, it won’t change the fact that Hudon is headed into a year filled with pressure.

Those pressures start off-ice for the 25-year-old but certainly don’t stop there. His team may have made a splash last year, but they also lost their two top scorers to professional contracts in the offseason. They brought in some strong rookies but the team is definitely a green one right now.

There will be pressure for him to pick up some of that offensive slack as a leader and top line player.



His playoff performance will certainly provide some confidence on that front. After scoring just 13 points during the regular season, Hudon came to life scoring eight goals and 12 points in just nine playoff games, good for first and second in Ontario University Athletics respectively.

His teammates certainly took note of that and expressed their confidence in their captain's offensive capabilities. "He steps up when it's time to step up. I'm not too worried about Phil, I'm sure he'll have a great year," said Neill.

Hudon's production is as important to his future as it is to his team's success. He knows he'll have to turn some heads and get people talking to get any contract offers at the end of the year.

"It's a period of uncertainty where you're not sure where you're gonna end up. It's scary. With hockey you don't necessarily apply, they come to you," said Hudon of the year ahead of him.

Over the years Hudon has learned to deal with this kind of stress, though. He's heading into the year more organized and energized than past seasons. He knows looking at the big picture

isn't helpful; he is focusing instead on the smaller things that he can control.

His coach is very open about his thoughts on the captain's future.

"He's gonna play pro. There's a lot of scouts looking at him right now. He's playing the pro game," said Élement.

A TURNING POINT

Hudon certainly didn't have that kind of confidence at his lower points last season. While he says the captaincy helped him grow, it was also a difficult position for the then-first year captain.

"It was a difficult season for me [...] maybe I was taking charge of too many things when I should have focused a bit more on myself," said Hudon.

While his team was having success, Hudon had difficulty producing during the fall semester. He scored only two goals and wasn't playing the game that

would make him successful.

A lot changed after the winter break.

"It was a turning point. At the start of 2018, I set myself an objective to focus more on my game and what I'm good at rather than focus on other people's games," said Hudon. "By doing that and just enjoying hockey instead of being very analytic and criticizing people's games, that's when I started taking off."

Hudon looked like a different player. He was consistently engaged and playing a hard-nosed, defensively sound game while threatening opposing goalies with a booming shot. He found what worked for him and what made the team

around him better as a result.

This shift and the run to nationals that Hudon played such an integral role in were more than just a stat sheet bump. The difficult season had started to weigh down on Hudon and had him questioning his future.

Every athlete that plays at a high level reaches a point where they have to decide between continuing to fight for their dream or deciding it's time to hang up the skates and move on from the dream that pushed them for years.

Hudon learned to skate at two years old. He's played competitive hockey since age four. Suddenly he started to question his future in something he had always known.

Those final weeks of the season and the run to a place his team hadn't seen since before he was born gave Hudon a real change in mindset and hope. It's why he's going into this season feeling so ready and excited.

"It revived my passion. I'm more passionate about hockey than I ever was [...] I really want to pursue something after Concordia," said Hudon.

"It revived my passion. I'm more passionate about hockey than I ever was."

— Philippe Hudon



Now the Stingers captain is focused on ending his time as a Stinger on a high note with another run to nationals. When Hudon started with the program, it was on a team struggling for relevance. Last year they were among the eight best in Canada. He's been on both ends of the spectrum and he plans to leave the team on the right one.

Looking back on the journey that brought him to where he is now, Hudon says he wouldn't go back or try and change how he's done things.

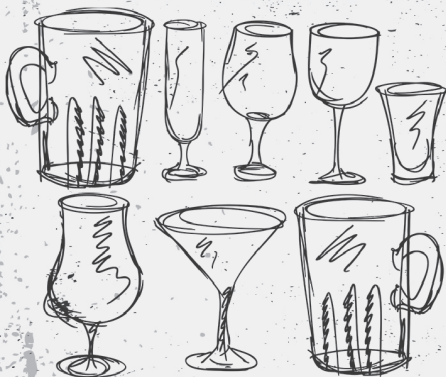
"I've grown and I've learned a lot that will prepare me for what comes next," said Hudon. "I wouldn't say a damn thing to myself five years earlier because I would want to go through that experience and that learning process." □



Hudon battles the York Lions' defence in a five-four win.

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A Big Man on the Field, a Big Voice in the Room

A Top 20 Prospect for This Year's CFL
Draft, Maurice Simba Is a Gentle Giant

LOUIS PRINGLE
@LOUISPRINGLE96

Hailing from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Concordia's offensive lineman Maurice Simba's story is unique.

"I came to Canada six years ago," said Simba. "My parents have been here for 21 years. I was back home with my grandparents and my uncle. So far, it's a good experience in Canada. I love the city of Montreal. As a big guy, I love winter. It's one of my favorite things. I love winter and I love poutine!"

Listed at an imposing six feet, eight inches tall and over 320 pounds, Simba is anything but a small man.

"Massive," said head coach Brad Collinson when asked to describe his fourth-year player in a single word. "You can't teach size. There are some good offensive linemen in this country and Maurice is one of them."

Starting his football career in CEGEP, Simba is a late bloomer as Collinson puts it. While many of his teammates have been taking

the field since they were children, he's only been playing football for the last six years.

"He didn't play football before," said Collinson. "He wants to learn each and every day because he knows he has to catch up. It's pretty impressive how

far he's come. From where he started [compared] to today, it's night and day."

Simba is well aware that he's still got plenty to learn about football. The lineman refuses to rest on his laurels, noting that each new week and opponent bring a new challenge and the chance to learn as a player.

His constant strive for improvement has paid dividends. At the start of the season, he was projected among the top 20 eligible players for the upcoming Canadian Football League draft.

"Honestly, I was surprised," said Simba. "When I started playing six years



Simba blocks a McGill pass rush in the last home game of the season.

PHOTOS ELISA BARBIER



ago in CEGEP, I was on the practice squad. During my first year at Concordia, I never played. For me, it's the school that is top 20. I wouldn't be there if my coaches didn't push me. After me, I want [scouts] to keep looking at this program. It's not just me. I'm proud of us."

Simba may have been shocked, but his work on the field certainly stands out and shows why he is ranked fifth-highest among offensive linemen for the upcoming CFL draft. In fact he is second in terms of Canadian universities specifically.

Last season, Simba was a key player on a dominant offensive line. The Stingers allowed the fewest quarterback sacks of any team in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec with just 12.

The line allowed less than 100 total yards lost to those

sacks, one of only two teams to do so. On top of that, the line was instrumental in creating space that gave running back Jean-Guy Rimpel the division lead in rushing yards with 708, more than double the yardage of the next highest player.

It's not particularly surprising that his name has garnered CFL attention.

Being humble comes naturally to Simba. But he's still able to reflect on what allowed him to rise the ranks to become one of the best linemen in the country.

"Every single game, I go see the guy I'm going to play against and talk with him a bit," said Simba. "But during those 60 minutes [of play], I'm not laughing. At the end of the game, I take off my helmet and then I tell them good job. It's all about being humble and not talking too much."

Aside from his on-field prowess, kindness is Simba's most striking quality according to his teammates. His infectious positivity and joie de vivre made him a natural leader for this Stinger's

squad.

"He doesn't just fill the room with his size, he fills the room with his presence," said teammate Matt Halbge-wachs. "When he speaks, people like to listen. He's a goofy guy. His personality matches his stature."

Simba understands the importance of keeping up the morale for his team. Most of all, he realizes young players are looking up to him.

Simba said that he likes to "bring good vibes" to the team. It's not an easy job that the players have and can take its toll mentally and physically; he does his best to keep the locker room positive.

While he's flying high in the sport now, earning all-star nominations and CFL attention, football wasn't always the plan for Simba. Initially, the DRC native believed he was going to make a career as a plumber.

It was Simba's uncle that pushed him into the world of sports when he came to Canada. The RSEQ all-star wasn't particularly thrilled to be entering the world that may soon become his livelihood.

"I didn't like it too much, but from where I come from in Africa, when a family member tells you 'You are going to do something,' you do it," said the fourth year Stinger. "He helped me, without him knowing, making the best decision of my life. Football has brought a lot of good things in my life. I owe [my uncle] a lot."

After speaking with various members of the football squad, it quickly became evident that family is an important part of Simba's life.

"Family is huge for Maurice," said Halbgewachs. "I don't know how to explain it, but he makes it clear. Before games he's asking guys if they have extra tickets because part of his family is coming. He makes time for his family."

Some of Simba's family members are still in Africa and he expressed that they are what he misses most from his life in the DRC.

"I lived with my grandparents for 18 years," said Simba. "I miss them a lot. Every time I get the chance to go over there for two weeks, I cannot wait. I jump on the boat and go see them."

Even though he misses home, Simba

is grateful for his mother who gave him the chance to come to Canada and have a new life.

"She is my number one role model," said Simba. "She's been through a lot. She did everything she could to give me a better life."

His unique background allows him to bring a different insight to his teammates in the locker room. On occasions, Simba would remind his teammates of the luck they had growing up in a country where healthcare is free. He also reminds them that getting a meal whenever you want, any kind of meal, is a luxury.

"He brings that diversity and that cultural change," said Halbgewachs. "It mixes it all together and he's one of the best guys to be around in the locker room. I like Maurice for who he is."

Even though he might become a professional football player in the coming months, Simba knows that academics have to be a priority.

The Stinger knows that his football career will not last forever. Although he struggled academically early on in his time at Concordia, Simba was able to turn his academic standing around.

His coaches made sure to let him know that scouts would be willing to respect and encourage his desire to pursue a bachelor's degree.

— *Matt Halbgewachs*

Simba is currently in his second year of Concordia's religion program, a program he discovered through the help of the team's former academic counsellor.

"I wanted to go to [John Molson School of Business]," said Simba. "But I realized that an office job was not really something I was passionate about. I also started thinking that maybe I can be a football coach one day. By having

my religion science degree it's still kind of the same. Most of my coaches have a religion science degree."

In the end, apart from football, school, and expectations, Simba is a man with a simple goal and desire for his life and how he wants to be remembered.

"I want to have helped people as much as I could." □

"He doesn't just fill the room with his size, he fills the room with his presence. When he speaks, people like to listen."



Simba runs out to receive a commemorative plaque for his performance with the team under the cheers of his teammates.

PHOTO ELISA BARBIER

The Body Snatchers: Montreal's Deep History of Educational Grave Robbing

A People's History of Canada Column

OLIVIER CADOTTE
@OLIVIER CADOTTE

What do we owe to those that came before us? Especially when their actions were less than ethical?

The medical world has had to ask itself that question for a long time. The mistreatment of vulnerable communities and people by those working towards medical progress and research has been a black cloud hanging over the medical profession for centuries.

But, what about when the people being experimented on are dead? What then?

Today, we know exactly what the inside of the human body looks like. But we had to get that knowledge from somewhere. In Antiquity and much of the medieval period, anatomy was guesstimated from animal dissections, as human dissection was taboo. The actual dissection of the human body by a trained professional or even an amateur physician was quite rare.

This all changed during the 1800s. As medicine and surgery slowly modernized in Western society, the need for hands-on experience and training grew as the number of students enrolling in university medical courses increased. At King's College in London, their faculty of medicine was only founded in 1844; by the end of the decade they had 20 students in their anatomy class alone.

Thus, the need for actual human bodies to examine grew, and the supply of legally dissectable bodies given was obviously not enough to fill the needs of universities. This was particularly a problem in Montreal, especially at McGill University. In the mid-1800s,

the dissection of human bodies was illegal, and anyone caught doing so could be punished for desecrating human remains. However, the knowledge of anatomy was necessary not only for knowledge's sake, but to also be able to legally practice as a doctor.

So what do you do? You've got to find specimens somewhere, right?

Well, for these medical students looking for cheap ways to get their hands on the oh-so necessary corpse for dissections, grave robbing was the perfect crime. After all, why not claim these bodies from lowly cemeteries that no one cared for anymore? Who would want to leave cold, dead bodies in the ground?

It turns out it just wasn't as simple as that. Before the 1800s, the limited dissections that were done were performed on prisoners, usually those executed for violent crimes. This uncereceremonious treatment of the body was only reserved for those considered the worst of society. Of course, this just shows the double standards in their views towards death. Dissecting the body of a well respected member of society, even for what can be considered a noble cause like the advancement of science, wasn't just unheard-of—it was downright illegal.

Now, imagine this: one of your deceased relatives' grave is hastily dug up by a rowdy McGill student or someone that student paid to dig up the corpse without even thinking of asking if that's ok with you, all sloppily in the middle of the night. Naturally, you'd probably be really upset, right?

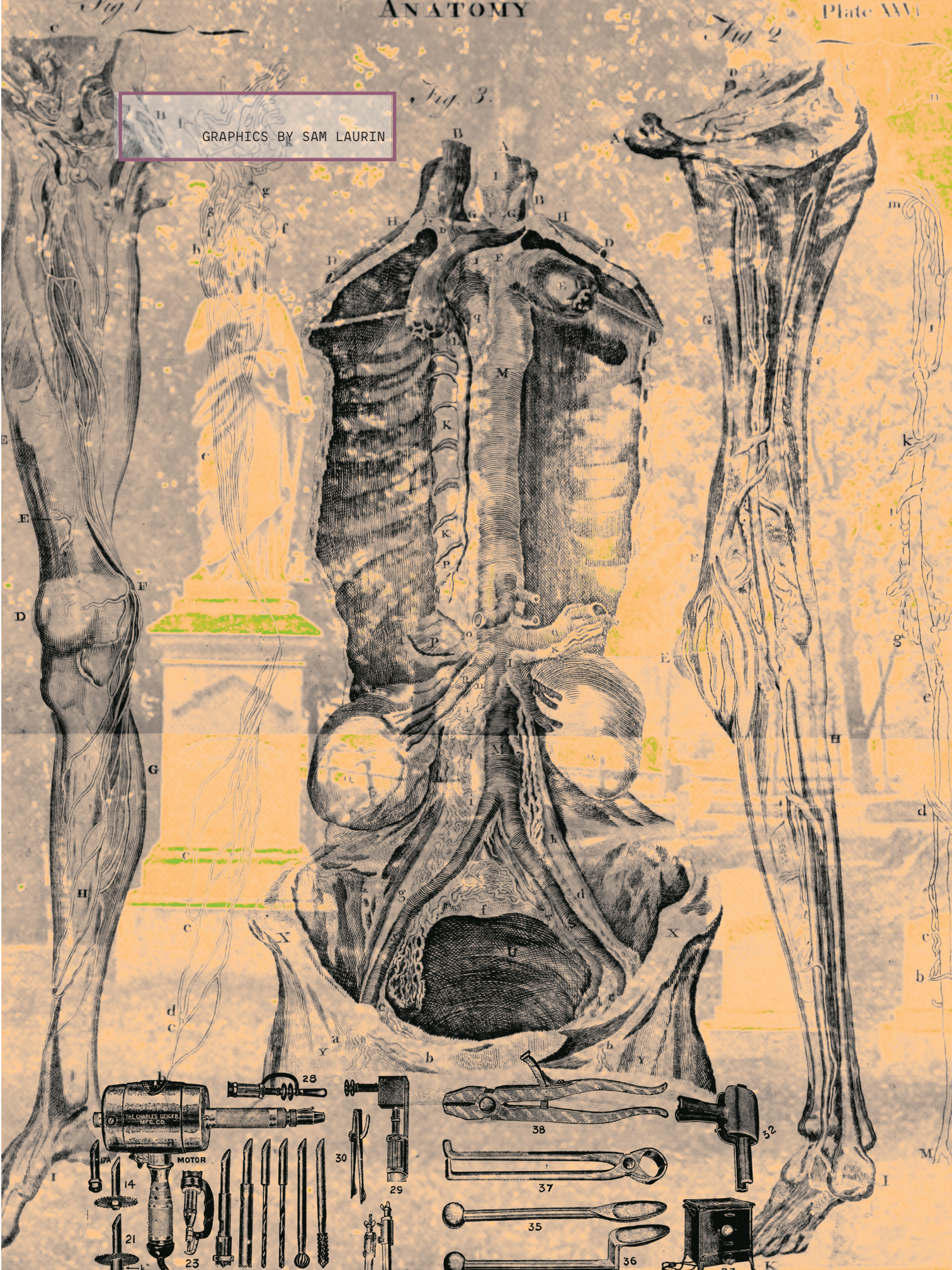
Yet, these "bodysnatchers," seem-



Fig. 2

Fig. 3.

GRAPHICS BY SAM LAURIN



ingly right out of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, were quite active not just at McGill, but in other Quebec and Ontario universities as well. Medical schools were mainly operated in Montreal and Toronto during the mid-1800s, and had opened much later than schools in Europe and the United States. Europe had already gone through its own anatomical growing pains involving grave robbing in the second half of the previous century.

When polite society learned exactly what these university medicine students were doing in the dead of night, they were unbelievably (and reasonably) upset. At the time, the prevailing argument was that desecration of the human body after death was worse than death itself.

Everyone, from op-ed writers to common citizens, were outraged at the mere thought of the human body being sneakily dug up and cut up, especially by students whose public image at this point was, at best, 19th century frat boys and, at worst, dangerous and unscrupulous criminals.

Who were these grave robbers? For the most part, these were university level medical students who, simply put, needed bodies for experiment and practice, but the Canadian government just wasn't providing enough bodies to do so. No matter the consequences, they took action into their own hands and found the bodies wherever they could, in cemeteries close by or as far as towns almost 100 kilometers away. Students' attitudes towards the robbing often depended on the economic and social background of the students themselves. The first woman to graduate from a medical school in Canada was Ann Augusta Stowe-Gullen in 1883. Poorer students were often compelled by the sum of money they would get for the corpse from the medical department, while richer students were more motivated by a sort of romantic, daredevil-esque attitude towards the whole affair.

The students were also aided by their

own very secular approach to death as compared to the rest of society. They (usually) didn't have any personal connection to the people they were dissecting, and they didn't really care anyway; in their minds, they just needed bodies for class. Of course, to avoid gaining even more backlash than they were already getting, they often raided the burial plots of the poor and down-trodden, those that polite society didn't mind being dug up as much.

In a few cases, however, the person whose corpse was dug out did attract the attention of the media and politicians, and boy, did they run with it. In 1843, one body carelessly dug up in Chambly resulted in the coffin and the clothes being left in plain sight. Interestingly, the clothes and whatever other

At the time, the prevailing thought was that the desecration of the human body after death was worse than the death itself.

possessions the deceased had on them were often left at the scene to ensure the robbers weren't charged with actual robbery. That body just happened to be a well-respected local military sergeant, and when people found out, they were not happy. Newspapers eulogized the life of the sergeant while demonizing the students and anatomy research as a whole, further fanning the flames of outrage.

The colonial Canadian government thought it was time to step in. What did they do? Well, they started by throwing a bone to the students. The Province of Canada (still under direct British rule at the time) enacted the Anatomy Act in 1843, which made sure the bodies of those that died in provincially funded hospitals as well as "poorhouses" (imagine early factories, but where the

poorest members of society worked, lived and inevitably died) would have their body collected by officials and sent to medical schools, who kept records on the bodies and were tasked with properly burying them after dissection.

This didn't end up panning out like the government wanted, and the demand for bodies continued to rise dramatically as the number of medical students rose. As such, they looked for another avenue for corpses.

This is unfortunately where the story goes from "the rambunctious adventures of proto-Indiana Jones" to "woah, hang on that's super not ok."

One way Canadian universities figured out how to get corpses was from dead American slaves, whom they acquired cheaply in the years before Emancipation. According to a McGill graduate from the time, Dr. Griffith Evans, the corpses were "obtained cheap, packed in casks, and passed over the border as provisions, or flour."

Still, the body snatching didn't cease, and by the first half of the 1880s grave robbing was as widespread as ever. Between December 1882 and March 1883, 26 isolated cases of discovered grave robberies had happened in Greater Montreal. With pleas from the opposition, the medical community, and society at large, amendments were finally brought to the 1843 Anatomy Act in 1883. If medical schools did not get a body from the official channels, they would face heavy fines. Relatives of those whose bodies had been handed over through poorhouses and churches now only had 24 hours to claim the body before it was shipped off to medical students. By 1884, not one grave robbery had been reported in Quebec.

Today, there wouldn't be anything like the body snatching phenomena of the mid-1800s, not just because of the greater knowledge of the human body, but also because of the far less ethically and morally dubious ways of teaching anatomy we have now, like plastic models, online models, x-rays and computed tomography scans.

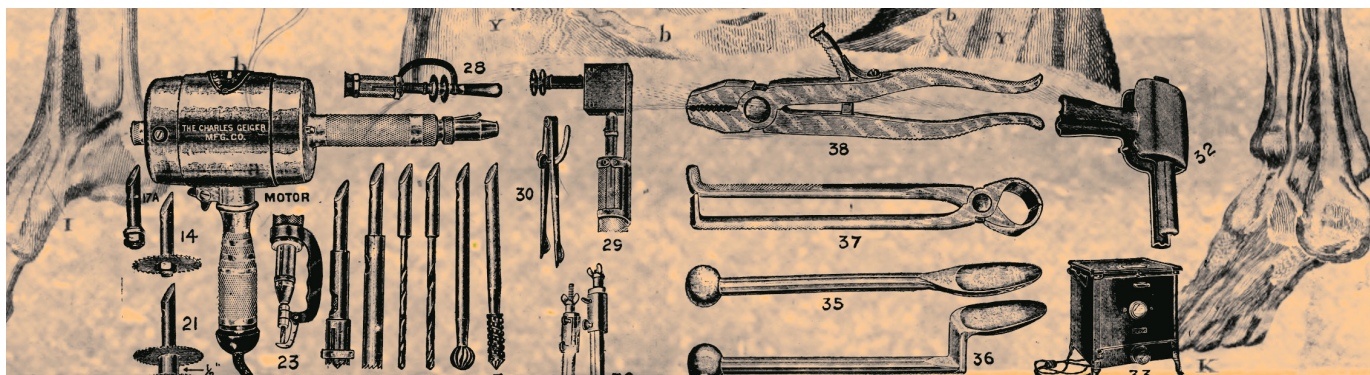
So while rowdy college kids aren't going out in the dead of night anymore to dig up graves for their midterms, it's important to know that this is just a small part of the pretty messed up history of medicine, and that this is only one of the ways the medical field has acquired its knowledge in less than legal ways.

Marginalized communities were heavily at risk, even when it's members were no longer alive, and the medical field

took advantage of them multiple times throughout history. Were students in the right to pilfer burial plots like they did? Probably not. But to have the government and high society turn around and essentially tell students that they don't really care if they do this to immigrants, slaves and prisoners is repulsive and cruel, even for the time period.

At the end of the day, these students did do important work in the study of anatomy and advancing science that we

still use today. But we can definitely recognize that they used some pretty awful means to get to these ends. It's a very common theme in the way we look at a lot of history in the mindset of today. People we used to praise as war heroes and pioneers, we now see the other side of the coin, and that they often have a lot of really fucked up actions to account for. We should continue to make use of the findings these people made, without celebrating the people themselves. □



DO YOU WANT TO DRINK WITH THE LINK?

Then come out on Nov. 9 to Grumpy's on 1242 Bishop St., located just down the street from the Hall Building.

Our team will be meeting at 7:30 P.M. and were looking forward to meeting you! Everyone from the Concordia community is welcome, just bring your gossip

**BE THERE OR
BE SQUARE**



Don't @ Me: There Are Too Many Stupid National Days

Anything and Everything Needs Its Own Day, Apparently

DUSTIN KAGAN-FLEMING
@DUSTINKFLEMING

Nov. 6. That's the day this article (read: rant) comes out. It also happens to be National Nachos Day, as well as National Saxophone Day. "Huh, that's fun," some may say, not knowing how deep the rabbit hole goes.

Just two days later on Nov. 8, it follows with National Cappuccino day, National Harvey Wallbanger Day (a drink made up of orange juice, vodka and Galliano), National Parents as Teachers Day, and National S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) Day.

Do those things really need to be recognized? Do we need a day dedicated to celebrate a cocktail and, at the same time, all of science, tech, engineering, art, and math?

"Come on Dustin, don't you like a good Harvey Wallbanger or a nice hot cappuccino?" That's not the point. I know this may sound like a case of "old man yells at cloud," but hear me out.

National days, or days of celebration, or whatever you want to call them, are not inherently bad. It's the sheer amount of them that exist that is dumb. Almost 1500! Not everything needs to be recognized with a day!

There are some dates on the calendar that are home to 12 different national days. Some of those days are actually quite important ones. Women's Day, Earth Day, Rosa Parks Day, World Mental Health Day. All those days have real significance in the world. They actually mean something.

Those days get the distinction of

sharing their dates with, respectively, National Peanut Cluster Day, National Jelly Bean Day, National Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day, and National Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work/School Day.

Look, jelly beans are great, don't get me wrong. You can have a bunch of different flavours, share them with friends, and they were the first candy to be sold by weight instead of piece in America. There's a lot of great things about jelly beans. But you can enjoy all of them without having to honour them on the same day as Earth Day!

These days get weirder and weirder the more you allow yourself to go down the deadly spiral of nationaldaycalendar.com. Some more real standouts: National Pro-Life Cupcake Day on Oct.

9 and National Brandied Fruit Day on Oct. 20.

Later this month, National Package Protection Day on Nov. 29, will "encourage homeowners to stay alert and protect their homes against package theft." Thank God, I was feeling particularly discouraged from protecting the decorative wine glasses that I just ordered this year.

Why do we have National Donald Duck Day on June 9? This damn anthropomorphic duck needs his own holiday now? Does he not have enough? Are decades of Disney merch not getting the name out there enough, *Donald*?

Look at what these insane days have done to me. They've turned me against a loveable cartoon duck with no pants. This is what happens when you go down the national day rabbit hole and see the madness we as a society have allowed to happen. Don't make the same mistake I did. Celebrate the days that actually matter, live your life, and when someone decides to be that person who says 'happy Reptile Awareness Day' on Oct. 21, run and never look back. 🐸

GRAPHIC BY AIDEN LOCKE



Sex Ed(itorial): One Gap to Rule Them All:

The Orgasm Gap

D is for Disappointment

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What can be more insidious than a pay gap between the sexes? What about an orgasm gap? When it comes to sex, the straight men are, statistically, the worst in the bedroom. Of course, sample size is important in any study, but the thing is that many studies have been conducted on heterosexual and LGBTQ+ participants alike in a number of contexts. While the actual percentages can vary, there is consistency across seemingly all such studies: straight women have bad sex.

If we analyze straight cis men and women only, we see some dismal examples here. It is left to determine whether the 90-some per cent of men surveyed think they made their partner climax.

Women report comparable rates of orgasm between P in V and partner masturbation. That's terrifying. The D-only game is about as good as you trying by hand. Vibrators are more effective than crappy seven-minute missionary. She cums every time? Well, she's probably lying. Girl, stop lying! You're going to make this guy think he's a god. Then, when he gets a new partner with some fight in them who notifies him of his sub-par D-game, he'll use your fake orgasm to gaslight them into believing they have a sexual dysfunction. Look at these results before you get angry. They just didn't want to hurt your feelings.

We need to revolt against the dictatorship of sex. Guys, MIX IT UP! Give your girl some good face. Don't lay there

and make a chair of your face, take this as an opportunity to show off the gains from those years of eating puddings and applesauce without the spoon. Show your appreciation for the alphabet; the key here is the moment she likes something, keep doing that—only that. Pretend you're a stuck record. Keep the pace... Just, don't imagine me coaching you exactly. You should remember those words though, and think them often. Practise on some pudding. I will now direct your attention to another set of statistics. From hell.



A study by Indiana University, Chapman University, and Claremont Graduate University with a sample of 52,500 shows that enough men disappointed enough women. Heterosexual men orgasmed the most everytime.

This is significant, and, quite frankly, sad.

The orgasm percentages can vary highly based on sexual orientation of respondents, who were asked if they orgasmed every time they had sex. Heterosexual men orgasmed the most everytime (95 per cent), followed by homosexual men (89 per cent) and then bisexual men (88 per cent). Straight women reporting having an orgasm 65 per cent of the time, bisexual women 66 per cent of the time and lesbian women at 86 per cent. This is consistent with everything I know, from dating cis men to talking to people who don't.

My anonymous polling in a variety of women's groups on Facebook also had me splitting in half with dismayed laughter, none of this being shocking to me. Guys—there's a lot you need to stop. You need to read more books, take your time more, have fun with it, stop being in a hurry; you're rushing magic here. Don't give anyone incentive to fake anything, take ownership over how you give your partner pleasure. Listen to their bodies and you won't have to listen to articles like this and wonder if your whole life is a lie. Maybe she faked it, maybe every time. Don't be sad, do better. Maybe she wasn't comfortable giving you feedback, work on that communication.

The National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior also surveyed cis male and cis female respondents based on orgasm likelihood and the number of sex acts that occurred in a sex session. (A sex act includes, but is not limited to, oral on one person or penetration). The majority of respondents reported one sex act. The women in this category reported an almost 55 per cent orgasm rate and the men, around 92 per cent. It's a disaster, like Target in Canada. Two acts isn't much better, with an orgasm rate of almost 60 per cent for women versus nearly 88 per cent for men. It could depend on what the second act is; and who it benefits. Man, someone make a charity; the ladies need good loving.

Five acts appears to be the magic number. The gap here is the least apparent (around 89 per cent versus about 98 per cent for men). Men orgasm more than usual here, but what about women? Almost 90 per cent is a remarkable improvement! What would such a marathon look like? Maybe like something both parties are enjoying and taking their time with. Maybe communication and suggesting things, proposing things, trying things, flowing from one act to another in the moment like two people in sync.

Maybe women are more likely to orgasm when their partner gives a damn. Not just for the performativity and prowess factor acting like a ladykiller brings—but actually getting into the act. Sex is communication of a certain form and if you're a sucky communicator (and not the right kind of sucky), the whole thing is going to go to hell. The kicker is that a lot of men will take this as a task, as a chore, as something that ruins the fun and the moment.

Ladies, you need to stop sexually gratifying these people, especially if you're not getting similar gratification. You are otherwise acting like a charity,

a charity catering to the sexual needs of the upper-dog. Lots of disappointing men love the free market and the invisible hand so much. The dating pool is a market. There is a market for sex, you can easily just not give them sex, get these kinds of people out of the market and into the periphery where they belong. They can comfort themselves with the invisible hand, and maybe better themselves. Harsh? That's just showbiz. babv. The market hath spoken.

Ladies, you are the supply as it is in the lame cis-hetero dating and hookup market, because the dude is at the center. We can become the demand and

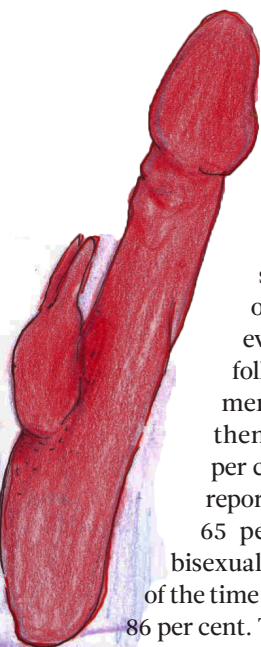
change the game. Only bang empathetic dudes, dudes who care about your needs, dudes who communicate, dudes who are respectful. If they gave you all these impressions and *still* disappoint, you should not be afraid to make it known. If you are, that says more about those dudes than you—you can do better and I pray you find it. There's hope. Tell your friends their sex lives suck, discuss it in forums, raise awareness. Demand better conditions, straight women, *unionize!*

Men, accept feedback. Task yourself with improvement, focus on your partner and not just yourself. It's your job to foster an environment where the other feels safe to provide feedback, and don't just assume they're dysfunctional if they aren't enjoying something one girl (maybe pretended she) liked before. That's if you care. If not, carry on, I guess, because somehow you're getting away with some miserable performance stats. You run away from one night stands cackling like a thief who stole a good time and provided no compensation—OK.

We've been accepting seven minutes missionary for too long. Let's fix that.

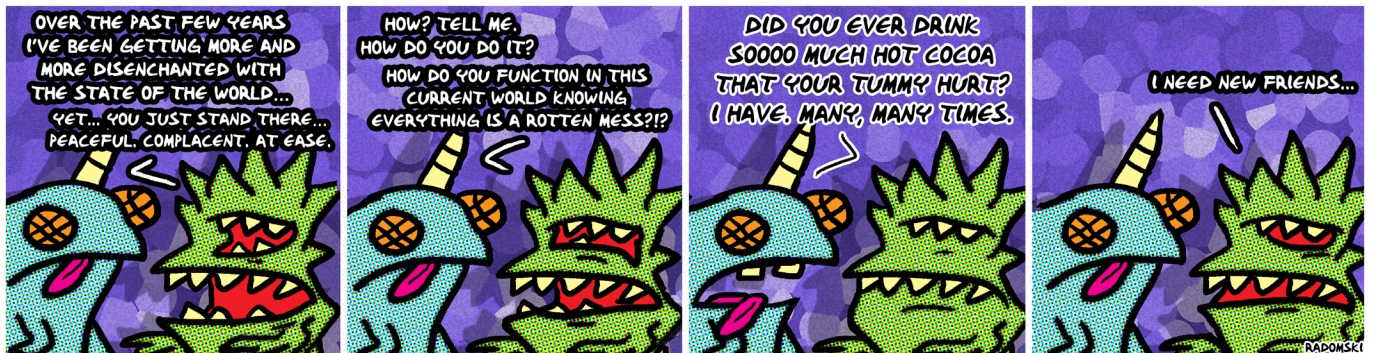
Good luck to all. Don't forget to buy a vibrator. ☑

We need to revolt against the dick-tatorship of sex. Guys, MIX IT UP! Give your girl some good face.

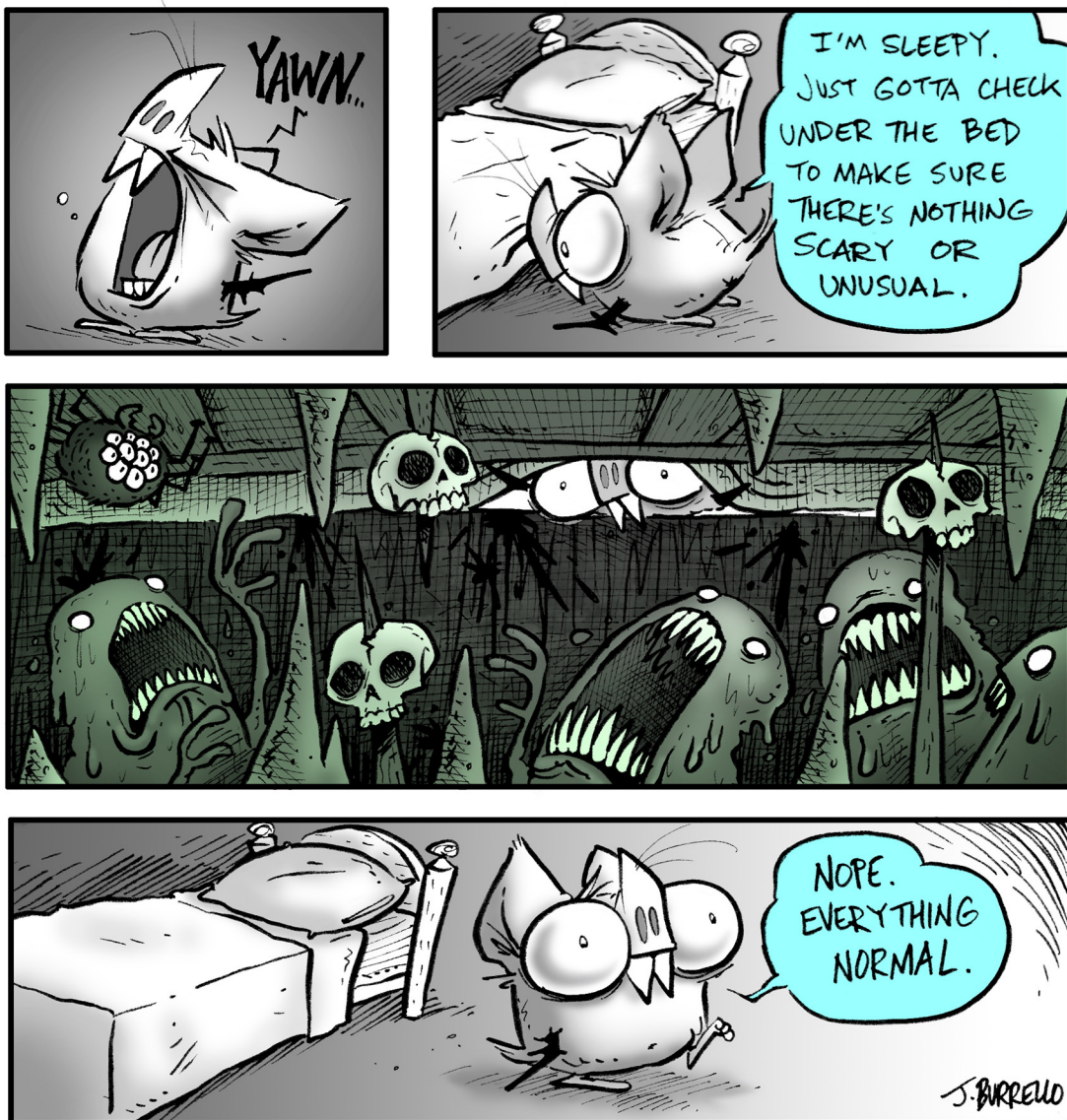


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Monsters Under My Bed | by Jonathan Burrello @biginsanehappy



the DANEMEN

A SILENT COMIC

by
David Daneman
@thedanemen



The Epic Adventures of Every Man | by Every Man @theepicadventuresofeveryman



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The Link acknowledges our location on unceded Indigenous land. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of these lands and waters. Tiohtiá:ke is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations.

Correction notice: The publication last issue of the article "Erasing Tragedy: Black History and the Death of Fredy Villanueva" stated that Villanueva's brother was arrested for illegal gambling, though he never formally arrested. This article also stated that the court had said that the police officer who shot Villanueva had caused a "legal albeit preventable death", when in reality it was a judge at the coroner's inquest hearing who said this. The Link has since corrected these errors online, and has added more context to article, by mentioning in addition that external investigations have also looked into racial profiling by the Montreal police.

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