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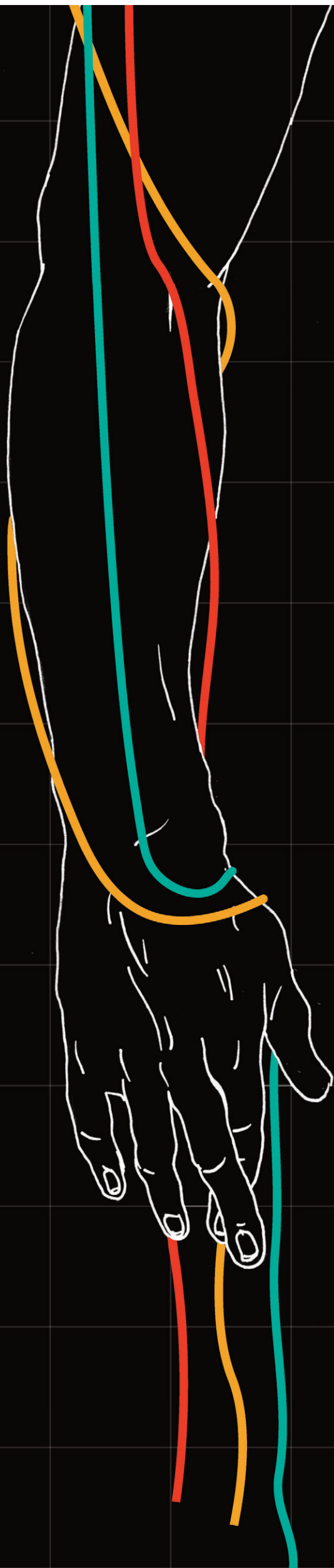
EDITORIAL DRAINVILLE PLAYS VICTIM BY DITCHING CHARTER DEBATE AT CONCORDIA P27

THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ISSUE

A special insert on drones, the potential cure to paralysis and humanity in the age of the singularity

THE LINK IS TAKING A BREAK, BUT THE FRINGE CAL ISN'T
Spending winter break in our fine city? We've got you covered with Fringe-y events all December long. P12

COMPETITION BREEDS EXCELLENCE
Their record may not show it, but Concordia's women's hockey team is slowly closing the gap between itself and the top teams in Canada. P13



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DRAINVILLE BACKS OUT OF THE CONCORDIA CHARTER DEBATE

It's Thursday morning and Concordia University has been deemed enough of a security threat that Quebec Minister Bernard Drainville has cancelled his appearance mere hours in advance.

But outside of the J.A. de Sève Cinema—where Drainville was to debate the Charter of Quebec Values, the secularist bill that proposes banning public sector workers from wearing overt religious symbols on the job—a handful of protesters are present, armed only with a banner.

Drainville, the Parti Québécois minister responsible for the charter, told reporters that Concordia could not guarantee the safety of participants to the minister's staff, prompting the MNA for the South Shore riding of Marie-Victorin to bow out of the debate.

"Here we see a group of people who threatened to disrupt our holding of the debate, in order to deprive us of a democratic discussion. I sincerely regret this situation," the minister said in a subsequent press release.

But there were fewer than a dozen protesters and the whole event was conducted in a largely respectful manner by all attendees.

Vignesh Shankar, VP External of Concordia's Graduate Students' Association, which put on the debate, said that the minister's cancellation only succeeded in making it harder to "enhance our understanding of [the charter]."

"The GSA is very disappointed by this decision, as we worked hard to ensure that this debate would unfold in a respectful and safe

manner," he later elaborated in a press release.

"We wholeheartedly disagree with the minister's belief that any member of the Concordia community would have posed a threat," he continued.

"We believe that Minister Drainville has missed a great opportunity to engage with a community that has voiced strong opposition to his policies and that we are all the poorer for his decision."

Yet despite Drainville's last-minute cancellation, Concordia did play host to a debate on Bill 60 Thursday afternoon.

It just went on without the minister directly responsible for the bill.

► Continued on page 7.



FEMINIST VIEWS ON BILL 60

Panellists discuss the controversial Charter of Quebec Values and the 'femi-nationalist' ideas behind its creation. **P6**

PROCHAINE STATION...

Montreal photographer takes portraits of Quebecers at their home metro stations. **P9**

ALL ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Get a feel for soccer's culture at Montreal's inaugural Pitch Fest. **P14**



OPINION: RE-GROUNDED, NOT REBRANDED

As CUTV undergoes changes, it's important that the station not forget its mandate. **P15**

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY QUESTIONED

Students in engineering and computer science want updates to the university's IP policy. **P8**

THE BAND DOWN UNDER

Australian hardcore band Northlane pass through Montreal with Toronto natives Structures. **P10**

Photo Brandon Johnston

THE LINK ONLINE

HOT HOT HEAT

We've got five hot beverages from all over Montreal to keep your temperature up while the weather gets cold.

GAME ON!

Indie developer Dave Williams stands against Montreal's AAA game giants with his latest project, Astrobase Command.

SPACE CONCORDIA REACHES KICK-STARTER GOAL

Space Concordia has spent the past month trying to raise enough funds to get their satellite project off the ground (literally).

TIME FOR A BREAK

The Stingers men's hockey team head into winter break with a split weekend in Ontario.

A GLIMPSE—AND THEN IT'S GONE

Concordia's women's hockey team a take two-goal lead over CIS no. 1-ranked Martlets, but ultimately fall 4-2.

NO. 3 BEATS NO. 3

The Stingers women's hockey team, third-place in the RSEQ, conclude the first half of the season with a narrow loss to the Carabins.

LINK RADIO

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BYE BYE, JAVA U?

Students Discuss Next Steps to Making New Mezz Café a Reality

by Colin Harris @colinharris

With students having overwhelmingly voted in the November byelections to replace the Java U in the Hall Building with a student-run co-op, the Concordia Student Union must now get to work to see if the project is possible.

A committee was formed to answer that question at last week's CSU council meeting. VP Academic and Advocacy Gene Morrow, VP Clubs and Internal James Tyler Vaccaro and councillors Patricia Martone, Kabir Bindra and Gabriel Velasco are the committee's voting members.

Jessica Cabana, who was part of the official "yes" campaign for replacing Java U, is an ex-officio member—meaning she can propose motions but cannot vote.

Martone, Bindra and Velasco were all elected to council in last month's byelections. Students at large will be added to the committee next semester.

At an informal meeting in Sustainable Concordia's boardroom on Friday, Velasco outlined the task at hand for the committee.

Velasco said there are essentially four options the committee will choose from to find a replacement for the Java U franchise: decide co-operatively with other stakeholders, put out a request for proposals, make the decision unilaterally or decide the task is impossible.

The committee will also be putting to-

gether a feasibility report, likely with outside help paid for by the CSU.

Velasco, who is equally a member of the Concordia Food Coalition, is gunning for the co-operative selection model, which The Hive Café project is using.

"We have to do a lot of outreach to see who wants to get involved," said Velasco at the meeting.

Cabana pointed out that the Université de Montréal and Université du Québec à Montréal have numerous student-run cafés on campus. At Concordia, the student-run Café X has two locations, but the only one in the VA Building has seating.

"This is something that the [anglophone] community doesn't have yet," said Cabana, referring to the abundance of student-run food options available at Montreal's two French-language universities.

Before 1998, the space where the Java U now stands was called the Mezz Café and was managed by CUSACorp, the CSU's for-profit arm. CUSACorp still manages campus bar Reggie's, while Java U is a paying tenant.

Java U began leasing the space in 1998. At the time, the café only had one location, at the corner of Guy St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Java U has since grown to have franchises across Canada and in the Middle East.

In 2004, Concordia student Philip Ilijevski won a bid to open a new café in the

space, holding a franchising contract with Café Santropol. At the time, *The Link* reported that Java U had their lease renewed for four more years despite Ilijevski having a verbal agreement with CUSACorp.

After eight months of what Ilijevski described as a game of cat-and-mouse with CUSACorp, Santropol issued a letter saying they could no longer commit to a franchise in the space.

The failure to replace Java U in 2004 is a reason Cabana thought it was important the question went to the ballot this time around—so that the CSU, CUSACorp's sole shareholder, knows explicitly what students want out of the space.

But the referendum question is no guarantee that Java U is going anywhere.

"Java U's rent is financing Reggie's," said Bindra, who represents the John Molson School of Business on council. "Reggie's started making money but there's a long way for it to go."

CUSACorp had failed to post a profit for a decade before renting the Mezz Café out to Java U, and at the time owed over \$1 million to the CSU.

The initial rent agreement saw Java U pay CUSACorp \$40,000 per year. The café currently pays \$78,000 in rent to CUSACorp annually.

Charging similar rent to the new café isn't likely to happen any time soon. Velasco

said it would be a kind of "double taxation" to students since the referendum question requires students—who already pay a fee levy to the CSU—to have a controlling share over the new café, instead of having a paying tenant subsidize the losses from Reggie's.

Bindra noted that anyone making suggestions for the café should be prepared to be met with resistance. During the byelections, an unofficial "no" campaign appeared, casting doubt on the "yes" campaign's business plans.

"It was JMSB," said Bindra. "You have to remember they come from a culture of looking at the numbers."

At Friday's meeting, newly elected CSU councillor Charles Bourassa floated the possibility of a collaboration between a future co-op and Reggie's, suggesting that the bar could sell any remaining café food at the end of the day.

Sociology student Lauren Aghabozorgi, who attended the meeting, proposed a forum be set up to take suggestions from those who had opposed the idea in the first place.

"Students can have a say in where the food is sourced from," said Cabana about a possible cooperative Mezz Café, adding that if students come to the annual general meeting they can vote to have their needs better met the following year.

Photo Brandon Johnston

SETTLING IN

CSU Readies New Councillors for Committees

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

The Concordia Student Union is quickly adjusting to a council that has nearly doubled in size in the wake of the November byelections.

At last Wednesday's council meeting, council was able to ratify its audit report and even discussed the possibility of reaching out to fine arts students in the hopes of getting them represented on council. But the major task of the evening was appointing new councillors to standing committees.

Council was decidedly tempered throughout the evening, but the creation of a new human resources committee saw council split with the CSU executive on its implementation.

The committee will seek to perform needs assessments for the CSU regarding its employees, but when it was first being tabled for discussion, it was immediately challenged by CSU President Melissa Kate Wheeler.

"I think that it treads a line that I'm not super comfortable with," she told council, as the CSU's collective agreement outlining that the CSU executives—and not council—are the legal employers of union employees and predominately responsible for their hiring.

Despite Wheeler's concerns, council went forward with the creation of the HR committee, appointing John Molson School of Business representative Maylen Cytryn, new arts and science councillor Justin Caruso—the younger brother of CSU VP Student Life Ka-

trina Caruso—and JMSB councillor Kabir Bindra to it along with CSU general manager Robert Henri.

Addressing the council members of the committee, all of whom are first-year CSU councillors, Wheeler asserted its task won't be easy.

"Get ready for a lot of work because I will make sure it is at your fingertips," said Wheeler.

From the executives, who made their own appointments, Wheeler, Caruso and VP Academic and Advocacy Gene Morrow were also selected to the HR committee.

The meeting also saw engineering and computer science councillor Kyle Arseneau appointed to the appointments committee, along with Cytryn.

New councillor Charles Bourassa and fel-

low arts and science representative Nikos Pidiktakis will now sit on the external and campaigns committee.

Bourassa was also selected to sit on the CSU's events committee along with councillor Caruso.

Caruso was also appointed to the Loyola committee, along with fellow new councillor Patricia Martone.

Gabriel Velasco, a member of the Concordia Food Coalition who campaigned for his council position on a platform of supporting sustainable food options at the university, was appointed to the CSU's policy committee along with JMSB representative Michael Richardson. Bourassa and Bindra were elected to the CSU's sustainability committee.



Students work on projects at a lab in the engineering department.

TAs RAISE CONCERNS OVER PAY

Teaching Assistants in Engineering Unhappy Over Reduction in Hours Despite Same Workload

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

As Concordia tries to turn the page on last year's tense labour climate, teaching assistants in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science are raising concerns about reductions in the number of hours they're paid to work, even as their workloads allegedly remain the same.

Nishant Walia said he's making roughly \$400 less this semester than in the two previous semesters he worked as a teaching assistant as a result of reductions in his working hours. He says his workload hasn't decreased, however.

"This semester, I have the same workload," he said. "Every single thing is the same."

Before the teaching assistants have to demonstrate a lab experiment to students, a supervisor first goes over how to conduct the experiment with them. The teaching assistants are paid for the hour or so spent in the lab with their supervisors, as well as the time spent instructing students in the lab.

However, Walia and other teaching assistants say they must spend additional time preparing for labs outside of the hour provided for in their contracts. Walia also said he marks assignments outside the time included in his contract.

"I have to prepare for the lab, I have to correct the lab reports [...] and upload the results," he said. "And for that, I'm spending a lot of time—maybe I'm spending three hours, sometimes two—[and] they're not giving me that money."

When asked if he approached the professor teaching the course, Walia said he did not but that he brought his concerns forward to Concordia's Graduate Students' Association.

Adam Szymanski, president of the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia union, says he's spoken to dozens of engineering students who are affected by similar reductions in work hours.

"At the beginning of the school year, TRAC was contacted by a number of engineering TAs who told us that their contracts

had [fewer] hours than in years previous," Szymanski wrote in an email to *The Link*.

"What that means is that a TA teaching the same tutorial as before would now be doing the same job for less money.

"It appears that this is a concrete example of the budget shortfall being taken out on the backs of TAs," he continued. "Even though we have small pay raises built into our hourly rate, those increases are annulled by [fewer] hours per contract, so the overall effect is one of a pay cut."

Three other teaching assistants came forward to speak about their contracts, but requested they remain anonymous, worried that it might affect their chances of being hired by the university for the winter semester.

One of them said he has spent approximately nine more hours on grading and three more hours on lab preparation over the course of this semester than what is included in his contract.

"I got paid, last semester, around \$1,700. For the same period, I'm getting paid \$1,200

this semester [despite it being] the same amount of time, the same amount of students," he said. "When I talked with the professor who called me [in] to sign the contract, he told me it's because of the preparation hours."

He said more preparation time is needed than what's provided for in the contract for teaching assistants to be able to adequately respond to students' questions in each section of the class they supervise.

Another teaching assistant said his pay has dropped from roughly \$2,100 in the past three semesters to about \$1,700 this semester.

"They didn't reduce my workload," he said.

The employees say they're prepared to formally file a grievance with the university through TRAC—but will likely do so only after the university decides who they'll hire for the winter semester.

The Link contacted the administration, but the university was unable to provide a response before press time.

Photo Brandon Johnston

ONE STEP CLOSER TO FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

Concordia Forms Working Group to Continue Discussion on Ethical Investment Policy

by Geoffrey Vendeville @geoffvendeville

Concordia is edging closer to an ethically responsible investment policy, which would include diverting university funds away from the fossil fuel industry.

After over a month of negotiations between members of the university administration and student groups, the decision to set up a working group to create a socially responsible investment policy was announced in an email from Concordia's VP Development and External Relations Bram Freedman on Nov. 25.

"After a thorough discussion of this issue at the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Concordia University Foundation, I can tell you there is an openness to further exploring this issue," Freedman said.

The Joint Responsible Investment Working Group will hold its first meeting in January.

"The goal [of the working group] is to continue dialogue and exploration of the issue," said university spokesperson Chris Mota. "There is no formal mandate for this joint working group at this point in time."

The group will include Freedman him-

self, university treasurer Marc Gauthier, two or three board members of the Concordia Foundation and one student representative each from the Concordia Student Union, the Graduate Students' Association and the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

The working group will aim to make sure that Concordia's investments chime with its official commitment "to responsible environmental stewardship through all of the university's activities and functions."

"A socially responsible investment practice uses finance to grow certain forms of the economy that are more beneficial to society," said Erik Chevrier, who the CSU hired in mid-October as a researcher and negotiator.

Chevrier submitted a preliminary report on Concordia's investment practices to the CSU on Nov. 25. He will also be joining the working group when it meets at the start of the new year.

He explained that the decision to form a working group was largely thanks to the efforts of Divest Concordia, a student organization formed in November 2012 that has been pushing the university to stop investing in fossil fuels.

The Divest Concordia campaign has also

been demanding an investment policy that would serve as a set of ethical guidelines for Concordia's investments.

"We want to develop a policy for the university that makes sense [...] because they need to make a profit from their investments," said Anthony Garoufalidis-Auger of Divest Concordia.

"But at the same time Concordia—with its mission for sustainability—should adopt the same [sustainable practices] for their investments."

Publicly available financial statements indicate that the university's endowment fund had \$49.9 million invested in Canadian stocks in the 2010-2011 financial year. Of those investments, \$9.1 million were in oil and gas, and another \$2.6 million were in pipelines. The total value of the university's endowment fund that year was almost \$116 million.

More recent financial documents see the labels for the investment categories changed.

So far, a petition in favour of divestment from fossil fuels has received 1,500 signatures, Garoufalidis-Auger said.

Divest Concordia is asking the university to de-fund its investments in fossil fuels within three years, to exclude fossil fuels

from future investments and to make a statement about divestment.

Although a socially responsible investment policy would include diverting money away from fossil fuels, it may also apply to investments in other areas.

"We're going to have to establish a middle ground," said Caroline Bourbonnière, VP External of the CSU. "I'm mandated to divert from the fossil fuel industry. That doesn't mean I won't be interested in divesting from mining industries."

Bourbonnière said she will consult environmental organizations such as Équiterre and the David Suzuki Foundation before the working group's first meeting.

The CSU is also calling for faculty representation in the working group. The union already has a professor of social economy in mind, but would like to keep his or her name anonymous for now.

"The university's response [...] demonstrates a good sign of openness on their behalf and a desire to engage with students in a fruitful way," Bourbonnière wrote in an email to *The Link*.

"I really do hope we accomplish something tangible by the end of the [next] year."



Panellists from left to right: Sirma Bilge, Yasmin Jiwani, Cynthia Kelly and Pearl Eliadis. The four women spoke at a panel on feminism and its relationship to the proposed Charter of Quebec Values.

IS THE CHARTER OF QUEBEC VALUES A FEMINIST INITIATIVE?

Panel Discusses Implications of Bill 60

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Pearl Eliadis minced no words when she stood in front of roughly 60 people last Thursday and stated that, “Bill 60 utterly fails to achieve gender equality. It utterly fails to do anything for secularism and it turns the whole concept of religious freedom and secularism on its head.”

The Montreal-based human rights lawyer was one of four panelists at a discussion on Bill 60—also known as the Charter of Quebec Values—that sought to examine the proposed charter from a feminist, queer, LGBT or racialized view.

The panel discussion was organized through the combined efforts of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, the Concordia Student Union and the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations, and featured panellists in a variety of fields, from communications to law. It was not explicitly framed as a pro/con debate on the charter, but rather sought to explore the implications of such legislation if it was passed in Quebec’s National Assembly.

The proposed charter is less about state secularism than it is about the fear of political Islam, according to Eliadis, who also said it does nothing to actually address such concerns.

“I find it hugely ironic that a government that purports to advocate for gender equality should be supporting a provision that is going to have a systemic, systematic and substantively negative impact on the very women that it says it wants to promote social equality [for],” she said, adding that though the bill is designed to achieve gender equality, all evidence so far suggests it will do the exact opposite.

Eliadis was not the only panellist who expressed concern with the claims of the governing Parti Québécois that their bill would promote gender equality. Sirma Bilge, a sociology professor at the Université de Montréal, added that the sectors

that would be affected by the bill—such as the users of government services and employees of the provincial government—are largely made up of women.

“These are the sectors in which women are overrepresented as childcare workers, [...] health professionals, social service providers and so on. So it is not an overstatement to suggest that hijabi Muslim women will be the most heavily affected group by the restrictions of the conspicuous religious symbols,” Bilge said.

The PQ has maintained that the charter would help to further the feminist cause, but those present at the panel overwhelmingly disagreed. The government recently got into hot water with the friends and family of late Quebec feminist Madeleine Parent after using her name alongside other figures of provincial feminism, such as Jeanne Mance and Marie-Claire Kirkland, in an attempt to show how the legislation is aligned with feminist ideals. Parent’s friends and family criticized the decision to include her name, saying that she would have never given her support to such a bill.

Present at the talk was Parent’s longtime friend and neighbour Cynthia Kelly. According to Kelly, the PQ’s decision to include Parent’s name in the bill represented a view of the late feminist that is “frozen in time.”

Kelly sees the inclusion of Parent’s name as indicative of the feminist undercurrent of the charter, where the link is made between the quest for gender equality pursued by feminists and the quest for the

same equality by the government.

According to Kelly, the government’s belief that “no religious accommodation should be made for public service employees if that accommodation interferes with gender equality” led them to conclude that banning the presence of overt religious symbols could be seen as preserving gender equality, thus legitimizing the idea that the charter represents feminist values.

“Underpinning the government’s logic is that religious symbols are inherently disempowering to women and foster a serious form of inequality between men and women,” Kelly continued, stressing that this idea relies on a stream of feminism that views all religions as non-egalitarian and on the idea of “women as a universal group and religion as a universal threat,” ignoring complexities that exist within the category of “woman.”

Bilge referred to the type of feminism the provincial government is using to promote the charter as “a kind of feminist nationalism.”

“It’s a moral crusade to achieve, in the name of gender equality, the discrimination and marginalization of other women, those wearing headscarves,” she said. “Femi-nationalists have been among the key architects of an incoming sense in Quebec—the Muslim peril.”

Others present, like Concordia communications professor Yasmin Jiwani, echoed this idea of the “Muslim peril.” She explained that the proposed charter essentially legitimizes the racism that already exists under the surface in Quebec, and that

those in charge of the bill are “hijacking feminist principles.”

“It’s making feminism do its dirty work,” Jiwani said, “and that dirty work is the containment of women, but it’s also neutralizing what it sees as a threat.” It’s an idea that tied into Bilge’s words on femi-nationalism, where the fear of the “Muslim peril” compels people to try and squash what they perceive as a danger to society.

There have been increasing reports of violence against Muslim women since the charter was first formally proposed in early September. Ultimately, panellists argued that while the charter is framed as an attempt to achieve secularism in the province, in reality it is simply an attack on Muslim women. According to Jiwani, the proposed ban on religious paraphernalia like kippahs or turbans are merely added in to try and legitimize the ban, but that “as a strategic tool, it definitely goes after Muslim women,” she said.

“This charter, what it does is mandate state-level violence. [...] It keeps the women at home, where they’re the most vulnerable to intimate forms of violence,” Jiwani said, referring to the fact that the majority of assaults occur when the perpetrator is known to the victim.

The legality of the bill was also questioned, with Eliadis stating that the bill is ultimately a form of profiling.

“It’s a form of religious profiling, it’s a form of ethnic profiling, it’s a form of racial profiling that has the double-whammy of specifically impacting and targeting women of minority backgrounds,” Eliadis said.

“If this type of initiative had been created or instigated by somebody who was not a parliamentarian protected by parliamentary privilege, they would be subject to hate speech laws,” she continued.

“The demonstrable effects of this bill have been to incite hate—hate in the streets, hate in the metros, hate online.”

“If this type of initiative had been created or instigated by somebody who was not a parliamentarian protected by parliamentary privilege, they would be subject to hate speech laws.”

—Pearl Eliadis, human rights lawyer

Photo Erin Sparks

TWO-SIDED CHARTER DEBATE GOES DOWN THE DRAIN

‘Security Concerns’ Prompt Bernard Drainville to Cancel Concordia Appearance

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

Continued from page 3.

Kathleen Weil, Liberal MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Official Opposition Critic for Employment and Social Economy, and André Frappier, former interim president of Québec solidaire, remained on-hand for the debate despite the absence of the Parti Québécois representative.

Both expressed disappointment with Drainville’s absence before the debate began and said they were against the current charter bill.

“I have to say, it’s too bad Mr. Drainville refused to accept coming to speak before you today,” Frappier told the 100-plus people in attendance. “I can see we’re at a large Quebec university in Montreal, so I consider it astonishing that students mobilizing for protest can be an obstacle to someone looking to speaking their mind.

“This is not an obstacle to democracy, on the contrary, it’s participation in it.”

Weil echoed Frappier’s assertions that having a two-sided debate would have been more beneficial to dialogue on the charter.

“I am convinced we would have had a very respectful debate here at Concordia and I hope there will be another opportunity [to hold one],” said Weil.

Frappier began the conversation by remarking how much he believes the public debate surrounding the charter has been tainted from the start.

Beginning when the charter was first leaked to the media, discussion has been based on rumor, according to him.

He added that it that opened up the door for hate crimes and other racist displays, many of which have received prominent attention from the press and on social media.

Weil seconded Frappier’s opinion, adding that the charter could have a profound impact on immigration to Quebec—which could not only affect the province, but also Concordia specifically.

“Societies are in a competition to get the best and brightest from all over the world, and Concordia is a symbol of that,” she said.

“We have to find a consensus, we’re not going to get out of this unless we have a consensus. We’re dealing with rights [guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms] and minority rights.”

If passed, the secular charter would prohibit employees of the provincial government from wearing “ostentatious” religious clothing and symbols. It would also ban the users of government services from covering their faces, effectively prohibiting the wearing of religious headdresses like burqas and niqabs in public spaces.

While the charter has a hefty amount of supporters, particularly among older Quebecers and those living in rural areas, for Weil the issue is decidedly less complicated for youth.

“What I’m hearing from a lot of young people is they are worried about this charter,” she said.

“Young people don’t even see [a problem], they see the person, [not] their reflection, and they are very happy to have this diversity.”

Cancelling for different concerns?

The protest on campus was organized and executed predominantly by Concordia’s chapter of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group.

QPIRG working groups and programming coordinator Jaggi Singh told reporters he did not believe Drainville cancelled over safety concerns.

“They weren’t really security concerns. Drainville has embarrassment concerns. He

can’t deal with direct opposition to the charter,” Singh later said publicly on Facebook.

In his statement to the press, Drainville had said the protesters refused to say whether their intention was to disturb the debate. Both protesters against the minister’s appearance and their supporters have adamantly denied that they posed any threat.

The minister also singled out Concordia’s administration as being unable to secure the safety of debate participants and attendees, which made it more “preferable” for Drainville to cancel his appearance.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said the university told Drainville’s staff it was next to impossible for a university to completely guarantee the safety of everyone involved at the event.

“The minister’s office contacted the university asking for assurances the event could go on undisrupted and the safety of all participants—not just the minister, but all panellists and the audience—could be guaranteed,” she said.

“There’s no way any institution can say 100 per cent that an event will not be disrupted; we can’t do that.”

Photos Erin Sparks



Protesters gathered outside the debate on Bill 60 (above). Liberal MNA Kathleen Weil (middle) and former Québec solidaire interim president André Frappier (right) participate at the debate (below).

BRIEFS

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Champlain Bridge to Be Ready by 2018

Federal Infrastructure Minister Denis Lebel announced Sunday that the new Champlain Bridge will be finished by 2018, three years earlier than originally planned, the *Montreal Gazette* reported. Lebel also promised that the bridge would be delivered on schedule and would not exceed its budget, and said that it would be both a toll bridge and include provisions for a light rail train.

Hochelaga-Maisonneuve Target of Vandalism

Four businesses in the borough of Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve have been targeted by anti-gentrification vandals who threw bricks through the shops' windows, CTV Montreal reported. Notes attached to the bricks referred to shop owners as colonizers, but community leaders say they are going to continue what they see as revitalizing the community through the construction of more condos and stores. In a press conference held Sunday, Hochelaga MP Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet said that there has to be a balance between "regeneration and gentrification."

Community Groups Allowed to Speak at Line 9 Hearings

After complaints surfaced last week from community groups that they were not being included in the discussion over Enbridge's Line 9B pipeline reversal project, the hearings' organizers decided to include the groups, the *Montreal Gazette* reported. The hearings will be held next week in Quebec City, and will now include input from the Société pour Vaincre la Pollution and other environmental groups. The provincial government has given its support for the pipeline project, provided that there are economic benefits for the province and that the environment is taken into consideration.

PQ To Limit Discounts on New Books

The Parti Québécois announced on Monday that it will go ahead with a plan introduced over the summer to limit the discounts bookstores can place on new books in both paper and tablet form, CTV Montreal reported. The new legislation, set to be instituted in 2014, would prohibit stores from discounting books more than 10 per cent of the publisher's price for the first nine months the book is out. The decision is backed by the province's writers' union, which says the regulation would help preserve independent bookstores, which are unable to compete with online retailers offering significant discounts. After three years, the law will be re-evaluated and a decision over renewing it could be made.

"When you finish a project, you're proud of it. But now [mine] is stored in a dark warehouse. It goes from being a trophy to being a dead project."
—Michael El-Jiz, electrical engineering master's student

STUDENT INVENTORS
WANT PATENT CONTROL

ENCS Requests Concordia Update Intellectual Property Policy

by Andy Fidel @andy_fidel

For his final-year "capstone" research project, graduating Concordia engineering student Michael El-Jiz was curious about the applications of music in engineering, and created Bothoven, a robot that could read a sheet of music and play piano.

The first song Bothoven ever played was "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Four days before his final presentation in March, Bothoven had transcribed and was ready to perform Mozart's "Turkish March." All it took was one click of a button. Before El-Jiz had time to swivel his chair around to see the robot play, he could hear it.

He's not hearing it anymore.

"When you finish a project, you're proud of it," said El-Jiz, an electrical engineering master's student. "But now it's stored in a dark warehouse. It goes from being a trophy to being a dead project."

Since El-Jiz used a Concordia computer with a licence for the MATLAB programming language, Concordia University owns the code and the copyright to Bothoven—and to many of his fellow engineering students' projects.

But in the past month, both the Engineering and Computer Science Association and the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council have adopted motions to request the university change its intellectual property policies.

The ultimate goal of the two faculty bodies is to have the policy reviewed and revised to give students the option of waiving Concordia's ownership policy and owning the patent on their own projects.

According to VPRGS-9, the university's current IP policy, students with an invention must report it to the research office, and the office decides whether they will patent it or not if it is considered a "Qualifying Invention." If they choose to do so, there is a sharing agreement between the inventor and the university.

If the university decides to take the work

to the market, the student will get a share of the income but no control over commercialization. And if the office refuses and the student pays to patent it, the university still has the right to sublicense it.

"If you're Mark Zuckerberg and you make Facebook, it becomes this massive legal battle," said ECA electrical and computer engineering representative Gregory Gibson.

A Policy that Stifles Innovation?

A motion on IP policy was passed at the ECA council on Nov. 18 and recommends that "Concordia revise the policy such that intellectual property created by students would remain the legal property of the students responsible for its creations."

The motion also asks that the university "include ECA representatives on the review committee throughout the process of revising the policy on intellectual property."

"I want the university to stay out of my IP," said Gibson.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota says Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies Graham Carr or someone from his office will meet with the ECA to get a "better understanding" of the concerns behind this motion.

Until then, she says the administration is unable to provide further comment, although Concordia President Alan Shepard said at the Oct. 16 Board of Governors that he planned to look into how the policy "affects students, graduate and undergraduate, by the end of the academic year."

Another IP motion was passed on Nov. 29 by the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council. ENCS-FC now officially supports the ECA, saying the current policy on intellectual property is "very burdensome" and resolved to officially request that the university "revise the policy on IP such that the rights of students to the intellectual property they have created be respected."

An opt-out agreement exists for the capstone project, which allows ENCS under-

graduates to patent their inventions without the university having any claim to it.

However, if a Concordia faculty member is found to be an inventor of the project under VPRGS-9 guidelines, the opt-out agreement is rendered null and void, and the university retains rights to the invention.

"This opt-out form has a big loophole because part of the capstone project means you have to have a professor as your supervisor," explained Allison Hipgrave, ECA mechanical and industrial engineering representative.

The capstone outline for mechanical and industrial engineering states: "[S]tudents are required to implement the design of an actual product or system under close supervision of the project supervisors."

"Technically, because you're using and collaborating with faculty advisors, the capstone technical coordinator and using the university's facilities, the actual concept design belongs to the university," said Gibson.

Currently, scholarly writing, productions, artwork and other similar creative or research products are excluded from this IP policy. Gibson says it's questionable why the policy isn't applied across the board.

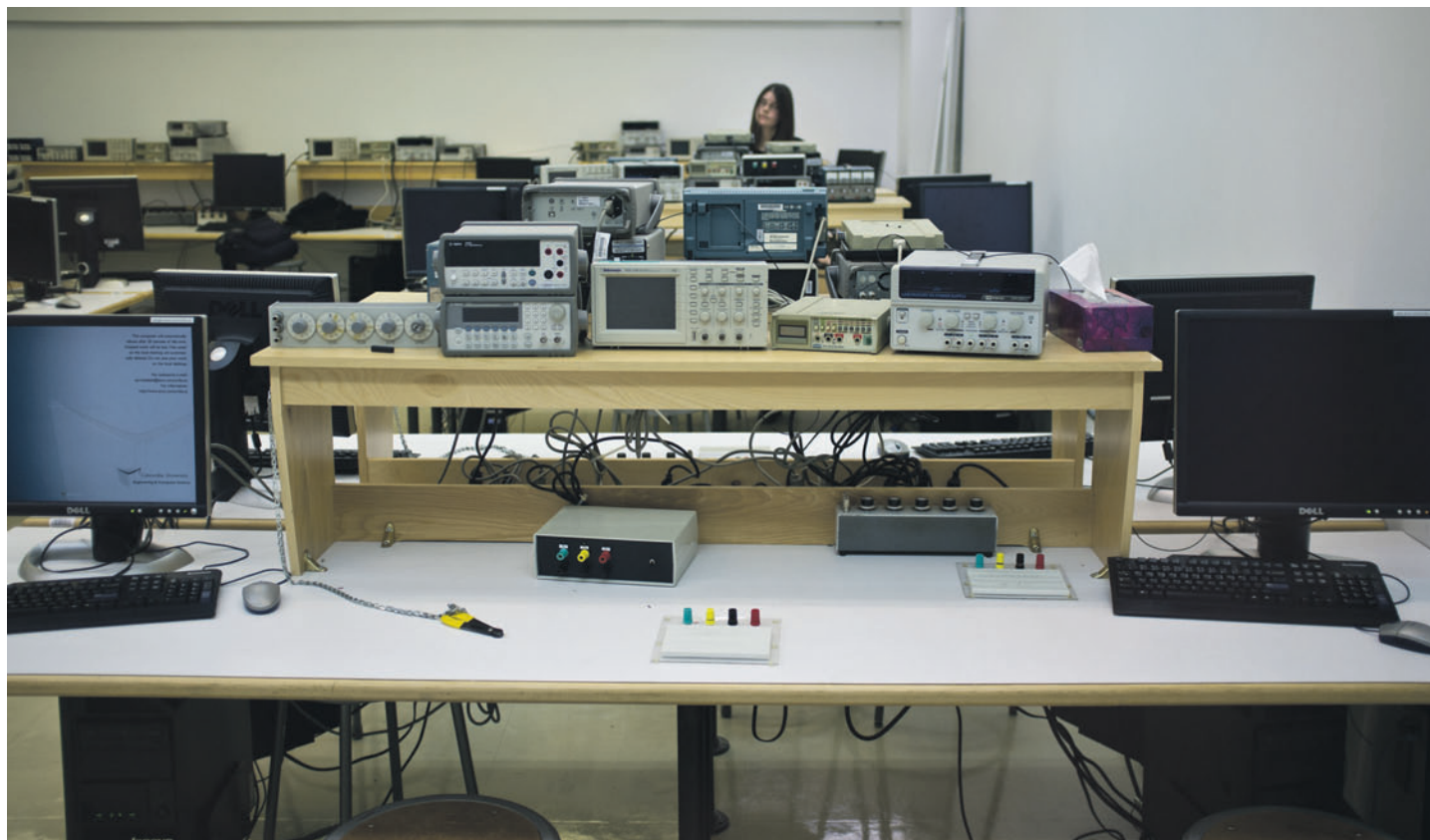
"If the university just wants to milk students dry, well, what if we have the next J.K. Rowling?" said Gibson. "Shouldn't they also have a hand in that honey pot?"

Gibson says he believes the university doesn't apply this policy to art students because they "wouldn't be creative [or share their] best ideas during workshops."

But he says the same is true for all students, engineering majors included: to be innovative, Gibson says students must have an environment where they can be "innovative without [being] penalized for it."

"The university is shooting themselves in the foot," said Hipgrave. "Students are not creating what they are capable of. They're creating to pass the class."

Photo Brandon Johnston



JUST A STRANGER ON A METRO

Montreal Photographer Captures Unique Portraits of Montrealers at Their Metro Stations

by Geoffrey Vendeville @geoffvendeville

In the rush-hour scramble to beat the blue-and-white sliding doors, the aesthetics of the metro are the last thing on the average commuter's mind. But they're exactly what Montreal photographer and Concordia graduate Mathieu Murphy-Perron has been thinking about for the past eight months and counting.

With his latest project, *Mon métro*, he hopes to portray the beauty of the metro system—not only its artwork, which is already well known, but more importantly its passengers.

"My objective is to see the faces of our transit system. Know their stories. Discover their neighbourhoods," he said. "The people are the pulse of the metro. *Mon métro* is a visual diary of our *mouvement collectif* through Montreal."

Since April, he's been taking pictures of strangers in and outside the metro station they most often use. His goal is to photograph one person at each of Montreal's 68 stops. So far, he's completed 16 portraits, mostly in his own Sud-Ouest neighbourhood and the Plateau.

For each of his subjects, he adds a short profile, including their occupation and interests, as well as a few remarks on the shoot. Each vignette is a window into the life of one of the 895,000 passengers who squeeze onto a metro car each day.

At the Côte-des-Neiges metro station, he introduces us to Letitia Brookes, 32, a Concordia theatre student who took a five-year break from university to work at an accounting firm before finally making her stage debut last month in a hip-hop musical.

In another photograph, at nexus station Lionel-Groulx, born-and-bred Montrealer and Concordia studio art major Mariana Stabile, 22, is shown looking up and smiling from a hexagonal-tiled floor the colour of ketchup and mustard.

She found out about the project through word-of-mouth and contacted Murphy-Perron on Facebook.

"I thought it was a really great mapping project. It really talks about the city of Montreal," she said.

In some ways, Murphy-Perron's portrait series recalls the popular photo blog *Humans of New York*, started in New York City in 2010. However, the real inspiration for *Mon métro* came from a routine ride to Concordia on the 165 bus.

"I was looking at two individuals sitting next to each other on the bus and seeing how it was a really public space but they were really private at the same time," he said. "I took a quick shot, uploaded it to Instagram and hashtagged it #strangersintransit."

Today, #strangersintransit has exploded

to include about 4,000 photos. Murphy-Perron also curates a Tumblr blog of the same name with a collection of 1,200 pictures and climbing, although it's down at the moment for technical reasons.

After snapping a picture of a couple of strangers on the bus, Murphy-Perron's fascination with public transit in Montreal and around the world grew.

"I love the subway in New York City," he said. "But I find all the stations sort of bleed into each other, and there's a sort of grey-ness to them. Montreal's metro is full of colourful pop art—and some absurdly ambitious sculptures at times," he continued, mentioning Germain Bergeron's massive *Pic et Pelle* piece at Monk metro station.

Situated on the walkway above the metro tracks, the sculpture features two giant steel stick figures plugging away at the floor with a pickaxe and shovel. An homage to the construction workers who built the metro, the piece is a take on the Québécois expression *travailler au pic et à la pelle*, meaning to work long and hard.

The Montreal metro is home to 85 art projects in all. This year, the Société de transport de Montréal restored four artworks, including the stainless-steel mural at LaSalle metro station.

Murphy-Perron hopes to foster an apprecia-

tion for the metro's art and architecture—and *Mon métro* is already having a positive effect.

"Each participant has said, as we're taking the photos and especially as we come out, 'Well, actually I take this station every day and I hadn't noticed how awesome it is,'" he said.

Murphy-Perron said he expects to be finished with the remaining 52 portraits in the next year or so. When the project is complete, he said he'll try to turn it into a book—if he can get away with it. Murphy-Perron said shooting photos in the metro is against the rules, so he'll need permission from the STM if he decides to publish his collection.

"Once there's more traction to it I'm hoping to contact the STM and say, 'Hey, this is what I have so far. I'd really like to continue,'" he said.

A spokesperson for the STM, Benoît Clairoux, confirmed that photography in the metro is usually forbidden, except under some conditions. Those who want to take photos in the metro must apply online for a permit.

"For metrophiles, we can come to agreement [...] but he will eventually have to contact the STM to make sure we're on the same page," he said.

As for *Mon métro*, Clairoux said that the project was already on the STM's radar. "*C'est sympathique*," he said. "It shows that the metro is more than just a means of transportation."



CÔTE SAINT-É CATHÉ RINE



LAURIER



LIONEL-GROULX



NAMUR



FROM AUSTRALIA, WITH LOVE

Australian Melodic Hardcore Band Northlane Crosses the Equator to Play Montreal

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

If you're at all familiar with the melodic hardcore music scene, Northlane have surely come under your radar by now.

Rapidly gaining momentum to join the likes of greats such as Volumes and The Ghost Inside, Northlane fuse choppy breakdowns and vicious screams with resounding melodic guitar riffs and tidal waves of clean vocals, often overlapping them to create cinematic soundscapes that have been wowing hardcore fans for five years.

The five-piece band out of Blacktown, New South Wales, Australia, released its latest album, *Singularity*, in North America on Nov. 5, but the album has been out since March on the band's native continent, reaching no. 1 on the Australian iTunes album chart.

Its popularity in the land down under isn't a coincidence: The Amity Affliction, Parkway Drive and I Killed the Prom Queen are just a few of the many Australian bands you can find on metalheads' iPods.

Unlike his own band, Northlane guitarist Josh Smith says there are lots of Australian hardcore and metal bands in the scene that

never make it off the continent.

"[It] comes down to just how hard Australian bands have to work to get anywhere," he said. "There really aren't very many opportunities going around, and touring is very expensive.

"The scene is isolated but this means all the bands are really tight friends and we support each other as much as we can," he continued.

For those not familiar with their genre, the lead vocals are often screamed, but the content of the lyrics is usually far from angry, and is often inspiring and positive.

The music video for Northlane's debut *Singularity* single, "Quantum Flux," jump-started the band's exposure with over 1 million YouTube views to date, and it contains a moving message.

"The song is about beauty in everyday life that people tend to dismiss or overlook, and that difference can really make a change to a person's happiness," Smith said.

Another noteworthy song off the album that defies the uninitiated's expectations of hardcore is "Singularity," an ethereal slow-building instrumental song with echoing post-rock vibes. It features a statically ex-

cerpt from a moving speech by the late American philosopher Terence McKenna.

With no lyrics throughout other than McKenna's urges for us to create our own culture and to "reclaim your mind," the song surges into a finale like a rocket ship breaking through the atmosphere, leaving chills in its wake for the listener. Smith credits the uplifting song to fellow bandmate Jon Deiley.

"The song was written almost entirely by our guitarist Jon," Smith said. "He seems to visualize songs and then write them in a way I've never seen anybody do."

Rushing to Success

Despite forming in only 2009, Northlane's first full-length studio album, *Discoveries*, earned them a tour across Australia, and they're now touring across the U.S. and briefly hopping the border into Canada to play Montreal and Toronto alongside bands such as Structures, Veil of Maya and Here Comes the Kraken.

When asked how his band reached such rapid international success, Smith remained modest.

"I guess we've just worked as hard as we possibly could, dedicated as much as we can

to this band and made sure we're always having fun doing this," he said.

Their dedication was clear considering how little time the band had to record *Singularity*.

"*Discoveries* was written over the course of about nine months, while *Singularity* had to be written in three, and some tracks were even written in the recording studio," Smith said. "Despite the rush, we were still happy with *Singularity*, but it did really put us under the pump."

The rush continues for Northlane, set to play Montreal just a day after a show in Massachusetts. But it's all part of the grind for Smith, who says the tour has been "relentless but very rewarding" and that the band is looking forward to its third time visiting the City of Saints.

"We couldn't be more excited. Montreal is a gorgeous place with a real unique blend of classic French and North American culture," said Smith.

"We are always treated well by the people of this city and it's a pleasure to be coming back."

Northlane + Veil of Maya + Structures // Dec. 11 // La Tulipe (4530 Papineau Ave.) // 6 p.m. // \$20 + fees advance, \$25 + fees door

THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ISSUE

It goes without saying that we are human—but what does that mean? For tens of thousands of years, that meant communication in close proximity and generational evolution, but that has since gone right out the window.

Now if we want to talk we can do so with anyone around the world at our leisure, and soon it might require nothing more than an implant in our brains. And thanks to major advances in bionic limbs, exoskeletons and the invention of materials like graphene, we are starting to repair and reverse crippling damage done to the human body.

We are arriving at a point in time where humanity and technology are intersecting—theorists call it the singularity. Here is where artificial intelligences will dwarf our own and maybe be more “conscious” than we are. Here is where augmented reality becomes standard for the rest of civilization.

Amazing things are happening, and we at *The Link* wanted to bring you some of the more monumental ideas and concepts we think will be changing the future of the human race. Then again, we may be wrong—we’re only human.

Andrew Brennan & Jayde Norström
Science & Technology Special Issue Coordinators

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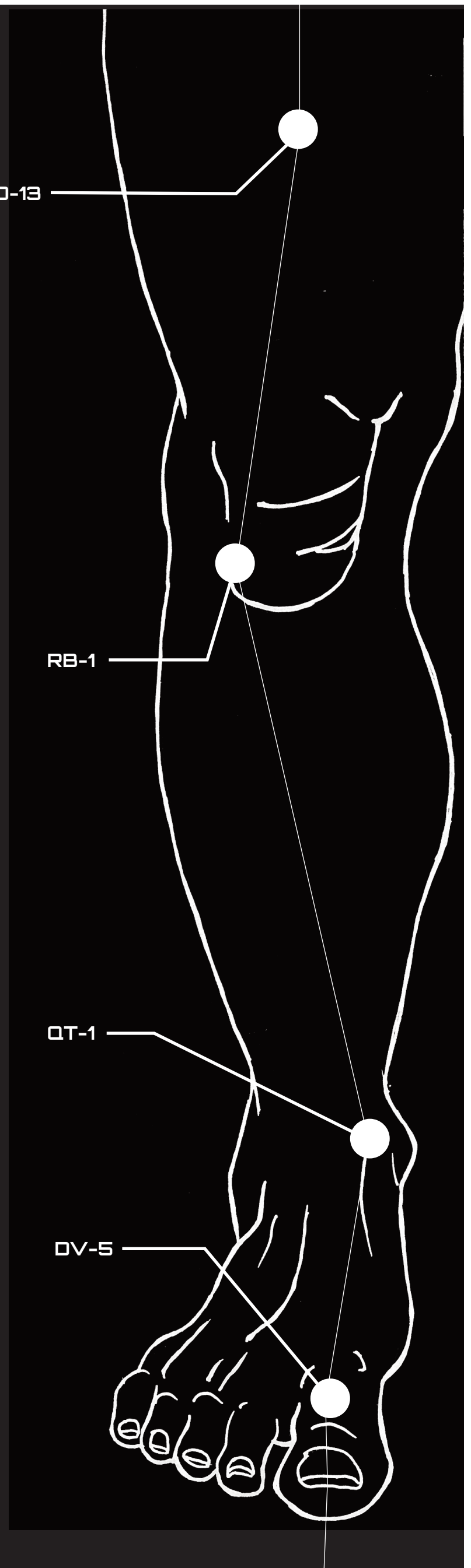
- 2 smart stuff for your smartphone
- 3 humanity + technology = 1
- 4 digital touch
- 5 keeping the kill decision in human hands
- 6 light speed trading || who do you trust?
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- 8 graphene 101

SPD-13

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SMART STUFF FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

by Clément Liu @clement_liu

PEBBLE

Your wrist can now be accessorized with apps for everything. The watch gets notifications from apps like Twitter and Instagram, plus all the calls and messages coming to your phone. It's an open platform, which means anyone can contribute to its giant list of apps. While smart watches are still kind of trying to find their place in world of smart everything, the Pebble is a step in the right direction.

\$150



HELIOS BARS

Have you ever wanted trick out your kick-ass bike with futuristic handlebars? Helios handlebars are stocked with a GPS tracker, rear-facing LEDs that act as signal lights for drivers behind you and a front headlight that lights your way. But the best features are those that pair up with the Helios mobile app—like turn-by-turn navigation that pulses left or right on the rear LEDs notifying you of where and when to turn. The coolest feature by far, though, is the lights that turn on when you're near your bike.

STARTING AT \$199

PARROT FLOWER POWER

While it looks like a low-tech sex toy, the Parrot Flower Power is a handy little device that lets your smartphone know how your plants are doing. Just stick it in the dirt and get real time updates about sunlight, soil moisture, fertilizer and air temperature so you don't kill your plant babies.

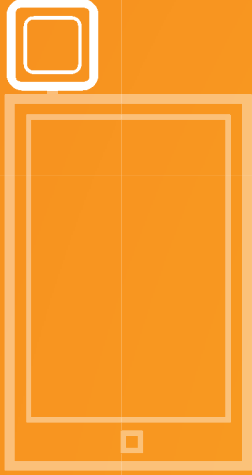
\$59.99



PHILIPS HUE

These wireless LED light bulbs can instantly change colour and brightness straight from your mobile device. Create a sexy red light district mood if you feel so inclined, or try out their "light recipes" that are proven to help you relax, concentrate, energize or read.

STARTING AT \$59.95/BULB



SQUARE

Have you ever tried to sell weed to someone and they didn't have cash? Well, now you can be the highest-tech dealer in town. Square is a free credit card reader that attaches to your mobile device. You can charge anything you want on it and the money goes straight to your bank account. But there's a catch—Square will take 2.75 per cent of each credit card swipe.

FREE

STRAVA

If you've ever been curious about tracking your bike rides or runs, you need this app. Strava keeps a tally of all your bike rides and even compares your speed on pre-determined road segments to other cyclists or runners, adding that competitive vibe to your cardio workouts. If you purchase a compatible heart rate monitor you can track what Strava calls the "Suffer Score" to get your heart rate up to specific training zones.

STARTING AT \$69

H R M

AUTOMATIC

Plug this device into your car's data port and your mobile device is given access to fuel use, mileage and engine information. This allows you to track your driving habits including rough turns, hard braking and speeding, which will hopefully make you a better driver. It also notifies you when you run into engine troubles and will give you simple instructions to solve the problem. Unfortunately, it's only available in the United States, but they're currently working to expand their support to other countries.

\$99.55





HUMANITY + TECHNOLOGY = 1

ACHIEVING TECHNOLOGICAL 'SINGULARITY' WITH GOOGLE GLASS

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

Before his death in 1957, Hungarian-American mathematician John Von Neumann said something that, even though it was only paraphrased, would profoundly shape the world to come.

He was talking to his contemporary Stanislaw Ulam, who recalls his friend speaking to him of an “ever accelerating progress of technology and changes in the mode of human life, which gives the appearance of approaching some essential singularity in the history of the race beyond which human affairs, as we know them, could not continue.”

This was the first time in recorded history the term “singularity” was used to describe the meeting of humanity and our technological creations—and like a flame catching kindling, once the spark was lit there was no going back.

Scientists, thinkers and fiction writers alike have posited ideas of what this future singularity—where artificial intelligences can think and feel—might look like, or whether it will exist at all. Concerns about the interfacing of man and machine are numerous—will we be watched, or worse, can we be controlled?

These are perhaps coupled further with underlying fears of being replaced as the dominant species by artificial intelligence, but often these fears and concerns are outweighed by very tangible and desirable bene-

fits. Artificial intelligence doesn’t sound so alarming when it’s remembering your mother’s birthday and prompts you to buy her flowers on your Google Glass display, does it?

Wearable technology is just one of the arenas where technological advances are reigniting debate around the singularity, and Google Glass is one of the more prolific and publicized wearable tech products coming to the market.

Since unveiling Glass last year, Google has been largely quiet on the full uses and applications of their visor display. Speaking at a TED Talk in May, Google co-founder Sergey Brin revealed the company’s philosophy surrounding Glass, positioning the product as the next step in communication following the smartphone.

“We ultimately questioned whether this is the ultimate future of how you want to connect with other people in your life, how you want to connect to information; should it be by walking around looking down?” he explained.

“In addition to potentially socially isolating yourself when you’re out and about with your phone, it’s kind of [a question of] is this what you’re meant to do with your body?”

“[...] That was the vision behind Glass, and that’s why we created this form factor.”

Developers were first given access to Glass prototypes last year

for app creation, but Google only released a developer’s kit Nov. 19, unlocking the product so offline apps and programs that use Glass’s onboard accelerometer and GPS could be built.

However, many of Glass’s features still cannot be accessed, much to the dismay of many developers.

Opening Glass

Brandyn White is a 27 year-old Glass developer and CEO of Dapper Vision, a computer science consulting and development firm that focuses on mobile and cloud applications. One of the company’s projects is Open Shades, which facilitates new software development for Glass displays. It’s the kind of thing White says Google is relying on developers to create.

“[Google] is taking things a little bit slow, and they’re staying kind of focused on more phone-like activity. They’re making Glass like an evolutionary step from a phone,” he said.

“As a group we really want to demonstrate and show what the platform is capable of by making our own software and just promoting the concept [of interfacing with wearable technology].”

Some of the programs built through Open Shades include eye tracking and web control applications, as well as augmented reality software that allows for a user to in-

corporate or interact with physical objects using their Glass display.

“We want to get people to be able to prototype really ambitious applications such as those of augmented reality really quickly,” added Open Shades developer Scott Greenwald.

According to White, a PhD student at the MIT Media Lab, this fast turnaround between having an idea and creating it is also propelling development of applications with artificial intelligence.

“We’re working on [context-centered software]; for example you can create scripts and applications that understand what you’re doing right now, so it can essentially be an extension of your current state,” he said.

“You don’t have to say, ‘Oh, well I’m about to leave the house, should I take anything with me?’ It could know you’re leaving the house and [know] that it’s raining outside so it says, ‘Don’t forget to bring an umbrella,’ for example,” he added.

But there are privacy and security drawbacks to technology that monitors you, White continued, which is why he says user data needs to be safeguarded.

“As a device gets a lot more personal and more intimately tied to your day to day activities you have to really trust it,” he said.

“It can’t be something that’s going to be marketed towards you or using your information in ways

that are not okay with you—it has to be something that you can trust with everything you’re doing all the time.

And if that’s the case, then it can augment everything you’re doing and make it just a little bit better.”

Future Undefined

But while these applications use AI to adapt to their users, Glass is not conscious, nor does it display free will.

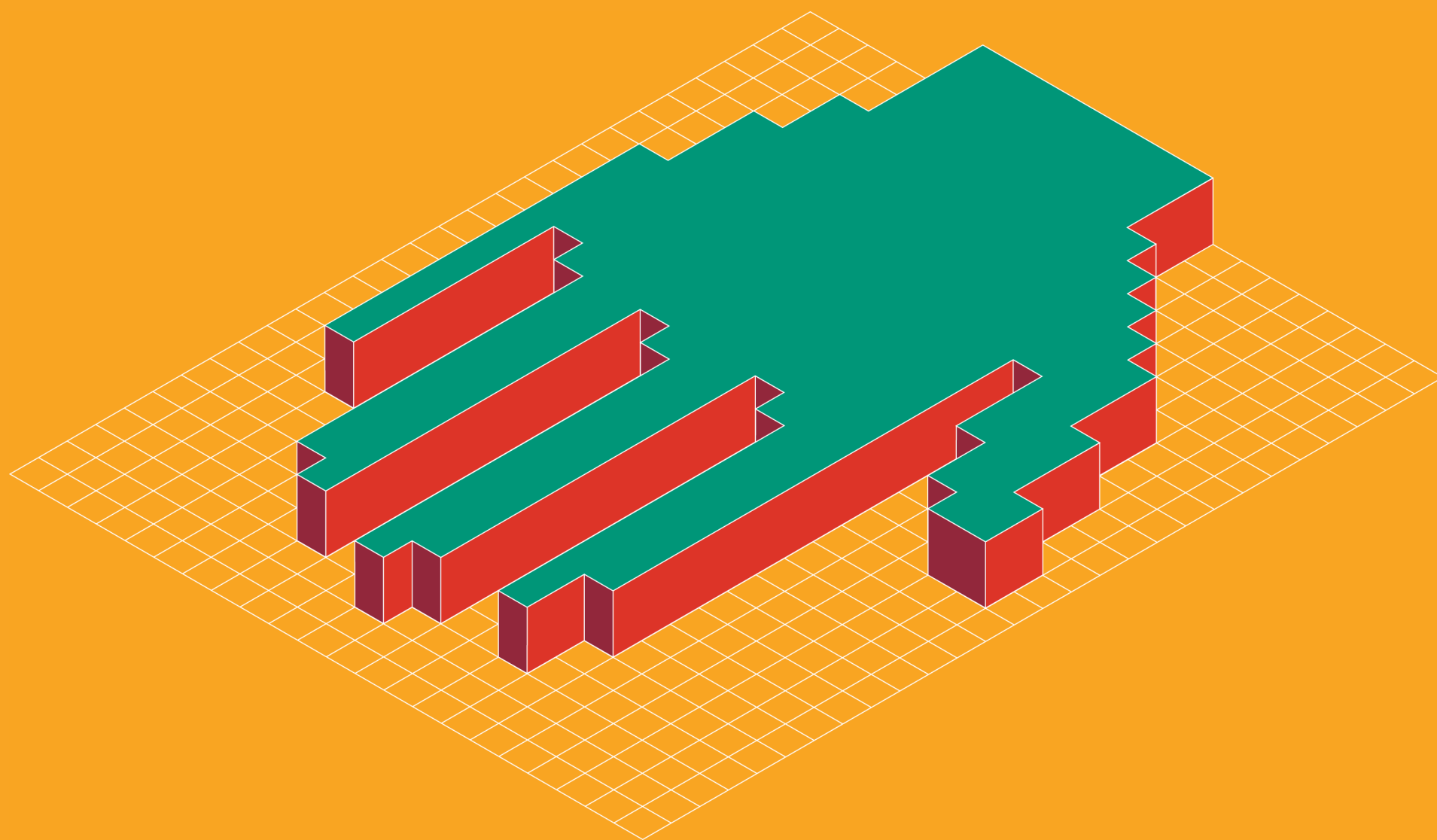
Despite how far we have come, the singularity is still a little ways off.

Dr. Osama Moselhi, a building, civil and environmental engineering professor at Concordia, says while his area of expertise in applied sciences limits him from making an educated guess as a computer science expert, he believes the singularity can’t be too far off in the future.

“From what I know, it will be less than 10 years for sure that will happen, because it’s happening now on an experimental scale,” said Moselhi, who uses AI in his research to mine for data and apply dynamic organization or synchronization to systems used in construction.

As for White, he says items like Glass will help normalize mass society to human-interfacing technology as we continue on our march to progress.

“This is obviously the closest we’ve ever been to [the singularity] on a mass scale and I think that it definitely puts us so much closer than we were able to be ever before.”



DIGITAL TOUCH

COULD 3D SHAPE DISPLAYS CHANGE HUMAN INTERACTION?

by Margie Ramos

Touching something from miles away is now not only a possibility, but a reality.

Daniel Leithinger and Sean Follmer of MIT's Tangible Media Group recently unveiled their intriguing new invention, "inForm," a dynamic shape display that allows users to interact remotely with digital information in a tangible manner.

The interface also allows end-users to bring digital 3D content, such as bar charts, instantly to life, giving digital information a physical form by rendering it atop of inForm's surface, a table top with 900 built-in pins which modulate to any desired length. These pins can be manipulated manually by hand like clay using the camera sensor of a Microsoft Kinect.

Guided by Professor Hiroshi Ishii, one of the pioneers of tangible user interfaces and leader and founder of Tangible Media Group, Leithinger and Follmer, both PhD students at MIT's Media Lab, developed inForm as a medium to communicate Tangible Media Group's vision for radical atoms. They describe it on their website as "the future material that can transform their shape, conform to constraints, and inform the users of

their affordances."

Radical atoms, according to Tangible Media Group, "is a vision for the future of human-material interaction, in which all digital information has a physical manifestation so that we can interact directly with it."

Leithinger says it originally came as a surprise when they finally made inForm function so effectively.

"I had built a previous version, called Relief, a while ago; so we knew what to expect to some extent," he said.

"However, when first rendering and animating objects on the table, we were surprised how well they came together [...] the difference [compared] to Relief was quite big.

"We were also surprised about the interaction of the pins with objects on top of them," he continued.

"While we anticipated that it was possible to roll a sphere, we only started experimenting with more complex objects once we built it. Handling objects from a distance by using Kinect depth information was something we tried as a quick hack and it turned out to be more engaging than we thought."

Leithinger said the group has already been approached by companies with suggestions and ideas of how to put inForm on the market, but added

that "at this point we try to make clear that we see this project as a research platform, not a commercial product. Turning it into a consumer product would be a whole different task."

In their demo published on YouTube on Nov. 12, Leithinger is shown rendering colourful 3D bar charts produced on a tablet onto inForm's pin surface. He then manipulates them by hand to demonstrate what happens to the rest of the bars when some bars decrease.

The demo also shows how inForm can be used for simulations in architecture and urban planning, and how it can enable users to explore mathematical concepts by representing expressions and equations in physical form.

Weighing inForm's Impact on Human Interaction and Lifestyle

With the power to improve the way business-to-business sales people hold demos, professionals provide online training, and the way business executives hold videoconferences, the possibilities of inForm are extensive—but what will be inForm's and its successors' impact on the porn industry of the future as this technology becomes more widely adopted?

"An interesting question—that we will let other researchers explore—as we don't want to compromise the reputation of MIT as an institution of higher education," replied Leithinger when *Fast and Company* magazine writer John Brownlee asked him about it during their recent live chat regarding inForm.

And what about what this technology means to us as human beings?

Canadian media theorist Marshall McLuhan wrote over 60 years ago that new media technology turns the world into a "Global Village," making us more connected than ever in the modern era. These technologies also change the way we interact with one another, possibly making a lot of people more distant from each other in the real world.

For Nathalie Azoulay, president of Eye-In Media, a Montreal-based technology and marketing company that specializes in digital signage and Wi-Fi technologies, "technology is always good—it all depends on how it is used."

"The more we create technologies that put people in contact without being in the same room, and the more we allow simulations that try to represent the reality, the more we lose the human contact,

the human interaction in a real environment, and the human instinct that differentiates us from machines," she explained.

"I think that this is extremely dangerous. If we tend to only use those types of technologies, we will lose the beauty of being human."

As for Leithinger, he admits he isn't sure whether inForm will lead us to be more disconnected from one another.

"This is a very big question and I am not really sure how to answer it," he said.

"What you are describing is the status quo and I can't say how a new interface like inForm will change it."

Instead, Leithinger is focusing on the potential positives of the display.

"I hope that on a simple level, it might have a positive effect similar to how the [Nintendo Wii] remote and [Kinect motion sensor] have changed console gaming. While I don't play more video games because of them, when I play I engage with the people around me and get somewhat of a workout," Leithinger said.

"I have no idea if shape displays will consume more of our time, but I do hope that the time spent with them will be healthier and more engaging than the current computing experience."



KEEPING THE KILL DECISION IN HUMAN HANDS

THE DANGERS OF DEVELOPING LETHAL AUTONOMOUS DRONES

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

The 21st century with flying cars and android servants envisioned in the likes of *The Jetsons* and *Back to the Future* have yet to become a reality, but flying robots do exist—just not in the forms we expected.

Drones and unmanned vehicles have been on the rise in the past decade, from the invention of goofy applications like the “Tacocopter,” the taco-delivering helicopter drone in San Francisco, to more sinister uses, like military combat drones delivering lethal payloads on assassin missions in the Middle East.

But all of these machines still have a human aspect to them—the person on the other end controlling the drone.

Peter Singer, author of *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*, recently visited Concordia and spoke about the use of drones in modern warfare, such as the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper drones, and the devastating effects they can have both on innocent civilians in the battlefield and on the soldiers who fire their missiles from back home in North America.

Drones have rendered human pilots in the cockpit unnecessary, and the next step in the equation has already arrived—fully autonomous drones requiring no human to control at all.

The technology has its positives—Google recently unveiled its prototype driverless car, powered by its trademark software “Google Chauffeur,” which is still in beta testing.

But the military is applying this technology as well.

In May of this year, the U.S. Navy tested its X-47B drone as part of its Unmanned Combat Aerial Sys-

tem. The drone took off from the *USS George H. W. Bush*, followed a flight path, and touched down again without incident, with no humans actively controlling it from the ground. According to American monthly magazine *Popular Science*, the X-47B has two weapons bays, but no weapons equipped—yet.

How long before the “kill decision,” the critical choice to fire and take a life, is shifted from humans to software? The technology as of yet does not exist—or if it does, is still being kept under wraps—but there are many indicators to suggest it will in the near future.

Daniel Suarez, an IT specialist turned cyber-thriller author, gave a TED Talk in June on the possibility of robots making their own kill decisions, citing the automated sentry guns in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea as a precursor to fully autonomous weapons.

“These machines are capable of automatically identifying a human target and firing on it [...] at a distance of over a kilometre,” Suarez told the crowd.

But these Terminator-esque sentry guards are still controlled by a human—even though it’s not “a technological requirement,” Suarez said. “It’s a choice.”

But that choice may well soon be in the hands of the machine itself.

Remotely piloted drones are susceptible to human error, hacking or electromagnetic jamming—drawbacks that “smarter,” more autonomous drones could alleviate, Suarez explained. Such drones could react to new circumstances

better than their human-controlled counterparts, block external radio signals by hackers, and potentially achieve mission objectives more effectively because of it.

Another problem is cyber-espionage—top-secret schematics extracted from military computers and sold to the highest bidder in parts unknown. Suarez pointed to a situation in December 2011, when a CIA stealth drone crashed on the eastern border of Iran and fell into the Iranian armed forces’ possession.

With the crash, Iranian armed forces gained significant intelligence about America’s drone technology, and there was nothing the U.S. could do—but upgrading the drone to autonomous and giving it suicide capabilities could possibly have prevented it.

And yet, that may be the greatest incentive not to invest in and deploy autonomous weapons—to avoid a black market littered with deadly, anonymous drones without national loyalties or anyone else to answer to.

“It is very likely that a successful drone design [could] be knocked off in contract factories and proliferate in the grey market,” said Suarez. “And in that situation, sifting through the wreckage of a suicide drone attack, it will be very difficult to say who sent that weapon.”

“This raises the very real possibility of anonymous war. [...] It could create a landscape of rival warlords,” he continued, citing criminal organizations and even “powerful individuals” being able to challenge nation-states with the power of autonomous killer drones.

Indeed, the prospect of creating and deploying weapons that can

fire and indiscriminately kill on their own could open a Pandora’s Box, as other nations would scramble to keep up and deploy their own drones, and private interests could utilize the technology to their own benefit as well.

It’s a dark portrait of a *Matrix*-like future, where anonymous killer machines roam the skies—much more frightening than the current reality where such machines rain death in countries like Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen, where drone strike counts already reach the hundreds, according to a report by NYU and Stanford, “Living Under Drones.”

Before It’s Too Late

The possibility of lethal autonomous weapons isn’t going unnoticed, however—groups have been actively resisting the measures and calling out governments on the world stage.

International organization Human Rights Watch released last year a 50-page report titled “Losing Humanity: The Case Against Killer Robots,” in conjunction with the Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic, calling for a preemptive international ban on the development, production and use of autonomous weapons.

“Giving machines the power to decide who lives and dies on the battlefield would take technology too far. Human control of robotic warfare is essential to minimizing civilian deaths and injuries,” said Steve Goose, director of the Human Rights Watch’s arms division, in a press release by the organization on the report.

“It is essential to stop the development of killer robots before they show

up in national arsenals. As countries become more invested in this technology, it will become harder to persuade them to give it up,” he added.

Suarez believes establishing international treaties on robotics warfare, similar to present treaties on chemical and nuclear warfare, would prevent the new potential weapons from spiraling out of control.

“We need an international legal framework for robotic weapons, and we need it now, before there’s a devastating attack or terrorist incident that causes nations of the world to rush to adopt these weapons before thinking through the consequences,” he said.

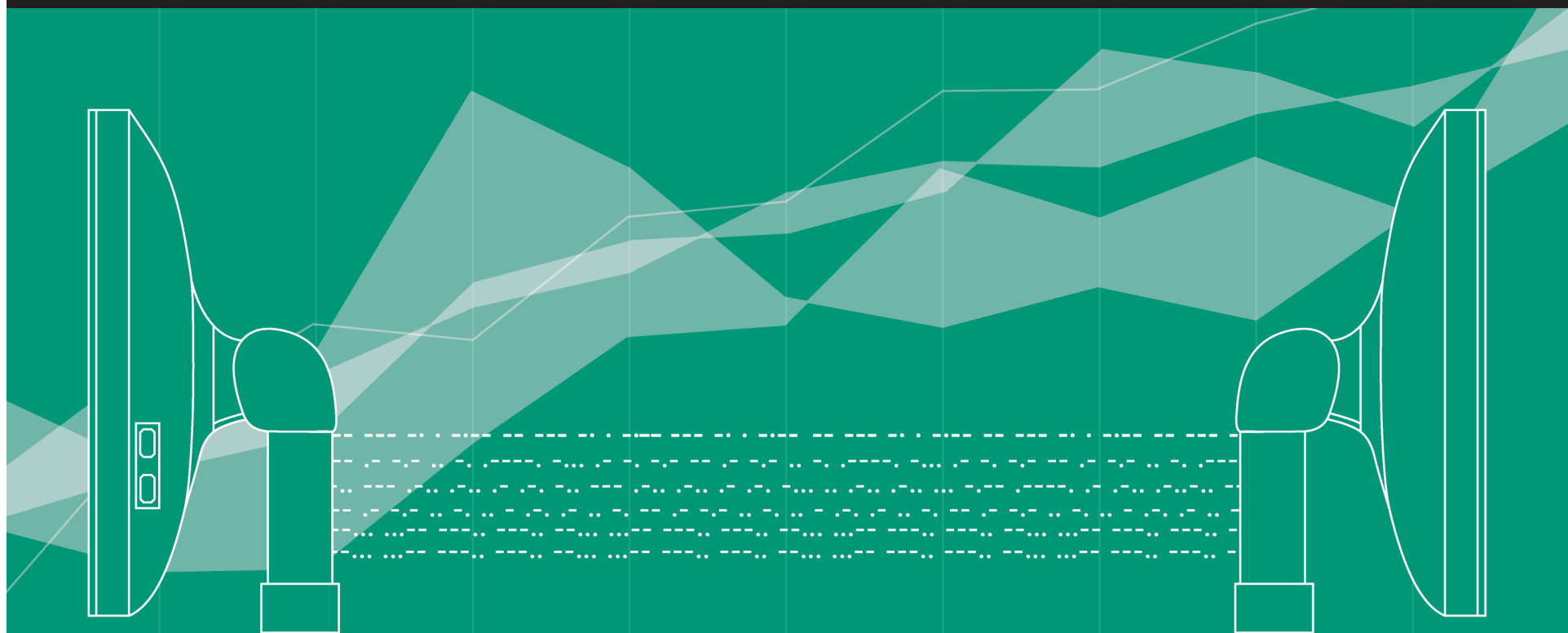
Suarez also said integrating autonomous drones into society and fully regulating the new industry is essential to keep autonomous technology safe and prevent it from moving in the wrong direction.

“I think there are tons of great uses for unarmed civilian drones: environmental monitoring, search and rescue, logistics,” he said.

Suarez called for cryptographically signed IDs to accompany each drone produced, similar to licence plates on cars or tail numbers on planes, and for information on drones’ movements in public spaces be available to all citizens through something simple like a smart phone app.

It seems autonomous drones are inevitable in an increasingly automated world—the future of flying robots is here after all. But the key is to channel such drones’ uses and applications for the betterment of society, and never on the battlefield.

The kill decision should never be in the hands of a robot.



LIGHT-SPEED TRADING

HOW ALGORITHMS ARE TURNING THE INVESTMENT INDUSTRY ON ITS HEAD

by Colin Harris @ColinnHarris

Securities trading has always been about technology, but now it's becoming far less about people.

Using algorithms and powerful servers to make the fastest trade decisions possible, high-frequency trading has become an essential tool for the power-player investment firms—with *Forbes* reporting in September that 50 to 70 per cent of trades made in world markets are HFTs.

It's changing the investment business, but the jury's still out on whether it's for better or for worse.

The proliferation of computer-based trading doesn't come as a surprise. It's existed in some form or another for more than a decade, and follows a trend seen in many industries—computers taking jobs once held by people.

What regulators are now faced with is the question of how fast is too fast—whether there is a point where this rapid trading can cause real damage to the financial system.

HFT encompasses not just one strategy, but rather the usage of a variety of technological approaches to make quick trades before a human investor can even process the data.

This includes using algorithms to make snap sales based on new information less than a second after markets open, and buying stock for a penny more than other bidders and then quickly selling it again for a higher value that is still less than the seller's asking price.

HFTs can even automatically bid a slightly higher price than human traders instantaneously after discovering the competition.

HFTs also means physical changes to trading, like having private servers on the market floor for the lowest possible latency when transferring data.

The use of HFTs has declined since its peak in 2009, after the *New York Times* reported in the previous year that HFTs had earned about \$21 billion—before anyone outside of Wall Street knew even what they were. Since then, some investors have gotten wise to some of these HFT strategies.

But it really caught the attention of regulators after the 2010 Flash Crash, when the dropped by nearly 10 per cent and recovered in mere minutes. Once the algorithms noticed a drop due to bad human trading, they ceased activity—and their absence created a much larger dip in the index.

The Investment Inventory Reg-

ulatory Organization of Canada will be releasing a report on the impact of HFTs next year.

HFTs have become the majority of the trades made in markets, but make up an even higher amount of the bids offered. Critics say this creates the illusion of high confidence in a stock, and increases the cost of trading due to the increased volume of messages transferred—between 90 and 95 of all quotes come from HFTs according to *Forbes*.

Proponents of HFTs argue that these tools reduce the difference between what the seller is asking for a stock and what bidders are offering (known as the “bid/ask spread”), which lowers the fees that go to traders to find a middle ground and thus indirectly means savings for the investors.

Jeffrey G. MacIntosh argues in

the *Financial Post* that this offsets any increased costs of HFTs caused by flooding markets with stock quotes.

After the economic crash of 2008, HFTs were a way for big banks to start making large profits again. But it raises questions of the balance between fairness and efficiency, with large banks and investment firms able to pay for slightly faster information about the state of American markets, and paying a premium to have their servers share floorspace with market servers.

In this technological arms race, regulators are constantly playing catch-up. In the high-tech industry, innovation moves at light speed. And considering they're only shy by a few milliseconds, soon the trades themselves may, too.

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

THE RISE OF BITCOIN AS AN ONLINE CURRENCY

by David Oram

Bitcoin, the world's first digital, decentralized, peer-to-peer currency, was popularized this past spring following another round of financial crises, this time in Spain and Cyprus.

Created in 2009 by an anonymous developer under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, Bitcoin has experienced a wild ride in its short lifetime.

Its rise to stardom has included multiple valuation spikes and dips, links to the online black market Silk Road, FBI involvement, and being discussed as competition to fiat currency (currency not backed by anything, such as gold) and central banks.

Blocks of Bitcoin are created by a

worldwide network of Bitcoin miners, simultaneously running a mining software in which they work together to solve a complex algorithm. The solution to this difficult mathematical problem is set to be solved at a predetermined rate, which currently produces 25 bitcoins (a block) every 10 minutes.

However, what makes Bitcoin unique is the inherently deflationary nature of this algorithm. The algorithm has a set half-life, which will continue to diminish the block reward until the algorithm is complete. In the end, a total of 21 million bitcoins will have been created.

To begin taking part in the world-

wide Bitcoin economy, each user must first obtain a wallet. This will be the digital location in which all coins are stored and from which all transactions will originate. Once a wallet is obtained, users are free to begin accepting Bitcoin as payment for goods or services, purchase bitcoins via an exchange, or take part in a mining pool.

Currently, the economy of Bitcoin has a market cap of 12 million bitcoins, each valued at about \$600 US Dollars each.

The value of all forms of currency is derived from the confidence individuals have in the issuer of that currency.

As confidence in governments and

central banks continues to wane throughout the world, the opportunity for a decentralized and digital currency has never been greater. The reserve currency of the world, the US dollar, continues its quantitative easing program, in which it “prints” an additional \$85 billion per month to invest in securities such as treasury bonds.

China, the largest debt holder of US dollars, is actually watching the value of its debt diminish with each round of easing, while at the same time having the US accuse them of currency manipulation.

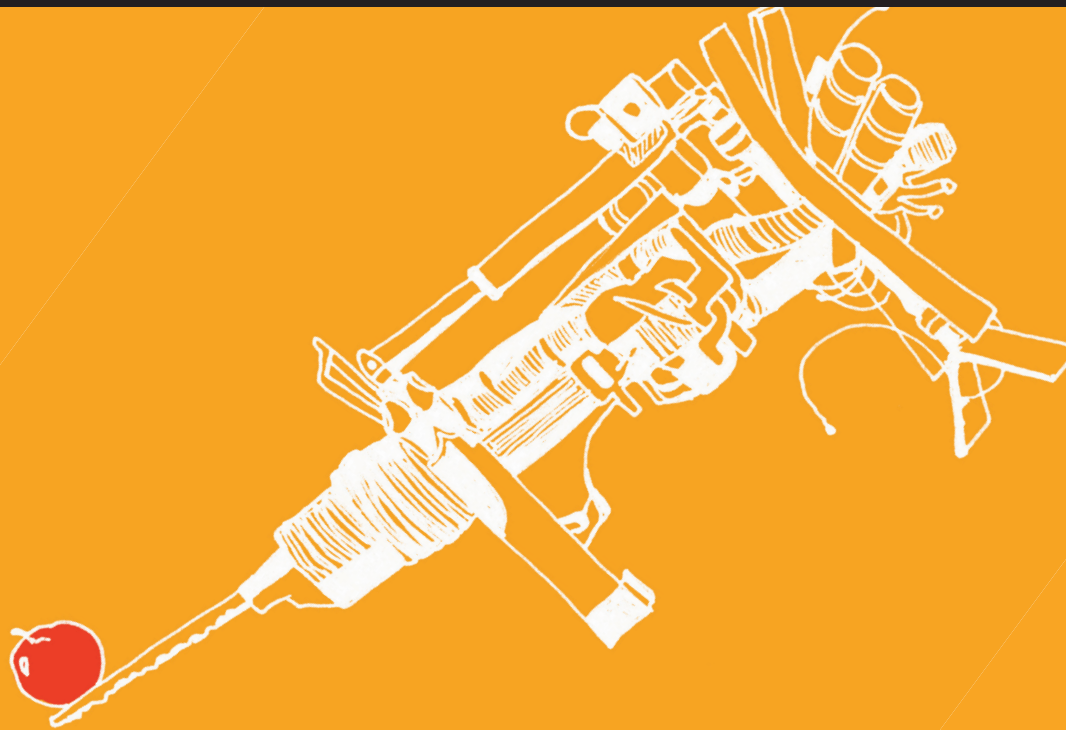
The current state of the Euro is just as troublesome, as its debt crisis travels

from the periphery countries of Greece, Portugal and Ireland to the larger likes of Spain, France and possibly Germany.

In this turbulent economic climate it becomes important to ask: who do you trust?

An open-sourced, mathematical software platform built for the digital generation, or the secretive central banks of the world that seem hell-bent on conserving their own wealth?

Humanity invented currency to facilitate commerce, and our digital world is perhaps better supported by a non-centralized currency model than one built upon borders that don't exist online.



ROBOTS EATING APPLES

NEW ART EXHIBITION BLURS THE LINES BETWEEN HUMAN AND ROBOT

by Jayde Norström @N_Jayde

When art meets technology, strange and wonderful things are created.

The works on display at the Maison des Arts de Laval for their newest show, *Et si les robots mangeaient des pommes?* are but a few examples.

In the Alfred Pellan gallery, home to the show curated by Ariane De Blois, metallic, plastic and glowing creatures hulk over the display floor.

One of the works, *Art-Bot: Meccanismo*, designed and built by Concordia creative electronics art instructor Morgan Rauscher, sits towards the back of the gallery, encased in a round plexiglass chamber. Hanging from the ceiling, it looks like an arm with metal tubing for bones and wires for tendons. But in place of a hand, the bot has a chainsaw.

Rauscher describes his creation as a “making” robot, but one that puts the creative power—the power, in this case, to carve wood with little effort—in the hands of the individual user as opposed to an automated factory machine.

Suspended in front of the chamber are the robot’s controls: an arcade-style console with five buttons on the left side in the shape of a hand—one large red button for a palm and four for fingers—and a trackball and two other buttons on the right.

What helps to set *Meccanismo* apart from other carving or production robots is the haptic—or tactile—feedback it provides.

“Sound is the process of vibrations going through things and transmitting force,” said Rauscher, explaining how the sound picked up from a microphone at the end of *Meccanismo*’s arm is processed and then converted back into vibrations projected into the users’ palm. This gives users a literal feel for the wood as they carve.

“What I feel this is going to do for making technology in general is that it’s going to allow us to keep the benefits of machines—strength, speed, accuracy—but it’s also going to allow us to immerse our body in a material interaction,” Rauscher continued.

“You [...] have this bodily expe-

rience of what’s going on here. It’s an extension of [your] arm.”

Jasmine Colizza, museologist and the coordinator of *Et si les robots mangeaient des pommes?*, explained how the show is meant to reflect the ever-blurring lines between humankind and machine.

“This show [...] is about robots, the frontier between where a robot tends to become human, and [where humans] tend to become more robot,” she said. “We lose a bit of our humanity every time we use a machine.”

Playing on this idea, the show invites visitors to call a phone number to hear information about each piece from a robotic female voice. Pulling out our phones is an automatic movement, as if the phone were already a part of our bodies.

Accessible Tech

New developments are constantly being made in the technology field, but perhaps the biggest advancement is the increasing accessibility of electronics and knowledge.

“Contemporary creative elec-

tronics [are] transforming our world, and not because the electronics themselves are particularly special,” said Rauscher.

“We’ve had these sensors since the ‘50s, some of them since the ‘20s, some of them since even before then. You know, back when Tesla was making stuff.

“But it’s by making those things available, accessible to people with a, you could say creative intent, or who have been trained as artists, that’s what the exciting thing is,” he continued.

Engineers and artists are taught very differently. An artist, Rauscher explained, is rewarded for creating something “wild” and “out-there,” while engineers are not. And making technology more widely available allows those without engineering backgrounds to follow paths that may not have been explored otherwise.

On the future of technological product innovations, Rauscher emphasized the importance of focusing on the self.

“This is something that we’ve

done for pretty much the entire development of humankind,” he said.

This starts, he says, with the body. We will begin to see an influx of wearables, both artistic and functional, which will eventually evolve into items that give us insight into ourselves.

“For example, a heart rate monitor which shows me my heart rate,” he said.

This simple heart rate monitor, Rauscher said, could allow us to update our consciousness and tune into a part of our body we may have lost touch with. And a heart rate monitor could evolve into a device that allows us to feel the heartbeat of someone else as a way of connecting on a deeper level.

***Et si les robots mangeaient des pommes?* // Dec. 3 to Feb. 9 // Maison des Arts de Laval (1395 de la Concorde Blvd. W.) // Tuesdays to Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

GRAPHIC GRAEME SHORTEN ADAMS

GRAPHENE 101

A LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL FUTURE BASE TO EVERYTHING STRONG, LIGHT AND MORE EFFICIENT

by James Alexander Dunphy @jadunph

Like many of the great scientific breakthroughs that came before it, the discovery of graphene happened almost by accident.

One day at the University of Manchester, professors Andrei Geim and Konstantin Novoselov were fooling around with carbon graphite flakes, when suddenly a few graphite crumbs got stuck on a piece of Scotch tape. They started peeling the tape back and forth over and over again until the graphite had become just a few atoms thick.

They transferred the atoms to a silicon wafer, popped it under a giant microscope and discovered the "miracle material" that just might change the world.

The Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010 was awarded to the pair; but let's be

honest, the real star of this discovery was the genius piece of Scotch tape.

So what is graphene? A single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a honeycomb pattern. It seems pretty basic, but the simplicity of graphene is what makes it so extraordinary. It's essentially a two-dimensional material that is lighter than air, stronger than steel, harder than diamonds, more conductive than copper, flexible and transparent. Try to think of graphene like a scaffold. By layering sheets of graphene between layers of existing materials like metals, entirely new composite materials with different properties could be created.

Graphene is going to make the new era of wearable computing a reality. Imagine an iPhone 10 made

with graphene. It would be wicked fast, thin like paper, super flexible and transparent. You could wrap it around your wrist, roll it up and stick it in your pocket, or even stretch it to make the screen bigger. The battery would charge in seconds because the graphene sheets between the lithium ion layers in the battery would allow for the electrical charge to travel faster.

Graphene will revolutionize our ability to harness the power of the sun by greatly increasing the capacity of solar cells. Without getting into the actual mechanics of solar energy, a solar cell made with graphene—as opposed to traditional silicon—would be hundreds of thousands of times smaller, lighter, cheaper and more

efficient. With a graphene solar cell, we'd never have to suck dirty liquid out of the ground and then torch it for power ever again!

The amount of potential applications for graphene is so vast, scientists are dubbing it the next plastic. Look around at your surroundings, how many things made from plastic do you see? In 15 years time, that will be graphene. We'll see it in our planes, trains and automobiles, which will be stronger, lighter and more efficient. We'll see it in our windows, which will be powering our homes while simultaneously displaying the weather and news headlines. It will cure ailments; from making sensors that detect diseases on contact, to fixing paralysis by con-

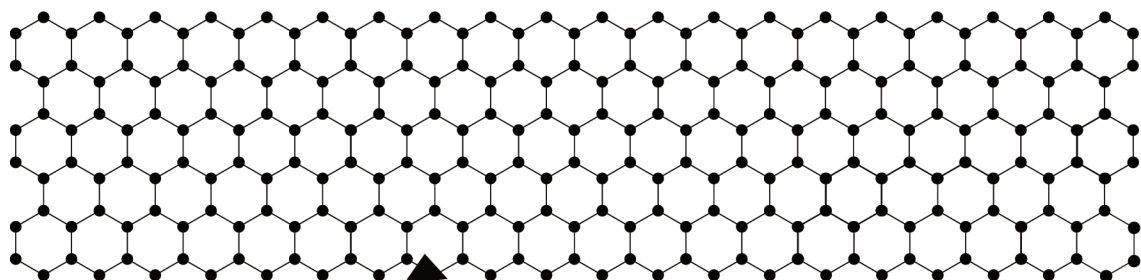
necting undamaged neurons along a damaged spinal column.

As if it couldn't do enough already, it's also curing the Earth. Since a sheet of graphene is basically the world's finest mesh, imagine dragging it through water. Scientists have theorized that a large enough sheet of graphene could sift things at the molecular level. Is your water salty and/or radioactive? Pour it through some graphene and you've got a glass of fresh, pure, totally drinkable water.

If you aren't excited about graphene yet, you will be when it starts revolutionizing every aspect of your life. Perhaps, and I'm only guessing here, one day we'll be able to craft graphene coated hearts—immune to breaks and light as a feather.

ALL HAIL THE AMAZING GRAPHENE

LADIES, GENTLEMEN, & EVERYBODY IN BETWEEN; GATHER AROUND TO DISCOVER THE PLASTIC OF THE 21ST CENTURY!



THIS IS GRAPHENE. IT'S A SINGLE LAYER OF CARBON ATOMS ARRANGED IN A HONEYCOMB PATTERN, AND IT'S GOING TO CHANGE OUR WORLD. WHY? IT SURE HAS SWELL PROPERTIES:



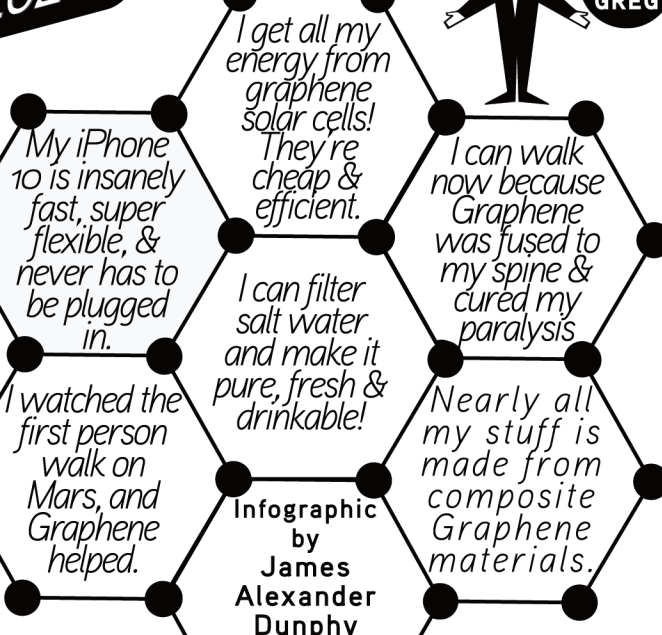
THE "MIRACLE MATERIAL"

WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS IN 2010 TO TWO SCIENTISTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

BUT YOU MUST BE WONDERING:

What can it do for me?
LET'S ASK GOOD GUY GREG HOW THIS GRAPHENE STUFF RADICALLY CHANGED HIS LIFE FOR THE BETTER

Coming 2020





THANKS TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

109 people contributed to *The Link* this semester! Thanks to all that lent a hand—you've helped to make this paper something great.

The print edition returns on Jan. 7, but until then check out thelinknewspaper.ca for regular updates on all things Montreal.

See you in the New Year!

Graphic Flora Hammond

FRINGE GIVEAWAY WINNER

DISTANT WORLDS: MUSIC FROM *FINAL FANTASY* FEATURING DISTANT WORLDS PHILHARMONIC AND CHOIR

Congratulations to Andrea Muranyi, you've won two tickets to Distant Worlds: Music from *FINAL FANTASY*!

The Distant Worlds Philharmonic and Choir will be celebrating the music of *Final Fantasy* by performing the most memorable songs from the games live at Place des Arts on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m., with *Final Fantasy* composer Naoshi Mizuta in attendance.

Thank you to everyone who entered our Fringe Giveaways this year, and look out for more in 2014, starting with our first issue back on Jan. 7!

Be sure to check out our goofy video picking this week's winner on our YouTube channel:
youtube.com/thelinknewspaper.



FRINGE CALENDAR DEC. 03 TO DEC. 31 by Riley Stativa and Jake Russell

MUSIC

- 1

MGMT // Dec. 9 // Metropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.) // 8 p.m. // \$39.50 advance

One of the biggest indie bands in the scene, the one and only MGMT will be playing at the always-classy venue Metropolis. "Kids" could have been a one-hit wonder, but the band has proven their musical prowess time and again, and will no doubt play a sold-out show in Montreal.
- 2

July Talk // Dec. 10 // Petit Campus (57 Prince Arthur E.) // 9 p.m. // \$10

Wrap up Tom Waits and Of Monsters and Men into one neat package, sent out courtesy of the great city of Toronto, and you have July Talk. They're bringing their dual-vocal powered rock here, not to be missed!
- 3

The Devil Wears Prada + The Ghost Inside + Volumes // Dec. 19 // Club Soda (1225 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 7 p.m. // \$24.50 advance, \$28.50 door

Christmas comes early for the hardcore kids of Montreal—the three biggest names in melodic metalcore are touring together. All three are big enough to be the headlining band, but The Devil Wears Prada takes the cake with their legendary status. Mosh and be moved to tears with these bands' epic melodies.
- 4

Kannibalen: A Very Zombie Christmas [18+] // Dec. 20 // Le Belmont sur le Boulevard (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 10 p.m. // \$5 door

"With garlands of gore and wreaths of flesh," this zombie/Christmas hybrid show is for those who want to celebrate the holiday Tim Burton-style. Local electronica groups like Snails and Black Tiger Sex Machine will be bringing the tunes to the crowd's rotting-off ears. Kannibalen will be raining a "blizzard of blood," so watch out for a Santa Claws on a rampage.

- 5

NYE 2014: Chromeo + Tommy Krueise + High Klassified // Dec. 31 // Telus Theatre (1280 St. Denis St.) // 9 p.m. // \$57.49 advance

Ring in the new year in style with two of Montreal's premiere hip-hop and trapstep producers, featuring the funky fresh electronic duo Chromeo, returning to their roots in the City of Churches. Prepare for a night of slippery synths and fancy footwork on the dance floor.
- 6

Smut Slam Montreal [18+] // Dec. 4 // Le Cagibi (5490 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 8 p.m. // \$10

Take a step back from cramming for exams and get it on with a grind of a different kind! At this steamy storytelling event, slammers will have five minutes to captivate the audience with a based-on-true-events story, chock full of R-rated content.
- 7

Margaret Atwood in Conversation with Sheila Heti // Dec. 4 // Rialto Theatre (5723 Parc Ave.) // 7:30 p.m. // \$10

Join acclaimed author Margaret Atwood as she performs a reading from her latest novel, *MaddAdam*, the third book of her Dystopian trilogy, which began in 2003 with *Oryx and Crake*. There will also be an on-stage discussion and Q&A session rounding out the evening to celebrate the release of the book and a decade's worth of Atwood's literary stylings.
- 8

Soliloquies 18.1 Launch // Dec. 10 // Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 6 p.m. // Free admission

This is the launch for Concordia's undergrad literary magazine's most recent web issue, featuring the lavish literary endeavours of many fellow students/contributors and a mystery musical performance. Paper copies of issues 5 and 6 of the magazine will be on sale, with all proceeds going to the Kids Write Club, a program promoting youth literacy in Montreal.

ART

- 9

Exposition Photo Groupe 212: I.D // Dec. 3 // Collège Marsan (2030 Pie-IX Blvd., Suite 400) // 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. // Free admission

Take in this versatile photo exposition, consisting of the work of the graduating class of Collège Marsan. The show features 20 different photographers and 20 different styles, with everything from portrait to fashion photography.
- 10

Toy Company 8Bit Noël // Dec. 12 // Foonzo (1245 Drummond St.) // 8 p.m. // \$10

The Toy Company collective takes '80s video game music and mashes it up into dancefloor beats, so get your geek and your groove on at this party! Drink included with price of admission.
- 11

Shout Out à Santa // Dec. 14 // La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 10 p.m. // Free admission

It's time to suit up in your ugliest Christmas sweater or your brightest bling and jingle bell rock at this free dance party, hosted by DJs Scott C and Andy Williams.
- 12

The Big 'Ol Holiday Improv Show // Dec. 11 // MainLine Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 8 p.m. // \$8

With "no shopping or baking required" you can take a break from the stress of the impending season and watch comedians improvise funny bites and potential skits, inspired by true holiday stories, on the spot.
- 13

Let's Do This! Get Weird! // Dec. 12 // MainLine Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 9 p.m. // \$5

A healthy dose of weirdness and comedy is in store for you if you hit up the MainLine's December edition of this recurring comedy event. Limited seating is available, so show up early, or take your laughs standing up!

CINEMA

- 14

The Crash Reel // Starting Dec. 13 // Cinema du Parc (3575 Parc Ave.) // Times TBA // \$8.50 youth 13 to 25, \$11.50 general admission

Having screened at RIDM in November, this film follows professional snowboarder Kevin Pearce and his friendly rivalry with snowboard superstar Shaun White. When Pearce suffers a massive head trauma while preparing for the 2010 Winter Olympics, his family rallies around him and Pearce must face the prospect of never riding again.

OTHER

- 15

The World Groove Movement: Dance for a Good Cause // Dec. 6 // Espaces Des Arts (9 St. Catherine E., Suite 101) // 7:30 p.m. // \$15 advance, \$20 door

Get your groove on in the name of fitness and a good cause! Groove Movement focuses on dance as an art form, self-expression and a fitness platform. Show up for a fitness class and sweat off some of those Christmas cookies. Proceeds go to the ophthalmology department of the Montreal Children's Hospital.
- 16

Projet.Hertz // Dec. 13 // Theatre St. Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.) // 7:30 p.m. // \$18 advance, \$20 door

This event is a blend of cinema and sound: for the launch of performer/composer Simon Piche-Castonguay's new album *Phonoscript*, he will be taking the stage along with film projections and 10 other musicians to create a unique hybrid aesthetic environment.

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3 9	4 6 // 7	5	6 15	7
8	9 1	10 2 // 8	11 12	12 10 // 13	13 14 // 16	14 11
15	16	17	18	19 3	20 4	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 5				



Concordia's women's hockey team showed they can compete with the CIS's best over the weekend, losing close games to top-ranked McGill and defending national champion UdeM heading into the winter break.

SKATING AGAINST THE BEST

Concordia's Women's Hockey Team Plays in a Conference with Two of the Top Squads in the CIS—But That's Fine With Them

by David S. Landsman @dslands

For any sports team, playing against one of the top teams in the country is always a difficult task.

Now, imagine playing against not one but two of the top teams in the country, multiple times a year, every year.

It's a reality for the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team, who share their conference with the McGill Martlets and the Université de Montréal Carabins—currently ranked no. 1 and no. 3, respectively, in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

The Carabins have made the CIS top 10 every year since the 2011-2012 season, while McGill has consistently been no. 1 since 2006.

With the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec Conference consisting of only five teams—also including the Carleton Ravens and University of Ottawa Gee-Gees—the Stingers face off against the Martlets and Carabins five times apiece over the course of their 20-game schedule.

But they see that as a blessing rather than a curse.

"I think we're pretty lucky, because playing against the two top teams all year, it is a challenge," said fourth-year forward Alyssa Sherrard.

"But in the end it really helps us prepare [ourselves] for other games, teams, playoffs and nationals."

In this last weekend before winter break, the Stingers had the task of playing both the Martlets and Carabins away from home.

Although they came up short in both, losing 4-2 to McGill Friday and 2-1 against UdeM Saturday, there were many positives for the team to take out of the weekend.

"It was 3-2 right up until the end, and they're the top team in the country," said Stingers captain Erin Lally of the McGill game.

"We definitely have a lot of things to look forward to."

During the past few years it hasn't been easy playing against top-ranked McGill. The Martlets have won 52 straight games against the Stingers. The last time the Stingers beat their rivals in red dates all the way back to February 2006.

But it's not just the Stingers who've had trouble against the Martlets. Prior to a 3-2 loss to UdeM in October 2011, McGill had won 93 consecutive conference regular season games, and the team has finished with a perfect record in five of the last six years.

As for the Carabins, the team's creation was announced only in 2008, and they've been in the RSEQ Conference since the 2009-2010 season.

However, they've built quite the foundation within their roster and management.

One of their strengths is general manager Danièle Sauvageau, who was head

coach of the Canadian national women's team that took home the first-ever gold medal in the team's history at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sauvageau has helped quickly lead the Carabins to success despite the team having only played its first RSEQ game four years ago.

The Carabins have made the provincial championship in each of the past four seasons, losing to the Martlets in all but last year's finals, when they defeated them two games to none in a best-of-three series.

It marked the first time McGill didn't make nationals since the 2004-2005 season, when Concordia won the provincial championship.

Indeed, the Carabins' arrival to the RSEQ has mostly made for a two-team race to the top between them and McGill, but the Stingers believe they'll soon be making it a three-team competition.

"We're close, I've personally seen the gap narrowed significantly these past four years—I think even more exponentially in the last three months," said fourth-year forward Jaymee Shell.

"I think it just makes us all the more ready knowing that every game, we have a 25 per cent chance of playing one of the top teams in the country. It certainly helps elevate our gameplan; it makes us better players."

The Stingers' improved competitiveness

has shown on the ice in recent years. Last year, they won a game because the Carabins had an ineligible player on their roster, but also back in October 2011 they won 5-4 in overtime against them at Montréal's home rink, the CEPSUM.

The Stingers' two losses to the Carabins this year have both been by one-goal margins, and their last loss to McGill saw them hold a two-goal lead before a third period collapse.

"I think for other conferences that don't have the top elite in their leagues it's difficult, because if they get to nationals, it becomes harder for them," said Stingers sophomore goaltender Carollanne Lavoie-Pilon.

"For us, however, if we finish third in our conference, then technically we're third in the country."

While the Stingers have found themselves in somewhat of a slump lately, finishing last in the conference in five of the past six seasons, none of it matters when they face-off against McGill and UdeM.

"It really always gives us a boost whenever we play them, because we have nothing to lose," said Sherrard.

"But they do."

Photo Shaun Michaud



Restaurant owner Paul Desbaillets (left), Montreal Impact player Patrice Bernier (middle) and TSN radio host Noel Butler hope to shed light on the beautiful game's culture with their new soccer festival, Pitch Fest.

PITCH FEST STRIKES MONTREAL

New Soccer Festival to Promote the Sport's Culture Through Arts, Films and Music

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

Reggae legend and soccer lover Bob Marley once said, "Football is a whole skill to itself. A whole world. A whole universe to itself."

And that's exactly what the first edition of Montreal's Pitch Fest will seek to demonstrate in its three-day event, taking place inside Montreal's Corona Theatre.

Starting on Thursday, the event will promote soccer's culture through film, art installations, exhibits and live music.

"[It's for] anyone with a basic interest and knowledge about football," said TSN Radio 690 host Noel Butler, who co-founded Pitch Fest alongside The Burgundy Lion restaurant owner Paul Desbaillets.

In addition, Pitch Fest has enlisted Montreal Impact midfielder and Canadian international player Patrice Bernier as the

event's ambassador and, as Butler describes it, the "face" of the first ever Pitch Fest.

"It's a privilege, an honour, to be chosen as an ambassador for Pitch Fest," said Bernier.

In Bernier's eyes, Pitch Fest can surely do good for the advancement of the culture of soccer in Montreal.

He said it's important to improve the culture of soccer so it can overcome borders and gender. "[It] is more than just the onfield actions," Bernier said.

Bernier will also be accompanied by RDS soccer analyst and former Impact player Patrick Leduc, along with a bevy of journalists who will discuss the soccer culture.

The event will be host to notable soccer documentaries, including the North American premiere of *Ladies' Turn*, a documentary that follows female soccer players in Senegal and the prejudice and challenges

they face in order to play. The festival will also screen a documentary on Marley.

Bernier said he was looking forward to *Les Rebelles du Foot*, a documentary on famous soccer players who have fought against political and social issues affecting their home countries. The film is narrated by Manchester United soccer legend Éric Cantona.

Art installations and exhibits at Pitch Fest will also expand upon the soccer theme. Numerous DJs will provide music for the three-day event, including a yet-to-be-named headlining act.

While Canada has hosted a number of soccer games and tournaments in recent years with much success, they have a ways to go before they can match soccer-crazed nations in Europe and South America.

However, Bernier says Montreal has

shown promise in comparison to the rest of Canada.

"We are a developing soccer nation," he said. "Montreal is at the forefront of soccer in Canada."

Bernier hopes Pitch Fest can jump-start Canada's interest in the sport, taking the country's coverage of soccer to new heights in the future.

"It's progressing well," said Bernier. "But I am hoping for the day it will be on newspapers for pages and pages, and on TV with shows discussing the world of football weekly."

Montreal Pitch Fest will be taking place at the Corona Theatre from Dec. 5 to Dec. 7. One-day passes are \$15 each, while three-day passes are \$40.

Photos Brandon Johnston

BOXSCORES

WEEK OF NOV 25. TO DEC. 01



Saturday, Nov. 30 Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, Université de Montréal 2
Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Ryerson University 8

Friday, Nov. 29 Men's Basketball—Concordia 77, Université Laval 70
Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, University of Toronto 2
Women's Basketball—Concordia 49, Université Laval 39
Women's Hockey—Concordia 2, McGill University 4

Tuesday, Nov. 26 Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, McGill University 9

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS MONTH IN CONCORDIA SPORTS



Saturday, Dec. 28 Women's Basketball (Concordia Adidas Tournament)

Sunday, Dec. 29 Women's Basketball (Concordia Adidas Tournament)

Monday, Dec. 30 Women's Basketball (Concordia Adidas Tournament)

Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports



RE-GROUNDED, NOT REBRANDED

Community Media Must Remain a Voice for the Voiceless

by Aaron Lakoff

As the former news director at CUTV, I am disheartened and upset by the recent shift in focus and policy at the TV station. I worked at CUTV from June 2012 until November of the same year, just after the crescendo in the student uprising and continuing through the Quebec elections, until the station became caught up in conflict. I resigned from my post last fall.

Despite the internal turmoil the station went through during that period, I still feel to this day that the coverage CUTV did around the student strike was groundbreaking and crucial.

Since modern community media first rose to prominence in the mid-20th century, the idea has always been to be a voice for the voiceless.

That is, campus and community media exists because it is recognized that we live in a society of power imbalances—imbalances that are reflected in the mass media—and that if we want to have any semblance of democracy in society, that means carving out spaces where the disenfranchised, marginalized and oppressed can have a

voice for self-representation.

Whether or not you agree with the editorial line of CUTV's coverage during the student strike, the fact of the matter is that thousands of students and young people had their voices heard through the broadcasts, representing a wide range of opinions, from the most radical to those who thought it was important to negotiate with the government for a mediated solution to the strike.

Voices of power and oppression have unlimited access to the airwaves around us. If you wanted to know what the police, the government or university administrations felt about the student strike, all you had to do was open up the *Montreal Gazette* or switch on CBC or LCN. Why would CUTV want to build a TV station that emulates that unabashed acceptance of the status quo?

There is a dangerous myth in our society of an "unbiased" media. We often perpetuate this myth in our own campus and community media, and I feel that is what would happen if the CUTV Board of Directors imposed a code of ethics for volunteer journalists that would ban the wearing of political symbols.

Simply put, there is no unbiased media. Mainstream media are just better at masking their bias, but at the end of the day they are beholden to their corporate or state funders. An honest media outlet is one that acknowledges its bias, and to whom it is accountable, which is exactly what CUTV did during the student strike.

CUTV is a student-funded TV station; unprecedented tuition hikes in Quebec were threatening students, and therefore CUTV embedded itself in the student movement. There is nothing wrong with that, so long as the bias is made clear from the onset.

With regards to the wearing of political symbols by CUTV journalists, how is wearing a red square in front of the camera any different than a TV newscaster wearing a red poppy in November, or a lapel pin with the Canadian flag? Both are statements either of an acceptance or a rejection of the status quo of power in our society.

In order for CUTV to remain an important bridge between Concordia University and the greater Montreal community, membership must remain open to non-

Concordia students (provided they pay an annual membership fee).

The members should be the guiding force of the station, and should be involved in decision-making at all levels, including decisions made by the Board of Directors, as well as day-to-day decisions, something that could be accomplished by having members sit with staff on a steering committee.

Equally important, *all* CUTV members (which includes all Concordia students who pay the fee levy, as well as the station's community members), should be able to participate and vote in general meetings.

If the Board of CUTV is going to implement a code of ethics for its volunteer journalists, it could follow the example of CKUT radio and ground its ethics in a commitment to social justice, combating oppression, and providing a balance to mass media news coverage by ensuring access to the airwaves for underrepresented communities in Montreal.

That is, after all, the *raison d'être* for most campus and community media in North America today.

CUTV doesn't need to be re-branded. It needs to be re-grounded. Re-grounded in the ethics that made

it an essential communication outlet during one of the most successful and exciting popular uprisings in Quebec's history.

The thousands of viewers who tuned in to the livestream every night of the demonstrations, the masses of people who cheered for CUTV crews in the streets, and the thousands of dollars in viewer donations made to the station should not be so quickly forgotten.

Sure, the station had its share of problems shortly after the student strike last year, but rebranding and depoliticizing the station will not solve those. Strong organization, more membership control and clear journalistic ethics that ground the station in support for social justice struggles and access to education will ensure a long and healthy life for CUTV.

Aaron Lakoff graduated from the communications and women's studies programs at Concordia. He's the former news director at CUTV, and is currently working as the news director at CKUT radio at McGill University.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER

On the SPVM's Victim Blaming and Unwillingness to Investigate Crimes

by Will Murphy

At 7:15 a.m. on Nov. 10, a friend of mine was a victim of multiple injustices at the hands of not just thieves, but shortly after, by the SPVM.

Just a few blocks from Concordia's Sir George Williams campus, someone entered her single-room apartment and stole over \$2,000 worth of her property, including the computer that was sitting on the same bed she was asleep in.

Her purse was found discarded in the lobby, and her personal identification from the Ontario government was missing. Six hours after the initial call was made to police, Nelson Grenier, a supervisor of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal Division 20, arrived at her residence.

After his aggressive and inappropriate tone was noted, I began to record the conversation out of general concern; all subsequent quotations are direct from the video.

The officer failed to leave proper contact information—I had to call the police station to get it after the fact—and approached the clearly upset woman with an attitude more suitable for a suspect than a victim. He accused her of being “kind of guilty” for the theft because she had been drinking the night before, and because a friend of hers had slept over.

Grenier shamed her by repeatedly reminding her that it was reckless to forget to lock her door, essentially blaming her for the circumstances rather than taking an active and investigative role.

He continued to patronize her even after she broke down in tears and asked him to

be more respectful. His behaviour was incredibly contradictory—though he insisted that it was her friend who had robbed her, he simultaneously refused to investigate that option because he “had no suspicions.”

She then suggested he review the security tapes in her building's lobby, but he responded that, “They don't have to give you the information, it is for their protection, not for everyone's on the street.”

After less than half an hour of scrutiny from Grenier, and a continuous refusal to investigate the crime, he left, only leaving behind a reference number for her file.

The next morning my friend obtained the security footage from her lobby, and the thief can unmistakably be seen holding something under his jacket. It was not her guest as the officer had so adamantly insisted.

In an attempt to recover her stolen property, she went to the police station with the footage that clearly shows a stranger trespassing in her home.

It was at this time that she stated she wished to file a police ethics report.

The officer she spoke to excused Grenier's behavior, justifying his actions by saying that “everyone has a bad day,” as if this was not more so the case for the victim.

This is not the first time students living near campus have been refused police assistance in emergencies or as victims of crime. I have heard several students voice their frustration at officers in the Division 20 area over disrespectful and neglectful behaviour.

Students have gone to police with a number of issues ranging from breaking and en-

tering to assaults to theft, and yet their problems are dismissed.

Blaming victims simply because they were drinking the night before is an all-too-common occurrence, and telling them they are guilty for being taken advantage of in that situation is one thing, but that a police officer could use that as a justification for not investigating a serious crime illustrates the pervasiveness of victim blaming.

The very first question Grenier asked my friend was if she had been drinking, which doesn't seem entirely relevant to the situation. He insisted with such conviction that the thief was the person who had stayed overnight in her apartment that she began to cry, because while plausible, the thought of this being the case was incredibly troubling.

The fact that my friend did not want to be mentioned by name after witnessing how the officer interpreted her situation shows the element of shame at play.

I can't help but feel like there is some sort of institutionalized gender inequality at play here. When Grenier told her that she was guilty—with nothing whatsoever to back it up—it implied she has done something morally wrong. He suspected that an intoxicated girl was taken advantage of by someone, but that simply wasn't the case and, all moral considerations aside, actual crimes were committed and he had a legal duty to investigate.

This attitude exists in other, more serious instances of crime, something that is illustrative of the breadth of this type of victim shaming. I can't help but feel that the

officer is confusing moral and legal considerations, and in the end more harm than good was done to my friend.

In any event, the security footage shows that the thief was someone else, and when she returned to explain this, her concerns were dismissed on the grounds that she didn't lock her door. Forgetting to lock your door does not entitle someone to enter your house and take what they please, and it's also not a prerequisite for establishing breaking and entering charges.

To refuse to investigate such serious crimes is to ignore the role of a police officer in the community, which is to uphold the law and protect the law-abiding members of society.

People need to feel safe in their homes; my friend has not felt comfortable sleeping alone at her place and she has been staying with friends following the incident and lack of police attention. If the issue stems from an overworked staff, the SPVM needs to be hiring more, not investigating crimes less.

Students' faith in their community is extremely important, and for an SPVM officer to claim that security cameras are “not for everybody on the street” is to imply that the safety of the greater community is not of concern.

First responders of any kind, whether police, paramedics or fire fighters, are entering a scenario where they know the victim will likely be distressed, and they should be held to an ethical standard which goes far beyond the victim shaming and indifference my friend experienced.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



IUDS AND YOU

Following last week's column, this week I'll be providing an overview of intrauterine devices.

IUDs are a birth control method that consists of a T-shaped device with two threads hanging from the bottom. They are inserted into the uterus while the strings pass through the cervical opening to remain in the vagina for easy verification and removal.

IUDs are popular due to their effectiveness rate of over 99 per cent and because, unlike methods such as the pill, patch or ring, they require no user action once inserted.

Currently, the two types of IUDs in use are hormonal and copper-based. Both have been on the market for over 20 years, are easy to use and are completely reversible. However, each has different benefits, so each is recommended to women for different reasons.

The hormonal IUD works by releasing a low dose of a progestin hormone called levonorgestrel in the uterus. Unlike the pill, which

releases hormones into the bloodstream, IUD hormones are released and remain in the uterus. For this reason, women who are sensitive to hormones in the pill generally experience less hormonal side effects when using the IUD.

The hormones in IUDs work in two ways to prevent pregnancy: they thicken the cervical mucus, which prevents sperm from entering the uterus, and they prevent the build up of the uterine lining.

Normally, the uterine lining thickens to prepare for the implantation of a fertilized egg, but the thinner lining makes it difficult for a fertilized egg to attach to the uterine wall. In addition, the physical presence of an IUD affects the movement of sperm, making it more difficult for them to reach the egg for fertilization.

Hormonal IUDs are the more common choice for women with heavier or painful periods. Your period is the result of the monthly shedding of the uterine lining; since

hormonal IUDs prevent the full build up of this lining, many women experience lighter and shorter periods, and about one in five stop having a period altogether.

Hormonal IUDs last up to five years without any action on the user's part, aside from checking on the threads after each period.

The copper IUD works by preventing fertilization. Copper acts as a natural spermicide in the uterus by reacting with your body to increase the level of copper ions and white blood cells, which creates a hostile environment for sperm and inhibits their movement in the uterus.

The copper IUD is non-hormonal, so it's a good option for women who want to avoid hormones. One of the most common side effects is heavier periods with more cramping, so it's often recommended for women who don't already have these menstrual issues, as it may worsen their situation. Like hormonal IUDs, copper IUDs don't require any action on a user's part

other than checking on the threads after each period, and they can last twice as long as hormonal IUDs.

Serious issues with IUDs are very rare, but include the risk of expulsion from the uterus and perforation of the uterus during insertion. Expulsion can be noticed when checking on the IUD threads monthly, while perforation will usually be immediately noticed by a health professional.

There are a few ways to go about getting an IUD. If you're under 25, you can visit a CLSC youth clinic to talk to someone and have one inserted. Otherwise, a gynecologist can take care of this for you.

If you don't have a gynecologist, you can get a referral from your family doctor. Most health professionals will require negative results on pregnancy and STI tests before inserting an IUD, as serious complications can occur if either test is positive.

If you're hoping to get more information and discuss your op-

tions before heading to a clinic, you should call Head and Hands. Their Health Services coordinator, Jos, has weekly call times for sexual health information and is incredibly knowledgeable and easy to talk to. Head and Hands can also handle insertion, or will help you find someone who can.

Finally, it's important to mention that while IUDs are an effective method of birth control, they offer no protection from STIs. Condoms remain the only effective method for preventing both pregnancy and STIs.

—Melissa Fuller @mel_full

Submit your question anonymously at sex-pancakes.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Head and Hands: Ask for Jos at 514-481-0277 Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. or Thursdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Got a quick health question? Text SextEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!



WE HAVE THE TECH-KNOWLEDGY

by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

ACROSS

► 2. The Pebble company has developed a wearable computer that delivers emails, tweets and weather reports to make this wrist-wear gadget do much more than tell time.

► 4. Having just refused a \$3 billion offer from Facebook, this social media company's main appeal is apparently its immediate content destruction, so that no one ever has to see that terrible picture of hung-over you again.

► 5. Having helped fund the Veronica Mars movie has helped this crowd-funding platform become the largest of its kind.

► 7. Michigan Tech University has found a way to make every Harry Potter fan's dreams come true by developing this type of cloak, which allows its wearer to remain unseen.

► 8. Chinese scientists have grown teeth from these kind of cells, which can be manipulated into forming a variety of organisms.

► 9. Sandra Bullock and George Clooney demonstrate the danger of debris in the atmosphere in this 2013 film.

► 10. Oxford Dictionary's 2013 "Word of the Year" finds its roots in cell phone cameras, bathroom mirrors and duckfaces everywhere.

DOWN

► 1. While Instagram and other apps marry the worlds of nostalgic photos and technology, some are throwing it back—way back—and buying this instant-printing camera.

► 3. You might be part of a mock-Miley video on this webcam-based chatting website, but chances are you'll see some naked dudes. (2 words)

► 6. 2013 marked the first direct brain-to-brain information sharing between these tiny creatures, whose genomes are genetically similar to mankind.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

POWER THEATRE COMIC ALEX CALLARD



QUÉBÉCOIS 101 COMIC PAKU DAoust-CLOUTIER



Se faire passer un sapin (Seu-fer-pass-ay-uhn-sa-pein): This expression literally translates to “to be given a fir tree.” When we buy wood it is preferable to buy more noble essences like pine or spruce, but not the cheaper quality fir. If you bought fir wood and you were made to believe it was something better, then you were “passé un sapin.” Essentially it means to get swindled, to get scammed or to be deceived.

FALSE KNEES COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

NAH'MSAYIN?
Suck it Up, Sriracha Haters

Thought you had enough reasons to hate Californians? Well, hold onto your hot sauce.

Our beloved Sriracha is being threatened by a bunch of whiners who say living near the company's chili fields makes the air uncomfortable to breathe. Have you ever tried breathing in -30 degrees Celsius weather, California? I bet you'd take a little spice over it any day.

You may find this hard to understand, California, but this is about more than you.

So the air might be a little spicy for three months of the year. Have you been to Montreal? We get eyeball-freezing ice-rain spat on

us for half our lives. Right now we're enshrouded in darkness by 4 p.m. You can't enjoy the sun sometimes? Tough shit, Los Angeles. At least you get more than 10 hours of daylight.

Here in the Great White North, that little rooster bottle is the only heat we can count on. If you can't take the spice, get out of California. Seriously, let's trade.

I don't care if you're bleeding out your eyes or how many kid's birthday parties you need to cancel. You don't mess with a man's hot sauce.

—Colin Harris, Editor-in-Chief



Graphic Caity Hall

Editorial



DRAINVILLE IS SCARED OF A REAL DEBATE ON THE CHARTER

Despite being the minister in charge of the Parti Québécois's proposed Charter of Quebec Values, Bernard Drainville sure seems scared of defending it.

Citing security concerns, Drainville backed out of the Concordia-hosted debate on Nov. 21 at the last minute, leaving Liberal MNA Kathleen Weil and former Québec solidaire interim president André Frappier to discuss the bill. Both Weil and Frappier's parties disagree with the proposed charter in its current form, so the ensuing discussion was less of a debate and more of a one-sided conversation.

As for the alleged security risk—the protest, planned by Concordia's chapter of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group, only saw a handful of people holding a sign while standing peacefully outside Concordia's J.A. de Sève Cinema.

Concordia placed security guards at the event. As a cabinet minister, Drainville also has some form of protective detail, which could presumably have been beefed up for the duration of the debate if he was concerned for his safety.

Much has been made of QPIRG Concordia's refusal to say whether they intended to disrupt

the debate, but we'll never know whether the event would have proceeded normally because Drainville was too cowardly to actually show up—to defend his charter in front of those who will be directly be affected by it.

Some have suggested that Drainville had his freedom of expression denied by intimidation tactics. Drainville had every right to speak freely at the debate in defence of his government's proposal, but we mustn't forget that so too did the protesters outside, as long as they didn't turn violent.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, there's no reason to believe anything violent would have happened had Drainville actually shown up. If he was expecting Concordia to ban the charter's opponents, Drainville would have been speaking to an empty room.

And if Drainville was shocked that a largely anglophone and allophone university would house dissenting views towards his charter, then he's even more disconnected from Montreal than we could have ever imagined.

Being greeted by a protest dubbed a "welcoming committee" and then possibly being

disrupted by outbursts could have been damaging for his party's image, or his own. Backing out gives his supporters the opportunity to cry censorship—but it was self censorship. Concordia is far more diverse than the National Assembly. Drainville decided cut and run from divergent opinions.

Had he shown up to the debate, Drainville would have had to look in the eyes of members of the university's female Muslim population, whom he is telling to stay indoors with his charter. What does it say about the minister if he couldn't muster up the courage to explain his reasoning to those who would be the most affected by it?

The opinion polls indicate a considerable split in public opinion between linguistic groups on the issue. In mid-September—long before Bill 60 was actually tabled in the National Assembly—polls were showing that anglophones and allophones were 72 and 66 per cent opposed to the charter, respectively. For the whole population, 43 per cent were in favour of it, while 42 per cent were against it.

There's a similar split in support between

different age groups.

A mid-September poll by Léger Marketing showed 43 per cent of young Quebecers were against the charter, with only 33 per cent in favour—and that was before the extent of the charter's implications on Quebec's multicultural universities were even known.

It shouldn't have been a surprise, then, that an appearance by Drainville at an English-language university would have stirred considerable controversy—particularly at Concordia, a university known for its history of activism.

Faced with the prospect of debating the charter in front of its harshest critics, he sent the message that he had nothing valuable to say.

Drainville had the opportunity to try and sway our opinion on his brand of "secularism," but instead played scared by a protest, surely nothing new to a Quebec politician.

Drainville's no-show further damages the legitimacy of the charter—and by his absence, he demonstrated the same fear of difference reflected in the bill.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

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Alan Shepard
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