



THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

THE GENDER & SEXUALITY ISSUE

**#CSU2014
ELECTIONS**

The Link takes a look at the candidates running for seats on the CSU's council. P6

POOR LABOUR CONDITIONS FOR EXAM INVIGILATORS?

Concordia's exam invigilators may try to unionize if meetings with the administration don't settle their concerns about working conditions. P8

EDITORIAL WHY IS A BYLAW STILL DICTATING THE ACTIONS OF MONTREAL'S RIOT POLICE? P19

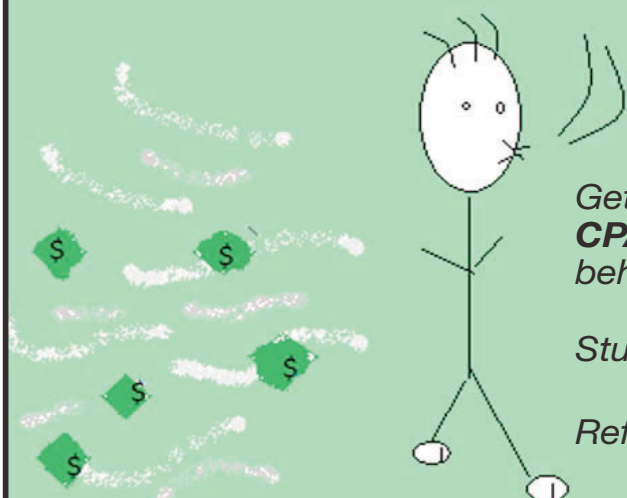
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The Link Publication Society Inc.

Annual General Assembly - Friday March 28, 2014, 4 p.m.

1455 de Maisonneuve West - Room H-649

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the 2013 AGA
5. Constitutional amendments
6. Board of directors report for 2013-2014
7. Presentation of the 2012-2013 financial statements
8. Appointment of the auditor
9. Presentation of financial statements as of February 28, 2014
10. Presentation of the preliminary budget 2014-2015
11. Election of the Board of Directors
12. Other business
13. End of the assembly

All Concordia undergraduated students are eligible to attend, vote at the meeting and run for a position on the Link's Board.

Board of Directors

Two (2) positions are open to members at large (none of them shall hold an executive position within another university group) and 2 (two) positions are open to member of the community who have been members of the Link's Staff within the last 3 years.

Candidates for the Board must present a letter of intent by Friday March 21, 2014 at 5 p.m. to the secretary of the board of directors : 1455 de Maisonneuve. W. room H- 649 or by email to business@thelinknewspaper.ca

Constitutional amendments are available at the Link office

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The Link Publication Society Inc. Election of staff representatives for the Board of directors

Three (3) members of the Staff, none of whom shall hold an editorial position within the Link, elected at a regular staff meeting that takes place before the A.G.A.

Candidates must present a letter of intent by
Friday March 21, 2014 at 5 p.m. to the secretary of the board
of directors : 1455 de Maisonneuve. W. room H-649 or by
email to business@thelinknewspaper.ca

Election will be Friday March 28 at 3 p.m. All staff members
are eligible to vote.

A Thankless Job: Exam Invigilator

As the semester winds down and students start thinking about their final exams, the people hired to supervise those exams want you to know that their job is no piece of cake either.

Vignesh Shankar, VP External for Concordia's Graduate Students' Association, says he is meeting with the university administration this week or next to discuss a number of problems brought up by graduate students working as exam invigilators.

Shankar says the GSA may help invigilators unionize if the meeting doesn't settle these problems.

"I feel this is a very important issue for students

who get paid minimum wage and work very hard during the final exams," he said, adding that most of those hired are international graduate students who have limited access to recourse.

"There's no union right now and nobody can protect them," continued Shankar, who has previously worked as an exam invigilator himself.

"So if the meeting doesn't go as planned, we might get unionized."

One complaint, shared with *The Link* on condition of anonymity by two students who have worked as exam invigilators, was having to escort students to the washroom and monitor their conduct.

"I personally felt very uncomfortable," wrote one exam invigilator in an email. "Yes, maintaining a [fair] examination environment is really important, but I think following the students inside the washroom is not the best way."

"You have to go inside the bathroom with the students, but you can't go inside the [stall] with him," another invigilator told *The Link*. "Maybe he's taking two minutes, the usual time. If I have intention to cheat, two minutes is okay for me. I'm not checking inside there."

► Continued on page 8.



photo Erin Sparks

A RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS

Roughly two dozen Concordia students faced formal complaints for allegedly disrupting the university during the 2012 student strikes. **P4**

18TH ANNUAL ANTI-POLICE BRUTALITY MARCH A BRIEF ONE

The annual march against police brutality ended almost as soon as it began. **P5**

LOST AND FOUND

The 10th annual Found Footage Festival celebrates the analog and the bizarre at Theatre Sainte Catherine. **P9**

THE ORIGINS OF KETTLING

An American graphic novelist launches a book about the 2012 Quebec student strikes. **P11**

TIME TO SHINE

Stingers football players will be competing at the CFL regional and national draft combines with the hopes of being drafted to the CFL. **P13**

OPINION: LEARNING OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Fee-levy groups provide benefits beyond what you learn in the classroom, and need to be preserved. **P15**

LINK RADIO

The Link's not just ink on paper anymore—we're pumping through your stereo too. Tune in to CJLO 1690 AM or listen online at cjlo.com on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon for a second serving of city and campus news, arts, sports and sex advice—the whole shebang. Missed a show? thelinknewspaper.ca has you covered.

THE LINK ONLINE

PERSONAL FITNESS A CLICK AWAY

Former Stinger creates a health and fitness website to help you get that summer body you've been longing for.

NO SURPRISES THERE

Marois' decision not to participate in an English-language debate isn't that surprising, but why should you vote for someone who doesn't want to explain their platform to you?

CRITICAL HIT

The What We Talk About When We Talk About Poetry panel takes a look at why critiquing is an art form all its own.

DEBATES ON DEBATES

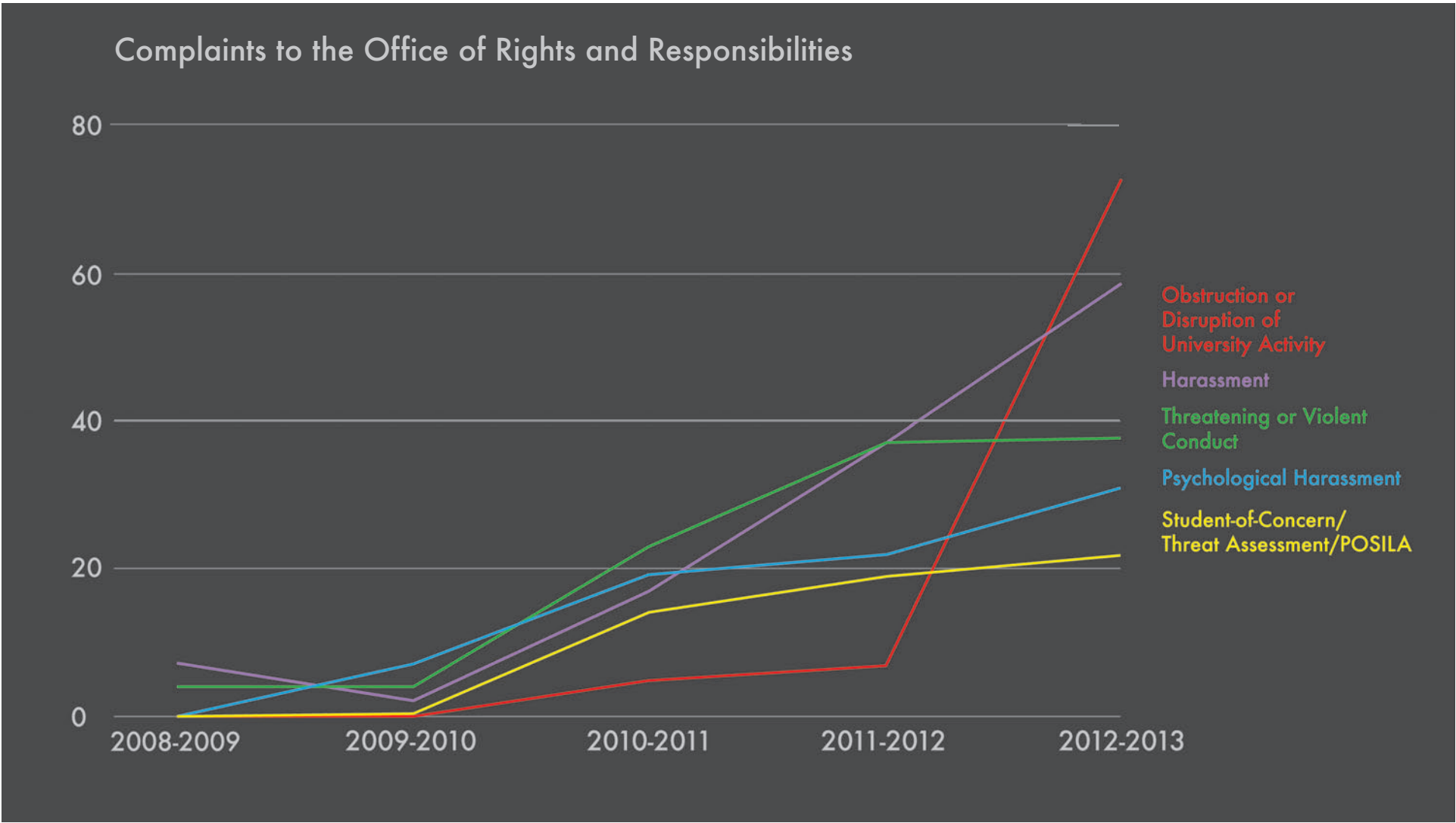
As the election heats up, CSU candidates head to the podium this week to show students their platforms. We'll have all the details later this week!

A LOOK AT THE CONCERNS OF QUEBEC'S YOUNGER VOTERS

Two of Quebec's student federations—FEUQ and FECQ—presented their electoral demands ahead of the provincial election taking place April 7. Their wish list tackles topics ranging from higher education to labour law.

BREAKING DOWN THE LEVIES

The Link brings you all that's fit to (not) print on the big referendum questions you'll have to decide on this CSU election. Why does the Centre for Gender Advocacy need more funding? Head to our website to find out.



Record Number of Complaints Against Concordia Students in 2012-2013

Complaints Related to Alleged Disruption of University Activities during Student Strike

by Kalina Laframboise
@KayLaframboise

Quebec's 2012 student strike movement led to a record-breaking number of formal complaints against Concordia University students in the 2012-2013 academic year. The annual report from Concordia's Office of Rights and Responsibilities reveals that the university saw a surge in formal complaints due to strike activity against former premier Jean Charest's move to raise university tuition fees. "The Office and the university as a whole faced several challenges in dealing with conduct issues related to the student protest movement," reads the report. "While respecting the freedom of students to express their views, it was the expectation that protest activities would not disrupt the functioning of the university as provided by the Code of Rights and Responsibilities."

The Strike at Concordia
The Office of Rights and Responsibilities advises on conflicts related

to individual behaviour on campus and administers the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities. In any given year, it fields between 15 and 20 formal cases. In the 2012-2013 academic year, however, it brought in 82 formal complaints. The university and security personnel filed 58 formal complaints against students due to activity during the student strike. The 58 cases were offences related to Code 29G, which deals with "obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, study, student disciplinary procedures or other university activity." The complaints were filed against 25 students over 15 different incidents on campus. Some students faced as many as seven different complaints. Trevor Smith, who was an undergraduate student and VP Finance of the Geography Undergraduate Student Society at the time, was charged in June 2012 under Code 29G. "I think I was more insulted that I was charged," Smith told *The Link*. "I was doing the best I could to diffuse situations but I

guess that was not the view that the university had." Smith maintains that he acted within the limits of his department's strike mandate. "The strike was so much bigger than Concordia," Smith said. "We were in solidarity. We had the mandate voted at the general assembly." Smith's alleged misconduct took place at the beginning of the student strike movement in March 2012. The Concordia Student Union held a week-long strike, while individual departments held their own strikes in solidarity with other Quebec post-secondary institutions. The complaints related to March and April 2012 only formalized after the 2011-2012 academic year ended on May 31. The carryover resulted in a rise in complaints at Concordia over the last two academic years. The administration informed 26 students through letters in June 2012 that they were facing charges related to infractions of Code 29G. Concordia President Alan Shepard withdrew those charges on Sept. 18, 2012. However, three students still

faced charges related to the student strike that were filed by individual members at Concordia and not the administration or security. The report noted that one student respondent graduated during the formal process, causing the charge to dissolve. As a recommendation, the Office of Rights and Responsibilities suggests reviewing "student respondents who (perhaps strategically) request a hearing postponement as registered students and then graduate before the formal process can be concluded." Terry Wilkings—one of 12 undergraduate students who sit on the Senate, the university's senior academic body—said this could be problematic. "There's inference that students are strategically postponing hearings," said Wilkings, who is also an advocate at the CSU Advocacy Centre. "I'm not sure how they will deal with [this] 'delaying' tactic but there's also potential of abuse."

Lack of Student Input
The Office of Rights and Responsibilities' director and senior advisor,

Louise J. Schiller, was absent when the 2012-2013 report was presented to the university's Senate and had been the year before as well. "We get to say remarks on a document that is already produced," said Wilkings. "She was not available to respond to questions or concerns about the annual report." Similar comments were made about the 2011-2012 report by Smith—now a graduate student, an arts and science director for the Graduate Students' Association, and president of the Geography, Planning and Environment Students Association. "There was a lot missing," said Smith. "I am sure there is a lot that the office didn't know [...] was happening and it's like looking at strictly the upper administration's view of the strike." Smith added that there was very little student input on the reports that deal with a time of student upheaval and that he would like a recommendation on how security personnel should conduct themselves.

.....
Graph Jayde Norström

Anti-Police Brutality Protest Quickly Shut Down

Five Arrested, Nearly 300 Detained

by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

Montreal police arrested five protesters and detained another 288 under municipal bylaw P-6 at the 18th annual demonstration against police brutality on Saturday, according to police spokesperson Jean-Pierre Brabant.

The demonstration, organized by the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality (COBP) as part of the International Day Against Police Brutality, was almost immediately broken up by Service de police de la Ville de Montréal officers clad in riot gear.

"It's without great surprise but with an enormous amount of rage and indignation that the COBP denounces the mass arrests that ended the 18th demonstration against police brutality only minutes after it started," reads a statement on the COBP's website.

The demonstration usually takes place in downtown Montreal, but this year protesters met outside the Jean-Talon metro station, where, in January, an SPVM officer was caught on video threatening to tie a homeless man dressed in summer clothes to a pole.

After a short speech by an organizer, police declared over loudspeakers that the protest was illegal under bylaw P-6 and ordered the crowd to disperse or risk being charged under the bylaw. Protesters then tried to move west on Jean-Talon St. when a line of riot police officers was immediately deployed and blocked their path.

The crowd subsequently moved south on Châteaubriand Ave., where most of the detained protesters were kettled—circled by riot police without the ability to disperse.

According to *The Link* staff member Alejandra Melian-Morse, speaking by phone from the kettle, members of the police force

were pointing rubber bullet guns down at protesters from surrounding balconies.

Melian-Morse, who received a \$600 ticket, was at the protest to conduct research for an ethnographic anthropological study on protest culture and power relationships between police and protesters.

"I noticed that the vibe of the protest seemed to almost be better in the kettle than it had been before," she said. "Maybe it was because people had been really anticipating something bad happening beforehand so then when it happened they were like, 'Well, here we are again.'"

"It actually feels kind of good to be there, still in solidarity with people. It just kind of represents what it is that [people] are fighting against," she continued.

According to Concordia biology student Aneil Prasad, the protest wasn't without some physical confrontations between protesters and police.

"I witnessed one guy who tried to get past the kettle who was pretty heavily beaten by a policeman with his shield just as he was trying to pass," he said.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association denounced kettling as unconstitutional following the 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto. Similarly, the British High Court of Justice ruled in 2011 that Metropolitan police broke the law when they enforced the same tactic at the 2009 G20 Summit in London.

Three people were arrested for assault of a police officer with a weapon and two were arrested for obstruction of a police officer at Saturday's demonstration, according to the SPVM.

Right photo by Erin Sparks,
bottom photos by Shaun Michaud



Protesters gathered outside Jean-Talon metro station on Saturday for the annual demonstration against police brutality—a protest that ended shortly after it began.

CSU ELECTIONS

CSU: Council Candidates 101

Get to know your candidates before you vote! *The Link* brings you profiles for all the council candidates running in next week's Concordia Student Union general elections.

Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Kyle Arseneau

In addition to being a current CSU councillor, Arseneau is also the president of the Concordia University Building Engineering Society and the director of finance for the Engineering and Computer Science Association. Arseneau told *The Link* his main goal next year is tackling the university's policies regarding intellectual property.

Nicholaos Mouzourakis

Mouzourakis studies game development at Concordia. He told *The Link* students should vote for him "because the CSU needs some new blood with the integrity to turn politics into results." He added that he supports the creation of more sustainable food options on campus.

Jules Plessis

Plessis may be in his first year working towards a civil engineering degree, but he has, in the past, served as a delegate in Model United Nations conferences and was president of his previous school's student union.

Pargol Poshtareh

Poshtareh is a full-time software engineering student who began her studies in the field at Azad University in Iran. In her biography posted on the CSU's elections website, she wrote that her goal is to "promote a positive and collaborative work environment" on council.

Anita Sarkissian

Sarkissian is an industrial engineering student and currently serves as ECA VP Finance. She told *The Link* she'll tackle the lack of study space and the issues surrounding intellectual property at Concordia if elected.

Rami Yahia

Yahia did not respond to *The Link*'s request for an interview before press time.

John Molson School of Business

Kabir Bindra

Bindra is a current JMSB representative. He says he has "pushed for more efficiency, better financial management and more transparency" at JMSB. For the last two years he has competed for JMSB at the Jeux du Commerce.

Virginia Law

Law is a current JMSB council member and member of the appointments committee, where she recommends students to groups such as Senate and the Concordia Council on Student Life. She is a first-year student majoring in finance.

Caroline Messier-Gemes

Messier-Gemes is currently VP Internal for CASACares, the charity wing of the Commerce and Administration Student Association, as well as CASA itself. Messier-Gemes is majoring in marketing and completed an eight-month internship at a cosmetics company as marketing coordinator.

Michael Richardson

Richardson is the current VP External Affairs and president-elect of the Commerce and Administration Students' Association. He is also a voting representative on the CASA Board of Directors. Richardson says he is a realist and his responsibility as a councillor would be to oversee the CSU's major operations.

Vicky Rodgers

Rodgers is the current VP Policy and Internal for Conservative Concordia. Her platform focuses on fee-levy reform, Concordia's speaker series and freedom of speech.



CSU EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES IN ACTION

Experience CSU, one of the teams presenting candidates for the CSU's executive positions, was campaigning by giving out free coffee to students on Monday. Sabrina Jorin, pictured, is the team's candidate for VP Student Life.

Faculty of Arts and Science

Gemma Acco

Acco is a political science major who currently sits as a student-at-large member of the CSU's appointments committee. Acco is entering her final year at Concordia and according to a bio provided to the CSU elections website, one of her main goals is to ensure transparency at the CSU.

Emmett Anderson

Anderson is a second-year psychology major and currently is a Board member for Queer Concordia. Last year he served as the Board's communication coordinator. Anderson told *The Link* he supports fee levies on campus and supports the "No" campaign seeking to halt per-faculty voting on future fee levies.

Jenna Cocullo

Cocullo has worked with the Concordia Food Coalition as well as the International Ethnographic Film Festival of Quebec as an organizer. Cocullo supports student-run food systems on campus and fee-levy groups. She is a third-year student in anthropology and communication studies.

Michael Finck

Finck is a mature student majoring in community, public affairs and policy studies at the School of Community and Public Affairs. According to his biography provided to the CSU elections website, Finck is running to "increase student participation in university and community political life [and] foster student-run cooperatives, projects and initiatives."

Emily Fisher

Fisher is in her third year at Concordia, specializing in history and English with a minor in Irish studies. Fisher says she wants to "promote food sovereignty and sustainability on both campuses," according to her CSU elections biography.

Edith Gaudreau-Lebel

Gaudreau-Lebel is majoring in political science with a minor in diversity and the contemporary world at the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability. Gaudreau-Lebel currently serves as president of the Loyola College Student Association and was the association's VP Academic last year.

Wendy Heitmann

Heitmann is an institution unto herself at Concordia. At one point or another, Heitmann has served as president of the for-profit branch of the CSU, CUSAcorp, as well as a Board member of campus television station CUTV and the Centre for Gender Advocacy. She is also currently a sitting senator on Concordia's Senate, its highest academic body.

Paul Jerajian

Jerajian is no stranger to CSU politics. The current president of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations sat on council last academic year. He also just won a second term as ASFA president. Jerajian says his goal as a councillor is to "get sh!t done," as he wrote for his candidate biography on the CSU's election website.

Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis

Marshall-Kiparissis is in her fourth year at Concordia, working on an honours in political science and a major in community, public affairs and policy studies. Marshall-Kiparissis says she is against tuition increases or indexation of any kind, and currently acts as campus outreach coordinator for campus radio station CJLO 1690 AM.

Patricia Martone

Martone currently sits on CSU council and is seeking a second term, her first full one since being elected to council in November during the fall byelections. Martone is in her second year of an honours psychology degree and one of her interests is food reform at Concordia, according to her online candidate profile.

Angelica Novielli

Novielli is an undergrad in translation with a minor in Italian. Next year being her last, she says she'd like to use it to represent her peers on council. According to her CSU biography, Novielli says she has sought to get more involved in student life and has succeeded in doing so, so far, by becoming a member of the Zeta Tau Omega sorority.

Matthew Palynchuk

As VP Social of the Students of Philosophy Association and co-president of the Concordia Animal Rights Association, Palynchuk is experienced in student affairs. He told *The Link* the three main issues he would like to see explored on council next semester are fee-levy groups, student-run food co-ops and academic funding.

Marcus Peters

Peters is an active member of Divest Concordia, a student group that seeks to have Concordia sell its investments in the fossil fuel industry; the initiative is one Peters strongly supports. He says he is also interested in the university's fee-levy groups, sustainability and the treatment of international students.

Thomas James Radcliffe

A third-year geography major, Radcliffe told *The Link* that he'd "like to see the school support more sustainable options and take official positions on issues like tar sands." Radcliffe is the current president of the Geography Undergraduate Student Society and sits on ASFA's sustainability council.

Kristifer Szabo

Szabo says he is keen to allow "Concordia to take the national stage and lead the way for other universities." Szabo says in his CSU bio that as a councillor he'd like to see student-run food options at the university and for Concordia to divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Alanna Stacey

Stacey, seeking reelection to CSU council, says she isn't interested in pushing an agenda. "I'm an everything girl; I want to make sure the student voice is heard," Stacey told *The Link*. Stacey also sits on the Clubs and Spaces Committee.

John Talbot

Current CSU councillor Talbot told *The Link* he doesn't "just want to sit on council. I want to engage in the Concordia community; that's what I mean when I say, 'beyond the boardrooms and bureaucracy.'" Talbot is an executive of the Sociology and Anthropology Student Union.

Jeremy Tessier

Tessier is an ASFA councillor representing the geography, planning and environment department and is a member of ASFA's sustainability committee. He is in his third year as a geography and urban studies student. He says he would like to protect fee-levy groups and promote student-run food options.

James Tyler Vaccaro

Vaccaro is a returning face to the CSU, having already been a councillor and currently serving as the union's VP Clubs and Internal. Vaccaro, entering his fourth year at Concordia, currently sits on Concordia Senate and acts as chairperson for the for-profit arm of the CSU, CUSAcorp.

Chloe Williams

Williams is heavily involved with the Concordia Food Coalition and fee-levy advocacy within Concordia. A third-year student double majoring in geography and political science, Williams says she is passionate about food sovereignty and food scarcity, and believes there is a need for sustainable, affordable food on campus.

Faculty of Fine Arts

Jeremy Blinkhorn

Blinkhorn was a staple on the Fine Arts Student Alliance council from the fall of 2011 until the winter semester of 2013. This year, he has served as FASA's Clubs and Services Executive and as a Board member of the Sustainability Action Fund.

Marion Miller

A first-year ceramics major, Miller has experience as information-secretary on the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design Student Association and was involved in student mobilization at her Montreal CEGEP.

Emma Wilson

Wilson is a second-year art history student who previously completed a professional degree in fashion design. In her bio on the CSU elections website, she wrote that she would be a good CSU councillor because she is "a person of passion, an overachiever with a strong sense of self and eagerness to lead." She said she is interested in the issues "surrounding the feminist and queer communities," centring her studies on these topics.

Independent

Terry Ngala

Ngala is an independent student hoping to take business technology management with a minor in marketing at JMSB. His interests also include math, basketball and all sorts of musical genres—according to his CSU elections biography, he's been writing rhymes since his early teens and "seeks to keep excelling in that domain."



Candidates for the CSU's executive positions put up posters around Concordia.

photo Brandon Johnston



Concordia's Exam Invigilators Want Better Working Conditions

Invigilators Considering Unionization if Concerns Go Unaddressed

by Jonathan Summers @jonathans_mtl

► Continued from page 3.

Another issue, he said, is that students writing exams are allowed to wear jackets and sweaters, while invigilators are not.

"What kind of logic is this? If they think we're supplying cheating material to the students, it's not going to happen."

The invigilator also said he was harshly reprimanded by his supervisor in front of students during an exam period.

"I said, 'Okay, you can fire me, you have that jurisdiction, but you can't say it like this, and in front of all the students.' The students won't respect us in the exam room," he said.

He said that, afterward, when he went to get his jacket from the back room, he was approached by the supervisor.

"She said, 'Are you scared of me?' It's kind of bullying," the invigilator recalled. "She said, 'You should be scared of me.'"

He added that invigilators who take complaints about their supervisors to the exams office are not taken seriously.

"They say, 'If you think we are wrong, don't argue with us; come to us, we're going to resolve that.' And everybody knows they never resolve that," he said.

The GSA Intervenes

At the Jan. 24 meeting of the GSA's Council of Directors, a motion was passed expressing concern over "disrespectful treatment of the invigilators" by the university's exams office

and calling for improved labour conditions.

It also mandated Shankar to look into the option of forming a union for invigilators if council does not receive a satisfactory response from the administration regarding its concerns.

Shankar said the GSA has been engaged in "initial discussions" with Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, the union representing TAs and RAs at the university. But TRAC is currently involved in protracted collective bargaining negotiations with the administration and may not be in a position to accept the university's exam invigilators.

"We'll be talking to other unions in Quebec, and after that we'll talk to the administration and get a members' list and we might do it in April," said Shankar.

That is, "if the next meeting doesn't go as planned," Shankar added.

Any attempt at unionization would therefore be after the GSA elections and the upcoming exam period.

The motion was presented to council by engineering and computer science councillor MJF Rupom, who told *The Link* he has personally received complaints from at least 20 graduate students who have worked as invigilators.

"Grad students have some professional experience back in their country or before their graduation, so they expect a professional attitude from their employer," said Rupom.

Shankar, accompanied by arts and science councillor Poya Saffari, first met with Stephanie Sarik and Ilze Kraulis from the Office of the Registrar on Feb. 12 to discuss

the invigilators' grievances.

But Shankar says that first meeting was disappointing.

"They didn't agree to anything, actually," said Shankar. "They don't want to talk about pay scale, they don't want to talk about employees' treatment, they don't want to talk about anything. The meeting was not so good."

Shankar outlined five areas of concern that he and Saffari had brought up at that meeting. He said the administration was only open to addressing one of these: "the lack of a defined and clear hiring process."

"Right now, it's only by word of mouth that people know there's a job and they randomly pick applications and don't exactly do a proper interview. Nobody really knows on what basis they're hiring people," he said.

Other issues brought up by Shankar and Saffari were the invigilators' lack of breaks, the "disturbing" and "embarrassing" requirement that they monitor the behaviour of students in washrooms, the "enforcement of a problematic unofficial dress code" and allegations of intimidation and bullying.

"Nothing was agreed upon," Shankar said, "except that they will be giving exam invigilators a job description in the future."

Regarding the intimidation, Shankar said the university will not act until it has received complaints directly from the individuals involved. But given the precariousness of the job, "everybody is afraid to complain."

"They want someone to come and give their story," he said. "They even want a precise date

and time, otherwise they won't take this up."

Part of the problem, according to Shankar, is that the university classifies the job not as a "temporary" position but a "casual" one, granting invigilators less employment protection under Concordia's labour policies.

Interim university registrar Stephanie Sarik told *The Link* that the Feb. 12 meeting was the first time she had heard about many of the problems brought up by Shankar.

"I've only been working with this group for about 18 months now," said Sarik.

"What I've learned is that there are concerns on all sides—from the invigilators, from students, from the staff in the exams office—and we need to work together to see how we're going to move forward."

Regarding the allegation that invigilators are not given breaks, Sarik called it a "misconception." She said that there are breaks for all invigilators.

As for the other issues mentioned by Shankar, Sarik said she is willing to discuss them.

"We are trying to set up that second meeting to continue this discussion and continue to address things," she said.

In the meantime, Shankar said he would like to see the exams office send an informal letter to its supervisors to remind them "that they should treat [employees] properly and with respect."

Shankar added that anyone who has faced similar problems as an invigilator should contact the GSA.

Photo Brandon Johnston



THE FOUND
FOOTAGE
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Carole Maggio, the host of the 1996 facial workout video, "Facercize," tightens and tones her cheek muscles.

Analog & Ironic

The Found Footage Festival Resurrects Ridiculous VHS Tapes in Unique Comedy Show

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

In the Internet age of whiny memes and reposts galore, it can be hard to find fresh and original content. Enter the Found Footage Festival—a celebration of the weird, forgotten VHS tapes of a past era and home to some of the strangest footage on Earth.

FFF is a hybrid event: part clip screening, part stand-up comedy, part historical anthropology, but all thoroughly bizarre. In its 10th year, the FFF showcases all the kooky videos that long-time friends and festival founders Nick Prueher and Joe Pickett discovered over the past year, with the pair telling the tales behind the videos on stage and adding their own comedic commentary as well.

Prueher discovered his love of eccentric VHS videos when he came upon a janitorial training video in a McDonald's break room in 1991.

"It was so ridiculous. It had this perky trainer and this dope of a trainee who like, couldn't wait to clean the garbage," Prueher said.

"Through the whole video she says, 'Do you see McClean yet?' and he's like, 'Not yet!' so they created this whole ridiculous mythology for this stupid training video, and my thought was, 'This cannot stay in the break room, the world needs to see this video.'"

He and Pickett played the tape for a small audience of friends and developed a running commentary along with it, which set the groundwork for the festival they would eventually found in 2004.

The pair have written and researched for a number of high-profile comedy programs, including *The Onion* and *The Colbert Report*.

"I interned at the show *Mystery Science Theater*. That was the first time I realized, 'Wow, you can be a professional smart ass.' So that was a big inspiration," Prueher said.

When curating videos for the festival, there are only two rules: the videos must be in a physical format, and they must be *unintentionally* funny.

This means the festival's bread and butter are bizarre training videos, exercise videos, promotional videos and even old home movies, all scavenged from thrift stores and garbage cans in their original glorious and clunky VHS format straight out of the '90s.

Prueher is adamant about the merit of this unearthing as opposed to traversing the re-post wasteland of the Internet.

"[The show is] curated by us, and we've selected videos that we've personally found and have stories behind them. We put them in what I think is the proper context, which is the live setting," Prueher said. "That's something you don't get with the Internet, you don't get that communal aspect of being in a room together, and the contagious laughter that hap-

pens. Watching something in a two-inch window on your laptop just isn't the same."

One of Prueher's favourite videos being shown at this year's festival is "How to Have CyberSex on the Internet," a name as absurd as it is redundant.

"It's an instructional video put out by this company in 1997. I think they were trying to cash in on the newfound popularity of the Internet," Prueher said.

"The thing I can never tell is, it's too sexy to be an informational video, because they have topless ladies in it using a computer, but it's not sexy enough to be titillating. So there's no reason for it to exist.

"It's just an oddity, I don't think they even knew what they were going for," he said with a laugh.

Cultural Anthropology through Tape-Hunting

Prueher considers himself and Pickett as amateur "cultural anthropologists," documenting and preserving humanity's most cringe-worthy moments in the '90s by rescuing the tapes and bringing them back to life.

"Mostly what we're doing is a comedy show, but I think there is a value to it, because there's a lot of film preservation societies and there really isn't that for VHS—we're kind of it," he said.

"I think that these mostly regrettable VHS tapes we find are worth hanging onto—I think they're in some ways more truthful than the top 100 films of the last 30 years," he continued. "Our desire to be recorded and videotape even if we don't have any good ideas, I think that says almost more about us as a people than our greatest works of art do."

As for the VHS community, Prueher said what they lack in numbers, they make up for in zeal.

"It's a small community of people who grew up with VHS, and appreciate it in the same way that record-collectors appreciate vinyl," he said.

From Garbage Cans to Ritzy Hotels

The Found Footage Festival's 10th edition will make its way to cities all around the world on a three-month voyage.

"We do about 130 shows a year now, in the U.S., Canada and Europe. It's crazy because a lot of these videos we actually found in garbage cans, and it's just weird to be in Paris showing these," Prueher laughed.

"The whole thing seems like an inside joke, but I think we started at the right time when people were ready to look back at the VHS era and laugh, so it was almost accidental."

Along with hosting the festival, Prueher and Pickett have written a book on their unique trade of VHS-hunting, and have produced a documentary about their adventures as well.

In each city the duo will be searching for tapes during the day before taking the stage at night. Prueher implores anyone who has tips on hidden nooks in Montreal that might have obscure tapes to reach out to them before the show.

Prueher was frank as he described what the audience should expect when attending their show.

"They can expect to see the craziest footage they've ever seen, stuff they can't see anywhere else. I describe the show as a guided tour through our VHS collection," he said. "We're sort of the straight men to all this very weird footage, and your hosts for a bizarre evening. They can expect to laugh."

The Found Footage Festival // March 24 // Theatre Sainte Catherine (264 Ste. Catherine St. E.) // 9 p.m. // \$12 + fees



Primal Urges

Progressive Indie Four-Piece Bend Sinister Followed their Instincts on New Record *Animals*

by Athina Lugez

For West Coast indie band Bend Sinister, walking through a park or down the street is like turning on National Geographic—the band is fascinated with the idea that humans are no different from the beasts in the wild, choosing to base their latest album on humanity's primal nature.

"We called it *Animals* because it kind of associates with the idea that everybody, at a grassroots level, is just an animal and we all have these animal instincts and urges and needs," says frontman Dan Moxon.

"We can't seem to function in the world just because we're essentially animals, as much as we try to say we're intelligent and small intellectuals."

The four-piece progressive indie rock band from British Columbia is currently sweeping the continent by storm, touring the United States and Canada to promote their wild new album.

Moxon and three friends founded the band in 2001 while they were still in high school. They began playing small bars in their hometown of Kelowna, B.C., until they decided to make the big move to Vancouver and update their sound.

"Initially we started as an instrumental band, but over the course of time, our music evolved into different variations and has significantly changed," Moxon said.

One of their sources of inspiration is literature, and Moxon and his bandmates decided to name their newly founded band after a Russian novel.

"Particular circumstances led us to this: we were searching for a band name and our guitar player at the time was reading Vladimir Nabokov's book *Bend Sinister*," he said.

"Also, the story worked well with our music. The book talks about this family crest [and] in it, there's a bar from the upper left to right that denotes when someone in the family has sinned," he continued.

"It's kind of like he got blacklisted from the family name. We liked the idea because we viewed ourselves as a 'groggier' rock band."

The band has embarked on Canadian tours and released two full-lengths since their inception in 2001. Their latest album and third full-length, *Animals*, exploits themes of love, sex and the human condition. The bombastic album cover depicts the band in a pioneer-like cabin adorned wall to wall with animal rugs and mountings.

For this album, the band vowed to be more

open to musical and personal experimentation. As a result, this record is their most energetic yet.

"I like to think that this album is a continuance in style and writing from what we've been doing before. It's certainly a well-crafted album because all the band members fully participated. We're all really happy with this record and it's a good representation of the band," he said.

From beginning to end, *Animals* maintains a rip-roaringly energetic pace, letting their rock n' roll roots flourish. "I Got Love" is a three-minute power ballad with unstoppable beats and electrifying guitar riffs, sustained by an organ reminiscent of hard rock keyboardist Jon Lord. Mid-album song "Thunder and Lightning" alternates strong and soft notes to create the musical aesthetics of a storm and "Fancy Pants" is a song about "getting together, having fun and taking advantage of life," according to Moxon.

When asked about the band's musical influences, Moxon expressed their need for originality.

"No particular musician influenced this album because the way I see it, it's insincere to make an album sound like someone else's work. By then you're already losing the battle," he said.

For *Animals*, the band took an interesting approach to writing lyrics by recording the fleeting thoughts that flickered through their minds, Holden Caulfield-style.

"I like to write down my stream of consciousness. We never really write about personal experience necessarily, but more of ideas that emerge from the mind," Moxon said.

"Also, I'm more of a melody kind of person and I think in terms of the melody of the words. Joseph [the guitar player], on the other hand, is more of a lyricist in terms of how he brings personal things into his music. For me, it's literally just write, find a nice lyrical sound and build from there," Moxon continued.

Currently on tour, Bend Sinister is passing through a number of North American cities and are playing legendary music festivals like SXSW before making their way to the East Coast.

"We'll be in Montreal soon. Every time we're in Canada, we play there; it's our favourite spot to stop in. So far, everything has been a great experience," he said.

Bend Sinister // March 22 // Casa Del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 8:30 p.m. // \$10 advance



THE GENDER & SEXUALITY ISSUE

THE GENDER & SEXUALITY ISSUE

Within the past few generations, our individual identities and expressions have experienced a renaissance of freedom. A new age has arrived, and in it almost anything goes. Everything from the way we dress to the way we represent ourselves in cyberspace has become a facet of who we are, and the opportunity to explore and express what makes us unique is both new and exciting.

In this issue, we've taken a more focused look at the many angles of two categories that help us make sense of who we are: gender and sexuality.

Traditional gender roles seem to be a thing of the past: we as a society are collectively opening up to the idea that there are many different ways in which people identify and express themselves. There is no wrong way to live or identify, and we celebrate the shift of the zeitgeist with articles on Concordia's new sexuality major, transitioning in the age of Instagram and more.

Despite how far things have come, however, there is still a long way to go—women are still underrepresented in the skilled trade sector and sexist concepts like the friend zone are still part of society's discourse.

Sexuality is a constantly morphing and shifting element of the human kaleidoscope. How we learn about it, date, hook up and engage in relationships has undergone a change that has our digital fingerprints all over it.

—Coordinators Brandon Johnston, Jayde Norström,
Riley Stativa and Erin Sparks





LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

QUEBEC'S LACK OF FORMAL SEX ED LEAVES STUDENTS AT RISK

by Riley Stativa @wileyriles

In 2005, the Quebec government made the decision to cut sexual education from its mandatory curriculum, making it the only province without some kind of formal sexual education in their school system. Nearly a decade later, young people in the province seem to be paying the price.

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Some Bar on St. Laurent, two young people went home together for the night. They never saw each other again, and lived happily ever after, until two weeks later when one of them noticed an aggravating outbreak of red bumps on their genitals.

They declared their active sex life dead on arrival and were resigned to a life of isolation, believing there to be no help available. This was not the kind of problem they had ever discussed at school.

"There are very few opportunities for sexual health to be discussed with youth," said Kimberly Wong, the HIV educator at AIDS Community Care Montreal, an organization that provides support services as well as educational material on sexual education to the public. "They will either learn it from their parents, peers or from the Internet so there is very little quality control on what information they are receiving."

This void in the world of Quebec education seems to have the province's youth misin-

formed. At least, that's what the statistics suggest—the latest Quebec stats show that STI rates have been on a constant rise, most notably among 15- to 24-year-olds, according to Wong.

What's more, with technology developing at an alarming rate, there are new age issues to be considered that make even the current curriculums of other provinces outdated.

No longer are horrific slideshows of STIs and putting condoms on bananas substantial enough to arm today's youth with all the knowledge they require—they've got cell-phones and are not afraid to use them. Now, more than ever, there is an urgent need to reform and reinstate sexual education.

An article in the *Toronto Star* in October 2013 stated that Ontario's sexual education material was 15 years out of date, lacking information on new and crucial topics, including cyberbullying, sexting and mental health, all of which have become increasingly relevant to the youth of today.

What's more, many programs chiefly emphasize abstinence, only teaching young people not to do things because of possible negative consequences, with little focus on what they should do if they must face those consequences, such as contracting an STI or becoming pregnant.

Students across Canada may be ill-equipped to handle this strange new world they live in, but Quebec's youth are at a distinct disadvantage by having literally nothing to go on.

While there have not been any official

studies correlating the lack of sexual education to the rising STI rates, there is a simple cause and effect factor to these statistics which is difficult to ignore. With the numbers rising, it could be considered a call to arms to ensure something is resolved.

"Something needs to be done on a larger scale," said Wong. "Though we are proud of the work that we do at ACCM, we can only reach out to so many youth."

"There should be discussion between the ministry and community groups who offer sex education to youth, so that they can consult on content and teaching and facilitation strategies so that sex education can eventually be reinstated in schools," she continued.

With the lack of quality information out there, and many educators fumbling with the reigns, community organizations like ACCM, have developed programs and seminars to educate today's youth on this often sensitive subject.

In addition to teaching resources, ACCM provides programs such as safe sex workshops, sexual health kiosks and SextEd, an anonymous sexual health texting service in which young people can text a question and receive an answer and a link to further information within 24 hours.

While these local organizations are seeking to stand-in where the government has fallen down, there is not nearly enough being done to ensure that all young people have the information they need.

In other provinces, sexual education can begin as early as the first grade, where there is often a discussion of different body parts and what constitutes inappropriate touching. Young people in Quebec are simply left without any direction, even from early development.

"Not having easy access to accurate and up to date sexual health information [is a problem]," said Wong.

Under the 2005 ruling, some have suggested that students can simply bring up questions they might have with other teachers in their regular classes. But this ignores the fact that not all students are comfortable talking about their sexual health with a teacher they might see every day, nor is there a guarantee that all teachers are qualified to talk about such a subject with a sense of authority.

ACCM provides a free teacher's toolkit for any educator looking for resources, but the faculty must reach out first, which is not always desirable. The Sense Project by Head and Hands also visits schools to provide workshops on the subject matter where the government has dropped the ball—again, at the prompting of administration.

It's hard to imagine what sort of epidemic would have to rise to stir up a ministerial ruling to change this situation. It's a case study in the fact that, in life, there are few clean-cut happily-ever-afters.

Graphic Caity Hall



NOTHING LIKE PHONE SEX

MIXED FEELINGS AMONG SEXOLOGISTS ABOUT ONLINE THERAPY SESSIONS

by Kayla Morin

In our digital age, nothing seems to be very far beyond the grasp of our technological means.

As technology advances, some developments are dehumanizing, like drones or the more quotidian self-checkout machines at grocery stores that replace cashiers. On the other end of the scale, some developments serve to bring us closer together, allowing us to share our photos, thoughts and sometimes even our deepest, darkest secrets.

Or at least that could be the case with a trend that sees therapists and psychologists increasingly offering their services over Skype and FaceTime.

Wondering if it was a legitimate practice or just a particularly modern fad, I called sexologist François Renaud because he advertises the possibility of such electronic therapy sessions.

There is an added layer of interest to this digital approach as sexology usually deals with the physical—specifically with issues of a sexual nature—such as loss of desire or premature ejaculation.

“People assume that it’s fucked up people,” Renaud said. “They assume that I have juicy information, but it’s just regular people.”

Renaud has a master’s degree in sexology from the Université du Québec à Montréal, the only university in Canada to offer such a program. He has been practicing for three years.

He began offering electronic sessions when one of his clients moved away and didn’t want to lose him as a therapist. After that, other people started requesting the same method.

“I always wanted to avoid it,” he admitted. “I thought it would lose the personal contact, depersonalize the therapy.”

As of last month, Renaud’s clients can

access services online without ever having to come to his office, even paying online.

“It’s for people who are out of range,” he said. “I have a Nunavut client.”

France Cassistat, another sexologist who graduated from UQAM and has been practicing in Montreal for seven years, does things differently.

She also gets requests for telephone or video-chat sessions. While she agrees it makes sense for people without access, difficulty getting around or a social phobia, she is not keen on the idea. Based on her experience working mostly with couples, she said people often get in arguments over text messages where there is, of course, no tone of voice or visual cues.

“For clinical and ethical reasons, I choose not to do it,” she said. “When you’re in a closed office, it’s a lot easier to protect the client’s confidentiality. When you’re not in person, the client doesn’t know where you are, whether there are other people around.”

The ethical code of the Association of Sexologists of Quebec does not explicitly forbid tele-therapy or videoconferencing, nor does that of the Order of Psychologists of Quebec. Cassistat sees the ethical code as left mostly up to interpretation.

“There is no perfect system, so it’s debatable,” she said.

Stéphane Beaulieu, secretary-general of the OPQ, said some research shows tele-therapy can produce equal results to in-person therapy for specific pathologies and it depends on the individuals. While psychologists are allowed to practice through electronic means, Beaulieu said it could present risks to the treatment.

“They should probably be careful because the person is not in front of [them]. You could miss some important information,” he said.

He highlighted the contract that exists between client and professional, the need for trust and close contact.

Even though it means missing out on the advantages of sharing physical space, phone and video services can mean a lot to people who wouldn’t otherwise have access to certain therapies. In Canada, few sex therapists offer their services outside of the urban centres.

The tele-therapy trend has also found a supporter in Vivianne Bentley, an integrative therapist, trauma specialist and transformative life coach who graduated with a PhD in psychology from Concordia in 2001. For some of her clients, about 80 per cent of which are female, issues revolving around sexuality are prominent.

“When I work with women, I’m looking more at their relationships with themselves, who they think they are compared to, who they think they should be,” she said. “I don’t see sexuality as just something you do with a partner, I think it’s who you are.”

“I work mostly from a holistic perspective,” she added.

She approaches helping people from a humanistic and spiritual point of view, focusing on growth rather than “what is wrong.” The Harmony Health Centre where Bentley works combines naturopathy and massage among other things, a departure from her clinical training.

When asked what she thought of tele-therapy, Bentley said it’s “the way of the future, definitely.”

“Telephone [therapy] is interesting because people are quicker to reveal themselves,” she told me. “I think it can be mutually beneficial. Can you hold on a second?”

The line went silent.

“Hello?” she said, her voice returning with a hint of amusement. “That was one of my phone clients actually.”

Bentley offers phone sessions to clients, some as far as the Middle East, according to their wishes.

“I have some clients who say that, ‘I really want to see your face.’”

She noted that there is visual connectivity when practitioners use Skype or similar programs, but that’s lost over the phone.

Like Renaud, Bentley wasn’t always receptive to the idea of phone therapy. Her own positive experiences in life coaching and reaching out to mentors internationally opened her up to the idea.

“It just kind of naturally evolved,” she said. “I started to work a lot online myself. It was a lot easier for me. I could just get right to the heart of it.”

Now she enjoys working on the phone.

“I think people can hear through your voice who you are and you can do equally good work on the phone as in person.”

Cassistat, meanwhile, believes it’s to clients’ advantage to confront any fears or misgivings by actually going to a physical space when possible. She said it shows motivation and commitment crucial to goal setting in long-term treatment.

“Think about it like online dating: you won’t really know how you feel about them until you meet them in person,” she said.

Plus, she pointed out that the biggest indicator of therapeutic success is therapeutic alliance.

“It’s based on the relationship you develop with that person,” she said. “It’s two human beings.”

Graphic Sophie Morro



BRINGING PROSTITUTION OUT OF THE SHADOWS

THE NEW ZEALAND MODEL COULD BENEFIT CANADA

by Jayde Norström @n_jayde

The decriminalization of prostitution is a touchy subject, with people on both sides of the argument claiming to be fighting for the safety of those working in the trade.

Prostitution has never been illegal in Canada, but certain laws—specifically, the laws against bawdy houses, street solicitation and living off the avails of prostitution—made it difficult to practice in a way that was legal and safe at the same time.

Under the laws, sex workers were unable to hire drivers, bodyguards and secretaries or even support their spouse on income made through prostitution.

These three laws were struck down unanimously in the Supreme Court of Canada in December 2013, giving the court one year to create new legislation surrounding the practice.

During this time, the laws are still in place in the Criminal Code, but the floor has been opened to discussion about the future of sex work in Canada. Many models of legislation have been suggested, including those currently in place in Norway and New Zealand.

Under the Nordic model, johns and pimps would be criminalized while sex work-

ers themselves would be decriminalized. The aim of this model is to decrease the demand for prostitution while protecting the workers.

The New Zealand model, however, legalizes sex work for all parties, and allows brothels, street solicitation and living off the proceeds of someone else's prostitution. It does not discourage prostitution, but instead allows it to become a regulated industry.

Last week, Concordia was host to a panel debate on this subject as part of the CSU's Gender Month. One of the panellists, Terri-Jean Bedford, is a dominatrix who was one of the plaintiffs fighting against the laws that were stricken.

"I favour a Canadian model, where the laws struck down are not replaced, and the other laws still on the books which can be used to protect women are used more," she said in an email to *The Link*.

"I believe it is wrong to tell consenting adults what they can and cannot do in private for money."

Bedford explained that laws should not be formed on a moral basis, but rather on one of safety. With the decriminalization of all participants involved in the selling of sex, workers would not have to fear persecution of themselves or their clients, and a true open discus-

sion could begin.

The regulation of the industry would help bring it out of the shadows; illegal acts such as trafficking, abuse, assault and the involvement of minors would have fewer places to hide.

"We can't fight violence if we don't have rights," said Robyn Maynard at last week's discussion.

Maynard, who was one of the panellists, works with Stella, a Montreal-based community organization that provides support for sex workers and advocates for the decriminalization of sex work.

Maynard went on to argue that sex workers need to be at the centre of the discussion, and that achieving a society free of gender inequality at the sacrifice of the safety of workers is not fair. Those who choose prostitution are punished by legislation that criminalizes their clients, making a working relationship more difficult, especially if clients are unwilling to sacrifice their identities. As a result, if a worker is assaulted it becomes that much more difficult to find the guilty party.

Prostitution is a contentious subject, and it can be hard to discuss it without tempers flaring. What should ultimately be of greatest importance is keeping the individuals who engage in prostitution—both those who pay and are

paid for it—as safe as possible, which can be done by allowing people to live off of the profits they make through the sex trade, as well as developing legislation that fully respects the rights of workers to engage in whatever consensual acts they choose to.

The New Zealand model maintains the illegal status of prostitution for those under the age of 18, and works to promote the health of sex workers. It's no wonder that a 2005 report by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network called the New Zealand model a "much more respectful" model than Norway's, and stated that it "[respects the] autonomy, dignity and human rights of sex workers."

This is not to say that introducing similar legislation to that which exists in New Zealand would automatically erase the stigma and judgment faced by sex workers—creating a more tolerant society that respects the desires of adults to participate in consensual sexual acts will take a lot more than a few laws.

That being said, legislation affirming that what these individuals are doing is not wrong is an important step to take, and a necessary one if things will ever move forward.

Graphic Ekavi Beh



In her apartment, Sandra takes her shirt off her back to show a large scar that is located on the mid-left side of her collarbone. The mark came as a result of one of many beatings she took from her father as a teenager.



Sandra holds a photo of herself before she took up crack-cocaine. Over the past decade, her drug consumption made her lose a significant amount of weight and has left permanent scars on her face.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SANDRA

by Yacine Bouhali @myboubali

The photos presented here illustrate the way of life of 47-year-old Montrealer Sandra*, a woman battling a crack addiction and who prostitutes herself as a way of supporting her habit. Sandra moved to Montreal in the late '80s and quickly found herself a job as a bartender.

It was at that bar that she first encountered

drugs and started snorting cocaine. As time went by, her cocaine consumption became worse and her wages at the bar weren't enough to maintain her addiction. That's when she became involved in Montreal's prostitution scene.

As the years went by, Sandra's cocaine high wasn't strong enough, so she tried crack-cocaine, and continued prostituting

herself in order to pay for her drug use.

Sandra says she has many occasional clients, but her most active ones use her services every week.

She says she's not afraid of being as assaulted by one of her customers, who are often under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even though a man almost choked her to death a couple of months ago.

Sandra continued to engage in the sex trade despite the experience, and says she'll keep doing this job until she's too old and no longer attracts any clients.

Despite her addictions and occupations, Sandra considers herself a kind woman who enjoys life, even if it hasn't been kind to her.

**name has been changed*



Sandra approaches a man waiting inside his car on the corner of Marquette Ave. and Rosemont Ave. and offers him her sexual services.



Sandra gets out of a convenience store in Rosemont. She goes to this store many times a week to buy cheap beer and cigarettes.



Sandra rests on her single size bed in her apartment. She lives in a one-room residence with an oven, a fridge and a toilet right beside her bed.

THE TRANSITION TRANSMISSION

INSTAGRAMMING MAJOR CHANGES TO CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

“Salut, aujourd’hui on fait la sixième injection,” Étienne says, pointing to a vial of testosterone, an alcohol swab and a sterile needle.

I’m not in the room. I’m on the other side of town, watching the 15-second video posted on Étienne’s Instagram account, which is being used as a way of documenting the transition from female to male.

The account is a mix of photos and short videos that help form a picture of the person Étienne is transforming into, and serve as a way of introducing transitioning, and everything that goes along with it, to people who might otherwise have no understanding of it.

“It’s a medium that’s easy to use, it’s universal, and a lot of people use it,” Étienne said in French.

“My family was concerned about my transition,” said Étienne, continuing that the idea to document the transition this way came out of this concern to communicate to loved ones.

It seemed as though Instagram—namely the short videos it allows—was the best way to show them the changes Étienne was undergoing, things like the deepening voice and facial hair that come as more testosterone is introduced into the body.

Instagram is not really formatted for long-form explanations. Lengthy descriptions are scrapped in favour of short sen-

tences and a few hashtags, but for Étienne that isn’t a problem—it’s actually part of the reason for using Instagram in the first place.

“It’s brief, I just say what happens in general. It’s simple,” says Étienne.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

While the original intention behind the account was to keep family and close friends updated on the changes Étienne is undergoing, it’s since developed beyond that.

The videos are primarily focused on the weekly testosterone injections, but also allow Étienne to point to the pimples that come as a result of the influx of hormones, or voice frustration about a family member using the wrong name by mistake, as well as the occasional photo of a homemade pizza being eaten for dinner.

The short clips can help introduce people who may have no understanding of transitioning to what that means, but Étienne says that educating people was not necessarily a primary goal when the account was being made initially.

“[The intention was] not to educate, but to show people how big this is, and to show someone who might be doing something similar what all the steps are,” Étienne said, adding that it could perhaps help break down the taboo that exists around transitioning.

The idea of sharing an incredibly personal experience with the entire world can be a daunting endeavour for some, but Étienne

says the response has generally been positive.

“There are some people who follow me that I don’t know, which is nice because it means it’s interesting to others to see. There are other people following me who are transitioning as well,” said Étienne.

“The goal isn’t to compare [one experience to another], but it’s encouraging to see it going well for people, and to support and help each other like this.”

In other words, it helps foster Instagram’s active trans community, and allows Étienne to have access to other people who are perhaps experiencing similar things, connecting people across the world.

“It might not help to educate [people], but it can help people understand things,” Étienne said, going on to say that the increase of information that one can find on the Internet about transitioning helps serve as a way for more experienced trans individuals to help reassure those who are just beginning their transition, helping them to be less afraid of what’s to come in light of the taboo that Étienne feels exists around trans issues, and transitioning specifically.

“There are a lot of explanations [on the Internet] of what to expect from top and bottom surgery, and it’s interesting to see how people deal with that, how they prepare for it, what happens after,” Étienne said, adding that because accounts are written largely by

people who’ve actually gone through each step, it’s more helpful than something written by a medical professional.

“These explanations are a lot better because it’s not just a text on the Internet that says, ‘Oh, blah blah blah,’ it’s like something you’ve already experienced. Everyone is different, these differences are a part of life, but it can help you make an approximation, like ‘Ok, it’ll be like that, it’ll be alright,’ You know it’s not as bad as you think, that you can cross [that bridge],” Étienne said. “It’s really encouraging.”

At the same time, Étienne is clear about the need to consult professionals when seeking information.

“It’s really important to use official sources. You have to be careful [...] you have to make sure you’re taking the right dose [of hormones],” Étienne said. “It’s always better to consult someone than go ‘Oh, I’ll go look on some site.’”

Things are moving along for Étienne; a meeting earlier last week with an endocrinologist led to the discovery that a mastectomy is in the cards in three months, and will take place in November or December if all goes well.

On Sunday, Étienne makes another video, apologizing for forgetting to show the ninth testosterone injection.

“My voice has changed a little bit,” Étienne says, smiling before ending the clip.

Graphic Sophie Morro



A LOT OF WORK TO DO

WHY ARE THE SKILLED TRADES CLOSED OFF TO WOMEN?



by Jane Gatensby @JaneGatensby

It seems that as far as in-demand jobs go, it's a man's world. On employment sites, opportunities abound in traditionally masculine domains like auto mechanics, electrical work and plumbing.

According to the federal government, the "skills gap"—a generalized lack of specialized labour—is particularly severe in the skilled trades, a sector in which women are grossly underrepresented.

Although good jobs are available, women don't seem to be accessing them. Nearly half the labour force is now female, but the world of skilled trades remains decidedly male. According to the 2011 National Household Survey, men outnumber women nearly 16 to one in the employment category of trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations.

There are many theories to explain this disconnect, but for Jennifer Lys Grenier, who works with women in nontraditional jobs at the nonprofit Action travail des femmes, two particularly stand out: women aren't generally encouraged by society to go into trades, and those who do face discrimination on the job market.

"A lot of the exclusions remain social and cultural," she said. "There are a lot of boys' clubs."

According to Lys Grenier, persistent stereotypes make it harder for women to make a living in the trades than men.

"If an employer needs five workers and he's given a list of 10 workers and there's two women on the list, he's going to take five men, even though the women might be more qualified," she lamented.

Though some say that men dominate trades simply because they are stronger, this argument doesn't hold up for Lys Grenier. Many women are stronger than men, she says, and advanced tools like hydraulic wire cutters have made trades such as electrical work less physically demanding, in addition to improving the long-term health of workers.

However, according to Lys Grenier, women still find that to succeed in the trades, they have to meet even higher standards than their male co-workers.

"Any worker has some latitude for learning, for mistake, for error. Women don't have that," she said. "You got your foot in the door, you have to suck it up, and you have to have a level of tolerance that is way higher than the norm."

Women in male-dominated work environments face similar attitudes if they ask for special accommodations or complain about sexual harassment, she says.

Lys Grenier finds these barriers particularly disappointing given the potential pay-off the trades could give to women and their families, as skilled trades jobs come with a decent paycheck and are often unionized.

"The reason why trades are so important is that women also comprise 70 per cent of workers that fill part-time and precarious jobs, [and] are poorer overall," she said. "One of the reasons why is [...] because of the types of jobs that they do."

Having more female tradespeople, she said, "would have a huge impact on the economy as a whole."

Cécile Demers, who works to integrate women into the skilled trades with the

Women's Centre of Montréal, thinks that women wanting to go into traditionally male trades simply don't get enough support.

"Sometimes the people in the woman's life won't necessarily approve that choice," she said. "There are still people around who think that some jobs are made for women and others for men."

A public awareness campaign, she says, would help get women into the trades. She would also like to see primary and secondary schools teach girls about career possibilities in the skilled trades.

The Women's Centre's non-traditional employment programs serve just under 100 women a year, 75 per cent of whom go on to pursue a career in a traditionally male sector. But the centre receives funding on a year-to-year basis, and Demers says the programs could benefit from more resources to build links with employers. She sees getting women into skilled trades as a good investment.

"There are sectors where there are labour shortages," she said. "It's too bad, because [...] the labour is there, it just doesn't always have the training."

The surest path to a job in many of the skilled trades is a technical diploma (a vocational studies diploma, or DEP, in Quebec) coupled with an apprenticeship: paid, supervised, on-the-job training with an experienced employer.

In Canada, women complete a mere 14 per cent of all registered apprenticeships. And in Quebec, only five per cent of apprentices are female.

Violette Goulet is among the few. A former Concordia jazz student, she chose to

pursue a diploma in carpentry and is now a second-year apprentice working in the construction industry.

"There's nothing traditional about me," she laughed, explaining that she first tried her hand at carpentry as a teenager, when she helped build her mother's house.

The fact that Goulet was the only woman in her class and one of the few in her program didn't deter her.

"It wasn't a barrier for me," she said. "I knew I was in the right place."

At school, Goulet says, she always finished her tasks before at least half of the rest of her class.

"So half of them were slower and didn't perform as well as me," she said. "The men were confronted with that, it made them realize that a girl can do what they can."

Goulet's experience in the male-dominated world of carpentry has been a positive one overall. She began working immediately after graduation and has even started a business with two partners she met in the field.

But she says her skills are not always automatically accepted in the same way as those of her male coworkers.

"What I find annoying is that you're always having to prove yourself," she said.

"The guys are curious," she continued. "They always ask the same questions: 'Why are you here? Why are you doing this?'"

Her answer?

"Because I like it, because I want to make money," she said. "The same reasons as [them]."

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

NEW SEXUALITY MAJOR FINALLY GETS OFF THE GROUND

PROGRAM REACHES SENATE AFTER YEARS OF DELAY

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

After years of development and perceived bureaucratic delays, Concordia University is getting close to having its own interdisciplinary sexuality major.

"Honestly I think it would be easy to say there was discrimination because it's a bunch of gays proposing this, or it's a controversial topic and whatnot—I really don't believe that's the case," said Geneviève Rail, principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute at Concordia, which will be housing the major once it's finally implemented.

"Concordia is quite open to these things—thank God, that's one of the reasons I came here—I think rather it's been a lot of bureaucracy gone mad."

The new major was approved last month by Concordia Senate and the university is now drafting its formal proposal to the Quebec Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sport (MELS) so that the program can receive final approval from Concordia's Board of Governors and be added to the curriculum.

Rail has been actively working towards getting an interdisciplinary sexuality major underway since arriving at Concordia in 2009.

But the interdisciplinary sexuality program was in development long before then—the university has been offering a minor in interdisciplinary sexuality studies since 1998.

According to the Concordia website, the program combines anthropology, art his-

tory, cultural studies, film studies, fine arts, history, literature, philosophy, psychology, religion, sociology and women's studies "in order to investigate empirical, theoretical, and creative aspects of sexuality."

The major will employ a similar approach, Rail said, and the proposal for a new major adopted last month by Senate reflected that mindset.

Rail added that costs might have played a role in the decade-plus delay between starting the sexuality minor and implementing the major.

"I've been told by people in higher administration that because minor programs are easier—because minors are usually constituted of courses that are already existing, [they are at] no cost to the department or the university," she said.

"But the major is a bit different, because usually it belongs somewhere and you get a degree in that, so it requires resources to administer."

Rail says there were other setbacks for the major—particularly finding it a home.

"My feeling was that the fact that the major was floating [for so long], in other words, not one department wanted to carry the project, was a big stumbling block."

Prior to Rail's arrival at the institute, other faculty members had expressed interest in housing the major under the institute's scholastic umbrella.

According to Rail, the institute's faculty would only agree to open the institute to a new major "under certain conditions."

With only four professors teaching regularly, Rail says the institute's faculty wanted to ensure it would not be bearing the entire load required to operate the program.

However, Rail says even though the institute was able to agree to support the major, a "series of bad things all happening in the same five-year period" kept the major from getting Senate approval until now.

Among those problems included new requirements being demanded by the MELS following the university drafting all the necessary documents for the ministry to approve.

Going forward, Rail says she hopes the program proposal will be sent to and approved by the MELS by September, in hopes of beginning the program by the start of the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Board of Governors will still have to sign-off on the program, but Rail says she expects the program to succeed.

"I think we'll be able to make great strides in sexuality studies at Concordia, so I think it's going to consolidate the reputation in this area for the whole university, because it's not just us at the institute, it's the two faculties and 21 professors involved," she said.

"I'm expecting that having that here with a strong student association and strong professors in the field [...] will give new oxygen to the field."

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



SEALING OFF THE FRIEND ZONE

WHY THE SEXIST CONCEPT NEEDS TO BE ERADICATED FROM OUR DATING DISCOURSE

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

While the idea of the "friend zone," a platonic relationship where one party is romantically interested and the recipient is not, may seem like an innocent and even light-heartedly wacky rom-com scenario, it's rarely innocent in the real world.

The overwhelming majority of times the term seems to surface is when it's uttered with disdain from a scorned high school- or university-aged straight male.

It's used as a derogatory term: if a woman turns down sexual advances from a "nice guy," it's always simply because she's a bitch, and never because the guy is creepy, overbearing, sexist or all of the above.

Men who use this childish term seem to think that women owe them something, that friendship is just a regrettable stepping-stone to an inevitable romp in the hay. Their reasoning is if they perform enough "nice guy" gestures for long enough, they'll receive the reward of sex.

When that doesn't happen, they throw a tantrum and blame the "bitch that led them on." What the hell kind of line of thinking is this? Hey, asshole: women don't owe you a goddamned thing.

This is the misogynistic thinking of the men who catcall on the street, who leer at obviously uncomfortable women in the bar. Their sense of entitlement extends to encompass a woman's entire body in their minds. This is all I think of when the friend zone is

brought up—that they think a woman's body is somehow a man's manifest destiny.

Let's say the reverse scenario arises: a man and woman are friends, and the woman wishes to pursue a relationship and the man is not interested. What kind of dialogue do we have there? In all likelihood, the woman will be labeled as "crazy" or "desperate," or she wasn't trying hard enough or was trying too hard, and so on.

The blame and shame inevitably falls on the female party. There is no scenario where the man is considered cold-hearted, or somehow wrong, for "friendzoning" the woman.

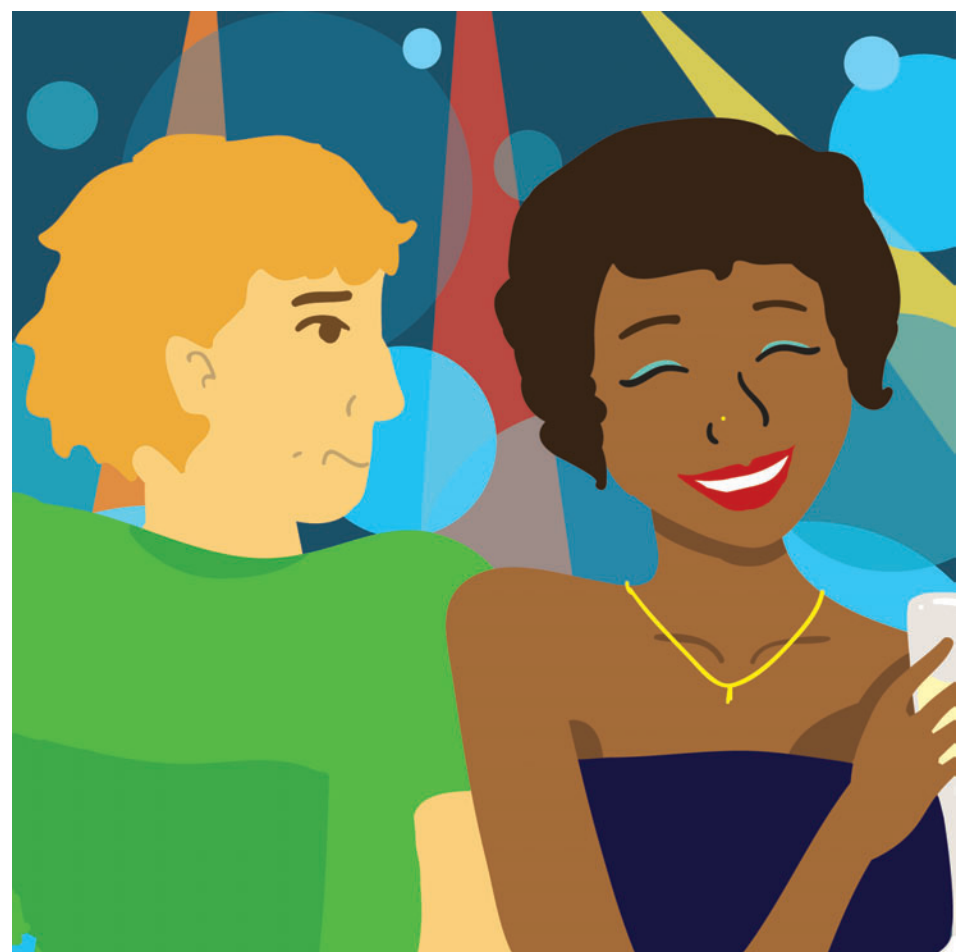
Using the term friend zone also jeopardizes genuine friendships between sexes: with this idea floating around young people's psyches, women are likely to be cautious when interacting with male friends—maybe it's all an act just to get them in bed.

To me, the friend zone simply feels like one of the many manifestations of rape culture, and thus cannot be tolerated in our daily vernacular.

So for the "friendzoned" guys reading this, perhaps you should re-evaluate why you feel that way. What intentions did you have going into the friendship? What is it about the wishes of others that you just can't respect? Is it so impossible for you to entertain the idea that, perhaps, you are the one in the wrong?

The dating world needs to retire this belittling and sexist concept for good: it's time to end the friend zone.

Graphic Ekavi Beh





KEEP IT CASUAL

CRAIGSLIST'S CASUAL ENCOUNTERS SECTION AND THE WORLD OF ANONYMOUS SEX

by Brandon Johnston @bjohnston_photo

Many of us are probably familiar with the online classifieds ads website Craigslist. Whether you're searching for a new apartment, selling your *How I Met Your Mother* DVD collection or looking for an anonymous way to meet someone to have casual sex with on a lonely Monday night, Craigslist seems to offer something for everyone.

According to the website's "about" page, Craigslist was originally founded in 1995 as an email list of events taking place in San Francisco. Named after its founding developer, Craig Newmark, the service allowed users to interact with each other through email to organize events within the city.

User growth and demand led to the creation of more classified services, such as a real estate section, job postings and a buy and sell section. Increased user participation led to the eventual creation of the website we are familiar with today: Craigslist.org.

Craigslist now operates in 70 countries with more than 700 local sites.

Beyond offering classified advertising services, the website also includes sections devoted to personals and dating services.

Missed Connections, for example, allows users to write publicly visible anonymous letters to people they observed, but did not have the opportunity to introduce themselves to. The goal of posting an ad is that the person will see it and write a response to the poster—possibly resulting in a romantic connection.

Perhaps the most notorious section of the website is Casual Encounters, which allows users to post anonymous letters soliciting strangers for sexual experiences.

With colourful ad titles ranging from "[Young] and Full of Cum?" to "Your Sweaty Hole Licked Clean," coupled with an overwhelming number of dick pics, the section can be somewhat jarring to newcomers.

Users post ads along with their age, desired meet-up location, and their sexual preference, signified by letters corresponding to gender. For example, m4m is a man looking for a man, w4m is a woman looking for a man, t4m is a trans person looking for a man, and so on and so forth.

Over time the site has section gained a lot of popularity among the LGBT community, as it is seen as a relatively safe way of exploring one's sexuality while remaining anonymous.

GO ASK ANONYMOUS

Alex* started using Casual Encounters in the summer of 2013, initially as way to counter to his depression.

"[I was] lonely, bored, and couldn't meet anybody," Alex said. "I think it was a pretty bad part of my life, because I just didn't care. I think Craigslist was a response to it, because when you think about it, it's kind of like the end of the ropes, because you just give up normal ways of meeting people and finding sex. It's definitely a sign of depression."

Over the summer he used the website frequently. He described most of his experiences as strange and often uncomfortable, though most of the people he met were not threatening in any way and only once did he feel in danger while on a date.

"[The] last time I did it, it was particularly bad. I went there and he turned out to be a speed junkie, he was fucking high on speed," Alex said. "He was being crazy so I'm happy I left before anything happened. He locked the three deadbolts, I thought I was fucked."

"I was just like, 'I gotta go, I don't feel good,' and he was super nice about it," he continued. "It was still really weird. He was like, 'Do you mind if I do a line of speed?'"

Most of the dates Alex went on remained one night stands, and he did not keep in touch with the people he met online.

"I saw one of them on the street with his mother, which was hilarious. He gave me the panic face," Alex said, recalling the time he saw one of his dates downtown.

Although it's impossible to say for certain how many people actually meet up for dates, Alex says the Montreal community is fairly large. He estimates thousands of active users each month. The Montreal page receives hundreds of postings each day alone, which support that belief.

Alex has since stopped using the service, citing personal reasons. Despite having admittedly uncomfortable experiences with the people he met, he remains optimistic about the potential for the website to be used positively if it were to be embraced by more people.

"I think it's a really great thing, [but] people are prudes," he said. "I don't think sex should be so confined."

*Name has been changed

Graphic Brandon Johnston

THE MORE THE MERRIER

THE BENEFITS OF POLYAMOROUS RELATIONSHIPS

by Madeleine Gendreau

I never really considered the concept of being in relationship with different people simultaneously as having a name, or any sort of connotation at all. It was just a thing that happened, a friendship that shifted, with the added benefit of a sexual relationship.

While entertained by the free-love musings of bands like Jefferson Airplane and Love, the act of officiating these situations with definitions and promises sounded like a huge hassle.

I imagined it would involve much secrecy, and would undoubtedly amount to the over-use of pet names like “honey” and “sweetie” to avoid tripping up (*à la John Tucker Must Die*). In all likelihood I would end up generally lost, confused and in an inescapable pit of my own lack of regard for others.

Growing up in San Francisco among a host of non-traditional relationships—for example a friend with two sets of moms and dads, all of which identify as gay, yet wanted to raise a child together—loving who you love doesn’t really phase me.

There is never one template to define relationships, regardless of how many parties are involved.

DIFFERENT FACES OF POLYAMORY

Stephanie* has been in two polyamorous relationships, both of which ended due to distance-related complications. She was in the midst of kicking a current casual sexual partner out of her bed in Granada, Spain when I got a hold of her.

“When we were equally having the same amount of sex with people this worked well, but when he stopped having sex with people, he wanted me to stop too, and the more controlling

he was about it, the more sex I wanted to have,” she said.

“With [the second relationship], I stuck to the same theory, but sadly our rhythm of sleeping with other people never matched up. The more I didn’t want [him to sleep with just one person] the more I pushed him away, and the closer they became.”

While the relationships worked well when her partners were in the same city, Stephanie felt that there were issues of dishonesty and inequality, as well as a general lack of control, when they were apart. These days, she has opted to work on her own independence, happiness and self-love before diving into another monogamous relationship, and has decided to divide her time and energy into a variety of people instead of any individual.

Different people have different definitions of what polyamory is; James* sees it as a matter of primary and additional relationships.

“My partner and I are the ‘primary’ relationship and others that we choose to have, such as her and the other person she is seeing, are sort of ‘an addition.’”

Since being introduced to the idea by his partner a few months ago, James has learned a lot about polyamory—primarily that everyone has different needs, and that comfort is key.

“We don’t own each other, and as such we trust each other to make our own decisions, keeping in mind that we don’t want to hurt each other either,” he said.

“It’s important that any limits we impose are ones we willingly put on ourselves, not ones forced onto us by others, either those inside or outside of our relationship.”

Anna* became interested in polyamory when she noticed its increasing prevalence in her university. It would seem that jealousy would run

wild in polyamorous relationships, but James and Anna say that wasn’t necessarily the case.

“It was a strange adjustment, but my partner [of three years] and I were very open and honest, not only about our desires and other partners but about the jealousy and feelings that came with those,” Anna said. “We decided to go with full disclosure. I was the first one to act on it, and this did cause a bit of an imbalance in the relationship, but explaining that connections with other people did not diminish my connection to my partner helped nullify insecurities.”

“It doesn’t make sense to limit people to a single partner or relationship,” says James. “If a person or people want to explore other options, as long as everyone involved is consensual, communicative and comfortable, I see no problem [with it].”

Anna found it helpful to view her sexual relationships as extensions of friendships. “A healthy relationship is a solid friendship foundation,” she says. “You don’t have only one friend at a time, so in the same way, if you meet someone else who is cool your friend hopefully doesn’t get territorial and make you decide.”

AN EXPERIMENT WITHOUT A NAME

Before moving across the continent to Montreal, I had been in a satisfied relationship for two years. When the question “Where are you going to university?” swept my high school, along came the subsequent question “What are you and Sam going to do next year?” which seemed lumped to the former as one long existential crisis.

It was my serial-monogamist mother who said I needed to “go out and explore a mix of good and bad lovers in order to know how special your relationship is.” The advice seemed cheesy at the time, but her words helped remind me not to cling, and to instead celebrate what we can

learn from each individual.

However, initially as a result of missing one another, my partner and I began sharing rather in depth play-by-plays of the sexual encounters we were having. Instead of trying to one-up one another, it became a forum to discuss what worked, what was wrong and the various kinks we were exploring—and I guess it became a kink in itself, too.

When I explain this to friends, the question of jealousy typically arises, but by laying all of our cards on the table my partner and I managed to avoid those jealous feelings.

This began as an experiment without a name, an attempt to salvage the longevity of my own monogamous relationship, but what has become increasingly more apparent is that in every kind of relationship we should see the full potential of the individuals involved.

And above all, it was the communication, consent, and the continuous checking-in with one another that has kept that particular relationship strong, not the number of people involved.

At this point in my life I have found myself in a series of polyamorous relationships. The people I choose to spend time with each fulfill different facets of my life that make me happy. A relationship that is sex-oriented is also just as friendship-, love-, respect-, trust- and communication oriented.

While these aspects come in different forms for different people, the celebration of the individual or individuals we find ourselves loving reigns true, whether we’re in love with one person or 10.

*name has been changed

Graphic Ekavi Beh





"I attended a course at Concordia called Militarism in the City and I did a lot of my own research looking at original documents, so it's sort of just a retracing of the history of urban planning and how that relates to police control."
—Sophie Yanow, Author



Anatomy of a Strike

Graphic Novelist Looks Back at Quebec Student Strike and Police Tactical Responses in New Book

by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

For American illustrator Sophie Yanow, being in Montreal during the Quebec student strike was pure happenstance. She moved here from San Francisco in 2011 for an artist residency at the Maison de la bande dessinée, and right as she decided to stay permanently in the city, the strike flooded the streets.

Yanow was swept up in the action and participated and documented the marches and tactical meetings. She also worked with the Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économique.

"I was present for a lot of the demos, and I went to a fair amount of organizational meetings, a lot of community APAQs [Assemblées populaires autonomes de quartier]," Yanow said.

"Also the folks at my studio, we all decided we were going to make a zine. IRIS put out a pamphlet during the strike that was 'Eight Arguments Against the Hike,' and we decided to illustrate it, and printed 5,000 copies of it and gave it out to folks.

"I was present at the demos a lot and trying to help inform people, and also trying to encourage folks who weren't students to get involved. It was saying, 'Hey, you know, you don't have to be a student to support the student movement,'" she continued.

Her latest book, *War of Streets and Houses*, recounts the strike from her perspective and also delves into the history behind police tactical maneuvers against protesters. In contrast, her first book, *In Situ*, was a bit more light-hearted, inspired by British-American cartoonist Gabrielle Bell and her autobiographical work.

"Gabrielle Bell was doing a comic a day on her website, and I was like 'I'm going to try that,' and that's where it came from, because I realized I totally preferred drawing journal comics and drawing non-fiction," she said.

With the annual anti-police brutality march having just taken over the streets this past weekend, Yanow's new book couldn't be released at a more ideal time. In it, she breaks down the relationships between police tactics, crowd control, military strategies and urban planning, while also recounting her own experiences.

"The book isn't a tactical manual so much as a reflection on the history of these things. [...] I attended a course at Concordia called Militarism in the City and I did a lot of my own research looking at original documents, so it's sort of just a retracing of the history of urban planning and how that relates to police control," she said.

While urban planning may not seem to be directly linked to protests and police presence on the surface, Yanow points out

in her book that the layout of public spaces can often dictate the turnout of a protest.

"Kettling is really environmentally influenced, based on having a large enough space to encircle a crowd. When you have a really vast space, it's kind of impossible to protest unless you have huge numbers, which often protesters don't have," she said.

"Like we saw during the student strikes, [protesters use] almost guerrilla tactics, running around in small groups and breaking apart. If you look at the scale of downtown and the roads down there and the plazas and everything versus Villeray or something, it's a totally different scale that everything is built on.

"It's not like, 'if we build the environment like this, nobody will ever be able to protest,' but there's a certain tension there," she continued.

In *War of Streets and Houses*, Yanow also wants to shift the typical dialogue associated with protests and bring to light entirely new perspectives.

"One of the big things that the media is obsessed with in protests is who the guilty party is, and how it comes down to whether a protester threw a rock first, or hit somebody first, and who provoked who," she said.

"I'm kind of more interested in contesting the idea that guilt starts in that moment. I wanted to say, 'Maybe the protesters have been provoked long before this. Maybe our environment is an antagonist as well.'"

When asked about the most interesting aspect of writing her latest book, Yanow deferred back to participating in the strike itself.

"The most fun part of the book, of course, was participating in the casseroles [protests] and everything during the actual strike, moments when everybody was out. It was very nice to be out there, and it wasn't like a militant action, but to just feel people being supportive was really exciting," she said.

Yanow hopes that the launch of her new book in Montreal will spur the vivid memories of the strike for those who participated, and educate the students who weren't in the city for those historic months.

"I think it's important for students in Montreal, especially new students, to look into what actually happened during the strike if they weren't present for it.

"A lot happened in a very short time and for those of us that were there, it feels really recent. But it's hard to see when you walk around now that it even happened," Yanow said.

War of Streets and Houses book launch // March 20 // Drawn and Quarterly (211 Bernard St. W.) // 7 p.m. // Free admission

Fringe Calendar MARCH 18 TO MARCH 24 by Riley Stativa @wileyriles

MUSIC

1 Streets Have No Name: Battle of the Bands [18+]
March 19
Cabaret Underworld
(1403 Ste. Élisabeth St.)
8 p.m.
\$10 + fees
This year's battle royale, brought to you by Jam for Justice McGill, Musicians Collective and Canadian Asian Cultural Outreach, is gearing up for another go following last year's sold-out event. Featuring the musical attacks of Cult Classic, Écho, Myles Stone and Ye Olde Orchard Duo & Co., there will be drink specials to help you rock out. At the end of the night, you help decide the victor. Proceeds from the night will go to Dans la Rue.

2 Black Sheep + Guests [18+]
March 23
Cabaret Underworld
(1403 Ste. Élisabeth St.)
9 p.m.
\$10
The time has come to bust out your non-ironic fanny packs, Air Jordans and any other '90s paraphernalia hiding in the back of your closet. Why? To get your dose of a blast from the past with Queens-based hip-hop duo Black Sheep, as they stop-in to rock steady in the City of Saints.

CINEMA

3 The Room screening + Meet and Greet
March 23
Dollar Cinéma (6900 Decarie Blvd.)
1 p.m.
\$15 advance, \$20 door
You haven't lived until you've seen this cult classic with your own eyes, hailed as one of the worst films ever made. Ever. As a bonus, visionary director Tommy Wiseau will be around after the screen for a meet and greet and photo op. (P.S. Don't forget the spoons.)

4 Bay of All Saints
March 24
CSU lounge, Hall Building 7th floor
(1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)
7 p.m.
Free admission (donations accepted)
This documentary serves as a portrait of the struggle of the everyday lives of three single mothers settled by the Bay of All Saints in Brazil. Taking place over a six-year time span, the families are at the mercy of the government, living with the uncertainty as to whether or not an ecological restoration project on the bay will allow them to continue to live in social housing. Witness urban poverty, the struggle of a community and the fight to keep a home.

THEATRE

5 Glengarry Glen Ross
March 16 to March 30
The Segal Centre
(5170 Côte-Ste-Catherine Rd.)
1:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
\$24
We can ABC (always be certain) that you won't want to miss David Mamet's classic play about a Chicago firm of real estate salesmen, struggling in a cutthroat sales environment to make ends meet. Cutting, darkly funny and soaked in business-grade whiskey, Glengarry Glen Ross is looking to sell you a good time.

ART

6 Art Matters: Childhood's End Vernissage
March 21
Galerie Carte Blanche
(1853 Amherst St.)
6 p.m.
Free admission
Borrowing both title and inspiration from Arthur C. Clarke's 1953 novel Childhood's End, this vernissage features sculpture, video and painted works with an inspired science fiction theme while exploring ideas of utopia and dystopia, as well as the relationship between our present and future selves. Sure to be out of this world.

OTHER

7 Demonstration and March: Against Colonialism and Racism
March 21
Mont-Royal Metro station
6 p.m.
Free
Join this demonstration and peaceful march, organized by Ensemble contre la Charte xenophobe and put on as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which commemorates the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa. Supported by many on campus groups including QPIRG, the CSU and more, this is a chance to raise your voice in protest against xenophobia taking active form in our province.

T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Check out more listings online at
thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar

Fringe Giveaway

TWO TICKETS TO SEE SAXSYNDRUM

Congratulations Noelia Gravotta! You've won two tickets to see the funky stylings of Montreal electro-swing duo Saxsyndrum live.

The show is this Saturday, March 22 at Le Cagibi (5490 St. Laurent Blvd.) at 9 p.m. Thank you to our good friends in the band Nick Schofield and Dave Switchenko for providing the tickets!

Thanks to all who entered and be sure to check out our wild giveaway video on Facebook, where our Fringe Editor passes the torch to his successor Alejandra—but he doesn't give it up easily. Watch the Mortal Kombat-style battle at facebook.com/thelinknewspaper.

Be on the lookout next week for our final Fringe Giveaway of the year. Stay Fringe-y Concordia!

SAXSYNDRUM

FAIRGROUND
FUTURE CIRCUS REMIXED



Slotback Michael Harrington will be among eight former Stingers competing at the upcoming CFL regional combine at the Stinger dome.



Slotback Kris Bastien will be at the national combine in Toronto with four other Stingers, including teammate Max Caron, who is currently ranked the 10th best draft-eligible prospect by the CFL scouting Bureau.

Beware of the Buzz

Concordia Stingers Will Be On Full Display at Upcoming Regional and National CFL Draft Combines

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

A swarm of Concordia Stingers is headed to this year's regional and national Canadian Football League combines—but it'll be every bee for himself once they arrive.

"No disrespect to any of my teammates who are preparing," said Stingers slotback Michael Harrington, "but at the moment, they're my competition."

Harrington is one of eight Concordia football players invited to the CFL's Montreal regional combine—or evaluation camp—taking place on March 19 at the Stinger dome. Other combines will be held in Edmonton on March 17 and Toronto on March 20.

Those who are draft eligible and perform well enough in the regional combines' physical drills and evaluations, will get invited to the national CFL combine in Toronto from March 21-March 23.

The national combine is a player showcase wherein prospects from across the country will perform physical and mental tests before on-looking CFL team scouts in hopes of improving their stock in the upcoming league draft on May 13.

Four Concordia players have already been invited to this year's national combine,

including linebacker Max Caron, the 10th-best prospect according to the CFL Scouting Bureau. Caron isn't too preoccupied with his pre-draft ranking, however.

"It's very exciting to be ranked so high, but I've made a conscious effort to forget about that," Caron said. "I had plenty of success in the CIS, but I always told myself that I never wanted to be complacent and rest on what I have done."

"Even with where I am now, the CFL is a big step up from the CIS," Caron continued. "Regardless of my ranking, it is really important to stay driven and get better at each and every facet of my game, physically and mentally."

Caron is set to compete alongside fellow Stingers wide receiver Kristopher Bastien, quarterback Reid Quest and defensive lineman Quinn Smith at the national combine, along with other Stingers that may receive invitations following Wednesday's regional camp.

"I'm excited to go against my teammates," said Caron. "We always have a high competition level during practices, so if we face off against each other in drills I'm sure it will be the same."

Helping Concordia get the nod to host this year's Montreal regional combine was former Stingers football head coach Gerry McGrath, who has stayed in contact with various person-

nel from the CFL. McGrath is staying on with the team as a consultant after retiring from coaching following a winless 2013 season.

"Those kind of relations are one of the reasons why we wanted to keep him around," said Patrick Boivin, Concordia's director of recreation and athletics.

For some Concordia players, like linebacker Travis Bent, having a regional combine close to home is advantageous in more ways than one.

"As a student, resources are slim," said Bent. "I wasn't looking forward to forking out the money to have to travel to, say, Quebec City, like where it was last year."

"The fact that it's at [Concordia], I have the advantage of using a lot of resources that are here such as staff, and therapy before the morning of the combine," Bent added. "Being adjusted to the surfaces for those specific drills is already a big thing."

Joining Harrington and Bent at this year's Montreal regional combine are defensive back Nathan Taylor, linebackers Alexandre Lemire and Eric Noivo, defensive linemen Shaquille Armstrong and Jonathan Langma, and offensive lineman Frederik Landry-Simard.

Three players were extended invitations to the national combine after impressive per-

formances at last year's two regional combines.

Among them was former Stingers defensive back Kristopher Robertson, who recorded the best results in the vertical jump and broad jump as well as the fastest time in the 40-yard dash at the Quebec City combine.

Bent has spent time training with Robertson, in preparation for the regional combine.

"He's been walking me through the process and giving me pointers here and there, and letting me know what to expect," said Bent.

Robertson was eventually drafted 11th overall in the 2013 CFL draft by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, but did not play at all in 2013 after suffering a torn ACL two months before the start of the season.

Despite spending last season recovering from his injury, Robertson still has a chance to establish himself in the CFL as a product of the Concordia Stingers football program, and the newest crop of Stingers might not be too far behind.

"I think this program has a history of churning out some successful players who have gone on to have successful careers," said Boivin.

Left photo Dylan Maloney,
right photo Erin Sparks

A Glorious Past

Lynda Baril's *Nos Glorieuses* Examines the History of Women's Hockey

by David S. Landsman @dslands

Millions of Canadians witnessed Canada's women's national hockey team's comeback win in last month's Sochi Winter Olympic gold medal game. Some of those might know that the game marked the fourth straight time the team won gold in the Winter Olympics since the event was inaugurated in 1998. But few are aware that women's hockey's glorified past dates back much further than that.

Author and *La Presse* journalist Lynda Baril is hoping to shed some light on that past with her new book *Nos Glorieuses*, released in November.

"I started thinking about [the book] about six, seven years ago after doing a miniseries on Radio-Canada about hockey's history," said Baril. "[That's when] I realized that there hadn't been a lot of talk about women's hockey, especially in Quebec."

The book covers the history of the sport in Canada in depth from its very beginnings, detailing 100 years of women's hockey. Baril also inserted over 200 photos, illustrations and period documents after searching through heaps of archival material.

"I was doing a lot of digging through many old newspapers, magazine clippings and covers, even Eaton's catalogues," said

Baril. "But one thing is for sure, I didn't want to just tell the people the story, I wanted them to see it."

Baril also says that doing the miniseries was an eye-opener for her.

"It was really the first time I had seen women in long skirts and hockey sticks at the beginning of the century," said Baril. "I then asked myself how come I've never seen this."

She then divided a lot of her free time to start searching for more and more photos, and people willing to help share her story.

A part of that story mentions how, while Canada's men were off serving our country during World War I, the women took to the ice and put on games for crowds upwards of 3,000 people.

"It's kind of funny how not many people knew about that," said Concordia Stingers women's hockey head coach Les Lawton. "In Montreal and Toronto, women's hockey

almost made the men's leagues disappear."

Lawton himself just finished his 33rd season as head coach of the Stingers—a testament to the longevity of women's hockey in Canada.

"Anybody involved in the women's hockey program knows about the true history and that's super important," said Lawton. "Just look at us at Concordia, we've had a women's hockey program here since 1968."

You were hard-pressed to find a francophone playing before that time, however.

"Back in the beginning in the 1910s, '20s and '30s, women in Quebec along the French side were commonly discouraged from playing hockey," said Baril. "It wasn't an image we often put together."

Baril went on to say that women's hockey has come a long way since those days, but was quick to mention that the sport is still facing challenges today.

"[Media and journalists] like to point out

that it isn't really on par with the men's level because the competition is so sparse," said Baril. "They think it's only the Canadians and Americans and the rest are just for show. That's why Sochi was different, in a positive way."

Four years ago, in the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada's women's team's road to gold was an easy one as it defeated its three group-round matchups by a combined score of 41-2 and shut out Finland 5-0 in the semis before beating the Americans 2-0 in the final.

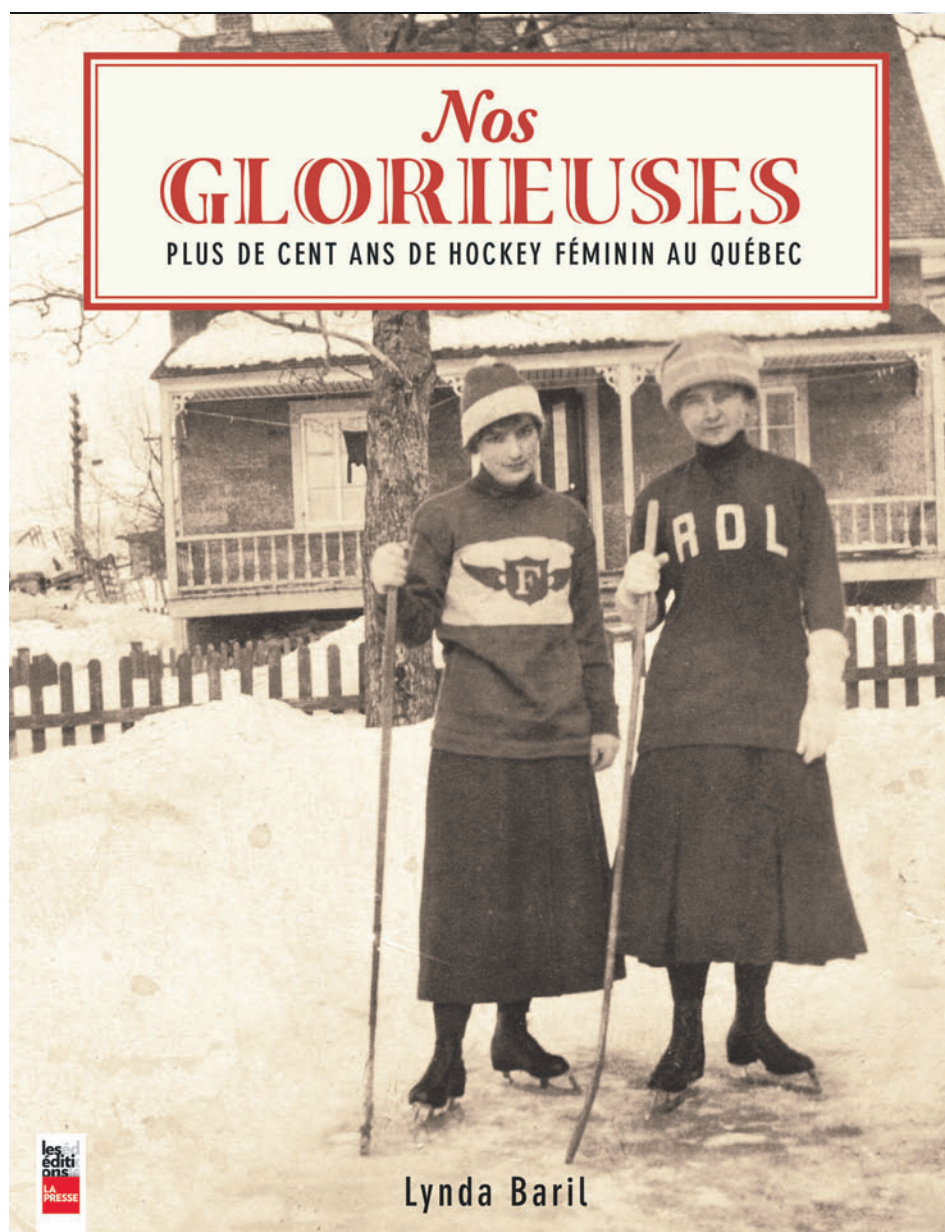
This past Olympics gave the Canadians a much stronger test, as the women's team won its three group-stage games only by a combined score of 11-2 before narrowly defeating Switzerland 3-1 in the semifinal en route to its come-from-behind 3-2 win against the U.S. in the final. The Swiss went on to win bronze.

"In men's hockey it took Switzerland 82 years for them to beat the Canadians," said Baril. "I sincerely doubt it'll take that long for the women."

In the meantime, Baril hopes her book, which has already sold several thousand copies, helps to get the true history of women's hockey out for people to learn.

"Not everyone will buy the book to read the whole thing," said Baril. "But they will definitely enjoy looking at all the pictures, and getting a quick history lesson."

"Back in the beginning in the 1910s, '20s and '30s, women in Quebec along the French side were commonly discouraged from playing hockey."
—Lynda Baril, author of *Nos Glorieuses*,





Don't Burn the Bridge

Fee-Levy Groups Provide Benefits Outside the Classroom

by Genevieve Bonin

I'm probably one of the most unlikely people to be writing this article. I'm a first-year Concordia student originally from British Columbia. I've only been on campus since September, and I haven't even experienced a full CSU election. But I have taken the role of chairperson of the "Vote NO to per-faculty fee levy referendums" committee, and for the past week, like many other students, I've been trying to juggle my full-time course load while campaigning about this important issue.

I wanted to share my reflections on this process with fellow Concordia undergrads, and add some new insights and perspectives to the issues at hand, beyond what's already been published and printed.

As chair of the Vote NO committee it was my role, along with my team, to encourage folks to join our committee in order to campaign. In just two days, more than 50 people joined the Vote NO committee, which is truly representative of students from all faculties, featuring students in engineering and computer science, the John Molson School of Business, fine arts and arts and science. As a committee, we show that students can and do work across faculties.

In organizing and working with students from all faculties, I quickly learned about the fabulous community-oriented projects undertaken by different groups of students, be-

yond the already amazing fee-levy groups that our committee is defending.

In the engineering and computer science faculty, the very active group Engineers Without Borders makes tangible links with underprivileged communities around the world.

The John Molson School of Business has a rich array of groups that challenge the idea of business solely as for-profit, through organizations like the Sustainable Business Group—that recently brought David Suzuki to Montreal for the Better Business Tomorrow conference—and CASA Cares.

Fine arts students organize an internationally recognized arts festival, Art Matters—which is also sponsored by fee levies—in addition to linking art practices with community endeavors. There are many similar efforts from arts and science students, such as community research initiatives, consent workshops, solidarity work and more.

All these projects benefit from being linked to the rest of the Concordia community, as opposed to occurring in isolation, and they seek out allies, co-sponsors and stakeholders.

It's just such a basic principle that the success of any project, service or initiative relies on building bridges, not burning them—and a group like Engineers Without Borders literally builds bridges!

What's so dangerous about approving per-faculty fee-levy referendums is that we burn bridges permanently by dividing stu-

dents and preventing the possibility of working together. As students, we're stronger when we collaborate across faculties.

For me—and the great majority of Concordia students—our campus experience is not just within the classroom. We want productive and enriching experiences outside of class that make what we learn in the classroom more relevant. This is where fee-levy groups come in.

I don't know about all the groups, but I do know that in my next several years at Concordia, whether I want to be involved in journalism, media production, social justice organizing, sustainability, managing a business, volunteering abroad or more, fee-levy groups provide me with plenty of opportunities, be it as a volunteer, intern, employee or board member.

I had just started getting involved with a fee-levy group when the idea for per-faculty fee-levy referendums was proposed suddenly in early March. I want to make sure other students have the opportunity to be involved and to benefit from fee-levy groups like I've just started to do, which is why I became chair of the Vote NO committee without any previous CSU experience.

The upcoming referendum question puts the long-term viability of fee-levy groups in serious danger, and I want to make sure fee-levy groups stay feasible not just for my future years at Concordia, but for all students in the future.

I'm shocked that so many groups that contribute to the Concordia community in a constructive way are having their reputations unfairly attacked, despite their excellent accountability to students and the amazing projects they're dedicated to.

Fee-levy groups are an essential part of Concordia, and anything directly affecting them needs to be discussed thoroughly.

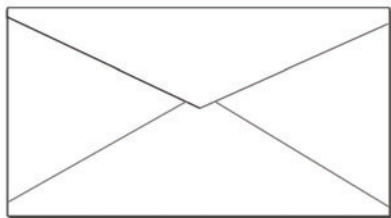
What's particularly problematic is that there was never any discussion beforehand between everyone concerned about these issues, and how to best go forward taking everyone's interests into account.

Instead students are simply being asked, without any context and in a rushed way, to vote on a seemingly mundane bureaucratic procedure that has huge ramifications. The Concordia community—and students in all faculties—deserve better. That's why I'm involved in the way that I am.

I encourage everyone to check out ConcordiaCommunity.org for more context and info on these issues, and if you agree, I encourage students from all faculties to come out between March 25-March 27 to vote no.

Genevieve Bonin is a first-year geography, planning and environment student and the chair of the "Vote NO to per-faculty fee levy referendums" committee.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



LETTERS@thelinknewspaper.ca

► The Link's letters and opinions policy: The deadline for letters is 4 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. *The Link* reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libellous, sexist, homophobic, racist, xenophobic or over 400 words. Please include your full name, weekend phone number, student ID number and program of study. The comments in the letters and opinions section do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. Due to budgetary constraints, CSU election letters will be only posted online next week.

Art Matters for Everyone

As a fellow student I would like to reach out to all Concordia students, but particularly students in fine arts.

In the upcoming CSU elections, there'll be a question that asks whether or not you agree with per-faculty fee-levy referendums. It's important for people to know the full impact of this question, and why voting no is so important.

For those that don't know, the Art Matters festival is a fee-levy group. We couldn't

do what we do without the stability and funding provided by a stable fee levy. With it, Art Matters has become a renowned and unique arts festival in North America.

Fine arts students should know that the exact same people who were pushing for the current per-faculty fee-levy referendum also tried to push for an immediate 20 per cent cut to Art Matters funding (as well as five other fee-levy groups) by asking for JMSB students to opt-out en masse. This was done

without any consultation or discussion with the people directly concerned.

Per-faculty fee-levy referendums have the potential to destroy the sense of community at Concordia that fee-levy groups and related projects cultivate. Art Matters is not exclusive to the fine arts, it is for the Concordia community at large, just like the Sustainable Business Conference is something fine arts students and all students can attend and learn from. After all, Art Matters

is called "Art Matters" because it is not solely for other artists, but for everyone.

I feel fine arts students in particular should be coming out in large numbers in the upcoming CSU elections, to defend Art Matters, to defend fee-levy groups and to defend the values of a Concordia community. Please visit ConcordiaCommunity.org for more information.

—Coe Kerr

Opt-in to the Concordia Community

by The Board of Directors of The Link Publication Society

To the Concordia University undergraduate community,

As you are probably aware, there is a referendum question on the ballot this election regarding the funding of fee-levy associations, which could have serious consequences for student-run organizations such as *The Link*.

As the Board of Directors of The Link Publication Society (TLPS), we have been following the situation developing around fee-levy groups with avid interest and increasing concern over the last few months.

Our worry is not only for this impending vote, but also for the future of fee-levy groups on campus in general. Funding—or defunding—these groups on a per-faculty basis, we fear, could mark the beginnings of an eventual decline that would harm Concordia's student life.

We believe that student groups are an integral part of making our campus an active, engaged and enlightened place to learn and be.

This is why we urge you not to make a blanket statement or set a precedent with this vote.

Creating disincentives for future students in your faculty to get involved, and financially sweeping away a tradition of support is *not* the solution to making our groups stronger, more accountable or better able to serve your needs.

Besides, we can all benefit from our groups if we implicate ourselves within them in a meaningful way.

When you walk out of here, your degree will be worth far more to future employers if you've shown initiative on campus. An involved student body makes Concordia University look good, too. (In 2003, the seminal *Maclean's* Guide to Canadian Universities listed *The Link* as part of 'What's Hot' about Concordia, for example.) And these groups offer students a number of practical opportunities that you simply cannot gain from a classroom experience.

Fee-levy groups allow students—from every department or discipline—to get out of their segregated-by-faculty buildings, meet and build something together. Fee-levy groups are a testament to the value that

we place in being a collective, and creating a campus that serves the needs and interests of our diverse student body.

Year after year, TLPS will hear from our alumni and contributors that getting involved with the student newspaper has enriched their university experience for the better and given them skills, colleagues and friends they may have otherwise missed.

Most importantly, what would Concordia's student life even look like without these groups? What if there was one less opportunity for cross-faculty cooperation and school spirit? At a time when student space is at a premium (or, some would argue, in decline), this is another hugely important consideration implicated in this vote.

Disinvesting in student groups—and student life, more generally—is not the solution to the legitimate criticism being levied at student groups, nor does it excuse work that could be done within the university to serve you better.

Undeniably, there are groups that need

the services and skills you are learning in school—but they can only improve with your involvement.

The beauty of the current system also means that if you feel your interests aren't represented by a current group, you can start something new yourself and will be financially supported by the community—just as you support the interests of others by paying into these groups. And if you're still not convinced that student groups are for you, there are already mechanisms in place to get your money back.

This is why we urge you not to impose a blanket choice to support or disinvest in student groups on behalf of your entire faculty. Concordia University is enriched by student involvement.

Join us in keeping Concordia's student life active and engaged by voting "no" in the per-faculty fee levy referendum question from March 25 to March 27 so that we can continue to make Concordia a community, not simply a university.

For the last few months, every time I have sex with a condom I get an irritation similar to a yeast infection in the few days following. I generally get yeast infections so I know the symptoms, but this is slightly different, where it's more inflamed and has less discharge. I'm worried that I may have developed a condom allergy—is that something that can develop? If so, are there specific symptoms I should be looking for? What other options are there if it turns out to be a condom allergy?

—Allergy or Infection?

Condom allergies are usually actually an allergy to latex, which the majority of condoms are made of. Like any other kind of allergy, latex allergies can develop but they're pretty rare and affect only about one per cent of the population.

In the case of a mild, non-life threatening allergy, symptoms typically appear 12 to 24 hours after exposure and can include typical allergy symptoms like itching, rash and hives, with the additional possibility of yeast infections.

Some of these allergy symptoms can look the same as yeast infection symptoms, and disruptions to your vaginal environment are generally what lead to yeast infections, so there's also no reason to assume that's not what's happening. While you may know what a yeast infection looks like, they can also be slightly different de-

pending on the severity.

The only way to know for sure is to see a doctor when you have symptoms. They can examine you and take a vaginal culture to see if you test positive for a yeast infection.

Most doctors will be able to tell and treat you just from examining your symptoms, but if this is a recurring problem and you're concerned about a possible allergy it's always best to let your doctor know and go from there.

If you want to do more before heading to the doctor, you can start other factors to see if it does seem to be the latex or just the condoms you're currently using that are causing the problem. Certain condoms—and even sex itself—can lead to yeast infections, especially if you're someone who is prone to them, so there are a few things you can try out to bring

your doctor more info.

First, switch condoms. If you've been using the same brand since this problem started you could just be reacting to the lubricant. Switch to a different brand and see if you notice a difference.

You should also avoid condoms or lubricants that contain spermicide, since the chemical typically used in them, nonoxynol-9, is an irritant that can cause yeast infections and other reactions. You can also try using non-lubricated condoms and see if it makes a difference. If you try this remember that you *need* to apply a lubricant to the condom yourself. You can pick one out and test it separately on your skin first to see if you have a reaction.

Finally, give polyurethane (non-latex) condoms a try and see if it makes a difference. I suggest this after switching to different

brands and lubes because if you switch first to a non-latex condom and stop having a reaction, it could just be the change of brand and lube that solved the problem rather than the condom material.

This elimination process can help you rule out some possibilities and gather more information, but it shouldn't replace getting your symptoms checked by a doctor. It's always best to further investigate suspected allergies, especially since a latex allergy doesn't only affect sex.

Latex is used in many products you come into contact with, including gloves that can be used in many medical situations, so it's good to get something like this confirmed.

If it turns out that you are allergic to latex, there are other options and they're widely available.

Most major condom brands now make non-latex alternatives, usually out of polyurethane, and at least one brand is available at most pharmacies.

Some brands also make natural non-latex condoms, sometimes called sheepskin or lambskin because they're made from animal intestines. Keep in mind when checking these out that they only help prevent pregnancy and offer no protection from STI transmission, so they're not ideal for everyone.

—Melissa Fuller, @mel_ful

Submit your question anonymously at sex-pancakes.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook. Got a quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SexEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!

Oshe-YEAH-ga!



by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

ACROSS

- ▶ 1. This 2014 headliner won us over with his creepy brother/sister/husband/wife duo The White Stripes in 2003. (2 words)
- ▶ 2. His stage name is Childish Gambino and his real name is Donald Glover, but to the die-hard fans of this TV show, he'll always be Troy.
- ▶ 3. Though the band _____. The Man hails from Wasilla, Alaska, they set the stage aflame in the name of this European country.
- ▶ 4. *Transgender Dysphoria Blues* is the latest album by this punk rock band, whose singer transitioned from male to female in 2012. (2 words)
- ▶ 5. Since the festival's first edition in 2006, Osheaga has been held at this park, named after the Montreal mayor who initiated Expo 67. (2 words)
- ▶ 6. On nearly all of the big festival lineups in 2014, this soul/hip hop duo will be reuniting onstage to celebrate their 20th anniversary.
- ▶ 7. Ella Yelich-O'Connor of New Zealand, also known under this regal stage name, had us all

singing that we would never be royals and freaking out when we realized she was 17.

▶ 8. Indie star Lykke Li was depicted in the Osheaga clue poster as smoking a cigarette and wearing this nation's flag as a dress.

DOWN

- ▶ 9. With their lady legs keyboards and funky beats, this Montreal duo, self-described as "the only successful Arab/Jewish partnership since the dawn of human culture," will have the crowd dancing in no time.
- ▶ 10. This DJ is credited with starting the dubstep craze of 2011 and making the side-shave haircut a thing.
- ▶ 11. These Osheaga veterans reinvented their sound with their 2013 album *AM*, full of heartbreak and that irresistible English rock charm. (2 words)
- ▶ 12. Osheaga musicians will be fed by this Montreal celebrity chef and owner of Le Garde Manger and Le Bremner, making Osheaga an excellent culinary spot. (2 words)

.....
Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Power Theatre

COMIC ALEX CALLARD



Québécois 101

COMIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier



Niaiseux: “Niaiseux” comes from the word “niais”, which comes from “nid” (nest), and refers to a bird who hasn’t yet left its nest. In Québécois French “niaiseux” generally refers to an idiot, a simpleton or a naive person. “Niaiserie” and “niaiserie” are the words and actions of someone who is “niaiseux.” They are used describe something unimportant or something stupid. “Niaiser” is the verb.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

A Stranger Is Just a Friend You Haven't Met Yet

I'm a fast walker, or so people tell me. I used to be convinced that others were slow, but I've finally come to accept that the problem lies with me.

That doesn't mean I'm willing to accept the pace of that strolling couple holding hands across the entire sidewalk, however.

I've become an expert dodger, weaving around slow-walkers like the Wicked Witch of the East in tornado season. Don't underestimate the amount of skill this requires.

I look over the people walking towards me and predict their paths with astounding accuracy—most of the time. Sometimes, though, I miscalculate. This usually happens when the oncoming pedestrian is trying to predict my path as well.

I probably don't even have to tell you what happens next, but I will anyway. I side-step to my right, they side-step to their left. I side-step to my left, they side-step to their right.

Usually by this point we've figured it out and continue on our ways but sometimes, on those particularly awkward occasions, there's a third side-step. Let me just make something clear—by the time it comes to this, it's just plain funny.

We're both in a rush, which is what got us into this mess in the first place, but at this point we've shared a good chunk of time together; why not laugh about it? I smile every time, embracing my newfound dance partner.

Why the grimace? This awkward little moment has forced us to reinstate human connections in our impersonal, self-absorbed society.

It has given us the gift of looking at another human being in the face! Actually, a moment like this deserves a hug. Yep, it's official; three side-steps means there's nowhere to go but forward. Congratulations, you've just made a new friend. Embrace it.

—Alejandra Melian-Morse



Graphic Caity Hall

Editorial



The SPVM's Bylaw Squad

Another year, another anti-police brutality march.

At least, that was the plan.

On March 15, a few hundred people gathered in Villeray to publicly voice their opposition to excessive use of police force—or to call for the disbanding of armed police forces altogether.

It's an annual affair, one seen internationally as a day to protest against police brutality. But since last year's demonstration in Montreal there's far less certainty that a march will actually take place as it used to—like last year, demonstrators were kettled before moving a block in any direction.

As soon as the march's 3 p.m. start time arrived, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal ended it. The demonstration was kept to a stretch of Châteaubriand Ave. near Jean Talon St., the same place a po-

lice officer was filmed threatening to tie a homeless person to a pole in the biting cold in January.

You can't call it a march if it doesn't go anywhere. Around 300 people were kettled for hours, eventually processed and fined hundreds of dollars under municipal bylaw P-6.

What supporters of these amendments to P-6 don't understand is this is not an anti-police brutality parade. Asking for a parade route ahead of time is not only unnecessary but defeats the protest's purpose.

Demonstrators aren't waving from floats and throwing out beads. If anyone *did* want to watch from the sidewalk, they would be swiftly kettled like everyone else.

The demonstration was declared illegal over loudspeakers mere minutes after its start time, and any protesters who did not leave were

surrounded by riot police—tear gas guns aimed at them from above.

But the SPVM had already declared this march illegal two days earlier. It's a return of the kind of contradictory logic that was used since P-6 was amended during the Maple Spring: the march is illegal, but will be allowed to continue as long as no criminal acts are committed.

We're too familiar with this line by now. It's a switch that's been flipped for something as benign—and impracticable—as walking on city streets instead of the sidewalk.

As the reporters we sent to cover the demonstration were outside the kettle, CUTV was there live streaming from a balcony. But even though they had sought the resident's permission—and CBC was also shooting from another balcony—they were forced inside and told to shoot through a window.

All the while a ring of Sûreté du Québec officers in full riot fatigues created another circle around those kettled.

"We know most people who show up Saturday have a message, have a legitimate grievance," said SPVM Commander Ian Lafrenière at a press conference ahead of the protest as reported by *The Gazette*.

But if there are legitimate grievances like Lafrenière says—and there are—the actions of the police directly contradict this. The police are saying that what Saturday's demonstrators are fighting for is legitimate, but they aren't allowed to have their voices heard on the streets of Montreal.

All because of a municipal bylaw.

These orders at some point come from city hall. Striking down the Maple Spring amendments to P-6 would prove that Mayor Denis

Coderre is indeed open to the freedom to demonstrate, that he's a change from the party that passed these amendments in the first place.

Because as it stands, Montrealers are being charged over \$600 for exercising their right to demonstrate, even if it's the first time they're doing so.

Coderre's inaction on this issue shows that he has no intention to defend the right to demonstrate, and Projet Montréal doesn't have the council seats to do it on their own.

For now, don't pay that ticket—fight it. The court challenges keep coming. While Montreal turns its riot police into little more than bylaw officers, we must continue to defend our freedom to assemble.

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Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

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In "If the Webster Library Grows, the Education Department Has to Go" [Vol. 34, Iss. 24] and "Webster, Meet Digital Culture" [Vol. 34, Iss. 19], it was stated that Concordia's Webster Library will increase in size from 1,500 to 3,300 seats with planned renovations. In fact, the library will go from 1,550 to 3,400. *The Link* regrets the errors.



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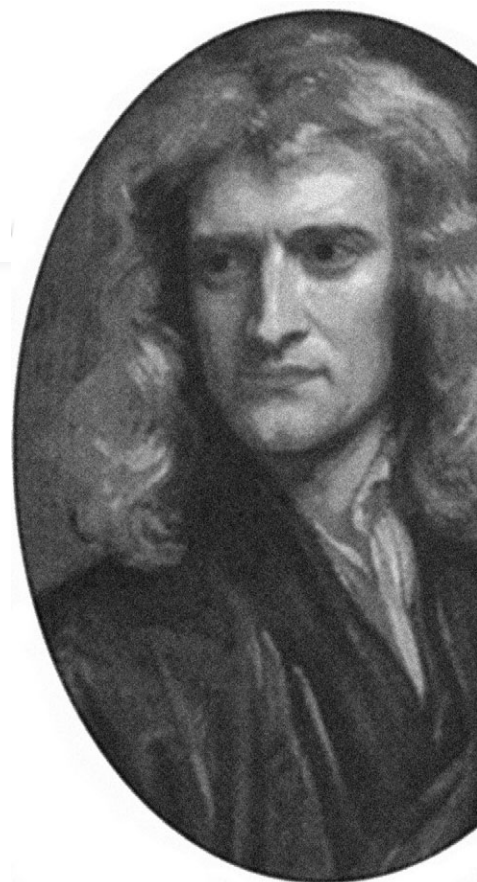
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