

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNING IN A PROVINCIAL ELECTION

A Concordia student joins Quebec's Green Party to take on incumbent PQ MNA Bernard Drainville in the general elections. The Link went along for the journey, from the nomination process to election day. P3

HELPING THE DOWN-AND-OUT

A program run by the Montreal YMCA seeks to help the homeless, as well as those suffering from mental illness or drug abuse problems, at the city's central bus station. P6

SH-ART

The Link explores Montreal's grungiest art in the dirty world of latrinalia. P10



EDITORIAL THERE'S STILL A NEED FOR CONCORDIA TO WORK WITH STUDENTS P19



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Monday April 28th 2014, 6PM
1500 De Maisonneuve, Suite 404

Proposed Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the 2013 AGM.
3. Board of Directors Report 2013-2014
4. Staff Reports
5. Presentation of Financial Statements
6. Constitutional Amendments
7. Election of the Board of Directors
8. Other business

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On the Campaign Trail with a Concordia Student

Provincial politics in Quebec is seemingly seeing a resurgence of interest among youth. As was the case in 2012, a year characterized by months of student protests, quite a few young Quebecers threw their hats into the ring in Monday's provincial election.

Among the most well-known were Léo Bureau-Blouin, the leader of the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec during the 2012 student strikes, who was seeking re-election with the Parti Québécois in the Laval-des-Rapides riding.

Also running for the PQ in this year's election was Martine Desjardins, the 32-year-old former president of the Fédération étudiante

universitaire du Québec, who was a candidate in the North Shore riding of Groulx.

Both lost their respective races.

Smaller political parties also benefitted from the heightened political engagement of young Quebecers. Catherine Lovatt-Smith—a 24-year-old political science and public policy student at Concordia—chose to run with the Green Party in her South Shore riding of Marie-Victorin. It's the riding that, prior to the election, was held by the PQ minister responsible for the controversial Charter of Quebec Values, Bernard Drainville.

He was re-elected on Monday.

Lovatt-Smith, the VP External of the Political Science Student Association, said she chose to get involved with the Green Party, instead of one of the larger political formations, as a matter of principle—she supports the Greens' electoral platform, which argues in favour of free public transit and free education, and against the Charter of Values proposed by the PQ.

To get a sense of what running with one of Quebec's smaller political parties entails, *The Link* followed Lovatt-Smith on the campaign trail, from the nomination process through Election Day.

► Continued on page 5.



Concordia student Catherine Lovatt-Smith ran against the PQ's minister for democratic institutions, Bernard Drainville, in the Marie-Victorin riding. Photo Michael Wrobel.

ASSÉ-LED PROTEST DEMANDS A 'MORE EGALITARIAN' BUDGET

Concordia students speak out on austerity measures in a protest that starts out peaceful, fishtails and ends with two arrests and six injuries. **P4**

GRIM DISCUSSIONS

Concordia hosts the Grimposium conference to discuss metal to the extreme. **P9**

THINKING OUT LOUD

Concordia literary journal *Soliloquies* launches a new issue at Le Cagibi. **P13**

NEW-BEES

Looking to lower their goals against average, the Stingers women's soccer team recruits two defenders and a goalkeeper for next season. **P15**

OPINIONS: ASSUMING SOMETHING DOESN'T MAKE IT FACT

Why Kyle Arseneau was robbed of his CSU council seat. **P16**

THE MONTREAL SPORTS JEDI

Montreal rapper Annakin Slayd has established a reputation as an artist with an affinity for Montreal's most iconic sports teams, the Montreal Expos and Canadiens. **P14**

THE LINK ONLINE

GET YOUR GRADES UP; GO PLAY WITH A PUP!

The CSU will be bringing puppy therapy to Concordia's Loyola Campus on Thursday, April 10 at 11 a.m. Need a break from exams? Take a paws.

HIP-HOP, YA' DON'T STOP!

Hip Hop Heads Concordia teams up with café to bind coffee and hip-hop together.

ELECTION NIGHT PROTEST AT BERRI SQUARE

Monday night, protesters marched to show that regardless of the party elected, their demands will stay the same.

VIVA ITALIA!

MYICA's Cibo Di Strada Fundraiser Flaunts Thriving Italian Culture in Montreal.

POMO'S TAKEOVER OF MONTREAL'S MUSIC SCENE

A highlight and interview with Montreal's current thriving DJ.

TRAC TO HIT THE POLLS

TRAC will vote next week on their recent agreement with the university.

LINK RADIO

The Link Radio will be hosting its last show before the summer break on Thursday, April 10 at 11 a.m. Tune in to CJLO 1690 AM to catch it live, or listen later at thelinknewspaper.ca.



McGill Daily photographer Shane Murphy shows the mark from where he was hit by a rubber bullet during Thursday's demonstration.



Protesters took to the streets to denounce budget cuts to various programs by both the federal and provincial governments.

ASSÉ-led Protest Demands a 'More Egalitarian' Budget

Thousands March on Downtown Montreal to Denounce Government Budget Cuts

by Michael Wrobel @Michael_Wrobel

A protest organized by the most militant of Quebec's student federations, the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, drew thousands of demonstrators into the streets of downtown Montreal on Thursday to denounce budget cuts to various government programs.

"This mania [in search] of zero deficit spares no public service in either Quebec or Canada," said ASSÉ co-spokesperson Justin Arcand. "Governments tell us that they don't have a choice. However, austerity budgets are not fate, but an ideological choice."

Montreal police made six arrests during the protest. Two people were injured, including a man in his 50s who was hurt by a projectile, according to the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal. The incident occurred as police charged forward to break up the crowd.

ASSÉ said roughly 50,000 students were on strike Thursday. Montreal's crowd—estimated by organizers to be 15,000-strong—left Place Émilie-Gamelin shortly after 2 p.m.

The protesters first marched north along Berri St. before winding their way southwest towards Victoria Square. While many of the demonstrators stopped there, others marched back through downtown, at times weaving between rush-hour traffic. Riot police dispersed the crowd near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and St. Urbain St. shortly after 5 p.m.

Two student associations at Concordia—

the School of Community and Public Affairs Students' Association and the Fine Arts Student Alliance—are members of ASSÉ, whereas the Concordia Student Union is a member of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. Still, several newly-elected CSU executives were present at the protest, including president-elect Benjamin Prunty.

Prunty told *The Link* the executives were not there as official representatives of the union, but as members of the SCPASA and students concerned about austerity measures.

A few CSU councillors also participated in the demonstration.

"[A protest] like this, where you have a huge mass of people all together to [...] protest austerity measures which are prevalent at every single level of government, is something that I, of course, want to be a part of," said Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, who was elected a councillor for the Faculty of Arts and Science in last week's union elections.

"It sends a message and it builds a sense of solidarity."

"ASSÉ had been promoting [the protest] for a while [...] and I agree with the messages, so I felt that I had to be a body in the street to show support, show numbers and contribute to the mobilization against these political issues," said John Talbot, who was also elected an arts and science councillor.

Geoff Graham, an independent student at Concordia, said he came out to the

protest to denounce "social inequality, both globally and locally."

"We are rich nations, that's for sure, but even amongst our rich nations, there's incredible divides, so we have little power to fix global problems because we have to deal with our daily struggles," he said.

Another Concordia student, Christale Terris, said she decided to attend the protest because she is "against austerity, against cuts to education, to the environment, to social spending."

"I think the government that we have right now is going in the wrong direction," she said. "We can't completely guarantee that the next [provincial] government is going to go in the right direction either. I think that we're in a really precarious time and it's time to take direct action."

The protest was reminiscent of the 2012 student strikes, with many demonstrators donning the red squares that became symbols of the protest movement.

Although the protest was planned months ago, before the provincial election was called, it inevitably took on an electoral tone. Some protesters sported Québec solidaire buttons on their jackets and several candidates for the Green Party of Quebec chose to participate in the protest.

"A lot of the goals put forward by the organizers of this protest correspond very much to the message that the Green Party has been bringing in the election," said

Green Party leader Alex Tyrrell, who attended the protest.

"It just shows how volatile the political climate is in Quebec, that you can have these kinds of protests four days before an election and that even though the protest seemed peaceful, as far as I saw, it was met with an extremely heavy police response," he added.

"I saw somebody be pushed to the ground. An older man had to be taken out on a stretcher—he was bleeding from his head—for absolutely no reason."

Tyrrell said the Green Party is opposed to any laws that curb the right to protest.

"I think that the police have been applying unconstitutional rules for the past two years where something will happen, like one window will be broken, and they'll use that as an excuse to arrest 350 people and they're violent while they make the arrests," he said.

Some protesters suggested electoral politics won't change the fact that various levels of government are seeking to cut spending.

"When it comes to austerity, there's a lot of disenchantment with 'politics as usual,'" said Marshall-Kiparissis. "It doesn't matter who gets in. These policies will likely continue, and it's nice to step back and see that there are other people who recognize that."

Photos Erin Sparks

Photos Brandon Johnston

Photo Michael Wrobel

Anatomy of a Grassroots Campaign

Concordia Student Runs Against PQ Minister Responsible for the Charter of Values

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

► Continued from page 3.

March 13

Before having their names added to the ballot, candidates in provincial elections have to collect 100 signatures on their nomination papers from people living in the constituency they are running in.

For high-profile candidates with the larger parties, that often means sending out volunteers to knock on doors. But for Lovatt-Smith, that meant a trip to the street she grew up on. Her family has since moved, but she figured many of the street's residents would still recognize her.

With the snow still glistening, Lovatt-Smith and a friend, Sophie Hallé, walked door to door. Some residents turned Lovatt-Smith down, while others needed a little convincing. She reminded them that signing a candidate's nomination papers isn't a pledge to vote for the candidate on election day.

Others didn't need to be persuaded. Emilio Casella, a one-time neighbour, had words of encouragement for Lovatt-Smith and said the Green Party is the right fit for her.

"I knew her from when she was very young and even then, when she was young, she was already someone who was very green-minded," he said.

Some question whether younger candidates have enough life experience to be effective legislators, but Casella said it doesn't bother him that young people like Lovatt-Smith are choosing to enter provincial politics.

"It's true that experience helps," he said. "I'm not saying that experience doesn't help, but at some point, you have to start somewhere in life, and if you don't start somewhere, your dream will never be achieved. If you have a dream, you have to start young."

March 26

Lovatt-Smith was invited to Collège Édouard-Montpetit to participate in a political debate organized by the CEGEP's student association. There were representatives present for the Coalition Avenir Québec, Option nationale and Québec solidaire, but the PQ and Liberal Party didn't send any candidates to the debate.

The first segment of the debate revolved around the topic of national identity. Lovatt-Smith elaborated on the Green Party's position on the charter.

"We are against the banning of religious symbols, that the government would try to prohibit us from wearing what we want, from believing what we want when we represent the government," she said.

"The government is the largest employer in Quebec. It employs close to 1 million or more in public administration," she continued. "It has to respect the right to work. When we go to a potential employer and we have an interview, we're not supposed to be judged based on our region or our appearance, yet that's exactly what the government would impose."

The moderator asked the four candidates to explain their parties' energy policies and positions on environmental issues.

"I'm glad that someone brought up the electrification of transport before me," Lovatt-Smith said. "The electrification of transport isn't necessarily environmentally-friendly, it's not necessarily the best solution. A car, in order to be electric, needs a battery, and the batteries require that we mine for rare earth metals."

She said there is already a mining project extracting rare earth metals in the Témiscamingue region that is polluting potable water.

"Citizens are concerned," she said. "For each individual car to have a battery, it could create even more pollution and affect the water supply."

April 3

Several candidates for the Green Party of Quebec—Lovatt-Smith included—participated in a protest on April 3 denouncing budget cuts to various government programs. The student federation that organized the protest, the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, estimated the crowd to be 15,000-strong.

Lovatt-Smith said the protesters' demands for a "more egalitarian" budget and fewer austerity measures are compatible with the electoral promises of the Green Party.

"Our platform mentions that we want companies, banks and big business to pay more taxes," she said, adding that Quebec could generate \$3 billion in new revenue by taxing corporations more.

"That money can be invested in free [public] transportation that we want to offer to the population and also free education, because it costs approximately \$700 million to send all university students to school for one year. It would be easy for us to tax the rich and, in that way, have the money to offer [services] to the population."

April 6

Inside the Longueuil bus terminal, Lovatt-Smith greeted commuters arriving from Montreal, smiling broadly like only a politician can. She obtained a permit allowing her to hand out flyers inside the building.

With the Montreal metro's yellow line closed on the weekends for repairs until the end of May, commuters were instead ferried between Montreal and the South Shore aboard shuttle buses.

Glancing at the flyers, some commuters expressed disbelief when they saw that the Green Party is in favour of zero-fare public transportation. Only a small number of cities around the world offer public transit free-of-charge to their residents, and most of those cities have populations considerably smaller than Montreal's.

An older man with three PQ campaign buttons pinned onto his jacket approached Lovatt-Smith. Taking a look at a flyer, he asked her why the Green Party is opposed to the charter.

"The Green Party has always been a party that supports human rights, since [it was relaunched] in 2001," she said.

"And the charter is against human rights?" he asked.

"Yes, totally, at least in our opinion, based on our research," she replied.

"And the women that are threatened by the terrorists, the integrationists—let's be clear, not just Muslims—they don't have rights?" he continued.

The conversation turned to sovereignty. Lovatt-Smith explained that the Green Party is neither in favour nor against Quebec independence, having no official policy on the subject. Instead, Green MNAs would be able to vote their conscience in the event that the National Assembly would have to vote on whether or not to hold another referendum on sovereignty.

The man left, seemingly dissatisfied with her answer.

Voting Day

As she cast her ballot on Monday afternoon at a community centre in her riding, Lovatt-Smith said she was feeling anxious about how the vote would turn out and whether or not Drainville would be re-elected in the riding.

Drainville was indeed elected in Marie-Victorin, with 38.2 per cent of the vote compared to Liberal candidate Jean-Guy Tremblay's 26 per cent. Lovatt-Smith came in fifth, behind the major parties, with 2.32 per cent, or 707 votes.

Lovatt-Smith said her only regret was "not being available enough" because she

was sick for part of the campaign and also had to juggle a job, extra-curricular involvement at Concordia and her candidacy.

Running as a candidate in the election was a learning experience, and Lovatt-Smith said she was still trying to grasp exactly how to mobilize voters.

"I've learned that it's really hard to mobilize people," she said. "It can be students or just adults in general. But that's why politicians are there, right? They're there to do the [legislative] work that the rest of the population doesn't want to do."

When asked why voters should consider voting for smaller parties that aren't likely to win a seat, she said, "Every party starts from somewhere."

"When you vote, you have to vote for the person that you feel really represents you," she continued. "If everybody would do that, we wouldn't have the two-party system."

Lovatt-Smith said she plans to stay involved in the Green Party after the election.

"I'm thinking about opening a club at Concordia, a Green Party of Quebec club," she said, adding that, however, it's her last semester at the university. "That could be my legacy at school."

To view the photo essay,
go to thelinknewspaper.ca.

Photo Michael Wrobel



Green Party candidate Catherine Lovatt-Smith (right) participated in the anti-austerity protest on April 3.



Port of Call

Preventing Homelessness in Montreal's Central Bus Station

by Jane Gatensby @JaneGatensby

At the Gare d'autocars de Montréal, the city's central bus station, passengers stream through, hauling luggage, ushering children and pulling out their smartphones to call friends and family in the city. Some stop to buy coffee, while others head straight for an exit, breezing towards the passageway to the metro or through the revolving doors that open onto Berri St. There, a taxi or a ride—a plan, a purpose, a welcome—await.

For others, however, these first steps in Montreal are taken with less confidence.

Across North America, intercity bus terminals are notorious as way stations for the down-and-out, places someone turns up when they need to get away from where they are, but have no clear idea of what to do next. Often broke and alone, these individuals are at a high risk of becoming homeless, and may find themselves experiencing mental health problems, abusing drugs or being lured into prostitution or crime.

It is with these people in mind that Montreal's Downtown YMCA runs a kiosk staffed with first-line responders inside the station. Its workers—two in the daytime, one in the evening—help at-risk people in and around the station to access resources like emergency shelters, soup kitchens, mental health

services and other forms of support.

The program, called First Stop, first opened in 1999, following a survey conducted by McGill students and the charity Dans la Rue that showed that among street kids and other homeless people living in the area, two-thirds had come to Montreal to escape a difficult situation, like family conflict, money problems or abuse. Most said that they had no one to rely on when they came to the city, and just under a third spent their first night on the street. A quarter had arrived by bus.

Since then, First Stop has made gains at making the station more secure. For example, they've managed to get recruiters—pimps, drug dealers and traffickers in stolen goods—out of the terminal.

"Most people in the street around the station know about us," explained Mélanie Richer, who runs the program. "We watch; we work a lot with the security guards. [...] It's happened before that we've seen recruiters, but we got them out."

However, Richer said, there's only so much First Stop can do to protect at-risk passengers—particularly young runaways—from the dangers of the area.

Often, she explained, "A young woman will have met [a pimp] online. [She'll] arrive by bus, but the guy will be waiting outside,

because he knows we're here."

It doesn't help that the bus station is just a block away from Place Émilie-Gamelin, which is known as a hotspot for drug dealing and prostitution. First Stop workers often patrol the park and the surrounding area, and are on the lookout for certain risk factors.

Richer said that if they spot a girl with "just a little backpack, no suitcase, [who] doesn't know where she's going," they try to establish contact with her quickly, to let her know that she can come to the kiosk if she ever feels that she's in danger.

First Stop deals with an extremely diverse clientele, and its workers have to wear many hats. "It's something new every day," Richer said. "We have no routine."

In addition to runaways, the program helps women fleeing domestic violence, new immigrants, people with drug, alcohol or mental health problems, and older passengers with Alzheimer's disease who have become disoriented. In all, they gave assistance to 545 people last year.

More recently, the program has begun buying bus tickets back home for people who find themselves stranded in the city.

"A large part of our clientele consists of people in transit," she said.

Some people may have lost their money

or tickets, and don't have anyone in their life who is able to send more. Others have made plans to move to Montreal, but haven't organized any of the details.

"You really have to help those people to make sure that they don't end up in the cycle of homelessness," she said.

A Shift at the Station

On a Friday in late March, I spent five hours with First Stop workers at the kiosk. When I arrived, the two workers on duty, Caroline and Philippe-Olivier, were speaking with a man in his early twenties. Caroline explained to me that he was someone they helped a few years ago, and who still stops by to check in.

The young man is doing better now, she said. He's stopped using drugs and has put his energy towards making music. There's even a picture of him giving a concert taped to the inside wall of the kiosk. Next to it are photographs of missing persons, warnings about street drugs and a poster that reads, "Keep your coins: I want change."

Soon after the young man left, another regular, Michel, came by the kiosk to use the phone, then stayed to chat. Formerly homeless, he first came to the kiosk because he was having problems at his rooming



house. Now he's looking for a job.

"These aren't people who judge you," he said of the workers. "When you come here, they're in solution mode."

Caroline explained that since many people who come to the kiosk might not have many friends who aren't homeless or using, First Stop provides an important link to the outside world. "Sometimes, that's all it is," she said.

Although their mandate is to be at the front line, much of the First Stop workers' time is spent doing follow-ups with past clients.

"We create bonds of trust with people," Philippe-Olivier explained.

"We're flexible, we adapt," Caroline added. "People know about us, we helped them out with, say, food support, but if they come back, they don't see us as social workers, [so] we'll help them out without them necessarily realizing it."

But there's a limit on the amount of help they can give. The workers often run up against gaps in the system, especially when it comes to finding places in shelters. There are always places for women fleeing domestic violence, and the larger men's shelters usually have beds available, but regular women's shelters fill up fast.

"The phone lines open at two, you call, and it's first-come, first-served; you reserve

a place," Caroline explained. If a woman arrives at the kiosk in the evening, it's very difficult for them to find a spot.

Mental health services are also lacking, particularly in cases where an individual is in crisis and the police have to be involved. The Service de police de la Ville de Montréal does have a special team in the neighbourhood with social workers and a nurse, but Philippe-Olivier says they are too few to respond to the level of need.

"There's times when they're already intervening in another case," he said.

The problems surrounding mental health and homelessness in the neighborhood were highlighted in early February, when a man in crisis wielding a hammer was fatally shot by police just outside the station's front entrance.

"We don't know what happened," said Caroline. "We know the conclusion, [but] how did it come about?"

Tremblay said that although he has had many good interactions with police officers on the job, some are uninformed about the realities of mental illness and drugs.

"They're often called to react, [to] control a person," he said. "They don't necessarily have the time or the training to intervene in a crisis situation."

As the light faded in the station, things quieted down a little. A man in his 80s came by and spoke with Tremblay for a while. Then, a security guard alerted Tremblay about a young man sleeping on a bench. Tremblay went over and asked him who he was and whether he wanted help. He didn't.

When I asked the workers whether it was frustrating to meet so many people they couldn't really help, I was met with a volley of yeses. Philippe-Olivier remembers one case in particular: a young woman from the Maritimes, for whom he'd wished he could have done more. They had tried to get her on a bus back home last September, but it hadn't worked out.

"She didn't look like she was in distress when she first came," he said. But over the coming weeks and months, they watched her condition deteriorate. Then one day, Philippe-Olivier saw her with a pimp.

"It's as though I hadn't succeeded in finding a way for her to [come] to Montreal without getting completely messed up, [without] ending up out on St. Denis [St.], doing god knows what," he said. "She's of age, she can do what she wants, but as an intervener, there's a part of me that's just like... *câlée*."

Every day is different at the kiosk. Sometimes there are hardly any interventions to

conduct, and sometimes it's a constant stream. The kinds of problems dealt with are extremely diverse.

When I stopped by again a couple weeks later, Caroline and Philippe-Olivier were chatting with a man—another regular—about the possibility of him going into a residential addiction treatment program for a little while. He'd tried treatment before, but it had been awhile since he'd actually completed a program. "They don't let you smoke," the man complained. "If I'm gonna be there, I need to smoke."

The man mentioned a program in Longueuil or maybe Laval—he wasn't sure where—that he'd heard allowed patients to smoke. Philippe-Olivier began searching for it on the kiosk's computer.

First Stop doesn't have all the answers for people like him. It can't fix years of abuse and hard living or rise above the underfunding and mismanagement in Quebec's social services. Its workers readily admit that their success rate is far from perfect.

What it does provide is a moment's respite, and an open door towards the possibility of a better place.

Outside, the storms still rage.

Photos Shaun Michaud

Milton Parc Association Récréative

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INFORMATION SESSION	
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JOHN MOLSON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Bringing the Underground to Light

Grimposium Conference Brings Extreme Metal to Concordia



Grimposium organizer Vivek Venkatesh

by John Talbot @Talbot_John

Concordia is about to get a heavy dosage of “true kvlt” arts through both an artistic and academic look at the extreme metal scene.

Vivek Venkatesh, the associate dean for academic programs and development at the School of Graduate Studies, is organizing Grimposium, which is set to take place on April 11 and 12.

Venkatesh, who is also an associate professor in the educational technology program at Concordia, said the event will feature many different stakeholders discussing

metal in its various forms.

“You’ve got films; you’ve got artwork, musicians, musicologists and journalists all talking about extreme metal over the course of two days,” he said.

“It’s an opportunity to engage with the major players on the scene. Let’s not make any mistakes about this, the people here are so kvlt, it is an honour to be with them.”

With its plethora of topics and speakers, the event manages to include both international stakeholders and those who contribute to the scene locally.

“Grimposium is a way for me to

recognize the extreme metal scene and what it has given me as an academic,” Venkatesh said. “I want Grimposium to be a place where the scene members who I value the most are put at the forefront.”

The poster itself is an ode to the international scene. Designed by local artist Filip Ivanović, the artists and speakers are listed with their respective countries next to them.

“Vivek and his team at Concordia have really made an incredible contribution to the growing field of metal studies by organizing this conference,” said Jason Nether-ton, the bassist and vocalist of the

deathgrind band Misery Index.

“Because it is so inclusive of the artists and fans as well as the academics [...] it will really contribute to a vibrant atmosphere that sets it apart from other conferences,” he said.

Notes From the Underground

Venkatesh himself is publishing in the expanding field of metal studies.

“I have a paper coming out in a social psychology and community journal where we look at why black metal fans detest community and they set aside anything social to promote individualism,” he said.

“There’s a very atheistic satanic element to it.”

Aside from being a part of his band, Nether-ton is an academic as well.

“My primary interest is with the political economy of music in general,” he said. “However, with the metal scene I have become very interested in the media of the underground specifically—from the early fanzines, art and tape-trading culture to its means of communication and networking.

“In general, I want to explore how the scene produces the artifacts of meaning that give it ‘life,’ and how this media becomes central to notions of authenticity and how such notions change with time and technology,” he continued.

Nether-ton is launching a book at Grimposium called *Extremity Retained: Notes from the Death Metal Underground*. By compiling and editing interviews of 105 “notables” from the death metal scene, Nether-ton has sought to preserve history and create an interesting read for fans and academics alike.

“Let’s Infect Everyone with Satan”

Extreme metal should not be confused with the more popular and well-known heavy metal.

Many subgenres of metal, including glam metal, power metal and even thrash metal, have managed to increase their popularity and become commodified over time. Extreme metal, in a way, formed as a reaction to this.

“What differentiates extreme metal from heavy metal would really be the fast A-tonal riffing of the guitars, extreme distortion, the inhuman vocals, the whole growling and

screeching effects,” Venkatesh said.

“Then to a certain extent the lyrical content: hostility, violence [and] in the case of black metal, suicide, anti-Christianity, Satanism and then a lot of individuality.

“It’s what keeps it underground.”

Both the notions of authenticity and elitism are prevalent themes and heavily debated topics within the extreme metal scene. In fact, there is a panel specifically on this topic. Simply defining the many facets of metal seems to be an arduous process contributing to the meaning of the conference and various panels.

Grimposium brings an aspect of true kvlt metal to posers and non-posers alike. While some individuals may argue it brings too much exposure to the scene, Venkatesh argues he maintains guardianship of what he perceives to be “authentic and extreme metal.”

If people are willing to embrace the metal, the conference will provide them with something to learn and enjoy. It’s an event that allows individuals to learn directly from the scene.

“Want to watch an experimental film about extreme metal? We got that,” said Venkatesh. “Want to watch a documentary about how people in Puerto Rico are dealing with gender, racism, and identities around heavy metal? We got that. Want to listen to the editor of the biggest extreme metal magazine in the world talk about the trials and tribulations of setting up an extreme metal tour? He’s there.”

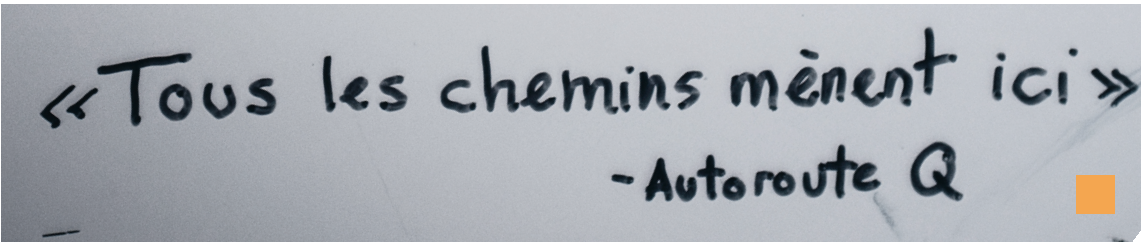
Concordia University and Venkatesh have managed to create a forum that can communicate that the extreme metal scene is not just a place for people to get “violent and ugly.”

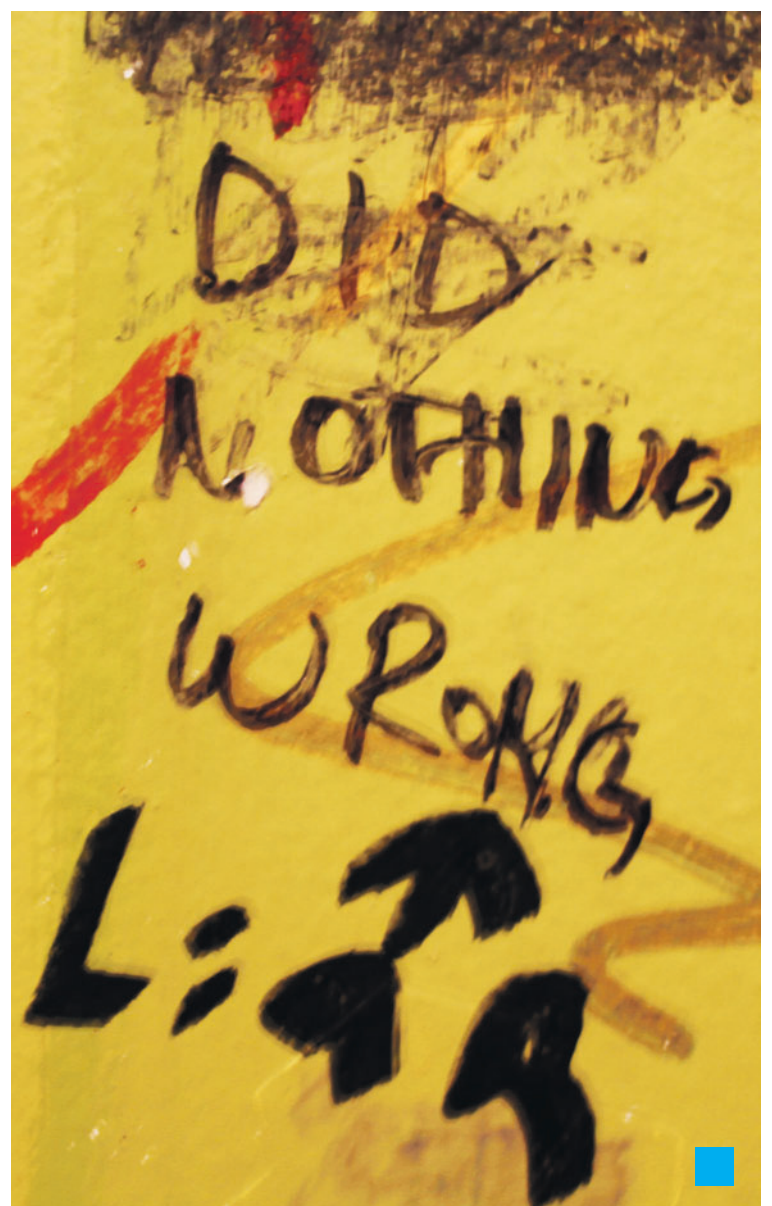
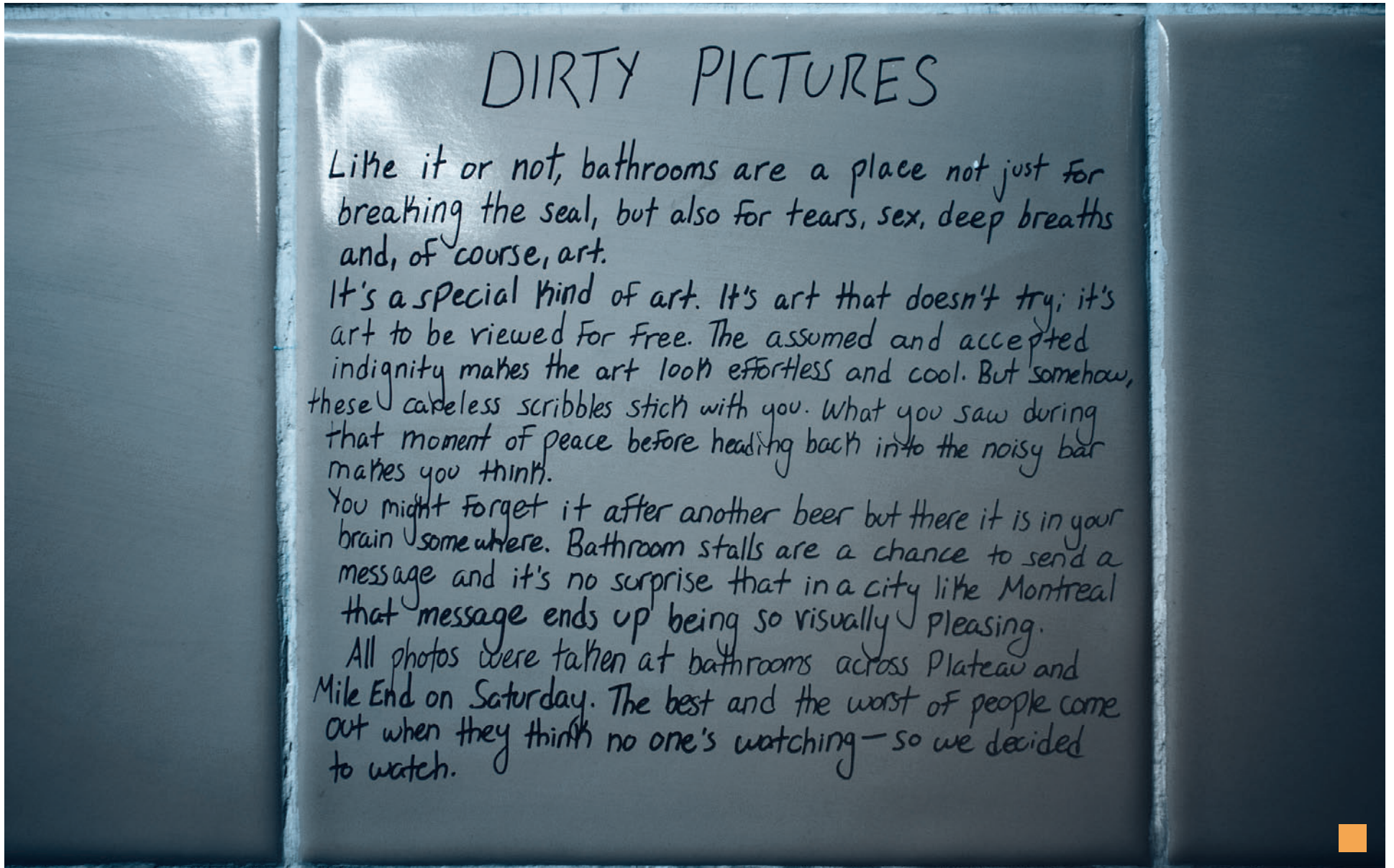
“Underground extreme metal is a scene that is very much alive and ticking,” Venkatesh said. “It’s propagated by the musicians, by the visual artists, [...] by the journalists, the music writers, the bloggers, and the filmmakers.

“I promise we won’t call out posers too quickly in the day.”

Grimposium // April 11 and 12 // 9 am to 5 pm // J. A. De Sève Cinema, LB Building (1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) // Free

Photo courtesy of Vivek Venkatesh





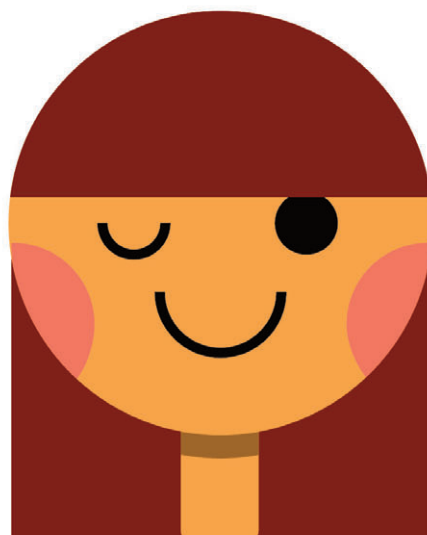
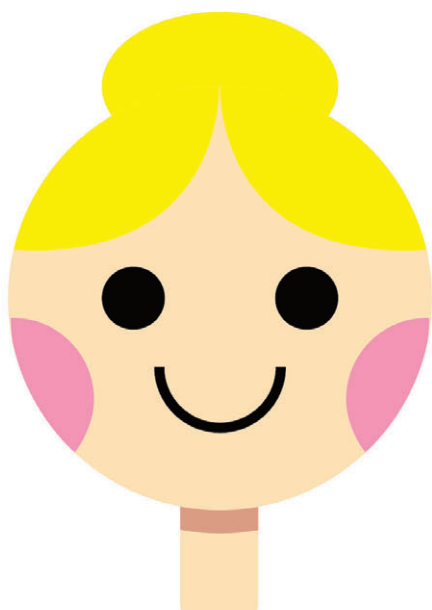
Photos Alejandra Melian-Morse
Photos Brandon Johnston

THE LINK

IT'S BEEN AN INCREDIBLE YEAR

and we couldn't have done it without you!
Thanks to all our readers and contributors for making The Link great.

Don't forget to check thelinknewspaper.ca
for updates throughout the summer!



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at 12:00 p.m.

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JOHN MOLSON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



An Issue of Creativity and Innovation

Concordia's Soliloquies Releases 18th Annual Edition

by Alejandra Melian-Morse
@amelianmorse

As a student-run publication, Concordia journal *Soliloquies* provides undergraduates with publishing, editing and design experience invaluable for a career in the business. But it does more than give behind-the-scenes training. With biannual calls for submissions in both written and visual formats, it gives emerging artists an opportunity to be showcased alongside their more seasoned peers. Although the magazine focuses primarily on Montreal artists, it's also working to expand its horizons internationally.

"We are taking advantage of some of the resources that we have and we're actually accepting submissions from all over. We've gotten some great stuff from the United States, even from across seas," *Soliloquies* editor-in-chief Colleen Romaniuk said.

There are many literary journals and magazines in Montreal, including Concordia's *The Void*, but *Soliloquies*' submission and selection process makes it different.

"What sets us apart is we don't have a theme or anything for submitting," Ro-

maniuk said. "We place a lot of importance on individual creativity and artistic freedom because we want to give our contributors freedom when it comes to what they want to submit."

"As a new artist, it's really important to test the waters and discover that unique voice that is individually yours, so we try to encourage and support that as much as possible."

Two online issues are produced each year, with a print edition following at the end of the spring semester. The print version is a compilation of the works featured in the online editions. In order to provide more opportunities for writers, *Soliloquies* also holds their Flash Fiction Writing Contest throughout the year.

"Because we only have two periods where people are allowed to submit each year, it's a little bit restricting," said Romaniuk. "We decided to increase our engagement with our audience and with our contributors and potential authors by starting the Flash Fiction Contest."

The journal's editors put out a biweekly prompt for submissions, then pick the best one and feature it on their website. At the end of the year, a winner is picked from the year's published submissions,

scoring a place in the print journal.

This year, the 18th edition of *Soliloquies* is being published with content selected from an overwhelming amount of submissions and variety. To celebrate the new issue, the editors are holding a launch at Le Cagibi on April 15.

"There are a lot of different poets going up to read and a few fiction readers as well," said Romaniuk. "One of our fiction contributors is going to read a bit of a humorous piece there and another one is going to read an up-beat kind of Western-type fiction which is pushing the boundaries a little but it's a really great thing."

With such a vibrant community and such strong creative programs at Concordia, it isn't a surprise that its undergraduate literary journal should receive such a variety of submissions, and the launch promises to showcase quality work.

The launch of the 18th edition of *Soliloquies* will be held at Le Cagibi on April 15 at 7 p.m. and will include guest readings and beverages. *Soliloquies* will be available for purchase for \$5.

Photo courtesy Colleen Romaniuk



T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	1					
	2					
			3			
4						
			5			

Fringe Calendar APRIL 8 TO APRIL 14

by Athina Lugez @Athinalugez

MUSIC

- 1** Thus Owls Album Launch
April 9
Cabaret La Tulipe (4530 Papineau Ave.)
6 p.m.
Free
Rising duo Thus Owls are hosting an album launch party to promote their latest album, *Turning Rocks*. This transatlantic husband-and-wife band is centred on inspiration from sets of collected music, photos and poems to create lyrical and melodious sounds that recall past memories. You don't want to miss this!
- 2** Frisky Kids + The Bright Sides
April 9
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)
9:30 p.m.
Free
A local band recently featured in a Link Live Session, *Frisky Kids* are fun, energetic and love playing good rock n' roll sounds. Accompanied by *Bright Sides*, a duo piece that produces warm, loud and upbeat noises, this concert is sure to liven you up!

FILM

- 3** Bright Nights:
The 4th Baltic-Nordic Film Festival
Presents: *The Deep* (Djúpið)
April 11
Cinéma-thèque Québécoise
(335 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.)
4 p.m.
\$12 general,
\$8 Canadian Film Institute member
Djúpið, an Icelandic film directed by Baltasar Kormákur, is based on the true 1984 story of a group of fishermen who are capsized in the terrifying sway of cold water. The crew find themselves thrown into the freezing Atlantic and one of the fishermen, Gulli, is left alone for six hours. The scenic images of the Nordic landscape earned the film a nomination for Best Foreign Language Picture at the 85th Academy Awards.

THEATRE

- 4** The Dragonfly of Chicoutimi
April 8 to April 19
Espace Go (4890 St. Laurent Blvd.)
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wednesday to Friday, 8 p.m.
Saturday, 4 p.m.
\$27
The Dragonfly of Chicoutimi is a play directed by Claude Poissant that tells the story of Gaston, a man who continuously corrects and changes what he thinks of himself, his mother, his childhood memories and of his absurd dreams. Years later he awakens from his silence and speaks. Gaston takes the audience into a spiral of truths, though it seems there are only a few of those. A real mind-bender!

ART

- 5** Kafein Art Expos Presents:
Welcome to Yesterday
April 11
Kafein (1429A Bishop St.)
8 p.m.
Free
Local photographer Tess Roby is organizing a vernissage to promote the launch of a photographic series titled "Welcome to Yesterday," a collection of still-life images depicting the photographer's day-to-day life experiences. Art, music and drink—what more does one need to fill their night?

Check out more listings online at
thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar



Montreal rapper Annakin Slayd in a still from his music video “MTL Stand Up,” one of his many Montreal sports anthems.

Combining Two Passions

Montreal Rapper Annakin Slayd Mixes Montreal and Sports in His Rhymes

by David S. Landsman @dslands

If you were to tell a young Montreal sports fan growing up in St. Leonard in the 1980s like Andrew Farrar that he would achieve international success because of his music about sports and social issues and that he’d develop a fan base all over North America in the process, he’d probably laugh at you and walk away.

But for Farrar, who performs under the stage name Annakin Slayd, this became a reality in 2005. Since then, he hasn’t stopped laying down beats.

“Ever since I started rapping professionally in 2005 and released my first single, it’s always been about getting the message across in my music,” said Slayd. “[It’s] hard to believe it’s already been almost 10 years.”

Born in 1978, he grew up with a passion for sports.

Slayd says that while he wasn’t brought up in a wealthy family, his parents were very supportive of him and his siblings as they played in various sports leagues.

“My brother played a lot of baseball, went on to Junior A. My sister was a hockey goalie,

and I played baseball ever since I was six years old. I was a catcher, I fell in love with the game itself, and in my teenage years I felt it gave me a different perspective,” said Slayd.

“We were really into sports—not only watching, but playing. Even now we are all trying to stay active and keep playing. I want to also stay in shape. Were we an athletic family? No. But we definitely loved our sports.”

Slayd’s love for sports extends to the two Montreal teams he has cheered on the most, the Expos and the Canadiens. He was heartbroken when the Expos played their final home game on Sept. 29, 2004 before moving to Washington, D.C., but he says he believes they will return.

“In the next 10 years, I’d like to go back to whatever ballpark and watch the Expos play again, or whatever they’ll be called,” said Slayd. “I would hope they’d still be called the Expos.”

Two weeks ago, when the Olympic Stadium hosted two Major League Baseball preseason games, Slayd was presented with the opportunity of a lifetime—watching his music videos played on the big screen, a first in his career.

“It’s hard to believe. I was going 25 times

a year when I was a kid, taking the bus and then the metro to Pie-IX, [...] sitting and dreaming of the Expos winning,” he said.

“If somebody had come back in time and told me that in 2014 they’ll be playing a video [I] made about the Expos, on the big screen, I’d be like, ‘What are you talking about?’”

He attended both games and hung around members of the Expos team that had been the favourite to win the World Series in 1994 before a strike forced the end of the season prematurely.

“It was an overwhelming experience all around. I hardly slept and it was worth it,” said Slayd. “From seeing the ’94 team introduced on the field in front of 50,000 people and performing at the gala in front of the team members themselves, I couldn’t have asked for a better baseball fantasy weekend.

“[I’m] really proud of the fans in this city and I’ve never been more sure, after this weekend, that Major League Baseball will be back in Montreal.”

Slayd’s favourite Expos player was Gary Carter, so when Carter passed away from brain cancer in February 2012 it was a devastating hit to Slayd. He decided to create a

song about it, which he called “Kid,” in reference to Carter’s nickname during his professional days. He also donated proceeds from the song to the Gary Carter Foundation.

As for Slayd’s love of the Montreal Canadiens, in 2008 he captured the attention of Habs fans with his hit song “Feels Like ’93,” which became the Canadiens’ anthem throughout their playoff run. Slayd also came up with the song “MTL Stand Up” for the Canadiens’ playoff run in 2011.

Additionally, Slayd released a song titled “Stay Gold” for the men’s and women’s national hockey teams for the Winter Olympics in Sochi this year. The title was subsequently changed to “Stayed Gold” after both teams were victorious again.

With the Canadiens gearing up for a playoff run this spring, Slayd will likely be providing another anthem for Habs fans, but it’ll depend on how well they do in the postseason.

“I do have a third Habs song ready to be released,” said Slayd. “But it will all depend on how the team performs.”

Photo courtesy Annakin Slayd

Protect the Hive at All Costs

Stingers Women's Soccer Bolster Defence with New Recruits

by Justin Ferrara @JustynFerrara

It's a popular saying in sports: "Defence wins championships." The head coach of Concordia's women's soccer team, Jorge Sanchez, made it clear he's a believer in that adage with the players he has recruited so far this offseason.

"I'd definitely like to allow fewer goals this season," said Sanchez. "We can be much tighter defensively. All-around play is satisfactory, but allowing less goals is some-

thing we're going to focus on."

Three new players have signed letters of intent with the Stingers since the 2014 season ended last October: defender/midfielder Laurence Thivierge, defender Elisa Spadafino and goalkeeper Rebecca Bensimon. All are expected to join the team in August in time for training camp.

Thivierge, who previously played for Collège Lionel-Groulx, is seen as a player who possesses good technical ability. According to Sanchez,

Thivierge can fit in at centre-back or be shifted to midfield when need be. In 20 games with Lionel-Groulx last season, Thivierge scored two goals.

Spadafino, who last played AAA for the Laval Conquérants, is a versatile defender who can play all four positions at the back, although she will most likely be used as an outside defender, according to Sanchez.

Bensimon, formerly of John Abbott College, is a good shot-blocker and will add depth to the goalkeeping position. Bensimon will be

a backup goalie, but that doesn't mean that she, or any of the other recruits, won't be seeing any playing time this upcoming season.

"I'm not sure if they will be starters but they will play regularly and it will certainly make for internal competition within the team, which is always healthy," said Sanchez.

Second-year defender Alyssa Ruscio applauds the new additions for other reasons.

"The good thing about our new players is that they are very versatile and we can move them around to fill holes where it's necessary," she said.

Last season, the Stingers finished fifth in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference with a 5-9 record, one spot out of playoff contention. Part of their struggles lay in their inability to keep the ball out of their own net, as the team allowed 30 goals in their 14 games, the third most in the conference.

The Stingers were also adjusting to life without former team MVP Jennifer Duff, who left following the 2012 season. Duff scored 12 goals in her final season with the Stingers.

"That's a big number," said Sanchez. "Those are a lot of goals that we lost. We need that game-breaker that will take us to the next level."

If that game-breaker isn't already on the roster, Sanchez is hoping he can find one in the next few months. That won't be all he'll be looking for, though.

"We're looking to get the right individual," he said. "Yes, a good soccer player but also a student that will do well academically. We look for players that will be here for the long run and continue to grow past this season."

Since Sanchez took over the team in 2002, the Stingers have made the playoffs twice and finished fourth or better four times in the eight-team RSEQ conference. But that came in his first four seasons with the team—since 2006, Concordia has had zero postseason appearances and finished a combined 26-68-18.

He hopes that with the addition of new talent, the Stingers can finally make it back to the provincial championship game. The last time the Stingers made it was in Sanchez's debut season as the team's head coach.

"Just being able to be in that type of game, where we hold our destiny in our own hands, is a moral victory," he said. "But we're past moral victories, we need to transform those into concrete results."

Ruscio agrees.

"We can definitely make the playoffs this year. We have the team to do so. The new players are all potential starters and we just have to believe that we are good enough," she said.

"We always come very close to winning against the strong teams and that means that if we can get into that mind state of believing we are a good team then we will take it to the next level."



Concordia defender Alyssa Ruscio (right) will be fighting for playing time as the Stingers add new players to the team.



The Stingers have added new player to the team in hopes of making up for the loss of graduating defender Shannon Travers (left).

Photos Brandon Johnston



@thelinknewspaper.ca

AIESEC Concordia, Leaders Beyond Tomorrow

“Why we do, what we do?” International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC) is the largest international student-run organization offering students internships and volunteering opportunities abroad. Bonded by our AIESEC values, we build globally minded leaders of tomorrow.

Our Local Committee currently comprises seven portfolios where the competition can be felt throughout the recent introduction of member levels. This initiative was undertaken by AIESEC Canada Talent Management to help members develop their competitive skills and competencies by advancing in levels through overcoming challenges.

AIESEC Concordia encompasses an amazing leadership-driven experience. Time-management for VPs and members is not a constraint. As Niki Fonseca, VP Marketing and Communications, said, “We love what we do.” Is there too much workload or pressure? Not at all! Members are very optimistic and motivated as they receive incredible support from leaders.

Recently we organized an AIESEC week, a week full of activities where we networked with students at Concordia, and shared an amazing cross-cultural experience during the Global Village.

This year, one of our main focuses is on our partnership program, which is developed by conducting sales blitz/cold call sessions, and allowing members to experience the sales world. Also, the Local Committee stresses on frequent information/tabling sessions in order to promote outgoing exchange.

In AIESEC, we set the stage for change-makers. “Teach Colombia” delineates one of our recent internship programs in Colombia. Our LC is currently in search of 200 Canadian youth leaders, who will impact the lives of Colombia children who do not have access to good education, by empowering other citizens to use their talent to make the world a better place.

Conferences play a major role in our organization; namely, the Quebec Regional Conference, National Congress and National Leadership Development Conference provide an enriching experience to AIESEC members, who seize the opportunity to network with people across Canada doing the same job as us.

Conferences are inspirational, as they capture fascinating stories about thoughts, hopes, dreams and experiences. Members are encouraged to display their imagination, creativity and dynamism through a set of activities and build a valuable relationship with other LCs in Canada. There are endless opportunities ahead in AIESEC. Don't wait! Apply now!

—Kunal Ramchurn,
AIESEC social media manager



The Thought Police Strikes Concordia

Assumptions Stain Kyle Arseneau Case

by Shaun Michaud @StreetPoutine

The most striking element about a disqualification is the finality of it. It is akin to death and, unless you're Lazarus, there is no recourse from it. Unlike death, however, disqualification always involves deep shame and rejection from your peers.

Following a hearing of the Concordia Student Union's Judicial Board last week, Kyle Arseneau was officially disqualified from running for CSU councillor in the March general elections.

In the process, he was cheated out of a spot on the CSU council—Arseneau received the second-highest number of votes among the candidates for four council seats.

But perhaps more importantly, he may forever be known as a homophobe.

It was his punishment for breaking the rules during the recent campaign. Admittedly, Arseneau was sipping a drink in a pub when he laughed in the face of several CSU regulations and posted the following to the “2k15 Concordia EngGames” Facebook group: “Hey u baggots. CSU eRections. Go vote. K thx. (Ps don't vote for _____).”

At the hearing, the most outrageous factor in the disqualification of Arseneau was what he presumably meant. The man was dead on arrival. The members of the board never doubted their own assumptions. They threw

the book at him despite the fact that he never actually made a homophobic slur. Or did he?

When chief electoral officer Andre-Marcel Baril read Arseneau's comments on Facebook, he immediately reprimanded the wrongdoer. In desperation, Arseneau tried to explain himself but alas, the CEO ran to the authorities.

It took several hours for Arseneau to realize that he had jumped headfirst in homophobic quicksand—and that he was sinking fast.

The next Monday, he was on the hot seat as the JB grilled him about his motives.

There is no doubt that Arseneau acted irresponsibly. In one alcohol-tinged post—and perhaps out of frustration—he threw away his entire campaign. He failed to tag the CEO in his post, something the CSU asks of all their candidates. He also broke the rules of fair play when he asked voters to refrain from voting for a candidate he doesn't name.

But above all—and perhaps this was his most foolhardy move—Arseneau typed the word, or rather non-word, “baggots.”

In their final decision, the board said they “felt that Mr. Baril's interpretation of what the term ‘baggots’ refers to was reasonable.”

“I beg anyone to look up the term ‘baggots’ on their computer and see what they get,” said Baril at the hearing.

Prompted by the CEO's declaration, sev-

eral people in attendance scrambled to reach their smartphones. The first link led to the dubious but sometimes hilarious Urban Dictionary.

But the problem isn't what Arseneau meant. The problem is that this accusation isn't based on tangible evidence. It is only based on Baril's and certain board members' interpretation of what Arseneau had on his mind in that bar. It is the straw that broke the camel's back, and yet, it isn't even a verified colloquialism.

Any student worth his stripes will tell you that Wikipedia is never admissible as a source. But to watch Urban Dictionary set a precedent in a JB hearing is frightening.

Arseneau would go to his grave swearing that he meant to text “maggots.” Perhaps if he had gone kicking and screaming, they would have given more considerable thought to their assumptions. But he didn't.

And that is what is so alarming about the young man's behaviour. Never mind that he might have been voted in, he didn't seem to understand the scope of the accusation. He wasn't condemned for inciting hate, but for being presumed to have incited it. What will happen in the future when another person makes a “genuine” mistake? Will we publicly stone them too?

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



As the school semester wraps up, I've been reflecting on how it has been an awesome year for Sex & Pancakes. *The Link* started the Sex & Pancakes radio segment (which you should check out if you haven't already) and pairing that with this column has given me the chance to answer more questions than ever before.

That being said, I thought I'd do something a little different this week. I've recently realized that when I tell people I'm a sex educator they tend to immediately ask me the same two questions.

They either want to know the weirdest question I've been asked or what question I get asked the most—both of which I think come from an interest in what's considered normal. Despite getting asked these

questions a lot, I rarely have the answers ready, so I decided to reflect on them a bit and answer them here.

First, I can honestly say there isn't a single question I've ever been asked that I consider weird. I've been surprised by some on rare occasions but I've never attributed a value judgment to a question.

I think that neutrality and openness are really important to what I do and when I'm asked a question all I'm thinking about is how to best answer it. Asking about sex can be very intimidating and I would never want this to prevent someone from approaching me with a question they have.

As for the most common questions I get asked, they can be summed up into three categories:

► **1. Relationships:** Most questions I get are actually about relationships. I used to have a pretty loose rule about staying away from relationship questions because my area of expertise is sex, but I've quickly realized that many sex questions are actually about the relationship. We've answered a lot of relationship questions on Link Radio and in most cases the answer to them comes down to communication. It may seem obvious, but most of us aren't the greatest communicators when feeling vulnerable.

► **2. How to be a better lover:** It's not surprising that many people want to know how to improve their sex life. These are questions about

technique, positions, sex tips—anything in which the focus is on increasing their partner's sexual pleasure or their own.

► **3. Pain during sex:** Questions about pain during sex have been really frequent this year. This can be a particularly complex issue to respond to since the causes can go from basic, such as needing to be more aroused or lubricated, to more complicated, such as physical or psychological health issues. I do my best to answer these questions, while always reminding people that a health professional should be consulted whenever in doubt.

While these are the most common categories, they definitely don't

cover the huge variety of questions I receive. It's been amazing to get to write and talk about sexual health with you so I'd like to thank you all for reading, listening, sending in your questions and taking part in making this all happen each week!

—Melissa Fuller @mel_full

If your question hasn't been answered yet, be sure to check out the Sex & Pancakes blog and Facebook page to keep reading over the summer and submit any new questions you have at Sex-pancakes.com.

Got a quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SexEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!



Summertime Happiness

by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

DOWN

► 1. Opened in 1967, this amusement park is actually under a lease with the city of Montreal, though we like to claim it as our own. (2 words)

► 4. They're back! You can eat out of one of these restaurants-on-wheels all over Montreal this summer. (2 words)

► 5. At the foot of the clock tower in Montreal's Old Port is a man-made version of one of these relaxing shorelines.

► 6. You don't need to rent a Bixi to get around the city on one of these, but you do need to stay in the right lane.

ACROSS

► 2. 2014 will see the 35th edition of Montreal's main summer music festival, which spotlights this genre of music.

► 3. Believe it or not, you can actually partake in this wave-riding sport on the St. Lawrence River, just across from Habitat 67.

► 7. You can head to Parc Jean-Drapeau every Sunday from May to September with beer and your best EDM fan buds for this "piknik."

► 8. Nothing beats sipping on this wine and fruit drink by the pool, river or sidewalk on a hot summer day.

► 9. Having drinks outside with your best friends and coolest shades while sitting on one of these is a characteristically Montreal experience.

► 10. It seems that the entire island can't wait to ditch pants in favor of these cropped bottoms.

► 11. It seems now that spring has finally showed its face around town, everyone in the city is even more excited for this season.

► 12. Local hippies and hipsters alike gather around the base of Mount Royal to bang on drums and play frisbee every summer from May to September.

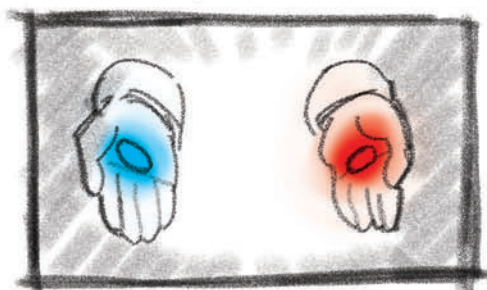
Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Power Theatre COMIC ALEX CALLARD



Québécois 101 COMIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier

Si tu prends la pilule bleue tu retourneras à l'histoire que l'auteur t'a écrite.

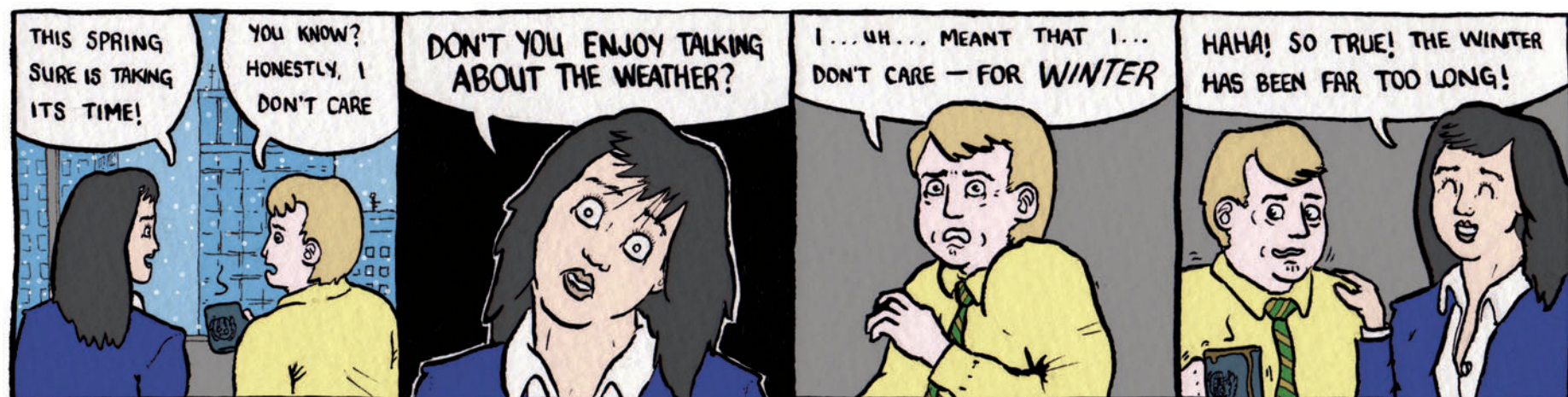


Par contre, si tu prends la pilule rouge tu resteras dans la marge et je te montrerais les dessous de ce univers fictif.



Tataouiner (ta-ta-we-nay): "Tataouiner" means to hesitate for a long time before taking a decision or to waste time on useless details.

False Knees COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

Urban Crocuses

I headed out of the unfortunate restaurant where I work towards the dumpsters in the alleyway next to the overpriced espresso bar. Covered in sweat and cowering from the rain, I ran, slipped and became engulfed by a black oil-based sludge.

Looking around, I realized that the alleyway had been transformed into a cesspool. Needles, tampons, beer bottles, half-rotting food and diapers lay all around me.

"Well," I thought to myself, wiping the grease on my blackened apron, "it is an alleyway after all, what can you expect?"

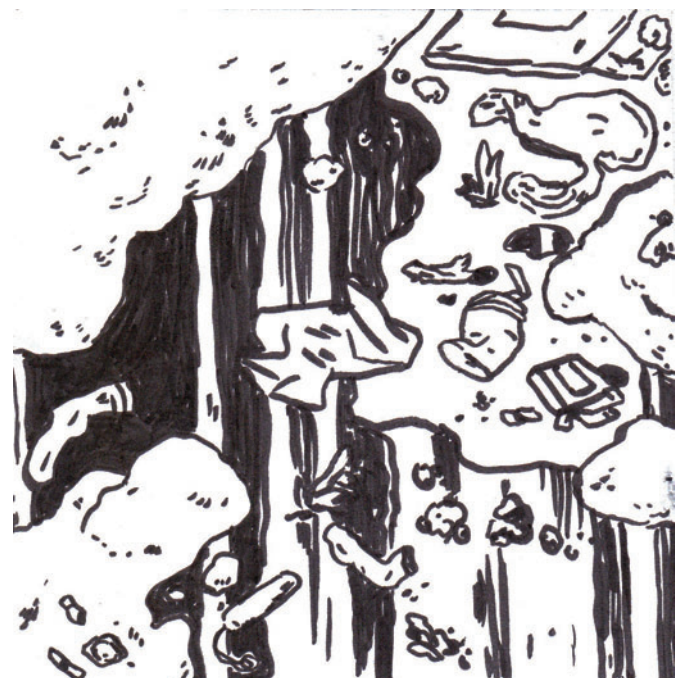
Unfortunately, I soon realized on my walk home that the invasion of forgotten garbage was not limited to the seedy alleyways of mafia-owned restaurants.

April's cold rains had seemingly transformed the

entire city into one giant garbage dump. Cigarette butts that had been haphazardly tossed in the snow for months suddenly emerged from their frozen graves to greet me as I trudged up St. Laurent St. Broken glass mingled with dog shit formed a mosaic of glittering brown filth. Streams of green slime rushed downhill carrying bits of newspaper, metro tickets, abandoned chocolate bar wrappers and plastic bags.

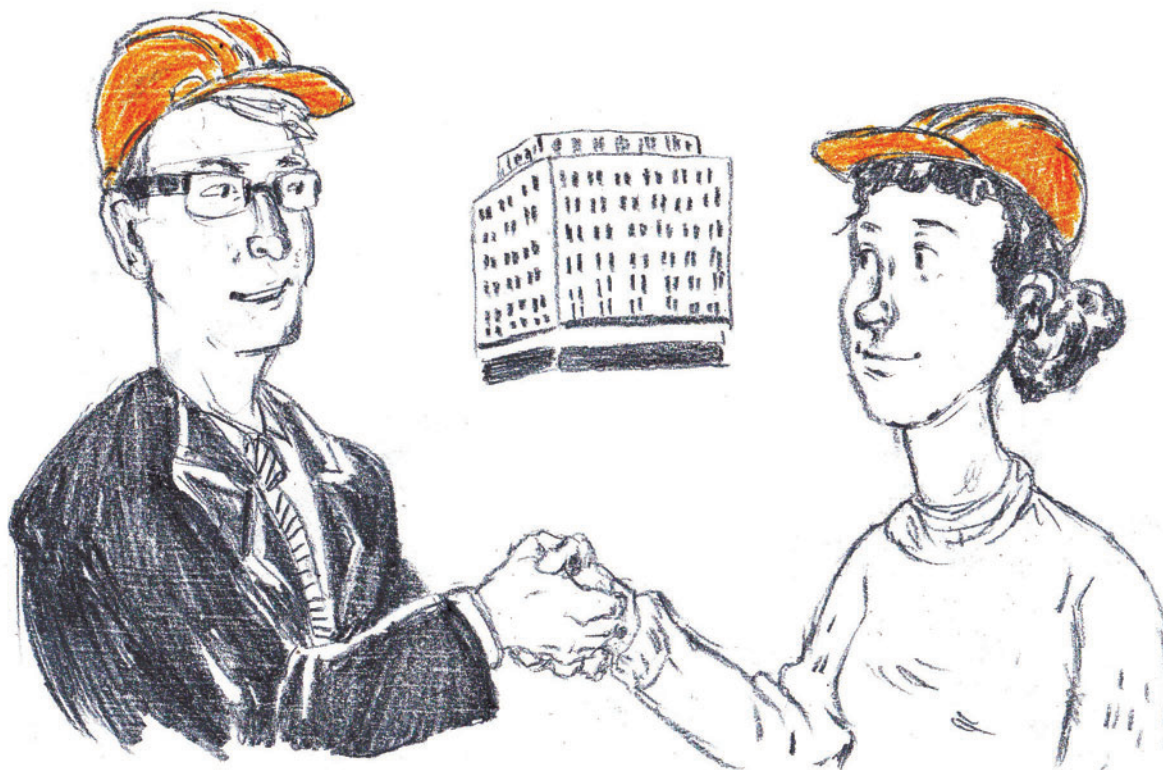
Beauty may be slowly returning to Montreal by way of longer days and warmer skies, but unfortunately, melting snow has left with it traces of how disgusting humans truly can be.

—Brandon Johnston,
Coordinating Editor



Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

Editorial



Concordia Needs to Work with Students to Grow

In an interview with *The Link*, Concordia President Alan Shepard told us he wants to “intensify” our university.

“I don’t want to make it bigger. I want to make it stronger, better, more engaged in the community, more engaged with students,” he said.

We’ve seen some good moves towards those goals this year. Last fall saw the opening of the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, something students had spent two years campaigning for. The Webster Library is expanding and taking student input into account, which means more and better use of student space.

It was also just recently announced that the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia

union and the university have reached a tentative agreement, hopefully paving the way for better relationships between Concordia and its labour unions.

Concordia has created a number of new programs. Last year, a bachelor’s of engineering in aerospace engineering was introduced. This year we saw the creation of a major in interdisciplinary studies in sexuality, a master’s in supply chain management and a graduate diploma program in visual journalism.

While new programs seemingly contradict Dr. Shepard’s statement that he doesn’t want to make Concordia bigger, he explained that it’s easier to create new pro-

grams than to redesign old ones.

These new programs are exciting—Concordia is adapting to the needs of students and to the changing role of post-secondary education. The visual journalism program in particular understands the demands placed on new journalists, and new workers in general, to be multi-skilled.

These accomplishments have helped Concordia establish itself as a modern university.

However there are still problems at the university. Exam invigilators feel their concerns on treatment and policy are not being acknowledged and are considering unionization, while the Sexual Assault Resource Centre is currently only a one-year project.

Seeing cooperation between the university and the invigilators would go a long way towards convincing us that Concordia is willing to work with its employees—and its students. We also want to stress how important it is that Concordia continues to support sexual safety on campus by continuing support for the SARC in the future, something that hasn’t been guaranteed.

Concordia bought Grey Nuns six years ago, and is now thoroughly into the process of converting it for use by the university. It has been promised that some of the space will be set aside for student use, which needs to happen while the library is being renovated.

Student space is an ongoing issue

at Concordia—there is simply not enough study space for the growing number of Concordia students.

Many of Concordia’s major accomplishments this year were the result of direct collaboration with students or were meant to meet specific student needs. We need better avenues for communicating with the administration and the university needs to take our concerns seriously to form a stronger relationship with students.

Students are at the core of any educational institution, and if Concordia is going to “intensify,” it needs to continue to work closely with them.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

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In “Vigil Held in Memory of Loretta Saunders” [Vol. 34, Iss. 27], Loretta Saunders’ body was incorrectly stated to have been discovered last week. Saunders’ body was actually recovered on Feb. 26. *The Link* regrets the error.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!

Good luck with your exams and final projects.
After exams, enjoy the summer break.
If you are graduating, I look forward to
seeing you at spring convocation.



Alan Shepard
President

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