

volume 36 issue 2

Sept. 1, 2015

thelinknewspaper.ca

# THE LINK

## The Everyday as Resistance

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IN FRANCE, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO BUILD THEIR 57TH AIRPORT ON RURAL FARMLAND. TO STOP THEM, ACTIVISTS ARE BUILDING AN ALTERNATE SOCIETY.

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# CALL ME DOCTOR NOW

A Mohawk Leader Who Dedicated his Life to Community Receives Concordia's Recognition

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK @HIIMBIRACIAL

It's probable that Kenneth Deer's phone rings often. "People ask for advice all the time," he quips. One phone call last November, however, was not one he thought he would ever receive.

On the line was a secretary from Concordia University who said the president wished to ask him a question. Slightly perplexed, Deer assumed it was about a political endorsement or guidance on curricula in regards to Aboriginal peoples.

Instead President Alan Shepard, a soft-spoken man, asked him if he would accept an honorary doctorate from the university.

"I was floored," Deer recalls.

Deer immediately asked why, to which Shepard responded that it was for his lifetime of work. A rather simplistic answer. Even an introduction by professor Daniel Salée before Deer's convocation address in May could not fully capture what Deer has accomplished.

As a Mohawk educator, activist, entrepreneur, journalist and writer, Deer is used to being part of historical movements and projects in the Kahnawà:ke territory south of Montreal.

In 1978, he helped create the Kahnawà:ke Survival School to serve 300 Mohawk students who were mandated by Bill 101 to be taught in English and French. The school still stands today.

In 1987, he went to Geneva for the first time to help enact change within the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Representing the Iroquois confederacy—which includes the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora First Nations—he became an integral figure in the international battle for indigenous rights.

He continued to visit the Swiss city multiple times a year until 2007, when the UN General Assembly finally passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"The UN moves at the speed of a glacier, but it does move," he comments about his experiences.

Only four nations voted against the Declaration: the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Canada. In these countries, Deer says the idea of "Cowboys and Indians" is still pervasive.

"A lot of people are really surprised to see we're still around and ask why we are still a problem," he says. "We're resisting assimilation, and I think that irritates people a little bit—I don't understand why."

In 1992, having no journalistic background, he founded the *Eastern Door*, a newspaper created for the local Mohawk com-

munity of approximately 8,000 people. The goal was to have their own media outlet share their stories after "slanted and anti-Mohawk" coverage by mainstream outlets during the Oka Crisis—a 78-day standoff between Mohawk activists, police and the army over land ownership.

"We felt we needed a platform the community could depend on," Deer says.

"There was a vacuum," says Joe Delaronde, the communications officer for the Law and Council of Kahnawà:ke. "In the past, coverage of our issues was far less satisfactory than it is today."

In the very beginning, Deer and a small group of volunteers ran the paper out of his dining room. After receiving a small government grant, they tore down his garage and built a one-storey office space.

"The car was never in there anyway," he recalls. "Even when we moved in, we knew it was too small."

The *Eastern Door* was biweekly back then, and they only had one Mac II computer to work with. Deer was doing everything: writing, advertising, and laying out the paper. He would sell enough corner page ads just to be able to publish the next issue.

He took night classes to learn basic layout, while professors from Concordia's journalism program voluntarily gave lessons on basic news writing to the staff. This crash course on how to run a newspaper became easier when Deer hired Nine McComber Bush, who he calls his "godsend."

McComber Bush, coming from a background selling ads for the local radio station, became their first sales representative. "Talk to anyone who runs a newspaper, [a salesperson] is worth their weight in gold," Deer says about her hiring.

Those early days of pulling all-nighters and surviving issue by issue were, as McComber Bush describes, "a lot of fun and new." She says Deer gave her *carte blanche*, which made selling ads easy with her extensive contacts.

Deer set a goal to have a single issue sell 1,000 copies, and they broke it by Christmas of their first year. "For a small community, we were doing very, very well," he says. The *Eastern Door's* existence stabilized, gradually growing into a weekly publication, having a full-time paid staff and adding a second storey to the office.

Greg Horn, who interned at the paper during his summer break from university in 1997, credits his time there for discovering his passion for journalism. He calls Deer one of the "best community journalists around" with his unbiased

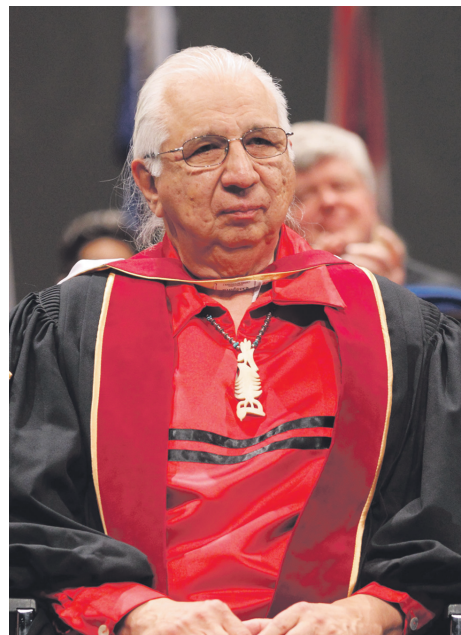


PHOTO OWEN EGAN

reporting of Kahnawà:ke council decisions.

"Kenneth was a big part of getting people to realize it's important to have our own media outlets and tell our own stories," Horn says.

Delaronde, who has been working for the council of Kahnawà:ke for 11 years, says the *Eastern Door* has never been "about Kenneth." Deer could both criticize and praise council decisions when deserved, Delaronde adds.

"In spite of his well known personal beliefs, he put a paper together that reflected the views of many different people," he says about Deer.

The *Eastern Door* to this day is the Mohawk community's journal of record and reading the paper every Friday has become a "habit," according to Delaronde.

The aspect of the job Deer remembers most fondly was his editorials on the most newsworthy topic of the week. Deer refers to them as "little parables" that could impact social change.

"[He] always kept himself out of the editorial," Delaronde says. "It was always about the issues and his educated take on what he was seeing."

Sometimes when Deer reads old stories, he becomes surprised to see his name in the byline, which makes him wish he could write that way again.

Deer sold the paper in 2008, and the *Eastern Door* has seen two location changes since. Some of the original staff still work there, like McComber Bush who is going on 23 years.

Horn founded his own newspaper, *Iori:wase*, which also serves the Mohawk community of Kahnawà:ke. Most of his initial staff came from the *Eastern Door*—a fact that allows Deer to jokingly say that he founded two papers.

Before receiving his honorary doctorate and giving a convocation address, Deer's son Bryan gave a speech in Mohawk about his father. The two embraced before the elder Deer took to the podium.

"In our tradition, when we give thanks to creation, we also have to think about what is our role in creation," the newly honored doctor told an audience of Concordia graduates and their families in June. "What is your role in creation? That is a fundamental journey that you'll have to take for the rest of your life."

McComber Bush says hearing about the news was as if she learned her uncle was receiving an award and calls his honouring a "feather in the cap for the whole community." "Doctor Deer is what I call him now," she jokes.



PHOTO OWEN EGAN



PHOTO BRANDON JOHNSTON

# FROM STUDENT TO FEDERAL POLITICS

Former CSU President Wants to Bring Consent to the Forefront of Canadian Politics

BY DANIELLE RUDNICKA-LAVOIE @RL\_DANIELLE

With five years of experience in student politics, Melissa Kate Wheeler, 25, is ready to make the leap to federal politics, running for the Green Party of Canada in the riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount.

She served as Concordia Student Union President from 2013 to 2014 and now sits on the executive of the Green Party of Quebec.

Wheeler keeps a level head despite the fact that she's running against some high-profile candidates such as Marc Garneau (Liberal), the incumbent MP of Westmount—Ville-Marie, James Hughes (NDP), and Richard Sagala (Conservative). At 25 years old, she's the youngest—as well as the only female—candidate in the riding.

"I feel fine about it. I've been politically active for five years and have been going up against the same type of successful, older-than-I men," said Wheeler. "I'm a very authentic person. [...] I'm here to do a job. It's not about me, it's about being a sincere representative."

Institution building and creating cooperatives are skills that Wheeler learned about during her time at the CSU. Her team signed off on the construction of the new Reggie's Bar, which is now slated to open in October 2015.

"It will be the bar that students deserve, not dingy like it used to be," she said in an interview with *The Link*.

During her campaign, she hopes to mirror the current CSU's culture shift which focuses on sustainability by starting more food cooperatives in her riding, supporting local businesses and promoting sustainability in NDG and Westmount.

The Green Party is the only federal political party to oppose all pipeline projects proposed by the Conservatives, including the Energy East Pipeline, aiming to pump solid bitumen from Alberta and Saskatchewan to terminals in Quebec and New Brunswick. The raw bitumen is mixed with a diluent that enables it to run through the pipeline, but also makes it "impossible to clean up in case of a spill," according to the

party's website.

Wheeler seems to be optimistic about her chances of winning, saying that if she gets elected as MP of the NDG—Westmount riding she would like to bring the issue of consent in universities to parliament in order to get a national conversation going about sexual violence, as well as increasing funds for sexual assault resources.

Wheeler has also been an outspoken figure on the topic of sexual assault for years, creating the Facebook page Not Safe at Concordia after student Mei-Ling (a pseudonym) came forward this spring with allegations of sexual harassment against a student association and its executives.

Not Safe at Concordia is "a collective whose aim is to destroy the toxic, sexist, racist environments of many Concordia student associations," according to their Facebook page, which encourages victims of sexual violence at Concordia to submit their stories to be published anonymously.

During her presidency, Wheeler also helped get Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre open in the 2013 to 2014 year, sitting on the hiring committee for the coordinator.

"Since then, I've been critical about the implementation of programs—certainly not of the people working there because they are fantastic, I try to make that distinction," she said, while mentioning that the Centre lacks resources that would allow it to be more accessible to student needs. The Centre hosts drop-in services and workshops from Monday to Friday during business hours.

"[Concordia] just released a report that sexual violence is a reality and that it's a reality for a lot of students, which is a great step forward," she said.

In April of 2015, she was quoted on CBC's Daybreak radio show saying that "sexual harassment was part of my job" at the CSU. As a survivor of sexual violence, Wheeler said that most of her experiences happened during her time there and has been vocal about her own experiences while denouncing Concordia's "toxic environment" of discrimination.

"The more people that I speak with about it, the more it

becomes an acceptable thing to acknowledge and to talk about," she said.

"I'm comfortable doing it. I understand that not everybody is, but I am. I will try as much as I can to create a space for others to talk about it and break down the taboo," Wheeler said. "I talk about sexual violence with my 87-year-old grandpa. I don't care. It's a reality."

She experienced inappropriate comments on the way she dressed and was also a victim of unwanted touching while at the CSU.

"That kind of thing was disrespectful and underrating of my capabilities and of my role as a human," Wheeler said.

During her three years at the CSU, Wheeler said that creating boundaries in order to keep a professional relationship with people who had harassed her was "an art." The fact that many are not aware of the prevalence of sexual harassment—especially for women—is something that Wheeler would like to see change.

"Most of it was pretty subtle but the problem is that it's institutional—it's in the culture, it's engrained," she said.

Unfortunately, it sometimes takes an occurrence of unchecked sexual violence to finally have the issues of consent and sexual violence raised in a serious way in Concordia's administration, and in society in general. "Often it takes something like what happened to Mei-Ling for things to change," Wheeler said. "Which is why what she did was so important and brave."

The rebranding of ASFA—and its orientation activities, specifically—from "Frosh" to "Launch Week" with less emphasis on drinking during its activities, has come a long way since Wheeler's days as a frosh leader, where she felt pressure to adhere to binge drinking traditions.

"It definitely creates this sense of insecurity if you're not down to party 24/7 [...] so I'm really happy that the focus is shifting away from getting wasted."

She's glad to see ASFA "clean up its act" and thinks it's now "on the right track."

# IN SEARCH OF CONSEQUENCES

## Sexual Assault Survivor Still Waiting to Have Her Case Heard at Concordia Tribunal

BY MICHELLE PUCCI @MICHELLEPUCCI

A Concordia student, who filed a complaint in March against her ex-boyfriend for allegedly assaulting her, could likely wait years before her case is heard by the university's disciplinary body.

Cathy was supposed to have her case heard at a tribunal next week, but learned Monday that the hearing has been postponed on the request of her ex-boyfriend.

She has an ongoing parallel court case against him as well, and until those proceedings are over, her case at Concordia will have to wait, since the tribunal's decision could incriminate or hurt his defence.

Cathy went through about half a dozen officials at Concordia before her formal complaint against her ex—who she says assaulted her—was even launched.

Cathy isn't her real name, and unlike her ex, she's not going back to school this semester—mainly, she explains, because her case against her ex is not resolved.

She wants to continue studying, but not until things are settled, which could take years, now that she has to wait on the court's decision.

"Being at Concordia sets off flashbacks very easily," Cathy said. "Many things, many places now do, but my school is one of them."

Incidents of abuse really started last September, when she says her ex broke in and assaulted her at home. Her ex was arrested, and a restraining order was placed on him by a judge. He was released on the condition that he stop drinking and using drugs and cease all communication with her.

That was at the beginning of her academic career, and there were two further encounters at school that ended in her feeling re-victimized.

The last encounter was in early February and ended with her at the police station filing a report that her ex had broken conditions of the restraining order.

Since this happened on campus, Cathy approached Campus Security for help. She was given the option of an escort, which she refused, saying it would make her feel more ostracized.

It was only in late March that her formal complaint against her ex was filed, after hoping the university would take independent action, she said. She's disappointed the onus was on her to file a formal complaint versus having the university investigate as soon as it was reported. She was also afraid that going through with the complaint would incite more violence and was backed up by a domestic violence counselor at court.

"I thought by bringing the police report to Concordia, by bringing this information, they were going to do something about it," she said. "They did not."

A couple of weeks ago she received notice of the hearing and was told to send in her evidence. She had everything prepared, because she is working with an advocate from the Concordia Student Union and because of the ongoing court case, but she said she's still frustrated with the whole process.

"The [tribunals office] was saying, 'He doesn't know what he's been [accused] of,'" she said. Cathy was supposed to see his evidence a few days before the hearing, before it was postponed.

"While that may make sense in a lot of other kinds of cases, it doesn't really make sense in this one," she said. "He's quite aware."

And she said the timing is off and kept her in limbo all summer.

"I feel like this could have happened months ago. I could have given my evidence in March," she said. "There's a point of absurdity that it's almost September and I'm still asking, 'What is the consequence at Concordia when somebody does this sort of thing?'"

Concordia will be implementing a new sexual violence policy after a working group published a report last week on the need for more concerted action. The report described the importance of education, prevention and support for survivors.

"I do think that if Concordia follows through, then they're taking steps and listening to the issues raised by victims coming forward," Cathy said, even though the report will probably have no effect on her case.

Concordia's Office of Rights and Responsibilities will create a new policy to discuss issues of sexual-based violence, including harassment and assault that is physical or psychological. It should come out in the next few months, said Melodie Sullivan, who provides legal counsel for student and administrative affairs.

The ORR deals with disciplinary procedures for members of Concordia's community who break the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities. A new policy on sexual violence will stand alone, but changes to the Code are also supposed to happen.

"The procedures of the Code will still apply—to the hearing or to the following steps that could happen after a complaint is laid," Sullivan said.

Lisa White, acting coordinator of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, said that survivors go through a consultation process when they approach the ORR, where they are given their options.

"We provide appropriate referrals and facilitate getting them looped into the support network available at the university and potentially outside, depending on the circumstances," White said.

The recommendation of the working group report

**"It's almost September and I'm still asking, 'What is the consequence at Concordia when somebody does this sort of thing?'"**

**— Cathy**

says the process of responding to a survivor of sexual violence should be streamlined between different departments within the university, so they don't have to repeat their story many times.

No decisions are made at the consultation level, White said. Complainants can later choose to go through the informal route, usually resulting in some sort of mutual agreement with the accused, or a formal complaint, which goes through the tribunals office—a part of the Office of the General Counsel.

When a formal complaint is finally filed, a tribunal is scheduled, depending on the resources and availabilities of panelists, Sullivan said.

The time of the tribunal needs to accommodate as many people as possible—namely the panelists, chair and complainant—but not so much the respondent, Sullivan added.

Hearings don't happen during the month of July and August because availabilities are difficult to coordinate, and exam periods are also generally off-limits.

"This can take one to three months to set up," she said. "We try to work with the availabilities if possible of the people."

In Cathy's case, the hearing was originally postponed because her ex was out of town from May to August. But she had expected it to happen within 21 days of her formal complaint, according to article 54 of the Code.

Sullivan called the tribunal process and the code of conduct a "blunt tool" used to deal with the consequences of a sexual assault.

"But a survivor needs help in so many ways. To me that's more important than what these pages can produce, in terms of a result," Sullivan said, pointing to a printout of the Code.

"The delay is a function, to some extent, of the circumstances and the limits we have in the Code and in reality," Sullivan said. "But that should not get in the way of trying to help the survivor cope with the other consequences of what they've been through."

Cathy also sent in a video testimony for when the tribunal happens, because the restraining order prevents her ex from being in the same room as her.

She said she also feels like she's being asked to outline the punishment or conditions for her own case. That makes her feel at risk if the accused knows that the consequences are her suggestions. Sanctions can range from a reprimand to expulsion.

She's already receiving backlash from her and her ex's mutual friends for the decision to report. With her ex back in town, Cathy says she doesn't feel safe in Montreal, or at Concordia.

"It's been hard to see Concordia as a safe place."

In the end the tribunal panel is supposed to make the decision, and in cases of one student filing a complaint against another, tribunal panels are made up of only students. In the case of expulsion, the president of the university, Alan Shepard, has to confirm the decision and can reverse it if he thinks anything in the process was wrong.

But Sullivan can't say what will happen in a case like this. "It's so rare that any of this happens," she said.

Before it was postponed, Cathy had hoped her hearing would help ensure the process was improved for the next time a survivor came forward.

"I wish I had some sort of feel-good message like, 'If anyone goes through this you know, it gets better,'" she said. "Maybe it does, I don't know yet."



# Court Sides With Jaggi Singh on Unjust Arrest

## Local Activist Jaggi Singh Wins Civil Suit Versus SPVM After Seven Years

BY MATT D'AMOURS @MATTDAMOURS

A Quebec superior court judge has ordered two SPVM officers to pay \$15,000 to well-known Montreal activist Jaggi Singh, following a nearly seven-year-long civil suit. Judge Micheline Perrault found that the officers violated Singh's rights during an arrest eight years ago, and that their actions should be "denounced and disapproved" by society.

This ruling stems from an incident on March 8, 2007 in which Singh—who works at the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia—was arrested during a protest marking International Women's day in downtown Montreal.

At 6:30 p.m., approximately 50 people set off to march from Berri Square to Phillips Square. As they walked along Ste. Catherine St., officer Frédéric Mercier recognized Singh, and called in to a police station to see if the prominent activist was subject to any legal conditions. Mercier was advised that, due to a prior arrest, Singh was restricted from attending or participating in protests that were deemed non-peaceful.

Meanwhile, the march arrived at Phillips Square, where some speeches were made to the crowd. Once this was over, some of the protesters proceeded to march back towards Berri. As they neared their starting point, police on the scene asked the marchers to take the sidewalk.

With his court-ordered condition in mind, Singh decided to obey the directive, wanting to avoid any problems with police. However, with the authorization of Sgt. Georges Lamirande, officer Mercier arrested Singh as he was leaving the demonstration at 7:26 p.m., alleging that he had participated in a non-peaceful protest.

"We're focused on the word 'peaceful,' and legally speaking, it was a peaceful demonstration—a festive, engaged demonstration," Singh recalled in an interview with *The Link*. "The police used the fact that people were chanting anti-police slogans to argue that it was non-peaceable."

Singh was taken away in a police cruiser, and spent the night in jail awaiting a court hearing the next morning. During the hearing, the Crown prosecutor objected to granting the activist bail, which the court upheld.

"As anyone who follows the court system knows, it's very,

very rare to be denied bail," Singh said. "There are people who are accused of doing very serious things who are able to get bail—and yet I'm denied bail!"

Singh spent a total of five days and four nights in jail following the arrest, and was released on March 13. Throughout his imprisonment, he maintained that he was unjustly arrested given the peaceful nature of the protest.

On Feb. 28, 2008, nearly a year after the initial arrest, a Crown prosecutor offered to drop all the charges if Singh pleaded guilty to a lesser municipal offense. After Singh refused, the prosecutor, Paul Rouillard, told Singh's lawyer, "OK, you called my bluff."

Singh took exception to this statement, and felt that it showed misconduct on the part of the prosecutor. "You're not supposed to talk about bluffing," Singh said. "Either you have evidence or you don't, and if you don't, you drop the charges—you don't try to leverage."

Rouillard then presented Singh's lawyer with a second offer: all charges would be dropped if Singh signed a letter stating that he would not pursue legal action against the arresting officer. The prosecutor was advised that Singh would agree, if the City of Montreal wrote him a letter of apology.

Before this agreement could be finalized, all charges were dropped that same day. Singh initiated his civil suit six months later. Seven years later, he finally won.

**"There are people who are accused of doing very serious things who are able to get bail—and yet I'm denied bail."**

—JAGGI SINGH

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM WEDNESDAY'S RULING:

Officer Mercier claimed that the International Women's Day march was non-peaceful because protesters were walking against traffic, and some made hostile comments toward police.

Mercier's superior, Sergeant Lamirande, wrote a report of that day's events, which failed to mention why the protest was deemed non-peaceful, or when that determination was made.

The ruling found that the reasons stated by officer Mercier were insufficient to deem the protest non-peaceful. It also points out that police did not announce the march as being non-peaceful at the time, and no dispersal order was given over loudspeaker. Therefore, Singh had reason to believe he was participating in a peaceful protest.

Crown prosecutor Paul Rouillard was also included in the civil suit, with Singh alleging that he had no reasonable motive to pursue charges until Feb. 2008. However, the court dismissed this "given the relative immunity of the Crown in the exercise of its functions."

The court determined that Mercier decided to arrest Singh the moment he saw him, and that declaring the protest non-peaceful was meant to legitimize the arrest after the fact.

The ruling states that this was a violation of Singh's rights under Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

The \$15,000 owed to Singh in exemplary damages, which are awarded to both punish the offenders and dissuade others from carrying out similar actions.

While Singh sees the ruling as a positive development, he does not believe it will lead to any significant change. "I'm definitely not speaking in terms of vindications or victories," Singh said. "It's through political organizing, social mobilizing—actions in the streets—that we can defeat the activities of the police that we feel are unfair, or are examples of their impunity."

The City of Montreal has not yet announced whether it will appeal this ruling.

# MONTREAL CHARACTER SERIES: COMMANDER ANDREW CLARK

## Postering Free Agent, Positive Musical Force

PHOTO GACHARY GOLDBERG

BY GACHARY GOLDBERG  
@ZACHGOLDBERG

For once, I was early.

I showed up at our predetermined meeting place, La Vitrola, almost exactly on time. We had agreed to meet here at 6:30 p.m., but I was a tad early, casually eating a peach and for once not soaked in my own sweat. I sat down on the venue's front stairs and sparked a Viceroy to wait.

As I was waiting, that evening's show's promoter emerged from the venue, cigarette in hand. He asked what I was doing, and I told him I was here to interview the Commander. He knew exactly who I meant.

"That guy's a fucking positive force."

He really is. After a little over a year in Montreal, Andrew "Commander" Clark has become one of the most well-known, and well-liked, people in the city's DIY (do-it-yourself) music scene. After literally appearing out of nowhere, showing up in town last summer with nothing but a suitcase and two guitars, Clark has become one of the most talked-about phenomena in Montreal.

I finished my cigarette, and it was about five minutes past the half hour. I stood, and just as I did, Clark rounded the corner carrying a guitar, a tiny combo amp, and a bag of goodies to be given away. He was flushed and had clearly booked his way down here, but he smiled wide when he saw me, and immediately apologized.

"My bad, dude. Had to wrap up these Rice Krispies."

I forgave him, and held the door as he shuffled upstairs to put his stuff down. We then came back out and sat down in a nearby alley. What

follows is the transcript of our conversation—you'll find that I really didn't have to ask many questions. Clark is such an energetic, talkative person; he's constantly thinking two steps ahead, and it shows. He's so animated, completely present in his thoughts and throughout every sentence, punctuating every moment with laughter and smiles, throwing in as many shout-outs and stellar reviews of people and bands and records as possible. I only wish I could convey completely his infectious force field of positivity and acceptance, his awkward, endearing mannerisms, his total charm and disarming honesty.

Clark also used a lot of words, so it ended up being impossible to fit all of this onto the printed page. So for the full interview, head to our website. Below, you'll find just some choice snippets of a great conversation. Also, keep in mind that most of this punctuation was added by me. Clark doesn't punctuate.

**Comm. Andrew Timothy Clark**  
**25 Years Old**  
**1.4 Years in Montreal**

**Where did Commander Clark come from?**

Life in Vacuum. They took the same city bus every day with me when we were kids. But in 2010, they made a concept album called *Commander Clark* about this guy who goes to the future to save the world from these dogs with light bulbs for brains...it's a really weird concept. But after that, I took that identity. I've been building it for like five, six years—interviewing people and playing shows. Before, people laughed about it, but now, in Montreal, people really get it. Getting back to Grimes and Mac

D, they were both just doing their thing, but they could cultivate it here. The soil for creativity is so fertile. I have this sort of theory, I call it the Arcade Fire Dream, where the city of Montreal really sells this idea to tourists, of like, come here, these famous people made it big here. And it pays into tourism. But when you live here, like you live here and I live here, you know that the roads suck, the government's kind of fucked up, austerity measures are fucked up—I mean, shit's kind of fucked up, and it's a very bizarre place, but it's still true. There are so many venues; it's just more open to art. In Toronto, it's expensive to live and play there, but here it costs almost nothing to do those things. So it's bizarre, and there are so many scenes, and I love all of them. Like, sometimes I'll go to Loose Fit and Amy Macdonald shows, and then I'll go to Stack Your Roster/David Mitchell shows, and then I'll go to Blue Skies shows, I saw Primus at a Greenland show...I'm just all over the place. This is such an ego boost.

**What made you feel welcome about this scene?**

At first, not a lot; at first, it was really cold. I thought people moved here to specifically stand in one place with their arms crossed. Everyone was supporting music and were into it, but not a lot of people would dance. If you're at a smaller rock show, people are really conscious of their coolness factor. Coolness here, besides commitment issues, is in my eyes a prerequisite on your life résumé when you live here. Like, you're a cool person, and you notice it at shows. There are people who lose it, like Vince Ford, who'll just throw down. David Mitchell throws down. Will Eau,

throws down. But by and [large], a lot of people don't really give it and aren't super enthusiastic about music to the point where I'm at. That's how I got to know everybody, that's how I got friends. I'd just go to a show every night, and at first it was awkward. People were like, who's this guy? People don't trust you because of the Arcade Fire Dream. People are wary of people that come here, because they want something, like whether it's fame or money or recognition, which is all well and good. But in Montreal, if you want something, people won't talk to you. But if you're giving, if you just give and give, and I try not to ask for anything, people are more trusting. It took a while, but I just dance. I love music. Sometimes I forget, get caught up in the business of it. But I can't forget, because everyone loves music. If you dance and you're happy, people can't help but remember...that's what I'm here for, I guess.

**Do you think people are really attracted to that positive energy?**

Boom. Besides the fact that I poster for everyone and that I'm a big loud mouth and that I have this persona and this identity and I play music or whatever, that's the one reason people know me, it's just because I dance. I have fun, and I'm smiling, and I'm at the front of the stage watching people. I'm not afraid of a lot of things. I'm afraid of time the most, but everything else...I don't really care. Like tonight, at this show, I'm gonna go berserk, I'm gonna rip my pants, I don't care. I'll bleed or whatever, it doesn't matter to me, it's all for the show. As long as you're positive, if you start acting negative, people close their eyes, they walk away. But if you're positive,

people are receptive to you.

**How important is it to you to be prolific?**

If you're not prolific, you're irrelevant, that's just the nature of it...if you're not constantly making work, and constantly doing things. That's why I left Kitchener-Waterloo, 'cuz I felt irrelevant. I was like 24 and I was like, what the fuck, my whole life's ahead of me. Here, people tell me I'm a baby, but back there, when I told people I was in a band, they'd be like, aren't you gonna get a job soon? But here, people play in bands as a job.

**What are your plans for this city? Where are you going?**

I'm gonna do my thing until I've exhausted all my options. I want to move to New Zealand eventually and live with my family, but if I'm living in Canada, it's always going to be in Montreal because it's the best city to be a young person, or to be anyone at all, because it's the best city in Canada. I honestly believe that, regardless of all the shit that happens here. It's the only true bilingual city. The music is best. But I just want to keep making music, make more albums. I want a member of Arcade Fire to produce one of my records. I want to play a show where Austin from Braids is drumming for me. I want to make the Avant Garden graphic novel huge, and do a release at Drawn and Quarterly. That's my dream. If you'd told me that three years ago, I would have told you to get back in your time machine and get the fuck out of my face.

**Like I said — this is an incredibly abridged version of this interview. I can't say how highly I recommend you read the full version online.**



## NOTRE-DAME-DES LANDES: THE EVERYDAY AS A MODE OF RESISTANCE

Fighting to save a land destined to become France's 57th airport, a group of environmental activists have joined forces with local farmers to reclaim the space and protect a fragile ecosystem from state-organized destruction. Parisian film student **Lou Rambert-Preiss** went to experience life in this protest camp and shared his story and photos with *The Link*.



*La cabane flottante dans la forêt de Rohanne*



*La Chat-Teigne, qui habite un sleeping, trois cabanes collectives et où ont lieu les réunions. Ce sont ces cabanes que les agriculteurs avaient encerclé de 50 tracteurs pour défendre les zadistes des expulsions menées par les gendarmes.*

Je ne suis ni militant écologiste, ni proche des milieux d'extrême gauche. Avant d'être introduit au projet de Notre-Dame-des-Landes, je voyais encore les "zadistes" comme des néo-hippies qui se construisent des cabanes dans les arbres pour vivre en recul de la société, pour s'abriter des regards qui habituellement les jugent. Leur mode de vie ne m'est pas familier; leur langage non plus.

### À L'ABRI D'UN MONDE

Plus qu'une lutte écologiste ou un simple désir d'anonymat, je comprends rapidement que les habitants de la ZAD aspirent à un autre mode de vie, en dehors du schéma traditionnel "travail-paie-loyer." S'ils construisent eux-mêmes leurs habitations, c'est d'abord pour tenter de vivre en dehors d'un système économique trop "global" qu'ils récusent.



## DE Z.A.D. À ZAD: QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?

Si l'acronyme se traduisait premièrement par Zone d'Aménagement Différé, les militants opposés au projet de construction du nouvel aéroport ou "zadistes" auront vite fait de remplacer celui-ci par Zone À Défendre.

En 2012, Jean-Marc Ayrault, maire de Nantes, devient premier ministre et décide de tout mettre en œuvre pour mener à bien la réalisation de "l'Ayraulport", comme l'appelleront dorénavant les militants. Mais, à l'heure actuelle, le projet est toujours en suspens. Et les "zadistes" sont toujours sur la zone pour défendre les terres en les cultivant, en y construisant des cabanes, en redonnant vie aux friches et aux fermes abandonnées. En somme, "NDDL" est une poche de résistance qui refuse toute dépendance au système capitaliste néolibéral. Un village, une zone, un espace, à l'abri du reste du monde.

Poursuivant mes recherches, je me retrouve à regarder un reportage Youtube sur Notre-Dame-des-Landes, «Notre Dame des Luttés». Après une trentaine de minutes, un retraité interviewé s'exprime ainsi, "Tous ces jeunes, ils sont en train de prouver qu'on peut vivre autrement que dans le consumérisme absolu... Ils sont en train de faire la preuve qu'il y a d'autres valeurs humaines qui sont à mettre en avant."

J'observe trois cabanes côte à côte faites de bois. Elles semblent porter en elles les mots du retraité. Elles m'intriguent. Comment sont-elles pensées? Est-ce que la lutte politique s'est logée jusque dans leur intérieur? S'abrite-t-on du monde, derrière ces planches de bois, en pensant *autrement* l'aménagement de ces lieux de vie?

La cabane du Port

**"Ici,  
s'organiser  
en dehors du  
monde signifie  
réfléchir à nos  
façons d'être  
au monde..."**

## LUTTER, S'ORGANISER

"Si certains voient dans la fin de la ville la fin de la civilisation et le retour à la barbarie, j'y vois l'inverse, le début de l'être autonome comme manifestation du tout petit." Patrick Bouchain in *Construire autrement*.

Je passe mes trois premiers jours à la ZAD à Bellevue, une ferme squattée dans laquelle je participe aux activités. J'aide à faire des fagots de bois, ou encore à faire du pain que l'on vendra à prix libre dans un marché aux alentours.

Ici, il n'y a pas de *main d'œuvre*, seulement des individus qui, lorsqu'ils sont disponibles, offrent des *coups de mains*. Il n'y a pas non plus de *spécialistes*, seulement des gens qui partagent leurs connaissances, et d'autres qui apprennent *sur le tas*. On fait, on se débrouille pour faire, pour rendre les choses possibles. On travaille les uns avec les autres, avec ses voisins, les *copains*, comme on s'appelle ici, pour l'élaboration d'un monde que l'on construit en commun. Ici, s'organiser *en dehors* du monde signifie réfléchir à nos façons "d'être au monde", c'est-à-dire mener une lutte quotidienne pour repenser nos habitudes de consommateurs, pour s'en défaire, pour ne pas amener la "violence capitaliste" au sein de la ZAD. Ainsi chaque moindre chose se dote de nouveaux possibles, de nouveaux sens. Se déplacer, organiser un concert, cultiver la terre... La lutte se loge dans chaque acte quotidien.



La cuisine d'une des habitations



## AFROPUNK FEST IN BROOKLYN DEFIES EXPECTATIONS

Kelela performs at Afropunk 2015 in Brooklyn, New York, Sunday, August 23, 2015.

PHOTOS SHAUN MICHAUD

### Bearing Witness to the Dynamism of African-American Culture

BY SHAUN MICHAUD  
@SHAUN\_MIC

Multicoloured bodies lounged on a sea of grass while a voice on stage bellowed, "Trans lives matter." Artists cavorted on one of three stages adorned with black banners upon which a list was printed in bold white letters:

*no sexism  
no racism  
no ableism  
no ageism  
no homophobia  
no fatphobia  
no transphobia  
no hatefulness*

Afropunk 2015 took place at Commodore Barry Park in Brooklyn, N.Y. from Aug. 22 to Aug. 23. Touted by some as the most multicultural festival in the United States, Afropunk defies mainstream culture's stereotypes of blackness in America. It's about the Black experience that media outlets still fail to define as its influence now reaches mainstream audiences—i.e. most white people.

The festival's inception dates from 2002. But while it may seem new, the subculture is older than that—just ask Lenny Kravitz, who headlined this year.

This year's lineup included a fresh breed of artists whose styles blend divergent genres from alt-rock to straight hip hop. Gary Clark Jr., Death Grips, Goldlink, Kaytranada, SZA,

Raury: this is the new melting pot.

The queue to admission on Saturday snaked for miles down Nassau Street. High barricades defended Commodore Park against fence jumpers. The crowd was mostly composed of brown faces but a few white ones peppered the contingent. The event attracts people of all races, ages, genders and creeds.

Afropunk lives by its principles: everyone is accepted. It flies in the face of conventional segregated cultures; the assumption of who people are, what music they are supposed to enjoy or how they are supposed to behave carries no weight here.

Men wearing black lipstick; leather vests and nose rings over painted faces; dashikis worn over high-heeled boots; blonde dreadlocks, purple 'fros, oiled braids and flowing nappy locks coiffed with elegance—festival-goers go all out to celebrate Afropunk. This is no place for conservative types.

Except for the boys in blue. NYPD officers were all over the park, providing security, while DJs played songs like "Fuck The Police" and "Deep Cover." Artists took the mic between sets, inviting people to climb onstage to twerk. Despite these lighthearted moments, the festival still has a serious side. While keeping it light, the artists also took the opportunity to clamour for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Besides celebrating African-American culture, Afropunk has emerged as a safe conduit for the artistic expres-

sion of a new civil rights crusade. With its hippie-like message of love, peace and tolerance, the police presence seemed superfluous.

A thousand feet scrambled, burying a wide open field to get a closer look at Kelis when she came on stage. People danced to her remixed versions of "Caught Out There" and "Milkshake." She delivered a performance worthy of a diva. Yet, she seemed only an appetizer for this hungry crowd—for one of the headliners that day was Ms. Lauryn Hill. As was expected by most concertgoers, she was late by at least 45 minutes—a small price to pay to hear the ex-Fugees member sing.

Offering no apology, she sang alternate versions of tracks from *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, her sole studio album dating back to 1998. Her band adopting a lively Caribbean musical style, Ms. Hill seemed to have lost only a fraction of her former singing prowess.

But if the crowd forgave her lateness, some could barely contain themselves—including Ms. Hill herself—when festival officials turned off the lights. Grace Jones was scheduled to take the stage next; Ms. Hill's set was encroaching upon the time it would take to prepare the stage for the bare-breasted singer.

The songstress played a couple of tracks through the calamity. A small portion of the crowd sang along praying for the lights to come back on—like asking for mercy for the declining legend. At some point



Members of the crowd jumped onstage to show off their dance moves.

though, Ms. Hill was forced to concede and pack up her instruments.

She hadn't even had enough time to play her best songs. They had literally turned the lights down low on her.

It seemed like less people showed up for Sunday.

Lenny Kravitz—the veritable embodiment of Afropunk—was scheduled to close out the festival, so it was a bit surprising to see more grass than the day before. People hung out at the fenced-off bar kiosk, some looking straight up despondent. The festival suffered a momentary funk.

Vintage Trouble enlivened its fans though. The singer Ty Taylor even joined the congregation on the green field, belting out soulful verses like a prophet proclaiming a rock n' roll revival. Taylor made sure he shook off all cobwebs, asking the crowd to do the wave. They agreed in greater numbers than he'd expected.

"I've never played to such a boisterous crowd," he said. "Thank you."

Next, Kelela seduced the fest with her entrancing stare and high voice range. Her performance was impeccable, like listening to a prerecorded album. She was one of the festival's

hidden gems, a prime example of this subculture's unabashed will to fuse different styles together. She is labeled as an R&B singer but could easily be put in the electronica sphere.

At nightfall, a throng of new concertgoers seemed to come out of the shadows. Thousands pressed towards the stage hoping to catch a glimpse of an artist who, just a few weeks ago, accidentally tore his leather pants onstage. The crowd roared when they saw his iconic shades and afro. He took the mic, an electric guitar hanging around his waist.

"I was born in Brooklyn," Lenny Kravitz said. "I'm from Bed-Stuy. You know I've been performing for 25 years and this is the first time I play in my hometown. So, this is special for me."

Kravitz played his best hits, including "Fly Away," "It Ain't Over Till It's Over," and "I Belong To You." His lead guitarist stole the show, though, with long solo guitar riffs that made knees buckle and hips swoon.

On Oct. 3 and Oct. 4, Afropunk Fest resumes at Central Park in Atlanta. Then in 2016, the subculture is going worldwide—if it hasn't already—inviting its devotees to Paris on June 4 and 5.



PHOTOS PABLO ORTIZ



Forward Jacques Haman has scored two goals for FC Montreal since signing with the club in late July.

# THE INDOMITABLE LION

## FC Montreal Forward Jacques Haman Discusses Transfer Troubles From Cameroon to Montreal

BY TRISTAN D'AMOURS  
@TRISTANDAMOURS

Three months ago, the Montreal Impact flew in a new player for a tryout at their training centre in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. The new kid on the block was a 21-year-old Cameroonian striker, Jacques Haman.

The young forward has shown that he has a goal-scoring touch. He scored 39 goals in 87 appearances for his previous club, Coton Sport de Garoua, and had already been called up to the Cameroonian national team, the Indomitable Lions. In two starts for his country, Haman already had a goal to his name.

While he has yet to feature for the Impact, he's done his best to stand out as a member of their affiliate team, FC Montreal. In five matches for the club, Haman already has two goals.

"My objective, even if they would have placed me with the [Impact], is to score," he said. "Even if it's the big guys or the under-23s, I only want to score."

However, if it weren't for his previous club, Haman might not have even seen the field in a Montreal uniform, regardless of it being from FC Montreal or the Impact.

A month had passed after Haman arrived at the Impact's training grounds and no deal had been made. According to Haman, Coton Sport de Garoua was attempting to block his transfer deal to Montreal.

"There was a little delay because my club over [in Cameroon] bothered a little, but my agent worked on it and now it's fine," he said.

It isn't the first time Haman's been stopped from leaving his hometown club, as Coton Sport de Garoua has had a reputation for blocking transactions.

On Feb. 11 2014, Adeline Atangana of Cameroon-Info.net reported that Haman was closing in on a deal with Israeli club Maccabi Tel-Aviv. The Coton Sport front office prevented Haman from joining his new team by saying he was still under contract despite Haman actually proving he was a free agent, leaving him the option to sign with any club he desired.

Haman finally put pen to paper in late July,

but with FC Montreal instead of the Impact. FC Montreal manager Philippe Eullaffroy was involved in a meeting with the Impact soccer operations to evaluate if the player had a future at the club or if it was better for them to send him back to Cameroon.

"The club thought that he had a very interesting potential. I thought that too, but he was not ready for the [Montreal Impact]. Combined with the fact that there are limits in terms of roster size in [Major League Soccer], it came to us that the best solution for both Jacques and the club was to stay a little while longer by playing with FC Montreal," explained Eullaffroy. "He would get maximum playing time in the United Soccer League and we would make an assessment in a year to see if the progression was there and if he could knock on MLS' door."

"They told me I would train with the first team for a while and then I would drop down with FC Montreal, but there was no problem since in the end it's the same club," said Haman.

Putting the ball in the net is a recurring theme for the young man. Haman likes to score, no matter when, no matter how, and understands that his job depends on this. When asked what he remembers from scoring his first goal for the Cameroonian national team, Haman did not recall an emotion but rather a duty of his to defend his country by doing what he does best.

"I think of what the coaches tell me all the time which is, 'Go on, score the goal and think about us all the time,'" said Haman. "We are united, it's one family, so we score for everyone."

"I always dream to play with them. I need to defend the colours of my country."

Montreal Impact and FC Montreal fans can thank another Cameroonian international for



Haman's arrival in La Belle Province. Haman's initial contact with the club was through former Coton Sport teammate and friend, Impact fullback Ambroise Oyongo.

Earlier this year, the Impact traded for Oyongo in a deal with the New York Red Bulls, but the fullback originally didn't report to the Impact after his former Cameroonian club, Rainbow FC, attempted to block the trade, claiming that they still held his rights.

"When we were at Coton Sport, he was my best friend. He called me and told me 'you

have to come,'" said Haman. "When I got told that he was here and that I could come stay with him I said, 'no problem, my friend.'"

Having now signed with FC Montreal Haman will spend the rest of the season, and at least half of next season, with the minor-league affiliate. Eullaffroy isn't sure whether Haman will make the jump to the Montreal Impact immediately, but is focused on helping Haman adapt to his new surroundings.

"It would be presumptuous to say that we know what will happen with Jacques next year," said Eullaffroy. "He will make the preparation camp with us, he will soak in our style, he will be even more comfortable with his new Montreal lifestyle and he will get to deal with the cold and snow. Then in June when he will play another 10-12 games and we will have all of the elements to see if he can contribute to the first team."

**"My objective, even if they would have placed me with the [Impact], is to score."**

—JACQUES HAMAN

# To Be Frank

Ex-ConU Starting  
Quarterback Opens Up  
On Why He Left Team



PHOTO LAURA LALONDE

Former Concordia Stingers quarterback Frank Dessureault will now be pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering at Concordia University with the hopes of a career in avionics.

BY JULIAN MCKENZIE  
@JULIANTHEINTERM

It's a scorching hot Monday morning that will surely get hotter and more humid as the hours go by. It's the type of day that would make anybody want to wear the least amount of clothing possible. Instead, dozens of Concordia Stingers football players are in full gear at training camp, running drills on the brand new turf installed at Concordia Stadium. There is, however, a notable absentee at this year's camp.

Under 90 minutes away, Frank Dessureault is at home in Drummondville. Located east of Quebec, it has a population of fewer than 72,000. If you can't find Dessureault at home, there is chance you may find him at work; he spends numerous hours as a shift manager at a McDonald's in the area, where he has worked for six years. But while his job is fairly routine, Dessureault finds himself trying to adjust to life beyond the gridiron.

"To know everyone's on the field and you're still here working at a puny McDonald's," he said. "It's not easy, but I'll get used to it."

For the first time since before his first year of high school, Dessureault will not be participating in a training camp. The now-former starting quarterback left the Stingers football team following their 2014 season. According to Dessureault, it had to do with making his education a priority.

"I stopped playing football not because I didn't want to play anymore. It's because I had to make a choice," he said.

Following almost two years of studying athletic therapy, Dessureault realized that it wasn't for him and took a semester off to consider his options. It was then that the former quarterback decided to take interest in aviation.

"I was asking myself questions," he said. "What interests me? What do I want to do?"

And then I realize 'Hey, I love airplanes!' I love everything that has to do with avionics."

While he briefly teased the possibility of becoming a pilot, Dessureault will now be doing a degree in aerospace engineering this coming semester.

"You look at a huge airplane and you wonder how a huge thing like that can fly," he said.

Last season, Dessureault was entrusted as starting quarterback—a pilot of sorts—of the Concordia Stingers offence after playing backup to Reid Quest a year earlier. In seven games, Dessureault threw for 1,307 passing yards, as well as eight touchdowns and four interceptions. He did, however, miss one game due to injury.

While Dessureault would be pulled from games in the hopes that a backup option—Colin Sequeira or Mario Porreca—would spark the team, he always felt head coach Mickey Donovan and offensive coordinator Matt Connell had his corner, even if his responsibilities lied more on the defensive side of the field.

"Whenever [Mickey and I] did talk, it was always constructive," he said. "We had a good relationship. He was pushing me to be better, keeping me motivated. [He was] pretty much the perfect type of coach that anybody would want."

"I don't think they ever lost confidence in me," Dessureault added. "Obviously there was the injury that happened in the middle of the season, but apart from that, I'm pretty sure I was their guy from day one."

\*

It's a cooler, more relaxed Sunday evening at Concordia Stadium now. Stingers players have just finished playing a pre-season game against the Queen's Golden Gaels. Players from both teams are exchanging handshakes

**"I stopped playing football not because I didn't want to play anymore. It's because I had to make a choice."**

—FRANK DESSUREAULT

and hugs, and are even taking pictures with each other.

On the field you will likely find a Stingers quarterback laughing with his teammates, or taking photos with his family members. For a few moments, the Stingers don't have to think about who their next starting quarterback will be, but once they step back onto the field for practice they'll be on edge, fighting for a spot.

During the game, which the Stingers won 21-18, ConU used four different quarterbacks. Two of them, Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren and Trenton Miller, were given the most amount of time on the field. Sequeira and another backup, Quaid Johnson, have also seen playing time.

Needless to say, the Stingers are in the process of finding Dessureault's successor in time for the season opener on Sept. 4 against the Sherbrooke Vert et Or. But according to Coach Donovan, Dessureault might not have even been a given a chance to keep his spot.

Months earlier, Donovan revealed to *The Concordian* that with the accumulation of quarterbacks on the team, Dessureault wouldn't be starting if he had returned to the team. Following the pre-season win over Queen's, Donovan stood by that statement, but also cited injuries as a reason why Dessureault wasn't the most effective quarterback for the team.

"We get more out of the guys that are new

here," said Donovan. "[Dessureault] was getting banged up; he took a lot of hits last year. When we were playing Sherbrooke in that last game of the regular season, he was struggling to make any type of throws to the outside and it was due to injuries."

"I don't want to be throwing Dessureault under the boat; he's a great kid and he's a hard working guy," he added. "We feel as a coaching staff we got better at that position."

While Dessureault couldn't comment on any of the new quarterbacks, he naturally feels he would've been up for the challenge if he continued another year in the football program.

"I love competition, that's what makes me better," he said. "Obviously, I'm confident in my abilities."

"I wish them the best of luck," he added. "For one, I'm not there anymore. Second of all, I don't know what they look like, I don't know how they play, so I really can't judge whether I would've been worried or not."

Training camp will go on without Dessureault this year. It's a reality he will have to accept. He admits that he'd love to find his way back into football, likely as some sort of coach, but his studies are his focus right now.

He will still miss the game of football, a sport he got in as a young teenager trying to make friends, but at least he is attempting to let go.

"I'll have to live with it," he said.

# HOW TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH AMERICA, OR ELSEWHERE, ON A STUDENT BUDGET

BY MATTHA BUSBY @ITSMATTHA

Travelling is expensive, period. But there is a multiplicity of ways to minimize costs and extend your stay—lest you have to cut your voyage short and return home to your parents' place penniless, counting the days until university reconvenes.

In case you're planning on an extended Christmas jaunt with limited funds, we've created this fun fact-filled guide.

## Sublet your place

This is surely a no-brainer. Even if you're only travelling for a month, you could save anywhere from \$300 to \$600, unless you live in those penthouses by Peel—don't be afraid of letting a stranger crash in your bed.

You can always wash sticky sheets, and you bought that ornament they stole at a flea market anyway.

## Booking flights and getting buses

Don't use the sites of major airlines such as American Airlines, TAM or Air Canada; you'll be able to find far cheaper flights on budget search engines, which may in fact sell you a flight with one of the aforementioned for a fraction of the price.

Don't use eDreams or Skyscanner—CheapOair, STA Travel and Student Universe are far cheaper. Flights to South America are far cheaper from Toronto's Pearson Airport or NYC's JFK than Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau, so take a rideshare through Amigo Express or from a potential maniac on Craigslist to either of these cities.

Typically you can fly to Bogotá from JFK for less than \$300USD. Within South America, just like Europe, airlines sometimes offer far cheaper flights than the bus so price-check before you go to the bus station for a mammoth journey.

Also, take local buses—perhaps you'll have to bear witness to animal cruelty, for livestock is often transported inside or on the roof

of these buses—but it will certainly be far cheaper than the AC paradise advertised in the bus terminal billboard.

## Don't go to the hostels on Hostel World

There's a reason the hostels on Hostel World are more expensive than local hotels—they're catering to a North American/European target market that they presume are rich.

Instead, I recommend Couchsurfing—there are always thousands of hosts in South America's metropolises. If you're travelling in Western Europe this becomes a necessity rather than a cost-saving device since you'll be lucky to find a room for less than €25 anywhere in the vicinity of a city centre.

Plus Couchsurfing ensures you won't just be hanging out with the gap-year crew in your hostel that are heading straight to the Caribbean family holiday home once their trip around the Banana Pancake trail is over.

If meeting new people, attempting to speak a different language and perhaps being occasionally obliged to do stuff with your Couchsurfing host doesn't appeal to you, then go to a local *hospedaje* or *casa particular* where you'll typically pay a third of the price of the boutique hostel advertised at the top of Google.

## Eat at the market

Admittedly, this is tough for vegetarians. Expect to eat a lot of vegetable tortillas and rice throughout Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

Don't be picky. If there's nothing palatable on the menu just ask for a plate. Make sure you reiterate that you don't eat ham or chicken though, as they're often not considered meat. For all you carnivores and pescatarians, there's a wealth of choice.

Eat fish on the coast and meat further inland, as poor infrastructure often means the fish is very not fresh. You'll typically pay the equivalent of around \$4 for a plate that you might not even come close to finishing.



Avoid the tourist rush and make your own tour.

PHOTO MATTHA BUSBY

Just don't get lured to the Mexican restaurants advertised in Lonely Planet or you might end up paying more than you would in Montreal for a relatively tasteless dish in comparison.

## Volunteer

Through sites such as Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) and Work Away you can have great, altruistic learning experiences whilst almost eliminating your living costs.

These two sites aren't the be-all-and-end-all but operate worldwide and basically serve as a platform for you to contact hosts wherever you are—they do charge a fee for access to their databases, though.

I found Work Away was far better value but far less regulated than WWOOF. Make sure to contact them well in advance and ensure you know exactly what is expected of you, lest you have a shock on the first day when you're informed you're expected to work in excess of the 25-hour-a-week limit in a completely different job than what was advertised.

I went to work at a wine bar in Mendoza and ended up getting outsourced to do maintenance work on pushbikes at a neighbouring company the wine bar was in debt to.

All will offer free accommodation; some hosts will offer just breakfast whereas others will feed you all day long.

## Learn the language

Relying on locals speaking English is a terrible byproduct of globalization-slash-empire and the cultural complacency it has bred throughout the English-speaking world.

Just the basics will go a long way even with

those used to speaking English with tourists; when digressing from the classic Banana Pancake tourist trail, it'll be a necessity unless you want to risk potentially being exploited or merely sneered at.

In South America it's cheaper to take language classes outside of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil (the continent's most expensive countries). If you make it to Panama or Guatemala in Central America then it'll be even cheaper.

If you want to practice your rusty skills in the cities where practically everyone speaks English then just say you're Lithuanian and they'll persevere with you in Spanish or Portuguese rather than switching to your mother tongue. I'm not being flippant; I did this and it worked.

## Choose your country(ies) wisely

Some places are more expensive, and nicer, than others. So do your research on travel blogs or articles like this rather than through a travel advisor or, to a lesser extent, Lonely Planet.

Don't go on tours! For excursions like Tiwanaku in La Paz, the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador or the Sacred Valley in Peru there are often local buses (or flights in the case of the Galapagos) you can take to the vicinity of their locations where you'll just have to pay the entry fee sans tour.

Plus you won't have to spend the day listening to people from Manhattan scolding their children for being late back to your coach which will ferry you from tourist spot to tourist spot, before stopping at an exorbitant restaurant that the tour company has a deal with for lunch.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

# Nah'msayin? PDA Not A-Okay

BY JULIA MIELE

I get that when you're in a relationship, you feel the urge to show your partner some affection by kissing them or holding their hand—or just expressing it verbally. Sure, that's really sweet, and I encourage it.

But I have a major issue when it comes to couples that openly play tonsil hockey in very public areas as if there's nobody else around them. Almost like they can't comprehend the concept of a public area. Hallways at school? Two people sucking face right around the corner. I'm just trying to get to my locker, guys. Metro ride back home? Oh, there they are, going at it again like it's their only source of air.

I get it, you guys are super into one another, and that's

really cool, but there are private places for that kind of stuff. Y'know, places where it's just you guys and you can go at each other however you'd like. But in a place where it's crowded with people who can very well see what's going on? Not only can we see it, but the sound your guys' mouths make is very much audible. So even when we're doing our best trying not to make things even more awkward by looking in your general direction to, I don't know, TRY to give you guys some privacy in this public space, we can still hear it. Very clearly.

Yes, it makes people uncomfortable. No, I'm not some prude who can't handle the sight of sexual activity. Yes, I can see you grabbing your partner's ass, please stop; I just want to get my shift at Provigo over with, this is a grocery store for Christ's sake.

## Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



## Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart

CAITY COMICS



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## Balloon Ventures by Mangekko Jones





## We Need a Code that Better Supports Sexual Violence Survivors

Concordia University released a report this past Wednesday outlining recommendations to its existing sexual harassment policy, which President Alan Shepard said would hopefully be fully implemented by the end of the school year.

In the 17-page report, a working group of different university representatives—led by Deputy Provost Lisa Ostiguy—recommended increasing resources for the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, implementing yearlong consent and rape culture training, redesigning a new centralized web hub of resources and creating a standalone policy on sexual violence.

This is all good news that *The Link* endorses, but there are past and current complaints of sexual violence still largely unaddressed by the university's existing procedures and policies.

The working group does recommend reviewing the school's Code of Rights and Responsibilities—which outlines informal or formal complaint processes—for “potential inequities” regarding the “time delays, representations and appeals process.” Concordia will also look into the response time for cases of sexual violence at the Code’s next regular review process. Which is also good, but this implies that the Code, as it is, is problematic.

In fact, in the past few years there have been at least four cases of sexual violence complaints received by the Office of Rights and Responsibility (ORR) that it ultimately could offer little to no help with. One of the cases is the well-publicized sexual and racial harassment that Mei-Ling suffered as an executive with Concordia's Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

Another case, which appeared in a *Montreal Gazette* story published in May, involves a student under the pseudonym “Cathy” that made a formal complaint with the ORR after she says her ex-boyfriend assaulted her twice on campus. Following police intervention and reinstatement of a past restraining order, Cathy realized she was no longer safe at school and made a formal complaint against her former partner on March 24.

A tribunal panel hearing of students, as outlined by the Code, was set for Sept. 8, but will now be postponed until the criminal proceedings are resolved. Cathy is not enrolled in classes this semester. She fears for her safety while her ex remains a student at Concordia.

The university is directly implicated in Cathy's decision to postpone her schooling. A five-month delay to attempt resolution is unacceptable to begin with. Now an indefinite period could put her academic career at Concordia in jeopardy. Within the Code, it even states "a Hearing Panel shall be convened as soon as possible after receipt of the notification by the Secretary and normally within 20 Days."

Reasoning for the delay is not fair. *The Link* won't argue for or against the merits of court or tribunal rules and procedures, but certain circumstances which disproportionately affect groups like survivors of sexual violence should be prioritized.

Common sense is required. The student feels unsafe. Resolution is needed now.

Until recently, Cathy's restraining order almost became a roadblock, since she and her ex can't be in the same room for the tribunal.

This was solved by having her advocate attend the hearing for her. And, oddly, complaints can't go forward during final exams—usually in April, or the summer months of July and August.

Cathy also said that ORR informed her no disciplinary action could be taken against her ex-boyfriend without a formal complaint. This statement appears outright wrong, considering an emergency protocol exists to handle this type of dangerous situation.

The Protocol on the Coordination of Urgent Cases of Threatening or Violent Conduct is “designed to ensure that the responsibility for decision-making is vested in the hands of management.” For “incidents of threatening or violent conduct,” the protocol outlines how an advisor should investigate the situation, collect information and provide any type of support for the student, even temporary leave.

It is unknown why this emergency protocol was not used to protect Cathy and remove the onus of filing a complaint and formally confronting someone who is threatening her livelihood.

It also unclear why so much pressure is put on a complainant—who is once again in a distressing, dangerous situation—to practically conduct their own investigation.

In the Code, it states that the complainant must consult and bring any individual that could help their case, while they are also asked to provide additional documentation as evidence before tribunal. They basically have to lawyer for themselves, unless they obtain a student advocate through one of

two advocacy centres on campus. This is not required, however.

Can Concordia not appoint a qualified representative to conduct an investigation for all complaints—or at the very least for those of a violent and dangerous nature? At the University of British Columbia, this is exactly how discrimination and harassment complaints are dealt with.

Within UBC's own code of procedures, it states that after an individual submits a complaint, a representative from its Equity Office can choose to conduct an investigation involving consultation with the complainant, respondent, university faculty and relevant documents.

Once concluded, the representative will offer recommendations on how to further proceed. At no point does the complainant have to do anything more than provide their account of events for the representative to review. It makes no mention of having to appear in front of a panel to plead one's case.

Concordia's Code needs reform. The recent sexual assault policy review says as much, but it leaves any potential change to the Code's next "regular review." It is not known yet when this will happen.

Hopefully, it'll happen within the year, but it would probably require its own working group to review the 34-page document over the next months.

Until then, nothing is preventing survivors of sexual harassment and assault from feeling like they've been failed by a system that ought to protect them.

# THE LINK

Volume 36, Issue 02  
Tuesday, Sept. 01, 2015  
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The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member.

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Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

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**TYPESETTING** by The Link. **PRINTING** by Hebdo-Litho.

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