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MARCHING FOR CHANGE

Annual Take Back the Night March Protests Gendered Violence

BY CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

"I don't owe you shit," read one of many the signs that was visible among the group of diverse people gathered at a downtown corner.

Mumbled conversation and quiet excitement preceded what was to come—it was the calm before the feminist storm.

On Thursday night, close to 200 people gathered at Norman Bethune Square to participate in the Take Back The Night march organized by the Centre for Gender Advocacy, A Safer Concordia and the Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society. Since the 1970s, the marches have served as international shows of solidarity for women against all forms of gendered violence or harassment.

"I am here because I'm sad that I have to be here in the first place, and I'm going to be here until I feel like I don't have to," said McGill student Harshita Iyer.

Hundreds of TBTN marches are held in over 30 countries around the world every year. The first Canadian protest against sexual violence was held in Vancouver in 1978. This year in Montreal, protesters marched from Guy St. all the way to McGill College Ave., halting at McGill University for speeches.

The Centre for Gender Advocacy has organized the annual Take Back The Night march since 2012.

"We march for every person who does not feel safe going home at night, who fears being followed, harassed, abused. We are here to reclaim our right to be in any space, at any time and advocate for safer communities," reads the Facebook event page description.

Reasons for participation varied—some had no other way of standing up to their aggressors. Others felt the need to educate themselves and those around them about the issue of gendered violence. Some were there to show support, and others wanted to share their experiences.

"I want to show that we can fight back," said Belvia Dallaire, who was sexually abused and couldn't denounce her aggressors or express her anger towards them. According to her, sexual assault is a practice that is too often accepted in our society.

"I will never stop because it's necessary for people to get angry. And it feels good. It's liberating."

— Belvia Dallaire

Now, she is speaking up against it.

"I will never stop because it's necessary for people to get angry. And it feels good, it's liberating," Dallaire said. She was holding high a sign that read, "I don't want to sit now that I can speak / I don't want to shut up now that I can walk," lines she claims were lifted from a feminist poem.

Prior to the first speeches of the night, the organizers of the event acknowledged the controversial history surrounding Take Back the Night. The first TBTN march, held in San Francisco in 1973, was organized to protest against pornography. The organization was hesitant to allow men to participate, and took a strong stance against

transgender individuals.

Organizers assured the crowd that this march would be inclusive of all genders as well as sex workers.

"In the current iteration here, I'm really happy and inspired by the inclusivity," said Concordia student Enok Ripley. He added that trans inclusion is being talked about more openly during different rallies, which is an important step forward.

Despite some difficulties with the sound system, those giving speeches managed to grab the crowd's attention, and excitement began to grow. Aimee Louw, an activist from



PHOTO ALEX BAILEY

think people are becoming more aware of the Native women's perspective," she said in an interview. "I think the missing and murdered indigenous women are a big issue."

Sexual harassment of Native women was a prevalent topic at the march, following recent allegations of long-standing sexual assault and abuse of indigenous women by police in Val-d'Or. Many, including Tremblay, expressed hope for the

future with Justin Trudeau's new Liberal government.

A woman named Chantel Henderson from the Missing Justice campaign offered a testimony of her experience with rape and abuse, saying the new government "means hope for change and support in the Aboriginal community." She was talking specifically about the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Carolyn Bennett and new Minister of Justice, Jody Wilson-Raybould, the first indigenous woman to hold the position.

After the speeches, one bystander began vocally opposing the demonstration.

"GO HOME!" a young man's voice resonated from the apartment building on Ste. Catherine St. He was waving and laughing.

"Fuck you, asshole!" and similar statements rang through the crowd. Middle fingers flew into the air as the group was faced with opposition. The crowd chanted louder: "Whose streets? Our streets!"

"It's still an issue that's not regarded with full seriousness," said McGill student Reagan Shoenwoloz. "The fact that the issue [is] still surprising or funny to people reminds me that there's a reason I am here ... and that I have to continue to be here."



Protesters took back the night in a stand against gendered violence on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015.

PHOTO SHAUN MICHAUD



GRAPHIC JENNIFER AEDY

Mo' Than Just Moustaches

Movember's About Raising Awareness for Men's Health

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER
@HELENEVBAUER

Whether you're doing it like Dali, Einstein or Jimi Hendrix, you're letting that moustache grow this month.

This year for the first time since the Movember campaign launched 12 years ago, the foundation introduced a new way to raise awareness for men's health—and this time, it includes women.

"From the team who brought back the moustache, MOVE is a new way to fund-raise for men's health," reads the headline of the Movember webpage promoting this new campaign.

Movember started off as a fashion trend in Australia in 2003. Since then, it's grown into a worldwide phenomenon to raise awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer, testicular cancer, but also mental and physical health.

The movement was created for men, and centered around men. The initial idea of growing a moustache meant that women were not intended to be involved in the discourse. Nevertheless, as years went on and the campaign blew up, Mo Brothas and Mo Sistas partnered to raise awareness for the cause.

Mo Brothers grew moustaches—they played with shapes, forms, and sizes. They created a Mo Space, a platform where they could post daily photos of their facial hair and raise money for the cause at the same time.

Although women were eventually encouraged to participate in the dialogue, they could only generally do so on a financial level through donations.

"Women were already participating in the Movember campaign for years, but many wanted to take part in it on a more concrete level," said Andrée Paulin, Business Engagement Coordinator of the Movember Foundation in Montreal.

She has three brothers and believes it's important for them to live in a society where they can be open about both their physical

and mental health.

The MOVE campaign consists of doing just that—moving everyday of the month. It can be as simple as getting off the bus one stop early or doing yoga everyday, said Paulin. She is walking to and from work every day this month, which is about an hour-long walk one way.

At first glance, it looks like the set up is for men to grow moustaches and for women to exercise.

"The moustache is unique in that it has a very strong power to create conversation."

— Jesse Galganov, student

"This new campaign is not just for women, it's also for men who can't grow moustaches for whatever reason," said Paulin. "Physical inactivity is a huge problem in our society today."

Rest assured, moustaches aren't out just yet—Movember enthusiasts are still going bigger, bushier, and more intricate than ever.

Jesse Galganov is on a semester abroad in Prague, but even from the Czech Republic, he is still showing support for Movember.

Galganov originally heard about the campaign in his last year of high school at Lower Canada College in Montreal. In 2012, alumni came to talk to his hockey team about the Movember campaign; one of the alumnus had lost their father to cancer.

The hockey coach had made a deal with the school to alleviate the school's no facial hair rule during the month of November, if the students could raise \$15 each, said Galganov.

He didn't just rise to the occasion, but went above and beyond what was expected, raising a total of \$5,300.

Since that year, Galganov has raised over \$16,000 for the cause and won "#1 Mo Space" for the best daily picture update.

"The moustache is unique in that it has a very strong power to create conversation," said Galganov.

But, prostate cancer research funded in part by Movember is not without its controversy.

"There is a strong cultural movement in rich countries to use screening to reduce [the number of deaths] caused by cancer," said Dr. Fernand Turcotte, co-founder of the Social and Preventive Medicine Department at Université Laval and doctor at the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec.

Since 1971, there has been a rise of prostate cancer diagnosis due to the wide spread of a new blood test called prostate-specific antigen, or PSA for short.

Turcotte discussed the practice of screening for prostate cancer. Screening tests—like PSA for prostate cancer—help find some types of cancer before any signs or symptoms have even manifested in the body.

Turcotte said the screening test, leading to the "prevention" of this particular cancer, is doing more harm than good, taking the test as the ultimate authority for diagnosis. The Canadian Cancer Society's website warns that the test cannot diagnose cancer, but will detect prostate issues which may be linked with the disease.

"PSA is not effective. Some of the disadvantages are the false positives detected by the test," said André Beaulieu, Quebec spokesperson for the Canadian Cancer Society. Even if the test successfully detects the cancer, it doesn't mean that the cancer warrants treatment, Beaulieu continued. According to him, the treatment is only necessary depending on health family history, age, and aggressiveness of the cancer.

Nevertheless—excluding non-melanoma

skin cancers—prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among Canadian men. The survival rate after five years of living with the cancer is at 96 per cent, said Beaulieu. Having said that, prostate cancer is still the third leading cause of death from cancer in men in Canada, according to the CCS.

But the combination of a "false positive early screening" and the fact that prostate cancer manifests itself very slowly in the body causes an alarming amount over-diagnosis of the cancer in our society, said Turcotte.

The CCS confirmed there is an ongoing debate around screening methods for prostate cancer. Beaulieu said the CCS doesn't support the PSA testing, however, it recommends each male over the age of 50 to talk to their doctor about prostate cancer.

The CCS pointed out that side effects of the screening can actually be harmful, including incontinence, erectile dysfunction, and aggressive bowel movements.

"Add to this, the uncertainty about the prognostic safety of the intervention and [you have] all the ingredients capable to ruin the quality of life," Turcotte said.

"A man will die of other natural causes before dying of prostate cancer," Beaulieu said. He also added that in most cases, prostate cancer is not deadly in men under the age of 85.

Turcotte concluded by saying that studies show the reduction of mortality attributable to prostate cancer tipped off early by the PSA screening is null. "We have known this for six years and it is a scandal that we have not stopped this circus," he said.

Since its beginnings in 2003, the two moustache-growing Aussies that started the Movember foundation have nurtured a worldwide discourse around men's health, for good and for bad—raising awareness means allowing a healthy debate to take place from both sides of the issue.

This November, Mo Brothers and Mo Sistas, grow a moustache or get moving, but most importantly, get informed about prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.

Can Students Strike?

Student Leaders Challenge University's Charges and Code of Conduct

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

There's a war on wording between former and current presidents within Concordia.

At the university's Board of Governors meeting on Friday, Concordia Student Union President Terry Wilkings questioned Concordia President Alan Shepard and other senior administration for their inconsistent stance on last semester's student strikes.

Last spring, students throughout Quebec went on strike to protest austerity measures implemented by the provincial government. Departmental student associations at Concordia held general assemblies to decide whether they should strike or not. After many associations successfully voted to strike, protesters had to picket and disrupt classes to enforce the mandates. In response, three Concordia professors filed formal charges against 25 student-protesters around mid-April.

The professors believe students violated Article 29G of the school's Code of Rights and Responsibilities. The article states that members are free to engage in peaceful and orderly protest, as long as classes or university activities aren't disrupted.

Graham Dodds is one of the professors who filed a charge for disruption during one of his Political Science classes on April 1. The identities of the 25 students and the other two professors aren't public.

After initially saying they wouldn't get involved, the university became co-complainants with the professors under this code at the end of May. About a month ago, the tribunals were suspended, as students and professors entered mediation. There was no university rep, however.

Last semester, senior administration set a new precedent by publicly using the term "strike" to acknowledge the mandates voted on by student associations. Previously, Concordia referred to the 2012 demonstrations and pickets as part of a "boycott."

This year, on March 23 and April 2, the university cancelled classes for striking departments to hold days of "dialogue and reflection" between students and faculty. Since the strikes began last semester, Shepard and other admin have recognized students' democratic right to strike, but emphasized that safety on campus is their number one concern.

Wilkings says that if safety is their priority, then students shouldn't be charged under a part of the Code that doesn't deal with this issue. He believes the use of Article 29G would be warranted if the university clearly stated they're against disrupting classes, but they haven't. In the event of harassment or property damage, he says other articles in the code exist to charge students with, if necessary. Although no personal harm or property damage was reported during last term's strikes.

Back-and-forth at board

At the Friday board meeting, Shepard said he doesn't have the statutory right to suspend the Code for anyone. The Board of Governors is the highest decision-making body at Concordia and includes three student representatives.

He also discussed an alleged arrangement with student leaders where the university wouldn't call the police as long as there weren't injuries or property damage.

"You kept your word on that, we kept our word on that," Shepard said on Friday in a back-and-forth with Wilkings.

The Code allows for peaceful protesting, but Shepard stressed students don't have the right to noisily disrupt proceedings within university buildings. The tribunal will determine whether the students broke article 29G in the Code, he concluded.

"They're upset," Shepard said at the board meeting, regarding the 25 students who were charged. "The three professors, I promise you, are equally upset."

Shepard also mentioned that by becoming co-complainants, the university could provide "security support."

In an email, university spokesperson Chris Mota clarified that this support meant providing any type of information from the security department. She added that becoming a co-complainant demonstrates administrative support for the Code.

The Code is discriminatory against students, because it doesn't affect faculty, according to former CSU President Benjamin Prunty. Teaching unions could strike—thus disrupting university activities—and not be charged, he said at the board meeting.

Article 9 of the Code states it cannot "be applied in such a way as to detract from the rights of unions or employee associations to defend the interests of their members and to exercise their rights under a collective or employee agreement."

Recently, the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association released a letter saying they "wholeheartedly" support any form of non-violent protest students choose to engage in.

Former CUPFA President Maria Peluso reiterated her union's stance at the Friday meeting, but said students must be willing to take the risk of formal consequence from

striking and engaging in "civil disobedience."

Strikes this semester

No classes were cancelled for students from the four departments who voted to strike this past week. Students from Liberal Arts College and the School of Community and Public Affairs held weeklong strikes, while two graduate programs were on strike solely on Nov. 5.

Students from Liberal Arts and SCPA discovered classes wouldn't be cancelled when they received almost identical emails from their respective department chairs. The emails emphasized the university Code should be respected at all times, again citing Article 29G.

The emails further stated that the term won't be extended and students are responsible for any missed work and making deadlines. Mota says there was collaboration between senior admin and the department chairs in writing the emails.

"There has to be a coordinated effort," she said.

How the past week of striking will affect resumed mediation is unknown, according to Katie Nelson, Chair of the Students of Philosophy Association. She is acting as the representative of philosophy students—who voted to strike last semester—in the talks.

Her hope is that Shepard respects and communicates with student-protesters rather than "simply sanctioning them under the Code."

A shift in position

A gap of leadership is growing between the school's senior administration and the efforts of students, Wilkings says.

"The university is adopting an untenable position in the long term," he said.

Wilkings believes the email sent to Liberal Arts and SCPA students is a shift in position from senior administration. The email uses the word "strike" once within quotation marks. Wilkings refers to these as "scare quotes."

The change in position illustrates how the new administration is unfamiliar with the

proactive community of Quebec, according to Wilkings. Shepard became Concordia's president in the fall of 2012 after holding the role of vice-president at Ryerson University.

"They come from universities where this doesn't occur," he said. "Perhaps they're hardening because they're more acclimated to what's going on in the province."

Students have improved their democratic processes by eliminating the possibility of disrupting cross-listed classes—courses that share two programs—during strikes, according to Wilkings.

This is significant, he said, as one of the tensest moments of last semester's strikes occurred on March 23 during a cross-listed class between SCPA, which had a strike mandate, and Political Science, which didn't at the time. Some students and protesters were seen shouting at one another, almost coming to blows.

As students better their striking processes, Wilkings suggests the university could improve how they handle strikes by mobilizing more students to attend the general assemblies when mandates are voted on.

"I've been encouraging them to do that," he said.

Mediation suspended

Mediation between the 25 students facing charges and three professors is currently on hiatus. The contract of the mediator hired to facilitate a resolution ended last month, according to Mota.

All parties involved in mediation need to find and agree on a new mediator that they're comfortable with and who is impartial, said Nelson. Like the university, she added she's unsure when mediations will resume.

She hopes the university has more discussions with the charged students and their representatives in terms of finding a new mediator. The fact that a dialogue happened with the professors is important, Nelson said, but she couldn't comment on what was specifically discussed due to a confidentiality agreement.



Concordia security recorded protesters during a class disruption on Monday, March 23, 2015.

PHOTO SHAUN MICHAUD

Million Mask March Hits Montreal

Anonymous Montreal Takes to the Streets to Commemorate Guy Fawkes Day

BY BLANCHE MOREL

"Stop war. Feed the poor," "Free Palestine" and "Power to people" were some of the slogans that Montreal supporters of the activist group Anonymous carried as they demonstrated for the annual Million Mask March on Thursday night.

The demonstration is held every Nov. 5 in tribute to 17th century militant Guy Fawkes. The group Anonymous claims to be a fierce opponent of all forms of domination, whether political, economic, social, or cultural.

Approximately 70 activists first gathered in Square Victoria for a peaceful march across the city, stopping by symbolic places of capitalism, such as the headquarters of HSBC or the Embassy of the United States.

Among them was Danaë Detox (not her real name). The blue-haired mother of a soon-to-be student at UQAM came with streamers and placards.

"I have always been anti-system," confessed Detox, who joined the movement in 2011. She was tired of standing idly-by in a world full

of corruption, and recognized herself as having the same values as the Anonymous group.

This online movement, created in 2003, is said to be the first group to have spawned a societal shift in consciousness. It aims to expose systemic corruption. Anonymous doesn't recognize any leader and refuses any kind of hierarchical system, explained Detox.

"We are fundamentally anti-politics, as a political party we would not be better than others: change has to come from below," she added with a smile.

The symbol of Guy Fawkes

Anonymous' message goes hand in hand with the symbol of Guy Fawkes, an English Catholic activist who took part in the Gunpowder Plot on Nov. 5, 1605.

As legend goes, a group of English Catholics and Fawkes planned a failed assassination against King James I of England, reprimanding the king for his anti-Catholic policies. Fawkes hid 36 barrels of gunpowder explosives under the king's seat in parliament.

"We know that back in those

days, it was the struggle between Catholics and Protestants," Detox commented about this contradiction. "We have upgraded the idea. And we don't advocate for putting bombs anywhere, we're pacifists."

Those who marched last Thursday don't necessarily associate with the hacktivist aspect of the movement, which has been making headlines in recent weeks for outing a thousand alleged KKK members.

The hacktivist members of Anonymous represent "only five per cent of us," she stated.

The word "guy" in English was first used as slang for a "grotesquely or poorly dressed person," referencing the effigies of Guy Fawkes, which were traditionally burned on Nov. 5, since his famed assassination attempt. The modern manifestation of this display is a firework demonstration across London.

"The voice of the voiceless"

Alexandre Paradis is an Anonymous activist and founder of SOS Itinérance, a Montreal association that provides food and clothes

to people living in poverty and homelessness. His definition of the meaning of Anonymous is that of a community that acts for the underprivileged.

"We help everybody," he said.

Paradis made reference to how Quebec just invested \$166 million, according to the *Journal de Montréal*, for renovations of the Olympic Stadium but is still treating homeless people "like garbage."



PHOTO WILLIE WILSON

THE DOUG LESLIE BURSARY

Work at a student newspaper is a labour of love, providing a wealth of training and connections gained only through countless hours of volunteering, and is a necessary entry for the resumé of budding journalists and industry hopefuls.

However, the sacrifice of long unpaid hours serves as a deterrent for many looking to break into their field. To help young contributors in financial need, *The Link* Publication Society has decided to create a bursary in the memory of Doug Leslie, the first editor-in-chief to lead *The Link*.

Leslie was an English literature student who overcame financial difficulty to champion the newspaper through its teething stage as the two campus papers merged. He was coaxed into becoming the first editor; his first

words in print as EIC were "Frankly, I never thought I'd be doing this."

According to his colleagues, Leslie left behind his reservations and began a column that became "the heart and soul" of the new paper, which was beset with short staff and other organizational issues in its inaugural year. Leslie also fought to keep the paper independent of the student council. He died in August 2012, leaving *The Link* as his legacy.

The award will be available to a registered, returning student who is in financial need and is a staff member (reporter, designer, photographer, artist, etc.) of The Link. Staff members are defined as those who have made four (4) contributions to the newspaper in a semester. Contributions may be rolled-over from the semester before the applications are due.

The deadline for submission is Friday Nov. 20, 2015 at 4 p.m.

Applicants must include a letter explaining their level of financial need, merit and motivation for the bursary, along with three (3) clippings from *The Link*. The bursary recipient will be announced the third week of January.

The following contributors and masthead members are eligible to apply:

Graeme Shorten Adams, Jennifer Aedy, Alex Bailey, Roxanne Baril-Bédard, Hélène Bauer, Alison Bertho, Carl Bindman, Marie Briere de la Hosserey, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Morag Rahn Campbell, Jonathan Caragay-Cook, Alex Carriere, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, David Easey, Josh Fischlin, Madeleine Gendreau, Zach Goldberg, Caity Hall, Sam Jones, Laura Lalonde, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, June Loper, Sarah Lozinski, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Julian McKenzie, Gabriela de Medeiros, Chris Michaud, Shaun Michaud, Julia Miele, Vince Morello, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Riley Wignall, Willie Wilson, Michael Wrobel, Elizabeth Xu.

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Sarah Jesmer, David Kelly, Josephine Fomé, Tessa Mascia, Ambre Sachet

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GOING DIGITAL

Montreal's Print Counter Culture Enters the Digital Age

BY JUNE LOPER
@LOPERJUNE

Expozine is coming back to Montreal for yet another edition of this unique and small press fair, which showcases a plethora of alternative publications from art books and 'zines to underground comics.

For 13 consecutive years, Expozine has been at the forefront of Montreal's small-press DIY culture, offering a venue to support and promote ephemeral art and independent literature.

Presenting a selection of more than 270 participants, it is Canada's largest zine fair and attracts around 15,000 visitors to every year.

This year, Louis Rastelli—one of the original co-founders of Archive Montreal, which has a hand in hosting Expozine—said he is very excited to present special guests from Germany to the Montreal crowd.

The Swedish-French artist duo Anna Hellsgård and Christian "Meeloo" Gfeller will be presenting some of the works done in their print studio Re:Surgo!, located in the counter-cultural, avant-garde hubs of Berlin and Stockholm.

Now internationally renowned for their silk screening, the duo's origins, like many of the other younger artists at the fair, are humble. At first, the pair were making punk zines, Gfeller in particular—his were under the name *Bongoût*.

In collaboration with the Goethe Institute, the German cultural center in Montreal, Expozine and Re:Surgo! will also be hosting a zine-making workshop on the eve of the fair where you can learn how to make your own zine while exploring different media.

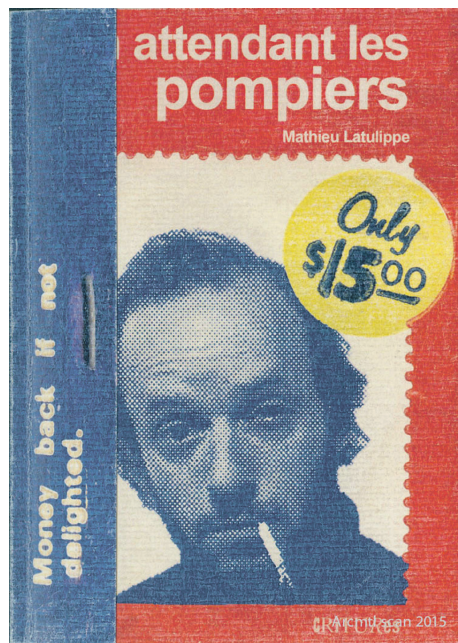
As Rastelli emphasized, the art exchanges with the German print scene will not stop there, spreading beyond the Expozine



fair. Scattered in venues across the city are the Distroboto art-vending machines, re-purposed vintage cigarette vending machines, a side project of ArcMtl. While they are currently stocked with local zines, these machines will soon contain prints from German counterparts.

In exchange, Montreal's Distroboto art will be distributed in Germany's own art-vending machine network.

"In recent years we've had other visitors from Europe. It's partly what makes Expozine and Montreal different from most of the other cities and the other fairs. Certainly Montreal has a lot of the European flavour," Rastelli said. "There is

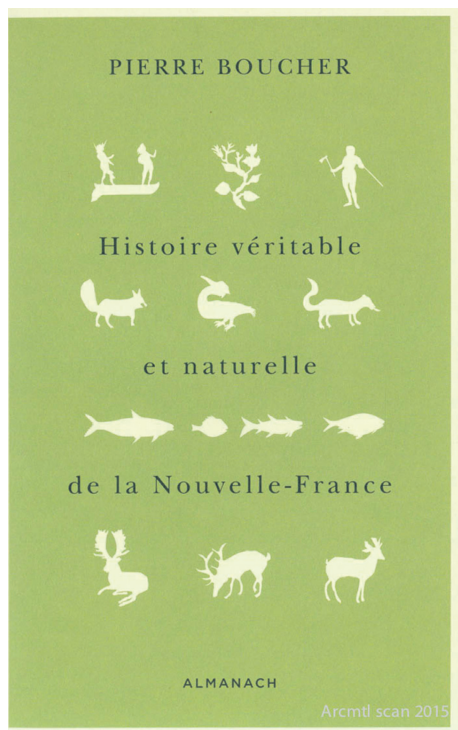


a lot of talent, it's very competitive here. We see it at Expozine, people push themselves really hard because there's a lot of good art in Montreal."

These ties with European countries used to play an important role in the tradition of Expozine during its formative years, but Rastelli explained that the severe budget cuts in the cultural sector under the Harper government slowed them down quite a bit.

Rastelli said he hopes to see more international partnerships and connections flourish under the new federal Liberal government.

"Last year, a whole crew of print artists from France were present at Expozine. We've been there too, in 2010, to present Expozine at the Paris fanzinothèque," he added.



Among other special events this year, Expozine will be hosting a presentation on digital publications led by 'local guru' Hugh McGuire, founder of PressBooks, an online book publishing platform built on WordPress.

Covering the creation of e-books, the event aims to introduce authors and small publishers to the world of digital publishing.

While the main appeal of zines and paper works presented at this fair still rests with the physical nature—the satisfaction of turning the page—the alternative press could immensely benefit from circulating e-books, reaching larger crowds and ultimately making a little bit more money.

"There's a feeling that things are changing. Some publishers say they sell more books on Amazon than in local bookstores. It's kind of like the music business, it's adaptation to the new technology. Ultimately people need to make money wherever they can," Rastelli said.

Thankfully, selling at fairs such as Expozine still counts for an important part of these small publishers' sales. Not only do they save money by getting rid of the middleman, it is also a great way to be in touch with the community, because much of the spirit surrounding alternative press relies on DIY ethics and communal practice.



"There's always a bit of political material too. You know, it's an alternative media fair. Sometimes people don't get in, because what they do is too commercial. It has to be small press," Rastelli said. "We're trying to be a place for people who don't have another book or zine fair."

"Sadly the society is still a bit screwed up and we need an underground culture. The mainstream culture doesn't really do it for a lot of people."

Looking back at the '80s and '90s, people used to have to subscribe to magazines or get on different mailing lists and catalogues. The digital age has made it easier for artists to promote and share their work, and has also made the practice more accessible in many ways. The new forms of technology available expand the possibilities in art-making from digital photography to print-making. Despite all of this, Rastelli still believes in the power of the old fashioned.

"It hasn't stopped being popular. People spend so much time on their phones, computers or Netflix. There is still a real pleasure in picking up a zine," he finished.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARCHIVE MONTREAL



The Art Consignment Shop will open Wednesday, Nov. 11 on the Hall building's second floor.

Art Consignment Shop Set to Open in Hall Building

JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Artists looking to showcase and sell their work will soon be given a platform to do so on the mezzanine level of Concordia's Hall building.

A university-funded art consignment shop will open its doors to the public on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The space is under the jurisdiction of Sabrina Lavoie, VP Services at the university. Lavoie is attempting to give "exposure and opportunities" to student artists.

"Following some discussions with the fine arts faculty, we decided to do an art consignment shop so that fine arts students could put their artwork for sale," she explained.

"It would give them a real life experience, and at the same time the community would see their nice work."

The space has been used in the past as a computer store, and as a farmers market—both have since been relocated.

Sarah Pupo, coordinator for the pilot project, believes that the shop will serve to give a "second life" to the work of fine arts students. According to her, artists in the department tend to stockpile and get rid of their class work.

"It's a platform for them to get a little exposure and also hopefully make a little bit of money," Pupo said.

The shop will be selling paintings and drawings, along with jewellery, sculptures, clothing, photos and other trinkets. All solicited works will be original student-made pieces.

Prices for the art will range from \$3 for small drawings, to \$500 for the larger paintings.

"There's something for everyone. Even if you can't afford a big painting, there are definitely a lot of treasures to be found," Pupo said.

Once the space for the shop was secured, there was a call for art submissions, which required the creation of a student-run selection committee to sift through the pieces and decide which ones would be on display. They received over 100 submissions from fine arts students.

The committee mostly rejected pieces due to spacing issues, according to Pupo. There was also some concern over showcasing art on organic, easily degradable material.

"We didn't want to take anything too fragile," she said.

Artists will receive 70 per cent of the revenue from sales, and the other 30 per cent will

be for the store, Lavoie explained.

Money kept by the shop will be used to pay their employees, and will cover any expenses that the store must incur. The project was not very costly, she explained.

"It's a very minor operation," Lavoie said. She reiterated that it's a pilot project, and is not meant to be a permanent operation.

"We're going to see how it goes, and after Christmas we're going to re-adjust and see."



Student art on display for purchase.

PHOTOS NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

NASH 78 DELEGATION ELECTIONS

The Canadian University Press National Conference
Toronto, Ont.
Jan. 6 to 10, 2016

Sometimes student journalists can feel like they're working in a vacuum. The Canadian University Press's National Conference (a.k.a. NASH) brings us together to bond over the struggles of low-budget, independent reporting. If you want to hang out in Toronto with editors from *The Link*, get tips from some professional journalists and maybe schmooze with some prime time speakers who have yet to be revealed, consider applying to attend NASH.

If you've contributed to the current volume of *The Link*, you can apply to be sent to the conference as part of our delegation. Come to our office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Suite H-649), tack up a letter explaining why we should send you and how you plan to contribute in the coming year.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Nov. 17 @ 6 p.m.
Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 24 @ 6 p.m.
For more info, email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca



PHOTOS OCEAN DEROUCHIE

BOARD TO DEATH

Local Vernissage Turns Broken Skate Decks into Visual Art

BY OCEAN DEROUCHIE

I sat at a small table, studying the crowd and sipping on my Grolsch. The lighting was soft and the vibe welcoming at the Park Ave. café Chez Boris last Friday, as music pumped across painted skateboards hanging from the walls.

This was Escape Bored, the second skate art vernissage hosted by Chez Boris, and curated by the Montreal skater-artist-duo Wolfe Girardin Jodoin and Charles LeMoine.

The tiny café boasted many nooks and crannies, all packed with warm bodies, smiling and chatting, hidden away from the crisp November evening. I sat, watching in awe of the congregation of people that had come together for the show. A warm, welcoming atmosphere blossomed out of the careening crowd, gathered to celebrate both skateboard- and visual art.

Before the show, Girardin Jodoin and LeMoine sat down to talk about their upcoming event. Even though it is now nearly an annual full-fledged artistic vernissage (of course, maintaining the punk, skater aesthetic of piles of beer and garbage), initially Escape Bored was born of a beautifully simplistic origin: two friends chilling out.

"One time I just went up to Charles' place and he was painting a board, and I was like 'Yo, I wanna paint a board,'" Girardin Jodoin recalled fondly.

Here is the crux of Escape Bored: the mediums vary, from acrylic paint to 3-D paper, but each piece is a skateboard, and each board is completely one-of-a-kind.

One read "fanfuckingtastic" in neon pink letters. One, titled "The World Is Yours" was drowned in thick, yellow acrylic paint, with the words, "I can't believe the cops haven't called me yet," etched in.

"We all have different styles, but the board as a surface brings everything together," said LeMoine.

The pair of curators were not alone—many Montreal artists had their designs featured on the two dozen or so boards. There was even a deck inspired by our fair city, made with copper rods and wood, by artist Catherine Gagnon. Centered on it was the classic Montreal clover.

"It took a sculptural direction. I started off with the Montreal logo because it has brought a lot of riders together," said Gagnon on opening night.

Despite such heavy diversity, one theme remained abundantly present among all of the boards: the influence of street art.

"A lot of us are coming from a graffiti background," said LeMoine. "For me at least, it's always an extra challenge to do something that has nothing to do with graffiti. I'm trying to use my name in a different way."

Some of the board's designs—including the aforementioned acrylic yellow wonder—draw their inspiration from funny stories.

"I did the one with the dude pissing all over the place. That's my friend Will," Girardin Jodoin happily explained. "He was super drunk and turned around and was peeing in front of everyone and traffic. And then, real quote, he said 'I can't believe the cops haven't

called me yet!'"

The boards-turned-canvas give decks a second life. A snapped deck, at best hung proudly from a skater's wall, is suddenly offered an entirely new purpose.

"I break so many boards, and it kind of bums me out, but now that I have this as an outlet, it's kind of the silver lining," LeMoine said of the thoughtful repurposing.

The event was packed, with attendees ranging from punk skater babes to proud parents. Though parents might feel out of place hanging around a half pipe, the skaters-turned-artists' folks seemed at ease in a vernissage setting, drinking beer and mixing with the youth as if they were longtime friends.

"I was hoping for this, but not expecting it," said Girardin Jodoin. It's safe to say the turnout exceeded what the hosts anticipated. At the risk of editorializing—Escape Bored was turnt, packed with an assorted crowd of excited onlookers of all ages.

"It is eclectic," said a proud LeMoine between smug sips.

As the end of the evening rolled around, the crowd thinned into a circle to watch people attempt ollies and kickflips in the middle of the café—the rest was history.

You can get your healthy dose of skater visual art, beer and donuts at Chez Boris until the end of December.





Owner, president and CEO of the Montreal Canadiens Geoff Molson and CEO of the Anaheim Ducks Michael Schulman spoke at the John Molson Sports Marketing conference, moderated by TSN reporter John Lu on Friday, Nov. 6.

PHOTO COURTESY TOSHIMI JAN MUÑIZ

BUILDING THROUGH THE FANS

Hockey Executives Discuss Growing the Sport of Hockey Throughout North America

BY VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELZ

It may come as a surprise to Canadians, but hockey is not a self-sustaining sport in North America. Nurturing and supporting the growth of hockey requires lots of work from the National Hockey League and its historical franchises.

During a panel discussion titled “Blueprint for Franchise Success,” that took place at the John Molson Sports Marketing Conference last week, various hockey executives spoke about the difficulties of growing the sport in Canada and in the United States.

In Canada, hockey is part of the culture, but it is an expensive sport to play. Outreach in Canada is essential in garnering interest.

“The future of our sport always starts with the young generation,” said Geoff Molson, CEO, president and owner of the Montreal Canadiens. “Especially with those who don’t have the means to be a part of the sport. It’s very easy to get a soccer ball and some shoes. It’s a lot harder to get hockey equipment and a lot more expensive to play on a hockey team.”

Expressing a need to grow the sport in Quebec might seem like a ridiculous idea because of how popular hockey is on the provincial and national scale. The Montreal Canadiens rank second in game attendance for the 2015-2016 season; they are second

only to the Chicago Blackhawks, who have won three of the last six Stanley Cups.

But since the Molson family bought the Canadiens back in 2006, John Lu, who covers the Canadiens regularly for TSN, has seen a change in the culture surrounding the team. With Canada becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, there’s potential for hockey growth.

“The face of hockey is changing as the demographics of Canada change. We see more people of colour within the game, more women playing,” Lu said. “[The Molson’s] were tremendous stewards [of the sport] in their initial ownership, and Geoff is just carrying that on again with his brothers.”

The Toronto Maple Leafs have not seen any real success in a while, and despite being ranked number 37 in top sports franchises around the world according to Forbes, need to find new ways to sustain and grow their fan base.

“We give [fans] subscriber gifts, we give them meet and greets where they meet players, where they meet coaches,” said CFO and Executive VP of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment, Ian Clarke. “Different things that make [fans] feel part of a community. That’s what people go to arenas for.”

Increasing the value of going to see a team like the Maple Leafs, through promos and “insider” perks is a way to keep that community strong and engaged.

“Arenas by definition, if you look at the dictionary, are a gathering place and for people who are subscribers want to get together, they want to rub shoulders with somebody. They want to have a common cause,” Clarke continued.

In the United States, it’s a lot harder to grow the game, as NHL franchises have to compete with the most popular sport in North America: football. Competing for viewers is a problem the Dallas Stars face, being in market with the Dallas Cowboys.

“Football in general is huge in Texas,” said Jason Farris, the Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer of the Dallas Stars. “We have a great sport that’s high speed, high skill and physical, so it does relate well in Dallas.”

In an effort to get more fans to the arena to watch the team and buy merchandise, the Stars have used their own hockey stars, pun not intended, to market the team.

“We’re always storytelling in our business and the path to our team is different for all of these players. We got a couple of players that are really charismatic and we’ve got a pretty fun broadcast team that can tease that out of them,” Farris said. “Our players are accessible. So fans that want to see our players up close get that opportunity.”

During the panel the CEO of the Anaheim Ducks, Michael Schulman, said that the growth of hockey will spread out west

and outside of Canada.

When the Ducks won the Stanley Cup in 2007, it caught the team’s upper management by surprise, and they were unable to take advantage of the buzz surrounding the team.

“You can’t just turn people around to hockey with ice rinks, if you don’t have ice rinks,” Schulman said during the panel.

He admitted that growth has been slow in California and that the Ducks do not fill their arena to capacity on a nightly basis, compared to franchises like the Canadiens.

“There is hope for hockey because the NHL salary cap, which gives teams a limit on how much money they can spend on players, allows almost all teams to be on a level playing field, creating true parity in the league that helps smaller market teams grow,” Schulman said.

With the league parity, which spreads out talented players across NHL teams, any team can win. You can be on a losing streak and still have a chance at winning the next game, Molson pointed out during the panel. Even smaller market teams can be successful, gaining fans and growing the sport, which ultimately is the end goal for the NHL and its franchises.

For full interviews with Geoff Molson, Michael Schulman, John Lu, Jason Farris and Ian Clarke, tune in to Episode 38 of the Pressbox Hat Trick Podcast at thelinknewspaper.ca/blogs/pressbox and Soundcloud.



Toronto FC president Bill Manning (left) and Vancouver Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi (right) made their appearance at the John Molson Sports Marketing conference on Thursday, Nov. 5.

PHOTO JULIAN MCKENZIE

“NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING MLS”

Major League Soccer Executives Discuss Soccer's Rise in North America at John Molson Sports Marketing Panel

BY TRISTAN D'AMOURS AND ALEX PEREZ

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Executives of Major League Soccer know their place in the North American sporting landscape.

“We are not the NFL, we are not the NBA,” said Toronto FC President, Bill Manning. “It’s okay being MLS, and I never try to pretend that we’re the NFL.”

Last Thursday, the John Molson Sports Marketing conference not only celebrated the 20th anniversary of the annual event, but also held their first ever soccer panel, “Growing the Beautiful Game.” The panel held three representatives from MLS including Manning alongside New York Red Bulls general manager Marc de Grandpre, and Vancouver Whitecaps President Bob Lenarduzzi. RDS analyst and former Montreal Impact player Patrick Leduc moderated the panel.

Soccer on North American soil once drew large crowds with the North American Soccer League, founded in 1968. It hosted international superstars such as Pele and Franz Beckenbauer, but also Canadians like Lenarduzzi. Teams such as the New York Cosmos, according to Lenarduzzi, drew approximately 77,000 fans a game, while his own club—the Whitecaps—played in front of 32,000 fans.

However, during the ‘70s and through

the ‘80s, soccer became irrelevant. Lenarduzzi referred to this period as “lightning in a bottle.” He also added that attendance of Whitecaps matches had fallen from 32,000, to 28,000, and eventually withered away “because there was no base.”

“Some people say we don’t take [soccer] seriously because we don’t have promotion relegation. To those people I say: ‘get a life.’”

— Bob Lenarduzzi

“The commissioner at the time said that soccer was going to be the sport of the ‘80s. NFL, NBA, watch out, here comes soccer. Well... years later soccer was gone,” Lenarduzzi said.

The arrival of David Beckham helped put soccer back on the map. With MLS comfortably established as a high profile professional league in North America, Beckham’s introduction into the league only boosted it to new heights. According to Lenarduzzi, Beckham single-handedly took the league from status quo, to what American and Canadian soccer

fans have not seen since the 1970s. He compared Beckham to Thierry Henry, another European soccer icon, who also made the transition to Major League Soccer.

“Not only was [Beckham] a good player but a good looking guy, Spice Girl wife, it’s the whole package,” said Lenarduzzi. “He got it as well. He went to play a friendly in Vancouver and he stood around to sign autographs. Henry, he was a great player, but in terms of a role model in the league, he did zero.”

Before Beckham spawned the expansion of interest, money was sparse within MLS. During his time with the now defunct Tampa Bay Mutiny franchise, Manning only had a budget of \$3 million, which pales in comparisons to the present, where teams generate revenues of \$30 to \$40 million annually. The Mutiny’s highest paid player was given \$300,000 a year, while the lowest only received \$24,000.

“My little Tampa Bay Mutiny staff, with 30 people including coaches and now just the soccer side of TFC has 50 employees. On the business side I have over 100 employees,” Manning said.

Toronto FC has come a long way, with its two-time executive of the year, revealing the club’s value is rising, from \$10 million to \$195 million over the past decade.

At the moment, Major League Soccer is one of the few leagues that does not include pro-

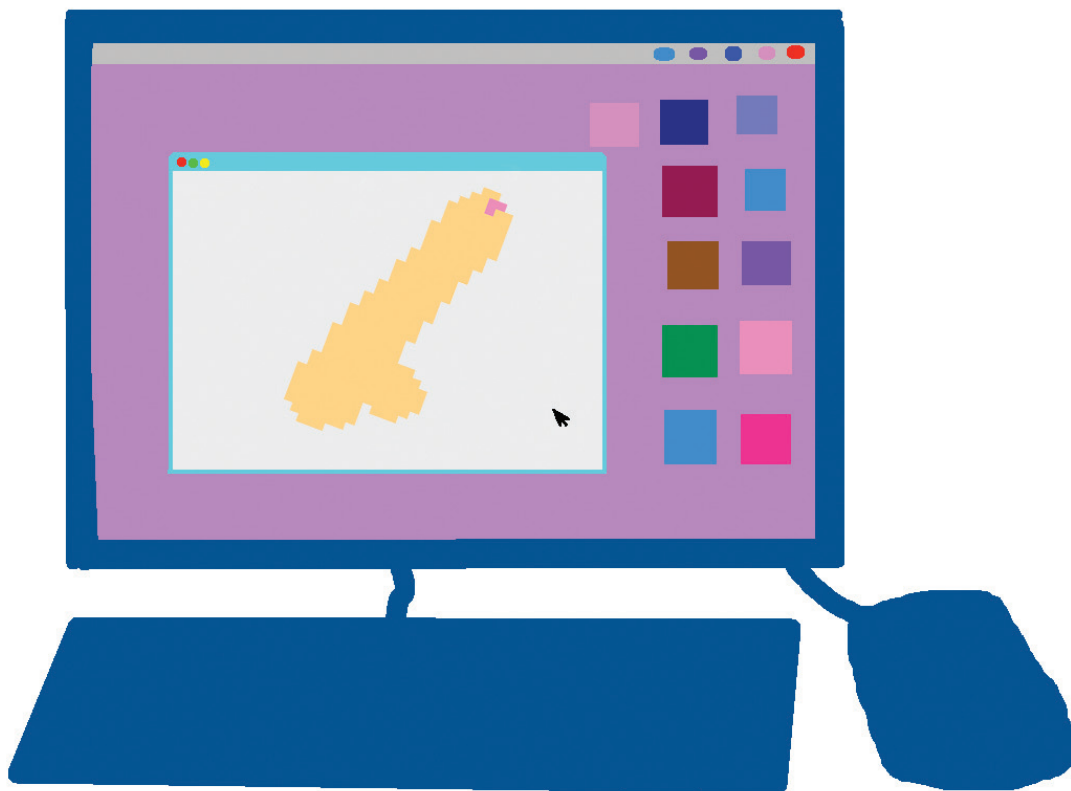
motion and relegation. The clubs who finish at the bottom of the league do not drop to the lower divisions of the North American soccer pyramid. Although many have advocated for a change, Lenarduzzi believes that the current situation is perfect the way it is.

“I’m not sure that promotion and relegation generates that much of a difference for the consumer in North America,” said Lenarduzzi. “The example that I use is the NASL and United Soccer League teams when they get promoted, they wouldn’t be able to afford playing in MLS.”

“Some people say we don’t take [soccer] seriously because we don’t have promotion and relegation. To those people I say: ‘get a life.’”

Without having promotion and relegation, Manning and Lenarduzzi brought up the concept of using their affiliates playing in the USL, North American soccer’s third tier, to bring up young players. Lenarduzzi is confident, at some point in the future, a homegrown product from one of their academies could be sold to one of Europe’s elite clubs through this system.

For exclusive interviews with Bill Manning, Bob Lenarduzzi and Patrick Leduc of RDS, tune in to Episode 37 of the Pressbox Hat Trick Podcast at thelinknewspaper.ca/blogs/pressbox and Soundcloud.



GRAPHIC SAM JONES

LEAGUE OF LECHERY

E-Sports Community is "Toxic" to Female Players

BY CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

If you attended the 2015 League of Legends World Championships at the Rialto Theatre, you got a prize: a Japanese schoolgirl.

Not an actual human being, mind you. With the online purchase of a \$30 dollar ticket, attendees received the Academy Ahri Skin, an outfit for one of the characters in the game. Ahri is a humanoid fox with nine tails—taken from Korean mythology—who has the capabilities of a mage, or an assassin.

League of Legends is a game where players choose "champions," and fight each other online. The champion designs run the gamut from human to nine-tailed fox to monster from the void, and they all come with a variety of purchasable skins. But Ahri's Academy skin, the Japanese schoolgirl, is emblematic of a part of League of Legends that some players find troubling.

League of Sexism—a fan blog on Tumblr—wrote about the art that came with the skin.

"Ahri's distinct lack of personality here [is] perpetuating a stereotype of the beautiful young girl obsessed with both her appearance and her phone," they wrote. "[It] is about the lowest common denominator for a shot like this."

"I do not feel represented by the game's characters," said Julie Guertin, a John Molson School of Business student who's been playing League for five years. "They're all huge-breasted, tiny-waisted, bootylicious girls—or men with 18-packs."

Others feel like that's the point.

"The game really doesn't try to represent anyone, it tries to throw you into a fantasy world," said Dimitri Kontogian-

nos, coach of Concordia's League of Legends team and VP Finance for eSports Concordia.

"I find the characters are interesting but not representative of the players," said Daniel Rom, a Concordia Jazz student, and five-year player who has since quit the game. "I don't even think they were made to be anything but cool."

"Most aren't hypersexualized and have cool lore," said P from Montreal Gamer Girls, a Facebook community devoted to providing a platform for girls to discuss video games. She preferred to remain anonymous.

The problem, to some players, is that "cool" isn't represented the same way between genders. In a lengthy post in the Riot Games forums, user L2 Sentinel broke down the situation—excluding non-human and non-adult characters, she found that the designs of 78.5 per cent of human women champions were sexualized, just 3.5 per cent of human men were.

"I just don't understand why every female champion has to be young, thin, and attractive," she wrote. "But they aren't afraid to deviate ... when they are making a male."

The most recent numbers from Riot said over 90 per cent of players were male and that 85 per cent of players were between 16 and 30.

Beyond appearance, women characters in the game often end up in supporting roles, or on the periphery of fighting as archers and casters—according to a piece by Patrick Mackey, the former League of Legends columnist at Engadget.

Outside of in-game gender-roles, the game presents another challenge for players.

"League of Legends is known for its toxic community," said Matan Kushner. He is the president of Dawson eSports

Association and works closely with Riot Games.

"I think the biggest sexism is really just like, people saying girls don't play video games, girls are bad at the game or that girls only play as certain roles," said Kandace Kwong, three-year player of League. "There's nothing that really appeals to me from the community."

Julie Guertin from JMSB was also quick to point out biases inherent in the social environment of the game.

"The moment they find out I'm a girl and I fuck up," Guertin said, "they blame it on me being a girl!"

However, experiences vary.

"As a girl being a gamer, it's hard. But I'd say that League of Legends is one of the games that does it best," P.

And Riot is trying. Their lead designer of social systems, Jeffrey Lin, announced in July that homophobic, racist, and sexist encounters have been reduced to two per cent of matches. Riot implemented a tribunal system that lets players call out and punish each other for questionable behaviour.

Not everyone is satisfied. Eloy Tripetujen, another longtime fan said, "if I could change something, I'd increase the penalties for being a dick in a game."

Jérémye Jetten, another other player, said that the recent measures really do work.

"Most players are mature and can overcome virtual insults and still have fun," he said.

Given Riot's reputation for constant updating, players have hope for change. In the meantime, some players are exploring alternatives to the sexualized characters in the game.

"There are some male characters that are pretty normal looking. Or bugs. Or animals," Guertin said.

SILENT SMOKER SUBCULTURE

An Ex-Smoker's View on the Deadliest Trend

BY DAVID EASEY
@SIBERIANDAVID

Light slowly penetrates the curtains as fragments of dust glitter through the stagnant dry air, and I awaken from my heavy slumber. My thoughts for a few seconds are pure and innocent—then suddenly I remember, I need my fix.

Just as Gollum is drawn to the ring of power, I am bound to this substance. My mind is corrupted by the thought of getting my hands on my precious. Schemes start to unfold in my head and the single motivator that gets me out of bed is the thought of satisfying this persistent and aggressive craving.

I can barely contain my excitement as I race outside into the freezing Canadian hinterland and reach into my jacket, fumbling for a small rectangular box. Satisfaction at last.

I'm talking about tobacco consumption, the substance that's widely available at every local *dépanneur*.

There are a lot of anti-smoking campaigns in this province right now, yet that doesn't seem to deter Montrealers from lighting up these batons of death.

Throughout my life I've known that smoking is a bad habit. Teachers and parents always harped the negative side effects of tobacco use. But that never really deterred me from cigarettes; in fact I began to romanticize the idea of smoking from an early age.

Through certain films such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Inglorious Bastards*, this romance blossomed until one fateful day when I was 17, I decided to fully inhale my very first cancer stick.

Fast forward three years and I hadn't gone a day without having a cigarette. Numerous trips to a smoking specialist at Concordia Health Services couldn't break the cycle, nor could the endless supply of patches and nicotine gum I had purchased from my pharmacy.

I knew I should quit, but I had no idea how hard it would be.

I was simply a lonely arts student puffing away outside the Hall building during the desolate winter months, enduring the bone-

chilling cold that sweeps over this urban concrete wasteland.

Montreal is sadly a smoking city. True, there have been many initiatives to try and curb smoking consumption, but walk outside of the Library Building at Concordia and you'll think otherwise.

Concordia is merely a microcosm. Cigarettes are deeply engrained into Montreal society and they pose a real and imminent threat to our health. According to Statistics Canada, 21.4 per cent of the Quebec population over 12 years old smokes. Quebec has the third highest provincial rate of smoking after Saskatchewan (22.8 per cent) and New Brunswick (21.8 per cent). Our capitalist government clearly does not have our best interests in mind—Quebec has the lowest prices for cigarettes in Canada, according to the Non-Smokers' Rights Association. The average price of 200 cigarettes in Quebec is \$84 compared to \$117 in New Brunswick.

In Canada, we throw billions of dollars away annually to feed this addiction, both for buying cigarettes and for direct health-care costs. Smoking cessation is difficult, and research indicates that quitting can be harder than kicking cocaine addiction—a testament to the true potency of this legal substance. Withdrawal symptoms are rough and include irritability, sleeplessness, depression and anxiety.

"I felt immense anxiety and anger, and I was always irritable," said Solange Stassevich, an ex-smoker. "Walking on Ste. Catherine St. is now a horrible experience because it's like walking through a toxic cloud."

Needless to say that while quitting is possible, it's not easy. I've been smoke-free for six months now, something that amazes me on a daily basis. How did I do it? Cold turkey.

I was tired of living the smoker's life. Tired of having to create endless excuses to go outside for a few minutes every day, tired of the

trap that sucked thousands of dollars of my hard-earned money.

I never felt glamorous like Kate Moss or looked classy like Coco Chanel, I felt gross and tired. My clothes always reeked and I constantly carried mints with me to hide my embarrassing crutch.

If I had known about all the bullshit you have to go through just to stop, I would never have touched a cigarette in the first place. But life is about experimentation and making mistakes, and smoking is a grave mistake.

Fewer Canadians are smoking now compared to 1999 according to Health Canada. If you're a smoker reading this, then know that it's never too late to defeat your addiction. If the government is reading this, then shame on you for capitalizing on a substance that causes addiction, cancer and misery.

For tips on how to quit visit www.concordia.ca/students/health/topics/smoking-cessation.html



PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Nah'msayin?

Aw Hell-Niño

BY CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

Hey, winter. Listen, I have something to tell you and it's, uh, important.

I hate you.

No, stop. Don't cry. See, that's the problem. You used to be fun. You didn't take yourself too seriously. You would throw snow around and make the city pretty and be, like, chill. Sure, by February I'd be a bit tired of you, but we'd still have the skiing and the hot chocolates and the novelty sweaters.

But now you're getting into this El Niño stuff, and, well, you've changed. You're more unpredictable. You're colder—no, warmer—no, colder than you ever were. You come too

late. You come waaaaay too early. You fuck up maple syrup season, and you're rainy. Oh god, you're so rainy.

I can't wear my fun scarves because you ruin them with rain. I can't wear my sick jackets because you cover them in slush. I can't walk on the sidewalk because you cover them in ice and then wash away all the salt that's supposed to melt the ice. It's just a dick move.

I can't do it anymore, okay? Not if you're going to be like this. If I wanted rain, I would move to Vancouver, or Myanmar. And I really don't. So I have to ask you to either cut it out or leave. If you're going to rain all the time, I don't know if I can call you winter. I don't know if I want to.



GRAPHIC MADELEINE GENDREAU

I GOT DRUNK AT LARONDEEN:



PHOTOS AND WORDS BY SAVANNAH SCOTT

@VANZILLASCOTT

Going to La Ronde is as Québécois as tourtière, and although most of us have fond memories of the place, trust that you're better off leaving it in the past.

Returning to the park is a harsh reminder that everything you loved in your youth was seen through rose-colored glasses, and now that you're older, like with most other things, you will only see La Ronde for what it really is: utter shit.

The 1967 World's Fair, famously known as Expo 67, is considered the most successful international fair of the 20th century. It was originally going to be held in Moscow, because of the Soviet Union's plan to celebrate the Russian Revolution's 50th anniversary, but because of financial restraints it was placed in the hands of Canada in 1962. Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau pushed ruthlessly for the city to be ready, despite pessimistic predictions in the media, and his efforts paid off. The fair put Montreal on the map, and it's the reason behind the creation of some of the city's most notable sights, like Habitat 67, the Biosphere, Place des Arts and what would be the first version La Ronde theme park.

Considered Expo 67's most popular feature, La Ronde attracted 22.5 million visitors in the first year alone. While few of the original rides still stand, they've added over 40 roller coasters and water rides since, making it the largest theme park in the province. To locals, it's a staple of Montreal culture that has defined our character and skyline for decades. Prepubescent Québécois kids go to the park to make out and smoke pot for the first time. Most of us can proudly say that our first ride was Le Monstre, the highest double-tracked ride in the world, or La Pitoune, a log flume ride that hasn't changed since '67.



A DARK COMEDY AND PHOTO DIARY

A friend and I were feeling reckless and decided to go to the park's Halloween (annoyingly called Larondeen) on Thanksgiving Monday. Both of us hadn't visited in years and we were overwhelmed with excitement as we jumped on the metro to Jean-Drapeau with a six-pack of beer and a flask of Jose Cuervo Silver. We drank as much as we could on the way, reminiscing about our first times at the park. Once we were at the gates, we saw the place was packed—but we had come too far, so we walked to the ticket booth.

We were standing in line when a woman asked us if we wanted to get in for free. She explained that she buys extra tickets for strangers every time she visits, for no reason other than to make them happy. With luck on our side, we followed her to the security checkpoint where they barely checked our bags, allowing us to bring in all of our alcohol. We cheered and took shots of tequila as we ran through the gates in absolute ecstasy. We hugged the mystery woman and said goodbye, not knowing that it would all be downhill from there.

Within the first few minutes I realized that the park wasn't at all how I remembered. Larondeen was only happening in some parts of the park, albeit weakly. Faded rides sat unopened as grainy music played over an outdated sound system. Garbage floated in the fountains and covered the tables of every paint-chipped restaurant in sight. Children were running wild—their exhausted parents had given up long ago, turning to fried food for strength. Park staff playing mummies and teen wolves stared off into the distance uninterested, drifting in and out of character as kids tugged at their costumes. A baby dressed as a minion shrieked and it split the sky as a man in a Budweiser tank top walked right into me—hell on earth.

Walking to our first ride I watched a gang of seagulls take over the patio of a hot dog stand and form a sophisticated hierarchy. A haunted house with graffiti on the wall read “no sex before marriage.” In a classic reflection of Montreal infrastructure standards, most of the park's shops and rides are dilapidated and haven't changed in decades, failing miserably at creating any kind of cohesive theme. A girl with a tongue piercing beside me screamed and hit her boyfriend as we waited in yet another endless line to yet another shit-smelling bathroom. My vision was becoming blurred as I turned to my friend and told him that Banksy didn't need to build Dismaland, because it already existed in La Ronde, a place where happiness couldn't be found. He answered that La Ronde was sadder because it wasn't trying to be. “Today will be depressing,” I thought as I looked at a pile of puke on the ground.



The rest of the day would just be one sad scene after another, our only reassurance being that we didn't pay to be there. We waited in hour-long lineups, surrounded by screaming children, watching people with Flash Passes, \$75 Tamagotchis that allow you to skip the line, run right up to the coasters. Nobody else would be allowed on the rides until the Flash Pass lines were empty, but they never were, so we stood among those who paid only \$15 dollars less, moving an inch forward every few minutes. Five hours went by and we did three rides. It was 9 p.m. and we had gradually reached rip-roaring drunkenness, trying to cope with the feeling that just like the park, maybe our best years had passed us by.

As we walked out of the park gates, I thought about how La Ronde was the perfect fit for our city. Reduced to a shadow of its former glory, it's a perfect example of Montreal's constant failure to keep up with the times. Whether it's our pothole ridden streets, collapsing bridges or the difficult business climate created by the government's tough language laws, Quebec is a province that is so busy protecting its heritage that it fails to recognize the importance of innovation. Like the rest of the province, La Ronde relies too heavily on the past, meekly trying to introduce new features, all the while failing to hide its signs of aging. The park is like everywhere else in our chaotic tumbledown town; it survives off the glory days.



Restaurant? More Like Sex-taurant

Examining Sexism in the Restaurant Industry

BY SAVANNAH SCOTT
@VANZILLASCOTT

Cara Operations Limited, a company which owns several restaurant chains across Canada, recently revised a new dress code following complaints from female staff that it was too revealing. Cara applied the mandatory uniform change in all of Bier Markt locations in Quebec and Ontario on Oct. 5, and the decision has since backfired, raising questions about the treatment of women in the service industry. It also launched an inquiry by CBC's investigative news segment Go Public.

The employees' gender-neutral uniforms were replaced by a tight blue dress for women, who had to pair it with heels or boots, and weren't allowed to cover up with a sweater. Men were given the choice of any kind of jeans, a button-down shirt, and running shoes.

After several women contested the rule by wearing their choice of footwear, and some even quit their jobs, Cara made some "compromises." They offered female employees a longer version of the dress and eventually allowed them to wear a cardigan, provided it be short.

After the CBC's inquiry into what is considered a human rights violation in both provinces, Cara quickly announced women had the right to decide between both uniforms. Considering that the dress code changed only once it was put under media scrutiny, we need to ask ourselves a few

important questions: have we all just accepted that a women's value in this business—and many others—is equated with her sexual appeal? Why do we judge male bartenders and waiters based on skill, while women are simply chalked up to how good their asses look when they walk away? How has workplace sexism become so normalized?

A bartender from Montreal who wished to remain anonymous told me that during her one-year employment at Sports Station she would "hear managers telling girls to go fix their bra because their tits looked saggy," and was told numerous times that "tits sell."

A waitress who also wished to remain anonymous told me that when she started working at Rosalie's, a high-end supper club, she was told she would "look a lot better with her glasses off."

Another bartender named Isabel (last name withheld) told me that her former employers at Sir Winston Churchill Pub Complex placed female employees on specific floors, based on their levels of attractiveness.

The difference between how women and men experienced dress code restrictions was to be expected—male bartenders and waiters I interviewed were rarely told anything about their appearance other than to show up clean.

"It would be weird if my boss commented on the way I looked," said one.

"I've only ever been given a pair of pants and a shirt," said another.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

Cathy Cowan, the President of Cowan & Company Communications Inc., the PR firm representing Bier Markt, denied any ill intent and wrote in an email to Go Public that the new uniforms were chosen to reflect Bier Markt's "stylish image," and that the female staff at "various Bier Markt locations were closely involved in the selection process."

She also said that the majority of the feedback on the uniforms was positive, but due to some complaints, they are offering refunds for the dresses—which employees had to pay for out of their paycheques—as well as the choice to wear pants. This statement is problematic because it justifies the choice of a more reveal-

ing uniform for women by blaming today's trends. It also attempts to shift the blame onto the employees who they say were a part of the uniform selection process.

Despite the dress code changes, some women still feel a marked lack of choice when it comes to employment.

"There's an understanding for women when you start to work at these places," said one waitress, "[that] if you don't take the job someone else gladly will."

In this case—like so many others—money is in the driver's seat, forcing women to make the unnecessary decision between taking a job that objectifies them, or walking away broke.

BY-ELECTIONS

The Link is made possible by our team of staff and editors, a.k.a. masthead. We're looking to grow our team and need a **Fringe Arts editor** to fill our Volume 36 masthead. All staff members (those who have contributed four (4) times or more) are eligible and encouraged to run in the elections. Our Fringe Arts editor is the one who knows what's up in arts outside of the mainstream (i.e. the fringes...) and takes care of our arts section in print.

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday Nov. 24 at 6 p.m.** Applicants must include a letter of intent along with three (3) clippings from *The Link*. Elections are **Tuesday Dec. 1 at 6 p.m.** in *The Link's* office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Suite H-649)

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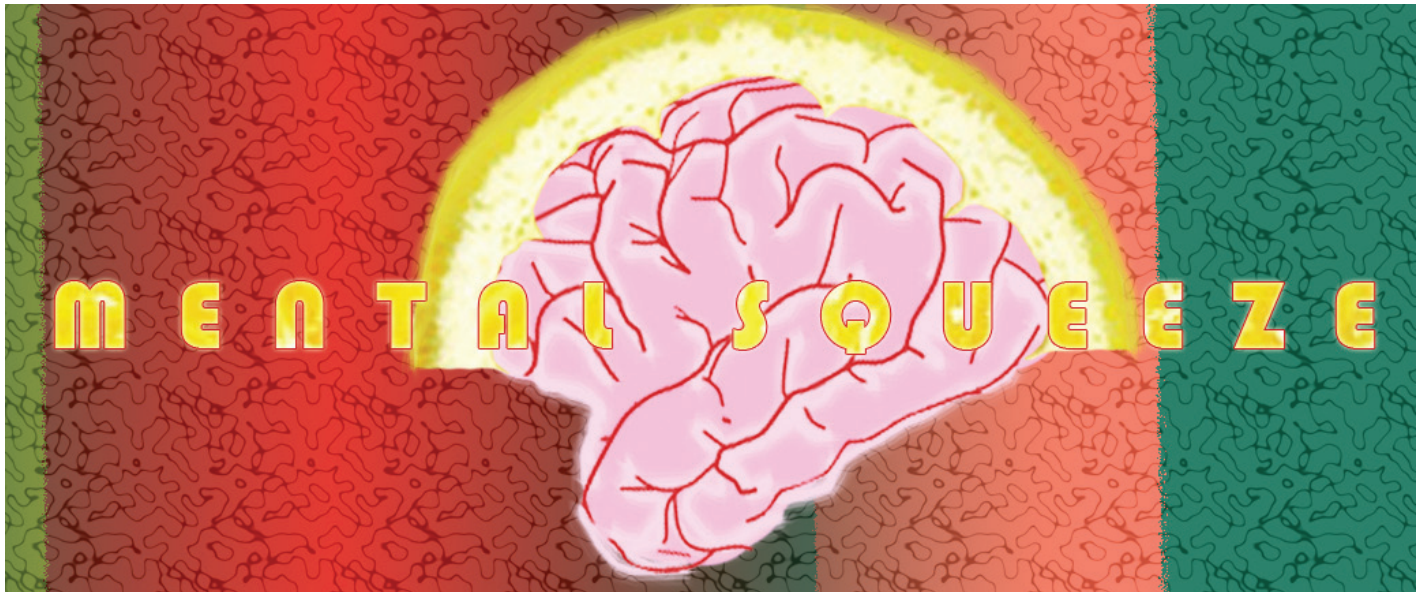
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HOW TO HANDLE THOSE FAST APPROACHING WINTER BLUES

BY KATYA TEAGUE
@KATYATEAGUE

We've turned back the clocks. Scarves and tuques are coming out of their back-of-the-closet hibernation.

Retail stores will be playing Jingle Bells over their sound systems any day now. What's that, George R. R. Martin? Winter is coming? Yeah, we get it.

For some 'tis the season to be jolly but for others 'tis quite the opposite. According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, up to 35 per cent of Canadians will soon be getting the "winter blues" and two to five per cent will suffer from the clinical form, Seasonal Affective Disorder, also aptly known as SAD.

The following will attempt to inform those who are affected by SAD about the disorder, and offer tips on how to deal with it—the information comes from interviews with SAD expert Kelly Rohan on the American Psychological Association's website, as well as the Canadian Mental Health Association's website.

Regardless of what daylight saving time claims, the days are getting shorter. This means less sunlight and that does not bode well for summer-lovers or for a little neurotransmitter in the brain called serotonin.

For those of you who haven't dabbled in psychology or biology, serotonin is a chemical in our brains that has an effect on mood, appetite, sleep, sexual desire, and even some aspects of social behavior.

Sunlight, on the other hand, produces Vitamin D. One of Vitamin D's impor-

tant jobs in our body is to promote the production of serotonin. So winter means less daylight, which means less Vitamin D, which means less serotonin—suddenly many of our bodily systems are affected.

To get an idea of what exactly is being affected, let's look at the symptoms of SAD. At the top of the list is oversleeping, low energy and a depressed mood. Carbohydrate cravings are common, as well as weight gain and withdrawal from social contact. Of course, in fitting with the "seasonal" part of SAD, these symptoms must occur for at least two winters in a row and go away during the spring and summer.

While some will get bummed out or a little more introverted during the winter months, those who have SAD are essentially suffering from depression. By lumping everyone together under the diagnosis of "winter blues," we create a misunderstanding of what each individual is going through.

I truly understood this while talking to a friend who has some personal experience with SAD. I told her about how I wanted to suggest finding fun winter activities to promote exercise—exercise is great for lifting the spirits after all.

Her response: "What about the days when you feel so drained of energy that you can't even get out of bed?"

Everyone is going to be affected by winter differently, so naturally everyone's needs are going to be different. Find solutions that work for you. There is nothing wrong with starting small. Small changes can make a world of difference.

Take a shower. The warm water is sooth-

ing, so you'll feel clean and refreshed. Don't forget to give yourself a pat on the back for being productive. Allow yourself to feel good about your accomplishments, no matter what they are. Baby steps are still steps.

Set aside ten minutes every evening to invest in yourself. Make yourself a lunch for the next day. By making that sandwich, you're ensuring that tomorrow, you will be nourished and energized. Those ten minutes will be so valuable tomorrow.

For people who are just looking to shake the winter blues, this is all sound advice for you, too. The best way you can lift your spirits this winter is by understanding the impact your actions can have on your mood.

Even if you have the motivation to get out of bed every morning, finding the motivation to be active in near-arctic weather is a whole different story. But it's crucial. The endorphins that get released into your body during physical activity will improve your mood and being outside will get you a much-needed dose of that Vitamin D I mentioned earlier.

Distraction is key. You'll be much less bothered by the icy wind that's hurting your face if you're doing something you enjoy. Listen to music while you walk around the block. Go skiing with some friends. If you're like me and don't know how, start by learning to ski. Take advantage of one of Montreal's many free outdoor skating rinks. Make a snowman!

Weather-appropriate clothing is important too. There's a reason why toddlers bundled up like marshmallows have the time of their lives making snow angels.

Kermit the Frog said, "it ain't easy being green," but it ain't easy being blue either. That doesn't mean that we can't all get through this winter and hopefully enjoy doing it.

Let the upcoming holidays remind you that you are surrounded by people who care. Don't hesitate to take advantage of the resources available at Concordia either.

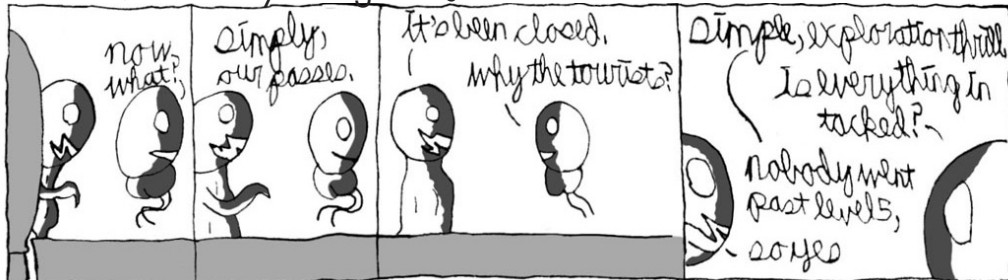
Concordia Counselling and Psychological Services can be found in room H-440 on the SGW Campus or AD-103 on the Loyola Campus.

While some will get bummed out or a little more introverted during the winter months, those who have SAD are essentially suffering from depression.

Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



Balloon Ventures by Mangelko Jones



Caity Comics by Caity Hall



The Adventures of Every-Man by @samdchurchii



Filbert by L.A. Bonte



Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell





Everyday Feminism and You

GRAPHIC MARIANA VORONOVSKA

"Because it's 2015."

That was Justin Trudeau's answer when a reporter asked him during his swearing-in ceremony about the importance of his gender-balanced cabinet.

His answer made national and international headlines. It was short and simple, but it was spot on.

It's the first time the Prime Minister has created gender-parity in his cabinet. The change has inspired many people to hope for further female-minded reform during Trudeau's time as Canada's leader.

While we're lauding the government for taking steps towards equal gender representation, it's important to turn our attention from the happenings in Ottawa and look closer at our own communities as we make a push for equality.

Flipping through this week's edition of *The Link*, it is obvious that sexism is rampant. It's everywhere—in the news, in our workplaces,

in our schools and on the streets.

One of our editors, an attendant at several women's rights protests in the recent past, was present at last week's Take Back The Night march where he witnessed for the first time this year aggressive and offensive behavior from onlookers.

Some leered at the crowd as they marched down the street. Others wolf-whistled. Another young man jeered at participants, laughing, telling them to go home.

This is only one small example of how female rights are not being taken seriously in our day-to-day lives.

Sure, things have gotten better. However, when making blanket statements like "women's rights have generally improved over the years," it's crucial that we also specify which women have benefitted the most from the fight against sexism.

Put bluntly, things have improved the most for white women.

Consider Val-d'Or.

Nine provincial police officers were recently accused of longstanding sexual abuse against First Nations women filed last May. As the investigation is still underway, eight officers have been put on leave or transferred to administrative roles. The ninth officer is deceased. The allegations date back at least a decade meaning that for over ten years, sexual violence in Val-d'Or was blatantly ignored and dismissed.

Val-d'Or is a town only a few hours outside of Montreal and Take Back The Night happened in our very own streets.

And we can't ignore what happens to thousands of people who are trans across Canada. They are victims of violence, threats and harassment every day. There isn't a law protecting them from violence and assault. They can't even go to the bathroom without being scrutinized.

We need to counteract the sexism and

gendered violence in our society by making feminism a household topic of discussion. Let's add to the momentum started by celebrities like Beyoncé, Laverne Cox and Emma Watson, who are raising awareness regarding women's rights. We shouldn't need celebrity endorsements to open up the feminist discourse at home, but they help.

Making a difference in our daily lives can start with something as simple as seeking out and listening to the voices of people of all genders who aren't always given the chance to express their opinions and experiences.

When given the privilege to speak up, raise your voice for those who have been silenced for too long.

Justin Trudeau putting more women in positions of power is a good start to encouraging women to join politics. For those of us who aren't cabinet ministers, it may be 2015, but sexist shit is still happening.

THE LINK

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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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CORRECTIONS

The article *A False Idol* in last week's issue (Volume 36, Issue 11) compared various study drugs to Adderall and listed Ritalin, Concerta and Vyvanse as amphetamines. In reality they are amphetamine-like substances. Concerta and Ritalin are methylphenidate, not amphetamines. Vyvanse contains dextroamphetamine. All references to these drugs have been changed to "study drugs" online.

The article *In Memory of the Negro Community Centre* in last week's issue (Volume 36, Issue 11) quoted an anonymous source that should have been removed in the editing process. *The Link* regrets the errors.

editorial writing workshop

The Link's workshop series continues on Friday **Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.** with Kenneth Deer, founder, former publisher and editor of *The Eastern Door*, a weekly newspaper based in Kahnawake.

Deer has been involved in international movements for indigenous people and was the Chairman/Rapporteur of the UN Workshop on Indigenous Media in 2000. He worked with the United Nations from 1987 and was part of the development of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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