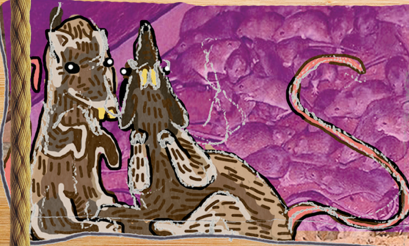


LINK

it's a landlord's world P. 4



SPORTS

His Name is Gunner

After sustaining a concussion playing with the Stingers football team last September, former running back turned welder Gunner Tatum opens up. **P. 9**

FRINGE ARTS

Life in the Van Lane

Greenvans offers green option for touring musicians. **P. 7**

EDITORIAL

Renting Shouldn't Be This Hard

Shitty landlords breach basic human rights **P. 15**

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HOUSING ABUSE

With Limited Student Resources, Students Continue to Have Problems with Montreal Landlords

BY AMBRE SACHET, HÉLÈNE BAUER, JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HELENEBAUER @HIIMBIRACIAL

The hallways reeked of cigarette smoke. Walking up to the apartment, Karina Lafayette noticed there wasn't a mailbox.

Still though, she needed a place to live, and thought any deposit she made that day would be returned if she didn't sign a lease.

A suspiciously charismatic real estate agent from the RH Management company was showing her an apartment under renovations in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Before even signing the lease for the apartment, Lafayette, a film production student at Concordia and contributor to *The Link*, could smell the scam from far away. She was asked to pay a \$100 deposit before she had confirmed that she was taking the apartment, and was subjected to an intrusive background check that made her feel like a criminal.

Following her instinct, Lafayette decided not to take the apartment. She tried to get her deposit back, but that wasn't an option.

"They told me I could move in whenever I wanted to when I had specifically written an email saying I'd find another place," she recalled. "As a student you feel manipulated."

Asking tenants for a deposit is illegal in Quebec.

She was originally told that the \$100 deposit, which she paid in full, was supposed to cover part of the first month's rent, which is within their right. But apparently, the real estate agent had already spent the money. She was never reimbursed.

"I sent an email to the rental board explaining my situation, but they said I had to call," said Lafayette.

A representative from RH Management identified as Rubin, but refused to give a last name, said his company has a prospective tenant sign an application first. After this, they do a credit and criminal background check, and if they find "something bad," they return the deposit.

Rubin said they don't return the \$100 because they spent money on a credit check, time on investigating the tenant's potential criminal background, wasted days, and gas for getting around the city.

"If the other party says no, we have to keep money," he said.

It's illegal to have the deposit unless it goes to first month's rent. Rubin denied that the deposit was spent on anything other than the first month's rent, and clarified that the depositor has credit of \$100 to use on another apartment owned by RH Management.

It's also illegal to include any clauses—like the application—on top of an official Quebec lease. Rubin said the deposit and application acts as a verbal lease, but to qualify as a verbal lease, one must purchase an official form

from the Régie du Logement, Quebec's rental board. It's unknown whether the application RH Management uses is this official document.

The Régie's clarification on performing a criminal and extensive background check is not clear. It doesn't explicitly say you can or can't do it. But its code operates under the two basic principles of the right to privacy and the necessary character of the information collected.

When a tenant feels their landlord has mistreated them, they can file a complaint to the Régie, said Anita Lambton from Concordia Student Union's Off-campus Housing and Job Bank (HOJO). However, she was quick to add that the process is too long.

"A hearing can take almost as long as an undergrad degree could. I think the average wait time is 24 weeks just to get the hearing," said Lambton, who has been working at HOJO for over two years.

"There's a lot of discrimination that goes on that's really hard to prove," said Lambton.

To prove these kinds of abuse, a written text is needed. "You can't prove it in a way that the Régie or the police will want you to prove it and that's a big problem," she explained.

Several students who went to court for housing abuse were contacted to be interviewed for this story, but weren't willing to publicly share their experiences here. According to the rental board's annual report from 2014-2015, the overall average period to get a hearing was four to seven months.

Students can stop by HOJO's office to receive information about their rights as tenants. It aims to protect students from experiences like Lafayette's.

"There isn't that much support in term of recourse," said Lambton. "The Régie is really super problematic. A lot of the issues are pretty deep within the city."

Since 2007, 284 complaints have been reported by HOJO. The most frequent complaints pertain to landlord's abusing their rights.

"Landlords ask for things like SIN numbers, bank account numbers," Lambton said. "Maybe it's intimidation, maybe it's weeding out who has a better job than other people."

Either way, all of it is illegal.

International and out-of-province students are most often targeted by abusive landlords since they are less likely to know their rights, according to Lambton. Concordia University's International Students Office has referred 40 per cent of first time visitors to HOJO.

Student housing issues are often dismissed, because of their status as just that, students. But students have the same rights as anybody, Lambton said, and more protection is needed to prevent exploitation of their occasionally vulnerable situations.

284 COMPLAINTS

Have been reported by HOJO in Quartier Concordia since 2007

40% of first-time visitors have been referred to HOJO by the International Students Office

48% of the total number of visitors asked about housing information, according to HOJO's 2013-2014 annual report.

8 minutes The estimated time to get someone from the Régie du logement on the phone according to the agency's 2014-2015 annual report.

Management complaints to HOJO

Collection of private info	49
Deposit required	50
Failure to provide lease documents	24
Lease transfer or sublet problems	11
Unprincipled behavior	37
Enforced rent increase	7

INFOGRAPHIC LAURA LALONDE

A Memorable Remembrance Day

Activists Protest the Annual Ceremony at McGill



Minutes before the traditional moment of silence, members of Reclaim Turtle Island and Demilitarize unfurled a 50-foot protest banner from the roof of the Redpath Library on Nov. 11, 2015.

BY ZACHARY KAMEL

The red poppies of John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" adorned nearly every jacket lapel at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony held at McGill University last Wednesday.

Thousands congregated on the lower field last Wednesday to commemorate 97 years since the end of the First World War, in a ceremony meant to honour those who never came home—a notion some argue is not inclusive to all victims of war.

Walid Fezza, a mathematics and economics student at Université de Montréal, was one of several Sigma Theta Pi pledges handing out poppy pins to attendees as they entered through the Roddick Gates onto the ceremony grounds.

"Remembrance Day is a time to think about everyone who fought for our freedom and for our country," said Fezza.

The crowd stood silently as military contingencies in full dress marched lockstep to the beat of a drum.

Daniel Whittle, a second-year history major at McGill appreciated that the ceremony is held on McGill campus. He said ceremony is a good way for current cadets or people with military in their families to connect with the past.

However, not everyone was wearing a red poppy on Wednesday.

Several minutes before the traditional moment of silence at 11 a.m., a 50-foot banner began to unfurl from the roof of the Redpath Library.

In both French and English, the banner read "Canada Kills: Colonialism here, imperialism abroad. End occupation, resist Canada. #RememberThis"

The banner was quietly dropped by members of Reclaim Turtle Island, "an indigenous anti-colonial group," and Demilitarize McGill, "a group that organizes to end military collaboration at McGill."

Many people in the crowd gazed up at the banner in shock. One person could be heard screaming, "Get off the roof! Take it down!"

Mona Luxion, a member of Demilitarize

McGill, and a PhD candidate at the university in Urban Planning, said that the banner drop "was meant to highlight who is being remembered on Remembrance Day, and to bring to light the fact that it is an inherently political day.

"You have military equipment there, you have helicopters flying overhead. It's not really about past wars, it's about present wars," Luxion explained. "Canada is built on exploiting people here and abroad, and we can't remember war without remembering who it's against."

Across the street from the Roddick Gates, metres away from a ceremonial cannon, a separate demonstration was being held by the anti-war group Le Collectif Échec à la Guerre.

Members of the group held a banner with a large peace sign emblazoned on it, and most members were wearing white poppy pins.

"The white poppies represent all the victims of war; including the military," said Catherine Avard, an organizer with the collective.

At that moment, the cannon fired, shaking the windows of surrounding buildings.

"This celebration is not only for the people that had to fight in a war, but why they fought in it, and who they fought," Avard said.

The cannon fired again, filling McGill College Ave. with acrid smoke.

Captain Jonathan Larocque of the 2nd Field Regiment stood feet away dressed in uniform, observing the cannon fire.

"Remembrance Day is a day to remember the sacrifices that everyone has made," said Larocque. "It doesn't have to be a physical or mental sacrifice, but any hardship that was endured during military service."

Larocque, a veteran who did tours in Afghanistan and Libya, noted the demonstrations to his left.

"War is not a pretty thing. As Canadians, I think we try and strive for peace everywhere in the world," he said through several blasts from the cannon and a tandem helicopter fly-by.

The enormous military presence and artillery display purveyed different meanings to those in attendance. City Councillor of the Desmarais-Crawford district Sterling Downey lingered on the lower field long after

the ceremony was over.

"Those cannons ... they are an interesting reminder. When those things go off, for us as civilians, you jump 10 feet," said Downey. "And we're not even being shelled."

He spoke of how frightening it must be at war for the soldiers, and why these reminders are an important part of the Remembrance Day proceedings.

For others, according to Luxion, the cannons are a reminder of the terror and trauma of war. She said that the sound of gunfire and the sight of military uniforms is traumatic

for certain students and faculty who have lived through war. She didn't think that the ceremony has any place on McGill's campus, and wanted people to think a little more about where there is a necessity for the celebration in the first place.

"Question what people have died for. We're celebrating the people who have died, but what did they die for and how do we prevent that from happening again?" asked Luxion.

As the last of those in attendance shuffled back out through the Roddick Gates, a cadet collected discarded poppy pins on the ground.



A WWI veteran paid his respects at the Remembrance Day ceremony at McGill University.

PHOTOS ANDREA PRITCHARD

Cycling in a Winter Wonderland

The City Closes About Half of the Bike Paths in the Winter Months

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER
@HELENEVBAUER

Halfway through the month of November, we can no longer deny the fact that winter is coming. While many of us break out hats and scarves, Montreal's cyclists are also getting their cold-weather gear ready: ski goggles, a balaclava and a helmet—everyday essentials.

On Sunday Nov. 15, the City of Montreal closed more than half of the city's bike paths and removed many bike racks from the streets. Signs were plastered around the city announcing that the official biking season is only from Apr. 1 to Nov. 15.

For cyclists around town who are already fighting with cars for their right to the road, this comes as an unpleasant surprise.

According to *Le Devoir*, last year 260 km out of 680 km of bike paths were open and maintained during the winter months.

According to the City of Montreal website, more than half of the population cycles for transportation—it's a city that thrives on being bike-friendly. Every year, it works towards opening more bike paths and creating laws to secure the safety of bikers on the road.

However, there's one thing that paralyzes the city's cyclists—winter weather.

Émilie Miskdjian, spokesperson for the Ville-Marie borough, said that even though the city closes some bike paths in

the winter, they still encourage cyclists to continue riding.

Since it's practically impossible to remove all the snow, a lot of it gets pushed to the side and impedes the bike paths, making them inaccessible, she said.

However, Miskdjian said that in the Ville-Marie sector, the majority of bike paths do stay open and are shoveled.

"The snow removal procedures that maintain the streets in the winter don't convene with the size of our streets," said Marianne Giguère, spokesperson for Projet Montréal, the official opposition party.

Giguère, and Magali Bebronne of Vélo Québec both mentioned the bike path on Brébeuf St., which closes in the winter and becomes a car-only road. The street is too narrow to allow both cars and bikes to circulate on the same road with the snow.

Giguère said that in order to advance with the vision of four-season bike lanes, Montreal must rethink its snow removal procedures.

"The city has to reflect on whether it's willing to invest time and money in properly maintaining the bike paths," said Giguère. "[It] has to be ready to rethink the way that streets are being used by cars."

She spoke of a financial investment—buying new snow removal machines that are smaller and more efficient—as well as a political and societal investment in rethinking why the city privileges cars.



About half of Montreal's bike paths will be closed during the Winter.

PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

The only sustainable solution to the problem is building bike paths that are separate from the main road, said Giguère.

"We're never pleased about the closing of the bike paths," said Bebronne.

Vélo Québec was successful in adding 15 days to the bike path season a few years ago.

Despite the fact that bike season is appar-

ently over, there are 10 to 15 per cent of people cycling through the winters, according to Bebronne.

"This is a problem," she said.

In the meantime, cyclists will have to contend with both bitter weather conditions and city regulations, until there is more movement on the front of cyclist rights.

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)

The following contributors are eligible to run:

Graeme Shorten Adams, Jennifer Aedy, Alex Bailey, Roxanne Baril-Bédard, Alison Bertho, Carl Bindman, Marie Brière de la Hosserraye, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Morag Rahn Campbell, Alex Carriere, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, David Easey, Caitly Hall, Sarah Jesmer, Sam Jones, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Tessa Mascia, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Gabriela de Medeiros, Chris Michaud, Julie Miele, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Ambre Sachet, Willie Wilson, Michael Wrobel, Elizabeth Xu.

The following contributors need one more contribution to be eligible:

Ocean DeRouchie, David Kelly, Josephine Fomé, Zachary Kamel, Kelsey Litwin, Mariana Voronovska

A WALK IN THE PARK

Concordia Prof Publishes Portraits of Mount Royal

BY OCEAN DEROUCHIE
@OSHIEPOSHIE

Whether you're strolling around Jeanne-Mance park or sitting in smoke clouds at Tam Tams, you'll notice a wide range of Montreal's populace casually enjoying the plethora of public green space in the city. For the devoted voyeur, or the casual observer, Montreal parks are perfect for people watching.

Though most of us stop at impermanent casual gazing, one of Concordia's own has taken people watching a step further.

Concordia professor and photojournalist Kate Hutchinson has resided near Jeanne-Mance park for 13 years, but only began photographing Montreal's park regulars back in spring 2013. Now, Hutchinson is releasing the cumulative amalgamation of portraits of park goers in her work called, *The Park*.

In the beginning, the photojournalist's time was almost entirely devoted to her ten-month-old daughter. Visiting the park was a way to be a part of the world once again, she explained. She began photographing strangers very casually, but suddenly, Sunday strolls through Mount-Royal park became more than a regular reintegration ritual; she saw photo opportunities abounding on her weekly walks.

Without a doubt, you've seen other "people of the streets" photography. Projects such as *Humans of New York* or *Portraits of America*, which spotlight characters in the urban wild, have most definitely made appearances on your news feed. What distinguishes *The Park* from the rest?

It's the setting. *The Park* offers a unique, differing vision of a quintessential Montreal staple. The considered use of two iconic Montreal green spaces showcases a public diversity that is identifiably Quebecois.

And that's part of the beauty; the diversity found at Jeanne-Mance and MountRoyal is infinite. *The Park* shows how vital these spaces are to the neighbourhood and its populace.

"I want to highlight the importance of these places, and how anybody is welcome there," she said. "To show the diversity of people who can use it happily and without threat, and hope-



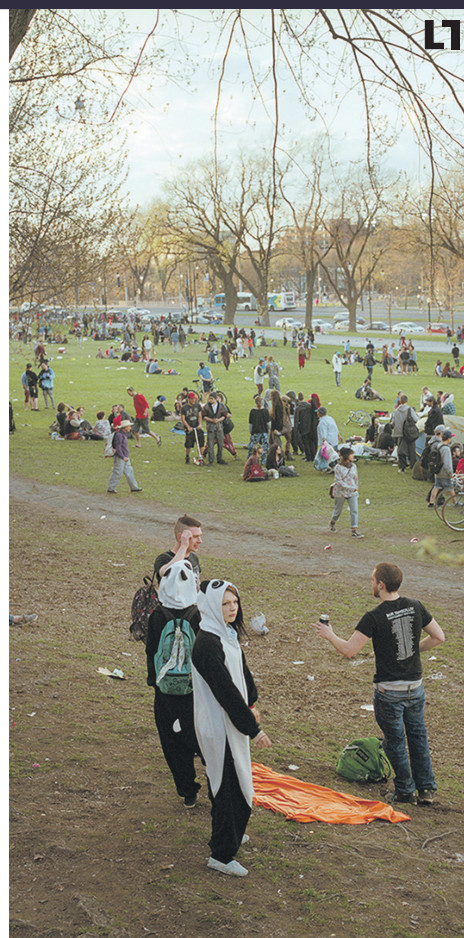
Kate Hutchinson, photojournalist and Concordia prof.

fully without too much judging."

The range of people Hutchinson came across while photographing is unsurprisingly vast.

"My absolute favourite... I really like teenagers. They're such an interesting group. I really enjoyed the ones that hung around the gazebo," Hutchinson recalls warmly. The group of friendly, playful electroloving youth used to congregate together each Sunday for "Gazebo Mont-Royal," a minirave that took place at the now decrepit, ever decaying, Mordecai Richler-dedicated gazebo. The festivities, and the gazebo have since been shut down.

"The teenagers came dressed in all kinds of quirky get ups, and seemed as though they were kind of lost in life, but this was where they found their people," Hutchinson added.



"My absolute favourite... I really like teenagers."

Themes of interconnection and relationships abound in Hutchinson's work, reflected in her diverse range of artistic influence. Among them, Hutchinson credits American photographer Alessandra Sanguinetti as one of the most prominent. *The Adventures of Guille and Belinda and the Enigmatic Meaning of Their Dreams*, Sanguinetti's collection documenting two child cousins on a rural farm, published in 2010, is one of Hutchinson's main inspirations.

"I find her work really beautiful," Hutchinson said. "She spent time with these kids [Guille and Belinda] growing up for many, many years. It's something she became very close to."

A devoted interest in human relations dominates *The Park*. Other notable encounters with Montreal's park-goers sparked wine-infused chats with reunited long-time friends.

"There were two girls who had grown up together, neither of whom still lived in Montreal," Hutchinson said. "They were reunited in the park. They were having a glass of wine on a blanket during Tam Tams."

The friends invited Hutchinson to join them after she had taken their photo. "One was a chef, going back to Australia. The other was a member of Cirque du Soleil," she continued. "They were meeting in the park because it was significant to them."

Another woman she met while photographing gave her a sampling of a Turkish dish to try after they met.

"She was very kind. She didn't speak great English. She was preparing dolma, which is wrapped in some kind of leaf," Hutchinson said. "She explained to me inside it was meat, and she gave me some to take home. I cooked it and it was delicious."

After two and a half years, and hundreds of photos later, Hutchinson's new book is released on Nov. 17.

"It's a celebration of the accomplishment. Lots of people that I know will be there," Hutchinson said, looking forward to enjoying a glass of wine and ruminating on the massive database of humanity *The Park* has become.

The Park Book Launch // Tuesday, Nov. 17 // 5 to 8 p.m. // Atelier B (5758 St. Laurent Blvd.) // \$35 for the book



For two and a half years, Hutchinson documented the many faces of Montreal's parks.

PHOTOS COURTESY KATE HUTCHINSON



A rented van forms the integral link between a band and their tour.

PHOTO COURTESY DAN LEWICKI

Life in the Van Lane

Greenvans Offers Biodiesel Option for Touring Musicians

ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

Touring life ain't easy. It's a major part of being a successful (or simply significant) band, and it's expensive as hell. Besides food, essentials, gear repairs, gas, parking tickets and a litany of other tiny expenses along the way, the major concern for any band on tour is always the same: where to find a reliable, affordable goddamn van.

It's not easy. Vans are a huge necessity, so plenty of companies exist to nickel-and-dime bands on everything like mileage and gas—just finding a van you can rely on to not break down 200 kilometres from the next show is often a lot to ask for. Still, bands have to tour—in fact, if you're a musician of any note, it quickly engulfs the better part of your year.

So, a large market of people in need of affordable, reliable passenger vans exists. Up until recently, a touring musician was essentially shit out of luck for a trustworthy, easily attained van if they couldn't purchase one wholesale—enter Greenvans.

Established in 2008 by Andrew Reitz, Greenvans was birthed with the express intent of providing affordable, biodiesel powered vans for touring musicians. Their fleet contains vehicles which run on standard gasoline, diesel and biodiesel or have been converted to run on waste vegetable oil.

"We wanted to offer a service that so many bands needed, but didn't have access to because so few companies understood or cared about the needs of a touring band," Reitz explained in an interview with Decibel Magazine.

"There aren't a lot of other independent companies that do what we do...honestly because it's difficult, it's expensive and it's risky, but regardless, we love what we do," Reitz said. "I think I'm constantly toeing the line between being a small business owner trying to make a living, and a dude that used to be in a struggling band that wants to help

other dudes in struggling bands."

Greenvans set themselves apart. Besides offering affordable rental opportunities, they lack the callousness and disconnect of big rental companies. This is sustainability in action; rather than acting as a faceless, unaccountable rental corporation, bands are offered personable accountability necessary for dire situations on tour. David Mitchell, a Montreal musician who used the service to tour with his band Gulfer, describes as much.

"We broke down in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I was initially super upset because we had to miss our Atlanta show and we were virtually stranded," Mitchell recalls. "Andy [Reitz] was extremely hands on, though, and ended up driving a new van to us overnight

[from Boston], waiting in Charlotte for our first van to get fixed, then driving that van back to us in Louisville."

Historically, touring is maybe the least sustainable part of being a musician. You can make instruments from freely traded, non-conflict materials; you can donate everything you make in merchandise sales, album downloads and door money to any number of worthy causes. You can produce all your merchandise domestically, in good working conditions with great wages, but when it comes down to it, it's nearly impossible to drive thousands of miles across various countries in a big fat 12-passenger van, eating fast food and spending thousands on gas in a green fashion. Most of the

time, bands are too desperately dilapidated to even think of it.

But this isn't the future. The most important, least efficient aspect of being a working musician doesn't have to stay that way, and it doesn't have to stay so goddamn unaffordable. Innovations in the industry like Greenvans are creating new standards in the field, and furthering progress away from the expensive, exclusive and outdated difficulties of touring.

It also doesn't hurt to care about the people you work with.

"It's cool to support a company rooted in punk and DIY [do-it-yourself] with kind, genuine, hardworking people pushing it forward," Mitchell concludes. "No other van rental service would go out of their way like that."



Montreal band Gulfer is on tour with a Greenvan.

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID MITCHELL

UNDERTALE OVER ACHIEVES

Crowd-Funded India RPG an 8-bit Hit

BY JULIA MIELE

A pair of skeleton brothers speaking in Comic Sans, a killer robot game show host, a powerful captain of the guard and a mess of puzzles to solve along the way—what more could you possibly ask for?

An 8-bit role-playing game with a storyline that keeps the intrigue high, Toby Fox's *Undertale* is an emotional roller coaster from start to finish.

Developed for Windows and Mac OS X, *Undertale* only offers around seven hours of playtime, but has a lot to show for it: whimsical encounters sure to please, a really cool soundtrack composed by Fox himself, and the choice to either kill your enemies and level up, or befriend them and gain information. According to the game's website, every enemy can be defeated without violence.

"Dance with a slime. Pet a dog. Whisper your favorite secret to a knight," it says. "Or ignore this choice and rain destruction upon your foes."

Undertale is set in the wake of a vicious war between humankind and monsters, wherein the bloodthirsty beasts were defeated, banished to an underworld and sealed there with magic. You, the player, are a human character

who has fallen through the barrier into the world of monsters, and it's your mission to find your way back to the surface.

Interaction with the world in the game includes chatting up non-player characters and engaging with objects in order to further your progress, and get a better sense of what's going on. Aside from encountering enemies and friends alike, there are a healthy handful of nooks and crannies that are just begging to be stumbled upon and explored.

Another interesting element of playing the game is that the ending will change, based on moral choices the player makes. To attack an enemy or spare their life will change the overall outcome of your journey. Despite the short length of playtime, three different endings keep things interesting and allow you to play the whole thing through more than once—there's the neutral ending, the pacifist ending, and the insane murder spree ending.

When asked if extra downloadable content, prequels or sequels are in store for *Undertale*, Fox has said he has no further plans for the game. Since gaining mainstream success, however, he has begun selling merchandise.

Fox had no intended target audience for this game, just gamers. This may explain the non-binary nature of the player character,

an androgynous figure who can be named at the player's discretion. According to the *Undertale* Wikia site, naming your character certain monikers will trigger custom responses from the game, and in one case, even raise the level of difficulty.

Undertale can be downloaded on its official

website at www.undertale.com or purchased on Steam, the digital game store for \$10.99. The game already has over 13,000 reviews on the Steam site, most of which have been very positive. If you're still unsure, though, there's a free downloadable demo online, for any would-be gamer.



Long ago, two races
ruled over Earth:
HUMANS and MONSTERS.

A still from *Undertale*.

PHOTO COURTESY UNDERTALE

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 Hosserraye, 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, Sarah Jesmer, Sam Jones, Laura Lalonde, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, June Loper, Sarah Lozinski, Tessa Mascia, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Julian McKenzie, Gabriela de Medeiros, Chris Michaud, Shaun Michaud, Julia Miele, Vince Morello, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Ambre Sachet Riley Wignall, Willie Wilson, Michael Wrobel, Elizabeth Xu.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Suite H-649
(514) 848-2424 ext. 7405
thelinknewspaper.ca



Gunner Tatum's prowess led the Stingers to Shaughnessy Cup victory on Friday, Sep. 12, 2014.

PHOTO MATT GARIES

UNDER THE GUNNER

Catching Up with the Former Stingers Running Back

BY JULIAN MCKENZIE
@JULIANTHEINTERN

In Austin, Texas, the capital of the second most populous and second largest state in the U.S., there is a young industrial welder who spends his day building overhead bridge cranes and designing custom parts for oil production.

It wasn't long ago, however, that he made like fellow Texans and spent time on a football field.

There are over 450,000 welders in the U.S. and their average age is 55 years old. This young man is well below the average at 20 years old, but he's been learning the trade since the age of 14. He is known around parts of Texas, or anywhere he's been, really, as Gunner Tatum.

"It was always an interest in the back of my mind," Tatum said. "Who sculpts metal together? There's not many people, so I wanted to be the guy that does something that other people don't get to do.

"Basically whatever you draw up and you want welded and put together is what I do."

Gunner isn't a nickname or a pet name, and he doesn't know why his parents gave it to him.

"I've had so many people ask me that," he laughed. "Since you asked me that question, I'm probably going to ask my dad. I've never even questioned it."

It was just a little over a year ago that Tatum confused Montrealers with his name as a member of the Concordia Stingers football team, playing a sport he had taken up in the third grade.

Tatum was recruited out of Crane High School where he spent time as a star middle linebacker, and an equally talented running back. In his final year of high school, Tatum rushed for over 2000 yards and 18 touchdowns.

The 20-year-old's intention at the start of the Stingers training camp was to play as linebacker, until Stingers coaches notified him about the possibility of him playing both positions, and eventually, only the running back position.

"When we came to training that year, we realized that we needed more bodies at the running back position, and that's when we put him there," recalled Stingers head coach Mickey Donovan.

"[The coaches] gave me both playbooks. The defensive playbook was kind of small and they handed me—it looks like an encyclopedia—this huge offensive playbook," said Tatum. "I remember I had to sit there, study it and read it, and learn everything about it."

Tatum was already being put to work in his first regular season game. The running back carried the ball 35 times—he tied a conference record for carries that day—for 192 rushing yards and a touchdown, and it propelled the team to a 25-15 win over the Bishop's Gaiters, their first win in two seasons.

"It happened so fast," said Tatum. "I was so nervous playing that game. It just kind of felt like everybody was out to get me. I just remember it being so fast-paced with only two downs and then you punt."

"My offensive linemen were huge," he added. "It felt like my linemen were my older brothers, they took care of me. That's what made every time I played special. As far as all the hype [around me], at least 50 per cent of it, or even more, goes [into my game]."

As fast as the victory came to Tatum, however, so did the end of his season, and collegiate career.

*

When Tatum hears the date Sept. 19, he remembers: "Is that the Sherbrooke game?"

The Friday night lights shone on a cold, yet

vibrant Concordia Stadium that night. It was a homecoming game for the Concordia Stingers as they faced the Sherbrooke Vert et Or. The Stingers were playing their third game of the season and had a chance to go 3-0 for the first time since 2006.

It was a first and 10 for the Concordia Stingers at the Sherbrooke 42-yard line, and quarterback Francois Dessureault found Gunner Tatum with a pass early in the second quarter.

"I remember it just like a colouring book, the same pages coloured a hundred times," said Tatum. "I remember. Just like that same commercial that comes on every single day, you remember every single part of it."

"Instead of cutting outside, I broke inside. It was a mistake that cost me college."

It was on this play that Tatum took a hit to the head from Sherbrooke's Alexandre Gagné and suffered a concussion. Tatum dropped the ball and the Vert et Or recovered it and turned it over. He laid on the ground for five minutes while being tended to by medical staff, before walking off the field on his own.

Post-game, coach Donovan wasn't happy about the hit, but he acknowledged it was a "football play." That same football play ended Tatum's game and, ultimately, his season.

"If that play would have never happened I could have still been playing for Concordia right now," Tatum said.

It wasn't the first time he had suffered a concussion, but it also wasn't the only injury that plagued him. The running back had a nagging right shoulder injury that had been following him since his high school days. It was an injury he had kept to himself for years—only his dad and a few of his teammates knew.

Following his concussion, he went home to Texas for welding, before returning to Concordia during the winter that followed the

2014 season. More disaster struck for Tatum as he re-injured his shoulder in a winter training practice session with the team.

"I heard the crack and it felt the same way it did when I tore it up my senior year," he said. "It just came to a point where the pain [outweighed] my motivation."

"After a while, [it gets] to you. No matter how motivated you are, how strong-minded you are, none of that matters. Once pain [outweighs] your motivation, you're done."

The injury kept Tatum awake at night as he rolled over in his sleep, writhing in pain, and he sometimes cracked his shoulder out of place.

"Even though my shoulder was hurt as bad as it was, I still ran the same way I did," he continued. "It just hurt ten times as bad whenever I hit somebody. I just bit my tongue, took a deep breath and got right back at it for the very next play."

After consulting family, friends and his teammates, Tatum returned home following the winter camp and found a full-time welding job, forgoing his studies in Sociology, and his hopes of becoming a cop. He cited how law enforcement officers were treated, and seen as "the enemy," as one of the reasons why he stopped.

"I'd rather just get on with my life and turn the chapter," he said. "I love to weld, I love to build, I love to construct. But I don't want to go to school to be a constructional engineer, I want to be the guy that builds it."

Ultimately, college, at this time, isn't for him, because it may never have the same feel as that year at Concordia. He is grateful for the experience and maturity he gained during his time in Canada.

"I knew if I went to play football for another team, another place, it was never going to be same as Concordia," he said. "I promise you that."

"You can't beat the Stingers, it's a family."



A high-scoring forward in her previous league, Samantha Rhains strives to bring her skills to the Stingers.

PHOTO SHAUN MICHAUD

READY SET GOAL

Rookie Samantha Rhains Hopes To Bring Scoring Sting to Women's Hockey Team

BY VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

A two-time all-star in North American Prep Hockey Association in 2014 and 2015, Samantha Rhains scored lots of goals for the Stanstead Spartans—and there are high hopes she'll bring that power to Concordia this season. But in another sport, she was the one who stopped them from going in.

At Stanstead College, a private boarding school located in Stanstead, Que., students are required to participate in three sports during their first year. Rhains chose to do cross-country running, because her coach told her to get into shape. After that, she became the goalkeeper for the soccer team.

"I thought [cross-country running] was too much of an individual sport and I'm a team player, so I went into soccer," said Rhains.

"I wasn't the best player," she added, laughing. The team needed a goalie and she decided to try it out. "It turned out great. The team was great, and it was a great experience."

Despite the fact that she knew she would not be able to pursue soccer, instead choosing to further her hockey career, Rhains had nothing but positive feelings for her time as a goalkeeper.

"It was nice to try a new sport," she said.

But when she got into university, the soccer goalie said hockey was always her

number one choice. "Soccer was more like an experience. It was nice and fun to learn things and all that, but it was always hockey," Rhains said.

"[Rhains] is just a really positive, energetic team first player. She bought right into our culture and she's pleasant to coach."

— Mike McGrath

She was one of the most highly recruited players in the summer, with both the Canadian Interuniversity Sport and National Collegiate Athletic Association teams wanting her to commit—but the North American Prep Hockey Association all-star chose Concordia.

In university sports, the coaches and teams are used to a cycle of players coming and

going, and with many scoring veterans leaving the Stingers women's hockey team this year, Rhains will possibly fill that role.

She scored 41 points in 39 games in her senior year with the Spartans, and Concordia is hoping she can produce similar results at the CIS level.

"As a first year player she's learning and adapting to the University game," said Stingers co-head coach Mike McGrath.

"When I came to visit, I was really surprised by the coaches and the way they handled things, and the spirit that the team had. It really felt like home," Rhains said about coming to Concordia.

Being a Valleyfield native, Rhains was taught hockey from an early age. Since both her father and brother played, she started learning the game at age five with boys, before eventually playing with girls and getting into NAPHA with Stanstead—hockey was almost a forgone conclusion for her.

Six games into this season with the Stingers, the women's hockey team has won three games, and lost three games. Rhains, at the moment, has had one assist and no goals in her first season in the CIS. Both Rhains and the coaching staff believe that the points will come eventually, and that both player and team are going through an adjustment period.

"Sam is one of those easy-to-coach players, because she wants to get better and wants

to learn. Every time she steps on the ice, she gives [her] 100 per cent," said Stingers co-head coach Julie Chu. "She's probably one of the fastest in the CIS, and as we continue to develop her in the CIS role, we're going to see that come out more and more."

"The coaches have been telling all the recruits that it's a process and that we need to adapt," Rhains said. "[Adapting] is definitely something that's hard in the beginning."

Stepping into a new team is not all about scoring points either. Locker room chemistry can sometimes be the difference between a winning and losing team, and Rhains found no issues meshing within her fellow teammates. She says that the team is already like one big family.

"We're all close together and there's a good chemistry," Rhains said. "I didn't even have to adjust with a team spirit type of thing. We just were all on the same page."

"[Rhains is] just a really positive, energetic team first player," said McGrath. "She bought right into our culture and she's pleasant to coach."

Just in her first year with the Stingers, Rhains has a lot of hope for the team, and hopes that fans will have the opportunity to watch her play for a long time.

"I truly believe that we have an incredible team and that it's going to be stronger than ever," Rhains said.

MY WAY AND THE HIGHWAY (CODE)

MATT D'AMOURS
@MATTDAMOURS

Every so often, I need to clear the seemingly interminable clutter that piles up in the form of books and documents on my desk. On one such recent occasion, I came across a torn-open envelope containing a notice from the City of Montreal, reminding me that I will have to appear in court on an undetermined date.

Why? While covering a protest on July 24, I was detained by an SPVM officer and given a ticket for committing journalism in the first degree. While this "crime" isn't strictly on the "books," or prohibited in any "law" that could be described in "quotation marks," my offense was instead codified through article 500.1 of the Highway Safety Code of Quebec. This article makes it an offence to occupy "a public road in the course of a concerted action meant to block the circulation of vehicles."

The last time my words graced these opinions pages, I methodically broke down the reasons why I would contest the \$500 ticket, and how ludicrous it was for a police officer to use 500.1 against a journalist whose only "concerted action" was to report on events as they unfolded.

Well, after months of waiting for my day in court, I finally got some news on the matter last Thursday. Thing is, it didn't come from city hall or Montreal police. Instead, it came from the Superior Court of Québec,

which just struck down using article 500.1 to break up protests, on the basis of its unconstitutionality.

Yes, just as I had argued that 500.1 shouldn't be applied to journalists during protests, Justice Guy Cournoyer ruled that it shouldn't apply to, well, anyone at all.

The ruling stems from an anti-police brutality march in 2011, in which several protesters were kettled and ticketed under the infamous article of the Highway Code. One of the protesters to contest this was Gabriella Garbeau, whose case eventually made its way to municipal court. The argument made was that article 500.1 encroached on Garbeau's right to freedom of expression and assembly, as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In his ruling on that municipal case, Judge Richard Starck found that the article was indeed an infringement, but one that was reasonable in a free and democratic society. Garbeau appealed the ruling and took the case to Superior Court, where Justice Cournoyer was all like, "Nah son. That ain't right, son."

Specifically, he countered Judge Starck's conclusion that the application of 500.1 by police was a reasonable limit on a constitutionally guaranteed freedom. The question of whether a limit

is justifiable derives from the Oakes Test, a framework established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of *R v. Oakes* back in 1986. The test considers if there's a pressing need for any law that might curb rights, and whether there's a sufficient proportionality between what is gained through the law, and what is lost in terms of freedoms.

Thursday's Superior Court ruling indicates that article 500.1 failed the Oakes test.

"[Article 500.1's] limitation is not justified in a free and democratic society," Justice Cournoyer wrote, and with that, he ordered that article 500.1 be invalidated.

For Gabriella Garbeau, the appellant in this case, Thursday's ruling was encouraging, but only served to confirm something she already firmly believed.

"I wasn't necessarily waiting for this judgment in order to protest on the street," Garbeau said. "I have the right to protest, and the streets belong to us. I already had the answer before the judge said it."

While some might feel that Garbeau's sentiment is overconfident, Quebec Superior Court and municipal judges often strike down laws, articles and provisions that encroach on our right to express ourselves and freely assemble, reaffirming our guaranteed Charter rights. So if the courts routinely find these laws to be unconstitutional, why are similar ones—like the contentious P-6 bylaw—still being enforced by scores of riot police officers at almost every protest?

Who better to ask than the symbol of the 2012 protest movement, Anarchopanda?

"The goal is to intimidate, to make people scared to protest," Anarchopanda told me in a phone interview. "The goal is also to continue to instill this vague climate of fear that makes people think that they need the police to be there. It's a self-serving system for the police."

It's hard not to share his perspective.

Just last month, I covered a protest attended by about 50 students. As they left Phillips Square, they were cut off by an equal

number of cops in full riot gear, for trying to march on the sidewalk. As impartial as one tries to be in these situations, every journalist I saw had their brow firmly furrowed, and we communally shared expressions that read, "is this really happening?"

Anarchopanda points to a similar protest last spring, which saw 100 or so high schoolers march in opposition to austerity. They too were treated to a full riot-cop escort.

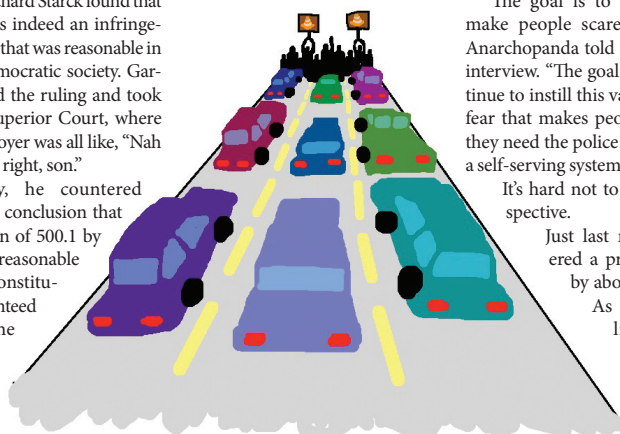
"In any sane society, people would wonder 'what the fuck is going on?'" Do the police seriously think they need to muster riot police to handle a protest of 100 high school kids?" Anarchopanda said. "But they've succeeded in making this the new norm."

Despite the attempts to suppress demonstrations in Montreal, the activists keep on marching—and I'll keep on covering their protests. While it's true that those who have already paid their 500.1 tickets won't be getting a refund, the Superior Court's decision is still a positive development. I know that my wallet and I will be celebrating.

At the end of the day, Garbeau believes there are still many obstacles in the way of free speech in Montreal, but the 500.1 victory is still an important one nonetheless.

"After this, maybe people will be more inclined to believe they have a right to protest," she said.

If nothing else, the courts seem to agree with her.



GRAPHICS SAM JONES

THE AFTER-"DREAM LIFE"

What's Real When Social is Digital?

GLORIA PANCRAZI
@GLORIAPANCRAZI

"I had the 'dream life,'" Essena O'Neill says to her viewers with tearful eyes. She seemingly had it all—sexy body, healthy lifestyle, 612,000 worshipping Instagram followers, and an income from all of it—but behind the screens, she was miserable.

O'Neill quit social media a week ago, an action that resonated virally. Re-captioning photos on her Instagram account, she explained how some required 100 shots for her stomach to finally look right, how she starved herself some days for photos and how other days the only thing that would make her feel good was likes she received.

She explained in her YouTube video "Why Quitting Social Media is a Good Idea" that she was "miserable," depending on social media attention to feel loved.

"Everyone talked about you, watched you, stalked you, wanted to be you," O'Neill said. But that wasn't real life, and her followers weren't real friends, so she quit.

Isn't it odd that we use the term "quitting" about social media in the same way that we do for drinking or smoking? This is the right

word, because we are in fact all addicted. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat have become part of our daily routines. I wake up and check all these platforms before getting out of bed.

According to an article titled "Social Media Addiction: Statistics and Trends" by Shea Bennett, 18 per cent of social media users can't go a few hours without checking Facebook and 28 per cent of iPhone users check their Twitter feed before getting up in the morning. However, some people are increasingly realizing the impact social media has on our

relationships and daily lives.

One of the issues with the addiction is that we use social media platforms to prove ourselves—to express who we are and what we do. There's a notion that an event didn't happen unless we share photos or status updates about it for other people to see.

"Individuality is not meant to be proven by other people liking it," said O'Neill.

Social media is an industry of cool. It's shrinking us by letting ourselves be defined by numbers of likes. I've deleted an Instagram post because it didn't have many likes,



and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has. It's normal to be self-conscious about what other people think, but obsessing about social media strengthens this insecurity.

I've often wanted to quit Facebook and Instagram, to exist more presently in the real world and live less on the screen. It's hard, because by quitting these online platforms, we quit part of our society and its socialization process. It's like when a smoker kicks the habit. They no longer take part in the social interaction of going for a smoke with friends.

So much is done online—plans are made through Facebook with events or groups. Photos and jokes are shared, creating "moments." When you don't have Instagram or Facebook to access those interactions you become an outsider.

O'Neill has been lauded for leaving the social media world and focusing on "real experiences" with "real people" that don't communicate through screens. With her up-and-running website letsbegamechangers.com, she encourages people to take a step away from this world of screens and likes.

I don't quite know if it's revolutionary—and sure, it comes from yet another screen—but it's definitely a step in the right direction.

Letters



Yes to Support Cure and Community-Driven Research

The Community-University Research Exchange (CURE Concordia) gives students the chance to take their academic work outside the university and work on real projects that benefit communities struggling for social justice. I've been involved with CURE for three years and every year I get more excited about the possibilities it holds.

Already two professors at Concordia have adapted their entire course outline around CURE projects. One class worked with the indigenous solidarity group Missing Justice to analyze information related to missing and murdered indigenous women. Next semester another class will work with Accessibilize Montreal to map the accessibility of the streets around Concordia's downtown campus, a small step towards making the city more navigable for people living with disabilities.

Imagine if more classrooms and individual students geared their academic work towards concrete projects that directly supported the needs of local communities. Policy analysis, research, art, marketing, accounting, computer programming, design, counselling and so much more—Concordia students at all levels hold so much capacity to create meaningful change and deserve the opportunity to do so.

I encourage undergraduate students to vote YES to a modest \$0.08 per credit fee levy for CURE. A stable source of funding will allow CURE to expand, offer more support to community groups and students in all faculties and really work to turn Concordia into a hub of community-driven research and engagement.

— **Cassie Smith, independent student**

Vote for Social Justice Research

As a Concordia undergrad, I know that having learning opportunities outside the classroom are just as important as what I learn inside the classroom. It's difficult to find meaningful research and volunteer opportunities that are linked to grassroots community efforts in the Montreal-area. One group that fills this role, very effectively, is the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE Concordia). Students can access a database of more than 50 community research projects (easily accessible at their beautiful website: www.cureconcordia.org). Students are able to get course credit, and also engage in socially relevant and important research.

CURE Concordia has been an amazing resource for students, but incredibly under-resourced. A modest \$0.08 per credit fee levy (\$0.24 to \$1.20 per student) could go a long way towards making this unique project accessible to all students, and expand the horizons of what Concordia undergraduates can learn on campus.

— **Farhana J. Haque, School of Community and Public Affairs undergraduate**

Vote for Social Justice Research

I want to let my fellow students know about an amazing project on campus, which supports undergrads in making real-world research links with the Montreal-area social justice community. The Community-University Research Exchange (CURE Concordia) is based on a simple premise: undergrads can engage in interesting research now, and not wait until after graduating or grad school.

CURE Concordia basically pairs up students with community organizations on research projects related to pressing issues such as missing and murdered indigenous women, environmental justice, food security, anti-racism, and more. And, the best thing is that students can get credit for the research.

CURE Concordia has built up a great network of Concordia faculty allies, and links with many community groups. But for this project to be relevant to more Concordia students, it needs more funding. I encourage my fellow students who care about social justice and want to support community organizing to vote yes to the upcoming referendum on a fee levy for CURE Concordia.

— **Sophia Sahrane, student advocate at the CSU Advocacy Centre**

ConU Students Build the World They Want to Live In

Whether it be through the Concordia Farmer's Market which, by action, puts local and small farmers—the people who work to grow our food—front-row center in our community spaces;

Whether it be through the fine-arts-created Café X (on the seventh floor of the EV, and second floor of the VA), which led the way, showing students that it is possible for students to operate their own cafés, and inspired the creation of the Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative which is now regularly seeing it's best days thanks to community support;

Whether it be through the transition from a traditional business to a non-profit solidarity co-op such as Burritoville—a truly collective effort to preserve alternative spaces and wholesome food for the community.

Whether it be through the Concordia-led creation of the Popular University Student Housing (PUSH) Fund, which is set to pave the way forward on affordable student housing in the long term, while also helping to foster community and fight gentrification;

Whether it be any of the other countless initiatives, like Campus Potager, the Community University Research Exchange (CURE), and many, many more;

Whether it be any of these projects, Concordians are definitively working to engineer a more equitable future that places community needs and community concerns, expressed by the communities themselves, at the centre of their economy.

The future Solidarity Economy Incubator,

with student permission, aims to support the development of a new economy through projects like these both on campus and beyond, by introducing students to the solidarity and community economy through internships, semester-based training programs, conferences, consulting and mentorship programs, and more.

We are a group of students who have worked countless hours on some of the projects listed above, and we are asking for your support so that we can stay rooted, continue to provide student-based support for campus projects, and build off of the institutional knowledge we've gained through these efforts to help students connect with transformational community and solidarity enterprises beyond the confines of Concordia.

If you like what's been happening on campus lately, please vote yes to the CSU's Solidarity Economy Incubator referendum question on Nov. 24 to 26, and let's continue building a community-centered economy based in cooperation and mutual support.

— **Ben Prunty, and Erika Licon**

YES to AVEQ — Yes to an ALTERNATIVE

Students across Quebec have united their power through provincial student associations for over 50 years. This collaboration has sustained an accessible system of post-secondary education throughout all of Quebec. Our quality education is made possible through one of the lowest tuition fees in the country, and our current academic experience is a result of historical and ongoing efforts, which are vital in defending all we have accomplished thus far.

The province-wide student organization has taken many forms, beginning with the UGEQ in the 60s, the ANEEQ in 70s and 80s, and the FEUQ and ASSE from the 90s to today. These organizations have each left their mark on the history of the student movement, and it is now our turn to decide which direction we would like to pursue. With the recent demise of the FEUQ, a political vacuum now exists, one that provides both an opportunity and a potential risk.

The ability to collectively choose our direction presents an opportunity to reinvent the student movement into one that is more inclusive and representative for Quebec students. We can create a more accessible movement where Anglophone students have a voice, and students have a chance to be at the forefront of feminist practices in the fight against discrimination of all types. We can help forge a student movement that takes environmental concerns seriously, and bolsters the growing campaign for climate justice.

Yet there also exists a danger. A danger that this political vacuum will be exploited by the provincial government to strip the hard-won gains of students. There have always been

attempts to ensure student voices remain isolated to their respective campuses and don't reach the ears of the government. With austerity as an oppressive economic policy and government cuts to education totalling \$400 million, we get a taste of what our government is capable of, and recognize the need for strong voices of dissent.

AVEQ emphasizes a balanced approach of enabling mobilization and research around quality education, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

As someone who has been actively engaged in the student movement for several years, and participated at provincial tables as a CSU representative, I can say with confidence that AVEQ is a very positive step forward for all Concordia students.

For more information please refer to the AVEQ website at AVEQ-NOUS.ORG. Please vote Nov. 24 to 26.

— **Gabriel Velasco, Concordia Student Union's VP External and Mobilization**

Support Cure

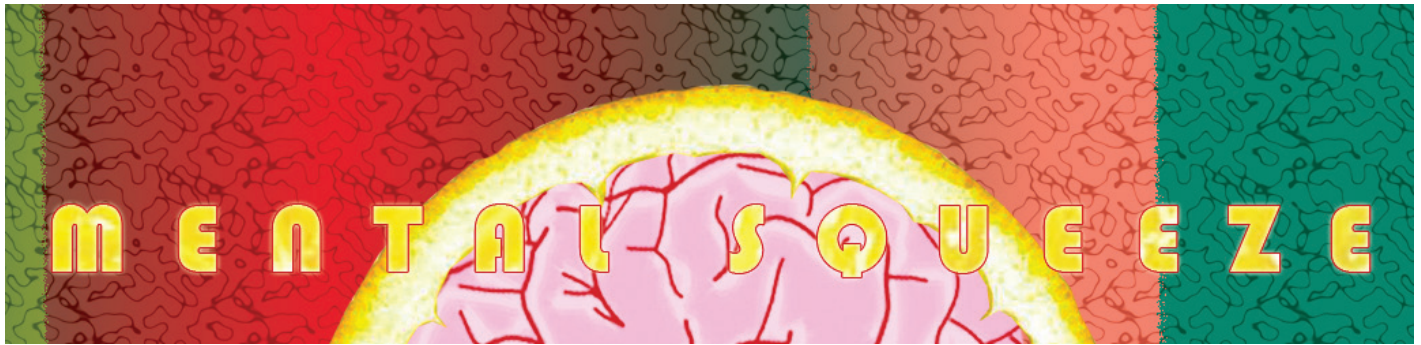
There are few projects on campus that have the ability to bring together students from all faculties: Arts & Science, Business, Engineering, and Fine Arts. The Community-University Research Exchange (CURE Concordia) is one of those projects. My fellow students at JMSB and I are always seeking good internship and community work experiences, projects that afford us opportunities to connect with organizations outside of school and apply our skills in preparation for entering the job market.

Business students can play a big part in positive social change! We have so many essential skills that are of use—especially to small organizations that lack resources—we just need opportunities to put them into practice. CURE Concordia, which helps students do projects with community organizations, provides these opportunities and helps us make connections with community organizations. And, as any business student will tell you, a strong network is paramount.

With a tiny budget, CURE Concordia has accomplished many things at Concordia in the past five years, providing amazing research opportunities on issues related to accessibility, sustainability, immigrant and refugee rights, urban planning, public policy and more. With more funding they'll be able to expand the diversity of projects they offer, and I'm excited about the possibilities for business students.

I encourage fellow students to learn more about CURE Concordia via their website—www.cureconcordia.org—and definitely consider voting yes in support of a small 8 cents per credit fee levy during the upcoming CSU elections (Nov. 24 to 26).

— **Laura MacDonald, JMSB student**



Healing with Suicidal Ideation

RILEY WIGNALL
@WILEYRILES

I didn't have plans to kill myself when I walked into Concordia Health Services three weeks ago—but I was having difficulty coping with being alive. For weeks, I had been captive to thoughts about how exhausting life was, and questions of whether it was worth it.

In psychology, this is known as passive suicidal ideation.

"Suicidal ideation is the first step in suicidal thoughts," said Stephanie Bate-Dubé, a former Distress Line Operator at the Canadian Mental Health Association. "It can often be an abstract idea ... There's not necessarily an active desire to kill oneself." It's the notion that if you fell asleep and didn't wake up, or had a terminal illness, it might be for the best.

Most people who have passive thoughts like these won't act on them, but there is a danger often overlooked. If someone with a healthy outlook suddenly starts wondering what being shoved in front of a subway train would be like, they could backslide further into being a physical danger to themselves.

"The distinction comes from when it starts to warp from [passive] suicidal ideation into actually having a plan for suicide," Bate-Dubé

said. "It is always the first step to more suicidal thinking."

Both passive and active suicidal ideations are symptoms of clinical depression.

When my PSI started it wasn't constant. It was absent when I was busy with schoolwork or friends, only showing up in idle moments. I didn't think there was anything wrong, but I also had a deeply entrenched sense that I shouldn't tell anyone. I didn't want to worry them. I didn't think it was a big enough deal.

Bate-Dubé said that in her work at the distress line, many people she assisted had already attempted suicide in the past, and were experiencing suicidal ideation again.

Even though I wasn't thinking about suicide, PSI worked against me in other ways. Daily necessities like eating and showering seemed tedious. My fridge was slowly occupied by crusting dishes instead of groceries. I had constant digestive issues because I wasn't eating. Sleeping was easy—waking up was starting to become disappointing.

Even as I became the walking dead, I was still doing my schoolwork.

"Students [are] an age group where a lot of mental issues come to the forefront—especially because university is a very stressful time," Bate-Dubé said. "People who haven't necessarily dealt with mental health before are

suddenly dealing with depression or anxiety or thoughts of suicide."

Although it's believed that mental illness is caused by many factors, if someone has it in their family, they're at higher risk of developing one. What's more, a study from Cornell University found that 7.5 per cent of students starting university with no mental illness in their history developed some symptoms over the course of their academic careers.

Concordia has a student body of about 46,000, so while earning their degrees, 3,450 Concordia students will develop some mental health problems—that's not including those who were diagnosed before starting post-secondary.

"There's a lot of pressure to do very well in university and sometimes students can see non-existing or dying to get out of that pressure without disappointing anyone," Bate-Dubé added. Suicides make up 24 per cent of deaths in Canadian youth from ages 15 to 24, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Eventually, PSI started taking over everything in my life—even my grades. A professor pulled me aside to ask why I had almost failed a quiz. I lost five pounds in a week. Friends and strangers alike noticed that there was something wrong. I booked

a doctor's appointment.

Three weeks after, I found the courage to say it aloud. "It's not that I'm thinking of killing myself, but..."

Things have improved. It's not easy, but I'm on my way back to feeling okay. Bate-Dubé had some advice for people experiencing PSI.

"Don't panic, but also be aware of it," she advised. "It doesn't mean that there's anything terribly wrong. It could just be a sign of something to keep an eye on. This isn't something you should ignore." She emphasized the importance of a solid support system.

"Tell somebody, whether it's a counsellor, a friend, or your parents, because it could get worse, and in that case you're going to need better help." Better help could be anything from peer support, to seeing a psychologist, or in more severe cases, medication.

I did everything wrong, right until I reached out. If there's anything to be taken away from my experience, it's that this is not something to be ashamed of, and asking for assistance is a sign of strength.

"Often people associate suicide with weakness," Bate-Dubé said. "It doesn't mean that you're failing at something that everyone else is doing well. It's a sign of mental illness, but it's not a judgment on you. It doesn't affect your value as a person."

Nah'msayin?

Dog Food is Just Unfair

JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Imagine a sizzling, perfectly peppered piece of filet mignon—now top that off with some sautéed mushrooms and gravy. Mmm, an exciting prospect for a meat-loving omnivore.

Now, imagine your canine best bud, staring up at you with those wishful, glimmering eyes as you sit down for the epic chow-down. The dog's pleas go ignored—why should the pet get to eat tasty, hearty food? After all, he's just a dog, right?

Well, as a fellow being with tastebuds, I can tell you with utmost confidence that the cute creature at your feet is not satisfied with his dog-food-diet.

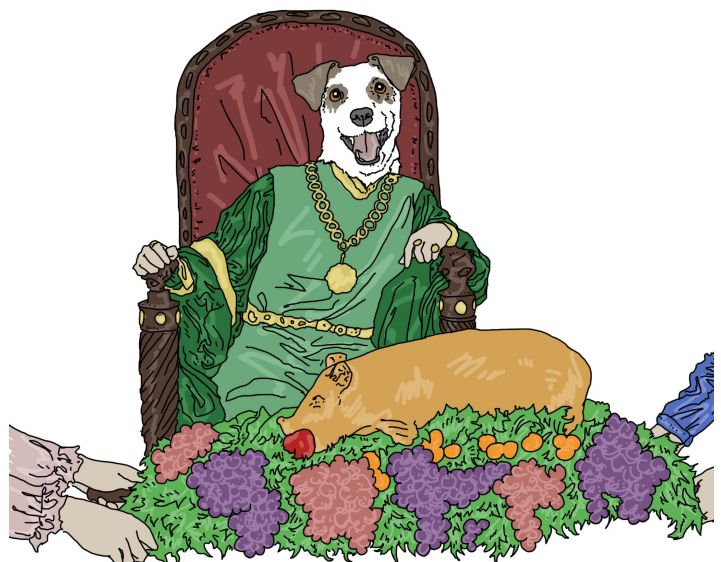
Put yourself in his paws for a moment—you sit at home doing jack shit, just waiting

for a moment of excitement to brighten your dull day. Your human companion arrives home (FINALLY, YAY!) and begins prepping a succulent, delicious, pungent human meal—you begin to salivate as the aroma floats past your strong nose. Your tail wags—this is the moment you've been waiting for! Finally, something exciting! The human steps away from the stove and walks towards your all-too-familiar feeding dishes. The time is nigh! Tonight, you will feast like a king!

But then reality hits. You look into your bowl, and what do you see?

Pebbles. Dry, bland, and brown. The pebbles haunt your dreams. You eat begrudgingly.

The point is, treat your best friend to some good food sometimes. Dogs have tastebuds too.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

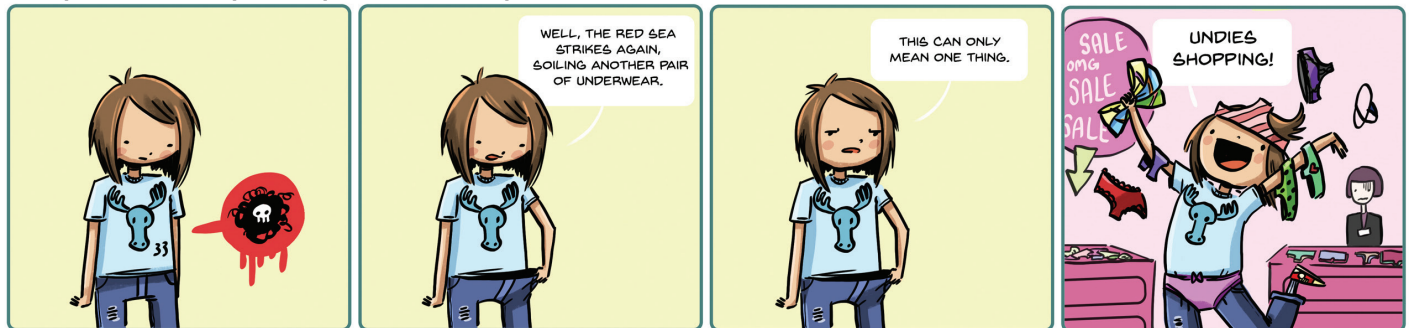
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GRAPHIC MAY NEWLAND

EDITORIAL

More Accountability, Fewer Cockroaches

Ask anyone in Montreal—they'll have a story of a memorable landlord. From showing up unannounced, to asking for illegal security deposits, to clogging tenant toilets and raising hell over missed rent, landlords are the rulers of our domestic domains, and we, as renters, are subject to their will.

That's not right.

In this city, landlords hold sway. Montreal is Canada's second largest metropolitan centre. Renters represent 61 per cent of the city's occupants. With over 170,000 university students in Montreal, rental turnover rate is high, and it's rare that tenants stay in the same space year-to-year. This means that property owners largely remain unaccountable, their tenants often too relieved to be rid of a shitty landlord to ever press for consequences. Some proprietors aren't even accessible—when you've got 400 different dwellings to worry about, replacing a faulty stove isn't a main

priority—but it should be.

The *Régie du Logement*—Montreal's institution meant to properly handle residency complaints—only exacerbates this issue of accountability. With such a high volume of complaints received, and what can only be described as a Sisyphean amount of internal bureaucratic bullshit, complaints are often not heard for months, or even years.

With a general population in such constant flux, students moving in, around and eventually out of Montreal all together, filing complaints is often considered a useless avenue. Operating on the *Régie*'s timescale, you could have graduated, moved, or died, by the time they address the fact that your landlord stole \$900 worth of lumber from you two years prior. Even if a tribunal comes to a favourable conclusion, execution of the decision seems an even trickier process, if the *Régie*'s online pamphlet is any indication.

The problem is, anyone can be a landlord. You don't need a degree, or a certificate, or a psychological evaluation. With just a series of permits and some cash, anyone is suddenly allowed to own domestic space. Being a landlord should be more of a responsibility—you are responsible for a person's home, not just collecting rent and handing out arbitrary punishments.

Landlords hold so much power in our lives, and yet tenants are offered so little recourse for managing them. The need for better, more attentive landlords is more pressing each year. Since almost half of Montreal's private housing was built before 1961, their maintenance is "below par," and only getting worse.

What this city needs is a little more regulation, and a lot less room for rogue proprietors. Montreal needs greater regulation of landlords, and more avenues for tenant support. At Concordia, both the Housing and Job

Bank and the Student Advocacy Centre offer housing advice and legal representation in dwelling disputes; there are also a smattering of other independent housing advocacy services around the city—but a smattering isn't nearly enough.

The Link is tired of a Montreal where tenants are expected to prepare for shitty landlords, where it's near impossible to find any information on a proprietor, let alone a rap sheet of past dealings. Right now, tenants are forced to navigate a sea of potentially dangerous, sinister or simply incompetent property owners, nearly all alone and without any access to background information outside of whatever anecdotes they can scrounge from previous tenants.

As it stands, housing in Montreal is a constant struggle between tenants and landlords, and *The Link* stands firmly with the former, who often lack control in this power dynamic.

THE LINK

Volume 36, Issue 13
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015
Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8
editor: 514-848-2424 x. 7407
arts: 514-848-2424 x. 5813
news: 514-848-2424 x. 8682
business: 514-848-7406
advertising: 514-848-7406

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.

CONTRIBUTORS: Carl Bindman, L.A. Bonte, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Alex Carriere, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Ocean DeRouchie, Matt Garies, Sarah Jesmer, Brandon Johnston, Sam Jones, Zachary Kamel, Caitly Hall, Chris Michaud, Julia Miele, May Newland, Gloria Pancrazi, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Andrea Pritchett, Robin Psaila, Morag Rahn-Campbell, Ambre Sachet, Matthew Shanahan, Graeme Shorten Adams, Elizabeth Xu, Mariano Voronovska, Willie Wilson.

Cover: Madeleine Gendreau

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Due to errors during the editing process, a previous version of the article "Marching for Change" (Volume 36, Issue 12) identified Enok Ripley with the "he" pronoun. Ripley identifies as "they." In addition, the Sexual Assault Resource Centre was referred to as the Sexual Assault Research Centre.

The Board of Governors meeting referred to in the article "Can Students Strike?" (Volume 36, Issue 12) was on a Wednesday and not Friday.

In "Building Through The Fans" (Volume 36, Issue 12) it was written that the Molson family purchased the Canadiens in 2006. The Molson family actually purchased the Canadiens in 2009.

The Link regrets the errors.

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