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THE LINK

THE HOLE TRUTH.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER & MADELEINE GENDREAU

BONJOUR/HI

Bienvenue à Montréal, ville bilingue

BY MARIE BRIÈRE DE LA HOSSERAYE
@MBDLH

“Everyone is so bilingual, that’s what makes me embarrassed about my accent,” dit Susan Edey, ajoutant qu’elle n’est pas assez à l’aise pour s’exprimer en français. Pourtant Edey a fait toute sa scolarité dans un établissement francophone en Alberta, influencée par “lère Pierre Trudeau.”

Sa famille est anglophone d’origine, mais elle avoue qu’elle se définirait en tant que francophone n’importe où au Canada. Sauf au Québec. Vivant dans le Plateau, elle dit être trop complexée par son accent anglais en français pour faire plus ample connaissance avec ses voisins. Il lui serait moins pesant de vivre dans une ville comme Québec, où tout le monde n’est pas aussi parfaitement bilingue qu’à Montréal, dit-elle.

Dans la pièce du café bistro le Fixe, chacun prend la parole pour faire part de son expérience avec la langue, dressant un portrait coloré de Montréal et de ses différentes facettes. Des anglophones parlent des difficultés à pratiquer le français à Montréal, les services de la ville passant automatiquement d’une langue à l’autre en percevant un accent dans la voix de leur interlocuteur.

Languages shape experiences and environments. A unique feature of Montreal’s identity is bilingualism. Despite the obvious cultural richness that it brings to the city, it also creates a dual reality.

“Montreal is a place where languages meet,” said Jimmy Ung, moderator of the discussion “Living Language in Montreal” that took place last Thursday.

The discussion was presented by University of the Streets Café, a bilingual conversation group giving a voice to Montreal’s diversity. It offers a welcoming space for students and citizens to debate in French or English. The last meeting explored the unique linguistic specificities of living in Montreal.

The topic of the conversation came from within the setting of this series of talks, where everyone could express themselves in their language of predilection, said Kit Racett, a regular attendee who initiated last week’s theme of conversation.

“This is so wonderfully Montreal,” Racett said.

According to Statistics Canada, there were nearly 2 million bilingual people in Montreal in 2011. Young Quebecers have a high rate of bilingualism, set at 80 per cent.

Even though bilingual people make up a majority of Montreal’s population, other groups do coexist in the city. Around a million people are unilingual francophones and there is a growing number of allophones, people whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, that move to Montreal.

Statistics Canada data also demonstrated that an increasing number of immigrants become bilingual by learning French, and not English. This leads to new dynamics in the cohabitation of the two groups in the city.

Élisabeth Couture and Gail Marlene Schwartz are members of Promito Playback Theatre, a troupe which puts on plays where the audience is encouraged to share their stories and interact with the comedians.

For Couture, being bilingual and growing up in a multicultural family was a painful experience and a source of conflicts. “Ce qui est déchirant est d’avoir un pied du côté francophone et anglophone simultanément,” she said. The two cultures are separated, they coexist but never blend together or embrace each other.

Couture witnessed the language situation evolving in Montreal throughout the years but said she thinks the divide between the eastern and western neighbourhoods of the city is still as present as before.

She added that the way people perceive their environment is determined by their cultural origin, and this is why she felt the need to highlight the challenges of the complex situation in Montreal.

Couture and Schwartz created a community called Crossing the Main. Struck by how the artistic communities of the city were divided by language, they wanted to create a safe space for each to share their experience with language tensions.

Couture explained the goal of the project was to initiate a dialogue between the two communities on the subject of language and culture, in order to facilitate understanding.

Crossing the Main organized three performances, one in English, one in French and one bilingual. Schwartz expressed how surprised she was to realize most of the audience for all three performances was made up of immigrants.

Many anglophones attended the bilingual performance. After the show, the feedback she received from them was unsettling. They felt they did not have the space to participate, she said.

This episode highlights how language is a source of ten-

sion in the city.

One attendee at the talk, Jordan Levinson, said there is a historical context that we need to keep in mind—the issue is more political than linguistic. Raised in the U.S., he explained that there is much more to the world than just the English language, and that it is enriching to learn to live and coexist with French people who think and approach issues differently than him. He quoted Ludwig Wittgenstein, an Austrian-British philosopher—“the limits of my language are the limits of my world”—asserting that Montrealers need to keep some connection to the place in which they live.

“As anglophones, we need to respect the boundaries the French set,” he added. “They have their world that they have been protecting from the English imperialism for years now.”

Schwartz recalled her first encounter with Montreal when she moved to Canada years ago from the States and she first heard a “casual reference to the language police,” which she found extremely offensive.

“The language police” is the way some Montrealers refer to the Office québécois de la langue française. The OQLF regularly intervenes in the city to insure their rules are respected, such as the one requiring French text to be larger than English text on signs.

Schwartz understood later how existing within a predominantly English country is a source of tension for the French community of Quebec. As an American Jew, she related to Quebecers’ fear of losing their fragile francophone culture and compared it to her own experience with Yiddish, which disappeared in her family over two generations.

D’autres langues sont en voie de disparition. À Montréal, ville établie sur le territoire Kanehsatà:ke, la réalité linguistique n’est pas que double. Les populations autochtones se battent pour préserver leur héritage culturel. Le groupe Montréal Autochtones offre des cours de langue Innu, Cree et Mohawk, et les classes sont en sureffectif.

Pendant la conversation au café le Fixe, francophones et anglophones partagent leurs expériences, répondant à une langue dans une autre. L’existence même de ce débat bilingue représente l’essence de l’identité montréalaise, bien que chacun se présente d’abord par sa langue d’origine. La discussion permet de mettre en lumière les difficultés des différentes communautés de la ville qui rentrent parfois en confrontation.

CSU By-Elections: What You'll Be Voting For

The CSU by-elections take place from Nov. 24 to 26. Here is a breakdown of the referendum questions that will appear on the ballot.

GRAPHICS MADELEINE GENDREAU



ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

BY VINCE MORELLO @VINNYMORELLZ

"Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) agree to adopt an accessible education position for the union positions book, as outlined below?"

The question asks students to give "support for high quality, universally accessible postsecondary education as a human right," and oppose "any increase in tuition fees and obligatory institutional fees for all students, whether Quebec resident, out of province, or International."

Since 2012, the CSU has been opposing the tuition hike proposed by the Quebec government, while advocating for a tuition freeze. In the past three years, tuition fees for all students in Quebec have been raised. However, the tuition hikes have been more significant for out-of-province students and international students.

The position is in response to the deregulation of tuition fees for international students in six different programs in Quebec, according to CSU president Terry Wilkings. "What we're seeing is a historic change in the way that Quebec is charging tuition to international students, where they're becoming completely deregulated," he said.

In 2008, the Quebec government deregulated tuition fees for six programs. Deregulation means that all supplementary fees paid by international students would go to the schools and not the province. Therefore the government would not be able to subsidize international students in the deregulated programs, and as a result, the tuition rates have to be raised.

"[The tuition hikes] can be seen or interpreted as a pilot project to further deregulate post-secondary education in Quebec and we feel that it's important to take an emphatic position against that deregulation," Wilkings added.



CSU DAYCARE AND NURSERY

BY JOSH FISCHLIN @FISHYNEWSWATCH

"Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) agree to create a Daycare and Nursery service for student parents through the re-allocation of the Union's membership fees as follows effective Fall 2016?"

The idea for CSU's daycare project began in 2011, after a university study revealed that 81 per cent of undergraduate student parents felt that family obligations were either major or minor obstacles to academic achievement.

A CSU referendum in the 2014 by-elections also indicated that 87 per cent of undergraduate students supported the initiative.

The daycare will have space for 52 children, and will be able to serve up to 70 families, according to Marion Miller, VP of Academic and Advocacy at the CSU and the head coordinator of the project.

This referendum question is meant to balance the CSU's daycare budget. Revenue for the center is projected at \$441,438, with \$605,766 in expenses. This would leave a \$164,328 budgetary deficit—a major barrier for the project.

The referendum, if passed, would see a fee-levy reallocation of \$0.24 from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund to a Daycare-specific fund. The SSAELC fee-levy will then see a change from \$1.00 to \$0.76, and the new daycare fund will be \$0.24.

"Student-parents have numerous barriers that add difficulty to achieving academic success, and the CSU has a mandate to support students as much as we can—especially those who are marginalized within the community," said Terry Wilkings, president of the CSU.

If passed, he says the daycare project will be rendered financially sustainable.



COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE (CURE)

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER @HELENEVBAUER

"Do you agree to pay 8 cents per credit to the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE Concordia), for the creation of a new Fee-levy group effective Winter 2016?"

CURE provides the opportunity for students from all faculties to work with grassroots non-profit organizations.

When signing up for a project through CURE, students will be able to step outside the classroom environment and collaborate on innovative projects with local communities.

"The skills and knowledge that students learn at the university have the capacity to do so much good out in the community," said Cassie Smith, CURE coordinator. "CURE is the opportunity to use those skills and make those connections."

Until now, CURE has been a project of another fee-levy group, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia (better known as QPIRG), a resource centre for students and community research that strives to raise awareness and support for grassroots activism around social and environmental justice issues.

As of October this year, CURE has been a separately incorporated non-profit within QPIRG, but they're looking to branch out completely from the organization in order to have more mobility and funding, according to Smith.

With the fee-levy money raised each semester, CURE hopes to expand its community project database. There are about 50 projects now and Smith says the group wants to offer more opportunities for students in the near future. CURE also wants to host more workshop events, conferences and round tables with faculty and students to brainstorm creative ways to integrate community-based initiatives at Concordia.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE VOICE OF EDUCATION IN QUEBEC (AVEQ)

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK @HIIMBIRACIAL

“Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) agree to affiliate with the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ), a province-wide student association that represents, mobilizes, and conducts research to advance the pedagogical, political, social, and economic interests of the university student population in Quebec, and pay \$3.50 per semester indexed to inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index, effective Winter 2016?”

Mobilizing against austerity measures and protecting the environment are two of AVEQ’s main concerns, according to Gabriel Velasco CSU VP External. Roughly 33 per cent of the collected fee-levy will go toward student initiatives like research, mobilization, lobbying, committee budgets and creating a student-run journal.

The student movement in Quebec tends to be dominated by white francophone males, Velasco said. He added that AVEQ will promote racial and gender parity within its executive team, as well as bilingualism.

AVEQ aims to be a more relevant provincial representative for students than the soon-to-be-dissolved Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec, CSU President Terry Wilkings said.

“Our students don’t really know what FEUQ is,” Wilkings added.

Last month, the CSU council passed a motion to assist in FEUQ’s official dissolution, as it currently isn’t collecting a fee-levy from its members since becoming inactive last semester. A coalition of student leaders split to begin forming two new organizations—AVEQ and the Union étudiante du Québec (or UEQ).

The executive team, which has six coordinators, will accumulate 21 per cent of the total money collected from its membership. This will go towards paying “minimum wage” for 40-hour weeks, according to AVEQ’s website. Twenty-two per cent of the collected fee-levy will go to a staff of five people to make a “living wage.” The five staff positions are executive advisor, accounting technician, office technician, translator and graphic designer.

The \$3.50 fee per semester will be tied to the Canadian Consumer Price Index. FEUQ partly failed because of a lack in funding and an inability to raise its fee-levy, Wilkings said. Having the fee-levy tied to inflation will act as a safeguard to prevent any future crisis, he believes.

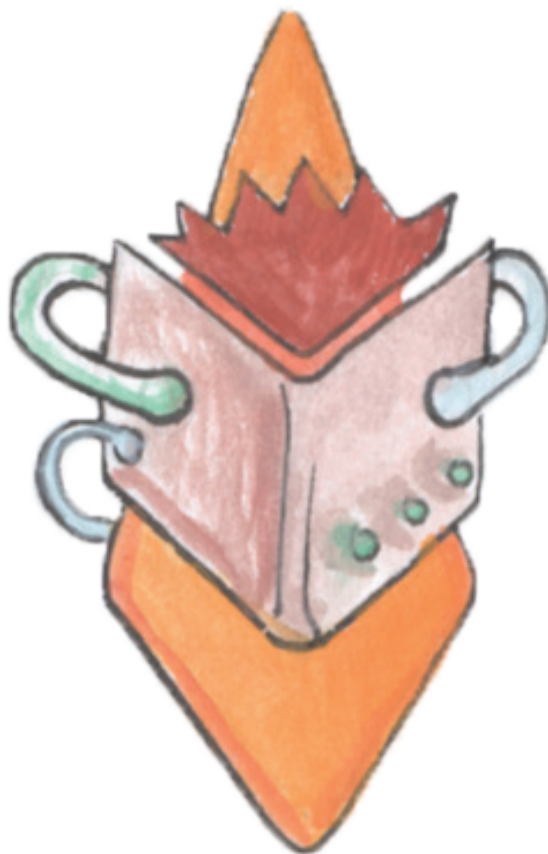
According to Velasco, the other universities that will vote to join AVEQ by the winter semester include the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Université du Québec à Rimouski, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, McGill and the education faculty at UQAM, among others.

In comparison

FEUQ: 10-person executive team, four staff members, \$2.50 fee-levy

Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (ASSÉ), which the CSU left in 2004: seven-person executive team, \$1.50 fee-levy

UEQ: 10-person executive team, \$4.50 per semester



SOCIAL ECONOMY INCUBATOR

BY SARAH LOZINSKI @SARAHLOZI

“Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) support the CSU employing its resources, including a portion of the Student Space, Accessible Education, and Legal Contingency Fund, to establish an autonomous Concordia-based solidarity economy incubator that will primarily engage students through the support, development, study, and promotion of democratic enterprises?”

“Incubation,” in its entrepreneurial context, describes a process of nurturing and supporting a business. The CSU wants to know whether students conceptually support the idea of money going to “democratic enterprises” on campus.

An example of this type of enterprise would be the Hive Cafe Solidarity Co-op: a bottom-up business model.

“[The question] is asking if students would permit using money from the [student space fund] for the purposes outlined in this question,” Benjamin Prunty, former CSU President and current councillor explained. “If the money were to be used for purposes other than those expressed directly in the bylaws that govern this fund, it would have to go to referendum again with an explicit amount and with an explicit purpose.”

In essence, students still have full control over delegation of expenses, whether this question passes or not.

Prunty explained that there are representatives from various businesses and organizations on campus working on a proposal related to this question, which would be put forward at a later date.

Delegates from The Hive, Burritoville, Concordia Food Coalition and HOJO are involved in this proposal. If this referendum question passes, Prunty said they would return with a proposal “to see if students are in favour of materializing a project that has to do with incubation.”

“This isn’t opening any kind of Pandora’s box of possibility, it’s really just asking students if they support further exploration in this direction,” Prunty said.



BYLAW CHANGES

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK @HIIMBIRACIAL

“Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) approve the proposed by-law changes as presented in the supporting documentation at the ballot station?”

If students vote yes to this question, then the CSU will no longer have a president or vice-presidents.

Instead, the union’s eight-person executive team will be officially titled as “coordinators.” President Terry Wilkings will become the “general coordinator,” the VP Finance becomes Finance Coordinator, and so on.

“It may assist in removing the ego aspect of the executives,” Wilkings said. “In the past, sometimes it could get to your head.”

With the changes in title come slight changes in responsibilities. For example, the Academic and Advocacy Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the Off-campus Housing and Job Bank, while the sustainability coordinator will act as the liaison within all sustainability groups at Concordia.

Wilkings says changes like these reflect the type of work the executives have already been doing, and having the duties mandated will provide a better blueprint for future teams.

If this question passes, the positions book normally found within the CSU standing regulations will be implemented into the bylaws. Wilkings says this is part of their goal to have more institutional memory from year to year. He believes standing regulations are more for day-to-day operations. Council can modify standing regulations, but bylaws can only be changed through a vote by membership in a referendum question, he adds.

Another major change is that members can call for an “information general meeting” with a petition signed by 250 members. The petition must detail exactly what information is requested. The meeting has to be held within 30 days of receiving the petition.



Partygoers let loose at POMPe at Katacombes.

PHOTOS COURTESY GUILLAUME BELL

Inside the Volcano

POMPe Offers Queer-Centric Haven

BY DAVID EASEY
@SIBERIANDAVID

On a dreary, rainy November evening, rumors circulate that an underground queer dance party is taking place somewhere within the city, drawing all sorts of characters out from their hideouts.

My curiosity tempts me to investigate this phenomenon, so I throw on an itchy Christmas sweater and take off into the night.

“Do I have the right address?” I whisper nervously to myself as I stand outside Katacombes on St. Laurent Blvd., a venue which traditionally showcases heavy metal acts.

I anxiously analyze the graffiti that lines the walls outside of venue as if deciphering hieroglyphics, and watch for any signs of life. Soon, I notice a small sprinkling of people trickling inside, with bursts of music igniting the street corner each time the door swings open.

Casting my fears aside, I muster my courage and enter this forsaken temple. Just as Alice falls through the rabbit hole, I find myself immersed within a whole new world. My pupils dilate and my heart rate quickens as I try to absorb my new

surroundings. It’s clear that individuality thrives within this space as I immediately pass a rainbow array of avant-garde outfits you’d rarely see in daylight.

This is POMPe, a monthly queer dance party that attracts people from all walks and summons them to the dance floor for a night of passion and debauchery. This is the last one of 2015 until it relaunches in January at a brand new venue, ending an extensive residency at Katacombes.

One individual catches my eye, appearing to be dressed in a full unicorn ensemble, including a towering horn and a bright hair extension glued to their chin.

“There’s a kind of release in nightlife, a place where you can create a parallel universe. A place where you are anyone you want to be,” explains Laura Boo, also known as DJ Like the Wolf, and one of the creators of POMPe.

“[There are] a lot of queers who still don’t feel like they fit in with the mainstream,” she adds. “I want POMPe to be home to weirdos and freaks, affordable enough for activists and artists who have leveraged their whole lives to pursue change.”

The cost to enter is a mere \$5, echoing the sentiment about POMPe being affordable for all. Although the event is labeled queer by nature, it appeals to a wider audience

including those from the gay and transgender community who are looking for something more than a generic evening in the Village.

“POMPe is fucking amazing!” screams reveler Riccardo Galvaldes over the bombastic beats. “I get to play dress up for one night a month,” he adds, pointing to his carefully applied eye makeup, echoing this sense of freedom and self-expression. I met him on my way to the washroom, and was immediately stricken by his choice of white t-shirt and jeans, coupled with the thick visage of makeup.

Following this encounter, the music cuts and Laura Boo makes an appearance on stage to introduce rapper Marshia Celina, who electrifies the crowd and provides a change in pace with some live music.

The event has long been a place where queer artists can take the stage, and showcases underground acts that would otherwise struggle to find mainstream success.

“We have musicians, drag artists, video artists, burlesque and lots of indescribable stuff,” adds Boo. “Folks that defy categorization.”

It’s demonstrative of just how diverse the monthly lineup can be. POMPe is not the only queer dance party to hit the scene—there is a litany of queer-themed events around Montreal. Monthly parties are held at Notre Dames Des Quilles and also at Le Belmont under the title of Mec Plus Ultra, to name just a couple.

As the clock strikes 3 a.m. and the crowd disperses from the dance floor, I watch three ethereal drag queens gracefully enter a taxi and drive away from paradise, back to reality.

Although partygoers now must wait almost two months until the next POMPe event, which resumes in January at a new venue called Felix, the evening was clearly a success.

I make my way to the dreaded night bus and ponder, feeling elated that I got some insight into this scene, and proud that Montreal is host to such diverse and accepting nightlife.

For upcoming queer-themed events, search for Jeudi POMPe Thursdays on Facebook.





Sesame the Bagel holds court in the streets of Montreal as the mascot of St. Viateur Bagel.

PHOTO COURTESY ST-VIATEUR BAGEL

Giant, Foamy, and Lovable

On Sesame, The Largely Unsung Hero of St-Viateur Bagel

BY ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

"The rules are, make everyone happy, and you're not allowed to speak."

It's hard work being a giant loveable foam bagel. But goddamn it, someone has to do it. Just ask Charley Radack.

"You're the first person to ever ask about the mascot," Saul Restrepo, manager of St-Viateur Bagel's original location, explains while laughing when I ask him about the bagel bakery's resident massive anthropomorphic bagel head, who, until recently, could be seen doling out high fives and hugs in total smiling silence up and down St. Viateur St. W.

"People think bagels in Montreal, or in Canada. First thing on their minds is St-Viateur bagel."

This is how Restrepo describes the long-time bagel bakery. A staple of the Mile End, St-Viateur has been serving bagels 24 hours a day, seven days a week for over 50 years. Established by Polish Holocaust survivor Myer Lewkowicz in 1957, three generations of owners and millions of bagels have come through St-Viateur's doors.

The franchise now boasts six separate locations in Montreal alone. Lewkowicz died in 1994, and was replaced by long time partner Joe Morena, who eventually passed on the bulk of bagel-duties to his three sons, who each oversee various bagel-concerns across Montreal. Almost 60 years after its humble founding, St-Viateur Bagel continues to hold an unabashedly firm grip on the Montreal bagel game.

But you knew all that. Everyone knows all that.

What isn't on most people's minds with the words "St. Viateur Bagel" is a huge foam bagel mascot. He is around six feet tall, made of foam, with two huge googly eyes and raised eyebrows, culminating a permanently surprised expression. His arms and legs, protruding from the sides of his delicious sesame

body, are coated in blue spandex and end in comically large white sneakers and two four-finger gloved hands. His name is Sesame.

I had heard tales of Sesame, but had never seen him. I knew I had to find the man behind the mysteriously silent, and yet totally enchanting, bagel idol. And so I did.

"I never speak. People get so angry sometimes. Kids not so much, they understand that bagels can't speak, but parents sometimes really want to say something to me, and I just won't respond. They're like, are you serious? And I just nod my head. Bagels don't speak."

— Charley Radack, former St-Viateur Bagel mascot

The man inside the semi-disconcerting giant bagel is Charley Radack, 21-year-old native Montrealer and mechanical engineering student at Concordia. He's also a DJ, the career that magicked him away from his storied history as St-Viateur's greatest incarnation of Sesame.

"It was the summer of 2011, that's when I started," Radack said. "It was my first day, a stupid hot day in June, and nobody wanted to be the mascot, so they figured, hey, let's let the new guy do it."

"Then I did such a good job, because I have a background in music and dancing, so I just applied a bunch of funky dance moves, and I got the job."

In describing the nature of his work, Radack was all excitement. Though he admitted it's difficult work, hoisting a "probably 50 pound" suit onto his body to dance and jump around in, he couldn't recall the experience more happily.

"You're in the costume, walking up and down the street, giving high fives to children, taking countless pictures. I must be in a mil-

lion photos," Radack mused. "What's really funny is that for the longest time I smiled in the photos, but no one can see my face."

Radack quickly shot to the top of the mascotting pole, becoming the go-to man for St-Viateur's events.

"They made me the official mascot. Whenever there was an event or anything, they'd call

also spoke of being pushed by excited strangers, even dry-humped by groups of fundraiser attendees. Despite these isolated incidents, however, Radack doesn't think it's the fault of the costume, so much as the performer.

"To a degree, yeah [it brings out the animal in people], but I get the people going too, I kind of feed it. I jump around, shake my hands. It's kind of 50/50, but I definitely feed it," he explained.

Radack has since moved on from Sesame, now a full-time student and DJ, but he looks back positively on his time as St-Viateur's greatest mascot. He expressed adamantly that if ever the owners were to call and ask for him to suit up one last time, he'd be back as Sesame, no questions asked.

"It's such an amazing job. Even though some awkward things happen here and there, it's always worth it to just have kids tell me 'I love you bagel man,'" Radack said. "It's a struggle, but it's always fun, just to be able to make kids happy, and great exercise if you want to lose five pounds in a day."



PHOTO HÉLÈNE BAUER

ANOTHER CASUALTY IN A TOUGH REALITY

The future of women's soccer in Quebec is uncertain without the W-League or alternative pro leagues.

PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Closure of W-League Brings Women's Soccer Down to Bare Minimum

BY TRISTAN D'AMOURS
@TRISTANDAMOURS

Women's soccer in Canada suffered a blow last week as the W-League, a second-tier division women's soccer league with teams operating in the United States and Canada, shut its doors.

It was the longest serving professional women's league in North America, founded in 1995.

On their website, a simple press release confirmed the folding of the league, and indicated that a 2016 season would not take place.

Jean-Pascal Ladroue, general manager of the Quebec Dynamo ARSQ, got the news a full week after the press release was posted.

"The manner in which they did it was a little cavalier," said Ladroue. "[This season] went well in our conference and from what we knew from the other teams, they were up for a new season."

For the league's two Canadian teams, the Dynamo and the Laval Comets, the recent news means that plans for next year have become much more complicated.

"[The W-League] was belittled because it was a league that didn't last long, but now we're under the impression that it creates a big gap," Ladroue said. "For a league that was belittled, I find it interesting that everyone is trying to find a solution for this."

Currently, Ladroue and his team are not sure whether they will be able to play soccer next season. One option for both Quebec teams would be to join the other second-tier league of North American women's soccer,

the Women's Premier Soccer League.

"It's one of the options that we are studying at the moment," said Ladroue. "They also have teams that act as reserve teams for their [North American first division] affiliates, so it could be an interesting product."

Jerry Zanelli, commissioner of the WPSL, admits to having discussions about incorporating the two teams into the league, but doesn't think it will happen this year, stating: "we just didn't have enough time to digest the whole thing."

One of the biggest challenges for the WPSL is travelling. Zanelli hinted the possible formation of a WPSL Canada, involving Canadian teams only, and recalled receiving interest from Calgary to join. He had to refuse because of distance—they were just too far away.

A positive for the Quebec teams is the relative proximity to the WPSL's Northeast division, which features teams from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Joe Ferrara, former Northeast division regional commissioner and owner of the New England Mutiny says he's been in discussion with the two Canadian clubs about "future plans," but warned that they need approval from Canadian Soccer Federation before they could join the league.

"We've petitioned U.S. Soccer to write a letter on behalf of the Canadian teams, to see if there is possibility that they could be sanctioned to play games in the United States, and that our teams could play in Canada," Ferrara said. "The conversation with Canada all starts with approval from the federation."

Closer to home, the commissioner of League1 Ontario, Dino Rossi, who as of last year started their own women's league, admitted to having conversations with his colleagues in Quebec. He would be open for top programs in *la belle province* to join his league.

The distance aspect would be an issue with teams having to drive to Ontario more than 13 times every season, but he thinks the costs related to it could be divided to keep them to a minimum.

"We would love to see them start a league but, barring that, we are definitely open to considering the possibility of inviting top programs from the province of Quebec under the League1 umbrella if the situation is feasible," said Rossi. "It's something that would pose some challenges but provide some great opportunities and so we're open and we will have those conversations when the time is right."

For Canadian women's soccer in general, a high profile option would be a look at the North American first division, the National Women's Soccer League. Many teams in the NWSL are associated with men's clubs from Major League Soccer and national federations. They often share their facilities with their affiliated team and are provided with opportunities to play top-level soccer.

Rhian Wilkinson, who played in four different World Cups for Canada, including the 2015 tournament on home soil, expressed dismay that she can't play professionally in her own country.

"I'm such a proud Canadian, I love play-

ing in Canada, and there's nowhere for me...there's not even amateur soccer," said Wilkinson. "I'm sad. I know there's a lot of people like me who want to play soccer at the highest level, and who want to play at home because we love our home."

"I'm in my thirties, I want to be able to play the sport I love, and do the job I do," Wilkinson added. "I want to be able to start a family and live in my country and it's just not a reality." Wilkinson currently plays for the Portland Thorns FC.

Having played in both Europe and North America, Wilkinson is convinced that women's soccer, and women's sports in general, are on the rise.

"Just look at a men's game from the 1960s and look at one now, and then look at a women's game from the 1960s and look at one now," said Wilkinson. "The trajectory of women in sport is straight up and the levels are getting better."

The Pointe-Claire native believes the businessmen who own soccer teams are attached to the idea of quick revenue for the dollars they invest. It's her opinion that they should invest in women's soccer for the long term.

"I want Canada to step up. I don't have enough money to do it myself and there's a lot of people who do," Wilkinson said. "I would like to affiliate with men's teams, but if not, there are some amazing women out there who have made a lot of money as good businesswomen."

"I hope that they see that there is an opportunity here to do something in Canada and to leave a lasting impression in sport."



Alex Tessier was named to the RSEQ 2015 All-Star Team.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRIANNA THICKE

A DYNAMIC DUO

Stingers Women's Rugby MVPs Set to Make International Impression

BY ERIK TRUDEL
@ERIKTRUDEL27

The dynamic duo centering the Concordia Stingers women's rugby team, Frédérique Rajotte and Alexandra Tessier, is set to establish their incredible chemistry in England for two test games against the host nation with the Canadian national squad.

It has been a winding road for the student athletes, who both started in a different sport before settling on rugby.

Rajotte was born in Montreal but moved at a young age with her family to Markham, Ontario. In grade nine, she was introduced to rugby and decided to join the team.

"I was a soccer player before I started playing rugby," Rajotte said. "The kind of contact area fit in with me because I was a bit of an aggressive soccer player, so I ended up quitting soccer and then joined rugby full time. I started playing [in a] club afterwards."

After starting her first year at Concordia University and playing with the Stingers during the 2012-2013 academic year, she left to go to Victoria, B.C., to play on the national team.

Elsewhere, a busy Tessier, hailing from Sainte-Clotilde-de-Horton, was playing basketball at Dawson College when she incorporated rugby into her routine during her second year.

About half a season into her math and statistics studies at Concordia in 2013, she decided to commit strictly to rugby. She has never looked back, and has earned several recognitions for her dedication, including

the 2013 RSEQ Rookie of the Year.

In 2014 the pair would start blossoming. Rajotte made her way back to the Stingers and her communication Studies.

In the past two seasons, the duo has made quite the impact. Tessier was named RSEQ MVP last year, while Rajotte recently earned the honour for 2015.

"I was in shock," Rajotte said. "I wasn't considering myself at their level particularly, so I'm really happy that my hard work paid off. I have to credit my teammates because it's a team sport, and it was huge for us to go to the nationals."

Both Rajotte and Tessier were also named to the RSEQ all-star team, holding the two centre spots. It's an honour Tessier is thankful for. For Rajotte, it's still sinking in—the aspiring sports broadcaster can only praise her teammate.

"She's amazing," Rajotte said. "She's a hard worker [and] I don't think she gets enough credit for it. She's obviously a shy person off the field, but on the field she has such a huge presence and I always tell people that she makes me look good on the field because we have a good connection when we play."

Tessier expressed the same sentiments. She added that it was fun for her because there is so much confidence and trust between them.

"I knew she was there and I could focus on my job," Tessier said. "We just connected. She was really good out there. It just makes the game so much fun and you can try more things."

McGravie has been the head coach of



Frederique Rajotte was named RSEQ MVP in 2015.

the women's rugby team since 2005. He jumped on the opportunity to lead a team to the nationals—the men's league is limited to provincial competition. According to him, it's been amazing to have both athletes on the roster.

"Knowing somebody out there, or two people who are out there can win a game by themselves is pretty impressive, so I think when it gets tough, people always look to them," McGravie said. "I think there's a confidence that's strong from playing with those people. You see them in practice the same way they are in games, so I think people take inspiration from that."

According to Tessier, much of their ever-developing chemistry has been thanks to their training—they have spent time working out together, running and weight lifting. Wednesday, they will be going to England with Canada's national team where they will be paired up again.

"We're actually going to be roommates, and we tend to be roommates on every single trip we go on, which is a bonus ... when you connect off the field and on the field, it's great," said Rajotte. "Obviously, it's nice to have a fellow Stinger because we know what's it like. We work together day in and day out."

Tessier remarked that representing Canada is already a memorable experience.

"I would say you feel so much pride," Tessier said. "You represent everybody who supported you. It's special. I'm having trouble describing it. It's like every time you wear that jersey, you deserve to wear that jersey because you worked so hard."

While Rajotte's first experience was at the 2013 U20 Nations Cup—where Canada became the only other nation champion apart from England—Tessier made her national debut for rugby sevens in 2012 when she participated in the World University Championship in France. However, she attributes the 2014 edition in Brazil, where her team won the championship, as her real start.

"After that, my first senior appearance was this summer at the Super Series in Calgary," said Tessier. "I earned my first cap against New Zealand and then after that we played the U.S. and England. It was a good opportunity for me to start at that level."

McGravie is hopeful someone will be able to put up the game in England on a live webcast, notably a link via Twitter. He has been nothing short of amazed by both athletes, whom he qualifies as great people.

"They train hard, they are committed to the sport, they are committed to their teammates," McGravie said. "It makes them easy to coach, it makes them easy to play with, [and] it makes them hard to play against. I can't say enough good things about them."

As the players continue to make their families proud, the focus is now about making an impact for Canada's national team, who will face England in the first days of December on the Maple Leaf tour, made up of with hopes of one day making the World Cup team.

"I think we just need to keep up the chemistry and then bring it up to that level. It's going to be fun," Tessier said. "It's going to be challenging and I think we both enjoy challenges, so I can't wait to play against England and play with all the other amazing athletes at that level."



THE **LINK**

The Environment and Sustainability Issue

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The Earth is reaching its capacity faster than ever before; through our consumerist lifestyles and heightened technological dependencies, we're living beyond our finite resources. Today's human consumption, resource depletion, and pollution levels require one and a half Earths, according to the Global Footprint Network, an environmental research organization.

In a city like Montreal, and especially in a community like Concordia, we are bombarded by messages urging us to "go green." We are confronted with a seemingly simple solution, but our actions need to be informed. In order to sustain future generations, we need to reflect on our first world consumption habits.

Sustainable development is using what you need without compromising future generations.

A major part of this is for the global north to diminish its excessive habits, reconsider globalization and heed to our own advice before criticizing "developing" nations.

Environmental degradation is a global problem, but solutions stem from local participation. Each of us can reduce our carbon footprints. Our legacy is a healthy planet, and it's on the line.

In this special issue of *The Link*, we present you with stories about sustainability at Concordia and in Montreal, and what can still be achieved.

Let's move forward together.

GRAPHIC ANDREW HARRIS-SCHULZ

Stop, Collaborate and Listen

This Ain't No One Man Show

BY MARK UNDERWOOD

Turn to the person next to you and discuss the meaning of sustainability—take as much time as you need, I'll wait.

That was fun! Let me guess what you talked about: it had something to do with compost or local food production. Perhaps you're passionate about trans rights, or cooperative business models. Maybe what you said to that person had something to do with urban gardening, socially responsible investments, or the integration of fine art into urban design. Oh, I know! You challenged consumerism and discussed how capitalism has warped our collective ideal into always needing more. Either way, I hope you enjoyed yourself because with that discussion, you just participated in something that is at the root of sustainability: collaboration.

There are definitions out there that outline sustainability in terms of the three well-known spheres: environmental, economic and social/political. Definitions are great because they give us an outline, a context for discussion and a jumping off point, if you will. However, the questions about how we get there are still abound. How do we do it, this sustainability stuff?

Truth be told, it takes a lot of different people from many corners of society, talking about how to do things in radically different ways. In order to reach that pinnacle of sustainability that's all the rage, the list of contributors is endless: artists, engineers, scientists, poets, mothers, farmers, mathematicians, journalists, accountants, electricians, people from marginalized communities, administrators, activists and even bureaucrats—you name it, they'll be involved.

It's more than just discussion. We need to come together and create meaningful, constructive plans that call out actions from the past that

got us where we are today. We have to recognize the existing unsustainable practices at the core of our society in order to build inclusive plans for change.

Collaboration is how we get things done, like creating cooperative cafés—the Hive Café Co-op was no one-person show—and build new greenhouses (coming soon to a Loyola Campus near you). Collaboration turns unused or ignored spaces into oases of food production: Le Campus Potager is a collective of folks from all walks of campus-life, growing food right on campus. It's how divestment from the fossil fuel truly happens and how we begin to create spaces where everyone feels safe. Collaboration is how we change the world.

So, if you have ever thought that what you are studying doesn't fit with sustainability, I would say you just haven't found your spot yet. There are quite a few groups at Concordia that would love to have you as a collaborator, volunteer or worker!

Visit Sustainable Concordia and chat about what's going on around campus. You could also pay a visit to a different group: the Concordia Food Coalition, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group, the Sustainability Action Fund, Divest Concordia, The Concordia Institute for Water, Energy, and Sustainable Systems and the John Molson Sustainability Group are just a few organizations doing amazing work who would love to talk to you about contributing to the integration of sustainability into university life.

We're all in this together!

Mark Underwood is the office coordinator at Sustainable Concordia.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

Why Can't Money be Green?

How Montrealers are Making Sure Our Economy Maintains a Sustainable Balance

BY CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

Good news: we're saved! The world's politicians will come together in Paris this month and solve climate change, once and for all. We did it. Good job. Go home, it's cool.

Are they gone? Okay, here's the truth. Things aren't hopeless, but we have serious work ahead. Whatever goes down in Paris, we're still looking at irreversible losses in biodiversity and natural resources, still watching the sealevels rise, still feeling the temperatures climb. But, finally, people are doing things. Citizen lobbyists, students, politicians, small-business owners—they are figuring out how to keep our world and our cities running sustainably.

But what does "sustainably" mean?

Ann Morrow is from Montreal's chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby, an international group that connects constituents to politicians, giving a platform for environmentally and civically-minded folks to influence policy. She sells sustainability.

"It's not that old paradigm of infinite growth: expand at all costs," she says over fair trade coffee. "It's a system that's in balance." Infinite growth and disregard for the consequences are, she argues, what got us into this mess. They took us away from our roots, severed our relationships with our land and our communities, made us see only money as the goal. Money, she says, is not the bottom line.

But balance is the real sustainability keyword—especially in the business community. No company wants to be told it isn't allowed to grow, that it isn't allowed to make a profit. Nobody goes into business not wanting to make money.

Take Shannon Cleary—she says the purpose of her hand-crafted artisanal soap company, Shakti Things, is to make customers happy. Her business is based on yogic principles and natural ingredients, and she tries to educate customers about their soaps, even when they come in complaining that their all-natural bath bombs leave suds—of course they do, it's coconut oil, not battery acid. Even she says, "if you can make a profit, that's obviously the ultimate goal."

Profit and sustainability aren't exclusive. They can't be, if we



GRAPHIC LAURA LALONDE

want businesses to contribute to our greener future.

"It is no longer a question of importance, but rather of necessity," says Olivia Oudinot, student and executive VP of John Molson School of Business's Sustainable Enterprise Committee.

She says growth is the foundation of our economies and

nesspeople. Laura Boroditsky has worked in the energy engineering sector for decades, and currently owns a company that makes solar charging stations for electric cars, renewz. Actually, renewz has grown so much that it's spinning off its solar and storage business into a new company that will soon

sary. Morrow sees growth as a potential distraction from what a company should be about.

"When you're no longer thinking of things in terms of 'grow grow grow,' you're creating beneficial relationships in the world," she says. Now it's important to note that she's not against expansion, but her

"I don't know why we need to create more power so we can create more stuff."

—Laura Boroditsky

businesses, but that there are two ways of looking at it. The first is growth as the enemy. The second is growth as a means of finding and testing resources.

"The first perspective isn't willing to work with businesses to reshape [them] in sustainable ways," she says. "The second is."

The second attitude—leveraging business into solutions—isn't only popular in nascent busi-

divest—Agere Energy. Growth is a vehicle for her company to be a force for good in the world.

"If I can find a way of taking solar or wind—resources that are still naturally free—nobody's going to be able to tax it yet, and [I can] turn it into something that can displace a generator," she says. "That's a good thing."

Not everyone agrees that growth is good, or even neces-

emphasis on small, local, grassroots businesses highlights her aversion to what she feels is unnecessary growth.

Others view growth as a symptom of a larger societal malaise. Alex Tyrrell, leader of Quebec's Green Party says, "the economy right now is based on people wanting to climb to the top, wanting to have as much money as possible, having as much luxury

as possible."

He says this leads to overconsumption, to wastefulness, to a poor quality of life. He says a lot of the things we need to transition to a more sustainable economy are actually bad for job numbers. His vision is to trim growth down to manageable levels.

"I don't know why we need to create more power so we can create more stuff," Boroditsky says, and she literally makes a living off making power and making stuff. "We've provided growth for ourselves, we haven't provided growth for that raspberry producer in Chile."

But Oudinot says that growth shouldn't mean exploitation or overconsumption—quite the opposite, in fact.

"There is no differentiation between sustainability and business," she says. "Sustainability looks at profitable stability and growth in the long run." What this means is if your idea of growth is to mindlessly expand, then you're killing your own chances for success.

So really, everyone is on the same side here—everyone wants balance. The problem is how we're supposed to get it. But is that a problem?

Boroditsky says change comes from governments and consumers pressuring companies. Cleary says it comes from ethical companies educating consumers. Tyrrell says it comes from smart governments enforcing laws on companies. Morrow says it comes from communally invigorated citizens lobbying governments. Oudinot says it comes from incorporating different approaches and philosophies.

But here's the thing: governments are made up of consumers, and so are businesses. There's interplay—the more voices there are talking about this stuff, the more ideas we'll have. The more ideas we have, the more likely that one of them will be what we need. It's here where the ideas will come, not in Paris and not in Ottawa. Here, with all of these people disagreeing on how to agree.

Once we figure out how to figure out what to do about sustainability, we get to move on to the fun questions. Like, how do we as humans on earth not fuck up everything, for everyone, forever?

Still the Cheapest Way to Travel

A Guide to Outfitting Your Bike for Winter

BY BEN KENNEDY

@BEN_PKENNEDY

GRAPHIC MADELEINE GENDREAU

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you need to, or even should, stop riding your bike. There are a few quick and cheap fixes you can apply to a bike you already own, or to a cheap "junk" bike. Here are five tips to help you coast through the slush safely and in style:

1. FIND A CHEAP MOUNTAIN OR HYBRID BIKE ONLINE

Kijiji or Craigslist are normally good places to look. It should preferably have a steel frame for added weight and staying power. The type of bike you're picking up is important since road or cross bikes often won't fit the thicker tires (knobbies) you'll need to kit them out with.

2. INVEST IN A PAIR OF KNOBBLIES IF THE BIKE DOESN'T COME WITH THEM

These are pretty basic tires, and an overall necessity for biking in the winter. If you want to feel a little safer in the ice you can pick up studded tires, just be careful when turning since they do tend to turn slower than pure rubber tires.

3. GET SOME FENDERS

These are a winter essential, whether you're wearing rain pants or not (and I suggest you do). When riding in the winter your bike will kick up snow and slush behind the tires which means you'll get soaked without a mudguard.

4. CLEAN YOUR BIKE

This is another basic which will go a long way in keeping your bike running without a hassle. Chains tend to wear much faster in winter and with the amount of slush you're going to be dragging your bike through, rust is always a possibility. Additionally, in Canada we have to deal with the ever-present salt which causes as many problems as it solves. Cleaning is pretty simple, especially if you have a new chain. Just take a cloth and wipe your bike down after every ride, if your chain is older or your bike has seen a few other winters you'll probably want that cloth doused with a mild solvent.

5. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Of course this article wouldn't be complete without mentioning the clothes you'll probably want. Rain pants are always preferable to snow pants as they're less bulky and easy to wrap a band around to avoid getting them caught in a chain. You may want to wear thermals or leggings underneath your rain pants to stay warm on those -30°C days. Gloves are also a must, as are scarves or balaclavas.



The Wheel Deal

BY CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

Le Petit Vélo Rouge Rolls Into Loyola

If you bike to school, do yourself a favour and pedal over to Le Petit Vélo Rouge—a collectively run community bike organization in the PS building of the Loyola Campus.

If you don't know where that is, go behind the Vanier Library, next to the parking lot. See that warehouse-looking building? It's in the second-most southerly door of that, on the west side, so not in the alley, but starting from—you know what? Just follow the signs.

Inside, you'll find a small room with lots of bike stuff—in fact, half the room is bikes. Most of the other half consists of boxes of bike parts, tires in massive piles and frames strewn around like skeletons after a really windy Halloween. There are workstations. There are tools. There are nice people.

"I like to say that we're like the little sister of Right to Move, but we're our own independent bike shop," says Morgan Rehme, a board member and one of Le Petit Vélo Rouge's founders. The sister shop got its own room—so to speak—in September, and is getting to work.

The store operates like the downtown bike shop, Right to Move. Le Petit Vélo Rouge is non-hierarchical, providing a space to repair bikes—and to learn how to repair bikes. It's DIY, so the more experienced volunteers might show you what to do, but the onus is on you to fix your ride. You can also learn to build a bike from scratch. While the whole thing is a bit messy right now, it has taken off its training wheels, and is open and functional for repairs if you need them.

Also like Right to Move, Le Petit Vélo Rouge will provide workshops on subjects such as bike repairs, best practices for winter biking, and more—according to Rehme.

"This is really an opportunity for people to learn," she says. Non-students are welcome, but students have a lot to gain. The shop is on campus, they don't have to pay for expensive repairs, and they can learn new skills.

"First establish yourself and then try to duplicate the model," says Mauricio Buschinelli—another board member—on the

similarities between the two bike shops. He says that LPVR was inspired by community bike shops in general.

Le Petit Vélo Rouge diverges from Right to Move in certain aspects, like selling bikes. Rehme says they started in 2010 as a group inside Right to Move that restored and sold bikes, before deciding to become an independent shop. Conversely, Right to Move doesn't sell so much these days; they have a base of fee-paying members. But LPVR will sell the bikes that its volunteers build until the shop is self-sustaining.

Self-sustainability is a long-term objective, according to Buschinelli. He says all the startup costs were met by grants, but the operations shouldn't have to be. The plan, he says, is to sell bikes, build a base of members, offer a service, and gradually wean from the funding of Sustainable Concordia and the Sustainability Action Fund.

Rehme says they want to be fully up and running by spring, but you can go now to start building a winter bike—if you're so inclined. She thinks it's a good idea.

"The end goal for all of us is the same," Rehme says. "To get more people on the road."



PHOTO NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Divest From Toxins

Why You Should be Making Homemade Cleaning Products

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER
@HELENEVBAUER

How's this for a paradox—we clean to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but our cleaning products are harmful to our health and environment.

Canadians spend more than \$275 million on household cleaning products every year. Industrially made cleaners are designed to disinfect homes, fight germs, erase stains and mask odours. But they are really doing more harm than good.

Evidence of these products' harmful effects isn't exactly new. According to a study published in *New Scientist* magazine in 1999, women using aerosol sprays and fresheners in their homes experienced 25 per cent more headaches and were 19 per cent more likely to suffer from depression than those who did not use such products.

It's best to forget toxic cleaners and go for the home-made, natural options instead. In other words, divest from bad chemicals.

During a workshop at the Concordia Greenhouse earlier this month, Sustainability consultant Shona Watt of Le TinyHomestead discussed the harms of toxic products and the benefits of switching to home-made ones.

Watt got her BA in wildlife biology from McGill and also has a Master's in environmental management. She encouraged shoppers to look at the ingredient list on their cleaning product bottle before buying it.

"Always avoid products with an extensive list of ingredients and really complicated long names," she said.

One example is 2-Butoxyethanol, a toxin found in many household products. It's a skin and eye irritant that has been associated with blood disorders and reproductive problems.

The David Suzuki Foundation is a non-profit, environmental organization working to reduce our society's footprint on the world. The foundation ran a survey in 2012 asking nearly 10,000 participants to provide information on more than 15,000 cleaning products they were using in their homes on a daily basis. The results showed that only 42 per cent of the products displayed a full list of ingredients on their bottle.

Currently, there are no regulations in Canada obligating manufacturers to disclose all ingredients in their products or warn consumers about chronic health and environmental hazards. This is an alarming fact that the foundation is trying to change.

The foundation created a webzine called "Mode de vie et compagnie" that focuses on applying simple and user-friendly solutions in our day-to-day life. It offers options on how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

"It's for people that care about the issue but don't know how to tackle it," said Jean-Patrick Toussaint, Science Project Manager for Quebec at the David Suzuki Foundation.

"We're a solution-based organization," Toussaint continued.

There are alternatives to using toxic products in homes. The first is buying certified natural products—look out for certified eco-labels like EcoLogo, Leaping Bunny, Green Seal and Ecocert. Nevertheless, these products are at times hard to find and quite expensive.

The other alternative is to make your own home-made cleaning products. It's simple, cheap, and effective.

Tiffany Auerbach is studying holistic nutrition. She came to the workshop at the greenhouse with her mother who is a naturopath. Green living runs in the family.

Within the last 12 months, she's been moving towards a more sustainable, healthy lifestyle.

"It's been an evolution," Auerbach said. "I started with my diet first and foremost."

She is now making her own toothpaste and cleaning products, and is slowly switching to organic makeup. Auerbach said that going green doesn't only benefit her health—it also benefits the health of the environment.

"We're not disconnected from the environment around us, we're all inherently part of it," she continued.

Most of the chemicals found in toxic products can't be filtered and broken down naturally. These invisible toxins are being poured down the drain and find themselves in nature. Montrealers experienced a very real example of this with the recent sewage dumping of unfiltered water in the St. Lawrence river.

To avoid using products that are harmful to your health and the environment, start making your own homemade products. These natural recipes will help you divest from toxins and create a healthier environment around your home.

The base of most homemade cleaning products is white vinegar, baking soda, and water—ingredients that are cheap and can be bought at any grocery store.

Do yourself a favour—next time you are passing by the cleaning product aisle, just keep walking.

BATHROOM CLEANER

In a 750 ml plastic bottle:
1/3 cup white vinegar
5 drops tea tree essential oil
3 tablespoons baking soda

1. Put all ingredients into a plastic spray bottle.
2. Fill rest with hot water.
3. Shake well before every use.
4. Use as you would any other bathroom cleaning spray.

AIR FRESHENER

In a 750 ml plastic bottle:
1/2 cup white vinegar
8 drops whatever essential oils you like

Put vinegar and oils into a plastic spray bottle, capable of misting.
Fill the bottle the rest of the way up with hot water.
Shake well before every use.

WINDOW CLEANER

In a spray bottle:
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/2 teaspoon natural liquid soap
(recommended: Dr. Bronner's)
2 cups water

Put vinegar, soap and water in a plastic spray bottle.
Shake well before every use.



Shona Watt encouraged shoppers to look at ingredient list before buying a cleaning product at a workshop held at Concordia's Greenhouse earlier this month. PHOTO HÉLÈNE BAUER

Dying Sustainably

BY ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

Don't Be a Jerk with your Dead Body

Death will come for you.

Most of us spend our lives avoiding this fact, pretending otherwise, but here's the truth—you will die. The fallacy in dying, though, is that when you're gone, that's it for you. In truth, you leave something behind. No, this isn't a religious thing—I'm talking about the impact your body will have on this planet after you're gone.

People have been dying for a long time, and due to the institutionalization of some effectively unsustainable burial practices, the world is currently a difficult place to rest in peace.

Nations across the globe are brimming with corpses that requested burial, or simply didn't specify otherwise. It's an awe-inspiring spectacle: Venice's Lagoon cemetery, has a massive waitlist; Paris, Mumbai and Mexico City, all three out of room for bodies, with plans for cemetery towers in the future. In Beirut, cemeteries reach into residential areas, and they've started to bury multiple family members in the same grave. Hong Kong ran out of burial space in the '80s, and now has over 50,000 people on the waitlist for cremation space. The list goes on and on—simply put, Earth doesn't have the space for burial and cremation.

Not only do we not have the space, but we don't even seem to be concerned about it. In Canada, we have so much space, and such a small population, that it just doesn't cross our collective conscious—we've got too much else to worry about.

These outdated burial practices aren't just a tax on our space, but also our environmental resources. Cremation releases carbon dioxide and trace chemicals into the atmosphere. The practice uses up nonrenewable fossil fuel-burning gasses. Embalming bodies requires non-sustainable chemicals like formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, and phenol, which are believed to cause cancer and all just get buried in the ground, along with a casket made of endangered wood, toxic plastic or metal.

Suffice it to say, Earth has neither the room, nor the resources, to sustain our burial practices. With this in mind, I submit to you, and to the Concordian community at large, a series of alternatives.

Death will come for all of us. The least we can do is prepare to leave the world a greener place.

RESOMATION

A sustainable alternative to cremation, resomation has been called "bio-cremation," utilizing a process called alkaline hydrolysis to break down bodies into bone ash and about 760 litres of liquid. Essentially an accelerated natural decomposition, resomation uses alkali and lye-heavy water, heated to 180 C, and potassium hydroxide to dissolve tissue. The whole process takes about three hours and uses 80 per cent less energy than a traditional cremation.

The bone ash can be returned, urn-style, to grieving parties, and the liquid, which is sterile, can be used as fucking fertilizer. That's right—for those not faint of heart, you can grow veggies from Grandma's remains.

Resomation remains of questionable legality in many Canadian provinces, but there are funeral homes that will do it for you, mostly in Saskatchewan.

BIODEGRADABLE CONTAINERS

For those of you still interested in the classic novelty of burial, don't fret—there are sustainable options. Some of the most popular options include being wrapped in a shroud, or interred in a pine coffin, which the elements can still get at. No trace chemicals are released into the soil, and no carbon dioxide is discharged into the atmosphere.

If you dig the comfort of a box for your corpse, a variety of eco-coffins are available on the market. These are made with fair-trade bamboo, recycled newspaper, bleach-free paper, or formaldehyde-free plywood. You can purchase them from a number of companies, and choose from several vibrant colours—spice up your eco-box, get interred in style!

THE BIOS URN

At the risk of editorializing, this is my personal favourite.

Take your ashes, and turn yourself into a fucking tree. You read that right—with The Bios Urn, created by a company which was founded by two industrial designers from Spain, you can use cremated ashes as fertilizer for a tree.

Ordered online, the Bios Urn is a cute little container of peat moss, soil and a seed of your choice, all wrapped in a small vase of compostable paper. Just add ashes, bury it, and watch your loved one turn into a beautiful fucking tree. This shit is wild.



You Shall Not Pass

BY TESSA MASCIA
@TESSAMASCIA

Local Environmental Groups Work To Protect One Of Montreal's Last Areas Of Wildlife

Out near the island's western extremity lies a diverse ecosystem few Montrealers would believe exists in their own city, but that's exactly what the l'Anse-à-l'Orme green space is: one of the last undeveloped—and unprotected—areas on the island.

Once agricultural farmland, the woods are now a smorgasbord of biodiversity; migrating birds rely on the space, deer graze in the area, and many other insects and animals cling to it as their last bastion of hope in an increasingly urbanizing human society.

Competing with this urban biodiversity is the housing project slated to develop half of the area's 360 hectares into a 5,000-home housing development.

This development plan has the full support of Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre whose administration wants to attract families, along with their tax revenues, back to the island and away from their migration to off-island suburbs.

Although the mayor's office was not available for a direct comment, Coderre has previously downplayed concerns on the environmental impact that the housing project would create.

"We are creating a kind of new model where we are cherishing the environment," he said at a press conference in late June.

Coderre and his administration believe they can develop at least 180 hectares of the land near l'Anse-à-l'Orme nature park without a negative impact on the area's ecosystem. Many environmental groups, aghast at the quick pace of development—early construction stages have led to the creation of an illegal gravel road for workers—are strongly opposing the plans.

"We are completely against the development of this natural space," said Don Hobus, a founder of the local environmental group Sauvons l'Anse-à-l'Orme. This group is not alone, as the West Island Green Coalition, the Sierra Club Canada, and the Green Party of Quebec, are also mounting efforts to raise awareness about the seriousness of the issue.

A relatively humble beginning for the groups has quickly snowballed, culminating with a protest on Nov. 7 that received mainstream media exposure.

"We need to stop development here for good," Sauvons member Ross Stitt said at a protest in November.

"Coderre's comments are just greenwashing the entire situation," Hobus said. "The development is going to destroy the green space and create another heat island—not at all what we as a society need."

Hobus was previously involved in a successful preservation campaign

against civic administration just north of Montreal in Rosemère. He helped collect thousands of petition signatures to pressure elected officials. The tactic worked—Hobus and other Sauvons members hope to employ the same strategy to save the area around l'Anse-à-l'Orme.

"We have thousands of signatures for our petition to preserve the space," Hobus said. "We hope to present it to city hall."

Although Saturday's protest highlighted the importance of the green space for locals, consequences of its destruction on a macro scale are not to be downplayed. Quebec Green Party leader, Alex Tyrrell, who was also in attendance at the protest, highlighted the importance the area has for Quebec in general.

"What they are doing here is similar to what they are doing throughout Quebec," he said, adding that it is hypo-

critical to destroy nature and then call the development "green."

"It's similar to the provincial government's Plan Nord—they are protecting a token amount of land and then playing with environmental regulations to fit their needs," Tyrrell said.

He made reference to the fact that the housing development, which cuts the marshland in half, would in fact destroy the little space left undeveloped.

The destruction of the area will do irreparable damage to the migrating birds that rely on it, the 50 or so deer that live there, and the plethora of other wildlife that call it their home, he said. A successful resistance, however, could prove to be the template for all future preservation plans throughout Quebec and Canada.

People of all ages, races, and creeds

had gathered to show their support for preserving the land, suggesting that protection for the area is far from a niche issue. The group's lawyer, Ricardo Hrtschan, was smiling with confidence throughout the day, confident that a legal injunction over the illegal gravel access road will work in activists' favour.

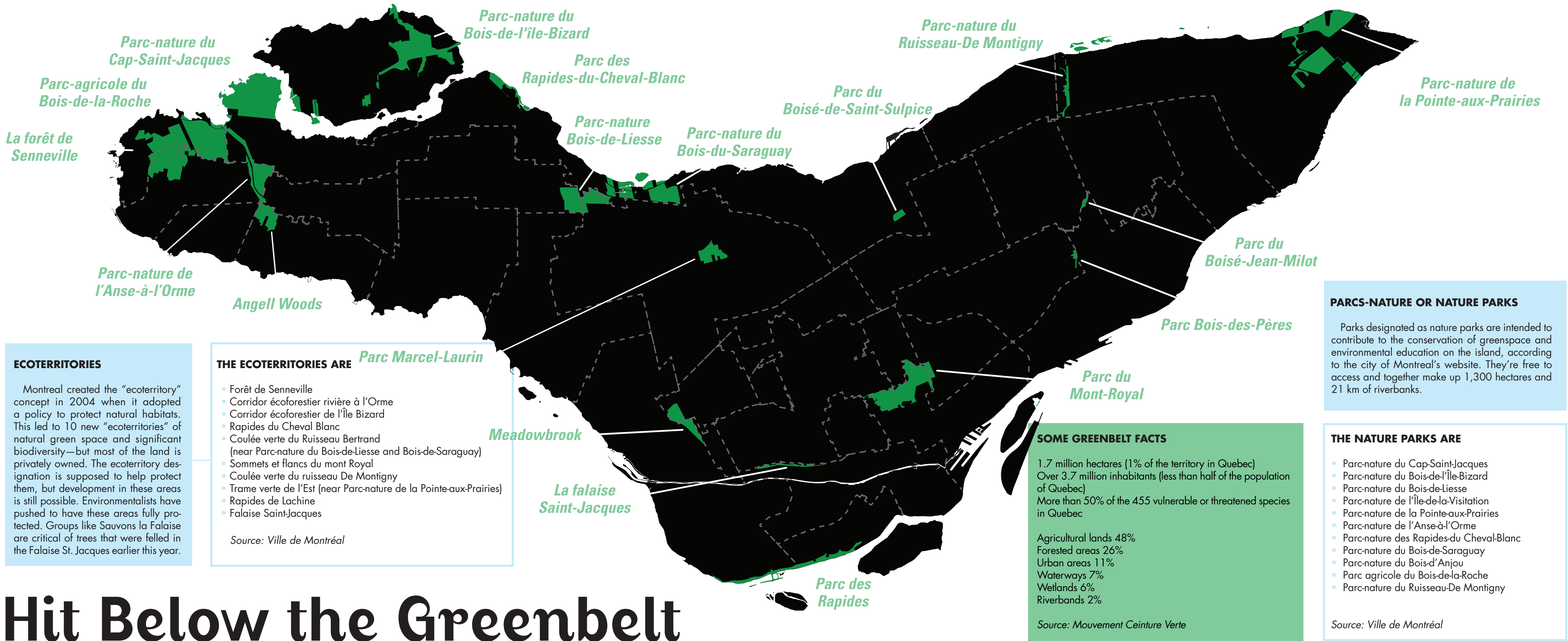
Sauvons founding member Sue Stacho wants to get more people involved.

"The last wild space in Montreal must absolutely be protected," she said, encouraging people to contact the group on Facebook, go to city council meetings, and sign the petition.

"Whether you are from downtown Montreal, the West Island, or Los Angeles does not matter," quipped an energized Hobus. "As long as you are a citizen of this planet you are able to be involved in the preservation effort."



GRAPHIC MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL



Hit Below the Greenbelt

Montreal Development at Odds with Green Spaces

BY MICHELLE PUCCI
@MICHELLEMPUCCI

Montreal and its neighbours aren’t winning any awards for protecting natural spaces—despite having a seemingly large number of parks and waterways—usually coming in last of major Canadian cities for green habits. It’s not that there isn’t the potential to be greener. A Siemens report from 2011 counted 19 per cent of the island as green space, though only a quarter of that is protected. Environmental movements began in the mid-2000s to develop and protect a continuous stretch of undeveloped land, otherwise known as a greenbelt, in southern Quebec, with the backing of Thomas Mulcair, the former Quebec environment minister and an NDP parliamentarian at the time. Nature parks were threatened by plans for the extension of a Laval highway through Île Bizard until the Trans-Canada Highway, inspiring an environmental movement for a Parc Écologique de l’Archipel de Montréal, according to Green Coalition president Gareth Richardson. Meanwhile in southern Ontario, the movement for a regional greenbelt is celebrating the 10th anniversary of a law that protects 730,000 hectares of natural and

agricultural land around Toronto. Montreal’s attempt at a greenbelt was described as a “green lace doily” in 2008 by Green Coalition vice president David Fletcher. Years later, the project has grown and gained the support of the David Suzuki Foundation, which hired a full-time project manager for the Mouvement Ceinture Verte earlier this year. The definition of a greenbelt differs in cities like London, England, which created bands of undeveloped land around major cities to contain sprawl. The greenbelt in Quebec connects 282 cities from Ontario to the west and the U.S. to the south until Lac-St-Pierre to the east. The idea is to put cities at the forefront, getting municipal approval before approaching the provincial government, says Sylvain Perron, project manager of the Mouvement Ceinture Verte. In a similar way, Perron will only approach Montreal’s mayor after strategically getting surrounding cities on board. The movement also emphasizes protecting agricultural lands from further development. “It’s a long campaign,” said Perron. “It takes a long time, you must reach every city and the idea of a green-

belt is not as known as in other places.” The Montreal Metropolitan Community has a target of 17 per cent “green and blue spaces” across the region. Montreal, meanwhile, increased its targets for conservation to 10 per cent of its territory earlier this year, but only 5.75 per cent of Montreal’s territory is protected according to an appraisal from 2013. “They’ve got a long way to go,” Richardson said. The MMC, which governs the 82 municipalities in the greater Montreal area, instituted its conservation plan in 2012, according to Michel Allaire, head of the Community’s environment department. The MMC increased its long-term goal to protect more green space in the region, not including agricultural land. Most green space land is privately owned and would be too expensive to purchase despite funding programs, according to the MMC. But cities can enact bylaws to protect forests and green spaces without having to buy up lots. According to the latest land use and development plan from 2012, only 9.6 per cent of Greater Montreal is protected—most of the protected area is made up

of waterways and parts of the St. Lawrence river—but there’s potential to protect up to 21 per cent of the area. **What’s at stake?** Citizen groups across the island have fought to protect spaces like Meadowbrook, a golf course caught in a tug of war between condo developers and local activists fighting for a park. The city agreed to rezone the land in Montreal West as recreational space. In areas like NDG, Meadowbrook and the slim strip of forested escarpment below St. Jacques St. are pretty much all that’s left protected. In Beaconsfield, Montreal’s agglomeration council, which has jurisdiction over island-wide issues, has promised to buy up the privately-owned lots that make up Angell Woods. The forested area is home to maple-hickory and red ash trees in the West Island and is on its way to becoming a nature park, which will create an eco-corridor with northern parks until Cap-St-Jacques. The western end of Pierrefonds is the latest area slated for a 5,000-unit development, despite locals asking for

protection of the territory in line with nearby nature park Anse-à-l’Orme. The area, a collection of overgrown agricultural land is now home to deer and coyote, according to Richardson. “It will be a huge development if it happens,” he said. “And it’s out in an area where there is really no access to public transport.” “Denis Coderre wants to do some things that are alright, but to build 5,000 households in l’Anse-à-l’Orme says a lot about what he thinks of green spaces,” Perron said. Richardson says there is plenty of brownfield—former industrial areas or land that needs to be decontaminated—for redevelopment. Keeping the green space in the West Island would bring the protected area to about 10 square kilometres and could become commercially viable as a tourist attraction, he said. The city could create something like the High Line in New York City, which transformed an old elevated railway into a linear park. Transforming hydro and highway servitudes into green spaces in Montreal can create corridors between green parts of the island, contributing

to a greenbelt. “You can do an awful lot if you use your imagination turning areas that aren’t very promising into green areas, and then using them to link up existing parks,” Richardson said. This is happening at the St. Michel Environmental Complex, an old quarry-turned-city dump that is being transformed into the city’s second largest park, he added. Montreal’s east end is also combating “heat islands,” which are significantly warmer urban areas caused by a lack of green space. “The hotter it gets, the worse the effects of air pollution,” Richardson said. “Even psychologically, people feel better in natural areas.” Quebec’s government committed \$2 million to add at least 15,000 plants in the east end. Heat islands contribute to higher levels of CO₂, which can trigger respiratory problems like asthma, as well as thermal stress. “There are many good reasons to maintain the green area that we’ve already got and increasing it,” Richardson said. “Montreal has a definite deficit compared to most other major cities.”

GRAPHIC ANDREW HARRIS-SCHULZ



The first eXXpedition sailed across the Atlantic ocean on Nov. 16, 2014 with a crew of 14 women.

PHOTO COURTESY EXXPEDITION

Women in Science Make the Unseen Seen

eXXpedition Crew Researches Toxins on a Sailboat

BY KELSEY LITWIN
@KELSEYLITWIN

How do you make the unseen seen? If you're the team behind eXXpedition, you put it on a boat off the coast of South America, with a crew of female scientists, filmmakers and policymakers.

"Our biggest tool is communication," explained Montreuil and eXXpedition Amazon 2015 crew member, Rachel Labbe Bellas. "It's really about dialogue."

She will be one of the 14 women aboard the S.V. Sea Dragon, sailing from Brazil to Guyana on a 19-day trek to study the pollutants and plastics that litter our oceans. As a marine biologist by profession from Montreal and fish-out-of-water by nature, Bellas will become an advocate for, as eXXpedition describes, "making the unseen seen."

As the city of Montreal authorized its dump of billions of litres of untreated sewage into the St. Lawrence River, Bellas's opinion is understandable. Outcry against the dumping has crossed borders, spanning continents, with international media calling attention to the controversial solution to one of Montreal's many infrastructure problems. The result: increased awareness about the harm of allowing waste to flow freely in the waters that surround us—even if the city suggests that the ecological impact will be minimal, if any.

Bellas and her team have their focus set on something much smaller than the condoms found floating along Montreal shores—think plastic microbeads, and then think smaller.

She is one of the three professional scientists on board who will be pulling water samples throughout their sail. eXXpedition's website explains that the samples will allow them to analyze and better understand the contaminants that have made their way into the ocean, forming gyres and integrating themselves into ecosystems around the globe. They have partnered with eight research groups and three universities worldwide who will help with the

analysis of samples collected during the 19 days.

The all-female crew will also practice eXXpedition's mandate by looking within—literally. The team will examine the presumed link between plastics, contaminants and human health by drawing and analyzing their own blood. Their website explains that, "scientists estimate that everyone alive today carries at least 700 contaminants within our bodies." Their goal is to test personal exposure to known toxins. Specifically, they aim to explore "the level of toxic exposure in women."

There's the plastic seal on a plastic yogurt container, the plastic contact lens case, the plastic wrapping around a head of lettuce; it's everywhere.

"It's become a part of our lives," said Bellas. She explained that growing research is linking toxins found in plastic waste with disease, citing BPA and breast cancer as an example.

Bisphenol A, more popularly known as BPA, is a chemical commonly used in the making of plastics and resins, often found in food containers. Research in the past decade has identified BPA as an endocrine disruptor. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, endocrine disruptors mimic or disrupt natural hormones.

In the case of BPA, the chemical—which one study found was present in 93 per cent of the subject's urine samples—affects estrogen production, which can have negative effects on breast tissue development. These effects are what some, including those behind a 2014 study from Tufts University in Maryland and the University of Idaho, assume lead to an increased risk of breast cancer.

"Synthetic things have injected themselves into our lives and integrated [themselves] into our genetics," explained Bellas. She continued to discuss that extra care is needed to understand and mitigate the risks—risks that she hopes to educate people about.

"I was never able to link my profession to my friends, my society," she said. "This expedition has let me do that."

Before applying to take part in the trip, Bellas was unable to see the correlation between her work as a marine biologist and ecotoxicology, the basis of the research that will be done.

"I didn't look at this as an issue I could be involved in," she said.

Even further, Bellas sees this as an opportunity to build a network of courageous, brave women in a typically male-dominated field. She said that this trip is bringing together "women in adventurous fields that otherwise wouldn't be recognized." eXXpedition—aptly named with reference to the two X female sex chromosomes—aims to highlight the work of the "unseen women" in science, technology, engineering and math education. They hope to "break down stereotypes, and also harness the power within them."

"You do feel alone sometimes," Bellas said about being a woman in sciences. eXXpedition changes that dynamic.

The female presence is increasingly important due to their stake in the matter, Bellas said.

"We have a stronger voice because it's our bodies," she said. "Women need to take charge."

While links between toxins found in bodies of water and disease are still preliminary, Bellas encourages all to take a second look at the products we're bringing into our households.

"It made me realize how [many] toxic things I have in my own home," she said. "At the end of the day, it comes back to us."

For more information on ecotoxicology and materials to steer clear of, Bellas recommends 5gyres.org and EWG.org.

Getting Back on Track

Railing Against the Dangers of Oil Transportation

BY JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISCHYNEWSWATCH

The train derailment at Lac Mégantic left Canada reeling in its wake. The disaster, which occurred on July 6, 2013, took the lives of 47 people. The incident brought into question the security concerns that surround railway transportation of hazardous goods.

Daniel Green, former Green Party candidate and environmental ecotoxicologist, was at Lac Mégantic five days after the disaster. He studied soil contamination and air pollution caused by the derailment.

"The Lac Mégantic accident—and this is based on the coroner's report, after the 47 deaths and the transportation safety board report—all said the same thing: that this was an avoidable accident," Green said.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

CROSS-CANADA OIL TRANSPORTATION

Peter Stoett, director of the Loyola Sustainability Research Center and political science professor at Concordia, claims that there has been a "remarkable" increase in oil transportation over the last two decades.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers released a document in March 2014, outlining the recent increase in crude oil transportation by rail.

The number of Canadian rail cars transporting crude oil increased from 4,000 in Jan. 2000, to over 16,000 in Jan. 2014.

That's an increase of 1.1 million tonnes of crude oil being transported by rail in 14 years, according to the CAPP report.

The report also forecasted an increase in the volume of crude oil being transported from 200,000 barrels per day in late 2013 to 700,000 barrels per day by the end of 2016.

Stoett admits that, due to the faltering state of the oil market, the amount of oil being transported has recently dropped.

Michael Bourque, president of the Railway Association of Canada, called the reported increase "misleading" and "wrong."

"The fact is that we moved very little crude oil before five years ago, and the vast majority of crude oil has only moved in the last three or four years," Bourque explained.

"Often you would get these crazy percentages that people were quoting for the increase, and that's because you were starting almost at zero."

Less than 5 per cent of all crude oil is moved by rail, Bourque said.

However, according to the CAPP report, oil transportation via rail car is going to see an increase due to a "three to five year period of constrained pipeline capacity" because of the current expansion work being done on the various pipelines.

NEW REGULATIONS

While making clear that he doesn't want to condemn the railway industry as a whole, Stoett believes Canada needs more regulation.

"It's clear that in the future, and even in the present, we have to move towards a tighter regulatory regime if we're going to continue to ship these massive quantities of fossil fuel energy," he said.

Stricter regulation was called for following Lac Mégantic. Canada's Minister of Transport issued a Ministerial Order in 2014 that was meant to increase safety regulations for railway companies.

Some of the new rules include implementing a 40 mile-per-hour speed limit for trains transporting one or more hazardous or toxic materials.

"For many years there have been speed limits through cities when you have certain classes of materials, and those requirements have become tighter since the accident in Lac Mégantic," Bourque explained.

The order also required a risk assessment before launching a train carrying hazardous goods, and demanded regular updates on any changes that might occur during the transportation process.

Green is not convinced that the current regulations are sufficient.

"We have to completely modify the Railway Safety Act of Canada," he said. "We have to reinvest in transport Canada inspections. When we change the Railway [Safety] Act, we're going to have to massively reduce the power that the railway companies have."

Green called for an independent body to have control over railway safety.

"The companies can do all the safety programs they want to, but it has to be mandated, regulated and inspected by independent inspectors hired by us—Canadians—and not hired by the railway companies, because they are definitely in a conflict of interest," he said.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

Stoett believes that modernizing railway infrastructure is part of the solution.

"We've got an infrastructure system that is basically not designed to cover the mass that's currently being demanded of it," he explained.

Bourque said the railway industry has had recent success in their efforts to increase the standard of tank cars used to transport crude oil.

"We've been pushing for a tank car that has more protection, thicker steel, and more insulation—features that have been found in accidents to be deficient by the Transportation Safety Board," he said.

The government of Canada has introduced a new tank car called the TC-117, which they say is tougher and offers better protection than the currently used DOT-111 model. The final DOT-111 cars will be phased out by 2017, but Bourque said it could happen as late as 2025.

"Let's take advantage of the opportunity to move towards the most advanced technology we can use in transportation—whether it's pipelines, trucks or trains—and let's try and make it into a sort of Canadian project," Stoett said. "We certainly have the engineering talent in this country to work on that."

BYPASS LINES

Green would like to see the introduction of what he calls "bypass lines," which would allow rail cars transporting dangerous goods to travel around populated areas rather than through them.

"This is a major proposal that essentially is being put forward by many municipalities," he said.

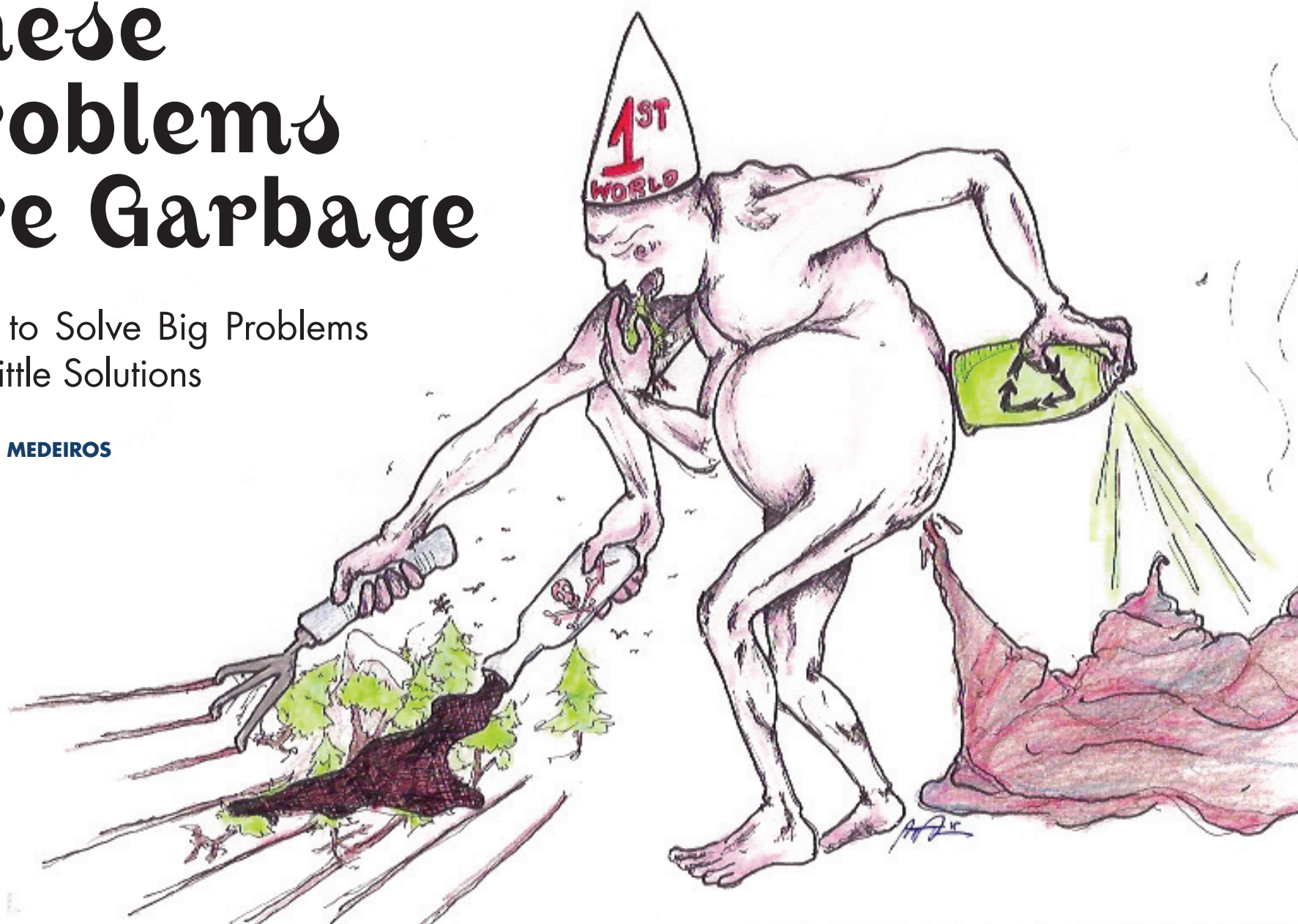
Lac Mégantic is trying to secure federal funding for a bypass railway line, according to Green.

"One way to reduce risk is to start looking at building bypass lines, so dangerous cargo will avoid high density areas," he said.

These Problems Are Garbage

Trying to Solve Big Problems With Little Solutions

BY BIBI DE MEDEIROS
@BIBIDEM



GRAPHIC BIBI DE MEDEIROS

Controversy arose over the city dumping billions of litres of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence river, but the growing issue of waste management wasn't discussed, though it runs deeper than any contaminated riverbed.

Humans, especially in developed countries, generate more garbage than we can dump, bury, or recycle.

Canada is the second largest country in the world, offering a wealth of natural resources most people only see as processed plastics and metals. But for all of this natural wealth, our environmental protection policies are lacking if they permit the hurried discharge of waste back into the fragile watershed.

We are world leaders in individual garbage production and one of the greatest exploiters on the entire planet, according to the Conference Board of Canada, an independent not-for-profit organization.

More bad news; we've got failing grades in most, if not all, of our environmental policies, according to the Pembina Institute and Canada's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, who assists the Auditor General in environmental affairs. Are you concerned? Because what's worse is that not many people seem to be.

Our individual consumption rates have actually been steadily increasing, according to the Conference Board of Canada. As our landfills overflow, "single-use

convenience" has been gaining traction in households—everything from Keurig pods to disinfectant wipes are produced, consumed, and tossed out in a hysteric hurry, but the recycling process is never fast enough.

According to Forbes, garbage has become America's main export, and Canada is no better, having dumped 50 containers of garbage in the port of Manila in the Philippines almost two years ago.

Thankfully, recycling has long been part of waste management and self-preservation strategies for cities. Since the 1990s, recycling has become a social norm, and more advanced technologies make it easier to process some kinds of waste.

In 2004, while 73 per cent of all waste in Canada went to landfills, the rest was diverted to recycling, composting, and other repurposing strategies, according to StatsCan. More and more people are recycling, so at this steady pace of growth, we can expect to see all of our garbage recycled and back in our hands in no time. Right?

Except for one detail. Our lust for convenient commodities grinds out a never-ending series of packaging innovations, which prolong shelf life, make the frozen foods stand up without support, and ensure durability during long voyage from factory to Pharmaprix.

Most of these packaging innovations are made of layers of metal, plastic and

paper which make them hard to sort and recycle, or glass, which has always involved a cumbersome and inefficient recycling process, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

On top of that, our inflating dependence on plastic and its millions of equally toxic derivatives has a large negative environmental impact.

A study conducted by the Cambridge-MIT Institute analyzed the energy consumed during the extraction, production and transportation of a material, compared to the potential energy that could be received during the recycling program (after factoring in the energy costs of the recovery process itself). The study found that plastic consumed up to four times as much energy in its production than could be recovered at the end of its life cycle. Along with the economic blows the recycling industry is feeling as raw materials like plastic become cheaper to extract, recycling becomes a harder pitch to sell.

The more we examine the life-cycle of a product, the more we realize that our overconsumption can't be remedied with efficient waste disposal alone, as told in Annie Leonard's animated documentary, *The Story of Stuff*.

The problem is multilevelled, from extraction to disposal. Recycling is just one piece of the "reduce, reuse, recycle" solution. The first, and most overlooked, is REDUCE.

Growing global consumption is unsustainable, not only because its demand for toxic synthetic chemicals is harmful to our health, but also because the Earth simply doesn't have enough natural resources to accommodate the Western ideal of the "developed world" for every country.

To live within the means of the Earth's resources, our "Ecological Footprint" would have to be 1.7 global hectares per person, which is a measurement of how much the planet and atmosphere can clean up after us, according to the Global Footprint Network, a non-profit think tank.

As it stands, Canada and America's footprints are nearly seven global hectares per person.

Our economy is based on the fast import of new and cheap materials, and the primary export of garbage for other countries to deal with.

Where will "away" be when these other countries finally "develop" to the American level and have to throw away their garbage too?

When our provincial government declared that dumping our waste into the river was our "only solution," they weren't being honest. Taking a dump in the St. Lawrence river is our only easy solution.

Instead of developing efficient waste disposal methods to accommodate our lifestyles, we need to start accommodating our lifestyle to the limited resources of the planet.

Sustainability Means Attack

Land, Autonomy and Social Transformation

BY JON MILTON
@514JON

Sustainability is about more than just riding your bike to work, eating less meat and composting. It's about transforming the social systems that have been imposed on us from models based on extraction, into ones based on mutual aid and reciprocity.

In an era where the rate of species extinction is 100 times higher than what it might be without man's environmental impact—and climbing—it's past the time for individualized solutions. The biosphere is beginning to collapse. Our future—literally, our generation's future—depends on taking action to prevent this.

If the movement for sustainability is going to be effective, first it needs to identify what it's fighting against. It needs to recognize what is causing this crisis in the first place.

Drawing the Lines

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly obvious the blame for the climate crisis rests on the capitalist economic system. One of the foundational concepts of capitalism is endless growth. On a planet with finite resources that are integral parts of ecological systems, that logic is bound to lead to catastrophe.

Capitalism recreates itself by subsuming individuals in different ways. In order to pay for food and shelter, people must earn a wage by working within the system. Debt also serves as a powerful disciplinary mechanism, especially for students who are forced into the capitalist economy to pay back loans.

Consumerism socializes us to believe that happiness is achieved through purchase of products whose creation comes from environmental destruction. The system is cyclical—need, work, buy, owe.

All of these economic compliance mechanisms are ultimately backed by the state. How would a landlord evict tenants without the threat of police violence? Why would a student pay back their debt without the threat of legal action?

Capitalism is a spatial phenomenon, where institutional agents—from the debt collector to the advertiser to the policeman—enforce a certain type of relationship between people and with nature. An effective sustainability movement should seek to reclaim occupied space from those enforcement mechanisms, and put new relations into place within the liberated area.

Sustainability Through Action

The Zapatista Army of National Liberation in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas was one of the first modern autonomous movements to successfully transform their society from capitalism to autonomy.

The Mexican government, as a prelude to passing the North American Free Trade Agreement in the early 1990s, withdrew constitutional guarantees of indigenous land rights, which had been in place since 1910. This ignited open conflict with the indigenous population of Chiapas.

On Jan. 1, 1994, the day NAFTA came into effect, the Zapatistas staged an uprising, taking over much of Chiapas. International solidarity poured in, and the Zapatistas negotiated a tense peace with the Mexican state that lasts to this day. The territory is still autonomous from state, corporate and cartel power. Land, which would have been used for mega-projects, has been sustainably stewarded by the population. The Zapatistas inspired a wave of indigenous movements throughout Latin America.

The Kurdish revolution in Rojava is another autonomous

movement, and is detailed in the article "Remembering the Father of Social Ecology" on page 15 of this special issue.

In France, we see that these movements can take root in the global North as well. When the French government wants to designate an area for development—often agricultural land—the area is termed a Zone d'Aménagement Différé, or "differed development zone." Environmental activists refer to them as Zones à Défendre, or "zones to be defended." In order to defend land in state-targeted zones, the self-named zadistes establish themselves in the area and build semi-permanent structures for long-term

Autonomous movements have shown massive potential not only to prevent the collapse of the ecological systems, but also to actively construct a way of life based on cooperation and mutual aid.

occupation.

Zadistes explain their philosophy with a simple phrase: "we are not defending nature. We are nature defending itself."

The largest ZAD, in Notre-Dame-des-Landes, has been described as "Europe's largest post-capitalist land occupation." This autonomous zone of 1,600 hectares has been occupied since 2009 to prevent the construction of the Nantes airport. This ZAD recently declared formal autonomy in solidarity with the Kurds of Rojava. Other ZADs exist throughout France, from Sivens to Roybon.

In Canada, the indigenous sovereignty movement is making serious gains toward reclaiming land from the Canadian state and extractive corporations.

A very prominent example is that of the Unist'ot'en camp in the Northern interior of British Columbia. The Unist'ot'en are a clan within the Wet'suwet'en nation who began occupying their traditional territories in 2009, in order to prevent the construction of multiple oil and gas pipelines. Like most of British Columbia, no treaty has ever been signed giving the Canadian state jurisdiction over the territory. This makes B.C. Canada's equivalent of the occupied West Bank—a land where settlers have simply moved in without permission.

The Unist'ot'en camp is a permanent settlement which is autonomous of the Canadian state, and regularly but peacefully evicts RCMP officers and agents of fossil fuel companies. It aims not only to stop destructive infrastructure projects, but also to move towards full decolonization. It has inspired a growth of indigenous resistance in this country since its emergence, including the 2013 Mi'kmaq fracking blockade at Elsipogtog in New Brunswick.

With the 2014 Tsilhqot'in decision at the Supreme Court legitimizing indigenous land claims, we can predict decolonization to proceed at an accelerated pace in the coming years.

Autonomous movements have shown massive potential—not only to prevent the collapse of the ecological systems we depend on for life, but also to actively construct a sustainable way of life based on cooperation and mutual aid. Through the embrace of ideas such as these, the environmental movement has the potential to fundamentally transform our lives for the better. A different world is not only possible, but necessary.



GRAPHIC SAM JONES

Justin, Ya' Better Follow Through

Will a Trudeau-headed Liberal Government Push For Real Environmental Sustainability?

BY LUCINDA KIPARISSIS

It's been a pretty shitty nine years in Ottawa, as far as environmental policy goes.

Take it from Canada's proverbial trophy cabinet decorated with five Fossil of the Year awards from international climate watchdogs—which former Conservative Environment Minister Peter Kent said we should wear “with honour.”

Take it from my own “unquestionable authority” as a budding “political scientist,” take it from actual scientists, take it from the increasing number of Canadians—without any particular titles or expertise—that named the environment their primary issue going into this election.

Take it from anyone concerned about our ability to live on this planet beyond the next few fiscal years.

Take it from anyone who recognized that the Conservative's miniscule target of 30 per cent reduction in 2005 emission-levels by the year 2030 without any real plan was insulting bupkis.

So, good riddance to them!

But with a new ruling party coming into office under the slogan of “real change,” how much actual change on the environment can we expect from the Liberals? Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been in office for just about two weeks.

There isn't too much to base an outlook on, save for promises made in his party's official campaign platform, and what has been said and done since the election.

As far as action goes, they haven't been too shabby so far—but it was as easy as reversing some of Harper's most noxious attacks on research-based policy-making. In particular, integral to a positive direction for environmental policy has been the “unmuzzling” of scientists in the civil service.

It'd be nice not to have to congratulate a government for allowing their experts and researchers to speak freely to the public about what they do, without being chaperoned by state communication handlers or waiting for permission to talk to the media that would often never come.

It'd be nice, but as the daughter of a scientist in Ottawa, I've gotten the feeling that nice things aren't always to be expected. Though maybe at this rate, if we're lucky, government-approved press releases on the environment won't be dumped on Friday afternoons at the very end of the weekly news cycle.

Much of the Liberal platform positioned its promises against the legacy of the Conservative regime.

Concerning the environment, the platform pledges to reinvest in environmental water research and monitoring, the National Parks system and wildlife areas after Conservative defunding.

With the reliance of Canada's energy sector on the oil sands, the most politi-

cized part of any party's environment platform would be what they have to say about climate change and resource extraction.

Beyond increased investment and bond incentives for clean technologies, the Liberals have also promised to eventually end subsidies for fossil fuel industries, to develop a continental agreement on clean energy and the environment, and the cancellation of the Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Representatives from the oil sands are already voicing their disapproval, which is usually a telltale sign of being on the right track. With the simple change in name from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the CEO of oilfield-services company Mullen Group Ltd., Murray Mullen told *the Globe and Mail* that this semantic shift was “attacking the energy industry. That's what climate change is all about . . . it is all about attacking carbon.”

Stéphane Dion, head of newly rechristened Ministry of Foreign Affairs joked that he loved the Kyoto Protocol so much that he named his dog after it.

Dion has already committed to ensuring that climate change becomes a shared priority of the entire cabinet, almost as if it's some kind of overarching issue that should be implicated across policy portfolios.

Climate change has, unsurprisingly, been flagged as a primary issue for Canadian diplomacy, with the upcoming COP21 climate conference in Paris as the Liberal government's first opportunity to showcase their intentions on the world stage.

Trudeau has reintroduced group meetings between the federal government, and provincial and territorial governments—abandoned by Harper in 2009—to prepare for COP21, and will be bringing a delegation of sub-state and multi-party representation.

It's all seemingly good stuff, but is it enough?

One of my favourite consistent sources for internet absurdity is Next Media Animation, a Taiwanese news subsidiary which summarizes international events through CGI, with the kind of animation quality expected for the quick turn-around from story to YouTube.

Their piece on the Canadian elections included Trudeau and Mulcair shooting hockey pucks at Harper to knock him off of a moose, Harper dangling money on a fishing rod while Trudeau rips into a bong and Mulcair waves a rainbow flag and Harper operating a flying, laser-shooting niqab by remote control to scare voters towards the Conservative ballot box.

However, the video still manages to make reference to some shared policy between the leading parties: the English

subtitles read, “the top candidates are all in favour of laying pipe of some kind,” while Harper, Trudeau, and Mulcair all swing at each other with sections of pipe labeled Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Energy East, respectively.

Ultimately, there's the crux. Each mainstream political party is still mired, to some degree, in the same drive to maintain the status quo. Trudeau is already showing more promise than Harper on the subject of the environment, but not only is that the absolute minimum we should expect from Trudeau, it's the least we should expect from anyone elected into office.

Put a hedgehog wearing a little tie in the Prime Minister's seat, and we'd probably still be doing okay. Despite the call to end subsidies and to move towards better energy technologies, a bit more reinvestment isn't going to shift our energy sector away from resource extraction.

Though Trudeau has pledged to cancel one pipeline project, he and Dion both expressed “disappointment” with President Obama's denial of Keystone XL, and have offloaded responsibility for outright supporting the Energy East pipeline with faith that corporate-dominated regulatory processes will work in the interest of

everyone.

The increased willingness to engage in diplomacy and global conversation on climate change is good, but when was the last time international summits and goal-setting alone has convinced others of the need for drastic change in how we shape our consumption and economies?

Trudeau says he's waiting to consult with the provinces and territories before developing a climate action plan, but there's no framework or guarantee that whatever is developed will have any kind of ambition or tangible challenge to business as usual.

The Liberals have called themselves “Canada's natural governing party,” and that's a problem if we consider that the governing of Canada, up until now and before Harper, has never really prioritized the environment in a meaningful way.

If we're lucky, the Liberals will take advantage of the agitation for change that got them back into power and do something substantial beyond some name changes and redistribution of money. Between systemic change and climate change, we'll see if they have the moxie to embrace the option that will take a bit more work and courage.



GRAPHIC ELIZABETH XU

Remembering the Father of Social Ecology

Oxford University Press Releases Murray Bookchin's Biography

BY JON MILTON
@514JON

Murray Bookchin "died in 2006 a disappointed man," said Janet Biehl, the author of *Ecology or Catastrophe: The Life of Murray Bookchin*. At the time of his death, his dream of social revolution had failed to materialize.

Montreal publisher Black Rose Books recently hosted three book launches from Nov. 10 to 12 for the biography of the founder of the field of social ecology and longtime revolutionary theorist. Social ecology is a social theory that considers environmental problems as rooted in social issues.

The first launch at McGill was organized as a presentation by Biehl, who was Bookchin's editor for the last two decades, as well as his close friend.

Despite the biography—the first ever written about Bookchin—being published by Oxford University Press, Dimitrios Roussopoulos, founder of Black Rose Books, helped with the launch. This was in part because of his friendship with Biehl, as well as his admiration for Bookchin, whom Black Rose previously collaborated with.

Only around 25 people showed up, but Roussopoulos mentioned early on that this was "not reflective of how much McGill students care about making change." He cited the student body's help in creating the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre, a group that works toward a greener Montreal and operates on Bookchin's principles of social ecology.

Roussopoulos also mentioned that the decision to host the final French-language book launch at UQAM on Thursday was partially due to GRIP-UQAM, the university's public-interest research group, which was founded explicitly on social ecology.

Born in New York City in 1921 to Russian-Jewish parents, Bookchin was raised as a revolutionary. Biehl described his identity as being "socialist first, Russian second, Jewish third." He immersed himself in the growing revolutionary spirit left in the wake of the Depression decade of the 1930s, building skills as an orator and a writer.

As time went on, Bookchin broke with the Marxist left, and began to gravitate towards environmentalism in the late 1950s—mostly due to concerns over

pesticides being used on food.

"He saw this as happening because of how large-scale and centralized farming had become," Biehl explained. "And then he started formulating the same critique of cities and political units." Decentralization of power became his new project, and with that he began to gravitate towards anarchism. By the end of the 1950s, Bookchin was looking to realize structures that could carry out this decentralization.

"He was really inspired by ancient Greece's face-to-face democracy," Biehl said. She continued that this was despite the fact that it was an "incomplete" democracy, largely due to the marginalization of anyone who wasn't a male with property.

"He wanted to find a way to implement [assembly democracy] universally," Biehl said. Bookchin imagined that if everyone at the local level had to debate and vote on whether or not to scrap their own environ-

ment, it would never happen. He began to organize people towards this idea, which he termed libertarian municipalism.

As the first Earth Day came around in 1970, people began to embrace his ideas. The movement for direct democracy saw gains in cities such as Burlington, Vermont—where Bookchin lived at the time—and Montreal.

The Montreal Citizens' Movement made major progress in the election of 1974 on a Bookchin-inspired platform, shaking the seemingly unstoppable political machine of then-mayor Jean Drapeau. But the movement was "largely co-opted by the politicians," who took most powers away from neighbourhood assemblies.

Bookchin died in 2006 at the age of 85. "I wish he had lived another ten years," Biehl said. In the years since his passing, his works found an unlikely audience in the Kurdish population of northern Syria, which the Kurds call Rojava.

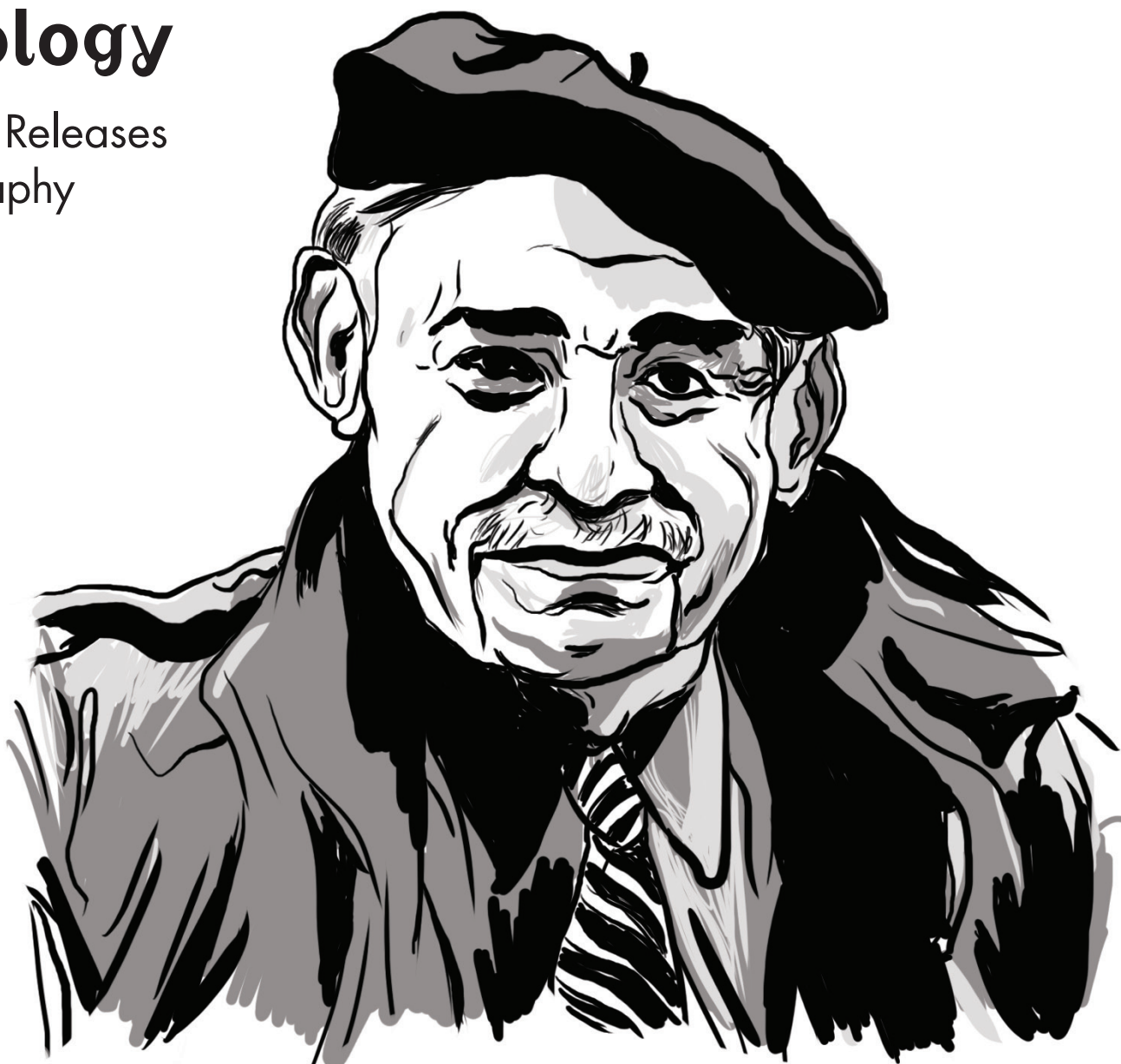
The Kurds have undergone a full-scale

social revolution since the beginning of the Syrian civil war, and have based that revolution on a tweaked version of Bookchin's ideology.

Biehl, who has visited Rojava, said that power in the stateless society runs from the ground up, with the ultimate decision-making body being local committees based in villages. She pointed out that Abdullah Öcalan, the incarcerated leader of the Kurds, began encouraging the dissemination of Bookchin's ideology some years ago, "so the revolution was ready when the war started."

"Murray used to say that 'there is no substitute for consciousness,'" she remembered.

The Kurds, who Biehl said "read Bookchin as part of training in their armed forces," have deep convictions about making their project work as an ecological, anti-state, anti-capitalist and pro-feminist movement. These convictions, she said, give the revolution lasting potential.



GRAPHIC GRAEME SHORTEN ADAMS

ONLINE

WASTING AWAY

Designed for the dump—we live in a world of buying, using and disposing.

SELL OUT OF FOSSIL FUELS

Divestment: the stand against fossil fuels and why Concordia needs to act.

HELLO PM, IT'S EARTH

Climate Welcome proves not so welcome at Justin Trudeau's Ottawa residence.

NATURE'S ECONOMY

JMSB guest speaker Jon Erickson's lecture on the Anthropocene.

UNDERGROUND SUN

Concordia is creating sunlight in the basement of the Hall building.

SOCIAL MEDIA IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Why Do We Attribute More Meaning to Events with the Most Coverage?

BY LINDSAY RICHARDSON

There was a man with arms outstretched, blindfolded, posed almost motionless against the brick of the Simons building. He stood still in the cold; next to him was a quickly written sign that read “*Je suis Musulman. Si vous me faites confiance, faites-moi un calin.*” More striking, however, was the semi-circle of about 20 people who surrounded him—camera phones poised, filtering his timely and arresting gesture in amaro and mayfair.

I’ve seen him several times since, in Facebook and Instagram posts accompanied by captions like “Stop Islamophobia” and “omg so sad this is what our world has come to.” The irony was needling: in the short time I spent observing, not one voyeur approached to hug him.

Taking recent events into account, this clearly wasn’t the first socio-political post to appear on my newsfeed. On Nov. 13, a series of coordinated terror attacks were launched in Paris, including hostage-taking, suicide bombings, and mass shootings. The attacks killed 130 people, and injured close

to 400. The world was left in a collective state of shock, and my social media was rapidly overtaken by a barrage of posts that feigned camaraderie and benevolence. In those first hours, Facebook and

Twitter were the best outlets for up-to-the-minute information.

In the hours after that, the tone of the posts shifted. Profile photos were changed to display the colors of the French flag. Then came the gratuitous “share this if you want world peace” or “1 like = 1 angel sent to Paris” posts. When some people caught a delayed wind of the attacks in Lebanon, there was an increase of Beirut-oriented content. All of the posts had similar implications—some were more explicit in their perturbation: how could we be so ignorant? How could we place so much importance on Paris when many people also died in Beirut? What about Syria? What about the refugees? What about the Syrian boy crying over his dead siblings? You play for the wrong side. Your opinion is wrong. Allow me to emphasize what I think, what I have to say.

And so it spiraled, at a breakneck pace, into a platform for posts with a decrease in relevance and an increase in virtual discord.

We have been conditioned to immediately attribute importance to the events that receive the most social media coverage. It can be argued that the problem lies within the news agencies that angle their coverage towards novelty—towards issues, like Paris, that carry irrefutable shock-value. However, when considering social media, it needs to be argued that we are in the midst of an audience problem.

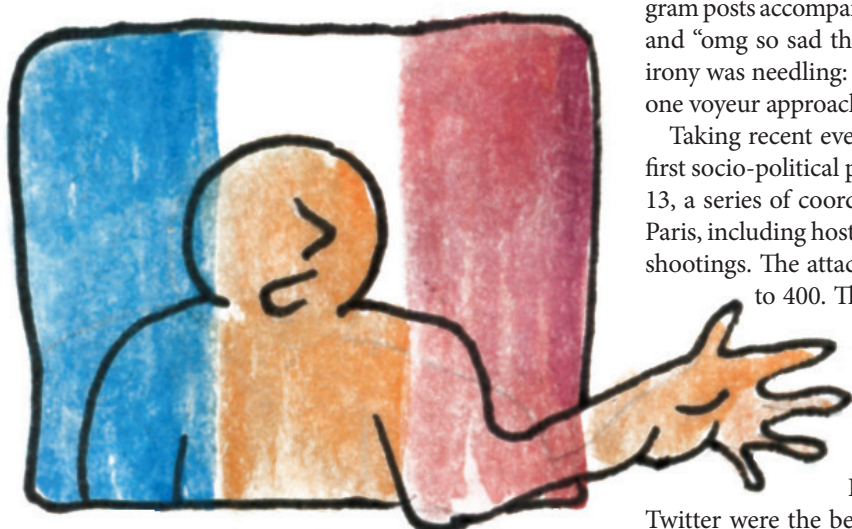
Social media lends itself to latent forms of narcissism and actually promotes petty forms of conflict that trivialize and mock the struggle of the grief-stricken parties. In times of crisis, it is not an outlet that promotes solidarity and a collective sense of grief. It is an agenda-pushing, self-aggrandizing medium that inherently pushes us to antagonize each other.

Through applications like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, we have been conditioned to put precedence on the value of “I”: how I look, how I sound, how other people perceive me. We assign social capital to those who attain the most likes, comments and shares.

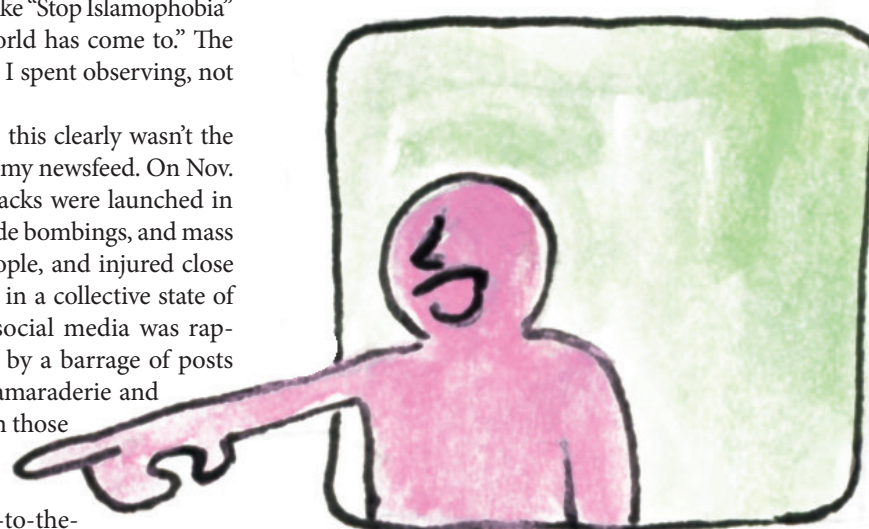
This is where a form of contention sets in. Times of crisis should translate to times of unity and social/political communion. But like the photo of the Muslim man on Ste. Catherine St., everyone is hard-pressed to show that they are aware of and impacted by the issue, albeit superficially and without justification by action. The way I see it, the profile picture change was more of a protection than a statement—without



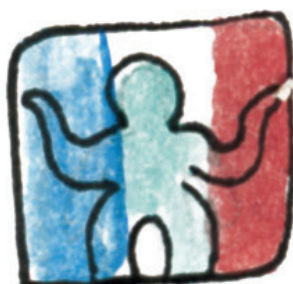
1 hr · 22



456 Likes 11 Comments 247 Shares



989 Likes 20 Comments 206 Shares



644,503 Views



1 hr · 22



6 people like this.

it, anyone was privy to criticism about self-involvement. With it, even the most unsuspecting Facebook user became part of this inevitable social media pissing contest.

Admittedly, there is some function to social media in times of crisis. Plugins like the “I’m safe” feature allow users in the affected areas to notify family and friends of their safety. Even then, Facebook executives had to caution users against using the feature needlessly—any number of us can attest to seeing North Americans click “I’m safe” during a crisis overseas, in either a smart-ass gesture or out of pure curiosity. Even when social media has a utilitarian function—crisis management—there are some people who put precedence on their own presence, their own statements.

The reactions I witnessed among both peers and strangers stirred me. As a proponent of social media, I know it can render some pretty questionable content. Even though there’s no concrete expectation of how people should react, I didn’t expect an audience so ready to accept likes just for filtering a profile picture, or to so readily condemn one another for not focusing on the “right” issues. I did not change my profile picture to the requisite *bleu-blanc-rouge*; I refuse to publicly place a premium on one group’s suffering over another. I hugged the Muslim man. I refused to let anyone photograph it. My grief, my own private vigil—for both Paris and the agonizing state of our world—is not for anyone’s consumption or commentary.



GRAPHIC SAM JONES

Is International Exchange Changing Concordia Students?

Studying Abroad Might Cause Students to See the World Through Rose-Coloured Glasses

SHARON YONAN RENOLD
@RENOLDSHARON

Eager, smiling faces surround me as I walk through the atrium of the EV building on a Thursday afternoon. Several tables are lined up in two rows, each labelled with a different country.

Bright-eyed volunteers motion for students to come forward and hear about their life-changing, horizon-broadening experiences across the world.

Concordia International is preparing for a new year of sending students on exchange. I observe, skeptical of whether the experience is really all it's cut out to be.

It's no secret that students' reasons for studying abroad are usually more culturally oriented than academic. Popular reasons include developing cross-cultural communication skills, improving foreign language skills and of course, the opportunity to travel.

A study conducted in 2007 by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada asked Canadian institutions why they so heavily promoted studying abroad programs. Forty-four per cent responded that their goal was to create global citizens, 23 per cent responded that they wanted to increase international understanding, 11 per cent said it was a means to increase intercultural awareness, and 5 per cent to increase job skills and employability.

Julie Triganne from Concordia International explained that the university offers

the international exchange program to give students the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the world and have an international experience.

I have gained first-hand knowledge of the world, but in a different way than an international exchange student might.

I grew up in a missionary family. I am the third of five children, all of us born in different countries. The places my family has worked include Panama, Mexico, Thailand, China, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Taiwan.

From a young age, I saw poverty, hunger and disease. I've witnessed political corruption, social inequality and systemic disadvantage. I have seen the world in a different light than many Canadian university students my age.

While studying abroad might be a positive experience for a majority of university students, I believe there is a blatant lack of education concerning the disadvantaged and underprivileged on an international scale.

Removing the rose-coloured glasses is a crucial part of producing an educated generation of university graduates that will fight to make the world a better place. Despite the fact that study abroad programs harvest a majority of highly positive reviews, students may not be gaining enough access to their host country beyond studying and sightseeing—something they need to see in order to truly expand their thinking.

A survey conducted by the youth survey service YCONIC in 2014 revealed that the

most popular locations for Canadian students are other English-speaking countries like the U.S., Australia and the U.K.

While traveling to these locations may be an enjoyable experience, students could limit themselves to creating a comfortable, sheltered atmosphere where they are almost exclusively exposed to the privileged social class to which they already belong.

Heba Faoud, a current international exchange student from Egypt recounted her interactions with international exchange students coming to Egypt at the American University in Cairo.

"Most of the people come from North America and Asia. Most come because they are used to the university," says Faoud. "What they all have in common is that they're used to the system and at the same time are interested to know more about the country."

Concordia does encourage students to expose themselves to the unfamiliar world of foreign lands. In the end, it depends on what the student expects to get from the experience and if they venture further than the university campus.

"We do encourage the students to make the most of their experience and we do tell them that it doesn't stop with the school," Triganne said. "It's really important to make local friends, it's really important to get to know the culture that you're being invited into."

Students who embark on the foreign exchange journey may forget that the exposure they receive could be that of an advantaged

group. Depending on the destination chosen, exchange students may interact mostly with other exchange students, missing out on other experiences entirely.

Josh Lalonde, a student who attended the University of Nottingham in Malaysia admits that his cultural immersion may have been slightly limited.

"I was studying at a British University where, I'd say, half the students were international students, but there were some Malaysian students as well," he says. "I did interact with them to some extent but it could have been more."

It all comes down to the individual who has chosen to go on exchange. Are they looking to broaden their cultural understanding or just to take an extended vacation?

Students need to be aware of the importance of exposing themselves to more than just tourist attractions while studying abroad.

At the end of the day, education is about instilling knowledge and opening people's eyes. Studying abroad is an opportunity to broaden horizons and observe the world from a different perspective.

Educating oneself on the legitimate state of a nation through direct contact with locals, exploration and observing the non-wealthy side of a community is essential to the learning experience.

Just studying in a foreign country isn't enough. If we as a generation are to change the world we live in, we need to know what it looks like—the beautiful and the ugly.



Crushing on Columbine: Mental Illness and the Cult of Rampage Killers

SAVANNAH SCOTT
@VANZILLASCOTT

In the wake of the attacks in Paris and Beirut at the hands of extremist Islamic group Daesh, it seems as though large-scale killings are only becoming more frequent.

I'm reminded of the racism-fuelled shooting in Charleston, the attack on moviegoers in Colorado, and the Dawson College shooting, which injured several students and killed one. With word of mass killing sprees all over the world, I can't help but feel like nowhere is safe—not even my own university.

In 1992, a former associate professor shot and killed three professors and one department chair on the ninth floor of the Hall building. A staff secretary was also wounded.

Over 25 years later, the aftermath of the École Polytechnique massacre in which 14 women were shot and killed is still being studied. Survivors of the incident suffered a variety of physical and psychological consequences. Most showed prominent signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and some even committed suicide, citing the massacre for their death.

A study conducted by McGill University also concluded that 30 per cent of those present at the Dawson College shooting expe-

rienced a psychological disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, alcohol dependence and social phobia, a level which is double of the general populous. These people witnessed unimaginable violence and suffered devastating consequences on their mental health—but somehow, there are people who think otherwise.

What many people don't know is that the perpetrators of these crimes have a fan base online. They're called "Columbiners." These are people who collect and share information, photos, videos and personal testaments relating to the Columbine school shooting with a focus on its perpetrators, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

On these websites the mass murderers are treated as misunderstood heroes, fighting in the name of unpopular and bullied teens. Searching "Columbine" on Tumblr will lead you to countless photo spreads of Eric Harris grinning at the camera including captions about his attractiveness and disturbing Nazi imagery. Tumblr users with URLs like "ericanddylanproblems" and "mournin-govermurderers" post intimate excerpts of diary pages and video footage of Harris and Klebold shooting guns in a field, and profess their love and devotion to the teens who shot

and killed 12 students and one teacher on a Tuesday morning in 1999.

The most popular Columbiners, along with many other serial or mass killer fandom bloggers, have followers in the hundreds of thousands. Most people would be horrified by the details of these gruesome tragedies, but the darkest depths of the web hide a cult following who not only encourage, but worship those who commit them.

Many prefer to simply label the perpetrators of mass killings as evil or sadistic. Our society is one that seeks closure through retributive justice, looking to our politicians for solutions like better gun control or security in schools. It is easy for us to blame the parents for not noticing something was wrong, or the musical influences of artists like Marilyn Manson.

The truth about these tragedies is that while the killers' motivations are rooted in hatred, many, if not all, are deeply connected to mental illness. It's crucial for us to consider how these attacks came to be and how we can prevent them in the future. Until then, they won't stop.

Research has proven the link between violent behavior and mental illness, and a 2013 survey conducted throughout the U.S. showed that 46 per cent of the respondents

believed people with mental illnesses were more dangerous than others.

The negative perceptions are only getting worse. While 63 per cent of Americans believe mental health is one of the main reasons behind these tragedies, there is still a huge stigma when it comes to addressing it. Research on the effects of labeling in the area of mental disorders shows that people with varying degrees of mental health problems are often stigmatized because anti-social behavior is thought to be linked to mental illness. Other research suggests that the media is at least partially responsible for this negative association, and potentially even the cause of more rampage killings.

So where does this leave our Columbiners? If they're only blogging and not actually engaging in these violent behaviors should we consider them potentially homicidal, or just troubled? According to an interview with some of Tumblr's most popular Columbiners by *Vice*, most didn't consider themselves violent, and justified their blogs as a way of dealing with their feelings of anger and depression.

Whether or not you think these blogs are a gateway to violence, we need to reach out to Columbiners not with judgment, but with empathy.

Nah'msayin? Ban All Barbers!

SHAUN MICHAUD
@SHAUN_MIC

I hate the man bun. This atrocity of the 21st century should be banned and its wearers forced to cut it off in a grand ceremony on Parliament Hill. In fact, people sporting hillbilly beards should also be forced to join the hair burning, and have their faces shaved, then scorched with a clothing iron for even entertaining the notion that overgrown facial hair should be trendy.

And what's up with undercuts? Men pay overpriced barbers to get a haircut that makes them look like jarheads. Basically, shave your temples and the back of your head with a clipper and you'll get the costly monstrosity. Better yet, replace the clipper with a hot poker and you'll get it permanently.

Those trendy barbers and their throwback

razor blades should be brought to the pillory of bad taste, their shops burned to the ground. Fuck fashion if it's going to leave nothing but lint in your pockets and skin where your hair used to be. These guys are the sworn enemy of hair, each night whetting their blades dreaming of cutting your god-given right to let it grow like a Chia Pet. They hate your follicles and will demand to shave to the skin like maniacal manscapers.

Let your hair grow, guys, and let it down, or learn to cut it on your own. Only go to the little hair dictators when it is absolutely necessary. Be sure to watch their shifty moves as they inch away at your temples like keratin-hungry termites.

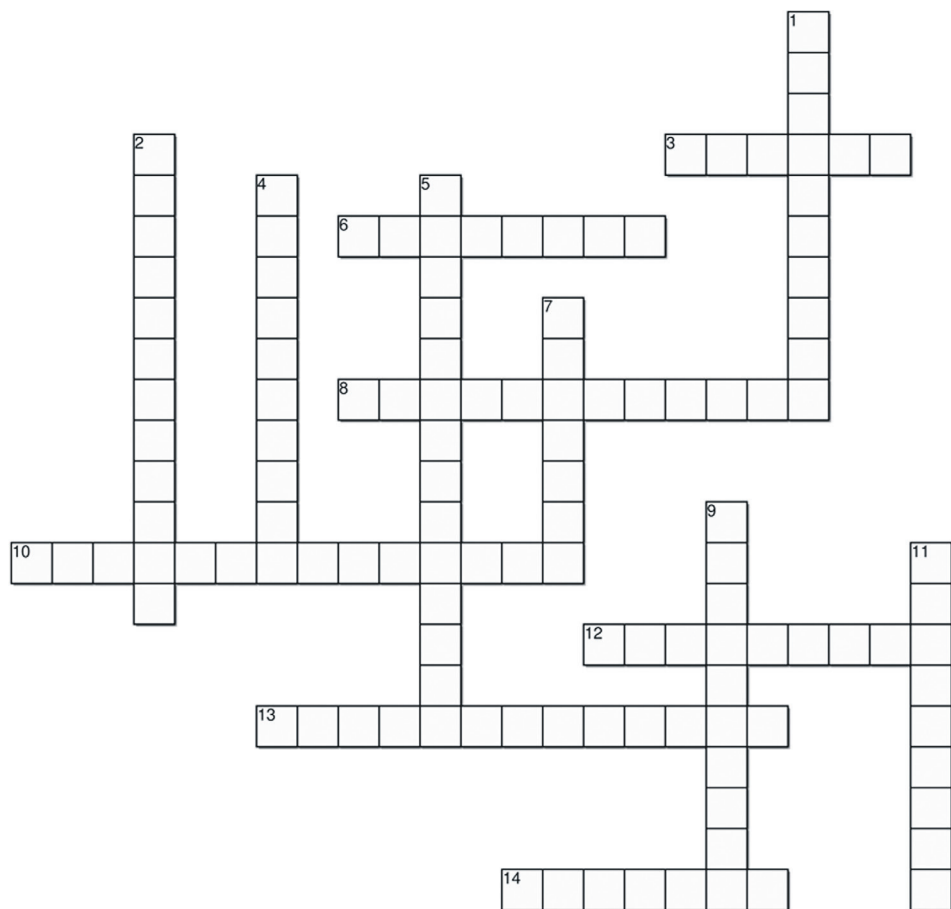
And stay away from bleach—it makes you look like dead rotten seaweed washed away on a fake Montreal beach.



GRAPHIC MADELINE GENDREAU

Environment and Sustainability Crossword

Struggling to find a word? Reference the page number in our [special issue!](#)



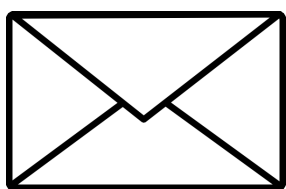
ACROSS

3. Opposite of invest. (pg. 5)
6. Harper loves exploiting these. They're lucrative, but very ecologically damaging. Shoutout to the Canadian west. (pg. 14)
8. The era we're in now—in which humans have fucked the earth. (pg. 13 online blurbs)
10. Living without jeopardizing people's needs in future generations. Basically, don't screw your kids over. (pg. 2)
12. "Everywhere-where-life-lives"-sphere.
13. You are this. So is your apple. But not your plastic grocery bag. (pg. 6)
14. REDUCE! REUSE! _____! (pg. 12)

DOWN

1. The best study space, above the 13th floor of the Hall building.
2. Term for the variety of organisms in an ecosystem. (pg. 7)
4. Environmentally friendly alternative to cremation or burial. (pg. 6)
5. It's a hashtag and a movement in which people participated in a sit-in at Trudeau's residence. (pg. 13 online blurbs)
7. A branch of biology seeking to protect the environment. Economic approaches disregard this. (basically every page)
9. Made from prehistoric biological matter (dinosaurs!), it becomes oil, coal and natural gas.
11. Fourth level in karate, judo, and other martial arts. Or, you know, an area where building is restricted. (pg. 8)

Letters



VOTE YES FOR THE DAYCARE

If you don't already know, the CSU is working to create a daycare.

This is an amazing initiative. The daycare will be right across from the Library building and will provide an essential service that helps make education at Concordia more accessible to an important part of our community: student-parents.

I can only imagine how complicated it must be to be a student, paying tuition, working around your class schedule and needing to support a child, especially if you're a single-parent. Being able to access affordable childcare near campus is a need that has been expressed over and over by student-parents at Concordia, and I am so glad the CSU is taking action to make it happen.

I urge all undergrads to vote YES to the CSU Daycare in the referendum on Nov. 24 through 26. The funding for this project already exists, but the CSU needs our votes to reallocate this money to the daycare initiative. We can all play an important part in supporting student-parents at Concordia.

— Cassie Smith, independent student

PRIORITIZE ACCESS FOR STUDENT-PARENTS

This week, there will be a referendum question regarding the CSU's proposal to open a new daycare on campus, prioritizing access to student-parents.

Although I am not a student-parent, I am thrilled to hear about this initiative. I know from working in a daycare for the past four years how difficult it can be for a parent to find quality daycare services. The need outweighs the availability.

As students, we have many endeavors and obstacles to

overcome throughout a semester. Add to that the stress of being responsible for a child and needing to worry about the care that child is receiving throughout the day. Those of us who are not student-parents can only imagine!

Having a quality daycare on campus, catering to student-parents, would offer them convenience, practicality and time-efficiency, thus allowing them flexibility for group projects, academic counseling and overall success—not to mention peace of mind.

The proposal at hand will not have any financial impact on student fees. However, it will highly benefit fellow Concordia students who have children. Concordia University is a community in itself, and we need to stand together to promote accessibility to higher education for all current and future students.

Support the CSU's Daycare and Nursery Project by voting YES to the referendum question on Nov. 24 through 26!

— Melissa Arauz, student in psychology and School of Community and Public Affairs

VOTE YES FOR CURE

Vote yes to CURE in by-elections—find new ways to see yourself in your undergrad.

To all you undergraduates striving to attain and understand your voice as an expressive individual and as a critical thinker, the time is now.

In the upcoming by-elections, we will all be given an opportunity to say YES to grant fee levy to CURE Concordia, an effort that will help you build relationships with all of the diverse, real and current community efforts that are happening in Montreal.

The uniqueness of this validating opportunity speaks to dissolve so many of the tensions and insecurities that currently surround the undergraduate choice. As undergraduates we can all, in our own ways, understand the combination of pressure and anxiety that is now packed into being an undergrad.

The worth of our efforts is constantly being measured and put beside what our degree will mean. Too common is the feeling of powerlessness associated with our decision to be here—a decision that should fill us with a sense of pride and satisfaction as we work to better ourselves through the power and fulfillment of knowledge and experience.

Now is the time to reaffirm this intention, to regenerate the strength and purpose of what an undergraduate degree should offer us, and to reconstitute how others recognize what we have to offer them after this experience.

CURE Concordia, with this fee levy, can offer you experiences outside of school. Let CURE offer you credits for term papers you write from your experience; let CURE help you meet your course requirements in places where you want to see yourself.

Recognize what hard work looks like outside of school by pairing up with actual grassroots not-for-profit organizations. I encourage you all to take a few minutes to look into CURE at cureconcordia.org, and make an informed decision for yourselves.

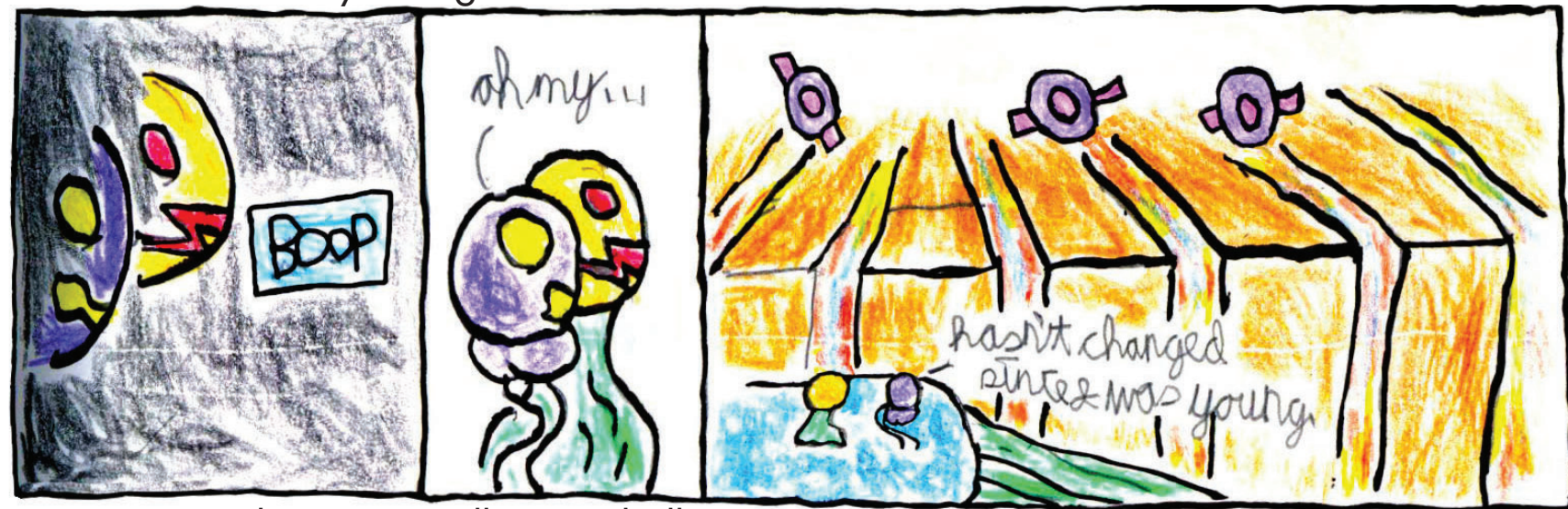
Few can disagree that university is a service that is in a current state of constant devaluation. Restore how this university serves you, revalidate your experience here, with CURE.

— Julia Griffiths Nadeau, fine arts and arts and science undergraduate

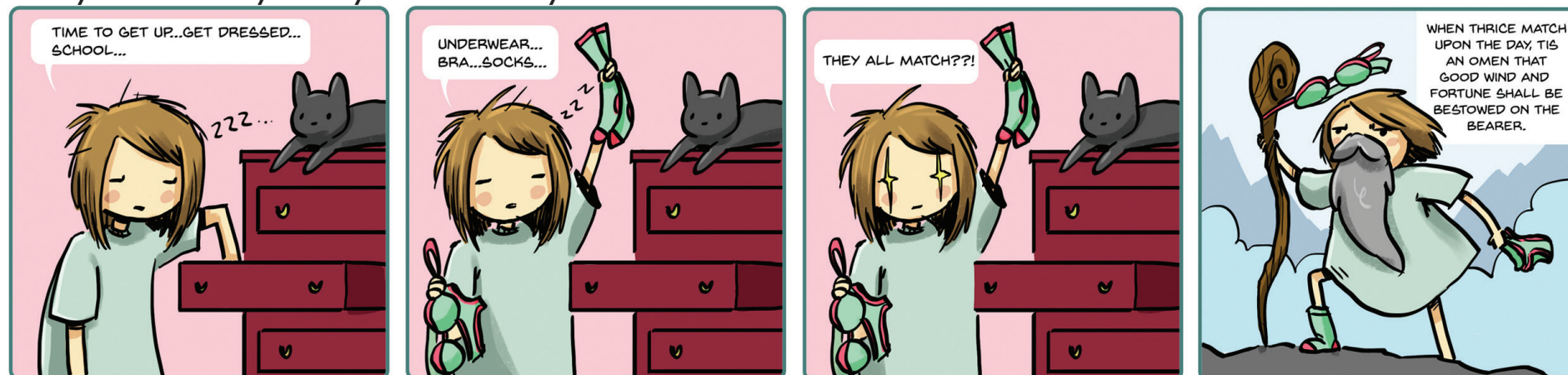
Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



Balloon Ventures by Mangekko Jones



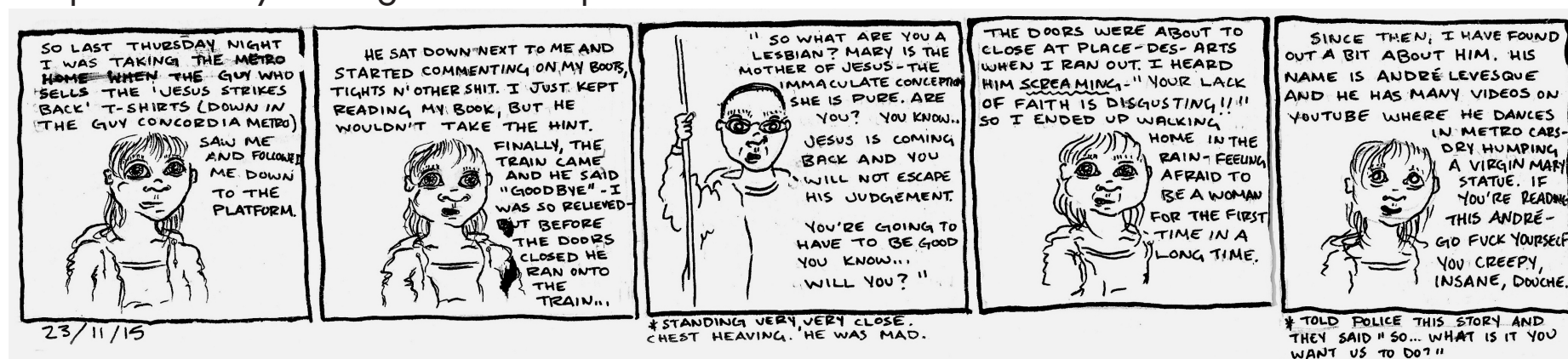
Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



The Adventures of Every-Man by @samdchurchii



Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell





GRAPHIC MADELEINE GENDREAU

So, 2015 has proven to be a big year for women in sports.

Talented female athletes in the mainstream, from UFC fighters Ronda Rousey and Holly Holm, tennis superstar Serena Williams and both the Canadian and United States national women's soccer teams are having their day in the sun as the dominant and entertaining athletes they've always been.

Closer to home, the Concordia Stingers women's teams are doing their part to stand out, and no one shines brighter than perhaps the women's rugby team. They've made regular appearances in the Réseau de Sport Étudiant du Québec conference final and the Canadian Interuniversity Sports National Championships. They also boast the last two conference MVPs—Alexandra Tessier and Frédérique Rajotte.

Despite this success, we still have some way to go before women's teams outside of the collegiate level are at even keel with their male counterparts, especially when it comes to support, coverage and opportunity. Male athletes, if talented enough, have ample shots at continuing their post-graduation careers in professional leagues domestically or abroad.

Female players do as well, but prospective professional opportunities aren't nearly as lucrative or popular.

When sports fans visit mainstream sports sites such as TSN, ESPN or Sky Sports, male athletics dominate the headlines. Even on their TV networks, female athletes aren't shown as frequently as their counterparts. Unless it's the FIFA World Cup, the Olympics or a major tennis tournament, women are often overlooked.

In a report released by Women In Sport in 2014 called "Women's Sport: Say Yes to Success" it was revealed that only 7 per cent of media coverage went exclusively to women's sports.

While media coverage is a major issue, it isn't the only problem. It has been well documented that women make significantly less in terms of salary compared to men. While they can live off their talent, many female athletes must take on other jobs to support themselves.

Hockey players who want to continue their careers after university have opportunities in the National Women's Hockey League and Canadian Women's Hockey League, but won't make much. In the NWHL, forward Kelli Stack of the

Connecticut Whale is the league's highest paid player, making \$25,000 this season. Entire teams' total salaries are approximately \$200,000. It's still a better alternative to the CWHL, whose players are unpaid.

Sponsorships sustain sports. In Stats Pack for Media, Women In Sports released information—from September 2011 to December 2013—stating that women's sport sponsorship deals accounted for less than six per cent of the total number of sponsorship deals recorded.

With the aforementioned stats, it's easy to see why leagues and teams aren't willing to invest in women's sports because there aren't any sponsors. The latter are hesitant to invest because there's barely any coverage, and the media have no incentive to cover the leagues without major sponsorships, or sponsored athletes that will bring in ratings.

This cycle is the reason why the W-League, a professional women's soccer league in North America, is ceasing operation in 2016.

What kind of future does that present to potential professional athletes, whether from the Concordia Stingers or elsewhere?

It's easy to tell everyone they should make more of an effort to watch women's sports.

While we all should, more effort is needed.

Money has to be invested in women's programs across the board in order to see growth. The Concordia Stingers have invested thousands into their women's programs, such as rugby. The team's recruitment budget is almost four times more than the men's squad. Concordia's women's basketball team also boasts a slightly larger recruitment budget than their male counterparts.

It's only one way in which teams are funded, but it's still an indicator that Concordia isn't leaving their women's teams by the wayside.

The National Women's Soccer League in America has also seen some growth because they've attracted the best female soccer players in the world—thanks in large part to Major League Soccer teams investing in women's teams.

Even Major League Baseball legend Pedro Martinez, during the launch of a girls baseball program, the BASE, in the United States, "wouldn't doubt" the possibility of female players eventually joining MLB.

There is some investment into women's sports, but there is still a long way to go before full-time female athletes can become a reality.

THE LINK

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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

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CONTRIBUTORS: Carl Bindman, Marie Briere de la Hosserye, L.A. Bonte, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Alex Carriere, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Bibi De Medeiros, David Easey, Justin Ferrara, Matt Garies, Sam Jones, Ben Kennedy, Lucinda Kiparissis, Caitly Hall, Andrew Harris-Schulz, Kelsey Litwin, Tessa Mascia, Chris Michaud, Julia Miele, Jon Milton, Nick Pevato, Marag Rahn-Campbell, Lindsay Richardson, Alyssia Rubertucci, John Saigle, Savannah Scott, Matthew Shanahan, Graeme Shorten Adams, Mark Underwood, Elizabeth Xu, Sharon Yonan Renold, Mariana Voronovska.

Cover: Laura Lalonde

editor-in-chief **MICHELLE PUCCI**
coordinating editor **SHAUN MICHAUD**
managing editor **SARAH LOZINSKI**
news editor **JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK**
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system administrator **CLEVE HIGGINS**

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!



I wish you all the best on your upcoming exams and final projects.

After the term ends – enjoy the break!!

Alan Shepard
alan.shepard@concordia.ca

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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 Hosseraye, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Morag Rahn Campbell, Alex Carriere, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Ocean DeRouchie, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, David Easey, Caity Hall, Sarah Jesmer, Sam Jones, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Kelsey Litwin, Tessa Mascia, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Gabriela de Medeiros, Chris Michaud, Julie Miele, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Ambre Sachet, Mariana Voronovska, Willie Wilson, Michael Wrobel, Elizabeth Xu.