

volume 36, issue 6 Sept. 29, 2015 thelinknewspaper.ca

# THE LINK



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6 Years



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**THE LINK**

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PHOTO BY THE LINK

## SEX WORK OR A REAL RELATIONSHIP?

BY CLAIRE LOEWEN  
@CLAIRELWN

Lauren is sick.

She's lying on her bed with her chocolate lab, Steve. There's a mug of tea on her bedside table, next to £50. Her hair is a rat's nest.

"Dave is coming to pick me up and take care of me in half an hour," she moans. "I'm not even close to ready yet."

Fifteen minutes later, Lauren is sitting in front of her full-length mirror putting the final touches on her now heavily made-up face. This little blonde bombshell is eons away from the same girl I saw lying in bed in her PJ's groaning in agony. She slides on her \$500 white chiffon pea coat and \$1,500 Louboutin boots, and struts down her apartment stairs and into one of Dave's multiple Tesla cars.

Lauren, 20, and Dave, 50, have a complicated relationship. She sees him as a fatherly figure, one she has always been missing. He provides for her emotionally and financially, like a supportive dad. He is teaching her how to drive and taking her to Disneyworld next month. Dave is many things to Lauren, but the manner in which they met is far from family-friendly.

SeekingArrangement.com is a website where older men seek younger women's company in exchange for financial assistance. In simpler terms, it's an easy way for "Sugar Daddies" like Dave to find compatible "Sugar Babies," like Lauren, for intimacy and entertainment purposes. To some, these arrangements are glorified sex work. Though it may start off as a business exchange, sometimes these relationships grow into something more.

"When we first got into it, it was more of an arrangement. Now feelings are definitely involved," says Lauren of her relationship with Dave. "We've talked about cutting off my allowance a couple times and just seeing each other. This would take out that whole

exchange aspect. That way he would have no dominance or control over me."

But "talked about" is different than actually doing. It seems as though Lauren's presence makes Dave feel in control—his troubled marriage and children (who are around Lauren's age) cannot be helped by any amount of

**"When we first got into it, it was more of an arrangement. Now feelings are definitely involved."**

— Lauren, a Sugar Baby

money. But buying time with a sweet, kind-hearted and beautiful young woman can perhaps make him feel happy, or at least in control, for a short amount of time.

"It could be that her youth and beauty brings him a sense of being alive, beautiful and youthful," says clinical psychologist Marie-Pascale Martorell. "Being with a younger woman sexually brings him a reassuring

sense that he himself is still seductive." This is called projection—Dave could be looking for something he has lost in Lauren.

Dave is an independent investor, and Lauren's \$1,500 monthly allowance is just the tip of the iceberg of her financial perks. Dave pays for Lauren's rent, her Uber account, her Hydro bill and her CEGEP tuition.

"We go on a trip every month. I went to the Caribbean three times in two months," says Lauren with pride. He also bought her Steve and gives her expensive gifts almost weekly.

"When we started seeing each other a lot, I thought it would be fair to get a higher monthly stipend, but Dave didn't want to give me more money for me to just blow it all on shopping, so he proposed that I get involved in the stock market," says Lauren. Dave buys her 1,000 shares every month—her money has almost tripled since August.

To a young woman like myself, Sugar Daddy/Sugar Baby relationships seem extraordinary, but contradictory. On one hand, there are the endless benefits. Having Dave's wallet at her disposal allows Lauren to get an education she may not have sought otherwise. Travel and financial awareness are other forms of education, adding to her knowledge and worldliness. But when we boil it down, it looks like Lauren is trading sex for money.

SeekingArrangement.com advertises "no strings attached" relationships. Big, bold letters on the front page encourage users to "redefine the expectations of a perfect rela-

tionship." The site provides guidelines for women on how to behave the first time they meet a potential Sugar Daddy, as well as how ethnic Sugar Babies should carry themselves throughout a relationship (called "Guidelines for Brown Sugar Babies"). SeekingArrangement is trying to mould a specific kind of woman for these men—a discreet, beautiful, well-groomed and submissive young girl who will agree with everything they say.

\*

It's trivia night at the Burgundy Lion.

"I love this pub," says Lauren, sipping her house beer. "Dave and I come here sometimes. It reminds us of our trips to London."

We're celebrating because we just decided to go on a trip to Toronto together, even though I can't afford it at all. Lauren said she would help me with money, and that she needs to get out of the city. How could I say no?

"Okay folks! Welcome to trivia night," says the MC. "Tonight's topic: 18th century pirates."

Lauren and I look at each other and laugh.

"Well, we're completely screwed," I say.

"Too bad Dave isn't here," says Lauren. "He knows so much about history. He has a Bachelor's." Her darkly lined eyes light up and her pretty face breaks into a wide smile. Her hands drop down to her phone. She looks at it briefly, sees no new messages, and slouches a little.

Dave and Lauren's relationship is supposed to have an expiry date after four years.

"Knowing the way we get along, I want it to go longer than that. If we get to four years I don't think we're just going to stop at four years," says Lauren. "Even though that's what's right—and I should be going off and finding a husband after five or six years, that's just not something I see for myself. I just see the way him and I get along. Obviously him and I will never get married. He wants me to move on with my life after."

The ideology of "traditional gender roles" is what allows relationships like this to exist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# "On the Right, You'll See What Used to Be Affordable Housing"

## A Bike Ride Through Montreal's Gentrified Neighbourhoods

BY MARIE BRIERE DE LA HOSSERAYE

Approaching Concordia's downtown campus, a group of cyclists waited next to Norman Bethune Square. Ten people were pumping their tires, getting ready to embark on a four-hour journey around the southwest part of Montreal.

QPIRG Concordia, a social justice research group, organized its annual Anti-Gentrification Community Bike tour last Friday, as part of its DisOrientation Week. It aims to educate people and open discussions about class struggles and community initiatives in a few neighborhoods in the city.

Before the group began moving, members of the crew introduced themselves. Next to a newcomer hoping to discover her new city, long-time residents sought insights on their hometown's radical history. A visitor, who just arrived in Quebec after a yearlong trip in South America, had only just heard about event and borrowed a bike to join the ride.

Jaggi Singh, the bike ride's guide and a staff member of QPIRG Concordia, pointed out key locations of the social justice history of Montreal. Through each neighborhood, the group delved into past and present stories, which continue to shape the city, to better understand what Singh referred to as "a history of resistance."

In Shaughnessy Village, a neighborhood in the western part of downtown, the walls of an old police station continue to attract attention, commemorating the Sex Garage riots. Known as a turning point for the LGBT movement in Montreal, the riots were a response to police brutality at a private party, where participants were beaten and arrested.

Next to Cabot Square, the Montreal Forum, an old hockey-arena-turned-mall and the site of the Maurice Richard riot of 1955, still stands. The suspension of French Canadian hockey player Maurice Richard started the

riot, which was considered discrimination against Francophones.

A few streets over, the Overdale squat in an old residential downtown area is still a symbol of the anti-gentrification fight against land developers, who had bought out residences in the area with plans for condos that were never built. Condominium development affects the whole city, changing the landscape and cost of living for working-class families. Throughout Griffintown, massive condos standing alongside old, short buildings illustrate the increasing difficulties of

accessing affordable housing.

After snacking on apples at the Atwater market while debating over the responsibility of students and artists in gentrifying the city, the tour continued through the neighbourhood of St. Henri. Les ami(e)s de St. Henri, an association fighting to improve the quality of life of the working-class community, says it empowers people in need, supporting youth and prioritizing food autonomy.

The ride ended in Little Burgundy, known to be an immigrant neighborhood, where the organization Youth in Motion strives to

help its population by educating and supporting them to fight the stigma of living in a low-income area.

Singh emphasized the importance of the tour to preserve the memory of defining social fights and to be aware of the continuing political issues that communities keep facing in Montreal.

"To break the feeling of being always swimming or drowning due to the powers in place in the city, it is important to acknowledge the history of social justice struggles and act on it," Singh said.



PHOTO MARIE BRIERE DE LA HOSSERAYE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Lauren has it ingrained in her mind that women and men have a different way of thinking, and that men's only motive in life is sex. Or power. Or both. This is part of the reason why she says she feels no shame about her role as a Sugar Baby.

"What girls want is materialistic things, and that's just natural," says Lauren. "It's biological."

According to psychologist Martorell, Lauren is both right and wrong. Generalizing the biology of men and women, Lauren is treating herself as an object with no purpose other than to be materialistic.

"It's a justification, but there is no real scientific ground—it is only a belief which is useful for her as a defense, which allows her to deal with what she is doing with her life. This belief may bring her inner coherence," says Martorell.

If all women are materialistic and all men sex- and power-hungry as Lauren says, why doesn't every young attractive woman use SeekingArrangement? Moreover, why don't all men?

Women who use the site are also those who need the money, but don't want to call them-

## "Is this new form of sexual exchange becoming the norm?"

selves sex workers. McGill University had the second-highest number of SeekingArrangement users in 2014, suggesting that many young women use Sugar Baby money to help pay for school. Alice, a 19-year-old daughter of strict accountant parents, turned to the website when her school-jumping caused them to cut her off financially. Sasha, a friend of Lauren's in Toronto, has two Sugar Daddies and a boyfriend. She chose to use SeekingArrangement to get out of prostitution and still have money. The girls who use the site come from different places, but there is usually an

immediate need for cash.

Lauren has met many potential Sugar Daddies on SeekingArrangement.

"It took a while to go through all the creeps and find somebody that's reasonable who's interested in more than just sex. Like, someone who's interested in building a relationship and intellectual [growth]. It really went up [financially]," she says.

She started with an ex-cop in real estate, then a business owner, followed by a partner in a law firm and finally Dave, an independent investor.

"So it really varies, from very wealthy men to average Joe's," she says.

On SeekingArrangement, some men will be blunt, asking "Do you like sex? ;)" while others will send a long spiel about how they are looking for someone they would like to get to know, ending with words like "intimate relationship" and "discreet." These cover-up words scream, "I am married! I don't want my family to find out! Have sex with me for money!"

SeekingArrangement offers a clean, user-friendly interface to communicate with

potential Sugar-partners who are serious about building a relationship. But is this just a fancy online brothel that makes it feel okay to want to have sex with women the age of their children, and even fall in love with them? Is this new form of sexual exchange becoming the norm? As Sugar Daddies and Sugar Babies become more common, it feels like society's morality is shifting before my eyes, and perhaps not in the best way.

\*

Lauren is excited. "Did I tell you?" she says as she walks through the door and drops her leather backpack on the floor. "Dave said he can get me an internship at this B&B company he invests in!"

This is good news, since she is studying hotels and hospitality in CEGEP.

"This is going to be a great start for me," she says.

I smile and congratulate her. Maybe Lauren's dependence on Dave is finally leading to her own independence.



Students in Kenya wear some of the first 50 prototypes of the Soular Backpack.

PHOTO FISUMI ART

# More Than Just a Backpack For Books

One McGill Student's Innovative Design to Provide Light to Students Worldwide

BY HÉLÈNE BAUER @HELENEVBAUER

There are currently 1.3 billion people living without electricity in the world, according to the International Energy Agency. This month, the first 50 prototypes of the Soular Backpack were distributed to schoolchildren in Kenya.

The solar panel attached to the the backpack channels energy from the sun and allows students living without electricity to study in their homes at night. The prototypes mark the beginning of one individual's mission to rectify this global energy issue.

## Growing up in Kenya

Salima Visram, a graduate from McGill University, was born and raised in Kikambala, a small village in Kenya on the outskirts of Mombasa. Although Mombasa is the second-largest city in Kenya, a large portion of the population still lives below the poverty line, without electricity or running water.

"I grew up never having to worry about my basic needs, but my parents always made sure that I knew that I was lucky to be educated," Visram told *The Link* in a Skype interview. "From the age of four, I was always out in the village with my mom, working on different projects to help others."

Growing up in a town stricken by poverty shaped Visram into the entrepreneur that she is today. At the age of 12, she had already started her own business making jewelry.

At first, she was crafting jewelry for her family and friends but they soon grew tired of it, and she thought, "How can I make this business viable?"

She employed local women to help make the jewelry and sold her products at a boutique in town. All the funds went to a girls' choir in her village that didn't have enough money to com-

pete in a prestigious music festival in Kenya. In a year, Visram raised enough money for them to buy uniforms and attend the out-of-town competition. That year, they placed second and the next year, they won the competition.

At a young age, Visram was already making a difference in her community.

## An idea is formed

Today, at 23 years old and with a degree in International Development Studies and Management, Visram hasn't forgotten her roots.

During her studies at McGill, Visram felt that there was a disconnect between the theory she was learning in class and what was actually happening in the world.

Combining her studies in business and international development, she took the initiative to start an independent research project in the last year of her Bachelor's degree.

Visram developed an idea to make a solar-powered product to provide light to families without electricity.

"My first concern was always knowing what the customer needed. I didn't just want to make a product that I thought was good, it needed to reflect the needs of the people that were going to use it," said Visram.

In her hometown, students walk for hours to get to school and back. At the end of the day when it is dark out, those who are not fortunate enough to have electricity in their homes study under kerosene lamps, a product harmful to their health.

Wearing the Soular Backpack to and from school, students will generate enough electricity to study at home with no additional effort made.

## Creating the Soular Backpack

Visram met one of her mentors through the McGill Women in Leadership group on

LinkedIn. During her independent research project, she worked with Morna Flood Consedine, a Concordia alumna, program leader at the McGill Executive Institute and President of Maraon Associates International Inc.

The Soular Backpack attracted her attention because Visram operated at a grassroots level by working closely with the parents and children in the village school, Consedine said. She wanted to help Visram in any way she could: one of her big contributions was helping Visram raise money for the project.

"She tackled a really critical problem, both on an educational and health related issue," Consedine told *The Link*.

Once the Soular Backpack was conceptualized, Visram started a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to manufacture them. Each backpack costs \$20 to make and ship to Kenya. They are all made in China but Visram was quick to point out that all the certifications are in place and that they are not made from child labour.

Her goal was to reach \$40,000 in two months. She said that on the last night of the campaign, she received \$20,000 allowing her to surpass her original goal, and raise a grand total of \$50,000.

Today, she still hasn't spent all of the money she raised. She is careful about where she invests it, wanting to make sure that the money donated actually goes into the making of the backpacks, as people expect.

There are currently 50 Soular Backpacks that exist in the world. Visram was passionate about giving these first backpacks to students from the school down the road from where she grew up. The backpacks were evenly distributed between girls and boys in Grade 6 and 7.

In Kenya, students pass exams at the end of Grade 7 to advance to secondary school. Since a majority of students cannot study at home after school without electricity, few advance in their studies. Visram hopes that these backpacks will make a difference in her village and allow more children to attend secondary school, she said.

## Finding a business model

For the next three months, Visram will be in Vancouver for The Next Big Thing field fellowship. The fellowship works closely with 10 young entrepreneurs to develop and make their business model successful and profitable.

"I see myself working on this project for a long time. I want it to grow into something that is financially sustainable," said Visram.





PHOTO SARAH JESMER

## CAMPING FOR A CAUSE

### McGill Students Protest University's Fossil Fuel Investments

BY SARAH JESMER

Sitting next to a handful of tents and spray painted signs, Antonina Scheer speaks over the sound of a physics professor giving a forum on the science of climate change.

"What we want, very clean and simple, is to encourage McGill to stop investing in fossil fuel companies," Scheer said.

Members of Divest McGill, including Scheer, set up a camping site in front of McGill's administration building for Fossil Free Week, which began on Sept. 21. This five-day tent city was filled with workshops, confrontations and forums demanding McGill University divest from fossil fuel companies. At a time when universities and organizations worldwide are reevaluating their hand in harmful investments, the spotlight is on McGill to address climate change.

Divest McGill, the student organization advocating for resolutions to environmental and social issues, said its main focus is on environmental affairs and human rights, specifically toward McGill's investments in environmentally harmful companies.

The road that ended in the grass in front of the James Administration Building on campus was long coming. The activist group started their process towards divestment by submitting their first petition to the school in February 2013. An open letter in 2015 followed, which had more than 100 faculty members voicing their support for the university to act for a carbon free future.

The process, through the many administrative steps, required real action and has thus far "not been as productive as we had hoped," said Divest McGill member Chloé Laflamme. After more than two years of trying to influence McGill administration, Divest McGill organized the camp out as a more creative and aggressive approach in comparison to their previous actions.

"[McGill is] afraid of making a political statement by divesting, but what we're trying to show them is that by not divesting, it's equally political," said Scheer.

Not only did they want to attract the attention of students, the camp-in targeted the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility, which is a committee responsible for making sure McGill's investments are socially responsible.

"We've done everything we can to use our voice as students before using our voice as activists," said Scheer.

According to [gofossilfree.org](http://gofossilfree.org), more than 181 universities and institutions worldwide have committed to divestment. Canadian universities have not been as active; McGill would be the first Canadian university to completely divest in fossil fuel companies if Divest McGill has its way.

"Fossil Free Week is the biggest event we've ever put on," said Laflamme. "It is so meaningful because we can finally see the support we've been gathering through social media, through physical interactions and conversations."

This week alone, the number of signatures on the fossil fuel free petition has grown with the addition of more than 500 names. Supporters also came out at night. Less than 10 tents

started off the week, but the number doubled in size as people learned about the cause.

In November 2014, Concordia University seemed to take a step towards a fossil fuel free future by promising \$5 million from the Concordia University Foundation—its biggest investment fund—to a sustainable investment fund. But according to members of Divest Concordia, a lack of transparency and action is present at Concordia as well.

Divest Concordia explained that it's unclear whether the almost two-year-old fund has divested \$5 million from fossil fuels and reinvested in renewable energy alternatives.

Divest Concordia member and former Concordia Student Union Vice-President External Anthony Garoufalidis-Auger said the university previously told media it's invested in 5 to 10 per cent of fossil fuel companies.

"We have no idea if that money was originally invested in fossil fuels, so we have no idea whether or not it's divested," Ian Campbell, another member, added.

According to Scheer, Divest McGill isn't looking for the same type of partial divest-

ment from McGill like Concordia University promised. Although a step in the right direction, the complacent type of action can affect divestment group's drive.

"I feel like that kind of stole the fire, or, how do you say, that took away the fuel for [Divest Concordia]," said Scheer. "I think some members of Divest McGill were saying like we really don't want that kind of thing because it just shuts you down," she said.

Confirmation and transparency of funds is long overdue regarding Concordia's actual steps towards divestment from fossil fuels and how the sustainability test fund comes into play, according to Divest Concordia. With no real word one way or another, it's a waiting game at both campuses.

Both Concordia and McGill have been called upon to act regarding their role in harmful investments. Although Divest Concordia was not a part of Fossil Free Week, their goals are the similar.

"You can expect similar actions in the works," said Divest Concordia member Marcus Peters.



Members of Divest McGill set up a weeklong camp site on campus.

PHOTO BRANDON JOHNSTON

# REALITY'S BYTES



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUTEK

## Montreal's Phi Centre Hosts Kaleidoscope VR Film Festival

BY RILEY WIGNALL  
@WILEYRILES

In 1992, film critic Roger Ebert wrote an essay titled, “The Chilling Film Concept of Virtual Reality,” expressing anxieties about the ‘technical and ethical’ implications of submerging a live audience into a virtual world.

Over two decades later, filmmaker and Kaleidoscope VR co-founder René Pinnell has no such worries. In fact, he’s totally fearless and convinced that the medium of virtual reality film is poised for takeover in a big way.

“Cinema has been the dominant art form for the last 100 years and I think we’re on track for virtual reality [to become] the next dominant art form,” Pinnell said.

His company, Kaleidoscope, is a “Virtual Reality Agency for Independent Artists,” which launched a ten-city film festival tour across North America—with Montreal’s Phi Centre as its seventh stop on Oct. 1.

His confidence in the rapidly developing medium is backed up by some seriously impressive numbers. It was only in March that Pinnell and his business partner Michael Breyman quit their jobs to form Kaleidoscope, and seven months later, hundreds of people are coming out to see what the festival’s 20 virtual reality films have to offer.

“Our goal with the festival is to inspire people to join the movement,” Pinnell said. “We want them to see the work, learn from the work, and then go and make something better.”

According to him, what audiences at the festival will see are not “films” but “experiences.”

“If virtual reality is done right, you actually feel like you’re

there. You don’t feel like you’re just looking at a screen,” he said. “When you go to a live theatre you have that same magic. There’s an electricity, because you’re seeing a live person go through something right in front of you. You have that same tension in virtual reality, you’re there with the character.”

In order to create their virtual reality pieces, VR artists choose between two primary methods, both with unique benefits and challenges. Live action VR films are shot with multiple cameras—anywhere from four to 24 of them, configured in a sphere—to create a 360-degree viewing experience.

“You have to totally rework how you operate a set,” Pinnell explained. “All of your crew have to be completely in a different room or they have to be the actors themselves.”

The second kind of films is computer-animated, which can increase the level of interactivity. According to Pinnell, computerized characters can look the audience in the eye, and even interact with them.

Whether shot live action or rendered through a computer, no two VR entries in the festival are exactly alike. The films range in tone, from the humorous *Butts* by Tyler Hurd, to the impressionist smears of Mac Cauley’s *The Night Café*, in which the viewer takes a stroll through Van Gogh’s masterpiece of the same title.

There is even room for documentary within the medium. *Witness 360: 7/7* is the story of how one woman survived and recovered from the 2005 bombings of the London subway.

“You’re physically in the same space as her, you feel such an intense connection,” Pinnell said. “It’s impossible to ignore, it’s impossible to look away. There’s no way to get out of the story because you’re inside it.”

Festival attendees will have access to Oculus Rift headsets, which were originally developed for 3D gaming experiences. This means that each viewer will have the chance to be completely immersed in the films on offer—think of having a personalized IMAX screen.

“Instead of just having one screen in front of you, you’ve got one above you, below you, to your left, to your right, and everywhere you look, it’s filled with the story,” Pinnell said.

Pinnell and several other film directors will be in attendance before the screenings, to discuss their work. Among them will be Montreal’s own Vincent Morisset, who has worked in experimental films with Arcade Fire and Sigur Rós.

More than just finding a new way to create media, Pinnell is certain that the festival’s importance and success has larger implications for the world of art and the independent artists being showcased. He laments that filmmakers with large budgets from big box production companies won’t be as willing to experiment and explore the possibilities of VR to their fullest capabilities.

“Those who are willing to take the biggest risks are the independent artists,” he said. “I think that’s important to celebrate them, to encourage them to make work, because they’re the folks at the end of the day who are going to push the medium forward more than anyone else.”

The festival promises thrill and spectacle, with something for everyone—and according to Pinnell, perhaps even a glimpse into the theatre going experience of tomorrow.

“If you love stories and visual art, and if you love cinema, then you should come and see what the future of all of those is going to look like.”



## THE LINK'S GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINÉMA

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FNC

BY SARAH LOZINSKI  
@SARAHLOZI

The Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, one of Montreal's most prestigious film-festivals, is taking off for its 44th year. *The Link* spoke with one of the festival's programmers, Julien Fonfrède, about the highlights and focuses of the lineup.

"There are trends right now with films on Latin America, and a boom in production [coming] from Brazil and Venezuela," Fonfrède said. That's why this year he says FNC is pleased to be screening Venezuelan film *From Afar* (*Desde allá*), directed by Lorenzo Vigas. The film made history when it won the Golden Lion award at this year's Venice Film Festival, the first Latin American film to win the festival's highest prize.

The FNC has always been a place for Canadian and Montreal films, and this year is no exception. Fonfrède gave *The Link* a sneak-peek into some of the hottest Canadian films featured this year.

**ENDORPHINE:** An ensemble drama about three Simones dealing with trauma on different story lines. Directed by Montrealer André Turpin, whose credits include work with Xavier Dolan, Fonfrède described the film as "almost like a thriller like a Christopher Nolan movie, [but] less demonstrative."

**SLEEPING GIANTS:** This film by Andrew Cividino, a native of Ontario. *Sleeping Giants* follows three teenage boys in their summer adventures and debauchery at Lake Superior. The film was an official selection of Toronto International Film Festival 2015.

**THE FORBIDDEN ROOM:** The FNC will be featuring this as their closing film. It's been called one of the most prestigious Canadian films of the year, being screened at Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival. Directed by Guy Maddin and starring Roy Dupuis, it follows a group of people in a submarine that has been trapped underwater for months. Parts of the film were shot in Montreal at the Phi Centre. The film will have a second screening there on Oct. 23, so the audience can experience the movie "within" the set. Fonfrède calls the film "half and half contemporary art and cinema."

Another theme at this year's festival is North Korean film.

"[Its] very rare to see films from North Korea, [but there is] a very big film industry," Fonfrède said. "Making films with drama was a way to look at the country

outside of the circumstances usually surrounding it." The four films screening are *The Tale of Chun Hyang* (1980), *A Broad Bellflower* (1987), *The Schoolgirl's Diary* (2007) and *The Flower Girl* (1972).

Along with fictional films, FNC is bringing a documentary from North Korea to Montreal. *Dennis Rodman's Big Bang In Pyongyang* follows the famous 2014 basketball game that took place between Rodman's American team and a team of North Korean players.

"At that time, it was very covered by Western media but they couldn't actually film anything inside," Fonfrède said. "So while you had these insane interviews, now you can see exactly what happened there and understand."

Some other notable films which will be screening at the FNC this year:

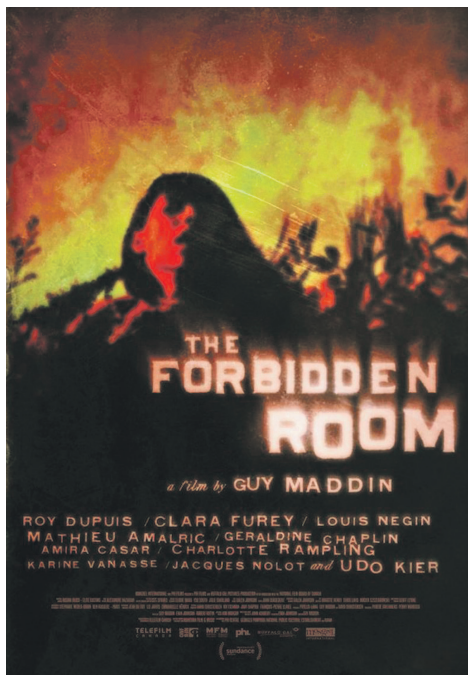
**LOVE:** Director Gaspar Noé is known for "making films which people love and shriek about for their explicit nature," Fonfrède jokingly explained. This film is no exception, as it is a love story featuring 3D pornography. The director, Noé will be coming to present his movie, which was one of the biggest films at Cannes this year.

**WACKEN 3D THE MOVIE:** The German film which follows the biggest metal festival in the world, *Wacken 3D* is directed by Norbert Heitker and shot with six cameras and 18 stereoscopic 3D cameras. The film merges music and cinema, following not only the performances, but also the life and routine of the audience staying at the festival.

**EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE:** Directed by Wim Wenders, known for his Oscar-nominated documentaries *Buena Vista Social Club* (1999) and *Pina* (2011), the film follows a writer struggling to deal with the aftermath of a tragedy and stars James Franco and Rachel McAdams.

The festival also features installation art as part of its line-up. One installation, *Food Sessions* is a movie without images or a screen, replacing those with food and narration. The participants sit at a long table to enjoy a meal, plugging into the narration via headphones. They become a part of the narration, in unison with everyone else at the table. Fifteen sessions will be hosted over the course of the FNC at the Agora.

**Festival du Nouveau Cinéma // Oct. 7 to 18 // Various locations and prices // For more info visit: [nouveaucinema.ca](http://nouveaucinema.ca)**



# JAHLANI OF ALL TRADES



Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren is committed to his new position as a receiver. **PHOTOS NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER**

## Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren's Story and His Struggles Being a Canadian Quarterback

BY JULIAN MCKENZIE  
@JULIANTHEINTERN

Standing at six foot one and 205 pounds, Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren could be seen as a jack-of-all trades type of football player. Throughout his football career, from his elementary school days in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, his ventures out in Western Canada, to the present day as a member of the Concordia Stingers, he has spent time as a quarterback, wide receiver, slotback and even as a safety.

"He's special," said Stingers head coach Mickey Donovan. "He's a great quarterback, he's another unbelievable athlete. He's showing his skills as receiver and it's pretty impressive. The kid can play [defensive back] just as well."

"He's a guy you wish you had more of."

Gilbert-Knorren, a theatre major from Ottawa, was originally Concordia's first choice for the starting position at the beginning of the season, beating out a number of fellow quarterbacks, including current starter from the United States, Trenton Miller.

However, his first two games, including a 37-0 opening game blowout loss to Sherbrooke, weren't enough for him to keep his starting job. In two games, he threw one touchdown pass and four interceptions. Three of his interceptions came in his second start against the Bishop's Gaiters.

In both games, Gilbert-Knorren was eventually pulled in favour of Miller, and since the second game of the season, the team has elected to start the American-born player. Gilbert-Knorren has found himself catching passes and lining up as a slotback for the Stingers, instead of calling plays and throwing to his receivers.

"I had a chance to start and I blew it," he said. "I can't be mad at anyone else but myself and if I stay mad at myself I'm not helping my team."

"I could've sulked, I could've bitched, I could've quit the team," he continued. "But I didn't because I love these guys and I want to go out and I want to win with these guys."

Gilbert-Knorren's journey to becoming a quarterback has almost come full circle. He's loved the position since he was child and acknowledges how challenging and complex the position can be.

Originally from Ottawa, he moved to Montreal in his youth where he attended St. Monica Elementary School, nearly two kilometers away from Concordia Stadium.

It's where Gilbert-Knorren's earliest childhood memories of being a quarterback are, suffering agonizing moments, relishing glorious success and trash-talking his opponents during schoolyard ball with his classmates.

"We used to go out and play everyday," he said. "There'd be feuds and people wouldn't be friends for weeks and that's truly where I got my love for football."

"I loved that competitiveness."

When he wasn't calling plays in the schoolyard of St. Monica's, he was playing football for the Sun Youth Hornets, where he got his start at running back before eventually moving to his desired position of quarterback.

From there, Gilbert-Knorren spent his junior high and high school years in Edmonton before being recruited to play at the University of Saskatchewan. There, he spent time at running back and quarterback before moving to receiver in his final year. Unhappy with his situation, he bolted to the Canadian Junior Football League, where he spent time with the Langley Rams and the Edmonton Wildcats—he played defensive back for the latter team—before returning to Montreal as a Stinger.

## "I had a chance to start and I blew it."

—Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren

Gilbert-Knorren is a player who can thrive at many positions. He isn't the first, nor will he be the last player to do so. What makes his situation interesting, however, is that he becomes one of the many Canadian-born football players whose attempts at becoming a quarterback have been thwarted. While they are present in Canadian Interuniversity Sport, spotting a Canadian quarterback on a roster in a league such as the Canadian Football League is almost like spotting Bigfoot.

Gilbert-Knorren is aware that being a Canadian quarterback is a rarity and knows Canadian quarterbacks who have been chewed up and spat out by the Canadian game—and have since looked elsewhere, like in Europe, to keep their quarterbacking, or overall playing dreams alive. He's even heard stories of American players in the Canadian game being

"cocky," and referring to major positions such as quarterback and linebacker as "American positions."

"I know what [the CFL] does to Canadians, they just delegate them to special teams," he said. "There are other options. There's not just the CFL, which is an American-run league."

"If we had an Olympics, you take [Canada's] best 40 players and you take [the United States'] 40 players, I believe that we match up and I believe that we win. I believe that we would compete and there's no doubt in my mind that we'd win the Olympic gold."

\*

Despite the change in position, Gilbert-Knorren showed promise as a weapon for Concordia; in a 33-21 victory over the McGill Redmen on Sept. 19, he caught a touchdown pass from Miller. He clearly hasn't brooded over the position change and the switch seemed relatively easy from a coaching standpoint.

"I don't even know if we had a sit-down," Donovan said. "That's how great he is. He was like 'Coach, put me at receiver,' without even saying anything. He's a great quarterback, unbelievable football player. You can put him into any situation and he can go."

More likely than not, quarterbacks who lose their opportunity to start are often left on the bench, but right now, Gilbert-Knorren seems thankful at having the chance to start games, albeit in a different position.

"I'm just happy that I get to be on the field and that I get to help my team out," said Gilbert-Knorren. "At the end of the day we're trying to win football games and we're in the business of winning football games."

Gilbert-Knorren admits he might not be as adamant about playing quarterback as he used to be, but he says he is "spontaneous" and could try playing quarterback possibly in Europe once his university career is over. He isn't opposed to joining the Canadian Football League and has made attempts in the past.

In the meantime, Gilbert-Knorren says he is still "technically" the Stingers backup quarterback. Perhaps there is hope he can still relive his dream position at least one more time at the CIS level, and it wouldn't be for a lack of trying.

"People tell you that you can't be a Canadian quarterback and when someone tells you that you can't do something, it made me want to push harder and keep pursuing it," he said.

"I love that position, so why wouldn't I try it?"



# volume 36 by-elections

## ARE ALMOST HERE

Tuesday Oct. 20 @ 6 p.m. in The Link's office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Room H-649)

*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 editors to fill our Volume 36 masthead. All staff members (those who have contributed four (4) times or more) are eligible and encouraged to vote in the elections.

## HERE ARE THE OPEN POSITIONS:

### CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

If you're interested in longer-form journalism, then this is the position for you. The Current Affairs Editor fills the print edition every week with longer, in-depth features and profiles of news around Concordia.

### ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

News is a demanding section. Keeping up with everything around Concordia needs a strong tag-team. The Assistant News Editor is important in ensuring coverage runs smoothly.

### OPINIONS EDITOR

Students at Concordia are diverse and the Opinions section is a place to have their voices heard. The Opinions Editor works with writers to develop their voices and arguments.

**ELIGIBLE TO RUN:** Graeme Shorten Adams, Jennifer Aedy, Alex Bailey, Roxane Baril-Bédard, Alison Bertho, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Alex Carriere, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, Josh Fischlin, Madeleine Gendreau, Caity Hall, Sam Jones, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Claire Loewen, Sarah Lozinski, Gabriela de Medeiros, Julia Miele, Nick Pevato, Michael Wrobel

**ONE MORE CONTRIBUTION NEEDED:** Hélène Bauer, Lindsey Carter, Nathan Kaulback, Nikolas Litzenberger, Riley Stativa, Elizabeth Xu **TWO MORE CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED:** Carl Bindman, Sara Capanna, Josephine Fomé, Sarah Jesmer, Karina Lafayette, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Fawn Parker, Willie Wilson

If you've contributed to this year's volume four (4) times in four (4) separate issues, you're eligible to run for a position. **Applicants must submit a letter of intent and three (3) samples of contributions at The Link's office by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13.**

THE **LINK**

### COPY EDITOR

A lot of words pass through *The Link* every day. The Copy Editor is the last person to edit each printed article and ensures fact-checking and a consistent style. They are also the strongest defence against typos and style-guide errors.

### PHOTO/VIDEO EDITOR

We know, everyone looks at photos and watches videos, which is why it's important to have a Photo/Video Editor making sure photo and video journalists are where the visually interesting news is at.

### GRAPHICS EDITOR

*The Link* has always emphasized creative visuals and interesting design. The Graphics Editor ensures graphic content is consistent with *The Link's* mandate, and that it works with our content.

### MANAGING EDITOR

Journalism works because deadlines are enforced. The Managing Editor oversees the print production, keep editors and staff on their game, make sure the paper comes out on time (no pressure).

L1

## workshop series

### FRINGE ARTS

Want to find out more on how to interview artists, write heavenly reviews and learn what puts the Fringe in Fringe Arts? Come hang out and listen to June & Zach ramble on about their lives and deep existential thoughts in general.

**FRIDAY OCT. 2 AT 4 P.M.**

## guest editor series

The Link's Guest Editor Workshops continue on Tuesday Sept. 29 @ 6 p.m. with Damon van der Linde from the Financial Post and freelance magazine writer Adam Kovac. Van der Linde will be giving critiques for this issue (the one you're holding), and Kovac will have advice for the next issue at our story pitch meeting.

**TUESDAY SEPT. 29 AT 6 P.M.**

**It's free and open to everyone. See you there.**

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER**

1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Suite H-649 Montreal, QC H3G 1M8  
(514) 848-2424 ext. 7405 thelinknewspaper.ca

# REMEMBERING ERICA CADIEUX

Annual Memorial Game  
Marks 10 Years Concordia  
Stadium

BY ALEXANDER PEREZ  
@ALEX02PEREZ

Jan. 27 will forever be a day of mourning for the Concordia Stinger family. It was this day, in 2006, that former women's soccer player Erica Cadieux was killed after a driver, who fell asleep at the wheel of her SUV, hit her.

Cadieux was pushing her 18-month-old baby in a stroller before being fatally struck down by the vehicle.

"[It was] very disheartening, very heavy," said Carlo Spadafora, Cadieux's widowed husband.

In remembrance of Cadieux, the Concordia Stingers held their 10th annual Erica Cadieux Memorial game at Concordia Stadium this past Friday night. Spadafora and his daughters, Bianca—who was in the stroller as her mother was hit—and Olivia, greeted both the Stingers and their opponents, the Sherbrooke Vert et Or, at midfield.

Despite the Stingers 2-1 loss to the Vert et Or, it was still a successful night for the team as they raised donations and collected gifts for the Montreal Children's Hospital.

The former Stinger had played for Concordia between 1992 and 1994 as a midfielder and defender for the women's team.



The Stingers played the 10th annual Erica Cadieux memorial game. PHOTO COURTESY CONCORDIA STINGERS

Spadafora described her as "hard-working, tenacious and dedicated."

Current Concordia Stingers women's soccer coach Jorge Sanchez never coached Cadieux, but says that he's spoken former teammates about her.

"She represents what it is to be a student athlete," he said.

Ten years on, the Erica Cadieux Memorial game still remains a tradition at Concordia and serves as a meaningful event for the school.

"It's all about creating a tradition that someone can hold onto," said Sanchez.

The annual game remains close to Spadafora's heart and has sentimental value for him and his daughters.

"The girls and I look forward to this," said Spadafora. "It's become a bit of a family reunion."

**Donations will be accepted until Oct. 2 at the Concordia Recreation and Athletics Complex at 7200 Sherbrooke St. W.**

## BOX SCORES

WEEK OF SEPT. 21 TO SEPT. 27

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Baseball—Concordia 1, McGill 4

Thursday, Sept. 24

Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Western 5  
Women's Hockey—Concordia 0, Saint Mary's 3

Friday, September 25

Men's Soccer—Concordia 4, Sherbrooke 1  
Women's Soccer—Concordia 1, Sherbrooke 2  
Men's Hockey—Concordia 2, Windsor 3  
Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, St. FX 2 (OT)  
Men's Rugby—Concordia 16, Montreal 19

Saturday, Sept. 26

Football—Concordia 29, Montreal 41  
Women's Hockey—Concordia 2, Waterloo 1  
Women's Rugby—Concordia 19, Ottawa 25  
Baseball—Concordia 10, Ottawa 3  
Baseball—Concordia 5, Ottawa 2

Sunday, Sept. 27

Men's Rugby—Concordia 6, McGill 27  
Men's Soccer—Concordia 0, Laval 2  
Women's Soccer—Concordia 0, Laval 5

## UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

Tuesday, Sept. 29

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)

Thursday, Oct. 1

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)

Friday, Oct. 2

6:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Queen's Gaels (Concordia Gymnasium)  
6:30 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Stadium)  
8:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Queen's Gaels (Concordia Gymnasium)  
8:30 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Stadium)

Saturday, Oct. 3

12:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Ottawa Gee-Gees (Trudeau Park)  
3:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Ottawa Gee-Gees (Trudeau Park)

Sunday, Oct. 4

12:00 p.m. Baseball at UdeM Carabins  
1:00 p.m. Football at Laval Rouge et Or  
1:00 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. UdeM Carabins (Concordia Stadium)  
1:00 p.m. Women's Rugby at Sherbrooke Vert et Or  
3:00 p.m. Baseball at UdeM Carabins  
3:00 p.m. Men's Rugby at Sherbrooke Vert et Or  
3:00 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. UdeM Carabins (Concordia Stadium)

Monday, Oct. 5

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)

**BY BIBI DE MEDEIROS**  
**@BIBSDEM**

Food is the foundation of civilization. We didn't become sedentary until we developed agriculture, and it is chiefly the demand for sustenance which birthed trade, and later, markets. So when we try to solve societal problems without acknowledging the core issue of food, we are missing the big picture.

Hyper-consumerism and our grossly exaggerated waste production begins with the way we regard food—consumers at home produce 47 per cent of all food waste in Canada (farms and restaurants combined are a fraction of that amount). If food waste were a country, the greenhouse gases produced by their decomposition would be the third biggest polluter in the world, after China and the United States—and yet half the world is starving.

This is enormous, but still we manage to avoid considering it a local problem, despite being confronted with it at every meal—at least three times a day. We distance ourselves even more from our food by having very vague ideas of where and by whom it was grown or raised, the physical distance it has crossed to reach our shelves, and ultimately—for almost half of it—our garbage, or what sacrifices the environment is shouldering to sustain our gluttonous appetites. From farm or factory to landfill, our daily interactions with food are a lot more political than most of us are led to believe.

The Concordia Food Coalition is very aware of the complexity and shortcomings of our modern food systems, and work hard to make these issues accessible to the students at Concordia. Throughout the week of Sept. 28, they are hosting Bite Me! 2015, a series of workshops and activities introducing students to food politics at Concordia.

In this third annual instalment, the CFC has invited an impressive collection of food activists to come and enrich our understanding of food. These like-minded people understand that food is sacred—amen—and have dedicated themselves to changing our paradoxical relationship with it for the better, one cause at a time. Here are a few samples of the ideas you can expect at Bite Me! this week.

Answers have been edited for conciseness and clarity.

**Justice Alimentaire pour Montréal**  
*Hugo Martorell (Project leader, Concordia student)*

**What is JAM?** We're trying to create a food policy in Montreal adapted to the extremely complicated political system. With the Eat-Think-Vote campaign, we're trying to make food a national issue for the federal election.

**Why is this important?** A lot of policy is decided in a really complicated system, with overlapping jurisdictions and unclear roles in control. We need to facilitate this for a new management, facilitate conversations and initiatives.

**What do you want people to know?** There's a need to connect people around discourse on food. Educate yourself; learn how you can get together to have an impact.

**Concordia Food Groups Doc Project**  
*Erik Chevrier (Creator, researcher, Concordia part-time professor)*

**What is the Project?** The Concordia Student Run

Food Groups Research Project was developed to preserve an institutional memory of food projects at Concordia, past, present and future. The long term of the project is to aid in the development of a more socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, cooperative food system at the university.

**Why is this important?** Because it is very hard to learn from the past if the past is not available. **What do you want people to know?** That the Food Groups archive is a great way for students to connect with the alternative food landscape at Concordia, and find out about the people and practices that made it happen.

**BonApp: Online-Based Foodsharing**  
*Genevieve Rousseau (Co-founder)*

**What is BonApp?** It's the first tool to enable individuals to reduce food waste on a daily basis. We're trying to redefine our standards of "want," and to activate people's generosity—it's so much better to share than to waste.

**Why is this important?** Because individual con-

sumers are half of the source of waste—but that means they can be half of the solution too. We don't feel we're empowered enough, so we want to create more opportunities for individuals to practice solutions.

**What do you want people to know?** We want them to imagine: What if we lived in a culture without want?

**Campus Potager**

*Gabriel Townsend Darriau & Alix Tabet (Concordia students)*

**What is your mandate?** Reclaiming unused space and making it into something fruitful. We produce organic, local, fresh, pretty cheap food for the Concordia community.

**Why is this important?** This might be a small project now, but it's a foot in the door to get the university to be more responsive to bigger projects in the future. We don't have a very big impact on a lot of people's diets just yet, but we're opening the possibility for other students to join and learn—it is possible to bring

about change in an institution.

**What do you want people to know?** You don't need to be an expert to grow food. We're all learning together, and we're building collective knowledge.

**Indigenous Food Sovereignty**

*Larry McDermott (Executive Director)*

**What is Food Sovereignty?** It is the food we have a cultural relationship with. These foods come from our environment, and we have a long cultural tradition with them. Indigenous food sovereignty reflects respect for our food, a deep gratitude and the recognition that the lives that are sustaining us are just as important as our own.

**Why is this important?** We need our culturally-based foods in order to keep our society healthy and vibrant, to protect our relation to the life that surrounds us. But as it is with modern food systems, we might be feeding our bodies, but we are starving our culture, our hearts and our spirits.

**What do you want people to know?** Supporting indigenous food sovereignty is important for the survival of all people.

**Food Security and Gender Inequality**

*Samantha Samuels (Workshop coordinator)*

**What is Food Security?** It's not about having enough food on the table, as many people assume. It's about having adequate nutrition, getting enough vitamins, minerals and calories from a variety-rich diet.

**Why is this important?** Because gender inequalities in rural areas actually put families' food security at risk. The power dynamics which place financial decisions solely on men usually lead to spending in other areas with little regard for a healthy diet. This research seeks to alleviate tensions caused by gender inequalities, and to foster respect for gender equality mainstreaming in rural areas around the world.

**What do you want people to know?** That there are a lot of severe international issues that contrast with our local ones that we should be aware of.

**The Future of Food Production on Campus**

*Chloe Williams (Concordia Student Union Vice-President Loyola)*

**What is this panel discussion about?** We're looking to increase food production here on campus. This is a part of a wider movement on campus to take control of our food system and transform it into one that is democratic, student-run and sustainable.

**Why is this important?** Our current food system is dominated and controlled by major corporations. By increasing food production on campus and giving students control and a say in where their food comes from, we are challenging the corporate food system, but we are also giving students healthy, organic alternatives. Through surveys over the last couple of years, students have demonstrated that this is something they want to see change.

**What do you want people to know?** I would tell students to get involved, to support student-run initiatives and to use their vote to continue this transformation into a student-run democratic food system.

# JOIN THE FOOD REVOLUTION

## Bite Me! Week Aims to Teach Concordia Alternative Food Systems



**PHOTO CAMPUS POTAGER**

# UNI·STU·CAN·POL

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS on CANADIAN POLITICS

## Rejecting the Logic of the “Lesser Evil” Why I Won’t Be Voting on October 19

BY JON MILTON

We’ve all heard it before. Voting is the most important thing that we can do in a democracy; choosing our leaders is something our ancestors fought and died for. If we don’t like what the government is doing, then we can always kick them out four years down the road for someone who will do better.

What happens when no one represents your values? Worse yet, what happens when the parties competing for leadership become virtually indistinguishable from one another? What happens when no politician is willing or able to propose a concrete alternative to the status quo?

This is the mess that we’ve found ourselves in this election year.

### Blurring the Lines Between Left and Right

Despite the intensity of this year’s campaigns, there aren’t many significant differences between the three main contenders for Prime Minister. All three represent colonial capitalism, further climate chaos and varying degrees of fiscal austerity.

This is most visible in the case of the tar sands and its associated transport infrastructure. Thomas Mulcair has spoken publicly in favor of Alberta tar sands expansion and the Energy East pipeline.

“I want companies like TransCanada to succeed,” he has said. “I want the energy sector in Alberta to succeed.”

Of course, a “success” for Alberta’s energy sector means further climate disruption, further destruction of indigenous communities and further violation of the treaties with First Nations on which Canada was founded. Justin Trudeau and (especially) Stephen Harper are even more visibly pro-tar sands.

No party is even willing to discuss the possibility of reining in the abuses of Canadian mining companies whose operations are rife

with serious human rights abuses—especially in Latin America, where Canadian companies are regularly accused of hiring paramilitaries to murder resisters to their mega-projects. A member of the NDP put forward an independent-members bill of (mainly symbolic) measures to encourage Canadian mining companies to act “socially responsible,” but the bill was killed shortly afterwards. The NDP has since changed discussion towards strengthening the mining industry.

The NDP has also expelled candidates from the party who spoke out against Israel’s war

would give transnational corporations the power to sue governments and have national laws removed through investor-state dispute settlements. Debates about social spending are irrelevant when these policies—as well as labour and environmental standards—can be overridden by corporate bureaucrats in international tribunals.

### Electoral politics: a dead end

“If none of the parties present real change, why not form a new party?” Well, because that has been tried, and it has consistently

melling the country into a depression.

Syriza won last year’s election and took charge of the government on a clear mandate against austerity. They were the darlings of the global left for a few months. Social movements, which had built the power to make change without the backing of the state, were demobilized. Then, in their first negotiations with their creditors, Syriza were completely unable to prevent a new austerity budget. The structure which they were working within—the state—simply did not allow for even a modicum of change. Not only is austerity continuing in Greece, but social movements have lost significant ground. It will take time to repair the damage that Syriza’s failure has done to these movements.

### Cutting out the middleman

It might seem like I’m a defeatist. That I don’t believe that real change can take place. On the contrary, I think that acknowledging the failure of the state as an agent of change presents us with real opportunities to take our future into our own hands. This is made all the more urgent as climate change advances with alarming speed and threatens to destabilize the ecosystem which we depend on for survival.

In order to do what we need to do, we have to re-learn that we have the power to make change ourselves. We need to remember what direct action means. We need to organize together, and build up community-based power outside of and around the state. We need to practice mutual aid that does not respond to market forces. We need to reclaim our collective imagination, and we need to build the society of our dreams from the ground up.

Radical change is coming, whether we want it or not. Climate change is going to make sure of that. What that change will look like is up to us.

**“It might seem like I’m a defeatist. That I don’t believe that real change can take place. On the contrary, acknowledging the failure of the state as an agent of change presents us with real opportunities to take our future into our own hands.”**

on the indigenous population of Palestine. Justin Trudeau has criticized the rights of students to engage in speech against Israel. Stephen Harper is one of Israel’s most vocal supporters in the world.

Issues of social spending are where the differences between the parties are most visible, but loud debates about minor reforms do not equal radical differences. In fact, all three parties are (to varying degrees) in favor of the Trans-Pacific Partnership—the largest trade deal in the history of the world, which

failed. For proof, we need only look at recent events in Greece.

Greece has been taking a beating by the global market since the economic crisis began in 2008. This has led to a resurgence of popular movements and, occasionally, full-scale insurrections. As the movements grew and anger deepened, would-be politicians formed a party: the Coalition of the Radical Left, or Syriza. This was a party whose base was in social movements, and whose mandate was to turn back the austerity economics that had been pum-

## Letter: Concordia Group Walks for Mental Health



Lace up those running shoes and walk towards a world without stigma! Montrealers will be taking to the streets for the 7th annual Montreal Walks for Mental Health in an effort to raise awareness about mental health issues. The event will take place on Sunday Oct. 4 at 11 a.m. in Phillips Square.

The Montreal Walks for Mental Health Foundation is a collaboration of 10 health and community organizations whose mission is to increase public awareness about mental health, and eliminate stigma and discrimination towards people who live with a mental illness.

Did you know that one in five Canadians will experience mental illness in their lives? The walk brings mental illness

out of the shadows and serves to reduce the stigma, which prevents so many people from seeking the help that they need. The funds raised from the event go to mental health resources throughout the City of Montreal.

“Bell Let’s Talk is pleased to once again invite Montrealers to take part in Montreal Walks for Mental Health, and to join with Jasmin Roy and Jessica Vigneault to help make a difference by spreading the conversation about mental health,” said Marie-Josée Boivin, Vice-President Human Resources and Bell’s workplace mental health program lead.

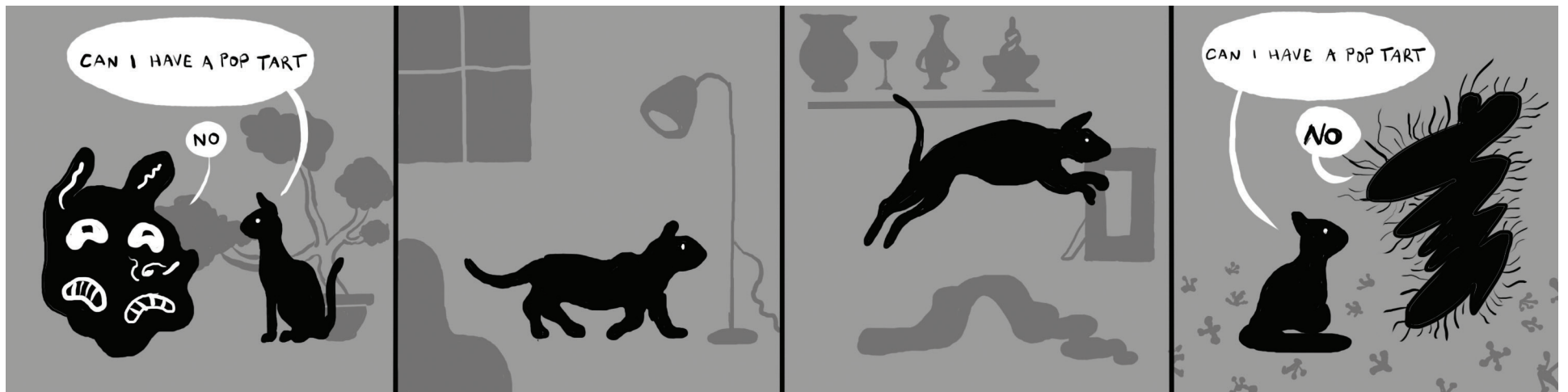
“We are proud to partner with Montreal Walk for Mental Health as we continue to work to end the stigma of mental

illness that keeps so many from obtaining the care they need.”

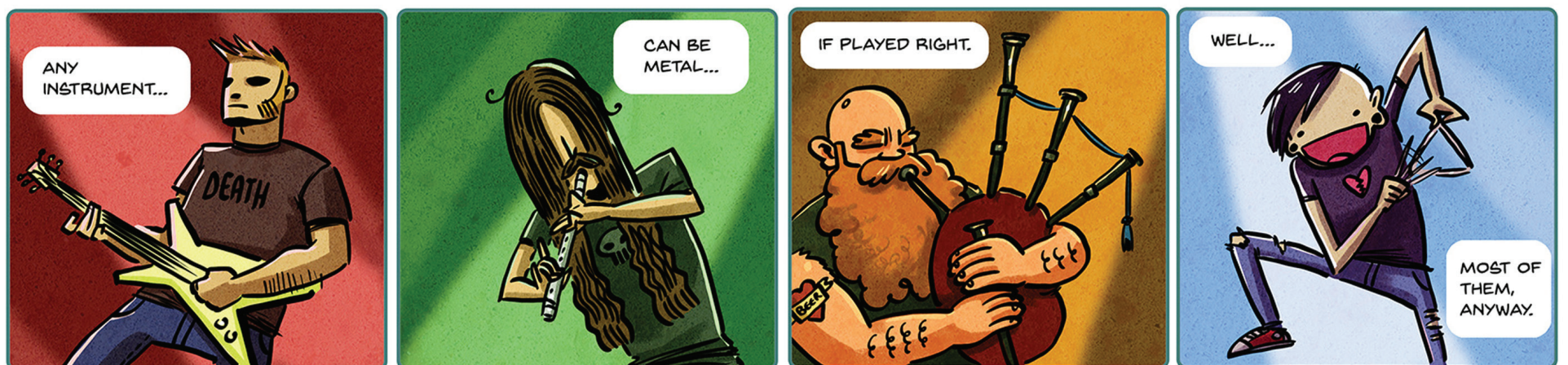
Concordia’s very own mental health club, Jack.org Concordia, will also be participating at the walk. We serve you, the students, with information on mental health resources on and off campus. Come and join us at 10:30 a.m. at Concordia’s downtown campus and we’ll walk on over together!

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# EDITORIAL

## Montreal Universities Need to Invest in a Cleaner Future

Kudos to the members of Divest McGill for organizing and following through on a camp-in at McGill's campus to reignite the debate about their university's (and Concordia's) investment in fossil fuel companies.

Beginning last Monday, the camp-in coincided with their Fossil Free Week, which saw different lectures, forums and workshops educate the community about what is increasingly becoming an accepted reliance on fossil fuel investments, which are not socially responsible.

"We had to do something big to get not only the students' attention but more so the attention of the people on [the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility], because, I'm sure they do take it seriously, but they've been kind of leaving it on the back burner because we were being so polite," Antonina Scheer, one of Divest McGill's organizers, told *The Link*.

And with mainstream as well as student

press coverage, their goal was probably achieved. It's hard to ignore a group of students choosing to sleep on the chilly confines outside McGill's James Administration Building to advocate for broader change. As the Occupy Movement showed around the world in 2012, occupation of spaces—and the refusal to move when asked—is a useful protest tool that can reconfigure public discourse on social issues.

Last November, Concordia admin sort of set a precedent for McGill divestment. It was announced that \$5 million from the Concordia University Foundation—the school's biggest investment fund—would be put toward a new sustainable investment fund. That meant divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting the \$5 million into renewable energy alternatives.

The foundation is made up of donations, and is used to make money through returns for student scholarships and bursaries from calculated investments. A working group was created at the time to run the new sustain-

ability fund—which includes the Concordia Student Union, the Graduate Students Association, Divest Concordia and three members from the Concordia Foundation Board.

Most acknowledged, including members of Divest Concordia, that it was a positive first step for the university to officially recognize that fossil fuel usage is unsustainable.

However, an ongoing issue with both McGill and Concordia investments is the general lack of transparency. Beside select individuals, like members of the CUF board and a third-party investment manager, no one else really knows which companies are receiving Concordia cash. It's largely the same at McGill. Concordia's Vice-President External Relations Bram Freedman told *The Link* at the time he was unsure himself what percentage of money was being invested into fossil fuel companies.

Since the announcement, Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said a number of products were proposed for potential divest-

ment and that the CUF board were supposed to reach a decision at the end of the summer. After an inquiry, Mota said an announcement regarding the sustainable investment fund is expected as soon as next week.

Divestment has become a worldwide movement. Major international post-secondary schools like University of Glasgow and the University of California, have announced they will divest from fossil fuels. Money talks and taking it away from some of the most influential and harmful corporations in the world is impactful.

With news expected this week, *The Link* hopes Concordia admin decides to not only announce where the divested \$5 million will be going, but also which companies are being divested from and perhaps further declare more money will be committed for divestment. Renewable and sustainable energy alternatives are out there. As a university, let's start investing in them.

## THE LINK

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THE LINK

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(Location to be determined)

This is an opportunity to meet and ask questions to federal candidates running in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce–Westmount riding this upcoming election.  
Check our Facebook for updates about the location at [www.facebook.com/TheLinkNewspaper](http://www.facebook.com/TheLinkNewspaper)

Monday, Oct. 5 at 12 p.m.