

volume 36, issue 7

Oct. 6, 2015

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Notice of election
 The Link Publication Society Board of Directors
 Three (3) Board Staff representatives

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Election will be held Tuesday October 20 at 5 p.m. in the Link's office, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649.

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TEN YEARS AND STILL NO JUSTICE

Aboriginal Activists Continue to Demand Inquiries for Missing and Murdered Native Women

BY DANIELLE RUDNICKA-LAVOIE @RL_DANIELLE

More than 500 people attended the 10th annual March and Vigil for Missing and Murdered Native Women that started at Cabot Square on Sunday afternoon.

More than 100 vigils were registered across Canada for Sunday to commemorate the Aboriginal women who have been murdered or gone missing since 1980, according to the Native Women of Canada's website.



PHOTO ALANNA LAVOIE

The Montreal vigil organizers—Quebec Native Women (QNW), the Centre for Gender Advocacy and Missing Justice—vocally denounced the fact that there has yet to be a formal nationwide, federal inquiry into the cases of these missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The theme of this year's march was justice, they said.

"It means justice for our stolen sisters. We've been asking for an inquiry for a long time. Nothing has happened," said Laureanne Fontaine, communications officer at QNW in a phone interview with *The Link*. "We will ask for it until we have it."

Nakuset, director of the Montreal Native Women's Shelter and co-chair of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Strategy Network (NETWORK), says a recently signed protocol plan aiming to build better relationships between Aboriginal people and police can help make solving cases of missing people easier.

"When someone goes missing, the last person they call is someone from the police," Nakuset told *The Link*. "So then how to we deal with this issue?"

This plan involves introducing three parts: a prevention program, an awareness and sensitization guide that would be mandatory for all SPVM officers in the city, as well as an Aboriginal liaison officer that would work as an intermediary between the families of missing Aboriginal persons and the SPVM.

"When you need help, you have to be able to trust the police. A lot of the time people don't want to call the police directly," said Rachel Deutsch, Cabot Square project manager at the NETWORK. "We're creating this role of coordinator where they can call from other places in Quebec as well."

After the opening speeches, the march started on Ste. Catherine St. until it reached Phillips Square, where the vigil began with people lighting candles to honour the women who have been lost this past year. The vigil

also included performances by Buffalo Hat Singers, MJ Tremblay and other First Nations artists.

According to an RCMP report released earlier this year, approximately 1,200 Aboriginal women have gone missing or were murdered in Canada from 1980 to 2012—204 of those cases remain unsolved. According to Lucy Anacleto, promotions and publicity coordinator for the Centre for Gender Advocacy, activists estimate it to now be closer to 3,000 cases.

The justice coordinator at QNW is currently working on its own report on missing and murdered women in Quebec, as the RCMP report does not reflect the reality of women in the province, Fontaine says.

Stephen Harper told *CBC* in December 2014 a formal inquiry into the issue "isn't really high on our radar," although the Conservatives' 2014 Economic Action Plan included a five-year \$25 million investment in order to stop violence against Aboriginal women and girls beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

For many of the vigil's organizers, not enough has been done. They say violence against Aboriginal women is systemic and creates a cycle of trauma within the community.

"Ways that white governments have responded have been inadequate," Anacleto said. "[Harper] says that this is not on his radar and I think that his radar is broken, because obviously this is a huge issue which has been going on since colonialization."

Fontaine, who led the march and vigil with Chantel Henderson, says that the upcoming election provides positive visibility to the cause. Stephen Harper and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe remain the



PHOTO EVGENIA CHOROS

only main candidates to not have emphasized the need for a formal inquiry on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in their respective platforms.

Mohawk activist Ellen Gabriel was vocal about the political negligence towards the issue and the need for non-Aboriginal Canadians to prioritize Aboriginal rights.

"Canadians need to step up to the plate," she said in an interview with *The Link*. "If they agree with their constitution, if they believe that everyone has the right to justice and freedom, then they need to educate themselves and be part of the solution."

During the end process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—which was designed to educate the Canadian government and its public on the harmful lasting effects of Indian Residential Schools—Justice Murray Sinclair called for federal inquiry into the crisis. Amid a standing ovation, the Conservative Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt remained seated, refusing to honour the missing and murdered indigenous girls and women.

"That just shows the depth of the cruelty and negligence going on in the government right now. That meant he kind of had to go out of his way to show how little he cared about this issue," Anacleto said.

According to the RCMP report, for most of the murdered Aboriginal women cases they solved, they discovered that a perpetrator known to the victim committed the act—similar to other female homicides.

Anacleto says the RCMP's approach to investigating the cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women is problematic in that they assume perpetrators are known by the victims, thus ignoring external violence from outside First Nation communities against Aboriginal women.

The report states that violence against Aboriginal women is the responsibility of all citizens—law enforcement, government and social services.

"They're missing the fact that indigenous women are targeted systemically by people outside the community," she said. "That's why there are so many unsolved cases. And then they wonder why they're not successful."



PHOTO WILLIE WILSON

Fighting For What?

The CSU Played a Role in Bill 59 Talks

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

What can and cannot be said in Quebec has been far from a straightforward debate these past few weeks, and it's partly because of the controversial, now tabled, "hate speech" legislation of Bill 59.

This past Thursday, the Quebec government unanimously passed a motion denouncing Islamophobia, in response to increasing hate rhetoric and action toward Muslims—including a pregnant Muslim woman in Montreal who fell while two teenage boys tried to pull off her hijab.

"It's a breath of fresh air," Fo Niemi, executive director of the Centre for Research Action on Race-Relations (CRARR), said about Thursday's motion.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Quebec's Liberal government decided to scrap its "hate speech" bill until a better version is redrafted.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, members of a "silent march" in opposition to the bill came to blows with a counter, anti-fascist demonstration at Place Émile-Gamelin. Ariane Cassandre

Paradis, an organizer of the march, told *The Link* that members of the anti-Islamic group PEGIDA Quebec were present.

The main rhetoric from the "silent march" was that the law would hinder freedom of speech.

"You can say whatever you like," Niemi commented. "But if the people you're targeting in your speech end up suffering violence and discrimination, then perhaps we have to revisit the notion of freedom of speech."

Even supporters of a law that protects marginalized ethnic groups from hate speech considered Bill 59 to be problematic, concerned it was poorly drafted and susceptible to misinterpretation and possible abuse. The Concordia Student Union is part of this group.

In June, the CSU was part of a media campaign organized by CRARR to bring attention to the reason the law is now tabled: its lack of consultation with ethnic groups most affected by hate crime and ambiguous wording.

"Basically zero minority groups were part of that consultation process," said CSU President Terry Wilkings. Politicians announced Bill 59 alongside Bill 62, which was essentially anti-

radicalization legislation. Wilkings says he was disappointed with the overtones of Islamophobia from the two bills' releases coinciding.

"Every politician knows that timing is important," he said about the message sent by the bills' coupling. Alongside groups like the Canadian Muslim Forum, the Black History Month Round Table, and the Association des Musulmans et des Arabes pour la Laïcité du Québec, the CSU successfully mobilized for the extension of public hearings on the law until mid-September, according to Wilkings.

By the end of July, nine groups, including CRARR and the CSU, were asked for consultation on the bill by a commission within Quebec's National Assembly, according to a press release from CRARR's website. At the time of the release, no First Nations group was consulted.

Instead of going to meet provincial legislature in Quebec City, the CSU submitted an 11-page brief summarizing their issues with the bill, says Wilkings. Among the problems, the CSU criticized undefined terminology of "hate speech," the proposed "hate list" record of individuals who violate the bill and puni-

tive fines for those who commit hate speech.

The CSU also emphasized the potential issue with the bill's aim to eradicate honour-killings. In the brief, the student organization warned this particular aspect could actually incite more Islamophobia and xenophobia rather than work to end violence against minorities and women in general.

"Greater care should be developed to avoid a hierarchy of oppression of women whereby culture or religion-based oppression, or 'femicide,' is considered worse than other forms of violence against women, include state-sponsored violence against women," the brief states.

In regard to having a "hate list," the CSU believed that it was not explained how long an individual would publicly be on a record for enacting a hate crime, a safeguard for someone with a common name and how minors would be treated.

Niemi says CRARR has a long-standing relationship with the CSU. They chose to work with them for their campaign to reveal the bill's faults because of Concordia University's diverse student population, the school's history with racially and gender motivated hate crimes, and the CSU's history of being proactive in the fight against these attacks, Niemi adds.

"Of all student unions in Montreal, the CSU has consistently shown pro-active leadership on many social justice involving race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and class," he said.

Concordia is not unfamiliar to racial or gender related discrimination, especially in recent times. Last semester, a TVA film crew showed up at the Muslim Student Association's library unannounced to document alleged Islamic texts with hateful rhetoric. Months later, it emerged that a former female executive at the school's Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA) experienced racial and sexual harassment from two former male colleagues. In 2002, a riot occurred inside the Hall building downtown when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to speak at the university. In 1969, the infamous Computer Riots organized by a group of Black Concordia students was sparked by the school's inaction against a racist professor.

Bill 59 is tabled for now. A new legislation may be drafted in the future to legally combat hate crime. Wilkings says he's hoping any possible new reform will be more comprehensive.

"I'm hopeful only in so far as they consult the groups that will be directly affected," he said.



Members of opposing demos duking it out over Bill-59 on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015.



PHOTOS MARIE BRIERE DE LA HOSSERAYE



PSSA President Jason Poirier Lavoie says strategies may change in regard to handling strikes. **PHOTO WILLIE WILSON**

Tribunals Not Deterring Future Strikes

Student Associations Talk Strikes Despite Concordia Charges

BY MARIE BRIERE DE LA HOSSERAYE
@MBDLH

Liberal Arts students called for a special strike general assembly this week and other associations should follow, which should lead to discussions on how the formal charges from last semester will impact future striking processes.

Last week the tribunals for Concordia student-protesters were suspended. Concordia University has hired a mediator to facilitate the discussions between the students and the professors who charged them. University President Alan Shepard explained they decided to hire a mediator to help find a common ground.

"We're trying to find a peaceful, non-judicial solution to the conflict," Shepard said. Hoping that informal solutions lead to a more comfortable path for everyone involved, he added mediation was also an educational opportunity. About the possibility of future strikes, he said the school would continue to prioritize safety.

The students involved in the tribunals will now be represented in the mediation process by the presidents of their student associations. Jason Poirier Lavoie, president of the Political Science Association (PSSA), said he is hoping the mediator will be fair and neutral.

"We are pleased to be able to represent our students in the process," said Poirier Lavoie.

"It is a good step forward in having a much better dialogue concerning students' right to strike in a democratically voted strike mandate."

"I'm hopeful that the mediation will be a process of open dialogue where individuals can express their different view points," said Terry Wilkings, president of the Concordia Student Union. He added it was premature to establish if the tribunals will have an impact on the mobilization.

Last week, the Fine Arts Student Association (FASA), The Liberal Arts Society (LAS) and PSSA all held general assemblies, as eventual strike motions were discussed. On Monday night, the Undergraduate Students of Philosophy Association (SoPhiA) general

assembly's agenda also involved the possibility of calling a strike GA.

For FASA, further discussions will have to wait until November, after the elections of their executive team, but Liberal Arts students announced a special general assembly to consider the question of a strike in two weeks. Political science students voted a motion to mandate their executives to organize a strike GA within ten days, if any Concordia labour union announces a strike vote.

Poirier Lavoie discussed the impact of the precedents set last semester by the administration on future strikes. Students are aware they have to take into account how the university first recognized the strike movement last semester before it became a co-complainant with some professors, and the effect that has on eventual striking strategies, he says.

The PSSA plans on following the same democratic process as before, trying to gather a large assembly, according to Poirier Lavoie. Last semester, students were charged for interrupting classes, after professors crossed picket lines. Future strategies would hence have to involve earlier and harder picketing, which might prevent students from being charged, according to Poirier Lavoie. PSSA will also focus on better communicating with professors and the department to maintain constant discussions with them, he continues.

About the consequences on student mobilization, he says the university is utilizing its students to intimidate them.

"Under the threat of the charges, students who would have been supportive are now afraid of this punitive tool," said Poirier Lavoie.

Former CSU President Benjamin Prunty commented the charges were discriminatory against students.

"Any attempt to target individuals will only increase the resolve and urgency of the mobilization," he said.

Aloyse Muller, president of LAS, says students are angry at the administration for being targeted by charges, leading students who were first opposed to the strike to mobilize. He adds that students were considering not identifying themselves while striking, because they were intimidated by the university and of being involved in tribunals.

CONCORDIA BRIEFS

BY MICHELLE PUCCI
@MICHELLEPUCCI

WEBSTER LIBRARY RENOVATIONS STEP ONE DONE

The newly renovated third floor of the Webster Library in Concordia's downtown campus opened last week to students, part of a three-year facelift.

The new third floor now has two reading rooms with over 400 seats, 48 seats with desktops and a zero-noise room.

Four phases of renovations are planned. Phase 2 will renovate the fifth floor.

ASFA ELECTION CAMPAIGNS BEGIN

The Arts and Science student associations are holding elections in October to vote in a new executive after last semester's general elections failed due to low voter turnout.

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections campaigning period runs from Oct. 7 to Oct. 19 for students who are nominated by Oct. 6.

All executive positions and five independent councilor seats are available. Votes will take place Oct. 20 to Oct. 22.

REGGIE'S TO OPEN IN FIVE WEEKS

The highly anticipated reopening of the student bar Reggie's is expected to happen in five weeks, according to CSU President Terry Wilkings.

Located on the Mezzanine level of the Hall Building, the bar has been closed for two years. An unnamed general manager has been hired, and that person is in the process of hiring staff and creating a menu, Wilkings says.

"She's opened her own bar before in British Columbia and has worked in the university setting as well in food providing," Wilkings said.

JMSB LOSES DEAN TO LEBANESE BUSINESS SCHOOL

The dean of Concordia's John Molson School of Business, Steve Harvey, is stepping down in December and will be the new dean of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

Harvey became JMSB faculty's dean in July 2012, according to a release by the university, and was expected to serve a five-year term.

Under Harvey, Concordia's Executive MBA program was revamped, and the business school received high rankings in sustainable business school surveys.

An interim dean will likely be appointed until a new dean is hired over the winter, according to the university.

Ending Prostitution: An international perspective on creating john-free communities.

Tuesday Oct. 6 7-9 pm



A panel on feminist alternatives to
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Suzanne Jay & Sarah Mah (Canada)

Concordia University
1455 Maisonneuve West, Montreal
Room H-767 (Hall Building)

awcep.org

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GUEST EDITOR SERIES

The Link's Guest Editor Workshops continue on **Tuesday Oct. 6 @ 6 p.m.** with freelance magazine writer **Adam Kovac** and Nunatsiq News reporter **David Murphy**. Kovac will be giving critiques for this issue (the one you're holding), and Murphy will have advice for the next issue at our story pitch meeting.

Tuesday Oct. 6 @ 6 p.m.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S
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ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MOBILIZING SOCIETY TO FIND SOLUTIONS

SCIENCE COLLEGE
PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

BY
CATHERINE POTVIN

Canada has repeatedly missed the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and is failing to take significant action to address climate change. Given the 21st session of the UN Conference on climate change which will be held in Paris in December, 2015, it is indeed a critical year for action on climate change. In response to this action Canadian scholars from across the country with diversified disciplinary backgrounds such as engineering, business to biology and sociology collaborated to ascertain variable solutions. The group identified ten key policies orientations which could allow Canada to engage in the transition towards low – carbon economy.

The lecturer Dr Catherine Potvin will present a thorough discussion on the subject matter.

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SCIENCE COLLEGE



Modern-day Juliet adorns wall between St. Laurent Blvd. and St. Dominique St.

PHOTO BRANDON JOHNSTON

IT'S NO FLUKE

Local Artist Helps Legitimize Graffiti in Montreal

BY JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

The corner dep was half an hour from closing. While St. Laurent Blvd. warmed up for a standard Thursday night, St. Dominique St. quietly awaited the aftermath.

In a parking lot between these two streets stood a man and woman, two stories high. Local artist Fluke—no surname—worked atop a hydraulic platform, applying the finishing touches to a mural on the side of a building.

He and a two-man team had been working on it for 10 days.

“A regular day of work [is] eight hours,” says Zek, another surname-less artist collaborating on the project. “Except for Fluke, I think he was here for like 12 hours every day.”

The mural is of a woman in a white button-up holding a letter with a glass of wine to her side. The model’s name is Natalia. Fluke describes her as his college sweetheart, saying they met on their first day at Dawson.

It’s hard to tell at a glance, but the mural is advertising a new wine bottle from Verona that is soon debuting at local liquor stores. It’s this type of commissioned work that Fluke’s company, A’shop, has seen rise in their five year existence based in Montreal.

“This is not street art,” he says, gesturing in the wall’s direction. “It’s just cool to say the phrase ‘street art.’ This is just straight up art.”

A’shop employs six or seven artists a year, many of whom, including Zek, have backgrounds as graffiti artists. Fluke, the founder, says many of these guys met in abandoned factories or on playgrounds in the 90s around LaSalle and Montreal’s east end, illegally tagging and marking exteriors.

“Even though this is contemporary art, it does have that flavour that can’t be done with a brush,” Fluke says, paying homage to the tagger’s classic can of spray paint.

New standards

Murals on buildings are widespread and celebrated within modern Montreal culture. Before, maybe 10 years ago, trepidatious busi-

ness owners had to think twice about having wall art, which could potentially devalue their property. Now, Fluke says perceptions have changed, as the average passerby views murals and tagging as legitimate artistic endeavours.

“People are coming to this not-necessarily-attractive parking lot to look at these murals,” he says.

Balancing the commercialized and trendy nature of modern murals with urban graffiti is not difficult for the veteran artist.

“When I go outside and do something illegally, that’s when I call myself a graffiti writer,”

been doing it since before it was cool, we will still be around,” he says. “It’s what we do.”

New kids on the block

Tristan Wright, 21, is part of this next generation. Fluke and Zek even played a direct role influencing the young graffiti artist to take up the craft. Wright remembers being 8 when Zek was commissioned to paint five or six murals in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood. He remembers the intoxicating smell of the paint.

When Wright was 13, Fluke came to his school, Westmount High School, to do a mural

some murals being tagged over. The city’s only untouched murals are those of former or current graffiti artists, Wright says.

“Some people want to stay vandals, but for me I’d love to be part of [A’shop] to have an opportunity to do a mural,” he says.

A’shop is still very active within the scene, Fluke says. They attend events and maintain a dialogue.

“They help out the newer kids,” Wright says. “They’ll go out and paint with the next generation.”

But for Fluke coming up, a place like A’shop wasn’t in existence to aspire to. There was no college class to learn graffiti or an internship in which one could practice under the guidance of a pro.

“I created a business for myself,” Fluke says. “I wanted to be able to live off this.”

Earning legal status

Graffiti is illegal. Sometimes it can be dangerous. Wright knew the three artists who were killed by an incoming train while working on walls alongside the tracks in Toronto, on Halloween night in 2010.

While his crew is peaceful, he says others are more interested in committing crime rather than honing their art.

The graffiti scene is also intensely male-dominated.

“There are really good female taggers, but it’s hard for them to get in the inner circles without getting hated on,” he says. “Graffiti is every man for themselves.”

The transition from dodging cop cars and scaling rooftops as kids, to working in broad daylight on the city’s busiest streets was a gradual and natural one, says Zek.

In the past, if Montreal police caught Fluke working on a wall, he probably would’ve run away. Officers, who may have once viewed him as a pest, now stop to admire his work during patrols through St. Laurent Blvd. on a weekend night.

“Doing [murals] and still being a graffiti artist has allowed me to have a better dialogue with the city and the cops,” he says.

“I created a business for myself,” Fluke says. “I wanted to be able to live off this.”

Fluke says. “When I do this stuff, I consider them just really goddamn good murals.”

Zek says he never could’ve imagined as a kid that he’d be where he is. He has three children and supports them through his art. Up-and-coming millennials seek out members of A’shop for life and career advice. While the next generation of street artists in Montreal has individuals to model after, guys like Fluke and Zek had to find their own space, create their own paths.

“There are so many skilled people now,” Zek says. “A long time ago, there were only a few kids who were good. People used to think Montreal was the North Pole with nothing going on.”

Without the internet in the 90s, Fluke says they sought inspiration from magazines and VHS tapes documenting the blossoming New York graffiti scene.

Street art’s trendiness is cyclical. It hasn’t climaxed yet and is on the upward swing right now, Fluke says. There is even an oversaturation of artists, he believes.

In five years, will it be dying?

“If it does die down, guys like us who have

of kids playing basketball in the gymnasium.

“I was fascinated by how he could use a can of paint to mix and match all these colours together,” Wright says nostalgically. “How you can get such a precise line out of something that is so unpredictable.”

He bought his first paint soon after—he never steals supplies like some artists—and progressed from getting driven home by the police to an angry mother, to having photos of tags near rooftops or under highway passes get more than 50 likes on Instagram. Once, Wright tracked the journey of his tag on a freight train heading to California, through photos and blog posts online.

To Wright and many of his peers, A’shop is the top of the street art hierarchy. There’s respect and admiration, despite tension between muralists—especially those from out-of-town—and the local street guys.

“I’m torn between murals,” he says. “I’m more street-oriented than the corporatized stuff, but it’s not like [Fluke] didn’t put in any work before he got to this point.”

The territorial nature of the scene leads to

MONTREAL CHARACTER SERIES: Strange Fruits



PHOTO BRANDON JOHNSTON WITH GRAPHIC BY MAGS MBOUW

On Inspiring the Marginalized and Staying Froot

BY ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

There aren't many all-female R&B groups in Montreal. Strange Fruits, made up of Naika Champagne, Mags Mbouw, and Sage Stewart-La Bonte, is one of the few.

I met the boisterous group at a downtown café on an unseasonably hot September day, just toward the end of summer. The group is merry, boisterous, and unabashed, joking and talking over each other. The trio operated as swimmingly as a well-oiled joke machine, anticipating answers and punctuating each other's sentences, all the while smiling and laughing, clearly enjoying each other's company as much as the day they all met.

Strange Fruits spoke to me about the ground the three walk on, the message they're trying to convey, and most, about trying to encourage other young women and POC to get into music and follow their passions.

Sage Stewart-La Bonte a.k.a. StarFroot
Age 19
Born and Raised in Montreal

Mags Mbouw a.k.a. PassionFroot
Age 23
Five years in Montreal

Naika Champagne a.k.a. DragonFroot
Age 20
Born and Raised in Montreal

When did you all meet?

Sage: (*Laughs*) Over a year ago, now.

Mags: We met in June 11 of 2014 at No Bad Sound studio, this studio where kids can record for free. It's affiliated with Maison

des Jeunes de Côte-Des-Neiges. They were looking for girls to be involved in a series of workshops more oriented toward girls, because most of the kids coming there are boys. So, that was the first meeting...actually, I met [Naika] a few weeks before at a jam session in mid-May, where we both heard about this workshop. A few weeks later, we were the only girls there. So, we were like, screw this, let's start a girl group project instead.

Sage: And that turned into our band.
(*All nod their heads, looking mad nostalgic*)
Naika: The rest is history.

What is the message you think people need to hear?

All: Stay cute, stay froot!

N: That's our motto.

M: Our friend Sara C. came up with it after our first release. The whole sentiment of it is that, as long as you're not problematic, as long as you're not a bigot, and as long as you understand how certain things in the world work—

N: We good.

M: We good. Be yourself, but be respectful. Respect who you are and respect other people, don't worry so much about how other people are trying to define you.

N: Do you. Stay cute, stay froot. Self-acceptance. Love yourself.

M: Live your life, follow your dreams. Getting into the political side of things, talking about systematic racism, sexism, stigmatization of mental illness...it's very important for people to know that whether you're black, you're queer, you're depressed, you're anxious, it's okay. No one needs to try and fix you, as long as you try to be the best version of yourself.

N: We're all humans, we all have flaws.

Everyone has their own issues and their ways of dealing with them. You just have to embrace both your issues and your good qualities and deal with them accordingly. Respect other people's ways of dealing with their stuff.

S: We can all love each other.

Maybe that's why y'all fit so nicely into the hippie scene, eh?
(*All laugh*)

N: Maybe!

M: Yeah, but then they all get uncomfortable when we play songs like "The Wanderer," which is our song about racism and fighting white supremacy.

N: It goes real deep.

M: Real deep, with an African sample and lyrics like, "Dreaming about the motherland, dreaming about the motherland." Some of the white folks are like, "I wanna sing along, but I don't know if I should."

How do you feel about that? White people entering hip hop in a huge way, like white critics trying to direct the conversation about hip hop? How do you feel about white presence at your shows?

M: The funny thing is...you mention white presence at our shows, but really, we're just performing at white shows. It's not like they have a presence—we're a POC presence at their show.

N: Hashtag Tommy café.

S: Oof, yeah.

M: We had this one show, yeah...

N: We were literally the five POC there, including my mom, Sage's mom, and three of our friends.

M: We knew every POC there, out of the maybe 80 or 100 people there. I'd say a good 90 per cent of them, and 75 per cent of those

white people had dreadlocks. It was one of those things where we have songs like "Green Apple," where we're like, "Oh, we're cute, we're froot, whatever," and then we go into "The Wanderer," and we're like fuck white supremacy, and everyone is suddenly standing still, except for our POC friends at the very front, fists up and mobbing. There was one old white dude in the front trying to put his fist up...

N: Stuff like that gets a little uncomfortable. I don't think they really get it, you know?

M: One of the many reasons we feel like we need to branch out into the urban hip hop scene. We feel like we need more shows for people in our age group. We find ourselves doing shows for a more adult crowd lately.

Where do you want to see Strange Fruits go?

All: Everywhere...

M: Short-term goals, we're trying to travel to West Africa in March, planning to do some workshops there, possibly perform at the Francolies Festival there. Meet with a few artists...

N: Finish our first full length [album]. But long-term, I'd like for us to travel everywhere and have workshops: musical workshops, writing workshops, beat-making workshops, everything, for young kids. Just to be there for the community.

M: Basically, what No Bad Sound provided for us, we should be able to provide for other kids elsewhere. Because, you know, they tried to bring more girls to their program. Not that many showed up, but we came out of it, and now we're representing them and trying to get more girls involved. Eventually, we'll move outside of Montreal, outside of Quebec.

S: We're trying to keep the ball rolling.

MOCKING THE MUNDANE

Concordia Student Celebrates Literary Debut with Metatron

BY MATTEO CIAMBELLA

Fawn Parker's stories are populated with quirky, slightly neurotic characters: people who are "going crazy and paying for it," as she suggests.

She narrates their existence with affection and a heap-dose of wit. As I was reading *Looking Good and Having A Good Time*, a collection of Parker's stories published by Metatron, a Montreal-based publishing house, I found myself giggling line after line.

Looking Good and Having A Good Time contains four stories, which share the Concordia student's sense of humour, often focusing on small, mundane matters only to take off into hilariously surreal twists. The stories take place in different situations, but in each of them the indulgence of the characters transition into some bizarre feeling where occupation seems to be a recurring theme.

In "Vacation With My Mother," the first story of the book, the protagonist's daily life unfolds as she grows obsessed over someone she has fallen in love with at first sight. Her thoughts are only interrupted by the comical interactions she has with her mother, as they wallow through their vacation between a tour on a boat and a stroll by the beach. There is something very light-hearted and pleasant about the flowing rhythm of this story, which begins with a gentle mocking of the love-at-first-sight ideal and culminates with an irreverent, deadpan parody of internet porn.

"Vacation With My Mother" is followed by "Doreen, Doreen," a story that starts off with a great premise: the protagonist is in a (complicated) relationship with John Travolta. While this becomes inevitably a comedic device—and the tone is, as with Parker's other stories, always snappy and funny—the story does portray an unequal, harmful relationship, and it shows how it is possible to love somebody who brings one sorrow and does not show any respect. In a similar way, the story attempts to understand the victim, while also humanizing the abusive partner. It turns out that the choice of the name John Travolta is not merely an absurdist joke, but a method for offering a familiar face so we wouldn't immediately label him as the bad guy, a judgement very common when it comes to such delicate subjects.

The third story of the collection is "Kombucha Mother," and it's the one in which Parker's comical vein is unleashed, as she follows the interactions between the characters of Hank and the Tenant and their hilarious musical experiments, which involve smashing iPhones and audio recordings of Hank's girlfriend, Marine, having sex. The story's real delight is the collection of stoned conversations between Hank and the Tenant, who philosophize loosely about life with sentences stuffed with so many intonations of "like" and "you know what I mean."

"Looking Good and Having a Good Time," the last of the four stories, appropriately lends its title to the collection, which does indeed ooze a sense of careless freedom with its mocking of the mundane in our lives. Unlike the others, though, this story takes a creepy turn. After a girl finds a book that holds the secrets to being charismatic and charming, she indulges fully in her new persona, enjoying the appreciation and even the envy of the people around her, until the attentions of an older man become too pressing. When we talked, Parker shunned the reading of this story as a critique of the very contemporary concern over physical appearance. Nonetheless, the story does hold a kind of wisdom. It deals with a mature subject in a mature writing style, but it is also the kind of story you would want your kids to read for the

lesson they would take away with it.

The book's official release will take place on Oct. 15 at 820 Plaza (6820 rue Marconi) as part of a triple release from Metatron, which includes, along with Parker's work, Sofia Banzhaf's *Pony Castle* and Oscar D'Artois's *Teen Surf Goth*. The event will feature readings by the authors, as well as by other Montreal-based writers and poets, plus screenings and live music performances.

Looking Good and Having a Good Time is Parker's first col-

lection of writing. She has published poetry in *The Quietist*, *Hobart* and Concordia's magazines *The Void* and *Headlight Anthology*. She is currently working on a novella: "Something More Serious," she said. But for now, *Looking Good and Having a Good Time* is surely some serious fun.

Metatron 2K15 Fall Catalog Launch Party + Reading // Oct. 15 // 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. // 820 Plaza (6820 Marconi St.) // Free



GRAPHIC COURTESY LOUISE REIMER



PUNKS ARE FEELING THE BERN

Yet Another Punk-Supported Bernie Sanders Benefit Show and I Know Why

BY ZACH GOLDBERG
@ZACHGOLDBERG

Last Sunday was not an average Sunday.

Besides the Blood Moon, and the Pope shutting down Philadelphia, last Sunday, Bushwick Berners brought more than just your average punk show to Bushwick's Shea Stadium. Ostensibly, a great bill drew the locals, including Nine of Swords, Mannequin Pussy, Nonsense and Guerilla Toss; but people were out for more than just moshing that night. Part of the Weekend at Bernies event series, this show doubled as a fundraiser for Vermont Senator and Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders.

You read that right—a punk fundraiser for Bernie Sanders. Which is strange for a couple reasons. Firstly, I don't go to benefits. I'm not into politics and neither are my friends, really. Obviously, we're up to date, and we all have our personal opinions, but never, ever, have myself or any of my friends made the clear effort to proselytize for any politician. It's never been necessary—no politician has ever represented us, really. In fact, the last politician to garner the “youth vote,” a phrase come to mean any progressive making under \$50,000 annually, was Obama, who promptly turned around and casually drowned the world in drone strikes. Suffice to say, most American “youth” I know are significantly jaded with American politics.

Enter Bernie. The second reason this benefit and my attendance were strange is because this benefit, like the last two I went to, were thrown by punks, for punks. That's right—it was punks for Bernie. Here was a fully packed Shea Stadium, a DIY venue in Bushwick, sporting all the calling cards of a DIY show—a lot of smoking, a lot of smelly bodies, a lot of dancing and drinking. A scene I've witnessed and interacted with a thousand times before. The only difference: a totally sincere political bent.

It was a non-cynical political fervor, completely infecting the atmosphere. No joke, the air was drenched in genuine hope. After being greeted by a Bushwick Berners volunteer at the door, who politely and excitedly asked for some information “for Bernie's records,” my friend Ben and I moved through the room, noting a wall covered in Bernie merch and a

table fronted by kindly youths assisting with voter registration.

It was a show with an unabashed cause, and every band made sure to mention it. Punk proselytizing is an interesting affair—one part angry cynicism with the current system, one part intense hopefulness for a coming change. Over and over it's mentioned that this is a first, and I'm struck by the great truth of that. Never before have I ever heard of a punk show for a presidential candidate, never have I ever heard of a presidential candidate that cared about DIY music. Clearly, I needn't look any further than Sanders for just that.

“My dad used to say there'd never be a Black president, and now he says there will never be a Jewish president,” said Rachel Gordon, frontwoman of Nine of Swords, one of the four bands on the night's bill. “Well, he was wrong once, and he's gonna be wrong again.”

Bernie's a lot more than Jewish, though. Among the crowd's favourite characteristics of

the Vermont Congressman are his lack of Super PAC funding, his place as creator and supporter of the Burlington punk scene (Fugazi, Operation Ivy, and Bane are just a couple seminal punk acts hosted at 242 Main, the all-ages sober venue Sanders and his wife, Jane, née Driscoll, founded back in 1984) and just his all around “chill factor,” as put to me by a friend. Bernie's offering us something we've never been offered: recognition. It sort of feels like vindication, to hear him speak. Like we haven't been ignored, just screaming into the wind.

So there I was, seeing some of my favourite bands, jamming in a crowd that was connecting in a way I hadn't seen in a while, especially not in New York City, where shows tend to be a lot more isolationist just due to the sheer volume of shows/bands in the city. The nature of showgoing in DIY is inherently isolationist—this idea that this town, this state, this country, this world is so intensely fucked up a place that we have no choice but to take as

much solace in the collective happiness mustered in music and showgoing. Usually, shows garner a feeling of being in another world, an alternative plane meant to give a little reprieve from the bullshit of everything out there.

Instead, this show, this crowd, was brazenly, unapologetically attempting to influence the world. Rather than being the reflexive, inward-facing scene meant to keep and cherish its own, carve out its own small world and try to live in it, I was at a show packed with politically-minded punks, being rallied to get their collective shit together and register to vote in the primaries and “fucking make sure we don't fuck this up.” The show, the scene, is suddenly facing outward, attempting to enact change in the rest of the country.

“I guess we're just tired of not being counted in the game,” Colin Regisford, a musician and friend playing the show, commented to me as we stood outside, staring up at the moon.

I just hope we don't fuck it up.



PHOTOS BEN ZINEVIC

BY NICK PEVATO
@NICKPEVATO

It was an unreasonably hot afternoon in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The mid-August sun was relentless in the sky, beaming down directly on the soccer players as they nervously fidgeted and jogged in place. Brandon Anderson stood intently in the row of his teammates, all wearing black, yellow and green—the colours of their country, Jamaica.

It's an emotional and nerve-racking moment for any athlete to compete in an internationally sanctioned game. Never mind playing the game in an unfamiliar position.

"I actually played at right back, which isn't really my position," Anderson chuckled recalling the memory. "But I'm versatile and I think that's why the coach picked me."

It is the Caribbean Football Union Under-23 championship third place playoff matchup and Anderson is starting as defense for Jamaica against St. Vincent and the Grenadines. When not answering his country's international call of duty, he is a Concordia Stingers soccer player and international business major.

But as the anthem of "Jamaica, Land We Love," blared over the loud speakers, one has to wonder if Anderson was thinking about the long journey he had to take to get to the Stade Sylvio Cator on that tropical afternoon.

After training with the Under-17 Jamaican team a few years back, Anderson was ultimately cut from the final squad for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

"I had a training stint with the U-17 team but I didn't make that final squad," he recalled. "But at least I was in the system."

Not discouraged, Anderson continued on playing at the club and university level and dedicated himself to becoming a better all around player. After three years, his persistence paid off when he was reselected to the national team pool, this time for the Under-23 team.

It was a dream come true for the 20-year-old when he made the final cut and officially became a member of what Jamaicans proudly call The Reggae Boyz.

"I was very proud to put on that shirt. It was an honour," he said about his selection.

It was an honour he could share with his family as well. "My family has always loved football and brought me up in a football environment. And to see me reach that level was a real accomplishment for my family," he said.

For the game itself, Jamaica defeated St. Vincent and the Grenadines in extra time by a score of 3-2. Anderson played all 120 minutes. Although his team had already been eliminated after losing the semi-finals, the atmosphere was intense.

"Being in the stadium surrounded by the crowd was really motivating. It



The Jamaican U-23 national, Brandon Anderson, suits up for ConU men's soccer team this year.

PHOTOS EVGENIA CHOROS

REGGAE BOY

Stingers Midfielder Brandon Anderson Looks Back on International Experience



gives you a desire to push hard and to fight for your country," he said. "The experience I had versus St. Vincent gave me more confidence."

Anderson has transcended that experience into the 2015 Stingers soccer season. He is a frequent member of the starting 11, normally playing the central attacking mid-field position.

Concordia, after going winless last season, has put together two victories so far and already reached their goal tally from last season. Anderson has been an instrumental part of the new, revamped team.

"Brandon has great potential," manager Greg Sutton said about his player. "He has great ideas for the game and he is still young. For us, it's a great opportunity to help him grow and build as a player. It was great for him to go away with the [Jamaican] Olympic team and a good confidence booster for him."

Anderson agreed about the boost in confidence he gained after the tournament.

"It has definitely given me an extra push coming back to Concordia," he said.

Part of that extra push has come from rubbing shoulders with some professional soccer players that were his teammates on that weekend. Romario Williams of the Montreal Impact in Major League Soccer, and Michael Seaton of the Portland Timbers, both lined up with Anderson in the third place match. Williams scored once, and Seaton provided two, including the game winner.

"It was a new world that I had not been exposed to," Anderson said about playing alongside MLS players. "They have that professionalism about them. You watch how they train, how they eat and I have been able to learn from that. It has helped my game."

While Williams and Seaton have helped his game, Anderson is doing his part in helping the game of his teammates when he is back at school. Midfielder Justin Smith acknowledged the effect Brandon has on the Stingers team.

"He's a really good role model and he's always positive," he said. "He brings maturity, even though he is younger than most of us."

Smith, who played in a highly competitive Ontario league for the past two seasons before joining the Stingers this year, ranks Anderson up there with some of the best he has played with and competed against.

"I've played with people from all over and he's right up there," he said. "For such a young player, he's pretty phenomenal. He has a crazy touch, amazing vision and he's a good leader."

With the 2015 season in full swing, Anderson has his sights set on making the playoffs. But the thought of his next international call up lingers in his mind.

"I really hope I can keep my performance up to a high level that would allow me to be considered again," he said.

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Catcher Dario Vincelli nails a hit, rocking the new jersey on Sunday Oct. 4, 2015.

PHOTOS NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

PITCHING FOR A THIRD

Concordia Stingers Baseball Team Look for Conference Three-peat

BY DAVID KELLY
@DAVIDKELLY4567

As the season winds down for the Stingers baseball team, the last pitch of every game brings them one step closer to the playoffs, and one step closer to a chance at a third consecutive Canadian Collegiate Baseball Association Northern Division championship.

After defeating the Carleton Ravens in a two-game sweep of a best-of-three series in 2013, the Stingers defeated the McGill Redmen in 2014, despite their rivals forcing a third and final game of their playoff series.

This year, with new uniforms and many new faces, the task at hand will be difficult, but not out of reach.

"We lost seven starters to graduation last year, three of which were starting pitchers, and it's been tough to replace them," said manager Howie Schwartz. "I think our depth has changed on the mound and that's my biggest worry going into the playoffs."

With the likes of Brian Berkovits, Andre Lagarde, and Alex Kechayan gone from the pitching staff, Schwartz has scrambled to find replacements, but has had some success.

"Vito Pagliuca, even though he's a rookie with us, has been around the game for a while," Schwartz said. "He's a great ball player too and he's been playing a little bit of center field and outfield for us and he's also pitched very well twice."

Along with Pagliuca, the additions of Sam Blondeau and Shane Mullen have strengthened the Stingers pitching. Offensively, Stefan Brady has been a solid pickup for Schwartz, and the manager has been pleased with his rookie's play.

"I don't remember ever having a rookie play in the cleanup position for me," he said. "He's doing a great job hitting the ball, and he's a great kid who's very easy to coach."

Even with all of the newcomers on the roster, veteran Stinger Anthony Marandola believes that this year will be no different than the last two.

"There's no reason we should not finish in first place," he said. "We're going to work hard to do it, and I can see us taking a championship home."

Marandola explained he believes that as long as the Stingers stick together and work as a team, they can be better than anybody in their conference playing what he believes is a different kind of baseball than in the past.

"In years past we could rely on big hits and quality pitching," he said. "This year, it's more scrappy and we've got to make things happen on the field."

Although Marandola exudes this confidence, there are certain teams to be cautious around according to Schwartz.

"McGill and Université de Montréal are up there in the division, and Carleton can't be shut out of the equation either," Schwartz said. "Honestly, it's going to be tough."

Since winning the conference finals against McGill last year, the Stingers have been unable to defeat their long-time rival. Three of Concordia's four losses on the season have come at the expense of McGill.

In addition, since falling to Redmen 6-1 in the final game of the CCBA National Championship last season, the Stingers have been outscored 18-3 in the first three games the two teams have played this season.

This past Monday, the Stingers bounced back against the Redmen, winning 8-7 in extra innings.

"With McGill, it's never a done deal until the end of the game," Schwartz said. "They're a good enough a team that if we don't play our best, we're going to lose and that's even more so this year than in previous years."

Of the 25 runs that McGill has scored against the Stingers this year, Robert Zapata believes over half of them were unearned runs that stemmed from fielding errors or mental errors.

"Yeah [McGill] beat us three times, but all those three times we didn't show up," Zapata explained. "We weren't cheering each other up, we weren't [being] smart at [bat], and we

were playing very poor defence.

"They don't show us anything out of the ordinary. They just put the ball in play and make the plays on defense, and if we're able to do the same thing, the game can go either way," he added.

Both Marandola and Zapata agree that the atmosphere on the bench and in the clubhouse is one that will allow the team to work together and earn a championship.

"The ambiance is really good," Zapata said. "If there's anything that's going to help us it's this optimistic attitude of not bringing each other down."

If the Stingers do three-peat, it will be because of teamwork and hard work, not individual performances.



Pitcher Jonathan Raftus throws a fast one on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015.

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:

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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, Hélène Bauer, Alison Bertho, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Alex Carriere, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Didierjean, Caroline Dubé, Josh Fischlin, Madeleine Gendreau, Caity Hall, Sam Jones, Danielle Rudnicka-Lavoie, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, Sarah Lozinski, Gabriela de Medeiros, Julia Miele, Nick Pevato, Riley Stativa, Michael Wrobel.

ONE MORE CONTRIBUTION NEEDED: Morag Rahn Campbell, Chris Michaud, Willie Wilson, Elizabeth Xu.

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

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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.

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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.

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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).



MISSING PERSON

The SPVM is looking for 20-year-old Concordia student Clémence Leclerc.

She was last seen near her residence in downtown Montreal around 6 p.m. on Sept. 28.

Anyone with information is asked to call Info-Crime at 514-393-1133.

SURNAME: LECLERC

NAME: CLEMENCE

AGE: 20

HEIGHT: 1.72 m (5'8")

WEIGHT: 45 kg (100lb)

HAIR: LIGHT BROWN

EYES: BLUE

ETHNICITY: WHITE

CLOTHING: WHITE REEBOK SNEAKERS

Put Gendered Violence at Election Forefront

BY CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

Inequality towards women is evident to me daily. I notice students disrespecting female professors and questioning their ability. I often witness and am subject to objectifying comments when I'm working at a dépanneur.

In 2015, there should be no question about stonewalling those who perpetuate sexism. So why is it so difficult for me to confront them? This speaks to a greater societal issue—sexism's normality.

Women's issues are at the forefront of the upcoming federal election after highly publicized allegations of sexual harassment. This year, CBC's Jian Ghomeshi was charged of four counts of sexual assault against women and one count of choking. In 2014, two Liberal members of Parliament were suspended from the House of Commons after NDP MPs accused them of harassment.

The surge in media coverage surrounding women's issues led organizations from across the country to create Up For Debate. This alliance for women's rights planned to broadcast a leaders' debate and ended up broadcasting a series of interviews with four federal party leaders run by journalist Francine Pelletier on the subject of women's issues. The organization has three goals: ending violence against women, ending inequality and supporting women's issues. The debate would have been the first time women's rights were discussed in a national leaders' debate since 1984.

All federal party leaders agreed to participate with the exception of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. During her interview with Pelletier, Green Party leader Elizabeth May said his absence was "a lost opportunity that speaks to the marginalization of women when something else comes along."

Harper is avoiding talking about anything

other than the economy—a bad move for the Progressive Conservative Party. By ignoring prevalent issues that affect over half of Canada's population, Harper could alienate the female and feminist vote. Organizers of Up For Debate told the *Ottawa Citizen*, "Politicians who ignore women's rights do so at their own peril."

When debating violence against women, Green Party leader May and NDP leader Tom Mulcair agreed that a national action plan is necessary to confront violence against women, especially missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Mulcair proposed a Royal Commission to address this problem.

"Nothing less than completely eliminating the problem would be acceptable to us," said Mulcair. The NDP also has a "concrete plan for women's shelters" and is prepared to invest \$40 million.

When asked to provide a figure for the same issue, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau stated that his party would form a partnership with provinces and municipalities, and that it is "not up to a federal government to put lines on a map or to tell a municipality what it needs and where." Actually, it kind of is. This show Trudeau does not consider women's rights as a national problem.

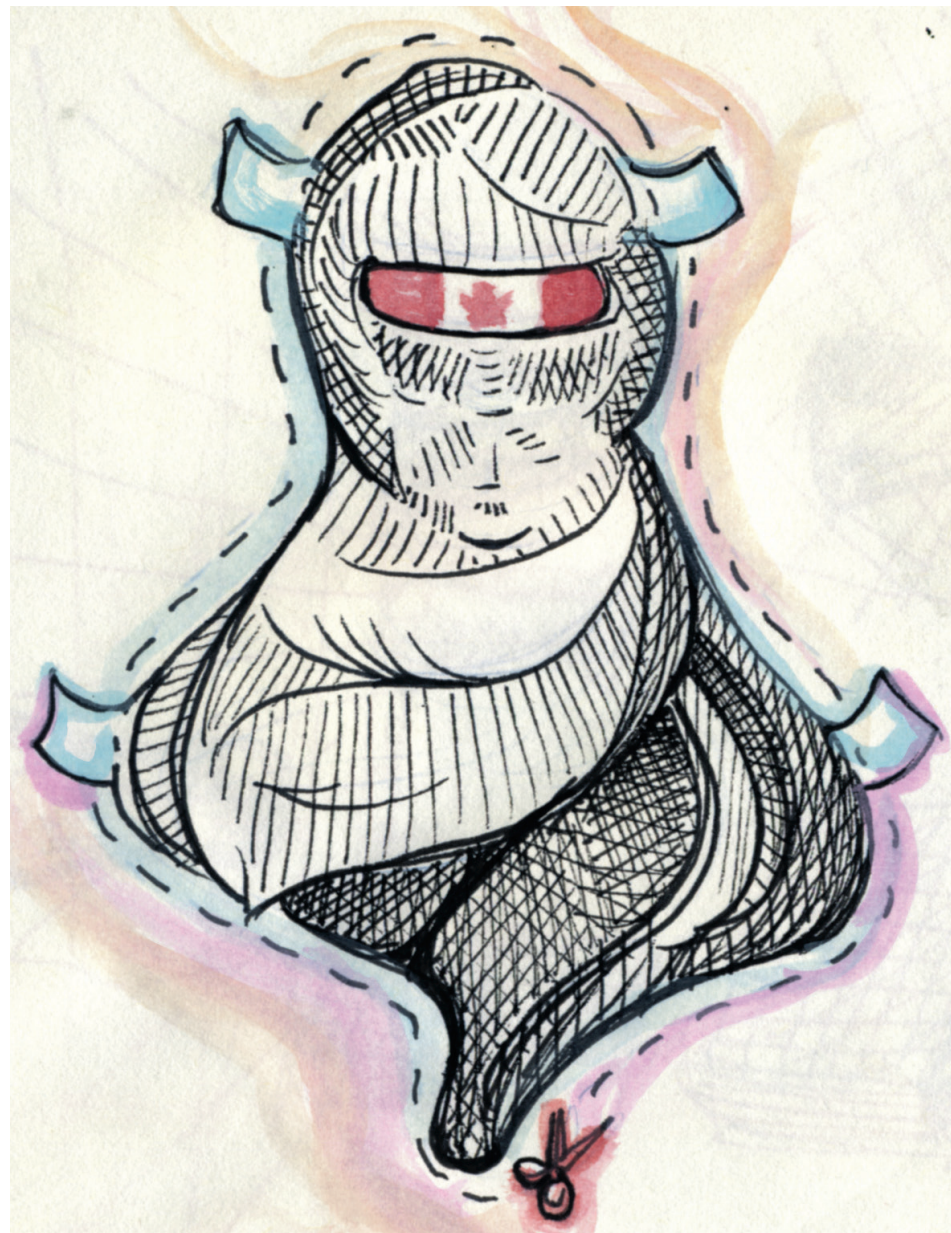
May said she restarted the women's caucus in parliament to provide advice about issues like sexual harassment. The caucus brought to light the fact that every woman in parliament had experienced sexism either directly or indirectly.

Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe focused on his agenda of removing religious symbolism. He said women wearing veils are "erasing themselves as individuals." In his own interview Trudeau told Pelletier: "If a woman makes the free choice to wear a veil, we protect her rights."

Many issues were mentioned in this debate,

but some were left out. Day-to-day sexism is something that affects women constantly. A national action plan and \$40 million dollars are a great start to solving the problem of vio-

lence against women—but we must remove the societal norms that allows for this violence to happen in the first place, and so must our country's leader.



GRAPHIC MADELEINE GENDREAU

THINGS THAT MAKE ME MORE NERVOUS THAN NIQABS

BY MICHELLEPUCCI
@MICHELLEPUCCI

I get it. Niqabs make some people nervous. Something about not being able to judge someone based on their face and obvious body language makes getting to know them a bit harder, because you actually have to listen when they speak, or something.

But a lot of things make me nervous that aren't really being explored as much during national debates, so I made a list:

1. People who stand too close to me on metro platforms

The only thing I'm thinking about when someone's shadow is on me is how fast I can

run to the nearest ladder if I get pushed on the tracks, or whether I fit in the space beneath the platform.

2. A government that doesn't think 1,200 missing and murdered women is systemic

If we count the hours it takes to come up with unconstitutional arguments against niqab-wearing women, and instead devoted that time to setting up an inquiry for indigenous women, then we would be on our way to solving real problems.

3. Children who shout really loudly in the schoolyard across the street

Lack of sleep is a real problem. Maybe if I wasn't woken up at 7 a.m. by questionably

high-pitched screams, my neighbours and I wouldn't be so nervous about how other people dress.

4. A country that speaks about a group of women before it bothers to speak to them

I don't like knowing that 93 per cent of my neighbours think they should be able to strip a few women. This crop top is okay, though, right?

5. The Turcot interchange

I'm never really sure I'm going to make it off alive.

6. When Muslim women are attacked

Being a woman and not being subjected to violence is already very difficult to achieve.

Spreading rhetoric that the Muslim female body needs to be liberated only demonizes and exposes the women to more violence, such as a pregnant woman attacked on Sept. 29 by two teenagers trying to remove her headscarf.

7. People who wear veils at weddings
Cool it on the chiffon and save some \$\$\$.

8. Food insecurity in the North

9. Unregistered firearms

10. Not accepting more refugees

11. Denying refugees rights

12. Muzzled scientists

13. Closed data

14. Party lines

15. When citizens lose their citizenship

16. A hotline for racists...



Letters

Not Voting is Not the Answer

(Re: Why I Won't Be Voting on October 19)

I was disappointed and saddened to read an opinion piece about the futility of voting in last week's issue of *The Link*.

In "Why I Won't Be Voting on October 19," Jon Milton argues no federal party represents his values, the parties are virtually indistinguishable from each other and no politician is promising a "concrete alternative to the status quo." For those reasons, he won't be voting, instead focusing on bringing about change through community organizing.

The hole in Milton's argument is the fact that not voting sends a message of disinterest and disengagement, not a message of disapproval with the status quo and the political parties on offer.

When you don't vote, you'll be lumped in with all those who are "apathetic" and quickly forgotten by the powers that be. If you truly feel that no political party represents your values, then you should at least spoil your ballot or leave it blank.

If enough people do that, it'll send a profound message that politics in this country is unrepresentative and dysfunctional.

I also find Milton inflated the extent to which the three main federal parties have coalesced near the centre of the political spectrum. It's simply not true that the parties have blurred the lines between left and right.

In this election campaign, only one of the three main parties—the NDP—has proposed a significant expansion of social services, promising to create a universal childcare strategy and move towards pharmacare. The Liberals also have some interesting proposals, notably their income-tested Canada Child Benefit aimed at reducing child poverty, though they're arguably less interventionist. And, well, the Conservatives have proposed the status quo—a less fair, more unequal Canada.

It's true, the parties have, to some extent, moved towards the

political centre. This is a symptom of our first-past-the-post electoral system, which rewards large parties that compromise on their values to appeal to a wider swath of the electorate while denying representation to parties on the fringes of the political spectrum. That's why we need to elect a government committed to electoral reform and that supports the principle of proportional representation.

Radical change might not happen through electoral politics—for that to happen, popular social movements must take to the streets and demand change. Gradual change through electoral politics is possible. To get there, we need Canadians to be engaged both at the ballot box *and* beyond it.

— Michael Wrobel, student in Journalism and the School of Community and Public Affairs

End Word Association of Stigma

(Re: Letter: Concordia Group Walks for Mental Health)

"Lace up those running shoes and walk towards a world without stigma."

Frankly, I would only attend a walk that did not assert a "stigma."

The Women's Movement told us to end the word association, rape/stigma, curiously, no such tack is taken by this movement.

— Harold A. Maio, retired mental health editor

WRITE TO US

The Link publishes letters to the editor. If there's an article, event, issue or general happening you want to comment on, send us a letter under 400 words before 4 p.m. on Friday at letters@thelinknewspaper.ca.



GRAPHIC BIBI DE MEDEIROS

Nah'msayin?

I Don't Care What You Think About Tattoos

BY BIBI DE MEDEIROS
@BIBIDEM

First of all, the last thing I want to hear when I tell you I'm getting a new tattoo is:

"You realize it's permanent, right? I mean, how's it gonna look when you're 80?"

I haven't even gotten it yet dude, let's not get so ahead of ourselves.

Second of all, I'm pretty sure when I'm 80 I won't really be searching for anyone's seal of approval on how I look. I'll probably be rocking a monocle, and at least my tattoos will cover up the varicose veins. I will be so content and fulfilled with my amazing life that every time I look at my wrinkly body in the mirror, I'll be more interested in remembering the awesome shit I did and less preoccupied with the appearance of these physical, branded memories.

Third, and finally, any tattoo that looks bad when you're 80 probably looked bad when you got it too. I like to think I'm fancy, so no problem there. Besides, anyone who won't be impressed by my sick tats isn't someone I'm trying to impress anyway.

UNI·STU·CAN·POL

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CANADIAN POLITICS

The NDP and Greens Are Right—We Need to Repeal Bill C-51

BY MICHAEL WROBEL
@MICHAEL_WROBEL

Even though Bill C-51 has received a considerable amount of media attention since its introduction in the House of Commons in January, much confusion remains about the Conservatives' anti-terrorism act, which was passed and became law in June.

But a close reading of the 60 page-long bill reveals many threats to rights and freedoms that we often take for granted in Canadian society. If there's truly a need to update the laws governing Canada's national security agencies, we must start with a blank slate. Bill C-51 is so fundamentally flawed that the only solution is to repeal it entirely.

Bill C-51 gives dangerous new powers to the country's spy agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. If there are "reasonable grounds to believe that a particular activity constitutes a threat to the security of Canada," CSIS will now be able to "take measures, within or outside Canada, to reduce the threat."

The bill remains deliberately vague on what form these "measures" could take. We're supposed to find comfort in the fact that it specifically prohibits CSIS from taking actions that could cause "death or bodily harm," obstruct or pervert the judicial process, or "violate the sexual integrity of the individual."

The end result of conferring these new powers on CSIS is to move the agency away from being merely an intelligence service, towards being a secretive police service.

It's worth noting that CSIS was never intended to become a policing agency.

Prior to the creation of CSIS in 1984, intelligence work was done by the RCMP. In the 1970s, the RCMP allegedly engaged in illegal activities that included forging documents, illegally opening mail, stealing the membership list of the Parti Québécois, and burning a barn where the Front de Libération du Québec and the Black Panther Party were rumoured to be planning a meeting.

The subsequent inquiry into the RCMP's activities, known as the McDonald Commission, recommended that the Canadian government remove national security from the RCMP's mandate and instead make it the responsibility of a new civilian spy agency. Now, incomprehensibly, we're ignoring history and conferring policing powers on CSIS, while simultaneously asking the RCMP to get more involved in intelligence work as part of the fight against terrorism.

The Conservatives say their bill does not empower CSIS to arrest individuals. Still, it gives the spy agency unprecedented powers to intervene in the physical world in an attempt to disrupt terror plots and other "threats." It's unclear how these new powers make Canadians safer, since the government has failed to explain why CSIS can't simply work, as it has in the past, with the RCMP and other police services when intervention is necessary.

Legal experts say Bill C-51 may even make terrorism prosecutions more difficult. If CSIS uses its new powers before a suspect commits a criminal act and before it refers the case to the RCMP, the subsequent criminal investigation could be tainted, according to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. "The evidentiary record needed for a criminal prosecution may also be tainted," they note in a background on the bill. This legislation might thus hamper efforts to fight terrorism, despite that being its stated goal.

Beyond expanding CSIS's role, the bill also created the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act, which allows for more information sharing across government about people who engage in "activity that undermines the security of Canada." For example, the bill allows confidential data held by Passport Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency to be shared with the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Canada Border Services Agency, among others.

The definition for "activity that undermines the security of Canada" is so broad that the Act's reach extends far beyond terror cases. It includes any activities that under-

mine "the economic or financial stability of Canada" or interfere with "critical infrastructure," which could include everything from oil pipelines to railroads.

The bill, when introduced in the House of Commons, specifically exempted "lawful protest, advocacy and dissent." The inclusion of the word "lawful" raised the ire of First Nations and environmental activists, who feared that the bill would allow federal agencies to share information about individuals who engage in acts of civil disobedience, such as strikes that doesn't comply with labour law or illegal but peaceful blockades of a roadway. Eventually, the Harper government bowed to public pressure and removed that qualifier from the bill. Still, this entire section of C-51 remains highly problematic.

Sometimes, advocacy, protest and dissent can take on violent forms, as in the case of the Black Bloc protesters or certain radical environmentalists who engage in acts of sabotage or pipeline bombings. Such groups should be subject to surveillance and information-sharing.

This is why University of Ottawa law professor Craig Forcese has argued in several blog posts and articles that Bill C-51 should have included the same language used in the Criminal Code's definition of terrorism, which exempts protests (even unlawful ones) only insofar as they are not intended to cause bodily harm or pose a threat to public health. With its imprecise language, Bill C-51 simply encourages Canada's security forces to play semantic games in an effort to define groups as something other than "protesters" or "activists" in order to justify surveillance or information-sharing.

And just when you begin to think Bill C-51 can't possibly get any worse, it does. The bill gives Federal Court judges the ability to issue warrants that would allow the spy agency to infringe on rights protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It's unclear how this new warrant system could possibly work, since Charter-protected rights are supposed to be absolute

and inalienable, and judges are supposed to protect our rights, not enable Charter violations. Still, the potential for abuse is real and unnerving.

In this election campaign, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau has tried to gain political advantage with a middle-of-the-road approach on Bill C-51. The Liberals voted alongside the Conservatives to pass the bill in the spring, ensuring that the party didn't alienate voters concerned about security, yet they've pledged to amend it, allowing them to avoid alienating those concerned for their rights.

If elected, the Liberals say they'll make CSIS subject to the direct oversight of an all-party committee of parliamentarians. Currently, an understaffed and underfunded civilian agency—the five-member Security Intelligence Review Committee—is supposed to oversee all CSIS activities. They've also promised to introduce a "sunset clause" that would cause Bill C-51's new provisions to automatically expire after a certain amount of time, requiring a future government to study the consequences of these provisions and pass the bill again for them to remain in effect.

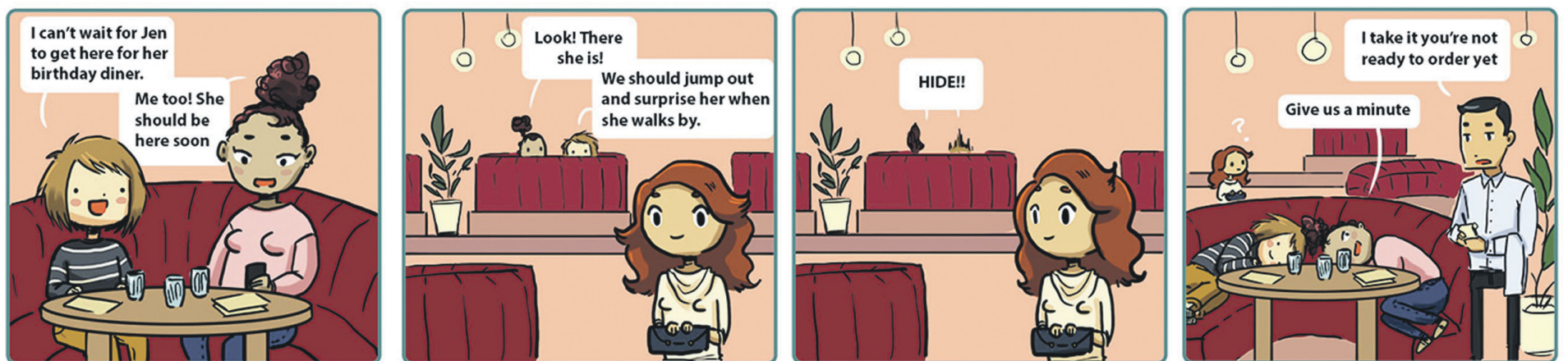
Unfortunately, the Liberal position simply doesn't go far enough. Bill C-51 poses too great a threat to our freedoms and liberty to remain in place. Much of the bill is dangerously vague and its definition of what constitutes a threat is overly broad. Parts of the bill are almost certainly unconstitutional. A wide variety of non-governmental organizations and civil-society groups—from Amnesty International to environmental groups, First Nations activists to the Canadian Bar Association—agree this bill is ill-considered and will limit our freedoms without making us safer.

The New Democratic Party and the Green Party, who have promised to repeal Bill C-51, have the only defensible position on this issue. Hopefully, Canadians will elect a government on Oct. 19 that is committed to undoing the damage done by the Conservatives to our rights and liberties.

Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



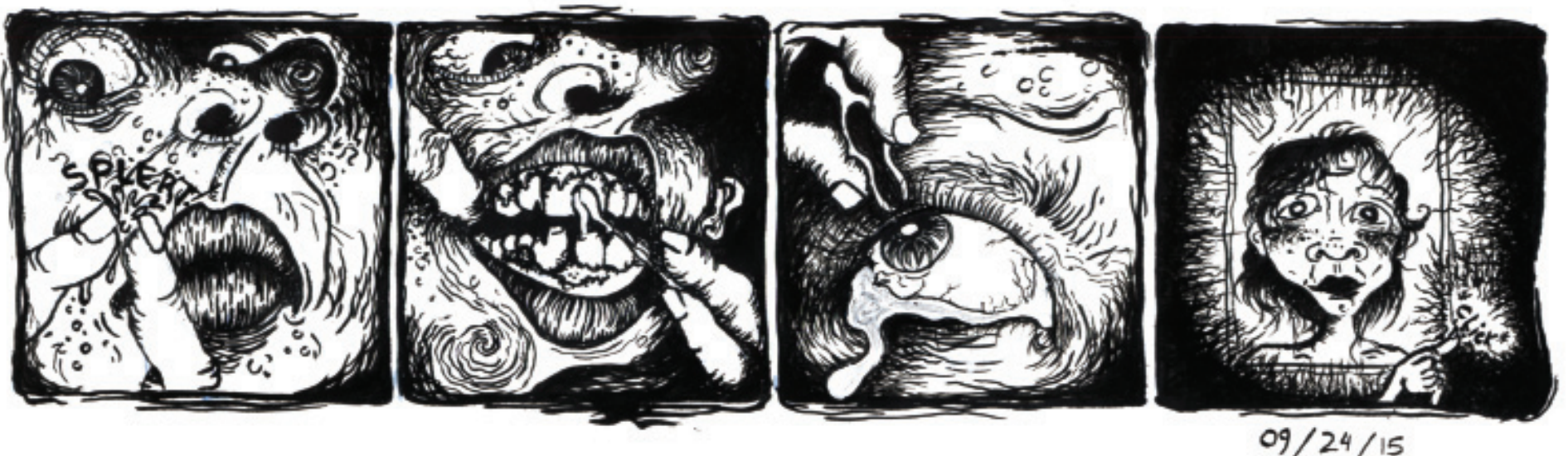
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GRAPHIC JENNIFER AEDY

EDITORIAL

Missing and Murdered Vigil Needs to be Met With a Real Response From Canada

Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of the March and Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and the Canadian government has still not addressed this problem with a nationwide, federal inquiry.

With ever-rising numbers, it's a problem that is always at the forefront every October 4. The annual event is an important reminder, but it's an issue that falls on the wayside throughout the course of the year. The Canadian government ignores it as well as a majority of its population.

For the last 10 years, marches have been happening all over the country for a federal inquiry into the deaths of more than 1,200 indigenous women. So far the demands have been met with an almost deafening silence. While promises have been made to have police investigations it does not address the severity of the issue.

We live in world where we talk about

appropriate responses to crimes daily, but when crimes actually need a significant response, there's almost none. According to the most recent RCMP report on the issue, there has been a 9 per cent decrease in unsolved cases—from 225 to 204. It's a start, but it's still not good enough. There are still at least 204 indigenous women whose stories are yet to be concluded, and we will not forget them.

Some activists estimate that since 1980, the number of disappearances and murders are around the 3,000 mark. This means that thousands of Aboriginal women are not even traceable by any authority at this point. It's unacceptable.

A report from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in British Columbia*, offers many recommendations to the Canadian government.

In the report, it references Section 88 of the Indian Act, which states that the government "allows for substantial provincial legislative control over indigenous peoples. This means that both the federal and provincial governments are responsible for the legal status and conditions of indigenous women and girls and their communities."

The federal and provincial governments have ignored their basic responsibilities for the past 35 years.

This also falls on the police investigations as well. In another report titled *Forsaken*, published in 2012, found that B.C. police failed in many of their duties including time delays in reporting, lack of urgency, inadequate interviewing, failure to poster or use media to advertise a missing person, etc.

The police in British Columbia even failed to convict famous serial killer Robert Pickton. Arrested and charged in 1997 for assault and

attempted murder, he was later released, and further disappearances occurred.

Finally Pickton was caught again in 2002 and charged with 27 accounts of first-degree murder, many of which were committed against indigenous women.

How can anyone trust any future or past inquiries when the police have also failed in their duties to sufficiently investigate crimes? A national inquiry is urgent since police investigations have proven insufficient.

We at *The Link* are calling out the government and its police forces for general incompetence and lack of empathy for the descendants of the First Nations people this land was stolen from.

For the average citizen, missing and murdered Aboriginal women, as well as systemic issues First Nations experience daily, must be at the forefront of public discourse beyond this significant annual event.

THE LINK

Volume 36, Issue 07
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015
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The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member.

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

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

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Cover: Evgenia Choros

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