

THE LINK

Hey there reader, welcome to a fresh new September at Concordia University. Are you nervous? Let us introduce ourselves: We're *The Link*, Concordia's independent newspaper since 1980, and we've been writing about Concordia for 36 years. Every

year, we publish our Orientation Issue right when classes start. For people that could use some great insider tips

THE ORIENTATION ISSUE

P.9

this semester, we've put together a guide filled with cool coffee shops you can study in, great bars, helpful resources, and a little intro to québécois slang. You can pull it right out of our regular issue and keep it forever. All this to say that we wish you the best this year, reader. And if you ever get lost, you know where to find us.

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Homa Hoodfar Hospitalized in Iran

After Three Months Solitary Confinement Former ConU Prof's Health Significantly Deteriorated

CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

Homa Hoodfar had been in solitary confinement in Tehran, Iran's Evin prison for over three months before word got out on Tuesday, Aug. 30 that she had been hospitalized due to her rare neurological condition, called Myasthenia Gravis.

The former Concordia professor is now back in solitary confinement, and members of the campaign to free Hoodfar are urging the academic community to take action more than ever.

The campaign, which can be found at homahoodfar.org, went public in early June, after Hoodfar was imprisoned for unknown reasons on June 6. A ticking clock at the top of the initiative's web page shows the precise number of seconds that Hoodfar has been imprisoned.

Hoodfar had travelled to Iran in February to visit family and conduct academic research. Members of the Counter Intelligence Unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard raided her apartment in early March. The Revolutionary Guard is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces put in place to protect the country's Islamic system.

All of Hoodfar's possessions were confiscated—including her passport, computer, and research documents. What followed were a series of long interrogations, during which Hoodfar was denied the accompaniment of her lawyer.

On June 24, 18 days after her initial imprisonment, the Tehran Public Prosecutor finally announced that Hoodfar was being investigated for “dabbling in feminism and security matters,” according to the campaign's website. Hoodfar's family was restricted contact with her while she was imprisoned.

According to Hoodfar's niece Amanda Ghahremani—a key campaigner for her release from Canada—she was charged with propaganda against the state and for collaborating with hostile governments against the state.

“We don't know what exactly is the evidence that they have to claim that she's done any of this,” Ghahremani said. “Is it her academic work? What is it? That's what's unclear to us.”

Hoodfar's academic work does not lend itself to these types of charges, she added.

“If anything, she's been quite an ambassador of Muslim women and their agency and their ability to confront, here in the West, racism, homophobia, all these things. So it's very confusing.”

Hoodfar's colleagues and students agree that her work is quite balanced. Her colleague and friend Marc Lafrance, an associate professor who has worked alongside Hoodfar in Concordia's Sociology and Anthropology Department who is an active member of the Free Homa campaign, called this situation a “heinous injustice, because she is one of the most balanced, even-handed and tireless [sic] scholars.”

Ghahremani believes that the targeting of Hoodfar is related to a wider crackdown on women who work on women's issues in Iran.

“[Hoodfar] seems to be caught in the crossfire of this domestic struggle between



Homa Hoodfar has been imprisoned in Iran since June 6

COURTESY AMANDA GHAHREMANI

hardliners and religious conservatives and the administration and women, who [...] have domestically in Iran been working on improving their own rights without any outside interference.”

Concordia's Lack of Mobilization

Through the campaign, individuals and organizations worldwide have shown their support by signing petitions, writing open letters and submitting statements of solidarity. Over 5,000 academics, including Noam Chomsky and multiple Nobel laureates, have signed the academic petition. However, a second petition, which was initially made specifically for Hoodfar's students and has since expanded to include any student who is outraged by this situation, has only garnered 193 signatures since its inception on July 18.

Pamela Fillion, one of the graduate students Hoodfar was supervising, despite her retirement from Concordia in 2015, and someone who helped draft the student petition, said there could be various reasons for the small number of signatures.

First, the petition has not been circulated by Concordia administration to students, despite requests made by Ghahremani to the university to utilize its vast networks and list-serve of alumni, students and academic contacts.

“I don't know the rationale behind it, but these are the small ways in which a university of this calibre with these resources would be able to really mobilize individuals and help spread the word,” Ghahremani said.

Fillion also mentioned another possible factor in the low number of students on the petition is that Hoodfar was slowly phasing out of her work with the university and thus was not teaching undergraduate students, who make up the majority of Concordia's student population.

Upon the news of Hoodfar's imprisonment on June 9, Concordia President Alan Shepard released a statement of solidarity on the university's website. The message stated great

concern for Hoodfar, and expressed faith that Global Affairs Canada has been using diplomatic channels to address the situation.

On Aug. 30, Shepard released another statement—again without linking it to the campaign—stating extreme concern for Hoodfar's health, the importance of academic freedom, and support for “all efforts underway to secure Dr. Hoodfar's return to Canada” and to “renew our call for the immediate release of our colleague.”

“We have been in communication with representatives of Global Affairs Canada throughout. We are prepared to offer whatever support they request of us,” said Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota in an email on Sept. 1, adding that the number of students on the petition will “probably rise now that they will be returning to campus.”

Ghahremani said she thinks the university has an obligation to stand behind Hoodfar, and support the campaign to free her, in any way they can. She suggested Concordia use its influence as a safe space for academic freedom to stand in partnership with Iranian academic institutions.

The question now is what will it take to bring Homa home? Ghahremani said there generally needs to be a diplomatic push. Canada does not have any diplomatic relations with Iran, and has not had an embassy in Tehran since September 2012. Hoodfar is also an Irish citizen, and there is an Iranian embassy in Dublin.

“What I'd really like to see is for [the government of Ireland] to really show that Homa is a priority to them as a nation,” Ghahremani said.

John Babcock, a representative of Global Affairs Canada, said in an email that the department's members are “engaged on this case and doing everything we can to support Amanda Ghahremani and the family as they endure this terrible ordeal. Minister [Stéphane] Dion and our parliamentary secretary have both met Amanda, and consular officials remain in close and

regular contact with her.”

He added that in the absence of diplomatic relations between Canada and Iran, Global Affairs is working with “countries of influence” in order to find the best way to secure Hoodfar's safe return.

“The challenges posed by the absence of a diplomatic presence cannot be underestimated,” Babcock added.

According to Lafrance, a family member was able to see Hoodfar while she was hospitalized. This person was extremely disturbed by Hoodfar's disoriented and weak state, and said she had trouble walking and talking.

“We've basically been devoting our entire lives to this for months now,” Lafrance added. “I'm extremely, extremely concerned.”

He added that this situation has taken a serious psychological toll on everyone involved in the campaign.

“We're living and breathing this campaign, and we're doing everything we possibly can to release her.”

While Hoodfar's hospitalization marks a serious change and increased concern from everyone involved, Ghahremani remains as positive and motivated as possible.

“The only thing that we have right now is hope,” she said. “Really what keeps me going is who Homa is.”

She added that Hoodfar is extremely generous, a sentiment that resonated with both Fillion and Lafrance.

“Not having her here is this void that is incredibly palpable,” Ghahremani said. “I'm going to do everything I can to make sure she comes back and I can hold her again and see her. We have no choice.”

There are two upcoming demonstrations in support of Hoodfar, one of which will take place on Sept. 28 at 12:15 p.m. in CEGEP Édouard Montpetit's student cafe. Marie-Eve Drouin Gagné, a graduate student at Concordia, will be giving a talk on Hoodfar's work as it relates to gender issues and veiling. The campaign hopes that other CEGEPs will get involved through similar events.

Concordia Launches Voluntary Retirement Program

Applicable for Full-Time Faculty and Staff, Comes into Affect in May

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

Concordia University will be taking applications from full-time faculty and staff for a new “voluntary retirement program” in early October, according to Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota.

“These are tough fiscal times [...] the university is feeling the crunch,” she commented during an interview, citing the \$36.6 million Concordia has seen cut from its operating budget by the provincial government over the past four years.

The new program comes after the “voluntary departure program” was implemented in 2014, when 90 Concordia staff employees—not faculty—took buyouts to leave. Staff is defined as any non-teaching university position.

To be eligible for the new retirement program, the applicant must be full-time, at least 60 years old and have worked for a minimum of ten years at the university, Mota explained. A candidate will only be rejected if they don’t meet these requirements, she added. Part-time faculty is not eligible.

The retirement program differs from the voluntary departure program of two years ago because many of the 90 employees were in their 30s and had to completely sever ties with Concordia, according to Mota.

An example of one of those employees was Maria-Teresa Zenteno, who worked at the school’s Access Centre for Students with Disabilities for 25 years. She left unsure of whether her job would be replaced for an increasingly sought out service.

The new volunteer program is geared towards people nearing retirement, Mota said, as successful applicants can still have university benefits like a health care plan and pension.

According to Ted Stathopoulos—president of Concordia University Faculty Association—Concordia President Alan Shepard immediately called to assure him that all leaving professors will be replaced. Stathopoulos doesn’t anticipate that many full-time professors will apply for the program aside from individuals already contemplating retirement.

“For me the key word is voluntary,” he said. “Since it’s voluntary I have no objections whatsoever—I see they’re in a difficult financial position.”

There will be vacancies after successful applicants leave on May 31, 2017, Mota explained, but replacements will be found for some key positions. Stathopoulos said he’s concerned staff positions that are not replaced could affect faculty workload. “Somebody has to do the work,” he commented.

Currently full-time faculty and staff are



CLAIRE LOEWEN

attending seminars to learn general information and the benefits of the program, Mota said. The deadline period for applications will be from Oct. 3 to 7, and candidates will hear the outcomes during the week of Oct. 24. Once accepted, there’s no going back, Mota said.

A deficit of \$6.3 million is expected for the upcoming academic year, according to a presentation last week by Concordia’s Chief

Financial Officer Denis Cossette. Employee salaries make up 83.5 per cent of Concordia’s total operating budget. As president for the 2014-15 academic year, Shepard made \$369,620 in salary, \$69,765 in taxable benefits, and \$40,231 in reimbursements, according to an audit obtained through an access to information request.

With files from Michelle Pucci and Josh Fischlin

John Molson School of Writing?

New JMSB Student Publication to Focus on Business News

VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

John Molson School of Business students now have an outlet to express their creative side.

The first edition of the John Molson Business Review, a student-run publication that will focus on current business affairs, will officially be released in September.

Founded in November 2015 by current editor-in-chief Margarita Bozhinova, the JMBR was given \$2,500 from the Commerce and Administration Students Association’s Special Projects Fund in February 2016 to help them get started. Bozhinova and seven JMSB students run the publication.

“I felt like something was missing at JMSB in terms of students writing,” Bozhinova said. “There are a lot of opportunities to apply what we see in class and outside the classroom but nothing that offers the kind of freedom of writing.”

The review will focus on business affairs, economics, and researching emerging trends in business-related industries. Bozhinova and the JMBR are not looking to report on news at Concordia because other student campus media already have that covered.

However, if something on-campus does relate to worldwide business, they would consider writing about it.

“Nothing like [this] currently exists,” said CASA President Evan Pitchie. “It’s something new that will be added to the offerings and various things that students do at John Molson.”

In order to write for the publication, the JMBR will send out bi-weekly newsletters with story ideas. Deadlines are not strict, according to Bozhinova, because the print edition only comes out once a semester. This also makes it easier for writers to manage their time between class work and writing for the JMBR.

Bozhinova believes JMBR is a good opportunity for students

to develop their skills in writing and speaking with industry veterans, outside of networking events.

“Let’s say you want to network with the oil and gas industry, you email someone who works in that industry, and ask them a few questions,” she said. “That way you’re establishing a relationship with someone that’s more genuine than meeting them at a cocktail.”

The publication is not only for JMSB students, and Bozhinova would like to bridge the perceived gap between John Molson students and the rest of the school.

There are hopes that they can begin publishing content online consistently to their website later this semester. They currently have 409 likes on Facebook and even a LinkedIn account.

While the initial funding came from CASA, the JMBR is not a subsidiary of the group and will therefore not receive regular funding from the association.

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CLAIRE LOEWEN

Zooming into World Issues

First Prize for World Press Photo Competition Focuses on Refugee Crisis, Exhibited in Montreal

NINON SCOTTO DI UCCIO
@NINONSCOTTO

On the border of Serbia and Hungary one August night last year, a Syrian man passed a baby underneath a barbed wire fence as they journeyed to find refuge in Europe.

This was the moment that Australian photographer Warren Richardson captured, which would later win photo of the year by the World Press Photo organization.

Richardson documented a group of Syrian refugees as they migrated to Austria in hopes of finding safety, shelter, and a chance to restart.

The Syrian migrant crisis and refugees across Europe were widely represented subjects in this year's World Press Photo contest. The first and second photojournalism prizes at the annual exhibition also depicted the Syrian conflict and the lives of refugees.

This is the eleventh year the international exhibit is being displayed in Montreal, at the Marché Bonsecours in the Old Port.

Richardson's winning photograph titled, "Hope for a New Life," was chosen not only for its powerful content, but also for its aesthetic, informational and emotional composition, according to Matthieu Rytz, a member of the contest's jury. "We found that this picture was very unique," he said.

Taken at night and without flash so that border guards wouldn't be alerted, members of the jury called Richardson's technique "flawless."

"He did exactly what he was supposed to do," Rytz explained. "Technique is being able to adapt to circumstances."

Founded in 1955 and based in Amsterdam, World Press Photo has the goal to help develop and promote the visual aspect of journalism. Their core values are based on freedom of expression, information and investigation. This is reflected in their annual photojournalism competition through a rigorous verification process of the photos and

strict editing rules.

There are three winners for each category, which range from general news to sports or nature. Most of the photos share a definitively human aspect and are honest representations of what's happening in the world today.

"The images of this exposition are the windows to the world," said Rytz. All of the major news events from the past year are represented—from Daniel Berehulak's coverage of the earthquake that struck Nepal on April 29, 2015 to Corentin Fohlen's images of French protesters reacting to recent terror attacks.

Majority of these images have already been published in major news outlets such as *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*.

Photography Come to Life

In a photograph found on the second floor exhibition, two women stand in a doorway. One is a blonde Montrealer of Finnish origins while the other is a Syrian woman wearing a hijab. Despite differences of culture and race, these women display a common lived experience in their stares—they both have children with special needs. The two families were paired together in Montreal because of this.

Elsewhere in the upstairs gallery, George, a 17-year-old from Syria, tries to decipher the French text beside a photo of him and a member of his Montreal host family.

These photos, taken by Guillaume Simoneau, were part of the "Je ne viens pas de l'espace" exhibition. Simoneau worked with Anaïs Bar-

beau-Lavalette, this year's spokesperson for World Press Photo in Montreal, to take portraits of Syrian families that have recently moved to Montreal.

"It's a metaphor for rebirth," Simoneau said. He explained that the exhibition was a physical space where people come to reflect on what could come next—the hopes and possibilities that can occur after the bleak realities Richardson and others have exhibited on the first floor.

"The Syrian conflict is still ongoing and it is also very much connected to Montreal" Simoneau stated.

World Press Photo Montreal // Aug. 31 to Oct. 2 // Open from 10 a.m. // 325 Commune St. E. // \$10 for students



COURTESY SERGEY PONOMAREV

"Reporting Europe's Refugee Crisis" by Sergey Ponomarev was featured in this year's World Press Photo contest



COURTESY WARREN RICHARDSON

"Hope for a New Life" by Warren Richardson won photo of the year



NINON SCOTTO DI UCCIO

A woman photographs an exhibition that she's featured in

THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 6 - Sept. 13

TU 6

Guest Editor Christopher Curtis

Come to The Link office for our weekly pitch meeting, with a twist! Christopher Curtis, writer for the Montreal Gazette and a Link alum, will be guest-editing the next issue, critiquing the last issue, and sharing some of his hard-earned wisdom. Come by for that, and to pick a pitch.

Hall Building Room 649 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. • 4:30 p.m. // FREE

WE 7

Bibi Bourelly

Soulful-pop singer will be popping off at Le Ritz on Sept. 7. Her badass, crass lyrics and deep rhythms will have you dancing for hours. This show will be super lit. Flames x3!

Bar Le Ritz • 179 Jean-Talon St. O. • Doors open at 8 p.m. // 20\$ at the door

TH 8

Atelier B Sample Sale

Check out cool local designers Atelier b, Heirloom Hats, Mercedes Marin, Noémiah, The Angry Weather, and Zoé G Kocsis. This is an opportunity to see a small part of Montreal's fashion scene, and to get some locally-made clothes, accessories and art.

Atelier B • 5758 St. Laurent Blvd. • 5 to 8 p.m. // FREE

Bend and Stretch

We Make Carpets is a three person collective from the Netherlands. A look into the way we use everyday materials, the vernissage will celebrate the artist residency followed by an art installation.

Diagonale • 5455 Ave. de Gaspé, Room 110 • 5 p.m. to midnight // FREE

FR 9

Ancient Future Festival

Get down to the Clock Tower Quay for beautiful visuals, art installations and rad musicians to have a unique multimedia experience. Artists to note: Xxyyxx, Tokimonsta, Kerri Chandler, Scuba, and N'to.

Vieux Port de Montreal • Quai de l'Horloge St. • 3 to 1 p.m. // Prices Vary

SA 10

Sketch Workshop: Killing the Straight Man

A workshop designed to help writers eliminate or flesh out 'straight men' characters in sketches. Straight men tend to be two-dimensional characters that serve to 'point out the crazy' to the audience instead of letting the crazy speak for itself. Through this workshop, writers will discover that when all of their characters buy into their reality, interactions between characters become much more interesting and realistic.

Theatre Sainte Catherine Café-Bar • 264 Ste. Catherine St. E. • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. // \$40

SU 11

Art Tattoo Montcal

Calling all tat enthusiasts! 250 plus international artists will be showcasing at Place Bonaventure for you to discover the art of tattooing.

Place Bonaventure • 800 de la Gauchetière W. • 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. // \$20

MO 12

Concordia Greenhouse Open House

Did you know that there is a greenhouse on the roof of the Hall Building? No? Well there is! Check out the cozy, green space, say hi to the koi, and meet some cool peeps!

Hall Building 12th floor Greenhouse • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. • 1 to 6 p.m. // FREE

TU 13

Poetry Night at Kafein: Back to School Special

Poetry Night at Kafein is so great. You should go. Heartwarming, soul quenching verses meet delicious coffee and drinks.

Kafein • 1429 Bishop St. • DJ Begins at 8 p.m., Readings Start at 9 p.m. // FREE

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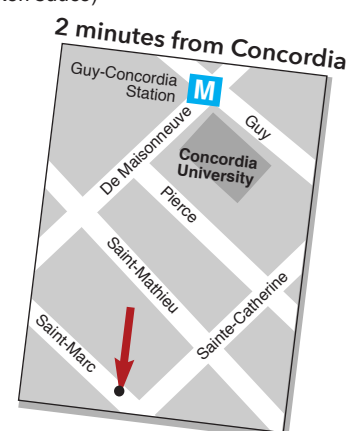
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A High-Tech Sting

Concordia Stingers Women's Soccer Team Utilize Sports Science

TRISTAN D'AMOURS
@TRISTANDAMOURS

At the end of practice, ten players from the Concordia Stingers women's soccer team retreat to the rafters and lift their shirts half-way up to unclip a red strap wrapped around their lower chest. This little strap represents the first step in an effort to shift the way the team will train.

As part of a pilot project, the women's soccer team began a process to bring sports science to the Stingers for training and in-game situations. With this goal in mind, the athletics department purchased ten chips made by the company Polar for the team to use in practice and during games.

The new technology is a little chip attached to a strap tied over the heart. The chip calculates the player's heart rate, kilometres ran, the number of sprints made and running accuracy through a heat map. All of this data goes from the chip to a satellite and right back to the coaching staff's iPad in real time.

This kind of technology was first introduced through the men's soccer team and its head coach Greg Sutton, but it only monitored heart rates.

It was due to budgetary reasons that the women's team didn't get similar technology as the men, according to Concordia Athletics Director Patrick Boivin.

When the women's soccer coach Jorge Sanchez first saw this, he wanted in on the project—except with bigger plans.

"When Greg presented to all the coaches that he'd bought this and I said: 'Well, I'd like to take it one step further and I want to get the GPS chip,'" Sanchez said.

After financial negotiations between Boivin and the coaching staff, funds were cleared to buy ten chips.

"[Boivin] said, I'm open to initiatives that

have value added," said Sanchez. "It's a good investment but we were able to find the funds and now it's up to us to show that the money's well spent."

For Frederique Labelle, a masters student in exercise science and the assistant coach in charge of the project, the new technology is a benefit for players who played as well as the ones who remained on the bench.

"For the girls, seeing where they actually ran on the field is pretty cool," Labelle said. "Let's say someone didn't play the first game. They can look at the heat map of the player

formulating their plan.

"The idea is that Fred created a fixed schedule, the players come see her, and we're going to create a database of players," said Sanchez. "We can see in the metrics, if they're wearing it, their activity and what they thought they did well and the parts that they didn't do well."

For Sanchez and Boivin, the technology creates a professional environment for players. Knowing that they are the only team in the department to have such a thing makes them take it more seriously.

"They can't hide. It really is Big Brother."

During her visit at Stingers training last week, Canadian national soccer team player and Olympic medalist Rhian Wilkinson told the team about her relationship with sports science.

"She was wearing a Polar watch and she mentioned that every Wednesday in her training period she has to connect her watch to a computer to the central server of her weekly training," said Sanchez.

If the pilot project has positive reviews, the addition of smart watches is something Sanchez would be interested in. During

THEY CAN'T HIDE. IT REALLY IS BIG BROTHER.

—HEAD COACH JORGE SANCHEZ

that was playing at their position and see what's expected of them."

Having played with the team last season, Labelle has a unique position towards using the team's new setup with former teammates.

"I was in their position last year," said Labelle. "So for me to get to see what our body is actually doing, three times a week at practice, two times a week at games, and then to see the distance covered and the sprint made is really cool."

Having only used the technology in pre-season training, three exhibition games and Saturday's season opener against the McGill Martlets, the product is still brand new for the coaching staff. Despite not analyzing the data yet, Sanchez and Labelle have begun

"For me that's the value added. The players go: 'Wow the Stingers are all getting this?' No we're the only team," said Sanchez. "Oh, you mean men's and women's soccer?" No, only women's soccer is getting this. And they go 'Wow that's cool.'"

It also gives Sanchez and his staff a new way of giving feedback to his team. They don't always have to rely on opinion-based judgment when debriefing a player's performance.

"Players that say they ran so much in this game, well actually not really, you only ran five kilometres and the person right beside you ran ten," said Sanchez. "It's not us making an opinion based judgment, it's us actually using sports science to give feedback."

the offseason where Sanchez tells his players to run five kilometres regularly, instead of having players email him every time, he would log in to a website and see his players' progression.

As for expansion of sports science to other programs, Boivin is open to the possibility should the coaches show interest. He agrees that the technology would lend itself well to the hockey and basketball programs but he will not force them to do it.

"It is a more coach-based decision. How do they want to track and analyze their athletes' performance and progression in their training and [during games]?" said Boivin. "You can't go against the way that a coach wants to develop its players."



Coaches Jorge Sanchez, Frederique Labelle and Erica Geertsen are excited to start with the pilot project TRISTAN D'AMOURS



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HEY, WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY.

Hey, welcome to university. Or welcome back to university, for those of you to whom a welcome back is in order, which is statistically most of you. But, yes, anyways, welcome all, back or not, to university. To this university—Concordia University.

Inside this special issue are things that we think will help you as a student in Montreal. We've got tips on how not to get screwed by your landlord, and we've got a cool map with cool places to drink coffee, eat well, and explore. Cool!

Curious about what to expect this year from the Stingers sports teams? From the administration? In the news? We've got you covered.

Plus we have primers on what Facebook groups to join, and what resources exist around Concordia for you to call when you realize that Facebook doesn't have all the answers.

This issue is, first and foremost, an introduction, a primer, and a base on which to build. We're not going to tell you how to live your life or how to go through school. We're just showing you what we like, and what we think is neat and important.

With that said, feel free to take a look through these pages. See what's interesting to you, and maybe check something out for yourself. Go visit that cool coffeeshop, or go to a Stingers game. Join a club. Write for The Link. Do stuff, if you want. Stuff is fun.

This issue, the Orientation issue—like every issue of our paper—is for you.

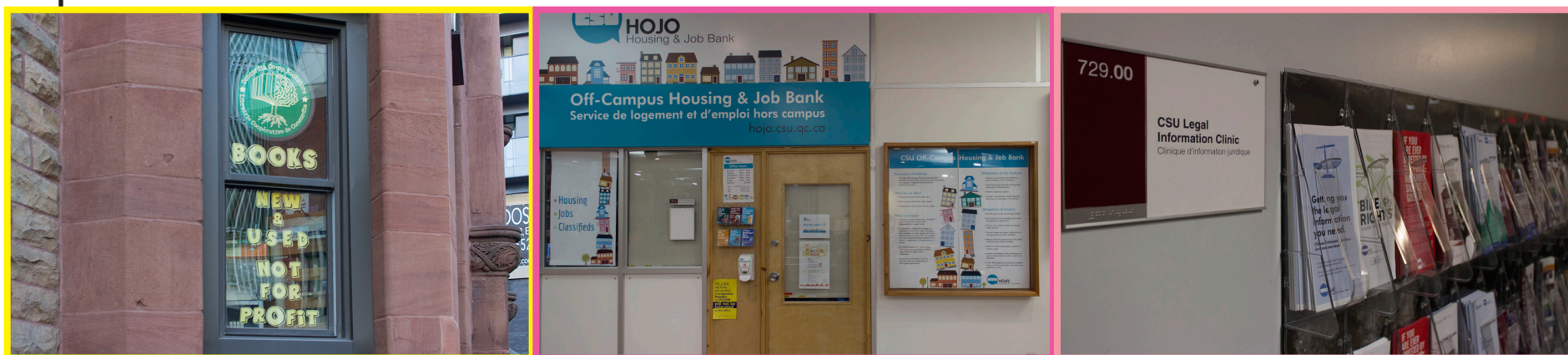
We hope it helps.

How Concordia Can Help You

A Handy Guide to Student Resources

CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

So, you're new to Concordia—and maybe even Montreal. Everything may seem big, tall, and intimidating. Your first class is in H-649? What the heck does that mean? (JK, that's *The Link's* office in the Henry F. Hall building downtown. Come visit!) Despite the scariness and newness of it all, Concordia offers a multitude of resources to its students. These range from a place to find out whether your landlord is screwing you over to free healthy food every single day in the Hall building—and it's actually good, too. Here's a list of some of the most crucial resources you should take full advantage of as a new (or old) student at Concordia.



Birks Student Centre

Sir George Williams: LB-185

OK, this should probably be your first stop as a new Concordia student. This place is for everything from getting a new student ID card, to your student-fare OPUS pass, to course registration, and learning about how to become a Quebec resident (something that can be very helpful). They will help you solve all your problems, and make you realize it's not as complicated as it may seem. You just need to show up. The only issue is that at this time of year, the line will probably stretch outside the building—so set those alarms early.

Shuttle Bus Service

SGW: Hall building entrance

Loyola: On Sherbrooke St.—you can't miss it!

If your classes are at Loyola Campus, you've probably already cried your tears about the distance from Sir George Williams and are coming to terms with the fact that much of your time will be spent travelling between campuses. This is another reason you want to get your student ID ASAP—you can't get on without it. The route takes about 20 minutes, but traffic will be a factor here. Buses are wheelchair accessible, and the schedule can be found online. Be warned, it changes during exam season and during the summer semester. There is also a shuttle bus tracker that shows you exactly where the bus is, which can be found at shuttle.concordia.ca.

Student Success Centre

SGW: H-440

Loyola Campus: AD-103

This is your one-stop-shop for everything academic. From one-on-one tutors to study groups to workshops, the success centre offers you all the resources you need to do your best in university—something that isn't always easy. You'll also meet other students looking for help, which should help calm any thoughts that you're abnormal for seeking help. You're actually more than normal—you're smart!

Financial Aid and Awards Office

SGW: GM 230.00

Loyola Campus: AD-121.02

It's no mystery that university is expensive—on top of tuition, students are expected to pay for books and many other fees that can often come as a surprise. That's where the financial aid office comes in. Book an appointment to receive personalized, in-depth advice on how to plan your budget. They also offer information on bursaries, loans, scholarships and grants that can help pay for uni. There are locations at both Loyola and SGW campuses.

CSU Legal Information Clinic

SGW: H-729

Loyola: CC-426

This is a very, very useful resource. Through the Concordia Student Union, volunteer law students will give you legal information in various areas of law. Although they can't provide legal advice, these people can refer you to a lawyer if that's what's needed. This service is only available to undergraduate students, though. They have locations at Loyola and SGW. Book an appointment here: legalclinic@csu.qc.ca or by calling 514-848-7474 ext. 7375.

Health Services

SGW: GM-200

Loyola Campus: AD-131

Canada is blessed with a lovely public health system, which is provided at Concordia as well. With locations at SGW and Loyola, the clinics offer walk-ins, booked appointments, urgent care, vaccines, and medical notes. Mental health services are also offered through health services. You can book a triage appointment through counselling and development online. International students can obtain a health insurance plan to access these services, but Canadian students need only show up with their provincial health card.

Office of Rights and Responsibilities

SGW: GM-1005.00

If you're having an issue with someone's behaviour on campus, this is your place. Through the Code of Rights and Responsibilities, this Concordia office will advise and assist those who are having a problem with behavioural incidents and conflicts on campus. These can range from informal dispute resolution, to formal procedures for adjudicating complaints.

People's Potato

SGW: Hall building, seventh floor

Loyola Campus: Above the cafeteria

This is a Link favourite—a collectively-run soup kitchen that offers vegan meals to anyone who shows up, every weekday during the school year. They operate on a by-donation basis, and open at 12:30 p.m. Be wary of the long line, and show up early!

There is a similar iteration at Loyola campus, above the cafeteria in The Hivé location. This also opens at 12:30 p.m. every weekday. The lines are slightly less long here.

Centre for Gender Advocacy

SGW: GM-300.27

Services and resources related to peer support and advocacy, safer sex resources, and trans health resources are available to Concordia students and anyone in Montreal through the Centre for Gender Advocacy. This group also holds campaigns for various activist initiatives like justice for missing and murdered indigenous women, improved access to reproductive health services, and trans health resources. The group also holds film screenings, presentations, and workshops throughout the year.

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News Forecast

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Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis
General Coordinator

In Feb. 2016, the Concordia Student Union, under former general coordinator Terry Wilkings, finalized their vision for the student cooperative housing project with UTILE, the Unité de travail pour l'implantation de Logement Étudiant. Now that vision—under current general coordinator Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis—is slowly but surely becoming a reality.

While the details of the land's location are yet to be released, a plot of land has been purchased in the Plateau.

This is steady progress, but there's still work to be done. "There's going to be a lot of planning processes to make the project not only just affordable housing for students, but also make it an empowering project," Marshall-Kiparissis said.

Last March, the CSU donated \$1.85 million to the Popular University Student Housing in order to pursue the project with UTILE, who will take care of planning and executing the housing project.



NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

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Rami Yahia
Internal Affairs Coordinator

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Yahia would like to focus his energy this year on increasing and fixing student space on campus, and helping clubs secure resources.

He would like to see the creation of what he calls a "maker space" on campus. He compared it to District 3, which is basically a Concordia-based incubator for entrepreneurial ventures.

"To a certain extent, [District 3] is profit based," he said. "[The maker space] will be more of a community space where everybody could participate."

Because other people are already working on this initiative, Yahia said he's not sure whether the CSU will headline it or just offer support.

He'd also like to make use of spaces in the EV, TD, MB and FG buildings, and will push to fix issues with and improve other spaces, such as 2020 Mackay St., which he said is "falling apart."

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Lana Elinor Galbraith
Sustainability Coordinator

Being socially sustainable is very important for this year's sustainability coordinator, Lana Elinor Galbraith.

"This year my hope is to teach sustainability as an intersectional issue," she said.

One of the ways she plans on doing this is to start a campaign for gender neutral bathrooms, which will start in October. As part of this campaign, she wants to have a panel on the variety of topics surrounding gender neutral bathrooms such as debunking myths, and looking at how multi-stall gender neutral bathrooms have worked at Dawson College.

Galbraith has also already spoken to Concordia and the Centre for Gender Advocacy on how to make bathrooms as accessible as possible for everyone on campus.

She is also planning a scavenger hunt in October, where people can register on teams looking for the gender neutral bathrooms that are currently on both campuses and rate how accessible they are. Then a map and list can be made. Whichever team gets the most points wins.

Adrian Longinotti
Finance Coordinator

As the new finance coordinator, Adrian Longinotti said he wants to bring reform to the way the CSU spends its money.

"This policy is going to allow the finance committee not only to act as an approver, but also as an adjudicator," said Longinotti. "There's going to be criteria to follow before applying for funding with the CSU."

Depending on what the money is being requested for, the process would involve looking at the business plan, or projections for the upcoming years. It would also be another way for the finance committee to do more research upon which to make recommendations to the council.

"This is students' money that we're using, and we deserve to know that proper measures are being taken to make sure the money is not going to waste," Longinotti said.

Marcus Peters
Loyola Coordinator

Peters is looking to renovate some of the Loyola campus to include more poster space, and new countertops for The Hive free lunch. He'd also like for the CSU to aid in a project to renovate the shuttle bus shelter at Loyola. Peters suggested putting TV screens in the shelter, and setting up promotional material for The Hive, both for advertising and possibly booking purposes.

Making equipment more available for different clubs and associations, and attempting to create a larger supply of dishware on the campus so student won't have to constantly use disposable dishes are also on Peters' radar for the year.

On top of these goals, he'd like to find ways to generate more outreach and connection with the student body.

"That's always been a very traditional problem, and it's one of the incentives for getting new poster space up and trying to find new mediums to communicate," Peters said.

He foresees an undergraduate survey being conducted at some point in the year to get feedback from students regarding services on campus.



SHAUN MICHAUD

Rachel Gauthier
Student Life Coordinator

According to this year's Student Life Coordinator, Rachel Gauthier, students might be treated to an all-new winter orientation.

"Winter orientation is really important to me because there's a lot of student that come in in the winter, and we forget about them, and there's a lot of students that switch programs," she said. "So this is a perfect opportunity for them to get to know school."

There will also be a clubs fair aimed at encouraging greater student involvement in campus life.

"It's going to be a good little kickstart to the winter semester."

As for the fall semester's orientation, there are roughly 30 events planned over nine days. These include morning coffee every day, street fairs, and open air pubs.

There is a small concert planned at Loyola for the campus' 100th birthday, a show at Reggie's, and a final concert featuring two local bands, both of which played at Osheaga. The CSU is also providing tickets for with the french festival OUMF.

There is also a "Wellness Day" planned that will feature workshops on mental, physical, and social wellness.

What to Expect This Year From Our CSU Executives

By JOSH FISCHLIN AND VINCE MORELLO

Sophia Sahrane
Academic and Advocacy Coordinator

During her mandate, Sahrane would like to work with the Centre for Gender Advocacy and the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations to implement training for some of the different services on campus, such as HOJO, the Advocacy Centre, and the Legal Information Clinic, citing an increase in sexual assault cases within those three services.

She'd also like to see the rules changed with regards to Senate eligibility. This goal relates back to the tribunals that were held for student politicians involved in anti-austerity student strikes. The tribunals resulted in the distribution of letters of reprimand, two of which were issued to Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis and Marion Miller—both of whom should be sitting on Senate this year. Attempting to address the issue, the university proposed to change the rule that blocks students with letters of reprimand from sitting on senate. However, Sahrane was not satisfied with the concession.

"That's just a loophole they want to do to appease us," she said. "We want to reiterate the fact that we are an accredited association, we make our own appointments and decisions on who sits on what body at the university."

Sahrane plans to hold a student congress per semester, and will continue to work on the upcoming daycare. She'd also like to work with the university on a project to put murals around campus, and on a research project called "Living Knowledge"—which aims to collect information from school syllabi with an emphasis environment and sustainability.

Ultimately, though, she would like to support marginalized groups in their work, claiming this is something that the CSU has not been doing. Sahrane would like to increase representation in the union.

"Everything can turn into an intersectional matter," she said. "The CSU has been very, very white; very, very male; and very, very cis [...] and it sucks that it takes having that one token person of color to bring all these issues forward."

She referenced an anti-racism committee that has been created, and said she'd like to support the creation of an anti-colonial minor—an idea which the Centre for Gender Advocacy approached her with.

Aloyse Muller
External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator

As the external affairs coordinator, Aloyse Muller will represent the CSU at the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec. AVEQ is the provincial student union that Concordia students voted to be a part of during the November 2015 by-elections. This means that the CSU will be able to represent their positions book at the provincial level.

With the partnership, AVEQ has gotten their own space in the CSU offices, therefore they will have a presence on campus, but it will be mostly to provide information to students.

What's different about the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, FEUQ, the former provincial student union the CSU was a part of, is that each of the FEUQ's member unions were weighted based on the size of their membership—whereas with AVEQ, each school's executive group has one vote.

In terms of actual projects, AVEQ will have mobilization camp in late October, which will teach students the history of the student movement, social justice issues, and how to mobilize students on campus. While the CSU will not be a part of organizing, they will be promoting the camp.



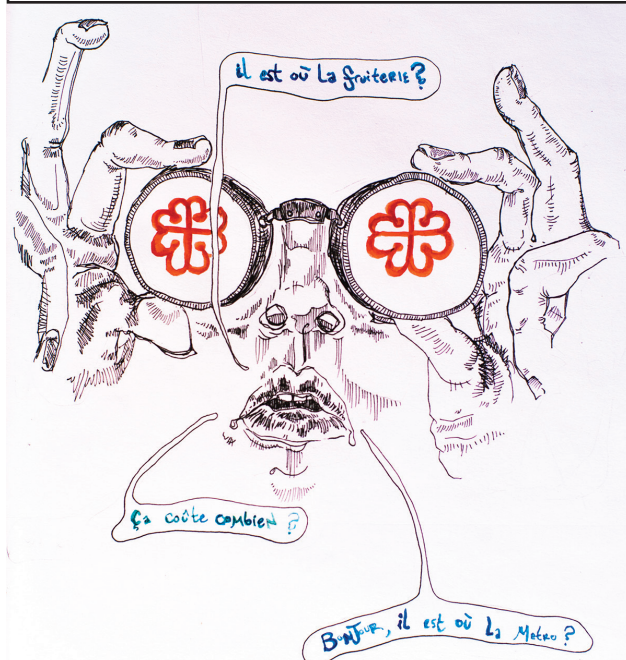
BRANDON JOHNSTON

Un Petit Mot

Useful Phrases for Living a Bilingual Life

By **TRISTAN D'AMOURS AND ÉTIENNE LAJOIE**

As we all know, Montreal is a bilingual city, yet sometimes people still get confused with some of the French lingo. Here are some phrases that you might hear, explained by our French-speaking, Québécois writers.



MADELEINE CLAIRE GENDRAEL

Things You'll Hear Around Town

Est-ce que je peux parler au gérant: This might be helpful if you're looking for a job—it means that someone wants to talk to the manager.

M'a t'peter à yeule: You've probably gone too far east for your own good and someone wants to beat your ass up.

T'as tu du feu?: Québécois way of asking for a lighter—translates to 'do you have any fire?'

Conversational Phrases

T'inquiète: (Pronounced T'ain-kee-ette) A common thing one would say to reassure someone who makes a mistake or is worried.

Ex: T'es sur que tu veux pas venir? -Non, t'inquiète.

S'a coche: (Pronounced Sah-kosh) A Québécois replacement for the word awesome.

Ex: Man, c'est s'a coche ca!

Donnes s'y: (Pronounced Don-zee) Replacement for "donnes-lui." Something you say when you want someone to give something to someone else.

Ex: Donne-moi tes notes pour l'examen.

Genre: (Pronounced Jahnre) Basically the uhms and ahs of Francophone people.

Garrocher: (Pronounced Gah-row-shay) To throw something pretty violently.

Ché Po: (Pronounced Shay-poh) French-Canadians use this quite often when they don't feel like answering your questions. It's also a casual way to say 'Je (ne) sais pas,' or I don't know.

Pentoute: (Pronounced Pahn-toot) Not at all.

Piastre: (Pronounced Pee-ast) Dollar, as in "C'est cinq piastres."

Brosser: (Pronounced Bross-ay) To get drunk (with French-Canadians hopefully). "On s'en va tu brosser?"

Aweille: (Pronounced A-wave) Hurry up.

Messages from the STM

Ralentissement de service: The service will be slowed down

Panne de train: A train has broken down

Intervention des services d'urgence: You're screwed...

Arrêt Déplacé: Your bus stop got moved elsewhere

How to Be a Successfully Integrated Social Media Millennial in Montreal

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

To be a successful Montrealer, you basically need a Facebook account. Don't have one? Go back to 1996 rural Nova Scotia then because this ain't the place for you. Just kidding—I love Nova Scotians and the year 1996—but seriously, Facebook can greatly improve your life here if you know which groups to join. Here's a list of a few popular ones (spelled out exactly as they appear online):

CASA-JMSB

There's an old joke that the John Molson School of Business is its own school separate from Concordia. It's a classic to show the arts and business divide. But request to join the CASA-JMSB group on Facebook and you'll discover that we all have one thing in common—our dread of doing schoolwork. The group's feed, especially during midterms and finals, are full of memes and videos depicting the struggle of being a university student. It's comical relief for when only being halfway done with an essay at 2 a.m. due the next day is not funny at all.

MTL Trade Hole/Trou d' Échange

Ah, the name change. Yes, this group used to be called Bunz Montreal before Toronto corporate yuppies had to ruin all the fun. Now it's known as a trade hole, but its charm and appeal has not been lost. Basically it's a feed to post about unwanted items lying around your house in trade of something better. But it's just exchanges of goods—no cash. The vibe is mostly friendly—except when people argue about whether buying someone a pack of smokes constitutes a legit trade—and you'll sometimes see people post selfies of their successful trades with a stranger. Be warned: expect a lot of notifications.

Free Food for Free People Montreal

We're students. So that means, most of the time, that we don't have tons of money to blow on our basic necessities, like food. But fear not! This group will let you know places all over the city where you can pick food up for free, with multiple updates daily. The food is free because, most of the time, it's being thrown away by grocery stores even though it's still edible—so you'll have to get your hands dirty to get to it. Not only will you be saving tons of money, but you'll be contributing to ending food waste!



OCEAN DEROUCHIE

People Who Travel Between New York and Montreal

New York and Montreal are by far my two favourite cities. I've only been to like ten in the world, but that's beside the point. We are only six—yes, six—hours away from the BIG APPLE. And if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere, right? Right, Frank? Frank? I once took a rideshare through this group and lived to write this piece. All at the cost of \$50 to help pay for the car rental. Still cheaper than Greyhound.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN MONTREAL/APPARTEMENTS À LOUER À MONTRÉAL

Welcome to Montreal where you'll most likely move 37 times in two years. That's not a joke—I have moved 37 times in two years. And when you're faced with such dilemmas, you check this unnecessarily capitalized Facebook group to find the next person you'll hate living with.

Chez Queer Montreal

This is like that capitalized apartment group but it is meant to be a safe space for marginalized identities, like people of colour, trans people, indigenous people, people with disabilities, as well as people generally of lower socioeconomic status. It's a beautiful initiative sometimes infiltrated by dumb jerks, but luckily the admins monitor the page to keep it inclusive and friendly. You can totally join it if you're a cishetero white male, but just don't be an asshole.

With files from Jon Milton

THRIFT SHOPS

- 1

LE MAGASIN DU CHAÎNON
4375 St-Laurent Blvd.

Furnishing your apartment or dorm this fall? Hit up Le Chainon for some quirky house digs. Couches, tables, shelves and vintage chests are just some of the things you can find here and you can feel good shopping there knowing that all the proceeds go to women in need!
- 2

EVA B
2015 St. Laurent Blvd.

GROCERIES

- 3

SEGAL'S
4001 St. Laurent Blvd.

If you shop at franchised grocery stores, be prepared to pay \$30 to \$50 per bag of food. At Segal's Market though, you can count on paying those prices for all of your groceries. Segal's lacks the glamour—or the basic lighting—that IGA or Metro provide. But it's an experience.

COFFEE

- 4

ANTICAFÉ
294 Ste. Catherine St.

Feeling those anticapitalist vibes? Sick of Starbucks being five or more bucks? Then, AntiCafé is for you. Self-serve coffee, tea, biscuits, pretzels and other little snacks are at your unlimited disposal. Pay for the time you visit—\$3 for the first hour, and \$2 for each after that.
- 5

LAIKA
4040 St. Laurent Blvd.
- 6

KAFEIN
1429 Bishop St.

VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN FOOD

- 7

CAFÉ RÉSONANCE
5175 Parc Ave.

In the Mile End, Résonance is a great spot to get your study on while enjoying a great vegan meal. The rustic ambiance and low-maintenance feel makes it a great spot to work on your laptop, catch up with friends, or enjoy their regularly-scheduled band events.
- 8

GREEN PANTHER
2153 Mackay St.
- 9

AUX VIVRES
4631 St. Laurent Blvd.
- 10

CHUCHAI
4088 St. Denis St.

COMIC STORES

- 11

CAPITAINE QUÉBEC
1837 Ste. Catherine St.

Located right by Concordia downtown, this shop has loads of wide open space and a whole lot of stuff. Comic books, toys, clothes, accessories, trading cards, manga—it's there. The manager, Myles, might always seems busy, but he usually makes time to talk to his regulars.
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LIBRAIRIE DRAWN AND QUARTERLY
211 Rue Bernard Ouest

BIKE SHOPS

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RIGHT TO MOVE
Behind The Hall Building

Right To Move is a do-it-yourself hub in a basement behind the Hall building. Generously stocked with material and manned by knowledgeable volunteers, RTM's \$20 yearly membership will be the best bike-related investment you make all term.

THE LINK'S BEST OF:

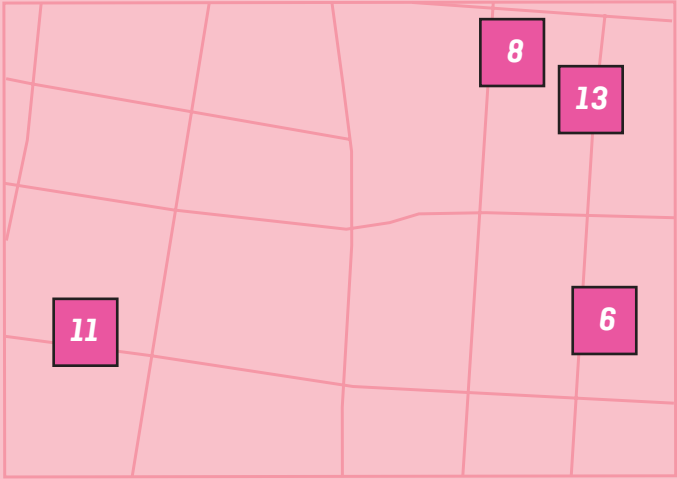
DOWNTOWN, MILE-END AND THE PLATEAU

For more from our best list, including everything worth visiting in N.D.G., St. Henri and Griffintown, visit us at thelinknewspaper.ca

Written by Carl Bindman, Ocean Derouchie and Julia Miele

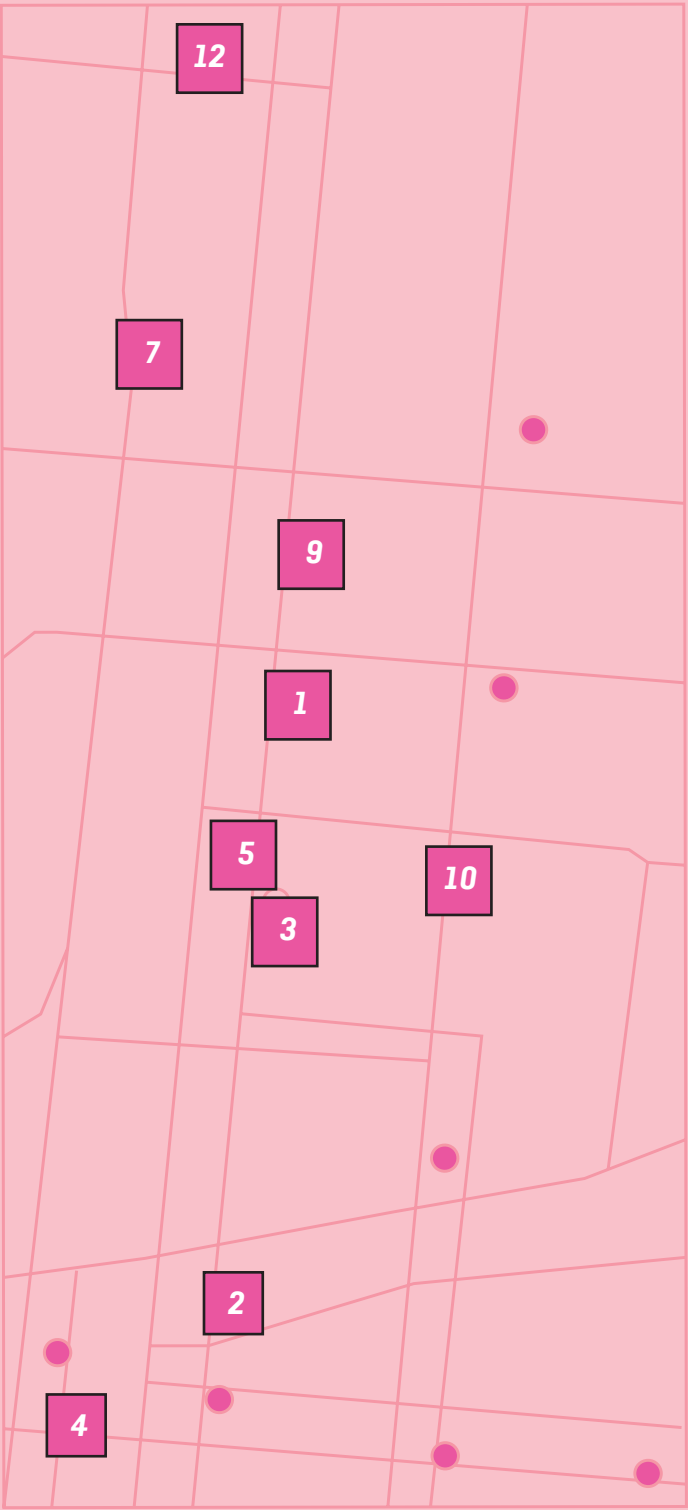
Map by Laura Lalonde

DOWNTOWN



MILE-END

PLATEAU



A Word From HOJO on Lease Deposits

Concordia's Housing and Jobs Office Doesn't Want You to Get Ripped Off

JAMIE ROBINSON

First and last month's, security deposit, key deposit—these are terms you might be familiar with. They're also illegal in Quebec.

A deposit is something you pay in addition to rent, either as security for the property—for example, to ensure you will return the apartment in the same condition you rented it—as insurance for the landlord in the case that you skip out on your lease, or as security for replacement costs of anything from keys to laundry cards. What many people don't know is that such fees, paid often upon the signing of your lease, are not allowed in our province.

Currently, the only payment that can be required upon signing a lease is the first month's rent. A landlord is allowed to ask for this in full when you sign a lease. No other payment is required or allowed under Quebec rental law. At least not yet.

Landlords would like to change this and they have successfully lobbied the government to consider allowing deposits. The Quebec Minister responsible for housing, Martin Coiteux, announced in April that he is considering reforms to the Rental Housing Board of Quebec, and this may include the legalization of deposits.

The Association of Quebec Landlords argues that landlords suffer losses resulting from damage to apartments and unpaid rent, and they need legalized deposits to cover these costs. They propose that deposits would create an incentive for tenants to maintain their apartments.

However tenants' rights activists contend that deposits privilege landlords over tenants. Deposits create barriers to housing for low-income tenants and first-time renters. This is and should be a concern for all tenants, especially students.

The Regroupement des Comités Logement et Associations de Locataires du Québec—the umbrella group representing housing committees in Quebec—and other organizations such as the Concordia Student Union's Housing and Jobs Office are fighting the proposed change.

We argue that low-income tenants will be unable to pay deposits, and this will be an additional barrier to renting in an increasingly expensive rental market. This will increase marginalization and discrimination in housing—a burden which often falls on marginalized people such as people of colour, queer/trans folks, single parents, people with disabilities, international students, and others.

For students, deposits would be especially cumbersome. Many students are low-income and first-time renters. They would require twice as much cash up front to rent an apartment than they do now. Further, this payment would often fall at or near the beginning of the semester—students' most popular moving-in dates—when many are already struggling to make tuition payments.

Many students leave Quebec upon the completion of their degree, which would make it harder for them to access appropriate recourse if a deposit were not returned. This could create a situation of exploitation when landlords are aware the departing tenant won't be remaining in Quebec.

There are specific concerns around how

deposits would be regulated, and how regulations would be enforced. RCLALQ notes that the experience of implementing deposits in other places hasn't gone well. For example, in Ontario and France, deposits have quickly risen to become the number one source of conflict between landlords and tenants—conflicts that must be mediated by the rental board. This raises particular concerns for us here in Quebec where our rental board, the Régie du logement, is severely backlogged.

As it stands, a tenant who files a case at the Régie du logement will wait, on average, seven months or more to have their case heard. That is a long time to wait, and a real source of stress for tenants. It has come to light recently that one source of the backlog is illegal absenteeism by staff of the housing tribunal. The auditor general of Quebec announced in May that Régie du logement employees had used 57 per cent more time off than permitted.

This is a hard pill to swallow for those waiting to have their cases heard, and raises additional concerns about the impact of legalizing deposits on tenants. If deposit conflicts were not addressed quickly, the tenant would be the one out of pocket.

Landlords argue that they need deposits to protect them from damages and compensate them in cases of abandonment. But there is already recourse for landlords in this situation that are comparable to—or better than—the recourses available to tenants. For example, the average wait time for a hearing on unpaid rent, where a landlord files against a tenant, is less than two months—compared to the general average wait time of seven months.

If landlords, who often see their process expedited (as in the example of hearings on unpaid rent) are not satisfied with the Régie du logement's ability to enforce current housing regulations, how confident can we be as tenants that deposits would be properly administered?

Let's Fight Deposits Together

The regulations already in place with regards to unpaid rent and damages are fair, and the cost to landlords is far less than the impact that tenants would feel from the legalization of deposits.

A ruling in favor of rental deposits would place the right of the landlord to profit and property above the right of citizens to access housing. By creating an additional financial barrier to housing, the Régie would be adding to the problem of financial discrimination in housing and contributing to the lack of affordable housing in Montreal.

This is an issue with the potential to impact all tenants, and students in particular. If you would like to join the campaign against deposits, you can contribute your voice by joining RCLALQ's letter writing campaign. You can also come in to HOJO for more information. If you have paid an additional fee—and you have a receipt indicating this—you can speak to your local housing association, or the HOJO team, to learn if you may be able to apply that fee to your next month's rent.



MADELEINE CLAIRE GENDREAU

Sports Previews

What You Need to Know About Sports at Concordia

by HARRISON MILO RAHAJASON, VINCE MORELLO, SAFIA AHMAD, MICHAEL BORIERO, ALEXANDER PEREZ, TRISTAN D'AMOURS

Men's Basketball

Head coach Rastko Popovic's team finished second in their division last year—behind a McGill team they played to a 2-2 season series split. They made it to the conference semi-finals but lost to UQAM.

Optimism is high for the 2016-17 team and that's because their roster got bigger, healthier and most crucially, deeper in the offseason.

"We recruited well and added a couple key guys," said Popovic. "We knew we had to deal with our lack of depth in the offseason, and we brought in some young guys that are going to play as well as some veterans, that will be able to contribute over the course of the long season."

Their regular season tips off on their home court against the Bishop's Gaiters on Nov. 10.

Women's Basketball

Head coach Tenicha Gittens and her team will look to bounce back from finishing second to last in the Réseau de Sport Étudiant du Québec regular season standings.

To do so, Gittens brought on new recruits—including Vanier College player of the year Caroline Task. The team will once again rely on forward Richelle Gregoire in order to kick-start their campaign. She averaged 15.1 points per game last season—second place in the RSEQ individual scoring leaders category.

After three preseason tournaments at Nipissing, Concordia, and Carleton, the team will start their season at home against the Bishop's Gaiters on Nov. 10.

Men's Rugby

The Stingers men's rugby squad ended their 2015 season with a disappointing loss to Réseau de Sport Étudiant du Québec newcomers, the École de Technologie Supérieure Piranhas in the quarterfinals. This season, they intend to return to the RSEQ finals, and recapture the title they won in 2014.

"Totally new season," said Stingers men's rugby captain Andreas Krawczyk. "We're not worrying about our loss last year, not worrying about our championship two years ago, [or] about any other team in the league except for us."

With head coach Clive Gibson retiring, the team will have a new head coach for the first time in 21 years: Craig Beemer, who has been with the team since 2014 as an assistant.

These guys are really a positive group of rugby players," Beemer said. "We had our first practice of the year, and it was moving, it was fast paced. There were no repercussions from last year."

Their first game is on Sept. 11 against the McGill Redmen.

Women's Rugby

After six wins during the regular season, the only team that managed to beat the Stingers women's rugby team was the Ottawa Gee-Gees. Once in the RSEQ finals, the Gee-Gees once again got the better of the Stingers.

This season, Concordia is back with a vengeance. It is expected that Concordia will be lead by the two-headed monster, composed of centres Alexandra Tessier and Frederique Rajotte.

Fresh from being selected to represent Canada at the Women's Rugby Super Series in Salt Lake City, Utah this summer, Rajotte and Tessier were respectively ranked third and fourth in the 2015 RSEQ leading scorer rankings.

It is also worth mentioning that Francois Ratier, head coach of Canada's national rugby team, will serve as an assistant coach under head coach Graeme McGravie this season.

Men's Hockey

The Stingers men's hockey team finished last season with a losing record and an early playoff exit against their arch rivals, the McGill Redmen. While the statistics paint a negative image, the now-official head coach Marc-Andre Element viewed last season from a positive light.

"We were really young last year and I think we had a really good season," said Element. "All the young kids they've been working hard, they've been battling hard and I know they've been training during the summer so that's exciting for this season."

Once again, the Stingers will be welcoming a young team with the departures of veterans Jessyko Bernard, Frederick Roy and Luca Ciampini. Luckily, captain Olivier Hinse will don the maroon and gold jersey for one last season.

New recruits will be expected to fill those offensive gaps. Anthony Deluca and Philippe Sanche who both played in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League are exciting additions to the Stingers roster.

The Stingers have a month to prepare for the upcoming season as they play their first game on Oct. 7 away against Nipissing.

Women's Hockey

The Concordia Stingers women's hockey team struggled last season, winning only six games, but newly appointed head coach Julie Chu, who currently plays for the Montreal Canadiens in the CWHL, has already cultivated a winning philosophy centered around team leadership from veterans and recruits.

After losing in the first round of the playoffs, the team lost captain Erica Porter and veteran Marie-Pier Cloutier. Their departures signified a shift in leadership on the team but Chu didn't seem rushed to choose their next captain.

"We'll again go through the captain nomination process that we go through and see who emerges as the leaders," said Chu. "But beyond that we have a lot of great veterans who understand what it means to be successful."

Veteran netminder Katherine Purchase, who finished last season with a 2.21 GAA and a .914 save percentage, trained hard during the off-season.

The Stingers women's team will begin their quest to capture the RSEQ title on Oct. 14 as the season opens at home versus the Ottawa Gee-Gees.

Women's Soccer

The Concordia Stingers women's soccer team is looking to make an impression on the league come this fall.

Despite a handful of departures from the team, including star forward Katelyn Fournier, Sanchez wasted no time integrating new players to help boost his team.

"We added some CIS-ready players right away," said head coach Jorge Sanchez. "We're deeper, we have a lot more options and variety in the way we're going to play."

The Stingers started their season off on a positive note, grabbing a point away from home with a 1-1 draw over rivals the McGill Martlets.

The Stingers will look to seal all three points on Friday, Sept. 9 as they face the Université de Montréal Carabins in their home opener.

Men's Soccer

It's been somewhat of a transitional period for the Stingers men's soccer team under head coach Greg Sutton.

The goal is simple this season for Sutton and the Stingers—make the playoffs.

"If I'm being realistic, I think for us it'd be important to make the playoffs," said Sutton. "You know once you do that, anything can happen."

In this summer's recruitment, Sutton made sure to bring in players to give him more options on the attacking front.

"In this off season we've added some key players in some key positions and you know I think it's shown early here in our preseason," said Sutton.

With the season already started, the Stingers will be looking to bounce in their home opener versus Montreal, after suffering a dismal 5-2 defeat at the hands of the McGill Redmen.



18 A Word From SARC

The Sexual Assault Resource Centre Exists for a Reason

GRAHAM LATHAM

The past few years have seen an increase in the public consciousness about sexual violence.

T The stories surrounding Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby along with the numerous public cases at both Canadian and American universities have made clear the prevalence of sexual violence—and the need for its prevention.

H Research shows that one in four women and one in six men will experience some type of sexual violence in their lifetime. For women, it most likely occurs between the ages of 18 to 24, a statistic that has unsettling implications when considering the number of university students that fall within this age range.

O What is SARC?

R The Sexual Assault Resource Centre has been in operation for three years, offering services to Concordia students, staff and faculty of any gender and sexual orientation who have been affected by sexual violence.

I SARC's core values are explicitly feminist and intersectional, and our work is grounded in a survivor-centered approach to sexual violence. The centre believes that everyone on campus can contribute to creating a culture of consent, respect and support for survivors.

Out of the main office on the downtown campus, SARC operates a drop-in space and provides support services such as crisis

Education on the matter and prevention efforts also form a crucial part of the SARC's role in the Concordia community, including workshops and

to communicate messages about consent and bystander intervention through postcards, posters, and three animated videos.



Sexual Violence Policy:

Concordia released a report on sexual violence in August 2015 outlining a series of recommendations. One of these recommendations was the creation of a sexual violence policy, which SARC's coordinator, Jennifer Drummond, participated in its creation.

The policy provides definitions of sexual violence and consent, and outlines the role of SARC and the response team that can be called together by the coordinator. The response team is designed to limit the number of times a survivor must repeat their story.

We encourage anyone who has been affected by sexual violence, knows someone who has, or wants more information to call or visit the SARC offices at GM-300.25 and 300.27. The drop-in is open Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is staffed by trained volunteers who can provide support, active listening, referrals and accompaniment to resources on or off-campus.

The coordinator can be reached by email or phone: Jennifer.drummond@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 x 3353

N Don't **T** Waste **A** Your **T** Back to **I** School **O** Money **N** On Dumb **Gadgets**

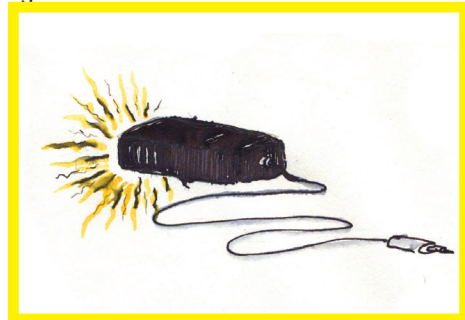
Spend it on
These Actually
Useful Things
Instead

MATT D'AMOURS
@MATTDAMOURS

Around back to school time, lots of companies will make a splashy push to entice students into spending their hard-earned summer dollars in their places of business. Whether it's a sale on school supplies at a bookstore or a special price on pints and shots, everyone wants a slice of that sweet millennial-market pie.

Gadget-focused stores are no exception, and they're perhaps the most brazen in trying to sweet-talk students out of their money. A recent email from Best Buy alerted me to their back to school sale (two days only!), which included a shiny new \$4,000 television and a \$600 home theater speaker.

Of course, these items are completely useless for students—not to mention unreasonably expensive. But what technology purchases actually make sense for Concordia students this fall? Here's a quick guide to a few useful gadgets that will actually help you out this school year, while leaving enough dough in your wallet for that next round of adult beverages.

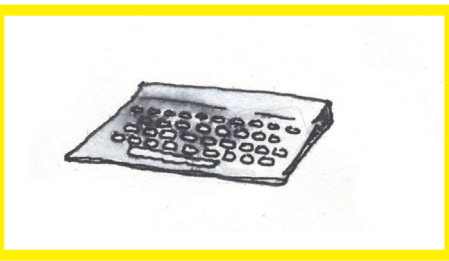


Portable Battery Charger

There's been a recent uptick in interest surrounding battery packs, thanks to an entire generation of mobile phone users embarking on power-hungry excursions to find demonic Japanese pocket monsters in our funeral parlors and ditches. But if you've yet to research battery packs, here's the pitch: these little

phone-sized bricks store enough juice to recharge your mobile devices—phones, tablets, iPods—on days where heavy usage is inevitable (translation: every day). The more you pay, the more you get in terms of charging capacity, but you can easily get a battery pack for under \$30 that will completely juice your phone several times on a single charge.

Recommendation: Anker Astro E1 (around \$25)



Multi-Device Bluetooth Keyboard

Given how much we use Twitter, Facebook Messenger, and Snapchat on our phones, many of us have become experts on-screen keyboard users. But no matter how OMG #EPIC you are with your thumbs, nothing beats writing on an actual keyboard—so why not do it with your phone or tablet?

Last year saw the release of several new models of portable, wireless keyboards that can connect to multiple devices via Bluetooth. Finish typing out a longer email on your phone, and a quick button press will automatically sync the keyboard to your tablet, where you can start working on that English assignment. The best part? These keyboards are now large enough to be comfortable yet slim enough to carry in your backpack. No need to lug that laptop everywhere! Or buy a laptop. Or have a laptop at all, really.

Recommendation: Logitech K380 (around \$50)

A Good Pair of Headphones



Productivity is great, but sometimes you just need to clear your mind with some sweet tunes, and a decent pair of headphones can make a huge difference. While the sound quality in earbuds has gotten better through the years, nothing beats well-engineered over-ear headphones for true immersion and sound isolation.

Don't get scared off by the high-priced offerings by brands like Beats and Bose, which can easily pass the \$300 mark. There are alternatives from well-regarded brands that will deliver the same quality for less—usually around \$100.

Another money-saving tip: steer clear of noise-cancelling technology and bluetooth headphones. Sure, these are neat features if you want to splurge, but they aren't necessary if all you want is great sound and money for food.

Recommendation: Audio-Technica ATH-M30x (around \$100)

The role of student government in our Concordia ecosystem is an area of interest that only a select few care to understand—and that's totally reasonable.

A helpful exercise when attempting to grasp student politics is to compare it with national politics. While there is a major difference of scale and consequence between the two, some of their functions and processes are comparable.

Federal government, for instance, collects taxes from the general population, and then, in the ideal case, uses the capital to pay for programs that will benefit the people. Comparably, student government collects fee-leaves from student tuition, and uses that accumulated wealth in the very same spirit as federal government—although admittedly with fewer drone strikes.

Individuals aspiring to secure leadership positions in student politics are also subjected to an election and campaign process. People vying for power turn into linguistic magicians, exercising their best rhetoric to convince the public they're right for the job.

Often, when it's election time for an association or for undergraduate student union, political teams—known as slates—will form, presenting students with two, mostly distinct, options. The different slates present their platforms, and students judge the viability of the promises accordingly.

It's important to note that students vote for the individuals that make up the slate—not for the slate itself. There are also people who choose to run independently. The two slates are pitted against each other in debates, and students are given the opportunity to directly hear the candidates out.

Referendums are also held during elections.

But what exactly are student associations, and who do they represent? Similarly to how a provincial or municipal government is beholden to people within a certain geographic location, student associations are beholden to students within their own faculty or department—with a department meaning specific programs—such as Liberal Arts, for example—and faculties being groups of departments which study similar subjects. For example, the Fine Arts Student Association is made up of, and represents, students studying in the various departments within the Fine Arts faculty.

Faculty associations are made up of a council of representatives, comprised of students elected to their specific department within the faculty, and an executive team, which handles the daily operations needed to keep the association afloat—such as budget creation and social event coordinating, among other things.

At the very core of a student association's influence—aside from its spending power—is its ability to legislate. At nearly all council meetings, which usually occur on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, representatives and executives debate over and vote on motions that could range from official stances on political issues, to the allocation of funds to help finance student-run initiatives. The combination of motions plus money equals a fair amount of tangible power that student governing bodies have to influence university life.

Here are the five largest undergraduate student governing bodies.

Concordia Student Union (CSU)

The CSU is the primary and most influential student governing body at Concordia, representing all 30,000 undergraduate students. The fee-levy is set at \$3.80 per credit, and goes towards funding numerous services and initiatives across campus that many people benefit from. These include but are not limited to: the Student Advocacy Centre, the Housing and Job Bank, The Legal Information Clinic, an upcoming student daycare service, and upcoming student housing units. The CSU also funded the Reggie's renovations, the Frigo Vert relocation, and, once upon a time, Burritoville. The union has also taken political stances—known formally as “positions”—on a range of issues. Some of these include: austerity, divestment from fossil fuels, climate justice, indigenous sovereignty, and anti-consumerism, among others.

The CSU is comprised of eight executives, 14 Arts and Science councillors, six John Molson School of Business councillors, four Engineering and Computer Science councillors, three Fine Arts councillors, and three independent councillors.

General Coordinator (i.e. President): Lucinda Kiparissis

Commerce and Administration Student Association (CASA-JMSB)

CASA represents a mass of 7,058 snazzily dressed undergraduate students from Concordia's business programs. The students pay a fee-levy of \$3.00 per credit to their association. There are six individual associations within CASA: Finance and Investment, Accounting, Human Resources, Marketing, International Business, and Supply Chain and Business Technology. There are also eight committees in CASA dealing with a variety of different business related interests, like sports management, and sustainable enterprise, among others. And, of course, there is an executive team overseeing the broader operations.

The association was criticized in a letter to *The Link* last year for overspending on a simulated stock exchange event called JMSX, and former CASA presidential candidate Karl Guiragossian also raised budgetary concerns during the debates. Despite this issue, the association has run a few consecutive surpluses, which means budget cuts.

President: Evan Pitchie

Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA)

With nearly 15,000 arts and science students, ASFA represents the second largest number of undergraduates here at Concordia. Arts and science students fork over \$1.22 per credit to fund the federation's operations. It's important to note that ASFA is made up of a large variety of smaller department-specific member associations from within the arts and science umbrella—hence why it is called a federation of associations. Council is made up of representatives from many—although not all—departments, as well as an executive team.

ASFA is no stranger to controversy. In 2015, *The Montreal Gazette* broke a story concerning the racial and sexual harassment of a student politician who went by the pseudonym “Mei Ling,” which ultimately resulted in a settlement from the federation to pay for damages. It also led to an uptick in proactivity from ASFA to deal with issues of racism and sexism in their organization. Because of these issues, and more, ASFA has been commonly referred to over the past couple of years as a “mess.”

General Coordinator (i.e. President): Andrea Krasznai

Fine Arts Student Alliance (FASA)

This association represents approximately 3,500 students at Concordia. Running the show are seven coordinators and a board of directors who keep the organization in operation.

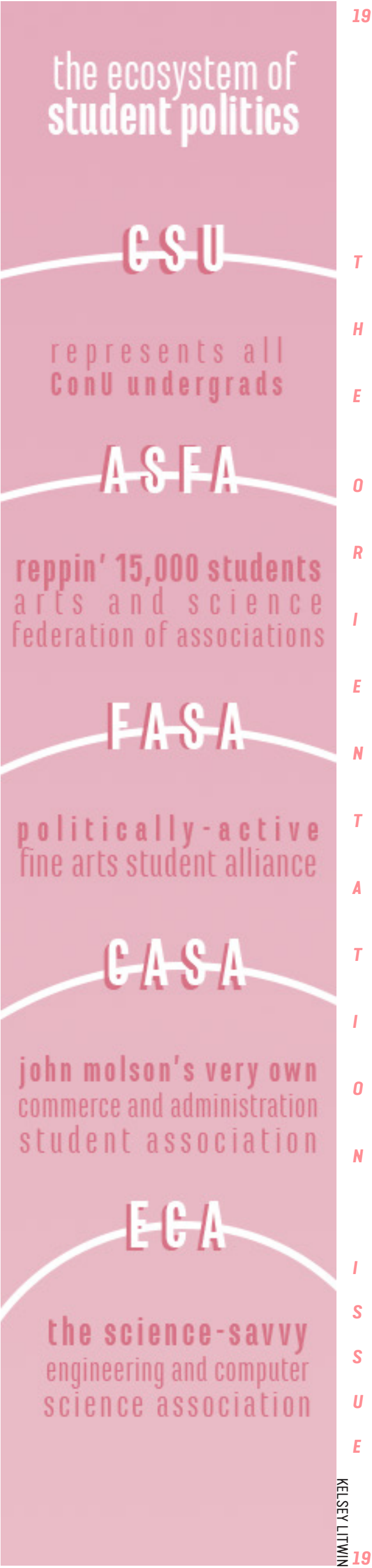
FASA earned its reputation for political activism during the 2015 winter semester, when they became the only association to approve and enforce a strike mandate for two separate days against government austerity measures.

General Coordinator (i.e. President): Antoine Rail

Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA)

The ECA represents 3,250 of the more scientifically-minded at our university. Their council is made up of eight executives, four department representatives, and four independent representatives. There are 17 societies within the ECA that provide students with varied opportunities to explore their crafts head-on. This association holds over 20 competitions, and even has a compilation of past exams on their website.

President: Arravein Ponnudurai





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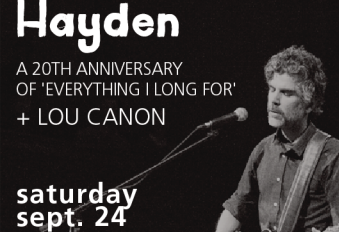
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Colin Stetson
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3RD SYMPHONY
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Allah-Las
+ TOPS
wednesday sept. 21



S.A.T.

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saturday sept. 24



RIALTO HALL

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DIVAN ORANGE

Wreckless Eric
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MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

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Building Power Through Divestment

Why Divesting From Fossil Fuels at Concordia is Crucial

MARCUS PETERS

The divestment movement has one major goal: peel away fossil fuel companies' veil of social support by pressuring investors to sell their assets.

Since its humble beginnings on a handful of college campuses in 2011, the divestment movement has spread worldwide. Thousands of foundations, universities, and individuals have pledged to divest over \$3.4 trillion from the fossil fuel industry.

Despite the momentum, we have yet to see a Canadian university follow through with full divestment, showing a disturbing lack of leadership in our institutions of higher learning.

Canada is one of the top three largest per-capita emitters of greenhouse gases, and our government hands out various forms of subsidies to the industry totaling more than \$2.7 billion every year. The political landscape in Canada requires a drastic shift. We need to begin rejecting our tacit acceptance of the tar sands and its so-called "place in our economy."

This shift needs to come from every sector of our society—and what better place to begin than the academic institutions that brought climate science into mainstream discourse.

Even while Concordia continues to produce research on the cataclysmic effects of climate change, our investments in fossil fuels show a financial interest in the degradation of our global future.

The scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change should be reflected in every facet of an institution of higher learning. Concordia needs to take true leadership on the global climate crisis by divesting its assets away from this destructive industry.

Just over three years ago, we learned that Concordia invests between \$11 to 12 million in the fossil fuels industry—information which led to the formation of Divest Concordia. We were a small group of people interested in using our status as Concordia students to take tangible action on climate change. We set about disseminating this information in the hopes of getting people involved and forcing the university to sell its investments.

In the fall of 2013, we helped set up a Socially Responsible Investment working group with the university. It was a way to establish a dialogue on divestment between students and the administration.

Divestment is a tactic, not a solution—organizing workshops, movie screenings, and art builds are all integral ways to start building awareness about climate change.

Our first year as a group was spent educating the community—as well as ourselves—on the multifaceted issue of climate change, and trying to find ways to apply that knowledge into the way we organized.

By late 2014, we had some traction with the administration. The school decided to experiment in sustainability by setting up a \$5 million fund from their endowment that would screen out unsustainable investments—including fossil fuels. While this decision caused a bit of a media splash, it unfortunately coincided with the end of the

Socially Responsible Investment working group.

A major part of this second year was spent on restructuring—to refocus on the grassroots mobilizing that formed the basis of our movement, and worked on making our organizing more inclusive to the struggles of marginalized groups—something no serious environmental movement can ever overestimate.

While the Socially Responsible Investment working group ended, the administration has set up the Joint Sustainable Investment Advisory Committee, which includes a permanent seat for Divest Concordia. We finished off our third year organizing around the Energy East pipeline and the Paris Climate Accords. A growing number of associations, professors, student groups, and external organizations associated with Concordia have joined the campaign.

Which brings us to the present. We're in the midst of a critical time for the global environmental movement. In the next five years, we have to transition into a new economy, one that does not threaten the global ecosystem with GHG emissions. Unless we are well on our way to building this economy in the next half decade, scientists warn, we will be locking in a global temperature increase of 2 degrees or more. The need for a strong environmental movement grows more urgent with every year.

The campaign is about more than just fossil fuel divestment; it's about changing the way we think about climate change, and finding new ways to integrate the full, intersectional meaning of sustainability into both our institutions and daily lives.

To make that happen, though, we're going to need to build pressure in our school. That's something everyone can be a part of—including you.

Marcus Peters is a member of Divest Concordia and the Loyola Coordinator of the Concordia Student Union.



NICO HOLZMANN

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Hey, you.

Yeah, you. The one who’s been carefully analyzing each article in this issue, correcting grammar, criticizing the tone and style after each passing breath, noticing every wrong tense. You, who might’ve been scrubbing these pages with your favourite red pen. Yeah you, who probably have said to yourself, “*The Link* is cool, but some of their pieces need work.” Hey, we hear you. And boy, do we have a perfect opportunity for you.

We’re looking for a new copy editor.

This position is responsible for making sure every piece reads well, conforms to *Link* style, and upholds our mandate to be a platform for marginalized voices. It’s an integral job that needs filling.

To be eligible, you must contribute to *The Link* four times in four separate issues. For copyediting, a contribution can include writing a piece or coming in on Monday (our crunch-time production day) to help do some final edits.

If interested, contact editor@thelinknewspaper.ca for more information. Or stop by the office to chat with a few editors during our weekly story pitch meetings every Tuesday @ 4:15 p.m.

THE LINK

Concordia’s Independent Newspaper
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(514) 848-7405 ext. 7405

thelinknewspaper.ca

By the Way, Here’s the Crossword Key:



Nah'msayin?

A Cyclist With a Question

CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

Here's a question: do I have the right to safely get where I want to go?

I'm starting to feel like Montreal doesn't think I do, but I can't imagine why—all the possible reasons seem preposterous.

Could it be because I don't have the means to own a car, so I don't deserve a safe commute? That can't be it—the city would never discriminate based on financial situation. Might it be that I haven't learned to drive, naively thinking public transit is adequate and then getting a bike when I realized it isn't? No, that can't be it either, because if something were inadequate, Montreal would fix it.

Is it because I want so badly to be physically active—for at least a tiny portion of my day as I bounce between seats and screens—that I get threatened by drivers and swallowed by potholes? No, of course the city wants me to live a healthy life, and not to put more garbage in the air—literally and figuratively.

So I'm at a loss. I can only think that the reason I fear for my life, daily, is because of a basic and fundamental failure of foresight, hindsight, and urban planning going back decades. But that can't be it. Nobody would let that happen. But... what if?

What if bikers' pleas for lifesaving lanes are

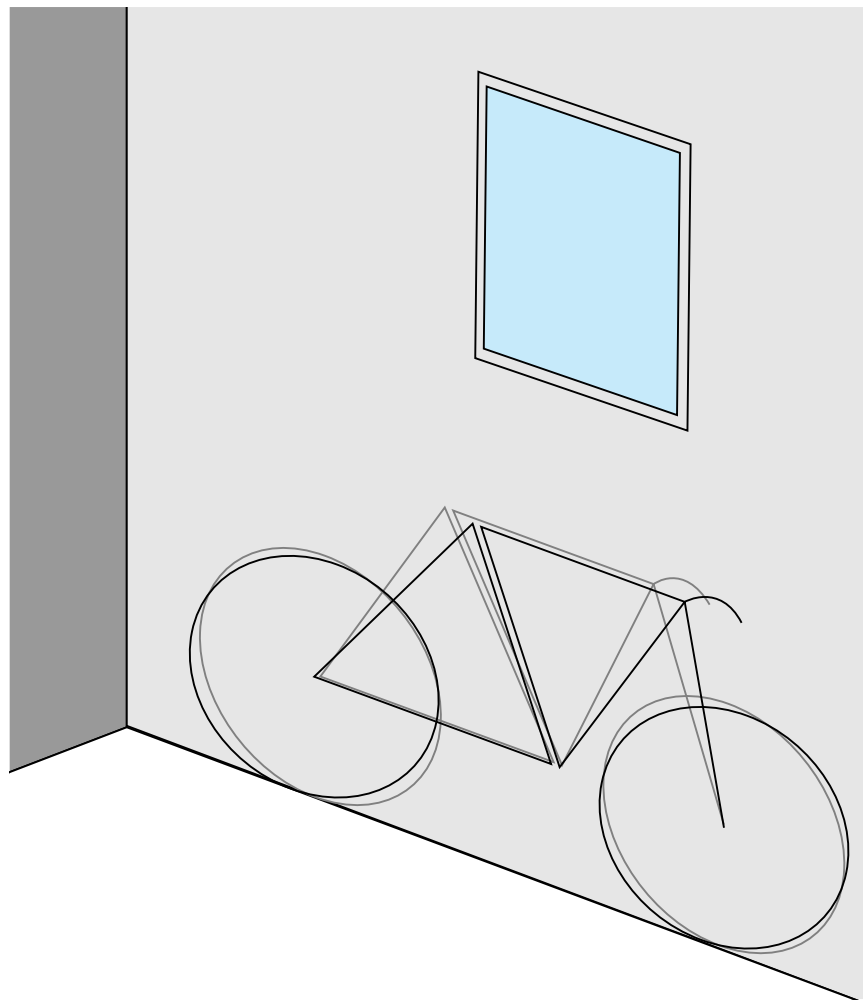
answered with farcical three-inch-wide strips of paint directly in the Get A Door Opened Into Your Face Zone—also known as the Oh Look There's A Car Parked In The Bike Lane Zone?

What if, on the rare protected bike lanes, the roads are so bad that it's actually dangerous to ride on them for fear of ruining the only mode of transportation you have? What if those same lanes are so congested that to get anywhere *à l'heure* it's basically required that you break a traffic law here or there?

What if cyclists who don't live in Le Plateau want to get somewhere and ride on the street, only to face the absurd double standard in behavior imposed on bikers? (Friendly reminder: when a biker makes a mistake, they fall. When a driver makes a mistake, they kill people)

But yeah, what if after years of complaining and lobbying and DYING, things barely change for cyclists? That would mean, by process of elimination, that the answer to my first question is: *pas icitte*. You do not have the right to be safe. I don't like that.

I'm so sick of having close calls. I'm so sick of having friends have close calls. I'm so sick of seeing pictures in the Gazette of a dead cyclist's memorial and knowing deep down that there isn't really anything in the way of the next memorial being for me.



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I hope you've had a great summer and are ready for an exciting fall.

If you're new to Concordia, I'd like to welcome you to our extraordinary community. If you're returning, welcome back!

I encourage you to take advantage of all we have to offer. Have a great year!

Alan Shepard
President
alan.shepard@concordia.ca

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On The Cusp of History

The Importance of Electoral Reform

TRISTAN MASSON
@TRISTANEDMASSON

We're witnessing a truly historic moment for Canadian politics. Less than a year has gone by since the last federal election, and Prime Minister Trudeau is following through on his promise to do something that has never been done in Canadian history—reform the federal voting system.

As part of this process, Maryam Monsef—the Minister of Democratic Institutions—has established the All-Party Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform to look into broader electoral issues. These include lowering the voting age as well as making voting accessible online and mandatory.

The process was set in motion last May when said committee was formed and will come to an end with the submission of its final report to Parliament by Dec. 1. Until that time, various methods of public consultation are in place.

The Dynamism of Democracy

Electoral law is complex and is constantly being refined. One of the most important changes was the regulation of money in politics in the 1970's with an amendment to the Canada Elections Act in 1970 and the Canada Expenses Act in 1974. Since then there have been five additional modifications to this area of electoral law.

Arguably the most important achievement in our democratic evolution is the universalization of voting rights. Since Canada's inception, these rights have gradually expanded. Women were federally enfranchised in 1918 and in all provinces by 1940—with Quebec being the final province to enfranchise. By the 1960's, many racial and religious barriers had been dismantled. Yet it was the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982 that enshrined democratic rights constitutionally and unleashed a new wave of democratization. Improved voting accessibility for the disabled and voting rights for prisoners are some of the notable developments of the Charter era.

Some changes are less welcome. One prominent example would be the most recent changes to electoral law in 2014, known as the Fair Elections Act. There were several contentious elements of the new law, namely the restriction of what the Chief Electoral Officer—the chief administrator of elections—could discuss publicly.

However, there was one change that drew even sharper criticism from civil society, experts and the general public alike. This

was a change to voter identification criteria. The law now required that eligible voters show ID with a valid address.

Marc Maynard, Chief Electoral Officer, stated that roughly 250,000 Canadians could be changing their address during a five-week election campaign. The 2015 election was more than twice as long. Furthermore, this new law promised to create complications for approxi-

example. Such technical jargon also tends to obscure public debate, but more importantly misses the point. Democracy isn't a technical pursuit. If we consider the historical examples above, there's no technical reason for universal democratic rights—if any can be found, it's secondary in importance. It came about because individuals rejected the values reflected in an unequal and exclusive

First-Past-The-Post voting system rewards parties most capable of gathering support in the 338 ridings—each representing more or less the same number of people across Canada. Although not proportional, this pertains to the principle of representation-by-population—"rep-by-pop"—because each province receives a number of seats relative to its population.

FPTP is also riding-based, meaning citizens elect a local representative. This is an attempt to give space to regional politics and, to a lesser extent than the Senate, reflect the principle of regional equality—that each citizen, no matter their geographical position on the map, has an equal opportunity for representation.

In theory, FPTP appears meritorious and, indeed, it was. Yet there's a reason we're considering electoral reform in this day and age; it's not a sporadic event. Over the course of decades, FPTP has served well, but society and politics have changed.

In the 19th and early 20th century, it made sense to "hold multiple, simultaneous elections across the country," as proponents of FPTP say. This was because provinces were much more isolated than they are today. Transportation is a case in point—the first railway across Canada was only built 18 years after Confederation. Nowadays you can buy a plane ticket and travel to the other side of the country in the same day.

The insight is that regional representation still matters, but not to the same extent as before. As Canada becomes more and more interconnected, so too must our democracy. This means those who govern must reflect the majority of Canadians. For electoral reform, this translates into finding a way to include more proportional representation.

The best way to equilibrate the principles discussed above in a modern context would be the "Mixed-Member Proportional" system. In this system, a portion of the government seats is reserved for ridings, as with FPTP, and another portion for the national voting outcome.

Each person casts two votes: one for their local representative and another for a party. The outcome for the former follows the same logic as FPTP while the latter compensates parties who've been disproportionately represented at the riding level.

While I have my theories on which voting system would work best, I'm still willing to learn more and possibly have my opinion changed in the face of evidence and arguments. I hope that most people are the same. December's a long way ahead, so let the spirit of democracy animate us until then.



ZOË GELFANT

mately 400,000 voters on reserves, in long-term care or post-secondary students who might not easily get a hold of an ID with a valid address.

These examples illustrate different aspects of electoral law. The first two show momentum to improve democratic life while the latter reveals regressive contributions to electoral law. Understanding the historical development of our democracy is critical if we're to make choices on its direction.

Debating Democracy Can Be Tricky

I won't expand on the intricacies of different voting systems, as many have provided detailed accounts—like Samara Canada, for

democracy.

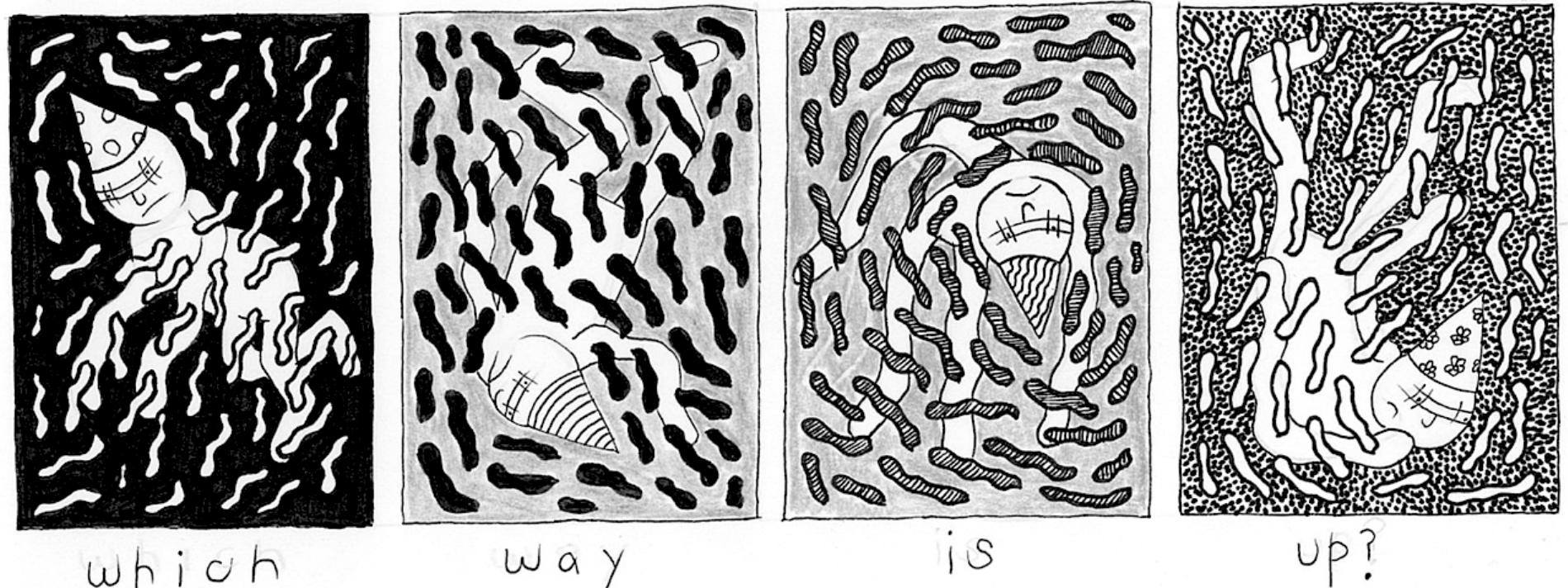
Likewise, if elections are harder to influence with money now, then it's because we recognized that it would cheapen the democratic process. As Tom McIntosh, professor at the University of Regina, puts it, "The debate over the mechanics is secondary to the debate over which goals and values should be embedded in the electoral system." In other words, much like other elements of our democracy have been tweaked over time to better reflect our ideals, so too must our voting system.

So what kind of values do we want reflected in our voting system? Before answering this, let's consider the current values. Our current

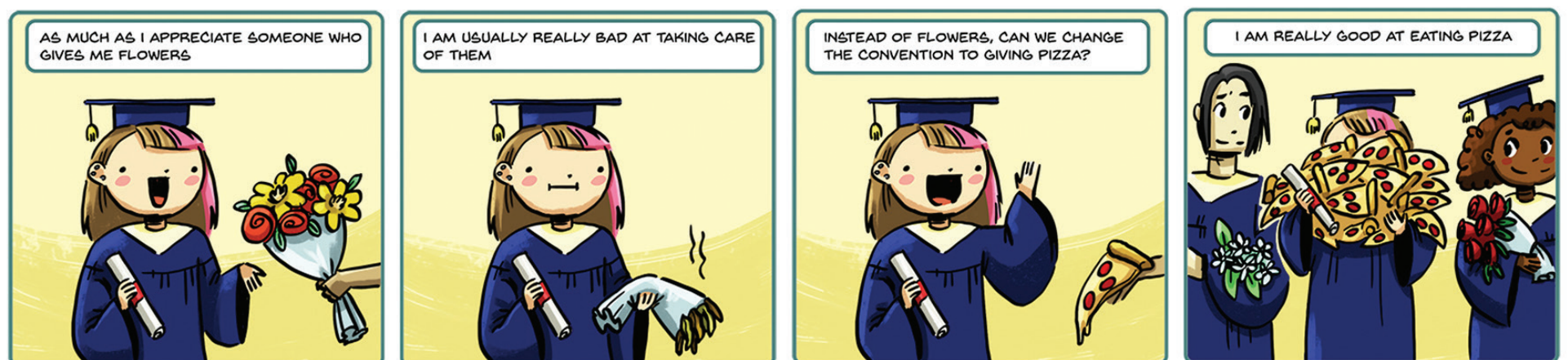
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NICO HOLZMANN

EDITORIAL

Let's Bring Homa Home

When we hear about injustice happening on the other side of the world, sometimes it can be easy to just ignore it. When injustice doesn't affect us directly, we don't always feel the need to prevent it.

Every now and then, though, something happens that reveals how we are connected to the oppression of those far away from us. What's happening to Homa Hoodfar, in Iran, should be one of those moments for Concordia students.

Hoodfar was a professor at Concordia, whose academic domain was sociology and anthropology. While researching women's issues in Iran last spring, she was arrested by Iran's secret police—the Counter Intelligence Unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

The absurd charges laid against her are clearly related to her work in women's issues—the Iranian government accused Hoodfar of “dabbling in feminism and security matters” and charged her with propaganda against the state.

Apart from a brief hospitalization on Aug. 30, Hoodfar has been held in solitary confinement since her arrest in June—a practice described by United Nations experts as a form of torture.

So here we are—in a situation where a former teacher at our own school who still acts as a graduate supervisor has become a political prisoner, a prisoner of conscience, in a nation on the other side of this planet. Despite the distance, this affects us deeply.

As university students, some of us may want to travel and research at some point in the future. Can we count on our university to protect us from events like these? In this situation, Concordia's administration has left much to be desired.

Despite President Alan Shepard releasing two statements of support for Hoodfar on Concordia's website, the administration has neglected to send an email to students including the petition demanding her release. *The Link* believes that the administration should do so immediately. Not only would this help

raise awareness for the issue, but also the direct action of signing the petition will serve to create a solid base of support and solidarity.

We at *The Link* would also like to draw attention to the former Harper administration's decision to close the Canadian embassy in Iran. The burning of this bridge leaves us wondering what could have been done had diplomatic relations remained intact.

The Trudeau government seems to be attempting to renew ties with Iran, and Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion claims the government is working on Hoodfar's case. He also confirmed that the lack of an embassy in Iran has been a challenge.

The government has its role to play, but so do we.

The Concordia administration should be doing everything in its power to raise awareness for this issue, and circulating the petition demanding her release is a good starting point.

We'd also like to urge the Concordia Stu-

dent Union to do everything in its power to bring Homa Hoodfar to the forefront of students' collective consciousness. Posters, banners, and an update to the positions book could go a long way in this regard.

And, most importantly, we encourage students at large to participate in upcoming demonstrations in solidarity with Hoodfar.

In 2009, three Americans—including journalist Shane Bauer—were detained by the Iranian government after having accidentally crossed the border from Iraq on a hiking trip. The Iranian government, without evidence, claimed they were spies.

For two years, they were detained. A substantial international solidarity movement developed, demanding their release. Activists on the ground made noise, and diplomats negotiated behind closed doors. This combination of factors eventually led to their release.

International solidarity works. It has in the past, and it will in the future. Together, let's bring Homa home.

THE LINK

Volume 37, Issue 2
Tuesday, September 6, 2016
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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017: Mathieu D'Amours, Colin Harris, Brandon Johnston, Laura Lalonde, Michelle Pucci, non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Jonathan Caragay-Cook.

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

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Orientation Design: Laura Lalonde and Carl Bindman

Cover: Laura Lalonde

Correction: In last week's issue, Tessa Mascia's article "Montreal, In Verse" on page nine was printed without a byline. *The Link* regrets the error.

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Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier de FACTOR, du gouvernement du Canada, et des radiodiffuseurs privés du Canada.
We acknowledge the financial support of FACTOR, the Government of Canada and of Canada's private radio broadcasters.