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# Unwrapping Burritoville

## Burritoville Seeks More Funding From the CSU Amid Potential Legal Issues

VINCE MORELLO  
@VINNYMORELLZ

Behind all the construction on Bishop St. is a restaurant failing to live up to its name, as no burritos have been made since its closure in late May.

The board members of the Burritoville Solidarity Cooperative may now find themselves in legal trouble, so the Concordia Student Union has earmarked \$6,000 from their operations budget to aid the dwindling ownership group, which was approved at a special council meeting on August 9.

Of this money, \$3,500 is being held for the possible cost of declaring bankruptcy, while the remaining \$2,500 will go towards legal consultations in the event that either the former owners or the landlord of the building sues Burritoville. The co-op still owes money to both parties, according to Jordan Lindsay, one of its board members and the former CSU Vice-President of Finance in 2012.

"It's a very modest sum with everything we have, so it will get used if it needs to and that's because we are a support member," said Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, the current CSU General Coordinator.

While Burritoville has closed, it has still not officially filed for bankruptcy yet.

Legal counsel may also be needed to counter-sue, as Burritoville board members alleged that the value of the restaurant was misrepresented in order to make it seem better than it was. Stock value was inflated, as was the value of assets such as restaurant equipment, Lindsay says.

In an emailed press release from the former owners, David Tamas, Steve Aitchison and Jono Aitchison said they were "floored" after they found themselves listed as the main reason the business failed.

"After years of studies and meetings and complete transparency there is no way this misfortune is our doing," they added in the release.

Despite the CSU being the primary donor of the original purchase, they don't expect to be a part of any legal issues.

### The Original Purchase

Back in 2015—under the mandate of CSU President Benjamin Prunty—they voted in favour of donating \$100,000 to help purchase Burritoville, which was just the beginning of the union's involvement with the fledgling co-op.

Burritoville's proposal had gone through the CSU's finance, sustainability and fund committees before being presented to council.

"In order for [Burritoville] to come to that point to get that vote from council, they had to be in communication with the CSU for a really long time and have their business plans there," said Marshall-Kiparissis. "Going back there was overwhelming support from council."

The \$100,000 donation to the CFC was passed without any student referendum. However, Marshall-Kiparissis, who was a councillor when the original purchase was



Burritoville board member Jordan Lindsay works in the kitchen of the now closed campus food spot

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

made, said this happened because students had approved the food system special project funding policy in 2014. The policy allows the use of money from the Student Space Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund to expand and create mainly student-run, sustainable food initiatives.

The SSAELC fund has been accumulating

will not be successful."

In the 2014 CSU by-election under Prunty's presidency, a similar question was asked about approving \$102,536.79 to cover legal fees for The Hive Café, another student-run eatery located on the Hall Building's mezzanine.

When questioned in 2015 why they chose not to ask students to approve the money for

"Whenever [the weather] got warm, [the snow] would start melting and we would get a massive flood going through the top of the building," said Lindsay.

In April, when the co-op members realized they were in trouble, they went back to the CSU for money. There had been two proposals presented to the sustainability and finance committees. The first proposal was sent back to Burritoville with comments and other feedback in order to improve the likelihood of it being voted for by council.

Once they came back with the second proposal, it still was not enough. According to CSU Sustainability Coordinator Lana Elinor Galbraith, what Burritoville wanted was too big of a commitment from the CSU, therefore the proposal never made it to council.

"It was a plan, according to the committee, that didn't make the project sustainable in the long term," Galbraith said. "It was helping [Burritoville] for the next two years so it can get together a little bit, then once the two years were over, stand on its two feet, but there was no guarantee."

Burritoville requested \$413,234 to get back on their feet, according to last year's general coordinator Terry Wilkings.

The CSU will continue to be a support member for Burritoville and would be willing to support Burritoville should any legal matter arise. Marshall-Kiparissis said if any proposals were presented to the CSU, asking either for material or financial support, they would have to go through the standard process of going through the CSU's committees, and then to council.

**I DO NOT WANT THE CSU OR MYSELF TO PROMOTE A PROJECT WHICH WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.**

—FORMER CSU PRESIDENT BENJAMIN PRUNTY

approximately \$1 million a year for over ten years up to that point. At the time when council approved to fund Burritoville, former VP Finance Heather Nagy said they had "roughly \$9 million" in the account.

"For full disclosure, I was around during the inception of this project and this gives me a pretty good insight on whether the project is viable, as I have seen it from start to finish," Prunty said, according to official minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting. "Giving \$100,000 is a large amount of money and I do not want the CSU or myself to promote a project which

Burritoville, Prunty said, "For \$100,000, we thought it was okay to make a decision."

### What Allegedly Went Wrong

Since the original purchase, there were many unforeseen problems with the building that Burritoville had to pay for. Before the closure there was a water explosion in the men's washroom, Lindsay says, where flushing a certain urinal would cause the water to flush above the cash register.

The winter also gave the building more problems, which were caused by a "drain" on the roof.



# Concordia's Nano-Warriors Battle Their Way to Gold

ConU Students Set to Compete at World's Largest Synthetic Biology Competition

KELSEY LITWIN  
@KELSEYLITWIN

In October, ten Concordia science students will be travelling to Boston with some very precious cargo: nanoparticle-coated cells. Their goal? A gold medal.

The International Genetically Engineered Machines competition is considered the largest synthetic biology competition in the world. This year, there are a total of 280 teams coming from five different continents. The competing teams are challenged to innovate uses and techniques for bioengineering.

Concordia will be building what they've affectionately named "Micro-Gladiators." They attach these super tiny, almost unimaginable nanoparticles onto the outside of cells with hopes of getting them to fight in a micro-arena—not that much different than those "Robot War" shows on television. These will, theoretically, act as their weapons and armour simultaneously.

They hope to accomplish this by coating only the outside of cells with the nanoparticles. That way the cells can still split without creating a new army of combative cells. Essentially, they want to keep it new and fun.

"Innovation is a key part of IGEM," explained Alaa Selim, a third year biology student who minors in film studies and political science. "Even if you can't accomplish [your idea] they're out there so that, in the future, people who do have the technology can go ahead and be able to do these things."

Julia Phillipp, an honours cell and molecular biology student, also stressed that IGEM aims to inspire students to cross-curricular boundaries. Students from different academic backgrounds, such as engineering and chemistry, use this competition as an opportunity to examine science as an interdisciplinary study.

"IGEM is a bridge of communication between people of various [academic] backgrounds," Selim expanded. "People of different values, of different basis of knowledge, can come together and create something together and contribute back to the community at the same time."

The teams come from all academic levels—from high school to graduate



(left to right) Farhat Zahar, Alaa Selim, Julia Phillip, and Nathalie Jreidini will all represent Concordia at the IGEM

KELSEY LITWIN

level—and compete in the corresponding category. Concordia's team is composed of ten undergraduates. And they definitely have a legacy to live up to.

## Building Their Way to the Podium

In 2015 and 2014, Concordia's undergraduate team found themselves making their way onto the podium, with a bronze and a silver medal, respectively. Last year's project, titled "Scaffococcus," saw the team building protein scaffolds overtop probiotic cultures. Yes, the same probiotics you hear about in yogurt commercials.

The scaffold would, ideally, be able to hold another molecule onto the chosen culture.

"If you were to ingest this before, let's say, eating peanuts and you had a peanut allergy, you would not have a reaction," explained Phillipp. "The idea was basically to be able to use probiotics to prevent allergic reactions."

Like many of the projects entered into IGEM, Scaffococcus was at its first stages by the time of the competition. Phillipp specified that although the students had been able to design the scaffold, it's all about the long term vision.

## Reaching Out

Human application, such as this, is one of the key elements of IGEM's competition format. The participants are heavily graded on what's called "Human Practices." Their website says that teams must, "imagine their projects in a social/environmental context, to better understand issues that might influence the design and use of their technologies."

Farhat Zahar, another team member also studying biology, explained that the emphasis a team places on this value could be the difference between a winning and a losing project. This is why IGEM Concordia is trying to take a comprehensive look at their human practices, beginning by spreading the word.

"We really wanted to focus on trying to

get younger people interested in science," explained Zahar. She said they took some time away from the lab bench to meet with Concordia Athletics' Sports Camp and conduct some fun experiments.

They will also be heading towards Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School in the fall to continue sharing what it's like to study science in a post-secondary institution, which may be especially inspiring, considering the team is made up of mostly women.

Of the ten participants from Concordia, six are women. While they say this is just a fluke, they understand that this is an opportunity to show that science, technology, engineering and mathematics do not need to be male-dominated fields. According to the National Science Board, although women make up half the workforce, they only account for 29 per cent of science and engineering workers in the United States.

Nathalie Jreidini, who will also representing Concordia at IGEM, recalled one young camper expressing that she wanted to go into the sciences after their meet and greet.

"I'm a girl and I'm a scientist, right?" Jreidini said. With a female-led team, this young girl can see herself and think, "Oh, I can for sure do that too."

## Creating a (Very Tiny) Safety Net

There are inherent dangers in working with nanoparticles. The term nano stems from the fact that these particles, unlike your regular, old miniscule particles, range in size from one to 100 nanometres.

For perspective, think of a single strand of hair. The average width of one strand is 100 micrometres. That is equal to 100,000 nanometres. In comparison, it's clear that nanoparticles are absolutely tiny, which means that they are harder to control.

"The thing is, because nanoparticles are so tiny [...] they behave differently than the same substance but in a larger size," contin-

ued Zahar. "One of the reasons they behave differently is because they are so much easier to accidentally inhale. When they touch your skin, they can cross the skin barrier instead of just staying [on the surface.]"

Because the mass use of nanoparticles is quite new in the world of science, with the first industrial production only beginning in the late 20th century, the risks are still quite unknown. The team members discovered that their novelty means that in Quebec, there are little-to-no regulations on how to handle them.

Their solution? Write an extensive Standard Operating Protocol.

"The SOP has every single procedure when it comes to nanoparticle synthesis that we perform in the lab," Selim described. "Any time that we're doing nanoparticle synthesis, it would mention the chemical, the hazards, the safety data sheet [...] On top of that, it has the protocol—the steps—and what safety precaution you should be taking"

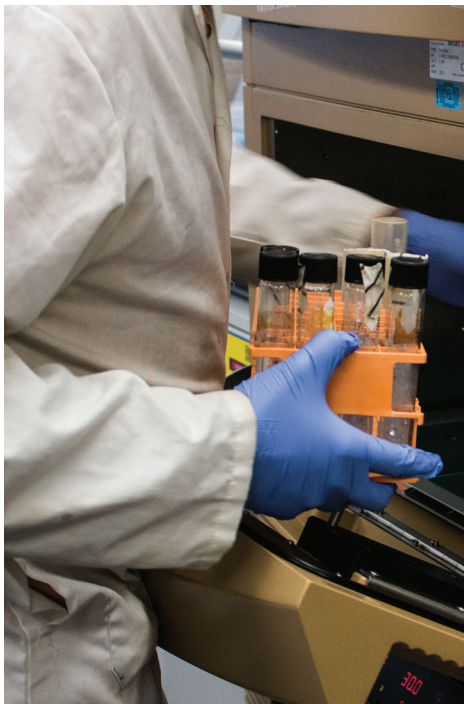
For example, it describes where each step should be taking place, whether on the bench, in a fume hood or a biosafety cabinet, and what protective gear they should have on, such as lab coats, gloves and goggles.

"We decided to just have everything in there so that no one has to go around looking for safety data sheets," said Zahar.

The team also placed a lot of emphasis of making sure that the handling of nanoparticles is not only safe for them, but also safe for the environment. The outcome of their partnership with Environmental Health and Safety at Concordia helped them secure \$10,000 in funding from the university's Sustainability Action Fund.

At the end of the day, the team reaffirmed that this project is about showing what a group of undergraduate students can accomplish.

"When we go to the [competition] we want to be able to showcase our project and say, 'We did this,'" said Selim. "I want people to look at our project and be like, 'This is fucking amazing.'"



KELSEY LITWIN



# Talking Consent Culture in Toronto

## American Activist Changing the Dialogue to End Rape Culture

OCEAN DEROUCHIE  
@OSHIEPOSHIE

A group of women are sitting under a tree in Trinity Bellwoods Park. Meanwhile, passersby on the paths around the gathering stared down at their feet, transfixed by the brightly coloured chalk messages lining the cement.

Covering the Queen St. W. entrance of the park were powerful messages such as 'Love is the answer,' 'Anything but 'yes' means 'no,' and "98 per cent of rapists will never spend a day in jail."

The women, kicking back after a morning of spreading love, support and sexual assault education through chalk messages, spoke openly—but not without emotional weight—about a topic that many have trouble finding words for.

The campaign that brought them together is called "Creating Consent Culture," an international movement that started when activist Amber Amour began writing chalk messages about sexual assault on the sidewalks of New York City. A few years later, her campaign made the rounds on Instagram and Facebook, and found its way to this Toronto park on Aug 20, a few weeks ago.

Since 2014, Amour has been restlessly traveling, crashing on couches and supporting thousands of survivors everywhere—with one goal in mind: to end rape culture.

One of Amour's latest campaign focuses is speaking in high schools and universities about consent culture, using social media for social change, self-love strategies and diversity training, among other initiatives.

In a time where, according to the Sexual Assault Center for Hamilton Area, estimates show that between 15 to 25 per cent of North American post-secondary-aged women—18 to 24 year-olds—will experience some form of sexual assault during their academic career, education in universities and providing support for survivors is more necessary than ever.

The inescapable reality is that we are plagued with news stories detailing scenarios ranging from campus assault—Brock Turner, Stanford University—to horrific Frosh Week chants—St. Mary's University circa 2013—and even scandals like that of Dalhousie University in late 2014, when a group of dental students discussed drugging and having sex with unconscious patients on a Facebook group.

Rather than addressing the problem itself, Amour believes solution-based discourse is the best way to go about changing the situation.

Leaving behind her previous campaign motto, "Stop Rape, Educate," she has found it to be more beneficial—and better received—to use "Creating Consent Culture" as a platform to educate and inform.

So what is consent culture?

It's a world where asking for permission is normalized, and not considered "killing the mood," said Amour.

A society where "consent is open, and communicative and comfortable," said CCC staffer, Callum Clarke.

"In a culture of consent, survivors are supported, and believed when they speak up. Men are not stigmatized for speaking up about their own abuse, whether it's sexual or domestic," Amour added. "In a culture of consent, everyone talks about it. It's not even brave to be a



OCEAN DEROUCHIE

survivor or speak up. It's just normal. And when you do [speak out], you're given total love, total support and total compassion."

Eradicating rape culture is easier said than done, however. It's going to be a long process—reversing the damage done by hundreds of years of violence against women. But it can start anywhere, even in schools.

Many women, Amour details, end up leaving school after experiencing their assaults. But she says that's not the answer. "What about your dreams?" she asks, hoping that survivors won't be afraid to pursue their passions because of these experiences.

In recent years, Concordia has dealt with

a few high-profile cases of students speaking out about their experiences with sexual violence perpetuated by other students. First, there was Mei-Ling—a pseudonym—who came to a public settlement with Concordia's Arts and Science student association for racial and sexual harassment she faced from two coworkers during her time as one of its executives. Then the story emerged about Cathy—another pseudonym—for her repeatedly postponed Concordia tribunal between her and her ex-boyfriend for assaults she says happened on and off-campus. Cathy has not returned to school because the tribunal—and any formal resolution—has not been reached.

In August 2015, a working group of students, faculty, staff, and other community members released a review of Concordia's policies that handle sexual violence. University President Alan Shepard said the administration would act on all recommendations, with many supposed to be implemented by the start of this academic year.

"If universities are accepting sexual predators in their school, it's their responsibility to protect the other people," Amour said. "Either you don't accept sexual predators or you do a little bit more work to make sure everybody is clear on what boundaries are, and what the consequences are."



Founder Amber Amour (right) and associate Callum Clarke hosted a talk on creating consent culture in Toronto on August 20.

OCEAN DEROUCHIE



# Scraps to Riches

## PhD Student Collaborates with ConU to Educate and Encourage Students to Compost

SAFIA AHMAD  
@SAFS\_ONTHEGO

What's the difference between a brown paper bag and an empty bag of chips? One is compostable and the other isn't. Can you tell?

If you can't, that's okay. Most students aren't aware of what can and cannot be composted. Concordia's organic, compostable waste accounts for 43 per cent of the university's total waste—only 26 per cent of compostable matter is composted. A new three week campaign called "Waste Not, Want Not" is looking to kick the wasteful habit by educating students on the issue and increasing composting efforts at the university.

Composting involves the decomposition of organic waste, such as food scraps; in turn, it becomes soil known as compost. Unfortunately, compostable waste still ends up in landfills, which emit large amounts of methane into the atmosphere. It's one of the many factors behind climate change.

Prior to this campaign, Concordia already had a composting system in place, where 13 bins were spread out across campuses. Waste Not, Want Not aims to increase the number of bins to improve their visibility and accessibility.

One of the project's founding members is Keroles Riad, who is completing his PhD in the Individualized Program in Engineering. He is joined by Gabrielle Caron, a student and outgoing sustainability coordinator for the Concordia Student Union, and Peter Stoett, director of the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre. Waste Not, Want Not was one of the three winners at the first edition of the Big Hairy Ideas Competition started by the Concordia Council on Student Life.

The competition, which took place during the spring of 2016, encouraged participants to "Get Hairy. Propose Bold, Audacious Ideas." The CCSL

described on their website that they were looking for projects that would have a strong impact on the university's community.

"My original idea was to fix the composter at Loyola" said Riad. "[The university] said 'well, the infrastructure we can deal with, both fixing the composting and increasing the compost bins, but what we need help with is the education'"

From Sept. 6 to 20, Waste Not, Want Not will be attracting attention across both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses through interactive and educational events, such as a sustainable food festival. All the food and cutlery will be compostable.

The campaign's name is a World War II expression. It means to be resourceful and limit one's own waste during difficult times. Riad wants to teach students that it's important to know what to do after generating waste.

"For example, apples would inevitably have an apple core that cannot be eaten so it should be composted," he explained. "So the idea is to encourage people to finish eating everything they pick up and compost what cannot be eaten."

Environmental Health and Safety, an organization at Concordia which promotes environmentally-conscious work environments, will also be contributing to this project. This group is looking to add more bins to the 13 that

are already on both campuses. Those new bins will be introduced during the festivities and students and faculty volunteers will be stationed next to them.

"The volunteers would tell [students], 'Hey! You see this new bin? This is will be here all semester. This is how you use it,'" explained Riad. The campaign is aiming to build on what the university already has to offer.

From student-run initiatives like the greenhouse, to research on food sustainability drafted by the PERFORM centre, students and faculty will be given the opportunity to gain a more complete understanding of composting.

For Pamela Tudge, a part-time teacher and PhD student, getting students to start care involves thinking about waste and not simply wondering what to do with leftover lunch.

"It's more [about a] larger picture of why we're wasting

As of now, the university composts its waste near Moose Creek, Ontario. The university's composter at Loyola no longer functions properly due to contamination from non-compostable materials.

With the proper compost being contaminated, "essentially," Riad said, "you don't produce anything useful."

Faisal Shennib, environmental coordinator at EHS, is working towards bringing back on-campus composting. When the composter at Loyola stopped working properly, EHS decided to work with Matrec, a company that allows Concordia to send all its organic waste, from fruit and vegetable scraps, to meat.

Shennib explained that the compost is then given to farms and used "as a cover to reduce methane emissions from landfill." Based on EHS's research,



Leaders of the Waste Not, Want Not educational campaign, from left, Keroles Riad, Kim Gagnon, Nadra Wagdy and Monica Dantas KELSEY LITWIN

all the time," said Tudge. "Why we're wasting, why we're not wasting, [how we] makes those decisions."

Adding compost bins and educating students and faculty is only one part of the project. The university's Environmental Health and Safety department will be responsible for changing bin design and layout across the university.

"I think one of the problems is that the bins look different from one [building] to the other," said Riad. "It seems that the only thing missing for composting at Concordia is generalizing those bin system from one building to the other."

The goal is to gradually expand from important student spaces within the university, such as the EV and Hall building atriums, to areas frequented by students around the universities, like restaurants.

Riad's ideal situation would be to have compost bins everywhere. However, he is aware that that scenario isn't a possibility for now.

"The only problem with compost is that it has to be picked up every day otherwise it smells," he said. "So it becomes extremely expensive to do that everywhere [across campus.]"

Riad and his colleagues are looking to find composting sites closer to Concordia to counter this problem.

the greenhouse gas emissions between composting on-campus and off-campus were very similar.

"We felt okay with this option until we figured out exactly how we want to compost on campus again," said Shennib.

While paper and plastic are easily recognizable materials, other substances that are subject to being composted are less clear. Therefore, there are higher chances for individuals to make mistakes and throw in the wrong item in the composting bin, risking contamination.

Despite this, Concordia's environmental efforts don't go unnoticed. Tudge, who has worked for other universities, believes that students are made aware of the changes happening in and around Concordia.

"I think one of the biggest things that strikes me about Concordia is visibility," she said. "Visibility allows us to have much of that 'everyday, all day' awareness, where we're seeing the signs, we're seeing [...] information about it."

Riad and his team will continue this trend by educating students with the hope of expanding students' knowledge on composting and, in turn, enhance his own expertise on the matter.

"A big part of the educational campaign is [for myself to keep] learning," he said, smiling.





Models display the latest in fashion at Toronto Fashion Week

EDMUND CHUNG

# Stylishly Underfunded

## Montreal's Fashion Scene Declines Steadily as Young Designers Pack Up and Leave

SAVANNAH SCOTT  
@VANZILLASCOTT

After organizers canceled the Toronto Fashion Week in July due to a lack of funding, it's started to look like Canada's last hope of impacting the fashion world had vanished.

Montreal's own fashion week was cancelled in 2013 for the same reason. Without a weeklong showcase of what our local designers have to offer, the future of fashion here is looking bleak.

As a fashion blogger and stylist for the last five years, I've watched the decline of the Canadian industry in real time. Naturally, young designers who were just starting out couldn't afford the high costs of showcasing their work at Montreal Fashion Week—leaving the shows to be dominated by older creators with less adventurous clientele.

By placing the showcase beyond the reach of Montreal's up and coming designers, their work lacked a platform from which they could find buyers, and more importantly—exposure. These lesser-known creators had the added pressure of having to deal with marketing, without the help of their city and province's fashion industry.

According to local designer Markantoine Lynch-Boisvert, the young creative behind the label MARKANTOINE—and someone I've worked with in the industry—the audience is there, but the money isn't.

"It's easy in Montreal to become appreciated or recognized as a designer—in the sense that we're considered artists—that we showcase a dream, works of art," Lynch-Boisvert said.

"Why works of art? Because rare are those that will actually buy."

Lynch-Boisvert believes that Quebec's designers are restricted to traditional forms, colours and styles, and if a label strays from the basic formula, it becomes difficult to make any sales.

Without any money coming in, young designers are forced to either pack up or go to the U.S., where there's a real market for fashion, or give up their dreams of being successful designers.

It's widely known that Montreal is full of creative talents who are ready and willing to change the face of the Canadian fashion scene, but finding a client base is the real challenge.

Some blame mega-stores like H&M, Aritzia, and Urban Outfitters for running out smaller independent boutiques, while others blame the seemingly never-ending construction on popular shopping streets like St. Denis St. and St. Laurent



EDMUND CHUNG

Bld. Both reinforce the likelihood that a shopper will just find the nearest Old Navy or Forever 21, forcing independent stores to close their doors for good.

Kristina Spino, a concept designer at Dynamite Group who's been involved in Montreal's fashion industry for over a decade, says the influx of foreign giants like Zara and H&M have led to the demise of small retailers.

"I remember being able to walk down St. Denis St. when it had cool fashion boutiques like Juan & Juanita and Stoopid," she said. "We saw many Montreal-made retailers shut their doors back in 2015, which left the city with fewer options to shop and in effect Montreal lost its uniqueness, which is what we were known for in the fashion industry."

Jes Nudo, a manager at Kika Marketing and editor-in-chief at *DCMTL Blog* and *Nudabite*, believes that the lack of support for young designers can also be blamed on an atmosphere resistant to change.

Although she believes the city is an "ecosystem of style trailblazers, creators and creative minds," she also thinks a serious lack of funding has played a big role in the decline of emerging brands.

"It's 100 per cent related, and it's about time that people woke up to this reality," she said.

Despite the seemingly hopeless state of Montreal's fashion industry, there is a silver lining.

When the Groupe Sensation Mode decided to cancel the city's bi-annual media-only fashion week, they also announced the creation of Festival Mode & Design—an event open to the public that would allow everyone to see the work of the city's designers in a public space. The festival would be separated into two stages—the larger one reserved for household names such as Dynamite, Ardenne, La Vie En Rose, Reitmans and Forever 21, and the smaller one to promote the city's lesser known brands. While the festival gets bigger every year and more start up designers are being featured, its impact on the city's fashion industry as a whole has yet to be seen.

Montrealers have an undeniable reputation as leaders in style within the country—but due to lack of state funding, an overall unwillingness to support change, a complicated political atmosphere and a population that is refusing to spend on anything other than fast fashion, it's hard to say what will come of all this seemingly wasted talent.



Poems

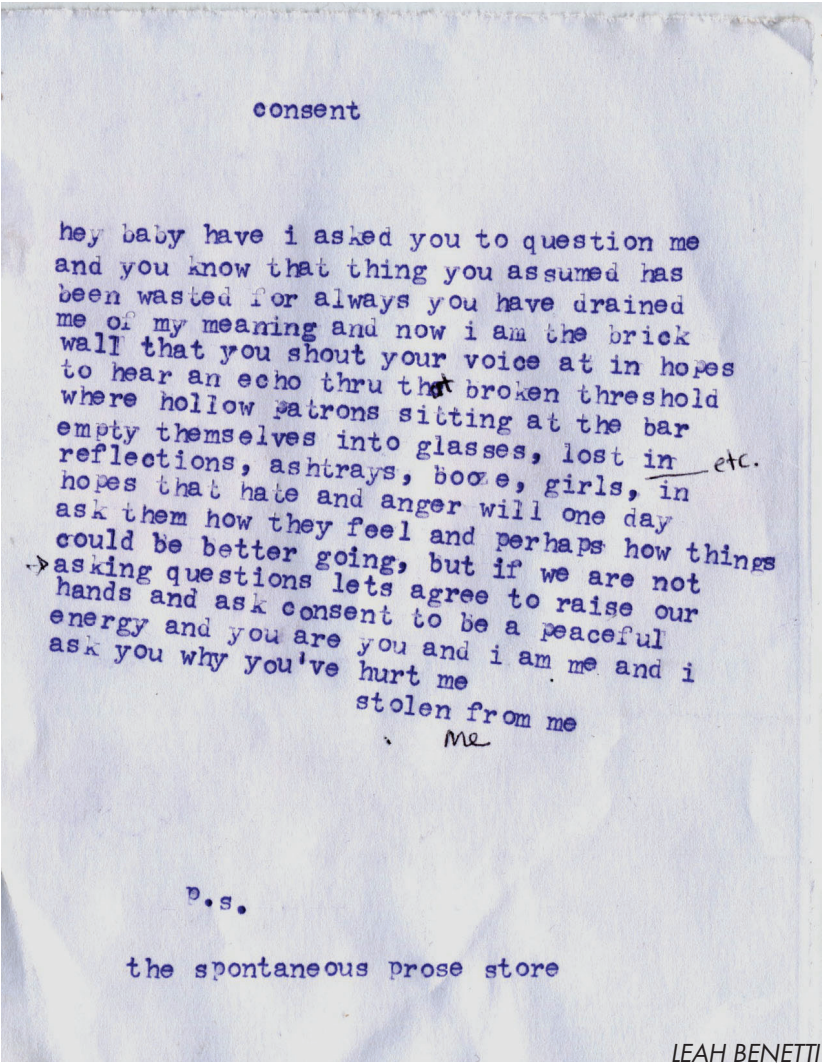
Solidarity Will Suffice

SNOOPY

There is something in the way  
of solidarity  
In the way we continue to  
mold a patriarchy and in it  
present women objectively  
In the way we play god, using  
other life as "our" tools for  
rearing greed.

Could these be similarities?  
A lack of spirituality?  
We value life instrumentally  
rather than intrinsically.  
And we will not have solidarity  
f we continue to act  
inconsiderately  
Towards nature's vulnerability  
One species' interest is not  
the sum of solidarity

We must preserve these  
diversities  
If we are to flourish in unity



THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 30 - Sept. 6

TU 30

**Arian S / Kaity Zozula / Ida Toninato / Alex Pelchat**  
NYC no-wave giants Guerilla Toss' very own Arian S is coming through to showcase some insane avant-garde experimental compositions. Come for facemelting, faceshredding, and any other face-related musical destruction.  
Casa del Popolo • 4873 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. // pwyc

WE 31

**Vernissage: Putting Rehearsals to the Test**  
Curators Sabeth Buchmann, Ilse Lafer, and Constanze Ruhm have brought together over thirty international artists to address a set of positions and strategies in contemporary art that consider rehearsal as both subject and practice.  
SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art and VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine • 372 Ste. Catherine St. • 8 p.m. // FREE

TH 1

**GOD IS AN ASTRONAUT + johnny\_ripper**  
Irish spacerock quartet GOD IS AN ASTRONAUT return to Montreal, with projections by local VJ hero johnny\_ripper!  
Théâtre Plaza • 6505, St. Hubert St. • 7 p.m. // \$22

FR 2

**Chain of Flowers / Grosser / Butcher Baby / Palisade**  
UK goth band Chain of Flowers, plus a lineup of Montreal local acts to die for! Grab your black trench coat and a pack of Cloves for this!  
Casa del Popolo • 4873 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. // \$7

**Earthbound Wrestling Show**  
From the minds of some of the best wrestlers this side of the Mississippi, this is the first episode of a brand new odyssey entitled Earthbound. Along with an incredible wrestling narrative, the show will also feature local DJs, sound artists, VJs, and vicious electro-punk band Douce Angoisse.  
The Sacred Square • 2050 Joly Ave. • 8 p.m. // \$5-\$15

SA 3

**Klima: Représentation et Ateliers de Danse**  
Dancing is on the docket at La Grande Terrasse Rouge! An evening of movement presented in collaboration with the Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal. Come on down to La Grande Terrasse Rouge, at the corner of Mont-Royal St. and St. Denis St.  
La Grande Terrasse Rouge • 321 Place Jacques Cartier • 4 p.m. // FREE

**GOODTIME#2**  
An expansive, immersive visual and sound art series. This episode features the launch of a new video game from Paloma Dawkins, plus multiple impossible DJ sets.  
SLAB • Check Facebook • 12 a.m. // \$5

SU 4

**PIKNIC ÉLECTRONIK: MISSTRESS BARBARA**  
Prolific dance and house producer Misstress Barbara will perform in Montreal before a monthlong stint at clubs across Europe.  
Parc Jean Drapeau • 1 Circuit Gilles Villeneuve • 6 p.m. // \$15

MO 5

**SCREENING: Total Recal**  
The hallucinatory masterpiece of sci-fi wizard Paul Verhoeven, Total Recal stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as a jaded construction worker dreaming of life on Mars. However, his wife won't have it, so he goes to Rekal, a travel agency specializing in implanted memories. But things go awry during the implantation, and he soon begins to uncover memories of his past life as a secret agent. This 35mm print, plus drink specials, will make for a killer first date!  
Bar le Ritz PDB • 179 Jean Talon St. West • 8 p.m. // FREE

TU 6

**Will Gillespie**  
Folk Cabaret darling Will Gillespie plucks at the heartstrings with his country ballads.  
Barfly • 4062A St Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. // PWYC



# Montreal, In Verse

## An Introduction to and Exploration of Local Poetry

Walking down St. Laurent St. and Roy St., one may come across Leah Benetti, a local street poet. She earns her living with her typewriter, writing short poems for curious passersby on a pay-what-you-can basis.

Benetti, who got her big break as a street poet at the city's annual Mural festival, sees Montreal as an important halfway point between her maritime hometown of Truro, NS, and the biggest metropolis in Canada: Toronto.

It can be easy to forget that the lifeblood of our fine city is not its hard exterior grit, but rather an undercurrent of creative individuals like Benetti who collectively turn Montreal's art scene into one of Canada's greatest.

"It was already a pretty well-known place, what with the likes of Leonard Cohen and such," Benetti explained.

Benetti works with a collective called the Spontaneous Prose Store, which allows anyone to choose a subject about which one of the group's "esteemed in-house poets" will compose an original poem. Its Facebook page describes its members as "Strange people [who] have strong ideas on secluded street corners. Some are illustrated by hand [sic] and distributed, also by hand, on the self-same street corners, or different ones sometimes... it depends."

"I earn my living like this," said the former University of Toronto student, "and I really enjoy what I do."

Between local cafe open-mics, showcases, artistic festivals and smaller creative writing

collectives, the poetry community in Montreal is thriving.

Was this all made possible by cheap rent? Perhaps, but there is a lesser-known reason—the unparalleled cooperation between Canada's two main linguistic identities on this metropolis of an island.

Montreal is often portrayed as the clash of two worlds, but within the microcosm

scene unravel before their eyes need only look in front of them. Many businesses, co-ops, and collectives exist already as well-established local hangouts for artists and poets.

Famous open-mic or slam poetry events take place throughout the city, and one local hot spot, Kafein, sits just across the street from Concordia's own Hall building

flourishes in Montreal.

In its infancy, the collective started as an off-beat reading series hosted by co-editor Guillaume Morissette. Now, Metatron works to help local artists who may not have access or connections to a traditional publishing house.

Ashley Opheim, managing editor of Metatron, recalls when she first started studying creative writing in 2009.

**I EARN MY LIVING LIKE THIS AND I REALLY ENJOY WHAT I DO.**

—LEAH BENETTI

that is Montreal's poetry scene, Anglophone and Francophone cooperation creates a cross-pollination of ideas unique to Canada. Combined with the contribution of many other ethno-linguistic groups, Montreal's special place on the artistic map is clear.

"It's not uncommon to speak French during a poetry open-mic night where most people are speaking English," said Benetti. Indeed, the unique mosaic of cultures that make up this city is one of its greatest strengths.

Anyone looking to get involved or to witness the beauty that is our local poetry

on Bishop St. The local coffee shop-slash-bar on holds popular open-mic poetry nights every other Tuesday for anyone who wants to perform.

Apart from venues, many local poetry collectives, such as Metatron, a local independent publisher which specializes in contemporary literature, exist as platforms to move poets and their work into the public eye. Metatron, whose goal is to provide support to emerging writers and publish literature that reflects the thoughts of our generation, is another example of the kind of grassroots organization that

"The cultural fabric of the city [back then] was largely dominated by the music scene, but I think it's different now," Opheim said.

She added that poetry is much more valued and has more cultural capital than it used to.

"There is definitely a powerful community of writers living and working here, and perhaps more visibility around their work than there used to be," she said.



A piece by Leah Benetti and former Link editor Madeleine Gendreau was featured at a poetry and art exhibition at Chez Boris on Aug. 25  
BRANDON JOHNSTON





Clive Gibson (centre, holding banner) moments after winning the 2014-2015 RSEQ men's rugby championship

COURTESY OF BRIANNA THICKE

# Bye Bye, Clive

## Looking Back at Clive Gibson's Championship Pedigree as a Stinger Coach

VINCE MORELLO  
@VINNYMORELZ

"Why this year? Because I moved to Nova Scotia," said Clive Gibson, the now retired head coach of the Concordia Stingers men's rugby program, laughing.

On May 27, Gibson bought a house in Nova Scotia, which he describes as "magnificent." Working on the house and dealing with renovations, Gibson realized he could not make a full time commitment to the team, retiring only a few days after.

"I would have been a part time coach. I would have been away [from the team] as much as I was there," he said.

Before Gibson solidified his legacy as one of the most successful Concordia coaches, he started his 21-year coaching career as the assistant coach with the Stingers men's rugby team in 1995. He then took over as head coach in 1996 with a bang. That year, the men's rugby squad went undefeated in seven games, and even shut out the McGill Redmen 25-0 to win the championship and began to build a culture of winning within the program.

As head coach, Gibson would go on to win six championships with his squad, including his victory in 1996. However around the turn of the millennium, the men's rugby team experienced their greatest winning streak. For three years in a row, from 1999 to 2001, the team dominated, winning the championship each and every year.

"It was just an extraordinary bunch of players that all came together at the same time," Gibson said. "Much as we were graduating people year after year, the people coming in behind were just as equally as good."

The team would get their next championship in 2005, but experienced a nine-year championship drought, mostly due to

the strength of the McGill men's rugby program. The Concordia Stingers came close to winning for four years in a row, from 2010 until 2013, only to be stopped by the Redmen every single time.

In 2014, this all changed.

Getting to finals for the fifth year in a row, again versus McGill, Concordia's players were still looking to get that victory that eluded them for the previous four years, and almost eluded them again. What made this year even more trying for the team was that Gibson was in the hospital for a month, and close to death with a bacterial blood infection. It kept him in the press box during the game to avoid another infection.

With less than three minutes to go, the Stingers still managed to tie the game and send it to overtime.

"I had actually come down out of the press box. I was halfway from the end zone—ready to shake McGill's hands for yet another loss when suddenly my boys turned it on," remembered the retired coach. "[The Stingers] were standing 15 yards from me, at our end of the field, and I watched in amazement as they marched up that field and never lost the ball."

The Stingers eventually won the game in overtime, for Gibson's sixth championship for the team.

"Seeing [Gibson's] face [after winning], he's a coach you want to win for," said current Stingers men's rugby captain Andreas Krawczyk.

Current Stingers men's rugby coach, Craig Beemer, had been an assistant coach with Gibson and was a part of the 2014 championship team.

The championships are great, and nice to reminisce on, but Gibson believes that winning is not everything in sports. Instead he believes it is also about the student athletes, the young men he has helped throughout his 21-year run as head coach.

Gibson said one of the high points throughout his career as a coach was having one his former players, Caleb Jordan, being named to the Canada sevens team in March of 2016. This was due in part to the rugby sevens program the Stingers instituted throughout the winter, with a specialized sevens coach.

Krawczyk said Gibson was great at building character and made sure to be a role model in academics.

"Clive [Gibson] definitely built me up from an average player to more of a stand out on the field and off the field," said Krawczyk. "He definitely pushed you and made you the best you can be, and he saw the potential."

"He's going to be missed for sure," he added.

Beemer mentioned how Gibson also did a lot for his players, aside from coaching.

"I couldn't do everything he did for his players," he said. "From prepping food, making sure all the guys were taken care of academically, medically. He was on top of things."

When Gibson suddenly retired, he was asked if he hired Beemer as an assistant knowing he would eventually succeed him, to which he said "I didn't even know I was leaving."

"It was a five year plan and I put my house [in Montreal] on the market early last summer to test the waters," he said. "Next thing I knew I had a bidding war going on and I was offered well over asking price, so I grabbed it."

After reminiscing on his past coaching career during a 14-hour trip back to Quebec from Nova Scotia, Gibson said that moving to Nova Scotia was a part of his retirement plan. Suffering from the bacterial blood infection in the fall of 2014 made him realize that he wanted to be closer to his family.

"I needed to be closer to family in order to provide myself with support systems," he said. "Honestly, it all happened faster than it was supposed to."



# Tokyo 2020: Here We Come

## Concordia Olympians Reflect on Rio and Talk What's to Come

SAFIA AHMAD  
@SAFS\_ONTHEGO

The Olympic flame was extinguished on August 21, marking the end of the summer games in Rio de Janeiro.

For Concordia grad Bianca Farella and current student Ecaterina Guica, the flame remains flickering from a distance—8,078 kilometres to be exact. The pair is eying Tokyo, home of the next Olympic games in 2020.

Farella won the bronze medal as a member of the Canadian rugby sevens team, defeating Great Britain 33-10. It was the first time this sport was included in the Olympics since 1924.

Guica finished ninth overall in the 52-kilogram judo event, losing to Natalia Kuziutina of Russia in the round of 16.

### Bianca Farella: Rugby Sevens

Up until about two years ago, Farella thought that she had attained the highest level of competition available for rugby. She helped Canada win silver at the Rugby Sevens World Cup in 2013. Along with wins at the World University Championship in 2014 and top place finishes in Women's Sevens World Series, it seemed that Farella had done it all.

Then, rugby sevens was included in this year's summer games. The 24-year-old Montreal native and her teammates had one thing on their minds.

"We wanted gold," said Farella. "Really wanted gold."

Unfortunately, team Canada fell short of that goal losing to the Australian powerhouse 17-5 in the semi-finals. The Aussies went on to win the gold medal against New Zealand.

"Once we lost against Australia in the semis, it was a tough blow for a lot of us," she said.

The team had no time to dwell on their loss though. Throughout the entire tournament spanning from August 6 to 11, each team played twice within the same day for three consecutive days. Win or lose, players had to shake off any remaining feelings from the previous matchup.

"We had four hours between our lost-semi-final and our bronze medal match," she explained. "We each took our time to be upset. For me it was a good ten minutes of accepting that our gold medal was officially out of reach."

Canada was set to face Great Britain for a spot on the podium. The Brits had lost to New Zealand 25-7 but had the edge on the Canadians after defeating them in preliminaries. Farella and her team successfully rebounded, making history by winning in rugby sevens inaugural introduction to the Olympics.

The level of competition Farella faced at the Olympics wasn't new to her. She believes that since rugby sevens was officially included in the games, teams got more funding. Consequently, the parity between the nations has become smaller and smaller.

While winning the bronze medal was an accomplishment in and of itself, Farella was also happy to see rugby gain recognition on the international stage and inspire people to pursue their goals.

"Since I've arrived in Canada, I've heard congratulatory messages from my grandfather's customer's neighbour for example," said Farella. "Our support system is way bigger than I ever imagined."

Now that Farella is back in Montreal, she

plans on taking it easy for a while after five years of intensive training.

"I'd love to go camping with my boyfriend in British Columbia, I think that will be a short term plan," she said. "But I also want to stay away from a schedule."

### Ecaterina Guica: Judo

"I've dreamt of the Olympics since I was really little," said Guica.

The current Concordia student started practicing judo at the age of five. Her father and coach, Catalin, was a three-time Romanian champion. Her passion for the sport flourished when she was 14-years-old during a tournament in Brazil.

"In Canada I was often winning when I was younger so it became a little bit easier," said Guica. "And then when you get to a level where the judo is so strong and you realize that being able to medal here would mean so much, you kinda start to chase after that."

Guica is considered to be one of the best



Ecaterina Guica (in blue) fighting Natalia Kuzutina

COURTESY OF JASON RANSOM



Bianca Farella (third from the right) on the podium

COURTESY OF MARK BLINCH

judokas in the 52-kilogram weight class. At the age of 18, she was ranked top ten in her weight class. Last year, the 22-year-old collected a bronze medal from the Pan American Championships in Montreal, a silver medal from the Pan Am Games in Toronto and a gold medal at the Oceania Open in Wollongong, Australia.

Her weigh-in was on August 6—the first day of the competition—her fight was the next day, and it was suddenly all over. Losing to Kuziutina, who later went on to capture the bronze medal, was a hard pill to swallow.

"It was really disappointing," she said. "I was hoping to do well. I wasn't one of the favourites to win a medal but I was obviously hoping I could cause a surprise."

Guica is hungry for more. She is using her first-time experience at the Olympics as a source of motivation for the 2020 Games in Tokyo. Her priorities have shifted from trying to earn points through competitions to partaking on the international circuit.

"I want to set my goals a little bit higher than trying to medal at Pan Ams," she said. "I want to be able to get a top seven finish at [the World Championships] or try to medal in Grand Slams."

Guica also realized that certain areas of her judo need to be improved in order to compete with judokas from other strong countries like Russia. Gripping situations and other technicalities are some of the things she wants to improve and perfect.



Ecaterina Guica (in blue) walking away from Natalia Kuzutina

JASON RANSOM

"I feel like I was strong for my weight class," explained Guica. "But then I found that these girls are [...] a lot stronger and that needs to be taken into account as well."

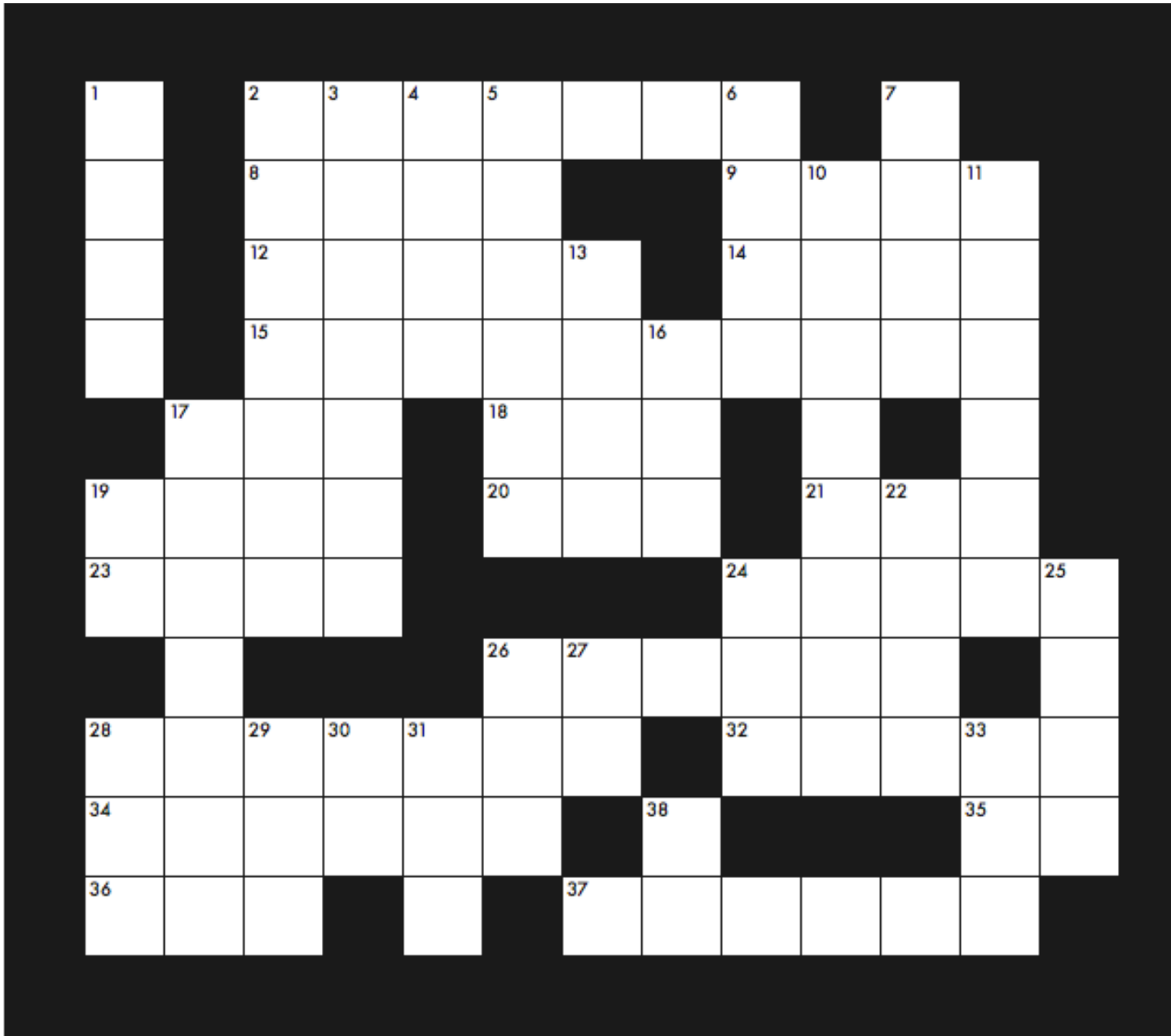
As the new school year approaches, much of Guica's focus will be channeled towards her degree in psychology.

Taking some time off before the beginning of the new school year is a top priority for her. However, she won't keep herself away from training for too long in anticipation for upcoming tournaments.

"Some people take longer rest but I'm really eager," Guica said.



# This is a Crossword



- DOWN
- 1

Since 1980
- 2

Montreal has
- 3

Most 2016 gorilla
- 4

Edgy misspelling
- 5

You're a wizard Harry
- 6

Cursed meme, Daniel
- 7

Old timey liquor
- 10

Hunters, but worse
- 11

Adult content
- 13

Latin, therefore
- 16

\_/S/L
- 17

Secondary rapper
- 19

Two letters
- 22

Oy, ya
- 24

Hip Hop, R&B, \_\_\_\_
- 25

Protracted silencing
- 26

Consume
- 27

Wing Chun guy
- 28

Awful tabloid
- 29

Exercise, in charge
- 30

Common surname
- 31

Unsure acronym
- 33

Videography tool
- 38

Pa's pal

ACROSS

2

Hail to the Concordia chief

8

Shakespeare villain

9

Opposite of nadir

12

Greek island

14

Outdated web slang

15

Mtl producer, kay?

17

It's lit

18

Encourage slang

19

Oregano, basil, dank

20

Eggs

21

Farming implement

23

Comes after fear

24

A student does this

26

Gender or coding

28

Drunk in 2016

32

Mental prefix

34

Stingers winners

35

Sudden realization

36

Garden and/or atmosphere

37

Peace in the Middle East

## Nah'm Sayin'?! Singing the Praises of Air Travel

ZACHARY GOLDBERG-MOTA  
@ZACHGOLDBERGG

Like many Montreal students, I spent most of the summer out of town.

As the beginning of another semester rears its head, thousands flock back to Montreal from obscure hometowns and summertime ventures across the globe, and like me, many of them have chosen air travel as the safest, easiest method of return.

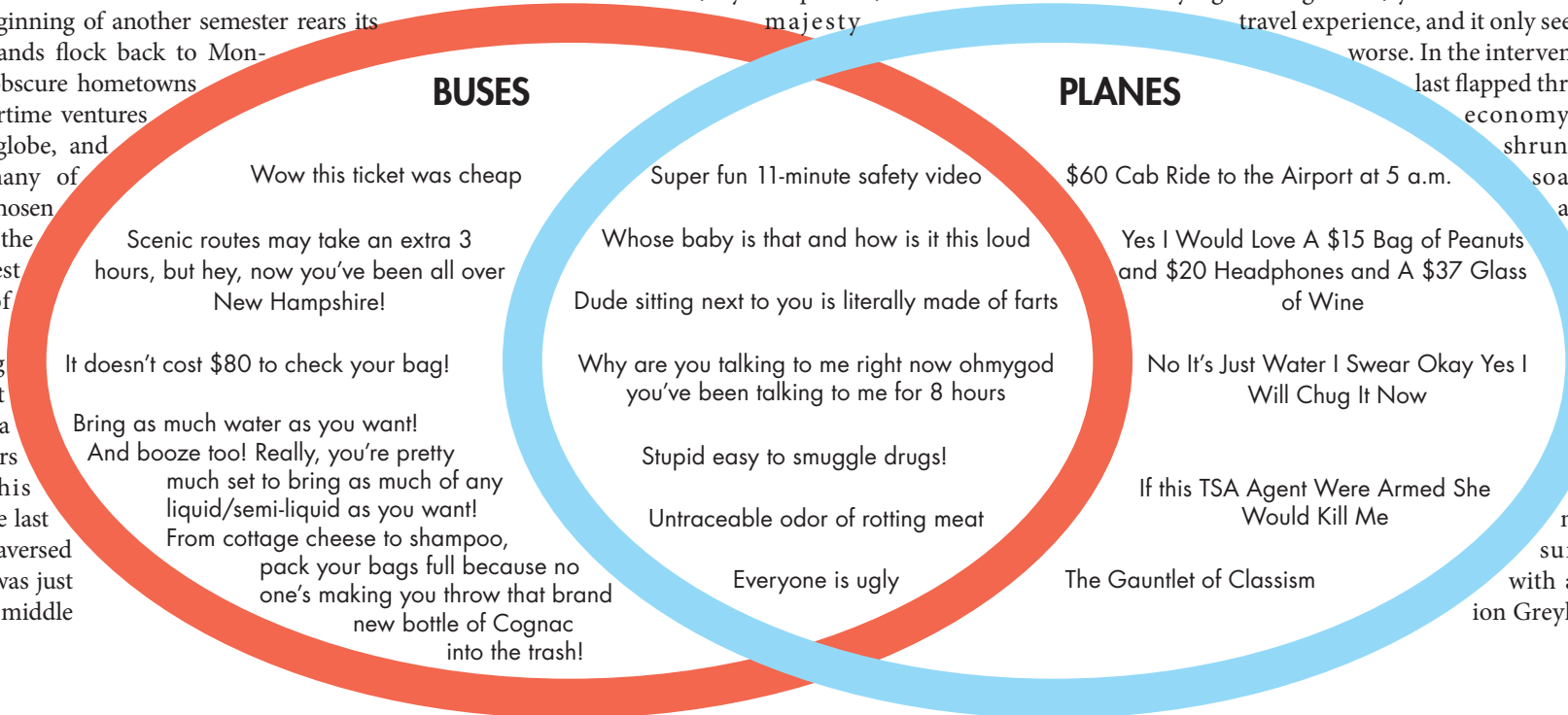
The thing is, I hadn't been on a plane in years before this summer. The last time I had traversed the skies, I was just barely out of middle

school, and flight was still magical, like how I imagine 1940's business travelers experienced it. Every part of the process—getting up early, venturing out to the airport, waving goodbye to my Mom from the loading area, actually being in the sky—it was all a beautiful, mystical process, and a lot of that initial

was still inside me as I took the 747 toward YUL to head to Los Angeles at the beginning of the month.

Three plane rides and four weeks later, and that childish wonder is gone.

Flying fucking sucks, y'all. It's honestly just an awful travel experience, and it only seems to be getting worse. In the intervening years since I last flapped through the clouds, economy sizes have shrunk, prices have soared, and the amount of travelers has only increased. It's bad—in fact, here's a diagram to break it down for you, comparing the newfangled consumer airplane with a good ol' fashion Greyhound.





# Shutting Down the Machine

## Oil, Gas & Social Movements in Gaspésie

JON MILTON  
@514JON

Gaspésie is a peninsula in eastern Quebec, where the St. Lawrence river meets the Atlantic Ocean. With its rolling mountains (the end of the Appalachians), its hundreds of kilometres of crystal-clear rivers, and its coastal beaches, the region is one of Quebec's most beautiful.

It is here, where you can still drink water directly from most rivers, that oil and gas companies have painted a target.

### Oil Trains

In 2013, 47 people were killed when an oil train derailed and exploded in downtown Lac-Mégantic, in Quebec's Eastern Townships. The oil that the train carried was from Alberta's Tar Sands and the Bakken Shale Formation—mostly located in North Dakota, in the U.S.

That wasn't the end of oil trains in Quebec, though. As companies that extract from the landlocked Tar Sands and Bakken Shale Formation seek methods to export their product, they have dramatically increased oil traffic on railways.

"In 2013-2014, in 14 months, there were 20 crashes involving oil trains," says Pascal Bergeron, a spokesperson for Environnement Vert Plus, an environmental organization in Gaspésie. "So we're really worried about them

bringing those trains in our area."

This process continues to occur, and has crystallized in the project to build an export terminal in Belledune, New Brunswick. This terminal, operated by Chaleur Terminals Inc., will have a storage capacity of 1.2 million barrels in its first stage and 3 million barrels in its second stage. This would mean an increase of 220 and 600 oil wagons per day, per stage—wagons that would pass through railways in Gaspésie and Quebec.

Which would then mean a dramatically increased risk of long-term environmental damage in the case of a derailment. Even in a best-case scenario, a smoothly functioning oil terminal means increased export capacity for the Tar Sands and the Bakken shale—leading companies to dig up more oil and accelerate climate change.

Gaspésie's three Mi'kmaq communities have launched a lawsuit against the company to prevent the terminal's construction, saying that the company and government failed in their legal duty to consult the indigenous nation. Bergeron says that this lawsuit is the best chance to shut down the project.

### Exploration Sites

The past few years have seen an uptick in exploration for oil and gas reserves in Gaspésie. The rights to the oil and gas in Gaspésie are currently owned by a handful of companies, including

Petrolia, Gastem, and Junex. Over 80 per cent of Gaspésie is claimed by oil companies using the Quebec Mining Act, Bergeron says.

Petrolia is currently extracting oil from a well called Haldimand 4, located 350 metres from a residential section of Gaspé—the largest city in the peninsula.

"The first Haldimand rig was drilled around 10 years ago," Bergeron explains—referring to Haldimand 1, an exploration site farther away from Gaspé. "They started with testing, to see how the rock in the ground reacts to fracking fluids."

"This summer, we learned that [water] wells near Haldimand 1 have started experiencing contamination," he says.

Bergeron says the Haldimand 4 has set up a horizontal well which "instead of putting big pressure to frack, they are putting high-concentration acid to dissolve the rock and release the oil."

"It's not fracking, but the results are the same. You destroy the underground to extract the oil," he says.

Haldimand 4 has been given a license to pump oil for 240 days. Within the first days of extraction, they had pumped out 530 barrels of oil—without paying a cent in royalties to the provincial government. No public consultation or environmental review has occurred, despite locals' demands.

Other exploration sites are also being set

up, including Bourque, which is more inland and away from Gaspésie's coastal towns. Petrolia, which also runs the Bourque project, announced recently that it would commence work on the site, including 1750 metres of horizontal drilling—the process which often leads to fracking. Water contamination at the Bourque site would affect many of Gaspésie's downstream communities, Bergeron says.

### Resistance

These projects are destructive, and need to be stopped. And while that may seem like an impossible task due to the enemy being multi-million dollar corporations, these projects are not set in stone. They depend on multiple factors, and by targeting those chokepoints, they can be shut down.

One of those chokepoints is public financing, much of which comes from Investissement Quebec. This government agency has a billion-dollar investment fund for oil and mining projects, \$200 million of which is earmarked for oil projects, Bergeron says. The companies active in Gaspésie draw on this public funding regularly, and would not be able to complete their operations without it.

Bergeron suggests that individuals should buy small amounts of stock in Quebec's oil companies, in order to be given access to investor reports. The information provided in these reports—much of which is unavailable to the public—could be used against the companies, and used to pressure institutional investors away from oil exploration in Gaspésie. Users of this tactic would need to be able to analyze economic data, and find weak points to exploit in their reports.

The companies have also been dependent, up to now, on the total lack of public consultation for their projects. Quebec has a fairly transparent public consultation system for environmental issues, called the Bureaux des audiences public sur l'environnement. Subjecting these extraction projects to a BAPE would, at the very least, provide a level of visibility to these projects—something previously unheard of.

Community organizing is also an important aspect of any strategy. Towns near the extraction projects in Gaspésie are mobilizing around these issues, and will need to continue to do so. Activists in Montreal and other urban centers will need to show support for communities on the front lines of these projects. Vocal opposition brings down the veil of social acceptability that companies are hiding behind.

It's time to do the hard work of movement-building. The machinery of environmental destruction won't be stopped by the stroke of a politician's pen. It will take people on the ground, like you and me, standing together and refusing.

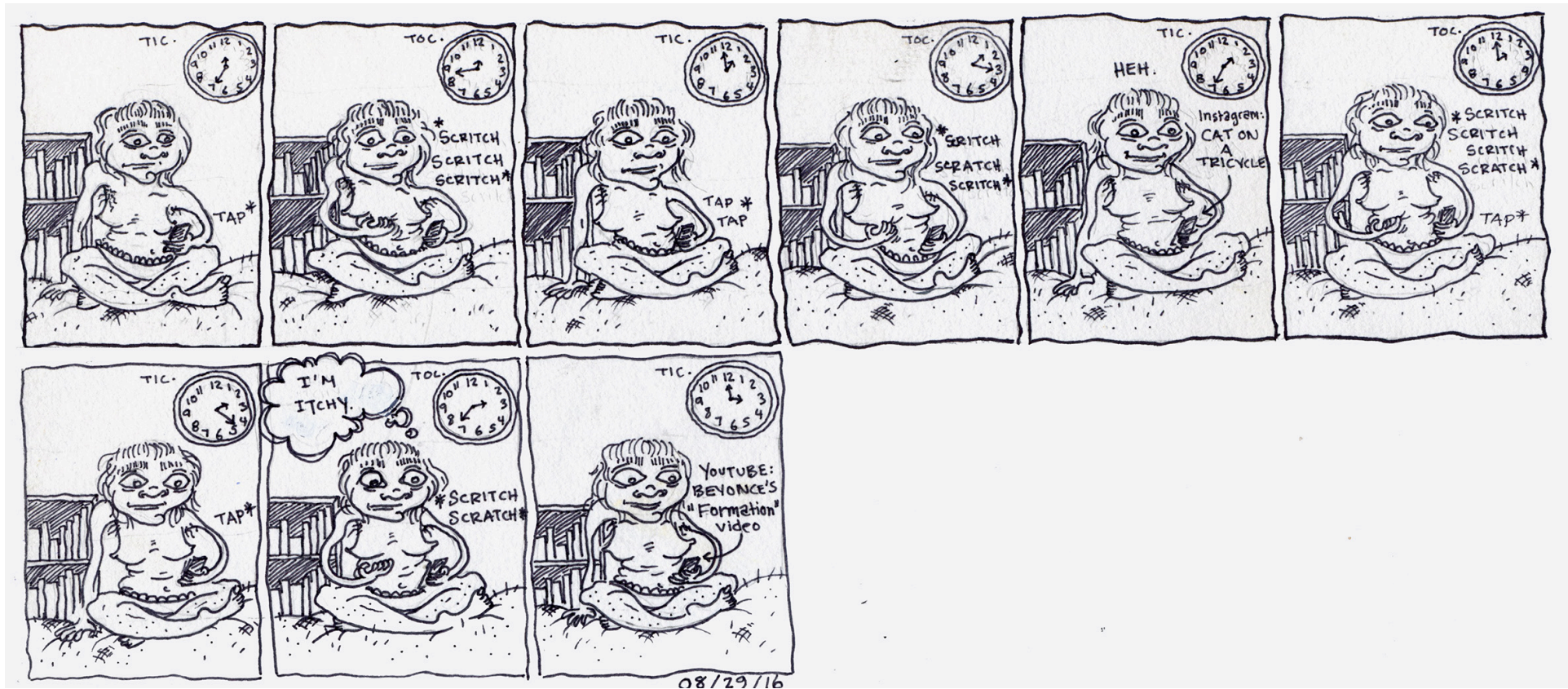
Once we've stopped these future-wrecking projects, who knows what we'll be able to build together.



NICO HOLZMANN



Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell



By Jarrett Duncan



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MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

## EDITORIAL

### The Cautionary Tale of Burritoville

What happened to Burritoville?

Bursting water pipes, broken kitchen equipment, bad blood with former owners, and debt to the Bishop St. building's landlord are some of the problems that emerged since the solidarity cooperative closed its operations in the spring.

Still, the question remains of what went wrong, and the answer to it—if one is found—may be the key to whether the next investment the Concordia Student Union makes into a student-run business venture is successful or not.

Right now, the \$100,000 approved by the union's council to help fund the restaurant's purchase in March 2015 is looking like a waste of money. Plus, the CSU just granted the ownership group approximately \$6,000 to cover some anticipated legal costs, almost like an apology gift for choosing not to bail them out when the restaurant was in trouble.

To invest is to take a risk. Businesses, especially alternative ventures like solidarity cooperatives, are risks. Despite being a non-profit, Burritoville still couldn't break even in a competitive downtown climate.

The CSU shouldn't stop investing into student-run businesses though. The Hive Cafés located on both Concordia campuses appear to be running well in their first two years of existence, with over 5,000 members—a number that should continue to grow. Reggie's, the campus bar JMSB students have been chanting songs about for years, has finally been revived into an independently-run solidarity co-op as well.

It's not just bars and eateries—the CSU is in the midst of creating a daycare for student-parents as well as a new affordable housing complex in an attractive location to mainly serve Concordia stu-

dents. These are some student initiatives *The Link* has and will continue to support.

It's because of these projects that *The Link* asks that an independent and full debriefing on how and why Burritoville failed, so that we can learn from our mistakes and maintain accountability of how our student union manages our money. With so many multi-million dollar projects, every \$100,000 counts.

There are allegations that former owners lied about the value of the restaurant's assets and that the building isn't in great shape. Who did their homework at the CSU? How much independent investigation did the executive team from that year do themselves?

From talking to the last three generations of general coordinators and presidents, the answers aren't fully clear. The process is known and

explained in CSU bylaws, but the amount of due diligence performed isn't.

Just last year, the CSU council again approved to give a similar amount of money to Frigo Vert, a Concordia fee-levied grocery store located on Mackay St. They just moved into a bigger, more accessible space just down the street, but rent has reportedly doubled. Again, Frigo is a longtime staple of the Concordia community that some *Link* editors have membership cards for, but there is concern about how it'll do this year, especially since another grocery store opened up metres away from it.

Let's turn the story of Burritoville from a cover-page failure into a cautionary tale, with lessons for future generations of student politicians to follow for the next great ideas.

## THE LINK

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**AND WE BACK** (*and we back, and we back*)

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