

The Barrel Heads

Sex appeal, drugs and DIY rock and roll in Montreal

P. 10

Scouting the Potential

Hockey scout talks Stingers and working in the background

P.13

Outlawing Cruelty

It's time Canada bans animal testing

P. 17

International Students and the

HIGH COST OF HEALTH

P. 4

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THE LINK

**The Link Publication Society Inc.
 SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 Tuesday, April 4th, 2017, 4 p.m.
 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649**

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Request for additional Letters Patent
5. Other business
6. End of the assembly

THE LINK

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**The Link Publication Society Board of Directors
 Election of a Board Staff representative**

The candidate for one of the three (3) positions, open to contributors with staff status, is Jonathan Cook.

Election will be held Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 4 p.m.
 in *The Link's* office, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649.

All Link's contributors with staff status are eligible to vote.

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GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!

Good luck with your exams and final projects.

After exams, enjoy the summer break.

If you are graduating, I look forward to seeing you at spring convocation!

Alan Shepard
 alan.shepard@concordia.ca



Concordia Groups Seeks Funding to Support Refugees

World University Service of Concordia Wants Club Status

IAN DOWN

Concordia's chapter of the Student Refugee Program is seeking a boost.

The Student Refugee Program, run by the non-profit World University Service of Canada, matches refugee students with Canadian universities and provides a network of financial support and guidance.

Their current goal: a fee-levy from the student body. Doing so would grant WUSC Concordia official recognition from its parent organization and offer a greater network of support to future student refugees.

WUSC is a non-profit organization, that offers educational services to developing countries. The SRP is their flagship program.

While the grassroots organization at Concordia works directly with WUSC, it is not yet an official WUSC chapter. This distinguishes it from the 61 Canadian universities, colleges and other educational institutions that have an SRP, including McGill and Bishop's. However, one member of Concordia's WUSC Local Committee is hoping that will change by the end of the semester.

"Helping a refugee to come continue their education is quite dear to my heart," said graduate student and volunteer Farida Abila. She is leading the initiative to obtain a fee-levy for Concordia's WUSC chapter.

To obtain a fee-levy, the student body must vote in a referendum. Before that happens, the committee will register as a student organization with the Dean's Office, a process currently underway.



Graduate student Farida Abila volunteers to start a club to help refugees.

COURTESY FARIDA ABILA

"Helping a refugee to come continue their education is quite dear to my heart."

—Farida Abila

Abila said that she would like for all of this to be accomplished before the end of the semester, though the actual process may take longer.

Dean of Fine Arts Rebecca Duclos said sponsoring a student refugee for just one year can cost upwards of \$20,000 to \$30,000. Duclos founded the Fine Arts Student Refugee Fund, through which her faculty sponsors one Syrian student with some help from WUSC.

This is not the first time a WUSC Local Committee at Concordia has sought funding, according to Michelle Manks, WUSC's Senior Manager of the SRP and head of Campus Engagement. She has worked directly with Concordia in the past. According to Manks,

the group's application for a fee levy was declined in 2014 for not properly outlining its budget. She said waning interest and the graduation of key student volunteers then led to the group's decline.

"The students got too busy and they graduated, and then they didn't have an incoming group of students to take on the responsibilities, and that was sort of the end of it," she said. It was only in the 2015-2016 academic year that interest in the project was revived.

Concordia's first student refugee, a Rwandan who was displaced from Kenya, arrived at Concordia in the 1990-1991 academic year, Manks said.

Duclos described supporting the sponsored

student, saying that "we had to open up bank accounts [for her], we had to get metro cards, we had to get bedding. She literally came with a couple suitcases."

They also had to help her find school supplies, clothing, and grocery stores that carry familiar ingredients.

Until now, this responsibility has fallen on Duclos, her volunteer staff and a small group of students.

Duclos said an official WUSC chapter would mean greater student involvement in the project. "It's great for a student to have a whole group of people on the ground who will help to settle them and welcome them and check in with them."

THE LINK WORKSHOP SERIES

March 31
Comics Comics Comics
Morag Rahn-Campbell

Join our amazing Graphics Editor, Morag Rahn-Campbell, (a.k.a the creator of Mo Maudlin comics—formerly Crap Comics), and learn hacks and structures for making delightful, insightful, entertaining comics.

We'll also be reading from her killer collection of comics by the legends of the field! If you've ever wanted to get into comics or learn more about comics or just like comics, come to this. It'll be great.

Workshops happen at 3 p.m. in our office: Room H-649 of Concordia's Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)

See you there!

International Students Say They Deserve Better Health Care

AVEQ, the GSA, and the CSU Lead the Fight

by Miriam Lafontaine @mirilafontaine

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, the price of health insurance for international students has gone up by 35 per cent, from \$710 per year to \$1,099 per year at Concordia—and opting out isn't an option.

International students in Quebec—with the exception of those from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, and Switzerland—don't have a choice in the health insurance they take. They are forced to accept whatever private health insurance their university offers.

At Concordia, that provider is Blue Cross, and their prices of health insurance for international students are the most expensive in Quebec.

In the last month, student associations around the province have begun to mobilize around the issue. Leading the fight is the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec, an umbrella-association at the provincial level.

Also mobilizing around the issue is Concordia's Graduate Student Association, the Concordia Student Union, and the Mouvement des Associations Générales Étudiantes de l'Université de Québec à Chicoutimi.

The GSA is especially involved, since the majority of the students that they represent are international, said Rafi Mohammad Azad, vice-president of mobilization at the GSA.

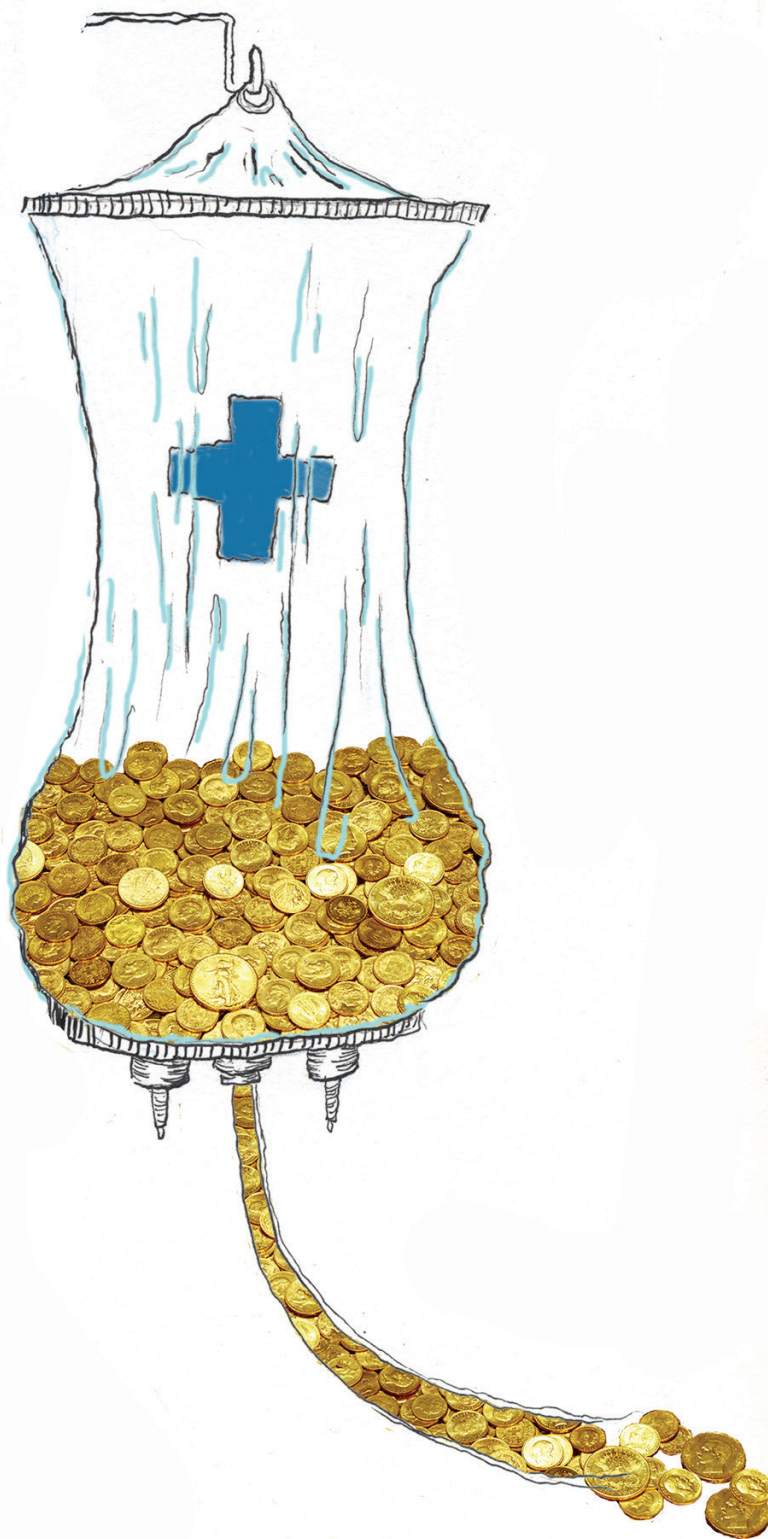
Since 2015, the GSA has been receiving complaints from their international students because of issues with health insurance. The main complaint is that the price is too high. Others complain to the GSA that the services provided are inadequate, and express frustration over not being able to have any choice in what health insurance they take on.

On March 13, AVEQ, the GSA, and the CSU gathered at a press conference to voice their concerns.

"We don't have unlimited income," said Azad. "Health insurance is not something that should become a financial burden on anyone. Not only international students. No one."

"Some of them come from very undeveloped countries, and in order to continue their higher education they need to sell off their assets," he continued. "A lot of them, most of them do that, actually. They don't have enough money."

International students already pay the highest amount for their tuition at Concordia, and the most they are legally allowed to work off campus is 20 hours per week.



Limiting the Options

At the press conference, Esmaeel Kariminezhad, an international graduate student at Concordia, told the story of his friend and Concordia student Amir Bahram Kaganj who had recently passed away this January from cancer.

Kariminezhad spoke about how Kaganj had received limited treatment because not all the costs of his treatment could be covered by Blue Cross.

To cut down on costs, Kaganj underwent a large amount of his treatments in a rehab center at a cost of \$400 per night instead of staying in the hospital. He explained that Blue Cross would cover \$7,000 of the total cost. Staying at a hospital would have cost him between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per night, which he could not afford.

But because Kaganj still required to be seen by doctors at hospitals, he often had to be moved between the rehab center he was staying at and hospitals to meet with doctors. This would happen an average of three times per week, despite the fact that by September, Kaganj could no longer walk, and constantly moving from hospital to hospital was very stressful for him.

"It's the uncertainty when you go to see a doctor in the hospital. You don't know how much will be covered," said Kariminezhad.

International graduate student Puya Ghasvareh was also at the press conference. He has recently been diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of cancer, and he also says he cannot easily sustain the prices.

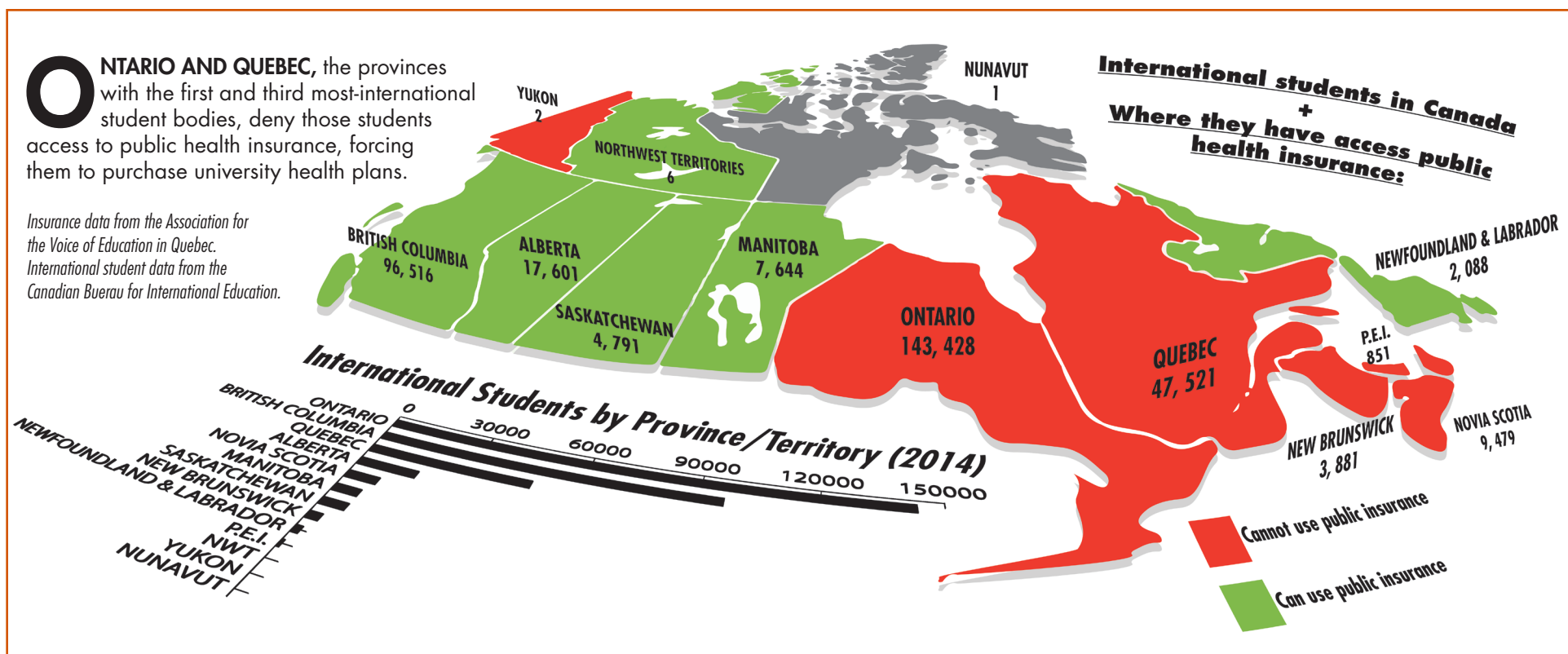
In the six months since being diagnosed, he's already been billed over \$60,000 for his prescription medications. Blue Cross will only be covering \$22,500 of that—the maximum they'll provide for prescription coverage.

Collecting Data

These complaints, and others like them, are listed in *Studies in Health: Report on Health Insurance for International Students in Quebec*, a study recently published by AVEQ.

With data collected through a survey of international students, it finds that the majority are dissatisfied with their health insurance—partly due to its high cost and how the increases in prices are never communicated in advance. Many who responded say they do not see a significant difference in the services provided as prices go up, and that having to pay for additional health insurance for their family members increases the costs to an unsustainable amount.

One student from Concordia said in addition to the \$1,099 he has to pay for himself as a student per year, he has to pay an additional \$4,000 to cover his wife. "An amount that he finds both inexplicable and totally unacceptable," the study reads.



MAP CARL BINDMAN / PHOTO MIRIAM LAFONTAINE / GRAPHIC MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL @madd.egg

Most of the students included in the study were from Concordia and McGill, with 67 per cent of answers coming from Concordia students, and 15 per cent coming from McGill students. Despite the small sample size of 52 students, it nonetheless highlights an issue that is legitimate for many international students who chose to stay in Montreal for their studies, said General Coordinator of AVEQ, Christopher Gyorffy.

Moving Forward

Now AVEQ, the GSA, the CSU, and MAGE-UQAC are demanding that international students be allowed access to the public health care in Quebec.

In Canada, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon require international students to take on private health care. Other international students around the country are granted access to the public health care of whichever province they study in, for the duration of their studies.

Gyorffy says the current plan imposed on international students is monopolistic given that it is only negotiated by the administration of the university. "We need a transparent and democratic system, which is done in collaboration and negotiation with student representatives instead," he said.

AVEQ's hope is to start a dialogue with Quebec's health minister. For the time being, AVEQ is to meet with the province's Minister of Higher Education, H       David, at the end of April. From there, David said it's likely that all student associations in the province will be invited to a consultation, so that their demands can be put into consideration by the Quebec government.

The GSA has had several meetings with the International

Students Office at Concordia since the prices for the Blue Cross plan increased. The ISO confirmed to them that the price will stay at \$1,099 per year until 2018. When their contract with Blue Cross is put back up for renewal, the GSA has been told that they will be included in the decision making process. But no formal agreement has been signed as of yet.

In the past, the ISO has not let student associations, like the CSU or the GSA, be part of the decision making process and has not been transparent with them on why the prices have changed, said Azad, one of GSA's executives.

The School's Response

Kelly Collins, the manager of the ISO, said that the results of AVEQ's study do not reflect the experiences she has with international students in her day-to-day work in the ISO.

"I was actually surprised that there were so many Concordia students that answered this way," she said. "The issues that came up in the report didn't seem to reflect the students that we're seeing."

She says she doesn't hear much beyond students saying that they want to opt-out of

the insurance plan.

She also disagreed with the assertion put forward by the student associations that there has been no difference in the services provided since the increase in prices.

Collins explained that Concordia now has a plan from Blue Cross that covers prices up to three times what the public health care, the R       de l'assurance-maladie du Qu      , covers. McGill's plan for international students at \$993 per year may be cheaper, she said, but it only covers the same amount of the RAMQ price, one of third of Concordia's.



Esmaeel Kariminezhad, Puya Ghasvareh, both international graduate student; Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, CSU General Coordinator; Rafi Mohammad Azad, GSA VP Mobilization; Christopher Gyorffy, AVEQ General Coordinator; Kristen Perry, Coordinator of Mobilization and Associative Development for AVEQ.

SLATES

The CSU Election Overview pt. 1

by Vince Morello, Franca Mignacca, and Miriam Lafontaine
@vinnymorellz, @francamignacca, and @mirilafontaine

VOTING FOR THE CONCORDIA Student Union general elections will run from March 28 to 30. Three slates are running this year, *Team Connect*, *Team Unity* and *Embrace ConU*. *Team Connect* is the only slate with candidates for every position. An independent student is also running for General Coordinator. All positions are contested except the Sustainability Coordinator. Quorum for the election is 450.



EMBRACE CONU

General Coordinator

Omar Riaz

Riaz is a management student in his second year. While in CEGEP, he served as President of the Vanier College Student Association. He's currently a councilor with the CSU, and has also been on Concordia's Senate—the university's highest academic decision-making body—since January.

His slate's foremost objectives are to push for the school's divestment from fossil fuels, and to better represent the students from all faculties by collaborating more with Concordia's faculty student associations. His hope is that doing so will help the CSU become a more inclusive union.

He also wants to advocate more for issues facing international students by making sure that the administration does not try to increase their tuition fees again.

"This is a position that has to be taken on by the greater student population," he said.

He also hopes to build a better relationship with the administration. "A better way to work with them is by cooperating with them and negotiating with them," he said, while claiming that the current relationship is tense and conflict-ridden.

Academic and Advocacy Coordinator

Carlos Vazquez

Vazquez is a third year student in the School of Community and Public Affairs. He's currently serving as General Coordinator of the School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association. He previously served as their Finance Coordinator.

Vaquez says his year at the SCPASA has been good, for the most part. He worked to organize campaigns against the far-right in Quebec, Prime Minister Trudeau's approval of pipelines, and helped to organize anti-racism workshops.

Over the year he did have some difficulties—ASFA threatened to freeze their budget, for example. They had to campaign against it, but in the end, ASFA allowed them to continue to receive funding.

"Now everything is great with ASFA, we opened a two way conversation," he said.

If elected, he plans to create more bursaries for women on campus, organize anti-racist campaigns, and continue pushing for the school to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest into green energy, or other sustainable investments.

Because his slate has students with backgrounds in finance and business, he believes his slate will have an easier time deciding where to invest and where not to invest.

Loyola Coordinator

Maria Gabriela Polanco

Polanco is a fourth year student majoring in Psychology. Her past experience in student politics includes her time with the Concordia Caribbean Student Union, where she worked as their VP Marketing since June. Her role there involved organizing events, like their annual Culture Weekend.

She said right now the Loyola Campus is lacking life. Many students, she says, feel that the campus is left out of all the hustle and bustle of the downtown core. She hopes to unite both campuses and open up space at Loyola for events organized by more than just the CSU.

In reaction to the recent accessibility audit done at Loyola, she says if elected she will push to make sure as many places at Loyola can be wheelchair accessible as possible.

Internal Affairs Coordinator

Émilie Leduc

Leduc is a fourth year student in Human Resources, with experience inside of the Commerce and Administration Students' Association. Right now she's working as their Executive Vice President, having been their VP Internal Affairs prior. Before, she was the Vice President of the

John Molson Sustainable Business Group.

She wants to make sure the CSU better represents the wants and interests of the undergraduate population. "I think there is a lot of funding right now that doesn't have a direct impact on the students that are paying those fees," she said.

She's concerned since many students on campus don't have a clear sense of what the CSU is or how it can help them, and she wants to repair that. "I haven't had the opportunity to see what the CSU does for me, because it really doesn't do much for the JMSB students."

She says other JMSB students have told her the same thing.

She hopes to focus on funding and making known to students the CSU's clubs. She also wants to work more with faculty associations on campus, and make the services offered by the CSU better known among students.

Finance Coordinator

Soulaymane El Alaoui

El Alaoui is a second year student from JMSB. In the past, he's worked with CASA as their VP Events where he helped plan Frosh, their Halloween party and weekly events.

He's concerned about the CSU's operating budget, and says it needs a cleanup. One plan is to reduce the pay executive pay of \$255,190 per year by around \$20,000 so that more can be allocated into funding CSU's clubs.

He says many things are over budgeted for. For example, \$50,000 has been earmarked for cell phones, but only about \$12,000 of that has been used since mid-December. He says some surplus is good, but too much takes away from money that could go to better things.

He also wants to make breakdowns of the CSU's finances public through the CSU website, so that there can be more transparency between the CSU and Concordia students.

External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator

Ahmed Badr Mustafa

Badr Mustafa is a Mechanical Engineering student who's been at Concordia since 2014. He was an active member of Engineering Concordia, as well as in such groups as the Egyptian Student Association of Concordia,

and the Muslim Student Association. Badr Mustafa is currently a CSU councilor.

"If any minority group or any students have any problems, like hate speech or anything, I want to defend them," he explained.

He would like to work with undergraduate students in order to help them succeed academically and in their careers. He hopes to do this by communicating with companies to see what they're looking for, and by getting undergrads in touch with graduate students and professors who can give them advice.

He participated in the protest against international student tuition hikes, and looks forward to working with the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec and other associations to protect student rights.

Student Life Coordinator

D'Ante Hanna

Hanna is a second year student in political science. She's the Vice-President of the Concordia Caribbean Student Union, and is in a sorority. Her involvement with the sorority, she explains, has allowed her to get direct feedback from students.

Her goal is to hear from students more often in order to tailor to their needs. She hopes to find more interactive and fun ways to get surveys out.

"I'm running for CSU because I feel there needs to be a change within the union in terms of international representation. Being an international student, I think it's important that the student union represents students from all over the world," she said.

For Frosh, she hopes to work with different faculty associations, like ASFA, as well as with the International and Ethnic Associations Council. She explained that Frosh lacks diversity, and she hopes that including IEAC will improve that.

"That is my plan to get everyone to come together to participate in [these big events] for new students coming in to see that Concordia is welcoming and we welcome all types of diversity," she said.

She added that she would like to work on promoting CSU more as she feels that many students don't know what it is.

Photo courtesy Embrace ConU



INDEPENDENT

General Coordinator

Agunik Mamikonyan

Mamikonyan has four years of experience in student politics. She worked with School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association, Concordia Model UN, and is currently ASFA's VP of External Affairs and Sustainability. She says she is most proud of her work with the ASFA Task Force. "Every

time I come into an association or a federation or a club, I usually leave it better than [what] I started off with. So, I think I can bring a lot to the table," Mamikonyan said.

She added that she would like to help "balance the team out" and to help everyone in CSU reach their own goals.

"I don't believe in making promises during campaigns," she said. "Even more so because this is a non-hierarchical structure, everyone's their own captain, so everyone makes their own

decisions about what they want to accomplish throughout the year," she said.

She hopes to bring in a seat for all federations and associations, such as ASFA and CASA, for international students with a seat for the Concordia International Students Association. She would also like to rethink and reintroduce the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions motion.

Photo by Kelsey Litwin



TEAM CONNECT

General Coordinator

Marcus Peters

Prior to Peters current role as the Loyola Coordinator on the CSU executive team, Peters had already been elected to council twice. Now, he's running to be the General Coordinator as he sees this as an opportunity to push for major change within the university.

If elected, Peters wants to continue the initiatives that the CSU has already been working on. He also wants to start running feasibility studies and will look at giving students access to spaces around campus.

"One thing that has been consistently communicated by clubs, and by fee-levy groups and by students group in general is a lack not only of space, but also accessible space," Peters said. "That's something that we as Connect, have prioritized."

He also plans to continue working on the CSU's housing project, which is expected to open in the summer of 2018.

Peters believes that the *Connect* slate has the most collective experience as well as the clearest objectives.

"We have a great team, we have a really good working dynamic, and we have a vision that is a complement of the current direction of the student union," he said.

Academic and Advocacy Coordinator

Asma Mushtaq

While Mushtaq does not have a wealth of experience in student politics at Concordia, the practical experience she accrued working with marginalized youth in London, has been beneficial to her aspirations in student politics.

"My pathway began as being more vocational than academic-oriented," Mushtaq said. "I had to liaise closely with agencies and various organizations, public and voluntary, to

provide a network of support for the groups I worked with."

If elected, Mushtaq wants to prevent the rise of international tuition fees and will push for Concordia to become a sanctuary campus.

She added that the CSU would do this "by not cooperating with surveillance agencies, and extending the right to protection and dignity to students regardless of their immigration status in Canada."

Mushtaq also wants to review the accessibility of student spaces, services, and resources "to ensure that they reflect the needs of the student body."

"I would say that the relevance of my professional training, recent and past experience and responsibilities, interpersonal skills and campus involvement would be good enough reasons to begin the consideration of voting for me and the platform I am associated with," Mushtaq said.

Mushtaq also said that she has the ability to handle high level legislature and policy as she has successfully contested and appealed decisions in her capacity as a social worker for an advocacy service.

External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator

Mustafa Bokesmati

Bokesmati's experience in student groups began with his involvement with the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights group. With SPHR, he organized events, and campaigned on the "yes" side of referendum on Boycott, Divest, and Sanction against Israel at Concordia.

"[It] provided me with an insight on campaign planning and mobilizing the student body," Bokesmati said.

As the External Affairs Coordinator, Bokesmati wants to continue to fight against international tuitions hikes. Concordia's Board of Governors tried to increase tuition fees for international students in deregulated programs in December 2016, but it was voted down.

He would also like to advocate for the university to divest from fossil fuels and into sustainable investments.

"I am passionate about topics surrounding human rights, social justice, and equality. I hope that people would see my passion through my commitment to SPHR in the past years," he said.

Internal Affairs Coordinator

Veronika Rydzewski

Rydzewski is a CSU councilor who sits on their club committee and she is the outgoing VP Inter-

nal of the Political Science Student Association. With the PSSA, she has experience allocating budgets to their subsidiaries.

"The experience I have with the [CSU's] clubs committee is super valuable," Rydzewski said.

If she's elected her main goal is to protect and expand student spaces around campus.

Rydzewski would also work with the Loyola Coordinator to increase club space and promote clubs on the NDG campus.

Another one of her goals is make it easier for clubs to get reimbursements from the CSU when they spend money on events.

"I can bring valuable knowledge and experience to the team and to the union," she said.

Loyola Coordinator

Alexander Milton

As a councilor with the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and the CSU, Milton has experience in student politics. He also currently sits on the CSU's Loyola committee.

"I have a great understanding of how the executive body completes both their day-to-day work and long-term goals, as well as the expectations of Council with regards to both," Milton said.

If he's elected, he said he'll continue to work on the projects started by the current Loyola Coordinator, Marcus Peters, which include renovations planned to the Hive Cafe at Loyola.

He also would like to work with the executive team to help CSU clubs promote and expand to Loyola, as well promote and host events on the Loyola campus.

Additionally, he plans to expand the mandate of the Loyola Coordinator by taking on other projects.

"I plan to expand and protect currently existing student spaces on both the SGW and Loyola Campuses, considering renovations will be occurring on both," Milton said.

Sustainability Coordinator

Devon-Ellis Durity

Durity has been involved in sustainability projects in Concordia for some time. Durity was a social media intern with Sustainable Concordia, and was the resident artist with the Sustainability Action Fund. He has also been involved in projects regarding waste management.

Durity also sat on the board of the SAE, reviewing project proposals.

If elected, Durity would push the CSU to continue to divest from fossil fuels and invest in sustainable practices.

Durity would also like to educate students on waste management in Concordia and in Montreal to ensure that students are more educated on how to recycle products.

Finance Coordinator

Thomas David Bashore

Bashore was a CSU councilor before he was elected to replace the Finance Coordinator that resigned in November 2016. He is running again as Finance Coordinator because he'd like to continue working on projects that he's already started.

One of the main projects he wants to work on is coming up with a quicker way to reimburse clubs when they spend money on events. The current system has been in place since 2009, and Bashore believes that it is inefficient.

He'd also like to revamp the CSU website and to include infographics and videos to explain and break down the CSU budget, and how clubs are allocated money.

"I think that my objectives of transparency and efficiency are in line with student interests so kind of both qualifications and objectives," Bashore said.

Student Life Coordinator

Leyla Sutherland

Sutherland was the Student Life Coordinator for the Fine Arts Student Alliance from 2013 to 2015. She was also a CSU councilor during the 2015-2016 academic year. As the Student Life Coordinator, Sutherland oversaw FASA's orientation.

If elected, Sutherland wants to redesign the CSU's website with an eye on making it easier for Concordia's students to find resources and services that exist at the school.

"This will support many of our other goals as a team by increasing the transparency and communication to students," Sutherland said.

Sutherland will continue to organize both the fall and winter orientations, adding that she would like to implement training for orientation leaders on how to use naloxone kits—a medication which reverses the effects of a drug overdose—given the rise of fentanyl in party drugs.

"I am very experienced in similar roles and structures, and am coming into this election with a clear plan to continue past initiatives as well as incorporate new strategies," Sutherland said.

Photo by Brian Lapuz



TEAM UNITY

General Coordinator

Eddy Kara-Sarkissian

Kara-Sarkissian was on the Board of Directors of the International and Ethnic

Association Council, and is in his second year as president of the Concordia Armenian Students Union.

"There is far too much isolation at Concordia, there is preferential politics being played at the CSU and I believe that the CSU should be a student body for all, representing every student," he said.

Kara-Sarkissian said his priority would be improving Concordia's Health and Dental Insurance plan. Addressing the fact that the current CSU is already in the process of changing the plan, he said that "no matter what new plan is crafted, we will ensure to always seek new ways to improve it."

He would also like to implement online voting for CSU elections in order to "bridge this divide that exists at Concordia." He explained that doing so would

allow more students to vote. He would also like to collaborate with clubs more to address their needs, which he feels have been neglected. He added that if elected, they'll implement a "social transparency plan," where students would have access to online chats and kiosks so they can have their questions and concerns addressed on an interactive platform.

He would also like to clean the washrooms in the Hall building, by using student janitors, as well as outside contractors.

Internal Affairs Coordinator

Amina Chemssy

Amina Chemssy is a second year student, currently majoring in both Human Resources and International business.

She was secretary of the Armenian Asso-

ciation, and is currently the VP Finance of Israel on Campus.

She would like to improve communication with clubs, and to work on gaining access to student space for them, by sitting on boards and working with the university.

She also hopes to change the budgeting process for clubs. Rather than looking at their seniority, she thinks budgeting should be relative to the reach of their projects.

As she was campaigning, she felt people underestimated her because of her age and experience.

"I would say that everything's relative in life, I mean I have the experience that I, at my age, should have," she said.

Photo courtesy Dean Voutos

QUESTIONS

The CSU Election Overview Pt. 2

by Vince Morello, Franca Mignacca, Jonathan Caragay-Cook, Kelsey Litwin, and Miriam Lafontaine

@vinnymorellz, @FrancaMignacca, @hiimbiracial, @kelseylitwin, and @MiriLafontaine

VOTING FOR THE CONCORDIA Student Union general elections will run from March 28 to 30. There are six referendum questions on this year's ballot. The CSU represents over 35,000 undergraduate students. Quorum for the election is 450.



Non-Hierarchical Bylaw Changes

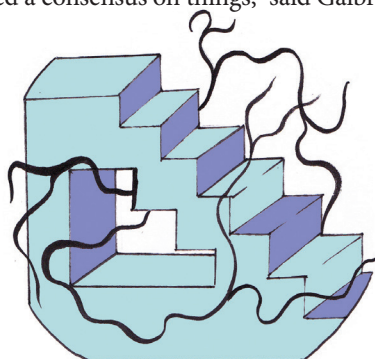
Do you, as a member of the CSU, approve of the by-law changes that will render the executives to a more non-hierarchical structure?

The CSU wants to implement a non-hierarchical structure, so as to ensure that not one executive has more power than another. This process began in the fall of 2015 when, after a similar referendum question during by-elections, the titles of the 8-person executive team were changed from president and vice-presidents to coordinators.

If the question passes, it will be done, in part, by trimming down the description of the General Coordinator's duties in the CSU's bylaws, explained Sustainability Coordinator Lana Galbraith. As a result, all descriptions will be about the same length, thereby not implying that one position is more important than the other. She also explained that this will be furthered by placing them in alphabetical order, so that there would be no perceived order of importance.

The other major change, Galbraith noted, is in the decree. What is currently the president's decree will be changed to the executive's decree. As it stands now, the general coordinator has the ability to act immediately when something comes up by issuing a decree, without it having to go through council first, she continued. With the changes, it would be mandatory for at least three other executives to sign onto the decree first.

"It reinforces the idea that you need to discuss things and it reinforces the idea that you need a consensus on things," said Galbraith.



GRAPHICS ZOË GELFANT @203631f4n7

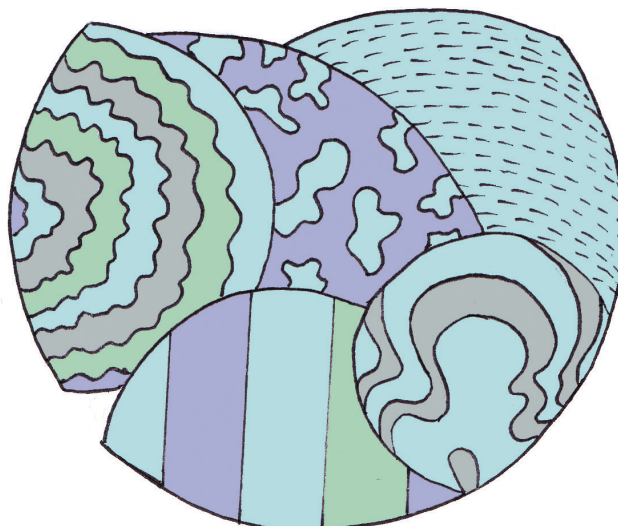
Dish Project Fee-Levy

Do you as a member of the CSU approve the transfer of \$0.04 from the Student Space Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) fee to the CSU Operating fee to pay for the operations of the Dish Project, a student-run service at Concordia that provides free dishware to student and community-run events?

The Dish Project is currently a subsidiary of Sustainable Concordia, but the group's budget can't sustain it for much longer. They provide free dishes and cutlery for faculty, clubs, administration, and student associations who organize events on campus.

The CSU is stepping up to the plate to help provide the Dish Project with funds. If this question passes, they will take some funds from their Student Space Accessible Education and Legal Contingency, and transfer the funds to their operating budget, said Marcus Peters, current Loyola Coordinator of the CSU.

Peters said through working with the CSU, the Dish Project will be better able to advertise their services around the school. They hope to also pay for the salary of another dish coordinator. Right now only one dish coordinator is working.



Fight for a Sanctuary Campus

Do you, as a Concordia undergraduate student, support Concordia University formally adopting a "Sanctuary Campus" status by not collaborating with the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), including but not limited to the sharing of any information on its current and past staff, faculty and students, or allowing CBSA on its premises, in order to protect undocumented community members from threat of deportation?

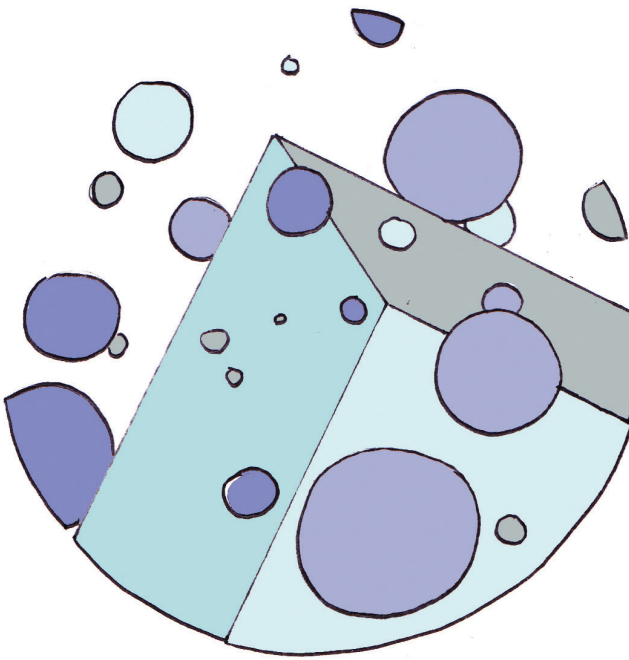
Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre recently dubbed Montreal a "sanctuary city." To be a sanctuary city is to end municipal collaboration between local police and border services.

But activists, like Jaggi Singh from Solidarity Across Borders, have called Coderre out by saying it is largely symbolic as it does not give migrants access to municipal services, and maintains collaboration with the Canada Border Services Agency, he said.

In reaction to this, the CSU is hoping that Concordia can become a sanctuary campus. They want to make sure no student, faculty member, or Concordia staff is at risk of deportation. They want Concordia to agree to not collaborate with the CBSA—in other words, end the sharing of any information on its current and past staff, faculty and students, as well as not allowing the CBSA on campus.

"If Montreal is calling itself a sanctuary city, and if Concordia is positioning itself as a welcoming, diverse place for many different kinds of students, we need to actually put pressure on institutions we can put pressure on to make sure that it's not just talk," said current CSU General Coordinator Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis.

Marshall-Kiparissis and Aloyse Muller—the External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator—are hoping that an official stance from students will give the CSU more leverage when future executives have to start trying to negotiate with the administration.



CUSACorp Bylaw Change

Be it resolved that the following question be passed through referendum at the upcoming CSU Annual Elections, in order to strike Special By-Law C, the Special By-Law pertaining to CUSACORP, from the CSU By-Law. CUSACORP was a subsidiary of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) as defined by Special By-Law C of the CSU By-Laws, it was dissolved in June 2016 and no longer exists. Do you as an undergraduate student approve to remove Special By-Law C from the CSU By-Laws?

CUSACorp used to be a for-profit branch of the CSU that administered Reggie's, back when the campus bar was part of the CSU. When it became independent, CUSACorp dissolved, because Reggie's was the only entity that existed within it. Though CUSACorp has effectively been dissolved, the bylaws do not currently reflect that. If this question passes, the bylaws would officially no longer include CUSACorp. CSU Finance coordinator Thomas David-Bashore explained that this is simply housekeeping.

Fee-Levy Reallocation

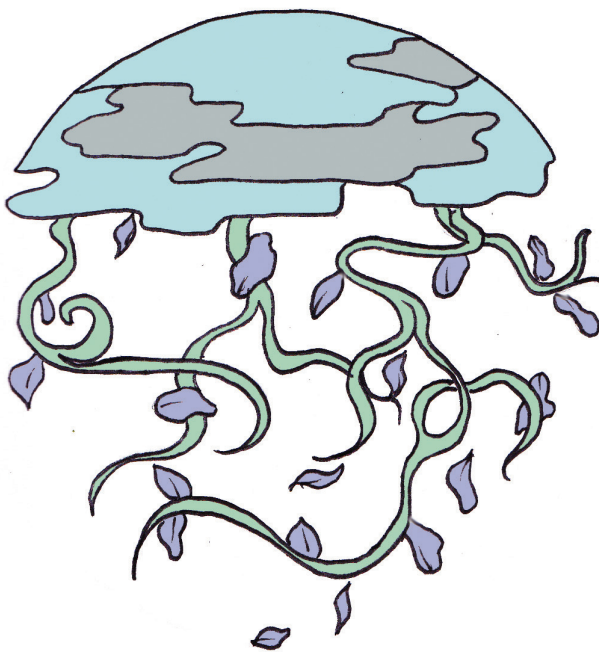
Do you as a member of the CSU approve of the following reorganization of fees currently levied by the CSU to all undergraduate students, effective for the Fall semester of 2017: A decrease in the CSU Clubs fee of \$0.06 per credit, an increase in the CSU operating fee of \$0.05 per credit, an increase in the undergraduate Housing and Job Bank (HOJO) fee of \$0.03 per credit, an increase in the Advocacy fee of \$0.02 per credit, and a decrease in the Student Space Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) fee of \$0.04 per credit.

The goal of this question is to reallocate the funds to where they are needed. This will not increase or decrease the fees that students are currently paying.

"We're [not] proposing an increase in any fee without making up for it with a decrease of another fee," David-Bashore explained.

David-Bashore explained that the current clubs budget has a projected surplus of nearly \$90,000. He said that the clubs weren't using or planning to use these funds.

With the proposed redistribution, clubs still have a projected surplus, which will likely allow for additional clubs and for current ones to grow.



Greenhouse Fee-Levy

Do you agree to increase the fee levy of the Concordia Greenhouse by 12 cents per credit to a total of 24 cents per credit, effective Fall 2017?"

The Concordia Greenhouse, which is located on the 13th floor of the Hall building downtown, is asking to double its \$0.12 fee-levy. This is the first fee-levy increase they've asked for since Concordia students approved their first one in March 2013.

One of the main reasons for the increase is to cover the costs for renovations. The ventilation system is failing, and the glass envelope of the greenhouse needs to be changed.

"There's actually never been any work done on the infrastructure in its 51 year history so things are starting to fail," said Andrea Reichert, the Greenhouse's Financial Coordinator.

She added that a failing ventilation system can cause thermometers to be inaccurate, and when left unchecked or unfixed, can create unhealthy temperatures for the plants.

Renovations would cost about \$240,000 according to the Four Seasons Growing Coordinator and City Farm School Co-coordinator, Andrew Alford. He also said that the Greenhouse would split the bill in half with the university.

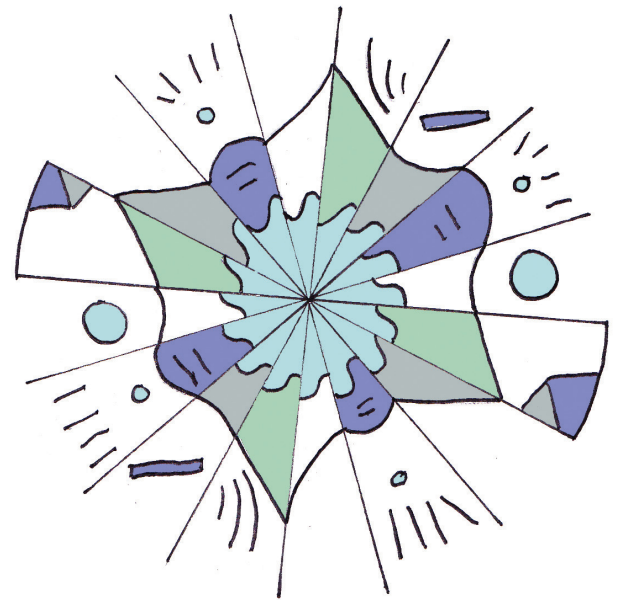
The Greenhouse's growing programs are another reason for their bid to increase their fee-levy.

"Our program is expanding. We're on track to doing over 100 events, just over one semester," Alford said. "We also have more connected educational opportunities with the City Farm School."

The City Farm School is a group that provides learning opportunities and workshops on urban agriculture located on Loyola Campus. The greenhouse currently provides bursaries for students that want to intern with the City Farm School. If the fee-levy increase is approved, they would be able to provide full scholarships.

In its current 2016-2017 fiscal year, the greenhouse received \$85,000 in revenues from the fee-levy. Their revenues in total, including money received from grants are \$197,394, and their total expenses are \$193,331.

The Greenhouse looked at getting a lump sum from the CSU to pay for the renovations, but instead opted to look at a fee-levy increase because it "is about so much more than addressing the infrastructure needs," according to Reichert.



Sustainable Curriculum

Do you, as a Concordia undergraduate student, mandate the Concordia Student Union to work with the Concordia University Administration towards integrating sustainability and Indigenous studies courses in all undergraduate programs?

If passed, this question would mandate the CSU to seek out ways of having courses on sustainability as well as Indigenous studies for all undergraduate students, according to CSU Sustainability Coordinator Lana Galbraith.

"You can't talk about sustainability without talking about Indigenous struggles," Galbraith said.

Specifically, she explained that her successor as Sustainability Coordinator would have the responsibility to push this agenda in various university bodies and groups, such as the Indigenous Directions Leadership Group and Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Currently, the CSU Positions Book mandates them to support sustainable, student-run food initiatives, while there is also an ethics and sustainability policy that states the CSU must "work to improve integration of the concepts of sustainability into the university curriculum."

Galbraith said these existing policies could just mean that the CSU just wants a stand-alone sustainability major rather than finding ways for all students to have the topic included in their curriculum.

"This is more direct that says 'No, all students should learn about sustainability,'" she explained.

In regards to integrating Indigenous studies into all programs, the CSU does not have an official policy endorsing that yet. Galbraith acknowledged that to incorporate these two topics into all curricula would be a big ask for the university administration. She cited the engineering program as an example of a curriculum that has more restrictions on the number of electives students can take.

Concordia undergraduate students have formally expressed interest in incorporating sustainability into all programs before. In November 2014, the second-ever gathering of the Student Congress voted to have the topic integrated into all curricula.

Meet The Barrel Heads

DIY Rock and Roll Band Talks Dropping Acid and Life in the Underground

by Shannon Carranco

PUNKS AND HIPSTERS from across the city gathered at Le Divan Orange to warm up, have a few drinks, and dance to escape the January cold.

The night consisted of a medley of rock bands from Toronto and Montreal, including The Barrel Heads, a DIY punk-turned-rock band. Their set was by far the liveliest and most entertaining. The five members of the band had an energizing stage presence.

They were on fire.

Half way through their set a woman brought out a python and wrapped it around the lead singer, Mike Mosquitolini. The crowd kept dancing, but they were obviously fazed by the presence of a potentially lethal animal draped around the singer's neck.

Almost immediately an animal rights activist ran up to the stage and started screaming at Mosquitolini. It was awkward, but the band pulled through and kept playing. After a long while, the woman stormed off and left the bar. The rest of the set was even more vibrant than the first half.

Mosquitolini, better known as Mosquito Mike, fits the classic role of the sexy and charming lead singer. He's got big brown eyes and long eyelashes. He wears cowboy boots and often ends up at least partially naked at their concerts.

At Le Divan Orange, the self-proclaimed "ship of fools" played songs from their soon-to-be-released album. Originally a punk band, The Barrel Heads have morphed their sound into a jamming fast-paced rock with obvious influences from The Ramones and The Rolling Stones.

The 22 year-old rock and roller started The Barrel Heads with Alex Kotsornithis and James Chiha six years ago.

Mosquitolini seems to run the show. He does all of their accounting, marketing and the majority of the organizing for



their shows. The band is dead set against signing away their rights to a label, and right now they're functioning without a manager, but that means they have to do everything themselves.

"I'm constantly running late and I'm constantly fighting with sleep deprivation," Mosquitolini said. "Seven days a week I'm the first one out of my house. I'll leave before everyone else is awake and I'll be back by the time they're already sleeping. And that's been happening for the past six years."

The rock and roll lifestyle isn't always roses. All five members of The Barrel Heads work 40 hours a week at their respective jobs, and most of them still live with their parents. Kotsornithis runs his family business, a Greek restaurant called Villeray. Mosquitolini manages the kitchen at MooseB.

They get into fights and they all seem exhausted, but for the band, it's all worth it—this is what they want to spend their time doing. They want to spread the rock and roll energy. According to Mosquitolini, they all just want to have a good time.

They get together and practice twice a week. Their rehearsal space is in a dingy building in Griffintown—the kind of place you would expect them to play. The sounds of other

Top: Johnny B. and Mosquito Mike perform at Le Divan Orange.

Left: (Left-to-right) James Chiha, Mike Mosquitolini and Alex Kotsornithis.

PHOTOS COURTESY BARREL HEADS

Right: Mike Mosquitolini smokes a cigarette at The Barrel Head's jam space.

Bottom: The Barrel Heads rehearse their soon-to-be-released album.

PHOTOS SHANNON CARRANCO



bands echo through the crisscrosses of narrow hallways. The Barrel Heads' personal jam room is packed with sound equipment and two drum kits. Cigarette and pot smoke fills the air, large Indian carpets hang on the walls for sound insulation, and broken lamps make for calm and natural lighting. The vibe is laid back but also professional. They may pass around a joint at the beginning of rehearsal but all the band members remain serious about the music they're making. "We drink and smoke and stuff before jams but there's still no time for messing around," The bassist, Johnny B. said. "I've jammed with a lot of people who just come in and smoke themselves [to sleep] and they can't play a goddamn note." Their professionalism is paying off; the band is going places. They've opened for Dayglo Abortions—a big name in the Canadian punk scene—three times, and recently they were asked to open for the iconic ex-Misfits singer Michale Graves. The Barrel Heads just spent the last six months working on their new album. They've also made it to the semi-finals in the Rockalypse II competition, where the lucky winners will get to perform in Italy this summer.

But their success hasn't come without ups and downs. The band is on their third rhythm section in six years. According to Mosquitolini, one of their drummers went through a psychosis that was influenced by heavy drug and alcohol abuse, which created a violent and hostile environment for the band. They kicked him out after he came to rehearsal with a self-made weapon consisting of locks and rope.

In 2015, around the same time they lost their drummer, Kotsornithis was diagnosed with cancer and was in and out of the hospital undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Mosquitolini said that they didn't think the band would be able to continue going, but somehow they ended up pulling through.

"Alex was in the hospital and it was just me and James, cause we didn't have a bassist at the time. And then the drummer left. We had no idea what was going to happen."

One night, Mosquitolini and Chiha were at the Vendome metro station together, depressed and unsure of the band's future.

"I remember asking James 'What are we going to do?' And then the metro came, and we got up, and you know how you look back to check if you forgot something? I look back and on the seat that we were sitting on and someone had graffitied, 'Don't worry it only gets better.' And it did, it only got better. Alex got better and we ended up finding another drummer," Mosquitolini said.

Since then, The Barrel Heads completed their first tour—a four day rat race starting in Ottawa, moving through Peter-

borough and Toronto and ending at Rob Fest in Montreal.

"When you're on tour it's like a different world. You're with your band in a van and you have to put up with each other," Mosquitolini explained.

Mosquitolini reminisced about dropping acid in the van when they were parked outside Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. Half of the band left with the keys and the others were stranded and bored.

"We're just waiting there, playing poker and then we're just like, 'Hey man, there's acid under the seats,'" said Mosquitolini. "So we all drop acid. And then they come back and they're like, 'Dude we're playing a show in an hour.' So we get there, we're tripping out and we scare the shit out of the crowd."

They may be exhausted, but The Barrel Heads are investing in a future for themselves and their band. They're riding the rock and roll wave. Eventually, Mosquitolini hopes the band will be able to quit their day jobs and live off their music.

"I can't wait to get to a place where we're just focused on playing. I know there's still going to be work, but I just want to spread this feeling and see how many people dig it."

Crafting Her Own Life

Cedar-Eve Peters Lives the Self-Supporting Dream

ERIKA MORRIS

Montreal based artist Cedar-Eve Peters is a regular at the weekly Concordia Farmers' Markets.

A graduate of the studio arts program at Concordia University, Peters is successfully pursuing her passion as an artisan. The artist makes brightly colored bead pendant earrings and chokers, as well as t-shirts printed with her own drawings.

Peters was born and raised in Toronto where she attended an arts focused high school. The artist moved to Montreal when she was 18 years old to study at Concordia where she focused on improving her skills as a painter and drawer. After graduating, she took up beadwork and has been making beaded jewelry ever since.

Peters' art is heavily influenced by vivid dreams she has as well as other artists.

"I just sit down and start creating, subconsciously I have a bunch of ideas," she says. "For beading, I get inspiration from different flowers, animals or coral reefs. Elements of nature inspire the jewelry. For my drawings and paintings, I get inspired by different stories I heard growing up."

Her dreams often inspire different color patterns for her jewelry and the imagery that she draws and paints. The idea of a shape-shifter in Ojibwe culture often comes up in Eve's drawings, as well the relationship between humans and animals.

Some of Eve's current projects include holding workshops at Concordia's Aboriginal Student Resource Centre and making custom



Cedar-Eve Peters sits at her booth at the Concordia Farmers Market.

PHOTOS SHANNON CARRANCO



jewelry for clients. The McCord Museum's boutique also carries some of her jewelry.

The artist is in the sixth year of a daily self-portrait project where she takes a picture of herself with a Fujifilm Instax Mini every day and sometimes she draws on them.

"I try to do something every day," says Peters, adding that she is always creating.

Peters' art is showcased around the city and she is going to partake in the Etsy Montreal show in April.

"I'm living as a full-time artisan and I think I'm blessed in that way because not everyone can live off their art," she said. "It's nice to

get recognition for something that I just feel inclined to do."

To aspiring artists, Eve says the best advice she can give is to never give up.

"In university, I had professors telling me that what I was doing didn't make sense," she says. "It's important to keep in mind that not all professors know what they're saying. There's no formula so if you really believe in what you're doing, then continue to do it."

To Peters, art is a form of therapy. "If I didn't have art in my life, I don't know where I would be," she says. "It keeps me grounded. I think color is really healing and I want others to feel it, too."

THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS: March 28 - April 4

TU 28

Workshop - Survivor Writing w/ Malek Yalaoui

As part of a McGill student group's Sexual Assault Awareness Week, writer, poet, and activist Malek Yalaoui will be giving a writing workshop, bringing together trauma, healing, and the power of art. All are welcome to participate so long as they are comfortable.

Students Society of McGill • 3600 McTavish St. Suite 108 • 1 p.m. // FREE

Stand-Up - Artisinal Komedy Hour #20

For its 20th edition, the Artisinal Comedy Hour has got what seems like a pretty spectacular lineup that's sure to elicit some chuckles. Drop by for a good time!

Kafein café-bar • 1429A Bishop St. • 8 p.m. // PWYC

SA 1

Sale - The Clowder Pop-Up

Are you sad that the soft market is gone? Well, fret not! Another event like it is going on and its first edition falls on this day. Patches, stickers, prints, artsy stuff, and more being sold!

Articule • 262 Fairmount Ave. W. • 12 p.m. // FREE

Concert - The Franklin Electric

If you like alt-folk-pop music, then this band has a sound that you'd really be into. Catch 'em live when they stop by Montreal for a show.

Le Métropolis de Montréal • 59 Ste. Catherine St. E. • 6:30 p.m. // \$28 for the Early Bird prices or \$33 for regular

WE 29

Workshop - Trans 101: How to Advocate for Your Trans Patients

Trans patients often have to explain proper health procedures to their healthcare workers. This workshop, given by Gabrielle Bouchard from the Centre for Gender Advocacy, will help shed some light on this issue.

McIntyre Medical Building • 3655 promenade Sir William Osler • 5 p.m. // \$1

Concert - School of Music Montreal 2nd Annual Fundraiser

The School of Music Montreal is putting on a concert where a bunch of groups will show us what they've got. All proceeds go towards SoMM with the goal of making musical education more accessible to at-risk youths.

La Vitrola • 4601 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8 p.m. // \$10

SU 2

Open Mic - Outspoken

The Youth Mental Health Alliance and Café Co-Op are pairing up to bring you this event that aims to showcase artists who use their work as a way to express and understand their mental illnesses.

Kafein café-bar • 1429A Bishop St. • 5 p.m. // FREE

TH 30

Zine Launch - F WORD Volume 7 and Folio Issue 17

These zines are celebrating their launch of their latest publications! Go on over, support them, and have a good time! Patches and stickers will be sold, some sweet jams will be played, and cool people will be present. All proceeds go to the performers and the zine so that they can continue to print.

Divan Orange • 4234 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9:30 p.m. // PWYC

Gaming - Playtesting at GamePlay Space

Interested in the indie game scene and what Montreal has to offer in that sense? Look no further. Check out what some local game developers have been working on lately at this event!

GamePlay Space • 1434 Saint-Alexandre St. Suite 140 • 6:30 p.m. // FREE

MO 3

Screening - Come Worry with Us

The documentary film directed by Helene Klodowsky follows the story of musicians Jessica Moss and Efrim Menuck and their struggle to balance parenthood and their musical career.

Office National du Film du Canada • 1564 St. Denis • 7 p.m. // FREE

Screening - With This Ring

Filmed over the span of 6 years, this documentary film features three Indian women who kicked aside gender norms and rose to become world champion boxers. A Q+A with the directors will follow.

Concordia Hall Building • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd W. Room H-110 • 7 p.m. // PWYC

FR 31

Workshop - Comics with Morag Rahn-Campbell

The Link's graphics editor and creator of the Mo Maudlin comic series is giving a presentation on how to put together your own delightful comics. She's a real sweetie, so come on by to get some advice from her.

The Link office • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Room H-649 • 3 p.m. // FREE

Vernissage and Performance - Fire With Water

Part of the Sexual Assault Awareness Week, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society is putting on this art exhibit and performances. It's a space for artists to explore intersecting themes of sexual violence, gendered violence and survivorship.

MainLine Theatre • 3997 St. Laurent Blvd. • 6 p.m. // FREE

TU 4

Discussion - An Evening of Refugee Stories and Discussion

As part of Refugee Rights Day, this event will serve as a platform for survivors to tell their stories of survival and perseverance. Speakers will include Rivka Augenfeld, an advocate for refugee rights, and Rena Schondorf, a Holocaust survivor.

Museum of Jewish Montreal • 4040 St. Laurent Blvd. • 7 p.m. // PWYC

Poetry Reading - Resonance Reading

Resonance Reading Series is collaborating with the Mile End Poets' Festival for this event. Some local poets will read aloud their work, so invite some friends and support this art form.

Resonance Café • 5175A du Parc Ave. • 8:30 p.m. // FREE

If you have an event you want featured, email: calendar@thelinknewspaper.ca

Scouting Success

Justin Shemie Keeps the Difficulties Out of Sight and Out of Mind

DUSTIN KAGAN-FLEMING
@HABSPPOSTGAME

When Justin Shemie started to talk about work, a smile stretched across his face. Not the reaction you'd get from most university students in their early 20s.

Most students aren't Justin Shemie.

While pursuing his education at the John Molson School of Business, he is working as the head scout of the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team as well as a scout for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Moncton Wildcats.

"I really love who I work with. I love to come and watch hockey, and evaluate players. I just overall love the job," said Shemie.

According to Stingers head coach Marc-André Element, that kind of passion is just what you get with Shemie.

"He's passionate, and when you want to build a program you've got to build the program with people that are passionate about the game," said Element who has seen the results of his head scout's work first hand. "He's that guy."

Element's Stingers had a strong season, aided along by many new players, like Anthony De Luca and Alex Gosselin—all of whom Shemie helped bring on.

What's surprising is that he's been scouting since he was in the 10th grade. Five years ago, he was just a high school student attending a conference at the 2012 NHL entry draft.

"I was only 15 then, so I didn't expect to get an opportunity there," remembered Shemie.

That's where he began turning heads and impressing the right people with just how much he could do. Shemie ended up earning a position doing work with sports analytics company Power Scout Hockey. After doing data entry and spreadsheets for the company, Shemie started going out to scout more tournaments and events, building connections as he went.

"Whenever I went scouting, I would ask questions, ask scouts and build contacts," he said.

This was how he met then head scout for the Moncton Wildcats Gilles Tassé, who was fascinated by Shemie's eye for evaluating players, especially considering he was just 16 years old at the time. To this day, Tassé continues to be impressed, calling Shemie "resilient, passionate and dedicated" while stating that all the young scout needs is a touch more confidence in his skills.

Shemie sent Tassé reports from games in Montreal and he eventually impressed him enough to be brought on as a

scout for Moncton, where's he's finishing his fourth year on the job after grinding his way up the scouting ladder.

Shemie continued to impress those he encountered, including Element. Well before the pair worked together, the Stingers head coach knew that Shemie had real talent.

"I knew right away that he had good potential," recalled Element.

Element recognized that scouting is not an easy job, and that not everyone is right for it. "It's really important for a head coach to have a guy that's passionate and wants to put time in," said Element while discussing what makes Shemie so successful.

The head scout has to evaluate players all over the greater Montreal area. Through different leagues and levels, Shemie is the one who has to go out and spot who can help his teams.

In cities like Montreal, there is no shortage of talent to assess. To Shemie, what makes a good scout is simple. "At the end of the day you have to be able to evaluate players. It's something I've gotten with mileage," he said. "I've asked questions [and] learned a lot."

Tassé said that it came quickly. "His progression has been incredible within a short period of time!"

Regardless of how good a scout is, their job is time consuming. But as Tassé said, "[Shemie] will not back down in front of a tough task."

Element hasn't seen anything to suggest

Shemie is struggling with juggling his academics and his work. "He's well structured, he's punctual. He's so well organized," praised Element, who feels that Shemie is capable enough that he need not worry.

Shemie admitted that it can be difficult at time but stressed that his passion for what he does makes it worth it. "It can definitely be difficult. You have to sacrifice on both sides of the scale. But if you really want to do it, you can."

"It helps that I really love what I do," he continued. Shemie maintained that while it can be unfortunate to miss out on social activities, having a job he loves outweighs the difficulties.

"Sometimes the guys who are more behind the scenes don't get the trophies," said Element, talking about how scouts aren't always in the spotlight. He made sure to emphasize that Shemie is a major part of the success the Stingers have had.

Though his work is in the background, Shemie said that's just fine. He knows how important it is.

"Drafting and recruiting are the building blocks of a program," he said. Thirteen new players who he scouted contributed to the Stingers going from winning 35 per cent of their games last year to 67 per cent this year. He's happy with the job and he plans to stick with it.

"He's going to go far," said Element. "He has the drive. I think he's someone that's going to be up there with better guys."

"At the end of the day you have to be able to evaluate players. It's something I've gotten with mileage."

— Justin Shemie

Concordia Stingers Scout Justin Shemie helped to bring strong new players to the men's hockey team this season.

DUSTIN KAGAN-FLEMING



Finding His Feet On and Off the Court

McGill All-Star Jennings Leung on Traveling Around the World for His Love of Basketball

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
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Jennings Leung feels fortunate for the places he's been.

He was born in the US, but moved to the Philippines with his family when he was a baby. Leung grew up in Los Baños, Laguna, which is about two hours south of the capital Manila. Through playing in basketball tournaments as a kid, he's traveled to neighbouring countries like Japan, South Korea, and China.

Leung now resides in Montreal, where he's been studying psychology at McGill University for the past four years. In this time, Leung has also been a star point guard for the McGill Redmen basketball team. The Redmen just tied their best-ever finish at nationals, as they narrowly lost 69-63 in a bronze medal game against the Dalhousie University Tigers, to finish fourth.

Leung's contributions didn't go unnoticed to the U Sports league officials, as they named him to the Championship All-Star Team. For his play during the 2016-2017 regular season in the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec, Leung was also named to the first team of all-stars.

He's heard all the praise, Leung says, about how impressive his journey from the Philippines to Montreal and university basketball stardom has been. But like many successful athletes, he stays humble.

"For me I recognize that [praise] but at the same time it feels pretty normal to me," he says. "I really love basketball and worked really hard for it."

To an outsider, his journey to McGill doesn't form the typical origin story like those of some of his teammates, who were recruited out of CEGEP or schools closer to Montreal. During his senior year of high school, Leung boarded the 18-hour flight to Canada to take part in training sessions with some university teams in hopes of earning a roster spot. Through connections of his youth coach, he had workouts scheduled with the University of Toronto, Queen's University, and McGill, which was his last stop.

"I didn't think McGill wanted me because they just finished fifth in nationals," Leung says of his thoughts at the time. "I just wanted a team."

His weeklong stint training with the Redmen was the most stressful time of his life, he says, recounting how jetlagged and exhausted he was during it.

"I actually threw up after the workout," he remembers, laughing.

During the last day of the training camp, the team's assistant coach, John Dangelas, or JD, was putting the hopeful recruits through two-on-two's, one-on-one's, and some ball-handling drills. At one point during the practice, Leung realized he had to go, told JD, and sprinted towards the bathroom.

He couldn't make it all the way to the



McGill star point guard Jennings Leung has embraced his role as leader on the team.

restroom before puking, but the lapse in composure didn't bother the coaching staff, as JD offered Leung a roster spot that day. Getting sick after an intense week of workouts probably wasn't too surprising, jetlag considered. Leung says one of the biggest culture shocks he experienced in Canada was the difference in style of play.

"In Canada it's a quicker pace and you have to think quicker," he explains. "When I got here I was one of the smallest guys, one of the weakest guys."

Adjusting to life outside of basketball was difficult in his first-year as well, Leung says. Here, the culture is more individualistic and outspoken compared to his home in the Phil-

ippines, a place he describes as tamer and more communal.

In his first year at McGill, he lived on campus in the "rowdy" residence halls. This is where he met his teammate and current roommate, Michael Peterkin, in August of 2013.

"It was just so easy from the start to get to know him," Peterkin says. The two were just about inseparable from the beginning, as they moved in a week earlier than everyone else for preseason training camp. Peterkin calls Leung one of the best players and leaders on the team, and saw his rise from not playing much in his first year to becoming an all-star in his last.

"He probably knows the game better than most players I've played with," he says. "His



Jennings Leung (4), and the Redmen, after capturing the RSEQ title.

PHOTOS BRIAN LAPUZ @brianlapuz

basketball IQ is off the charts."

"He just gets buckets basically," Peterkin continues.

It's not just Peterkin who views Leung in such high regard. Earlier this month, after the final of the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec, McGill guard Dele Ogundokun received the MVP award for his performance in his team's win against the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins. Immediately, he went over to Leung and gave him the award, a pair of headphones.

"I felt like he deserved it, it's not just a one-man sport," said Ogundokun after the game.

"We play as a team and our team is special because we have weapons from all over. I thought he deserved the award the most, but we all got it done and now we're off to nationals."

With their loss in the U Sport National Semi-Final, the whole team is in the off-season and catching up on schoolwork. Like his friend Peterkin, Leung is debating where and if he'll use his fifth year of eligibility to play next season. It all depends on whether he gets into grad school, at a Toronto university or at McGill, Leung says.

"I'd like to play," he explains, calling the situation complicated. Continuing his education in grad school is his main priority. Despite majoring in psychology, Leung says he enjoyed studying his minor of international development most and would want to further his research in the field.

He aspires to play professional ball, ideally in the Philippines Basketball Association, the main professional league there. But because he doesn't have Filipino citizenship, Leung says he's unsure if he could play there. His dad is Chinese and from Hong Kong, while his mom is Canadian. His parents are McGill alumni and met at the university. They moved to Los Baños, Laguna for his dad's job at the International Rice Research Institute, which is a not-for-profit that works to improve the health of rice farmers and consumers.

"In the Philippines people think I'm Canadian," Leung says about how his background confuses some. "When I come here, people think I'm Filipino."

If he can't play pro, finding a job that combines teaching basketball in underserved and impoverished areas of the Philippines or elsewhere in Southeast Asia is his ideal career scenario. Filipinos, at home or abroad, love basketball. Leung says his family and close friends back in Los Baños are proud of what he's accomplished.

While he's well adjusted to life at McGill and has the accolades to show for his time here, he still misses home and its weather.

"Especially when it's winter [in Montreal]," Leung explains, "that's when I miss the Philippines the most."

With files from Harrison-Milo Rahajason

This week in sports online at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

PBHT Ep. 94 — New PBHT + Calgary Gets A Big Time Women's Soccer Team, and more!

Keeping It Simple Keeps It Safe

Code Words in Bars Are Not the Key to Preventing Sexual Violence

NICOLE PROANO

“Angelot” is the new word the Quebec Student Health Alliance wants people to use when they’re feeling unsafe at a bar or pub in Montreal. Last week, the Quebec student group began campaigning for the use of the code word in student bars. Ordering an Angelot would be a way to discreetly let the bar staff know that you are feeling threatened or harassed.

Two bars have already signed on with this initiative, one in Montreal and one in Quebec City, and I hope they are the last.

I’ve worked at a bar in the city for the past year. I am fully aware how bars brew the potential for sexual harassment. But when any of my coworkers and I witness an individual getting unwanted attention, our radar goes up and we’re in protection mode. Typically, someone’s body language is the first indicator of his or her discomfort and without the need for verbal intervention, a staff member can step in.

If staff would not do the same in all—or at least the majority—of Montreal student bars, then the overarching issue here is a lack of education on sexual harassment and violence.

The initiative encourages bar patrons to ask for their Angelot with ice, without ice or with lime—each order revealing what type of situation he or she is in. From the drink order, the staff will know whether the victim wants to be escorted from the premises or whether a more serious offence has occurred and the police should be called. To me, it seems counter-intuitive that the victim must leave the bar when it should be the sexual offender who is promptly removed.

Though the goal is to help prevent sexual violence, I fail to see how using a code word to speak with a staff member will attain that objective. If the incident escalates to police involvement it is much more efficient to say, “please call the police,” than to speak in code and run the risk of being misunderstood. Even if bars have a universal code word, there is still ample room for error. The situation counts on both parties, victim and staff, to be accurate in their understanding of the code. Some bars in the U.S. and U.K. have adopted the initiative—the code phrase in U.K. is, “Ask for Angela” and in the States, it’s an “Angel Shot.”

Considering all the American tourists who visit Montreal for its nightlife, how should bars accommodate them in a dangerous situation?

The initiative encourages discretion but, depending on the victim’s level of comfort, altercations should be called out openly. By using a code word, the offender fails to be called out publicly and gets off the hook without any social consequences. In a case where an assailant is aware of their malfeasance, they

may even benefit from secrecy. Or a harasser may not realize the discomfort he or she is causing and should be given a chance to learn what type of behavior is unacceptable.

Instead of being a progressive step towards creating a safer environment for young people at a bar, the Angelot initiative sets us back by failing to educate people about the concept of consent.

Should a victim desire or require discretion, a certain set of circumstances is necessary for such discretion to be attained. Consider the

agreement to educate employees on the risks customers face as part of their training is one example, or setting up protocols for bar staff to follow when they witness a possible incident. Encouraging customers to look out for each other by setting up signs and posters on the walls and bathroom stalls that remind people to be cautious and aware of the possibility of harassment and violence is another example.

According to canadianwoman.org, women account for 92 per cent of police-reported



pragmatics: using Angelot may not be practical if the bar is of a certain size or is quite busy. Or perhaps the bar’s layout is set up in a way that requires a victim to physically approach the bar on the other side of the room. When a staff member asks for the assailant to be identified, pointing them out from another side of the room cedes that discretion.

If the goal is to promote social awareness of sexual violence, there are much more effective methods of doing so. Having bars sign an

sexual assault and those between the ages of 15 and 24 are 18 times more likely to be targeted than women aged 55 and older.

Knowing code words for ‘help’ doesn’t stop sexual assault. By being taught these statistics and knowing who is more likely to be targeted by sexual predators, staff members can be proactive at keeping their clientele safe. Victims may be reluctant to come forward, but education and awareness can stop harassment before it goes too far.

Hey, does an article in *The Link* make you react in 400 words or less?

Well, write a letter, make sure it meets our guidelines (found on the last page), and we’ll publish it online or in print next issue.

Letters

I would like to endorse Alexander Milton for the position of CSU Loyola Coordinator. I had the pleasure of working with Alex on senate where he proved to be very proactive and vocal, most noticeably during the tuition hike debate. Alex is the person that students can count on to fight for their rights with a never-say-die attitude. He is also known for his outstanding contribution to more transparent and sustainable initiatives around campus. His ideas for Loyola are worth the time and attention!

I would also like to extend my support to the *Connect* team in general. With their extensive experience and commitment to student politics, Concordia students can rest assured that they have made the right choice.

Jana Ghalayini, Engineering and Computer Science student senate representative

Hello,

Over the past few days, the team of Amnesty International Concordia has had the opportunity to observe and evaluate the perspectives and platforms of all teams and their candidates. We have decided to endorse *Team Connect* in its campaign for election this year. We believe that each candidate in the team has the right experience, skills and projects to offer our student body and that they will be successful in accomplishing their goals.

Sincerely,

Jorge Mariano Zagorski, President, Amnesty International Concordia

Team Connect: Committed and Experienced

After consulting the platforms and attending the public debate, I would like to encourage members of the community to support *Team Connect* for the 2017-2018 Concordia Student Union Executive. This group is clearly committed to continuing the important community projects already underway, as well as creating new initiatives that can allow the CSU to further advocate for student rights.

Most particularly, I would like to support the candidacies of Leyla Sutherland for the position of Student Life Coordinator and Asma Mushtaq for Academic and Advocacy Coordinator. I have had the chance to interact with Leyla as a

Fine Arts Student Alliance member during the two years she spent on the coordinating team of the FASA. There I was able to see her enthusiasm and serious work ethic to promote inclusive student life activities for Fine Arts students.

As for Asma, I can speak to her rigor and professionalism, important qualities for the difficult task of engaging with the complexities of the University's highest academic bodies. Seeing the thought she has put into projects on the executive of the School of Community and Public Affairs, and her experience on several academic committees of the university including the Retroactive Withdrawal Committee, I do not doubt her capacity to handle the important dossier of academic governance at the CSU.

Without going into detail for the other candidates, it is clear to me that the vision of *Team Connect* corresponds with my hopes and priorities for the student union. Through their grassroots experience in a variety of community groups on campus, the candidates have shown their commitment to making more spaces for marginalized voices, advancing student rights at an institutional level and promoting inclusive events on campus. Clearly, this team has the experience and necessary understanding of the organization, and I encourage you to give them your vote in the CSU elections!

Marion Miller, Internal Coordinator, Fine Arts Student Alliance

Team Unity Can Shake Up the Status-Quo at Concordia University

The 2017-2018 CSU elections are ongoing. There are groups with great ideas and interesting platforms. However, the case for the "third party" should be made this time around. Team Unity is a team of two: Amina Chemssy and Eddy Kara-Sarkissian. The pair of them has a good amount of student politics experience between them. Both participate heavily in extracurricular activities and have devoted a lot of time to student life. From my understanding of their proposed policies so far, it is a very social-democratic platform. This platform aims for equality, ensuring easier access for services and a CSU that aims to represent as much of the student body as possible.

An interesting aspect of their platform is their desire for online voting. If passed, this will make the voting process easier. Ensuring ease of voting and participation is key to having higher turnouts. Further-

more this team wants to take a more student-driven, bottom-up approach in how the CSU operates. The CSU is a very big umbrella group where there are diverse amount of clubs, implementing a "one-size-fits all" model will not be the most optimal. They want CSU to implement the policies that meet the club's needs first rather than have a large organization dictate how clubs should operate. This approach could potentially avoid often very protracted conflicts between the CSU and their sub-organizations.

Team Unity will also make the effort to increase their contact with the student population. All too often criticism against the CSU has been leveled at them that they are out of touch, or inaccessible. Potentially, this causes low turnouts. As students ask, "why should I participate if the government is unresponsive?" *Team Unity* could improve the situation by various means for example, by improving online services and informing about opportunities or by reaching out to students of all departments and clubs, they might get students more involved in student politics.

Life for university students is tough; many work-part time, many are treated unfairly or lack the access to services. Student politics can make life a bit easier. That's why many students want a responsive student government. *Team Unity's* platform makes services more efficient, will increase voter turnout, bridge the gap between departments and end discrimination. Hence, putting this team in CSU alongside other qualified, dedicated candidates brings about positive change for our school.

Mardig Bidanian

Campaigning Done Right

I usually avoid taking part in political campaigns. After all, if the past three years have taught me anything, it's that real change is almost impossible to achieve at Concordia. Student unions seem to be confrontational rather than diplomatic, plagued with a tendency to negotiate with an iron fist instead of a velvet glove. As a student, I saw my fee-leaves being disbursed on projects that barely generated interest—projects that were beleaguered with political connotations. It seemed that my tuition was fueling the personal objectives of a political party, not advancing academia.

Fortunately, this no longer seems to be the case. Upon attending the Concordia Student Union Debate that took place on March 22nd, I was happy to real-

ize that for the first time in three years, I wouldn't have to "vote for the best of the worst." A coherent platform had finally been introduced. The *Embrace ConU* team was eloquent, resourceful, but most importantly, they seemed to understand the needs of the many students they represent. They weren't catering after one minority to proliferate votes. Instead, they were open to discussion.

Although impressed, I was still quite skeptical. Elected individuals do have the tendency of putting on a facade, a front that ultimately proves to be false. So, I decided to reach out to *Embrace ConU* with a series of questions. The response was swift, clear and concise. Every individual on the *Embrace ConU* team is an expert within their subject area. The value put on efficiency is only surpassed by the effort that this team is putting into making Concordia stand out. From Omar Riaz's previous experience as chairperson of CASA-JMSB, to Émilie Leduc's varied experience in human resources, the student body is fortunate enough to have these experienced individuals put in their time and effort to make our university experience, better.

If you are a student who is unaware of what the Concordia Student Union does or what they stand for, I encourage you to reach out to *Embrace ConU*. I also encourage you to go out and vote in the upcoming CSU Elections on March 28, 29 and 30. If you are tired of seeing your tuition money go to waste and if you are tired of being misrepresented, I encourage you to vote *Embrace ConU*. Concordia has a lot of potential. Let's not allow the mistakes of the past limit that potential. #VoteEmbraceConU

Asser Fares

To whom it may concern,

Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights Concordia fully endorses *Team Connect* for this year's elections. SPHR Concordia executives attended the [candidate] debate and were impressed by the diversity of *Team Connect* candidates and the experience each one of them brings to the table. Therefore, we at SPHR Concordia believe that this team is going to bring about the promises they have made and will be able to achieve the goals they set and represent all students in the utmost manner.

Sincerely,

SPHR Concordia

Outlawing Cruelty

It's Time Canada Bans Animal Testing

OLIVIER CADOTTE
@OLIVIERCADOTTE

Pigs, monkeys, and dogs being aggressively thrown into metal cages or onto operating tables. Animals shrieking as they're being restrained. These are some of the scenes brought to light by an undercover investigation into International Toxicology Research Laboratories Canada's Montreal-based facility, a company that conducts tests on animals for several products.

ITR has since stated that they have a zero-tolerance policy for animal mistreatment, claiming they were following the official guidelines in place. Protesters gathered in front of the facility a week after the videos from the investigation were released, hoping to raise awareness about the cruelty going on just behind the lab's doors.

I've personally felt not only disgust but also a befuddlement that Canada, a country that sees itself as a scientific frontrunner, still permits widespread animal testing for things that really shouldn't be tested on animals.

Now, understandably, we can't just stop testing products to determine whether they are safe for use—that's a logical extreme. Instead, Canada should take steps to adopt alternative ways of ensuring the products being sold to the people are safe. We need to look no further than the European Union to find some of these alternative methods to testing on animals.

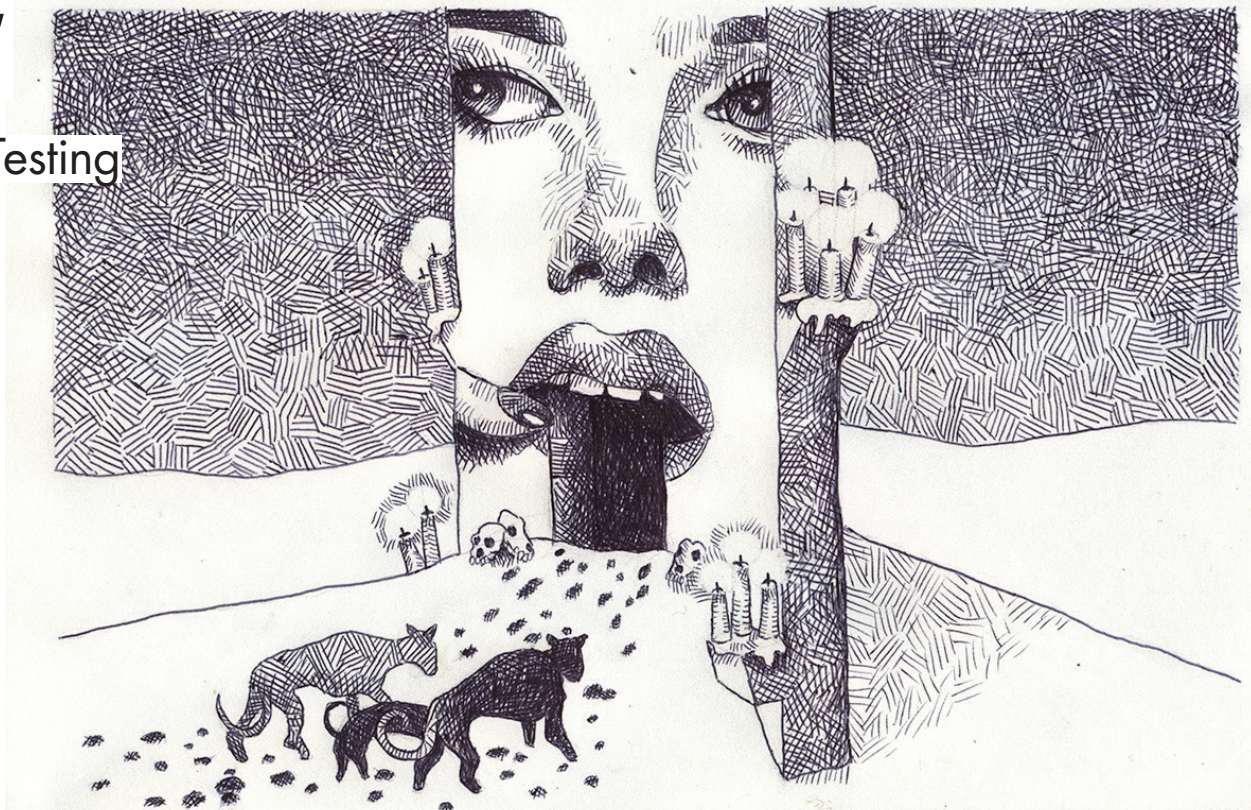
First, some history: since 2005, the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing has had the goal of replacing, reducing and refining the role of animals for testing by using alternatives that they call "better and more predictive."

They've been effective, too. In 2013, the EPAA banned the testing of cosmetic products on animals. The European Union spent 238 million euros from 2007 to 2011 to facilitate the transition from animal testing to alternative testing methods.

The methods that have been put forward by the EU and the EPAA are still highly effective and highly specialized.

There's in vitro testing, which is testing that is done directly on cells in a laboratory. Experimenting on the cells directly instead of on the cells of a living creature allows for more accurate testing than simply seeing if a lab mouse dies when you apply an anti-age cream to it.

In vitro testing allows the observation of the reactions at a cellular level, leading to a more complete understanding of what exactly is going on. If the mouse dies as a result of the experiment, many things can have contributed to its death. The chemical itself may have killed it, but so too could have stress or malnutrition.



NICO HOLZMANN @hangedmagpie

Furthermore, we test on animals, usually mammals, because of their genetic similarity to humans. We do not perform toxicity tests on humans because if they die, then the laboratory has killed a human. One can see why that's a problem.

These tests are usually accurate, but there is always a chance humans may not react the same way other mammals do to the same product. Cell testing, meanwhile, allows scientists to test these same chemicals on human cells. We can directly and accurately determine what happens to human cells when they are exposed to this chemical.

Another method put into use in conjunction with in vitro testing is the predominant usage of already widely used—and thus widely tested—chemicals. By using chemicals that have already been tested using in vitro or other methods, it is unnecessary to physically test the chemicals again, as the data already exists.

For example, cosmetic companies already know that putting Pyrithione zinc, an important component of Head and Shoulders shampoo, is perfectly fine for humans. As such, they don't have to test it each time to determine whether this time it will be safe as an ingredient in shampoo.

This same logic is applied for newer, more complex chemicals being used by the cosmetics industry. By already knowing how some chemicals react with other chemicals and the human body, cosmetic companies can reliably predict their effects on humans, and thus they avoid having to test on animals.

What's even better for Canada is that they do not have to

develop all these new methods for themselves. They already exist, and are already being widely used. Canadian cosmetic companies only have to adopt these new methods and adapt their research and development accordingly, which is a cumbersome but realistic task.

Of course, the situations that have permitted the EU to adopt these regulations are not the same situations Canada faces. Canada isn't part of a large economic union made up of many Western countries that can put large amounts of money into quickly transitioning its cosmetic industry from animal testing to these new modern testing methods.

With the number of cosmetic products developed and marketed in Canada by companies from the United States, where animal testing is also legal, an immediate ban on selling and marketing these products is not realistic unless the United States is also involved in eliminating animal testing.

Rather, the Canadian government should start the process of moving on from animal testing as soon as possible. Companies must be given time to make the switch to these new and more humane methods to ensure they are put in place correctly.

Perhaps a deadline of five years can be given to these companies to allow them to convert to the new methods. One thing is for sure: the sooner Canada implements these alternative methods to the cruel, archaic methods of animal testing, the sooner incidents like those from earlier this month will be nothing more than a stain on our past.

THE LINK'S BIG MOVE

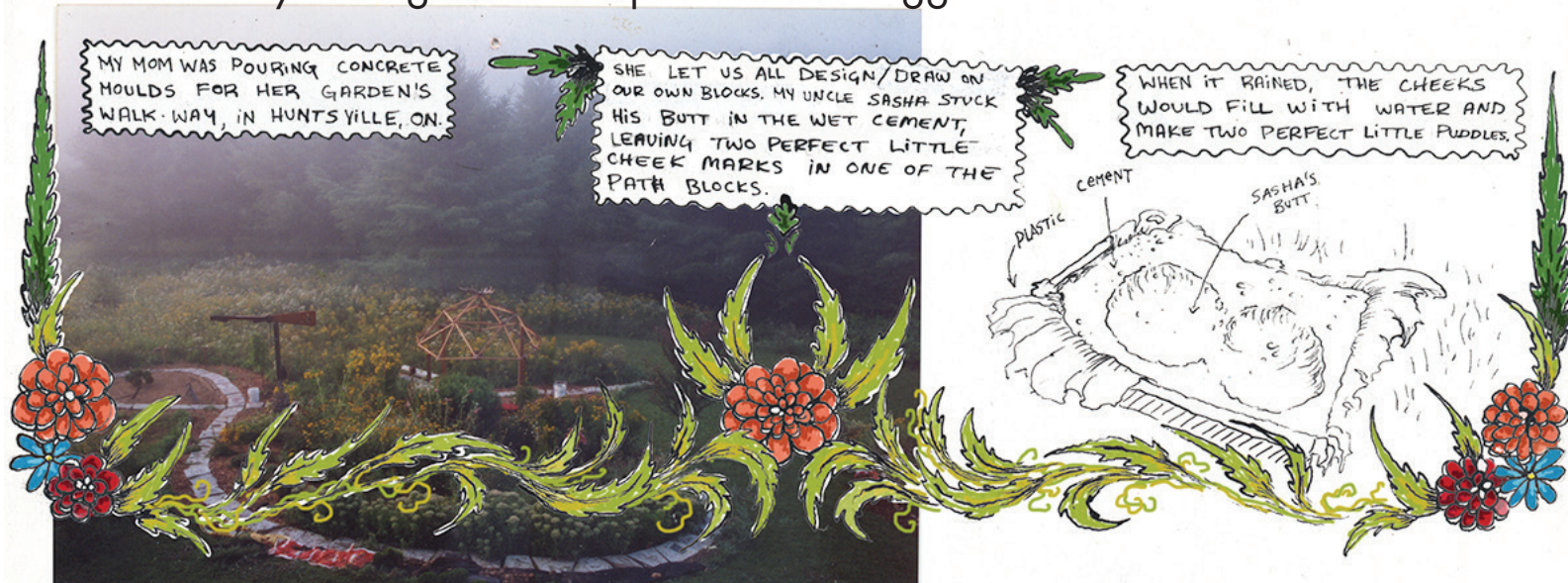
Journalism is a changing field. Over the past years, we've watched as major newspapers transition to online-only, and others have shut down entirely. And while newspapers are struggling, magazines are booming, becoming more and more prominent in the industry.

It's a brave new world for the media, and *The Link* is no exception to that rule. So after lots of reflection as a team, we've decided that we'd like to jump into the change. We've created a plan to transition *The Link* from a weekly newspaper to a source of daily online content, in order to better get you breaking news and up-to-the-minute updates. But we won't stop printing! We'll be putting out a slick monthly magazine with in-depth features.

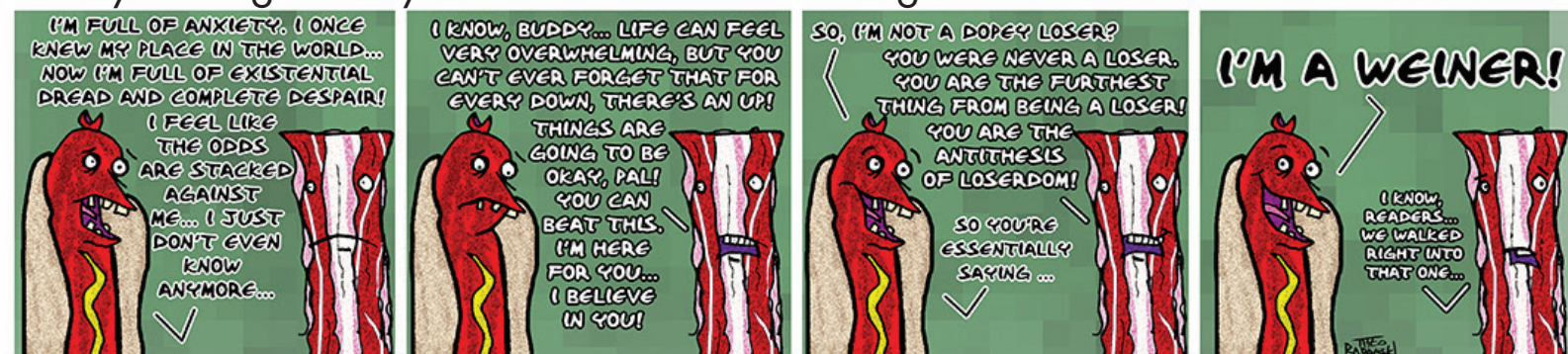
It's a big change, and it's not one that we want to make alone. That's why we're going to be discussing and voting on our plan at *The Link's* Annual General Assembly this Thursday.

Annual General Assembly
4:00 p.m., Thursday March 30
The Link office—Room 649 of the Hall Building, SGW Campus

Mo Maudlin by Morag Rahn-Campbell @madd.egg



Hastily Put Together by Theo Radomski @flannelogue



Drunk Dial by Bronson Smillie @bronsosaurus



Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



The Epic Adventures of Every Man by Every Man





The Link's Take on the CSU Elections and Referendum Questions

The Concordia Student Union elections are now underway. From March 28 to March 30, undergraduate students will be asked to vote for the next team of elected officials and referendum questions.

Before explaining our take on the situation, we want to make it clear that our managing editor Jon Milton—the brother of Alexander Milton, a candidate for *Team Connect*—left the newsroom during our discussion surrounding a possible CSU team endorsement.

After having reviewed every team that is running in these elections, we have come to the conclusion that we will not be endorsing any of them. We did not feel like there was a clear, ideal candidate who stood out among the rest—but that doesn't mean that we feel that the candidates don't have anything positive to offer.

On the other hand, as a team and based on our past reporting, we have collectively decided to endorse certain referendum questions.

On a Sanctuary Campus: Yes

In a past editorial published on Nov. 28, we mentioned that we are in favour of a CSU motion calling on Concordia to become a sanctuary campus. In that motion, they demanded that the university not collaborate nor provide information on students or faculty to the Canadian Border Services Agency. They

also demanded that the CBSA not be allowed to enter Concordia's campus in order to protect undocumented members of its community.

On Nov. 15, a CBSA patrol vehicle was parked outside Concordia's Hall building, for what Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota called a "courtesy visit." The CSU said that the visit had larger implications and that they were gathering information on a student. This prompted them to add a migrant justice position to their Positions Books. This enables them to discuss becoming a sanctuary campus with the university.

Following that incident, we agree that undocumented students and faculty members from Concordia should be protected.

On a Sustainable Curriculum: Yes

According to CSU Sustainability Coordinator Lana Galbraith, the CSU Positions Book currently focuses on advocating for a sustainability major. If this passes, the CSU will push to have sustainability courses open to all undergraduate students.

As of now, there is nothing in the CSU's mandate regarding the addition of Indigenous-themed courses into the curriculum for all undergraduates. During Canada's 150th anniversary, when we are all looking back at our history, it's important to look at it from all perspectives. Including courses on Indigenous

studies would be a step forward in further understanding the history of our country.

We support this change in the mandate as we think that having more access to courses on sustainability and Indigenous studies would benefit Concordia's undergraduate students.

On the Non-Hierarchical Bylaw Changes: Yes

If passed, the new non-hierarchical structure of the CSU will take some power from the general coordinator—formerly known as president—and distribute it among the CSU's executives. One example is the modification these bylaw changes would bring to the president's decree.

Under current rules, the president would have the power to make decisions on their own by way of decree. Under the CSU's bylaw 7.7—in the president's mandate—the decree would be made if a special council meeting could not be made or if it had not reached quorum.

The proposed change would see bylaw 7.7 taken from the president's mandate and renaming it as the executive's decree. Under the new decree, the general coordinator would require the approval of three other executives to pass.

We think mitigating power from the hands of the general coordinator and dispersing it among the members of the executive team is a positive change, so we support this referendum question.

That being said, it is crucial that there be a follow up on how fairly the power is being distributed. Despite this step towards the right direction, elected officials must be held accountable for their decisions and how they go about functioning within this new environment.

On the Greenhouse Fee-Levy Increase: Abstain

The Concordia Greenhouse is looking to double their fee-levy from 12 cents to 24 cents per credit. The reason for the proposed increase is for the renovations, which they say will cost at least \$240,000. The increase would also fund bursaries for students who would like to participate in programs at the City Farm School.

While we do support the renovations of the Greenhouse, we as a team are not convinced that a fee-levy increase to fund the renovations is the best for students. A fee-levy increase is a permanent deal and renovations are temporary. It would make more sense for them to apply for a grant and rethink their fee-levy increase in order to fund the bursaries they are looking to create.

There were disagreements among our team regarding the ways the Greenhouse hoped to obtain funds.

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Graphic: Morag-Rahn-Campbell @madd.egg

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THE LINK

The Link Publication Society Inc.
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 4 p.m.
 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGA
5. By-law amendments
6. Board of directors report for 2016-2017
7. Presentation of the 2015-2016 financial statements
8. Appointment of the auditor
9. Presentation of financial statements as of the last day of February 2017
10. Presentation of the preliminary budget 2017-2018
11. Election of the board of directors
12. Other business
13. End of the assembly

Concordia undergraduate students who are members in good standing are eligible to attend and vote.

Election of the Board of Directors

The candidates for the two (2) positions, open to members at large are Mathieu D'Amours and Laura Lalonde.

The candidates for the two (2) positions, open to members of the community who have had *Link* staff status within the last three (3) years are Brandon Blagdon-Johnston and Marie Brière de la Hosseraye.

Feeling Challenged in Your Job Search?

Experiencing Decreased Motivation?
 Frustrated with the Job Search Process?
 Procrastinating?
 Losing Confidence?

Join Our Focus Group!

Share your Goals, Fears,
 and Opinions about Navigating
 the Job Hunting Jungle.
 Get Support.
 Shape Your Future.

 **BE PART OF IT!**

Get the Resources, Services and Support **You Need to Succeed!**

Focus group sessions will take place for two hours, once a week, for eight weeks.

Contact us to participate or for more details:

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