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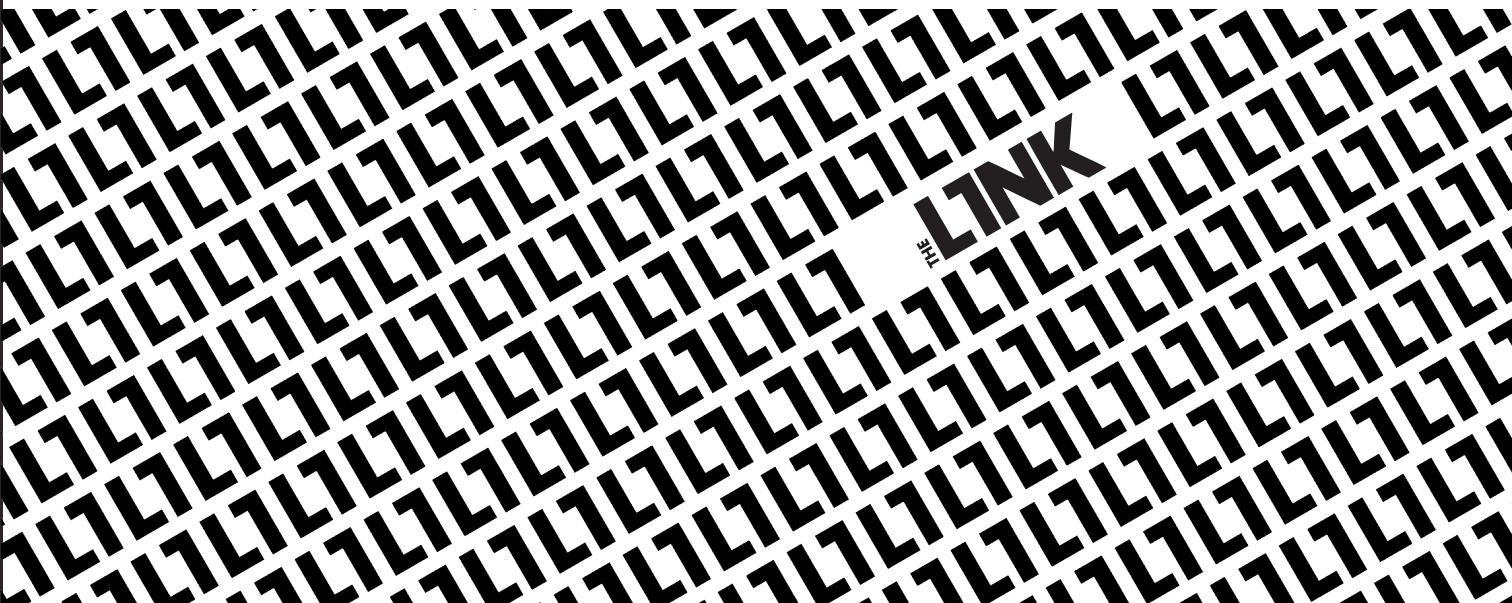

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EDITORIAL

It seems like forever ago now, but last spring *The Link* made a big decision.

We decided that in order to honour the paper's history of providing Concordia students and Montrealers with the news and analysis that matters to them, we would have to make some changes. We would transition from a weekly newspaper into a monthly magazine. Because readers are getting more and more of their news online, we would also focus on putting out rapid-fire online content. We decided to completely change the structure of our outlet.

A few months later, here we are. You have, in your hands, the first ever edition of *The Link* magazine. Just like previous years, the theme of this year's start-of-school issue is Orientation.

While putting this together, we asked ourselves a lot of questions. We wondered what you, the reader, would want to know as you're making your way back from summer and hitting the books once again. We asked ourselves what we would have wanted to know about Concordia, and about Montreal, when we were first starting university.

Then we tried to answer those questions in the articles in this issue.

How do student politics work at Concordia? How can we, as students, navigate the ever-changing city we call home? Where are some cheap places to eat, to see shows, to grab some drinks, to fix our bikes? We hope this issue will help you navigate your life as a Concordia student and a Montrealer, whether or not you're new to the university or to the city.

With over 45,000 students, Concordia is nearly a city in itself—complete with its own institutions (some more transparent than others). We hope to demystify them as much of it as possible for you. From corporate influence on the Board of Governors to shake-ups at the Concordia Student Union to increases in your tuition, we've got your back as you try to make sense of it all.

This issue is meant to do more than help you understand the systems around you. We hope that understanding helps move you towards taking action to make your school and your city a better place for everyone. Because the world we live in is changing, whether or not we want it to.

We look into the ways Concordia has, or hasn't, implemented the recommen-

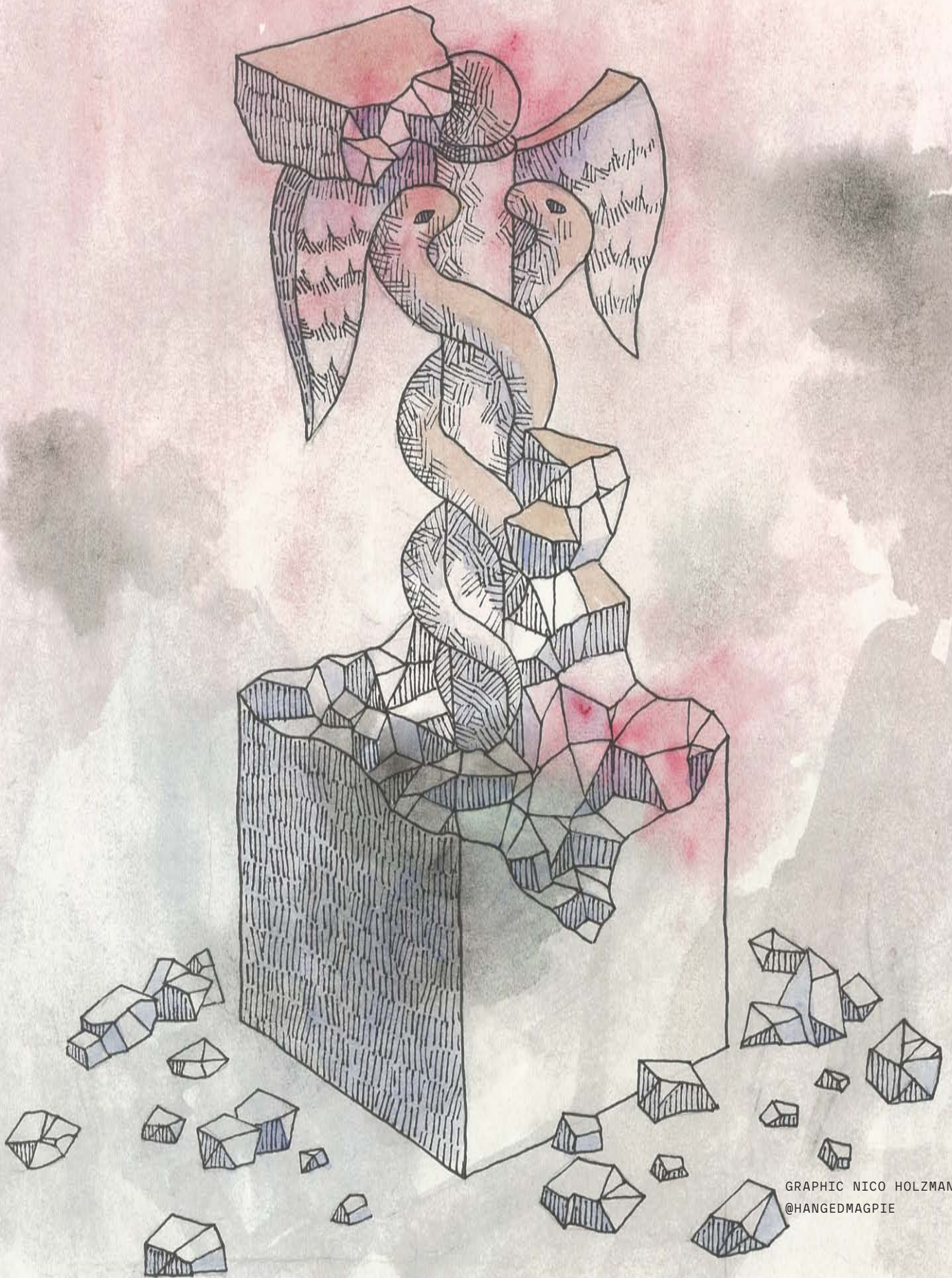
dations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including last year's graduation ceremony beginning with an acknowledgment that our university sits on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka land. We examine the ways that gentrification is affecting our neighborhoods, and the way that communities are working to resist displacement. We wrote a history of how working-class people in Pointe St. Charles created Quebec's first community-run, free clinic. We hope that these stories resonate with you.

There remains much work to be done and no one is going to save us but ourselves. We hope that this magazine can help you, the reader, begin to understand the issues that affect us all, and prepare you to become active members of your communities. We also hope it can help you have some fun along the way.

Being a university student is no joke, and we know it. Throughout the coming year, you'll have some great times, and some hard times, and you'll do a lot of reading. So will we. If we've done our job right, then the writing you find between these covers can help you navigate all this.

Until next time,

Your friends at *The Link*



GRAPHIC NICO HOLZMANN
@HANGEDMAGPIE

People's History of Canada

The Story of the Pointe Saint-Charles Community Clinic

BY SAVANNAH STEWART
@SAVS_EDEN_S

Pointe Saint-Charles is a neighborhood with a history rich in stories of solidarity in the face of adversity, and of ordinary people coming together to defend the things they hold most dear.

The story of the Pointe Saint-Charles Community Clinic, one of its kind in Quebec, is perhaps one of the most remarkable examples of this.

The clinic, founded in 1968, provides residents of the area with a variety of free and accessible health and medical services. Someone who is unaware of the clinic's history and mandate would easily mistake it for one of the many provincially-operated, free-of-charge clinics in Quebec—but the CCPSC has a unique story all of its own.

In the mid-1900s, Pointe Saint-Charles was a community with a high rate of poverty. In the late 19th century, it was the settling ground for Irish migrants fleeing famine. Polish, Ukrainian and Lithuanian migrants then arrived at the beginning of the 20th century. The area's humble beginnings set the tone for the next century, as Pointe Saint-Charles remained a low

income area throughout the 1900s.

In 1968, nursing, sociology and medicine students at McGill University were concerned by the lack of health services in the area, where residents were already disadvantaged. With the help of a few locals, the students set up a clinic they hoped would meet the needs of the neighbourhood.

Their idea for the clinic was simple, but one that proved to be increasingly radical in the years since. They believed that the people of Pointe Saint-Charles were the ones who knew best what services they required and that those people should be involved in the administrators of the clinic in order for it to best fit their needs.

They believed it impossible to provide services to the residents without keeping in mind the poverty, poor working conditions, and difficult

home situations that their patients faced. Instead, they wanted to focus not only on the neighbourhood's health and psychological issues, but also hoped to address the root causes of these issues. Moving forward, they held these convictions close to heart, along with the belief that access to medical treatment is a basic non-negotiable right for all.

In 1970, the CCPSC obtained its charter as a community organization and the first board of directors was created. All members of the board were residents of the neighbourhood, making it a 100 per cent citizen-led clinic.

Soon after, the Quebec government began to plan the creation of free clinics throughout the province, called Local Community Services Centres (CLSC). The CCPSC served as a model for CLSC organization in terms of the type of services that would be offered, but the administration would be very different. CLSCs would be strictly government-

operated instead.

In 1974, CLSCs opened across the province and began receiving provincial funding—but the CCPSC, being an independent clinic, was not eligible. After discussions with the Quebec government, an agreement was reached: the CCPSC would be recognized as an independent clinic operating with the mandate of a CLSC, and as such, it would be able to receive the government funding allocated to these clinics.

However, just a few years later, the province interfered in the workings of the CCPSC. In 1979, the Quebec government attempted to assimilate the clinic into the CLSC system. It would still provide the residents of the neighborhood with free health services, but the clinic would have to turn the administration over to the government.

The community's response was swift. After mobilization efforts from the people of Pointe Saint-Charles, the provincial health minister conceded, recognizing that since the CCPSC

“Their idea for the clinic was simple, but proved to be radical.”

Clinique communautaire de Pointe-Saint-Charles, 500 Ash Av.

was founded before the creation of CLSCs, the Quebec government should respect its unique circumstances.

It was a victory for the CCPSC, but it was just the first in a history of fights to keep the clinic under the administration of those they felt were in the best position to run it.

Once again, in 1992, the clinic faced government interference, threatening its administration. Bill C-120, the new health services bill, presented the clinic with an impossible choice. Either keep their charter as a private community organization and lose their governmental funding, or enter the public sector and become a CLSC, giving up their citizen-led administration.

As the CCPSC faced the greatest threat to its existence yet, the neighbourhood stepped up and proved their devotion and commitment to their community clinic. A petition was signed by almost half the adult population of Pointe Saint-Charles, public assemblies were held with a few hundred people in attendance, and protesters congregated in front of the Ministry of Health and Social Services to defend the unique operation of the CCPSC.

Finally, the health minister conceded again. Bill C-120 was amended to protect the circumstances of the CCPSC, thanks to the efforts of the residents and community groups of Pointe Saint-Charles.

The bill still forced changes on the clinic though, giving them more fixed guidelines for the distribution of the funds they receive, therefore making it harder for the clinic to prioritize the real needs of the people of Pointe Saint-Charles.

Of course, only a few years later, reforms in the provincial public health sector caused more disruption for the clinic.

In 2004, the Charest government sought to drastically change the orga-



nization of health and social services in Quebec. The new Bill 25 led to the creation of Health and Social Services Centres (CSSS), which are reference points set up throughout the province meant to guide those seeking help for health or psychosocial problems. CSSSs merged together CLSCs, hospitals and long-term care facilities (CHSLDs) that were in the same area, providing residents with access to all the services available near them.

The CCPSC was slated to merge with various other health centres to create the CSSS Sud-Ouest-Verdun. The problem with that was the clinic would then be financed by that CSSS directly and according to their priorities. The clinic's board of directors would not be able to go against the demands of their CSSS, even if their priorities differed from the needs of the neighbourhood.

Protests from both workers of the clinic and residents of the area ensued, just as they had over a decade earlier. By then, Pointe Saint-Charles was all too familiar with this fight.

After two years of tense discussions between the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the CSSS Sud-Ouest-Verdun and the CCPSC, an agreement was reached. The clinic went back to being funded by the Ministry as an independent clinic with a CLSC man-

date and entered in partnership with the CSSS to ensure that its clientele had access to the wide range of services available to them. Once again, the clinic was victorious in their battle to keep their organization in the hands of the people.

Today, the clinic offers a variety of services to the people of Pointe Saint-Charles. A walk-in clinic, parenting courses, psychological health services, access to contraception, vaccinations, needle exchanges, and even a birthing house are just some of the many valuable resources available.

Board members are volunteers elected by members of the clinic. Anyone living in the area can register as a member and cast a vote in their yearly general assemblies, and board members have a responsibility to assure that the decisions of the votes are respected.

The clinic's success shows in the numbers. In 2011, 5,647 people accessed the CCPSC's services, about 43 per cent of the population of Pointe Saint-Charles at the time.

To the members of the community, the CCPSC is more than a clinic—it is proof of the pride, determination, and solidarity that exists in abundance in the people of Pointe Saint-Charles.

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Discover Café Pacedfika and the Meraki Whole Person Health Centre

Not-for-profit Café Funds Only Trans Youth Clinic in Quebec

BY SHANNON CARRANCO

A fifteen minute walk from the Concordia downtown campus is the relatively new Café Pacedfika.

This little café has a vegan and vegetarian menu, uses coffee beans from direct trade, and most importantly, is a not-for-profit.

Café Pacedfika opened its doors in November 2016. The owners are two doctors, Shuvo Ghosh and Andreea Gorgos, a charming power couple who also operate the Meraki Whole Person Health Centre clinic, which is located just next door to the café.

The MWPHC is the only clinic in Quebec that offers medical and psychological services that are specifically catered to trans youth. While the clinic's medical services are covered by RAMQ, Quebec's health insurance plan, psychological services are not. These services can be costly to patients seeking help, which is why Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos decided to open up their own not-for-profit café and direct all of the profits towards funding services at the MWPHC.

Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos, both pediatric doctors at the Montreal Children's Hospital, started the MWPHC in 2015 when the Children's moved to its current location at the Glen site.

In 2015, the Couillard government cut \$583 million from its provincial health care spending, which forced the McGill University Health Centre to cut an additional \$21 million budget, in addition to the already substantial \$50 million in cuts from the previous year.

When the Children's Hospital

announced it was cutting programs offered to trans youth, youth with developmental problems, and gender variant youth, Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos took it upon themselves to open their own clinic, which would continue to offer these specialized programs to their patients.

Dr. Gorgos explained that if their patients, who are predominantly children and young adults, are seeking psychological services but do not have private insurance, they must either pay out of pocket or be put on a waiting list at a hospital.

"It could be a two or three year waiting list, and they might never get seen," Dr. Gorgos said.

That's where the café comes in.

Since 2015, Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos watched the space next to their clinic change hands over and over again. The small but cozy space right off of Lambert Closse St. is owned by an accountant, Tony Bertucci, whose office is directly above the clinic. According to Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos, Bertucci had a hard time finding the right 'fit' to occupy the space.

At one point, a gym operated out of the building. With the MWPHC waiting room right next to the space, according to Dr. Ghosh, patients and their family members had the unfortunate experience of having derogatory slurs said to them by gym patrons on multiple occasions.

After the gym folded, Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos seized the opportunity to use the space for their own business: Café Pacefika.

The idea was to create a café and have all the profits go towards funding programs at the MWPHC that are not covered by RAMQ.

Since the business is relatively new, they haven't gotten there yet. But Café Pacefika is well on its way to offering substantially cheaper, and potentially free, services for children with developmental issues, psychological and occupational therapy and speech pathology.

"Our aspiration is that as soon as we reach some profitability, it's actually all directed into the clinic. But we haven't quite hit that point yet, in our first seven months," Dr. Ghosh said in July.

The two discussed opening up their own café for about 10 years. The bubbly and positive couple had travelled extensively and had been to cafés all over the world. Dr. Ghosh is originally from Chicago and moved to Montreal to do his fellowship at the Montreal Children's Hospital through McGill University.

Dr. Gorgos was born in Romania, where she lived until the age of 15, when she immigrated to Montreal with her family. Dr. Ghosh speaks roughly nine languages, Dr. Gorgos six.

They have big plans for Café Pacefika. Both vegetarians, the couple wants to

Patrons can find vegan and vegetarian food options at Café Pacefika, as well as coffee from direct trade beans.

offer vegetarian- and vegan-friendly options to customers. They also want it to be as environmentally friendly as possible, which is why they hired Jeff Helberg to be their resident chef.

Helberg, a recent Concordia graduate, volunteers at the Concordia Food Coalition and is a collective member at Food Against Fascism, an organization dedicated to battling the rise of the far-right through the promotion and distribution of free hot meals and pamphlets on anti-fascism and social justice around the Concordia University downtown campus.

"One of the goals coming on was to make everything as organic and local as possible. Because we're a not-for-profit, we have a bit more leeway to be able to take those kinds of risks," Helberg said.

Helberg expressed how important it was for him to work for a not-for-profit where funds were going towards a good cause.

"For me, working for any kind of business that's not only not-for-profit, but is also helping people and is socially rooted really makes a big difference," Helberg said. "I like knowing that the work I'm putting in is not only appreciated by the clients, but is also going towards something that isn't solely rooted in [capitalism]."

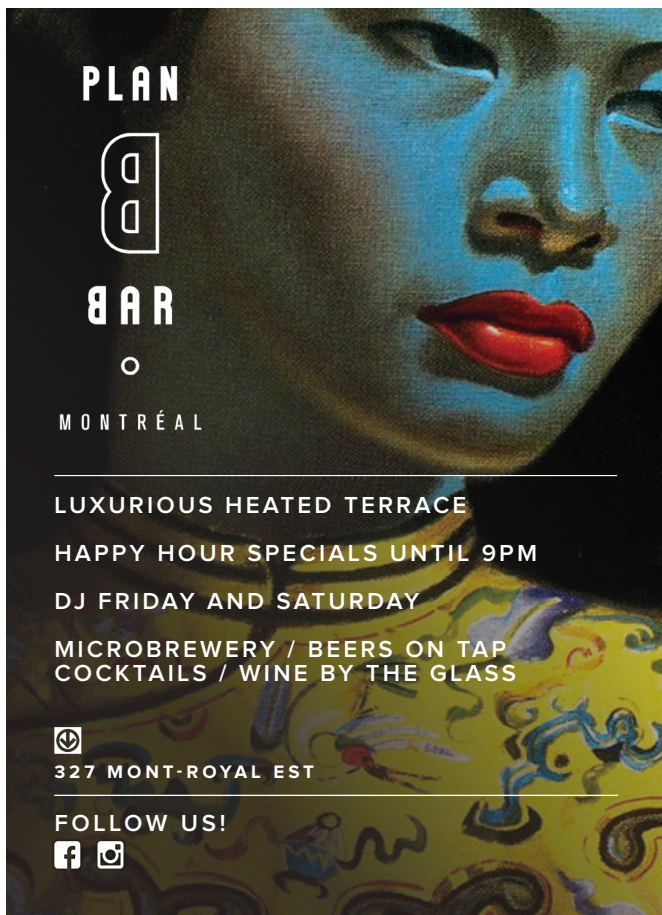
The café's best sellers are currently a mushroom ragu, a ratatouille sandwich, and their avocado toast. Helberg plans on revamping their menu, adding a dal toast with mango chutney and the organic scones that he sells at the Concordia Farmers Market.

According to Helberg, the café gets their coffee beans using direct trade, a term generally meaning that farmers are paid fairer wages and trade is beneficial and transparent for both the farmer and distributor.

Café Pacefika has two distributors. Kai Coffee Hawaii, a company which is located in Maui, Hawaii and owned by friends of Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos, is one. The company grows their beans locally and hand roasts them. The second distributor is an Italian company called Caffè Bertoni, and is operated by Bertucci and his family.

The café itself is welcoming and cozy. It has warm lighting and a definite "Hawaii







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island” decor. The baristas are friendly and down to earth. Lucas Larochelle is currently studying design at Concordia University. Not only is Larochelle a barista at Café Pacefika, but Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos asked them to help out with marketing and the design for the café’s decor.

According to Larochelle, all of the baristas earn \$12 an hour plus tips.

“I don’t think I’ve ever made more than minimum wage working at a café,” Larochelle said. “It’s not an enormous difference, but even as a gesture it’s nice that they value your time.”

Larochelle is involved with Pervers/Cité, a coalition of radical queer individuals who organize workshops, events and panel discussions. Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Gorgos held three workshops for Pervers/Cité at Café Pacefika in August.

Like Helberg, Larochelle expressed how good it feels to be working at a not-for-profit.

“We had a two hour interview, and I think I cried a little bit,” Larochelle said. “Just because of the work that they’re doing with the clinic and how helpful that would have been for me [when I was a kid]. I’m a non-binary person, so it would have been amazing to have this sort of resource growing up.”

Maria Scolack is the clinical coordinator of the Gender Variance Program at the

MWPHC. With a masters in educational psychology from McGill University, Scolack first did an internship with Dr. Ghosh at the Children’s Hospital. When the clinic was looking for a coordinator, Scolack jumped on because she had already worked with many of the MWPHC’s patients at the Children’s Hospital.

“I think there’s definitely a lack resources [for trans youth] in the province,” Scolack said. “When you try to go the public route there’s a ton of wait lists. And access to private services isn’t feasible for many families, so the idea of being able to cover some of that [with the café] is really great.”

Scolack explained that because the MWPHC is the only clinic in the province of Quebec to offer specific services to trans youth, they’ve ended up with extremely long waitlists.

“When we try to refer outside [of the clinic] to CLSCs, even just for therapy or any kind of follow up, it’s the topic [of trans youth healthcare] that seems to be very difficult to grasp. And there also doesn’t seem to be much interest in getting to know more about it,” Scolack said.

She explained that recently the clinic had tried reaching out to family doctors in Montreal to see if they’d be willing to learn more about trans youth care, but they were met with apathetic responses.

Right now, the MWPHC employs 10 part-time physicians. In terms of services for trans youth, the clinic offers psychosocial support, the initial assessment and identification process, and eventually hormonal therapy and transitional support for older adolescents. The clinic does not offer surgical transitions to their patients.

The clinic also offers occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, psychological services for children with developmental issues, psychosocial or behavioural difficulties, or any other specific health condition for members of marginalized communities.

Unfortunately, most of these services can be costly. When funding from Café Pacefika starts coming in, patients will be able to receive these services for substantially lower costs.

“We’re not going to have to say ‘Well, you’re going to need to either go on a waiting list somewhere, or pay out of pocket, or use your private insurance,’” Dr. Gorgos said. “We’ll just set up an appointment with our speech pathologist or our occupational therapist, and then they just show up. So it would ultimately take the financial exchange right out of the equation. That’s the goal.”

PHOTOS LILY BENNETT @5FT25



Doctors Shuvo Ghosh and Andreea Gorgos, owners of Café Pacefika and the Meraki Health Centre, pay special attention to trans youth.

WOMEN ON THE LINE

Navigating “Bro Culture” and Changing the Terms of the Professional Kitchen

BY MEGAN FLOTTORP

Kat Lov recalls an incident early in her career when she was working in a predominantly male kitchen.

Coming home after a grueling day at work, she continued to practice her kitchen skills until she went to bed. Still devoted, she returned to work the next morning—only to be confronted by the cringey, sexist remark of her colleague.

“So your hollandaise sauce split because you’re on your period?” he asked her snidely.

Lov admits, this was an extremely blatant example of the ignorant sexism that she’s experienced working in kitchens. Now head chef at the Forum Sports Bar, she still remembers that despite significant contributions to the many kitchens she worked in, she was constantly reminded that her gender influenced the recognition her work received.



“It’s not a person that sustains a kitchen, it’s an entire crew. You miss one part and the whole machine falls apart.”

Kat Lov

The sad truth of it is that women have always been excluded from professional kitchens. Void of femininity and any association with “women’s work,” professional kitchens are generally considered high-stakes, economically driven, and male-dominant environments.

Whether you study at a culinary institution or on the job, if you’re a woman, you’re still going to be a minority in most kitchens. The issue of gender disparity doesn’t end there, either. *Time Magazine* raised significant controversy in 2013 when it published an article titled “The 12 Gods of Food,” which was noticeably absent of a single female chef.

Barriers within the industry include skewed gender-based perceptions of women’s skills and capabilities, plus a never-ending struggle for work-life balance. Perhaps more significantly these days, is the challenge of navigating a working environment that one chef says is fuelled by “bro culture.”

Leigh Roper, head chef of Montreal’s successful grill and market restaurant Foxy, explains that because bro behaviour is often labeled as a “playful mentality,” it often avoids being blatantly called-out as sexism.

“I never felt that any of the guys I worked with doubted my ability as a chef, but there was a comradeship between them that I just couldn’t participate in because I’m a woman,” Roper explained.

Despite moments of isolation working the line, Roper had the opportunity to develop her skills and confidence working with other women throughout her career.

As Lov testifies though, not everyone shares that experience.

Traditional within kitchen culture,

when a chef is promoted, they’re typically given a black jacket. In one restaurant Lov worked at, she got the promotion, but was denied the jacket.

“They basically told me to my face that I would be the person in charge, but they were giving the black jacket to a guy. He would have to answer to me, but it was just for aesthetics. It was very backhanded, and I just handed in my two weeks’ notice.”

Resistance against unfair treatment has led to many women starting their own businesses. To set a precedent for behavior in her kitchen at Foxy, Roper emphasizes the importance of laying down a certain standard of conduct from the get-go.

“Busy kitchen service is extremely, extremely stressful,” she says. “There is a way of dealing that still allows you to act like a human being though. Foxy is like that. We respect one and other. It’s not just a bunch of animals running around throwing hot pans at each other.”

Lov’s patience and endurance have paid off, too—and now she’s running the show. The importance of her staff is not lost on her, though.

“It’s not a person that sustains a kitchen, it’s an entire crew. Everybody. From your dishwasher to your chef. Everybody in between sustains that kitchen. You miss one part and the whole machine falls apart.”

The resilience of these chefs, and many others, is what enables them to change the way things are done. Like the infamous chef Julia Child, who fearlessly endured the doubts cast her way, women’s presence in kitchens today is due to the fact that they refused to leave.

Gratitude is owed to the countless women who worked as prep cooks, dishwashers and line chefs, whose names may never grace the cover of a cookbook, but whose refusal to be edged out of the field has been just as important.

Every cook broke into the industry in a different way. For Laura Blondeau, she started in cafés and pizza joints. Blondeau never attended culinary school, but by working her way up through the ranks she is now the kitchen manager at Montreal’s popular breakfast establishment, Fabergé.

Subverting the normative assump-

Head chef Kat Lov works at the Forum Sports Bar. Like many women, she’s had to face ignorant, sexist male behaviour at work.

PHOTO BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIANLAPUZ



Leigh Roper is the head chef of Foxy, in Griffintown. In her experience, garnering the respect for your work from colleagues doesn't translate to being respected as a woman.

PHOTO LILY BENNETT @5FT25

tion, Blondeau presides over a kitchen staff comprised mostly of men—men who call her “Mr. Laura.”

Having found a way of breaking down the link between camaraderie and male chauvinism, Blondeau explains, “Sure, there is a lot of teasing that takes place in the kitchen, and yes—sex might come up, but sexual harassment? Definitely not.”

She thinks her thick skin, hard work, and honesty are what has gotten her to the top. Blondeau knows she can hold her own in the kitchen, but says it's also important to be able to ask for help when you need it.

She recalls an episode earlier in her career when she was tasked with making cheesecakes during a busy night. She had never made one and no one was around to show her the ropes. A chef from a neighbouring restaurant ran over during his service and asked to borrow a piece of equipment. When she frankly admitted that she was trying to make a cheesecake and had no idea what she was doing, he surprised her by forgetting about his own emergency and took a few minutes to show her the recipe, which allowed her to impress her team, get the job done, and acquire a new skill.

This little act of solidarity might indicate that male chefs are becoming less territorial, and also speaks to an emerging narrative where more and more male chefs are recognising that their first kitchen training came from their mothers and grandmothers. Roper states that an appreciation of female wisdom, when it comes to preparing delicious food, is an increasingly important part of discourse.

That being said, you still need to be tough to survive in the industry.

“I’ve sometimes been treated like garbage in kitchens,” says Roper, “but everyone gets treated like garbage in kitchens. As women, we’ve shown that we can deal with the shit that gets thrown at us in the same way men do.”

Female presence is growing within this landscape. As a new precedent is established, it seems that every kitchen has to work to develop its own set of rules. Whether this leads to changing what it means to be one of the “bros” or challenging the entire dynamic, women are breaking the barriers in this male dominated scene.

WITH FILES FROM SHANNON CARRANCO

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ST-LAURENT



Laughing in the Face of Sexism

Montreal Comedians on Being “The Girl” in a Male-Dominated Industry

BY SHELBY THEVENOT AND SHANNON CARRANCO
@SHELBY_THEVENOT

In 2017, women are still a minority in comedy.

Approximately 30 per cent of English language shows at the Just For Laughs festival this year were performed by women, and many of those comedians were booked on Off-JFL, which the festival brands as its “alternative, edgy sibling.”

You would think that women doing stand-up wouldn’t be thought of as alternative and edgy, but more often than not, comedy shows in Montreal only feature one or two female comics on a lineup.

The Link asked four renowned Montreal comedians to shed some light on why they’re often the only women on stage, and share their own personal experiences with discrimination, sexism and what it’s like to work in such a male dominated scene.

Answers have been edited for clarity and length.

TRANNA WINTOUR

The self proclaimed happy, raunchy, and pop-culture obsessed Tranna Wintour has been doing comedy for four years. The Montrealer and Concordia University graduate focuses on producing comedy that encourages female and LGBTQ empowerment and communicates trans experiences.

THE LINK: Why do you think it’s important to encourage LGBTQ positivity by using comedy as a medium?

TW: In terms of mainstream visibility and mainstream success, it’s very hard when you’re doing comedy as a minority that hasn’t been embraced by the mainstream yet. I think when the transgender experience is depicted in media, whether it’s film or TV, it’s always done in a very dramatic way. It’s usually a sad story or a challenging story, but I think that there is a lot of humour in the trans experience. And I think that it actually translates to a very broad audience. I mostly perform in front of cis-hetero audiences and they get it. Because I think that a lot of the trans experience is also about identity, and that’s universal.

TL: Have you ever experienced any rude comments made by audience members when performing?

TW: In May, there was a show called Queer and Present Danger, which is an LGBTQ comedy show that tours across Canada. They brought it to Montreal and asked me to co-produce. We put together an amazing lineup. So everything went really well that weekend, but then the very last show was a late-night show on a Saturday, and for whatever reason we just had a very hostile audience. Just a lot of very homophobic and misogynistic people.

TL: Why do you think this audience was so hostile?

TW: I don’t think they knew what the show was because obviously if they had, they wouldn’t have been there. There are often a lot of people at late-night comedy shows who are already drunk and are just looking for somewhere to continue their night.

So basically the audience sort of hijacked the show, they were very aggressive, they said homophobic things to the acts while they were on stage. Some comics were more confrontational with them, others sort of kept doing their thing with blinders on.

TL: How did you handle such a traumatic experience?

TW: After that show I felt like it was important to talk about what had happened. So I made a post about how these comedy shows that aim to empower queer and female voices are so important and so necessary, because this kind of hatred is still happening. And in a city like Montreal, it's easy to take our progress for granted, and it's easy to feel like, "Oh we've come so far, there's no more prejudice," but there is.

It's two very different things, one to be heckled and then another to have hate-speech directed towards you while you're on stage, because as comedians, we all deal with being heckled. And there's always creative ways to deal with that. But as a performer, when you're on stage and you're having hate speech directed at you, that's no longer heckling—that's literally a form of abuse.

KIRSTEN FINCH

Kristen Finch is a Montreal Comic Con emcee, creator of The Pretty Feminist Comedy Show, and a stand-up comedian of five years. Finch incorporates nerdiness and silliness into her hard hitting feminist routine, while also remaining relatable and down to earth to her audience.

TL: Can you describe any experiences you've had where someone was rude or sexist towards you?

KF: One time a host introduced me as "the prettiest one on the lineup." I was the only lady. So that was pretty annoying. It was only my third or fourth time up so, of course, I bombed. And then he went up on stage and said, "Well folks, at least she was pretty."

TL: Why do you think there aren't more female performers?



Acclaimed comedian Tranna Win-tour performing a set at Kafein café-bar during Montreal Pride, Aug. 15, 2017.

PHOTO BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIANLAPUZ

KF: One reason might be going to a place where there aren't other women. When you go up and you are the only woman on the lineup, if you bomb, then 100 per cent of the women that the audience saw that night bombed. Whereas if you're a guy and there are ten guys in a night, and four of them bombed, then 60 per cent were great and 40 per cent were not.

When a guy bombs, it's like, "Oh that comedian was bad," whereas when a lady bombs it's "That lady comedian was bad." They apply gender to female comedians but they don't apply them to male comedians. So I think those are all sorts of discouraging factors.

CHANTAL DESJARDINS

Chantal Desjardins is a jack-of-all-trades in the media industry. Desjardins started her career in her hometown Winnipeg, MB where she was a TV sports anchor. Now

she makes Montreal traffic-jams bearable on the radio, is an anchor at Sportsnet, has her own voiceover business, and, last but not least, does stand-up.

TL: Have you ever been told "women aren't funny?"

CD: All the time. You get it more often than you think you would at this stage of the game. But usually it's from ignorant beer-drinking, truck-driving, uneducated guys that don't really know, so you just have to brush it off.

I feel like you have to have a thick skin in this business anyway. Comments like that also feed your motivation to show them that girls actually are funny.

TL: Why do you feel women are under-represented in stand-up?

CD: I feel that a lot of it has to do with the

Left: Just For Laughs Homegrown Comics co-winner D.J. Mausner.

Right: Sara Meleika, diversity coordinator for Ladyfest, says the festival allows her voice to be heard.

PHOTOS EVELYN HANSEN-GILLIS



way we're brought up. Even today, it's often the guys that are the class clowns. Girls typically aren't. I grew up with a lot of girls who ended up being engineers and architects and doctors, but I didn't grow up with a lot of girls who were class clowns. But I was a clown. I was the fattest little kid with the worst haircut—and I was funny.

TL: Why do you think all-women comedy shows are necessary?

CD: It's kind of like having a fundraising activity for your own sex, and just saying, "Girls are funny!" These events will build momentum and eventually there will be more and more of these that it won't even be an issue to have an all-female comedy show.

Eventually there will just be so many funny girls, and you'll see that four out of five comics are female and you won't even blink an eye. I think that's the ultimate goal, that you'll see that kind of lineup and it won't even raise an eyebrow.

D.J. MAUSNER

D.J. Mausner is the co-winner of this year's Just For Laughs Homegrown Competition, along with Courtney Gilmore (and the first two women to do so). Originally from Toronto, D.J. Mausner has been doing stand up since she was 16 years old. The outspoken comedian picked up sketch comedy two or three years later. Now she runs the sketch comedy show *Joketown*, and co-hosts the *Experts* podcast, which explores the intricacies of the Canadian comedy scene with popular and thoughtful women in the industry.

TL: Have you ever encountered sexism within the industry in Montreal?

DJM: When I've dated other comedians it feels like they're kind of instigating this sense of competition, and this has never happened in any of my relationships with people who weren't in comedy. A dude that I was dating who also did stand up was booking a [comedy] show and he was trying to look for more women and make it a more equal line up. I was like, "Oh well why didn't you ask me," and he was like, "Oh I just don't really consider you a stand-up [comedian]."

TL: Do you think this is an isolated incident or is this rampant throughout the community?

DJM: Pretty much every comedian I know calls himself a feminist, but they're not doing nearly as much as they could be

doing to actively support women in the community. It's more than just putting two women on your lineup of ten people, and it's more than just being like "I think women are funny." It's attempting to educate themselves on why this institutional pressure exists, and how it plays out and how it may affect them.

TL: Is this mentality changing at all?

DJM: There's a show [I did] called *50-50* for Off-JFL. It's half improvised and half scripted and the entire cast is women. The producer [was] an improviser and a great comedian named Vance Gillis. He decided that he just wanted it to be an all-female cast, and he doesn't market it that way at all. It's just the case, which I think is really cool. He gave that opportunity to a bunch of really great comedians and actors, who I think should have that opportunity, and who all happen to be women.

LADYFEST: DEIRDRE TRUDEAU AND SARA MELEIKA

For the last three years, Ladyfest has elevated and celebrated female talent in the comedy industry in Montreal. Ladyfest gives stage time to women of all backgrounds, and holds inclusivity as its highest priority. This year, Ladyfest will be showcasing a variety of homegrown comedians from Sept. 4 to 10. Festival Director Deirdre Trudeau and Diversity Consultant Sara Meleika shared their views on why an all female festival is crucial in Montreal.

TL: Why do you think it's important to have an all female comedy festival?

DT: It's so very important to me to highlight and celebrate the insane amount of talent in this city and in this country who just happen to be part of a certain half of the population. Female comics receive significantly less time and recognition and respect than they deserve. We're just trying to do our part to tip the scales a little, and have a gosh darn good time doing so!

SM: Comedy is art, it is personal and stylized, and thus each individual finds themselves being drawn to



certain comedians and not others. There are comedians whose voices might resonate deep within you, and others whom you might wish to quickly dismiss.

In order to engage in this at all, there must be the opportunity to be exposed to a range of different kinds of comedy. Moreover, as a Middle-Eastern/North African woman I don't always see myself reflected in many traditional female comedians, and thus might have been led to believe that there is no room for me in comedy. However, at an event like Ladyfest, I would finally have the chance to see that there are so many different female voices in comedy, and surely mine could be heard too.

TL: How is Ladyfest different from other comedy festivals in Montreal, other than only showcasing female talent?

DT: So far as I know—and please correct me if I'm wrong—we are the only festival that allots an equal amount of time to every type of comedy we can get our hands on. Over ten days we have stand up, sketch, improv, and storytelling shows, as well as variety nights for anything and everything in between. If it's funny, we want it.

SM: Ladyfest has a beautiful spirit of wanting to learn and grow in becoming a community event that hears many voices and incorporates them all. It is truly a warm, generous atmosphere to be in, where steps towards creating as inclusive a festival as possible are really being sought out in a genuine way. Ladyfest also offers a great variety of comedy—it's not simply a stand up, sketch, or improv festival—but rather it compiles some of the best of all of those genres into one festival.

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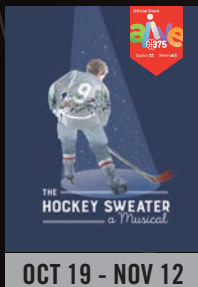
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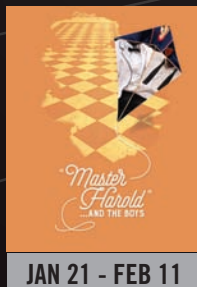
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WELCOME!



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

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

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

Alan Shepard
President
alan.shepard@concordia.ca

CONCORDIA.CA



A Guide to Concordia's Student Clubs

Get Started on Discovering Concordia's Finest Student Groups

SHARON RENOLD @RENOLDSHARON

As any fun-loving, hip, in-the-know Concordia student would tell you, university is the place to find your people. The kind of people who get you, the ones who won't scoff at your love for dodgeball or slightly outdated passion for Pokémon. Folks, it's time to find your clubs.

CONCORDIA E-SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Gamers unite! Hosting competitive e-sporting events and casual gaming sessions are the Concordia E-sports Association's specialty. While they've had a big focus on competitive gaming in the past, the 2017-2018 will be a year of more amateur events. They hold their own tournaments and events, and compete in local and international competitions.

THE MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

In case the name doesn't give it away, this club is geared towards Muslim students, but many of their activities are open to all. The MSA can organize a horseback riding, snowboarding, and barbecuing road trip like nobody's business.

They also organize Islam Awareness Week, a bi-annual event with tons of activities to clarify misconceptions about Islam.

AUTODIDACTS CONCORDIA THEATER CLUB

Whether you're a theatre amateur or centre-stage professional, ACT Club wants your enthusiasm and creativity! Aside from writing and producing their own shows, they also host acting workshops and improv sessions. The club is open to students of all faculties and levels of experience. They also host open auditions for their shows, so everyone is welcome.



UPSTARTERS CONCORDIA ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB

Upstarters is only two years old. They host events and set up students with resources to put their business dreams into action. The club has an ongoing partnership with District 3, a Concordia-supported entrepreneurship workshop. Together, they host a six-week startup training program that features professional entrepreneur panels, workshops and activities.

AFRICAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF CONCORDIA

Here is your chance to get educated about Africa's many cultures, or find your home away from home as a student of African descent. Open to all, the ASAC does everything from organizing academic events to radical dance parties. Last year they were named the best cultural club by the Concordia Student Union.

CONCORDIA OUTDOORS

Get ready for all the outdoorsy-ness that you can handle! Hiking, swimming, exploring, and all things

nature await for students and non-students alike. If camping under the stars, weekly group runs, and endless road trips are what you're looking for, this is the one for you.

CONCORDIA DODGEBALL LEAGUE

If a deep-rooted love for competitive ball-throwing has remained in your soul since your high school gym class days, this is the club for you. With organized games every weekend, members enjoy the dodgeball sessions so much that even graduated students keep coming back for games.

CONCORDIA GAMES CLUB

Love board games? So do the members of the Concordia Games Club. They're one of the oldest clubs at school and host weekly gaming get-togethers every week at the Loyola campus. They've got an impressive vintage board game collection which they add to every year, too.

CONCORDIA SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Get your snowsuit on and your skis ready! The CSSC is another great club for enjoying the frosty outdoors. During the winter, they plan frequent trips to slopes for discount rates. And if you're more of a party person, they throw some pretty dope get-togethers.



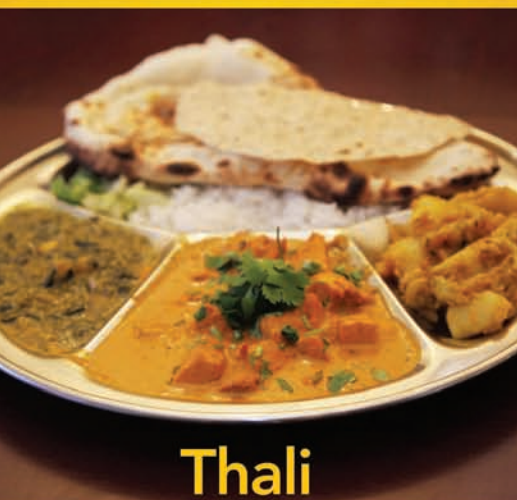
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CHEAP FOOD

SAMMI & SOUPE DUMPLING

1909 ST. CATHERINE ST. W.

Don't tell anyone, but this is a fun place to bring a date if you're trying to seem familiar and comfortable but still fun and surprising. That's because the dumplings here are filled with soup! Also, they're delicious and fresh. Also, it's cheap and filling and fast. What more do you want, geeze.

BIRYANI

1550 BLVD. DE MAISONNEUVE W.

One of the Guy-Concordia restaurants that students sprint past when they're late for class, Biryani is literally under the EV building. It does Indian and Pakistani staples to a tee and the thalis are particularly good value. Pro tip: They only make vegetable biryani on request, so it's likely to be the freshest you can find in the area.

BOUSTAN

2020 CRESCENT ST.

A block east of the Hall building, the original Boustan is a Montreal landmark. Churning out loaded pitas and plates of falafel and shawarma, Boustan's Lebanese fare is cheap and good and right there. Walk over and get a sandwich with

potatoes. Say yes to the garlic sauce.

NILUFAR

1923 ST. CATHERINE ST. W.

Just as known for its super cheap falafel—\$1.87 for a barebones sandwich—as it is for the super friendly woman who sells them—her name is Nilufar, go figure. Stuff the sandwiches with loads of stuff, or try some of the more inventive applications of falafel, like in poutine. Don't worry, It's all delicious.

SNOWDON BAKERY

7385 AVE. HARLEY

Across the train tracks from Loyola Campus, this brick of a building hides the ovens which churn out the breads for the Snowdon Bakeries all around town. Grab the freshest rye, pumpernickel, challah, or boring plain bread for the lowest possible price.

FREE FOOD

PEOPLE'S POTATO

Vegan and wholesome, this soup kitchen collective operates out of the seventh floor of the Hall building. Free lunch is served from 12:30 PM to 2:00 p.m. during the school year—just bring a tupperware. If you can afford to drop a dollar in the tip jar, you should. They deserve it.

HIVE FREE LUNCH

The Hive Cafe at the Loyola Campus offers free veggie/vegan lunches between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. It's sponsored by the CSU because there's so few cheap food options out there.

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Why the hell would you buy your books from the Concordia bookstore?

CONCORDIA'S CO-OP BOOKSTORE

A bookstore for young radicals (but not too radical), this Bishop bookstore claims it has the largest selection of reading on gender studies and sexuality in Montreal. Also worthwhile is their selection of secondhand textbooks. Even more, becoming a member gets you discounted prices and the chance to vote in their general assemblies.

THE WORD

469 MILTON ST.

Very small, very hip, very much the kind of place you would go to if you had just finished attending a Post-Modernism lecture at McGill. But it's not all humanities, they also have a highly-curated selection of poetry with many local poets in stock. Employees are kind of reserved, but I left my wallet there once and they returned it to me so they're alright in my books.

ENCORE

5670 SHERBROOKE ST. W.

Go here if you like fiction and vintage books, or if you study at Loyola campus. Staff here are friendly and are always happy to give advice on what to buy

your mom for Mother's Day. Also worth checking out is their posters they print from in store, and they have a decent selection of secondhand comics and graphic novels, too.

CHEAP THRILLS

2044 METCALFE ST.

You hardly notice it from the street, but away from overpriced Indigo is the appropriately named Cheap Thrills. Beyond the terrifyingly warped pink stairs is a library that impresses with its titles in fiction, philosophy, politics, and science fiction. But as you pass down for the books on the lower shelves, I wouldn't recommend sitting on the floor. They should redo the carpets, just sayin'.

Do You Have This on Vinyl?

From New Releases to Obscure LPs, Here's Where to Get Your Records

MARK DI FRANCO @MARKDIFRANCO505

Montreal has no shortage of fantastic record stores. Whether you're a music fanatic, collector, concertgoer or you just like the feeling of vinyl in your hands, these shops are sure to tickle your fancy.

LA FIN DU VINYLE (THE DEATH OF VINYL)

6307 ST. LAURENT BLVD.

This ironically-named apartment record shop offers a wide selection of music on a variety of platforms (check out the 8-track cassettes). Secondhand is first priority here.

"The record the customer has has got the DNA of someone who has listened to it the day it came out," store owner Dan Hadley explains.

Plus, there's *another* intimate record shop tucked away inside, called La Rama

Records, which specializes in obscure techno, jazz, and mixtapes.

CHEAP THRILLS

2044 METCALFE ST.

Established in 1971, Cheap Thrills is a 10-minute walk from Concordia's downtown campus. It's a great escape from school if you want to go browse some records for a little while. The store offers an eclectic selection of vinyls both new and used, CDs, and concert tickets. Just make sure you walk into the store and not accidentally into the fancy restaurant underneath.

AUX 33 TOURS

1373 MONT-ROYAL AVE. E.

If you're looking for a very specific vinyl or CD, then this is the place for you. The store sells Japanese pressings of vinyls and CDs for those attuned to the better sound quality that the specialty pressings offer.

"The vinyl record is more appealing,"

co-owner Nathan Caskey says. "Holding the object in your hands, admiring the cover and reading the liner notes."

Aux 33 Tours is also a staple destination to buy concert tickets.

BEATNICK RECORDS

3770 ST. DENIS ST.

Beatnick is a great basement shop to visit if you are want to spend the better part of an afternoon endlessly browsing. The records and CDs may be pricey, depending on condition and where the music is imported from, but that shouldn't stop you from checking out the shop's extensive collection.

SOUND CENTRAL

4486 COLONIALE AVE.

Half record shop, half concert venue, Sound Central is a groovy record shop. The store hosts punk-rock concerts by night, and sell vinyls, cassettes and CDs by day. Bonus points if you can find the record of the band that just played.

Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations in Action at Concordia

Indigenous Students Are Creating Space For Themselves, and the University is Responding



FRANCA G. MIGNACCA
@FRANCAMIGNACCA

When Shiann Wahéshon Whitebean first enrolled at Concordia University over four years ago, she never imagined how her graduation convocation would have gone.

As the valedictorian, she stood proudly on stage as university President Alan Shepard read out an acknowledgment that the ceremony was taking place on unceded Indigenous land for the first time in the school's history—an acknowledgement of which she was the primary author.

Graduating from the First Peoples Studies undergraduate program, she accepted her degree in a traditional ribbon outfit and ensured that her identity as a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) student from Kahnawà:ke was an integral part of her valedictorian speech.

Now a graduate student in Concordia's individualized program, Whitebean is also a research assistant for Concordia's Indigenous Directions Leadership Group. The group is made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty and students, working as special advisors to Concordia's administration to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the school.

The group, chaired by Elizabeth Fast and Charmaine Lyn, has a three-year mandate that will end in June 2019. Whitebean was enthusiastic to join the group as a student voice. She had long advocated for improved resources and spaces for Indigenous students, having founded the First Peoples Studies member association and Indigenous Student Council in her time as an undergraduate student.

She said that faculty, staff, and students—including herself—had written a letter a few years ago, asking that Concordia's administration do more to provide Indigenous students with resources and a “stronger presence on campus.”

“We're going beyond just making recommendations,” Whitebean said. “We want to make changes, put in support systems and make sure that the work we're doing is sustainable after our mandate.”

To Whitebean, the territorial acknowledgement at the spring convocation was a big step that she looks forward to see carry over into future ceremonies.

“I think it was hard for people. There was a little bit of hesitancy on some people's parts when it came to saying ‘unceded’ and things like that,” she said. “We had to stand our ground, and I think Concordia came out pretty strong.”

The IDLG strongly advised that



Shepard be the one to read the acknowledgement.

"I decided I wasn't going to wear a gown when I crossed the stage. I was only going to wear my ribbon outfit because that was one of the other things that was never really supported or encouraged for Indigenous students," Whitebean added.

According to Whitebean, a ribbon outfit is the traditional outfit of the Haudenosaunee Nations, including the Kanien'kehá:ka, worn at ceremonies such as graduations. It is handmade by women in the community and features ribbon and bead work.

"The women in my Nation often wear what is referred to as a 'crown' made of fabric and beads. We wear leather and beaded moccasins with it," she explained. Whitebean's ribbon outfit and crown represented her clan, the Wolf Clan.

While she didn't wear the gown to receive her diploma, she wore her

graduation gown for her valedictorian speech, to show that she is also a proud Concordia graduate. And in her speech, she addressed the crowd in both English and Kanien'kéha.

Julie Delisle, co-president of the First Peoples Studies member association, felt that the territorial acknowledgment was significant, and that the creation of the IDLG is a good step forward.

"I think the leadership group is good. I'm just nervous to see how much of what they bring back to Concordia is actually implemented, their suggestions after they do all this research and after they work with the students," Delisle said.

While Whitebean acknowledges that there is still a lot of work to be done, she feels attitudes have shifted, particularly in the school's administration, in terms of their willingness to listen to suggestions for improvement and their efforts

to be more inclusive towards Indigenous students.

"We're trying to do as much as we can to create resources for the Concordia community at all levels so that we can also put accountability on people's shoulders," Whitebean explained. "What often happens is that you have a small Indigenous core community at a university and then a lot of things get put on [their] lap, you're drawing on that resource a lot and then you can burn people out."

She said she wants non-Indigenous students and faculty to do that work as well.

Whitebean explained that it should be up to non-Indigenous students to educate themselves about the right terminology to use when describing Indigenous issues and people, and what questions are appropriate to ask Indigenous students, rather than solely depending on Indigenous students and faculty to educate them. She has seen

THE TRC

Canada had and has a violent, colonial relationship with Indigenous communities.

The country's policies have largely ignored and eliminated Indigenous rights, and attempted to assimilate Indigenous peoples—with the goal of causing them **"to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada,"** according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, published in 2015.

The TRC is the direct result of the Indian Schools Settlement Agreement, which settled class action lawsuits brought against the government for the more than 100 years of abuse endured by Indigenous children in state-run residential schools.

The last school closed in 1996.

The six-year long commission included more than 6,000 interviews with witnesses to the horrors of residential schools. It

concluded in 2015 with 94 calls-to-action meant to **"redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation"** with Indigenous peoples.

Of the 94 action points, at least 12 pertain specifically to education, either to that of Indigenous peoples or relating to Indigenous history and culture. For example, Point 62 ii calls upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and survivors of residential schools to **"provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms."** Specific action points call upon journalism and media schools to educate its students about Indigenous history.

As announced in November 2016, **Concordia's Indigenous Directions Leadership Group is attempting to answer those calls.**

The **TRC and the 94 recommendations** for can be found at **www.trc.ca**

many micro-aggressions on campus, among both students and staff.

"I think it's hard for these [initiatives] to happen if you don't have support from non-Indigenous people too because we are only a small marginalized population," Whitebean said. "It should be all along the lines of standing in solidarity so that a lot of these things are Indigenous-led and it's important for us to have our voices respected."

CREATING INDIGENOUS SPACE ON CAMPUS

Entering Concordia for the first time, Whitebean was faced with a culture shock and felt unsafe in her new environment. She feels what helped her, and what helps many, was regular visits to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre, located on the Hall building's sixth floor on the downtown campus.

There, she was able to meet and make friends with other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, and learn about the similarities and differences in their cultures. The centre also hosts events and offers writing services and student mentors. They also point students in the right direction when they're in need of other resources.

Delisle and her co-president of the First Peoples Studies member association Autumn Godwin agree that the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre has been an important tool in making Indigenous students feel welcome, but added that the centre is often overflowing with students, and feels there should be more spaces offered to them. Now with a new lounge for the member association, located in the basement of the CI building on 2149 Mackay St. behind the Hall building, they hope to provide that space for students.

"We're over-flowing and we're only growing, so a lot of times we'll be sitting out in the hallway," Delisle explained.

One of the biggest projects Whitebean hopes to see accomplished before the end of the IDLG's mandate in two years is the inauguration of an Indigenous cultural space at Concordia. She feels the space will allow Indigenous students to have a more visible presence on campus and will transform the campus

atmosphere as a whole.

"Some campuses have a First Peoples House and things like that," Whitebean said. "[It's] one of the biggest challenges I think for us to pull off cause you're talking about a lot of money and investment and that's where you have the most resistance sometimes.

"This isn't just about Indigenous students or Indigenous communities, this is about our entire Concordia community, this is about everybody being included," added Whitebean. "We have some incredible allies at Concordia who are examples of what a respectful relationship looks like."

Godwin added that students coming from smaller communities may feel intimidated to have their voices heard in a university setting, and need a safe space to do so. She said it is up to other students to make them feel safe and welcome, and give them that space.

She points to the importance of engaging in those conversations as students, and in leaving their comfort zones. Equally important is not overpowering another person with questions or demands.

"You don't want to speak for somebody," Godwin said. "Listening is probably one of the biggest ways that you can advocate—just sit back and really listen."

The First Peoples Studies member association also plans on hosting an Indigenous music and arts event this winter semester to celebrate Indigenous artists at Concordia, and to encourage engagement from students of all backgrounds.

It is a common misconception that students must identify as Indigenous to join the member association—it is open to all students as long as they are enrolled in the First Peoples Studies program. Students from all programs and backgrounds can also participate in their activities.

"We've had people on the member association from all different backgrounds and I think their involvement has shown them new things that they weren't aware of," Delisle added. "You learn a lot more by being so directly involved in volunteering and things."

To Godwin, another issue is victimization, or focusing on negative stories and history at the expense of successes.

"We need to move forward into celebrating our history and celebrating that we're here and that we're part of this," she said. "We're not going anywhere, and celebrate it with us."

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

This summer, Whitebean co-facilitated a training session for Concordia faculty members along with other members of the IDLG, including project coordinator Charles Joseph O'Connor. Vicky Boldo, an Indigenous urban Elder who will be helping at the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre this semester, also facilitated the training.

It took place over one day and looked at everything from appropriate terminology, backgrounds and cultures of different indigenous groups, identity politics, cultural appropriation, and identity theft.

The session started with a sharing circle, where Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants could share information about their ancestry and personal experiences. In the future, Whitebean hopes to include Kairos blanket exercises in the training.

The blanket exercise is an interactive activity aimed at uniting Indigenous people with non-Indigenous people, while acting as a teaching tool for the effects of colonialism on Indigenous communities. It aims to teach people the elements of Canadian history that many courses do not teach.

While this session focused on educating the Students Services and Dean of Students office staff, the IDLG also hosted two more trainings co-facilitated by Alannah Young Leon, who teaches a course on Indigenous Research Methodologies at the University of British Columbia, and Denise Nadeau, who has taught courses in Concordia's First Peoples Studies and Religion departments.

These trainings were open to all members of the faculty and graduate students in August. They have both facilitated similar workshops in other communities together.

The sessions integrated Indigenous knowledge in different areas of the university. Similarly, they plan on releasing a series of videos as a tool for staff and students to educate themselves on Indigenous cultures and experiences.

The Map That Goes With the Guides

NIGHTLIFE

- A Le Salon Daome // 141 Mont-Royal Ave. E.
- B Grumpy's // 1242 Bishop St.
- C Club Unity // 171 Ste. Catherine St. E.
- D Picnik Electronik // Parc Jean Drapeau
- E North Star Machines À Piastres // 3908 St. Laurent Blvd.
- F Bar Bootlegger L'Authentique // 481 St. Laurent Blvd.
- G Ping Pong Club // 5788 St. Laurent Blvd.

CHEAP FOOD

- 1 Boustan // 2020 Crescent St.
- 2 Nilufar // 1923 Ste. Catherine St. W.
- 3 Biryani // 1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
- 4 Sammi & Soupe Dumpling // 1909 Ste. Catherine St. W.
- 5 Snowdon Bakery // 7385 Harley Ave.
- 6 People's Potato // 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. H-733
- 7 Hive Free Lunch // 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. SC-200

RECORD STORES

- i La Fin du Vinyle (The Death of Vinyl) // 6307 St. Laurent Blvd.
- ii Cheap Thrills // 2044 Metcalfe St.
- iii Aux 33 Tours // 1373 Mont-Royal Ave. E.
- iv Beatnick Records // 3770 St. Denis St.
- v Sound Central // 4486 Coloniale Ave.

BOOK STORES

- X The Word // 469 Milton St.
- Y Encore // 5670 Sherbrooke St. W.
- Z Concordia's Co-Op Bookstore // 2150 Bishop St.

Concordia Campus: Loyola

SHERBROOKE ST.

DE MAISONNEUVE





Your Annual *Link* Guide to Montreal Nightlife

Dance Your Ass Off, Play Some Pong or Drink in the Park Like the Rest of Us

OCEAN DEROUCHIE @OSHIEPOSHIE

There's a distinct reason why people from all over the world flock to Montreal to party. First of all, bars and music venues are open (legally) until three in the morning. Secondly, we sell beer and wine in *dépanneurs* (pronounced "day-pa-nur," or "dep" for short) until 11 p.m. And third, Montreal's party culture is so uniquely vast that anyone, no matter what they're into, is sure to find a spot to call a second home.

Montreal boasts a multicoloured nightlife landscape, with streets dotted with quirky dives, hella cool dancing spots, and enough shows to go to something awesome every night of the week. We suggest that you skip the clubs on the main drags—think Crescent St. and the better

part of St. Laurent Blvd—and try something a little more off-the-radar. Haven't you always wanted to go to a pinball bar?

LE SALON DAOME

141 MONT-ROYAL AVE. E.

- Have the time of your life for under \$20
- A cozy dance party
- Sundays are the new Saturday, baby!

While the cover is cheap—usually hitting the \$6 dollar mark on a Sunday—and you can double fist Boreal beers for \$9, it's not the prices that have had me going back to Salon time and time again. It's the dancing. This bar, tucked neatly away on Mont-Royal, will almost slip your gaze. It's as equally hidden as it is respected in the electronic music scene, and the nightly selection of locally- and internationally-known DJs playing the candle-lit dance floor will have you searching the street until you find it. Lose yourself in stellar music until the morning without having to worry about people not respecting your space—the crowd is super nice

and more about the beat than trying to grind up on ya.

BAR BOOTLEGGER L'AUTHENTIQUE

481 ST. LAURENT BLVD.

- Support the arts and local scene
- Cabaret, swing, blues and jazz bar
- Best night to go: Thursdays, for Le Cypher

If you appreciate live hip-hop, R'n'B, instrumentals, and improvised sets, Bar Bootlegger L'Authentique could be your next go-to venue. On select Thursday evenings, Bootlegger is home to Le Cypher, a jam-night backed by local band Urban Science. Talent of all kinds get up on stage to share their art, whether it be rapping, singing, dancing or playing an instrument. It's the best place to go if you wanna blow off some steam and refill your soul with funk. But we'd suggest a pre-drink, as the bar can be expensive.

DAYLIFE: PICNIK ELECTRONIK,

PARC JEAN-DRAPEAU

- \$13.50 entry
- A little rave in sunshine
- Every Sunday until Sept. 24



JULIAN BATA @BAREFOOTBOBO & BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIAN LAPUZ

Take the metro underwater and arrive at Montreal's man-made island of debauchery, Île Ste-Hélène, for an afternoon of electronic music and dancing as the sun goes down. Head down to Parc Jean-Drapeau and people watch from the grassy chill-out spots or grab a crêpe and a beer for a mini music festival experience.

TECHNOPARK

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

- Free music all night (and morning)
- Legality is questionable
- Buses only start leaving at 7 a.m.

Who doesn't like free parties in the middle of nowhere? Location: that little stretch of land that's like, somewhere in between the Old Port and Pointe St. Charles, you know, kind of close to the Farine Five Roses sign? We're not sure exactly how to get there, but you can probably ask for directions from other people getting on the 168 bus. Why? Because the only good system is a sound system.

NORTH STAR MACHINES À PIASTRES

3908 ST. LAURENT BLVD.

- You can have fun for under \$10

- Don't have to drink
- Retro vibes

1950s to 1980s pinball machines—you don't even need to drink to have fun here! Exchange a fiver for some tokens and you're set to play. If you'd like to wet your whistle, their menu is categorized from "Cheap Shit" to "Expensive Shit" and prices include the "glorious provincial and federal taxes."

CLUB UNITY

171 ST CATHERINE ST E

- Cage dancing
- A gay ol' time
- About \$40 for a really good time

An inclusive club in the Village, Club Unity is your stable gay bar. It has two floors, often with two styles of music. A couple of shots in and you're sure to dance your ass off, kiss some cuties, and end up in the hospital if you have as much fun as I did. Beware of that staircase!

GRUMPY'S

1242 BISHOP ST.

- About \$17 for a lovely time
- Basement blues
- Tuesdays for the open mic, Wednesdays for the Jazz Night

The Link's local watering hole, Grumpy's is a wonderful place to go to listen to your friends rant about the current state of journalism and sip on a whiskey. Get to know the bar's infamous bartender, Gern, and be sure to hear a crazy story or two.

PING PONG CLUB

5788 ST. LAURENT BLVD.

- Hit some balls for free
- Lush in vine plants, rich in good seating
- Best night to go: Mondays and Tuesdays for \$5 pints

Who doesn't love a good paddling? Wait, uh, that's not what I meant! Grab a drink and play some free table tennis at Ping Pong Club in the ever-trendy Mile End.

DRINKING IN THE PARK

- BYOB
- Chill with your pals
- Just don't get busted, and don't climb the statues!

The most underrated venue of them all—the park closest to home. Grab some friends and some cans; a blanket and a baguette, and you're good to go. Be respectful and leave the space as you found it, though.

“Be a Good Neighbour and Listen”

How Students Can Actively—and Easily—Fight Gentrification

KELSEY LITWIN @KELSEYLITWIN

The Link spoke with Fred Burrill, an anti-gentrification organizer and PhD student at Concordia, and Hannah Brais, a housing and employment advocate at the Concordia Student Union’s off-campus Housing and Job Bank, to understand what gentrification is and the role that students play.

1. Fred Burrill and Luce Parisien face the abandoned Canada Malting factory on St. Ambroise St. The community action group *À nous la Malting* (The Malting is Ours), formed in February 2017, is trying to reclaim the space for social housing and community-oriented services. Burrill said his dream for the space includes an affordable grocery store, drugstore, and a post office, to ease the daily lives of residents of the west end of St. Henri.

“Where you live should not determine the ease of your daily life,” said Burrill.



2. Burrill and Parisien take in an abandoned lot on St. Ambroise St. from the Woonerf St-Pierre, an alley that was converted into a green space for local residents in 2010. Burrill says the city contributes to the gentrification of the area by making the space more appealing to condo developers, calling the green alley “a motor for gentrification.”

Social housing units border this lot, explained Burrill. However, next to those are luxury apartments—he says three and a half units rented out for \$1,500 a month.





3. New developments are sprouting around St. Remi St. and St. Ambroise St., the site of the old Canada Malting factory. A new bar, Riverside, bought the property bordering the building. The bar and its fenced-in terrace close off one of the access points to the Lachine Canal.

"People talk about the canal as a collective heritage," Burrill said. "What was sort of common space is increasingly fenced in," particularly by condo developments.



4. Burrill and Parisien sit in the Wooneurf. Burrill has lived in St. Henri for the last decade, while Parisien has lived in the area for the last 27 years.

"It's changing fast, the neighbourhood," Burrill said, adding that "tensions are lived out daily" between longtime-residents and newcomers. "It can be very alienating."

"People talk about direct and indirect displacement," Burrill continued. "The indirect displacement is you wake up in the morning, you leave the house, and you don't recognize the place where you grew up or the place you've lived your adult life and all your neighbours and connections are all gone. It's kind of a sense of dislocation, I would say."

5. The fast-changing Montreal skyline is seen from the Lachine Canal, just west of Griffintown. Until it closed to commercial ships in 1970, working-class communities inhabited the areas along the canal, employed by the nearby factories.

During the revitalization of Griffintown, the former home to Montreal's Irish community, Burrill says "The City did the dirty work," allowing gentrification to move westwards.





6. A depanneur on the corner of Ste. Catherine St. East and Jeanne-d'Arc Ave. in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighbours a high-end furniture store.

"I think Plateau, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve—these are really good examples of places that a lot of students from the rest of Canada, the United States have moved to and [...] by contrast to where they're coming from, the rent is a lot cheaper," explained Hannah Brais, a housing and employment advocate with the Concordia Student Union's Housing and Job Bank.

"So they kind of price out people who traditionally would have been there."



7. A new condo development sits next to a triplex on a residential street in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Brais explained that this can happen, particularly in lower-income neighbourhoods that are in the midst of being gentrified, after landlords see the potential in renovating units and renting them out, either on short-term websites such as Airbnb or to higher-income folks.

Brais stressed that if a student believes they are being evicted under false pretenses—if the landlord says they're taking the unit back for themselves, for instance—they have a right to contest the eviction in court, which she says is not as scary as it seems.

"Fight eviction [...] don't just roll with it. Inform yourself, know your rights, be assertive with your landlord," said Brais.

"You owe this to your community, you owe this to your neighbourhood," she continued. "You owe this to other students who might want to live in your neighbourhood one day."



8. Graffiti on a depanneur in St-Henri.

When asked how students can help counter gentrification in their neighbourhoods, Burrill and Brais offered similar advice, to listen.

"We have such a diverse city, it's really exciting to move to," said Brais. "Before you come here, take the time to learn the history about the neighbourhoods. You'll learn a lot and you'll be a little more sensitive to what you are moving into."

"It's not as hard as one would think," said Burrill. He advised students to become an active participant in their communities, by babysitting or walking a neighbour's dog, for example.

"Be a good neighbour and listen," Brais continued. "Don't come with an imposing set of values. Learn to learn, which is why you're here anyways, right?"

A Primer on Concordia's Board of Governors

Who Are the Business People Running Your School and Why Do They Matter

MIRIAM LAFONTAINE @MIRILAFONTAINE

The Board of Governors is the highest decision making body in the university. But who are they, and what do they actually do?

They determine Concordia's operating budget, set tuition each year, plan the university's long term goals, approve collective agreements between Concordia and its workers unions, and bargains with them when needed. The board also lays out the school's policies, including its official values and code of ethics.

The board also takes care of appointing the university's highest administrators, like the provost, vice-president and faculty deans.

Unlike the university's senate, which focuses on Concordia's academic sphere, the Board of Governors' main responsibility is to direct Concordia as a corporation, which explains why it has a high representation of external members with strong backgrounds in business.

Most of its members come from outside Concordia. Oftentimes external members come from banks or other large corporations, as Concordia seeks their expertise. The school also benefits from their generosity and governors are expected to help the school in its fundraising efforts.

The Board of Governors also has the freedom to override the decisions made by other governing bodies, including the senate.

Concordia spokesperson Mary-Jo Barr said, however, that the board rarely uses its right to veto the decisions made by other bodies in the school.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD

The Board of Governors has 25

volunteer members. Fifteen members are from outside Concordia, while 10 are from the institution, including five full-time teachers, one part-time teacher and one administrator.

Three members are student representatives: two from the Concordia Student Union and one from the Graduate Student Association.

Board members, who are nominated by various university bodies in closed session, hold their position for up to three years. The student representatives are the exemption, sitting on the board for only a year. It's the board's governance and ethics committee that nominates non-university members.

CRITICISMS OF THE BOARD

USE OF MONEY:

In the last year, the board was put under scrutiny for a number of severance packages they authorized. Severance packages are payments given to administrators for the year following their departure.

In the 2015 to 2016 academic year, Concordia paid almost \$1.1 million to five senior administrators who left from their positions, including Sonia Trudel who served as the university's CFO for just 90 days. She was allotted \$235,000.

REPRESENTATION:

In the past, the Board of Governors has been criticised for having too many external members, notably by student politicians. They say it has an overrepresentation of CEOs and executives, and with higher-ups from RBC, Meridian Financial, Rio Tinto Alcan, Loto Quebec, some argue they're unable to fully represent Concordia's student population. Sixty per cent of the board is made up of

external members, giving them a lot of sway when it comes to decision making.

Student leaders have also criticised the board for its lack of student representation. The percentage of student sitting on the board has dwindled over the years, going from 10 per cent down to four per cent.

Here's a look at some of the players on the board and the corporations that they come from.

MICHAEL NOVAK,
FORMERLY SNC-LAVALIN
INTERNATIONAL,
EXTERNAL MEMBER ON THE BOARD:

Novak was the chairman of SNC-Lavalin International from 1996 to 2013, when he resigned. The company is the largest engineering firm in Canada and has operations in more than 160 countries. Throughout Novak's time at SNC-Lavalin International, the company was mired by quite the controversy.

In 2011, Montreal police alleged that former SNC-Lavalin CEO Pierre Duhaime bribed then-McGill University Health Centre CEO Dr. Arthur Porter to secure the contract for the superhospital. The company was investigated by the Charbonneau Commission, which looked at corruption related to the awarding of public construction contracts. During the commission, other employees were accused fraud and forgery.

Also interesting is the company's relationship with the late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. SNC-Lavalin signed many contracts with the regime, and court documents showed that many were signed by Novak. Riadh Ben Aïssa, SNC-Lavalin's former vice-president, served two and a half years in a Swiss jail after he admitted to corruption and money laundering that occurred throughout the

company's projects in Libya.

When SNC-Lavalin left the country in 2011, they left behind \$22.9 million in Libyan banks. Ben Aïssa has since accused the company of scapegoating him and says that throughout his years in office it was quite frequent for top executives to make use of bribery in order to secure contracts from Gaddafi's regime.

He's since alleged that those bribes included extravagant gifts such as yachts, prostitutes—and even tickets for a Spice Girls concert. He also claimed that the company's upper management at the time, including Novak, were all well aware of this, which Novak denied.

Novak currently serves as the Chairman of Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec, a federation of more than 140 merchant groups that represent more than 60,000 businesses in Quebec.

MR. PHILIPPE POURREAUX,
RIO TINTO ALCAN,
EXTERNAL MEMBER ON THE BOARD:

Pourreaux is Rio Tinto Alcan's Business Analysis manager. Based in Montreal, Rio Tinto Alcan is a global corporation that mines and produces aluminum around the world, with much of their production in Quebec.

In October 2015, Rio Tinto Alcan ran into trouble after the Saik'uz and Stelat'en First Nations in British-Columbia were granted the right to sue the company by the Supreme Court of Canada. This decision by the Supreme Court came after the two nations brought forward complaints to their local courts saying that the company's operations in their communities had resulted in harm towards their fisheries and had infringed upon their riparian rights.

At the time, Saik'uz chief Jackie Thomas called it, "one of the largest environmentally damaging projects in B.C. history."

Also in B.C., Rio Tinto Alcan was again brought to courts after illegally lowering the flow of the Kemano River, which destroyed the river's salmon in the process. For that, they were issued a fine of \$125,000 dollars, though the Supreme Court later decided to waive the fine.

JONATHAN WENER,
CONCORDIA CHANCELLOR, CANDEREL,
NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

Wener is the chairman, CEO and founder of Canderel, a national real estate company based in Montreal. Wener had also served on the Board of Directors for the Laurentian Bank.

In January 2016, the company was sued for \$31.6 million after a Toronto condo corporation accused Canderel of negligent misrepresentation of the worth of a mall property, as well as breach of contract and construction deficiencies.

A bit of a Concordia lifer, Wener started his career in real estate during his reign as President of the Daytime Student Association, a student union similar to the current CSU. There, he helped set up a student space on Crescent St. in 1970. But with the association's deficit running at \$50,000 four years later, Wener later chose to buy the building for himself.

His interest in student spaces didn't die down forever. In 2011, he and the board reportedly pressured the CSU to purchase the \$43 million Faubourg building on Ste. Catherine St. so that it could be used as a student space.

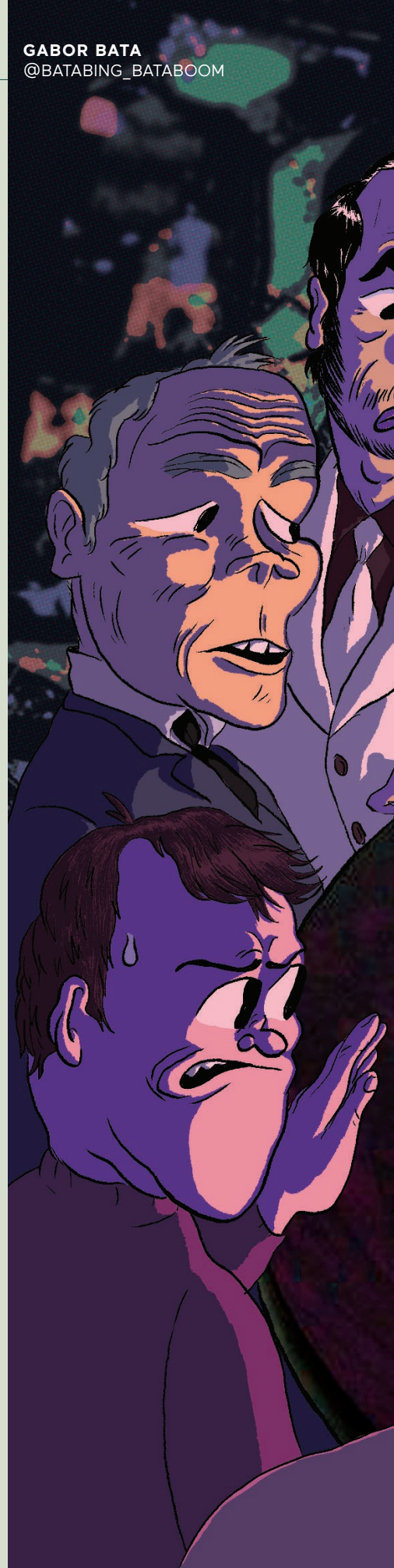
Through more than one referendum, the student population shut that offer down. For good reason too, the CSU and university administration chose to not disclose very much information about the building; students did not know which building was the focal point of these conversations. They did this since they thought that if such information got out, it would interfere in real estate negotiations and possibly bring up the price of the building.

Despite that, Wener ignored student wishes to stay away from purchasing the building.

"Now that it's under contract, it doesn't have to go through students. The university can go different ways, but it would be a travesty if the students didn't benefit" said Wener in an interview with *The Link* at the time.

"We do have a plan B, and it doesn't matter if the student's don't want it because, quite frankly, we can make it work for the university without the students," he also said.

INTERESTED IN READING MORE DETAILS ONLINE, AND IN KNOWING HOW TO KEEP UP WITH THE BOARD? CHECK OUT OUR CONTINUATION OF THIS ARTICLE ON OUR SITE: THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA/SECTION/C/NEWS.





BOARD
MEETING

HEY, GANG!
WHAT'S ON THE
ITINERARY
TODAY?

Intro to Student Politics at Concordia

What You Need to Know About the Students that Govern You

VINCE MORELLO @VINNYMORELLZ AND MIRIAM LAFONTAINE @MIRILAFONTAINE

Understanding how student politics works at Concordia can be a daunting task for any first-year student. Luckily for you, reporters at *The Link* have been covering student politics since 1980 and we've got what you need to know.

FEE LEVIES:

Student unions and associations work towards their goals through the use of student money. Just like the Canadian government collects taxes from its citizens, the student unions at Concordia collect money from student through the use of fee-levies, which are fees taken from your tuition. They then redistribute the money into events and services that focus on helping students throughout their university career, such as Concordia Student Union's Legal Information Clinic, the Housing and Job Bank, and the Student Advocacy Centre.

But there are also groups, separate from student unions and associations, that also collect fee-levies, like the Peoples Potato, which uses its funds to serve free vegan meals each noon in Hall building.

For a group to gain access to student funds, a question first has to be put to referendum during elections (often at the end of March) or by-elections (often in November). If you think a particular group doesn't deserve the fees they are asking for then it's important to cast your vote before ballot boxes, located at both campuses, close.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Students who want to get involved within their student associations have to run in an election and convince their peers to vote for them. Depending on which association you are a part of, elections can consist of a slate (a team that runs together) or of individuals

that run independently.

Although slates run together, students vote for the individuals within slates and not the slate itself.

In addition to voting for representatives, students can also vote on referendum questions which can dictate the mandate of student groups, or how student money is spent. Another way to get involved is to attend the general assemblies of the varying groups on campus.

THE STRUCTURE:

Student associations can represent a faculty, which includes a number of departments, or just a single department.

ASFA, the Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations, represents all undergraduate students in the Arts and Sciences, whereas Concordia University's Psychology Association solely represents undergraduate psychology students, for example.

Every faculty include a council of students or representatives. They are elected by students within that faculty who from the varying departments within their faculty.

Each association also has an executive team that handles things like group's budget or organizing social events for the students they represent.

These two groups, the executive and the representatives or council, tend to meet once a month to discuss their shared political stances, or how to spend money on student initiatives. These meetings are open to the public, but you might get bored sitting through an entire one.

Student groups, particularly the Concordia Student Union, frequently use these council meetings to plan out what campaigns their group will focus on, as students politicians frequently use their status in an effort to sway the decisions made by the school's administration. Student groups may also plan out press conferences or public protests as part of their campaigns.

These are the six largest student

groups at Concordia.

CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION (CSU) GENERAL COORDINATOR: OMAR RIAZ

The CSU represents more than 35,000 undergraduate students at Concordia. They have the biggest influence on student life within the school. With a fee-levy of \$3.80 per credit, they work with over a million dollars to provide students with services such as the Legal Information Clinic, the Housing and Job Bank, and the Student Advocacy Centre. They are also partners in building a new student housing co-op and a daycare. Both will be downtown.

The CSU is made up of students from all faculties. There are eight executives, as well as 14 Arts and Science councillors, six John Molson School of Business councillors, four Engineering and Computer Science councillors, three Fine Arts councillors, and three independent councillors.

In the last year, the CSU has focused on advocating for fossil fuel divestment, maintaining low tuition fees for international students, and the rights of students from marginalized communities. There was some success in those efforts. Proposed tuition fee increases for international students in certain programs never went through. They also added land acknowledgements to the beginnings of their council meetings and other events.

ARTS AND SCIENCES FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS (ASFA)

INTERIM PRESIDENT: JULIA SUTERA-SARDO

ASFA represents about 20,000 undergraduate students, which makes them the second largest student association at Concordia. They collect a fee-levy of \$1.22 per credit, despite many attempts to raise it through referendum in the last two years. Just like the CSU, ASFA is made up of an executive team, councillors from the departments they represent, as well as some independent councillors.



ASFA's executive team is serving on an interim basis as their elections were invalidated last spring by their council. Ballot boxes were open past their allotted time and quorum, the amount of students needed to vote in order for their elections to be valid, was not met.

The Political Science Student Association, has recently expressed their desire to leave ASFA because they argue it is poorly run.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE VOICE OF EDUCATION IN QUÉBEC (AVEQ)

AVEQ is a student association that operates on the provincial level, representing the student associations that choose to join it.

It seeks to gain a broader understanding of the needs of students in the province through collaboration and research with other Quebec student associations. Because it's a provincial group, it tends to put pressure on local political parties rather than focusing its efforts on swaying the top administrators of Quebec universities.

AVEQ's member associations are the Concordia Student Union, Mouvements d'associations générales étudiantes de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, and the Association générale étudiante de l'Université du Québec à Rimouski.

Concordia's Graduate Student Association lost a referendum to join AVEQ last spring.

The association currently collects a fee-levy of \$3.50 for each undergraduate student every semester.

COMMERCE AND ADMINISTRATION STUDENT ASSOCIATION (CASA-JMSB)

PRESIDENT: RUDY GROW

CASA represents more than 7,500 students that are enrolled within Concordia's undergraduate business programs. CASA collects a \$3.00 per credit fee levy from its students.

Their Board of Directors, which acts as a council, is made up of eight members of their executive team, the presidents of its six subsidiary association, the presidents of JMSB's two case competition committees, five independent directors and two Alumni directors.

They tend to organize parties, and set up business opportunities or internships for the students it represents.

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (ECA)

PRESIDENT: CHRIS GALLO

ECA is made up of about 3,250 undergraduate students and 17 societies.

The ECA collects a \$2.00 per credit fee levy. The societies can be seen as clubs or organizations that relate to subjects offered with Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Their council is made up of eight executives, four department representatives, and four independent representatives. The ECA helps send students to more than 20 competitions.

FINE ARTS STUDENT ALLIANCE (FASA)

GENERAL COORDINATOR:
CLEOPATRA BOUDREAU

FASA represents about 3,500 undergraduate Fine Arts students, and they collect \$2.05 per credit fee levy from those students. Unlike other groups on campus, they exist without a council. Instead they're run by six elected coordinators and a general coordinator.

In January 2016, FASA bailed out Cafe X, a student run not for profit coffee shop with two locations in Concordia's downtown campus, by giving them a grant of \$12,000. FASA students also pay a fee levy of \$0.35 per credit to Cafe X.

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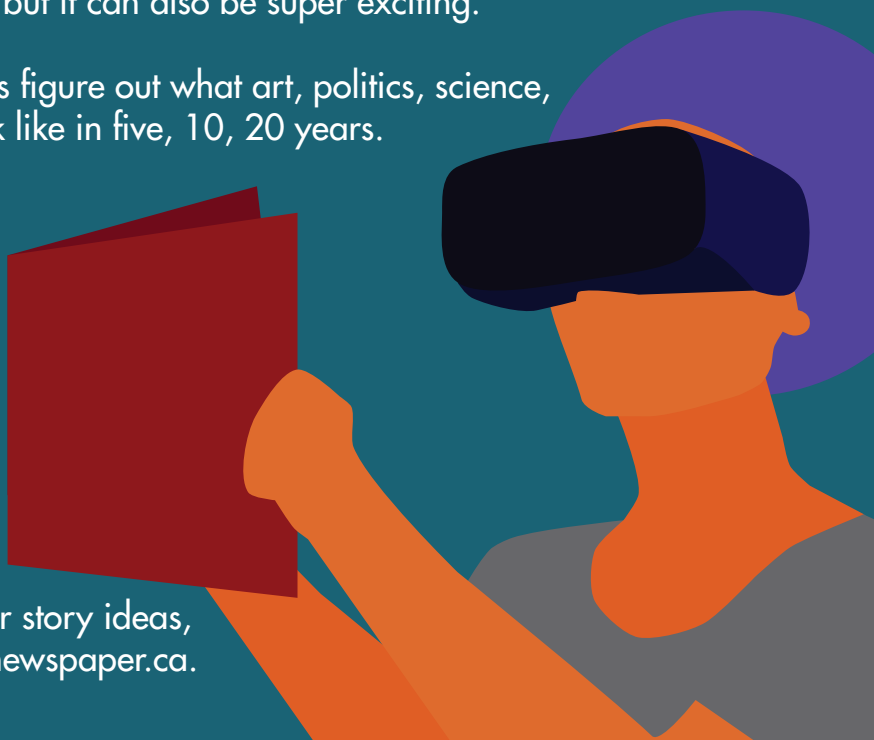
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Deadline to submit is Sept. 14.

If you have questions or story ideas, contact editor@thelinknewspaper.ca.



The Pot Fuelled, Hentai Inspired, Dope as Hell Manicures of Trippy Nails

BY OCEAN DEROUCHIE
@OSHIEPOISHIE

You're standing in the metro, absent-mindedly commuting. Looking around, your eyes search for anything to study—and then you see them.

A set of immaculately sculpted claws: glossy and pink stiletto nails holding onto the metro pole. The flashy enamel catches your attention, and suddenly you realize you've been staring at a stranger's hands since the last stop.

Fingernails are often the first thing you notice about someone's hands. So what do they reveal about a person?

"There's really a spectrum," explains Megan Cup, a mani-artist and the owner of Trippy Nails, a Montreal nail salon that operates out of Verdun.

"There are people who don't give a fuck or have a bad nail biting habit, then there's people who just like to keep them nice and neat," she says. "Girls that like to keep them polished just to look put together and professional. Then, there are those who want their nails to be art."

While manicured nails once exclusively signalled affluence or vanity, having your nails painted today can allude to a lot more—or a lot less—than wealth. Whether you're sporting chipped polish, shiny Chanel logos or veer more to the au naturelle aesthetic, those little pieces of keratin at the tips of your fingers can say a hell of a lot about you.

Unkept and short nails could belong to a pair of hard-working hands. Maybe those cracked and dry hands have been washing dishes all day. That long, over-dressed pinky finger? Could be a coke nail!

There's no right or wrong way to have your nails, but "each one can tell you about a person, their priorities, whether they have an artistic soul, and whether

they like to express that through their appearance," Cup remarks.

Nestled into an unmarked office on Wellington St., Trippy Nails has come a long way since its obscure beginnings in Montreal East. The brand's creator, Serina Adele, opened Trippy's doors in 2013, where the itsy-bitsy nail salon ran at the end of the Green Line, in Rivière-du-Prairie.

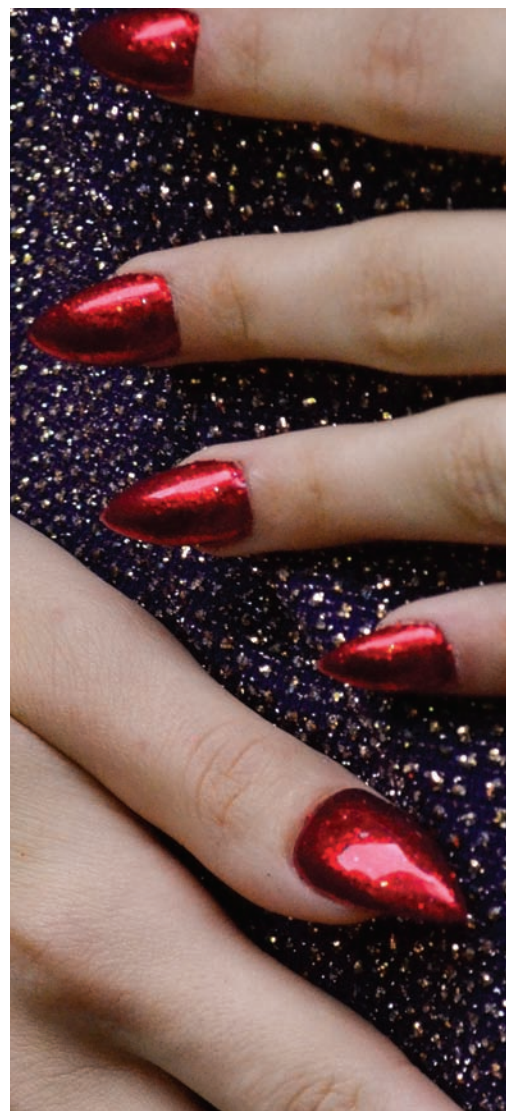
Reminiscing, Cup explains that they "didn't have much action then." The downtime allowed them to build up their brand before moving to a more central location downtown. From a windowless basement on Ste. Catherine St., "We were grinding hard."

Finally, Cup took over the business and moved to Verdun, where she built a cozy little salon with two painting stations, complete with a clothing rack of DIY designer clothes, and patio for winding down with a joint between sessions. With Trippy's most recent hire, Cindy Lieu, it's a two-woman show that doesn't seem to be slowing down.

For Lieu, who works at standard nail bars on the side, it's just not the same vibe. "I've been working at other places... and it's not about the money. I just feel more alive here, being surrounded by nicer clients."

"The clientele is totally different at those shops," explains Lieu, while painting a set of razor-sharp, ruby-red nails that look more like Dorothy's magical maryjanes.

"These ladies with families, these moms, they need their nails done to look professional at work." Many of these



"They come here to express themselves, not just to have a clean look."

Cindy Lieu

nail salon regulars simply have money to spend, says Lieu, “Whereas here, younger people are coming here for the experience, and the art. They come here to express themselves, not just to have a clean look.”

It’s not a set-up that most people who get their nails done would be used to. Trippy Nails welcomes a unique community that feels more like a group of friends than a customer base.

Maya Makonnen spotted Cup’s nails while working at a clothing store.

“Megan came into the shop that I was working at, and she had some crazy nails—like she had chains on her nails,” she recalled, as Cup painted a tropical scene with palmtrees onto Makonnen’s fingertips.

Fast-forward to today, and Makonnen’s nails are one of the few star’s on Trippy’s social media feed. She’s had badass flames, paint that changes colour under water, and most notably, a set with marijuana leaves and manga-style eyes by Lieu.

Just like Mary E. Cobb, the first person to open an American nail salon in late 1870s Manhattan, Cup has proven that being an independent business owner—and her own boss—is rewarding. Cup and Lieu are consistently changing the game with fresh designs and techniques that leave Instagram beauty artists and Tumblr personalities scrambling.

Cup’s experiences has been to “take it day by day, though.” Most of their bookings are made through Instagram and text, and the artists paint between one and three sets each on an average day.

Both Cup and Lieu have their own specialties, but together try they to encourage their customers to try growing and having their natural nails done. Not only is it more cost efficient but it’s healthier too, they argue.

“We are obsessed with natural nails,” explains Cup. They frequently encourage their customers to skip the acrylics for a little while, reasoning that by protecting the bare nail with good quality gel polish, customers can grow out their cuticles, achieving the look of acrylic

but not having to take on the excessive chemicals and drilling that usually come along with it.

“It’s dope to have super long, natural nails—it’s empowering,” Cup enthuses.

Their Instagram feed is out of control, featuring their most in-demand designs like holographic manicures, Lieu’s signature bold flames, and edgy sets decked out with gems, decals, and chrome.

“We’re about doing whatever you wanna do,” said Cup. “Anything [our customers] can think of, we’re down to try it.”

Their different artistic styles combined together create a striking aesthetic that encourages wearers to be daring, bright, and not give a fuck.

There’s something really awesome about female entrepreneurs. Throughout history, men have established themselves as the voice of authority and knowledge on things that their female counterparts have been doing quietly and without appreciation for centuries.

Maybe it’s the combination of sticking it to the corporate man; or it’s being empowered through the femininity of a manicure that says, “I will claw the shit outta you.”

Or perhaps just bearing witness to young women doing good for themselves through something they love to do. But there’s something about Trippy Nails’ come up that inspires that go-getting





girl in all of us.

So how much does it cost to sport some of Montreal's most original nail designs? Basic cosmetic work starts at \$35 and can stretch up to \$150 for some of Trippy's most detail-demanding designs. The average cost for most manicures is between \$65 and \$85 dollars. That might seem steep, but compared to any other ordinary salon in the city, Trippy Nails is pretty on-par.

With that in mind, Trippy Nails—and other salons like it—make me wonder: how accessible can nail art and professional manicure services truly be? Even if you might want to support a local business and the unique artists who run it, having designer nails can cost you a day's work if you're working for minimum wage.

But for some people, it's worth it.

Even in extreme situations, it seems like manicures rank among some of the most practised forms of self-care and presentation.

"I was watching a show about heroin addicts, and they had their nails done, too" remarked Victoria Hall, a Trippy Nails client, as she was pulling her hand from the UV light box that hardens the gel polish.

The show segment made her realize that having your nails done can be crucial for some people, "almost as important as doing heroin," she said, the words escaping her mouth as quickly as she realized how absurd that that is.

"Nails are less expensive than heroin, guys," Cup quipped with a laugh. It is absurd, but just like drugs, it can be easy to forget that having the means to indulge in experiences is a privilege in and of itself.

In a larger context, Trippy Nails' designs are as much a social commentary as they are little works of art. Decorating fingertips with luxury brand logos, weed leaves and pornographic hentai decals, Cup and Lieu's work demonstrate that manicures can serve as pseudo political statements—even in the most subtle of ways. Class and social status, drug and party culture, the sexualization of women's bodies: these are themes found within the tiny brush strokes of a Trippy Nails manicure, whether intentional or not.

Feminist magazine Jezebel once argued that nail art could be a rare form of a beauty ritual that isn't "rooted in making oneself more appealing to men or exploiting women's insecurities," one which actually "transcends skin color and hair texture and face symmetry and body type."

For the average polish-wearer, a manicure's sole purpose might just be to achieve a professional image. "But people come here to express themselves, not just to have a clean look," said Lieu. "It's for yourself."

PHOTOS OCEAN DEROUCHIE @MUSHABLOOM

Rage Against the *Manchine*

BY JULIA MIELE AND MARK DI FRANCO
@THATJULIAMIELE AND @MARKDIFRANCO505

Montreal's punk scene is a living, breathing organism. It's as vibrant as it is loud, but still, there's something missing: Female presence and representation.

Don't make the mistake though—there are tons of kick-ass riot girl bands and creative musicians on the island. But more often than not, shows and events miss out on the talent when they fill their roster with male-centric acts, leaving a valuable and unique part of the community to the sidelines.

Or at least, that's how the artists from Pussy Stench, Chârogne and the Lef7overs feel.

"I was tired of being in the crowd all the time and not seeing a lot of girls on stage. Even in the crowd we weren't that many," says Devan Ménard, the guitarist and lead singer of the band Pussy Stench. With hardly any women performing in the punk scene, Ménard decided to bring her own musical talents to the table.

As chance would have it, Ménard bumped into Dani Volovik, an old acquaintance from Dawson College, and the two formed the beginnings of their grunge-punk band.

Starting off as an all-girl punk band, Pussy Stench has gone through a few different band members since. Currently, the group is made up of Ménard on the guitar and vocals, Volovik on the second guitar, John DeNardi on the drums and Thomas Papakostas on bass.

Having parents who were punks during their time, Ménard grew up on 80s punk music, but she really found her niche in the 90s riot grrrl scene.

"I brought all of that influence from [bands like] Bikini Kill and Babes in Toyland," she said.

The Lef7overs, a five piece all-girl punk cover band from Montreal, are another force to be reckoned with. These fierce and outspoken ladies got their start last summer as a cover band for the L7's, an iconic grunge rock group from the late 80s and early 90s.

The band originally performed at a fundraiser for Montreal's Rock Camp For Girls, a summer camp for teens that promotes self esteem and critical thinking by learning how to rock out. Since then, the band has been playing in bars all over Montreal.

Their musical influences vary from Kylee Kimbrough's band Dasher, to Hole, Joan Jett and Bikini Kill.

"Kylee was so fierce," said Maryam Khalakhala, The Lef7overs' drummer. "She was mild-mannered when she was in the crowd, but the minute she sat down behind her drum kit, she turned into a relentless beast."

The punk band Chârogne started off as a cover band that would only play songs originally composed by Riot Grrrl. After a while though, the lead vocalist Catherine Morrisette wanted the band to start writing and performing original tracks.

"After a year, I felt that I should quit because I didn't feel like doing covers and I wanted to compose music," Mor-

risette said. Chârogne now focuses on creating their own original works.

Chârogne's musical influences capture different genres that allow them to create different rhythmical patterns. "Our musical influences are largely [varied] since each and every one of us has a different taste in music, [including] some jazz influences," Morrisette explained.

Pussy Stench's latest EP inspires listeners to be courageous and express themselves, especially in terms of female empowerment in the punk scene.

"I think it's a lot about self expression not only as girls in the scene, [although it's definitely] a part of it," Ménard explained. In their song "Scratch," the lyrics talk about how some women are told that the punk scene is dangerous and that they'll get hurt. "But then you join in anyways and you're just as riled up as the rest of the guys."

Ménard said it's an internal issue within the punk scene. Their EP promoted the idea that people, particularly women and young girls, should break out of their shells and be fearless, and be who they want to be without worrying what others might think.

Although all three bands have strong backbones and powerful feminist voices, they've all encountered their fair share of sexism in the industry.

Khalakhala described an experience



when her professionalism and musical ability was questioned by one of the sound technicians working at a venue they were playing at.

“He looked at me and asked if I was in a band. I said yes. He said, ‘What instrument do you play?’ I looked down at all the drum gear I was carrying and said, ‘Drums, obviously,’” Khalakhala explained. “He genuinely looked perplexed and said ‘Oh yeah? A girl on drums?’ It was so confusing for me to understand why that was so surprising to him.”

Guitarist Victoria Turner from Lef70vers felt that, at times, their band wasn’t considered as professional as male musicians. “A lot of people don’t take us seriously. They think we don’t know how to play and are very surprised when we do,” she said.

For Pussy Stench, Ménard explained that some venue and concert promoters had tried to take advantage of the band by underpaying them. She had witnessed one band get paid \$40, but then the same venue promoter had only given Pussy Stench \$20.

“I’m seeing more and more communities coming out and saying that they want more and more all-girl bands,” Ménard explained. “But then you also see promoters who take that as an opportunity to promote the fact that there are girls [at all]. Like, ‘Oh

yeah, all-girl band, that’ll bring in the money’. Ironically, they’re not paying us that much.”

Ménard suspects that this may be because some people in the scene aren’t used to seeing too many all-girl punk bands. While she sees her guy friends succeeding, she finds herself and her band constantly having to emphasize the fact that Pussy Stench is to be taken just as seriously.

Not becoming seriously recognized as a band is one of the reasons why women in punk may be hesitant to start their own bands.

“I just saw that [starting a band of their own] wasn’t even a question in their minds,” she said. “I didn’t really see girls going up there and starting one of their own, you know? So that was a

Pussy Stench vocalist and guitarist Devan K-M with drummer John DeNardi.

big thing [in the EP].”

This is one of the fundamental reasons why it’s important to support all-girl punk bands. Buy music, attend shows, help artists continue to create. Then, down the line, more artists can get inspired and make their own music.

Pussy Stench’s song “DIY Abortions” became a sort of anthem for Pussy Stench soon after they wrote it and began performing it at shows.

Ménard explained that when they first wrote it, the defunding of Planned Parenthood in the United States wasn’t a concern, but the song became all the more relevant after Donald Trump was inaugurated. Not only concerning the tyrant bills that Trump had instilled, but also to send out the message that no one should be told what to do with their own bodies.

“Whether it’s getting an abortion or being open with their own sexuality, I think it’s a song that gives a big fuck you to all the ignorant people who still go against [these things],” Ménard continued. “Because this is happening and it’s something that we need to talk about.”

PHOTOS BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIANLAPUZ



Chârogne guitarist Sarah Drouin with vocalist Catherine Morrisette.

BOTAT'S BACK

A Year After Car Crash, Stinger Returns

BY ALEXANDER PEREZ
@DASALEXPerez

Jizreel Botat remembers lying down on his hospital bed when Concordia Stingers football assistant coach Patrick Donovan walked into the room.

The only thing Botat could say was “Sorry.”

Botat apologized because he wouldn't be able to play the rest of the season, due to the injuries he sustained in a car accident on Thanksgiving weekend last October after taking a rideshare back to Montreal from Ottawa.

After almost a year on the sidelines, the Stingers defensive back will return to the team for the upcoming season this fall.

AN UNFORGETTABLE TRAGEDY

On Oct. 8 2016, Botat was in Ottawa visiting his girlfriend, Natasha Bridgman-Ibrahim. On his way back, he booked a ride-sharing service, where he met Katy Torres.

The accident took Torres' life. Before blacking out, Botat remembers hearing what he described as “a cry for help.”

“The last thing I heard was [Torres] saying ‘Oh shit,’” he recalled.

After the accident Botat called his mother, Leocadie. She was confused at first, she said he never usually calls her. But Leocadie heard the commotion after her son had told her that he'd been in an accident.

“I started crying because he's not used to that,” she said. “[At first] I thought he had hit somebody.”

When Botat's mother heard about Torres' passing, she felt hurt. It wasn't so much about her passing, she said, but Torres' parents having to deal with the situation. “I put myself in their shoes,” said Leocadie.

Botat sustained a fractured left ankle and a sprain on his right knee after being cramped under the car seat. He would

be limited to a wheelchair and boot casts strapped onto each leg after.

His first season with the Stingers was over.

“Fresh off the accident was bad,” said Botat. “It was probably the worst I have ever been mentally, physically and emotionally.”

For the first three months he remembers crying every single day, but says he feels blessed. “I was crying of joy to thank God that I was still alive,” he said.

Trapped in the confinements of his injuries, Botat's road to recovery left him frustrated. The simplest tasks became an obstacle. Even walking up the stairs was painful, he said.

“It made everything difficult,” said Botat. Before he got his boot casts, he had to perch on a stool to keep his legs out of the shower.

Burdened by the memory of the accident and left struggling to cope with his physical limitations, the Stingers rookie still feels discomforted, both physically and mentally.

“Thinking about it now, it's scarier than when it first happened,” said Botat. “[When I] reenvision myself in the same situation, I start feeling [the car's parts] on me.”

Unable to train, let alone stand on his own two feet, Botat was longing to be back on the field with his teammates.

It wasn't until Botat, who is enrolled in the religion program at Concordia, was studying at Concordia's PERFORM Centre at Loyola Campus that it truly hit him. Looking outside, he glanced towards the Stinger Dome where he noticed fellow teammate Jeffery Ouellett walking out.

Seeing his teammates walking in and out of training sessions, Botat grew restless. But he admitted that he couldn't push himself more than his body could take. It's just a time game, he said.

“Sometimes I want to go and take the ladders and take the cones and do a couple drills here and there, but I physically can't. It sucks, so I just have to proceed and watch people go,” said Botat.

“I guess the part that I missed the most is the process of becoming a good player,” he continued.

BOTAT'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

Botat pointed to the support he had throughout the weeks following the accident. He said the amount of people he had to talk to when he was feeling low made him feel emotional.

“I would just hit up anybody and they'd listen to me,” he said.

He credits his mother and girlfriend for helping him cope with his injuries and the accident, but he also pointed to another source of inspiration that helped him get through his recovery.

Jersey Henry, Stingers defensive back and Botat's closest friend on the team, became his motivator. Botat said that



Henry has been helping him get back on the field since the accident.

“We spoke almost daily after the accident,” said Henry. “I just told him everything was going to be okay and anything he needed I told him don’t hesitate.”

Like everyone who received the news, Henry was shocked to hear his friend and teammate had been in a car accident.

Henry was in Ottawa with a few other teammates at the same time as Botat. Botat was supposed to return to Montreal with his teammates, but a change of plans saw him stick around a little longer. Hearing what happened to his friend, Henry said it felt like a bad dream.

“[Botat] is a very funny person, he likes to joke around. So to see him not be able to walk, to see him in a wheelchair was very hard for me,” said Henry. “I’m not really an emotional person, but I definitely felt a lot of emotions going through my body at the time.”

The two share a close friendship. Predating to their time with the maroon and gold, Henry and Botat have shared the field on several occasions, both as opponents and

teammates—Botat played for the St-Laurent Spartans and Henry for the Lasalle Warriors. From there, they went on to represent the Vanier Cheetahs enroute to joining the Stingers.

“I would say our friendship right now is the closest thing to brothers,” said Henry. “We do everything together, we train together.”

The team rallied behind Botat. According to Henry, the Stingers used the rest of the season as a tribute to him.

Henry is eager to see Botat back on the field and playing football again. He took the initiative to help Botat get on track with his rehabilitation. Henry said he took on the responsibility of lifting his spirits and motivating him to get back into shape.

Henry never questioned Botat’s ability to recover. According to Henry, Botat “will come and give his all,” to play again.

When asked whether anybody, including Botat himself, doubted that he would ever see the field again, Henry said “Never. Never. Never.”

“As an athlete, that’s never a thought that would cross your mind,” said Henry. “I try to tell him everyday that this is our year—2017 is our year.”

Although Botat wasn’t able to play for the team, he still stuck by them during his rehabilitation. Once he was able to stand again, he said he would go to every practice and run on the sidelines, trying to do as much as he could off the field. But Botat still had a few hiccups along the way.

“[My injuries] stopped me from basically playing my position,” said Botat. “Because I’m a defensive back, I always got to back pedal and that’s where it hurts the most.”

Despite his injuries, Botat’s mother is confident in her son’s athleticism and dedication to play again. He can’t be playing if he doesn’t feel like himself, she said. “I think he’s going to be fine.”

With Botat’s recovery on track, It’s likely the Stingers will see him back come the beginning of the season. According to Henry, Botat is “very close” to completing his comeback and doesn’t see him missing any time. He expects Botat ready to be healthy from day one.

“I’m just gonna come in and still be, or try to be as dominant as I was before, if not better,” said Botat.

PHOTO BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIANLAPUZ



Sidelined for almost a year, Jizreel Botat will finally take to the field again for the Concordia Stingers.

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Rajotte's Last Stretch with the Stingers

Graduating Rugby Player Paved the Way for New Recruits

BY FRANCA G. MIGNACCA
@FRANCAMIGNACCA

After three years of playing with the Concordia Stingers, women's rugby captain Frédérique Rajotte will bid farewell to the team at the end of this season.

Finishing her final year in Concordia's communications program, graduation will mark a bittersweet end for the player as she pursues new avenues both within and outside the sport.

"I'm excited for it but it's also super sad because I feel like I haven't been there for five seasons," the 23-year-old rugby centre said.

Stingers head coach Graeme McGravie is sad to see Rajotte go. He pointed out that if she hadn't taken off a season to go to British Colombia, last year would've been her last. He's glad that the team will get one last season with her.

"She's given everything she has, and she's Concordia through and through," said McGravie. Coaches like to see their athletes win as much as possible in the limited time at the university, he said. "But you also want to see them be successful students and graduate."

Throughout the years, McGravie has seen Rajotte's growth firsthand, both as a player and in her physical strength—the area in which he feels she has most improved throughout the years. McGravie feels her rigorous training during the Stingers' off-seasons are what have helped her get to this point.

"Obviously her time with the national team has seen her grow, I think physically she's a lot stronger than she was when she first got here, and that has just turned her

game into another level," he added.

Having observed some of the new recruits play during open practice sessions in the winter, Rajotte is confident that they'll integrate well to the team. Her goal for the team is to make it to the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec finals again this season.

Some of the team's newest recruits have already trained with Rajotte, including Shawna Brayton and Erika Scott. McGravie has high hopes for this season and his new recruits, with about five or six of them able to start right away. His expectations are high for Brayton in particular.

"We're super excited to have [Brayton] and we're really hoping she can make an impact. She has at the CEGEP level and at the provincial level, so we're just hoping that continues," said McGravie.

McGravie has described Brayton as a focused player. He compared her to Rajotte, saying that she too spends a lot of time building up her strength in the off-season.

"She's a seriously dedicated athlete, that's for sure," he said.

Brayton considers Rajotte to be her idol and says Rajotte, as well as veteran centre Alexandra Tessier, taught her to play rugby and got her into the sport. Brayton played with Rajotte on Québec's provincial team for two years and

has been training with her at the Institut national du sport de Québec with Stingers coach François Ratier, as well as weight and conditioning sessions together at Claude-Robillard, for the past few years. She says Rajotte's been helpful in welcoming her to the team.

"[Rajotte's] definitely a leader I'd say, very loud on the pitch, telling everyone where to go, what to do," said Brayton. "She's a very confident player and always brings 100 per cent to the field."

This is Brayton's first semester at Concordia, studying finance and science in order to complete the prerequisites needed for the John Molson School of Business.

Brayton previously played for the

"I started rugby when I was 16 years-old in high school and I didn't know much about it and then it took me across the world"

Frédérique Rajotte

Dawson College Blues rugby team and at the national level with the under-18 Commonwealth Games and the under-20 England Tour last year. Though a little nervous about coming in as a rookie, she hopes to contribute to the Stingers' success in winning this season's finals.

"I've always wanted to be a Stinger, even before I started CEGEP. They have a great program, great coaches, I mean some of the coaches are even Canada-level. Even in the Olympic program, there was always some training at Concordia," she said.

Brayton hopes playing at the university level will make her a stronger player overall.

"I'm nervous being a younger one on the team and a rookie, and maybe smaller. [...] I think that might be a bit nerve-racking but I'm sure after a while I'll fit in, get comfortable and used to it," she said.

After playing with Team Canada in the International Women's Rugby Series in New Zealand in June, Rajotte went on to make the team for the Women's Rugby World Cup in Ireland this past summer. Stingers teammate Tessier has also made the team. Their team finished fifth.

"I started rugby when I was 16 years-old in high school and I didn't know much about it and then it took me across the world," said Rajotte. "I got to see so many things, I got to experience so many challenges. It definitely made me a stronger person."

"But if you asked me two years ago if I thought of making it to the world cup, my answer would've been completely different," Rajotte said.

She was selected for the team by Ratier, who encouraged her not to give up on her

Concordia Stingers rugby team centre Frédérique Rajotte is playing her bittersweet final season with the Stingers, mentoring the team's rookies.

dream of pursuing the sport a few years ago. Coming back from Victoria, B.C., she felt discouraged and was almost ready to hang up her boots for good.

"I was just so beat down and not happy to be playing [...] When I came to Concordia after that kind of break, I had a tough season and I was just not there at all," she explained.

When Ratier encouraged her to continue pursuing rugby, she decided to push forward and became increasingly hungry for the sport. With people around

the world watching her in Ireland, she felt the pressure to perform well, but managed to remain calm by treating it as any other game.

"I personally think I'm out there, I'm playing the sport that I love," said Rajotte "I'm excited [...] obviously I'm super competitive about it, but I try not to think about it too much and not stress over it cause it's just another game at the end of the day."

Rajotte has no regrets in her career with the Stingers so far, but has some





advice for incoming students of all programs. In her first year, she had practices in the evenings, often preventing her from going out to parties and similar events—something that she feels many students feel pressured to do in their first year, whether they actually want to or not.

“When I look back on it, I’m like, maybe I should’ve gone out more in my first year and really had that university experience,” said Rajotte. “But if I think about it, it pays off down the road [...]

You don’t have to have that cliché university experience that everyone talks about in the movies.”

McGravie added that with it being Rajotte and Tessier’s final season, there is a lot more pressure placed on the team for the upcoming campaign this fall. Adding to that pressure, there are several rugby players going into the Stingers hall of fame at their homecoming, giving this season an added importance with several alumni coming to watch the games.

Upon graduating, Rajotte hopes to kick

off her professional career in Montreal, keeping her doors open for all opportunities, but especially hoping that she may someday be a sports broadcaster—an ambition she’s had since she was a child.

“Rugby’s still going to be part of my life cause I’m still young so I think two world cups are still in the works for me,” she said. “But I really want a career for myself and to make a name for myself outside of sports.”

PHOTO BRIAN LAPUZ @BRIANLAPUZ

Hitchhiking Across Canada

BY JON MILTON
@514JON

There we were, standing on the side of the road.

It could have been anywhere, really. We were battered by the sun, carrying our backpacks and holding a cardboard sign that read “West.” We were waiting for someone, anyone, to pull over to the side of the road and bring us a bit farther towards the setting sun.

Earlier in the summer, Violette and I decided that we would spend a month or two travelling together. I had never been west of southern Ontario, and she hadn’t been out west since having left as a child. We wanted to see the rest of the country, but we didn’t have the budget to travel by bus or by plane. So we figured we would use our thumbs.

It seems like a pretty big decision, when you’re making it. I’d hitchhiked before, but always within Quebec, never more than a day or two’s ride. It always surprised me how easy and unintimidating the whole process was; It’s nothing like the horror stories that we’re taught to associate with getting picked up by strangers. Hitching across the country was a

whole different ball game though, and I wasn’t sure that I was ready.

I packed up my bag in the middle of June. Along with the essentials like a tent and sleeping bag, I tried my best to think of things I might need on the road, and picked them up. I’m now the proud owner of a pocket-sized saw for

cutting firewood, as well as an actual hard copy map of Canada.

I left Montreal heading east, towards Gaspésie. This first trip was something of a trial run, a test of my luck—and it turns out I was pretty lucky.

It’s always smart to get away from major cities when hitchhiking, so we took a bus ride from Longueuil metro to Sorel, about an hour away. Being far enough from the city helped a lot—traffic isn’t wall-to-wall, making it dangerous to stop, and drivers are in less of a rush.

Once we were on the side of the road, we did our best to look friendly. We smiled at drivers as they passed, and made eye contact. The fact that we carried big backpacks definitely helped as well—it announced that we were travellers, not bums, as one of our drivers put it.

I ended up getting a ride most of the way out with a friendly, conspiracy-theorizing farmer who’d moved out of the city to become self-sufficient. He was still working on it, he said, despite





seeing more and more chemtrails in the sky out in the country.

I made it to Percé, and jumped in the Atlantic Ocean. It was cold.

After coming back to Montreal, Violette and I left westward in the beginning of July, catching an AMT train out to Vaudreuil. We went through a gas station dumpster and got a piece of cardboard, and we made another sign that said “West.” We lost a few of signs over the course of the trip, accidentally leaving it behind or having it ruined by the rain, but cardboard is easy to come by.

It started well. Not long after we got off the train, we got a ride directly to Ottawa, our first night’s stop. We had worked out a place to sleep with Couchsurfing, a website that’s basically a free version of AirBnB. We camped in the yard of a tiny house just outside the city, and our host took us on a tour through the marsh nearby.

Other nights, we improvised our

Top: At a rest stop on Lake Superior, in northern Ontario.

Left: The view from the side of the road outside Moose Jaw, SK.

Right: Smoke from the B.C. wildfires hazing over the approach through the Rocky Mountain foothills.





sleep situation. We'd get dropped off at rest stops right before dark, and head behind the tree line to set up our tents. We always stayed near the highway in these cases, so we could avoid long walks in the morning and situate ourselves by the sound of passing cars.

Facebook proved to be a pretty useful tool for finding spaces to crash. After posting on Facebook that we were in whatever city, sometimes it would turn out that we had friends of friends in the city who were willing to put us up for the night, and show us around (shoutout to our gracious host in Winnipeg).

We thought about staying in hostels occasionally, but generally avoided it. We started looking at them in Banff—where, if you get caught camping illegally, you get a really steep fine—but decided against it because it would cost us \$70 each per night. Banff is expensive in general though, so we figured that we could try it somewhere else. We camped in the official campground instead, splitting a single site for \$14 each per night.

We ended up staying at a hostel in Kelowna when we got stuck in British Columbia. Despite a sign outside advertising beds for \$34 a night, it turned out costing \$50 each—according to the hostel, prices increased automatically with demand. It definitely wasn't worth it, and I'd recommend against it if you're planning a low-budget trip across the country.

One thing that's important to remember when you're hitchhiking is that you never know who's going to pick you up. You'll get rides from someone you'd never meet otherwise—at one point, we got a ride from former NFL player Robert Holmes in rural Saskatchewan. These days, he likes to sit at a gas station in Belle Plaine and watch the cars go by.

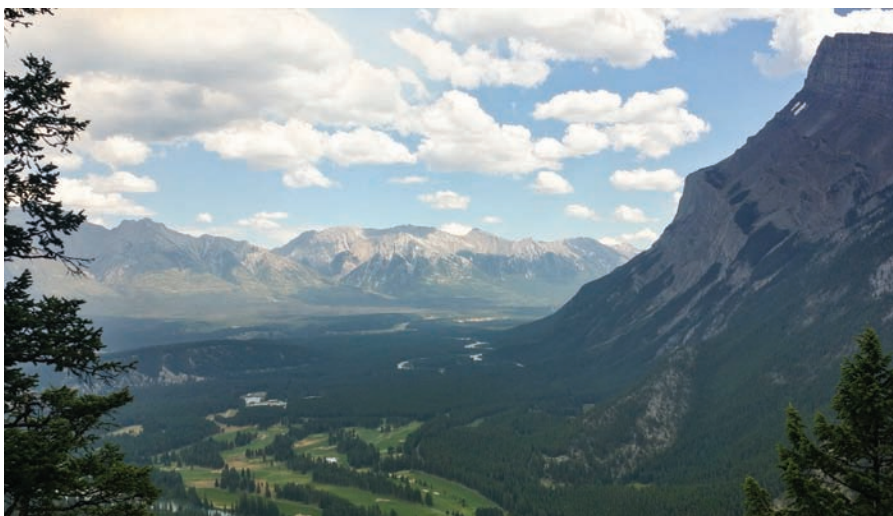
For the most part, drivers are really friendly. Hitchhiking, for me, is a reminder of the random generosity and kindness that people are capable of. One former military guy-turned-artist bought Violette and I breakfast and drove hours farther than he planned in order



Left: One of the Rockies, from nearby.

Top: Yes, Banff, AB is spectacular—despite all the tourists.

Bottom: Even atop Tunnel Mountain, the smell of wildfire persisted.



to get us around Lake Superior. A Scottish rafting instructor from B.C. gave us an expensive beer from the local brewery as he dropped us off. A dad from Manitoba bought us ice cream sandwiches and gave us a bunch of food. Drivers regularly went far out of their way to drop us off exactly where we were going, rather than let us walk with our heavy backpacks.

Sometimes, rides can be a bit trickier, but we never felt like we were in danger. One driver that picked us up was a dude who, upon hearing that we were university students, launched into a tirade about how leftists were threatening Jordan Peterson's free speech, or something like that. He was still a pretty alright guy, and could name nearly every single mountain peak in the Rockies—including ones that the "PC police" had changed, like Ha Ling Peak, formerly known as Chinaman's Peak.

We also realized, as the trip went on, just how privileged we are, even as hitchhikers. We're both white, we were a man and a woman, we're both young. We got more than one ride from people who had never picked up hitchhikers before—some of them even described how they see Indigenous people trying to hitchhike regularly, but don't pick them up because "natives have a bad reputation." These people weren't the type to self-identify as racist, but their words were a reminder that the society we live in definitely is.

The land we call Canada is vast and beautiful. It's filled with some pretty decent people, but we're all shaped by the larger forces that exist around us. From the guy who never sees his family because he works all the time, to the person who believes media hype about imaginary threats to free speech, to the people who don't pick up hitchhikers of color, the systemic forces around us bleed into our interactions with one another in ways we can't always perceive. All of that is on full display when you're hitchhiking.

It's one hell of an adventure, and it's the cheapest way to travel. I'm sure I'll be out doing it again next summer.

PHOTOS JON MILTON @514JON

happy september

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issue one **launch party**

“what i wish i knew before university”

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workshop: writing news for
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with kelsey litwin, editor-in-chief

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Introducing our New Column: Sex Ed(itorial)

BY SAVANNAH STEWART AND OCEAN DEROUCHIE
@SAVS_EDEN_S AND @OSHIEPOSHIE

In this hypersexualized society, we're often shamed and told that we think "too much" about sex—we even hear about health myths that report that the average human thinks about it no less than every seven seconds. In mainstream media, we see men and women judged differently for enjoying the same things, while everyone else on the gender spectrum is largely ignored.

Here at *The Link*, we want to change that.

After all, we like to think about sex, and we'd urge you to think even more about sex. We want to talk about these thoughts too, because we're concerned that the dialogue surrounding sex is often confusing, contradicting and sometimes downright shaming.

So we're here to change the conversation. We want you to start thinking about sex differently. Conversations about sex and sexuality have progressed—albeit at a snail's pace—to more open and honest discussions. From talking about preferences and kinks to acknowledging the existence of more than just two genders, we're seeing a refreshing evolution in our collective dialogue and we want that to continue.

With that in mind, we'd like to introduce our new column to you, dear reader.

Sex Ed(itorial) will talk about sex and all of the things surrounding it.

'Cause it's fucking good for you—for your body and your mind.

It helps combat stress and depression, it can improve your self esteem, and it can lead to happier relationships. There are numerous health benefits associated to it, from boosting your immune system to lowering the risk of prostate cancer. But more than that, having sex—in whatever form feels natural to you—is just one of the amazing perks of being a human being.

This column is open a space for all kinds of sex: sex with others, sex with yourself, the absence of sex, the thoughts that you have before and after sex, gender and sexuality, and everything in between.

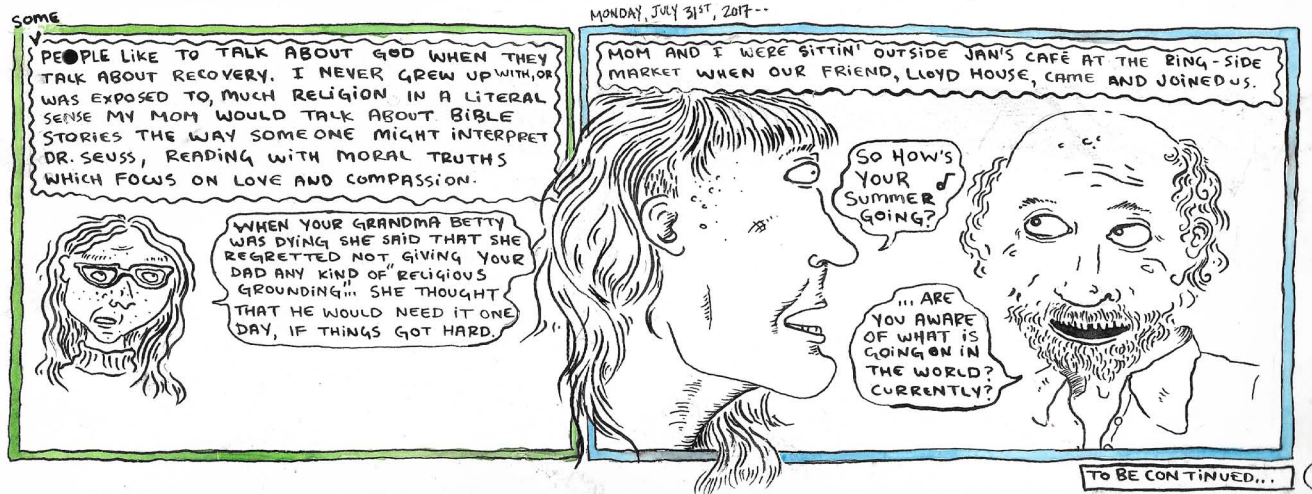
This column is a place for you. A place where you can feel safe, understood and listened to as we address aspects of our sexualities and sexual preferences that our society may or may not be as keen to talk about. We're doing this because we believe there shouldn't be anything taboo about what goes on between informed, consenting adults—and we really want you to be informed.

So let's change the conversations, and get rid of the old preconceived notions together. Let's talk about sex.

If you'd like to contribute to the column, send us your questions, comments, stories and thoughts to opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca.

COMICS

Anonymous by Morag Rahn-Campbell // @madd.egg



The Epic Adventures of Every Man by Every Man



Caity Comics by Caity Hall // @caityhallart



Hastily Put Together by Theo Radomski // @flannelogue



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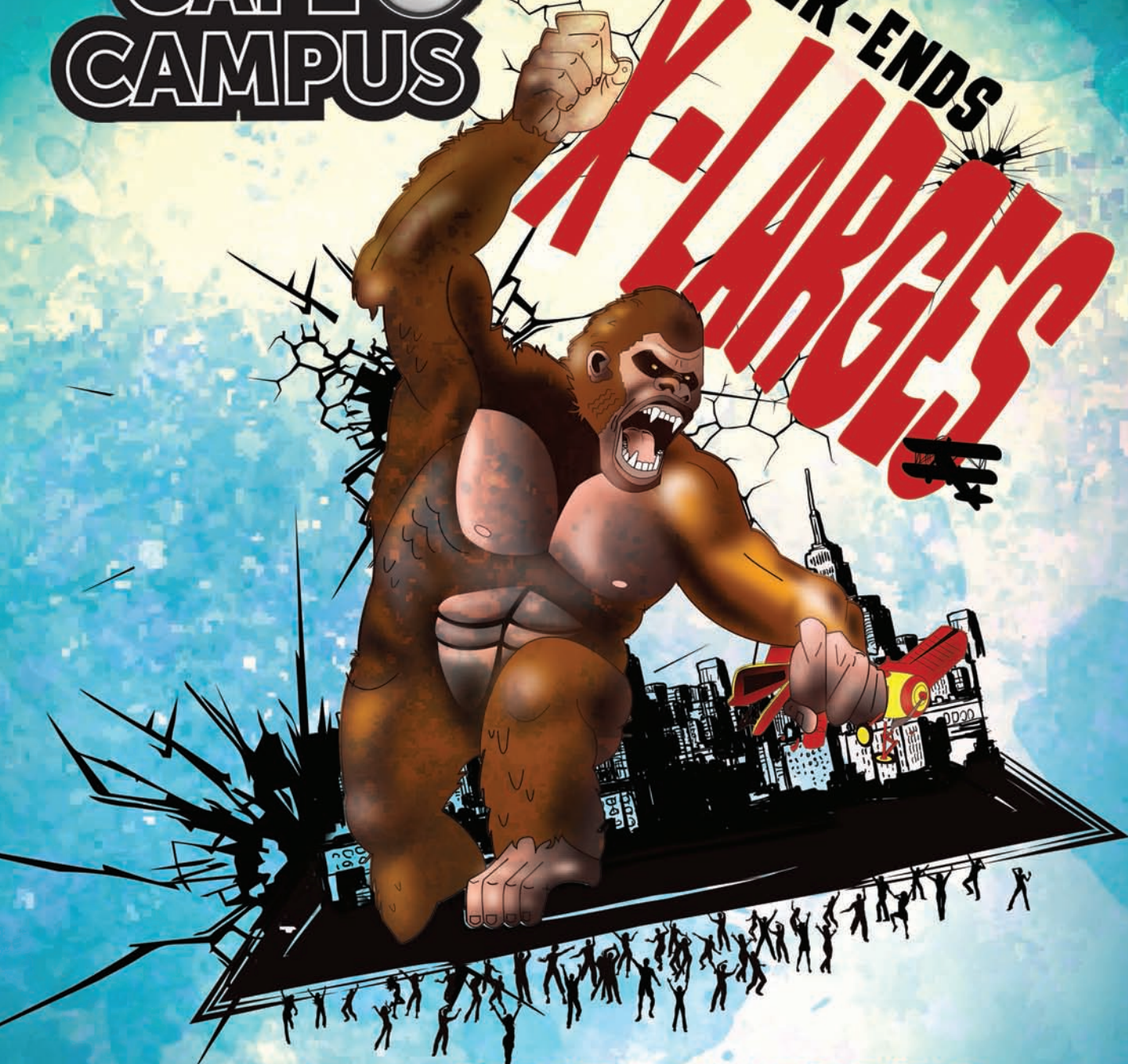
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