

# THE LINK

## FRINGE

### Festivals of the Week

Concordia students set the scene for new narratives P. 6

## SPORTS

### Powering Through

Concordia Alumnus training to represent Greece at the Olympics P. 10

## OPINIONS

### Editorial

Students should vote to change the Arts and Science association into a less flashy funding body, but oppose the fee-levy increase P. 15

# opprimées

P. 3



Our products and piercings? We're *always* on point.



**Pointe de la Pointe**  
Private, personal, professional piercing  
Bio-Hacking Specialists  
www.pointepointe.ca  
514-506-3275



**LES WEEK-ENDS X-LARGES**  
**LA MUSIQUE D'AUJOURD'HUI**  
TOP40 • EDM • HIP HOP • RNB • REGGAETON • DANCEHALL • LATIN  
**CAFÉ CAMPUS**  
BIENVENUE SUR VOTRE PISTE DE DANSE !  
57 PRINCE-ARTHUR E.  CAFE CAMPUS MONTREAL

## THE LINK

### Notice of election

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

Eligibility: You are a member of *The Link* (paying fees) and you have the staff status with four (4) or more contributions and not a masthead member of *The Link*.

Candidates must present a **letter of intent** by **Wednesday, March 22, 2016 at 5 p.m.** to the secretary of the board of directors by email to [business@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:business@thelinknewspaper.ca)

**Elections will be held Wednesday March 29 at 4 p.m.** in *The Link's* office. 1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649.

# Join The Link!

Meeting Every Tuesday at 4 pm

----  
**Hall Building**  
1455 de Maisonneuve W.  
Room H649



**thali** 6 Years  
**Best Indian Cuisine at Best Price**

**2 minutes from Concordia**  
Guy-Concordia Station M Guy  
Concordia University  
De Maisonneuve W. Saint-Marc  
Saint-Marc  
Sainte-Catherine

**VEGETARIAN THALI • \$9.00**  
3 vegetarian dishes, rice, naan, salad + papadam

**BIRYANI • \$9.00**  
Chicken, Lamb or Vegetarian

**DOSA • \$8.50**

**TANDOORI CHICKEN LEG + naan • \$6.75**

**WRAPS • \$5.75**  
Chicken, Lamb or Vegetarian (+ \$1 for Butter Chicken Sauce)

**THALI • \$10.00**  
2 different meat dishes, 1 vegetable, rice, naan, salad, papadam

**BUTTER CHICKEN + rice, naan • \$11.50**

All taxes included. We accept cash and debit card.

**1409 St. Marc • 514-989-9048**  
thalimontreal.com

## CLASSIFIED ADS

\$3.50+tax for Concordia undergraduate students.  
\$5.00+tax for others \$0.25/word after 15 words.

### DEADLINE: 2 p.m. Friday

Classifieds must be purchased at our offices  
1455 De Maisonneuve W. Room 649  
and be accompanied by full payment.

Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed on Wednesdays.

We do not take classified ads  
by telephone, fax or E-mail.

**MONTREAL AUTHOR** seeks part-time intern,  
possibly live-in. Please write with bio, photo,  
and availability. [friedmanik@gmail.com](mailto:friedmanik@gmail.com)

[thelinknewspaper.ca](http://thelinknewspaper.ca)

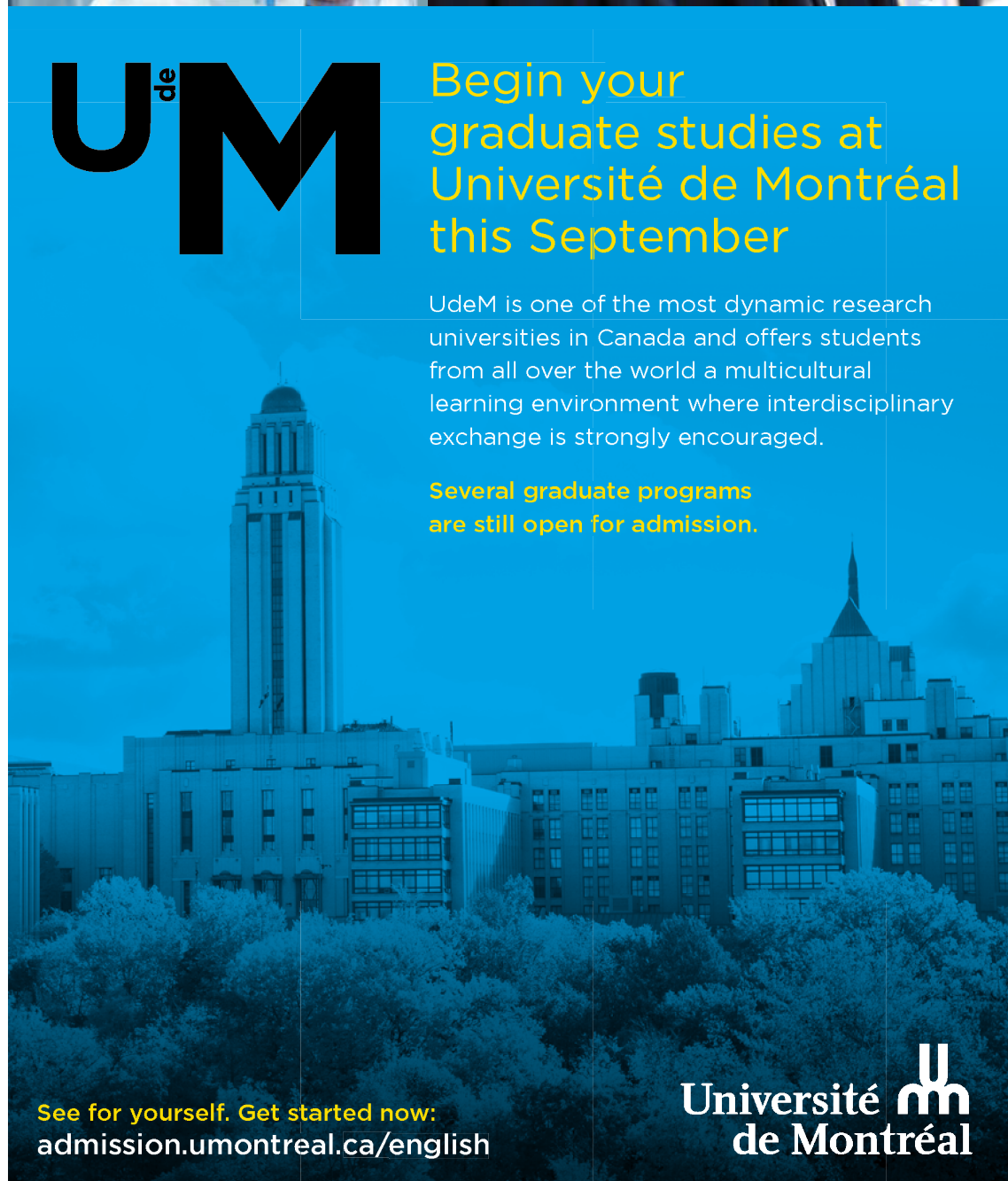


# U<sup>de</sup>M

Begin your  
graduate studies at  
Université de Montréal  
this September

UdeM is one of the most dynamic research  
universities in Canada and offers students  
from all over the world a multicultural  
learning environment where interdisciplinary  
exchange is strongly encouraged.

Several graduate programs  
are still open for admission.



See for yourself. Get started now:  
[admission.umontreal.ca/english](http://admission.umontreal.ca/english)

Université   
de Montréal



# Taking to the Street as a Woman

Female Perspectives on Montreal Demonstrations

HÉLÈNE BAUER  
@HELENEVBAUER

The doctor estimated a six-month recovery period for Katie Nelson, a philosophy student at Concordia. She suffers from tendon damage to one arm, a contusion to her right knee and a concussion.

According to Nelson, she sustained the injuries at a night demonstration against austerity on Dec. 18, when she was body checked by a police officer.

"There were about eight cops around me that night, and I was thrown across the street by one," Nelson said. "I think that they have an advantage with how badly they hurt me because I'm a woman."

She estimates that she has been to about a hundred marches since moving to Montreal from Alberta in 2012.

March 15 is the International Day Against Police Brutality. Those present at the annual march this year, organized by the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality, will be taking to the streets to demonstrate against police violence and social profiling.

In Montreal, police violence often occurs in conjunction with demonstrations. It's an all too common narrative: those in power construct the use of public space according to their own ideologies and interests, and those who disrupt that dominant view, like protestors, are punished.

The use of police force to dismiss demonstrations in Montreal has been historically recorded for decades. It's difficult to monitor that use of force, though, as it's dismissed by authorities—like in Nelson's case—or not reported at all.

Nelson filed a previous \$24,000 lawsuit against the city in 2013. The police officer dressed in civilian clothes that attacked her in December is among the officers to be mentioned specifically in her lawsuit, according to her. She said they recognized each other and believes she was targeted, but the police officer is "denying that they were involved,"

and "doesn't want to take responsibility."

This lack of accountability is the reason why there are few official statistics available on the subject, other than testimonies to this violence. Nelson mentioned that when she was taken to the hospital in December, police had already identified her case and had asked the officers to deny any affiliation to her injuries.

"It's a whole new level of police violence and hastiness of covering up what had happened," Nelson said.

The Special Investigations Unit is a civilian agency in the province of Ontario that dedicates its work to investigating cases of police violence. Its model, which assures greater civilian accountability of police, is one-of-a-kind in Canada. It investigates reported severe injuries, deaths and sexual assault cases that involved police and civilians.

The Collectif les Sorcières, a radical feminist collective in Montreal, has made a similar attempt to document accounts of police violence against women. They recently published a collection of stories from women who suffered from police violence in a zine format.

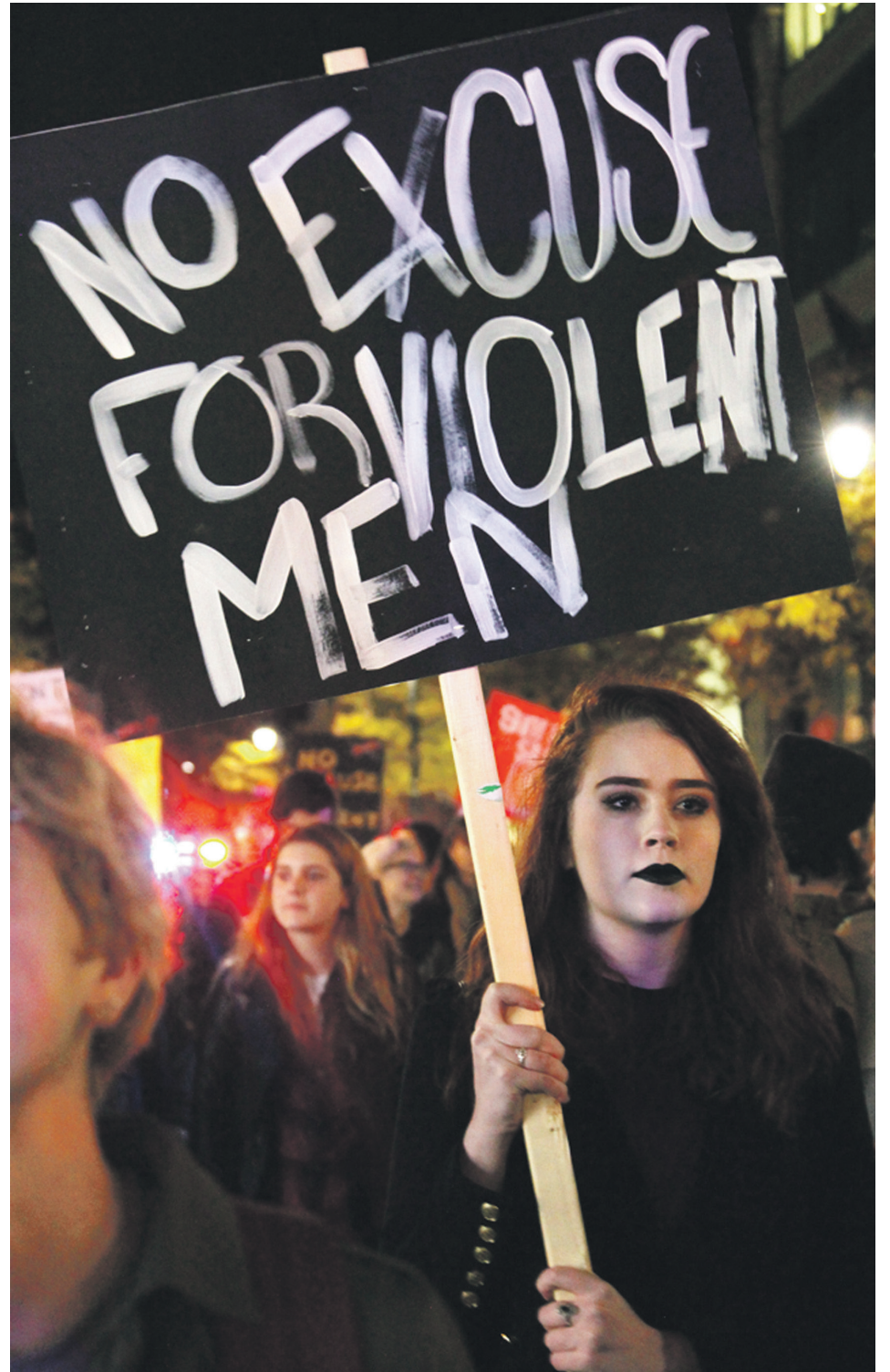
"I saw repression [at the April 7 protest] but it was different," said Isabelle, a member of the collective. April 7, 2015 was the date of a female-only demonstration that ended with a forceful police intervention in the use of tear gas, strikes and arrests. Isabelle spoke to *The Link* on the condition of anonymity fearing repercussions from police.

The idea to put together the zine stemmed from that demonstration.

"We've always had problems with police brutality and the way they express themselves towards women," Isabelle said.

That night, there were two arrests and several testimonies from women injured by police officers.

Repression and police brutality are two tactics commonly used by the police, said Isabelle. Women, especially, experience a different kind of violence that's not often talked about or recognized. She mentioned sexist comments from police officers like



A protester against gendered violence at the annual Take Back The Night Protest on Nov. 5, 2015.

ALEX BAILEY



A unity march against the deportation of migrants took place on Oct. 11, 2015.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

thelinknewspaper.ca/news • March 15, 2016

"go back to your kitchen," or "go take care of your kids."

"It's very patriarchal and condescending" Isabelle said.

Nelson's beliefs are in line with this.

"What I've come to learn in the years I've had experience with police officers is that there's a lot of misogyny and gender imbalance in terms of what position you are in and what you're communicating," she said.

According to Isabelle, that communication is often repressed by those in positions of power. There's a limited number of non-mixed demonstrations in Montreal, which she estimates at one or two per year. Having a non-mixed demonstration allows for women to take up a space in the public sphere that's not often given to them.

"It's a moment of empowerment for women to take to the streets," Isabelle said.

When women are active in mixed groups,

they are often delegated behind-the-scene roles, like doing administrative tasks or making food for the group, Isabelle noted.

"Part of the violence also comes from being invisible," she said. "We're not seen or recognized as much as men."

Nelson hasn't been to a demonstration since that night in December.

"It was a very traumatizing event," she said. "You suffer a lot psychologically from that. A lot of experience I've had with police has been gendered. It's been sexualized, sexist or misogynistic."

To this day, Nelson finds it unsettling to walk past police officers—she is slowly recovering from the incident. She doesn't know if she will attend the upcoming anti-police brutality march on Tuesday.

"There's a level of violation I felt as a woman, a piece of my identity has been stripped away," Nelson said.



# Planting the Seed

## Seed Library Initiative Will Inspire Students to Grow Their Own Food At Home

SHARON YONAN RENOLD  
@RENOLDSHARON

Concordia students are building a brand new library, but there are no books in sight—a seed library is being developed at the Concordia Greenhouse.

The concept is simple; students will borrow seeds to start their own gardens and then return the seeds from matured plants to the library. This way, an assortment is always available to future gardeners.

Six Concordia students within the inter-faculty class International Community Engagement run the project. Michelle Della Corte, the project leader, says that she was inspired by the Seed Library at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre downtown, which stores seeds in the library's card reference bureaus.

"I thought that something similar could work at the greenhouse with the active student population, and the goals of the greenhouse itself," she explained.

This initiative will enable students to grow their own food in the comfort of their homes. Though this may sound like an impossible feat in a typical Montreal apartment, it is very possible and doable.

"Take advantage of potted plants around the apartment, or on a balcony or windowsill during the summer," said Mary Harasym, one of the project organizers.

Jenna Green, fellow team member, pointed

out how growing fresh herbs like basil, chives, or rosemary would be a good start, as they are easy to grow in a small space.

It seems only recently that seed libraries began to pop up around the U.S. and Canada. Typically these projects are set up in traditional libraries, and rely on the hope that people will bring back the seeds for other gardeners to use. With their popularity still growing an estimated 340 seed libraries in North America, they encourage the survival of the countless fruit and vegetable varieties that run the risk of extinction every year.

"Through the project, I hope people will experience the joy of gardening, from planting a seed to watching the little seedling grow into a strong plant," Della Corte said. "It's such a beautiful and incredibly immersive process."

According to Harasym, the growing popularity of seed libraries can be attributed to the increasing knowledge of how internationally corporatized seed distribution has become. She explained that approximately 85 per cent of seed distribution is monopolized by biotech companies, such as Monsanto and DuPont.

"These are alarming numbers that make us realize we cannot be dependent on a monoculture of growth," she explained.

Harasym also outlined how this initiative is not only positive for the environment, but a great opportunity for students to practice sustainability.

"In the most fundamental ways, it allows people to reconnect with our food, what



From left, Mary Harasym and Kyle Davis are part of a team of six running the seed library project. OCEAN DEROUCHIE

we nourish our bodies with," she said. "It's a refreshing concept with almost having the antithesis of the instant gratification we have in today's society. It's a perfect opportunity to get involved with your local community."

The project is in early development, with the team working on gathering seed donations in order to make the library diverse and successful. Della Corte hopes that the project will be up and running by April. The library largely consists of fruit and vegetable seeds at the moment, she says.

"Right now we have a variety of squash seeds from my personal library, alongside an

employee of the Greenhouse who works with City Farm School," Della Corte said. "It's really dependant on student donations, the different varieties of seeds that we will offer."



# Charrettes Take the Community Stage

## Concordia's Geography, Planning and Environment Department Designs Two Parks for Montreal's 375th Anniversary

KELSEY LITWIN  
@KESYLITWIN

"What are you doing with the dog park?" a soft voice called out.

The collection of Concordia Geography, Planning and Environment students, gathered in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Park, fell into a rare silence.

Local resident Claire and her beagle Zoro were enjoying the early spring sunshine on March 12 when she overheard the group of students brainstorming a redesign at the base of the park's chalet.

The city of Montreal invited the group of students to reimagine existing public spaces in the borough of NDG-Côte-des-Neiges, led by Concordia's urban planning and design professor Silvano De la Llata, in conjunction with Université de Montréal. Their goal is to create two of the same spaces and structures in two different parks—Notre Dame de Grâce Park on Sherbrooke St. W. and Girouard Ave. and Kent Park in Côte-des-Neiges.

These structures—which are being fleshed out now—are meant to create a connection between the two areas, as a testament to the culture of the borough. The goal, De la Llata explained, is to have these new parks implemented by July 2017, just in time for Montreal's 375th anniversary.

Jasmine Ali, one of the student participants, explained that creating connectivity between neighbourhoods is a daunting, but

important task.

"Essentially it's one city, not two different neighbourhoods," she said. "We want to bring back that unity."

To do so, they're turning to the history books. By focusing on the history of NDG-Côte-des-Neiges, the designers plan to instill a sense of connectivity, despite the 5.5 kilometres and cultural differences separating the two parks.

The Concordia organizers thought that this task couldn't weigh only on their shoulders.

"We proposed that this should be a community exercise, not just a design exercise," De la Llata said. Enter the concept of the charrette—in this context, a short but intense period of brainstorming in groups, encompassing urban planners, designers and regular park-users.

"I think the most important part is that we're bringing in stakeholders," continued De la Llata.

Ali said that the focus of their charrettes was bringing in a larger portion of the NDG-Côte-des-Neiges communities.

"It's essential, because we can't do anything without the public's input," she said. This is because it's members of the public, like Claire and Zoro, who will be using these updated spaces. It's important to make sure the new design works for them.

Working for the residents means understanding how they use and engage in the space. Because uses are so varied, the final product is akin to an expertly designed

canvas. It becomes a space that is not limited to a single purpose, but is still self-contained. Talks of possibly moving the stage in Notre Dame de Grâce Park generated a split vote that is representative of the larger divisive nature of these discussions.

"It's good that there's disagreement," De la Llata admitted to a student following the debate. "It's a part of the process. There are clashes."

These clashes allow for the students to fully comprehend what De la Llata describes as "democratic urban design."

"What we talk about all the time is this notion of the public democratizing, planning and making design accessible to the people," he said.

In teaching urban planning, he draws upon the concept of placemaking that stems from

architectural movements of the '60s and '70s. It's the process of putting people first. Placemaking makes way for more than just the basic elements of urban planning—it allows a community's needs and quirks to take centre stage.

While proposals were being thrown around, De la Llata reminded the group that "these are nobodies ideas. We are just facilitators."

De la Llata insists that in order to teach these theories, his students must move outside of the classroom.

"The only way to teach is to enact it," he said. The experiential learning of the park design process grounds the concepts and actions that are being taught in coursework.

"It's a part of the learning. Reaching a consensus is difficult and planning a space collectively is difficult," De la Llata said. "It takes time."



As students spoke with residents, many sketched new uses for the space. KELSEY LITWIN



# ASFA Referendum Breakdown

Questions Ask to Increase ASFA's Fee-levy, Fund the Hive Free Lunch and Change Bylaws

**JOSH FISCHLIN**  
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Starting on March 16, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations will be holding a referendum to decide its structural fate, possibly eliminating the association's culture of throwing large parties.

ASFA represents approximately 15,000 students within Concordia's Arts and Science programs. The federation is looking to restructure through a series of bylaw changes. It's also looking to secure a fee-levy increase of \$0.14 per credit, and is asking for permission to contribute \$0.10 per credit to the Hive Free Lunch Project.

Minimum voter turnout needed is just under 600 students.

**1. Do you as a member of the ASFA approve of the ASFA indexing its fees (currently \$1.22/credit) to inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (\$1.36/credit), effective fall 2016?**

Having recognized five new member associations over the past year—for a total of 31 member associations within the federation—ASFA is looking to increase its funding. The \$0.14 per credit increase will help member associations with costs like food and merchandise that have gone up since 2008.

The federation attempted to increase their fee-levy in a November 2014 referendum by \$0.38 per credit in order to offset an expected deficit of \$61,690. The question did not pass.

The fee-levy does not consistently rise with inflation, but due to the need for more funding, the ASFA executive team decided that raising it in accordance with inflation was the most reasonable way to calculate the increase.

According to General Coordinator Jenna Cocullo, the federation isn't in financial trouble yet, but wants to increase its fee-levy to avoid future troubles.

At a regular council meeting on March 10, sustainability coordinator Lana Galbraith hinted that the federation was

suffering from an increasing deficit.

**2. Do you, as a member of the ASFA, approve of ASFA giving \$0.10/credit towards the Hive Free Lunch Project, effective fall 2016?**

If approved, the \$0.10 per credit will go towards helping fund the Hive Free Lunch Project, which serves vegetarian or vegan food every weekday at the café on Loyola campus between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. The money will not go to ASFA, or the Hive itself—it is meant solely to support the Free Lunch Project.

Since many arts and science classes are held at Loyola, "it would only make sense for the arts and science community to support it," Cocullo said. "It just all about supporting

the arts and science community, who are the main beneficiaries of this service."

**3. Do you agree to the following bylaw changes?**

These bylaw changes are meant to help combat the so-called "toxic atmosphere" within the federation.

The restructuring is an attempt to give more autonomy to member associations by turning ASFA into a "funding body" rather than a "big association." The executives will be shaved down to three positions—advocacy coordinator, finance coordinator and internal coordinator.

Without a social coordinator, the ASFA executive will no longer have a mandate to host social events, which have been some of the most criticized aspects of the federation.

Executives would also be appointed to power—but only once member associations hold general assemblies to vote on the potential appointees. An extra independent member association would be created to accommodate departments that don't already have representation on council.

If this question passes, there will be an immediate callout for candidates to fill the three coordinator positions. Their mandates would officially begin on May 31, according to Cocullo.



ASFA held a council meeting on Thursday March 10, 2016.

JOSH FISCHLIN

# The Nouveau Frigo Vert

Food Co-op Relocates to More Accessible Space, Secures \$100,000 Grant from CSU

**JOSH FISCHLIN**  
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Le Frigo Vert has officially moved into its new space at 1440 Mackay St.

The co-op—a self-described "anti-capitalist food store"—has been planning the relocation since December, but has been looking for the new space for years.

"It's hard to find spaces around here," said Maria Forti, media representative and member of the Frigo Vert collective. "We were looking for two to three years to try and find a space that was accessible and relatively affordable."

The old space, which was occupied by Le Frigo Vert for nearly two decades, had problems with insulation, flooring and frozen pipes.

It was also wheelchair inaccessible, which was one of the primary reasons for the co-op's relocation.

Many of the counters in the new space are lower to the ground; there is a ramp in front of the store; there will be a rail installed in the bathroom and the isles are meant to be big enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

"The plan would be to have at least a number of those kinds of [five-foot radius] spaces so that someone felt like they could

turn around where they wanted to," Forti said.

The relocation was also meant to double the store's capacity—it's also going to cost nearly double the rent.

Despite being around the same size in terms of square feet, the space being used for the "store itself" has doubled, according to Forti. She also said that the old rent was \$4,500, and the new one is set at around \$8,500.

"We're predicting that our sales will go up enough to cover the rent in a couple of years," she said. "So we'll be dipping into our savings for the first year of it, but then hopefully we'll be fine."

The total project cost was \$173,531.

The co-op received \$130,000 in financial aid to help fund the move. They received \$20,000 from the Sustainability Action Fund, \$10,000 from the Concordia Council on Student Life, and \$100,000 from the Concordia Student Union Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund.

Le Frigo Vert funded the remaining \$43,531 difference through their fee-levy.

The CSU approved \$100,000 of financial aid at a regular council meeting on March 9—the sentiment surrounding the funding motion was that it was a "no-brainer."

Most of the construction is already com-

pleted, but bars still need to be installed for the front ramp, the indoor ramp and the bathroom in order to make the space fully accessible for wheelchairs.

A sink also needs to be re-installed in order to be lower to the ground.

The front ramp is in need of repairs, which

Forti says they have been pushing the landlord to do for months. If all goes according to plan, the new Le Frigo Vert will be open for business on March 16.

"We're pretty close. Everything's here, it's just a matter of getting things out of the boxes and getting them on the shelves," Forti said.



Hilary King stands in the new Frigo Vert space on Mackay St.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

[thelinknewspaper.ca/news](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/news)

## Bylaw Affecting Student-Protesters, Student Leadership

The CSU council is demanding the university change a bylaw affecting student eligibility. If they don't, the CSU is mandated to take legal action.

## Safer Space at Reggie's

The CSU and ASFA both passed motions mandating staff from the student bar to take sensitivity training in response to alleged claims of sexual violence.



# Transcending Literature in More Ways Than One

## Concordia Literature Festival Subverts Conventions of the Unconventional

ALEXANDER CRUZ  
@CRUZY67

What comes to mind when you imagine a literature festival? Books galore? Poems abounding across walls? Authors coming to life in a place where students can talk about the past, present, and future of literature? Did you think of a library?

The answer is Off the Page, an underground literature student convention organized by students from the English and Creative Writing department.

The Off the Page festival hosts three days of literary insanity bringing in famous Canadian authors like Ben Lerner, Jordan Abel, Anne Boyer and Sonnet L'Abbé to read their work. Students will have the chance to discuss literature related to current issues.

"The panels we've created all speak to different aspects of literature and writing, and are based on the interests of students in the class and the responses we received from the literary community," said organizer Kailey Havelock, Vice-President of Publications at the Concordia Association for Students in English, a student association focused on creating a community for literature and creative writing students.

"Each panel seeks to challenge dominant discourses about its subject and invite new perspectives, beyond those printed on the page," said Havelock.

One such panel, "A Queer is a Queer is a Queer: Breaking Standard Narratives in Queer Poetics and Prose," takes this challenge by the horns. As the name implies, the panel on Saturday centres on trans and queer literature from trans-identifying writers that deviate from mainstream narratives about the queer body and queer space. It creates a dialogue, not only about literature, but also issues that students hold dear and which might not be discussed in classes.

"I think stuff like Off the Page, that forces the university to open up to people that it

generally doesn't enshrine, is super important," panelist Sadie Laett-Babcock said.

Believe it or not, this idea is actually a huge crux in Off the Page, even if it isn't explicitly stated anywhere on their site or posters.

"There's a dominant discourse that often prevails in academic settings where the canon of literary works is very white, very male, and very straight," said Alex Custodio, VP Academic at CASE. She cuts right to the heart of the issue.

Off the Page's panel is hosted in an academic building, Custodio said, which is important because the festival challenges the university's literary canon in a way that isn't normally possible.

The festival's subversion of normative dis-

course—bringing marginalized themes into the foreground—all while further subverting normative notions of those themes, is remarkable. It's not about changing ideas, or impacting people, but instead about completely putting things on their heads.

"I don't give a shit about impacting ideas or whatever. I feel like that's a real 'cis' goal—the idea that my art is going to educate cisgenders on what it's like, and what is or is not problematic," Laett-Babcock said. "I want a trans person to read something I've written and feel better."

The panel "A Queer is a Queer is a Queer" strikes a chord with the project of the festival, since it focuses on subverting normative narratives, even in trans literature, which one would imagine to be anything but normative.

"We're taught that trans art can only have one goal: being about gender in this gender-y 21st century," Laett-Babcock continued. "That's the only checkbox that you can apply to it, and quality of writing or imagination not only doesn't, but can't, matter."

Off the Page // 6th floor of the LB building (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) // March 17 to 19 // Free

KAI CHENG ★ MOST RECOMMENDED BY MY DATES	OFF THE PAGE'S BREAKING STANDARD NARRATIVES IN QUEER POETICS AND PROSE	ZOE WHITTALL ★ LONGEST WIKIPEDIA PAGE
CASEY PLETT ★ COMFIEST PRAIRIE AUNT	SADIE LAETT-BABCOCK ★ MOST T'S IN LAST NAME (3-WAY TIE)	TANIS FRANCO ★ MOST RELATED TO JAMES FRANCO

There are five panelists in "A Queer is a Queer is a Queer," here are superlatives for them.

GRAPHIC SADIE LAETT-BABCOCK

# Feminism Takes the Stage

## Revolution They Wrote: Concordia's Theatre Students Launch Second Short Works Festival

SARAY ORTIZ  
@SARAYORTIZ

A reading of a play about a young woman's journey dealing with labels and sexuality. A theatrical piece about a 15th century countess who is remembered as one of the most prolific serial killers in the world. A monologue that touches upon women's work being erased from history. These are some of the stories taking stage at Concordia's feminist theatre festival.

The second edition of Revolution They Wrote: Concordia's Short Works Theatre Festival will take place in both Café Cleopatra and the Mainline Gallery from March 17 to March 20. Emily Schon, the artistic director of the festival, came up with the concept when she felt there was not enough representation of women in her field.

"In the past four years, there have been 16 main-stage shows by the [Concordia] theatre department. Of those 16, maybe four have been by female play writers," Schon said.

Although female directors have been doing better—directing ten of the 16 plays, according to Schon—she believes that it's problematic when plays about women's experiences are not written by women. She pointed out that this issue was not reserved to Concordia's theatre department, but rather, is part of the theatre industry in general.

The festival also gives a platform to other underrepresented groups, such as people of colour and queer individuals.

"We're trying to reach out and encourage people whose narratives aren't told or aren't

represented in a respectful way," Schon said. "We're trying to encourage them to tell their own stories. That's really what our festival is about."

Organizers made sure that the team of creators and performers was diverse, and not solely composed of white women.

As the artistic director, Schon's role is to provide guidance and mentorship to the writers and directors of each piece. Her role as a mentor depends on the needs of each particular individual and artistic work. She emphasized the need for some creators to work without any supervision, but opportunities to do this are usually rare for theatre students working in university settings.

Although the festival has received a grant from the Concordia Student Union, they are also trying to raise funds through an Indiegogo campaign to cover the remaining costs.

Despite this, they plan to donate 50 per cent of the box office revenue to different charities and emerging artists in need.

Last year, the money was given to Queer Concordia to fund its binder project, which provides materials for trans men to bind their chest. Schon draws inspiration from *The Vagina Monologues* and other pieces that donate their box office gains to charities and artists as a tradition.

Schon and Calla Wright are the directors and creators of *The Blood Countess*, one of the plays at the festival. It tells the story of Countess Elizabeth Báthory, a 15th century noblewoman accused of killing anywhere from 70 to 650 people. The creators wanted to explore the ways in which powerful women are portrayed throughout history.

"Is this a case in which this woman was believed to have too much power and that's

why history has vilified her, or did she actually kill people?" Schon asked.

The directors also sought to touch upon some of the ways women are remembered in society's collective memory—either as helpless victims, sexualized villains or completely de-sexed beings.

As for the future of the festival, she could see it becoming a professional pan-Canadian theatre company that focuses on combining the works of experienced and emerging artists through an intersectional feminist lens. She also likes the idea of stepping off the festival for it to become an institutional project taken on by Concordia.

Schon says the shows will be experimental and passionate—it will be the first time in the driver's seat for many young artists. Above all, audiences can expect to be inspired, and have their horizons broadened.



Performers rehearse for RE:FUSE, debuting at Café Cleopatra March 17 and at Mainline Gallery March 18 to 20.

COURTESY MADELINE SMART



# Amongst Timeless Women

Concordia Graduate's Photo Exhibition Empowers Women Past and Present

JOSÉPHINE DE LAMBILLY  
@JOSEPHINELBLY

For Marisa Portolese, women are the subject on more than just International Women's Day.

Portolese has been photographing women since 2002, in her series *Belle de Jour*. The third installment, *Belle de Jour III*, is currently on display at Concordia's FOFA gallery.

Upon entry, the viewer is immediately faced with portraits, staring at them with conviction, inevitably raising questions in the viewer's mind. At first glance, the force of Portolese's work is destabilizing.

"I like strong women. That's why I produce images where my women are very strong," Portolese said. Indeed, the artist doesn't just take pictures—she creates them.

"I choose the wardrobe, I choose the model, I choose the location and then I try to put the images together like a storyboard."

The result is stunning, striking, captivating: exactly how Portolese wants people to see her subjects.

"It's about representing the codes and conventions of female representation, but also presenting these women in a very bold, provocative and strong way," she said.

The exhibition is laid out so that the pictures spread their energy. The room is airy, well lit and the photos spring off of massive white walls.

It's an invitation into the intimacy of women who are the subjects of the photographs. Wearing nightdresses and posing in soft atmosphere—forests, gardens and dressing rooms—the strength of their stances contrasts heavily with a background of common life.

"It's about the contemporaneity of the women that she photographs," said Zoë Tousignant, the curator of the exhibition. "There's something really raw and honest about the way she represents women and people in general."

At first, Tousignant was Portolese's model.

Now, as curator, her role in the accomplishment of *Belle de Jour III* has been to accentuate the artist's work.

"I didn't change anything about it, but I tried to bring certain things out so that the viewer might understand better," Tousignant said.

After graduating from Concordia in 2001, the next year saw Portolese produce her first exhibition with women at the centre—the birth of *Belle de Jour*. Since then, she has continued evolving with women: from retro porno, to fashion photography, she presented this third exhibition alongside Victorian photographs.

"I [immersed] myself in thousands of 19th century portraits of women in [William] Notman's photographic archives," Portolese explained. "The images that I produced in *Belle de Jour III* engage in a dialogue with them."

She spent several months going back and forth between the archives of Montreal-based photographer William Notman and her own photographs, delving into the past.

"I describe her as a visual researcher. It is research in the same way of art historians, but it's primarily at a visual level," Tousignant said.

The new works confront the past. Comparing Notman and Portolese, contrasts in portrayal are obvious.

"Women are very comfortable with him and they're not weak. They are not objectified, they are very much in control of their image," Portolese said.

According to her curator, Portolese has a unique way of embracing the past to better illustrate the present.

"She is not afraid of confronting the past and recognizing the history of both female representation and what part photography, as a medium, has played in that representation," Tousignant said.

*Belle de Jour III* // FOFA Gallery (1515 Ste. Catherine St. W.) // Until April 8 // Free



ABOVE: Josephine de Lambilly observes Marisa Portolese's portraits at the FOFA gallery in Concordia's EV building.

LEFT: Marisa Portolese presents her research, juxtaposing the portraits she took and the ones William Notman shot.

PHOTOS MARIE BRIÈRE DE LA HOSSERAYE

[thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe)

Get Under the Bus

Check out FringeBlog for reviews on everything arts in Montreal. This week, the play *Bus Stop* gets reviewed. Will it stop?

[thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe) • March 15, 2016



# THE LINK

The Link Publication Society Inc.  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, March 31, 2016, 4 p.m.  
1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd.  
Room H-649

## Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the 2015 AGM
5. By-law amendment
6. Board of directors report for 2015-2016
7. Presentation of the 2014-2015 financial statements
8. Appointment of the auditor
9. Presentation of financial statements as of the last day of February 2016
10. Presentation of the preliminary budget 2016-2017
11. Election of the board of directors
12. Other business
13. End of the assembly

All Concordia undergraduate students are eligible to attend, vote at the meeting and run for a position on *The Link's* board.

## Board of Directors

Two (2) positions are open to members at large and two (2) positions are open to members of the community who have had staff status within the last three (3) years.

Candidates for the Board must present a **letter of intent by Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 5 p.m.** to the secretary of the board of directors by email to [business@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:business@thelinknewspaper.ca)

Constitutional amendments are available at *The Link* office.

**ADVERTISE  
WITH US!**

**THIS SPACE  
COULD BE  
YOURS**

THE **LiNK**



**514-848-7406**  
[ads@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:ads@thelinknewspaper.ca)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH 15-22

We're restarting our weekly calendar of current affairs and cultural events in print and online. Want to see your event here?  
E-mail [calendar@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:calendar@thelinknewspaper.ca)

**TU** 15

**Contingent de l'agecvm pour la manif contre la brutalité policière du COBP**  
You know what it is: Show up and Protest the Powers that Be.  
Des Compagnons De St. Laurent Park • Cartier St., Mont-Royal Ave. and Marie-Anne St. • 7:30 p.m. • Free

**W** 16

**Jam For Justice Artists Showcase**  
The closing of a month of artists showcase, featuring Third Child, Gabrielle Marlena and more!  
Le Cagibi • 5490 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8 p.m. • \$12

**TH** 17

**FANTASIA Presents: Perfect Blue**  
Head down into the theatre in the basement for a screening in 35mm of Satoshi Kon's classic anime horror/fantasy feature!  
Cinema du Parc • 3575 Parc Ave. • 9 p.m. • \$8

**F** 18

**Artists Against Apartheid : Narcy / Sandhill / Jason Blackbird Selman / Rana Salah !**  
Featuring some of the hottest artists in Montreal! Come out and show your support for the BDS movement!  
Café L'Artère, coopérative de solidarité • 7000 Parc Ave. • 7:30 p.m. • \$10

**SA** 19

**TV Freaks / Heathers / The Lonely Parade / Bonnie Doon / The Famines**  
Loose-Fit and Pentagon present a night of slender sludge shredding. Grab a pint and jam with these local rockers.  
Brasserie Beaubien • 73 Beaubien St. E. • 10 p.m. • \$10

**M** 20

**Third Annual Concordia Student Congress**  
Congress brings together students from across faculties and departments to pass motions in solidarity and support of each other. This is a chance to have your voice heard!  
Hall building, H-763 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 3 8 p.m. • Free

**TH** 21

**Screening: Fractured Land**  
Resident Concordia Documentary non-profit Cinema Politica will be screening *Fractured Land*, a documentary the indigenous law student fighting gas fracking in northern Canada. Make sure to come out and get a chance to ask a question to the director and main character.  
Alumni Theatre H-110 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 6 p.m. • PWYC

**T** 22

**Nanimal // Cousins // Joyfultalk**  
A classic Blue Skies Turn Black / Passovah Lineup: Montreal high-five rock Nanimal, plus Nova Scotia shredders Cousins and Joyfultalk.  
Casa del Popolo • 4873 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. • \$12

## WEEKLONG EVENTS

March 15-19

### Venice Days

The Phi Centre and Venice Days team up to present the best in a selection from the Venice International Film Festival.  
Phi Centre • 407 St. Pierre St. • \$11.75

March 5-26

### Art Matters

Art continues to matter, all through this week and the next. Get your vernissage on every day and night, all over Montreal.  
Various locations • Free

March 7-16

### Rad Sex Week

A week of lessons in anti-oppression, trans and queer-positive workshops, and sexual health activism. The last two days feature a "BDSM 201" workshop and a role play event, "HIV/STI Disclosure to a Sexual Partner."  
Concordia University • Free

March 19-20

### Le Salon du Disque et Des Arts Underground

The seventh annual Montreal underground record sale! Scour for classic vinyl at this sound extravaganza.  
St. Denis Church • 454 Laurier Ave. E. • Free





NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

# End of an Era

## Quebec's Two Professional Women's Soccer Teams Forced to Shut Down in 2016

TRISTAN D'AMOURS  
@TRISTANDAMOURS

When the W-League announced it would shut its doors in 2016, it meant the Laval Comets and Dynamo de Québec would have to find a new place to play.

Weeks later, the teams announced that pending the approval of the Canadian Soccer Association, they would play next season in a newly created league: United Women's Soccer.

Then, suddenly, hopes of joining UWS went up in flames. The Canadian Soccer Association sent letters to both clubs letting them know their requests to join the U.S.-based league were denied.

The *Link* contacted the CSA and was given the following statement regarding their decision:

"[The Quebec Soccer Federation] has women's amateur soccer available to these teams. Canada Soccer is supportive of developing the game in Canada through the leagues and opportunities available within the country rather than allowing teams to participate in similar leagues in other countries."

Dynamo de Québec's sporting director Helder Duarte does not believe the current amateur setup in the province, with the Ligue de soccer élite du Québec at the top of its pyramid, is at the same level as American leagues.

"It's not even close," said Duarte. "I was implicated in this league and I can tell you that it's not the same thing at all."

With limited options offered to them, the Laval Comets took to their Facebook page on March 9 to announce that they would cease operations for 2016.

On Quebec's side, Duarte confirmed the Dynamo would not be playing top-level soccer in 2016 either.

"We have nothing at all," he said. "What we know is that we will try to do something for next year. But for this year, it's for sure that there is nothing to do—nothing."

Across the border, there is still uncertainty as to why the CSA decided not to let the Dynamo and the Comets in UWS. The league's website featured the logos of the two teams until recently.

UWS commissioner Joe Ferrara didn't really think of Canada as expansion territory, but the league wanted to have both Quebec and Laval in their ranks. Loyalty and camaraderie between the teams were the reason UWS wanted them back.

When we started this process we asked ourselves 'what are we going to name this league?' and it originally came out as AWS: American Women's Soccer," Ferrara said. "Then former W-League teams said, 'well, what about the two Canadian teams?' So we said, 'let's change it and go with United Women's Soccer,' thinking that we could include the two Canadian teams."

Now that this is not the case anymore, players have been feeling insecure about the situation and are looking at the U.S. for a place to play. Duarte has lost players and two coaches, whereas Ferrara has received calls from players asking for contacts with teams from his league.

"I find that women's soccer, for now, is not a priority at the CSA."

—Helder Duarte, sporting director of Dynamo Quebec

"I find this disappointing, when paradoxically, the head coach of the [Canadian] national team asks his players to go to American universities," Duarte added. "He wishes they [wouldn't] go play there, but the CSA doesn't allow two teams from Quebec to go play at a good level. I find that women's soccer, for now, is not a priority at the CSA."

A women's league in Quebec? Provincially, the Quebec Soccer Federation's technical director Eric Leroy supported Laval and Quebec's request to play south of the border, but respects the CSA's decision.

The QSF have had their own plans in the works. Rumours of a women's side to the federation's semi-pro men's Première Ligue de Soccer du Québec have been floating in the air, and Leroy targets 2017 as a probable start.

"It's the objective in the plan that we made at the creation of the men's league," Leroy said. "It was planned that for 2015, the year of the

Women's World Cup, there would be premises of a league. It wasn't easy, even on the men's side."

Leroy stressed the fact that the women's side is lacking a long-term league for the development of players. In his view, changing this would make players stay in Quebec, rather than leave south of the border.

"We need to position ourselves towards a real league," he said. "The college level gives a two-month league, the W-League gave a month-and-a-half league, but if we want to develop players we need a seven-to-eight-month league like the PLSQ"

Duarte says there's enough high level talent throughout Montreal and Quebec to fill the rosters of the two teams for women's league in the PLSQ.

"This would be the highest level of women's soccer [in Quebec]," he said.

From Ferrara's side in the U.S., the CSA refusal doesn't mean that the relationship with Canada is over. He understands that challenges are high for women's soccer, regardless of the country and is willing to collaborate.

"If Canada wants to administer teams that would play within the league, if there is a Champions League process that they would want to look at, we'd be more than willing to do it," Ferrara said.

"If we can be of assistance to Canada Soccer in developing their league, while at the same point helping us brand our league, I say let's get at the table and try to make it work."

For full interviews with Joe Ferrara, Helder Duarte and insight from Concordia Stingers' women's soccer coach Jorge Sanchez, listen to episode 51 of the *Pressbox Hat Trick* podcast.



Sporting director of Dynamo de Québec, Helder Duarte, believes Canadian women's soccer lags behind the U.S.  
COURTESY DYNAMO DE QUÉBEC





Weightlifter Alexandros Kouvakas is training in Athens with hopes to represent Greece at the Olympics.

PHOTO COURTESY HOOKGRIP

# Switching Allegiances

## Alexandros Kouvakas on Weightlifting and Ambitions to Represent Greece at Olympic Games

ALEXANDER PEREZ  
@DASALEXPerez

A weightlifter waits for his turn to compete. He rubs the church's holy oil on his knees and elbows, praying to the archangel, Michael. It's time. Stepping centre stage on the mat, he grabs the 210-kilogram barbell, lifting it over his broad shoulders.

It's the summer of 2004 and 14-year old Alexandros Kouvakas, or Aleko as he's affectionately called, is watching the Olympic games from home. It was then when the Concordia alumnus—he has a degree in Exercise Science—was truly serious about his dream of becoming a weightlifter.

"I wanted to do something a little bit different," Kouvakas said. "It's funny because I didn't know what Olympic weightlifting was—especially at the time, weightlifting wasn't popular at all in North America."

Present day, Kouvakas is training in Athens, with ambitions to represent Greece in this summer's upcoming Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Despite being eligible to represent Canada, Kouvakas opted for Greece instead.

"When I started Olympic weightlifting, my goal was to represent them and go to the Olympics," Kouvakas said. "That was my goal, this is what I wanted to do and I'm living my dream."

Weightlifting is to Greece what hockey is in Canada. It's more of a traditional sport, and it's taken more seriously professionally, which is one of the reasons why Kouvakas decided leave Canada and train abroad.

"They have more support, not only from the federation or the government, but from

the people," said Kouvakas' younger brother, George. "Weightlifting—when you think who's the best, Greece comes to mind. It's just much bigger there."

This has always been Kouvakas's ambition since starting the sport. But he does admit to having some struggles.

"I did have a negative experience," he said. "I kind of felt a bit blocked. I got a negative stigma from doing well, which I didn't appreciate."

Kouvakas has seen his share of success as a weightlifter. Back in Laval, he has a well-garnished trophy cabinet including a provincial title, at a junior and senior level, Canadian junior champion, second place at Canadian senior level, and a Quebec junior record 200-kilogram clean and jerk.

Previously practiced by the ancient Egyptians and Greeks, weightlifting was a measure of strength. It would eventually become an international sport, featured in the 1896 Athens Games, the first modern-era Olympics.

Olympic weightlifting consists of two lifts. In the "snatch," the lifter holds the bar in a wide grip in a single movement. The "clean and jerk" consists of two movements, pulling weight up to the shoulders, and then standing up, while balancing the barbell on the shoulders. Lifters are separated into weight class and are given three attempts for each lift. Three officials are present, judging whether the lifts are done correctly.

Four years before he began weightlifting, Kouvakas's mother, Stella Zombolas, was reluctant. Not only was she concerned it would stunt his growth, she thought that since he was young, he wouldn't take it seriously enough to continue long-term.

"Alex was the type of child that if you put him in a sport, he wanted to do whatever he wanted," Zombolas said. "He never stuck to anything."

Despite this, Kouvakas was adamant on being involved in the sport and decided to speak with his parents on trying to find a

"When I started Olympic weightlifting, my goal was to represent them and go to the Olympics. That was my goal, this is what I wanted to do and I'm living my dream."

— Alexandros Kouvakas

place where he can start weightlifting.

"I came home one day and I went to my mom, in a very serious tone: 'mom, I don't care what you told me four years ago, go on the internet and find a place where I can start this sport,'" Kouvakas said.

He began training three times a week at Collège Notre-Dame du Sacré-Cœur, across from Saint Joseph's Oratory. From there, he started competing in local Quebec competitions. He quickly moved up to Canadian juniors and seniors in the process. His first international

competition came when he was 18 years old, at the World Juniors in Colombia.

"He started to do [weightlifting], to slim down, to build muscle," Zombolas said. "He started to get confidence. He was more zoned, more centered."

Kouvakas will be representing Greece, at the upcoming European Weightlifting Championships, in Førde, Norway in April. He'll be competing in a super heavyweight class. Kouvakas is currently training four and half to five hours a day, lifting weights in the gym.

"I'm confident of achieving my goals, I want to snatch 160, and clean and jerk at least 200 kilograms," Kouvakas said.

The European Championships are his current focus until his Olympic dream comes true, but there are a few hurdles that stand in his way.

Due to the economic crisis, the Greek national team is currently experiencing difficult times in trying to qualify a spot for the team to go to the Olympics. Because of the crisis, the Greek government doesn't have many funds at their disposal for a potential Olympic team, despite the fact that they may still have an outside chance at qualifying.

In addition, Kouvakas needs to compete in two international competitions in order to become eligible for the Olympics. He must compete at a final test in Asia to earn a qualifying total, because he needs to participate in two international competitions to be eligible. As a result of this, Kouvakas's Olympic dream is on the backburner, for now. But he's already surpassed at least one person's expectations.

"He proved me wrong," said Zombolas, his mother. "But in a sense I'm kind of happy he stuck with it."

[thelinknewspaper.ca/sports](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/sports)

**Sports is Boomin (Want Some More?)**

The CWHL's Clarkson Cup, RSEQ Final 4 basketball playoffs, the CFL Combine, a podcast on women's soccer, and so much more in sports online.



# Questioning Queer and Trans Representation in Film and TV

GLORIA PANCRAZI  
@GLORIAPANCRAZI

I remember bringing up *About Ray* and *The Danish Girl* at the dinner table with my mom and her boyfriend. I was thrilled when I noticed the increase in queer-themed and trans-themed films.

"It's great, more attention is being brought to trans and queer people," I said, feeling inspired. As much as older generations have now accepted queer people, I have found that they still usually draw the line at transgenderism.

"I just don't understand why they can't just be gay or lesbians," said my mom.

I had watched these movies and TV shows with a proud smile on my face. I chanted about progress and trumpeted on the film and TV industry's behalf. But this week, I took back my proud cheers of advancement.

I thought we were further than we actually were—I believed the seemingly impenetrable walls of gender roles had been broken down, at least by this industry, but I soon realized this wasn't the case.

With Montreal hosting the first ever Canada Pride festivities in August 2017—the same year as the city's 375th anniversary—this is the time to talk about the barriers that need to be beat down at the upcoming parade.

We need to put gender on the agenda in our daily lives. One of the ways to do so is through the film industry, which has such a compelling influence on its global audience that we rely on filmmakers and actors to help with this fight.

At the August Pride festivities, and in our day-to-day lives, talking loudly and proudly about the disconnect between the screen and reality may encourage the film and TV industry to change its repre-

sentation and help move society forward.

According to GLAAD's 2013 "Studio Responsibility Index" report, out of 102 movies from major studios, there were only 17 portrayals of LGBT characters, the majority of which could be considered offensive and defamatory.

As much as there is some representation of queer and trans people in movies and TV shows, the industry still needs improvement. Looking at the queer and trans-themed films that screened at the Toronto International Film Festival this past September, *About Ray*, *Freeheld* and *The Danish Girl*, the plots usually tell the story of the straight, cisgender characters' struggle to deal with the sexuality of the queer or trans characters.

I am not denying that these movies still help bring to light the difficulty of queer and trans people's fight for equality—they do. It is simply that they are not tearing down the walls enough. They still only bring up queer and trans characters to focus on their sexuality and the battle that comes along with it.

After all, *About Ray* was focused more on Naomi Watt's role as the mother of her trans son Ray. In *The Danish Girl*, Lili Elbe's wife, Gerda Weiner, has more screen time and attention, over Elbe, who is transitioning. The movie also started and ended with the wife's perspective. *Freeheld* ended with the male character played by Michael Shannon, who had most of the spotlight throughout the film.

Gender roles are being broken down. And yes, it is progressive that we have movies that empower the queer and trans community, but they still represent queer and trans people as something different, something that creates struggle and destruction in the lives of people they surround—like Gerda Weiner, who mourns her husband.

Screen time aside, the most crucial fail-

ing of *The Danish Girl* is that the so-called main character is actually portrayed by a cis man.

"Casting a cis man as a trans woman is akin to casting a white person in a role written for a person of color or a nondisabled person in a disabled role—both of which happen routinely in Hollywood," writes journalist s.e. smith about the film's Oscar loss.

It's not only movies. TV shows also represent these characters—and they do it better. Series, such as *Transparent*, *American Horror Story*, *Orange Is the New Black*, *Modern Family*, *The Last Tango in Halifax* and many more—are more inclusive of queer and trans characters and succeed in not portraying them through their sexuality.

Kyle Buchanan, senior editor at *New York Magazine* and *Vulture* magazine, spoke out in his article "Enough with the Queer and Trans Films That Are Actually About Straight People" about these allegedly queer and trans films that ended up talking about straight people.

Buchanan recognizes that just because a character is queer or trans does not mean they necessarily need to be the lead role.

"I'd like to see more movies where that is the case, but I'd also like to see more movies with gay or trans characters, period," Buchanan wrote. He also said it would be a breakthrough when their sexuality isn't the main focus in the plot.

Even if these movies focus on straight, cisgender people, their goal is to dismantle gender stereotypes that constrain queer and trans people, and they can help society move forward.

By representing queer and trans characters not in regards to their sexuality, or how life changes around them, but rather as characters with depth and a variety of experiences, the film industry has the power to challenge society's views.

## Letter

### In Memory of Martin Allor

My first class ever at Concordia was in the Communications Department at Loyola. I proudly toted my schedule with me, anxiously hoping to avoid getting lost. My first class read in bold letters "Media Criticism, professor Martin Allor."

He told us to call him Marty before beginning the class with a comforting smile and a printed shirt, which his students came to know as his regular demeanor. He was old school in the best of ways—he handed out hard copies instead of electronic ones and playfully signed all his emails "Be good."

He treated me like I had earned his respect by merely showing up to class, something I felt I had to nervously prove to other professors. I was not a particularly outstanding student, but an average one with a hunger for learning. I didn't need to get straight A's for Marty to notice me. I just had to be engaged.

Perhaps that was why I was so fascinated with Marty's classes—he seemed to know everything, even learning my name despite my shyness. He seemed infinitely knowledgeable, and just as willing to impart his wisdom to anyone who asked.

Marty had this ability to make his students feel at ease in their environment that never wavered. I enrolled in my second year of video production. It was a full year class with Marty. He trusted and believed in my video concepts and production plans (or lack thereof). This permitted me to develop a trust with myself and my own creative decisions. Due to this level of trust, I felt open and at ease enough to question ideas critically, to be unsure in class, and to speak up if I was.

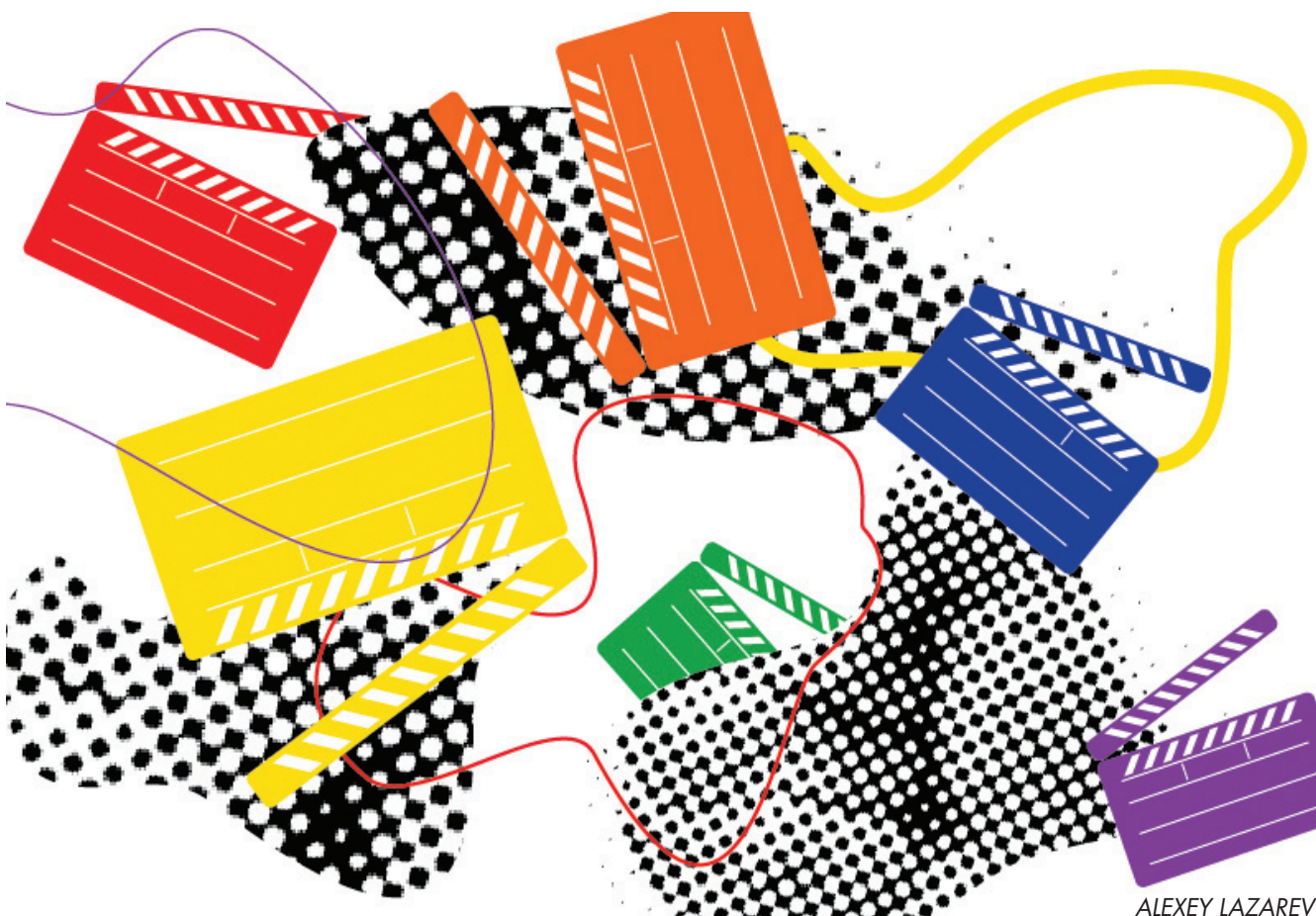
A moment from one of the final classes with him sticks out in my mind: we watched an experimental film, to which most spoke up with a negative reaction. Marty chuckled, and reminded us that he did not pick the film in order for us to like it.

I don't know if he realized the degree to which his teaching fascinated, inspired and motivated his students, and how we virtually always enjoyed learning from him. Now, knowing that he will not see our class's final productions leaves us all grieving. The entire class is missing a piece of their creative process: sharing that progress with our mentor.

I hope we continue to be fascinated, inspired and motivated in memory of Marty.

Be good!

— Sahara Baldwin, undergraduate  
Communications Studies student



ALEXEY LAZAREV





JENNIFER AEDY

# How Do We Show Support for a Survivor of Sexual Assault?

ALEXANDRA COLATOSTI  
@ALEXANDRA\_COLA

Is there a “right” way to show support for a friend in need?

Taylor Swift recently donated \$250,000 to pop singer Kesha Sebert, who is currently trying to negotiate her way out of a contract with her longtime producer and alleged rapist, Lukasz Gottwald, also known as Dr. Luke.

According to Swift’s publicist, she made the donation after photos were released from the court hearing where Kesha was denied an injunction. This means Kesha will have to continue to work with Gottwald if she wants to make new music.

This devastating blow has been met with tons of support from powerful women in the music industry, including Adele, Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson. Swift’s handout, however, has been the most sizeable contribution and one that many have commended her for—except Demi Lovato, that is.

Lovato sent out several tweets attacking Swift’s donation, including one that reads

“Take something to Capitol Hill or actually speak out about something and then I’ll be impressed.”

Obviously, Lovato disagrees with Swift’s decision to quietly lend her support instead of releasing a verbal statement that could reach her millions of followers, most of whom are young girls.

This, then, raises several questions: which is most effective when trying to support a friend? A tweet? A donation? A statement?

And just because it is the most effective, does that make it the only way?

“There is a history of the music industry being riddled with abuses of power,” said Kimberley Manning, principal of Concordia’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute. “Mutual support is important, but we need to look at the structures that allow this to happen in the first place.”

Manning brought up a similar case unfolding at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where Dean Sujit Choudhry, was recently put on indefinite leave for repeatedly sexually harassing his executive assistant. He ultimately resigned the position, but

remains on staff as a professor.

“These are similar structures where power is being abused,” Manning said. “This is not the 1960s Mad Men era—this should not be happening in 2010, 2014, and especially not in 2016.”

Another comparable case is one that occurred at Concordia last spring, when student and former Arts and Science Federation of Associations executive, known only as “Mei-Ling,” filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission after she experienced sexual harassment and racial discrimination from two male colleagues.

Mei-Ling was encouraged by her peers to stay silent, and when she did speak up, she didn’t get quite the reaction she was expecting.

“The saddest part is that the people I did tell, and I did tell people around me that this was going on, they totally ignored it,” she said.

Instead of ignoring it, Mei-Ling reached out to the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations in Montreal. CRARR helped Mei-Ling reach a settlement with ASFA. Along with an official apology, she received an undisclosed amount from the student association.

For all these cases, action needs to be taken.

Rather than focusing on how we support one another, Manning would like to shift the conversation to how sexual and racial violence is approached.

“This whole issue reinforces that we, as a society, need to create new ways of addressing sexual assault and violence against women,” she said.

In Kesha’s situation, she needs the money in order to keep her legal battle going, so Swift’s generosity is probably appreciated. Meanwhile, Lovato’s criticism does little to help Kesha, but instead makes her seem unappreciative of alternative forms of help.

For Mei-Ling, receiving public support was positive on top of an undisclosed settlement, and comparing both cases demonstrates that all kinds of aid should be welcomed.

Instead of condemning each other for how we reach out to help, we should be encouraging each other to show support in anyway that we can, while focusing on, as Manning said, the way in which we speak about gender, age and racial violence.

## Nahm’sayin? Concordia, Your Toilets Are Crap

OCEAN DEROUCHIE  
@OCEANDEROUCHIE

Hey Concordia—listen. I know it’s hard to maintain the bathrooms. There’re like, 46,000 students here. That’s a lot of people. Even more, that’s a lotta people who gotta go.

And that’s cool. That’s fine. I try my best to look past the horrible, glass-shattering noise that erupts from what seems like every faucet. When the toilet flushes and I notice that raunchy water splashes back up into the above-bowl atmosphere, I shrug it off. “Least it didn’t touch my butt,” I think to myself.

But you know what? It’s not that hard to keep a bathroom clean. Old facilities are one thing, but it’s a totally different story when there’s TP strewn about the floors like there was some kind of toilet paper party that I wasn’t invited to. I don’t get it.

That’s not even the worst part. The worst part is when I do my biz, only to realize that there’s no toilet paper left in the friggin’ stall! Why? ‘Cause it’s all over the fucking floor.

If Concordia administration can hand out \$235,000 to terminated employees as if money were no object, then why can’t they invest in some more maintenance staff to tidy up the bathrooms? Nahmsayin’?



MADELINE GENDREAU



## A Response to BDS

In Oct. 2014, the Soda Stream factory relocated to the Negev desert in southern Israel. Five hundred Palestinians lost their jobs due to pressure put on Soda Stream by the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement.

The same week that *The Link* published an opinion piece titled “Calling for the Implementation of BDS” (Volume 36, Issue 23) another 74 Palestinians lost their jobs because of pressure put on an Israeli company by a movement which advocates for Palestinians.

These men and women lost equal paying jobs and health benefits. Even after succumbing to pressure, the CEO of Soda Stream promised all employees who had lost their jobs that he would ensure they found other work in the West Bank.

With this in mind, we ask the author of the article why should the Canadian government support a movement that has proven that it harms the people that it is claiming to help?

BDS takes a highly controversial narrative and lowers the rhetoric to extremely simplistic terms. It frames Israel as the reason for all evil and claims that this approach is the only practical step towards achieving peace.

The Canadian government held a parliamentary session where MPs vocally condemned the BDS movement, which promotes “demonization and delegitimization of the State of Israel.”

The close unanimity of debates between MPs and leaders of different Canadian political parties on the divisiveness of the BDS movement, demonstrates the ineffectiveness as it ends up hurting the Palestinians they are trying to “help.”

— Lauren Luz and Jonathan Mamane,

## Vote Yes to ASFA Restructuring

The reality of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations belies its name. Rather than being a true federation that offers support to its member associations and allocates their funding, ASFA is a top-down dysfunctional organization. Not only does it restrict the autonomy of its member associations, but it also does not work!

Anyone who has been involved on their respective association executive team knows, and now sadly expects, the struggle of getting anything done with ASFA, which can be extremely problematic in the case of funding activities. In one instance, the Liberal Arts Society has waited over five months for a cheque requisition.

Last year, no executive was elected at the occasion of the general elections, leading to the appointment of an interim executive team, most of which had resigned by the end of the summer. In the fall, we elected a new slate that promised to bring radical change to ASFA. Despite their efforts, and some welcome improvements, ASFA remains the same, unless we vote “yes” in the upcoming referendum. Since the fall, several executives resigned, and the office manager resigned; in one year, we have had three successive Vice-Presidents of Finance, and long intervals without one. This is revealing of a pattern of dysfunctions that cannot just be patched up, but needs to be addressed structurally.

The restructuring proposal brought to referendum will not solve every single issue at ASFA, but some changes need to be done, and this is a necessary step in the right direction. A reduced executive team with clearer mandates, not bogged down by the organization of events will allow ASFA to reshape into what it should be: a funding body and a provider of institutional knowledge and support for the student associations of the arts and science faculty. The member associations are the best suited to cater to the needs of the students of their departments, and this proposal goes some way into turning ASFA back into a real federation.

Please vote on March 16, 17 and 18!

— Aloyse Muller

## Vote Yes for the Hive's Free Lunch Program

On March 16, 17, and 18, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations is holding a referendum. One of the referendum questions will deal with the Hive Free Lunch Program receiving a \$0.10 per credit fee-levy from arts and science students.

The Hive Free Lunch Program is housed within the Hive Café Cooperative, but maintains distinct and separate budgets. The Hive Free Lunch operates largely with the help of volunteers, in order to provide free, fresh, varied, nutritionally dense, protein packed vegetarian lunches every school day to everyone who lines up on the second floor of the SC building at Loyola between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

The majority of Hive Free Lunch funding is received from the Concordia Student Union. However, this school year alone Free Lunch has seen an over 50 per cent increase in participants, amounting to an average of 230 people served and a record of 306 people served.

In order to help mitigate this massive growth in participants this year the Concordia Council on Student Life granted the Free Lunch Program \$5,000 to supplement the food budget, and ASFA granted \$3,000 towards a second employee becoming full time.

This \$0.10 a credit fee-levy is a long term solution to the growth the Hive Free Lunch Program has sustained this year, and will sustain in years to come.

While the amount the CSU provides the Free Lunch Program is subject to change, Loyola is almost entirely arts and science students. So as it is primarily arts and science students who benefit from Free Lunch, Free Lunch is looking to supplement CSU funding with this \$0.10 per credit fee-levy from arts and science students in order to be able to meet their needs at Loyola for free balanced meals.

Support the Hive Free Lunch Program in continuing to bring Loyola free, fresh, varied, nutritionally dense, protein packed vegetarian lunches every school day by voting “yes” to the referendum question!

— Mel Romer



## Restore ASFA to What It Should Have Been

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' constitution, and I do so as the founding president of an earlier version of ASFA.

When ASFA started out, the intention was to have a federation run by its member associations and not merely an arts and science copy of the CSU, to make sure the MAs were well-funded and well-represented, and to have the executive committee be there to facilitate all this—in effect being like first among equals, responsible to the MAs, not sitting above them.

Somewhere along the way, this all changed, and not necessarily for the better. This week, you will be asked to vote on the proposed changes.

I encourage you to vote for them and restore ASFA to what it should've been in the first place: a true federation of associations.

— Ken McMurray, BA 1996

## ASFA Is Broken

ASFA is broken. The Arts and Science Federation of Associations has been broken for as long as I've been at Concordia, ASFA was broken when I was on the executive of one of its member associations, and ASFA continues to be broken even as it supposedly represents me as one of 15,000 or so undergraduates in the faculty of Arts and Science.

I've spoken to folks who were there in the 1990s for ASFA's original creation and it was never supposed to turn into what it is today. When was the last time you thought about ASFA without “scandal” in the next breath? When was the last time you directly benefited from ASFA's resources that weren't first given to your member association to use in a way relevant to your program and to your community?

Thankfully, there's a referendum question you can vote on this week that will rectify this exactly: cutting out the toxicity of ASFA's overly-centralized structure and giving power and autonomy to its member associations.

The most frustrating experience I've had around student politics at Concordia was ASFA's annual general meeting in the spring of 2015. Coming after general elections which did

not even reach quorum—a strong sign of ASFA's irrelevancy to its student body at best, but more than likely an expression of discontent with the status-quo—the AGM of ASFA's members far exceeded quorum. Binding motions were made by the members, mandating ASFA to take specific action in the fallout of revelations of systemic sexism and racism among the executives.

I remained in the audience of the ASFA council meeting which followed this AGM until 4 a.m., witnessing council ignore and dismiss these legitimate mandates handed to them by the students they were supposed to represent, in order to maintain clique lines. I shouldn't have been surprised, but I was disgusted all the same. It was the perfect encapsulation of everything wrong with ASFA as it is now: over-bloated, insular, inaccessible and willing to sweep serious complaints under the rug to keep things as they are. We all deserve better than that, but we won't get any better if we try to build on a rotten foundation. Vote “yes” for an arts and science student governance structure that can effectively serve its body. Vote yes for an ASFA that actually works. Please, vote “yes” on the referendum question.

— Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis



Standards by Graeme Shorten Adams @foreshortening



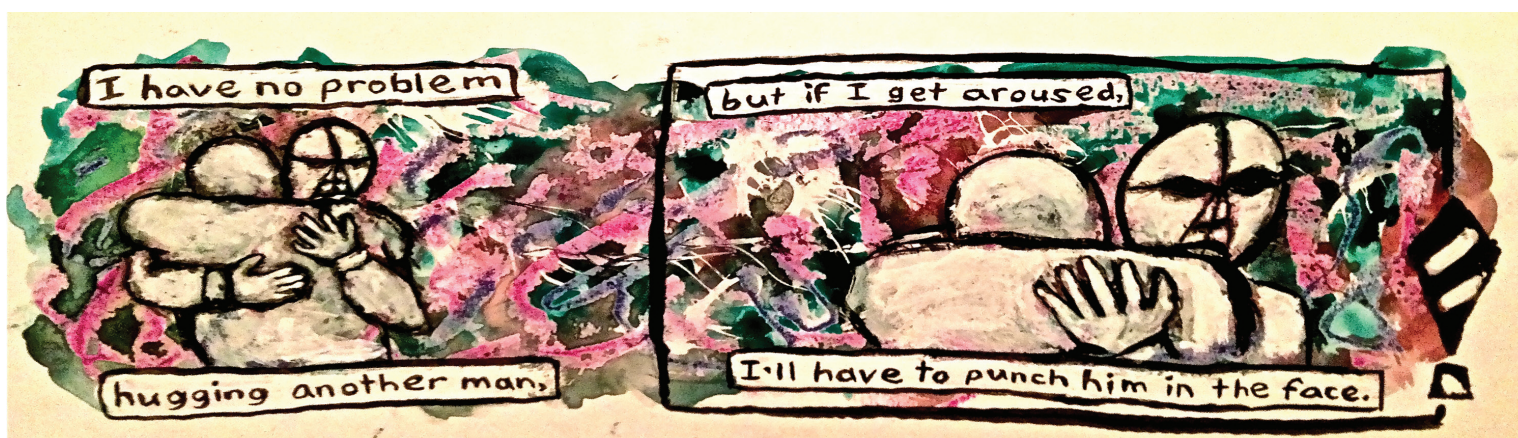
Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell



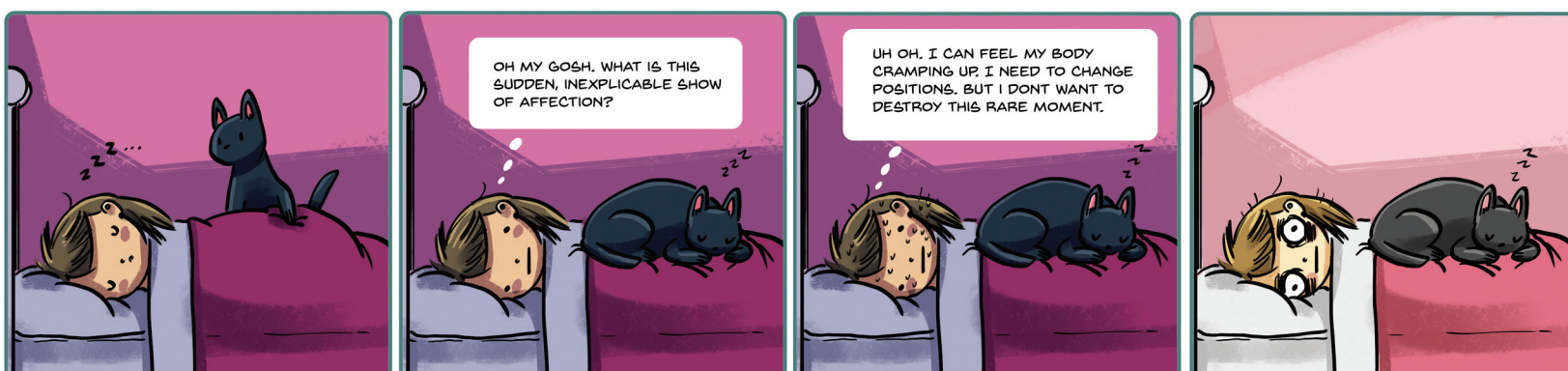
Balloon Ventures by Mangekko Jones



The Adventures of Every-Man by @samdchurchii



Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart







## EDITORIAL

### Vote Yes for ASFA Restructuring, No to Fee-Levy Increase

From March 16 to 18, students in the faculty of Arts and Science at Concordia will have the chance to restructure the way the second largest student association at our university operates, by participating in a referendum vote on three key questions.

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations is at the epicentre of the potential changes, should these referendum questions pass—and they direly need to.

The first two questions involve fee levies—specifically whether students would approve ASFA increasing its fees from \$1.22 to \$1.36 per credit in fall 2016, and whether they would approve of ASFA students giving \$0.10 per credit to the Hive Free Lunch project in fall 2016. But the answers to these questions are most crucially reliant on the third proposal: do students agree to extensive bylaw changes?

These changes involve a basic upheaval of everything that ASFA has become, from how its executive panel is constructed, to how its funding is distributed. Voting “yes” to this last question means that ASFA’s executive

will shrink from seven positions to only three. Executives would not be voted in—a system that spawned comparisons to a popularity contest in the past—but instead appointed. Executive candidates would have to present themselves to the general assemblies of its member associations, who would then endorse a specific candidate.

ASFA currently represents over 15,000 arts and science students, and consists of 31 member associations—with some associations more active than others. It feels as though it has been a long time since the students have been given any fair representation under the rule of those dubious four letters, which have more recently been synonymous with problematic executives and unnecessary expenditure of fee-levy funds.

The fact is it doesn’t make sense to put more fee-levy money into an association we can’t morally support, especially when they don’t support students. *The Link* doesn’t agree with a fee-levy increase until ASFA proves it’s capable of managing itself.

Fewer large-scale events at the expense of

students and a decentralized executive leave member associations with a larger stake in ASFA’s budget. A fee-levy increase is unnecessary when an association is in the middle of downsizing.

Historically, ASFA has been guilty of many controversial infractions against the student body at Concordia, the community they are supposed to be stewarding. Whether it’s fermenting the poisonous atmosphere of racism and sexism that was unveiled during the Mei-Ling case last year, or shelling out \$16,000 of student cash for controversial YouTube personality Laci Green—previously criticized for islamophobic comments and trans erasure—to speak last semester, this central element of Concordia student life has a terrible habit of putting *our* money where *its* mouth is.

So it’s time to tear up the foundations of the house that corruption built and start over, and the upcoming referendum is our best chance to make it happen.

This restructuring would make sure that events like this year’s Grad Ball wouldn’t necessarily happen again. The present ASFA

council still may approve to fund an end of the year party for arts and science graduates, at a whopping cost of \$53,651. It will take place at a swanky venue in the Old Port, have an open bar and three-course meal, and generally be excessive and pointless. It’s not even free.

If the question of structure were approved, ASFA would become more of a “funding body” for its member associations, distributing money instead of spending it. It would put cash in the hands of its associations, who are closer to the needs of their constituents. That means wider distribution of assets, and that means more money would likely be spent to the benefit of a greater number Concordia students, rather than just on a select group who are riding high upon the mountain of collected fee-levies.

These changes are vast, and crucial if we ever want to have a hope of trusting ASFA again. It’s obvious that changing the structure won’t fix all of the problems ASFA has been experiencing, but it’s better to fix the foundation now, than continue to pour our future hopes into a shaky structure.

## THE LINK

Volume 36, Issue 24  
Tuesday, March 15, 2016  
Concordia University  
Hall Building, Room H-649  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8  
editor: 514-848-2424 x. 7407  
arts: 514-848-2424 x. 5813  
news: 514-848-2424 x. 8682  
business: 514-848-7406  
advertising: 514-848-7406

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

Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from *The Link*.

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016:** Mathieu D’Amours, Colin Harris, Clément Liu, Jake Russell, Graeme Shorten Adams, Erin Sparks, non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Michelle Pucci.

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

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Jennifer Aedy, Safia Ahmad, Carl Bindman, Alex Carriere, Alexandra Colatosti, Alexander Cruz, Matt D’Amours, Tristan D’Amours, Joséphine de Lambilly, Ocean DeRouchie, Caity Hall, Amy Halloran, Sarah Jesmer, Alexey Lazarev, Sadie Laett-Babcock, Kelsey Litwin, Chris Michaud, Julia Miele, Jon Milton, Saray Ortiz, Harrison-Milo Rahajason, Gloria Pancrazi, Alexander Perez, Morag Rahn-Campbell, Sharon Yonan Renold, Jordan Stoopler.

**Cover:** Nikolas Litzenberger and Madeleine Gendreau

editor-in-chief **MICHELLE PUCCI**  
coordinating editor **OPEN**  
managing editor **OPEN**  
news editor **JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK**  
current affairs editor **HÉLÈNE BAUER**  
assistant news editor **JOSH FISCHLIN**  
fringe arts editor **MARIE BRIÈRE DE LA HOSSERAYE**  
fringe arts online editor **ZACHARY GOLDBERG-MOTA**  
sports editor **VINCE MORELLO**  
sports online editor **JULIAN MCKENZIE**  
opinions editor **CLAIRE LOEWEN**  
copy editor **RILEY WIGNALL**  
creative director **LAURA LALONDE**  
photo & video editor **NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER**  
graphics editor **MADELEINE GENDREAU**  
business manager **RACHEL BOUCHER**  
distribution **MACKENZIE KIRBY**  
system administrator **CLEVE HIGGINS**



# Bystander intervention:

## How to look out for each other and party safely

**Thursday March 24, 2016**  
**4 – 6:15 p.m.**

Rooms H-763 and H-765  
Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

Julie Lalonde is the manager of draw-the-line.ca, a campaign that aims to end sexual violence by engaging bystanders. Join her for this interactive presentation where we talk about consent, safe partying and how bystanders can safely intervene.

*This event is free and is being organized by Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre.*

**Notice. Ask. Intervene.**  
Step up to stop sexual violence

concordia/sarc  
#bystanderintervention

**THE LINK**  
THE  
WORKSHOP  
SERIES

**WEB WRITING  
AND  
SEO OPTIMIZATION**

Make people actually read your content online for longer than three seconds, and ensure that they find it by mastering the art of Search Engine Optimization. The Link's opinions editor and recently CBC-published writer Claire Loewen will give you the 411 – Friday, March 18 @ 4 p.m.

**Friday, March 18  
@ 4 p.m.**

**PORTRAITURE  
DRAW  
JAM**

Drawing isn't just for hoity-toity art students, everyone can be a graphics contributor! It's not scary, we promise. Come loosen up on with a guided afternoon-live-model-jam with our graphics editor Madeleine Gendreau. Bring paper, (bring a model?), bring yourself.

**Wednesday, March 16  
@ 3 p.m.**

**CE-DIY:  
HOW TO SURVIVE  
WITHOUT A COPY EDITOR**

The saying goes that "good writes are rewrites," but whoever slapped that on a coffee mug on Etsy never went into the trenches as a copy editor. This workshop will cover everything from how to write a better articles and avoiding making your CE PO'd, to everyday stylistic errors to avoid in your work – Friday, April 1 @ 4 p.m.

**Friday, March 11  
@ 5 p.m.**

**JOIN US AT  
THE LINK'S  
OFFICE**

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.,  
Suite H-649