

THE LINK



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Just A Little Extra

Delving Into Café X's New Beginnings

CARL BINDMAN
@CARLBINDMAN

Last July, the managers of Café X sat down for a video interview to outline their vision for the future. Emily Karcz and Burcu Emeç laid out their need for support from the Fine Arts Student Alliance, to set up a board of directors, initiate a fee levy, get more stability and keep offering great service to their community.

"Because the café is constantly in flux, it's been harder to create systems that stay in place," Emeç said in the video.

A year on, Café X has hired a new manager, Shelby Wams. They have a board of directors. There's a fee-levy from fine arts students—\$0.11 per credit—to support their operations.

This is just a series of internal overhauls that helped pull the student-run not-for-profit out of debt. The most visible change was an increase in prices, between \$0.15 and \$0.50 on most items. The least visible change was a grant from FASA to pay off the debt they had accrued in the previous years by unknowingly undercharging for food.

"We lost a lot of money," Karcz says today. "We went into debt because we weren't structured enough to sustain ourselves. And we weren't calculating our prices correctly—we weren't calculating for the taxes we were being charged by the government. We had a cushion of money that was slowly disintegrating,

and when we dove into all the numbers of the business, we realized we weren't breaking even."

Karcz and the management took action, once they realized the venture was in jeopardy. But, because of the ad hoc development of Café X—it started as a punky, DIY hang-out for the precursor to FASA in 1983—Karcz says there was no meaningful information on finances passed between generations of management. She says they didn't even know where their diminishing reserves originated.

"We were scrambling to pick up these pieces and find information," she says. "We basically had to make all the accounting templates and start analyzing information from when we started managing."

Externally, FASA sent an email last spring alerting students to vote on the new fee levy, in April. The fee levy was passed, and began in the fall semester. Then, in November, Café X sent a message out to the fine arts student body, explaining the price raises, and the fee levy. None of these communications mentioned a grant.

"FASA helped us get out of this debt that we were in. Now we're sustainable but it's a very fine line if we aren't supported," Karcz says. "Our goal is to keep things affordable for people, but it's not easy when you don't have support."

Karcz says the details of the grant are easily accessible by interested students, if they ask



From left, Shelby Wams, Emily Karcz and Burcu Emeç work at Café X. CARL BINDMAN

FASA. It was voted on during the Dec. 2 FASA general meeting, she says, and students had the chance to inquire then. However, leading up to the meeting, students weren't alerted about the grant—and the meeting notes were not available on FASA's site at press time.

The money for the grant came out of last year's budget, and was given a special exemption to be used, Karcz says.

"It was all very transparent," she explains. But she won't say how much the grant was—

or the size of the banished debt. FASA hasn't commented either.

Karcz, for her part, is looking to the future. "We've built a good structure for the business at this point," she says, listing the changes: a well-regulated accounting system, re-evaluated prices and a greater understanding of the way it all works. Plus, Karcz says management has changed the system, so that all of their knowledge gets passed down to the next managers.

The Saga Continues

CSU Announces Reggie's to Become a Solidarity Co-operative

HÉLÈNE BAUER
@HELENEVBAUER

Concordia University's student bar, Reggie's, has been in deficit since its first year, over 30 years ago.

CUSAcop, the for-profit subsidiary of the Concordia Student Union that has been managing Reggie's, has not been able to run the bar sustainably since its opening, and it will officially dissolve by June 1, according to CSU General Coordinator Terry Wilkings.

When the bar re-opens for the fall semester, it will be a solidarity co-operative like The Hive Café and Burritoville.

"For over 18 months, members of the CSU have expressed the desire to eliminate the dependence of Reggie's on [the] CSU, financially and otherwise," Wilkings said.

There are many factors that come into play with the remodeling of Reggie's governance. For one, the bar has been recording losses year after year since its opening in 1984. The only year that Reggie's recorded a profit was in 2014 when the bar was closed for most of the year.

When Reggie's first opened, the student union created a for-profit governance model, CUSAcop, to run the finances. However, since the bar did not generate any revenue, the CSU has had to continuously bail it

out. Essentially, the CSU was using student money to cover the losses of CUSAcop.

"There shouldn't be a need for students to have to bail out their campus bar every year," Wilkings said. He stressed the CSU wants to craft a governance model that will prioritize accountability and transparency.

The CSU will be responsible for executing the creation of the new entity by dissolving CUSAcop.

The solidarity co-operative is a model that will allow Reggie's to be legally independent.

"It democratizes the student bar," Wilkings said. "By having Reggie's legally independent it eliminates a sense of complacency that was plaguing CUSAcop."

"When you're being bailed out, what's the incentive to change your behaviour?"

The board of directors of the new co-op model will be structured into three categories: user members or undergraduate representatives from different faculties, worker members or employees and support members, which the executives from the CSU will occupy.

Similar to Burritoville and the Co-op Bookstore, Reggie's will remain an open space for students. There will be no obligatory subsidy and if students choose to become a member of the bar, they may do so freely.

Running as a financially independent

model, the CSU will not bail out the bar if it goes into debt, in which case the members

will have to decide how the bar will restructure to cut cost, Wilkings said.



NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Parent Says Police Overstepped Boundaries

Montreal Police Filmed in Incident Involving Father and Child with Autism

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

Two weeks ago, 5-year-old Charlotte went to the dentist. Her mouth was frozen after the morning appointment, meaning she couldn't eat food for about an hour or so.

As she walked through the Atwater mall on the journey back home, Sam Kühn—her father—said she got excited after she saw restaurants like Tim Hortons and McDonald's.

Charlotte has autism. Her inability to eat right away led her to have a public "melt-down," Kühn said. He knew his daughter needed time and space to calm down, so he carried her to a nearby corner right outside the mall's metro entrance.

Immediately, two police officers approached him concerned about what was happening, according to Kühn.

"I suppose I can look intimidating to a certain extent," he said. "If you see a man with a child going off to a corner, I think it's perfectly appropriate to approach them and say, 'what's happening here.'"

But after explaining the situation and asking police to give Charlotte space, Kühn said the officers ignored him and tried to touch and talk to her. She was in a fetal position and unable to communicate because she is nonverbal, her father explained.

Still, according to his account, the police officers persisted and didn't allow the father and daughter to leave, even though Kühn offered to let them follow from afar as he and his daughter went back home to nearby St. Henri.

This standoff—as Kühn described it—lasted for approximately 20 minutes. A crowd began to form, he said. He recalled at least four people intervening on his behalf, including two students who sympathized with his daughter's fear of the police and tried explaining the situation to the officers.

Charlotte's fear stems from her family's regular attendance at demonstrations and protests in Montreal, Kühn explained. They were at the May Day protest last year, he said, which became infamous for its subsequent images of a children and bystanders having milk poured into their eyes to remedy the effects of tear gas.

The officers, he continued, presented him with two options: produce identification or be taken to the station. He had Charlotte's health card and dental appointment slip but no I.D. of his own. Kühn said he doesn't normally carry around identification because "there is no need," and the family instead leaves everything stored safely back home.

A video, shot with his phone, shows the last five minutes of the standoff. It begins with a self-described "agitated" Kühn asking to be

left alone, and finally ends with one officer threatening to file a report against him for "his attitude."

In the video clip, Kühn's neighbour, Rebecca Bain, walks into view and begins talking to the police in French. Bain, who lives on the same street as Kühn, said she became worried when she saw the crowd and heard shouting.

"At first I didn't realize it was Sam," she remembered. "Then I saw Charlotte."

She told the police she knew the pair, but they continued to act "aggressively," she recalled. "The cops started justifying themselves as if they needed to," she said. "I felt they knew they were in over their heads."

The Service de police de la Ville de Montreal doesn't release information about whether a report was filed or if there is an ongoing investigation against an individual, according to Sgt. Laurent Gingras, supervisor of SPVM media relations. Officers are trained to do information gathering, he continued, but added that the powers of officers are limited if there is no criminal activity.

Gingras couldn't comment further on specifics, and said anyone can file a complaint against an SPVM officer.

By the end of the encounter, Kühn was distraught, but he said the support and reaction from people at the mall and those who saw his post online has been "incredible." A Facebook

post he wrote describing what happened has been shared 204 times and received 162 likes. He credited the connections he made at protests—like the one he made with Bain—for avoiding a trip to the police station that day.

"I don't know what would've happened if it wasn't for her," he said.



Charlotte's father, Sam Kühn was stopped by police on Jan. 19. VINCE MORELLO

Second Student-Protester Tribunal Set for Feb. 9

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK
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The next tribunal for a Concordia professor and student-protesters involved in last spring's strikes has been set for Feb. 9, while the third and final hearing may no longer happen.

The upcoming tribunal is for political science professor Michael Lipson and the 17 student-protesters he charged for disrupting



Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis is one of the 17 charged students. NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

his class on April 1, 2015.

Many student associations voted to strike on certain days during the winter semester last year to protest Quebec's budget cuts in the public sector, including those made to the education system.

Three Concordia professors, including Lipson, filed formal complaints against some students for disrupting their respective classes under the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities.

The 17 students involved with the Feb. 9 hearing can still seek and obtain postponements, according to Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota.

This second tribunal follows the first hearing held on Dec. 2, which saw eight students receive a letter of reprimand for picketing another political science course taught by professor Graham Dodds.

In an anonymous letter found on page 13 of this issue, a student facing a possible tribunal wrote that all parties have come to an informal agreement for one charge. This includes Concordia's administration, which became a co-complainant alongside the three professors last summer, despite previous suggestions they wouldn't charge students as long as strikes remained peaceful.

"I would like to thank one of the complainants for coming to an amicable, informal agreement with me, and I presume with the other students they charged as well, through the university," wrote one of the charged students.

Mota confirmed that informal resolutions have been agreed to for some of the protest

complaints, but due to a confidentiality agreement, she couldn't say for which students or professor. It's believed the agreement was reached with professor Travis Smith, since his tribunal has yet to be scheduled. He is also from the political science department.

Last semester, the university hired two separate mediators to try and settle the professors' complaints informally. Concordia paid the first mediator, William Hartzog, \$125 per hour for a total 184 hours, according to documents received through an access to information request. With taxes, this came out to \$26,419.

Tribunal on Feb. 9

Professor Lipson acted as Dodds's advocate for the first tribunal in December.

"It seems a bit of a conflict of interest," said Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, a student senator and one of the 17 students scheduled to appear at the upcoming hearing.

Any complaint against Lipson acting as Dodd's representative can be brought up to the chair of the next tribunal, according to Mota.

No verdict at a tribunal is supposed to set a legal precedent for any subsequent one. Marshall-Kiparissis said she has no expectations for how her tribunal will play out, despite knowing the verdict of the last one.

"I'm not surprised at the last verdict because it's the only reasonable sanction for something that was ultimately not violent," she commented.

Concordia Against Tribunals

Approximately 200 people have signed a

petition declaring their support for a new initiative called Concordia Against Tribunals—or CATs—in recent weeks, according to Gabriel Velasco, a member of the group and a Concordia Student Union coordinator.

On Wednesday, the council of the CSU passed a motion to formally support CATs' cause against the university. Their demands include that the university drop all charges, give amnesty to charged students, offer a letter of apology and provide mental health support to students involved with mediation and the tribunals.

Velasco, who wasn't charged, said it was challenging for students to juggle work and school on top of mediation and preparing for a possible tribunal.

"It really took a toll on students in a way that I don't think the university realizes," he said.

Marshall-Kiparissis said the whole process has been "totally exhausting," considering it started almost nine months ago.

"[The tribunal] is based on charges for activities on April 1, 2015," she said. "We are almost in February 2016."

Earlier this month, ten members of CATs demonstrated in front of Concordia President Alan Shepard at a new semester meet-and-greet with students on the university's Loyola campus. Velasco said it's probable there will be more mobilization in the future, but it's up to people who come to their general assemblies to decide. The next one will be held on Wednesday night.

With files from Michelle Pucci.



ASFA voted to change its structure at a special council meeting on Thurs. Jan. 28, 2016

JOSH FISCHLIN

ASFA: Real Change Is On The Way

JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

It's been an interesting year for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations—and the fun isn't over.

A proposal to restructure the federation was approved at a special council meeting on Thursday in an attempt to combat the “toxic atmosphere” staining its reputation.

ASFA has been through a lot: a high profile sexual harassment and racism scandal, a hopeful change-orientated campaign in October and a recent surge in executive resignations.

After an optimistic election campaign in October, with the Support Change slate pitted against ASFA United, hope for real change was in the air.

Six of the seven victorious executive candidates were from the Support Change slate—it was time to take ASFA in a new direction.

Despite the optimism expressed during their campaign, four of those executives recently resigned, yet another hitch in a series of troubles faced by the federation.

The reasons for the resignations were varied. Some left for personal or academic reasons, but the supposed “toxic environment” has been an undeniable underlying theme in the federation, and has influenced the recent drop in executives.

Stephen Karchut, VP Internal, External and Communications for the First Peoples Studies Member Association spoke about the environment plaguing the federation at the meeting on Thursday.

“I feel like something has to change within ASFA. It's a super toxic environment. You can read it in the news, you can feel it in the room,” he said. “It's very political when it doesn't have to be this political. It doesn't have to be this strung out; it doesn't have to be this hard to make changes at a student body level.”

From “big association” to “funding body”

After all of the issues that have surfaced in the recent past, ASFA is in the midst of reinventing itself.

The spirit of the proposed change is to give more autonomy to ASFA's member associations. The federation would act as a “funding body,” while also providing consent and anti-oppression training to its MAs.

“Essentially we're cutting out anything that ASFA does, and we're just giving all the autonomy to the member associations,” Jenna Cocullo, General Coordinator of ASFA, said about the proposal. “ASFA will really just be there for the simplicity of allocating budgets.”

If the new mandate were implemented, the executive team would be shaved down from seven positions to a mere three—Internal Coordinator, Finance Coordinator, and Advocacy Coordinator.

Finance would help manage budgets and funding; Internal would assist with MA's policy reviews, elections and general bureaucracy; and Advocacy would be in charge of planning consent training, anti-oppression training and workshop planning.

By eliminating the Academic Coordinator, as well as the Social Coordinator, the mandates that were filled by those positions will no longer exist and influence ASFA.

Getting rid of Social Coordinator, for example, will cause the federation to no longer have an executive position mandated to plan parties and social events, which have been some of the most criticized aspects of ASFA.

These events have become known for enabling students to “get drunk and then just take advantage of one another,” Cocullo said.

“I feel like it will just change a lot of the culture dynamics within the ASFA office, which gets projected onto all students through the events that they do,” she explained.

Bridging the gap between MAs and executives

Cocullo also spoke about how executive decisions have influenced MAs negatively in the past.

For example, last year one of the executives got a beer contract for an event that MAs were forced to use, even though some did not want it.

“When ASFA has to spend all their time

organizing Frosh and all these other events, it's taking away time that could be going towards the member associations, taking away money that could be going towards them,” Cocullo said.

Currently executives are serving a double mandate—the one that they campaigned on, and the one that they're meant to carry out for their MAs. This can cause difficulties.

“You get into this double mandate situation, where you ran on a platform—and students elected you based on that platform—but then council is mandating you to do something completely different,” she explained.

By getting rid of the Social and Academic Coordinator positions, the executives will have less of an unwanted influence on ASFA's member associations.

The proposal also suggests the creation of an independent MA that would be called the Community at Large Member Association. A total of 1,803 students—those who are currently not represented by an ASFA councillor—would be counted under the new MA.

The Community at Large Member Association would also be available to students who might disagree with the mandate of their already-represented departments.

“All students can get involved, no matter which department they're in,” Cocullo explained.

Unrepresented students still pay into ASFA, so this would be a way for them to get involved.

“Also, those who may not agree with the politics of their MA, or what's going on with their MA that year, will essentially have a different venue of getting involved as well,” she continued.

The counter-narrative

Several people spoke against the restructuring proposal approved at Thursday's meeting, including psychology student councillor Lizzy Duong and independent councillors Etienne de Blois and Frankie Sunnysine.

Duong does not believe that there was enough consultation regarding the proposal

before it was presented for approval at council. The new executive structure was brought up to policy committee, but it was “briefly mentioned” and rushed, she said.

“The president wasn't really taking our opinions and collaborating on thoughts together, she just wanted us to approve it because the executive approved it,” she said about Cocullo. “We wanted to take time to think this over and work together, but then she kind of just took the proposal and did it herself. There wasn't really much of a consultation.”

However, the main reason she is opposed to the proposal is because it suggests the discontinuation of ASFA social and academic events.

Some events honour students with strong academic achievement, with \$4,000 allocated to those who make outstanding contributions to student life, Duong said.

“It's uncomfortable to know they want to remove an award that honours someone that passed,” Duong continued.

She believes that the issues at ASFA will not be properly address by the proposal.

To tackle the issues at the federation, Duong suggested an expansion of the executive team, rather than a contraction. In her view, positions like Academic and Loyola should be separated in order to alleviate the burden of having multiple mandates.

“The proposition would be to split the positions—to create more positions—and also to make them more definitive, exact and less vague,” she explained.

De Blois was also outspoken in his opposition to the proposal. In his view, calling the idea that changing by-laws and titles will lead to a culture change “overly simplistic.”

“ASFA does not have a structural problem in terms of its by-laws, it has a tradition problem. Continuous oppression, sexism and racism have been tolerated over and over again. And it's become pervasive to ASFA's culture,” he said at council.

“That's the problem. But changing the structure of ASFA's by-laws will in no way change its tradition.”

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CSU Daycare Moves into Design Phase

Council approves allocation of \$20,500 to further fund daycare project.

Hackathon at Concordia

University hosts hundreds of young engineering students for hackathon competition.

Birth of an Association

A Look at Concordia's New First Peoples Studies Member Association

MARIE BRIÈRE DE LA HOSSERAYE
@MBDLH

It's not often that you see the majority of a student body coming out to vote during an election, but the First Peoples studies department has proved to be the exception to the rule.

The department has created their own student association, and approximately 30 out of its 44 students voted to elect their representatives.

The First Peoples Studies Member Association executive team is composed of President Shiann Wahéshon Whitebean, VP Financial Affairs Heldden Byumvuhore, VP Academic Affairs Tanisha Campbell, VP Social Affairs Charlie O'Connor and VP Communications, Internal and External Affairs Stephen Karchut. Their council representative is Olivia Gennarelli.

In the future, the FPSTMA wants to get rid of the labels of president and vice presidents to eliminate a hierarchy in the positions. The association hopes to approach the university political system differently.

"To follow the typical structure of a student association is really foreign to me," Whitebean said. "We, collectively as a body of students, want to revise the by-laws to have an alternative approach, more consensus-based."

They will begin changing the structure of the association to introduce aspects of the Kanien'kehá:ka council process, as per their own tradition. This will allow for more students to get involved in the decision making process.

"We hope to reach decisions by consensus as a collective of students, similar to my people," Whitebean said.

According to Karchut, the program is full of open-minded people who are looking forward to trying something different and understanding First Peoples' culture. Even so, changing the system will have to wait until a referendum that could take place next year.

The election was put together collectively. They used the fliers advertising the polling dates and combined their campaign budgets to create reusable promotional materials for the association.

"Each candidate was supported by the program and ran unchallenged for their position," Whitebean said.

Before this new creation, students taking First Peoples studies fell under the School of Community and Public Affairs Students' Association, since their department is part of SCPA. This is partly why they wanted their own autonomous representation, separate from SCPASA.

"We didn't fit well under their umbrella,"

Whitebean said. "We have really unique needs."

A year ago, when SCPASA voted to strike against provincial austerity measures and classes were cancelled as a result, First Peoples studies' classes were cancelled as well, despite the fact that they had not participated in the vote.

When Tom Flanagan—who was a campaign manager for Stephen Harper—was invited to talk at Concordia last March, they had no collective weight to voice their opposition.

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations helped the First Peoples studies put together by-laws to create their own association. The newly formed association doesn't have a budget yet. This is because ASFA set its budget at the beginning of the year, before the FPSTMA's creation.

"We do not need the money for now, we're learning as we're going," Karchut said. "We are also getting a lot of help to organize our events from SCPASA, the association we broke off from."

Their first event was the *Free to be Mohawk* book launch on Jan. 29, and around 50 people attended. For now, the association is focused on raising awareness.

"Being such a small and overlooked program, we want to help each other out, so students are really participative," Karchut said.



Stephen Karchut is a First Peoples Studies Member Association executive.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

THE LINK VOLUME 37 GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE ALMOST HERE

Tuesday March 1 @ 4 p.m. in The Link's office

The Link is looking to grow our team and needs editors to fill next year's masthead. All the positions are open.

Editor-in-Chief

Make the big calls and represent the paper. Through rain, snow and sleepless nights, you lead the troops of this paper to greatness.

Coordinating Editor

Direct the newspaper's online content and stay on top of news, fringe, sports and opinion content cycles. Take on the mountain of the Internet through cunning social media strategy and innovative digital ideas.

Managing Editor

Journalism works because deadlines are enforced. Oversee the newspaper's print production, keep editors and staff on their game, and make sure the paper comes out on time.

Current Affairs Editor

Put your magnifying glass to the week's happenings and dig deeper. Curate in-depth features and give context to news around Concordia.

News Editor

Direct the online news content. Get to know every inch of Concordia and its politicians. Recite acronyms and chase the truth.

Assistant News Editor

Keeping up with everything around Concordia needs a strong tag-team. Ensure news coverage runs smoothly and help the news editor avoid insanity.

Opinions Editor

Separate the crazy from the coherent and put together one killer Opinions section. Hunt down the strong debaters and the columnist and give them a page to fill.

Copy Editor

Keep articles out of synonym hell and catch the mistakes, big or small. Make the boring stories exciting and the exciting stories even better.

Fringe Arts Editor

Expose all that's cool and underground in Montreal. From gallery openings to bands with three name changes, you're the go-to person for what's up-and-up in arts.

Fringe Online

The online, regular counterpart to the fringe arts editor, you tell Concordia what's worth seeing and what to avoid.

Sports Editor

Find the story behind the game. Give a voice to the athletes and highlight the great wins and tough times for all of Concordia's teams.

Sports Online

Be the ultimate source of knowledge for all things Stingers. Fast stats, game recaps, video and podcast work are your wheelhouse.

Creative Director

Design the visual language of the newspaper. Lay it out, make it pretty and break design boundaries.

Photo/Video Editor

Capture the ups and downs of Concordia life. Snap photos and video of Stingers games, protests and everything in between.

Graphics Editor

You're the illustrator extraordinaire. Find a way to visualize the tough stories and the easy stories, with the help of some great contributors.

Eligible to run:

Graeme Shorten Adams, Roxane J. Baril Bedard, Carl Bindman, Elysia-Marie Campbell, Jonathan Caragay-Cook, Alex Carriere, Matt D'Amours, Tristan D'Amours, Noelle Diderjean, Josh Fischlin, Madeleine Gendreau, Zachary Goldberg-Mota, Caity Hall, Sarah Jesmer, Sam Jones, Laura Lalonde, Kelsey Litwin, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, June Loper, Sarah Lozinski, Ben Mayer-Goodman, Julian McKenzie, Julia Miele, Vince Morello, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Michelle Pucci, Morag Rahn-Campbell, Riley Stativa, Willie Wilson, Elizabeth Xu

One more contribution needed:

Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Gabriela de Medeiros, David Easey, Tessa Mascia, Shaun Michaud, Michael Wrobel

Two more contributions needed:

Yacine, Bouhali, Sara Capanna, Amy Haloran, Jordan Stoopler

Three more contributions needed:

Matthew Allison, Emily Carson-Apstein, Danielle Gasher, Andrej Ivanov, Hanna Joy-Farooq, Fiona Maynard, Jon Milton, Lindsay Richardson, Salim Valji

In order to be eligible, candidates must be current Concordia students who will be returning in the fall.

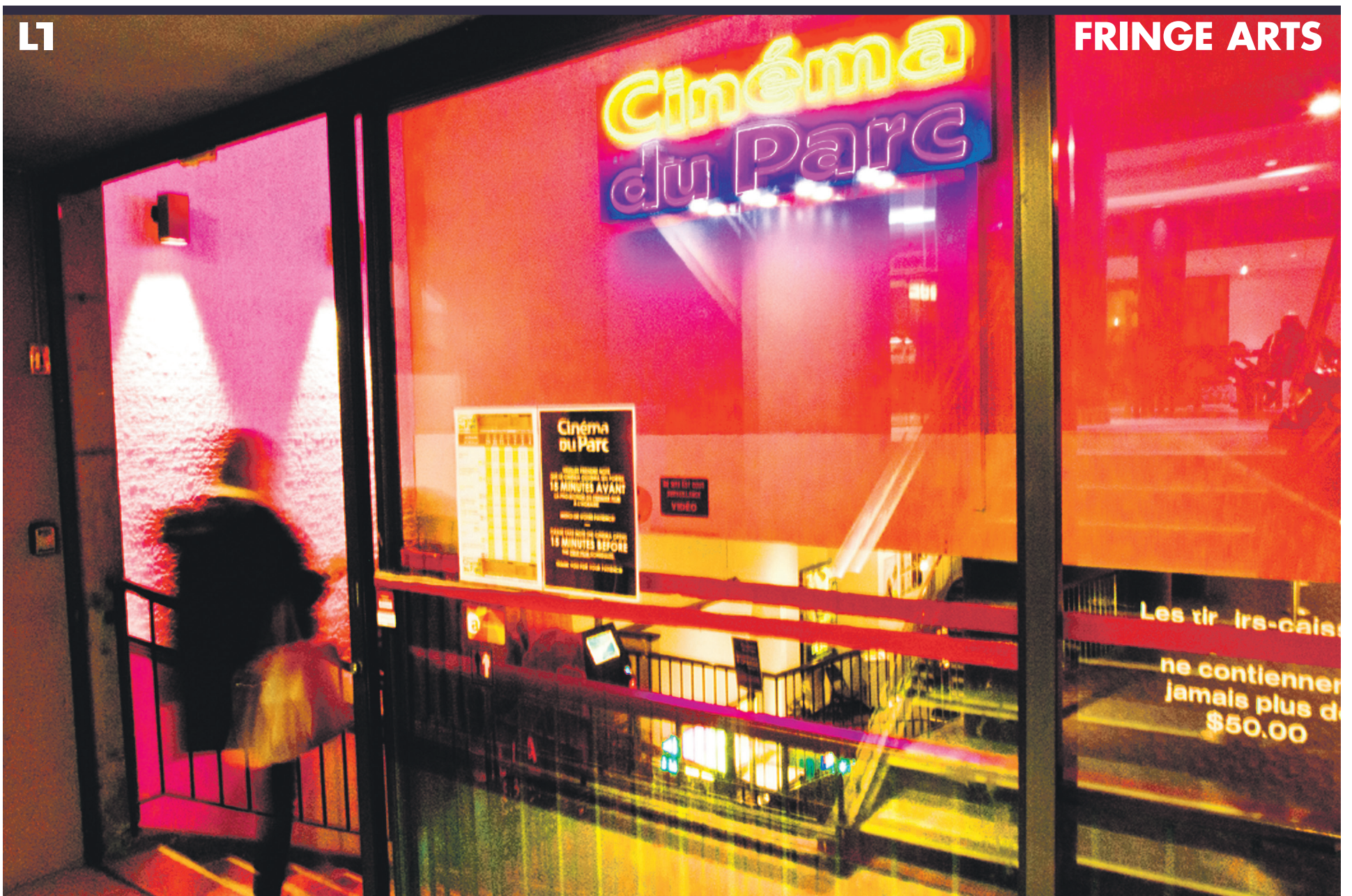
Applications for the positions must be posted by Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. in The Link's office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Room H-649).

Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues during the winter semester of Volume 36 and must include a one-page letter of intent and three (3) contribution samples.

Candidates for editor-in-chief must submit at least eight (8) samples of work from at least three (3) different sections.

For more information email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca

Elections will be held Tuesday, March 1 at 4 p.m. All staff members are eligible and encouraged to vote in the elections.



HÉLÈNE BAUER

Cinemas Are Not Dead

The State of Montreal Cinema Culture from a French Perspective

JOSÉPHINE DE LAMBILLY
@JOSEPHINELBLY

J.A. Martin Photographer, C.R.A.Z.Y., Mommy, Sicario: movies that we have watched, loved, hated or simply heard about.

Quebec's movie industry has a voice that crosses borders, that's for sure. Yet, when I stroll the streets of Montreal, remembering all those films, I can't help but wonder where this energy is being represented, aside from on-screen.

Where are all the movie theatres? Where are the bright coloured posters? Where are the people running because they're late for the 7:20 p.m. screening?

In France, where I come from, the culture is different when it comes to movies. You eat croissants, drink wine as soon as a reasonable time rings—usually around 11 a.m.—you take the metro, yell at a few people on your way to work and, every Wednesday, you go to the movies.

You go because you know that on Thursday morning, as soon as you turn on your computer to start working, your colleague will ask you: "So, have you seen the new James Bond?" If you say yes, you know you'll be the hostage of a 15-minute conversation, but if you say no, Nicolas, your film-loving colleague, will never look at you the same way.

In Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Metz, or wherever in France, you have to go to the movies.

In Montreal, the ritual is not the same. While the weekly activity in France is a talking point and almost a way of living, you can't find that here, in the region where the film industry is thriving. The streets are more sober; you walk straight and rarely give a movie poster a second glance. When you look at the screening schedules of the different cinemas of Montreal, the websites are messy, not informative. The ques-

"Now, the market has changed, and that market is ruled by Netflix and Amazon."

—Mario Fortin

tion remains: where is the cinema culture in the city?

Taking a trip a few decades before might help us understand this issue. Mario Fortin, the owner and general director of Cinema Beaubien and Cinema du Parc, came with an interesting answer. As he explained, France and North America had a different cultural policy when television arrived in the '50s.

"French TV channels didn't broadcast movies, didn't talk about movies and didn't announce movies," Fortin said. Because of this,

the advertisement of movies had to be done in another way.

"Here, in North America, the advertising of movies is through television, and through print," he said. "Whereas in France, it was made through posters."

Today, between TV and the internet, learning about the release of the new *Star Wars* movie from posters alone might seem obsolete.

The crowded streets of Paris also explain some of the difference. Indeed, in a city like Paris, with more than 2 million inhabitants, advertising movies with posters has a larger impact, especially in the metro.

"The first time I went to Paris, I bought a book about the Parisian metro," Fortin said. "It said that there were 365 metro stations in Paris. In Montreal, at that time, we had only 21, I think."

It made no sense to put movie posters up in the Montreal metro, but even today, in a region near three times bigger than France, with 8 million people spread across it, Quebec cannot hope to do the same. Poster advertising can not be pervasive to such a wide-spread population.

There is also a shift occurring in cinema. "Now, the market has changed, and that market is ruled by Netflix, Amazon," Fortin said.

Despite all of this, I love the obsession with movies in France. It's a social activity where we laugh, cry and criticize, together. I wonder if Netflix doesn't simply reflect the current

culture of loneliness and our growing individualism.

"I love going to the movies, I would go everyday if it was something that was possible," said Justine Smith, a freelance film writer in Montreal, with enthusiasm.

"I see it both as a social activity, I love to go there with people, but I have no problem going there by myself, and I go by myself a lot," she said.

Smith also watches a lot of movies on Netflix or at home, because of the rising cost of actually going to the cinema, but also because the access online is just easier.

"There are also a lot of films that are just not playing theatrically or probably won't be," Smith said.

This is the reflection of the absence of posters, of the few movie theatres and of the fragile excitement of going to the movies in Montreal.

"Montreal is a good city for cinema, but it's not a great city compared to Paris or Toronto," Smith added.

Apart from that, I hope Netflix will not win over cinema. And I feel positive for the future of movie theatres in Montreal, as does Fortin.

"Since the advent of cinema, we have been predicting the death of cinema. When the radio arrived, we said people are going to stay at home and listen to the radio," Fortin said. "There is always something like this—that cinema, whose death is predicted, comes out of it greater."

Confronting Consequences

Life is Strange Explores the Ability to Choose in Gaming

JULIA MIELE

Since the release of the first episode of *Life Is Strange*, Dontnod Entertainment's most recent episodic video game in early 2015, I've been monitoring people's emotional reactions, watching them escalate as each episode grew more intense.

My need to play the game grew right along with it. Soon after the fifth and final episode was released, I bought the game in full and played through it in less than a week. The game has been nominated for the 2016 Emotional Games Awards, and in three different categories no less—best game, best design and best music.

Life Is Strange follows the story of Maxine Caulfield, a photography student. Max soon discovers that she has the ability to rewind time when she witnesses her childhood friend, Chloe Price, about to get shot. This triggers her mysterious power, and she begins using it to change things for the better—or so she thinks. From there, Max and Chloe team up as a ragtag detective duo, using time powers to discover the whereabouts of a missing girl.

Similar to the PlayStation 4 game *Until Dawn*, *Life Is Strange* uses the concept of the butterfly effect to further the plot and narrative. All choices that the player makes as Max have consequences—whether the result is good or bad, the player can only hope. The

game comes up with some serious ultimatums that will change the storyline and how the other characters will interact with Max. There were some intense questions that I had to take a moment to really think about. Some instances in the game dealt with serious subject matter like mercy killing and talking someone down from jumping to their death.

The player also chooses how to interact with objects and people while they walk around different locations. Something as simple as watering your dorm room plant or leaving a window open may change things,

so it's important to really look at your surroundings during play.

The game is structured episodically to resemble a television series. Every new episode starts off with a cinematic recap of past events that happened in previous episodes. They also end with a cliffhanger in the form of a dramatic montage, leaving the player wondering what will happen in the next installment.

This television-esque style added an element of drama to the game and really set a more intriguing atmosphere. I'm glad I

waited until all episodes were released before playing—those cliffhangers were just cruel.

Life Is Strange is a game that makes you realize the weight of your decisions and the consequences they may have. It's also a great answer as to why time travel is never a good thing to mess with—ever.

The gameplay is smooth, the characters are complex and relatable, and the soundtrack fit the mood of the storytelling.

You can find all of *Life Is Strange* on Steam for \$21.99 or get it for PlayStation or Xbox—all you have to do is make the choice.



COURTESY DONTNOD ENTERTAINMENT

(Feb. 2 – 8)
Stay up on the fringes of Montreal this week.

FRINGE CALENDAR

SNES & NES Night
Feb. 3, 8 p.m.
Bar Le Ritz PDB
179 Jean-Talon St. W.
Free

Remember the SNES? It was a crazy cool early gaming device, I don't think anyone really cares about them anymore. But if you do, you should go to this – cheap brew and all the SNES/NES games your heart can stand.

La Soiree BELGO
Feb. 4, 5 to 10 p.m.
Le Belgo
372 St. Catherine St. W.
Free

For the artfully inclined, if you haven't been to Le Belgo, you simply must! Gather here to hob-knob within the densest collection of artist-run centres around.

Subversive II: Future-Proof Music
Feb. 5, 9 p.m.
Casa del Popolo
4873 St. Laurent Blvd.
\$5

Keep the future at bay, at least for tonight – hop your way over to Casa del Popolo for the futurehouse mixed and matched auditory extravaganza and dance party, featuring the likes of Chevalier Avant Garde, Sad, and Marquis.

Julie Doiron and Nancy Pants
Feb. 6, 10 p.m.
Bar Le Ritz PDB
179 Jean-Talon St. W.
\$10 advance, \$15 door

Holy Hell! Julie Doiron just did a new record with none other than local heroes Nancy Pants, and now they're kicking off a tour right here in Montreal with other local heroes No Aloha! Double holy hell!



Still from the documentary *Around the World in 50 Concerts*, which played at Cinema du Parc on Jan. 28

PHOTOS COURTESY COBOS FILMS

A Journey of Soloists and Solitude

The RIDM+ Festival Kicks Off Its Monthly Selection of Documentaries

DANIELLE GASHER
@DANIGASHER

It's said that life imitates art—but sometimes, life actually is art.

Around the World in 50 Concerts, which played at Cinema du Parc on Jan. 28, is an intimate, personal exploration of what music means to people. Director Heddy Honigmann followed the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam's journey around the world in 2013, while they were performing 50 concerts over six continents to honour its 125th anniversary. Honigmann's documentary explores the orchestra and its journey, but the film isn't really about the orchestra as a whole. A sense of loneliness and void is often present in the film, which showcases singled-out musicians and ordinary people who have a story to tell.

Honigmann is a renowned Peruvian-born Dutch director who works both on fiction and documentary films. In 2007, she won the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto.

Honigmann's attention to detail and minimalist aesthetic bring forth a sense of *cinéma vérité* in the documentary. We are invited to reflect on the idea that the orchestra's journey does not belong to its members alone, but also to children in South Africa, a taxi driver in Argentina, a Holocaust survivor in Russia and a flight attendant.

The film begins with a shot of an empty concert hall. Seats and music lecterns are scattered on the stage, a spotlight shining down on them. The room looks huge, majestic and lonely. An off-screen drum begins to rumble.

The camera slowly pans to the left to reveal a lone man hitting his drum. The opening shot sets up the atmosphere of the film in a poetic yet simple manner. *Around the World in 50 Concerts* is homage to the little things, to loneliness and to the contrasts of everyday life. The film brings us from big and beautiful to small and homely, poor to rich, playing with polarity.

A melancholic eeriness settles itself in quickly in the film, as it depicts the musicians in their routine after a show. Instruments are packaged in a kind of thermal pajama, while musicians arrive in groups at a hotel, and go down quiet hallways on their own, with the harsh sound of luggage wheels as a soundtrack.

The personalities in the film reinforce the idea that a big and prestigious orchestra is indeed filled with regular people who devote their hard work, talent and deep-rooted passion to their instrument.

The film gives several different looks at individual members of the orchestra, most talking about their instrument and favourite symphonies with a sparkle in their stare. However, we also get candid, lovingly awkward moments when some of them reach out to their loved ones at home through a phone call or Skype.

One of the bassoonists sits alone in his quiet hotel room in Buenos Aires and connects on Skype to talk to his wife and kids at home.

"I can see Uruguay from my balcony," he exclaims. His family doesn't hear—the connection breaks up. The reality of the scene was just one of many similarly refreshing and honest scenes in the film.

The musicians' passion isn't just evident

in the one-on-one moments, but also when we get a look at the orchestra's performances on stage. The images are powerful: musicians playing with their eyes closed, bodies contorting under the pure joy of a perfectly played part, the French horns waiting for their cue to bring their velvety sound to the partition, the conductor dripping with sweat. Hearing the orchestra playing in the final performance of the film was nothing short of an emotional roller coaster. Everything that is beautiful about an orchestra reveals itself in that final performance, which that ties the film together, taking every individual parcel and aspect explored throughout the journey.

The glamour in the idea of a famous orchestra is stripped away by the revelatory message the film presents. The director goes deeper, by examining each human being as a rare

breed, a rare story behind a profound love for music.

"I got my share of both Stalin and Hitler," says an old Russian man in an interview during the film. The man goes on to explain his terrifying and trying past with emotion, but lets us know about his love for music and his love for Gustav Mahler, an Austrian composer and conductor.

Around the World in 50 Concerts is a truly moving portrait of people as they truly are—with pasts, fears and hopes. The movie is one of melancholy, humility, void and simplicity. The orchestra, in other words, presents the most beautiful example of the idea of the power in numbers. The concept can be terrifying in life, politics, media, but not in music. A lot of passion and humanity individually creates something truly breathtaking when brought together on stage.



Around the World in 50 Concerts is homage to the little things in everyday life.



With the 24th pick of the MLS Superdraft, the Montreal Impact selected Belizean forward Michael Salazar.

PHOTOS COURTESY PSA ELITE

From Cayo to Saputo

Belizean Forward Michael Salazar and His Path to the Montreal Impact

TRISTAN D'AMOURS
@TRISTANDAMOURS

Earlier this January, Michael Salazar was anxiously sitting in the audience for the 2016 MLS Superdraft at the Baltimore Convention Centre, waiting for his name to be called.

Seats were emptying as one whole round passed and 23 players had their names called by Major League Soccer teams. The Montreal Impact was now on the clock with the 24th pick, looking to make their next selection.

The 23-year-old wasn't the only nervous member of the Salazar family that day. His mother, who had flown in from his native Belize, also had a hard time staying seated.

"She was waiting and waiting, for a second she thought I wasn't going to get called at all," Salazar said.

MLS vice president Todd J. Durbin then walked up to the podium.

"With the fourth pick of the second round of the MLS Superdraft, the Montreal Impact select, from the University of California Riverside, forward Michael Salazar."

Salazar jolted from his seat and gave a big hug to his mom, and then his college coach Tim Cupello, who was wearing a blue and yellow UC Riverside Highlanders scarf over his suit.

"Have fun, enjoy the moment, but then get back to work because now is when the challenge really occurs," Cupello told the new draftee.

Following what felt like the longest walk of his life, Salazar was given an Impact scarf and walked toward the podium to give a speech in front of friends, fans, new employers and family. "By the time I got to the stage, I forgot every single word," he recalled.

Born in the Cayo District of Belize, Salazar did not have the opportunity to have his immediate family around to watch him play. He moved to the U.S. to pursue his education and his goal to make a living playing soccer.

"[His parents] didn't have a financial background to be able to travel a lot to come watch him," Cupello said. "So I think he really relied on his teammates and the coaching staff to

be that family and supportive unit for him."

While Salazar delivered his speech at the draft, the video he is known for rolled on ESPN's draft coverage. It featured a goal he scored with PSA Elite, an amateur team in California, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open Cup, a competition open to all teams in the United States. Salazar managed to give his team the 1-0 lead against the MLS reigning champions LA Galaxy.

"The goal he scored, we had practiced all week," said PSA Elite head coach Jon Spencer.

"We ended up playing the ball out wide off their weak side ... From my perspective I remember him saying: 'Man! What we were talking all week, it worked!' There was a little bit of shock," Spencer said.

PSA Elite ended up losing 6-1 to the Galaxy, but Salazar was named the Lower Division Player of the tournament.

Salazar also had the chance to play for his country while in college. In 2013, Ian Mork, who was the Belize national team manager at the time, called him up to join camp in preparation for the Gold Cup, the continental championship regrouping North and Central America as well as the Caribbean.

"Living in the United States, it was going to be difficult to manage school ... playing for the national team," Salazar said. "But during my first call up it was a summer date and the Gold Cup was going on. I was the youngest guy on the team so I took as much information from the older guys and I made the [Gold Cup roster]"

Mork recalled when Belize played the U.S. at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, Oregon. Salazar stepped in at the 77th minute and got to share the pitch with American soccer legend Landon Donovan, a player he followed throughout his career.

"[Salazar] came along as a substitute against the U.S., and he handled it really well. He wanted to be on before that, he wanted to be starting the game," Mork said. "His response was outstanding and as a result, he started the next game."

Mork, who now works as a technical advisor for the Northwest at the U.S. Soccer

Federation, has spoken highly of Salazar to aspiring players.

"When I was speaking to the youth players I was using him as an example. He's a Belizean, he's in the U.S. getting an education, playing at a high level and now he's going to play professionally," he said. "I know that Michael has been an inspiration to a lot of kids in Belize. Probably more than he even realizes."

Back in Baltimore, Salazar wrapped up his speech before walking off the stage. Impact

head coach Mauro Biello, technical director Adam Braz and the rest of the coaching staff then greeted him.

After exchanging handshakes, he told them about forgetting what to say on the stage, thanked them and said he couldn't wait to start training with the team. It was a long journey for Salazar, who now awaits his turn to suit up for the Impact at Saputo Stadium. But the life-long dream of playing the beautiful game for a living has taken one big step towards fruition.





Stingers forward Philippe Hudon speaks about his hidden battle with OCD. He was diagnosed with the condition in 2010.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

The Secret Struggle of a Lifetime

Stingers Hockey Forward Philippe Hudon Opens Up on Battle with OCD

SAFIA AHMAD
@SAFSOTG

Like many Canadians, Philippe Hudon has been playing hockey since the moment he learned to walk. Unlike most children, however, Hudon was very neat and organized.

"His room was always impeccable. I was never complaining [about] that actually," said his mother, Ann-Julie Lebeuf.

Little did she know that this fascination with cleanliness and the need for order would spiral out into an experience that would change his life. Hudon was only 17-years-old when he realized he had "tics" and "obsessive-compulsive habits."

"It was a force much stronger than myself," Hudon said. "I consider myself a very mentally strong person, [but] it was something I couldn't really bear. There were voices I had to succumb to."

In December of 2010, the Stingers assistant captain was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder, also known as OCD. This disorder is characterized by a desire to relieve distress by performing anxiety-reducing acts to appease subjective stressors. Because the individual feels less anxious after performing the act, the behaviour becomes reinforced and is eventually performed reflexively. OCD encompasses a variety of obsessions and behaviours. For instance, some people have an urge to compulsively wash their hands to reduce their anxiety over germs.

For Hudon, perfectionism was the focal point of his disorder.

"I never thought it could affect me," he admitted. "I just wanted everything in my day, every gesture, to be done perfectly in my mind. It might not have been perfect for somebody else, but it was perfect for me."

The year 2010 was full of promise for Hudon prior to his diagnosis. At the time, he was attending prep school in Connecticut. He was a straight-A student and received attention from several universities, including a scholarship offer to Cornell University in New York.

On top of it all, he was eligible for the 2011 National Hockey League draft, where young hockey players are selected by 30 NHL teams and are given the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of becoming professional hockey players. Things seemed to be going well, and, more importantly, according to plan.

"I've always been meticulous," Hudon said. "I've always had my plans and things that I wanted to do. There was always a time and a place for things."

Then, his life took a sudden turn for the worse. The pressure he put on himself to maintain his grades became unbearable. His perfectionist tendencies began to take control of his life.

"To be real honest, all I was doing was showering, cleaning my room, eating and going to class. Three of the things there can be done within an hour and I was using the whole day to do [them]."

Eventually, it came to a point where he couldn't hide it anymore.

"I'll always remember that moment when

we were heading to a hockey tournament in Boston," Lebeuf recalled. "On the highway, he said: 'Mom, I think I have issues because I keep on cleaning my desk over and over again and I'm not well.'"

Hudon was drafted in the fifth round—the 145th pick of the draft—by the Detroit Red Wings the following year, and enrolled in Cornell University to play hockey. He only completed a month at Cornell before returning home to Montreal. Hudon began seeing his psychologist two to three times per week and was taking prescription medication for his OCD.

"School and all the aspects of my life were kind of haunting me again, but not as bad as they once were," Hudon said. "I was maybe at 80 per cent of my recovery, but I still wasn't ready and I think I might have rushed it."

For escape, Hudon turned towards his one true passion: hockey. He joined the Victoriaville Tigres in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Hockey became his safe haven, a home away from home and an oasis from his worries.

"There are these nets around the rink. I would think of those nets as being dream catchers," Hudon said. "Every time I stepped on the ice, the negative thoughts, the obsessive-compulsions and everything related to it, would somehow stay back. When I was on the ice, I was literally free. I never thought about anything, other than playing hockey."

It was during this time that he was approached by French sports television channel Réseau des sports for an interview regarding his OCD for the Bell Let's Talk

campaign, which aims to raise awareness of mental health. For the first time, his issue was made public. Soon, he saw the impact of his actions on the lives of others battling mental illness.

"Within the following 48 hours [of the interview], the amount of messages I received on various social platforms were countless, of people saying: 'You opening up just made my life so much easier. I'm finally going to go see someone to treat this.'"

*

Now at 95 per cent of his recovery, Hudon is still carrying the torch forward. Last Wednesday, Jan. 27, marked the fifth edition of Bell Let's Talk, and Hudon used the day as another opportunity to open up on his struggles.

"I told him," said Stingers head coach Marc-André Element, "It's your day. Talk about it."

Element and Hudon visited the Canada Cycle and Motor office, a company that specializes in sports equipment, and played hockey with the staff before discussing mental health issues. The two also made plans to talk mental health with a junior hockey team in Longueuil.

All the while, Hudon tweeted on different challenges he has faced throughout the course of his illness, including the need to tape the knob of his hockey stick "exactly seven times" before a practice or game, and keeping his desk 99.9 per cent bacteria-free. He has one simple message.

"Talk," Hudon said. "For the people who aren't affected, lend an ear. Just lending an ear can help a thousand others in need."

thelinknewspaper.ca

Welcome to the Sports Section

A few Stingers briefs, a jam-packed weekend for the Montreal Canadiens, and another PBHT podcast! We've got it all in our sports online section.

Rules to Roll By

A Speculative Look at a Canadian Cannabis Policy

GONZO NIETO
@GONZEBO

With a federal government elected on a platform of legalizing cannabis, Canada stands to set an example on the international stage by being the first G7 country to fully regulate the production, sale and possession of a plant that has been at the heart of so much controversy—frankly, it's about time.

That a government could get elected with this mandate is cause for hope and cautious celebration, but many questions remain open, and the way our policymakers navigate them will determine whether we set an example for other countries to follow, or if we botch the whole thing. With this in mind, let's review some critical pieces of the debate to tease out what a sensible cannabis policy might look like.

Who should be able to buy cannabis?

It's interesting to consider the Canadian Senate, in their "Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy" report released in 2002, provided a number of reasons why anyone 16 and over should be able to buy pot. If that's too radical a proposition, we already have an established age of majority in each province, and that's not a bad place to start.

Who should be able to grow cannabis?

I think that anyone should be able to grow their own. Consider that people can already make their own alcohol with a license, and adults can grow up to 15 kg of tobacco per year, which is equivalent to two packs of cigarettes a day. If we make these allowances for alcohol and tobacco, it only makes sense that people should be able to grow their own

marijuana plants, too.

How much will it cost and how much will it be taxed?

A central reason for legalization is to regulate what has been an unregulated black market circulating billions of dollars, with much of that going towards organized crime. In order to succeed in this regard, a regulated market must be able to consistently compete with the existing black market, and must also provide regulations by which illegal producers can become legal producers.

Keeping in mind that cannabis is far safer—as published in a report by the National Institutes of Health in 2015—and results in far less public health costs than alcohol and tobacco, taxes on cannabis should also be far lower than those on alcohol and tobacco.

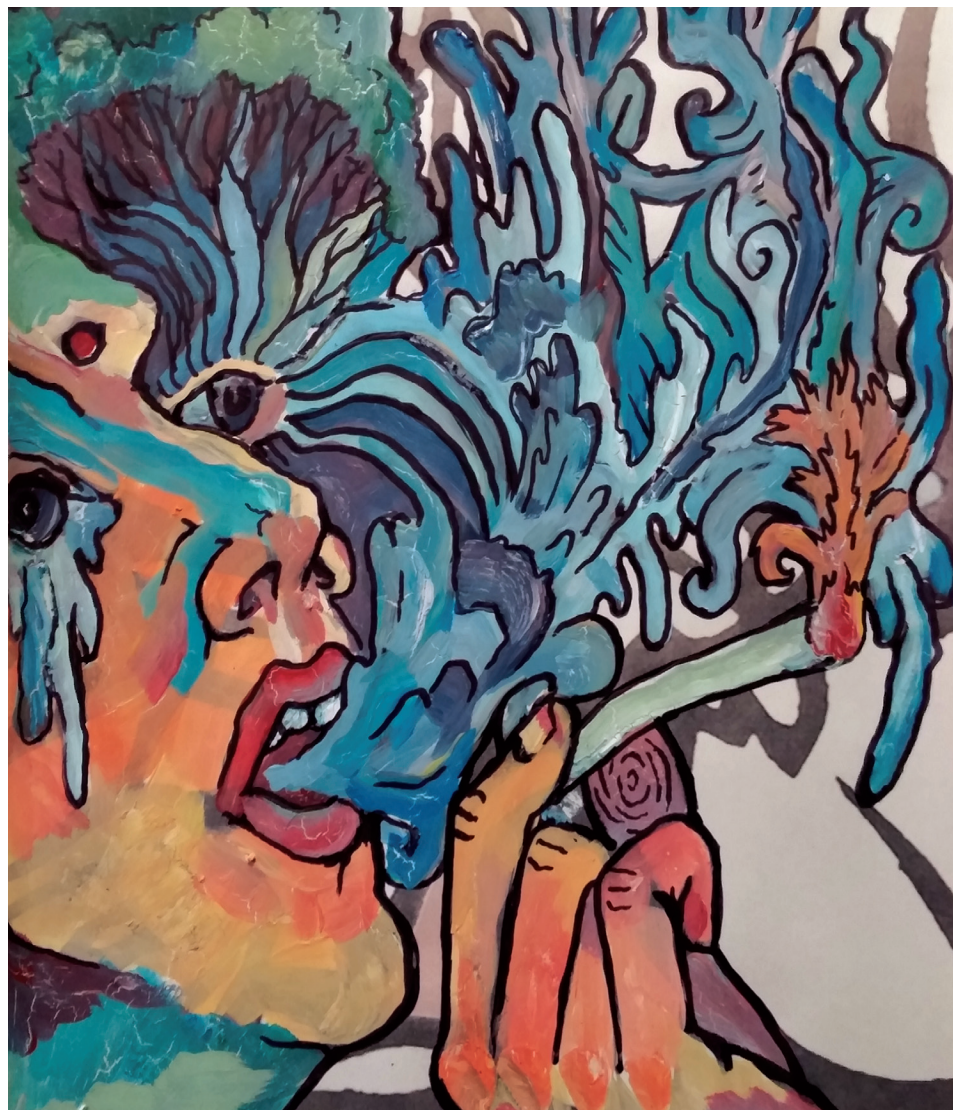
If legal pot is over-taxed and over-regulated, we are virtually ensuring that the black market for cannabis will continue to exist.

Why has Canada not yet decriminalized cannabis, at the very least for possession?

Given the Trudeau government's plan to legalize cannabis, it seems absurd that people are still being arrested and sentenced for cannabis possession.

A key policy decision should be to pardon the sentences of anyone serving time for non-violent cannabis crimes, and also to create a streamlined process by which folks with non-violent cannabis crimes on their criminal record can have them removed.

If we are recognizing that there is nothing criminal about the production, sale and possession of cannabis, it stands to reason that we would create a way to absolve those who have been targeted by law enforcement for having



SAM JONES

done so in the past, especially considering the serious and long-lasting effects of having a criminal record on one's life.

What about the effects of cannabis legalization on youth and college students?

Precedents of cannabis regulation in other countries have shown that use among youth hardly increases as a result of regulation. But a significantly positive effect will be that mil-

lions of pot-smoking Canadians, youth and adults alike, will be able to freely enjoy their drug of choice without the societal implication that they are criminals for doing so.

College campuses across Canada will finally have a legal alternative to alcohol when organizing parties and events on campus. I, for one, would much rather attend a frosh or a social event where I can purchase a joint for \$5 and share it with a few friends.

Chomp Some Cheap Chow

How to Surf Canada's Rising Food Prices

OCEAN DEROUCHIE
@OSHIEPOSHIE

The other day at the grocery store, I accidentally paid \$10 for green grapes. While I say "accidentally" because I wasn't paying attention at checkout, what I really mean to say is that green grapes shouldn't ring through at ten fucking dollars.

Fruit and vegetable prices are expected to increase by as much as 4.5 per cent in 2016 according to the University of Guelph Food Institute. The increase comes after an additional five per cent increase in prices last year.

The cost of produce is absurd, especially for young people pursuing their education. Of course the sliding Canadian dollar is the biggest culprit of this, however, the CBC also attributes flooding—and consequential produce shortages—in California and Mexico caused by the El Niño hurricane as key factors for our rising grocery bills.

Society tells us that students will always find it challenging to keep the fridge stocked, because it's like, part of the post-secondary experience, y'know? That being said, everyone is feeling the effects of food cost this time around, as prices soar and the value of our less-than-shiny loonie drops to record-breaking extremes.

With that in mind, I set out to find some solid alternatives to the major league grocery stores who are jacking up the prices. This ain't gonna be your typical Sunday trip to the market—think of it more like a cheap food scavenger hunt that will send you all over the city.

Segal's, the well-known Plateau Mont-Royal staple grocery store, is a little dirty, granted, but it offers relatively low prices for decent quality produce. You can score all the basics—tomato, lettuce, cucumbers and what have you—for less than you would usually pay at a brand-name grocery store.

You can also pick up specialty foods for significantly less than most places. I've nabbed \$3 Yves products and \$0.99 chocolate cream cheeses (spoiler alert, don't go for the chocolatey cream cheese). Segal's is sort of an experience, or an acquired taste. But, the nostalgia-inducing ambiance of this local grocer can't be beat.

The Good Food Box is a gem. This collective purchasing initiative says on their website that it is "dedicated to buying first quality, fresh and affordable produce."

For \$7, you can pick up a box of produce to feed one person. The program offers more than 115 pickup locations in 28 Montreal neighbourhoods. The boxes are seasonal, and often include items you wouldn't normally buy in



SAM JONES

stores, like wild leeks. The out-of-the-ordinary veggies will hopefully inspire buyers to cook recipes out of their comfort zones. You can place an order a box by phone, after you pinpoint which pick-up location is good for you, or give them a Google and check out their site.

Asian grocers are great for scouting inexpensive, interesting food items you might not find elsewhere. For example, **Banzai \$1.99** in NDG is a great spot for picking up mushrooms, bok choy, broccoli, ramen, seafood and meat alternatives—for \$1.99, you can take home a tub of tofu. Other great shops include **Kim Phat**, which has three locations, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's approval.

Student food initiatives like the **People's**

Potato or **The Hive Café Solidarity Co-op** should play a big role in your lunchtime routine if you're looking to both eat healthy and save. If you've been living under a rock, or haven't had a chance to visit either of The Hive's two awesome locations, you're missing out. The Hive's cafes boast affordable snacks like the to-die-for "brekkie burritos" and grilled cheeses, which are both under \$3.50. Protip: get the membership to get discounts on all the great eats.

Meanwhile, Monday through Friday, both **People's Potato** in the Hall Building and **The Hive** at Loyola Campus offer free vegan (and often gluten-free) lunches to students and staff around 12:30 p.m.—just be sure to bring your own container.



JENNIFER AEDY

Know Your Rights as an Intern in Canada

JULIAN MCKENZIE
@JULIANTHEINTERN

There were a dozen people sitting around a table, eating pizza, playing cards, and smoking cigarettes—so much so that I worried that my blazer on my chair would collect the smell. I was sitting outside with friends at the party, a few strokes before midnight on a Saturday when it really hit me—for the first time in two years, I didn't have an internship to be at.

There was no producer telling me to get content ready for a certain time. I didn't have to hustle into a workplace in the morning or after class. I immediately felt relieved, only to suddenly realize that I'd have to fill in whatever available time I had with school.

I crashed the party after my last shift as an intern at CTV Montreal. I had spent the evening doing a demo at the anchor desk, reading sports copy stories, and once I realized my shift would be done in time for a fashionably late arrival to this party, I couldn't pass it up.

Internships are fun, and I'd recommend them to anyone trying to get as much work experience as they can before being deployed into the real world after graduation. The conditions for interns now are seemingly better than when I jumped in a few years back. At the very least, organizations such as the Canadian Intern Association are making it seem that way.

Formed in 2012 and federally incorporated in 2013, the Canadian Intern Association works to establish and improve employment, legal and health rights for interns across Canada. They've also aided in compiling studies on the nature of internships.

What's most important is that if you are an intern in this country, you are now entitled to being paid the province's set minimum wage at the very least. My lone gripe is the student exemption that doesn't allow students to be paid while going through an internship associated with their schooling—but at least you leave a workplace with experience and school credits that can go towards a degree. In Quebec, these intern-

ship laws have been in place since May 2015.

I've been on the internship grind since before university, beginning as a writer for the *Montreal Community Contact*, a paper that serves the city's Black community.

Working at the paper gave me notable memories, including waiting for a phone interview with a stuntman on set in Bulgaria at 5:30 a.m., only to have his agent call me to say he overslept, and interviewing a two-time National Basketball Association champion and ex-teammate of LeBron James outside of a bathroom stall as he changed his clothes.

I stayed at the paper for as long as I could because I didn't have many plans or job opportunities that summer. I also couldn't think of any other place that was going to give me any money—the editor-in-chief would pay me \$50 every now and then. Still, I knew it wasn't an actual income.

The next summer, I interned at TSN 690, a sports radio station in Montreal under Bell Media. Since I began the internship before I got into Concordia, I couldn't make it count for school credit. I spent two years at the station, editing audio clips, screening phone calls and taking a few opportunities to run a show from their operating board and speak on-air. In an area where experience is crucial, it was hard for me to stop, even if I was working for free.

Through the radio station, I got an in with the company's street team. I befriended, and in some cases recruited, interns who spread the good word about TSN, and its other sister stations, Virgin Radio, CHOM 97.7 and CJAD 800. There were perks like free food and the occasional paid job, but mostly it was long, unpaid shifts.

I also spent this past summer working in the sports department for CTV Montreal, writing copy stories for the anchors' sportscasts and assisting in editing of their sports packages. It got to the point that the anchors would leave me at my post for hours while I wrote entire sportscasts for them. It's important to note that this internship did count for university credit, falling into the student

exception for Quebec interns.

I wasn't alone in my experience with Bell Media. One of my colleagues, Dave Trentadue, who now produces a weekly show at TSN 690 called "In The Trenches," spent three years as an intern on the show "Mel-nick in the Afternoon."

"The reason I worked so many hours for free was that if I didn't, my dream was over," he said. "It was quite literally the only way I was going to get to where I wanted to be." Despite the long hours, Trentadue feels he's paid his dues and earned goodwill with fellow journalists and media types in Montreal.

Perhaps if we had been a bit more attentive, we probably could have taken advantage of the Claim Back Your Pay initiative from the Canadian Intern Association.

Interns who have worked without pay can send in an Employment Standards or a Complaints Registration form to the company they've interned for, in order to recoup minimum wages for whatever hours they have worked. However, requests must be filed six months after the last day of the internship.

The internship experience can be arduous, but it is valuable. As a bonus, students can now benefit from being treated like employees instead of human livestock. But interns must realize that they have rights, and advocate for those rights when they're violated.

If I can offer any advice, it would be to read through the Canadian Intern Association's laws and guidelines for your province regarding internships before you begin. Document your hours, and if you're in a situation where your internship will pay you, keep track of when you're supposed to be paid.

I hope more paid opportunities will be coming my way, and any other intern's way. We've gone past simply fetching coffee, and we are more than nameless stopgaps during summer vacations.

For more information regarding your rights as an intern, check out internassociation.ca.

Letter

No Tribunal for One Charged Student-Protester

Informal Agreement Has Been Reached

As a student charged under the Code of Rights and Responsibilities for striking on April 1, 2015, I would like to thank one of the complainants for coming to an amicable, informal agreement with me, and I presume with the other students they charged as well, through the university.

I don't wish to divulge any details, not only because of conditions of confidentiality, but because ultimately they are not relevant. I do, however, hope that the remaining complainants take from this example of mutually beneficial resolution, and can be open to solutions that are less time—and resource—consuming, and less draining on public funds, than the onerous tribunal process.

Another tribunal will be happening very soon. It is now almost a year since the strike activities that these charges are based on took place. There are options beyond tribunals that reflect the common desires—I hope—of students and faculty to spend our energies on more productive things than bureaucratic maneuvering and adversarial positioning. These options are feasible, and in my case one of these options is already in practice.

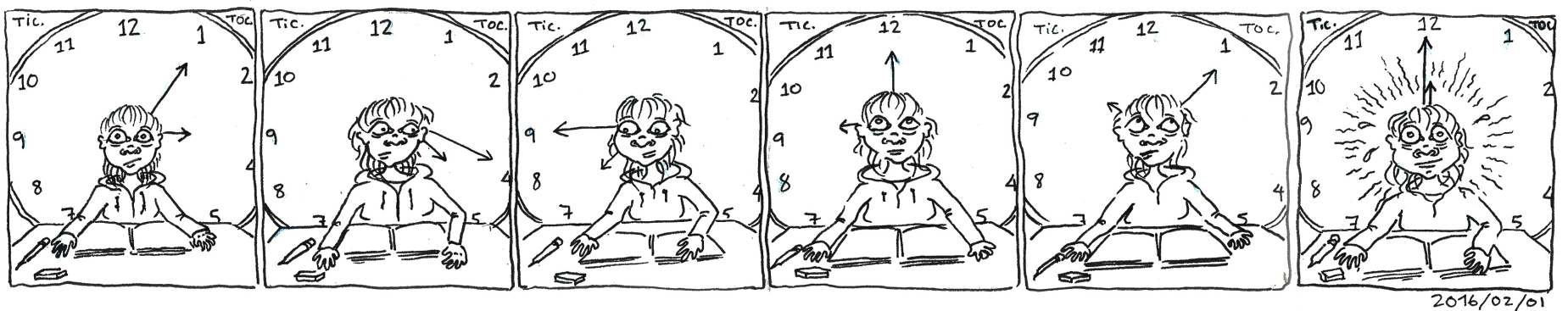
Thanks to my original complainant I can now get back to my studies, and I assume they are happy to get back to their work as well. I hope the remaining students and professors in question can come to a place where they can say the same thing very soon.

—Anonymous

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





MADELINE GENDREAU

EDITORIAL

Concordia Admin Needs to Review the ABCs of Communication

Concordia administration needs to deal with its serious inconsistencies in planning, assigning, withholding and unnecessarily prolonging tribunals. The disparity in their handling of recent issues is unprofessional and creates apprehension and distrust between students and administrators.

In the wake of last spring's student strikes against the Quebec government's austerity measures, three Concordia professors filed formal complaints against 25 student protesters. Some of these students entered and disrupted professor Graham Dodds's political science class on April 1, 2015. Students from the political science department had voted in favour of a weeklong strike at a general assembly.

The professors said that the students had violated article 29G of the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities, which states members are free to engage in peaceful and orderly protest as long as classes are not disrupted.

While the university initially said they would remain uninvolved, they became co-complainants alongside the professors at the end of May. By choosing to become a co-complainant with the professors one whole month after the formal complaints were filed, the

university did not remain impartial depriving the students of a fair tribunal.

This was the beginning of a jumble of inconsistent activity from the university, including charging students, assigning them to tribunals, postponing these tribunals, scheduling mediations between professors and the charged students at the same time as the tribunals and suspending the prior mediations for an undetermined amount of time.

Despite saying that the intentions of the university were to protect students from harm, Concordia president Alan Shepard and other university administrators disregarded Concordia Student Union General Coordinator Terry Wilkings's encouragement of their attendance at the mediation meetings last semester.

Without a representative of Concordia administration present, both the students and professors were unable to see the university's perspective in a time meant for reconciliation. This could be why the mutual agreement to hold these mediations was annulled. In an instance where professors are formally filing charges against students, the university must be present in order to represent the administrative perspective—especially when the university supports the professors' decision

enough to become co-complainants. The first step in order for the university to better deal with a similar situation next time is to improve their communication.

Concordia Against Tribunals, a student organization, emerged from these events after eight students were given letters of reprimand from the university. CATs' mandate features two key demands: that all charges against students by professors and the university be dropped immediately, and reparations made, including a letter of apology, amnesty for all charged students and support for the mental health of those who were put through tribunals.

Agreeing to meet with an organization does not mean you will comply with all of their demands—it shows that you are willing to hear them out, see their side and come to a mutual agreement. By muddling and staying out of it, the university isn't helping anyone.

When two opposing sides are quietly building tension without being able to see the other's perspective, something is bound to burst. In this case, that could mean anything from more protests to student expulsion—both not ideal solutions.

Addressing the inequalities and mistakes made is another way the university could have

improved this situation on both sides. According to Wilkings, there is no section of the Code that outlines consequences for teachers who interrupt classes by striking. This implies that the university prioritizes professors over students. Had this been addressed, perhaps CATs would not feel as unfairly treated, and the professors would think twice about their complaints. Again, we see a missed opportunity for further mutual understanding.

The austerity protest tribunals are not the only example of administrative fumbling. Concordia has also postponed the tribunal for a student involved in a sexual violence case against her ex-boyfriend. These inconsistencies are a huge problem because they create a feeling of anxiety in the student body as it waits for the university's next move. They are creating a culture of apprehension and mistrust.

When organizing tribunals and deciding whether they should be put in place, the university should be as consistent and clear as possible.

Concordia needs to get organized. These tribunals are seriously affecting students and professors alike. The university needs to better handle strike instances by communicating and looking for active solutions, rather than clinging to the Code.

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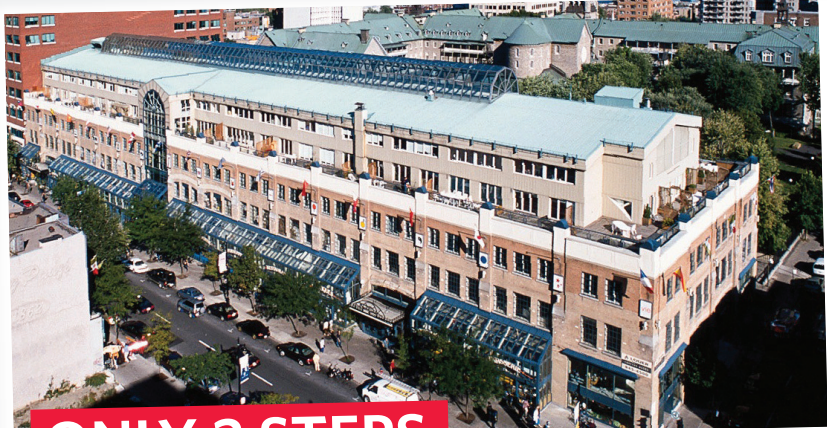
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Correction: The article "Progress for Tomorrow," published in Volume 36, Issue 18 on Jan. 26, 2016 incorrectly stated that Dr. M-J Milloy's talk will take place on March 20. The event is March 10. *The Link* regrets the error.

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FEB. 13: Conférence hivernale de la presse francophone
French presentations by Judith Lachapelle (La Presse), and Rolan-Yves Carignan (Libération, The Gazette)
followed by a panel discussion for members of the student press.

12:30-6:30 pm at Gert's (Shatner). Admission: 5\$

FEB. 15: Racism and the Media
Workshop with Kim Milan. **South Side Cafeteria (Shatner), 6:30-8:30 pm.**

FEB. 16: Environmental Journalism (details TBA, Concordia)

FEB. 17: Feminist Approaches to Journalism (details TBA, Concordia)

FEB. 18: Investigative Journalism
Panel with Henry Aubin, Linda Gyulai, Marie-Maude Denis, and Vincent Larouche.

South Side Cafeteria (Shatner), 6:30-8:30 pm. (McGill)

FEB. 19: Arts Criticism With T'cha Dunlevy, Daniel Viola, Lorraine Carpenter, and Crystal Chan.
Club Lounge, 6:00 pm. (McGill)

FEB. 20: Making a Journalism Career With Kate McKenna, Eric Andrew-Gee, and Laurent Bastien
Corbeil. Followed by a reception. **3 p.m. (details TBA, Concordia)**

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