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# LINK

## DUMPSTER DREAMS

P.3

### FRINGE

#### HIV: Virus or Crime

Documentary discusses the challenges of having a sexual life when living with HIV. P. 7

### SPORTS

#### Putting In The Extra Work

Men's basketball player Schneiders Suffrard plays, eats, and dreams of basketball. P. 12

### OPINIONS

#### Editorial

During a time when students and the university are affected by budget cuts, there's no room to hand out a \$235,000 severance package. P. 19



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For those seeking to learn more about dumpster diving, a practical workshop is being held on Feb. 19 as part of Concordia's Anti-Consumerism week.

HÉLÈNE BAUER

# What's For Dinner?

## Anti-Consumerism Week Highlights Dumpster Diving

OCEAN DEROUCHIE  
@OSHIEPOSHIE

Dubbed a “popular hobby for the frugal,” dumpster diving can be an alternative to typical grocery shopping or coping with rising food prices.

“It’s an activity, but it’s towards survival,” explained Loïc Freeman-Lavoie, a dumpster diver and member of the Concordia Food Coalition. “It can be fun, but one of the things we’re pressing is that this is not some ‘cool thing.’”

Canadians waste \$31 billion-worth of food annually, as of 2014, according to “Canada’s Annual Food Waste — \$27 Billion Revisited,” a study done by Value Chain Management International Inc. This finding, is not only surprising, but is also a \$4 billion increase from 2010.

This wasteful reality is blamed in part on the unrealistic consumer demands for aesthetically appealing food of high quality. It’s estimated that between 20 and 40 per cent of produce in North America doesn’t even make it to grocery store stands for not looking “nice enough.”

Meanwhile, dumpster divers everywhere are breaking the myths around disposed food.

For Freeman-Lavoie, a seasoned scavenger, dumpster diving is a means to feed oneself.

“A lot of this food is people’s way of existence,” he said. “It’s dangerous and harmful to call it a sport or a hobby, because it underestimates and undervalues [how] greatly important it is.”

That said, those seeking to rebel against societal consumerism may have the wrong idea about the political statement that comes along with dumpster diving.

“A lot of people have this idea that dumpster diving is this radical activity,” Freeman-Lavoie said. “They often associate that with ‘fuck the man, I’m not buying food, I’m going to take it from the garbage instead!’ But by doing that, we’re dependant on this culture of abundance in waste through consumption.”

Ultimately, dumpster diving is not radical: in this context, it still fits in with consumerist constructs of needing the waste to be present in order for the activity to manifest itself. It can be radical though, in the sense that by mitigating waste, dumpster diving serves to actively shift the attitudes and acceptance of recuperating things and diverting them away from waste, Freeman-Lavoie explained.

Nonetheless, thrifting for food can have advantages that run deeper than the basic notion of saving on your grocery bill—becoming sensitive to what is being wasted, having a more diverse diet and developing self-beliefs towards dealing with what’s available are among the many pros of the recycled food movement.

One of the biggest cons, Freeman-Lavoie said jokingly, is the absurd availability of bread and pastries—he claims to have developed quite the addiction to readily available treats.

Some of the best tools for successful diving excursions include using intuition, good communication skills and memorizing the

city’s garbage schedule. From there, aspiring divers can plan their trips accordingly.

Freeman-Lavoie says that it can’t hurt to walk into a store and talk to a merchant—you may be able to strike up an arrangement, or even just find out why all of those seemingly delicious containers of hummus were thrown out.

Another Montrealer and dumpster diver, Emma Anders, spoke to the same note, mentioning times where building rapport with storeowners can have a great outcome.

“Sometimes they’re super nice—they see you rustling through their dumpster and they will give you extra food,” she said.

While it’s technically legal to go through garbage sitting in public domain, divers still have to be cautious. If caught digging through trash, some may perceive it as making a mess.

“We need to keep a good relation between store owners and people that dive. If you make a mess, which some people do, it’s the merchants that have to clean it up,” Freeman-Lavoie said.

Both Freeman-Lavoie and Anders emphasized the importance of not leaving a behind a chaotic trail of garbage for other people to deal with. If a merchant fails to clean up garbage left behind by divers, they risk getting fined for it.

On another note, the results of a diver’s efforts are most definitely affected by the season and weather. Freeman-Lavoie says that the cold season can numb a diver’s senses, making it more difficult to decipher which food products or produce items are still good.

“The summer is better for access to your senses, but in a lot of ways winter can be a preserver,” he said, adding that he’s less reluctant to pick up a container of yogurt due to the natural freezer that is Montreal in the winter.

Dumpster diving can also go beyond finding food products. Outside of electronic stores, Pharmaprix and even the streets can be home to many trashed treasures. For many city kids, childhood wasn’t complete without finding curbside keepers with one’s parents.

Both Freeman-Lavoie, and fellow diver Leh Deuling fondly recalled finding furniture.

“I have memories with my mom of being at the dump and finding all these glass jars and being like ‘oh my god, score!’” Deuling said.

For those seeking to learn more about dumpster diving, Freeman-Lavoie and others will be facilitating a practical workshop on Feb. 19 as part of Concordia’s Anti-Consumerism week. The politics behind the phenomenon, the system of waste that exists, security and laws as well as the dos and don’ts of the activity are among the many topics attendees can look forward to.

The workshop’s discussion element will begin at 4 p.m. in the Hall Building, before participants will have the chance to put their newfound knowledge to work at Jean-Talon Market later in the evening at 7:45 p.m.

“There’s a known dumpster culture there, so it’s a low-conflict area as well,” said Freeman-Lavoie, adding that dumpstering is low conflict in general, and that both workers and divers are accustomed to seeing each other.

“There’s no rules, there’s no limits,” Anders said. “Anybody can do it.”



# Room for Growth

## A Seedy Weekend to Discover Gardening

MARION GHIBAUDO  
@MARIONG321

Back away from the kale and goji berries and make room for the skirret—or *chervis en français*—a vegetable with many nutrients that has too often been overlooked.

The shrub, whose roots and leaves are edible, is one of those “old, forgotten plants, with plenty of nutrients.”

“It tastes quite sweet, a mix of carrot, coconut and parsnip,” said agriculturalist Patrice Fortier.

The skirret was also some of the unique fare on offer at the 16th annual edition of the Seedy Weekend, which was in full swing from Feb. 12 to Feb. 14 at the Montreal Botanical Garden. Run by the NDG Food Depot, the weekend event is considered by some to be the unofficial start of the gardening season.

At the event, agriculturalists from Quebec present their seeds to the public: some are old vegetables, such as heirloom tomatoes, others are created by the agriculturalists themselves and some are everyday fruits and vegetables, grown locally.

“The Seedy Weekend is growing every year, and we find it amazing to see the mix from the public, from students to older persons coming here, and beginner gardeners to seasoned ones,” said Lauren Pochereva, Urban Agriculture Manager at the NDG Food Depot.

According to Pochereva, there were more than 3,000 attendees in 2014, a number that rose to 3,700 the following year. There are

high hopes that this event will continue to expand and grow for the 2016 edition.

The public is encouraged to exchange ideas with the professionals and buy product, be it vegetable seeds or other gardening implements.

The urban agriculture movement has always been linked to Montreal, Pochereva said.

“There is a long tradition in Montreal, dating back to the Second World War, of gardens in cities. Thanks to this movement, the city was one of the first in North America to create its community garden network in the 1970s,” Pochereva said.

Urban agriculture not only protects the biodiversity of green spaces in the city, but also helps create a unique urban ecosystem with varieties of trees, herbs and shrubs. It’s even excellent for keeping the fridge well stocked.

“It’s an amazing way to get fresh food for people who care where their food comes from, and for people who cannot afford foods from supermarkets,” Pochereva said. “It’s an opportunity for them to take their food security in their own hands.”

The NDG Food Depot manages six community gardens at the moment, and they also are in the process of starting a production garden, which will focus on the growth of fruits and vegetables, this year.

Many people approach gardening from different backgrounds, but all seem to be united with the same goal of producing new plants and preserving old ones.

“I came to agriculture via my artistic production, and I started my seeds company in 2001,” Fortier said. “The first time I got interested in gardening, I was in New York, working as a cabaret dancer. For a young urban like me, it seemed crazy to try becoming a farmer at the time, and live by the seasons.”

While Fortier was in New York, there was an explosion of local gardens on balconies, decks and vacant lots. It was his first encounter with gardens that gave him pause for thought. Now, he is devoted to his endeavours.

According to Fortier, his company, La société des plantes, presents 260 varying products, although some are not his own production.

“My job as an agriculturalist is to save old seeds, but also to create new products that are resilient in our weathers and give good results,” Fortier said.

Despite the -40 C windchill this past weekend, the agriculturalists were unbothered—they work year-round.

“I work with plants all year-long, and winter is no exception,” Fortier said. “This is when I prepare my seeds and present my products.”



A Ville en Vert representative displays anise hyssop seeds on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

# A People First Approach

## Japanese Architect Manabu Chiba Presents Alternative Design to Canadian Audience

MADELINE GENDREAU

Walking through the city, it’s often forgotten that the environment in which we live has been wholly and meticulously planned to dictate our every move.

Each intersection, metro entrance and building orientation has been sent through scores of plans and approvals to be put in its exact place.

Architects are sometimes seen as the over-imaginative boon of penny-pinching city officials and physics-minded structural engineers. The gratuitous manner of opulence and design sometimes supersedes rational city build or the consideration of the public.

The Canadian Centre for Architecture’s lecture series, “They want to speak with you,” invites architects to take a step beyond the draftsman table, to share their ideas and design processes to the public, which they ultimately affect.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, the CCA invited Japanese architect Manabu Chiba to speak at their centre downtown about architecture beyond the four walls: to consider the role of human interaction in the design process.

“Always the way people meet or the way people gather has a lot to do with the space,” Chiba said during his talk. He pointed to drawings of how a family might traditionally sit facing one another at the dinner table.

“But, if you look at the architecture, there are many buildings that are just sitting in a line, there is no relation to each other.”

In his past work, Chiba has used different techniques to encourage environments that inspire the feeling of human presence within our sometime solitary existences.

“When I design the architecture, it’s not just the object itself, but more, I like to think about the relationship between the people and the place,” Chiba said.

He shared his vision for the Kogakuin University, a private university located in Tokyo.

“Usually when you are in a lecture room, there is no interaction between classrooms because the focus is supposed to be on the professor,” he said, echoing the same teaching system used at Concordia. “However, I think university, beyond a place to get some knowledge, should be a place for interaction between students and between professors. The standard spatial structure is not feasible for the university.”

He conceived a way to throw away this standard idea, building four L-shaped buildings facing each other.

These interlocking spaces are fitted with floor to ceiling windows, which allow a constant stream of visual information for the university attendees. At once, sitting in class, there’s a view and a feel for what is hap-

pening in other places of the university, and other people’s existence.

The architect’s role in a community is intimate—it can be either an obstruction or homage to a space rich with a people’s history. The preservation of one’s sense of place and the continual belonging to a community should be at the forefront of the architect’s vision.

In Montreal, where we are plagued by harsh winter conditions for many months of the year, glass walls and spaces to encourage floral arrangements between neighbors are not as feasible, however human interaction is still found embedded in the urban form of even the coldest of Montreal seasons.

Year-round, Place-des-Arts becomes a space for tactical urbanism, both intentionally and spontaneously. Currently on display is Luminothérapie’s sixth installment of “Impulsion,” a collection of LED and sound enabled seesaws, which are free and used by the public in all weather conditions.

Moving blindly and quickly through the environment is an overwhelmingly recurrent impulse for the city dweller, however this does not make healthy cities for people.

Sometimes, we must rely on the assistance of planners and architects to help facilitate our need for human interaction, the crucial element, which inspires both space and ourselves.



MADELINE GENDREAU





From the left, Karl Guiragossian and Evan Pitchie are CASA's two presidential candidates.

JOSH FISCHLIN

# CASA Elections Ahead

## Presidential Hopefuls Looking to Raise Student Awareness of Association

JOSH FISCHLIN  
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Elections for the Commerce and Administration Students' Association begin today and both presidential candidates are looking to increase student awareness of the association.

CASA represents over 7,000 undergraduate students at the John Molson School of Business. Karl Guiragossian, one of the two presidential candidates, feels that there is a disconnect between student leaders and the student body.

"For me, the first step is to actually go to the lobby, try to meet as many people as possible, and also extend [event] invitations to as many people as you cross," he said.

"Human interaction" and being as "inclusive as possible" to people would be important aspects in achieving this goal.

"It would really be to strengthen that culture and make sure that it's something that doesn't only exist on Facebook—that people actually feel when they walk into the school," Guiragossian explained.

Supporting the association's leaders is also an important strategic direction that he would push. There are 14 associations and committees—which are called subsidiaries—within CASA. Guiragossian would like to ensure that all sacrifices student leaders make are "worthwhile."

"I want to really make somebody feel like their time and their efforts are appreciated, and that they feel comfortable bringing things forward and sharing their ideas, and giving back to the people that they want to give back to," he said.

Evan Pitchie, current VP External Affairs at CASA and presidential candidate, would like to increase both reach and engagement with students.

"When elected, I'm definitely going to focus on creative new ways of trying to get students to see who we are, what we do, and what we can offer," he said.

Updating the CASA website, and increasing presence in the MB lobby would help achieve this, according to Pitchie.

He does not believe that there is a disconnect between CASA and students, but rather a lack of knowledge about what the association does.

### CASA-JMSB's mandate

Melissa Payette, the current president of CASA, described the association's mission as adding value to student life.

There are three pillars outlined in CASA's annual strategic plan. They are: providing academic support, building a network, and creating a sense of corporate citizenship and philanthropy.

"Everything that we do adds tangible value to students in one of those ways," Payette said.

The association holds numerous events throughout the year that are meant to meet these goals, including a Business Banquet, which serves to connect recruiters and students, and a Women in Business Conference among others.

Their more philanthropic work includes an event called "5 Days For The Homeless," which takes place across Canada and aims to raise money and awareness for "youth at risk." CASA also holds an event called "Santa Supply Chain" to donate gifts to charity.

Additionally, Payette spoke about an initiative called the External Conference Program, which aims to send students to conferences across Canada.

"It's something that I love that CASA does, I've loved it for years," she said. "So we added budget to that, and we definitely pushed on promotion for that."

Social events such as Frosh and the Halloween party are also important for the association.

"Faculty views student involvement at JMSB as a huge thing. Not only is it good for students, not only is it good for faculty, but it really puts the name of JMSB out there," Payette said.

### The cost of adding value

At the presidential debate, which was held on Feb. 11, Guiragossian had questions concerning the association's budget.

"\$7,000 for general marketing, \$7,000 for

telephone expenses, \$25,000 for accounting and book-keeping expenses—these are just things I have questions for," he said.

It was also brought to *The Link's* attention through a letter that \$43,000 was spent on a simulated stock exchange event called JMSX, hosted by a CASA subsidiary.

Payette explained that the high cost of the event was due to its need for expansion. In past years, the event sold out so quickly that the organizers decided to move it to a bigger venue.

"That event in particular adds so much more value than you'd expect. We had students coming in from all across the world—from Europe, from Asia—just to come to this one-day finance stock event," Pitchie said about JMSX. "It justified the expense, because it adds value to students, it puts JMSB on the map."

Cuts to other sections of the budget were necessary in order to accommodate the event's costs. Cuts meant to accommodate overspending are spread throughout the budget.

"A lot of it has to do with cutting in little places, here and there, all over the place. Most operational [costs]," CASA VP Finance Nik Chyzenski said. "You try and take where you can without ruining the experience for the student, and I don't think the things that we were cutting necessarily did that."

Despite costly events and other expenses, the association has run a few consecutive yearly surpluses.

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

### The Cost of an Unsafe Event

ASFA paid Controversial YouTube blogger and sexual education activist Laci Green \$16,000 for speaking at an event last semester.

### City Employees Take Apart Homeless Camp

Montreal blue collar workers dismantled a makeshift camp outside of the Champ-de-Mars metro station Friday morning, displacing five homeless people.



# Terms for the CSU's New Housing Decided

Deadline to Deliver Affordable Housing to Concordia Undergrad Students Is 2019

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK  
@HIIMBIRACIAL

The vision for new student cooperative housing has been finalized after the council of the Concordia Student Union approved a legally binding template on Wednesday.

The template, called a term sheet, clearly defines and covers the entire legal framework for the four parties responsible for creating the new cooperative housing, according to CSU General Coordinator Terry Wilkings.

"There won't be any surprises," he said.

The four parties are the CSU, its fund called Popular University Student Housing, the *Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant*—also known as UTILE—and

the eventual cooperative housing itself, which has yet to be created.

"If conditions in the term sheet aren't followed you will have recourse," he explained. "It provides a fence that we work within and anything outside of that fence is no longer falling in line with the previously agreed parameters."

The term sheet was distributed to councilors through physical envelopes as opposed to usual emailed files. Wilkings said the need for increased security is to ensure third-party confidentiality and avoid leaked information driving up prices from competitors. Once the project is delivered, he added that there shouldn't be an issue in disclosing more detailed information and specifics on the

conditions, Wilkings said.

In the March 2015 CSU general election, students voted to reallocate \$1.85 million from the Student Space Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund into the new PUSH fund. The goal is to construct cooperative student housing in Quebec, with exclusivity to members of the union. The PUSH fund will provide approximately 20 per cent of the funding for the housing project.

The term sheet consists of 12 sections, Wilkings explained, which breaks down items like the different types of possible tenants, the roles of the four parties, parameters for how the housing unit will look, contingency plans in case of failures, loan and payback models and a timetable.

If the project is not delivered by the end of 2019, it will be cancelled, according to Wilkings. Delivering the project means having students moving into the new housing, he explained.

"Students voted for this in 2015," he said. "We're not going to deliver in 2022—that's ridiculous." If cancelled, all assets will be returned to their rightful owners.

Within the term sheet, the PUSH fund will loan money to UTILE, a non-profit real estate developer in Montreal. UTILE, which operates under its own board structure, will be responsible for developing the model of the cooperative housing, as well as its execution.

The housing complex must maintain a minimum of 100 bedrooms, among other

specifications. This number rises to 120 rooms if the cooperative needs to become two separate structures, Wilkings said. Ideally the building will be near Concordia's downtown campus, he explained, but added that it's plausible there won't be an attractive and large enough space in the area for one housing unit.

There are four types of potential tenants for the cooperative housing. Concordia undergraduate students will be prioritized, and any remaining vacancies will be filled by Concordia graduate students, followed by students from other Montreal universities. CEGEP students are last on the list to fill the rooms, according to Wilkings. Target rent is between \$425 to 450 per room each month. This is for an average-sized room in an apartment with three to six bedrooms.

Wilkings added that a provisional committee, acting as the board of the potential cooperative housing, is working on the process for selecting tenants. This committee has been set up over the past year and includes students from all four of Concordia's faculties, he explained.

There's still a possibility that the CSU will announce the location of the housing before June 1, but it's more likely to happen next year, Wilkings said.

As a cooperative housing structure, Wilkings envisions community-driven initiatives like collective grocery shopping, a communal bike repair shop, or possibly having Concordia's Cinema Politica screen films outside in its courtyard.



CSU General Coordinator Terry Wilkings presented a housing update to council on Feb. 10, 2016. JOSH FISCHLIN

## Concordia Senate Update

President Alan Shepard Addresses CFO Severance Package, New Budget Model Presented

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK  
@HIIMBIRACIAL

With lawyers present in the room, Concordia President Alan Shepard asked the university's senate body to understand he can't fully comment on the news that a recently departed senior admin received \$235,000 in severance.

His comments about former Chief Financial Officer Sonia Trudel came during his opening remarks at senate's monthly session this past Friday afternoon, where among other points, the 2015-16 budget model was presented.

The university takes "extraordinary" care for all their hires, Shepard explained, but added that sometimes they don't work out.

Trudel worked as Concordia's CFO for less than three months. She began the position last semester on Sept. 21 and left on Nov. 12. Shepard reiterated to senate that her departure was a mutual decision, and acknowledged that the severance package was a "substantial" amount of money to give.

Following his remarks, Shepard offered the opportunity for senators to ask questions or comment on the situation surrounding Trudel's severance package. A few senators questioned the hiring process and asked what was being done to ensure a situation like this wouldn't happen again.

David Douglas, a senator and president of

Concordia's part-time faculty union, voiced this sentiment and explained that faculty members aren't part of the committee to hire the CFO.

Shepard said that ultimately it was his recommendation to hire Trudel. Further responding to Douglas, the university president said that despite not having faculty sit on the CFO's hiring committee, they go through the same "checks and balances" of any hiring committee.

"I don't like to spend tax dollars or tuition money unwisely," Shepard commented. "People who know me know that."

### New budget model presentation

As one of the final agenda points at senate on Friday, the interim CFO Patrick Kelley—who preceded Trudel and took over the position again after she left—presented the budget model for 2015-16.

The Quebec government cut approximately \$72.9 million from its grants to public universities last year, according to the presentation by Kelley. By the end of this year, Concordia is projected to lose an additional \$6.2 million on top of the \$30 million in cuts it has accumulated over the past four years.

According to the report, the university is also expected to run a deficit of approximately \$8.2 million as its total expenses are projected to be almost \$400 million. Revenues for the

year are anticipated at about \$387 million.

Salaries, benefits, and employer pension plans make up the bulk of the expenses at approximately \$300 million. In the report, "other expenses" are projected to be \$60 million, which Kelley explained are for facilities like electricity and hydro.

According to his report, the projected expenses represent a 1.35 per cent increase from last year. In relation to Kelley's report, the university's Provost, Benoit-Antoine Bacon, explained the new system for approving projects while openly discussing competition for funding among faculties and departments.

He said that for interdisciplinary academic collaboration, the main barrier is always the

question of "who pays?" A committee of the Provost, the VP of Research and Graduate Studies, and the CFO, will now approve requests for funding, Bacon explained.

Senator Rosemary Reilly voiced her concern that the new rules will create a climate of competition across faculties and departments. In response, Bacon said competition is a reality but he wants to avoid a situation where the one who "screams the loudest" receives funding.

President Shepard said during his opening remarks that he would be surprised if more budget compressions came from the government in the future, following his talks with government officials last week.



NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER





On Feb. 18, Concordia is hosting a lecture on the criminalization of HIV hosted by Cécile Kazatchkine from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. PHOTOS COURTESY NIKITA MOR

# Talking Consent With HIV

## Documentary Explores HIV Non-Disclosure

ELYSIA-MARIE CAMPBELL

You're out on a date with someone you seem to really like. You went out to a restaurant together. It's 9 p.m., it feels like the night is still young, and you decide not to go home right away.

By 10 p.m., you find yourself taking off your shoes at your date's house, and follow them towards their bedroom. You don't think much of it at first, but then you start kissing. Within a few minutes, you're half undressed and your blood starts to rise. One move by them, the next by you and, although nothing has been said, you have just consented to having sex.

But here's what the other person didn't know—you have HIV. You weren't in the right situation to say anything. Things happened too fast. Now, you're a criminal.

On Feb. 18, Concordia is hosting a lecture on the criminalization of HIV, the impact of non-disclosure laws on people living with the disease and the activist response. The lecture is hosted by Cécile Kazatchkine, who works on issues at the intersection of human rights and HIV at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

It will be accompanied by a screening of a recent documentary by the organization entitled, *Consent: HIV Non-Disclosure and Sexual Assault Law*.

The film features feminist scholars, activists, and people living with the virus. It brings communities together to discuss the prosecution of HIV non-disclosure as sexual assault and the necessity of challenging the current problematic legal framing.

"Consent is a hot topic right now in the news," said the film's director Alison Duke. Sexual consent and other forms of sexual violence have been in the spotlight lately, with the Jian Ghomeshi trial, as well as the allegations involving Bill Cosby.

The film questions how the law developed, transitioning from protecting women from sexual abuse, to criminalizing women with HIV.

"When you look at what women activists were trying to do in the '60s and '70s, I don't think they would have thought that the things they were fighting for would actually be used to criminalize women," Duke said.

"Women disclosing their HIV status is not as [simple] as telling your partner," she continued. "Women are usually in a more vulnerable situation when it comes to consent."

A woman disclosing that she is HIV-positive might not be in a safe environment, if she hasn't told her partner prior to the moments before intercourse. Danger comes with how the other person might react when they find out. Duke said that sometimes ex-partners or partners can become quite furious, and consequently, a woman's HIV status is used to threaten her.

A person in Canada living with HIV can be prosecuted for aggravated sexual assault if they do not reveal their HIV-positive status before having sex in certain circumstances. This form of sexual assault is considered the most serious of sexual offences.

Under the current Canadian law, HIV non-disclosure—in some circumstances—nullifies consent. This turns otherwise consensual sexual activity into sexual assault.

Put this into perspective and imagine the short story at the start of this article. Both parties consented to sex.

In section 273 of Canada's criminal code, it states that a person who commits an aggravated sexual assault is someone who wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the complainant. So if someone with HIV/AIDS has sex with someone, they are guilty of endangering the life of the other person they are having sex with. Part two of section 273 of the criminal code states that someone who commits a crime of aggravated sexual assault is guilty of an indictable offence and may be imprisoned.

According to the film, Canada is one of the world's leaders in per capita prosecutions for HIV non-disclosure, following the U.S.

*Consent: HIV Non-Disclosure and Sexual*

*Assault Law* was originally made for anyone studying law or women studies, but when it was released, it generated debates outside of those groups, according to Duke.

"The government puts so much effort and energy in criminalizing people, and they don't really offer that many solutions to educate people or implement settings so that people can consent properly without fear, stigma, and discrimination," Duke said.

"If you want to criminalize its fine, but where's the other side of it?" Duke continued. The solution would be to allow the opportunity for a person living with HIV to disclose freely without repercussions.

"Activists, such as feminists, sit on both sides of the fence. So it's a real wholesome discussion of why we need non-disclosure

laws, [or] why we don't need it," Duke said.

Should HIV non-disclosure remain a crime? According to the film, when disclosure is criminally culpable and when people are prosecuted for the offense, legal responses need to change.

"Ideas around what the law should be at every moment in history changes, and you really have to think ahead when you're fighting for things," Duke said. "We have to discuss what is going to be the next step if the law is going to change, because you can't just say 'were going to decriminalize.' We have to know where we're going."

*"Le VIH: un virus ou un crime?" // Feb. 18 // J.A. De Seve Cinema, J.W. McConnell Library Building (1400 De Maisonneuve W.) // 9 p.m. // Free*



thelinknewspaper.ca

Green Hypnotic & High Klassified

This week on The Scratch: MTL up-and-comers High Klassified and Green Hypnotic talk Laval, parties, and the vibe.

thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe • Feb. 16, 2016



## February 16-29

**TU** 16

**Anti-Consumerism Week at Concordia**  
Put away your wallet, get back in touch with traditions and learn to use your hands to make everyday necessities.  
Downtown and Loyola Campuses

**Buy & Sell Used Textbooks... Consignment Style! [Winter 2016 Edition!]**  
Old textbooks? New book list? No problem! Buy and sell used books on consignment with the Co-op Bookstore.  
Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore • 2150 Bishop St.

**Sly Why**  
Toronto jazz/rap band Sly Why are performing at Casa del Popolo with Stumpf, Lyme and Weird Star.  
Casa Del Popolo • 4873 St. Laurent Blvd.

**W** 17

**Brian Chippendale Michael DeForge, and Nick Drnaso Book Launch**  
The launch of three different premiere Drawn and Quarterly comics, made by Lightning Bolt drummer Brian Chippendale, and renowned Canadian comic artists Deforge and Drnaso.  
• Drawn and Quarterly Bookstore • 211 Bernard St. W. • Free • 7 p.m.

**J-Week**  
Journalists and media critics give some insight for budding student journalists in this week of events about race, feminism, investigation, arts criticism and making a career in journalism.  
Concordia and McGill campuses • Free • Various Locations

**TH** 18

**Exposition d'art érotique**  
Taboo and erotic expression explored through various media.  
Espace Scuderi • 1359 Ste. Catherine St. E. • \$10 • 6:30 p.m.

**Synesthesie / Synesthesia**  
Be drowned in an immersive light ecosystem at Jacuzzi Club in St. Henri, created by Concordia artists Zoé Jacole & Émile Foucher.  
Jacuzzi Club • 538 Rose de Lima St. • PWYC • 8 p.m.

**Existential Movie Night presents Akira**  
Katsuhiro Ôtomo's Akira (1988) is being screened. The film is Rated-R.  
Annexes M and S • 2145 Mackay St. • 7 p.m.

**F** 19

**6th Annual Legacy of Malcolm X Event**  
An annual staple of Concordia's Black History Month observations, this evening will feature three speakers in discussions of censorship as well as spoken word performance, while remembering the legacy of Malcolm X.  
Hall Building, H-110 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • \$5 • 7 p.m.

**Architecture Concordia presents "Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles"**  
Escape the bitter cold and join Architecture Concordia as we explore the great sprawling metropolis that is Los Angeles, with legendary architectural critic Reyner Banham and his 1972 documentary "Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles."  
Concordia University; Topological Media Lab, EV7.725 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • Free • 7 p.m.

**S** 20

**Black & Scholes (1973) - Kim-Sanh Châu (Montréal)**  
A hybrid performance blending contemporary dance and media arts about chaos. Here, video becomes a choreographic score. Book in advance!  
MAI (Montreal Arts Interculturels) • 3680 Jeanne-Mance St., suite 103. • Free • 8 p.m.

**M** 22

**Shadowland**  
Film projection of "Theory of Obscurity", a film about the reclusive video and sound collective The Residents, followed by a performance live by The Residents themselves.  
Cabaret la Tulipe • 4530 Papineau Ave. • \$35 • 7 p.m.

**TU** 23

**Homelessness Marathon Community Dinner**  
Native Friendship Centre • 2001 St. Laurent Blvd. • 6 p.m.

**W** 24

**Table ronde - L'affiche, un média à repenser?**  
In the context of their Vittorio exhibition: "50 Years of City Life and Graphic Design," join a discussion animated by communications and design professionals around the role of the poster in contemporary advertising.  
McCord Museum • 690 Sherbrooke St. W. • Free • 6 p.m.

**TH** 25

**Connecting Online: How is technology impacting our "real-world" relationships?**  
This event is part of the University of the Streets Café—a discussion exploring our relationships with technology and with one another.  
La Petite Cuillère • 3603 St. Denis St. • Free • 7 p.m.

**F** 26

**We Shoot Music, Vol.1 : vernissage**  
The exhibition will talk about the relation between music and analogue, polaroid and alternative photography, by four emerging Montreal photographers.  
Studio Argentique • 1042 Mont-Royal Ave. E. • Free • 6 p.m.

**SA** 27

**13th Edition of La Nuit blanche à Montréal 2016**  
Get over your fear of the cold and celebrate winter with a night full of events downtown.  
Montréal en Lumière, Various • 400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W • Free • 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

**SU** 28

**Tournament of Towns Contest, Montreal**  
The International Mathematics Competition called Tournament of Towns is a worldwide problem solving contest initiated in Russia in late 1970s.  
John Molson Building, Room MB 1.437 • 1450 Guy St. • Free • 11:30 a.m.

**M** 29

**The Hide and Seek Happiness Game: Where should we be looking?**  
This event is part of the University of the Streets Café—a discussion on the continued search for happiness.  
Caffe della Pace • 1002 Van Horne Ave. • Free • 7 p.m.

# THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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, Ocean DeRouchie, Noelle Didierjean, 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, Jon Milton, Vince Morello, Alex Perez, Nick Pevato, Michelle Pucci,

Morag Rahn-Campbell, Riley Stativa, Willie Wilson, Elizabeth Xu

#### One more contribution needed:

Yacine Bouhali, Sara Capanna, Lindsey Carter, Matteo Ciambella, Gabriela de Medeiros, David Easey, Tessa Mascia, Shaun Michaud, Jordan Stoopler, Michael Wrobel

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](mailto: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.



# BEAT IT

## Drum Your Stress Away

JESSICA JASCHEK

Concordia's Multi-faith Chaplaincy drum circle offers an escape from the mounting stress of midterms and the bone-chilling Montreal weather.

There you can create that unifying tempo, feel the beat of the West African djembe hand drum between your legs, slightly tilting it away from the floor to allow the vibrations to escape.

Laura Gallo, Interfaith Facilitator at the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, started the drum circle due to her passion for percussion. More importantly, she was aware of the amazing ability that drumming has to bring people together—a fundamental characteristic that the chaplaincy aims for, according to her.

"People have to listen to each other, we have to communicate when we are sitting there in order to make it work, to me, that's the beauty of it," Gallo said. "You have to go inside yourself but also be aware of the people next to you."

Everyone is welcome to drop by the chaplaincy to participate in the drum circle, no experience is necessary and the hand drums

are provided. It can be intimidating if you've never played an instrument, or are plagued by bad memories of being forced to practice as a child, but people should not be discouraged.

"Anybody can smack a drum and within a few minutes, be a part of a song, part of a group of people playing and creating something together," said Jody Coakley, a Concordia English literature student who is leading the drum circle this semester. "You just have to be willing to allow your creativity to flow and let go."

Coakley was drawn to drums because of their rhythmic resemblance to heartbeats, an easy way to get into the relaxing zone. "Even the most angry, buried, upset with the world kind of person can find joy being a part of a musical ensemble," he said.

Though the drum circle wasn't created for therapeutic purposes, but rather as a safe space to bring students of all faiths together to create a spiritual dialogue, drumming participants cannot deny the relaxing feeling of the activity.

"It's about finding your voice and being able to express it even if it's small at first," Gallo said.

Drumming allows an escape into your own spirituality, and in turn, you leave the circle feeling good. It can be a very empowering experience, creating group consciousness.

If you want to get in touch with your creative side, without judgment, forgetting about any worries or problems, the drum circle might be for you.

"Everything just disappears and you become the beat. It's only complicated if you want it to be," Coakley said.

As of fall 2016, Gallo will be looking for a new student leader to run the drum circle weekly. The position is open to any student—with or without experience. After a few sessions, anyone can become a pro at hand drums.

The position can be listed on the student's co-curricular record if they lead the circle for the full year. Students interested can contact Laura Gallo through her email address at the chaplaincy.

**Community Drum Circle // Every Monday // Multi-faith Chaplaincy, Z Annex (2090 Mackay St.) // 2 p.m. // Free**



Jody Coakley plays the drum at the Concordia Multi-faith Chaplaincy. JESSICA JASCHEK

# Montreal, Untitled

## Article Exhibition Explores Politics of Belonging

OCEAN DEROUCHIE

@OSHIEPOSHIE

We've all come to create relationships with the city—at times we feel lost and small, like we don't have a place, but at the same time our place is just simply being present here.

Occupying the Article gallery space until the end of Feb. 28, *Sans titre*, otherwise known as *Repérages ou À la découverte de notre monde* is a collaborative, multi-titled exhibition that projects this idea of belonging and isolation, which is relatable to the city's inhabitants.

Dominique Fontaine, the in-house curator, has been working with Article for over a year. The exhibit is part of her artistic research residency, *Scenes de la vie quotidienne à Montréal (on belonging and the politics of belonging)*. The show is made of numerous works by Montreal-based artists of different cultural backgrounds.

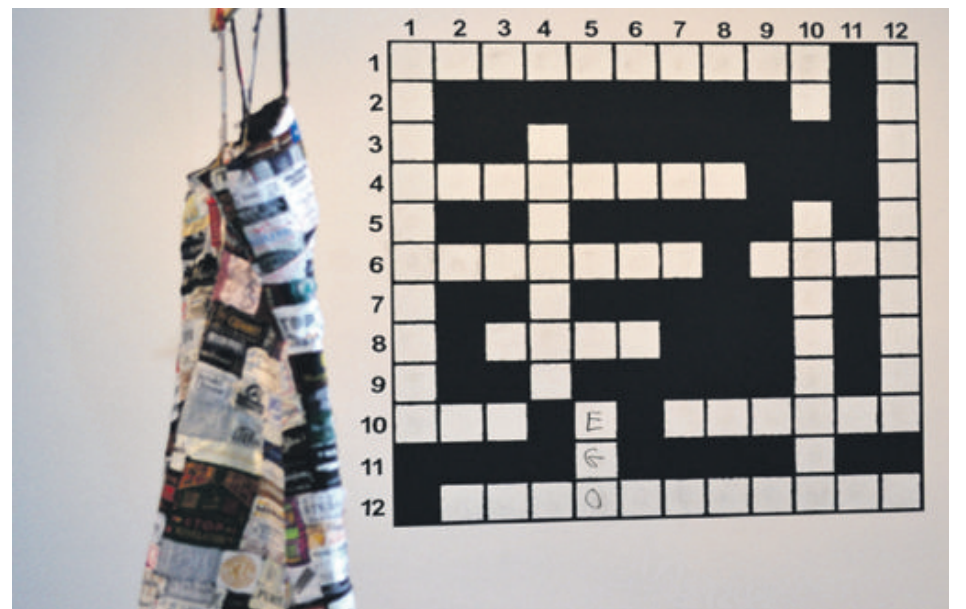
Hanging in the center of Article's gallery is a mysterious, multi-coloured dress that, upon further inspection, is made entirely

of clothing labels. Fontaine said that the dress has been in the works for 15 years, and doubles as both a performance piece and a static work. The artist, Maria Ezcurra wore the dress at the opening vernissage, collecting more labels from attendee's clothing throughout the night, Fontaine said.

In another corner of the gallery, the words "Agis dans ton lieu, pense avec le monde" are superimposed over a blank wall—a quote by Édouard Glissant, the notable Martinican writer and poet. The extract sets the tone for the exhibit, a reflection of cultural thought and the intangible relationships between people and their cities.

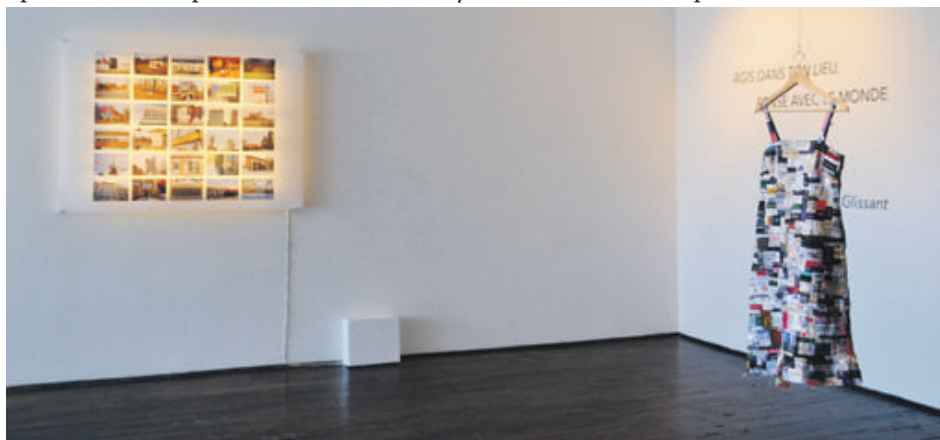
*Sans titre* only features a handful of pieces, ultimately leaving the open space feeling quite empty. The five correlating pieces by different artists—Natacha Clitandre, Maria Ezcurra, Olivia McGilchrist, Romeo Gongora and Cécilia Bracmort—which viewers can follow using a guide.

"Une saison vers 17h45," the first element of the show, takes up a little more than half a



Artwork from *Sans titre* exhibit, presented at Article gallery.

PHOTOS OCEAN DEROUCHIE



wall. Small circles in multiple shades of blues and grays litter the scene, running up the length of the wall to form a minimalist cartographic representation of Montreal. During spring of 2015, artist Natacha Clitandre followed a daily routine of photographing the skies above her, documenting and recording the colour, her whereabouts and the feeling that the moment inspired within her.

On the opposite wall, each circle is represented textually.

"You see the date and the geographic location, and what she was seeing or smelling in the atmosphere around her, and then the feeling," Fontaine explained. "So for one season, she documented almost every day."

Glowing softly next to the sky map is a

backlit plastic canvas, featuring a 5x6 photo grid. Entitled "Des deux bords," the grid is a collection of places that pertain significance to the Caribbean and wider Black community of Montreal.

The final piece residing on the gallery's walls is a crossword puzzle with one word filling in its blank spaces: "égo." The crossword materialized as the product of a workshop inspired by the 1973 book *Le Québec en mutation* by Guy Rocher.

Although the exhibit doesn't fill the entirety of the space, leaving room for more art, those interested in the notions of cultural identity and belonging may find that the show uncovers a new perspective of what it means to be part of the city of Montreal.



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The Law Enforcement Torch Run Organization and Special Olympics Quebec held their annual Polar Bear Plunge on Feb.13, 2016.

PHOTOS ANDREJ IVANOV

# Taking the Plunge for a Cause

## Ninth Edition of Polar Bear Plunge Benefits Athletes with Mental Disabilities

SAFIA AHMAD  
@SAFSOTG

Participants made their way to the ledge of the pool. Awaiting the signal to jump, their bodies shivered and their eyes widened at the sight of the icy cold water.

"You go through several steps in your mind," said police officer Jean-Daniel Maltais. "First of all, we know it's -30 C outside. We end up watching others jump before us and we're freezing our butts off. Then, you end up asking yourself, 'What am I doing here?'"

It comes as no surprise that many Montrealers were willing to jump into an outdoor pool of freezing cold water on one of the coldest

days of the year.

This past Saturday, the Law Enforcement Torch Run organization, in collaboration with Special Olympics Quebec, held their ninth annual Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for Special Olympic athletes with intellectual disabilities at the Verdun Auditorium.

Of the 200 participants, mostly parents and officers, an estimated 150 braved the cold and took the plunge. The event turned out to be not only physically challenging, but also mentally demanding.

"It all happens really fast," said Maltais's colleague, Marc-André Bienvenue. "Before you know it, you're up next, on the edge of the pool and then you're in the water. Overall, it

was a fun experience."

The LETR, a grassroots organization comprising of over 85,000 law enforcement officers worldwide, was faced with an unusual challenge this year. Previous editions of the event took place in the frigid, St. Lawrence River, but due to the relatively mild winter conditions, organizers were forced to think outside the box. The LETR and Special Olympics Quebec found willing collaborators, as the City of Verdun volunteered to host the event in the Verdun Auditorium.

"It's a great setup in Verdun," said SOQ president Daniel Granger. "The facilities and accommodations are good. If something happens, there's an ambulance nearby so we're well organized."

The harsh weather conditions experienced this weekend were quite unexpected, but didn't stop many individuals from leaving the comfort of their warm homes to come out and support an important cause.

Almost a decade ago, the LETR was holding its annual conference to discuss different fundraising strategies and ideas. According to Granger, the first few editions of the Polar Bear Ice Plunge took place in Nevada and California, even though they have some of the warmest climates in the United States.

"We said that we are the real polar bears. This is our activity," a competitive Granger said.

Because this was clearly an activity of Canadian calibre, the SOQ and LETR set out to organize the coldest version of the Polar Bear Plunge challenge possible. To do so, the

event was moved to mid-February to take advantage of the coldest temperatures—that couldn't have been truer this year.

"We wanted to show the real Polar Bear story," Granger said.

Canada is probably one of the few countries that could make this event a popular attraction in the cold.

"It's a popular event because of the challenge," Granger said. "It's crazy, it's fun, and it's different."

There are limits to their tolerance for the cold, however. The event finished 30 minutes early and was almost empty once all of the teams finished taking the plunge.

The Mayor of Verdun, likely having other duties to attend to, was nowhere to be seen after making a brief appearance at the beginning of the event.

The LETR managed to raise nearly \$30,000 from the event, which, given the frigid weather, made it an overall success. At the end of the day, everyone was "freezing for a reason," which was one of the team names at the event.

For Pascal Richard, supporting such an event has double meaning. On the one hand, being a member of the LETR provides police officers with a sense of belonging and pride. Richard is also driven by a desire to better the life of his own daughter, who suffers from an intellectual disability.

"My 12-year-old daughter, Océane, is able to do figure skating and partake in other activities thanks to this organization [SOQ]," Richard said.



The event raised \$30,000 for Special Olympic athletes.





After playing for the Vanier Cheetahs, Schneiders Suffrard took his talents to the Concordia Stingers.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

# "The Smartest On The Court"

## Schneiders Suffrard Doesn't Study in the Conventional Sense

VINCE MORELLO  
@VINNYMORELLZ

Schneiders Suffrard is studying.

A video plays, and on the glowing screen, men are playing basketball. On the other side sits Suffrard, watching and learning. Instead of memorizing formulas, he keenly observes plays, team systems and strategies.

For Suffrard, hours spent watching and committing the movements of the game to memory are just as important as the time spent on the court.

"I watch basketball everyday," Suffrard said. "I watch NCAA basketball everyday. I'm trying to understand why they are good."

In addition to pulling all-nighters to study for exams, he stays up studying footage to become a better player. Suffrard is not only a student in school, but also a student of the game of basketball.

Born in Montreal, Suffrard has been playing basketball from the age of nine. It was only natural for him to follow his older brother, who took up the sport at the age of 14. It was his brother who pushed him to be the player he is today.

"I was able to be skilled more early," Suf-

frard said. "My brother really wanted me to play basketball, so I followed his steps."

His passion for the sport only grew from there. Now, Suffrard likes the competitiveness of the game, as well as the fact that basketball requires a lot of skill to play.

Prior to his arrival at Concordia, he admitted to being recruited by other Canadian teams, and Division 1 National Collegiate Athletics Association squads. But to join an NCAA team, Suffrard would have had to spend another year in CEGEP—something that wasn't in his plan. He only has two things on his mind: being the best player he can be and winning.

"I want to be the best on the court, the smartest on the court," Suffrard said. "In every team I don't really give the coach the option to not play me, because I always do something."

Suffrard watches all levels of basketball and is constantly analyzing his own games with the Stingers coaches to learn where he needs to improve.

"He's a great talent, but the last few games he's been struggling offensively. Defensively he does a lot of good things for us, but my job is to try to push him to get better," said

head coach Rastko Popovic. "I think he's improved in a lot of those places, but we got to keep working at it everyday."

It's the passion for basketball that keeps Suffrard going, and why he's always trying to improve his game.

"Some first year guys don't understand the constant effort that's required at this level if you really want to be a great player," Popovic said.

Suffrard claims that he can play all four positions offensively on the basketball court, and all five defensively, to give his team a boost in momentum, even if he's not scoring all that much.

That doesn't mean Suffrard doesn't need a little luck on his side. As superstition, he wears a headband, often red, during games. He admitted that ever since he started wearing it with his last school, the Vanier Cheetahs, he's grown accustomed to having it on.

"One of my teammates just gave it to me, it felt nice," Suffrard said. "I played a good game with it and I just kept it."

A first-year player, Suffrard still has a lot to learn according to Popovic.

"I'm always a core piece in winning [teams]. I take charge," Suffrard said. "I'm aware of the

fact that the coaches need a player like me, so that's why I keep watching basketball."

"He understands the game, he knows how to get to his spots," said fourth-year Stingers veteran Michael Fosu, "I would say that he has a high IQ for basketball."

Suffrard finds himself fitting with a new team and new system, on top of being at a new school.

"Schneiders is athletic, he's long, he's able to get in passing lanes defensively and offensively, he causes a lot of mismatches," Fosu said. "He's a difficult player to guard and that helps us tremendously."

For his future with the team, Suffrard wants to be a part of a championship-winning Stingers squad.

"I think he can be an All-Star, an All-Canadian by the time he's done, but we're going to take it one year at a time," Popovic said.

For Suffrard, being on a winning team is his goal, and that's how he wants his time as a Stinger to be remembered.

"I want to win everything, I want to win the provincial and the national. That's why I'm here," Suffrard said. "That's what I'm striving at, and that's how I'm going to make my name."

thelinknewspaper.ca

Cold Sports Snaps

The Stingers were quite active, on and off the field, in the last week. We even recap FC Montreal's intrasquad game against the Montreal Impact.





SAM JONES

# Where Do the Oromo People Fit Into the Story?

MICHELE SANDIFORD, ON BEHALF OF THE OROMO SOLIDARITY PROJECT

Bekele Gerba had been out of jail for a short eight months before the authorities knocked at his door in late December, anxious to suppress a wave of democratic ambition in Ethiopia's Oromia region. Gerba, a peaceful academic and leader of the opposition party, was originally arrested in 2011 under false charges of terrorism alongside another prominent Oromo politician, Olbana Lelisa, who remains in jail.

They are but two of the many Oromo people who have disappeared or been incarcerated at the hands of the repressive government, be they politicians, journalists, activists or students. In Ethiopia, the "prison speaks Afaan Oromo."

Ethiopia is a nation divided into nine regions based on a system of ethnic federalism overseen by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front. This political structure is born of the partnership between the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Front, which joined forces in 1990 to overthrow a brutal military regime.

Despite promises of equality, regional representation and self-administration the EPRDF has since monopolized the political landscape and maintained an authoritarian grip on the entire nation. Through the past decades, the government has consistently exhibited a pattern of severe censorship, surveillance, repression of dissent, discrimination and a general disregard for democracy.

The Ethiopian people have time and again been subject to violent repression of political dissent.

As Concordia students, we feel it is important to promote awareness of this issue and urge international organizations to mount campaigns pressuring the government to release Ethiopian political prisoners, end the repression of political dissent and grant the Oromo people the respect and self-determination they have historically been denied.

In the 2005 election, the Carter Centre observed 383 complaints regarding polling and counting fraud. The Advocates for Human Rights quoted reports of "gunmen intimidating voters, people being forced to vote for certain parties, ballot boxes being stuffed or disappearing and the number of ballots exceeding those of registered voters." The student and civilian protests, which followed were quelled by violent military repression. According to an independent report by an Ethiopian judge, the "massacre" left 763 injured and at least 193 killed by gunshot, beating or strangulation.

A decade later, the 2015 election results have served as decisive proof of the EPRDF's commitment to authoritarianism. In this round of elections, in which the government forbids foreign Western observers, the EPRDF won every single seat in parliament.

If the people of Ethiopia collectively and consistently face oppression of dissent at the hands of their leaders, where do the Oromo people fit into the story?

The Oromo are only one of over 80 ethnic groups in Ethiopia, but they account for about 40 per cent of the population and are the majority group. As an indigenous people of the area, they embody a diverse set of cultural customs, occupations and religions, but are tied together by a common language—Afaan Oromo—and a complex system of democratic governance known as the gadaa system. The Oromia region is the largest in the country, and while it includes the nation's capital, Addis Ababa, it is mainly comprised of rural farmland.

Scholars agree that the oppression of the Oromo dates back to the end of the 19th century. In a keynote address to the Oromo Studies Association, Tesema Ta'a, author of *The Political Economy of an African Society in Transformation*, described the Abyssinian Emperor Menelik's use of firearms, provided by the Europeans, in order to colonize the Oromo people. He continued to depict the "complete suppression of their language and culture," and the sad reality of being "alienated

from their land, [and] enslaved."

Fast-forward to today and little has changed: the government ceaselessly targets Oromo people. Some of these injustices are recounted in a powerful 160-page document entitled "Because I am Oromo," published by Amnesty International in 2014. The hefty document only recounts repression between 2011 and 2014, in which Oromos have become victims of arrests and execution over

"The Ethiopian people have time and again been subject to violent repression of political dissent."

"participation in peaceful protests over job opportunities, forced evictions, the price of fertilizer, students' rights, the teaching of the Oromo language," as well as over suspected political affiliations.

However, tensions finally appear to be coming to a head. After over a century of oppression, the Oromo are once again fighting with their lives for the right to self-determination, livelihood, land, and to preserve their culture. In November, Ethiopian students came together to protest the reinstatement of the government's sinisterly titled Master Plan, which expects to expand the capital city into rural Oromia territory.

The plan, renamed the Master Killer by activists, is another in the long line of government land grabs under the guise of

development and foreign investment. It was initially proposed in 2014, but cancelled due to demonstrations. In early Jan. 2016, the government once again cancelled the plan, but many suspect it will be reinstated when stability returns. This issue is much larger than the Master Plan, and the Oromo people have had enough.

The demonstrations have spread like wildfire among the Oromia region for the past three months and unsurprisingly, the EPRDF has responded to the peaceful opposition with military force. The violence of the recent months has been considered some of the worst to befall the country since the 2005 election aftermath.

Human Rights Watch has reported that at least 140 protesters have been killed and many more injured, among them students and children. Accounts from local news sources and activists assert that 2,000 have been injured, 800 have disappeared, and more than 30,000 have been arrested or detained. Students have circumvented media bans and blackouts by turning to outlets such as Twitter and Instagram, posting updates of protest conditions and appalling photos of lifeless protesters hung in trees or lying in ditches and shallow streams. Reports are coming out of torture, rape and of suspected dissenting students being taken from their dormitories by police.

With high levels of censorship credited to an "Orwellian" surveillance system which *The Guardian* said was "reminiscent of the Stasi in East Berlin," the coverage in both the local and international media has been sparse and dwindling.

Despite pressure from the Oromo diaspora, the Canadian government has yet to speak out on the issue.

Expect to see more information about an Oromo solidarity campaign in the coming weeks, and mark your calendars for an event at The Hive Café on Thursday, March 3. Please be in touch with either myself or Julia Sutura Sardo for further information or resources, if you wish to get involved in any way.



## the gender & sexuality special issue

Do you feel the media doesn't represent you?

Does having societal issues mansplained to you make you want to vomit?

Do you live, breathe and dream intersectionality?

If you said YES to any of these things, our upcoming Gender and Sexuality Special Issue is for YOU!

We're looking for contributors: writers, photographers, videographers, graphic artists, multimedia journalists and illustrators to share stories and experiences of identity.

**Brainstorm meetings are Feb. 16 and Mar. 1. Come share your ideas and ensure your voice is heard.**

**Gender and Sexuality Special Issue Brainstorm, Tuesday Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Room H-649**

**Deadline for submission: Mar. 11, 2016**

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# Against Crude Food

## Concordia Residence and Residents Need to Reevaluate Policies

SARAH JESMER

I live downtown in residence. In order to sign a lease for my dorm, I was required to also sign onto a meal plan totaling \$3,800. Although this seemed like a no-brainer at the time, the initial presentation of the cafeteria proved to be a sham. The quality of the proposed epitome of healthy university eating went down with every meal.

The ultimate issue with Concordia's residence food service is the inability to break the several-thousand-dollar meal plan if time shows that a student would be better off without it. I had a friend who moved out of residence during her second semester for a couple reasons, one being the fact that her diet and what was presented at the cafeteria simply didn't work together. She had to start paying for her own separate groceries on top of the pricy meal plan, which she rarely ever used.

Concordia resident food contracts should have the option to be reevaluated if need be, to avoid unnecessary and outrageous fees to feed a first year university student.

Blatant mislabelling and staff miscommunication when it comes to food is a problem for students with dietary restrictions, vegetarians and vegans. Food providers need to make sure people with restricted diets have food options available to them. For example,

on numerous occasions certain items are labeled vegetarian, but are found to be full of meat, like "vegetarian pies" that are actually meat pies.

Something else to mention about the Grey Nuns cafeteria is the hygienic issue. I'm truly disappointed in the fact that two separate videos of bugs in the dining hall have been posted on an unofficial Facebook group, shared by Grey Nuns residence.

On the part of the students, hygiene is an issue too, with neglect to clean up themselves in shared spaces like the kitchenette, so that by the end of the day, the space is not fit to prepare a meal. Open containers of food are left out, bits of food are scattered on the counters, and the sink is clogged to the top with brown water and a thick stack of pans.

The original meal plan contract was changed in late 2015, from which food service workers started prohibiting students from taking even half-eaten sandwiches out of the perimeters of the cafeteria before they were finished. The original contract states that students can bring one small bakery item out, along with a piece of fruit and a drink in their own provided containers. Due to students taking more than allowed, food service members literally began harassing students, as some students reported being threatened with a call to security if they took something from the cafeteria.

Frankly, I think that's bullshit. We're here to study, and not everyone has the time to sit down for an entire meal. Since the cafeteria closes at 9:30 p.m., students might need a snack to last them through the night. The contract was restored back to its original form after some discussion.

Communication is a huge problem for the Grey Nuns food service. Food service meetings are held and students, residence advisors and food service managers are supposed to meet to discuss issues that need to be brought to light. According to one RA, there have been five food service meetings since the beginning of the year, and not one resident has been in attendance despite encouragement from residence administration to come and voice their concerns.

If residents want to see real change when it comes to their food, they should attend meetings where their voices can be heard. I admit I'm just as guilty by not taking the opportunity to speak to managers about concerns. Concordia should reevaluate their meal plan contract procedures, and food service managers need to be ready to fix the problems apparent on a daily basis.

On the other hand, residents should put the same amount of respect into the cafeteria as they want out of it, which includes making sure to clean up after themselves, and not take unreasonable amount of food out of the cafeteria at one time. To help bring change, residents should share their comments at the next food meeting on Feb. 17 in GN-E104, not just on Facebook.



Salad bar at the Grey Nuns Residence cafeteria

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

# On Black Representation in the Media

## This Just In: It Is Not Okay

ALICIA WALCOTT-VANCOL

Newsflash: white people struggle to empathize with Black people because we are not depicted as actual people within the mainstream media.

After years of subtle (or not so subtle) conditioning by outlets such as TV and print media, in this white-dominated society, Black people are seen as disruptive, violent pests, who most likely deserve whatever trouble they get into. From what the news feeds us, it's in Black DNA to amount to nothing but delinquents.

Canada likes to act like this peaceful, all-race loving, utopian paradise—but Black people are calling bullshit on all y'all. In 2010, the *Toronto Star* collected six years worth of police data reports, showing that young Black males were 2.5 times more likely to be randomly stopped by police. Shocker—but I digress.

I read the biggest local news headlines in our media outlets almost every day. So, like everyone else, I watched in the past few weeks as a new teen was reported missing every few days in Montreal and Laval. Most of them were white girls, so naturally their pictures were plastered across most major Montreal media outlets. But one of the reported run-aways in Montreal was a young Black girl, and

I only remember seeing her face twice.

Of course, people of colour are used to the lack of attention that missing or dead white people receive in the news, so I wasn't that offended. After 22 years, you grow accustomed to this shit—not on purpose, of course, but it happens.

One day, I was distracting myself from some overdue schoolwork by scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed and saw the four separate *Journal de Montréal* headlines about these missing girls, collaged together, side by side. The Facebook caption read, "Find the mistake."

Reading each headline one by one, they all pretty much mimicked each other: "Young Girl Missing/Runs Away," that is, until I

reached the last headline.

It read "Une ado aux mauvaises fréquentations portée disparue à Montréal," and I laughed. I laughed because that loaded, suggestive headline was sprawled across the photo of the only missing teen that was Black. I laughed—not because it was funny, but because it was just so predictable, I wasn't even mad.

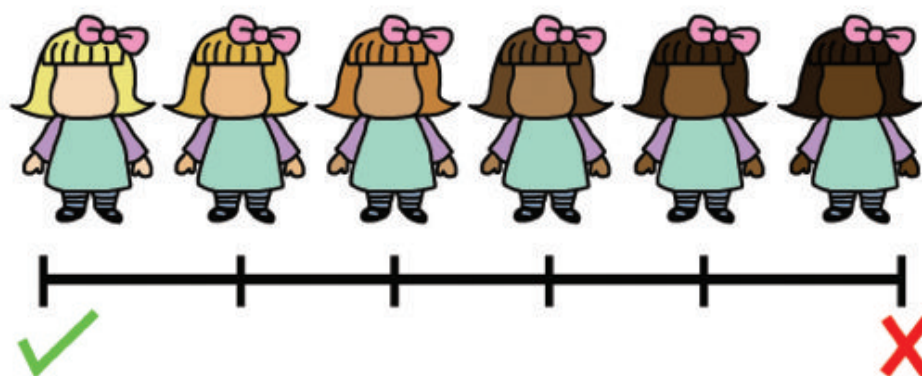
These four girls were from different places—both Montreal and Laval—and went missing under separate, unrelated circumstances. Yet, the white teens earned themselves an appropriate headline because they have the "complexion of perfection." The Black teen? Well, her mistakes and shortcomings are the first thing the public

learns of her. After years of seeing racism like this, you really just don't expect anything else from the media.

From what I understand, all of these girls shared very similar checkered pasts—but then again, who really cares? The point is they're all missing and need to be found. It seems like that was the case made for all of them, except the young Black girl.

As a Black girl myself, with English being my first language, I'm noticing how topics of racial injustice are reaching the forefront these days. As uncomfortable as it is, I feel grateful as fuck, because I can finally talk about my Black girl problems outside of the Black community and have people listen and try to understand in the hopes of contributing to a solution. Fan-fucking-tastic! Still, I live in Quebec and I can't help but notice how far behind Quebecois media is.

As we recently learned from Louis Morissette, who advocated for the use of blackface in a *Véro* magazine article, some Quebecers don't even want Black people to depict Black characters. With that sort of opinion casually being published in Quebecois publications, it's no wonder they struggle to empathize for our missing children in their press. Our existence is so unimportant, what's one more Black "ado aux mauvaises fréquentations" gone missing to them? Probably a relief.



JENNIFER AEDY



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*SATURDAY FEB. 13 TO SATURDAY FEB. 20*

### **FEB. 15: Racism and the Media**

Workshop with Kim Milan. QPIRG Concordia (1500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. suite 204), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **FEB. 17: Feminist Approaches to Journalism**

Panel with Kai Cheng (Everyday Feminism, xojane), Hepzibeth Lee (Dragonroot Media), and Studio XX. Arts Building W20 (853 Sherbrooke St. W.), 6 to 8 p.m. (McGill)

### **FEB. 18: Investigative Journalism**

Panel with Henry Aubin, Linda Gyulai, Marie-Maude Denis, and Vincent Larouche. South Side Cafeteria (Shatner, 3480 McTavish St. 2nd floor), 6:30-8:30 p.m. (McGill)

### **FEB. 19: Arts Criticism**

With T'cha Dunlevy, Daniel Viola, Lorraine Carpenter, and Crystal Chan. Club Lounge (Shatner, 3480 McTavish St., Room 401), 6 p.m. (McGill)

### **FEB. 20: Making a Journalism Career**

With Kate McKenna, Eric Andrew-Gee, Adam Kovac and Justin Ling. CSU Lounge (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., 7th Floor), 4 p.m. Followed by a reception at Les Trois Brasseurs (732 Ste. Catherine St. W.) 6 p.m.

Check our website for details:  
[www.thelinknewspaper.ca](http://www.thelinknewspaper.ca)





# Discussing Mental Illness and Medical Stigma

SARA CAPANNA

As someone who has suffered from anxiety my whole life, in the last few years of high school, I took a step towards dealing with it. With the support of my doctor and psychologist, I began taking medication—Prozac, to be specific. I lovingly referred to it as a “miracle worker” for years, and still do today.

After almost four years, the day came when I thought I was ready to stop using the drug and deal with my anxiety on my own. Suddenly, there was a drastic change in the way my doctor treated me. When I expressed concerns about my physical health, they were dismissed, taking a backseat to my anxiety levels. I felt I wasn’t being taken seriously.

Mental illness, sometimes considered an “invisible disability,” is stigmatized, but you already knew that. You also know that from social interactions to the workplace, mental illness leaves its mark on people in any number of ways—one of those ways is through the medical field. This new pattern of dismissing physical health concerns because of a mental health diagnosis is disturbing, to say the least. I’ve come to realize that I’m not the only one who feels they were or are not being taken seriously.

In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association published the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, also known as DSM-5. It is the standard classification of mental disorders for doctors in the United States. It also contains criteria for diagnosis of all known psychiatric disorders.

The changes that DSM-5 has brought about have been heavily criticized. Allen J. Francis, M.D. said that two major issues that come from these changes are encouraging dismissal of medical symptoms as “all in the head” and mislabelling physical medical symptoms as mental disorders.

Francis cited UK health advocate Suzy Chapman, who monitored the development of DSM-5, and wrote a strong critique on how DSM-5 could go horribly wrong.

Chapman wrote that there was a proposal to rename the Somatoform Disorders section of the previous manual and replace it with a new category, ‘Somatic Symptom Disorder,’ omitting the pluralization.

Somatic symptoms are symptoms related to the body. William R. Yates, M.D. explained that Somatic Symptom Disorders, “represent[s] a group of disorders characterized by thoughts, feelings, or behaviors related to somatic symptoms.”

He explained that these disorders challenge

medical providers, because certain mental illnesses, such as mood and anxiety disorders, produce physical symptoms and a doctor must search for psychological factors before a medical diagnosis can be made. These sorts of disorders are more prevalent in women and can develop at any age.

To fall into the newly created category, the patient would have to show evidence of one or more distressing or disrupting somatic symptoms and have excessive thoughts, feeling or behaviors about these symptoms. These symptoms would also have to be persistent.

With the changes that DSM-5 is implementing, what this all boils down to is that this category will become widely generalized, and could result in a mental health diagnosis being applied to all illnesses. According to Chapman, this will lead to stigma, missed diagnoses and the prescription of inappropriate drugs.

This whole discussion is even more impor-

“Find those people like you who have struggled. Knowing that you’re not alone is such an important part of this.”

— Alićia Raimundo

tant, considering that most people with mental illnesses have a heightened risk of illnesses that impact the body. The Mood Disorder Society of Canada reported that people with depression were 2.6 times more at risk for strokes, 4 to 6 times for epilepsy and 1.35-1.88 times for cancer.

I asked Concordia student Judith Dicaire about her experiences with mental health reception in the medical field. She explained to me that due to strange period cycles, she went to her doctor to voice her concerns.

“I told my doctor how I think that maybe the birth control pill wasn’t the right option for me, because it messed up my anxiety and my hormones,” Dicaire said. “She said,

‘stop looking for reasons to have anxiety and inventing problems.’”

Dicaire then explained how she went to another doctor, who was not aware of her history of anxiety, and was given a completely different response.

“She told me exactly what I thought it was,” Dicaire said.

Suffering from anxiety is not fun, to say the least, but to not be taken seriously by your medical practitioner because of it isn’t just insulting—it’s downright scary. I don’t want to be thrown into a general category and stamped with a label like some kind of UPS package. I want my needs and concerns to be taken with gravity and dealt with appropriately.

Graduate student Navi Dhanota recently won a case for a complaint she filed with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in 2013, when York University denied her academic accommodations because she refused to disclose her diagnosis. Now, students must provide documentation about their disability, but are no longer required to specify the nature of the illness.

“Even if one student would be reluctant to seek support from our disability services because they didn’t want to disclose their diagnosis, we want to eliminate that barrier,” Marc Wilchesky, one of the professors involved with the movement, told *Maclean’s*.

As more and more students with “invisible disabilities” receive the help and the confidence to pursue higher education, it is becoming clear that the school mentality is evolving.

Alićia Raimundo, with the overwhelming support from a school counsellor, experienced a turning point in her battle with mental illness while attending the University of Waterloo. Having not pursued accommodations due to fear of stigma, she told *Maclean’s* she wishes that people would understand that “students can live without [accommodations], but it makes life a lot harder.” She also has a message for her fellow students.

“Know what exists on your campus before you go, where your allies will be,” Raimundo said. “Find those people like you who have struggled. Knowing that you’re not alone is such an important part of this.”

Mental illness is not something to be ashamed of, and it does not warrant that we be packaged into a common box or ignored by our doctors. We will get the understanding and support that we need.

We need to continue fighting and ensure that we don’t stay invisible.



## Letter

### I Love You, People’s Potato

Hey (gender non-specific) Baby,

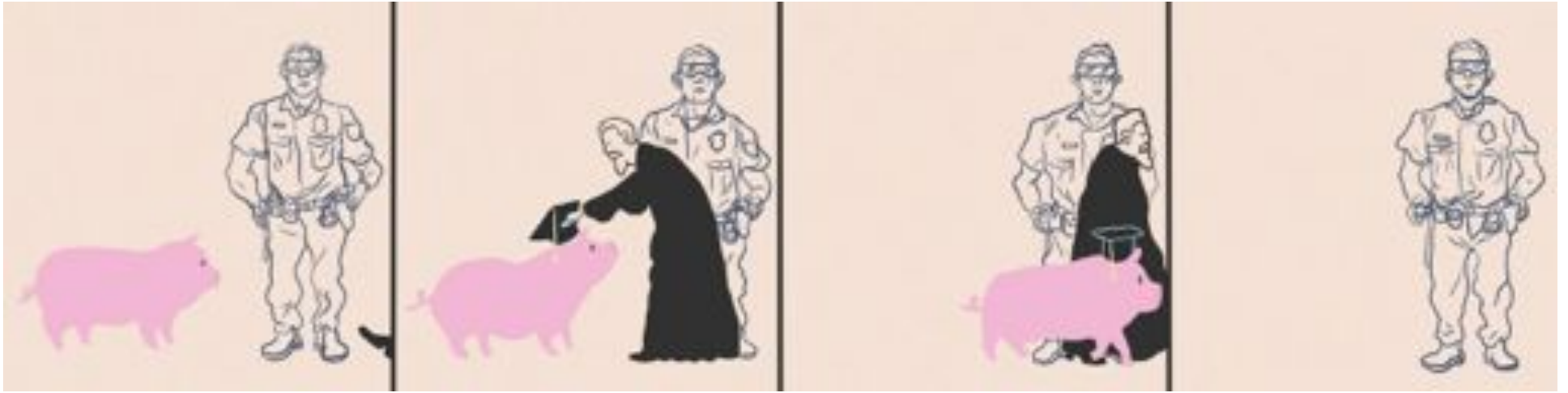
I know I’m just one of your many lovers, and that you don’t even think this was serious, I’m probably runnin’ the risk of creepin’ you out, but I’ve got to tell you, you’ve been on my mind since the last time. You know when I mean—that wild Friday lunch with your quinoa and mushroom spinach stir-fry, dancin’ black bean salsa and mint barley soup! Was that kasha? I thought I tasted kasha. And as if that wasn’t enough, I had a taste of your sweet, sweet vegan chocolate zucchini cake. It still drives me wild just thinkin’ about it. What’s more important than all of your tasty goodies though, is the way you make me feel. When we’re together, you inflame my senses, but afterwards I leave stronger, more confident, beautiful and able to take on the world in a way that isn’t guilty of propagating the daily mass genocide of our animal brothers and sisters, or leavin’ me feelin’ like a mindless cog in the global corporate food industry! You nourish my body and liberate my soul. All through class, I’m bitin’ my lips, and curlin’ my hair with my fingers, I keep tellin’ myself, just another hour ‘til lunch. And even if the line is super long, and even if you’re going to share yourself with a bunch of people before me and after me, I’ll still wait in line for you. I love you People’s Potato!

— Madeleine Gendreau, graphics editor at The Link

*The Link* publishes letters to the editor. If there’s an article, event, issue or general happening you want to comment on, send us a letter under 400 words before 4 p.m. on Friday at [letters@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:letters@thelinknewspaper.ca).



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

### Another Severance Package, Another Severed Tie

MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

Echoing mistakes of recent past, Concordia University allotted yet another overwhelmingly high severance package to an employee.

Concordia made headlines recently with news of the termination of Chief Financial Officer, Sonia Trudel. The already controversial logic behind terminating someone just three months into a term was topped off by the \$235,000 severance package Trudel received. Alan Shepard, the university's president, has been highly criticized for it—and rightly so.

Trudel's employment at Concordia began on Aug. 17. Her short-lived term as CFO kicked off on Sept. 21, and ended abruptly on Nov. 12, according to her discharge documents. Under privacy laws, the university is not allowed to reveal the reasons behind Trudel's termination.

According to Quebec labour laws, Trudel's severance package went above and beyond Concordia's legal obligations as an employer. Employers must give one to eight weeks notice before terminating a contract, depending upon the seniority of an employee. This does

not apply to people who have been working for less than three months. Trudel had been employed for 88 days—or two months and 27 days.

If an employer fails to give proper notice, only then would they owe their employee a “compensatory indemnity equal to the period of notice to which [they were] entitled.” To reiterate: Concordia was not legally obligated to compensate Trudel's departure, and this dubious episode has once again put the university's financials under due scrutiny.

It's not the first time that Concordia is in the hot seat regarding disproportionate severance packages. During a period of 15 months between October 2009 and December 2010, the university handed out \$3.1 million in severance packages when several senior administrators were fired or forced out. Concordia was fined \$2 million by the Ministry of Education for the payouts to these high-paying positions.

The media has not taken the news of yet another extraordinary severance package

lightly, especially since Concordia, under the guidance of past president Judith Woodsworth, has a track record for these types of cases.

In a senate meeting on Friday Feb. 12, Shepard claimed the media had sensationalized the information and was quick to link it back to previous incidents. He claimed this situation is different than previous incidents, and that it should not be connected to past years.

At the end of the three-hour meeting, Shepard exclaimed that it had been a “depressing” senate for him.

It's common practice to hand out large severance packages in the corporate world and private institutions. Part of the reason is to compensate the employee in the case that they might be unemployed for some time while looking for another job.

But Concordia is a public institution, and the \$235,000 that Trudel received was raised mainly through public funding—that's our tuition fees and our tax dollars. Concordia already expects a deficit of \$8.2 million for the 2015-16 school year.

In this time of austerity measures and budget cuts, the CFO was hired to deal with financial matters and construct a sustainable budget for the next school year. The irony is poignant.

Not knowing the reasons behind Trudel's termination, *The Link* will not speculate but will only criticize the facts. The university acted irresponsibly in hiring a CFO only to fire her a mere three months into the contract, and to award her such a large severance pay in a time of major financial compression is unacceptable. At senate, Shepard took full responsibility for this, saying that Trudel was hired under his recommendation and let go through a mutual decision.

In a private meeting with Shepard, *The Link* asked the president whether the hiring process would change in order to avoid another similar mishap. Shepard answered that the process would stay “fundamentally” the same.

Fundamentally, *The Link* is opposed to another mishap like the one that just came to light.

## THE LINK

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