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Price increases and wage cuts are being implemented in attempts to make the Hive more sustainable.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

The Foundation of the Hive

Hive Board President Optimistic Despite Financial Issues

VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

Two years after its opening, the Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative, a staple of student life at Concordia both on the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses, needed to be restructured to respond to unsustainably rising costs.

“When we finished the fiscal year last year we realized that the revenue we made from our sales was not substantial to cover the costs,” said Leigh Hoffman, Finance and Admin coordinator for the Hive, in a previous interview. “In order to be a more sustainable business, that meant that changes needed to be made.”

At the end of the fiscal year, on April 30, 2016, the Hive Café had a net surplus of \$5,045.

In its first fiscal year, which ran from September 2014 until April 2015, the café broke even, but costs have been rising. Salaries and benefits increased \$88,247, from \$152,768 to \$241,015. This is because the Hive opened a kitchen and needed to hire a new coordinator and two cooks.

Another issue for the solidarity cooperative has been its Loyola location. The downtown location accounted for roughly 73 per cent in sales in 2016, while Loyola only accounted for a rough 27 per cent.

It’s something that Hoffman is aware of as the purpose of Loyola location is to provide students cheap, healthy food, knowing that sales aren’t going to be that high. “Part of the vision is that downtown will in part compensate and support the Loyola location,” they said.

In order to become sustainable, the Hive

Café raised food prices and cut wages. Prices for food items made in house, such as sandwiches, soups and salads, increased by roughly ten per cent. Prices for food brought in from outside such as cupcakes, and croissants, increased by about 20 per cent. Barista wages were cut from \$12 to \$11 per hour, and cook’s hourly wages dropped from \$14 to \$12.

“We caught the problem a while ago and then we organized to address the issue,” said Ben Prunty, current board president of the Hive Café. “I would say that’s pretty regular for the first few years of an organization.”

What has helped the café run smoothly so far is a nearly \$200,000 start-up fund provided by the CSU, approved on July 23, 2014. A portion of this is included in the Hive Café’s revenue of \$67,777. Rather than give it all at once, however, the CSU has been handing out that money in chunks.

“Every organization requires start-up funding. If it was a private company, you would have another source of capital,” said Prunty. “This is a community project, and so the funding came from a community organization, in this case the student union.”

He added that the use of CSU funds was planned because of the challenges with opening up a new business.

The CSU has always had a close relationship with the Hive Café. Prunty is also a founding member of the Concordia Food Coalition, the group that supported the opening of the café. He took office as CSU President for the Community Matters slate during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The students also voted in favour of the

Special By-Law I, which will allow the CSU to use the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund for “the creation and expansion of predominantly student-run food systems projects on campus.”

“This was a really positive step, as myself and the entire Community Matters team is committed to the development of the Hive Solidarity Co-op Café, and with that the positive transformation of student space as well as food systems on the Loyola campus,” said Gabriel Velasco who was elected VP of Loyola at the time.

Initially, \$95,286.11 was given to the Hive Café from that original fund on Aug. 6, 2014. On Jan. 14, 2016, another \$19,658.89 was given to purchase equipment. The most recent disbursement of \$30,000 was in mid-October.

Now only \$49,523.10 remains of the original fund, and the CSU plans on giving out the rest in January and June 2017. With the Hive Café struggling financially, it’s up to the CSU’s finance committee to ensure that it reaches a certain set of conditions for the rest of the money to be disbursed. Parts of the conditions include providing monthly and quarterly financials to be reviewed by the committee.

“This was agreed on by the Hive board and [...] the finance committee,” said CSU Finance Coordinator Adrian Longinotti. The remaining money, he said, has yet to be given but they are entitled to it, as per the agreement.

During the finance committee meeting in which the rest of the disbursement was approved, Thomas David-Bashore, a CSU council member, made a comment about the union ethically giving money to the Hive

Café, considering the their minimum wage policy, and the fact that Hive Café has cut wages to be sustainable.

Since June 8, the CSU has supported the adoption by the Quebec national assembly of a \$15 hourly minimum wage across all provincial sectors of labour.

David-Bashore said it was something to keep in mind for future financial interactions that the CSU has, and that it had nothing to do with the current disbursement.

“In our sustainability policy, there is a point to do business with companies that do give their employees a living wage,” he said. “There’s a responsibility on our part to holding internal organizations like the Hive to similar standards.”

Prunty said it would be “awesome” to get the point of being able to pay their employees \$15 an hour. “We’re actually not that far off of that because of tips,” he said.

Since the restructuring, the Hive Café has seen growth. Its gross margins were 62 per cent for the month of September and sales amounted to \$59,000 after the café only projected \$29,000, according to Prunty.

Prunty said that there is a two-year plan in place for the solidarity cooperative to ensure stability.

“We just have to keep going in this direction and make sure the organization maintains its focus and doesn’t get excited too quickly, start making changes and spending more money,” he added.

For the current fiscal year, Hoffman said that the Hive Café is expecting another small surplus of a few thousand dollars.

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KELSEY LITWIN

ConU Admin Keeping It Quiet

Lack of Dialogue About Possible International Tuition Hikes Sparks Fear in Student Body

JONATHAN CARAGY-COOK
@HIIMBIRACIAL

There are 6,959 international students at Concordia University.

Rather, 15.9 per cent of current Concordia students aren't from Canada. Excluding French citizens who pay reduced rates, these students have the highest tuition fees at the university. Some pay upwards of \$23,000.

In 2008, the Quebec government deregulated certain university programs, meaning that these disciplines have completely lost provincial funding. The programs include business, law, pure sciences, mathematics, and engineering and computer science.

For these deregulated programs, Concordia's Board of Governors has the final say on how much tuition costs. In June, the Board, comprised of university administration, faculty, students, and external community members, voted to raise tuition for these majors by 1.5 per cent to match the increase Quebec put on regulated programs this year.

Now, there are rumours that beginning in 2017-18 future international students in deregulated programs will be forced to pay even higher fees.

The university denies this, explaining that the Board of Governors' finance committee is only exploring the idea of implementing a new pay system, "cohort pricing," for prospective international students. No decisions regarding tuition or otherwise have been and will not be made until the committee reconvenes on Nov. 24, according to Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota.

"I think there's a lot of assumptions being made and a lot of misinformation," she said.

But some students, including the executive team of the Concordia Student Union, fear that cohort pricing is a guise for more tuition hikes. The fear, they argue, comes from a lack of consultation between the university and its

students on the matter.

"I've been surprised and disappointed that the CSU has had to chase information," said Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, the general coordinator of the student union.

On Oct. 28, the CSU released a statement that denounced "upcoming international tuition fee increases," while calling for more transparency about the possible cohort pricing and deregulated programs in general at the university.

Cohort pricing, Mota explained, is a system where international students in deregulated programs would have a set tuition rate for the duration of their studies and would not face increases like the one that happened in June. She says Concordia recruiters from around the world regularly hear that prospective students and their families favour this consistency, even if it means they will have to pay more.

"If the game changes [during their studies], that's a major concern for them," Mota said about the benefits of having a set tuition rate. As part of the new system, tuition rates could rise from each class year-to-year, or cohort-to-cohort. Whether international students in deregulated programs would have to pay different tuition rates if they extended their studies past their expected graduation dates, or if they changed programs, has yet to be determined, Mota said.

Compared to other universities in the province, she says Concordia is behind in terms of raising tuition for international students in deregulated programs. "That hampers our ability to serve those students because we don't have the same funds coming in," she said.

Cohort pricing will not affect any current student, Mota says. It's possible that as part of introducing the new system, the finance committee might also choose to raise tuition in these programs, she adds.

Marshall-Kiparissis says she recognizes the constraints of a lack of provincial funding and the attractiveness of cohort pricing.

But questions remain, she adds, like what did Concordia recruiters ask when surveying prospective international students.

"For the privilege of having [cohort pricing], would you be willing to pay thousands of more dollars," she said, trying to imagine what the conversations were like. "I doubt that's the question being posed [to prospective students]."

Because current international students in deregulated programs have already expressed concern about their fees, Marshall-Kiparissis says it's doubtful that future students won't care if their tuition increases more, as the university claims.

"If they care now, I don't think it's accurate to say future international students won't care what they're paying even if they're guaranteed stability," she said.

Mobilization Continues

Zepi Quinto is one of the administrators of the Facebook page "Concordia Against the International Student Tuition Hike." She is from Mexico and studies international business, which is a deregulated program. Her tuition is approximately \$23,000 each year without summer courses, she says.

Despite having had options in the U.S. and Spain, Quinto says she came to Concordia because it was a cheaper option and there were more opportunities post-graduation. The possibility that cohort pricing may introduce higher tuition each year for future classes is unfair, she says, because tuition is already so high for international students.

"If prices go up then less international students are going to apply and our university will be less diverse through time," Quinto said. Some of her friends from Mexico wanted to study at Concordia but lost interest after they saw the price, she says.

A Facebook event called, "Red Day," has been scheduled on Nov. 24, the day the finance committee meets to discuss cohort pricing.

Quinto is one of the main organizers. She says it's not a protest but a day of dialogue where students are encouraged to wear red, tack on pins, and sign a petition they want to present to the committee.

The CSU is also mobilizing against the possibility that cohort pricing will introduce higher tuition rates as well. Two international students—one from the John Molson School of Business and the other from Arts and Science—have been hired as official campaigners against international student tuition hikes, according to CSU External Affairs Coordinator, Aloyse Muller.

Campaigning entails being active on social media, posturing around campus, making class announcements, and generally trying to get other students involved and informed, Muller said. The contracts for the campaigners will last 40 days, with an option to extend it 15 more. They will each be paid \$15 per hour for a total of 15 hours per week, which Muller says will come partly from his mobilization budget and the remainder of the CSU Orientation budget.

If the finance committee decides to implement cohort pricing at Concordia, their proposal will have to be approved by the Board of Governors at its next meeting on Dec. 14. There are two undergraduate reps sitting on the Board, including Marshall-Kiparissis. She says their job is to articulate the concern of undergraduate students, but it's difficult because there are only two of them.

The university and the CSU have had good relationships in the past few years, Marshall-Kiparissis says, citing the different renovation projects they've collaborated on like Reggie's and the new daycare space. Because of this collegial past, it's disappointing there has been a lack of dialogue this time around, she says.

"I'm hoping the CSU and university can sit down to talk about what's happening," Marshall-Kiparissis said.

This Week in News Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/news

Worldwide Sustainability: The UN Association of Canada held a panel on how to achieve their sustainability goals by 2030.

An Update From Concordia Senate

Talking Voluntary Retirement Program and Building Renos

VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

Concordia's voluntary retirement program is in full swing, as 109 full-time staff members and faculty have had their applications accepted, President Alan Shepard said at a Senate meeting on Nov. 4.

"The dust is still settling a bit," he said. "We're looking at what we need to do next."

Shepard indicated that of the 109 applicants, 44 were faculty members and 65 were staff. The school is committed to replacing them as soon as possible, he said, adding that it would happen over time and not "instantaneously."

The university first announced the program in September and began taking applications in October. *The Link* previously reported that Shepard had assured Ted Stathopoulos—president of the Concordia University Faculty Association—that all leaving professors would be replaced.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said that vacancies are expected after the applicants leave on May 31, 2017, but couldn't confirm if all leaving full-time faculty would have replacements.

Also announced at Senate was a master plan to renovate current buildings at the

school. This will be done in order to increase the flexibility of school spaces to accommodate the increasing number of students and staff, according to Michel Nadeau, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management.

A recent report published by Radio-Canada said that 63 per cent of Concordia's buildings are in state of disrepair. The university responded that the many annex buildings along Mackay St. and Bishop St. downtown skews those numbers.

"When you look at square footage and the footprint of the university, those annexes represent very little, in the scheme of things," Mota had said in a previous interview.

Nadeau said it is very difficult to modify the annexes.

Making them more accessible is also difficult and the best they can do is add a ramp to access the ground floor, however adding a ramp can take up a lot of space—space that is not always available, Nadeau said.

"We are looking at ways to improve, but these buildings will never be exemplary," he said. "There will always be some difficulty associated with it."

The university has looked into buying new buildings for the downtown campus, but space is limited.

"In fact there is actually nothing for sale right now," said Nadeau. "Even if there was, you're looking at prices that Concordia can not afford."

He added that acquiring new spaces is not the best solution and more of a last resort, as the university wants to maximize the use of space they have now. He believes the school can get more use out of the existing classrooms and offices at Concordia.

During the meeting, the Senator from Fine Arts, Marion Miller, brought up the fact that conditions in the Visual Arts Building are currently less than ideal.

"We're trying to get the big issues out of the way to make [the VA] building more comfortable and functional," Nadeau said, adding that the master plan is still in development.



The VA building is one on Concordia's downtown campus which is in need of repairs.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Concordia Conference Urges Transition Away From Oil and Gas

British Columbia Community Faces Standing Rock-Style Struggle

JOSHUA DE COSTA
@JOSHUADECOSTA21

As police and protesters continue to clash over the Dakota Access Pipeline in the United States, Unist'ot'en Clan Spokesperson Freda Huson visited Concordia University Saturday morning with a message of her own.

"If we don't change now, our next generations are going to have no clean water. They are going to struggle to even put food on their table," Huson said. "What is going to happen when they can't produce any food because there's no water to water the food that they grow?"

In 2010, Huson's community, the Unist'ot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in northern B.C., constructed a permanent camp to block extraction companies from building oil and gas pipelines through their land.

Huson said the pipelines threaten to poison their earth and contaminate their water, and even though extraction companies have proposed environment analyses, "those environmental studies aren't real environmental studies."

"Our people have always lived on the land. We didn't have to learn how to be environmentalists," explained Huson. "It's our way of life."

Huson's keynote presentation on Saturday headlined Sustainable Concordia's Transitions Conference, an array of presentations advocating society's transition away from industrial energy.

The conference's motif of Indigenous and frontline resistance in the face of resource extraction projects comes at a time when tensions are building over the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

The \$3.7 billion DAPL project has proposed to transport crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken oil field to a refinery plant in Chicago—through the Standing Rock Reservation in the United States.

"There's a lot of eyes on North Dakota right now—Unist'ot'en is the same thing—this is their lives," said Isabella Harned, the conference's organizer and Sustainable Concordia's campaigns

coordinator. "They're literally on the frontlines—they're building structures to say no."

Six years ago, the Unist'ot'en Clan built structures to stand in the way of resource extraction companies, but the permanent camp has also served to reconnect the people with their community, said Huson.

"It's also to bring our people back to the land; to teach them how to sustain themselves through hunting, trapping and fishing—all these things that have been taken away by residential schools."

For the past five years, Huson has spent almost \$30,000 of her own savings living out on the territory, and resistance hasn't come cheap—or easily.

"I have had to become physically fit," she said. "I have to chop wood for heat and you have to work for everything you have out there because nothing comes easy and nobody else is going to do it for you."

But even though it's costly, Huson believes that living out there and travelling across Canada to speak is worth it.

"I come to Montreal and other communities to show people the struggles we're facing right now," said Huson. "So that when people hear via media what's going on in Unist'ot'en Camp, they can put a face to it."

Impending pipelines aren't the only struggles facing the Unist'ot'en Clan, added Huson, and over time, her community has noticed the number of salmon plummet.

"We would catch 200 salmon at a time, but year by year that has dropped," she said. "Today, if we're lucky, we catch 30 to 60 fish."

The impacts of climate change are starting to manifest, said Damon Matthews, an environmental scientist and associate professor at Concordia.

"It's even more noticeable in the Canadian north than in other parts of the world," he said. "In general it's the poorer, more vulnerable communities that are going to be hit hardest by this."

Matthews spoke after Huson on Saturday, warning that the global economy must move away from carbon within the next 50 years to have any chance of meeting the aspirations



Freda Hudson spoke at Concordia on Nov. 5.

JOSHUA DE COSTA

of the Paris Agreement.

More than 50 countries, including Canada, have signed the Paris Agreement, pledging to curb greenhouse gas emissions and keep global temperature from rising more than 2 C.

To meet that promise, the government must make it easier for people to make the right environmental choices, said Matthews.

"Right now, the incentives for individuals are opposite to where we need to be going," he said. "The environmental choice—the choice that helps decrease emissions—is always the more expensive choice. That needs to change."

Put All Your Eggs (and Sperm) in One Basket

Panel on Material Donation Registry Gets to the Roots of the Situation

JULIA MIELE
@THATJULIAMIELE

Bioethics professor Vardit Ravitsky approaches the podium and stops before addressing the people seated before her in McGill University's Chancellor Day Hall. Glancing around the room, she asks the audience a question that creates a pregnant pause.

"If you found out later tonight that the father who raised you is not genetically related to you, would it matter?"

A lot of people raise their hands without a moment's hesitation, some wait a bit before tentatively extending their arms, and others remained unmoved. Ravitsky nods before continuing, "I used the term 'matter' vaguely here because it could matter to different people for different reasons."

Ravitsky, who teaches at UdeM, was speaking on Nov. 2 at a discussion panel on the sperm and egg donor registry situation in Canada. The McGill Journal of Law and Health hosted the event. Vanessa Gruben, a professor of law at the University of Ottawa, and doctoral student Vincent Couture also participated. They set the stage on why it is of such vital importance that we make the identities of sperm and egg donors accessible to their "offspring."

Ravitsky discussed how some parents who used sperm or egg donor services want to keep donor identities secret in order to have control over the relationship with their children. In some cases, the donors themselves request anonymity, to avoid certain issues like child welfare and other financial responsibilities.

Donor clinics also have a hand in this anonymity process. Ravitsky said it's probably because they have "an interest in keeping the process simple" and they'd rather not "be burdened with managing registries and keeping files for decades."

Ravitsky gave the example of a donor clinic in the United States that recently went bankrupt. It had many records of donors stashed away in a shed rented for safekeeping. But the clinic ran out of funds and was soon unable to continue paying rent. They lost all the records, "the genetic origins of thousands who may have wanted access to that information," according to Ravitsky who shook her head before proceeding with the panel.

The wellbeing of "donor conceived" individuals was the main focus of the discussion. There are many different reasons they could have for wanting to know the identity of their donor: some wish to know their medical history, while others place urgency on

knowing and being able to obtain the missing piece to their identity.

"Would you tolerate being told you had no right to any of that? Denied access to your roots?" Ravitsky said.

On the other hand, Gruben spoke more about the legal issues concerning sperm and egg registries.

She brought up the 2013 Pratten v British Columbia court case as one example. "[Olivia] Pratten had challenged the provincial rules around disclosure information to donor-conceived offspring," she said. Pratten herself was conceived from a donor and wished to gain access to his or her identity and to help others who wished to do the same.

"[Pratten] argued that she had a freestanding right to know her genetic origins," Gruben said. Pratten also argued that B.C.'s adoption registration was discriminatory to donor-conceived people.

Pratten's second argument succeeded, the judge agreed that there was discrimination against donor offspring, but her first argument failed. Pratten is still being withheld from her by the clinic.

All three speakers restated the same point: that donor-conceived individuals who are denied access to their donor's information will suffer psychological distress and struggle

with identity formation, all while hereditary medical issues go unnoticed. And there's always that fear of accidentally getting romantically involved with your half-sibling.

This repetition left some attendees feeling as though the discussion was one-sided.

"I think we could have benefitted from having someone that didn't agree with them," audience member Rachel Bleetman said. "I didn't really know much about it, so it would have been nice to hear from both sides."

Bleetman admitted that she initially believed it was no one's business to interfere with the donors' lives. "But now, kind of hearing the arguments from the panel tonight, I can see more and more why it can be important."

Right now, Health Canada is calling for submissions where anyone can write a comment regarding the registry issue and submit it to the government. "Any citizen can express the support for the ban on anonymity," Ravitsky said. "This is one thing that students can do to help the cause."

"Just continue to protest and create relations and connections with people and make this topic known," Vincent Couture added. "People have strange ideas on this assisted method of conceiving, so just try to make it clear and keep talking about it."



Vardit Ravitsky turns to fellow panelists Vincent Couture and Vanessa Gruben during a talk at McGill University on Nov. 2.

JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK



Directors Connor Spencer and Hannah Kaya, McGill students, have adapted Caytee Lush's play "What the Fuck am I Doing Here?"

COURTESY FISHBOWL COLLECTIVE

An Anti-Austerity Performance

Interactive Play Seeks to Inform Community About Anti-Austerity Measures

JULIA MIELE
@THATJULIAMIELE

Increased budget cuts throughout the city of Montreal's infrastructure have affected education, public health, and the environment in dramatic ways. And we're not talking about a few grand here and there.

Well over a million dollars in cuts have contributed to the austerity measures impacting our city right now, and the Fishbowl Collective isn't happy about it.

"What the Fuck am I Doing Here? — An Anti-Folk Opera," a play originally written and composed by Caytee Lush as a response to the 2012 student protests, is returning to the stage.

Working together with McGill's Tuesday Night Café Theatre, student directors Hannah Kaya and Connor Spencer have adapted Lush's play to reflect the anti-austerity movement happening in Montreal, but especially around McGill campuses.

The play attempts not only to inform its audience of this anti-austerity situation, but also hopefully to get it in the mood to take action and talk about it.

Fishbowl Collective, co-founded by Spencer and Kaya, is a platform for the two artists to create and showcase their work as a duo.

The two began working together at their performing arts high school in Ottawa. "We were

given the opportunity to create and perform for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival," Spencer said. "We were exposed to a certain kind of physical theatre that we hadn't encountered in Canada that really inspired us."

Shortly after, they decided to take matters into their own hands and formed the Fishbowl Collective.

Shows put on by Fishbowl in the past focused on women's stories and the personal experiences of Kaya and Spencer as young, contemporary women.

Their work so far has been original content, but this time they're working on an adaptation.

With their new project in mind, the two worked to incorporate their intense interest in the idea of the performativity of gender onstage with the social and political climates that students often experience.

Lush's original work encompassed all of that, so the two artists decided to work with and build from it.

"What the Fuck Am I Doing Here?" will deal with explicitly political themes—a first for Fishbowl Collective.

"In the past, our work has toyed with the idea of making a political statement," Kaya said. "But we really felt that we were ready to engage more with work that interests us outside of what we had previously done."

Individually, the two artists have worked

with TNC before, and as a collective they have performed on campus in the past. However, this will be their first time actually collaborating with TNC as Fishbowl Collective.

"It's a space that we love for its intimacy and what it can facilitate as an education space during the day and then as a theatre at night," Spencer explained. "That intersection appeals to us as people who are part-time academics and part-time theatre artists."

These kinds of discussions on anti-austerity aren't uncommon in small settings on the McGill campus, but the artistic duo feels that the conversation isn't reaching audiences in large groups or community settings.

Fishbowl Collective is aiming to encourage the community of McGill to organize and talk about its past involvement in the anti-austerity movements—or perhaps lack thereof—through its performances.

As serious as the subject matter is, Spencer and Kaya really want their audience to have fun with it. "We wanted to figure out a way to revitalize and revamp these discourses that have been happening over the years," Kaya said.

To get people feeling comfortable and involved during the show, "What the Fuck Am I Doing Here?" is styled as an "anti-austerity training camp." The goal for Fishbowl is to make these discourses and dialogues accessible.

The space will be transformed into a potluck

jam space where people can discuss the issues freely. They want to create a space where people can actively participate in the storytelling and feel safe. It's even encouraged that people bring their guitars with them to the show.

"Anti-folk always has its tongue firmly planted in its cheek while dealing with these very prevalent, pressing, and occasionally disorienting themes of our social reality," Spencer said. "And we love it."

Kaya and Spencer have been working with their small but interesting cast of women since mid-September. "We're really lucky to be working with a group that's so invested in what we're doing," Spencer noted.

The two artists made it very clear that they weren't in the area during the 2012 student riots depicted in Lush's original work. "We are not Caytee Lush," Spencer said. "We want to make it clear that this is our interpretation of her experience and our wanting to share that story as a learning tool."

They will, however, be populating the performance space with voices that were there and the experiences that those individuals had.

What the Fuck Am I Doing Here? // Nov. 16-19 and 23-26 // Morrice Hall (3485 McTavish St.) Doors open at 7:45 p.m. // \$6.00 student, \$10.00 general

This Week in Fringe Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/arts

Tell Me a Story: A Cree storyteller visited Concordia and recounted his experience rediscovering his culture.

THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 8 - Nov. 15

TU 8

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Marianopolis College • 4873 Westmount Ave. • 9 a.m. // FREE

Teva Harrison co-presentation with the Jewish Public Library

Artist, writer, and cartoonist Teva Harrison is gonna lead a discussion on her critically acclaimed graphic memoir, *In-Between Days: A Memoir About Living with Cancer*. Check in, hear what she has to say, and maybe ask her some questions!

Librairie Drawn & Quarterly • 211 Bernard St. W. • 7:30 p.m. // \$7

SA 12

Queer Healing Day

Tarot readings, yoga sessions, and some cool workshops and demonstrations. An all around chill day for some queer people.

Studio 303 • 372 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 9 a.m. // FREE

LGBT Film Series: Blood and Glitter

A series of short films on LGBT people by Michael Palmieri and Donald Mosher. Watch 'em, talk to the people about your thought on 'em. Q&A with Michael Venus right after.

Never Apart • 7049 St. Urbain St. • 6 p.m. // FREE

WE 9

One-Act Play Festival

Five different plays each with its own unique style. Dystopic fantasy? Hell yeah. Absurdism? You got it. Check it out.

D.B. Clarke Theatre • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 7 p.m. // \$5

SU 13

La soirée de la relève ICI RDI aux RIDM

This'll be one lively event featuring some up-and-coming filmmakers in Montreal. See these works on the big screen. Maybe you can snag a chance to talk to these young new directors.

Ancienne École Des Beaux-Art De Montréal • 3450 St. Urbain St. • 7 p.m. // FREE

Bisexuals Group / Groupe de bisexuels

Confused about what bisexuality and pansexuality are? The Bisexuals Group is getting together again to help clear up any confusion with thought-provoking topics of discussion on the matter.

Galerie D'Art • 372 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 5 p.m. // FREE

TH 10

Black Studies at Concordia: From Grenada to Montreal

Professor Erik S. McDuffie will be giving a lecture on the diasporic journeys of Louise Langdon from Grenada to Montreal and beyond. Find out more about this interesting historical figure.

Concordia University Hall Building • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 4 p.m. // FREE

Metatron Fall Catalogue Launch Party [Montreal]

The official launch party for Metatron's Fall 2016 catalogue! Proceeds will go to Taking What We Need, "an informal community group dedicated to helping low income transwomen get what they need."

La Sala Rossa • 4848 St. Laurent Blvd. • 7:30 p.m. // PWYC

MO 14

There's Something Funny Going On - Manic Monday

Take a peek at some of the local comedians we've got in our city in a chill setting. And if you can't make it for this week, then it'll be around on another Monday, so don't sweat it.

Blue Dog Motel • 3958 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8:30 p.m. // PWYC

FR 11

Allen Turner - Future Imaginary Lecture

Game designer and storyteller Allen Turner will discuss his latest, *Eldrighor*. A tabletop roleplaying game inspired the myths and folklore of indigenous and tribal cultures from around the world.

Concordia University EV Building • 1515 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 6:30 // FREE

Heavy Vetting: a night of fat qtbipoc performances

Sick of fat-shaming and the white noise around you? Go to Heavy Vetting. Jam-packed with fat queer-of-colour artists and performers. There'll also be a clothing swap, so be sure to show up early for that. Donations will go to Solidarity Across Borders' Mutual Aid Fund.

L'Auditoire • 5214 St. Laurent Blvd. • 7 p.m. // PWYC

TU 15

Gentle Resonance Reading

A nice, friendly poetry reading done by Adèle Barclay, Klara Du Plessis and former *Linkie* Alex Manley. Not only will they be reading their own poetry, but some of their favourite works. Talk 'em up afterward, too, if you'd like and make those poet connections.

Resonance Cafe • 5175A du Parc Ave. • 6 p.m. // FREE

OPEN MIC at CAFE X

Comedy? Poetry? Music? Whatever you wanna do! The mic is yours!

Cafe X Montreal • 1395 Rene Levesque Blvd. W. • 7 p.m. // FREE

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

Heal with Sound

Concordia Electro-Acoustics Student Sea Beau Debuts New Album

OCEAN DEROUCHIE
@OSHIEPOSHIE

Walking up St. Urbain St. on a rainy Saturday evening, the energy overflowed from Geist House, spilling out the windows and into the night's air. Someone has placed a chalkboard sign just outside the door, inviting bodies inside of the show house's warm embrace.

The evening of music and art was in celebration of Sea Beau's newly released album *Extinct Peripheries*, an electro-acoustic project that combines a range of vocals with experimental synth beats.

Complemented by contributions from a handful of artists, Geist House was decorated with installations ranging from sculptural creations to an interactive sound room.

Sea Beau came into being just a little over two years ago, according to Cass Beauvais, the artist and Concordia student behind the project. "Stemming out of a place trauma and healing, there was a struggle to express myself as Cass," Beauvais said.

At the time, the artist was studying piano and voice improvisation, and came to a point where they couldn't bring themselves to sing or make any sounds at all.

The following summer, two friends thought to put Ableton, a music production software, on Beauvais' laptop. "I started working on Ableton as a substitute for not being able to sing," they said. "I know how malleable sound can be and that it can be sculpted in any way you want, so I started to record things and pull samples."

Extinct Peripheries is mostly made up of field recordings—"urban timbres," as Beauvais says. Sounds of construction, metallic

clinking, trains, and engines are layered until they eventually take on the role of bass synths or kick drums.

A number of people were packed into a low-ceiling basement, surely becoming a fire hazard. No one seemed to care though, as the bodies of friends, and the friends of friends, gathered in the low-lit space to share in an intimate moment of performance and music with Sea Beau.

While there's no doubt that the artist's vibe is completely original, the sprinklings of influence from other experimental artists like Bjork or Grimes are certainly present. The artist explained that they've been inspired by the works of Diamanda Galas and Meredith Monk—experimental vocalists who pushed boundaries in their own time.

These performers, bridging the gap between sound and performance, catalyzed Beauvais' return to music. Beauvais began to make sounds that weren't traditional to concert or jazz music.

Between words, Beauvais demonstrates what kind of sound they're talking about. "I really like high-register sounds," they said, as a high-pitched whistle—almost like a squeak—escaped. Later, they would jokingly compare it to a pterodactyl scream. "You really feel the sound coming through your face."

Most of Beauvais' work is improvisational. "I've always been completely comfortable while doing improv with Sea Beau, which always surprises me considering it's unplanned and purely experimental," said Ola Kado, a violinist who collaborates with Beauvais.

Upstairs of Geist House, a different kind of experience was taking place. "The Garden is in my imagination," explained Aya Avalon, its creator. "It's supposed to be therapeutic—a



Sea Beau performing at Geist House in their bedroom on Nov. 5 OCEAN DEROUCHIE

coping mechanism for life."

The Garden, which is actually more like a room with string lights, paper vines and plastic flowers sprinkling the sheet-covered floor, acted as a safe space for visitors of Geist House. Upon entering, greeting you was a wave of relaxing energy, an invitation to explore the undiscovered grounds of the synthetic outdoors.

"Do you want to try it?" Avalon asked, motioning towards the Edirol and headphones lying on the floor, patiently waiting to be picked up by the next unknowing participant.

The Garden was an immersive sound and word experience. What could be called "jungle sounds"—thunder, rain, birds chirping—wrapped the listener into a blanket of

audio vibrations, paired with the robotic voice of a woman talking about the strife of life and how this imagined place called The Garden could be their new escape.

The calming energy of The Garden amplified the overall sentiment of the night, highlighting Sea Beau's intentional themes of self-love, moving on and letting go.

"I used to disassociate from Sea Beau. I still frequently talk about Sea Beau in the third person. When it started, Cass couldn't make stuff, but Sea Beau could," they explained.

"But now I'm really happy and doing super well. I love Sea Beau, and Sea Beau is me," Beauvais explained. "That's what this album and the release show was indicative of."

For Sandrine

by Michael Dutton

Once when I was
steadily smiling
Enamoured by the
windy fabrics of my
youth
I chased a star
Begging it all along the
horizon
And when finally I ran
out of breath
I felt far too genuine to
comfortable rest

He Asked

by Jazmin Merhmann

We are the spaces between
All the things that we pretend to be
The slits that the light shines through
Are cranked wide by our instances of truth

Nipiy

by Emilee Guevera

fall in montreal
makes me cry.

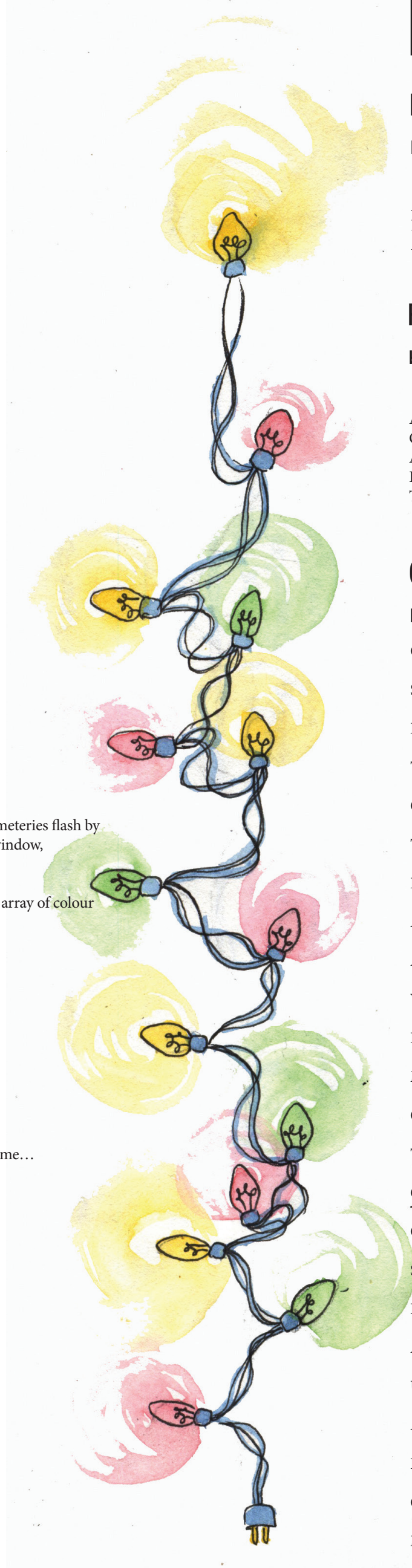
crisp clear air and grey skies
softened rays of sun, grazing my thighs
I sit in a car with a stranger,
listening to classical music and watching cemeteries flash by
tracing the cree word for water on the wet window,
soft sounds, soft light, soft understanding
watching
the fog slowly lift, revealing an unbelievable array of colour
red orange yellow,
leaves resting in defeated piles
not bright, but burnt
like the ashes they tap to the ground
in a city of smokers
and sleepers
this isn't New York or London
this is a city where dreamers are collected
nestled in old houses with winding stairs
making love and music
hiding from the ones that say,
"there's no time to waste"
saving up for the dream that might never come...

fall in montreal,
makes me cry.

Isolate

by Jazmin Merhmann

Will I be left
To lift
Unseen cigarettes
To my chapped
And soundless lips
And to cradle myself
Within
The Devil chord's resonance
When I finally drop
Heavy
To rest
On minor keys



Poems

Hi

by Michael Dutton

He turned to me and wrote hey
Around, a girl gets up saturnine
From 9 to 9 I voice my opinion
And say hi

Pink Mist

by Michael Dutton

Pink mist sun
A creasant
Of clouds and leaves
A road made of Kashmir
But wait
There's a voice screaming

Guts

by Vernon LeCraw

Confident libido!

SEX-drive, drive!

DRINK AND DRIVE!

Through the fence surrounding love's courtship

Of rejection. Bucket seats take reservations.

Thin buckle, thick buckle...

Eject them all! To evade

A dance in vain behind

A suit of armor. Lovely,

Won't you gut me?

I fillet a corpse of glamour.

My heart swims in open-wishing water,

Growing hunger for my abductor

To shed their sun-dollars, and with my time,

Own the night.

Quickly confidence is lost, like a face in the dark.

Sex is a switch and I can't get it on.

I've been shaving a hole for the next one though,

An ideal fit is what I fantasize about,

Until I realize the razor's burn

And then when there is no one else,

I will resort to petting myself.

Cause life has a lot to do with making compromises,

Making sacrifices

And making sure the oven is off.



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THE DOUG LESLIE BURSARY

The labour of love at a student newspaper provides a wealth of training and connections gained only through countless hours of volunteering, and is a necessary entry in the resumé of budding industry hopefuls.

However, the sacrifice of long unpaid hours serves as a deterrent for many looking to break into their field. To help young contributors in financial need, The Link Publication Society has decided to create a bursary in memory of Doug Leslie, the first editor-in-chief to lead *The Link*.

Leslie was an English literature student who overcame financial difficulty to champion the newspaper through its teething stage as the two campus papers merged. He was coaxed into becoming the first editor; his first words in print as EIC were "Frankly, I never thought I'd be doing this."

According to his colleagues, Leslie left behind his reservations and started a column that became "the heart and soul" of the new paper, which was beset with short staff and other organizational issues in its inaugural year. Leslie also fought to keep the paper independent of the student council. He died in August 2012, leaving *The Link* as his legacy.

The award will be available to a registered, returning student who is in financial need and is a staff member (reporter, designer, photographer, artist, etc.) of The Link. Staff members are those who have made four (4) contributions to the newspaper in a semester. Contributions may be rolled-over from the prior semester before the applications are due.

The deadline for submission is Friday November 25, 2016 at 4 p.m.
Send application to: business@thelinknewspaper.ca.

Applicants must include a letter explaining their level of financial need, merit and motivation for the bursary, along with three (3) clippings from *The Link*.


The bursary recipient(s) will be announced the third week of January 2017.

The following contributors and masthead members are eligible to apply: Carl Bindman, Tristan D'Amours, Joshua De Costa, Ocean DeRouchie, Michael Eidelson, Josh Fischlin, Nico Holzmänn, Miriam Lafontaine, Etienne Lajoie, Nikolas Litzenberger, Claire Loewen, Kelsey Litwin, Julia Miele, Jon Milton, Vince Morello, Lucas Napier-Macdonald, Alexander Perez, Harrison-Milo Rahajason, Morag Rahn-Campbell, Bronson Similie, Ninon Scotto di Uccio, Jordan Stoopler, Salim Valji

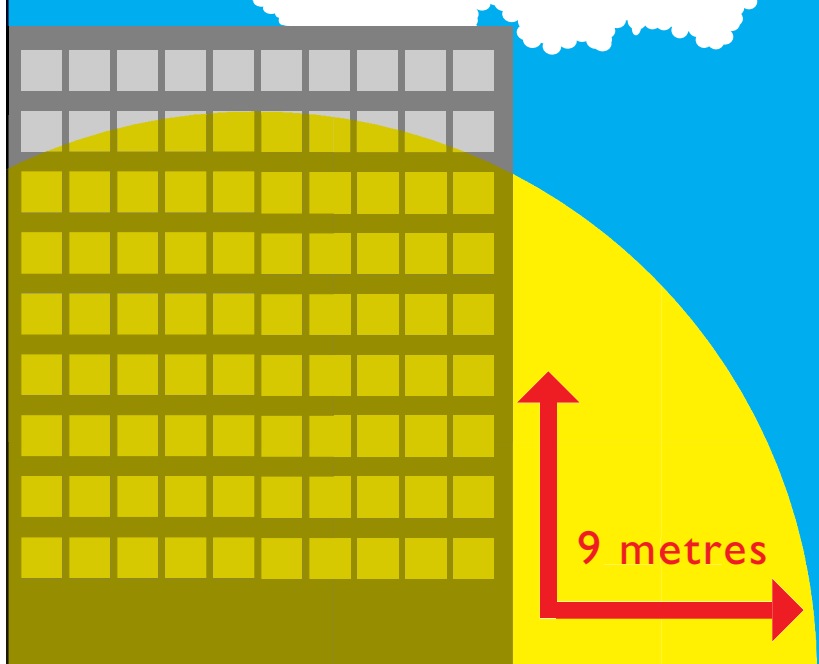
The following contributor needs one more submission to be eligible: Pat Cahill

The following contributors need two more submissions to be eligible: Matt D'Amours, Solene Jonveaux, Cairo Justice, Kate Lindner, Sophie Marisol, Tristan Masson, Simon New, Marcus Peters, Julien Rose-Johnson, Willie Wilson

LINK For more information contact: business@thelinknewspaper.ca
 Room H-649 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 / 514-848-7406



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According to the Government of Quebec's Tobacco Control Act, smoking and vaping are prohibited within a 9-metre radius of doors, windows that open and building air intakes for all post-secondary educational institutions.

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T17-35966

Giving Back

Former Goaltender Kim St-Pierre Looks to Inspire Kids to Lead Active Lifestyles

JORDAN STOOPLER
@JSTOOPLER

Sports have always been an integral part of Kim St-Pierre's life.

Growing up in Chateaugay and later Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, St-Pierre would spend her summers playing soccer, tennis and softball, as well as being an avid swimmer. But come winter it was all about hockey.

Hockey provided her with the most notoriety and acclaim, most recently in the form of an induction into the Panthéon des Sports du Québec this past September.

"I learned a lot through sports," St-Pierre said. "Playing sports made me the person that I am today."

St-Pierre is now involved with Build Our Kids' Success, a physical activity program for elementary students to start their day.

"Being active in the morning helps the kids learn better and feel better about themselves," St-Pierre said. "They want to be active."

BOKS' one-hour sessions—comprised of running, movement exercises and a group game—are designed to not only improve the overall health of participating students, but also student performance in the classroom.

St-Pierre credits her active lifestyle as a youngster to the support of her parents. Her mother Louise was a gym teacher, while her father André was a professional hockey player—drafted in the fourth round by the New York Rangers in 1970. St-Pierre considers herself privileged that her parents were able to enroll her into sports and "give her opportunities to succeed."

"My parents always told me that school was number one and everything else will follow," she said. "I realized the importance of being good in school even while I was playing hockey."

St-Pierre recalls how physical education classes were the highlight of her schedule, even though they were held only once or twice a week when she was in school. Even nowadays, some schools only devote 60 minutes of physical activity per week, well short of the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology's standards, which call for "at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity."

"I just want to promote physical activity," she said. "I want to help the kids to be active and just to love playing sports with their friends."

St-Pierre only assumed the position

of Eastern Canada Regional Coordinator at Bring Our Kids' Success six weeks ago. Nevertheless, she has been quick to make an impact. She has been doing a lot of outreach with local schools in an effort to get them to enroll in the program.

The former Team Canada goaltender meets regularly with parents, teachers, students and athletic directors of participating schools to get feedback about the group's work. During these meetings, many of the program's effects amongst students are discussed, such as the improved concentration levels of the children during class. The integration of all grade levels in the program, from kindergarten to grade six, is also seen as beneficial since it allows for camaraderie to develop among different age groups.

"We grew up being active every day so that is why I can't see myself doing anything else," said St-Pierre. "Sports is my passion and when I got this offer to work for BOKS, I couldn't say no."

St-Pierre also participates in early-morning sessions with the children. A portion of the program, known as the "BOKS Bit," is reserved at the end of the session. St-Pierre tells the story of how she was repeatedly rejected from the Quebec provincial team, and put down by her opponents on the ice while playing in all-boys bantam and midget teams.

Undeterred by these setbacks, St-Pierre persevered, eventually earning a spot as the starting goaltender for Team Canada at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

"To make it to the Olympics and win a gold medal against a really good American team, that was my favourite moment," St-Pierre said.

She would lead her nation to a gold-medal in her inaugural Games, followed by two more trips to the top of the podium—Turin in 2006 and Vancouver in 2010. She eventually earned five more gold medals tending goal for Canada at the World Championships over the course of her 15-year professional career.

Caroline Ouellette grew up playing sports with St-Pierre then became her teammate on all those gold medal-winning squads. She also played with St-Pierre for a part of three seasons with the Montreal Stars, of the Canadian Women's Hockey League, until St-Pierre's retirement in 2013, earning two Clarkson Cups in the process.

Beyond her goaltending prowess on the ice, Ouellette recalls how, despite



Former Team Canada goalie Kim St-Pierre during her playing career. COURTESY HOCKEY CANADA IMAGES



St-Pierre wants to promote physical activity amongst youth and encourage them to be active. COURTESY BOKS

being a "quiet leader," St-Pierre's voice in the locker room resonated loudly amongst her teammates.

Ouellette has called on St-Pierre's leadership skills and goaltending expertise as part of her elite-level hockey camps in Montreal and Paradise, N.L. Ouellette could not think of a more suitable goalie coach for her program.

"Kim is just so passionate about the game," said Ouellette. "She puts everything into it. She takes

the success of the kids to heart and always wants to do more. I have to sometimes try to keep her off the ice because she is working too hard."

On top of her work with BOKS, St-Pierre's time is heavily occupied by her two young boys, aged two and four. It should come as no surprise that her children are already leading active lifestyles.

"Whenever it's nice outside, we are going to go out," St-Pierre said. "My oldest son played soccer this summer

and is now in swimming classes. My younger one is too young, but is following [me] everywhere."

St-Pierre is oftentimes overwhelmed by the admiration shown to her by other youngsters, eager to see and touch one of her gold medals. She is quick to give them some fast advice.

"I try to inspire them and make them believe that they can achieve anything that they want," she said. "Nothing should put them down."

This Week in Sports Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

World University Wrestling Championship: Concordia Student-Athlete Linda Morais wins gold in Turkey.

Shred Like A Girl

New Female Sports Group Wants to Show You That They Can Ride With, and Past, the Boys



Paige Krämer Rochefort and Frédérique Luyet watching on as Jade Chretien, drops into the bowl for the first time.

PHOTOS KELSEY LITWIN

KELSEY LITWIN
@KELSEYLITWIN

Hannah Sourbeer was bringing a group of teenage boys up Burke Mountain in Vermont, where she taught snowboarding lessons, when she told them that they'd be riding switch, meaning they were expected to lead with their non-dominant foot.

"She's probably going to be so slow," she remembers one of the boys complaining.

After she sped ahead, beating them down the hill, Sourbeer recalled the group's respect level for her changing as they realized that she could hold her own in the typically male-dominated sport.

"It's this idea that men automatically get this sense of respect, whereas women have to work for it," said Devon Phelps, one of the four women on the executive team of the Concordia Ski and Snowboard Club. "You have to prove yourself to be respected."

Phelps and Sourbeer, along with

Heidi Nixon and Amy Melanson, were influenced by their unique positions with the CSSC, and used this as leverage to create a community in which females in typically male-run sports could come together. They call themselves the Shred Queens.

"It's a really male-dominated industry, and even for the ski club itself, this was the first year that there are four women on the exec team," said Phelps. "It's the most women we've had in a really long time."

As female skiers and snowboarders, Phelps continued, the gender disparity in the athletic community became overt and they recognized that it was time for a change.

"The industry itself is really sexist so we just thought it'd be cool to provide a community base through events, through different [means]," she said. "We could create these non-intimidating scenarios, so that [women] can push their limits and try stuff that they wouldn't maybe try."

As one of their first official events, Shred Queens took over TRH Bar's

skate bowl on Nov. 3, creating a space where women could feel comfortable testing the waters of a sport that others might feel too intimidated to try. The Queens themselves were excited to try their hand—or foot—at it for the first time.

"Even though we don't skateboard, it's like who cares?" said Phelps. "Let's do it, let's try it. I think it takes away some of the intimidation, as well, for other girls coming to join."

Melanson agreed, explaining that, for her, being shy tends to hinder her willingness to try new things in front of other people. "We're going to look stupid, but it doesn't matter," she said. Removing the element of intimidation, of being concerned with how they'd be perceived, allows them to push themselves further—to try something scary.

"We wanted to be the backbone," said Sourbeer, "to give girls an extra push."

During their inaugural "Sk8 Night," that extra push came in the form of Paige Krämer Rochefort and Frédérique Luyet's figurative and lit-

eral support. Krämer Rochefort and Luyet—both members of Les Vagabonnes, a Montreal-based female skate crew—were quick to hop in the bowl while first time skaters cruised back and forth. On foot or on board, they helped stabilize riders, allowing them to find comfort and develop a feel for gliding around.

Les Vagabonnes taught harder techniques to those who were more advanced, like Jade Chretien who seemed to have a natural talent for the sport that is arguably anything but natural. Krämer Rochefort held Chretien's hands as she perched her board on the edge of the bowl, preparing to drop in.

Most who took the plunge into the bowl for the first time fell a couple of times, but cheers of encouragement from onlookers lessened the inherent fear of trying something foreign.

One of the big issues, however, the Shred Queens said, lies past that first step of trying a sport for the first time. They explained that it is found in the industry itself being closed off to embracing

female athletes as strong competitors in their own right, and not simply as women who excel in their isolated divisions.

"The fact that it's this huge deal that the first woman was put on the cover of [Transworld Skateboarding magazine] this year," said Phelps. "That's pretty shitty," she explained, despite the fact that there has been a presence of strong female skaters for decades.

Patti McGee balanced upside down on her board on the cover of *Life* magazine in 1965. There is still a standard that if a woman is good, continued Phelps, it's because she rides like a dude.

"I don't wanna ride like a guy," said Sourbeer. "I wanna ride like a girl because I think riding like a girl is pretty rad."

This misconception, they say, is so ingrained into the industry that it can be found on the shelves of equipment shops.

"There's this stereotype that you should just 'shrink it and pink it,'" said Sourbeer. This comes from the idea that "because women don't ride

as hard [...] they don't need gear that's going to be as high-quality."

The concept is of the same vein that other typically genderless products, such as razors, are marketed differently to men and women, nonetheless. Sourbeer explained that there's this notion that women desire gear in typically feminine colors and patterns, such as pinks, purples and florals. "I can't believe this is how [the industry] think this is how a whole demographic, a whole gender, operates."

Phelps added that materials used to construct women's gear are typically not as durable as those used for men's boots and jackets. "The idea is she isn't going to ride as hard, [that] she's probably just going to buy new boots next year because it's not in fashion anymore," she said. "It's this very superficial idea that women are there to look nice. It's all that women are here for."

But, she continued, "How many times have all of us beaten the guys that we ride with down the hill?"

"It's such a good feeling," replied Sourbeer.

"There's literally nothing better," said Melanson with a laugh.

With more events like their skate night, they hope to show both women and men that there's room for strong female athletes in the industry, and that it's never too late to give it a go.

"It's all about your own empowerment," said Melanson. "You feel so much better no matter who was watching [you try] or if a guy did it ten times better. Who cares?"

"And having your best buds there with you," Sourbeer interjected, "is just the cherry on top."



Jade Chretien skates down the bowl at TRH Bar.



Frédérique Luyet busts a move.

**I DON'T WANNA RIDE LIKE A GUY. I WANNA RIDE LIKE A GIRL
BECAUSE I THINK RIDING LIKE A GIRL IS PRETTY RAD.**

—HANNAH SOURBEER



Amy Melanson, Heidi Nixon, Devon Phelps and Hannah Sourbeer formed a team called the Shred Queens.

Nahm'sayin?

Get Your Shit Together, McGill

SARAH JESMER
@SARAHJESMER

McGill, if you're going to give a free conference with an internationally known figure, you should taken steps to ensure that it doesn't collapse into a shitshow.

The Association of McGill University Support Employees—the workers who would normally organize conferences like this one—were on strike for a higher wage and benefits. They had volunteers to replace them, they said, but I didn't see one all night.

I got to the Leacock building around 1:45 p.m., for the talk at 7 p.m. The closer it got to 7 p.m., the more chaotic it got. Hundreds of people poured inside and sat wherever they saw fit while students shuffled around them to class.

With no organizers, the line in front of us got thicker as more and more people cut and shoved. By 6 p.m., little stampedes ensued as the funnel-like-line lurched forward.

Someone posted online that a public livestream would be made available, and I gave up and left the mass to find a calmer place to tune-in. The majority of people stayed put in the horde that stretched all the way to McTavish St. All this happened in two hours with no word from McGill—from anyone.

People finally started filing into the room around 7:45 p.m. (3:45 a.m. for Snowden in Russia), and the event didn't start till around 8:10. I'm told there was a scramble to set up an overflow room.

Organizers didn't even hide the Google hangout URL, so the video call was interrupted repeatedly. Snowden even had to ask interrupters to mute their computer microphones.

For the grand finale, a screen took over the conference showing the arm and chest of someone lying in bed. It popped up three times before McGill cut connection with Snowden, who looked like he was struggling to stay focused.

After making him wait more than an hour over schedule, their control of the chat was cringe-worthy. McGill should've held the event in a larger venue, communicated with AMUSE, announced a live stream before the day of the event to save thousands of people time and energy, and created an environment that made the lecture as smooth as possible for a person as important as Edward Snowden, who literally gave up everything to share information about the U.S. government.

He deserves a little respect, nahm'sayin?



ZOË GELFANT

Letters

Support Divest Concordia

Did you know that Concordia has over \$10 million invested in the fossil fuel industry? Or that this industry is responsible for ravaging our planet's climate, putting indigenous and marginalized peoples in a position that can only be described as environmental racism? How about that Concordia's investments make us responsible for these effects?

For all the administration's talk of becoming a next-generation university, our investment principles are still stuck in the past. The pre-composting, lead paint, climate-denying past. Fossil fuels are going the way of the dinosaurs they're made from – they're getting scarcer and less profitable by the day. Soon, they'll be no different from the coal industry they replaced. Just look at the returns on Concordia's investments; the trial-period divested funds have done exceptionally well, while the past two years have seen our fossil fuel investments flounder.

But besides the economics of it, our fossil fuel investments are unethical. The fossil fuel industry is responsible for dramatically rising cancer rates among indigenous populations, and forces them off the paltry land they still hold stewardship over. The Dakota Access Pipeline was rerouted with blatant disregard for the Standing Rock Sioux – if we know fossil fuels are too dangerous for our communities, why are they any less dangerous for First Nations communities? They're killing our planet, our environment, and actual human beings.

As long as Concordia keeps its investments in dirty energy, the university has blood on its hands. And no amount of proxy voting or entryism is going to change that. Join Divest Concordia in demanding our investments be removed from the fossil fuel industry and be redirected towards a renewable future!

—Eamon Toohey

Vote Yes for QPIRG

I'm writing to make an appeal to my fellow Concordia students, especially those who, like me, want to link classroom learning with the real world.

I've recently gotten more involved with the group QPIRG Concordia, a social justice center on campus that initiates and supports so many useful projects and campaigns, like the School Schmool agenda, an Alternative Resource Library, 30 working groups, as well as taking important political stances like the recent protest in support of Concordia professor Homa Hoodfar.

I support QPIRG Concordia for the opportunity to make real community-campus links, and provide mentorship, jobs and support for students seeking to make an impact in the community. It's been roughly a decade since QPIRG Concordia has asked undergraduate students, its main source of income, for a fee levy increase. In the upcoming CSU by-elections, the research group will ask for a modest increase

to continue another decade of amazing work.

QPIRG Concordia helps to nurture a just world, on campus and beyond, and I encourage my fellow Concordians to support them again this fall. Vote yes to QPIRG Concordia on Nov. 15-17!

—Camille Thompson

Walkers Beware!

I was walking Friday in front of Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building on De Maisonneuve Blvd. W. when I tripped on bolts, each two inches in height. They had been left embedded in the sidewalk after the bench they anchored was removed.

Concordia students rushed to my aid. One held a scarf to my bleeding head, another called 911 and the third called Concordia security. When security got there, the guard took over holding my head. We all waited for the ambulance to arrive.

Kudos to the Concordia students and security, paramedics and ER at the Montreal General Hospital.

Shame on the City of Montreal workers who left four bolts embedded in the sidewalk.

Later Friday, a flowerpot and yellow tape were placed around the tripping hazards. Walkers beware!

—Susan Raymer

Fighting the Crypto War

A Cyber Self-Defense Course Against the Police

OLIVIER SYLVESTRE

"We are all being watched," Edward Snowden said during his lecture at McGill via video link last Wednesday.

The conference he gave couldn't have occurred at a better time—in the days prior, it was revealed that the Service de police de la ville de Montréal and the Sûreté du Québec had been spying on journalists.

The revelations of police surveillance on journalists across Quebec are highly disturbing, but not only journalists need privacy. Privacy is necessary for freedom of the press, freedom of thought, and freedom of speech.

Aside from bringing police forces to court and advocating for legislative changes, taking steps to protect your own privacy is your most effective weapon against surveillance. These digital privacy tools are available to everyone. Use them.

Use Signal for calls and text messages

Using Signal, an app available on iPhone and Android, and a Google Chrome extension, is the most straightforward way of circumventing the methods the SPVM and the SQ used to identify the journalists' sources amongst the police forces.

You may not know that, but every time you make a call or send a regular text message (SMS), your cellular phone provider keeps a record of your metadata: who you called or texted, how long the conversation lasted, and when and where you were at that moment. The police only has to get a warrant for the information and present it to your phone company to obtain those records. This is exactly the kind of surveillance the police used against journalists and their sources.

Signal lets you send text messages and call other people anonymously. Your communications, instead of going through cellular waves where they are logged and can be tapped into, will be transmitted through the internet. The content and metadata of your message will be end-to-end encrypted. That means only you and the person you are communicating with will ever know the content of your conversation and the fact that it happened.

The app is free, easy to install and use, and can even replace the default messaging and calling app on most Android phones. It already supports group conversations and attachments, it is open source, and best of all, it is strongly recommended by Edward Snowden.

Use a strong password

Stop thinking of passwords as ten-letter words you use to unlock all your accounts digital devices. "H3ll0!" is not a strong password. For a modern computer, it would be a manner of seconds before it would have guessed such a short password.

You really should use is a longer pass-



SAM CIANFAGLIONE

phrase, unique to each of your accounts. A strong passphrase needs to be easy to remember for you, so you do not get locked out of your Facebook account, but hard to break.

The simplest solution to that problem is to use a sentence instead of a word as your password. Let's say that you like horses. You could use the passphrase "IReallyLikeHorses."

That passphrase has 17 characters, and contains capital and small letters. It's a great start, but you can do better. Add numbers and special characters in there. For example, "IReallyLikeHorses110%".

Finally, create a unique passphrase for each of the devices and services that you use: "IReallyLikeHorses110%OnFacebook," "IReallyLikeHorses110%OnMyMac," for all your accounts. At 32 and 29 characters respectively, those passwords are tough to crack. Dashlane, a password management software company, estimates that it would

take at least four undecillion (that is 10^{36}) years for a computer to decipher them.

That is what you are aiming for: hard to crack, hard to forget.

Encrypt your storage drives

Encrypting a digital storage drive makes it unreadable unless you have the passphrase that unlocks it. This will prove especially useful if your computer or phone is ever lost, stolen, or seized by police during a protest. Keep in mind, though, that using encryption is only effective when it is paired with a strong passphrase.

Use the Tor browser

When you visit a website, your computer is essentially publicly asking the site to send you its webpage. That conversation between your computer and the website is generally encrypted. However, the fact that that conversation happened is out in the open. A lot can

be learned from you just by looking at which websites you access.

This is especially a problem for activists and journalists living under dictatorships, but it can be useful to know how to access websites anonymously even in Canada.

For example, if you are doing a research on terrorist groups and you want to look at them from the inside, you probably do not want the RCMP to know that you are visiting and probably asking questions on a forum populated by people who are deemed enemies of the state by our government.

What the Tor Browser does is bounce your data, that conversation we talked about earlier, around the internet on the Tor Network. As your web traffic will go from one computer to the next, it will gradually become impossible for authorities to link it back to you.

However, it has many limitations and it can bog down your internet connection.

Localization services

Always assume that your smartphone is constantly broadcasting your location, either through the apps you use or through your phone's automatic connection to various cell towers and wi-fi networks throughout the city. Your phone can be used to locate you even if it is turned off or in airplane mode.

If you are a journalist and you are going to meet a confidential source face-to-face, or if you are that source yourself, leave your phone at home or at work. You could also remove the battery from your smartphone, but that is increasingly impossible based on the design of new phone models.

The SPVM used *La Presse* journalist Patrick Lagacé's phone location data in attempts to find his sources among the police.

Encrypt your emails

Email is still, in my opinion, the hardest place to protect your privacy. There is, at the moment, no secure, consumer-friendly, open source, and cross-platform email client on the market.

Encrypting your emails still entails keeping an up-to-date library of certificates called public keys linked to each of your contacts with whom you would want to communicate securely. Those contacts also need to have your public key in order to make sure emails they receive from you really are from you. Oh and also, you should exchange those public keys in person. That is not what I call consumer-friendly.

Keep in mind that you will also need to convince your friends and colleagues to go through the same nerdy hoops and loops in order to use email encryption. You can also set up an email on encrypted services such as riseup.net.

Once you've done all these things, then you're off to a really good start in protecting your privacy online. Until the systems of mass surveillance are dismantled, these are some of the best tricks to keep some semblance of privacy.

NASH 79

**The Canadian University Press National Conference
Fredericton, N.B. Jan. 4 to 8, 2017**

Sometimes student journalists can feel like they're working in a vacuum. The Canadian University Press's National Conference (a.k.a. NASH) brings us together to bond over struggles of low-budget, independent reporting. If you want to hang out in Fredericton with editors from *The Link*, get tips from some professional journalists and maybe schmooze with some prime time speakers who have yet to be revealed, consider applying to attend NASH.

If you've contributed to the current volume of *The Link*, you can apply to be sent to the conference as part of our delegation. Come to our office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Suite H-649), tack up a letter explaining why we should send you, whether you've already been to a Canadian University Press conference, and how you plan to contribute in the coming year.

**The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Nov. 29 @ 6 p.m.
Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 29
For more info, email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca**

Drink With *The Link*

Do you like drinks? Do you like *The Link*? Come drink with *The Link*.

Join us at Grumpy's Bar at 1242 Bishop St. on Nov. 18.

We'll be there from 9 p.m. until 12 a.m.

Stop the Hike

Students Have a Responsibility to Show Solidarity

SAMUEL MIRIELLO

Concordia University is looking to discreetly raise tuition for international students without consultation. This tuition hike will cause irreversible damage to the diversity of Concordia's student body and will make it even harder for disadvantaged students to graduate from the school.

This isn't unprecedented. Back in 2008, Concordia attempted a similar measure when they raised international tuition fees after the government deregulated the tuition costs of six programs—business, engineering, computer science, pure sciences, mathematics, and law.

For the international students who already reached their home government's annual funding limit, the tuition hike forced them to drop out of Concordia or take on significant debt. The school did not consult students about the tuition hikes, and many suffered as a result.

The same thing is happening this year. Our school administration isn't telling us about its latest hike. The fact that it is being done in secret, without the consultation of those affected, is the province's major problem.

Some may argue that Concordia University has every right to increase international students' tuition costs. But it's very easy to criticize students from the pedestal of privilege that comes with Canadian citizenship. When international students from third world countries come to Concordia, they come at a serious disadvantage. Along with cultural and educational unfamiliarity, international students already pay tuition that is significantly higher than Canadians'. And Concordia's administration thinks it's okay to raise their tuition even more? That's unacceptable.

In its public statements and marketing strategy, Concordia says it wants a diverse body and students from all different backgrounds in life. But

this tuition hike will make sure that only rich people can get in.

Concordia has to be honest with us: all they care about is new revenue. They don't care if the student body ends up being filled with only the elite. When it comes to new ways of making money, Concordia couldn't care less about the diversity of its student body.

The school doesn't want to tell us the exact details of its plan, because it knows we would be able to stop it. My interpretation of the strategy is that it is to secretly raise tuition, making it public knowledge near the end of the semester. This means that, as most international students head back home, they will be hit with an unexpectedly high tuition cost. For the international

students who can't afford the new hike, they simply won't come back to Canada.

Problem solved, every victim of the tuition hike is thousands of miles away from the school, unable to protest. The victims are silenced before they can even utter a single cry.

We need to protest these tuition hikes. Protecting our right to affordable education is a core value of Quebec. For the past 50 years, the Quebec student population has fought for accessible education. Every decade since the 1960's has been marked by a major student protest that profoundly affected our schools for the better. Students have forced the provincial government to create a new university, have fought for and won improved bursaries,

and have beaten back major tuition hikes.

Every time our government tries to commercialize our institutions, we remind it that affordable education is a right. Critics may look down on our efforts to protests for affordable education, but all students in Quebec benefit from half a century of student solidarity.

After so many years, and so many successes, why would we give up our protests and let the government turn tuition into a new revenue stream? We have nothing to lose from these protests, but the shackles of crippling student debt—debt that every North American student struggles with but us.

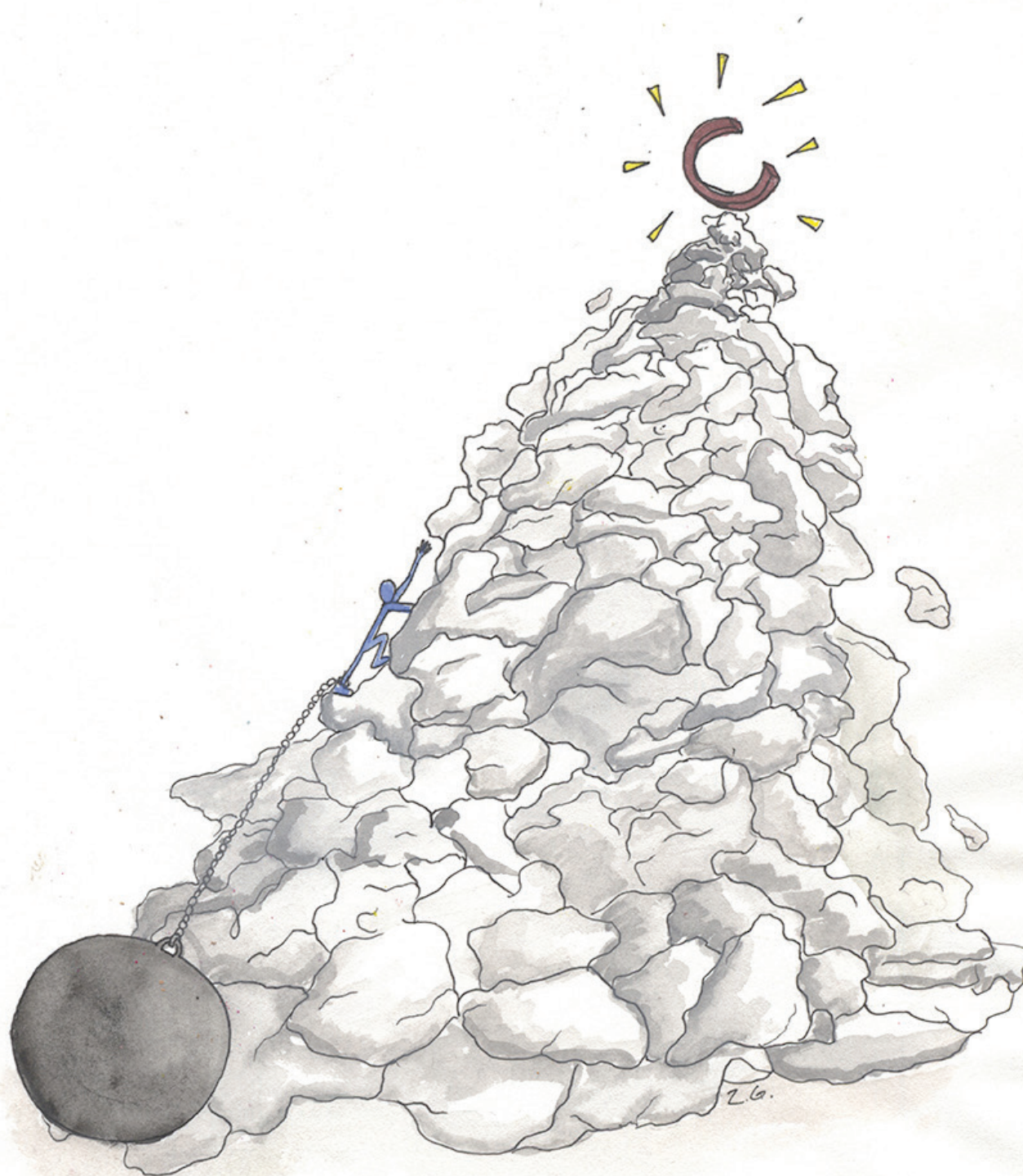
When international students come to us for accessible education, we need to help them get it. The school doesn't want to tell us about the hike because they know that if we mobilize, they'll be unable to pass the measure.

We have fought off tuition hikes for a good five decades now, and we need to keep going. If this tuition hike passes, we are demonstrating that the student body isn't as passionate about accessible education as it used to be.

It's also important to remember that when tuition costs rise for international students, tuition hikes for all students are inevitably coming. This fight, just like every fight we've ever had, is a symbol of our passion for accessible education. The affordable university we have today is thanks to 50 years of protests and passion—it's now our turn to uphold that legacy.

On Nov. 24, 2016, the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors is going to pass a vote for or against the tuition hikes. In protest, we are going to have a "Red Day." On the day of the vote, we invite you all to wear red and to get a pin from one of our tables in the school lobbies.

Talk to and educate the people around you. Organize your friends. Speak in your classes. We are all going to be deeply affected by this, and we all have the power to stop it.

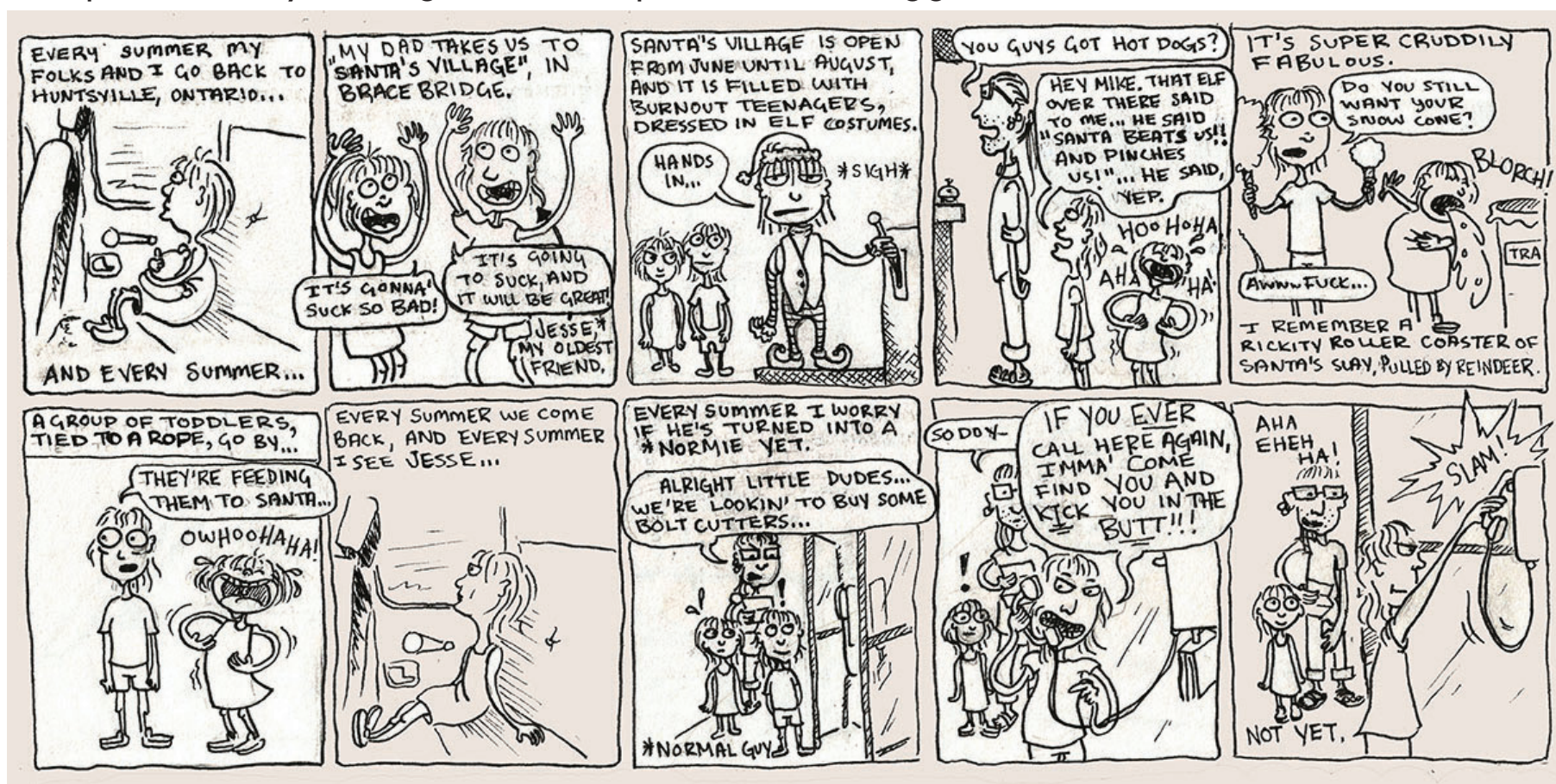


ZOË GELFANT

This Week in Opinions Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/letters

Vote Yes to QPIRG: Three more students wrote to us, explaining the need to support the fee levy group.

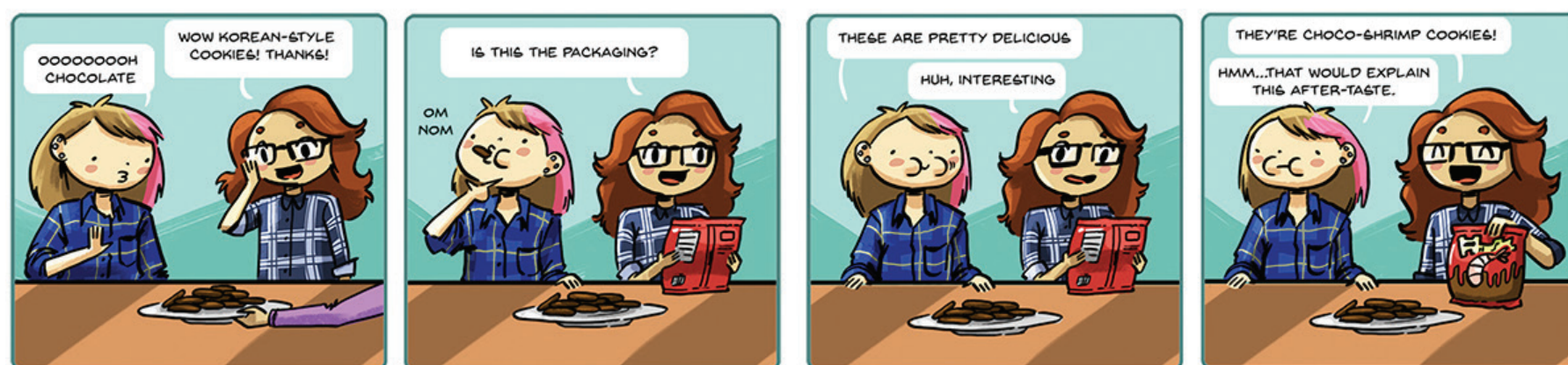
Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell @madd.egg



In the Clear by Bronson Smillie @bronsosaurus

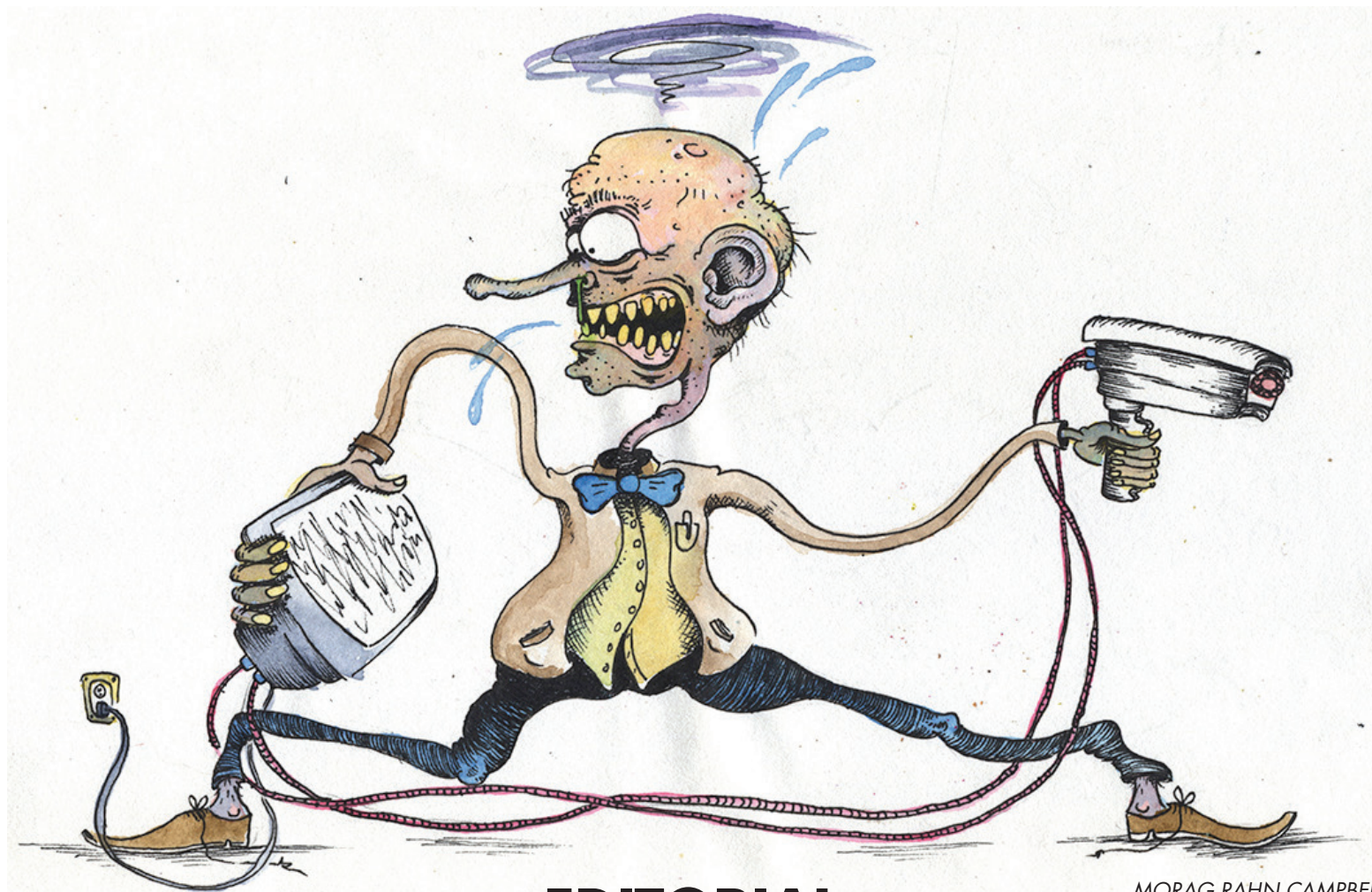


Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



Hastily Put Together by Theo Radomski @flannelogue





MORAG RAHN CAMPBELL

EDITORIAL

The Surveillance State of Canada Needs to End

In the past two weeks, we in Quebec got to turn the tables and take a look inside the tactics of police surveillance.

Over the period of a few days, it was revealed that the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal spied on journalists Patrick Lagacé and Vincent Larouche, and that the Sûreté du Québec had also spied on a handful of other journalists. What's more, the management of the Montreal police signed off on the creation of a unit whose explicit purpose was to track and disrupt "marginal movements and anarchists."

In the cases of police spying on the press, wiretapping warrants were obtained through judges. The police's justification for spying was to find which officers were leaking information to journalists. Whistleblowing is vital to keeping the police accountable and the public informed, and, by working against it, law enforcement worked against the interests of the population.

With regards to police spying on activists, these revelations proved something long suspected by social organizers: that the police profile based on political beliefs. State repression of social movements is clear when riot police brutalize protesters, but such violence is just the most visible result of a police cul-

ture designed to maintain established power. Remember, this was an official police unit tasked with surveying activists, and these were wiretaps approved by judges.

Nowhere in the surveillance of journalists and activists is the pretense of protecting the public from crime. That isn't to say that mass surveillance is ever a good thing, or that it's even helpful for preventing criminal activity, because it isn't. Yet these are not isolated incidents.

The public needs to know that Canada is a surveillance state. Last week it was revealed that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service illegally retains metadata of Canadian citizens. Metadata is the information that accompanies electronic communication but not the information inside the communication itself. Your phone number or email address, the time and place of your call or email or text, or the length of your FaceTime calls are all examples of metadata. That CSIS kept this information and tried to hide its activities shows that they, just like the SPVM, knew their behaviour was wrong and that the public would be incensed if these actions came to light.

Bill C-51, which is still in force, also serves as a reminder that governments in Canada

will push the limits of legal and constitutional surveillance if given the chance. A legacy of the Harper era, Bill C-51 gives law enforcement wide-reaching powers of preemptive arrest, surveillance, travel restriction, and speech limitation. Passed in the aftermath of the Parliament shooting, the bill was a major issue in the 2015 federal elections. Justin Trudeau said during his campaign that his government would make the law more moderate. Over a year later, it's unchanged.

Federally and municipally, these repressive practices won't go away without sustained public pressure. The Government of Quebec announced the creation of a public inquiry into freedom of the press and police surveillance of journalists, according to a Canadian Press article from Nov. 3. That's nowhere near enough.

As members of the press, as activists, as humans living under the panopticon of inhumane state surveillance, we demand that the provincial government expand the mandate of its public inquiry to include all police surveillance as a first step towards the broader dismantling of mass surveillance in Canada.

Any inquiry must take into account the disproportionate surveillance faced by groups perceived as threatening the status

quo, such as leftist social movements and Indigenous land defenders.

We must understand state repression and surveillance not as excesses by rogue police forces, but as part of a historic and overarching strategy to preserve the status quo and maintain state power. It's not like this hasn't happened before.

In 1977, the McDonald Royal Commission discovered a series of illegal acts committed by the RCMP. These included stealing the membership list of the Parti Québécois and burning down a rumoured Front de Libération du Québec and Black Panther Party meeting spot. The RCMP was also found to have spied on election candidates, and conducted hundreds of illegal break-ins.

As a result, the RCMP had its national security powers removed, which led to the creation of CSIS in 1984, which was then staffed by many of the former RCMP officers who had broken the law. Now it's CSIS who has broken the law, and the cycle begins anew.

We need to resist the encroachment of the surveillance state into our lives. We need to organize against growing police powers. We need to work towards the abolition of mass surveillance through inquiries and political action. And we need to make it last.

THE LINK

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Another *Link* by-election is almost here.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 @ 4 p.m. in *The Link*'s office at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Room H-649

We have two more positions to fill. All staff members—those who have contributed to four separate issues or more—are eligible and encouraged to vote in the elections. A letter, along with three contributions, is due one week prior, on Nov. 8.

Here are the open positions:

News

Direct the online news content while getting to know every inch of Concordia and its politics. Learn all the acronyms that govern the university and chase the truth.

Assistant News

News is a demanding section. Help the news team keep up with the latest stories around Concordia and Montreal. This job is essential to ensure our coverage runs smoothly.

Running:

Eligible to Run

Sara Capanna, Michael Eidelson, Nico Holzmman, Sarah Jesmer, Miriam Lafontaine, Etienne Lajoie, Vince Morello, Harrison-Milo Rahajason, Ninon Scotto di Uccio, Jordan Stoopler, Salim Valji

As a media publication, we need to play a part in creating dialogue on important issues. One of these is mental health.

Do you have an idea or experience that, if shared, could benefit someone? Have you recently heard of an informative new approach to mental health care? Are you interested in the topic, but are drawing a blank?

Contribute your writing, graphics, design and editing skills to our special issue focusing on mental health.

The deadline to submit is Thursday, Nov. 24.

And come to our mental health brainstorm on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

If you can't make it or have any questions, email managing@thelinknewspaper.ca