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Come Again?

New Research on Orgasms Puts the Female Experience First

KELSEY LITWIN
@KELSEYLITWIN

Orgasms are complex. But they're also pretty simple.

Dr. Jim Pfaus, a professor of psychology at Concordia University, broke it down, explaining that "an orgasm is an orgasm is an orgasm."

Pfaus, along with graduate students Gonzalo R. Quintana and Conall Mac Cionnaith, of Concordia's Department in Psychology and Mayte Parada, of McGill University, recently published their research exploring the intricacies of the female orgasm in the journal *Socioaffective Neuroscience and Psychology*.

"That's really the main point of the whole article," said Pfaus. The idea is that "what people experience is valid. It's representative of the brain and, in a way, who cares whether it's clitoral, or vaginal, or both, or cervical, or nippular?"

The source of the pleasure, he said, "just doesn't matter."

The research takes both a clinical and historical approach to understand how females experience orgasms from multiple sites—the clitoris, the vagina, the nipples or the cervix, or others—and why that fact has been disregarded in older orgasm research.

"There's a false dichotomy out there in the perception of where orgasms come from. I mean, first, they come from the brain," explained Pfaus. Essentially, orgasms are the brain's interpretation of sensations. "It then falls between these two old notions," he continued, "that the orgasm is either clitorally or vaginally."

Pfaus explains that part of this confusion stems from early 20th century studies of sexuality. The article explains that famed psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud said there were two stages of sexual development. It was during the second, "mature

genital stage" that the body developed its ability to experience pleasure from "specific zones and for specific purposes," thereby discounting any other pleasurable sensation as "immature."

This, Pfaus said, is the process through which Freud determined that a "pleasurable relevant thing becomes a reproductively relevant thing."

However, Pfaus argues that this leads to an idea that orgasms must be reproductive. Non-reproductive orgasms, then, are vestigial—meaning they're inherently functionless. And, he said, that concept stems from the male-centric perspective in which reproductive orgasms are the norm.

"Everything has been interpreted in this very man-like way, and it downplays, then, the role of what women can experience," he said. "Women have a much greater capacity than men do, to experience [orgasms] from different sites."

This is where the problem—in academia, in health, in research, in sex—lies.

"To put a male model on how it should be, and how it should be stimulated, what should happen and shouldn't happen, and what you're able to experience and unable to experience, is completely and utterly ridiculous," Pfaus said.

In the article, he explains that male researchers Vincenzo Puppo and Stuart Brody furthered much of the vaginal versus clitoral debate. The notions they presented, Pfaus explained, seemed to be from the perspective that a female orgasm is a vestigial male orgasm—a concept which mirrors the antiquated notions that a vagina is an inverted penis or that the clitoris is a female-penis.

The article states "perhaps it is time to stop treating women's orgasm as a sociopolitical entity with different sides telling women what they can and cannot experience or debating whether female orgasm is a vesti-

gial male orgasm."

This study, titled, "The whole versus the sum of some of the parts: toward resolving the apparent controversy of clitoral versus vaginal orgasms," was led by three men, including Pfaus, and one woman.

It is worth noting as well that Pfaus signed a petition in January to reinstate Dr. Kenneth Zucker to Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Zucker was dismissed due to allegations of discrediting the validity of transgender children in his practice.

The study of female orgasms, Pfaus explained, needs to shift from exploration of a physiological reality to experiential. The fact is that one's capacity to have an orgasm comes from their previous sexual experience and not from their biological make-up, Pfaus added.

"These zones that carry sensory information, they're all there, everybody has them but everybody has different thresholds for these [sites]," he said.

Identical twins, for example, experience orgasms differently. He explained that in past studies, it was found that twins typically share the same sensation less than 50 per cent of the time.

"How the hell is that possible if it's just a physiological thing? It's got to be experiential!" exclaimed Pfaus. "Everybody is created different, even though the capacity is somewhat equivalent. Really, what you need is self-exploration."

While he agreed that giving children sex toys might be a little too far, Pfaus explained that sexual education needs to start younger, and needs to be more all encompassing. He said that children aren't told that it's okay to explore their bodies themselves, to learn what feels good and what doesn't.

Pfaus recounted multiple examples in which

colleagues of his had difficulties with their Institutional Review Boards and Ethics Review Boards, resulting in yearlong waits to have their research approved or having to jump through hoops to finish their studies. The ERBs, he said, wouldn't "let them touch this [subject] with a ten foot pole."

One instance, he recalled, was when a grad student at McGill was forbidden from completing his study on ejaculation latency in men and so turned to Concordia's labs instead. The difference, he joked, came down to "one place where you can't do stuff, and another place where your colleagues are totally behind your risky research."

Is this resistance justifiable?

"I don't think so, but I understand why it happens," answered A. Stephanie Bailey, who graduated with her Master's in Psychiatry from McGill, with research focusing on human sexuality. Part of the logic behind it, she says, stems from the nature of department conducting the study. For example, she said, a medically backed study, with numbers and data, is more easily digestible by ERBs. The results are quantifiable.

"From a medical perspective, there's a mandate to help people," Bailey said. When it comes to studies on sexuality, the question is whether it is medically important. Bailey said it's important to reflect on how the outcome of this research impacts a person's life. "Is it doing more harm than good?" she asked.

She did not, however, discount the importance of these studies. "If you're looking at histories," she offered as an example, "you can say a lot about where we should go."

If you were to ask Pfaus, chances are he would say the next place we should go is inwards. After all, "a body is to be explored. It's owned by you, it's to be explored by you."



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CSU By-Election

Meet Your Candidates for CSU Council

VINCE MORELLO and KELSEY LITWIN
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The Concordia Student Union by-elections run this week from Nov. 15-17. Seven students are running for the five available Arts and Sciences student council seats. There are three council seats for students from the John Molson School of Business and one person running. No students running for the one Fine Arts council seat or for the two open independent council seats. Quorum for the by-election is 450 undergrad students.

GRAPHICS MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL



Omar Riaz (JMSB)

Riaz has experience as the treasurer and president of the Vanier College Student Association. He previously ran as an independent for the external affairs coordinator position in the CSU general elections in March 2016, and lost to Aloyse Muller.

If elected, Riaz said that at this point in time he has no specific agenda, and just wants to be a part of the decision-making process on council, but with time he expects to bring forth ideas.

"Right now, I just want to make sure that whatever at the CSU of the council is transparent and it's in the best interests of all students at Concordia, regardless of faculty," he said.

He says this bid to run for council is his second opportunity to get involved in student politics because he eventually would like to run for an executive position again.

Julia Sutura Sardo (A&S)

Sardo is second year political science and public affairs student, as well as the internal affairs coordinator for the Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations.

She would like to bridge the communication and initiatives between student clubs and ASFA member associations.

Sardo added that she wants to promote the divest movement, is against the tuition fee increase for international students in deregulated programs and wants to advocate for accessibility to the annexes.

"I understand the structure of umbrella associations like the CSU," Sardo said. "I'm also super driven, focused and present for students."



Agunik Mamikonyan (A&S)

Mamikonyan is familiar with how the political scene at Concordia works. She has worked as the social events secretary with the School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association. She is also currently the community outreach and sustainability coordinator for ASFA.

She is also a former international student turned resident. This is something that gives her a different perspective, and a better understanding of student life, she said.

If elected she said she will support whatever the students want.

"I'm not here to represent myself," Mamikonyan said. "I don't have an agenda, I've never had an agenda."



Andra Luchian (A&S)

Luchian is a first-year behavioral neuroscience student who wants to transfer her passion for engaging with others into the CSU.

"I like talking to people," she said. "Because I'm an open person, I can quickly grab different ideas from everyone and see the trend."

If elected, Luchian says she would channel her energy into advocating for the divestment from the fossil fuel and related industries. She explained that her science background, and the knowledge of the materials used in fossil fuel extraction motivates her passion for the campaign. A position on council, she said, would enable her to educate other students about the topic.

April Tardif-Levesque (A&S)

Tardif-Levesque is a first year political science student, with a minor in human rights. She has been a union representative for a previous employer, which gave her a taste of advocating for other people's interests in a unionized environment.

Her involvement with the Political Science Students' Association has furthered this experience of acting as a liaison between organizations and the people they represent.

"I feel that the CSU is supposed to be there for all students, but not all students have the time to get involved," said Tardif-Levesque. "Being on council is a good way to bring these things up, if an overwhelming amount of people have concerns about a certain thing."

She says that if she were elected, she would also push for the implementation of free, accessible feminine hygiene products on campus, as well as pulling away from fossil fuel investments.

Rowan Gaudet (A&S)

Gaudet is a first year political science student. He said he knows how to reach out to the students and get them involved within the community.

"I think as a councilor one of the most important things is understanding what the students think and make sure they know what's going on in the council itself."

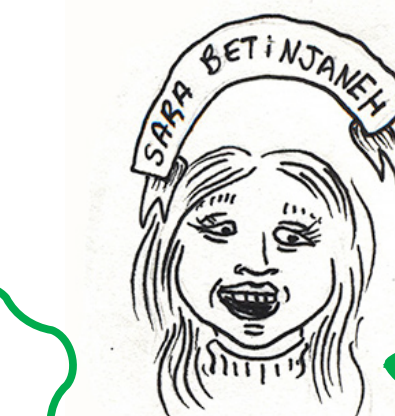
If elected, Gaudet said he would support the students in advocating against the tuition hikes for international students in deregulated programs. He added that he wants to create community spaces for students.

Sara Betinjaneh (A&S)

Betinjaneh, a political science student, says her international upbringing—from Montreal, to Syria and Belgium—has allowed her to develop a well-rounded view on how multiculturalism plays into institutional dynamics. She has made use of this skill as an ambassador for the Political Science Students' Association and while taking part in Concordia Model United Nations.

If elected, Betinjaneh would like to become involved with the management of the CSU's budget, to ensure transparency and efficiency by pushing for more open sessions between the student union and the undergraduate population. This ties into her goal of encouraging more student involvement.

"I really want to raise awareness, and inform new undergraduate students what the CSU is and get people involved in our student life."



Gregory Laplante (A&S)

Laplante was appointed as the assistant member at large of the student association at his CEGEP, Champlain College. He says that being an assistant for every position has given him insights into how every role affects that association.

If elected, Laplante wants to create safe spaces around campus and is going to advocate for free hygiene products for women on campus.

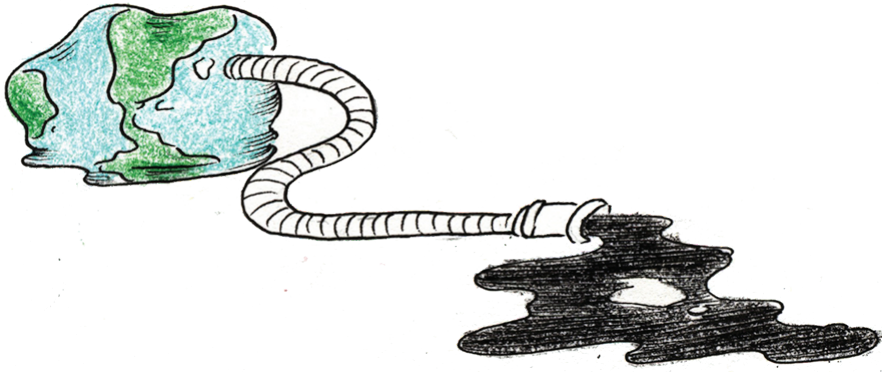
"As long we're giving out condoms to guys, I think it's fair to give free hygiene products to girls," he said.

Laplante says that he wants to use his previous experience in CEGEP and working with a federal MP in the last election to make the CSU council better.

Also the Four Referendum Questions Up for Vote

MIRIAM LAFONTAINE, KELSEY LITWIN, JONATHAN CARAGAY-COOK, and CLAIRE LOEWEN // @KELSEYLITWIN, @HIIMBIRACIAL, and @CLAIRELWN

1.



1. Fossil Fuels Divestment Campaign

Do you, as a Concordia undergraduate student, mandate the Concordia Student Union to actively support the fossil fuels divestment campaign until such time as Concordia University commits to full divestment from fossil fuels and related industries?

If passed, this referendum question would help to solidify the CSU's policy of pursuing divestment from fossil fuels. This would make the policy more binding for present and future CSU executives. According to Eamon Toohey, a spokesperson of the student union, a referendum is the most legitimate way for the CSU to establish any sort of policy.

If this question gets enough "Yes" votes from Concordia undergraduate students, the CSU "would continue to put more pressure on the university to freeze its investments in fossil fuels now and to be fully divested in the next five years," Toohey said.

He added that, as a community, Concordia students are complicit with the decisions of the university's administration, and that, by extension, fossil fuel investments are our responsibility, too.

"We have a responsibility to challenge the university's investments and pressure the administration to pursue a more sustainable future, a more ethical future, and even a more economically feasible future," Toohey said.

2. Concordia University Investments

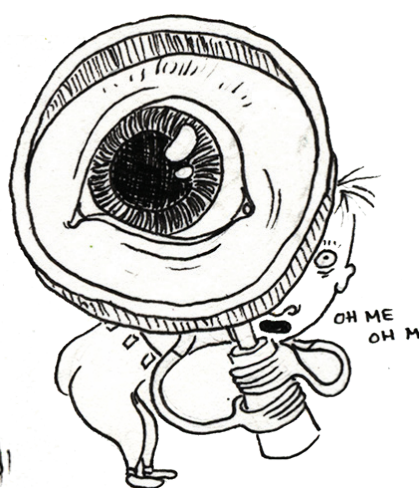
Do you, as a Concordia undergraduate student, agree with Divest Concordia's demand that Concordia University remove all its investments that are currently tied to the fossil fuel and related industries and reinvest this money in a socially and environmentally responsible manner?

Divest Concordia is a coalition of students that wants the university to completely remove all its investments in the fossil fuel industry. The group has been pressuring the university to reinvest in sustainable practices since 2013.

Its goal is to have the university freeze all of its current investments in fossil fuels over the next three years. Divest also wants Concordia to adopt a socially and environmentally responsible investment policy designed in part by Concordia students, and for the university to later call on other universities to divest as well.

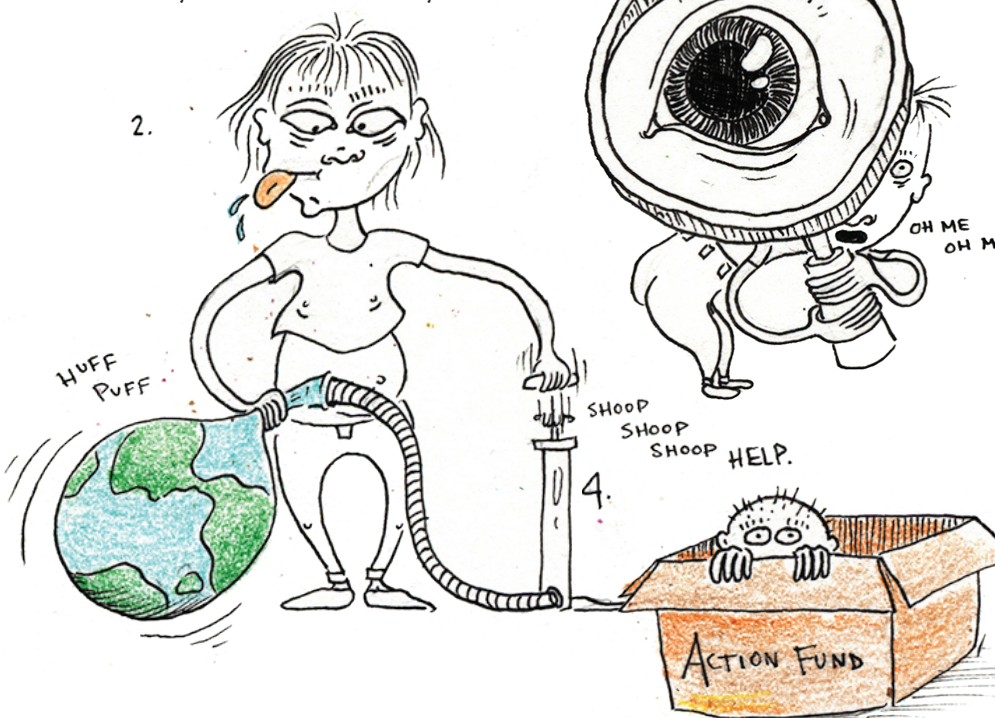
According to Marcus Peters, the Concordia Student Union's Loyola Coordinator, a socially and environmentally responsible investment policy would include investments in green energies like hydro, wind and solar, and investments in co-ops and non-profit organizations. It would also mean avoiding investments in fossil fuel-related industries, like pipelines or mining.

3.



SHOO SHOO SHOO HELP.

4.



3. QPIRG Concordia

Do you agree to increase the fee levy of QPIRG Concordia by eight cents per credit to a total of 39 cents per credit indexed to inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Canada, effective January 2017?

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia hasn't had an increase to its undergraduate fee levy since 2007. Currently, it stands at 31 cents per credit, but QPIRG's board believe its daily operations in the past few years have suffered due to inflation.

With more money going towards administrative and operational expenses, there's less money to fund projects from their 29 existing working groups and establish connections with new ones, according to board member Camille Thompson. In its last fiscal year from October 2015 to August 2016, QPIRG reported a net loss of \$23,066.

Among the 29 working groups, Gabriel Velasco, another board member, highlighted the services of lesser-known organizations like Montreal Childcare Collective and Open Door Books Montreal, in addition to more known ones like Solidarity Across Borders.

"We are the link between the Concordia community and at large," Velasco said.

The Collective offers childcare services mainly for public events, Velasco explained, while the Open Door Books aims to provide literature to the imprisoned population.

For its last fiscal year, the Montreal Childcare Collective received \$550 from QPIRG, and the Open Door Books had \$1550. In total, working groups received \$22,296 last year.

In addition to the working groups, QPIRG has a "discretionary budget" for other organizations that submit applications for funding directly to the board. These groups can receive \$50 to \$400 per application. Beneficiaries of this initiative have included the Unist'ot'en Camp, Black Mental Health Circle, and Rap Battles for Social Justice at Concordia.

QPIRG Concordia made \$258,349 in revenue during its last fiscal year. Most of this comes from undergraduate and graduate fee levies—\$233,965—and employment grants—\$21,449. Concordia graduate students pay 50 cents per credit into the organization.

The organization has three full-time staff members, and they are paid \$21.70 per hour. Approximately \$110,000 went towards permanent staff expenses last year.

Located on the second floor of 1500 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., QPIRG Concordia offers use of its computers, phones, fax machines, and photocopier, as well as the space itself, to the local community. Rent and electricity for the space cost \$55,839 last year. Velasco said offsetting these costs is one of the reasons they're asking for a higher fee levy.

"If students believe what QPIRG is and working for, we're hoping they'll come out and vote," Thompson said.

4. Community Action Fund

Do you, as a Concordia undergraduate student, agree with the amendment to the CSU Special Bylaw I, as outlined in the document "Amendment to Special Bylaw I"?

CSU Special Bylaw I details the dispersion of the student union's fee-levy of \$3.80 per credit for all undergraduate students. As it stands, \$1 of the \$3.80 goes towards the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund.

This fund, unlike the CSU's operating budget, is not necessarily used on a yearly basis. Instead, it is saved for special projects that fall under the SSAELC fund's jurisdiction. Last year, for example, approximately \$1.4 million from the SSAELC Fund was used finance necessary renovations for the reopening of Reggie's, Concordia's campus bar. At the end of the 2015-16 academic year, the fund totaled approximately \$3 million, according to a draft of the CSU's financial audit from that year.

The proposed amendment to Special By-Law I would allow in part for the creation of the Community Action Fund. The CAF would amass a portion of the SSAELC fund's annual interest, falling within the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range. It states that this money would go towards financing "initiatives or organizations aligned with the CSU Position Book but that aren't necessarily Concordia-based."

It would also "accommodate costs needed by a Concordia University undergraduate student association in case of a binding strike mandate voted by said association," and provide "additional resources and to accommodate costs needed in case of a binding strike mandate approved by the membership at a duly convened Special General Meeting."

Aloyse Muller, external affairs and mobilization coordinator for the CSU, explained that the creation of the fund would alleviate the burden on the CSU's existing operating and mobilization budget.

"The CAF is something that is really lacking right now, at Concordia," explained Muller. "We have a very limited capacity to respond to emergencies."

He listed, for example, that the legal contingency portion of the fund is reserved solely for scenarios in which the "integrity of the CSU itself is being compromised by law." The CAF would broaden the CSU's ability to help students in need of legal aid.

Muller further explained that the mobilization and grant-funding aspect would allow for the CSU to help without taking money from the union's operations. "This gives us the flexibility of always having a little bit of cash," he stated. "So when a surprise hits, we are in a position of being able to respond to it."

This Week in News Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/news

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations makes a move towards increasing its fee-levy.

Montreal as a Hub for Activism in the African Diaspora

Concordia's Black Studies Conference Highlights the Life of Louise Langdon

MARION LEFÈVRE
@MARIONLFVR

A discussion on Montreal's importance as a centre for the African Diaspora came not a moment too early, taking place two days after Donald Trump's election as president of the United States—an event many qualified as a political earthquake.

The Nov. 10 lecture, presented by University of Illinois Associate professor in African American Studies Erik McDuffie, addressed the activist's role in cementing the city's Black activism community. The talk, titled "From Grenada to Montreal: Garveyism and the Diasporic Journeys of Louise Langdon," was organized by Black Studies at Concordia, a group calling for the creation of a Black Studies program at the university.

Langdon was well known as the mother of Malcolm X, but also as a long-standing vehement Garveyist activist. Garveyism is a stream of Black Nationalism, which stemmed from the thoughts of the historical Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican political leader. She traveled from Grenada to Montreal—where she met X's father—to Michigan. The main points of his ideology were pan-African unity and Black empowerment across the Western world.

"The key point here," McDuffie explained, "is that [Langdon's] story challenges the Canadian mythology, erasing Black people from Canadian history and giving an illusion of inclusion, as opposed to what is happening in the United States."

Langdon arrived in Montreal in 1917. She lived in Saint-Antoine—today Saint-Henri—

for three years. An active member of the still-existing Universal Negro Improvement Association, she helped strengthen and organize the Black community of Montreal, which amounted to approximately 230,000 persons, according to McDuffie.

Today, Montreal hosts the second largest African diasporic community in Canada. They began arriving in the city in the early 20th century. Three of the top five countries of origin, being the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon and Zaire, have French as sole or co-official language.

According to Concordia graduate Brenda Mae Paris, an activist and Montreal politician, the abundance of activists in Montreal created the ideal environment for the initiative to create a Black Studies program at Concordia.

"All study is Black study," said Nene Konaté, an organizer of Black Studies at Concordia. "It permeates the whole history of our countries. Whenever we analyze the Black subject, we have to destabilize academic narratives."

Langdon's life and struggle comes as an example of why academia should evolve. "Let me tell you something: schools like this one don't like bad public relations," McDuffie said. "All of you, as students, have way more power to change this than you imagine."

Langdon was essential to Montreal's Black community, through the Maison de l'Afrique Montréal, a promotional centre of African and Caribbean culture.

"We wanted to create a cultural space that allows Africans and Africa-lovers in Montreal to gather. Here, we organize exhibitions, book launches, conferences," said the centre manager Aboubakar Diawara. "We also have

another mission here, which is to link Canadian businessmen with African countries."

Black activism is very visible within the metropolis, but its dynamism depends on the community, Diawara said. The Burkinabe community is, to him, the one that focuses more on integration in Canada.

"They are trying to teach about their community, and to also teach within the community," he said. The community, for example, invites Burkinabe individuals to speak about climate change, Diawara elaborated.

The landscape and openness of Black activism grounds Langdon's work as an example. "It

is especially important to talk about Langdon today," McDuffie insisted. "Langdon provides a model for all of us to remain resilient, committed to Black freedom."

"She was targeted and broken down by State violence," he said, relating her life to the events unraveling worldwide. "Her official story stops when she was sent to a mental health hospital because she said she felt discriminated against, even though she got out and still lived more than twenty active years after that."

"Langdon was not a victim," concluded McDuffie, through a murmur of agreements. "She was a survivor."



Professor Eric McDuffie spoke of Louise Langdon's importance at Concordia on Nov. 10. MARION LEFÈVRE

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Game-designer Allen Turner discusses his tabletop game *Ehdrigohr*.

JASON EDWARD LEWIS

Playing in a Decolonized World

Tabletop Game *Ehdrigohr* Headlines Concordia's Second Future Imaginaries Lecture

EMILEE GUEVARA
@EMILEEGUEVARA

Giant galloping tarantulas, a war society of crows, and a world-devastating conflict known as "The War of Sorrows" are but a few distinctive features of Allen Turner's cutting-edge role-playing tabletop game, *Ehdrigohr*.

Ehdrigohr involves nine tribes waged in war across two continents, explained Jason Edward Lewis at the second lecture of the Initiative for Indigenous Futures Speaker Series on Friday.

Lewis, co-director of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace and host of the lecture series, invited game-designer Turner to introduce and explain the unique indigeneity of *Ehdrigohr*. In the days leading up to the lecture, Lewis and a small cohort had a chance to play the game.

"It is both authentically and fantastically Indigenous," Lewis said. "It's a way of imagining, not just alternatives, but re-imagining what our present is actually like and what it means."

Turner, who has lived his whole life in Chicago, identifies as Black, Lakota, and Irish. He created *Ehdrigohr* from a Lakota and North-African Indigenous perspective—something he wasn't able to do while working for corporate gaming organizations.

"I was just making stuff and it was getting less and less rewarding," Turner said. "I wanted something that was my own and that thing became *Ehdrigohr*, the role-playing game."

As a "survival horror game," *Ehdrigohr* infuses Indigenous ideology with inspiration drawn from creations like *The Walking Dead*, *I am Legend* and *Princess Mononoke*.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Turner worked closely with disenfranchised youth in Chicago through the American Indian Association. Drawing from his own experience, aspects of his game relate to chal-

lenges and barriers that people, especially marginalized communities, face daily. The game requires introspection and improvisation from participants, where players are required to create new identities and make decisions on how to deal with conflict.

"It is about struggling with being who you are, despite the big things going on around you," said Turner.

Ehdrigohr serves as an imagined escape from the otherwise inescapable realities of colonial relationships. "I didn't want a colonized world," Turner explained. In other games, native people are often represented as the weaker group in need of a saviour. In order to break this negative streak, Turner wanted natives within the cultural space of

Ehdrigohr to be considered powerful, capable and magical.

"The game is a human-centric world, but the vision of the world and the people is filtered through native ideals, as opposed to a European mindset," Turner said.

Consistent with many Indigenous traditions, an acute awareness of one's narrative is vital for surviving the game.

"The story of your people, where you've been and where you're going is very important," Turner clarified. But storytelling is just one Indigenous tradition present in the world of *Ehdrigohr*.

"Tribalism is the norm. There are tribal social structures, seen as civilization, not other things that have to be remedied, fixed

or educated," Turner further explained.

By exemplifying the power of the imagination and the potential of innovative game designs, *Ehdrigohr* makes the impossibility of decolonized realities possible.

Other essential features of the game include rites of passage, poetry, and surrender to inevitable change. Characters that players might encounter include monsters called "Shivers" that must be battled in the night, and spirits, such as one named Sorrow, that infect a young girl if she is forgotten for too long.

One of the most important objectives of the game is for players to survive dark and heavy winters, a reflection of forces that Lakota people, and Turner's own tribe, have faced for generations.

Within the game's experience, Turner revealed that "there's no wrong way to play," and plenty of room for innovation and creative collaboration. Some thematic hooks offer starting points, but do not restrict the player from transforming, changing and deconstructing scenarios and their outcomes.

Another important feature of Turner's imagined realm is that it is accessible and open to anyone interested in playing, not just Indigenous peoples. During the question and answer period of the lecture, a participant asked what it would be like for a table of non-Indigenous players to engage in *Ehdrigohr*.

"I want people to own the game," said Turner, as he encouraged participants to accept the major Indigenous lens of a multi-layered inter-connectedness, but to also reach into the traditions and cultures with which they're more familiar.

Those interested in learning more about or purchasing the game for play can find it on *Ehdrigohr*'s website.

Let the decolonized games begin.



EMILEE GUEVARA



Masses of art lovers gathered at the 2016 Expozine on the weekend of Nov. 12-13 to marvel at works by Montreal's independent art community.

KELSEY LITWIN

Welcome to the Zine Scene

Expozine Gives Artists the Exposure

JULIA MIELE
@THATJULIAMIELE

Église Saint-Denis was packed this weekend as people milled between tables upon tables of zines, poetry, graphic novels, and so much more. The Expozine scene was in full swing this past weekend.

Amidst the hustle and bustle, finding one of Archive Montreal's co-founders, Louis Rastelli, was a difficult task. One vendor selling zines full of poetry said to "keep an eye out for the guy that's constantly swiveling his head around the room."

Turns out that this description was completely accurate. Rastelli was constantly occupied, ensuring that the event ran as smoothly as possible.

All ten co-founders of Archive Montreal were small press zine-makers, poets and writers before organization's inception. Their mandate is to promote and preserve the independent arts milieu.

"We wanted to build an archive of all this stuff. We wanted to develop promotional projects such as Expozine," Rastelli said.

Today, Archive Montreal has archived thousands and thousands of these kinds of works. Although it has created several subsets, including Distroboto, Expozine is specifically for small press and publishers of graphic novels, poetry and short literature.

"If there aren't events like this, we just wouldn't know how many creators of this

work there really are," Rastelli said. "It's important that Expozine exists, so that artists have a place to show their work. Otherwise they may lose interest and no longer wish to continue publishing."

Rastelli admitted that a lot of people had doubted that Expozine would stick around for more than two or three years. This year was Expozine's fifteenth edition.

"The Internet was supposed to replace all of it, but it's really just complementary," he explained. "It can't replace actual print and art."

In fact, Rastelli had visited the Expozine website to check in on the web links of all of the publishers from a few years back only to find that a lot of the websites had been shut down. "That's a sign of how ephemeral the web is and the importance of actually making zines and books," he said.

Despite Expozine's success, they've been having issues with finding an appropriate venue that would be able to accommodate all of the vendors and guests. The size of the space isn't the only issue. The space where Expozine happened last year is literally falling apart. The future of the fair and virtually any other organization of Archive Montreal is dependent on finding the space.

"We can't just go on forever in the basements of crumbling churches," Rastelli stated, jerking his head towards a floor full of artists. "These people have put so much effort into their work and they deserve a better place."

Among these artists and writers was Jillian

Fleck, author of her first published graphic novel, *Lake Jehovah*.

Dealing with themes of breaking up, hooking up, feeling anxious and anticipating the end of the world, *Lake Jehovah* is a graphic novel that is definitely worth picking up for a good read, if only for its demons.

Jay, the main character of this story, experiences a traumatic breakup, where he predicts the apocalypse and soon after fall into a six-month coma. He wakes up only to realize that the world around him has changed, including his newfound fame as end-of-times prophet.

The bottomless lake in the story is the figure that drives the plot forward. "You're drawn to things that are probably not the best for you like bad relationships and people, and encounters," Fleck explained. "That kind of gravitational pull those things have on you is what the lake had on some of the characters in the story."

Lake Jehovah is full of the fear of abandonment and a heck of a lot of "I don't know." Because who the hell knows how to deal with difficult thoughts, right?

Fleck captured the abstract emotion of loneliness wonderfully in just her illustrations; words were unnecessary with the imagery displayed in Fleck's panels, creating an atmosphere that readers will feel whether they relate to the situation or not.

Fleck even inserted some of her personal experiences into this graphic novel.

"PJ Harvey was also a major influence for me while writing and illustrating this book,"

Fleck said of the musician. "Especially for the last third of it. She really illustrated what I was trying to say in the novel."

Originally from Calgary, Fleck was thrilled to be at Expozine. "I really enjoy how excited everyone is," Fleck said. "They're actually passionate about what they're seeing and wanting to both support and participate. To see a lot of connections being made."

Concordia student and illustrator Gabor Bata was also at Expozine, tabling and showing some of his work. He explained how Montreal doesn't have as many opportunities for illustrators and small press artists like the city of Toronto would have.

"I've been to a number of small press, indie comic conventions, like the Toronto Comic Arts Festival," Bata said. "Expozine gives people an outlet to find their footing in the world and make connections."

Bata noted how he had met several people at Expozine that he will most definitely work with in the future.

"Expozine sort of informs you on what people are flocking to in art and small press world, so it's insightful that way," Bata continued. As one of the creators behind the zine Totum, Bata pointed out some artists that gave him some new ideas for his own work.

"The point of Expozine is inclusion," Bata said. "I think they want to get the more inexperienced and newer artists running around in Montreal. Just shining a light on fresh voices."

THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 15 - Nov. 22

TU 15

Gentle Resonance Reading

A nice, friendly poetry reading courtesy of Adèle Barclay, Klara Du Plessis and former *Linkie* Alex Manley. They'll be reading their own poetry, but also some of their favourite works from other writers. Talk 'em up afterward! Make those poet connections.
Resonance Café • 5175A Parc Ave. • 6 p.m. // FREE

OPEN MIC at CAFE X

Comedy? Poetry? Music? Come perform whatever you want! The mic is yours!
Café X • 1395 Rene-Levesque Blvd. W. • 7 p.m. // FREE

WE 16

Tupperware Party - but with Books! at the Co-op Bookstore

Bring your own books, listen to pleasant music, and support our beloved indie Co-op bookstore! Be sure to RSVP on the Facebook event page, though.
Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore • 2150 Bishop St. • 6 p.m. // FREE

TNC Theatre Presents: *What the Fuck am I Doing Here?*

Learn about the anti-austerity situation taking place in our universities! Bring your guitar and take part in this interactive student performance.
Morrice Hall • 3485 McTavish St. • 8 p.m. // PWYC

TH 17

Vente de vinyle à 1\$ au CVM !

Oh my gosh!! Vinyls that are only a dollar each?? Haul ass and getcha some!
RDV - Radio du Vieux • 255 Ontario St. E. • 12 p.m. // FREE

Book Launch: Adèle Barclay, Aaron Boothby & Geneviève Robichaud

There will be reading by authors Adèle Barclay, Aaron Boothby, Geneviève Robichaud, with special guest Gillian Sze. Join in, discuss and ask your questions about the content!
Librairie Drawn & Quarterly • 211 Bernard St. W. • 7 p.m. // FREE

FR 18

Candyass - Book Launch w/ Nick Comilla

At this event, Nick Comilla will launch his debut novel *Candyass*, "a radical chronicle of queer love and desire among millennials."
Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore • 2150 Bishop St. • 7 p.m. // FREE

Is Feminism White?

Gather 'round and discuss the intersectionality and racial discrimination that's happening in ur province. Talk about how some feminist movements can be both inclusive and exclusive of certain minorities
Concordia University - Hall Building • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 1:30 p.m. // FREE

SA 19

Eat-Sleep-READ Used Book Sale!

The Co-op Bookstore is having a massive sale on their used books! 50 per cent off all of 'em. Select books will be available for purchase at way low prices OR completely free.
Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore • 2150 Bishop St. • 9 a.m. // FREE

Sunrise & Good People, Paint, Arms of the Girl, and Citylake

Canadian bands Sunrise & Good People, Paint, Arms of the Girl and Citylake are putting on some live shows! Jam out and have a drink.
Piranha Bar • 680 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 8:30 p.m. // \$7 (\$10 for 2)

SU 20

Trans Day of Remembrance 2016 // La Journée du souvenir trans 2016

A candlelight vigil will be held to remember our transgender loved ones that were lost due to transphobic violence this year.
Parc de L'espoir • 1294 Panet St. (Corner of Panet St. and Ste. Catherine St. E.) • 7 p.m. // FREE

MO 21

The Saddest Music in the World (2003) 35mm au Ritz

A screening of Guy Maddin's film, *The Saddest Music in the World*! Have a seat, order some drinks, and enjoy an interesting film.
Bar Le Ritz PDB • 179 Jean-Talon St. W. • 8 p.m. // \$10

TU 22

Law School of Rock

The Law students of McGill are casting aside their books and taking on some instruments. Go see what kind of musical talent they harbor.
Divan Orange • 4234 St. Laurent Blvd. • 7 p.m. // \$10

Massimadi : Projection du film *Moonlight* movie projection

This movie follows the story of a young man, Chiron, during the most important periods of his life while living in the 'War on Drugs' era in Miami. A radical portrayal on the modern day idea of masculinity and sexuality.
Cineplex Odeon Forum Cinemas • 2313 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 5:50 p.m. // \$7.25

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

Emo Night MTL: A Testimony

How a Non-Former Emo Had a Great Time at an Emo Event

CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

The first thing that struck me when my friend and I arrived at TRH-Bar for the first edition of Emo Night Mtl on Friday was the giant line of people waiting to get inside. Decked out in heaps of eyeliner, striped sleeves and swooshing side-bangs, it seemed we were in the right place.

I'll be honest. When I first agreed to attend this event on Facebook, I didn't think I would actually go—I didn't think anyone would, really. But there they were, loads of former or current emo kids waiting in line to re-live the early 2000's glory days.

The definition of emo culture is vague. Some view it as a combination of punk and hardcore, but with melodic and emotional aspects. It's both a music genre and a subculture, and is generally associated with celebrating and accepting sadness. As one former emo kid told me at TRH bar, "It was a lifestyle."

Dashboard Confessional's "Hands Down" was playing almost too loudly for me to hear our conversation when I approached Tamara Montenegro, a self-professed former emo-kid. She yelled in my ear that she came to Emo Night to remember all the good times she used to have back in the day, adding that she became friends with the person next to her through their shared interest in emo culture.

"I still listen to most of that music anyways," Montenegro said. "I guess we all grew up, but deep down we still all look back to those days."

Many of the attendees still listen to bands like Taking Back Sunday, Fall Out Boy, My Chemical Romance and Brand New. The crowd screamed along to the bittersweet lyrics



Emo lovers danced and moshed at TRH Bar on Friday, Nov. 11.

and moshed around to heavier songs.

So why don't we see emo culture in our daily lives anymore? Is it because we grew up, or are there young emos still looking for emotional fulfillment through angsty, melodic and impassioned music?

And why was everyone at the event closer to 30 than 15?

"I think things change," Montenegro said.

Ten years ago, emo vibes were everywhere. The turn of the millennium ushered in a new kind of angst, one where you didn't need to hide your feelings to be part of a scene—being emotional and wearing your heart on your sleeve, literally, was celebrated.

Where grunge provided a sarcastic, apathetic

approach to teen angst, emo took things to a new level. The early-to-mid 2000s provided a perfect breeding ground for music and a new culture that would eventually make the outsider a part of the mainstream.

Maybe that's what happened to emo culture: as soon as it became popular, it no longer held the same importance and sanctity in people's hearts, and so it slipped through the cracks. The 2010s came with a slew of new counter-cultures that took the reins away from emo culture.

This isn't the first time we've seen this phenomenon—some argue that The Clash stopped being punk the moment they signed to a major record label. For many counter-cultures, main-

stream means death, or at least comatose, for most of its supporters.

Even if they grew out of it, former emos are nostalgic about the time when they were fully immersed in the lifestyle. The Facebook event for Emo Night was rife with eager calls for a second edition.

Even I, probably the furthest thing from a former emo (I wore Hollister in 2006) had the best time screaming along to the words of My Chemical Romance's "Welcome to the Black Parade." The skateboarders shredding next to the Emo Night dance floor nodded their heads along to the music. When I woke up on Saturday, my friend texted me to say she was re-learning all the old Dashboard Confessional songs she used to play on her guitar. And I was still humming Dashboard Confessional days later.



PHOTOS CLAIRE LOEWEN

..... 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 Holzmann, 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 contributors need one more submission to be eligible: Pat Cahill, Cairo Justice, Willie Wilson

The following contributors need two more submissions to be eligible: Michael Bonero, Matt D'Amours, Michael Dutton, Sarah Jesmer, Solene Jonveaux, Kate Lindner, Sophie Marisol, Tristan Masson, Aislinn May, Jazmin Mehrmann, Simon New, Marcus Peters, Julien Rose-Johnson

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A Passion Like No Other

Former Impact Star Lloyd Barker Continues to Keep Soccer A Part of His Life

ALYSSIA RUBERTUCCI
@ALLYRUBERTUCCI

Lloyd Barker had small dreams as a child. Growing up in Harbour View, a community in Kingston, Jamaica, Barker lived around 200 metres from the city's main soccer pitch.

On game day, Barker would peer through his front gate to watch Harbour View Football Club players walk by, dressed in their blue and yellow gear with their cleats dangling over their shoulders.

"I dreamt of the day that someone would give me a jersey with my name on the back," said Barker over the phone.

In 1994, Barker accomplished that dream. Around 12 years after moving to Canada, Barker stood on the pitch of the National Stadium in Kingston, about to play for Jamaica's national team. Barker said there's no way to replicate the moment when 30,000 people are singing the national anthem. "Goosebumps," he said. "It's a real thing."

When Barker was 12 years old, he left Jamaica for Ontario to follow his father, Lionel, seeking work in a country full of opportunity. Jobs were scarce in Jamaica during the 1970s and '80s, which made more than 276,000 citizens leave the island.

"If you got an opportunity to leave, you run to the airport," said Barker.

Barker's late mother, Lorna, who stayed behind in Jamaica, urged him to leave.

"I remember my mom saying, 'hurry up and get out of here because we've got nothing here for you,'" he said.

Throughout his childhood, Barker's choices were limited. He never had three meals a day. For entertainment, there were sports, but only three to choose from: cricket, track and field, and soccer. Barker had a knack for soccer—or football as he prefers to call it—because he was small and quick.

Playing in an unorganized pick-up league, older players immediately recognized his talent and kept him involved.

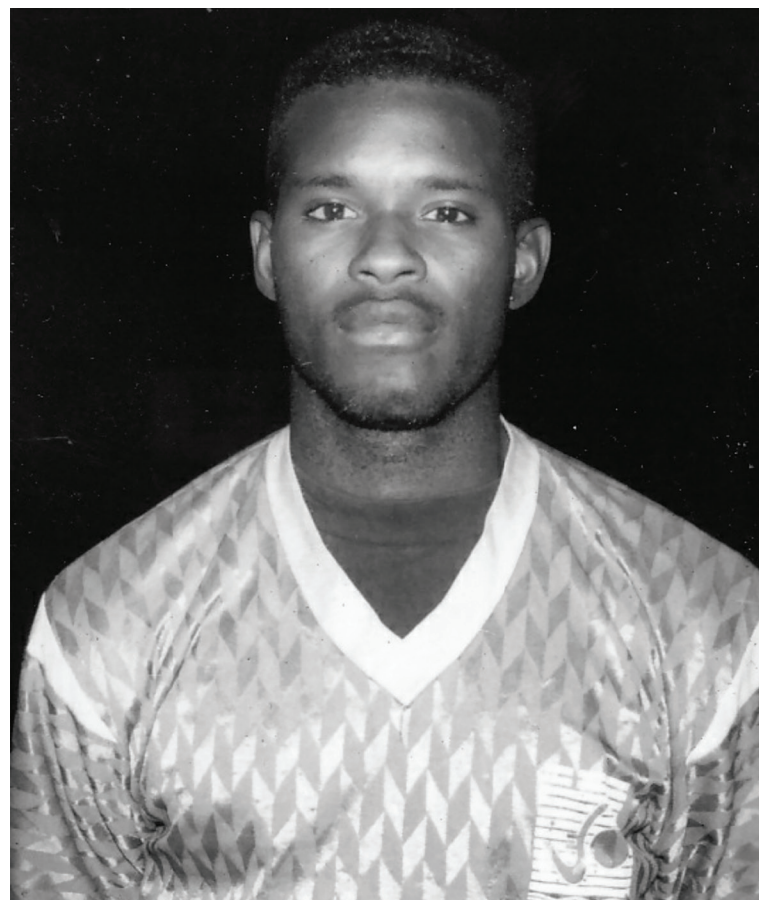
"Football saved my life," Barker said. "Otherwise, I'd probably end up like a bunch of my other friends, in deep trouble or not even alive for that matter."

Today, 45-year-old Barker resides in Montreal, where he's kept his love for the game alive. It was in this city that Barker made his mark on the soccer world. He played more than ten of his 15 professional soccer years with the Montreal Impact. The rest



Lloyd Barker is the third most capped player in Impact history.

PHOTOS COURTESY LLOYD BARKER



Barker rocks his Harbour View FC shirt way back in the 90s.

of his playing years were short stints with the Toronto Lynx, Harbour View F.C., and the Ottawa Intrepid, where Barker began his professional career at the age of 16, four years after receiving his first pair of soccer cleats.

Barker's humble beginnings in Jamaica carried on throughout his career. His former Montreal Impact teammate and current Concordia Stingers men's soccer head coach Greg Sutton, vouched for Barker's modest attitude.

"He's a genuine person, and a real humble person" Sutton said, "[Those are] qualities and traits you need to be successful in life."

During his time with the Impact, Barker played 190 games, the third most in the club's history. During those years, Barker helped Montreal win two league championships. As good as holding up hardware was, he said his proudest achievement was playing as a contributing player for as long as he did.

"It's difficult to get there, as a professional player, but it's even more difficult to stay there," Barker said.

Barker's playing career ended in 2004, but he still had plenty of employment options. In 1998, Barker suffered a severe neck injury that prevented him from playing his summer season and the FIFA World Cup, but

he had a record for being comfortable and eloquent in front of the camera, so CTV offered him the chance to commentate the international tournament (neck brace and all.) This was a springboard for Barker's future work in broadcast and he has recently been an analyst on CTV, Sportsnet and Fox Sports, to name a few.

Barker also writes a "pros and cons" column in the *Montreal Gazette* analyzing the Impact. "As a writer," Barker said, "it's important to be objective," but he can't hide the fact that he cheers for his former team.

"It's moments when Toronto FC scores to equalize in the 86th minute that I realize I still have strong ties to the heart with the club," said Barker. "I take no pleasure when I have to write something negative about the club that I played for more than ten years," he said, but he still does it when necessary.

With more than a decade since his retirement, Barker has remained extremely involved in the game. He took on various coaching roles as of 2004, notably as assistant coach of the Impact immediately after retirement and later for the Concordia Stingers' men's soccer team.

During Barker's coaching venture with Concordia, he brought on none

other than his former teammate and goalkeeper of the Impact, Greg Sutton, to help assist him as coach.

"[Barker] had developed trust in me and appreciated my experience and evaluation of the game, so he felt that I would be a good addition to help him in his coaching venture," Sutton said. "I learned a lot about coaching the game as well just through that experience."

Sutton also mentioned how the young players they coached were able to profit from witnessing Barker's passion for the game.

"It was an opportunity for kids to feel how much someone cares about a sport and if they have the kind of passion that Lloyd has for the game itself, you can really benefit from that as a player," Sutton said.

In recent years, Barker has made the development of youth his top priority, particularly by offering one-on-one, private training by parents who have requested it.

Barker has honed his ability to teach younger players with the same small dreams he once had.

In the spring of 2017, he will be launching a full-time business venture, a private training company to develop young talent.

"I'm always looking around the corner to see what's next," Barker said.

This Week in Sports Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

The Northern Arena eSports final at the Bell Centre drew hundreds of competitive gaming fans this weekend.

Mike Vitulano, a Quebecer in Manitoba

Manitoba Soccer's Appointment Links to Local Coaches Taking Their Talents Elsewhere

TRISTAN D'AMOURS
@TRISTANDAMOURS

On Nov. 1, Mike Vitulano, who served as assistant technical director at the Quebec Soccer Federation, was officially appointed as technical director of the Manitoba Soccer Association.

As technical director, Vitulano will oversee soccer operations across the province. The opportunity was appealing but he admits that it took a bit of time to make his mind for family reasons.

"From a [soccer] standpoint, it wasn't a tough decision because for me, it was a logical move up," Vitulano said. "But it's always difficult to make a decision like that. It's a life decision so I wanted to make sure that everyone surrounding me was okay with it."

Vitulano was contacted in May by former technical director Marinos Papageorgopoulos, who was leaving to take a position with the Vancouver Whitecaps of Major League Soccer. Both men met in Montreal in late June coming face-to-face for the first time.

"I ended up coming up [to Winnipeg] to visit with my wife to learn about the city and make sure what I was getting into," said Vitulano. "It took time to decide and we opted that it was a good choice."

The head coach of the Canadian futsal national team and friend of Vitulano's, Kyt Selaidopoulos, describes him as "one of the best in the business, with futsal and soccer." The news of Vitulano's departure didn't surprise him.

"We always knew that this was going to happen at one point, that it would be him leaving or I leaving," said Selaidopoulos.

His work as assistant coach of the national Canadian futsal team during its run in the 2016 CONCACAF Championship surprised many. Led by Selaidopoulos and Vitulano, the team upset the United States and came one win short of qualifying for the futsal world cup.

Selaidopoulos didn't consider his work with the national team the only boon to Vitulano's stock. He cited Vitulano not as an assistant but as a coach equal to him.

"It's his knowledge and his professionalism. You always surround yourself with professionals and people that are good in the things that you lack," said Selaidopoulos. "His pathway was ready long before our success with the [futsal national team]."

Vitulano thinks the international competition experience he gained is what he got the most from his time with the national team. He got a direct look at how teams from the rest of the continent operated.



Mike Vitulano has been representing the Manitoba Soccer Association since Nov. 1.

COURTESY PIERRE TURGEON, RADIO CANADA WINNIPEG

"You have discussions with coaches, you learn from it and you try to take two or three ideas and you say: 'This wouldn't be realistic for Canada, but this idea might work for us,'" said Vitulano.

Both men expect Vitulano to continue with futsal despite his new position. He believes that futsal—given the Canadian climate and many resources—can be a great tool for the youth to develop into more wholesome soccer players. The plan might take the back burner for now but both Selaidopoulos and Vitulano have been discussing the subject.

One of the appealing parts for Vitulano, however, was the fact that Quebec and Manitoba have very different soccer landscapes. While the two provinces are similar geographically, Quebec has 200,000 members in its soccer-playing ranks; Manitoba has about 16,000. "It's two different ballgames," explained Vitulano.

The structure to run Manitoba Soccer was put in place by former technical director Papageorgopoulos only two years ago. For context, in Quebec a structure was developed eight to ten years ago; part of Vitulano's former job

was to maintain it. For him, that is the nature of the challenge: coaching, education and adding to the province's structure.

"It allows me to come here and add ideas to it, refine it, maintaining the standards and to keep working on it to make it good on the long-term," said Vitulano. "These things are appealing because you see that there's a next level and it makes it interesting."

Quebecers Shining

The new position is a move up for Vitulano but it is also an opportunity for a Quebecer to take a higher position out of province.

He is not the only one to have jumped for a new challenge. David Cerasuolo, who had been coaching at the Quebec Soccer Federation's Centre National de Haute Performance, accepted in August an offer from the Vancouver Whitecaps.

The former Concordia Stingers women's soccer assistant coach has since been the head coach at the Whitecaps' academy centre in London, Ont. Unlike usual soccer jobs where you need to apply, Cerasuolo was referred to by a colleague and one day received a call from the Whitecaps.

"I appreciated the environment I was in Quebec but I was always looking for challenges out there, what can potentially be of interest," said Cerasuolo. "It's always nice to know that your name hits the radar and that a professional club is interested in you."

For Vitulano, the size of the Quebec soccer landscape—200 clubs spread throughout 18 regional associations—makes coaches desire higher positions.

"I think people from Quebec are able to go elsewhere because they are used to this big structure of regional associations and say: 'These are thing I learnt in Quebec, maybe we can't apply this and this, but we could definitely apply this and this,'" said Vitulano.

By seeing Quebecers taking on big roles in other provinces, it can be seen as a tip of the hat to the current level of coaching in the province. When looking for the best available, more employers turn towards Quebec's local coaches.

"Is it good? Yes. Because it shows that Quebec coaches are well prepared," said Selaidopoulos. "And the courses that we give here, like the technical director course, they're all big courses and they're very well structured."

Higher positions are rare commodities and not everyone can grab those. Looking elsewhere becomes more interesting.

Despite thinking that more Quebecers might rise to the top elsewhere, Selaidopoulos thinks that the Quebec Soccer Federation should look into keeping its local talent.

"I think that we, Quebec, should look at our plan and see how we can keep all these people in place with new challenges and new visions or new projects that could be interesting for coaches—even myself," said Selaidopoulos.

"I've been travelling around a lot and eventually maybe it will happen that even I will be leaving the province."

The call for opportunity is also a big aspect for coaches in a big federation. Having coaches chase opportunities may have a door-opening effect for other local coaches pursuing opportunities of their own.

"I think there will be more Quebecers that look elsewhere because of it's opportunity," said Vitulano. "You talk with new people, you get to work with new people, you impress new people, and hopefully it opens up more doors. That's the business."

The Economics of Fossil Fuel Divestment

Divestment Is Not Just Moral, It's Economically Smart

TRISTAN MASSON
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The earth's lifespan is thought to be as long as 4.6 billion years, while the human species' only a few hundred thousand years. Astrophysicist Carl Sagan famously put these numbers into perspective by organizing them into one solar year. The Big Bang kicks the year off; humanity only rears its head on New Year's Eve.

Divestment is a movement that seeks to pressure institutions to withdraw investment from the fossil fuel sector, in order to accelerate the transition to more responsible energy systems. The Divest Movement is global, led by 350.org and enlisting the support of over 600 institutions worth \$3.4 trillion and over 50,000 individual investors worth \$5.2 billion.

Some high-profile names—including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund—have divested from fossil fuels already. Many universities have joined the pack, with schools such as the University of Glasgow and the University of Copenhagen fully divesting. Other heavyweight schools such as Yale, Stanford and Oxford have some form of divestment underway.

Recently, the University of Ottawa nearly fully divested, but settled to “shift” fossil fuel funds. In 2014, Concordia made headlines for being the first Canadian university to create a Sustainable Investment Fund—worth \$5 million—to test the waters, as it were.

Nevertheless, no Canadian university has fully divested.

From Nov. 15-17, Concordians will decide whether or not to support the divestment of Concordia's endowment fund, which has over \$10 million invested in the fossil fuel industry. This decision shouldn't be taken lightly and has implications beyond simply supporting a brand of energy policy over another.

Thinking in Geological Time

Much of the world's fossil fuel reserves were formed roughly 300 million years ago, when coal forests died out and formed coal deposits. These forests actually contributed to global cooling in their heyday. Industrialists started unearthing their sediments during the Industrial Revolution. Since then, fossil fuel consumption and ensuing green house gas emissions have been rising at rates unmatched by

most other global trends—causing global warming.

From this perspective, modern climate change will be recorded as a mere slice of Earth's history. Yet to humanity, the consequences aren't minimal.

From the first one 450 million years ago to the disappearance of dinosaurs in the Cretaceous, Earth has persisted through five mass extinctions. Environmental scientists are warning that the sixth is underway.

We need to remember that history is not just a thing of the past. When we reconsider our position in the grand scheme of things, we realize we participate in its composition. We are the future's history. Let's act like it.

Economics and the Environment

Economics as its own discipline only emerged in the 20th century. Before that, the study of resource allocation fell under the auspices of Political Economy. In other words, the discipline is relatively young.

Likewise, many of the environmental sciences that underpin recent environmentalism gained importance in the mid-20th cen-

tury. One popular example is Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, which revealed the damaging effects of pesticides on ecosystems.

These developments helped us build an understanding of our place in the world, and highlight the need for renewed effort to live more harmoniously.

With this in mind, divestment is an expression of how we choose to relate to nonhuman environment. It's easy to consign the nonhuman world to the category of simple resources for our consumption. It's harder to find a more ethical way of relating to this environment.

Traditional economists would typically shriek reading this kind of argumentation, suggesting it fails to consider the virtues of markets and of economic rationality. To some extent that may be true, as I can't say the doctrinal aspects of some economic theories resonate with me.

Economists neglect to study how their discipline affects our perception of the world. As Michael Sandel, professor of philosophy at Harvard, writes in *What Money Can't Buy*, “when we decide that certain goods may be bought and sold, we decide, at least implicitly, that it is appropriate to treat them

as commodities, as instruments of profit and use.”

Deciding that the world and everything within it can be appropriated, commodified and traded comes with consequences. It may in fact be our undoing over time.

The Promises Beyond the Question

Two kinds of promises underwrite the divestment question. First, if our economic thinking doesn't heed the warnings of environmental scientists, this may stunt the prosperity of future generations.

Writing for the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change, economist Nicholas Stern cautioned that climate change poses costs in the years to come. Depending on the risks taken into account, these could range from five to 20 per cent of world production.

In the late 1990s, Robert Constanza, an ecological economist at the Australian National University, examined what is commonly termed ecosystem services—or, the natural functioning of the environment, such as providing water supply and soil. His research estimated the global value of these naturally occurring

“services” at \$33 trillion annually, and recently updated this number to \$125 trillion.

The second promise is a hopeful one. Global employment in the clean energy sector is on a constant rise. In 2014, direct employment in the clean energy sector outnumbered that in the oil and gas sectors in Canada—even before the fossil fuel sector plunged to unusually low price levels. In the U.S., jobs in the solar sector alone outnumber those in the fossil fuel sector.

By the same token, the International Energy Agency reported that in 2015 the renewable energy sector surpassed coal in global electricity production—which made it the most important supplier worldwide. The IEA also reported that this sector is set to be the fastest growing in the years to come.

The question we now face is how to move forward. Earth's geologic record is characterized by mass extinctions and consequent adaptations. Science suggests this pattern is repeating itself, aggravated in large part because of us and our collective activity.

Like a New Year's party, the countdown has begun. Let's do something before the time runs out.

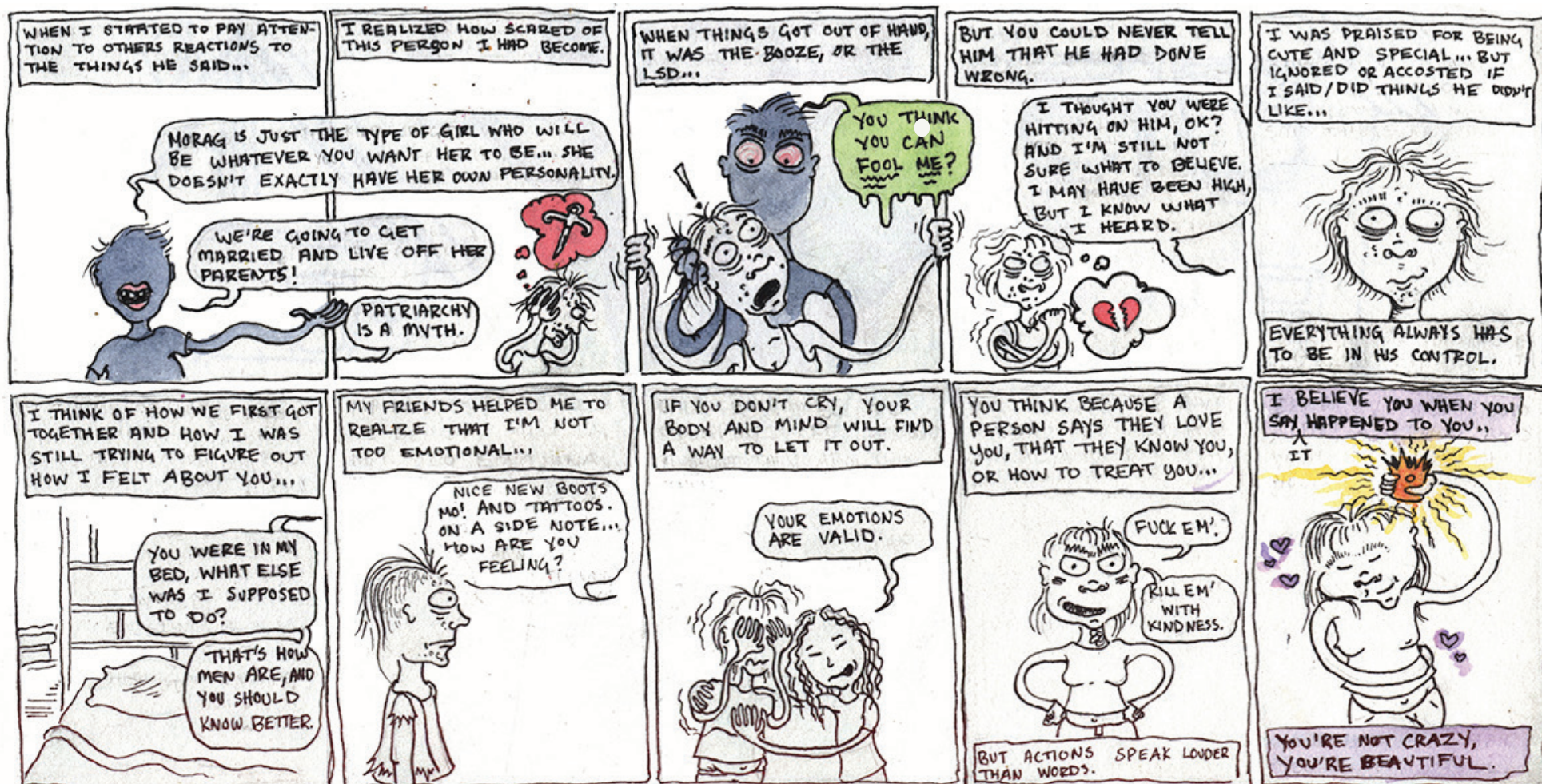


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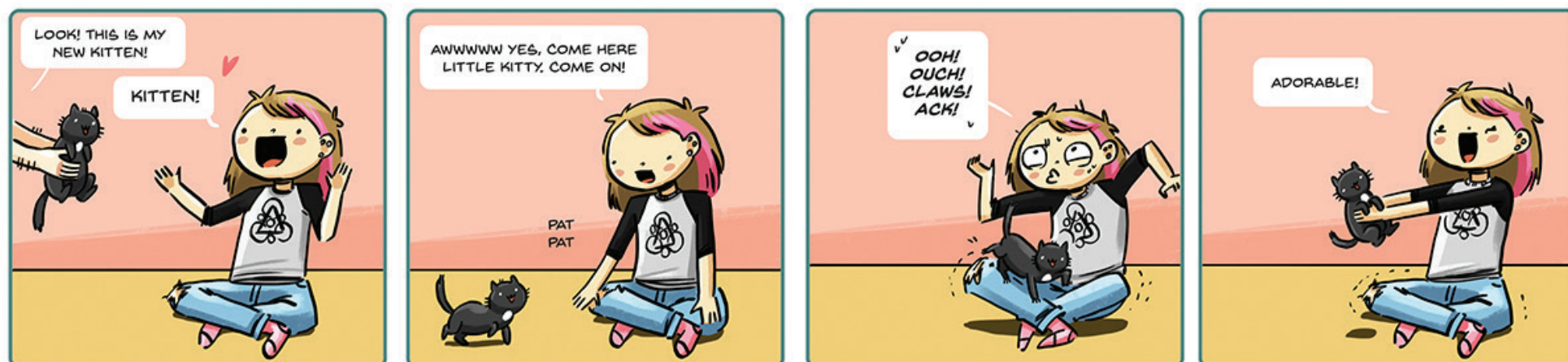
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To defeat Trump, we need to advance an agenda that's based on real justice, not far-right nationalism.

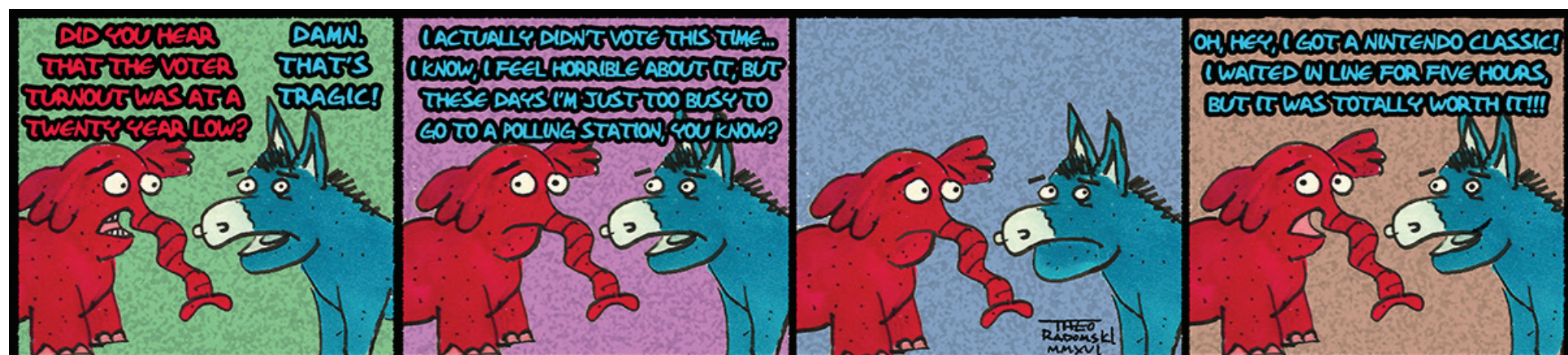
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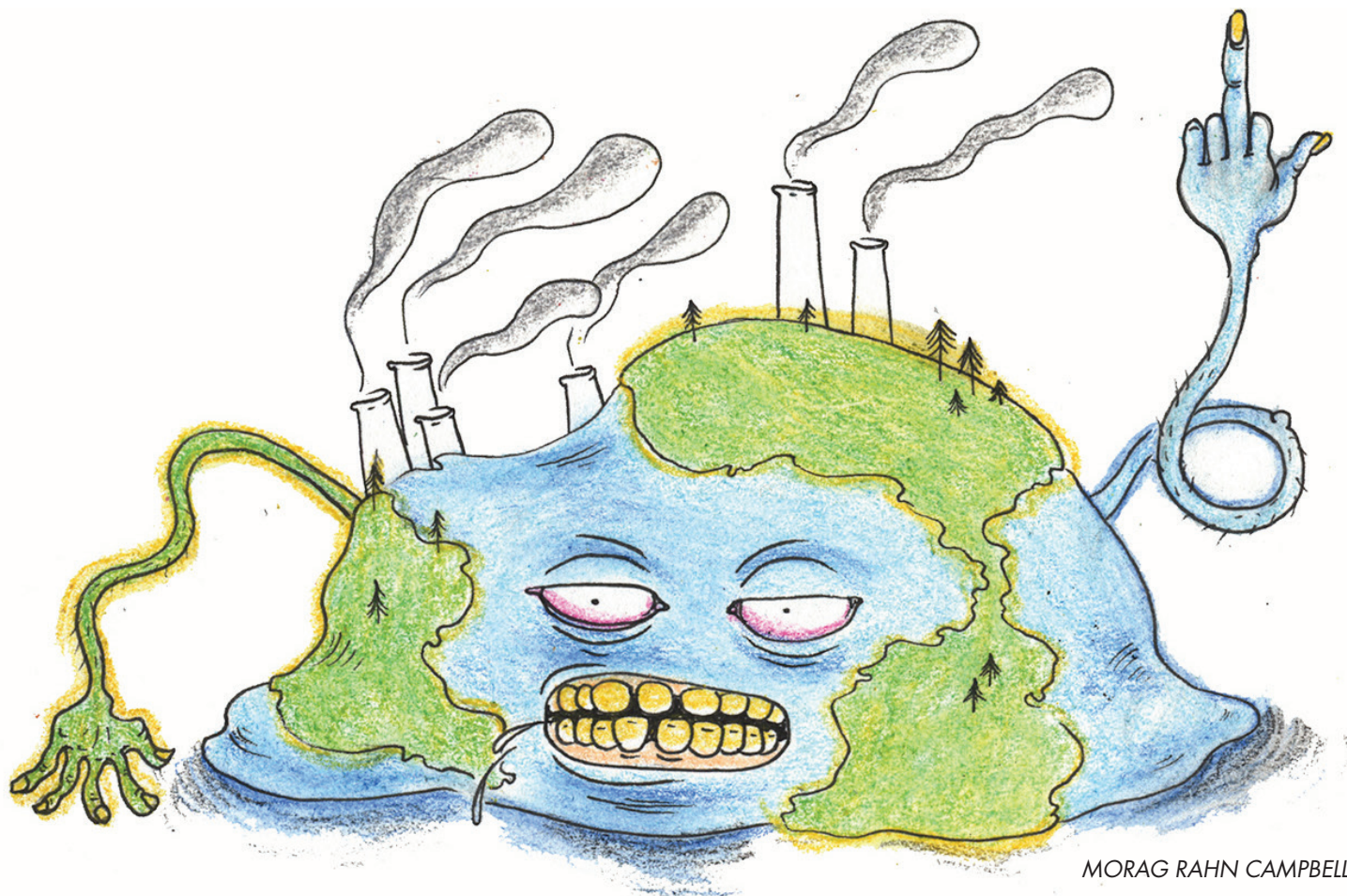


Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



Hastily Put Together by Theo Radomski @flannelogue





MORAG RAHN CAMPBELL

EDITORIAL

How We're Voting in the CSU By-Election

From Nov. 15-17, Concordia's undergraduate students will vote on a number of referendum questions and new councillors at the Concordia Student Union. We at *The Link* believe it's important for you, the reader—who's probably an undergrad at Concordia—to understand the implications of each question. Here is our editorial team's stance on each of them.

Divest Concordia: Vote "Yes"

This question asks undergraduate students if they agree with Divest Concordia's demand that Concordia remove all its investments from fossil fuel industries and reinvest in a socially and environmentally responsible way.

But wait, there's more—another referendum question asks something very similar: whether Concordia students mandate the CSU to actively support the fossil fuel divestment campaign until the university commits to full divestment from these industries.

We fully support both these initiatives because burning fossil fuels is a detriment to our environment. They release carbon dioxide and other gases that trap heat within the Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming. If global temperature rises 2 C above pre-industrial times, we will be past the point

of no return—cities could begin irretrievably submerging—according to former NASA scientist James Hansen.

While we acknowledge that these are important initiatives and encourage students to vote "Yes" on both, we wonder why the CSU split the issue into two very similar questions. Both ask for support for divestment initiatives from the student body. Why not just merge them into one?

QPIRG Concordia Fee Levy Increase: Vote "Yes"

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia wants eight extra cents per credit to offset administrative and operational expenses, which includes its high downtown rent. QPIRG has almost 30 working groups for which they can provide limited funding—ranging from a childcare service for public events to an initiative that collects and distributes books for incarcerated people.

In its last fiscal year, the research group could only distribute approximately \$22,000 to all these working groups and other local organizations that applied for funding. They also recorded almost the same amount in a net loss. That's bad news.

Often times, the university setting can feel

insular, with students getting too caught up in the minutiae of their own politics and experiences. QPIRG helps address this by forming one of the main bridges between Concordia and the broader Montreal community.

With a space downtown open to anyone and a diligent staff that works to connect to local groups that serve and empower the marginalized and underrepresented, we believe supporting an increase to QPIRG Concordia's fee levy is beneficial to all. We'll be voting "Yes" on this question.

Amendment to Special Bylaw I: Undecided

The amendment to the CSU's Special Bylaw I, which details the division of the CSU's \$3.80 fee-levy, would mandate the implementation of a new pool of money called the Community Action Fund. Instead of relying on the CSU's operating and mobilization budgets, in case of emergencies, the CSU would have a sort of "rainy day" budget that it could pull from. In theory, this would further allow the student union to help student groups in need of legal aid and finance projects and groups that they say fall in line with their positions book.

The bylaw will also mandate that the fund supplement costs surrounding student

associations that vote for binding strike mandates—in other words, it would set up a strike fund. It's great that the university's student union will defend the rights of students to collectively make decisions, but we wonder why the existing mobilization budget cannot properly fund these campaigns. The total allocation for the mobilization budget this academic year was \$50,000.

There will probably be near-future circumstances where the addition of the Community Action Fund will be beneficial. We don't doubt this. Having said that, it seems plausible that the CSU could better budget its existing funds.

The CAF will be created from the financial interest accrued from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund—and will max out at \$75,000 each year. This money should be spent wisely. With many space projects in the works, like the new student daycare and housing, and recent flirtations with possible lawsuits against the university itself, the CSU must balance dipping into SSAELC fund and using its own operational budget. Creating an entirely new budget, albeit without newly collected fees, may not be the best solution.

We are undecided on this question.

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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.

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.

Here are the people running:

Vince Morello (News)

Miriam Lafontaine (Assistant News)

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.

If you have any questions or story ideas, email managing@thelinknewspaper.ca