

# THE LINK



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# So Longinotti

Former CSU Finance Coordinator Accused of Having Problematic Behaviour

VINCE MORELLO  
@VINNYMORELLZ

On April 1, 2016, the *Act Together* slate won all the executive seats in the Concordia Student Union general elections. In the eight months since the elections, the team has been acting together. But now, it's minus one member: the now-former Finance Coordinator and Reggie's board President, Adrian Longinotti.

Six months after the June 1 beginning of *Act Together's* mandate, on Saturday, Nov. 19, Longinotti sent an email to the executive team saying that he would be taking an indefinite leave of absence. He became unreachable on Facebook, text message, email and Slack, a group messaging service, according to CSU Academic and Advocacy Coordinator Sophia Sahrane.

Later that day, he sent a letter indicating that he would be resigning from his position as the President of the board at Reggie's.

On Sunday, the CSU executive team sent a letter to Longinotti demanding he step down from his position as the finance coordinator of the CSU. He then handed his resignation to Caitlin Robinson, chairperson of the CSU.

*The Link* reached out to Longinotti multiple times but he could not be contacted by press time.

"Together we have reached many mile-

stones to this point, however personal reasons and focus on overall wellbeing necessitate that I vacate my position and focus on improving my studies and career," he wrote in his resignation letter.

The resignation comes after multiple instances of Longinotti violating CSU values, for example "anti-gender based violence and anti-oppression clauses," according to a statement signed by the entire executive team.

On Nov. 17, a situation arose at Reggie's, the Concordia student bar, when a man, identified as a friend of Longinotti's who has been accused of spiking drinks, came into the bar. Lana Elinor Galbraith, Sustainability Coordinator of the CSU, immediately alerted the staff.

They reacted in accordance with their Safer Space policy, according to Jessica Bortnik,

Assistant Manager, and Melanie Desrosiers, General Manager of Reggie's. The policy is to make sure the bar stays safe. Anyone who is being verbally or physically abusive will be removed from the premises.

The man is now officially banned from Reggie's.

"Our only concern was the safety of the patrons in the bar at the time. The staff reacted based on what they learned in their mandatory trainings. We made sure to stay true to our 'No Bullshit Policy,'" Desrosiers and Bortnik added in a joint statement to *The Link*.

Although the police became involved after campus security called them, no arrests were made.

This was not the first case where Longinotti would invite this friend to CSU events around campus and Reggie's, despite multiple requests from the bar's general manager and CSU executives.

In the team's statement, they claimed that this behaviour was "prioritizing and protecting a friend rather than the safety of students on campus."

This was the last straw, according to CSU General Coordinator Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis.

Sahrane said that Longinotti had been "transphobic [and] queerphobic over and over again" throughout his whole time as an executive.

In an incident in August, Longinotti allegedly made fun of non-binary gender identities at Reggie's. When a CSU staff member told him to stop, Sahrane said he continued. Despite being called out by his co-executives, his behaviour did not change, she said.

The CSU would

attempt to address the situation by holding an open discussion.

"We try to not let it go any further, [but] it did because there's never any acknowledgment of wrongdoing on his part," Sahrane said.

In another incident, she said that Longinotti asked the women on the executive team, including herself, Galbraith, and Rachel Gauthier, the Student Life Coordinator, for more detailed breakdowns of their budgets.

The men on the executive team, Aloyse Muller, External Affairs Coordinator, Rami Yahia, Internal and Clubs Coordinator and Marcus Peters, Loyola Coordinator, were exempted from similar demands.

Efforts were made to try and to talk to Longinotti about his behaviour during executive meetings and multiple executives claimed to have had one-on-one talks with him, but nothing changed.

"Then, it was for little things," Sahrane said. "We're just exasperated, we're drained. It's so much work and so much emotional labour for everyone in the team."

The group eventually made a collective decision to have Longinotti resign from his position.

"I think you try and work through things hoping that people will learn and be receptive," Marshall-Kiparissis added. It got to a point, she explained, where the executive team realized they were not getting through to Longinotti.

Before the CSU general elections last March, the *Act Together* slate was created to run for all executive positions. Muller said that when he was helping to put a team together, he approached current CSU councillors.

"He was a councillor. You need to have some kind of knowledge of the CSU," Muller said. "Being a councillor is definitely a good source of experience and knowing how this works."

At the time Muller said he did not notice anything that would indicate his future problematic behaviour.

"We know that he was a part of a pretty bro-y gang, but we didn't really know to what extent," Galbraith later added.

Now without a finance coordinator, the CSU executive team will be splitting Longinotti's former duties among themselves until they appoint someone new. Marshall-Kiparissis will recommend a councillor for the position and then the appointment will be voted on at a future council meeting.

**WE'RE JUST EXASPERATED, WE'RE DRAINED. IT'S SO MUCH WORK AND SO MUCH EMOTIONAL LABOUR FOR EVERYONE IN THE TEAM.**

—SOPHIA SAHRANE, CSU ACADEMIC AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR



Adrian Longinotti ran for the position of CSU Finance Coordinator in March.

COURTESY ACT TOGETHER





Is this the last we'll see of outdoor rinks like this? This one is at Trenholme Park, on the corner of Park Row St. and Sherbrooke St.

JOSHUA DE COSTA

# Global Warming: This Generation's Grinch

## Topsy-Turvy Temperatures Could Turn Outdoor Skating Rinks Into Swimming Pools

JOSHUA DE COSTA  
@JOSHUADECOSTA21

When Krzysztof Kmiecik first opened Loyola's outdoor skating rink in February 2014, he never thought that this year might be its last.

"A lot of work goes into setting up a rink," said Kmiecik, community programming coordinator at Concordia's Department of Recreation and Athletics. "And when the weather is not permitting, it almost seems like a waste of time."

But it hasn't always been that way.

Three years ago, the winter provided many opportunities for outdoor skating, Kmiecik said, but recently, those chances have evaporated. "Last year, between the rain, sun, cold days, warm days, we lost a lot of water and the ice wasn't as strong. There were only a couple of skating days outside."

According to Patrick Boivin, director at Concordia's Department of Recreation and Athletics, the department made the initial investment—primarily the wood and labour—when the rink was first built three years ago.

Boivin said the majority of the material is still there, waiting for students to go forward with the initiative.

However, "knowing what the temperature was last year, I don't think there is an intention of having the rink out this year," said Kmiecik.

Today, the effects of climate change on outdoor rinks extend far beyond those felt

at Loyola's campus. In early November, the City of Montreal revealed a three-year plan to spend \$7.3 million on outdoor refrigeration systems to preserve its skating rinks. The city maintains about 275 skating and ice rinks, some of which are refrigerated.

Outside Montreal, outdoor skating rinks across Canada—long a centrepiece of North American culture and identity—risk being washed away by warmer climates and unpredictable weather.

And this shouldn't be news.

In 2012, Damon Matthews, a climate scientist at Concordia, worked alongside two McGill researchers to study global warming's effects on building outdoor skating rinks in Montreal.

Their studies revealed that to form the ice needed to build a rink, the air temperature must remain below 5 C for at least three consecutive days. Climate change, however, threatens to disrupt the temperature's consistency.

Matthews' study further showed that although the skating season is starting at the same time it did more than 55 years ago, it's ending much sooner—by as many as 15 days in some cases.

"Winters have warmed by about three degrees over the last 50 years and they're anticipated to keep doing so," Matthews said. "I'd say if temperatures continue to rise at the rate that they have been for the last couple of decades, we won't be able to build [outdoor] rinks within two decades in Montreal."

Beyond Canada's borders, the consequences of global warming are direr than the loss of outdoor hockey and skating rinks.

"It's very likely that coral reefs may not survive the amount of warming projected over the next 50 years," Matthews said. "Sea levels will rise, extreme weather events will increase in severity and frequency, leading to potential for mass migration from vulnerable countries to less vulnerable countries."

"But here in Canada, [outdoor hockey] is something that people care about and it's something that will likely be lost if we continue the way we're going," he added.

Four years ago, when Matthews first concluded his study on global warming's effects on outdoor rinks, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian* and the *National Post* reported his findings. Today, with time slowly running out, his message remains the same—if not more urgent.

"We need to get on with decarbonizing our energy system, and to stop producing greenhouse gases," he said. "That's the big global challenge that will minimize the effects of climate change in general."

Last month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a step toward addressing climate change in Canada, announcing that provinces must adopt a carbon-pricing scheme before 2018 or the federal government will impose one for them.

The root of the problem needs to be addressed, Matthews said, instead of covering

the problem with costly band-aid solutions. The current stopgap proposed by the city—refrigeration systems for outdoor rinks—may extend the skating season, albeit at a cost to taxpayers. Dimitrios Jim Beis, member of Montreal's executive committee responsible for Sports and Leisure, told CBC earlier this month that he estimates each rink to cost between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

"It's obviously a very expensive procedure," said Matthews. "And there's only so much you can adapt to."

Today, countries across the world are scrambling to adapt. In October, Canada joined more than 60 countries that have officially ratified the Paris Agreement—a commitment to curb emissions and prevent global temperature from rising more than two degrees celsius.

Without real changes to suppress greenhouse gas emissions, however, rising temperatures could become the norm. This year, Montreal experienced its hottest summer on record. And on Saturday, Santa Claus rode down Ste. Catherine St. for his annual Christmas parade in a one horse open sleigh in 14 C.

The effects of global warming are creeping up on us, Matthews said. "There'll be a gradual increase in the frequency of really bad skating seasons and eventually we'll get to a point where the bad skating season is the norm and it becomes not worthwhile to build [the outdoor rinks] at all."



# New Sustainability Major on the Table

## 45-Credit Program to Offer Courses on Policy, Social Transformation and Diversity

**SALIM VALJI**  
@SALIMVALJI

The Sustainability Action Fund hosted a brainstorming session on a proposed 45-credit Leadership in Sustainability major at the Hive Co-op Café Thursday night.

Fuelled by wine, snacks, markers, and paper, attendees broke into small groups to talk about what they wanted to learn about, and their expectations of the new major.

The event was the latest step of a multi-year process in conjunction with Concordia University's 2012-2016 academic plan. According to the SAF, the lack of course options on environmental sustainability partially motivated the creation of the major.

In 2014, the SAF commissioned a curriculum report that found that of Concordia's 2,129 courses, just 150—amounting to seven per cent—contained some sustainability content with much of it concentrated in 300- and 400- level classes. Social sciences offered the most “sustainable” courses, with 16 per cent, while the humanities had the least, at a little under three and a half per cent.

“In many ways Concordia is behind the curve in terms of sustainability-oriented education,” said Christina Bell, sustainable curriculum project coordinator at SAF, and an author of the above report.

“Schools like the University of Waterloo

have been dedicated to offering Sustainability education for a number of years. Closer to home, McGill offers several interesting sustainability programs as well.”

The University of Waterloo offers several programs related to sustainability. Its School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability has undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral opportunities. Its professor Jennifer Clapp was recently named Royal Society of Canada Fellow.

Closer to home, McGill has its Sustainability, Science & Society Interfaculty Bachelors of Arts and Science Program. It centers on three thematic pillars: science and technology; economics, policy, and governance; and ethics, equity, and justice. McGill's degree prepares its graduates to work in the public sector, for NGOs, and in consulting.

While Concordia has courses related to environmental sustainability, it lacks the concrete curricula, learning objectives and infrastructures of Waterloo and McGill.

The new major is being created in collaboration with the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability. The college currently offers a minor in diversity and the contemporary world and one in sustainability studies. The courses offered this past semester include LOYC 240: Global Environmental Issues and Ecological Justice and LOYC 340: Culture and Communication.

“This major will feature LOYC courses and

draw on the expertise of the college in order to be a success,” Bell said.

The proposed leadership in sustainability major would be a very small program, with just 30 students, and would require students to take either another major or minor from a different university program.

“This program should attract students who are looking to have a broad and holistic understanding of where social, environmental and economic issues overlap,” she said. “It will have a focus on developing excellent communication and critical thinking skills.”

The major's 12-credit core would include a 200-level Loyola College course called “Approaching Sustainability.” The foundation level, also consisting of 12 credits, would consist of one biology and one philosophy course, and two courses from the Geography, Planning & Environment Department.

There would be three credits in both the methods and communications groups of courses and then 15 credits of electives. The potential elective courses are divided up into three categories, policy, governance and business; social transformations and communications; and society, culture, and diversity.

In May 2014 the SAF hosted a workshop to design the potential curriculum. Sustainability experts were brought in to speak, and participants had the chance to design their “dream courses.” These ideas were considered

in the creation of the curriculum.

The program's goal is to prepare students for both the working world and other educational opportunities.

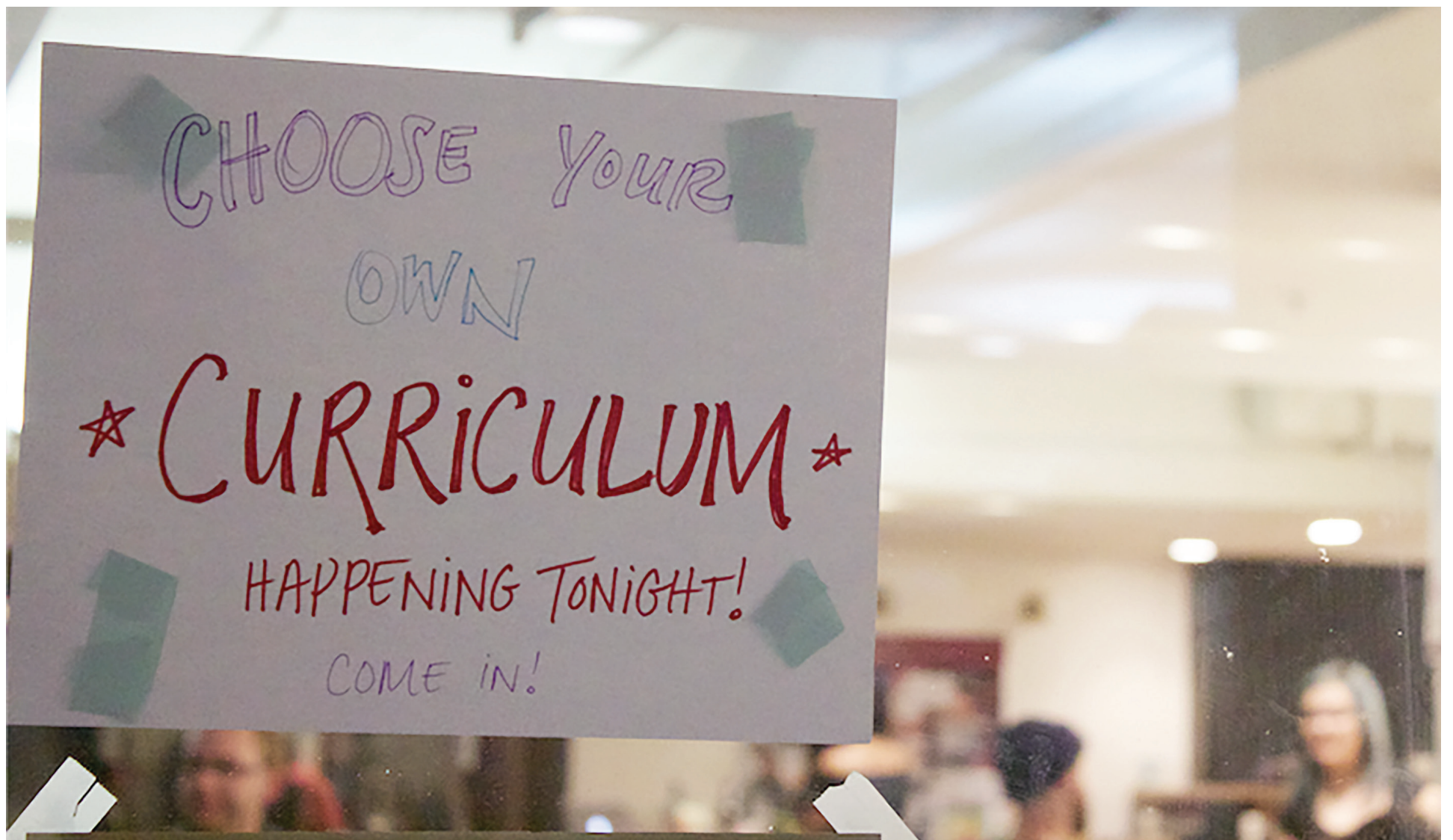
“We are designing the program so that students who wish to continue into graduate school will be set up to do so,” Bell said. “Students who wish to end their university education after their undergraduate is complete will be able to have basic critical thinking, communication and research skills to be effective in their workplace with a sustainability mindset.”

While the sustainability major's structure has been created, the work is far from over.

The process of creating a new university major involves 15 steps and often takes several years. The first part is a letter of intent that indicates that the new program supports the overall goals of the university and provides value to students. Following approvals by the provost and the dean of the faculty, the new program proposal is created. This proposal requires a curriculum, a financial statement and evidence of learning or interdisciplinary collaboration. Concordia Senate needs to present final approval.

Because the content of the major's courses has yet to be determined, students won't be seeing the program for at least a couple of years.

“There is a lot to think about and that's what the team of faculty, staff, and student representatives working on this project have been up to for quite some time,” Bell said.



The Sustainability Action Fund held a curriculum planning workshop in The Hive Co-op Café on Thursday, Nov. 17.

SALIM VALJI

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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](mailto: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, Pat Cahill, Tristan D’Amours, Joshua De Costa, Ocean DeRouchie, Michael Eidelson, Josh Fischlin, Nico Holzmann, Cairo Justice, 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, Willie Wilson

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Diahara Traore, Ida Ngueng Feze, Naïma Hamrouni, Ryoa Chung, Chantal Maillé, Sonia Ben Soltane and Leïla Benhadjoudja formed a panel at Concordia on Friday, Nov. 18.

SHARON YONAN RENOLD

# Polished Accents and Pulled-back Hair

## Concordia Panel Explores Feminism's Whitewashed History

SHARON YONAN RENOLD  
@RENOLDSHARON

Ida Ngueng Feze doesn't identify as a feminist. As a woman of colour and powerhouse lawyer at McGill's Department of Human Genetics, Centre of Genomics and Policy, this may come as a shock.

But Ngueng Feze is not the only one. After all, how can one identify as feminist without ignoring the racism in the movement's history?

How can you root for women's rights, gender equality and female empowerment and not identify with a movement which advocates for what feminists consider to be a simple and basic element of human morality?

Feminism is often associated with public figures like Amy Schumer and Lena Dunham. These women are criticized for not representing feminism as applicable to all people regardless of race, gender or religion. Their feminism is often called "white."

The truth is, white feminism goes so much deeper than that, and is much older than it seems. Women of colour have been acknowledging this issue for decades. Research on the subject has been conducted since the end of the 1960s.

"While doing my presentation I was reading a very old paper from Chandra Mohanty and she was basically saying the same thing [that I was saying]," explained Sonia Ben Soltane, a researcher on North African

immigration in Quebec. "We are actualizing something very old."

Concordia University hosted a panel to discuss research compiled from the book *Le sujet du féminisme, est-il blanc?* last Friday. The book is a collection of studies carried out by the six panelists, including Ngueng Feze and Ben Soltane. The research details how feminism continues to exclude women of colour, or relate to their struggles on an international scale.

If the turnout of the conference was any indication of how the subject is gaining traction in the public sphere, there may be room for optimism. Audience members crowded into a conference room in the Henry F. Hall Building on Concordia's downtown campus, taking up all available space. Some stood in the hallway outside, others sat on the floor. Students from universities across the city attended, some to share their own experiences, others just to listen and learn.

Quebec has quite a complicated history with white feminism.

The right to vote remained the main focus of the feminist movement in Quebec for the first half of the 1900s. Women gained the right to vote at the federal level in 1917, and the rights to vote and run in Quebec provincial elections in 1940. Women of Indigenous descent, however, didn't receive that right until years later—as late as 1969 in Quebec.

In Quebec today, the provincial government

calls for the integration of new immigrants. While it markets this concept as "being knowledgeable about the values of Québec society and conform their behaviour to those norms," the idea goes much further, explained Naïma Hamrouni, another panelist from Université Laval's Department of Political Science. It's an idea that follows women into the political world by dictating how they should look, act and speak in order to thrive professionally. It creates an image that women must strive to attain.

Hamrouni revealed how the accepted view of integration may be dangerous. By encouraging this idea, many women are forced to modify themselves to appeal to the overwhelmingly white population that makes up the Quebec political sphere. It demands conformity instead of acceptance.

"They have to polish their accents, change their attitudes, and change themselves in order to be accepted in the male, white world of politics," she explained. "In a way, they have to whitewash themselves."

Hamrouni argued that a quick look at the makeup of the Quebec National Assembly points to this fact. She explained that women represent barely more than a quarter of its 121 members.

"And guess how many women of colour there are," she continued. There is just one.

Whitewashing is also manifested through the lack of acceptance for Black women's natural hair, Ngueng Feze explained. During the

conference, she recalled how her own experience inspired her to launch an investigation into how systemic racism forces Black women to modify their natural hair to conform to white beauty standards.

"When I came to Quebec as a first generation immigrant about seven years ago, I had natural hair," she explained. "I went into the law faculty at the Université de Montreal and a lot of people would come to me and say that I was courageous for having my hair out. I had professors even tell me that it was their first time having a student with natural hair."

Ngueng Feze continued to explain that amidst the rising discussions of acceptance for Black women's natural hair, its presence in the media and political sphere is lacking.

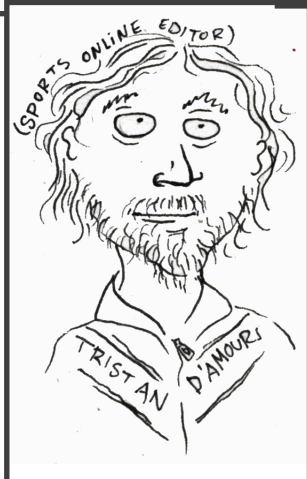
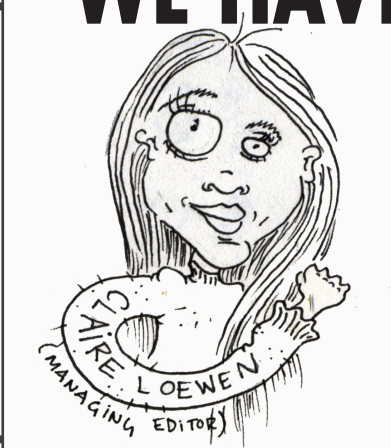
"There are cases everywhere of people being fired from their jobs for having natural hair," she pointed out. "Many Black women fear not being able to get a job, not because of their qualifications, but because of their appearance and particularity of their hair."

Despite what they describe as white feminism's ugly history, the panel itself may be an indication of how these subjects are gaining traction in feminist conversation.

"I think there has been a big change," said Leïla Benhadjoudja, another panelist and a University of Ottawa professor. "If this same panel was held five years ago, I don't think the response in the auditorium would be the same."



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STILL FROM LE CLITORIS BY TRAVERSY

# Le Sommet d'Animation Montreal

## Animation Festival Featuring ConU Alumni Kicks Off this Week

**NINON SCOTTO DI UCCIO**  
@NINONSCOTTO

Sex, suicide and monsters may not be what people expect from an animation festival.

"Animation is broad—it's not just for children," said Lori Malépart-Traversy.

"Especially ours," Alisi Telengut chimed in.

Both of these Concordia alumni were selected to compete in *Sommets du cinéma d'animation*, a five-day Quebec film festival that puts the spotlight on international titles, student films and the overall production of animation in Quebec and Canada. The 15th edition of the festival will take place at the Cinéma québécoise beginning on Nov. 23.

Telengut was chosen for her short film, "Nutag-Homeland," and Malépart-Traversy for her piece, "Le Clitoris." Meanwhile, Daniel Sterlin-Altman—also a Concordia student—was selected for his puppet animation soap opera called "Hi, it's your Mother."

"In animation there are a lot of sides, so these are two tiny examples of the possibilities of what you could do," said Malépart-Traversy. "If you go to the festival you will see that."

Her three-minute documentary is a brief exploration of the history and anatomy of the clitoris. The project was also her final submission for her undergraduate degree. "It was fun to illustrate the facts that I found," she said.

This isn't the first time Malépart-Traversy has addressed sexuality with animation. She also worked on Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Center's consent campaign videos with Sterlin-Altman in August.

The animator said she believes that humor has been the best way to address the often-avoided—or even taboo—conversation around the clitoris. "[The film] works because it's funny. My character isn't vulgar—it's cute and happy."

But diversity persists in the topics that the former Concordia students explored.

Telengut's "Nutag-Homeland" is visual poem based on the experiences of the Kalmyk people that were deported in the USSR between 1935 and 1956.

The animation technique she used is called "under camera." Producing images on the same surface and photographing them, one after another, create its effects.

The film, while based on real events, incorporates Telengut's interpretation of them.

Animation is flexible and can be used for drama, documentary, and even horror, explained Telengut. "I tell people that I do animation, and they say 'Oh cartoons!' But not exactly."

"Nutag-Homeland" and "Le Clitoris" will both be screened during the animation festival—on Nov. 24 and Nov. 26 at 7:15 p.m.

The goal of the festival, according to Marco de Blois, the artistic director and programmer, is to showcase the skills of the Montreal animation community while also presenting the work of international artists and professionals. There are 25 guests that work in animation who have come from outside Quebec to be part of this experience. "It's been difficult but a lot of fun," said de Blois.

"I'm very proud of the international competition this year," he continued. A record number of premieres are on the menu, some showings being the first in Canada, North America or even worldwide.

A newly added competition for "very short films," being under two and a half minutes, long will showcase 33 mini-films that will be shown back-to-back at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

This year's themes are "Animation & Documentary" and "Creatures & Monsters."

"You'd think it's contradictory, as animation is artificial and documentaries focus on reality," said de Blois.

However, this paradox can be thoroughly explored by the animation industry. "When there is no record of events in film, a realistic animation can tell the truth and recreate events," said de Blois. "[Animation] can be used to replicate something real in a non-photographic way."

Two puppet filmmakers, Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski, who together make up Clyde Henry Productions, inspired the second theme. These creative puppets will be displayed in cases in the Norman-McLaren room in the Cinéma québécoise during the festival.

The *Sommets du cinéma d'animation* festival grew considerably, originally packing everything into one evening and now spanning into a five-day animation extravaganza.

Since 1956, when the Canadian film board moved to Montreal, the board's reputation has grown to be regarded as a global hub for animation in the world. When asked what makes animation unique, de Blois said, "Animation can be used when you want to represent something that cannot be shown with any other media."

This makes animation the ideal medium for taboo subjects that could not exist in any other form—for example, to recreate a suicide attempt or make the clitoris the main character of a film.

Over 800 movies were submitted to the festival this year. Selection was based on the technique, aesthetic, connection

to themes, and style.

Concordia University is recognized in the Montreal animation community for an outpour of quality animators and films. "There are good things being made at Concordia," said de Blois cheerfully.

Master Classes will be available to all those interested on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 with Diane Obomsawin and Joan Gratz. These free cinema classes will focus on the creation of an animated GIF with Obomsawin and the secrets of "clay painting" animation that Gratz is recognized for.

On top of the box office, funding for the festival comes from public and private sources—Telefilm Canada, the City of Montreal, Culture et Communications Québec, Régie du Cinéma Québec, Conseil des Arts de Montreal, and many others.

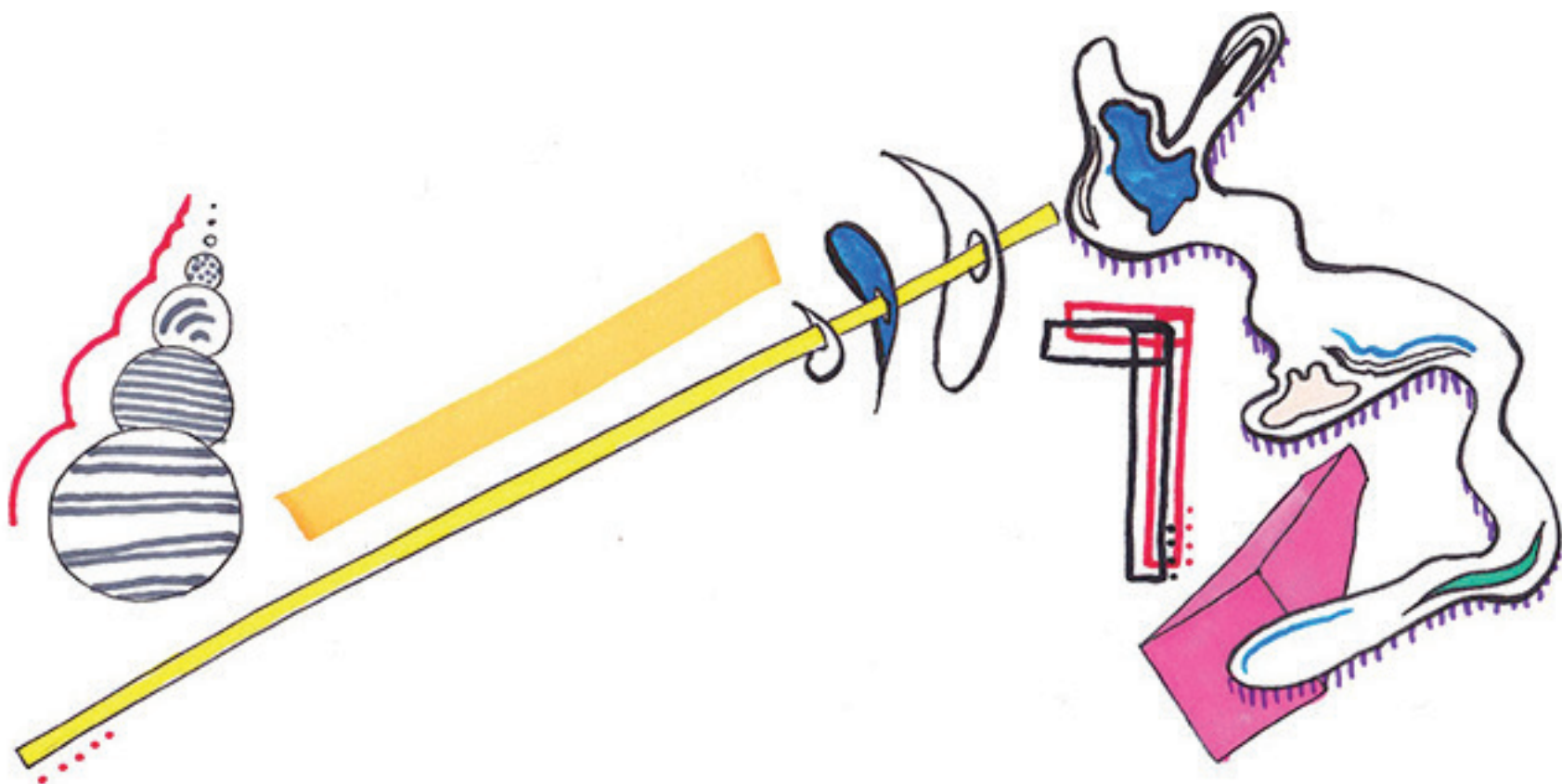
*Sommets du cinéma d'animation* // Cinéma québécoise (335 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.) // Nov. 23 to Nov. 27 // \$10 per event



Lori Malépart-Traversy and Alisi Telengut are featured filmmakers.

NINON SCOTTO DI UCCIO





## Muse

by Jazmin Mehrmann

I sit to write  
By your advice  
To confess and drift  
Above your sway  
Authors of sound play  
And with each note  
My head lulls  
To the hum of what I understand  
The distance which comprehends  
And it helps me to forget  
What I've forgotten  
For your sake

## Agrikol

by Nick Lanyon

Go MTL  
Try M in loft  
Buy Juno-6  
Do BNM  
Run T-Shirt game  
Drop 5.8  
Bunz Juno-6  
Print resumé  
Bus Agrikol

## The Blue Bird

by Michael Dutton

Seeing a bird climbing a tree  
Instead of  
flying on to it  
Can be  
One of  
the most upsetting  
Moments in my day

## Hiccup ~ Hiccough

by Vernon Le Crow

History.

History.

Well, I enjoy repetition as much as the next, next.  
However, some people are far, far too stimulated  
By circulation. The cloud imagination  
We share with the money manufacturers  
Has made it all too easy for anything to look brand-new.  
Yellow hue number 52...  
I'm still waiting on the old blue...

Freedom is pending while free and dumb is trending.  
Time is on the market and the stocks are in a constant state of flux  
Sell time, to spend time  
Make time, to waste time  
Emotional detriment is something we all subsidize  
And caring enough to voice an opinion about yourself and your surroundings has  
become such the domineering act of endearment.  
So you better not  
Realize.  
Reflect.  
React.  
OR ELSE!  
The flower children and their disembodied bulbs will float away...  
With their pedals that managed to escape our desires on the days we gave away for  
more of the same.

To love, or not?  
That's all behind the point.  
Just don't get too attached,  
So we can pretend to be poetic when we assume.  
The unknown is worthy to be placed upon a pedestal.

Belittle each other,  
Ignore the something to prevent ourselves from these recursive gestures.

Just be, and do  
Nothing but cog-work in the mechanical zoo.

# Poems



GRAPHICS ZOË GELFANT



# THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS Nov. 22 - Nov. 29

<p><b>TU</b> 22</p> <p><b>Vigile pour les femmes autochtones   Vigil for Indigenous women</b> Join the vigil to stand by indigenous women who have made claims of police assaults and abuse. Place des Arts • 175 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 6 p.m. // FREE</p> <p><b>ARTiFACT Phase 2</b> Go and showcase your stuff at this inclusive open-mic for artists of all kinds! This month's theme is the role of art in politics, organization, and social change. Morrice Hall • 3485 McTavish St. • 8 p.m. // PWYC</p>	<p><b>WE</b> 23</p> <p><b>No One is Coming. No One Cares.</b> Check in and get involved in the discussion at the 14th annual general meeting for our Co-op bookstore. Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore • 2150 Bishop St. • 6:30 p.m. // FREE</p>	<p><b>TH</b> 24</p> <p><b>RED DAY</b> The finance committee of the Board of Governors may pass a proposal that includes a tuition hike for international students. To protest it, show up and wear red. Henry F. Hall Building • 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • All day // FREE</p> <p><b>Have We Forgotten How to Rest?</b> University of the Streets Café is orgazing another open conversation. This week, they're going to be examining the topic of rest. Do we get enough of it? Or are we missing out because we can't uplug? Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom • 4100 Sherbrooke St. W. • 7 p.m. // FREE</p>	<p><b>FR</b> 25</p> <p><b>The Black Box - Convergence Neuroscience Talk for General Public</b> The brain is a weird thing, amirite? Wanna learn more about it? Join this general public talk on neuroscience. The discussion will be simplified for everyone to understand. Montreal General Hospital • 1650 Cedar Ave. • 5 p.m. // FREE</p> <p><b>Healing From Heartbreak</b> Kiki Razzle is hosting a webseries premiere and comedy show featuring Ladies and Gentlemen and a sketch comedy by HOT RAW FIRE. Théâtre Sainte Catherine • 264 Ste. Catherine St. E. • 8 p.m. // \$8</p>
<p><b>SA</b> 26</p> <p><b>Black Rose End of the Year Booksale</b> Come check out books, all 50 per cent off, with titles in philosophy, politics, environment, feminism, social economy, anarchism, and labour rights. Books can be found in both French and English. Alternatives • 3720 Parc Ave. • 10 a.m. // FREE</p> <p><b>Freaks and Burlesque! Old Time Honey + The History of Gunpowder</b> They've got dance. They've got circus-y stuff. They've got burlesque, good tunes, and a good time waiting for ya. O Patro Vys • 356 Mont Royal Ave. E. • 9 p.m. // \$10</p>	<p><b>SU</b> 27</p> <p><b>Inter-Realities: Lived Marginalization in Art &amp; the Academy</b> A day of panels and talk on what it's like to be a marginalized individual in the academic space and the artistic and publishing world. Go check it out to learn how to fight back against these oppressive systems. Concordia EV Building • 1515 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 10 a.m. // FREE</p> <p><b>Sunday! Re:bodies Solidarity Fundraiser Dinner &amp; Performance</b> Come participate in this weekend of stories, crafts, healing, and solidarity. Funds help and support local land developers developing resources for anti-colonial struggles and Indigenous sovereignists. Montreal, arts interculturels • 3680 Jeanne-Mance St. • 5 p.m. // \$8-\$15</p>	<p><b>MO</b> 28</p> <p><b>Point Blank (1967) au Bar le Ritz</b> Part of the Lee Marvin screening series, where Cinema 1999 is showing some of the finest film works that this actor was featured in. Bar Le Ritz PDB • 179 Jean-Talon St. W. • 8 p.m. // PWYC (\$5 suggested amount)</p> <p><b>ASFA By-Elections</b> ASFA is having a by-election for the VP Communications position and the Independant Councilor position, as well as a referendum on increasing their fee levy by 12 cents. Go vote! ASFA Concordia • 2070 Mackay St. • 9:30 a.m. // FREE</p>	<p><b>TU</b> 29</p> <p><b>Film Screening: 'Bridges of Sarajevo' (2014)</b> This event will be a screening of a film that is focused on Sarajevo's place in European history of the last century. Stitched together from the perspective of 13 filmmakers, this movie presents many points of view. Phi Centre • 407 St. Pierre St. • 7:30 p.m. // \$11.75 general, \$9.50 seniors and students</p>

If you have an event you want featured, email: [calendar@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:calendar@thelinknewspaper.ca)

# NASH79

## The Canadian University Press National Conference Fredericton, N.B. Jan. 4-8, 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* and have staff status, 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 @ 4 p.m.**  
**Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 29**  
**For more info, email [editor@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:editor@thelinknewspaper.ca)**

### Are you a poet?

Get your work published. Email [fringe@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:fringe@thelinknewspaper.ca) for more details.



# Stinger Unleashed

Vincent Alessandrini Leads Province in Catches to Win Offensive Rookie of the Year

ALEXANDER PEREZ  
@DASALEXPerez

Success didn't always come easy for current Stingers slotback Vincent Alessandrini.

A high school football star with the Laval Liberty Panthers, it seemed as though things were set for the young prospect. But during his three years attending Vanier College and playing for the Cheetahs, Alessandrini found it difficult to make his mark.

"At Vanier I just felt underused," he said. "Here at Concordia they just gave me my shot and I made the best of it."

Despite the lack of game time, Alessandrini caught the eye of Stingers head coach Mickey Donovan—who described him as a "game changer"—and immediately recruited him.

"I really like Mickey, as soon as we met. I knew he was down to earth," Alessandrini said. "He welcomed me here with open arms."

Donovan's belief in Alessandrini seemed to be the push he needed to regain his confidence.

On Nov. 11, Alessandrini won the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec Offensive Rookie of the year award. He was recognized for his breakout season, leading the province with 52 receptions in eight games. He also managed to cover 554 yards of offence, recording one touchdown in the process.

"It's definitely a big accomplishment for me," Alessandrini said. "During that time [at Vanier] I just felt like I was questioning myself, questioning my ability to play."

Initially set to join the McGill Redmen, Alessandrini instead opted for the maroon and gold—a decision he would not regret.

"[Alessandrini] would take hits, get banged, fall down, get right back up, and he'd never show any kind of weakness," said Donovan. "He makes things happen after he catches the ball, and there's not too many guys like that."

Coming into training camp, Alessandrini knew he would have to climb up the ladder to prove himself to the coaches. With veterans given priority over starting roles, Alessandrini had to earn his spot as a key player.

"Coaches told me that nothing was given," said Alessandrini. "That I have to work for everything. So that's exactly what I did."

He wasted no time proving his mettle. After training camp, he solidified his spot with the Stingers and, according to Donovan, hit the ground running—quite literally, actually.

It was on the Stingers' opening game of the season that Alessandrini displayed exactly what he could do. Concordia faced off against the Redmen, a game that Alessandrini remembers quite fondly.

"The first game really made me go on the right path to just believing in myself, believing in what I can possibly do in the future in this league," said Alessandrini. "It was definitely a memorable game for me, first game against the team I was supposed to go to and

winning that game too."

Despite recording a touchdown on his first game, it was a 40-yard run that proved to be the standout moment for Alessandrini and the Stingers.

Coming across the middle, Alessandrini received a pass from quarterback Trenton Miller. Making his way to the sidelines, he averted the first tackle. The Stingers receiver then hurdled his way past another player and dodged another challenge.

The play would eventually be pulled back due to a holding call against the Stingers. But the run alone impressed both Donovan and Miller.

"Yeah I was stunned actually," said Miller. "Vince, he's a reliable guy on the field, I know where to throw it to and he's going to try to make the catch every time."

With an exceptional performance in the opening game of the season—against the team he was set to join, no less—the shackles were off, and Alessandrini set the tone for what would become an outstanding season.

Alessandrini's 52 catches this season were a record breaker at Concordia. The human relations major sits second in all-time receptions in a season, behind Daniel Skube, who amassed 60 catches in 2015.

"I think Vince allowed our offence to do some special things," said Miller. "It's something we really didn't have last year, and it makes my job as quarterback a lot easier, knowing that I could just throw five yards and he can take it for 80."

Even though he won the RSEQ accolade, Alessandrini will look to improve on aspects of his game during the offseason. He wants to become better at reading plays and understanding his tasks on the field.

"I think it's something that Coach Michael Harrington identified right away, that Vince needs more film study and just needs to understand defenses and concepts a little more," said Donovan.

"When he really understands the game and gets his IQ up there with it, he's gonna be even more dangerous than he was this year."

Alessandrini remains humble in his recent successes. Remembering his three



Alessandrini put in a season defining performance against McGill. COURTESY BRIANNA THICKE

fruitless years at Vanier College, he's grateful towards his current crop of coaches and teammates for their guidance over the course of the season.

With his debut season at end, Alessandrini is looking to build on his performances. He's wants to start training right away to improve

his strength and speed. Alessandrini is confident he'll be able to surpass the numbers he put up this past fall.

"I think Vince more or less, if I can tell him anything, he's a great kid, hard worker, gives it his all—I'd never doubt that," said Donovan.



The Stingers slotback has established himself as one of Concordia's elite players.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

This Week in Sports Online at [thelinknewspaper.ca/sports](http://thelinknewspaper.ca/sports)

Game Recap: The Stingers men's hockey team beat their unlucky visitors UOIT Ridgebacks on Friday.



# It's Only the Beginning

How Swimming Shaped Paralympic Athlete Tess Routliffe's Life

SAFIA AHMAD  
@SAFS\_ONTHEGO

Sports can define a person's life and change its course entirely. Just ask 18-year-old Paralympic swimmer Tess Routliffe.

"I wouldn't be anywhere close to where I am [now] if I didn't start swimming," she said.

At four feet, four inches tall, Routliffe's passion for the sport brought her to the summer Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro,

where she won a silver medal in the 200-metre individual medley. She also set a new Canadian record for that distance.

"We were all crying," said her older sister, Erin Routliffe. "Seeing her so happy and all the hard work she's been put in pay off for her, it was incredible."

Now three months later, she finds herself in Florida, where she is participating in her first training camp since the Games in preparation for the Can Am para-swimming championships in March and April 2017.

The teenage Paralympian, who will be attending Concordia in the winter, only started swimming five years ago. At the time, her main goals were to stay healthy and achieve personal fitness goals.

The sport, however, brought her more than physical aesthetic and health. It also helped her feel more confident. Growing up, she described herself as shy and quiet. That all changed once she entered the pool.

"Everything that came from swimming has been amazing," she said. "I found it pretty easy as soon as I started sports. It kinda just became easy and I stopped worrying about it."

Aside from winning the silver medal in Rio, meeting new people and becoming part of an international community of athletes was one of her favorite aspects of the Games.

"It's just a great feeling knowing that you have people by your side with the same goal as you, competing with you, and working and training with you every single day," said Routliffe.

Growing up, the people right by her side were her family. Routliffe is the only one in her family with a physical disability. Her two older sisters, Erin and Tara, played an important role in getting Routliffe to pursue sports (Erin is a tennis player and Tara plays volleyball). There were times when the youngest Routliffe wanted to give up, but her sisters got her through that and encouraged her to pursue swimming.

"I think seeing your older siblings enjoying sports probably got her little bit more into it," said her sister Erin.

"If I didn't have my sisters, I probably wouldn't have tried in the first place," said Routliffe. "Growing up

playing in the backyard, like getting used to sports, and getting used to playing with other people was very helpful in my life."

Sports are a staple in the Routliffe household. However, no one in the family was much of a swimmer.

"[My sisters] were never swimmers," she said. "They actually don't like swimming very much!"

The underwater world became Routliffe's second home.

"[Swimming] was just so natural to me because I always loved the water as a child," she said.

Routliffe's career started making strides in 2014 when she reached six individual event finals at the Pan Pacific Para-swimming Championships. She came out with a silver medal at the 100-metre breaststroke.

A year later, she won four gold medals at the Parapan American Games in the 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle, along with the 100-metre breaststroke and 100-metre backstroke. She also added a piece of silver hardware in the 200-metre individual medley.

She finished with the silver medal in the 200-metre individual medley and finished fourth in four different competitions in 2015 when she competed in her first International Paralympic Committee World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Meanwhile, she established new Canadian records in the 100-metre freestyle and 100-metre backstroke.

"It wasn't about the medal at that time," said the decorated athlete. "It was about [doing] seven personal best times. I was really happy about those races. I actually felt that [I had] a shot at having a career in swimming."

"When the chips are down and it's time to race, she understands what needs to happen in order to win," said Mike Thompson, her swim coach. "She's not afraid to race and she's not afraid to put herself out there."

Thompson, who became the first head coach of Swimming Canada's Para-swimming Intensive Training Program in Quebec in 2015, recruited Routliffe. According to him, it was one of his finest moments in his position.

"We worked really well together," he said. "She understands what I'm trying to get across, she responds to challenges really well."

Through competition, Routliffe's maturity fast-tracked. She quickly learned that in order to become a successful athlete, independence and self-sufficiency are key.

"You travel so much," she said. "You need to be able to be on your own. Like, you can't always call your mom and dad: 'Hey I need this.' They can't [always] help you."

Since the Olympics, Routliffe has welcomed a whirlwind of change. The Ontario native has packed her bags and moved to Montreal in order to be closer to the nation's only Paralympic training center, where it will be easier for her to work closely with Thompson.

She said moving to a new city and getting to know her new swimming teammates helped her deal with post-Olympic withdrawal syndrome, a phenomenon in which athletes fall from the Games "high," forced to return back to reality.

"I could feel myself liking the change, but also wanting to be back in Rio and competing and experiencing all that over again," she explained. "And I think that's what motivates athletes to come back and train for the next four years. It's not the feeling of the game, but it's the feeling of the withdrawal."

Routliffe will use this feeling of withdrawal to keep her motivation high in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Another important source of inspiration is fifteen-time Paralympic medalist Stephanie Dixon, who was born without her right leg and hip.

"Don't feel sorry for me, feel sorry for my opponent," Dixon always says. It drives Routliffe and reminds people that physical disabilities are not a measure of athleticism.

After all, with Routliffe's successful track record, fans should feel sorry for her competition.



PHOTOS COURTESY SCOTT GRANT/CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE



Paralympian, Tess Routliffe swimming down the lane in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



# Colonize First, Apologize Later

## Putting Val-d'Or in Context

EMILEE GUEVARA  
@EMILEEGUEVARA

At a press conference held in Val-d'Or on Friday, four representatives of the Crown's office confirmed that charges concerning extreme abuse suffered by Indigenous women at the hands of provincial police officers have been dropped.

Last fall, members of the Indigenous community in Val-d'Or accused police of engaging in large-scale harassment and intimidation. Women accused police of rape and sexual assault. Radio-Canada's investigative program *Enquête* brought the allegations to the public—inciting outrage and backlash from police officers, many of whom wore bracelets in a show of solidarity for their accused comrades.

Now, over a long and difficult year later, the Crown's office has stated that insufficient evidence prevented them from processing charges. The suspended officers will soon return to work and other stories will flood our national news coverage.

But this story does not—and cannot—end here. Narratives that circulate in the mainstream media often start and end in the middle—and this is no exception. But in order to understand even a fraction of the impact of the decision to drop charges, we must look back at our historical colonial realities and relationships.

We must contextualize why Indigenous women are some of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in the country—and how that reality played a role in the announcement Friday.

Although I dare not share stories that are not mine to tell, I do know that there are

damaged relationships between settlers and Indigenous peoples that live in the so-called province of Quebec. According to a 2006 Statistics Canada report, people who identified as Aboriginal made up about six per cent of the population in Val-d'Or. The report also noted that there were higher unemployment rates, lower wages and poorer living conditions for Indigenous peoples.

Sometimes, the density of historical facts can be overwhelming, especially since so little of it is covered in our national history books. But there are general conceptions that must penetrate common Canadian consciousness if we are ever going to try and find a mutual word for truth and a peaceful way of moving towards reconciliation. The reality of Canada being a colonial state—both historically and presently—is one of them.

The legal and authoritative systems in place to protect and serve settlers in this country rarely benefit Indigenous peoples. Treaties, acts and laws were imposed in order to displace and control native people's bodies, land, and territories—often through calculated and violent measures.

Many Indigenous communities have been forced to surrender traditions and adapt their unique systems of governance to the one-size-fits-all model in the Indian Act, all while the Canadian state claims to value and uphold diversity and multiculturalism.

The residential school system—whose last establishment closed in 1996—stole children from their families, homes and territories. They were meant to, as Richard Henry Pratt would say, “kill the Indian... and save the man.” (Pratt was the founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania

whose purpose was also forced assimilation.)

At residential schools, administrators cut off children's literal hair and cut out their figurative tongues. Stories offered by survivors speak about violence, sexual assault and dehumanizing treatment at the hands of priests, nuns and well-meaning settlers who saw Indigenous ways of relating to the world as savage and uncivilized.

Alongside the residential school system was the famous Sixties Scoop that involved Canadian social services and the child welfare system taking native children from their homes and communities to place them with white families. Many survivors today speak about the pain of losing connection to their culture, kin and identity.

Native peoples continue to honour traditional ways of relating to one another through diverse forms of kinship and family structures. These traditional relationships are still punished by social services and a child welfare system that treats relationships outside of the heteronormative nuclear family as deviant. Children continue to be taken from their mothers, aunties and communities, which is why nearly half of all children in foster care in Canada are Indigenous.

These historical realities are a way for us to contextualize the events in Val-d'Or and situate ourselves in a better place to understand the present. But the past can only be examined for so long. We need to look forward and ask how this decision will affect relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people—especially as Canada's government, media outlets and academic institutions insist on reciting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action like a national anthem.

Native women are not vulnerable because

they are weak—on the contrary, women have been essential to the survival, revival and wellbeing of their nations. But what are we supposed to think when so many have gone missing, have been murdered or have taken their own lives? What are the women in Val-d'Or supposed to think when they share their stories despite great risk, only to be rejected or sent home without solutions?

I spoke with a representative from the Native Friendship Centre of Val-d'Or who wished to remain anonymous. “Who's going to protect us?” she asked, through a strained voice. “There's nobody there to protect us.”

She spoke about how it's not only the most vulnerable women—those who have been prostituted or suffer from drug and alcohol addiction—who are in danger. “I fear for my daughter,” she said, who goes to school and is a “good girl,” but who may one day “get a flat tire or need help, and then who does she call?”

Decisions like the one on Friday continue to undermine any potential for healing. We must examine how the Canadian law—and those positioned to enforce it—do not “protect and serve” everyone.

Now is the time that native women in Val-d'Or and across the country need the support and solidarity of their allies.

On Tuesday, there is a vigil for Indigenous women at Place des Arts. But I'm sick of vigils. I don't want to cry and beat the drum for our stolen sisters anymore. I want to see systems of governance that offer justice for all peoples on this land and traditional practices and protocol upheld and valued. Otherwise, there will never be a relationship of respect and reciprocity, and the Canadian state will continue to colonize first and apologize later.



SAVAGES

thelinknewspaper.ca • November 22, 2016

NICO HOLZMANN



# Know Your Enemy

## Understanding the Origins of the Alt-Right

KYLE MCLOUGHLIN

A flier went up on telephone poles last week in Toronto. Similar ones have been spotted elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

It read:

“Hey White Person! Sick of being blamed for all the world’s problems? Tired of being told you’re ‘racist’ for celebrating your heritage? Join the Alt-Right!”

If you’re horrified by the implications of this, you’re not alone. But before you go out and fight, it’s important to understand the American origins of the alt-right, its resurgence, and what we can do about it here.

There’s a big elephant in the room called Donald Trump—but I don’t want to spend too much time repeating the same things dozens of people have already written. More important to discuss are Trump’s supporters and the emerging white nationalism of the alt-right.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a U.S. based legal advocacy organization, has been publishing updates on far-right organizing for decades. Recent reports from 2015 illustrated the cyclical resurgence of white nationalism in response to Barack Obama’s presidency. In the wake of Obama’s election, law enforcement, anti-fascists, and academics alike focused their attention on street-based white nationalist mobilization.

This is understandable given the destructive capacity of paramilitary movements, but what was lost in this focus was the role that universities and the internet played in the rebranding of white nationalism into what today is called the “alt-right.”

Shedding traditional far-right symbolism in favor of internet memes, suits, and lecture halls, the alt-right has mobilized a demographic that would later play a key role in electing Trump—young, educated, middle class white people.

The alt-right is an ideological blanket that wraps up old ideas in new ways. The term was officially coined in 2008 by Richard Bertrand Spencer of the National Policy Institute, an extreme-right think-tank.

It is a broad term that encompasses many—and sometimes contradictory—ideas. General tendencies include a rejection of liberal universalism, an emphasis on libertarian social organization, and of “scientific” racism. Supporters include many reactionary strands—men’s rights activists, anti-immigrant nativists, and neo-Nazis. This may sound familiar—white nationalism hasn’t changed much, but its mobilization strategies have.

As chairman of the NPI, Spencer oversaw pseudo-academic publications on white identity. Co-opting the language of various national struggles, the NPI argues for the creation of the white ethno-state, rejects traditional conservatism as corrupt and dominated by corporate money, and publishes pseudo-scientific articles on racial differences similar to 19th century research on eugenics and phrenology. Through this professional veneer, Spencer seeks to normalize white nationalist

discourse, and is quite conscious of the need to separate the alt-right from previous manifestations of white supremacy.

He has even denounced other alt-right leaders such as Matthew Heimbach of the Traditionalist Workers Party for his homophobic rhetoric. The NPI website hosts flashy videos emphasizing the importance of white identity through individual cultural heritage. They decry the alienating forces of globalization, consumerism, and multiculturalism, saying things like: “A country for everyone is a country for no one.”

the politicization of videogames, Yiannopoulos used his clout as a journalist to platform far-right conservatism and champion the harassment of Gamergate’s targets. In 2015 he became the tech editor for the proto-fascist Breitbart.

There are several takeaways from Gamergate. Concentrated campaigns of harassment and digital violence—coordinated by leadership figures like Yiannopoulos and mobilized online forums like 4chan and reddit—easily overwhelm their targets. Defending against this is incredibly complicated as existing laws

forms of political engagement. Yiannopoulos is gay, advocates free speech, and positions himself as a defender of ethics in journalism—hardly the typical profile of a white nationalist. As Spencer’s NPI shows, these groups have learned from their own history and now exploit liberal notions of inclusivity to platform hate.

So, how do we confront them?

Debating rebranded white nationalists only legitimizes their arguments as something to be considered in the first place. One of their weak points is their need for normalization to break



GABOR BATA

This discourse directly targets disaffected youth and provides a thorough, professional-looking movement to easily plug into.

The attention that alt-right groups pay to young people is clear from their early mobilizations. One campaign that resulted from this political force is Gamergate—an anti-feminist attack specifically against women, and more broadly against progressive values and so-called political correctness, in video games in 2014. Organized online harassment of women and trans gamers became a violent spiral of death threats, sexual harassment, and offline consequences carried out using the Gamergate hashtag.

A key figure of this campaign was Milo Yiannopoulos. Railing against what he saw as

are woefully unable to regulate hate and violence through the Internet.

What should become clear is the need for computer security and privacy on the part of social organizers. We must consider the Internet a double-edged sword and protect ourselves. Basic things like hiding personal photos; information such as workplace, family, and romantic partners; and a healthy dose of skepticism of friend requests from people you don’t know are simple steps to protect one’s information. Other steps such as using Virtual Private Networks, spoof accounts, and computer encryption are other essential steps beyond the scope of this work.

It is important to acknowledge that today’s white nationalism radicalizes through banal

the stigma their historical predecessors have rightfully earned as a violent hate movement.

The election of Trump has propelled white nationalism into mainstream media discourse and it’s essential that we continue to call the alt-right what it is: fascistic racists advocating ethnic cleansing. Their organizers can be identified, their meetings disrupted, and the contradictions of their movements exposed to public eye.

Strong communities can de-radicalize youth who have fallen in with the alt-right, and demonstrate alternatives to economic and social precariousness. Above all we must take them seriously. We must confront hate in all its banal forms—because it only takes a spark to accelerate discontent into a blaze of terrifying implications.

**Hey, does an article in *The Link* make you react in 400 words or less?**

Well, write a letter, make sure it meets our guidelines, and we’ll publish it online or in print next week.





# Bill 70 Should Be Repealed

## Welfare Reform Makes Things Worse

MARISSA RAMNANAN

The Quebec government has announced its plans to adopt Bill 70—a piece of legislation that would force new welfare applicants to register for employment training or have their welfare cheques cut by \$200. The government justifies this plan with the language of debt reduction.

Currently, the welfare system administers cheques of \$623 a month. This is barely a living. Despite this, the government continues to push for the welfare recipients to earn this measly sum, when they might not have the means to do so.

Instead of advocating this bill, the government should be reminded of the fundamental reason the welfare system was put in place. Welfare is not a luxury that can be taken away when recipients do not comply with unjust rules. People on welfare are vulnerable and need financial help and stability. This bill ultimately perpetuates that precariousness.

More than two-thirds of new applicants to welfare voluntarily participate in employment programs. The other third that doesn't participate has various reasons for not complying—they could be in crisis, escaping a violent situation, or dealing with eviction and even homelessness.

In fact, there are 3,016 homeless people in Montreal, according to city's first official homelessness census released in July 2015. Bill 70 will put applicants' backs to the wall.

They will not have enough money for rent and basic needs. They could end up on the street.

Carol Taylor, a woman currently on welfare, remembers when she signed up for the program a few years ago. She said she was in a bad situation. If she was forced to sign up for a job-training program, she says she would feel "scared and pushed," especially in the mental state she was in at that time. Ultimately, it would have made her situation worse than it already was and pushed her off the edge.

Benoit Langevin, the executive director of West Island Youth Action, shares Taylor's concerns. The organization works with youth in difficult situations—be it economic, familial, or psychological—and provides them with the resources they need. He says that on the West Island, seven per cent of people are on welfare. Of those, the majority are between 15 and 35 and Bill 70 could make their situations even worse. If someone can't find a place to stay, or a place to eat, how will they force themselves to go to an employment centre to sign a document?

"It just makes another red tape for people in need," Langevin said.

He explained that the government could have done something great with this employment program—especially with the large amount of people looking for work. Instead, he says the government is using coercion.

Proponents of the bill claim it will save the provincial government \$50 million per year.

Langevin said that is "ridiculous." We should have invested money in order to get rid of our debt, he said, rather taking from the poor and punishing the ones who are already feeling punished.

"I find it immoral," he said.

Langevin said we should have approached the welfare system in the opposite way. He believes that the government should instill a bonus system instead—when one looks for a job, signs up for the job training program or finds a job, they should be rewarded. This method has previously been proposed by various community organizations.

Alex Sangha, an award-winning author and social worker, published an article in the *Huffington Post* in 2014, titled "How to Fix Canada's Welfare System and Create Jobs." In the article, he says "the shelter and support portion of welfare programs in most jurisdictions are shamefully inadequate."

He continues that the welfare system perpetuates poverty, which creates a "race to the bottom," and releases the pressure on wages. This, of course, benefits businesses, but harms the poor and society in general. In the article, Sangha proposes a way to "fix" the system: by simply requiring potential welfare applicants to apply online, receive their funds through direct deposit, and get their bank statements through email, they would consequently become computer literate. This would increase their know-how, and give them more

of an edge with potential employers.

In an email Sangha denounced Bill 70. He said he supports a guaranteed annual income for all Canadians with no restrictions. To him, people should not be forced into anything, including job training. Low paying jobs usually keep people trapped into poverty, Sangha said.

Bill 70 is degrading and perpetually stigmatizes the welfare system. Targeting the poor in order to alleviate Quebec's debt is a low move and is not what Canada stands for.

Canada is a welfare state. We offer social services, including the provision of minimum income and the reduction of economic insecurity due to sickness, old age and unemployment. Bill 70 goes against those values. Instead of attacking people who are already marginalized, the government could tax the rich, invest more money, or give the welfare form a reward system, which would encourage people to find jobs instead of threatening them into it.

People should be provided with sufficient means to pursue their full potential and life passions. Giving them a monthly wage, when in immense need, would help them with that. Although it is not much, the extra support is crucial.

"Who knows how many future Nobel Prize winners never reached their potential because they were forced to take some crappy minimum wage job?" Sangha said.



# Nahm'sayin?

## Stop Premature Decorating

OCEAN DEROUCHIE  
@OSHIPOSHIE

I think we should implement a strict societal rule to wait until, at the very least, Dec. 1 before participating in any holiday decorating activities. Sorry, but not sorry. I don't want to be wished a "Merry Christmas" by Tim Hortons while I'm trying to get my morning caffeine fix in the thick of November midterms. Like, c'mon.

Not only do I not want to think about Christmas at such an early stage, but I especially don't want to mull over how I'm going to explain to my extended family that I don't believe in this capitalist holiday period all before 9 a.m. Just because Halloween is over, doesn't mean it's time to start stringing up the bells and holly. It's still November, people.

It just irks me that every time I go into a store now, it's just Christmas shit all over the place. I think the most

frustrating part is that it's not even the kind of shit you would want to be gifted; it's just the dregs of consumer capitalism staring you in the face. As if you need a Crocs-shaped phone case (because you didn't look stupid enough wearing the shoes to begin with.) Do you really need an inflatable deer head? No. Put that fucking tree topper down for one second and think about your life. You're buying wrapping paper—why? It's just going to end up in a landfill, along with all of the boxes, bags, and plastic packaging that society tells us we need in order to be validated during the month of December. But I'll admit: I did buy a Kinder advent calendar yesterday, so what do I know?



## SQUID GEE by Keenan Poloncsak



COMICS

## Shwee Shwee Comix by Gabor Bata @thegreatgabinski











MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

## EDITORIAL

### Concordia's Mangled Scramble Towards Sustainability

Global warming is creeping up on us from the foot of our beds: the shadow in the night, the ghoul in the closet, the Al Gore by your window.

Last Monday, the city announced it would spend more than \$7 million taxpayer-dollars to try and save Montreal's outdoor skating rinks from extinction. And all over the Arctic today, the icecaps risk melting.

We wonder when enough will be enough.

How much more will it take for institutions to realize the importance of sustainability and establishing systems that are long-lived and indefinitely productive: solar energy, wind energy and urban farming instead of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture.

It all begins with education.

Sustainability should have been at the forefront long ago at Concordia, a university that brands itself as an environmental leader, with its pro-compost campaigns and decision to market itself as a "fair-trade campus."

And we do believe it is a sustainability

leader, albeit in branding alone.

In many ways, Concordia lags behind other universities in sustainability-orientated education. Instead of posturing, the university needs to push.

Over the period 2010 to 2014, the University of Waterloo in Ontario introduced more than 500 sustainability courses or courses that included a sustainability component. In 2010, McGill University began a new Bachelor of Arts and Science Program in Sustainability, Science and Society.

And on Thursday, Concordia's Sustainability Action Fund held a workshop to push towards a curriculum for a new sustainability major at the university—a program a long time in the making.

In 2014, the SAF conducted a survey that discovered that, out of 2,129 Concordia courses, just seven per cent of them included a sustainability component.

And less than a year later, concerns were still brewing.

In May 2015, Trevor James Smith, an outgoing graduate representative for Concordia's Senate, believed the university's Strategic Directions treated environmentally sustainable initiatives as "niche topics." The term "sustainability" was used once in the document.

Fast-forward to 2016, and we've only begun brainstorming how to have a sustainability program. The bureaucracy needed for this will take a few years to develop and, when created, only 30 students per year will be accepted.

That's good, but it's not good enough.

Today, most of the university's sustainability initiatives are student-driven: the Hive, the Concordia Greenhouse, the Concordia Food Coalition. That could be largely because we, the students, think sustainability should be at the forefront and not tacked on the back end.

We at *The Link* believe the time is nigh: sustainability education should be less of an elective, and more of a core component entwined in every course. We advocate the idea of embracing "embedded sustainability,"

akin to embedded journalism, where reporters latch onto military units for war reporting.

The war is raging today. It's us against the world—a deteriorating globe, only worsened by our inclination for quick and easy, unsustainable habits. Sustainability education can and should be a part of all students' courses, whether they study finance or fishing.

It has taken a combined effort for us to damage the planet to this extent, and it will require a combined effort for us to save it.

In Montreal, we know that winter is coming—or, as we reported, it will come but outdoor ice-skating may go. And we fear the time will come when we will no longer need to use the icebreaker: "How much does a polar bear weigh?"

If Concordia and other institutions that purport to care about sustainability and saving the environment don't do as they say, and take sustainability seriously now, in a decade or two, there won't be any ice for the polar bear to break.

## THE LINK

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