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P. 6 & 7

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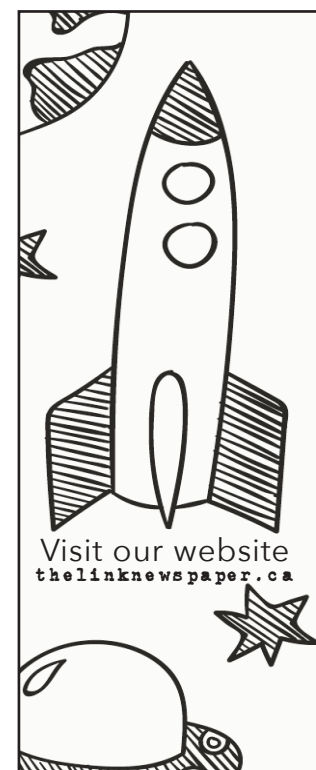


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Concordia Student Nightline Calls for Help

New CSU Club Aims to Help Students With Anything, At Anytime

VINCE MORELLO
@VINNYMORELLZ

A new nightly phone line service will be available to Concordia students in the near future.

The Concordia Student Nightline is an initiative that was kick-started this semester by two psychology undergraduate students, Jade Se, president, and Sophie Lemieux, vice-president of external relations of the nightline.

"It is a non-judgmental, confidential listening service for students for all purposes and all type of needs," said Se. "If it's crisis management, if you need aid, someone to talk to, or someone to listen to you, this would be that type of service."

The initiative is based on the McGill Student Nightline, which has been operating since 1984 according to their Facebook page. Se, a former McGill student, took inspiration and decided to launch a project for Concordia students.

While its operating hours are yet to be determined, volunteers will be expected to take calls at night on a variety of issues, according to Se. She explained that callers can talk to someone about anything, from dealing with anxiety, to having a bad drug trip, being lost in the city, seeking personal advice, or just wanting someone to talk to.

Se stressed that volunteers won't be equipped to handle any serious problems—like those that

"We want the group to be as diverse as possible to understand the issues going on at school."

—Sophie Lemieux

put the caller or others in danger—but will be able to give information or redirect people to other services where trained professionals can provide specific aid.

"We are not saviours, that's not the purpose of this thing, and we're not allowed to do that, so there's specific boundaries we have to respect," Se said.

All Concordia students are welcome to volunteer, regardless of their program. To apply, students have to send a letter of intent explaining why they want to be a part of the nightline, and an unofficial copy of their transcript to cnightlineexternal@gmail.com.

"We want the group to be as diverse as possible [in order] to understand the issues going on at school," Lemieux said.

Se explained that they are working with the Centre for Gender Advocacy so that volunteers can receive sensitivity training.

Lemieux has also reached out to Concordia's department of psychology to get a trained psychologist on board. Ideally, they would be available to help the volunteers should need be.

However, the group—which is part of the Concordia Student Union—has run into some roadblocks in trying to get off the ground.

The project hasn't received any funding as of

yet. While they haven't managed to get a working phone number, nor an office space, Lemieux said that they're looking into fundraising in order to generate money.

Rami Yahia, the CSU's internal affairs coordinator, explained that CSU office spaces are extremely limited right now.

Se and Lemieux have made a call-out for volunteers and executives of the club. They are looking for a VP internal, an events coordinator, and a treasurer.



KELSEY LITWIN & NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

Loyola Hive Café Lacks Accessibility

Preliminary Results Find Many Locations on Campus Inaccessible

FRANCA MIGNACCA
@FRANCAMIGNACCA

Students with limited mobility are unable to access the Hive Café and other popular student spaces at the Loyola campus. The cafe, located up a flight of stairs on the second floor of the Student Centre building, has no elevator or chairlift access.

The push for an accessible cafe has increased substantially, particularly after a recent audit conducted by the Concordia Student Union happened on Feb. 15, in collaboration with the Community University Research Exchange—CURE—and several volunteers.

The purpose of the audit is to measure the accessibility of different areas throughout the campus, to determine where the issues lie, so that the CSU and other student organizations can advocate for solutions.

"One thing that we noticed is that despite the ambitions that we have, it's a really inaccessible campus and that's one of the first things that has to be solved," explained CSU Loyola Coordinator, Marcus Peters.

He added that there are inaccessible classrooms on the campus, along with areas of the Central building, especially the basement.

"[In the basement] you have a straight hallway that has four staircases in it," Peters explained. "It doesn't take a lot of inquiry or a lot of investigation to see it's inaccessible."

While the results of the audit have not officially been analyzed, the Hive Café

stood out right away to Peters as a place that needs better access.

"As I'm also on the board of the Hive Café, I know that the Hive is extremely interested in pursuing these kinds of things, not only because it would be an improvement of their space but also because it would reach more students and better fulfill the mission of the Hive," said Peters.

The free lunch program that operates out of the cafe strives to provide vegan and gluten-free meals to the hundreds of students it serves every weekday. But the area itself is inaccessible to anyone with limited mobility, which Peters said is problematic.

The interior of the Student Centre building, where the Hive Café is located will undergo renovations this summer, and Peters is advocating to make the building accessible. This will be challenging, since the building is already at full electrical capacity.

It's unlikely that an elevator or chairlift will be added anytime soon. Rerouting the electricity would cost millions of dollars to do, Peters said.

Proposals for improvement will likely begin after Peters' mandate ends at the CSU, but he hopes to bring up the issues to council. He would also like a mandate to be given to the CSU so that future councils are obligated to advocate for these changes.

He pointed out that the CSU and CURE do not have to be the only ones working to make the space accessible—Peters hopes that other committees and associations will get on board.



Loyola's Hive Café is not wheelchair accessible.

NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER

The audit also looked at the types of fluorescent lights used for those suffering from light sensitivity. It also took into account whether there were particularly "dull" or jarring sounds in or close to classrooms for those with hearing impairment, and whether signs on campus are clear for those with visual impairment, and the inclusion of gender-neutral restrooms.

CURE conducted an accessibility audit in March of last year, but it was exclusive to the Sir George Williams campus. According to CURE Concordia co-coordinator Alex

Heggie, the findings of that audit are currently being processed, and are expected to be put online by the end of this semester.

CSU decided to replicate the initiative at the Loyola campus this year, using the same template that was used for CURE's audit downtown last year and a team of volunteers.

Peters will begin analyzing the data as of next week, hoping to make the report public soon. "Open access to this kind of information is also very important. You don't want an inaccessible accessibility audit."



Dr. Max Bergholz is the assistant director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

Photo Jonathan Caragay-Cook

The future of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia seems to be resting in Dr. Max Bergholz's hands, and he's not sure what to do with it.

Currently, the institute, which is known as MIGS, is up for renewal as a certified research centre at the university. Its previous certification, which began in 2011, ends on May 31. If he chooses so, Bergholz can apply for the renewal of MIGS as a research institute and become its interim director.

A meeting between him, the Dean of Arts and Science, and the History Department Chair has been scheduled on March 10 to discuss what his choice will be. His uncertainty about continuing with MIGS, he says, is because there's been a lack of peer-reviewed academic research published over the past few years.

"If I were to become interim director, I would need the space to build this place into a research institute," he says. He explains that to do this, he would need full control over the budget.

Bergholz is a full-time professor from the History Department. He's been at MIGS since 2010 and became its assistant director in 2014. MIGS' mandate is to "conduct in-depth research and propose concrete policy recommendations to resolve conflicts before they degenerate into mass atrocity crimes."

In those seven years, Berholz has published an article in the prestigious *American Historical Review*, released a book on ethnic violence in the Balkans in 1941, and received the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Research Grant, a feat no other Concordia professor has achieved. He says most of his work cannot be attributed as products of MIGS.

"One will say I haven't done much research [for MIGS] but I haven't been given the resources to do so," Bergholz says. The professor's introduction to Concordia and MIGS came about in 2011 because of the James M. Stanford Professorship in Genocide and Human Rights Studies. Stanford, an outside donor, pledged \$500,000 over five years to hire a new professor to be groomed as the future director of MIGS.

Enter Bergholz. "We hired the right, terrific guy in Max," says Dr. Frank Chalk, the director and co-founder of MIGS.

The professorship stipulated that in addition to an annual base salary of approximately \$80,000, \$15,000 would be allocated for a graduate fellowship on genocide studies, as well as \$5,000 for Bergholz's personal research expenses each year. Bergholz never saw the money for graduate fellowships and has never had a graduate student do research as part of MIGS.

"Students will go to universities where they're funded," Bergholz says, explaining that graduate students have asked about doing a fellowship at MIGS with him, only to find out the financial situation of the institute. Funds have instead mainly gone towards paying salaries for the two full-time staff employees—which has caused MIGS to run deficits in the past few years.

Annual salaries cost approximately \$150,000, but revenues only total around \$107,000. The university gives MIGS \$30,000 a year, while the rest of the revenue comes from private donors. One of the full-time staff members of MIGS is Kyle Matthews, who earns approximately \$90,000 a year. The other staff member is Marie Lamensch.

Matthews first joined MIGS as the lead researcher of a project called Will to Intervene in 2008, and then was hired full-time as the senior deputy director in 2011. He is not a professor at Concordia. Last October,

Research Versus Advocacy

How a Break in Procedure by Concordia Administration May Reveal the New Direction for One of Its Most Famous Research Institutes

by Jonathan Caragay-Cook @hiimbiracial
with graphics by Kelsey Litwin @kelseylitwin

he briefly took on the role as director of MIGS, the position Bergholz was supposed to be groomed for.

His time as director lasted about a week. On Oct. 25, university administrators organized a ceremony in honour of Dr. Chalk, there since the start of MIGS in 1986. At the event, it was announced that Matthews would succeed Chalk as director.

On the next day, Concordia NOW, the university's press release service, published an article announcing Matthew's appointment as director. The article was retracted soon after and re-published on Nov. 1 stating that Matthews actually became the "executive director" of MIGS.

Confusion arose as it emerged that procedure had been broken with the original announcement. Under the Policy on Research Units from the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies, it states that to be a "director" of a Concordia research institute, one must be a full-time faculty member at the school. Matthews doesn't meet this criterion.

"We made a mistake," says Justin Powlowski, the interim Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies. As well, to appoint a new director, the policy states a search committee must be formed and evaluate nominations from different candidates, which also didn't happen.

Powlowski says that when Chalk privately began making known his intentions to step down as director in recent years, meetings were held with Matthews and Bergholz, looking into replacing him. Internally, Powlowski says, there was a lot of pressure to make an announcement about a successor.

"In order to give [Matthews] more maneuvering room to talk to donors and start doing more proposals, we needed to make some sort of announcement," he says, explaining the reasoning behind the ceremony.

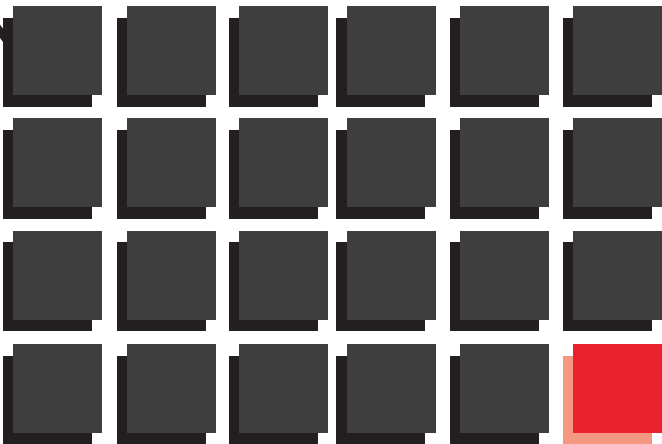
Dr. Bergholz says he didn't know about the ceremony or the appointment beforehand. Dr. Chalk himself says he only became aware that they were holding a ceremony for him a few days before. "I was never offered the opportunity to invite people to what turned out to be a reception to honour my career," Chalk explains. "It's really odd."

The failure in procedure became public after Dr. Ted McCormick, another history professor, began posting about it online in private forums of full-time faculty at Concordia. The History Department, including McCormick and Chalk, unanimously passed a motion asking for a public disavowal and removal of Matthews from the position of executive director and that an investigation be launched to determine how everything unfolded.

The department cited the break in procedure as cause for their motion and further stated that the four history professors who sit on the Board of MIGS were not consulted about the appointment. According to most accounts, the Board hasn't met since MIGS became a certified research institute in 2011.

CONCORDIA HAS 23 RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling is another one of Concordia's research institutes. The centre facilitates interdisciplinary research, often grounded in history. Barbara Lorenskowski and Ronald Rudin, two professors in the History Department, are the centre's co-directors.



CONCORDIA HAS 1 THINK TANK.

The new Aviation Think Tank is said to bring together researchers and industry professionals. In a press release following the think tank's announcement, it is explained that its purpose is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. Graham Carr, Concordia's provost, is one of two individuals from the university that sit on the advisory board.

McCormick said they invented the position out of thin air. "There's no policy or procedure associated with it." Despite the change in title, he adds, it's clear to him that Matthews still runs the show at MIGS.

Matthews says his job hasn't changed much since he transitioned from senior deputy director to executive director. The change has allowed Dr. Chalk to begin doing more research, Matthews explains, while he has greater control now on the managerial side of the operations.

The Future of MIGS, the Future of Concordia

The Will to Intervene is the project that allowed MIGS to grow its reputation worldwide, according to Matthews. The goal of the project was to create a policy report that "recommends practical strategic measures to government officials, legislators, civil servants, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, journalists, and media owners and managers in Canada and the United States to raise their capacity to prevent mass atrocities overseas."

In 2010, former US President Barack Obama adopted two of the project's recommendations into his administration's plan for national security. MIGS eventually published the report as a book in 2010.

"That's not advocacy—that's scholarly research," Matthews says about the work of the project. Matthews regularly appears in local and national media to comment on human rights issues facing the world. Social media also plays a big part in the operations of MIGS. Its Twitter feed is active daily, and one of the institute's main projects right now is the Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab. The goal of the lab is to research how extremism spreads online and to recommend policies to counter it.

"I would call it advocacy without research," Bergholz says, emphasizing academic research must be peer-reviewed before publication. "[...] to advocate on behalf of the university you have to have done serious research."

Professor McCormick echoes this, saying that MIGS doesn't have an academic program associated with it, doesn't produce any type of academic publication, or go after peer-reviewed research grants.

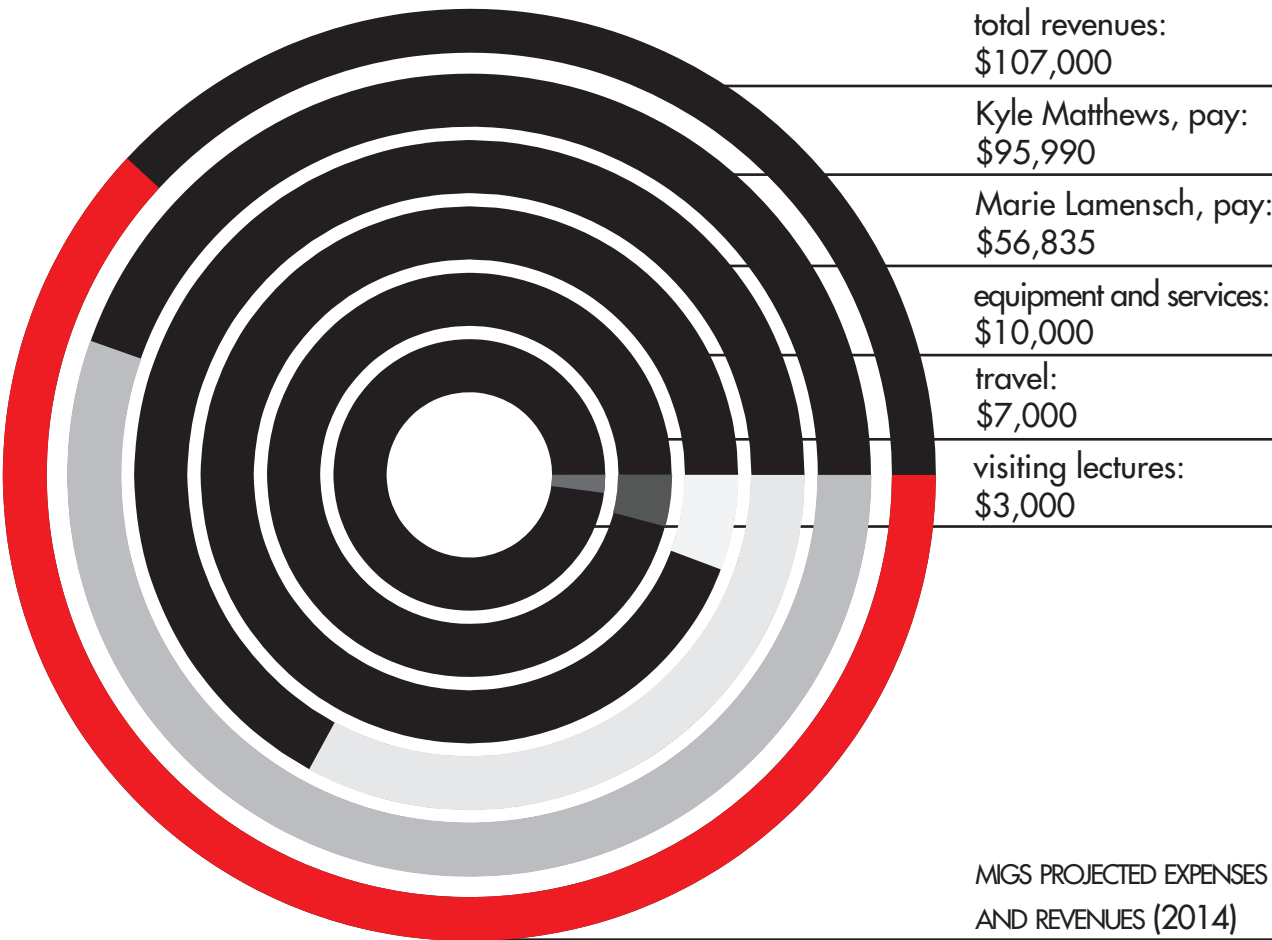
"What they do a lot of is have Kyle Matthews talking to the local media about whatever latest event is happening," he says. "They have a public profile."

While there is only one PhD candidate from Concordia listed as a fellow of MIGS right now, Matthews says his goal is to raise more donor money to fund graduate research. The institute has hosted 73 interns during his time there, many of whom came from Concordia undergraduate programs like journalism and political science, he adds.

If Bergholz leaves the upcoming March 10 meeting with the decision that he will not pursue a renewal of MIGS as a research institute, then it appears the institute would become a "think tank" to accommodate the current setup they have. How a think tank works procedurally isn't clearly defined anywhere or by anyone.

"We've been thinking about other ways that we could potentially accommodate the kind of things that Kyle does, perhaps in a different kind of structure," Powlowski says about the think tank model for MIGS. The model was created as part of discussions for one of Concordia's nine Strategic Directions, "Double Our Research."

The university administration basically wants to decertify MIGS as a research institute in favour of this think tank model, according to Bergholz, and he's not sure why. "Financially it's unviable in its current form," he says. "Somehow it will become viable as a think tank."



ULaval Divests, ConU Rests

by Claire Loewen

@clairelwn

graphic by Carl Bindman

@carlbindman

Of its total \$100 million used for investments, just five per cent of Concordia's endowment fund is dedicated to sustainable causes. Concordia's committee in charge of advising just where this \$5 million should go met on Feb. 16.

The day before, Laval University announced it would divest 100 per cent of its investments from fossil fuels, becoming the first in Canada to make this commitment.

Fossil fuel divestment is the removal of any stocks, bonds, or investments in the fossil fuel industry, in an attempt to hold the industry accountable for its impact on climate change.

Laval University's decision came as a direct result of a campaign similar to DivestConcordia, called ULaval sans fossiles. Both organizations have been calling on their respective universities to remove all their investments in the fossil fuel industry.

The difference between the two is that DivestConcordia has been around since September of 2013—ULaval sans fossiles formed only four months ago, in November 2016. According to Alice-Anne Simard, co-spokesperson for ULaval sans fossiles, their divest campaign followed the same formula as most.

"Our campaign looks like any other," Simard said. The group made stickers and pins, created a website and Facebook page, and rapidly gained a huge following.

The reason it worked so quickly, she said, was because of the openness of Laval University's administration to the idea. After the organization's first negotiation with the university on Jan. 29, it was decided that they would set out on a five year plan to fully divest from fossil fuels. Two weeks later, the decision was announced to the public.

"The only difference [between our campaign and other university divest campaigns] is really that our university saw the opportunity to be a leader in this area," Simard said.

"[Laval University] saw the advantage from

the environmental, economic, and university image perspectives," she added. "There's only one that can be the first in Canada, and Laval University wanted to be the first."

Now, Simard said, the argument some universities may have that no university has divested in Canada just became ineffectual. "There is a first university who has done it, it opened the door."

The Impact of the Decision

DivestConcordia members are excited about ULaval sans fossiles' success, according to their spokesperson Tabea Vischer.

"It will definitely have an effect on Concordia's decision to divest," Vischer wrote in a message, adding that the campaign still has a long way to go. Laval University's decision added (fossil-free) fuel to the campaign's fire. Vischer said DivestConcordia is prepared to push even harder for divestment this semester, and will not stop until the university commits.

As a response to students' call for divestment, the Concordia University Foundation carved out \$5 million to invest in what are called impact investments. These involve making intentional decisions about investing in areas that will have social impacts, according to Bram Freedman, Concordia's VP Advancement and External Relations, and President of the CUF's board.

The CUF is a separate entity from the university. Its board decides where donated money and other funds are invested, and its goal is to generate returns on these investments. These returns are used to fund student bursaries, scholarships and research.

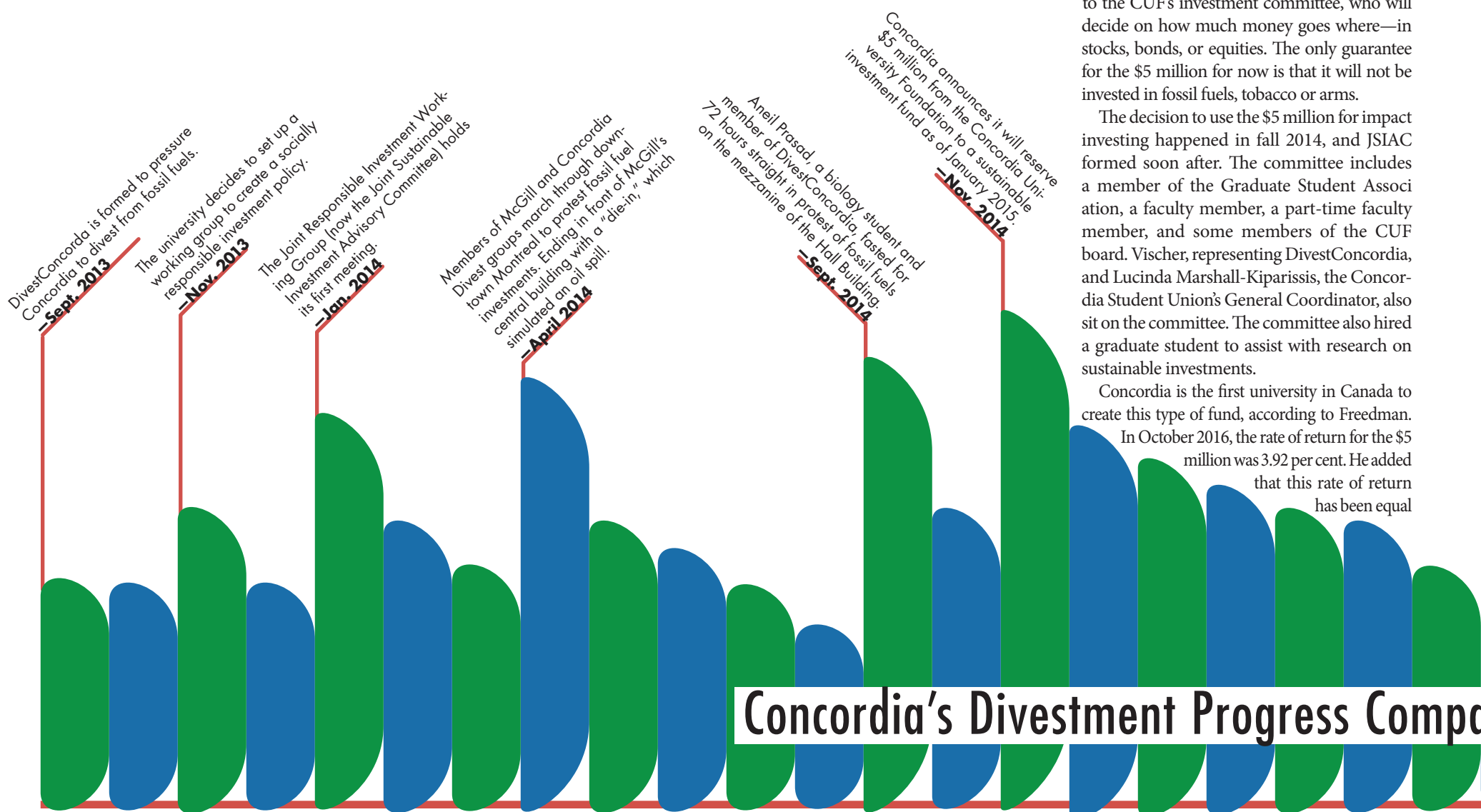
This \$5 million is subject to recommendations from the Joint Sustainable Investment Advisory Committee. The committee members are mandated to advise their respective governing bodies on socially and environmentally responsible investment opportunities, but is not a legislative body that can make decisions.

So far, no recommendations have been made to the CUF's investment committee, who will decide on how much money goes where—in stocks, bonds, or equities. The only guarantee for the \$5 million for now is that it will not be invested in fossil fuels, tobacco or arms.

The decision to use the \$5 million for impact investing happened in fall 2014, and JSIAC formed soon after. The committee includes a member of the Graduate Student Association, a faculty member, a part-time faculty member, and some members of the CUF board. Vischer, representing DivestConcordia, and Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, the Concordia Student Union's General Coordinator, also sit on the committee. The committee also hired a graduate student to assist with research on sustainable investments.

Concordia is the first university in Canada to create this type of fund, according to Freedman.

In October 2016, the rate of return for the \$5 million was 3.92 per cent. He added that this rate of return has been equal



or better than the CUF's other investments.

The university also has a sustainability policy, which is supposed to touch all the operations at Concordia. The policy calls for "financial management that is responsible and conducive to social and environmental wellbeing."

Freedman said that since the \$5 million fund was set aside, he estimates about five to ten per cent of the CUF's investments are in fossil fuels. It is difficult to track how much and where exactly the invested money ends up, because it's managed by 11 different investment firms, all of which have pooled funds in a variety of stocks and bonds.

There are no detailed breakdowns of the CUF's investments, and in order to figure this out, a specialized firm would need to be hired to contact all their different investment managers and compile a report, Freedman told *The Link* in October.

No action has been made on this front, as the CUF has been focusing on discussing sustainable investment, according to Freedman. He said no money or resources have been dedicated so far, but he anticipates that this will probably happen at some point in the future.

"If we wanted to find out, that would cost money, because we'd have to look at all of their holdings and pull out ours, and figure out which company is what and so on," Freedman said.

What's Up With JSIAC

JSIAC's three meetings since June have mainly focused on education and training. The committee has seen presentations of examples of impact investing, including the CSU's sustainable housing project.

"They've been interesting meetings," said Marshall-Kiparissis. But she said she and other members of the committee are looking forward to actually making recommendations, which they should be getting to in the coming meetings.

She added that she believes the committee is now moving to a process where the advisory committee can fulfill the advisory part of its mandate.

Marshall-Kiparissis said she hopes Concordia can borrow some of Laval University's fire

when it comes to fossil fuel divestment.

Freedman argues that the creation of JSIAC and the \$5 million fund is along the same path as Laval University's total divestment from fossil fuels.

"We've looked at this \$5 million as a pilot project. So far the pilot project has been positive," he said, adding that he is proud, and all Concordians should be proud that Concordia was the first university in Canada to take this step.

He said there seems to be an openness from CUF's board to expanding the dedicated \$5 million investment at some point in the future. Right now, the CUF board is not prepared to make a formal commitment to divest the entire endowment, Freedman said, but they "continue along that path of discussing."

However, Vischer said that at JSIAC's Feb. 16 meeting, Freedman said it was unlikely all JSIAC's members would agree that full divestment from fossil fuels would be one of the committee's recommendations to the CUF. She added that Freedman also said JSIAC's discussions would be more fruitful if media were not involved.

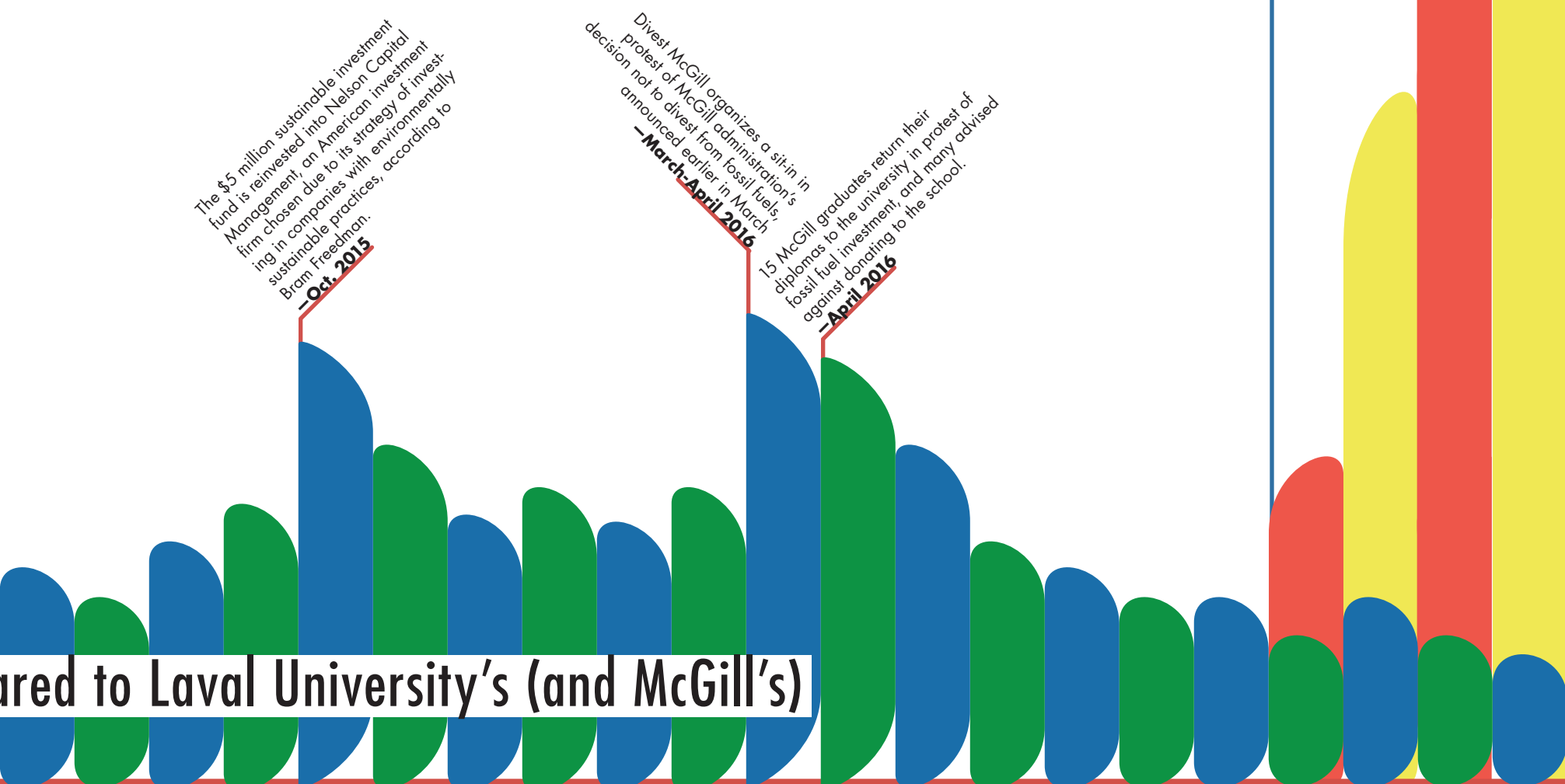
"I fully understand the impatience of our friends at DivestConcordia, I get it," Freedman told *The Link*, adding that compared to other institutions, he finds Concordia is moving rapidly and making good progress.

"I don't think these campaigns are going to be appeased by middle grounds," said Marshall-Kiparissis of DivestConcordia's efforts. She added that she hopes Concordia will see Laval's divestment as a model to push closer to, rather than trying to appease the campaign by committing to minimal sustainable investments.

While she applauds Concordia for creating the \$5 million sustainable investment fund, her role as undergraduate representative on JSIAC mandates Marshall-Kiparissis to support full divestment. This is because the undergraduate student body voted in favour of divestment in a referendum in November.

"There is a lot of impatience," she said. "I'm really hoping that that impatience can be read as legitimate by both JSIAC and the foundation."

With files from Jonathan Caragay-Cook





Amy Macdonald, Emily Gualtieri, Chloë Lum, Yannick Deslanreau, and Malek Yalaoui spoke at the *Where to Now?* panel with Art Matters.

COURTESY LENNY SHARP

Is Montreal's Art Scene Sustainable?

Artists Answer the Questions We're Too Afraid to Ask

TALIESIN HERB

Montreal is over.

Many artists are left with this thought when their time as undergrads has finished. You might be at the end of your rope. Pining for a secure job doing what you love; your vision doesn't include waiting tables or bagging groceries, but you need some sort of income to keep creating.

The prospect of gathering your belongings and booking a ticket to Berlin or to the city where your parents live suddenly looks inviting—and waiting for the drought to end looks ridiculous.

Just before the onset of reading week on Feb. 16, Art Matters and the English-Language Arts Network presented a panel called, *Where to Now?*

Through this platform, writers, choreographers and multi-disciplinary artists based in Montreal offered their insight and advice on how to move forward as an artist beset with doubt.

"Many people cut their teeth making art here, whether at an institution like Concordia or on their own terms," said Amy Macdonald, the panel moderator. "We wanted to bring together artists who represent very different approaches and experiences, who had travelled with their artistic practice."

But the question of whether to take root or disperse is tied to many factors, which vary for everyone. Ideas about ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language barriers, and community were at the crux of their advice.

Concerning flight, as one educator and poet, Malek Yalaoui pointed out, "mobility is a privilege." The freedom to move is not

always a solution when you and your practice are stunted, she explained.

"Who can afford to move and resettle?" she asked.

While Europe may seem like the land of milk and honey, it's important to consider that not everyone has the same options.

"Who can move through borders easily and who cannot?" Yalaoui continued. In light of political gestures south of the border, impediments to mobility are very real for some people.

With the subject of community inherently embedded in the panel, what can be gathered from this is the important realization that you can work with your surroundings—your immediate community.

But while the people surrounding you could be a solution to that inevitable financial or creative block, "community" is a concept that is open to interpretation.

While it can symbolize both belonging and isolation, some of the panelists recognized community to be synonymous with networking—establishing strong relationships with those in your field, where you reside and abroad.

Choreographer and dancer, Emily Gualtieri, observed that collaboration can "mitigate the risk of writer's block," something that all artists will eventually face.

For Gualtieri, producing dance art through collaboration enabled her to actually "share it," she said. Integrating the interpretation of others better prepared her work for the audience, she explained.

Nonetheless, other speakers admitted that community can often translate to expectations without support; art production with no sense of personhood.

"Community can bleed you dry," said Yalaoui. In the event that people choose to manipulate you, she said, "a word to the wise: refuse."

One audience member, who chose to remain anonymous, raised the issue of abuses of power in creative industries. Positions within the arts may be coveted, but employers—or technically supervisors for unpaid positions—can abuse their status.

Half of the panelists attested to the challenges of living and creating under the weight of mental illness—power dynamics can exacerbate such conditions.

In collaborative work, "trust is huge," said Chloë Lum, a multidisciplinary artist who has worked with her artistic counterpart, Yannick Deslanreau, for years.

Gualtieri, Lum, and Yalaoui all agreed that when your integrity as an artist and person is disregarded, such a partnership is not worth pursuing.

"You should never dehumanized yourself," said Yalaoui.

Gualtieri described a similar standard—the necessity of open communication between

"Trust is huge"

—Chloë Lum

yourself and your creative partner to ensure equal representation, and equal credit. You have to be clear about what collaboration will provide for both parties, she explained.

In the event that you cannot escape your geographical reality, the online world is an accessible route.

Lum described doing "a lot of distance work"

at the onset of her career. When your field is small, reaching out physically may not be possible, at first. The internet provides an easy entry point to more diverse opportunities.

It is important to remember that you may have to build the space you need.

Yalaoui uses her voice to create platforms for women of colour. Her intent was to reframe the "rigged game" experienced in spoken word; in other words, one that favours the voices of white artists, therefore overlooking and marginalizing artists of colour. In this respect, women of colour who display their work through her platforms are "seen on their own terms."

Gualtieri's company, Parts+Labour_Dance, emphasizes co-ownership in performances. It also showcases older dancers, who have difficulty finding employment through other companies. Gualtieri still has to move between Toronto and Montreal to maintain her projects, however.

As in the case of Gualtieri, Lum and Deslanreau, geographic expansion was a must. They can "work by their own politics" by moving where they need to. Deslanreau works in Montreal, maintaining a connection here. Lum, likewise, studies in Toronto. Effectively, they are connected to both cities.

For incoming artists, the English-Language Arts Network encourages them to get involved in their community by reaching out, attending events, and building support networks, explained Macdonald.

"It's really helpful to have people behind you who are ready to engage with your work honestly, help you improve it, and exchange their own energy and knowledge with yours."

Going to a sick concert, scene vernissage or indie movie screening? Want to write about it, and see it on our FringeBlog? Contact fringeonline@thelinknewspaper.ca

THE LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Feb. 28 - March 7

TU 28

Performance - Black to the Future

To end Black History Month with a bang, Black Lives Matter Montreal and Trans Trenderz are teaming up to bring you a cool, all Black lineup of performers, including Strange Fruits! La Vitrola • 4602 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. // \$10 or PWYC

Performance - Nick Ryan

The minimalist folk-singer from Newfoundland is here in our city! While he's working on his third album, he'll also be putting on a show. Grab a drink with some friends and listen to his sound. Bar Palco • 4019 Wellington St. • 9 p.m. // FREE

WE 1

Performance - Thundercat

Virtuostic bassist and singer Stephen Bruner, a.k.a. Thundercat, will be putting on what we can only imagine will be one heck of a show. Société des arts technologiques [SAT] • 1201 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8 p.m. // \$24.25

TH 2

Zine Launch and Performance - Feminist Propaganda

Go support the release of a zine, Feminist Propaganda! With musical performances by GBLNSHRK, Devan K-m, and The 3 1/2's. La Vitrola • 4602 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8 p.m. // PWYC

Festival - Cold Call Film Festival

Cold Call Productions is putting together their second film festival to showcase some of the amazing work of filmmakers and video artists. Local and international titles. Arbutus Records • 6545 Durocher Ave. • 7 p.m. // PWYC

FR 3

Festival - Not Your Babe

For this year's International Women's Week, Montreal Sisterhood has put together a festival, which includes a ton of rad events. Starting on March 3, there'll be a post-punk concert with an interesting lineup of performers. Run 'till March 5. Coop Katacombes • 1635 St. Laurent Blvd. • 9 p.m. // PWYC

Performance - Sean Nicholas Savage and Cafe Lanai

Blue Skies Turn Black presents two performers with their own sounds. One a bit more laid back, and the other more upbeat but still pretty chill. Check 'em out live! La Vitrola • 4602 St. Laurent Blvd. • 10 p.m. // \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door

SA 4

Screening - Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things

This documentary film discusses how colonization and religion have shamed and erased traditional Inuit beliefs about sexuality and family structure—and how, six decades later, a new generation of Inuit are actively “unshaming” their past. A Q&A will follow. Never Apart • 7049 St. Urbain St. • 6 p.m. // FREE

Protest - Stop the Racist Far-Right

A far-right Islamophobic group is organizing a protest at City Hall. How about we throw them a welcome party to show them that this kind of racist behaviour isn't welcome? Montreal City Hall • 275 Notre-Dame St. E. • 11:30 a.m.

SU 5

Concordia Write Nights - Writing with Monkeys, Ducks, and Penguins

Concordia Write Nights lets people see how different settings change their writing. This setting: The Montreal Biodome. Montreal Biodome • 4777 Pierre De Coubertin Ave. • 2 p.m. // \$12 for students with Quebec residency, \$14.75 without

Performance - Michale Graves, Guttrot, Screaming Demons, The Scowls, and The Barrel Heads

Ex-Misfits singer Michale Graves is putting on a show. Featuring Guttrot, Screaming Demons, The Scowls and The Barrel Heads. Piranha Bar • 680 Ste. Catherine St. W. • 7:30 p.m. // \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door

MO 6

Screening - Ovarian Psycos

Cinema Politica premieres a documentary of a group of womxn of colour activists on bicycles. Follow their trail as they ride, fighting patriarchy and racism. Xela De La X, founder of the group, will be there! Concordia Hall Building • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 7 p.m. // PWYC

Games Night - Law Needs Feminism Needs a Night Out

Kicking off International Women's Week, Law Needs Feminism Because has organized a night of music, games, and just an overall chill time. All proceeds will go to LNFB. North Star Machines à Pâtres • 3908 St. Laurent Blvd. • 6 p.m. // \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

TU 7

Workshop - Girls Action: Herstory

A workshop that aims to explore the history of women and cultural diversity with the use of multimedia storytelling. Explore your cultural identity with art, no drawing skills needed. RSVP sometime before the day of the workshop. Concordia University Television (CUTV) • 2110 Mackay St. • 6:30 p.m. // FREE

Album Launch - Rivers

Celebrating the launch of his new solo album, Canadian tabla player Shawn Mativetsky will be putting on a recital. La Sala Rossa • 4848 St. Laurent Blvd. • 7 p.m. // \$10

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

The Link Volume 38 General Elections Are Here!

We are electing a new masthead for Volume 38. Elections will take place on today (Feb. 28) at 4 p.m. in the Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.), room H-649.

Here's who is running for each position

Editor-in-Chief — Kelsey Litwin

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

Coordinating Editor — Tristan D'Amours

Direct the paper's online content and stay on top of news, fringe, sports and opinions content cycles. Conquer the Internet with cunning social media strategy and innovative ideas.

Managing Editor — Jon Milton

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

Current Affairs Editor — Miriam Lafontaine

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

(2) Co-News Editors — Vince Morello & Franca Mignacca

Direct the online news content. Get to know every inch of Concordia and its politics. Recite acronyms and chase the truth. Repeat after me: BoG, CSU, ASFA.

Opinions Editor — Savannah Stewart

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

Copy Editor — Ocean DeRouchie

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

Fringe Arts Editor — Shannon Carranco & Franca Mignacca

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

Fringe Online — Julia Miele

As the online, regular counterpart to the fringe arts editor, you tell Concordia what's worth seeing and what to avoid. You are also in charge of our popular fringe calendar.

Sports Editor — Alexander Perez

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

Sports Online — Harrison-Milo Rahajason

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

Creative Director — Carl Bindman

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

Photo Editor — Brian Lapuz

Capture the ups and downs of Concordia life. Snap photos of Stingers games, protests and everything between. Manage a list of contributors and become adept at Photoshop for when the photos are sub-par.

Video Editor — Nikolas Litzenberger

Capture video every week for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and The Link's website. Work with the coordinating editor to organize live sessions with bands, and capture on-the-spot news when it happens.

Graphics Editor — Morag Rahn-Campbell

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

Here's who can vote:

Bronson Smillie, Nico Holzmman, Joshua Da Costa, Etienne Lajoie, Ninon Scotto di Uccio, Harrison-Milo Rahajason, Jonathan Caragay-Cook, Claire Loewen, Lucas Napier-Macdonald, Michael Eidelson, Salim Valji, Willie Wilson, Cairo Justice, Michael Dutton, Marion Lefevre, Jeremie Gauthier-Caron, Sharon Yonan Renold, Gabor Bata, Taliesin Herb



Samuel Narkaj is preparing to have a peak performance at the CFL National Combine in Regina, Saskatchewan this March.

COURTESY BRIANNA THICKE

Road to a Draft Pick

Samuel Narkaj to Participate in CFL National Combine Next Month

ALEXANDER PEREZ
@DASALEXPerez

Samuel Narkaj is about to head to Regina, Saskatchewan to partake in the most important training camp of his life. In about three weeks, he will be participating in the Canadian Football League National Combine, almost ensuring his spot on a team.

But it was in Detroit, Michigan a little over a decade ago where he first fell in love with football.

Narkaj, who started playing football in grade six, played two seasons with the Clifford H. Smart Middle School Trojans.

The next step for Narkaj was high school football. He remembers going to watch the game and seeing the packed stadiums. Narkaj participated in two weeks of training camp for the team—he was hungry for the experience. But those plans would be canceled.

He and his family packed up and moved to Toronto in 2007. At 14 years old, he was upset with the decision. “It was a big culture change,” said Narkaj. “I was so attached to where I was living in the states.”

“We went from 5,000 person stadiums to two rows of bleachers and grass fields,” he said. “I didn’t get to experience that high school culture over there, which was pretty upsetting—I felt like it was taken away from me.”

Narkaj was no stranger to new environments, though. At five years old, he and his family left Albania in 1997 during the civil war.

The Stingers alumnus admits to not remembering much during that point in his life, but there are a few memories that he recalls.

“I remember from time to time, but it was a time of war,” Narkaj stated. “I have some memories, going up north to the mountains for a little vacation, and to the beach—I remember planes flying over.”

He was just a kid back then, so the move wasn’t difficult to deal with.

Coping with the move to Toronto was a challenge for Narkaj though. The first couple of months were tough, he said, as thoughts of quitting football began to take shape. “I was going through some rough times,” said Narkaj. But once he got onto the field, he said all became fine. He was back playing, this time representing his high school—the Silverthorn Collegiate Institute Spartans.

Prior to making his way to Montreal to join the Concordia Stingers, Narkaj also played two years for the West Shore Rebels in British Columbia, in the Canadian Junior Football League. The CJFL is a post-high school league geared for 17 to 22 year old players.

When Mickey Donovan signed on as head coach a year after Narkaj joined the Stingers, he immediately saw Narkaj’s potential.

“[Narkaj] is very powerful and explosive off the ball,” said Donovan. “He’s very good with his hands, and he knows how to use his height and his body weight to his advantage.”

Narkaj’s ability on the football field proved essential to Donovan’s team. This past season

alone, he recorded 23 tackle and six sacks. Donovan was equally impressed with Narkaj’s overall passion for the game.

It was almost as though football was his life, said Donovan. “He channeled [his passion] to work and wanted to get better each and every day, and that’s something special when you see that in a player.”

Narkaj spent four years at Concordia studying urban studies and playing for the Stingers. During that time, Narkaj became one of the country’s top football prospects, which has been proven by his invitation to the combine.

The national combine will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan from March 23 to 25. The Combine invites 35 CFL prospects ahead of the 2017 draft. Players will undergo various fitness tests, drills and medical examinations.

“It’s what I’ve been working for, for the past four years,” said the former Stingers defensive tackle. “I always had a dream for myself, and that was to be a professional athlete.”

Narkaj is humbled to be invited to the combine as well as representing the Stingers in the process. He’s excited to get started, but says he will be keeping a cool head prior to the combine.

When asked about his time at Concordia, Narkaj was stumped for words.

“It was great,” he said after a long pause. “I met so many great [people] in the four years there. It’s indescribable—the memories we made, the people I’ve met. Friends that I’ll have for a lifetime.”

During his time with the Stingers, Narkaj proved a leader on the field. According to rookie Vincent Alessandrini, “he’s the one who got us pumped for the game.”

Throughout his first season as a Stinger, Narkaj became somewhat of a role model for Alessandrini.

“As a person, I love the guy,” said Alessandrini. “He’s really taught me a couple things on and off the field and he’s definitely someone to look up to—[Narkaj] came to Concordia and made a name for himself.”

With the combine a little less than a month away, both Donovan and Alessandrini have nothing but confidence in Narkaj.

“He honestly is the strongest person I’ve ever encountered,” said Alessandrini. “[Narkaj] is probably going to break a record at the bench press—he has tremendous power.”

The CFL will also be holding three regional camps ahead of the national combine. Three Stingers players, Max Thompson, Jean-Pierre Munroe and Aldo Cione, will be participating in the Eastern Regional Combine held in Montreal. If selected, they will join Narkaj in Regina.

For players like Alessandrini, seeing players and teammates attend the combine gives him the motivation to follow in their footsteps.

“I want to go as far as I can with football,” he said. “If it’s CFL I’ll go [there]. If it’s the NFL wow that’s fucking amazing—It really motivates seeing all these guys going to the regional [camps] and getting invites to the national.”

For Donovan, seeing players come and go is nothing new. But he continues to have their backs, post-university ball. From the three players attending the regional camps, Donovan said he wouldn’t be surprised if one or two get an invite to the national combine. “I always want to see the kids do well in life, no matter what it is that they’re doing,” he said.

As for Narkaj, Donovan feels it should be a no-brainer for CFL teams, stating that there are three or four teams that would suit Narkaj. “Hopefully the CFL guys did their homework properly and can get it done right,” he said.

“I always had a dream for myself, and that was to be a professional athlete”

—Samuel Narkaj

Making a Rivalry

Concordia and McGill Love to Hate Each Other

HARRISON-MILO RAHAJASON
@HARRIMILO

*I'd rather be a Redman
than a fucking bumblebee,
I'd rather be a genius
than flip burgers at McD's,
I'd never wipe my ass
with a Concordia degree,
So fuck you bumblebees!*

Sung to the tune of "Solidarity Forever," those are the words of McGill's anti-Stingers fight song.

The McGill-Concordia university rivalry is weird. On the surface, it looks like any other you'd find in university sports.

Some might assume that these two schools might be rivals based on proximity, and the fact that they're Montreal's only two anglophone universities. But this isn't like the old McGill-Queen's rivalry, which was mainly rooted in their comparable academic prestige and profiles.

The disdain between athletes that is typical of most sports rivalries doesn't exist—at least not to any significant degree. Rather, the reasons are more nuanced.

"The fact that at all games McGillians insist on yelling that song as loud as possible maintains that we have very little working for us," said McGill student Bobbie Gaucher.

"Concordia has such a welcoming environment and cooperative faculties, whereas McGill is so focused on the status quo. It's harming the quality of education. But still, fucking bumblebees."

Regardless of sport, games between the Martlets/Redmen and the Stingers are usually well attended and highly anticipated.

McGill baseball's Fan Night just so happened to fall on the same evening they played against the Stingers.

Meanwhile, Concordia's Shoot For The Cure event—an effort to raise funds for breast cancer research—was held during a Thursday evening men's/women's doubleheader against McGill.

Timing here is no coincidence. People care about this rivalry.

Former McGill standout from 2010 to 2014, and current Winnipeg Blue Bombers linebacker Jesse Briggs remembers close games and big crowds whenever the cross-town rivals faced each other.

"As soon as the McGill football schedule is released every year, I immediately circle the Concordia games," said Briggs. "I always do my best to catch those games on TV or on a webcast."

The rivalry between the two schools isn't as straightforward as one school hating the other. In fact, both universities, despite their differences, coexist quite nicely. The same could be said for the players—many of whom played with each other at some point before going to university.

Ron Aboud, who played in the late 80's and

is still the most prolific passer in Concordia history, grew up around several players who went to either school.

"After the games, we would see McGill players at bars. I knew and played with lots of them, it was always friendly," said the former Concordia quarterback.

"At first, I wanted to go to McGill," said Aboud. "Both schools wanted me, and one of the reasons I chose Concordia was that they're always the underdog. McGill is a big name—you can't deny that."

This rivalry isn't carried out by the players—they compete against each other for bragging rights, more than anything else. Rather, it lives on through the fans.

"The crowds were always full whenever we faced McGill," said veteran Edmonton Eskimos wide receiver and former Stinger Cory Watson. "Both schools would always bring more fans for that game. But for us, we just went out and played—and usually won."

For McGill fans, it's an opportunity to tease Concordia for the academic disparity between the two schools. For Concordia fans, it's a chance to embrace the role of the underdog.

Both fanbases have something to dislike about the other, and it gives them a reason to show up for those games and cheer for their team. It also doesn't hurt that what is arguably the rivalry's flagship game—the first of two football games between them.

The Shaughnessy Cup—named after

legendary McGill football coach Frank Shaughnessy—always manages to attract large crowds. It's always scheduled during the host school's frosh weekend—which is no accident, either.

"The fact that they put stakes in the game made it more important for us," said Watson. "The atmosphere was great, and it always pushed us a little harder during the Shaughnessy Cup. After the games, though, we were all friends."

This rivalry isn't one of hostility, unlike the now defunct Queen's vs. McGill clash. Queen's quite literally used to call it "Kill McGill."

In terms of age and academic prestige, Queen's and McGill are similar. They're also much further away from each other, geographically. They hardly ever interact outside from their scheduled sports games, giving fans only one opportunity to let out their pent up frustrations.

"The Concordia-McGill thing is new," said Watson. "It's just because they're the two English universities in Montreal. It's a more recent rivalry and they've had to make their traditions from scratch."

That's why they sing that song. By all accounts, they've been singing it since the early days of this rivalry. Concordia has had over 40 years to come up with a comeback, but they still haven't.

"It's a shame that they haven't made a song in response to it," said Briggs, laughing.

"McGill fans love to tease the academic side. It's all for fun, though."

Perhaps Concordia hasn't come up with one because they want to push the underdog narrative.

"We know that nothing about that song is true, it's all in the spirit of fun," said Aboud. "But, we'd always hear from McGill fans that, someday, we'll be working for them. That pisses you off. You want to show them that if you work hard enough, none of this matters."

Possibly.

Either way, this new rivalry is still trying to figure itself out. It has made strides—the Concordia-McGill games will still be the most attended games, regardless of sport. But the rivalry is young—and it's still looking to forge its own traditions.

"To be honest with you, I didn't really know about the rivalry before I got to McGill," said McGill student James Langshaw.

McGill and Queen's had been playing football against each other for the better part of a century, before conference realignment put the kibosh on their annual meetings. Queen's would bring several busses full of students the night before the game, and they'd turn the McGill Ghetto upside down.

Concordia still has a long way to go before reaching that level. But the fact that they sing that song and the Stingers like to be the underdog gives both schools a nicely defined role in this relationship—it's a good start.



ZOË GELFANT

This Week in Sports Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

See how Stingers head coach and Les Canadiennes player, Julie Chu, led her two teams to two playoff series sweeps—in one day.

Nahm'sayin? I'm Addicted to Orange Juice and It's a Problem

MIRIAM LAFONTAINE

There's something I haven't been telling you guys. There's something you should know about me. A secret, I guess.

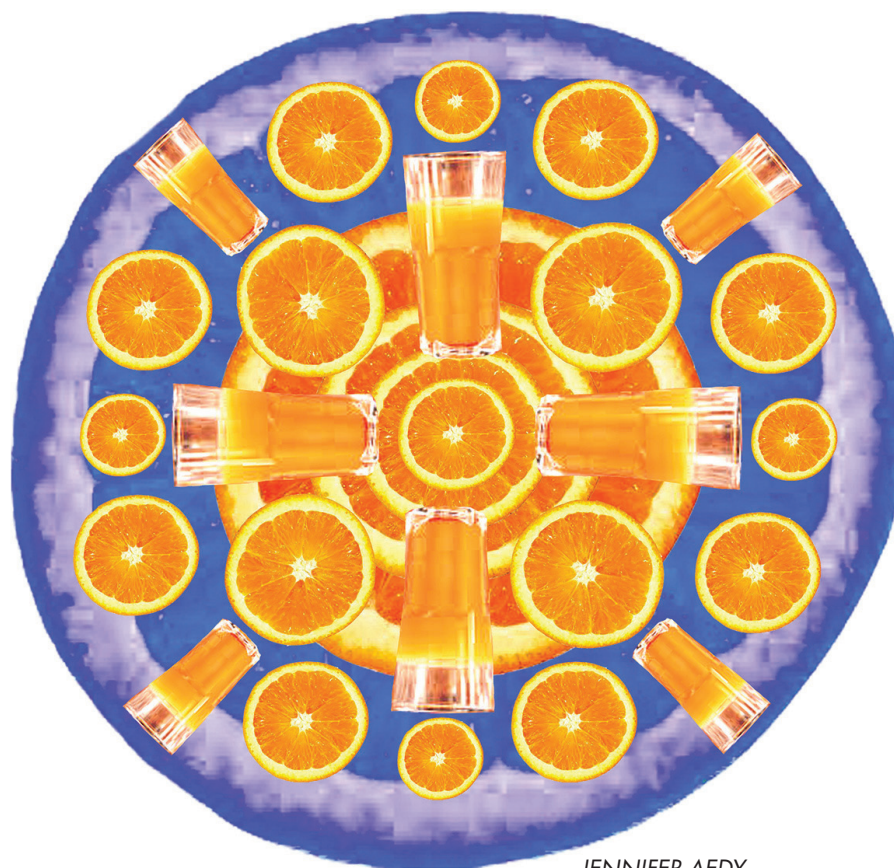
But not anymore, this needs to come to light. I am addicted. I am addicted to orange juice. So what? Orange juice is healthy, you say? Well that's where you're objectively wrong. A glass of orange juice actually has about the same amount of sugar as a can of Coca-Cola. The British Medical Journal has also found that fruit juices increase the risk of type 2 diabetes.

But am I ready to stop? After all those long nights out, orange juice was always there for me in the morning. Ready to be my breakfast when I'd only had five hours of sleep and was too tired to make myself food, always there to nurse my hangover. Drink water? Water doesn't have calories. Water doesn't have colour. Water doesn't have LIFE.

Pulp or no pulp? It doesn't matter. I'd drink anything orange. Just let me get my fix. If they sold whole cartons of nothing but orange pulp, I'd fuck with that too.

I'm trying to let you go, but I can't stop dreaming about you, OJ. You've found your way into the deepest levels of my subconscious. The other night I dreamt that I downed an entire carton of orange juice in several big gulps. That's bliss, right there.

There you were again, beckoning me back. As if to say, "hey man, I'm here for you, I got your back. We can do this." But maybe we shouldn't anymore, because I can't keep drinking half a gallon of orange juice every day. It's just not sustainable. Do you want me to get diabetes? I don't want me to get diabetes. Please respond.



JENNIFER AEDY

This Week in Opinions Online at thelinknewspaper.ca/opinions

Justice for Alice Paquet: We need to re-think the procedures used to handle sexual assault cases.

LETTER:

Frigo Vert Is Transparent and Accessible

I am writing in response to the article that was printed about Le Frigo Vert in Volume 37, Issue 16. We feel that the article written unfairly paints Frigo and the Concordia Student Union in a negative light.

The article implies we received \$130,000 in financial aid that we did nothing with and have not been accountable to the CSU for. I was not asked about that money during the interview.

That money was spent before our opening in September on renovating the new space that

was an "empty box."

We built a ramp in the store, built a wheelchair accessible washroom, and we installed a lighting system with different accessibility considerations. We had to provide receipts for every penny spent.

Frigo Vert just did a voluntary financial audit. We have our budgets available on our website. Our financial books are open to our board and presented at our annual general meeting.

We continue to be open, accountable, and responsible with our finances, and any insinuation that we are not could damage our ability to gain funding in the future. It unfairly affects student confidence in the CSU and other fee-levy groups.

Contrary to the title of the article, Frigo Vert actually is wheelchair accessible. The ramp outside is usable—it just needs minor repairs. While the ramp repairs have been on hold, we have been working on improving accessibility in other ways.

This has included the creation of an accessibility coordinator, staff training, high contrast markings, signage about our washroom being wheelchair accessible and welcoming to trans people, a new scent reduction policy, tactile warnings throughout the store for changes in inclinations, a new policy to provide ASL at our events, and we are working on many more ideas and things we can do.

There has been no progress on the outside ramp because construction was happening on the building, which has damaged the ramp. It is the landlord's responsibility to repair it and they have assured us they will.

It's truly frustrating to have made so many huge positive changes towards being more accessible, within a process where we have been open and accountable and working very hard, only to have this article written about us that insinuates we've done nothing and have been irresponsible with achieving these goals and with our finances.

—Hunter Cubitt-Cooke,
employee at Frigo Vert



Canada Helped Overthrow Haitian Democracy

JÉRÉMIE GAUTHIER-CARON

Wednesday marks the 13th anniversary of a coup d'état in Haiti. On Feb. 29, 2004—it was a leap year—a Canadian-led assault on Haitian democracy forcibly removed the social democrat President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Current Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre—who was the minister to La Francophonie and Prime Minister Paul Martin's special advisor to Haiti—said on Feb. 20, 2004, "It is clear that we don't want Aristide's head; we believe that Aristide should stay."

Nine days later, Canadian Special Forces landed in Haiti—taking over Port-au-Prince airport, securing it as a beachhead for the deployment of US Marines and other international soldiers. The invasion of Haiti had begun, and Canada played a key role in it.

Aristide said he was kidnapped by US Navy SEALs, on Feb. 29—taken at gunpoint on a flight to Central African Republic and threatened that "a lot of people would die" if he didn't resign. The US State Department denied these allegations, saying that Aristide resigned on his own accord. The former president then lived in exile in South Africa until his return to Haiti in 2011.

On Feb. 29, 2004, President George W. Bush said, "President Aristide resigned. He has left his country. The constitution of Haiti is working—there is an interim president in place. [...] As for the constitution in place, I have ordered the deployment of Marines as the leading element of an interim international force to help bring order and stability to Haiti."

The occupying forces, including Canada, installed an interim government. Gérard Latortue took over soon after as Prime Minister.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was first elected president of Haiti in 1991, with a 67.5 per cent majority in the country's first internationally recognized legitimate election. Eight months later he was taken from power after a CIA backed military coup.

In 1994, after a crippling UN embargo which left the country in ruins, Aristide was reinstated to power with the help of US military forces—but only after agreeing to work with the Clinton administration to "substantially transform the nature of the Haitian state." Basically, Aristide was being asked to end his social-democratic reforms and accept privatization and austerity measures.

Aristide was certainly no perfect saint, with multiple reports of uninvestigated and possibly politically motivated assassinations. While in charge, however, the human rights situation in the country improved considerably. The literacy rate increased from around 30 per cent to 55 per cent. As well, he doubled the minimum wage, and instituted the rule of law—with courts operating in Creole instead of French. The malnutrition rate dropped from 63 per cent to 51 per cent, and he cre-

ated a medicine-training program with the help of Cuba. He even disbanded the Haitian army, a repressive institution that had only ever fought its own people.

Denis Paradis, then Canada's Secretary of State for the Francophonie, Latin America, and Africa held a secret meeting in 2003 called the "Ottawa Initiative on Haiti." The meeting, held in Lake Meech with representatives from the US, France, El Salvador, the European Union, and the Organization of American States, discussed placing Haiti under the "tutelage" of the UN, possible military intervention, and the removal of Aristide from power. No Haitian representative was present at the meeting.

According to Yves Engler, co-author of the book *Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority*, the 2000 elections in Haiti were widely contested by opposition parties aligned with the business class and petite bourgeoisie of Port-au-Prince. They alleged that the legislature elections were rigged and that the rules were not respected. Opposition partisans organized a boycott of the presidential elections, giving Aristide a victory with more than 92 per cent of the vote. This was only a scheme

to delegitimize the elections by the Haitian upper classes to destabilise the government in place.

Aristide's social democratic policies threatened the Haitian business class and western multinationals. It seems clear that the coup was motivated not by worry for the poor Haitian population but simply by economic interests.

And the economic interests of Canadian corporations are doing pretty well, since the coup. Gildan is a Montreal based company with annual revenue of about \$2 billion. It operates its factories in Haiti. Gildan doesn't pay their workers minimum wage in Haiti. It systematically steals about half the wages, forcing their employees into debt, to live in slums and to only eat one meal a day. When the workers try to unionize, they get fired. Nine per cent of the company's shares are owned by the Caisse de Dépôt et de Placement—a Québec government investment fund, our retirement fund.

There's also gold, copper and bauxite on the island—the gold reserves alone are estimated to value \$20 billion. Canadian corporations dominate the mining industry in Haiti, just like

elsewhere in the Global South. Two of them—Ste-Genevieve Resources and Eurasian Minerals—resumed their operations shortly after the Latortue government was instated. Ste-Genevieve owns the prospecting rights for 10 per cent of the entire country, according to Yves Engler.

Steve Lachapelle—a board member of Ste-Genevieve—said to *The Toronto Star* that "with all the problems the country has had, they realize that they have to play the game with investors or things are going to keep getting worse." With the horrific track record of Canadian mining corporations around the world, Haitians are unlikely to get their fair share when the extraction begins.

Since the UN peacekeeping force began occupying Haiti, they have been held responsible for many atrocities. From the cholera outbreak of 2010 that killed over 9,700 Haitians—which occurred after a Nepalese Blue Helmets camp dumped sewage water in rivers people drank and bathed from—to the multiple instances of massacres in the pro-Aristide slums like Cité-Soleil.

The death toll from the occupation has since well-surpassed 10,000 people. While Aristide's administration wasn't free of critique, the human rights situation has greatly deteriorated since western powers—including Canada—took over to protect our economic interests in the country.

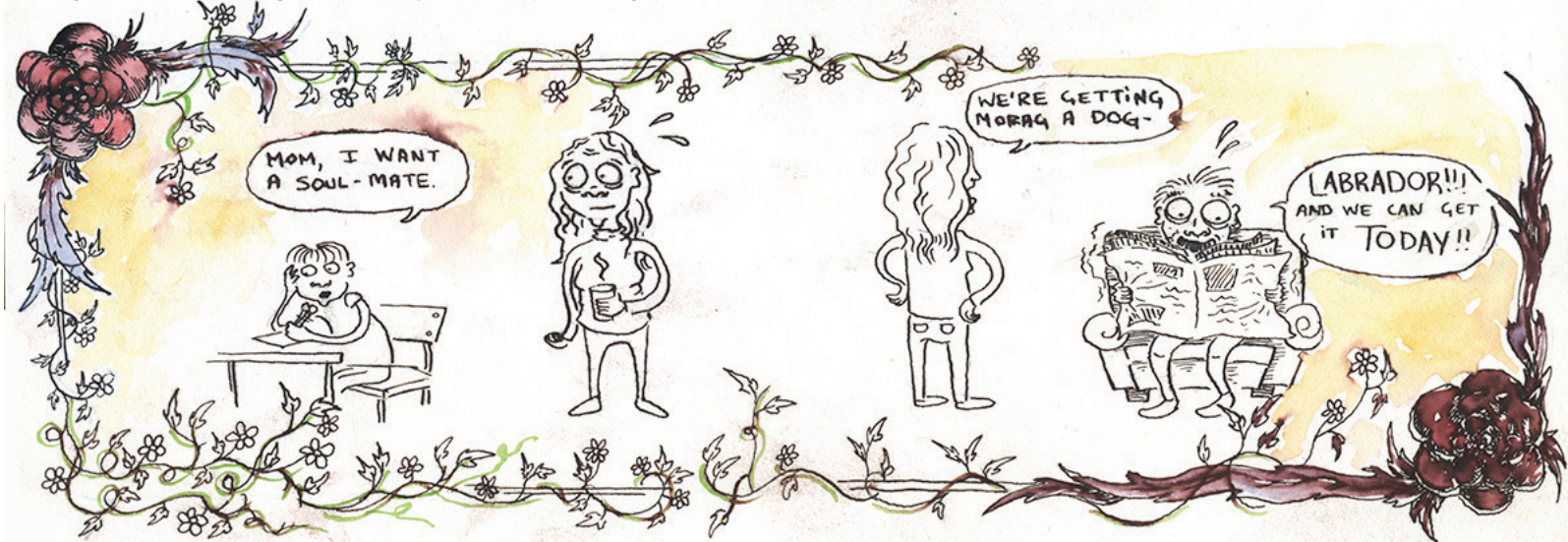
In a diplomatic cable released by Wikileaks from 2008, the American embassy can be seen advocating to prolong the military occupation to prevent "resurgent populist and anti-market economy political forces." In other words, the occupying forces are afraid of Haitian democracy.

There's a proverb in creole: Konstitusyon se papye, bayonet se fe. A constitution is made of paper, but bayonets are made of steel.



NICO HOLZMANN

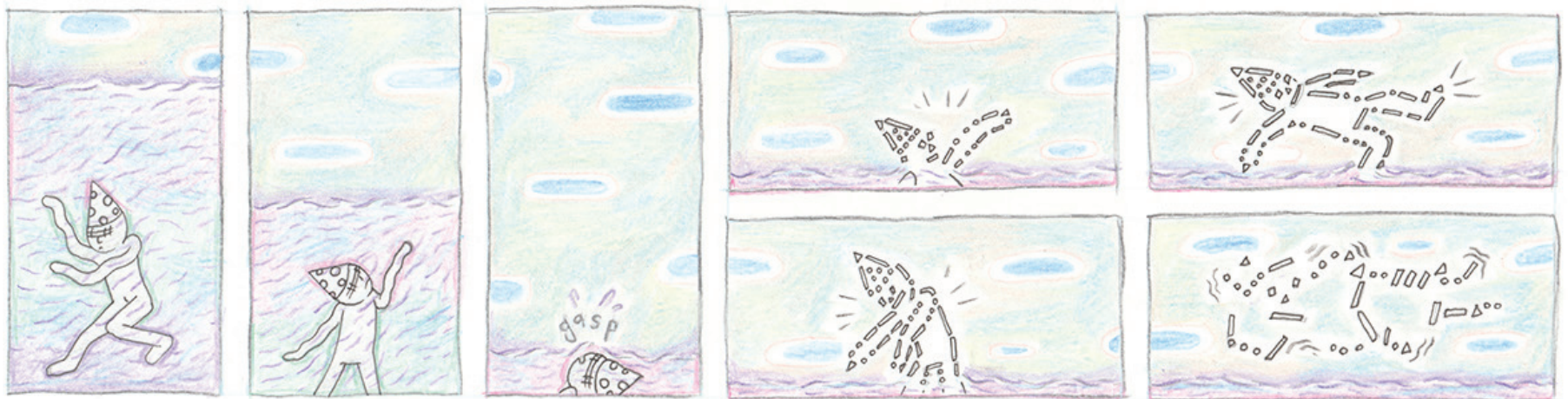
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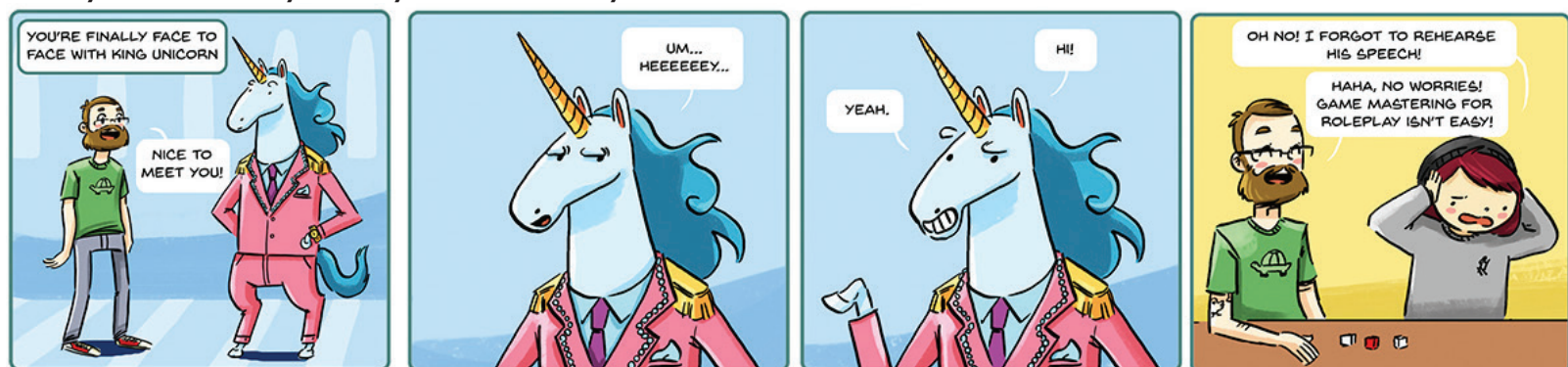
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MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

Think Tanks? No Thanks

There's no denying it—Concordia has been going through a series of big changes over the past few years.

When the Quebec Liberal Party was elected in 2014, they immediately began slashing the budgets of universities across the province. At Concordia, the cuts equaled over \$35 million.

The next year, Concordia released an ambitious, nine-point, "Strategic Directions" plan. Point number one on that list was "Double Our Research." How were they planning on doing so after such drastic budget cuts?

The answer is starting to become clear. This week, we reported on how the Montreal Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies may be transitioning from a research institute to a think tank.

MIGS was never particularly effective as a research institute. Their last big project was in 2009, with a report called *The Will to Intervene*, which aimed to operationalize the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine—a doctrine that argues that states should militarily intervene to prevent human rights abuses.

Despite not being prolific in research, MIGS has proven effective at something else—lobbying. Various recommendations presented in *The Will to Intervene* were adopted by the

Obama administration, and the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine was used to justify American bombing campaigns in Libya in 2011—an intervention that helped to further destabilize the region.

In the years since, MIGS has done very little other than hold \$600 per person workshops and engage in lobbying. The research institute has conducted very little serious, peer-reviewed academic research. With their transition to a think tank, it's unclear how that will change.

Think tanks are different than research institutes in that there are very few actual guidelines on how they ought to operate. Directors of think tanks are not required to be academics, and there is no requirement for how much research they are actually required to perform. It's a wild west of private funding and murky connections to power-players in the world.

MIGS won't be the only think tank on campus. In their Strategic Directions document on doubling research, Concordia outlines how it hopes to create a "network of think tanks" which would draw "intelligently on the advisory input of stakeholders." We can see how this jargon plays out in real life by

looking at Concordia's first think tank—the Aviation Think Tank, set up last September.

The university makes it clear, in the press release announcing the creation of the think tank, that research conducted will be "for the benefit of the aviation industry and its diverse public and private stakeholders."

An advisory committee will decide what research projects are conducted at the Aviation Think Tank. That advisory committee is made up of James Cherry, the president and CEO of Aéroports de Montréal, and Pierre J. Jeannot, former director general and CEO of the International Air Transport Association. François Bouilhac, president of COMREL International, an international affairs consulting firm, will also serve as executive director for the think tank.

The only faculty member who seems to be involved in the administration of this think tank is a management professor from the John Molson School of Business, Isabelle Dostale, who will serve as their academic director. The other Concordia constituent is Graham Carr, vice-president of research and graduate studies.

Despite all this, the press release says that the "think tank will be independent and

impartial." Maybe we're missing something, but we don't see how impartiality can be possible when the managers of this think tank have direct, material ties to the industries they're researching.

We shouldn't privatize our research. If the aviation industry needs to do research, they should be hiring employees to do it, not using labour gained from the Concordia community. The research we do at Concordia through our labour should be done for the public good, not only for the benefit of private industries.

Between the think tank we already have and the research institute that behaves like a think tank, one looks to advance the interests of one of the most polluting industries in the world, and the other engages in promoting military intervention worldwide. If this is the direction that think tanks are going to take at Concordia, then you can count us out.

It shouldn't be surprising, really. The nature of think tanks is that, because they rely on private donations—which come mostly from the wealthy—the interests they serve will be the interests of power. Whether that means promoting war or helping the industries destroying the earth, those interests are irreconcilable with the public good.

THE LINK

Volume 37, Issue 22
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Concordia University
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The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *The Link*'s constitution. Any student is welcome to work on *The Link* and become a voting staff member.

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Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link*'s statement of principles.

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TYPESETTING by The Link **PRINTING** by Hebdo-Litho.

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Have your voice heard.

The Link's Special Issue on Gender and Sexuality is coming up, and we are looking for diverse voices to speak on important and underrepresented issues.

Do you have a personal experience to share about gender or sexuality that you think could benefit other people?
Write about it.

Are you interested in delving into research and interviews with key players about a topic you're passionate about?
Delve away.

Do you witness underreported injustice at every turn?
Contribute to this issue.

To Pitch:

Email our coordinators at: assistantnews@thelinknewspaper.ca, fringe@thelinknewspaper.ca, fringeonline@thelinknewspaper.ca, copy@thelinknewspaper.ca

Come by our office in the Hall Building in room H-649 (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) to pitch story ideas.

New contributors are always welcome!

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