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EULER

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

DATE: Thursday, MARCH 23rd, 2017

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# Including the Voices of Survivors

As Quebec Consultations on Sexual Violence Near, No Word Yet on Concordia's Participation

KELSEY LITWIN  
@KELSEYLITWIN

In less than two weeks, a room full of Montreal university administrators will gather to discuss gendered violence on campus.

It will be the latest in the province's consultations on the matter. These meetings are being used to determine what institutions can do to better prevent and respond to sexual violence, said Higher Education Minister H       David in January when the consultations were announced.

The problem is that in the room full of administrators, there doesn't seem to be any space for survivors of sexual violence, said Concordia Student Union Academic and Advocacy Coordinator Sophia Sahrane.

In response, the CSU passed a motion at their last council meeting on Wednesday, March 8, demanding that the university take the consultations seriously. They want to see the university actively involve individuals with something meaningful to contribute.

There have already been four consultations, one each in Chicoutimi, Sherbrooke, Quebec City, and the latest in Gatineau on March 13. The consultation set to take place in Montreal will be the final one.

Kristen Perry, the mobilization coordinator of the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec, attended some of the past consultations and said that they surpassed her expectations. AVEQ is the provincial representation of the CSU.

When the consultations were first announced in January, AVEQ released a joint statement with the Association pour un solidarit   syndicale   tudiante explaining that they "believe that it is not administrators, who have in most cases failed survivors, who should be consulted, but the survivors themselves."

The statement continued, saying that those with lived experiences with sexual and gender-based violence should be involved in constructing policies that will guide "disciplinary processes."

In attending the consultations, Perry said that while university administrators still have a strong presence in the meetings, invitations had also been extended to community groups who are actively involved in helping prevent sexual violence and supporting survivors on campus, such as Qu       contre les violences sexuelles and Regroupement Qu       des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions    caract    re sexuels.

The extended invitations, she said, means that "they have representation, but it [is] representation that's [been] chosen."

The process would have been more inclusive if individuals could have volunteered themselves to participate, Perry said.

"In my ideal situation, people would be able to volunteer to come forward and talk about things because often people who would have the most knowledge would not be administrators of schools," she explained.

That is the CSU's fear with the upcoming Montreal consultations.

If Concordia only sends administrators to the consultations on the university's behalf, "then we're going to have a bunch of white, old men around the table deciding how to prevent gender-based violence against mostly women, trans women and gender non-binary people," said Sahrane.

That's already been done, she continued. For years, she said, it has been a group of people discussing and deciding policy surrounding a subject that they often have no lived-experience with.

Those affected by sexual violence, Sahrane said, quoting the musical artist Solange, need a seat at the table.

Their concerns, she explained, stem from the fact that the university has not had open communication with the CSU about the upcoming consultation. "The university definitely did not speak to us about it," said Sahrane.

After AVEQ had filled them in about the consultations in January, she said they had approached the Centre for Gender Advocacy, who had also been left out of the loop. Stacey Gomez, their action coordinator, explained that they had first heard about the consultations from the CSU.

"The way it's looking, it might just be pure stance," Sahrane said about Concordia's participation in the meetings. "A lot of people see this consultation as an opportunity for the university to just be there like, 'Look at us. We're the forefront of sexual assault policy

and fighting rape culture.'"

"But what are they doing, really?" she asked.

The university could not comment on how they plan to participate by publication time.

The CSU's motion addresses this concern by requesting that Jennifer Drummond, Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre Coordinator, be one of the administrators attending the consultations on the university's behalf.

"JD is so great," Sahrane said of Drummond.

Lana Galbraith, the CSU Sustainability Coordinator who drafted the motion, explained that the motivation for the official position came from a meeting of student unions from around Quebec at the University of Sherbrooke.

The unions gathered, she said, to strategize on how to approach the upcoming consultations. The idea was that they wanted to reinforce each other. But, she said, they could only do so if they, as a student union, had taken a formal stance.

"It was a good idea in abstract," she said of the meeting in Sherbrooke, "but the problem is that we can only agree to things that we have positions for."

Galbraith also said that at the meeting, it became clear that Concordia is much more advanced than other schools, in terms of preventing gender-based violence and supporting survivors—something that she said is troubling.

"Something that I've realized after meet-

ing with a lot of other student unions, is that Concordia is very advanced for supporting survivors," Galbraith said. "I think that's really unfortunate, because we're not doing really great ourselves."

Last spring, the university released a new policy regarding sexual violence. The problem with the policy, as identified by the Centre for Research-Action of Race Relations, is that it does not override any of the university's existing policies or frameworks on how to deal with sexual violence.

In addition to the new policy, Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association collective agreement, the Code of Rights and Responsibilities, and the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Psychological Harassment all dictate how the university should deal with these situations. The first three all contain slightly different definitions of harassment, while the last simply refers to a handful of Quebec acts, charters and codes.

"We need to centralize the resources in a policy, on what sexual assault is, and keep it fluid—because it changes all the time," said Sahrane of the new policy.

But, she said, it is a first step and while "the university is slow, but they pick up on these things."

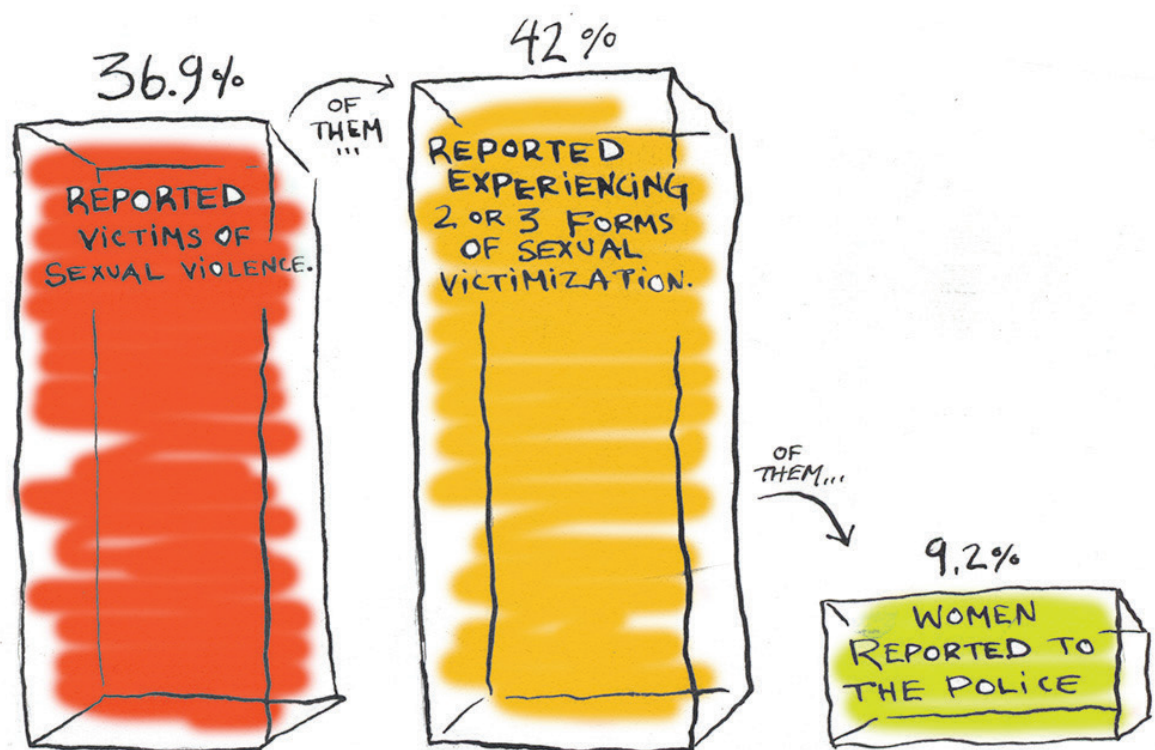
Perry is equally hopeful. "It's better than expected, I think," she said. "Not ideal, but it's working as it needs to, in general."

She said that it seems as though the consultations will lead to new provincial legislation that will guide universities on how to deal with sexual violence on campus. Due to differences between each school, she said it can be hard to "legislate specifically."

Right now, Perry said, "they're just trying to find out what people want to be included in that law and what would be the best mechanism to prevent sexual violence and support survivors."

**"We need to centralize the resources on what sexual assault is and keep it fluid because it changes all the time,"**

—Sophia Sahrane, CSU Academic and Advocacy Coordinator



Source: Universit   de Qu          Monr    l, 2017

MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL @madd.egg

# The CSU Moves Money Around

Students to Save on Insurance and Clubs to See a Decrease in Fee-Levies

FRANCA MIGNACCA  
@FRANCAMIGNACCA

Concordia undergraduate students might be paying less for health and dental insurance starting next fall, thanks to a new insurance plan. The Concordia Student Union is looking at proposals from six insurance companies.

"At this point, we do expect to have a very similar plan with very similar coverage but at a lower cost to students," said CSU Finance Coordinator Thomas David-Bashore. The six proposals submitted include one from their current provider, Alliance étudiante pour la santé au Québec. They asked that all companies submit quotes for the same coverage that students have now.

David-Bashore couldn't say the exact amount that students will save until a plan is chosen, but he estimates their savings at around five per cent in annual costs per student.

Changes to the insurance plan would start in the fall semester, on Sept. 1. Regardless of any changes made to the plan, students would still have the option to opt out.

Their request for proposal was posted on their website and sent out to brokers on Feb. 1. All the companies' proposals have been under review since Feb. 28. A CSU committee will then choose one of these proposals and make a recommendation to their council on April 12.

This process is being done now because their five-year contract with ASEQ is ending. David-Bashore believes that the contract had been up for renewal once before since 2009, but the executive at the time decided to renew the contract, as opposed to looking for other options.

David-Bashore says the last time the CSU did a request for proposals was some time between 2007 and 2009. He says if there was one, no one kept records of it and it was not made public.

"We wanted to be really careful since it's been such a long time to have a very comprehensive process," David-Bashore explained.

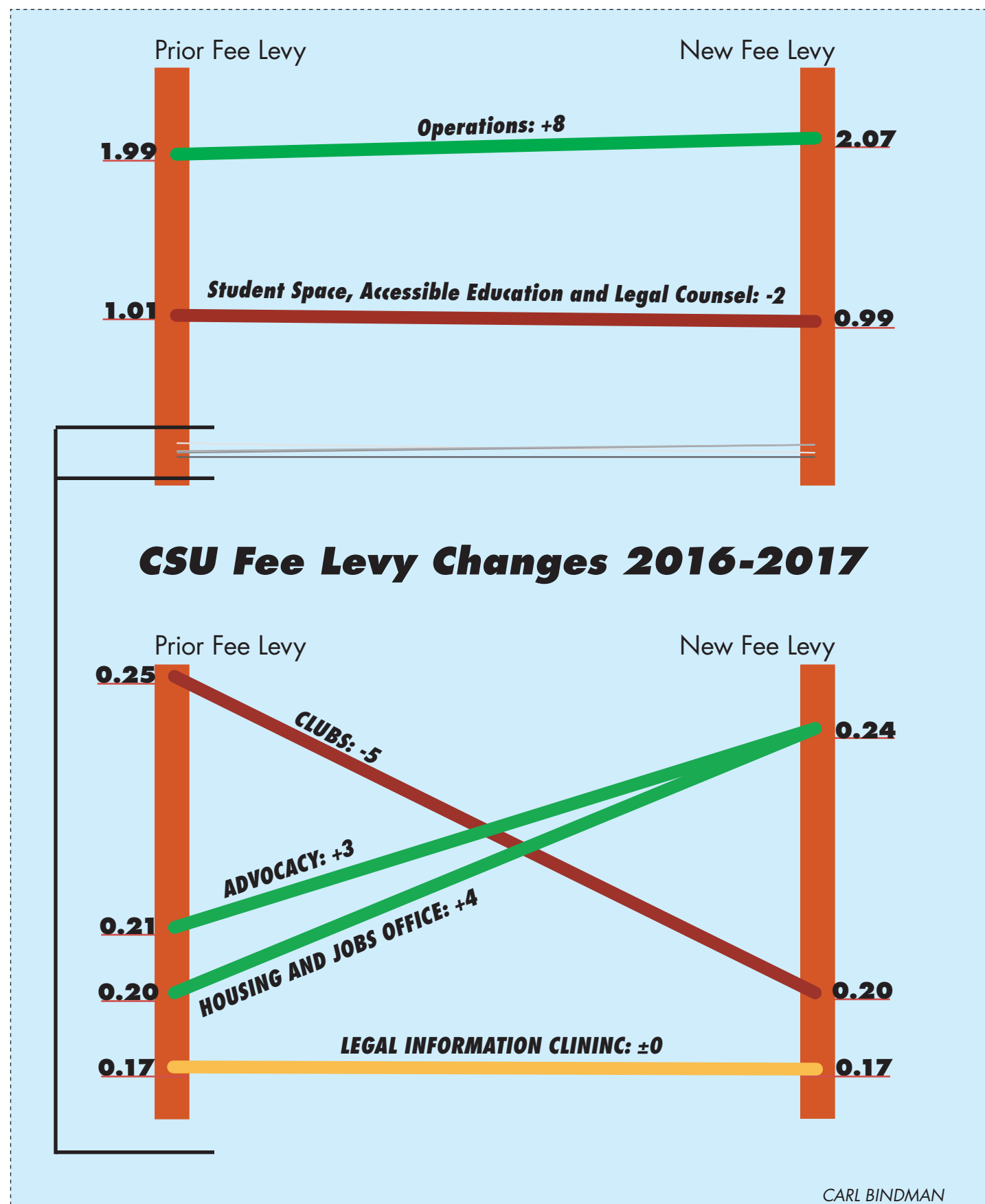
On last year's election ballot, the CSU proposed an increase on the annual cap for the health and dental insurance plan, raising it incrementally from \$195 to \$225. At the time, the CSU said this increase would allow for better mental health services for students.

David-Bashore explained that while the increase passed, he does not see the new contract costing more than the current insurance plan. At this point, he said, none of the bidders have submitted a contract as high as \$225. He emphasized that students will still have access to mental health coverage.

"Right now, students have access to mental health coverage through ASEQ [...] At this point we're looking at similar mental health coverage. That's something that's very important to the committee that's looking at these plans—and very important to me personally," he explained.

The committee is looking at taking three-year contracts, with the possibility of a two-year extension, should the council decide at that time that it's best to stay with the same company.

While the council has kept most of the process public, once they receive the proposals, their contents must remain confidential. David-Bashore does however encourage students to come forward to himself or CSU General Coordinator Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis if they have any questions or



concerns about the process that they would like to address.

## Fee-Levy Redistribution

On this year's election ballot, the CSU is proposing a redistribution of fees levied by the CSU. The goal is to reallocate the funds to where they are needed. This will not have an effect on the fees that students are currently paying.

"We're not proposing an increase in any fee without making up for it with a decrease of another fee," David-Bashore explained.

The question proposes a decrease in CSU clubs of six cents per credit, as well as a decrease in the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Counsel—SSAELC fund—fee of four cents per credit. This will allow for funding increases for CSU operating fees, the Housing

and Jobs Office, and the Advocacy Centre.

David-Bashore explained that the current clubs budget has a projected surplus of nearly \$90 000. He said that the clubs weren't using or planning to use these funds. With the proposed redistribution, clubs still have a projected surplus, which will likely allow for additional clubs and for current ones to grow.

"I do want to point out that these budget numbers are projections that I've made, but all of the budgets for next year will be at the discretion of next year's finance coordinator," David-Bashore said. He emphasized that the numbers presented are not set in stone.

## More Funds for the CSU Daycare

At their recent council meeting, the CSU voted to allocate an additional \$22,713 from the

SSAELC Fund for plumbing, electricity and general demolition of the future CSU Daycare, located at 1424 Bishop St. The SSAELC fund holds approximately \$9 million.

At that meeting, Marshall-Kiparissis said that their general manager had emailed her with a document detailing the unexpected costs.

"Demolishing and working on old buildings always incurs risks of unanticipated work and there was indeed unanticipated work in terms of the state of the future daycare," Kiparissis detailed at the meeting.

In December 2016, the CSU voted to allocate a maximum budget of \$63,870 from the SSAELC fund for the demolition, in case unexpected costs arise. They initially expected the demolition to require \$55,000, but added the extra \$8,000 to absorb any unexpected costs.



**"They seem very perturbed at the idea of students interacting with them."**

—Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis

## Key Figures

**-\$6.3 million**

Concordia deficit for the 2016-2017 budget.

**0.8%**

Quebec increase in funding for higher education in 2016-17.

**\$7.75 million**

Money set aside by Concordia for "new and current strategic objectives" in 2016-2017.

BRIAN LAPUZ @brianlapuz

# Talk of More Provincial Money and Security At Latest Board of Governors Meeting

MIRIAM LAFONTAINE

After years of budget cuts, Concordia administration has finally had enough.

The university is looking to get more funding from the Quebec government, saying they need to find a way to reduce their increasing deficit.

This became a topic of discussion at a recent Board of Governors meeting on March 8.

Since 2010, the most Concordia has been able to borrow from the Quebec government as been \$700 million. But they want to increase that amount to \$1 billion.

The Quebec Government is considering that proposal right now. From 2016 to 2017, the university projected they will run a deficit of \$6.3 million. That's better than the year before, when there was a \$9.1 million deficit.

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Quebec Government made a small increase of 0.8 per cent in funding to Concordia. But according to the highlights from Concordia's budget for the year so far, "this modest increase, combined with limited increases in revenue from grants and tuition fees, does not create much room to maneuver."

In December, the federal and provincial government, with the help of private donors, pledged to fund \$1.1 billion to Quebec universities Polytechnique Montréal, Université de Montréal, and HEC Montréal under their post-secondary institution strategic investment fund. Concordia was left out. But President of Concordia, Alan Shepard is hopeful that they will receive more funding in the future.

"If you've been reading the newspapers, you know the government is pledging itself to increase the funding to higher education in Quebec. We

certainly hope that's the case," he said.

The full budget has not been released yet, since the fiscal year ends on April 30.

One of the Board's undergraduate student representative Terry Wilkings—also the former Concordia Student Union general coordinator—raised concerns about how much the university can accomplish, given increasing deficit. He asked specifically how Concordia was going to manage to fund the goals addressed in their nine strategic directions.

The nine strategic directions outline goals Concordia plans to achieve in the upcoming years, with plans such as doubling their research and experimenting more with new teaching methods through co-op placements and internships.

Shepard said that they hope they'll be able to do that with the help of the Quebec Government.

"Obviously, we're designing scenarios with a major unknown," said Carr. "The unknown is the level of government investment we might anticipate this year."

Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Graham Carr, said despite the deficit, Concordia would still prioritize investments in academic endeavors over anything else, including investments into the goals outlined in their nine strategic directions.

When one governor mentioned that they want to increase student recruitment by working with CEGEPs, Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, another undergraduate representative for the Board and current CSU General Coordinator, reminded them that if they wanted Montreal to continue holding the spot as the number one city for students, tuition needs to remain affordable.

In mid-February, Montreal won the spot as

the best student city on the QS Best Student Cities ranking. The ranking comes out of Top Universities, a company based out of London.

### Increased Security Presence

Security presence was amped up around the GM building on the day of the meeting. Access to the fourth floor of the GM building, where the board meeting is held, was blocked by security and only members of the board were allowed to go up.

Wilkings asked Shepard if this procedure was going to be the new normal for Board of Governors meetings.

At the last Board meeting on Dec. 14, there was an equal amount of security. That time, it was in reaction to protests students were holding against Concordia's proposed tuition fee hikes for international students.

At the most recent Board of Governors meeting, Divest Concordia came to hand out postcards which were signed by student and outlined arguments for why Concordia needs to take their investments out of fossil fuels.

Two Divest members, Alex Leonard and Kya Ringland, tried to hand them to members of the Board while they were walking into their meeting, but security wouldn't let them in.

"If you're representing the Concordia community, and you're making decisions on their behalf, you should have a clear dialogue with that community," said Ringland.

Shepard couldn't specify if increased security will become a trend, but said it was a possibility. "We'll see," he commented.

He explained their decision to add increased security to protect the Board came in reaction to the bomb threats that were

made against Concordia on March 1. Police had advised the school that there might be copycat incidents on campus.

But Wilkings and Marshall-Kiparissis are concerned about how it will affect students, saying it will only help to further an atmosphere of fear.

Marshall-Kiparissis also emphasized that it was a double standard.

"They get to be the one's who are protected," said Marshall-Kiparissis, in an interview after the meeting. "These external members who come and make these very important decisions, but don't spend that much time on campus. We're valuing their sense of safety more."

Similar protocol has been taken before to ease the worries of an administrator. Two days after bomb threats were made to Concordia and its Muslim community, the Dean of Students made the decision to move a Concordia Council on Student Life meeting to the Loyola campus out of concern for safety on the downtown campus.

Marshall-Kiparissis also said it was troubling since if it was the new norm, it would strengthen the separation between the Concordia community-at-large and the Board of Governors, who form the highest decision-making body at Concordia.

Board of Governors meetings are already barred for anyone who isn't a governor, and the only way to view their meetings is through a live stream in a separate room. Archived footage of the past meetings is only accessible by in-person appointments.

"They seem very perturbed at the very idea of students interacting with them," said Marshall-Kiparissis.

# Good Chemistry

## New Chemical and Materials Engineering Department Aims to Address Gender Disparity

**CARL BINDMAN**  
@CARLBINDMAN

Less than 13 per cent of practicing, licensed engineers across Canada are women, according to the regulatory body Engineers Canada.

But in a 2013 report from that same group, they found that female enrolment in specific fields of engineering were much higher. Chemical Engineering was one such field, at 33 per cent female enrolment. As Concordia will soon have its own Chemical and Materials Engineering department, there is hope that the school's numbers will rise.

"Right now the average at Concordia in engineering is 17 per cent [of women enrolled]," said Karina Bagryan, co-president of Women in Engineering Concordia. "Based on other universities' experiences, if we bring chemical engineering it's going to help the issue."

During November 2016's Board of Governor's meeting it was unanimously decided that a Chemical and Materials Engineering Department would be created at Concordia.

Amir Asif, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, pushed for the new department. "Within Chemical Engineering there is an opportunity," he said. "Since female students feel connected to Chemical Engineering."

This is because many female science students want to be doctors, explained Fariha Kamal, the

other co-president of Women in Engineering Concordia. She said that, for example, in CEGEP they might enjoy chemistry, organic chemistry and biology, but when they finish their time they realize they don't want to be a doctor.

"They look into their options," she said, and chemical engineering has a lot in common to health sciences in regards to its inclusion of organic chemistry and biology.

The new department follows a broad push in Concordia's Engineering Faculty to attract more female students. The school introduced 25 new scholarships last year. "Eighteen are open to anyone," said Asif, "but seven are for female students only."

Of course, other factors influenced the approval of the new department.

"There is a major distinction between chemistry and chemical engineering that has started in the last 15 to 20 years," said Asif. This distinction is rooted in the growth of hands-on applications of chemical research. "We thought it is a great time for us to offer a chemical engineering program."

The new department, said Asif, will consolidate teaching and research across Concordia. And according to the proposal that was presented to the Board of Governors in December, the department is expected to operate at a \$2.5 to \$3.5 million surplus within three to four years.

The successful proposal for the new department describes the space needed for the new department. It points to two

areas that will need to be renovated in the Hall building, on the 10th and 14th floors. According to the document, the 14th floor space is around 160 square metres and renovations will cost \$1.3 million. For the 10th floor, the expected cost of renovating 500 square metres is \$4 million.

"There's a discussion with the federal and provincial government in terms of new space," says Asif.

Until the renovations are complete, the

department will be housed in the Science Complex at Loyola for the 2018-2019 academic year, when classes in the department are set to begin.

Asif said the department should start functioning soon, but that there isn't yet a firm date. So far, they have hired one professor, Dr. Alex De Visscher, whose focus is in chemical and petroleum engineering. He hopes that the department will be up and running before this summer semester.



Amir Asif, the Dean of the Engineering Faculty.

CARL BINDMAN @carlbindman

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**Submit articles, poems, art, graphics, etc. by March 24**



Left to right: Quincy Armorer, artistic director of Black Theatre Workshop; Mike Payette, director of *Angélique*; Mathieu Murphy-Perron, co-founder of Tableau D'Hôte Theatre. BRIAN LAPUZ @brianlapuz

# Uncovering the Story of Marie Joseph Angélique

First Production of 15-Year-Old Script to Debut Thursday

DUSTIN KAGAN-FLEMING

"What are the circumstances that make people do monstrous things?" asked director Mike Payette.

Payette is at the helm of *Angélique*, the most recent show co-produced by Black Theatre Workshop and Tableau D'Hôte Theatre. Playwright Lorena Gale's piece tells the story of Marie Joseph Angélique, a Black slave in Montreal in the 18th century.

Angélique was accused of setting a fire that burnt down much of what is now known as Montreal's Old Port. Her punishment? Public torture and execution in 1734. With little to no evidence, she was accused over rumour and for her reputation of being an outspoken and "troublesome" slave. The play is presented in a docu-drama style and uses historical transcripts and events to stage Angélique's story accurately and honestly.

Black Theatre Workshop and Tableau D'Hôte Theatre focused on expressing the injustice in Angélique's life and death.

"What gives a state the right to think that certain people can be property and what gives the state the right to execute a Black person without evidence?" demands Mathieu Murphy-Perron, the Tableau D'Hôte's artistic producer.

Perron was shocked when Payette—then artistic director of Tableau D'Hôte—first showed him the script for *Angélique* and explained that it had never been produced

in Montreal, despite being more than 15 years old.

After more than two years of work with countless collaborators across different art forms, the piece about an event deeply entrenched in Montreal's racial history is now set to open in Montreal for the first time.

Payette described the process of working on such an important play as "golden." Perron was all smiles while going over how *Angélique* would demonstrate the magic that theatre can create when it is properly funded.

Payette lauded the script for not only telling a story that is known by far too few, but also for how Gale managed to explore such powerful questions in her work.

"The script meshes with fact but also broadens it to a more universal or humanitarian question of what is the relationship of those who have power and those who don't—and why is there a cyclical systemic oppression of Black people and the other [...] What is our obsession with our need to put down those who are different?" Payette said.

Black Theatre Workshop director Quincy Armorer is similarly proud of producing a piece that deals with such universality, stressing the timelessness and significance of the play's themes.

"It's still so very relevant. I equate it to the Black Lives Matter movement," said Armorer.

"For me it's nothing new—it's just a matter of it having evolved. The stories of Marie

Joseph Angélique, Harriet Tubman, Vwiola Desmond and so many other people—those were [the people of] the Black Lives Matter movement of those times."

To Armorer, it's not just about presenting an important story from the past but contextualizing the problems that are just as present today.

"I think by telling this story, we're not just looking at history as history—we're looking at history as a reflection of things that are happening currently. We're not over systemic racism; we're still living in it."

Armorer and the artists working around him are hoping that *Angélique* will help Canadians understand this country's past when it comes to slavery and racism.

Canada's history is often spoken of with an air of moral superiority when it comes to race. Many compare Canada and the United States and act as if only one of the two allowed slaves to be owned as property. But slavery was extremely prevalent in Canada as well—Canada wasn't just a safe haven for runaway slaves from down South.

As Payette said, this country's history with slavery was no less "insidious" because it was

quieter than that of the United States.

"We have difficulty accepting that we are just as culpable as our neighbours to the south," said Payette, adding his appreciation for Gale's play that shows that "then is now and now is then" when it comes to the systemic, racial discrimination against Black people in Canada.

Both he, Armorer and Perron are frustrated that Canada is not always particularly willing to examine the darker parts of its own history and what it had to overcome.

The chance to tell this story and let the work speak for itself excites Payette, but he also understands the responsibility that comes with it.

"I'm exhausted by having to prove or put forward the evidence of our history of slavery," he explained. "Theatre is that vehicle, that vessel to call out, to expose these kinds of stories. If we can't do that with theatre then we shouldn't be doing theatre at all."

*Angélique* // Segal Centre for Performing Arts (5170 Côte-Sainte-Catherine Rd.) // March 16 to April 2 // 8 p.m. // \$19.00 General

**"We're not over systemic racism; we're still living in it."**

—Quincy Armorer, Black Theatre Workshop Director

THE

LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 14 - 21

<div><div>TU</div><div>14</div></div> <div><div>Screening - <i>Moonlight</i> (2016)</div><div>The film by Barry Jenkins is screening for public viewing. Didn't get a chance to see it when it was in theatres? Well, here's your chance!</div><div>Ciné-Campus Université de Montréal • 2332 Édouard-Montpetit Blvd. • 5:15 p.m. // \$4 for students OR \$5 for general</div></div> <div><div>Panel Discussion - The Changing Landscape of Language in Montreal</div><div>Is French really being snuffed out by the juggernaut that is English? The year marks the 40th anniversary of notorious language law Bill 101. This panel will discuss this matter.</div><div>Concordia Hall Building H-564 • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 6 p.m. // FREE</div></div>	<div><div>WE</div><div>15</div></div> <div><div>Graphic Novel Book Club - <i>Wendy's Revenge</i></div><div>Drawn and Quarterly library is hosting their monthly graphic novel book club again! This month's graphic novel is Walter Scott's <i>Wendy's Revenge</i>.</div><div>Drawn and Quarterly Library • 211 Bernard W. • 7 p.m. // FREE</div></div> <div><div>Concert - Alex Calder, Fleece, and Sick</div><div>Three local performers on the stage in one night! All proceeds will go to Dans la rue, a Montreal-based charity that supports the homeless and at-risk youth through their services.</div><div>La Vitrola • 4602 St. Laurent Blvd. • 8:30 p.m. // \$12 in advance OR \$15 at the door</div></div>	<div><div>TH</div><div>16</div></div> <div><div>Clothing Sale - Citizen Vintage Studio Sale</div><div>A whole bunch of clothes that'll be priced under \$20!</div><div>Studio #911 • 5333 Casgrain Ave. • 2 p.m.</div></div> <div><div>Art Exhibition - The Bootleggers: A Stikki Story</div><div>Montreal-based street artist Stikki Peaches is launching their first solo exhibition, presenting some new works where they've used traditional collage techniques.</div><div>Station 16 Gallery • 3523 St. Laurent Blvd. • 6 p.m. // FREE</div></div>	<div><div>FR</div><div>17</div></div> <div><div>Concert - Kim Zombik Quartet</div><div>Some chill jazzy sounds from this quartet might just be what you're looking for to end your week on a good note.</div><div>Resonance Café • 5175 du Parc Ave. • 9 p.m. // PWYC</div></div> <div><div>Panel Discussion - Women in the Quran</div><div>The topic of women's roles in the Quran is often neglected despite being highly controversial at the same time. Why is that? Who are these women? Go and have your questions answered in a more detailed conversation.</div><div>Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) • 3480 McTavish St. • 6 p.m. // FREE</div></div>
<div><div>TU</div><div>18</div></div> <div><div>Panel Discussion - The Power of Indigenous Arts: Resistance and Revitalization</div><div>Lee Maracle is the keynote speaker for the panel that will discuss gathering content created entirely by Indigenous students, scholars, and community and organization leaders.</div><div>Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) • 3480 McTavish St. • 9 a.m. // \$5 in advance</div></div> <div><div>Gala - Uzuri: The Journey</div><div>An annual event celebrating African culture through performance, art, and more, from talented individuals from all over Montreal.</div><div>Oscar Peterson Concert Hall • 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. • 6 p.m. // \$10-\$20</div></div>	<div><div>SU</div><div>19</div></div> <div><div>Benefit Show - Cloudbusting, Sorry, Felli, and Lily Alexandre</div><div>An event for the Kanien'kéha language education in nearby Kahnawà:ke. With performances entirely from of our city's best trans performers. Music, poetry, spoken word, and more.</div><div>Bar Le Ritz PDB • 179 Jean Talon St. W. • 9 p.m. // PWYC</div></div>	<div><div>MO</div><div>20</div></div> <div><div>Film Premiere - <i>To the Ends of the Earth</i> w/ director</div><div>Cinema Politica presents a documentary film about "a commanding exposé uncovering how the harvest of 'extreme fuel' amounts to human and ecological devastation." Director David Lavallée will be there for a Q&amp;A afterward.</div><div>Concordia Hall Building • 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. • 7 p.m. // PWYC</div></div> <div><div>Comedy Night - Hari Kondabolu</div><div>It's about time we deviate from the comedians that use racism as a form of comedy. SSMU Equity is pleased to present Hari Kondabolu!</div><div>SSMU Ballroomw • 3480 McTavish St. • 6 p.m. // FREE</div></div>	<div><div>TU</div><div>21</div></div> <div><div>Screening - LGBTQ Short Films pt. 2</div><div>Didn't get enough of the first installment of the LGBTQ short films? Or maybe you didn't get to go to the first one. Well, here's your second chance!</div><div>Centre communautaire LGBTQ de Montréal • 2075 Plessis St. • 7 p.m. // FREE</div></div> <div><div>Concert - Allah Las, The Babe Rainbow, and Anemone</div><div>Blue Skies Turn Black are proud to present these three talented musical performances on the stage for one swell show. Be sure to check 'em out!</div><div>Rialto Theatre • 5723 Parc Ave. • 9 p.m. // \$26 in advance OR \$30 in advance</div></div>

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

THE

LINK

The Link Publication Society Inc.  
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 4 p.m.  
1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd. Room H-649

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Election of a secretary
3. Reading and approval of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGA
5. By-law amendments
6. Board of directors report for 2016-2017
7. Presentation of the 2015-2016 financial statements
8. Appointment of the auditor
9. Presentation of financial statements as of the last day of February 2017
10. Presentation of the preliminary budget 2017-2018
11. Election of the board of directors
12. Other business
13. End of the assembly

Concordia undergraduate students who are members in good standing are eligible to attend, vote at the meeting and run for a position on *The Link's* board.

Board of Directors

Two (2) positions are open to members at large and two (2) positions are open to members of the community who have had *Link* staff status within the last three (3) years.

Candidates for the Board must present a **letter of intent by Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 4 p.m.** to the secretary of the board of directors by email to [business@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:business@thelinknewspaper.ca)

WHERE TO FIND THE LINK OFF CAMPUS

- THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS -

<div><b>Bikurious Montréal</b> 1757 Amherst</div> <div><b>Presse Café</b> 3501 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Cinéma du Parc</b> 3575 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Pita Pita</b> 3575 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Chez Boris</b> 5151 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Café Résonance</b> 5175 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Caffe in Ginba</b> 5263 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>Melina's Phyllo Bar</b> 5733 Ave. du Parc</div> <div><b>De La Cream Barbershop</b> 162 Bernard</div> <div><b>Resto Venice</b> 163 Bernard</div> <div><b>Dépanneur Café</b> 206 Bernard</div> <div><b>Phonopolis</b> 207 Bernard</div> <div><b>Sonorama</b> 260 Bernard</div> <div><b>Kafein</b> 1429 Bishop</div> <div><b>Irish Embassy</b> 1234 Bishop</div> <div><b>Grumpys</b> 1242 Bishop</div> <div><b>Madhatter's Pub</b> 1240 Crescent</div> <div><b>Brutopia</b> 1219 Crescent</div> <div><b>Boustan</b> 2020 Crescent</div> <div><b>Fou D'ici</b> 360 de Maisonneuve O.</div> <div><b>Eggspectation</b> 1313 de Maisonneuve O.</div> <div><b>Foonzo</b> 1245 Drummond.</div> <div><b>Galerie Fokus</b> 68 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Maison du Tibet</b> 129 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Utopia</b> 159 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Chat Café</b> 172 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Buanderie Net Net</b> 310 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Au Coin Duluth</b> 418 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Chez Bobette</b> 850 Duluth E.</div> <div><b>Café Grazie</b> 58 Fairmount O.</div> <div><b>Arts Café</b> 201 Fairmount O.</div> <div><b>Maison de la Torréfaction</b> 412 Gilford</div> <div><b>Andrew Bar</b> 1241 Guy</div> <div><b>Java U</b> 1455 Guy</div> <div><b>Comptoir du Chef</b> 2153 Guy</div> <div><b>Hinnawi Bros</b> 2002 Mackay</div> <div><b>Panthère Verte</b> 2153 Mackay</div> <div><b>Café Tuyo</b> 370 Marie-Anne E.</div> <div><b>La Traite</b> 350 Mayor</div> <div><b>Paragraphe</b> 2220 McGill College</div> <div><b>Second Cup</b> 5550 Monkland</div> <div><b>George's Souvlaki</b> 6995 Monkland</div> <div><b>Trip de Bouffe</b> 277 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>L'échange</b> 713 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Café Expression</b> 957 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Mets chinois Mtl</b> 961 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Mt-Royal Hot Dog</b> 1001 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Panthère Verte</b> 145 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Maison Thai</b> 1351 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Aux 33 Tours</b> 1373 Mont-Royal E.</div> <div><b>Freeson Rock</b> 1477 Mont-Royal E.</div>	<div><b>Café Henri</b> 3632 Notre-Dame O.</div> <div><b>Rustique</b> 4615 Notre-Dame O.</div> <div><b>Cafe Pamplemousse</b> 1251 Ontario E.</div> <div><b>Le Snack Express</b> 1571 Ontario E.</div> <div><b>Frites Alors!</b> 433 Rachel E.</div> <div><b>Presse Café</b> 625 René-Levesque O.</div> <div><b>L'Oblique</b> 4333 Rivard</div> <div><b>Juliette et Chocolat</b> 1615 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>Frites Alors!</b> 1710 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>Panthère Verte</b> 1735 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>L'Artiste Affamé</b> 3692 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>Beatnick</b> 3770 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>L'Insouciant Café</b> 4282 Saint-Denis</div> <div><b>Eva B</b> 2015 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Bocadillo</b> 3677 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Cul de Sac</b> 3794 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Libreria Espagnola</b> 3811 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Frappe St-Laurent</b> 3900 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Copacabanna Bar</b> 3910 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Coupe Bizarde</b> 4051 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Le Divan Orange</b> 4234 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Om Restaurant</b> 4382 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Le Melbourne</b> 4615 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Gab</b> 4815 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Casa del Popolo</b> 4873 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Citizen Vintage</b> 5330 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Smile Café</b> 5486 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Le Cagibi</b> 5490 Saint-Laurent</div> <div><b>Saj Mahal</b> 1448 Saint-Mathieu</div> <div><b>Café Santropol</b> 3990 Saint-Urbain</div> <div><b>Barros Lucos</b> 5201 Saint-Urbain</div> <div><b>Brooklyn</b> 71 Saint-Viateur E.</div> <div><b>Pizza St. Viateur</b> 15 Saint-Viateur O.</div> <div><b>Batory Euro Deli</b> 115 Saint-Viateur O.</div> <div><b>La panthère Verte</b> 160 Saint-Viateur O.</div> <div><b>Club social</b> 180 Saint-Viateur O.</div> <div><b>Faubourg</b> 1616 Sainte-Catherine O.</div> <div><b>Nilufar</b> 1923 Sainte-Catherine O.</div> <div><b>Hinnawi Bros</b> 372 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Shaika Café</b> 5526 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Encore!</b> 5670 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>La Maison Verte</b> 5785 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Café Zephyr</b> 5791 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Mate Latte</b> 5837 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Head and Hands</b> 5833 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Café 92°</b> 6703 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Second Cup</b> 7335 Sherbrooke O.</div> <div><b>Bistro Van Houtte</b> 2020 Stanley</div> <div><b>Memé Tartine</b> 4601 Verdun</div> <div><b>Pochiche</b> 54 Westminster N.</div>
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# Leading From the Sidelines

Stingers Back-Up Goalie Antoine Marchand Looks Back on His Time At Concordia

MICHAEL BORIERO

Antoine Marchand, the president of SWARM and goaltender for the Concordia Stingers, sat smiling and laughing at his desk—reflecting on his time with the team.

The office is decorated in Stingers memorabilia. A white board hangs on the wall next to his desk marked with upcoming Stingers events—hockey pucks are lined at the bottom of one of the office windows overlooking Concordia's Hive Café. It's a modest office for a student-run Stingers supporters group and someone who played such a large role for the Stingers family.

After spending four seasons as the third-string goalie for the men's hockey team, Marchand proved that leadership doesn't necessarily have to come from the ice. He accepted his role on the team and carved out a niche for himself.

"It sounds really cheesy but I try to say that it's important to have a positive impact on the people around you, whether it's the guys, the stingers or SWARM," said Marchand.

Roughly two weeks ago the Stingers men's hockey team ended their season in dramatic fashion to the Queen's University Gaels. The loss was hard on the Stingers, who displayed confidence throughout the entire season, and it meant the end of the line for some key parts of the leadership core. Of course, the Stingers will be without long-time captain, Olivier Hinse, next season. But while Hinse was the face of the team, Marchand took on the role as a leader behind the scenes.

"He was a leader, even if he was not playing he was a big part of our team," said Stingers head coach Marc-Andre Element.

In his first full season as head coach of the hockey team, Element renewed a sense of pride within the locker room. His motto to "leave a footprint," struck Marchand hard and changed his perspective about his role on the team.

"He established that being a Stinger wasn't necessarily just being a hockey player," said Marchand.

It's a long way from when he first joined the team four years ago as a freshman. A quiet and shy kid from Montreal, Marchand didn't know what to expect when he joined the team. It seemed as though most of the decisions he was making were based on the belief of others and not his own.

"There was a lot of expectations I felt for myself and I wasn't sure what I wanted relative to what I felt other people wanted from me," said Marchand.

Once he realized that the game was so much more than just being on the ice, the inner growth really began to take shape.

During his first season with the Stingers, Marchand—who was still slightly reserved and kept to himself—decided to model himself after Olivier Hinse. The latter was in his second



Stingers back-up goalie, Antoine Marchand's university career is coming to a close.

COURTESY BRIANNA THICKE

year with the team but it seemed inevitable that he would take the mantle of captain.

By his third season, the two players would become inseparable, spending much of the previous summer training together. He credits his friendship with Hinse as one of the key factors to who he is today, a humble leader who doesn't need to be in the spotlight.

"He really stepped into his leadership role when I got there and seeing [Hinke] grow as a leader, helped me grow as a human being," said Marchand.

This past season, his fourth as a Stinger, he continued to have a positive influence on the team, which changed drastically with 14 new players added to the roster. Element made a conscious effort to surround the team with leaders he believed could bring a positive influence on the rookies.

"I think he was just such a positive guy because of his positivity in the room and around the room. He was a nice guy to have around and you knew you could go to him with any problems," said first-year forward Anthony De Luca.

That's how Marchand carried himself as a Stinger on the ice and off the ice. De Luca was just one of the players that he reached out to in order to make a smooth transition onto the team.

Marchand's selflessness was eventually rewarded with an unforgettable experience: playing in front of the home crowd at Ed Meagher Arena.

"I wanted so badly to put him in for a couple minutes so he plays in front of the crowd, in front of his friends and that's because he's a true leader and a real professional," said Element.

Although he only played nine minutes, he was able to close out the final regular season

game—his last as a Stinger—in front of the home crowd. And as much as it was a pleasurable experience for Marchand, it was also a rewarding feeling for his teammates.

"I think we all wanted him to play and it meant a lot to him, it was his last [U Sports] game. We were just really happy to be able to share that moment with him," said De Luca.

Moving forward, now that he will graduate with a major in international business, Marchand hopes to bring his leadership skills elsewhere, whether it's in Europe with a hockey team or completing another degree in law.

Marchand will surely miss being with the Stingers day-in and day-out and his absence will be felt throughout the team.

"It's a big loss for the program but there's some guys that are going to have to step up," said Element.

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

Pressbox Hat Trick Episode 93: It's that time of year again. It's NCAA bracket time

# Let the Good Times Roll

## Montreal Roller Derby Kicks Off 2017 Season

words by Ocean DeRouchie @oshieposhie photos by Carl Bindman @carlbindman



**R**egretta Garbanzo, the roller derby alter ego of AC Riznar, just finished the first game of Round Robin, Montreal Roller Derby's first event of the 2017 season. This also happens to be the first game they've ever played as part of a home team.

Standing off to the sidelines, they're radiating that post-game glow. "It's that instinct that grows in your guts while you're playing, that says, 'I have to survive, I have to get out of here without any injuries—and make a little mess, if I can,'" says the new blocker.

Riznar played on the rookie team before getting picked to play for Les Filles du Roi.

"It was fun, scary and terrifying," they said about the jam. "The home teams are all very good—it's a level that I've never played [before]."

Round Robin kicked off the season at Le Taz on Saturday night. It was the first match of many to come this

spring and summer, with three home teams competing for the evening's victory—Les Filles du Roi, Les Contrabanditas and La Racaille.

In a derby match, called a "jam," two teams take to the track. With five players from each team on the track at a time, they skate counterclockwise with the goal of scoring points. Points are scored by "jammers," who can be distinguished by the removable helmet caps they wear that have large, yellow stars on either side. The jammer stacks up points by managing to skate past the other team's blockers. Each player from the opposing team that the jammer manages to overlap counts as one point.

Derby has a long history as an alternative sport. It was born as a contemporary contact sport in the 1930s, but was revived and remodeled independently by women in the early 2000s. Its DIY aes-

thetic draws from punk and rock-n-roll scenes. Underneath all that safety gear, you'll often see torn shorts layered playfully over striped socks or printed leggings—outfits that really scream, "don't fuck with me."

For Riznar, the intersection between their punk scene origins and the game's energy are what made them curious about the sport in the first place.

"The survival instinct that you find in some of the rock scenes translates [to derby]. The energy and the looks are badass, and I can relate to that," they said.

Roller derby organization is not unlike that of most grassroots movements. Local leagues are shaped by local players, coaches and the community surrounding them.

Paula Youwakim, known on the track as Falafel la Gazelle, is in her fourth season with Montreal Roller Derby. Once a player for Les Filles du Roi,

she now finds herself behind the bench as a coach for her old rivals—Les Contrabanditas.

"It's a women's sport that's managed by the players. There's no big money involved," explains Youwakim. "The people doing this really love what they're doing."

In Montreal, there's a women's adult league, a juniors league for kids, and a men's league, explained Youwakim. "It's open to everyone. All of the leagues work together, and help each other to see the sport grow."

Derby attracts a variety of different people, who all want to play for different reasons.

"There are women on that track who are fifty years old," says Riznar, adding that they play because derby empowers them.

"I see the space outside—the streets, public space—as something political," said Riznar, explaining that derby allows them to

reclaim the spaces they occupy. "Roller derby is taking back your space; taking back sports and being powerful on skates."

There's also a social factor in most women's sports, Youwakim explains, that implies that players need to prove themselves on the basis of gender.

"What's really special about derby is that it started as a women's sport," says Youwakim, so that need to validate yourself isn't really there.

Despite being dubbed as a "women's sport," most derby leagues strive to be inclusive.

"It's a female [sport] but it's also a really inclusive, non-binary and trans sport," says Riznar, emphasizing the importance that it continues to be organized and lead by those people.

There are hundreds of people amassed on the edges of the track, gazing in awe at the sheer intensity of the jam.

"I just saw a woman get

elbowed in the face, holy shit!” exclaimed one guy who sat next to me. Anyone who sat on our side of the track was probably thinking the same, too.

Many people wonder about the physically aggressive quality of roller derby. After all, it is a contact sport. But unlike games of the past, derby today is a lot more regulated than one might think.

“It’s not the aggressive derby that used to happen where people were getting punched for show,” explained Artsy Choke, who plays for La Racaille, a self-proclaimed team made up of “shit-disturbing street punks on wheels.”

Artsy Choke said that nowadays derby focuses on athleticism, rather than showmanship. “It’s the same spirit though,” she added.

While this was the first match of the year, training for derby is an ongoing process. Artsy Choke’s relationship with the sport has been one of constant evolution, from the moment that she “fell in love” with it, to figuring out how it could fit into her life.

“I used to always think about [derby]. Now, I have a healthier relationship with it. It takes up a lot of space, because in a way, you have to dedicate your life to it.”

The physicality of the sport is as complex as the social and emotional aspects of it, too.

“It’s an asymmetrical sport,” said Artsy Choke, illustrating how one leg becomes stronger, while the other gains flexibility. “It’s funny, but people know if we’re skaters because when we lay down, one foot kinda goes like this,” she says, tilting one foot to the side.

The Montreal Roller Derby community is vast, comprising of five teams, plus the men’s and junior’s.

“It’s a very loving community,” explained Artsy Choke. “When you’re out of school or just working, it can be hard to make friends—so it’s a huge family.”

For those curious about the empowering sport, Montreal Roller Derby offers an open-practice night every Monday at Le Taz, where aspiring derby players can come, lace up some rental skates, and work with coaches.

“Don’t give a shit!” Riznar exclaimed. “If you want to feel good about yourself and play with a team, come give it a try. It’s worth it [...] It may be the funniest and most amazing sport I have ever played.”



Players get ready to block an upcoming jammer.



Roller Derby teams Contrabanditas, La Racaille and Les filles du Roi faced off in a triple-header round robin on Saturday, March 11.

# ROOM TO GROW

Celebrating **10** years of sustainability on campus

**Steven Guilbeault**  
and special guests

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017  
6 pm to 8 pm  
H-110 Hall Building  
1455 de Maisonneuve W.



SUSTAINABILITY  
ACTION FUND



Concordia  
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# Let's Call It What It Is: Racial Profiling At the Border

VICTORIA LEWIN

Since the Trump administration first announced the travel ban barring anyone from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, things have changed at the US border.

Typically, no one really looks forward to crossing the border. It can be a lengthy, tedious process that makes just about anyone uneasy, even if they've done nothing wrong at all.

Recently, however, getting through the border has become a challenge, particularly for people of colour. There have been several cases of individuals being denied entry into the United States based on their race. The problem only seems to be getting worse, and racial profiling at the border has become a recurring issue since the travel ban was first introduced.

Just last week, a Montreal-born Canadian of Indian heritage was told she wouldn't be able to get into the United States without a valid visa, despite the fact that she was travelling with her Canadian passport and has no criminal record. Interestingly enough, her two white friends weren't questioned at all. The woman was even asked about her views on Donald Trump.

Not long ago, around mid-February, a Muslim teacher coming from the UK on a school trip was also denied entry into the United States, and was treated like a down-right criminal. After being searched and taken to a dirty, run down hotel for the night, the schoolteacher was only able to catch a flight back to the UK the following day.

Just a few weeks before that, a Canadian university student of Moroccan descent was pulled aside at the border and questioned. After five hours of questioning about topics such as where he was born, his faith, his parents, countries he has been to, and more, he was told he would not be able to join his team in travelling to the United States for a track-and-field meet. Despite having a Canadian passport, authorities told him he did not have the right documents.

These are only some of many examples of cases where people are being assessed, questioned, and turned away from the border based, most likely, on their race. In each of these cases, being denied entry into the country has caused major turmoil for those who are affected, and those who are being treated so wrongly have thrown around a common thought.

"I feel like I've done something wrong."

"It made me feel like a criminal."

The current issues at the border seem to have developed from not only the Islamophobia but also the overall xenophobia being spread in recent months—causing this to become an increasingly large problem. We have reached a point where citizens of just about any country are fearful when crossing the border, particularly those who are part of minority groups. The thought of being fingerprinted, detained, and questioned over the course of several hours, on the basis of virtually nothing but racial profiling, would deter anyone from visiting the United States.

The original travel ban was found to be unconstitutional and is no longer in place, although a new one is on its way. Since talk of a ban began, it seems to have sparked a wave

of blatant racism that has long been hiding behind closed doors. Although the ban was meant to affect a number of Muslim countries, countries from all around the world have been affected.

The problem does not stop at the border. There have been many incidents surrounding Islamophobia, particularly here in Quebec, that force us to wonder what the Donald Trump presidency might be causing.

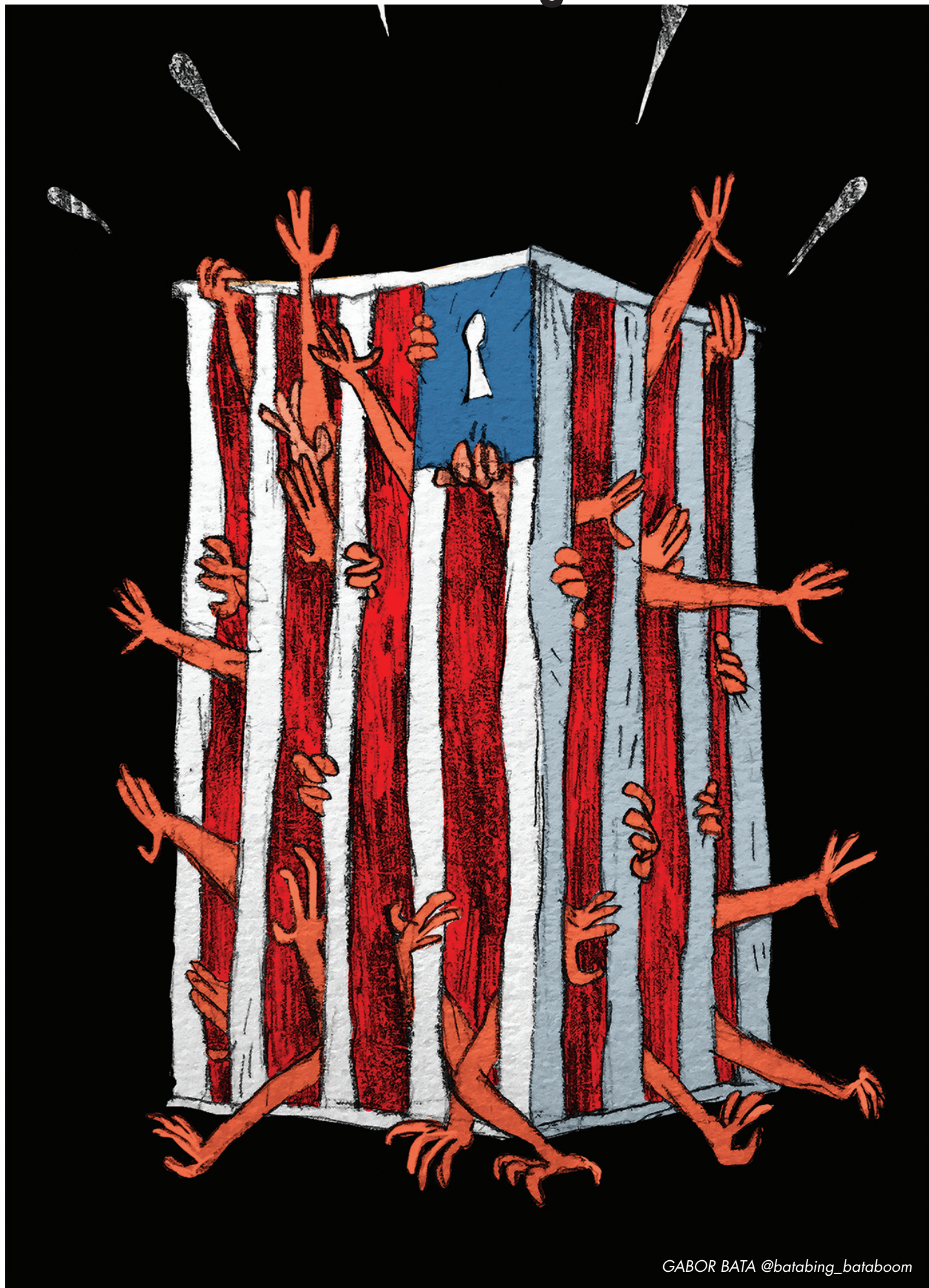
Innocent people cannot be made out to be

criminals. It is undeniable that these cases of people with appropriate documentation being denied entry to the US are racially motivated. There is no arguing that telling a Canadian woman she requires a visa, when she has lived her entire life in Montreal, is a sign that something is seriously wrong.

In an age where we are supposed to have made so much progress, and supposed to have reached new levels of acceptance and equality, the treatment of minority groups

in recent months leads to serious questions about whether we have truly progressed or not. To many, it appears we are in fact regressing to old ways.

At this time, it is key that we all stand in solidarity with those innocent people who are being treated as though they have done something wrong. Being a minority does not make you a criminal. We cannot allow people to be discriminated against based on the colour of their skin.



# Bring on the Light Rail

## Public Transport in the West Island Needs Improvement

REBECCA MELOCHE

Montreal's public transportation has always been the talk of the town.

The only way to get around without having to worry about where to park your car in Montreal is bus, metro or on foot. Compared to other cities around the country, our public transportation is not the worst, but it isn't the best, either. Especially if you're someone coming from the West Island.

When you think of Montreal, you often forget about those living in the west. Often, people who work or study downtown live on the outskirts of the city. Whether they're coming from Laval, far into the South Shore or the West Island, the hassle for those who have to get from the outskirts of the island to the core of Montreal has never been this substantial. The common mentality is that the most efficient way to get downtown is by train or bus. Efficiency is subjective here. Often, getting downtown will require over an hour of transit. By car, it'll take half of that.

Last year, the Caisse de Dépôt announced they would be funding and building a new form of public transportation. By the year 2020, Montreal will have their very own light-rail network. The Réseau Électrique Métropolitain—REM—will link the North and South Shores, and the West Island to the downtown core. This will also include the airport. The waiting times will be smaller than with the Agence métropolitaine de transport, and it will run on a 20-hour operation schedule, starting at 5 a.m.

If you aren't in any rush, the AMT and the Société de transport de Montréal are rather pleasant. Their websites are made to appear like these services are the best thing that has ever happened to Montreal. The reality is quite the opposite of what it seems. Both AMT trains and STM busses

are often overcrowded at rush hours. The bus system is better than the train system, but that is not saying much. Busses are often delayed and unreliable. Trains do not have frequenting times because Canadian Pacific owns the tracks they run on. CP uses the tracks more during the day than the AMT, thus making wait times and causing an increase in delays.

In 1985, Vancouver began operating their own version of the REM, which they called the Skytrain. To this day, there are 53 stations, three lines and 290 vehicles that services over 390,000 people a day on average. The train is fully automated and runs on its own grade-separated

tracks. According to Graham R. Crampton, an economics professor from Reading, UK that studies urban development worldwide, the Skytrain is shaping urban growth of Vancouver.

The REM, like the Skytrain, will be fully automated and it will run on its own tracks. It will also be using existing tracks to complete the routes. The maximum travel time of the REM from the West Island to downtown, per the Caisse, is 40 minutes. In addition, for us West Islanders, the train will be hitting new areas of the West Island, including Pierrefonds.

In 2015, another system like the REM, the Addis Ababa Light Rail, was built

in Ethiopia. The train links both urban and rural areas together, allowing for an equality among all riders. According to the *Mail & Guardian Africa*, authorities in Ethiopia hope that the light rail will make commuting easier for their population of nearly four million.

Like any new project, there are critics and people who oppose the REM. Environmental groups, such as Trainsparence, believe that the new train will be going through sensitive green spaces and that the Caisse is lying about how much it will really cost. The price tag of the REM right now is at \$5.9 billion. This very well may be the case, however, other environ-

ment groups such as the David Suzuki Foundation and Équiterre endorse the project, and they say that the benefits of this project outweigh the negatives.

It is normal to fear something we do not know much about. Montreal is often hailed for its diversity and interesting neighbourhoods. But people often neglect to mention certain infrastructures that

have been dysfunctional for a number of years. The city is constantly under construction, to the point where it has become the butt of jokes for frustrated Montrealers.

It is time for Montreal to re-invent itself. It is time for Montreal to follow the lead of other cities around the world. It is time for a new light-rail train.

**It is time for  
Montreal to  
re-invent itself.**



SHREYA BISWAS @shrey\_dora

**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 (found on the last page), and we'll publish it online or in print next issue.

# Rethinking the Quebec Language Debate

## Is English on Road Signs the Only Answer to the Question of Road Safety?

MARC GRENIER

How to lose your French. Step one: stop speaking it regularly. Step two: stop reading it regularly. Step three: don't surround yourself with it.

Step three is what did it for me—it hammered the nail in the coffin. Try all you want to listen to French radio, to read French newspapers and books, to have conversations with as many people as you can in French. The fact of the matter is when you walk around and everything you hear, everything you see, everything you live is in another language, you're not going to be solicited to think in French on a daily basis.

Those visual cues that we don't think about, that we passively take in as we look at signage, at billboards, at storefronts, at posters—those visual cues are a gateway to being able to look around and think “une auto” instead of “a car.” They're a gateway to reflexively thinking in French when you're writing or speaking it. So when we talk about changing road signs in Quebec to include English and we say, “this isn't a language debate, it's

simply a safety issue,” there's a lack of understanding as to what might be considered a language debate in the province.

I understand the motivations regarding road safety behind D'Arcy McGee Member of National Assembly representative David Birnbaum's petition, but if there are other ways to maintain road safety for Anglophone drivers, isn't it our duty to look into them before making decisions concerning the French landscape in the province?

I won't profess to be French anymore, but I won't profess to be English either. I'm bilingual in every sense of the word. It took a long time to get back to a place where I could confidently say that.

My first language is French. I was born in Montreal and I grew up in Ottawa. I attended French schools throughout primary and secondary. In grade seven, in Ottawa, my teacher told us to look around at the people sitting next to us, because in five years half of us will no longer be able to speak French. He wasn't wrong. It takes a lot of conscious effort when living outside of a French environment to keep it up.

The use of French outside of Quebec is minimal even

**In grade seven my teacher told us to look at the people next to us, because in five years half of us will no longer be able to speak French. He wasn't wrong.**

though, according to the Official Language Act of 1969 and Section 16 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, French is considered a language with equal standing within the federal government and that most provinces have their own clauses regarding the use of the language on a provincial level. The numbers drop drastically when we look outside the Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick regions. In fact, over three-quarters of those who speak French at home outside of Quebec live in Ontario or New Brunswick.

The tendencies in Canada also show that the number of people whose mother-tongue is French and who speak it regularly has declined, and the number of people who've learned French as a second or third language and who are able to have a conversation in the language has risen in the last 30 years. Even still, the overall trend is a steady decline in the use of the language. That's not a surprise when you look at how, outside of Quebec, we are very rarely solicited to think or to speak in French.

In Ottawa, I went from using the language 100 per cent of the time to 50 per cent of the time in the span of three years. And when I turned 20, no French at all. It's the way things go. You don't need it in Ottawa, or Toronto, or Banff, or Regina. In fact, in Saskatchewan my French became somewhat of a novelty for those around me. It stung. There's no sense of pride in having to tell people that you lost your French. When I came back to Montreal I was ashamed at how hard it became to have a conversation without having to revert to English. For so long my daily visual and audio references were non-existent, and my vocabulary suffered accordingly.

This is why I think that it is important to acknowledge the language debate when we talk about changing the visual landscape of this province. Immersion and solicitation are important aspects of maintaining a language in a culture. That being said, does it greatly affect our capacity to be solicited and immersed if we add an English component to street signs where road safety is concerned? Probably not. But in keeping with the ideas behind Bill 101 that states French is the official language of the province, it is our legal duty to look at every option available that does not impede on our capacity to be solicited in that language on a regular basis.

The linguistic landscape of the province forces us to look up and to think about where we're going or what we're doing in French, if only for a second, until we spot the smaller print translations often found underneath. Picture diagrams not translated force our brains to look at the word “interdit” and associate the word with a giant red circle and a bar running through it. It helps create this association and undoes this reflex for translating that we might not be privy to if we were not immersed in the language in the first place.

Considering that French is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world and that the global French speaking population is estimated to go from 220 million to 700 million in the next 35 years, I think it might be important, whenever possible, to try and see if there aren't other ways of dealing with safety issues that might be more propitious to keeping in line with the spirit of protecting a valuable resource that is a minority language with equal standing in the country.



NICO HOLZMANN @fly.agaric

## THE LINK WORKSHOP SERIES

**March 17**  
**Magazine 101**  
**Andrea Bennett**

In a world of fast-paced online news, there is something about certain print media that has a staying power:  
 The magazine.

Join us for a special workshop with *Maisonneuve Magazine's* Editor-in-Chief, Andrea Bennett. She'll be talking about *Maisonneuve's* process of design, gathering and editing longform content, managing the print-online balance, and how to pitch your own stories.

**March 24**  
**Code in the Newsroom**  
**Colin Harris**

As the news media industry changes, journalists need to keep up with the times. That means learning how to use new softwares and skills to keep the quality news content coming to our readership.

Join us with *Montreal Gazette* web reporter and former *Link* Editor-in-Chief, Colin Harris, to talk about how journalists can use code in the newsroom to build data visualizations and web content.

Workshops happen at 3 p.m in our office: Room H-649 of Concordia's Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)

**See you there!**

## **Drink With The Link!**

(IF YOU WANT)

Are you a **mingle machine**? Do you love **small talk** and **underground bars**?

If you do, well, lucky you! If you don't, well, also lucky you! There are no wrong answers because it's that time of year. It's time to...

### **Drink with The Link!**

Come meet our editors to network and chill over a few brews. Or waters! Join us on **Wednesday, March 22** at **7 p.m.** at **Grumpy's Bar** (1242 Bishop St.)!





PHOTO MARIE BRIÈRE DE LA HOSSERAYE @feelfreetopayme  
ILLUSTRATION BY CARL BINDMAN @carlbindman

# Development and Democracy

## Why Bill 122 Will Further Limit Citizen Power

SAVANNAH STEWART  
@SAV\_EDEN\_S

Gentrification is something we as Montrealers have been talking about for a long time.

From the Plateau many years ago, to Saint-Henri and Hochelaga more recently, to Pointe-Saint-Charles in the near future, as each new neighbourhood undergoes this drastic social and economic change, we have an opportunity to reflect on the many facets of the issue.

It's a complex topic and, thanks to the city's ever expanding borders and notoriously poor urban planning, an often-inevitable phenomenon. We've seen the effects of gentrification in New York, Vancouver and lately, Toronto; rents skyrocket, low-income families are pushed further away from the city instead of given the opportunity to join the development, and, if it continues, the city centre runs the risk of emptying out.

In many ways, gentrification is a process that is often racist and sexist. One example is Little Burgundy, a historically Black area of Montreal east of Saint-Henri that underwent serious redevelopment at the hands of the city in the 60s. Gentrification ensued, displacing a large part of the neighbourhood's prominent Black community as middle-class, mostly white families settled into newly built or renovated homes. In 2011, over half the population of Little Burgundy was white, while 18 per cent was Black.

In Pointe-Saint-Charles in 2011, single-parent families made up almost half of all families in the neighbourhood. Single moth-

ers head most of these families with many of them living beneath the poverty line—37 per cent of individuals in the area are low-income. As well, single-parent families have the lowest average salary. As Pointe-Saint-Charles continues to develop, single mothers will likely be under the most pressure to seek out lower rent further away from the city. In this way, gentrification tends to have more of an impact on women in the area.

But is gentrification the only way to develop a neighbourhood? Must the revitalization of an area be aggressively detrimental to the residents of that community? Many would argue that no, it doesn't need to be.

What if, when we start to see more of a social and economic development in a neighbourhood, we promoted balance and diversity? What if we strove for an area where low-income homes and high-income homes were right across the street from each other, creating a better social cohesion and less ghettoization of rich and poor? Businesses could diversify; casse croûtes could coexist with upscale Asian fusion restaurants. Rents would stabilize. Low-income residents would have the chance to participate in the economy of the area.

Everyone wins.

To minimize the effects of gentrification as much as possible, this is the type of development we should be striving for. However, it might get more difficult for us citizens to have a voice.

A proposed provincial bill drafted with the goal of giving municipalities more authority in urban planning would effectively remove what little authority residents have in the matter. As

it stands, residents can call a referendum on zoning changes for projects if enough signatures are collected—usually only the signatures of those living in the immediate vicinity of the site count. It is only after a referendum is called that consultations can be held by the Office de consultation publique de Montreal, an independent organization tasked with obtaining public opinion on projects.

An amendment in the proposed Bill 122 would abolish citizens' right to call a referendum on projects that are of concern to them. Mayor Denis Coderre, who supports the bill, has gone on the record as saying that the public will still be able to participate in the planning of the project through consultations. Critics of the bill, though, have pointed out that without the right to call referendums, citizens cannot call for a consultation by the Office de consultation publique de Montreal on their own.

It will therefore be up to city administration and the developers of a project to call for consultations, something that causes concern to those who oppose the bill. After all, in a city known for being rife with corruption—just look at the Charbonneau commission—it's easy to see how this exchange of power from citizens to private construction companies and municipal administration is worrisome to many, especially since it pertains to citizens having the opportunity to have their voices heard.

We've seen citizen referendums in action in the past. In 2015, developers scrapped a proposed plan to construct a Provigo grocery store in Notre-Dame-de-Grace after residents had collected enough signatures for a referen-

dum. After already dealing with an influx of cars with the construction of the McGill University Health Centre, they were concerned that their area could not support any increased traffic the project would cause, which also included several floors of condos above the store.

Clearly, this bill would directly facilitate the gentrification of a neighbourhood. When a major condo development or plans for a chain grocery store is planned in a historically working class area, residents will have no way to ensure their voices are heard—whether or not the city will schedule consultations to hear what they have to say about a project that could have repercussions for them and their neighbourhood is completely out of their hands.

Without the possibility of a referendum, citizens lose the ability to ensure that the development of their area occurs on their terms.

Historically, the city has not been concerned with curbing the gentrification of an area and assuring a more diverse and balanced development takes place—development that is inclusive and doesn't discriminate. Removing our right to call a referendum will only reinforce this stance and make the residents of developing areas even more powerless in the struggle to protect their neighbourhood.

It's time Montreal considers a different approach to urban planning—one that does not push low income people further away in favor of the middle class, but one that promotes balance and inclusion for all regardless of income.

Bill 122's amendment abolishing the right to call a referendum is a big step in the wrong direction.

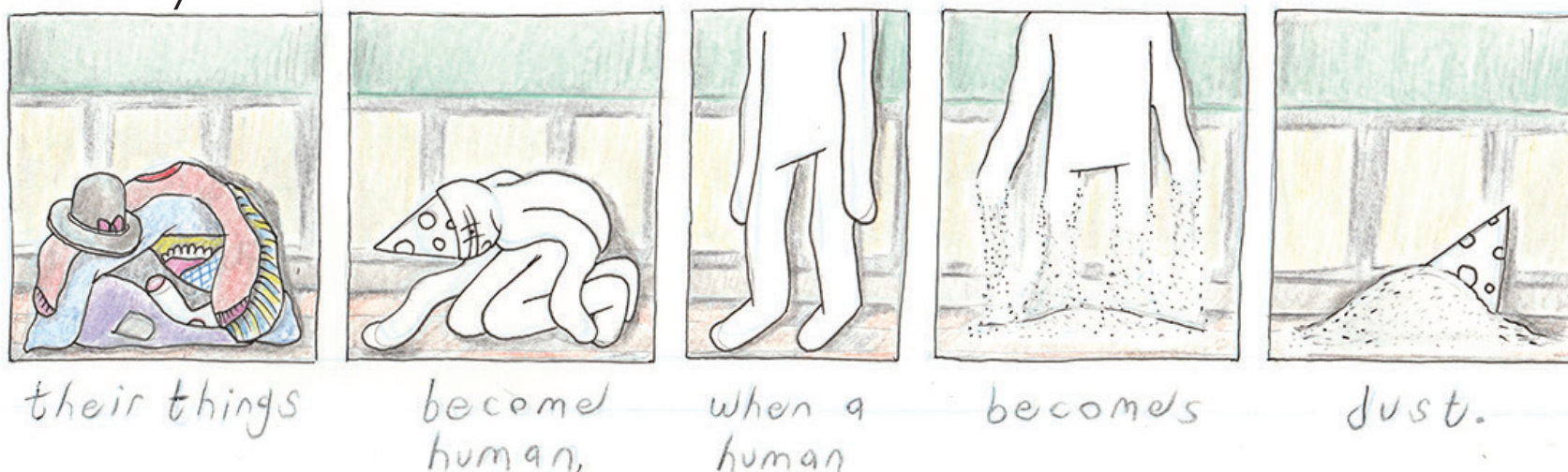
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## The Epic Adventures of Every Man by Every Man





MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL  
@madd.egg

## EDITORIAL

### Concordia's Sexual Violence Policy Lacks Clarity

Back in March 2015, a Concordia student—under the pseudonym of “Cathy”—filed a complaint under the Code of Rights and Responsibilities after her ex-boyfriend threatened her on campus. The hearing for the case at the university level was postponed on multiple occasions, even after the perpetrator was charged in municipal court.

Cathy's case was eventually solved in court, and was resolved at the university level in May 2016—over a year after the initial complaint was made. The hearing sentenced the ex-boyfriend to serve 30 hours of community service by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Meanwhile, Cathy has not enrolled in any classes since the 2015 fall semester. This is just one high-profile example of the Code being inadequate in cases of gendered violence.

Concordia University has since implemented a new sexual assault policy, which came into effect in May 2016. Although this is a progressive step in the right direction, there's a major problem. Right at the beginning of the nine-page document, a disclaimer states that:

“Nothing in this Policy shall replace or supersede any applicable University Policy or the provisions of any collective or employee agreement including but not limited to the Code of Rights and Responsibilities.”

What does that even mean? Why do the

older policies in Code of Rights and Responsibilities take precedence over extremely important ones from an updated document that was drawn up specifically to tackle how we deal with sexual violence at Concordia? It's a problem that, if any conflicts arise between the new policy and the old one, the old Code takes precedent.

Both the Code and the new policy have numerous problems. For one, the process is extremely long and drawn out, as evidenced by Cathy's case. And because the new policy does not supersede the old Code, survivors are expected to undergo multiple processes simultaneously. Later in the document, it is said that the Sexual Assault Response Team will bring this case through the different institutional processes in order to prevent survivors from having to repeat their story multiple times.

We've already seen how the Code has failed Concordia students in the past. And if something doesn't change, if we can't find clarity—it will continue to fail survivors in the future.

When someone from the Concordia community reports an incident of sexual assault or harassment to the university, the policy states that the Sexual Assault Resource Centre will be the “primary resource for support and response.” This means that all responsibility of mediation and reconciliation is directed to the SARC.

The SARC is a crucial support service for students, whether they are just looking for someone to talk to or they need help dealing with the practicalities of the aftermath of sexual violence. As we've reported before, the SARC was, for a very long time, a one-woman show. Its coordinator, Jennifer Drummond, was the only full-time staff at the centre for the first three years of its existence.

While we believe that part of the SARC's function as a student service—and as experts on the subject—should be to mediate, present solutions, and guide the process of an incident report, the fact that centre only has two staff—a service assistant was hired last fall—indicates that Concordia doesn't take sexual assault seriously enough.

The new policy, despite its good intentions, relies very heavily on SARC—which translates, in practice, to relying heavily on one person. How can we expect one person to ensure that policy recommendations are carried out and that each case gets the attention and care it deserves, when that same person is also tasked with educating the community, supporting students on an individual basis, organizing events and generally managing the centre in its entirety?

So with an unclear code, an understaffed centre that is already doing as much as it can,

and what seems to be a sheer lack of concern for the Concordia administration, how can a community member feel assured that their report, if they file one, will be taken seriously?

The circumstances can be extremely alienating for someone when on top of a lack of support and clarity from our immediate communities, we have many reasons to believe that police won't even make the effort to ensure justice for survivors.

The government of Quebec is proceeding with a series of consultations on sexual violence on university campuses. The intention of these consultations is to, possibly, create a provincial law on the matter. We at *The Link* call on Concordia to take these consultations seriously, and consider how the results will affect survivors.

What we need to avoid is another complicated, inaccessible policy on sexual violence at our school—another addition to the imposing, byzantine maze of regulations that already exist. We need to streamline the process, and make existing rules accessible to survivors of sexual violence. Beyond that, Concordia should also be increasing the resources devoted to SARC.

If we're going to finally begin taking sexual violence on campus seriously, then we need to center survivors in our discourse, policies, and practice.

# THE LINK

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# SCHEDULE 10 YEARS

Sustainability Action Fund 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary week

**MONDAY**  
**MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>**

## Get to know the Sustainability Action Fund

11 am to 5:30 pm

Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve W.), 2nd floor Mezzanine

Want to know more about the Sustainability Action Fund (SAF)? Come see us at the Hall building Mezzanine! You will also get the chance to meet student leaders who are advancing environmental and social sustainability issues through design, arts, movie production and rap battles.

## Screening of *To the Ends of the Earth*, co-presented by Cinema Politica and the Sustainability Action Fund

Doors open at 7 pm

Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve W.), room H-110

The Sustainability Action Fund is a proud partner of Cinema Politica! *To the Ends of the Earth* by David Lavallée is a commanding exposé that uncovers how the harvest of 'extreme fuel' amounts to human and ecological devastation in the name of status quo extraction & consumption.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## Thinking Big: Building a Food Sovereign Campus at Concordia

3 pm to 5 pm

Centre for Teaching and Learning (Faubourg Tower, 1250 Guy Street), 6th floor, FB 620

How can we co-create a food sovereign campus and closed loop food system at Concordia University? How can we strengthen partnerships and collaboration between different food groups? Join the discussion!

**FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>**



**Steven Guilbeault**  
and special guests

## Room to Grow: Celebrating 10 years of sustainability on campus

6 pm to 8 pm

Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve W.), room H-110

10 years ago, students voted "YES" on a referendum question to transform Concordia University into one of the most sustainable campuses in Canada. This year, the Sustainability Action Fund Concordia is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Steven Guilbeault, co-founder of Montreal-based NGO Équiterre, will give a keynote address on sustainability initiatives and progress in university campuses across Québec. The keynote will be followed by a sustainability panel made of Concordia community members.

Following the panel, our team will be awarding two 500\$ scholarships to this year's recipients of the SAF Sustainability Scholarship.