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Addressing Equity at Concordia

Student-Led Initiative Seeks to Collect Data on Systemic Issues in the Classroom

JOSH FISCHLIN
@FISHYNEWSWATCH

Quantifying people's everyday experiences is a daunting task.

But for those inclined toward social justice, gathering information about aggression—both micro and macro—is key.

A group called Critical Feminist Activism in Research is attempting to address this at Concordia. They are leading an effort to collect relevant data that will help form a clearer picture of the scope of misrepresentation and toxicity at the university.

"More or less, our goals are to address equity, representation, and visibility on campus," said Meghan Gagliardi, a graduate student in geography and the research coordinator of C-FAR, which itself is a part of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

Collecting the Data

C-FAR has a long-term vision, and it's still in its very first stage: the survey.

The Concordia Student Union will be adding C-FAR's questions to a survey that they're already conducting on student space.

"It's in the interest of our students to make sure that we can be able to identify and actually have something beyond just anecdotal knowledge of where students are facing significant challenges because of their identities," said Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, the CSU General Coordinator.

The focus of the poll will be to gauge students' experiences with microaggressions, such as "everyday racism and sexism on campus," and how students cope.

Gagliardi said these are "small things that just create a culture of whiteness on campus."

"We'll have stats based on that, but it's basically getting an idea of what students experience on campus and how they go about getting support for those experiences or reporting those experiences, or if they do use student services, to address those kinds of experiences," Gagliardi said.

But students aren't the only ones who will be scrutinized. Representation among Concordia faculty will also be under the magnifying glass.

According to Gagliardi, the data collection on students will be more qualitative, and the data relating to faculty will be more quantitative. "We're just going to be looking for numbers," she says.

To differentiate their analysis of the university's faculty from the already existing data, C-FAR is going to be looking at representation within both full-time and part-time staff, while also measuring the disparity between people of colour working part-time and people of colour working full-time.

"It's so hard to get those full-time positions," Gagliardi said. "Who is getting them and why is a question that we can ask—and make a lot of guesses about—but I think to have those actual numbers to compare is going to be really powerful."

Concordia President Alan Shepard said that the university has a diverse campus in an interview this past week. "I think that's a big strength for Concordia—I'm very proud of that," he added.

In terms of hires, he said the administration is working to make the employee representation match the student body but acknowledged there's still progress to be made.

The analysis of faculty on campus does not stop at representation, though. C-FAR's initiative will also be taking a look at the syllabi for required courses by the university in order to measure their diversity.

"Even if there's a certain amount of faculty of colour in departments, what are students being taught?" she asked.

C-FAR is still trying to determine the exact methodology they'll be using to collect the

who are interested in leading their own projects related to the issue.

"Faculty and students and staff are going to collaborate on their own particular projects that address their own particular interests or concerns or experiences," Gagliardi says.

To that end, C-FAR will be applying for a grant from the federal government's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, who have pledged to invest \$1.5 billion towards research initiatives across Canadian universities through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.

"The point of having that funding will be that we can allot that money to the partner-

experiences are so varied."

They would also like to provide training workshops in collaboration with workshops and social science research from the Political Science Department. They hope to bring in scholars and activists to conduct race-based and gender-based analysis—specifically people who have previously done work on equity.

The initiative's end goal is to have an actual space on campus where resources will be available to students and faculty, and where they can go to speak about their own experiences. In the next two years, C-FAR will be pushing for an "institutional equity office."

Understanding the Issue

Gagliardi has seen racism and sexism occur in the classroom, and the more she does work on the issue, the more she hears about students experiencing these things.

"It's something I think most people may have seen in their classrooms or on campus without even maybe naming it, or without fully understanding what was happening," she said. "Especially if it's not you—if you're just witnessing rather than experiencing the sexism or the racism or the ableism on campus, it's often hard to call it that."

In institutions, these things become "commonplace," and are "subtle," which is why it could be hard to understand for some people, Gagliardi explained. She also suggested that perhaps the barriers students feel like they're facing could be attributed to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, or transphobia.

"These things all really play a part. And if not, then it's whiteness at Concordia," she continued. "We never call whiteness the problem, but it's just [...] it's a huge problem."

WE NEVER CALL WHITENESS THE PROBLEM, BUT IT'S JUST [...] ITS A HUGE PROBLEM.

—MEGHAN GAGLIARDI, C-FAR COORDINATOR

data, particularly the information that relates to faculty. To this end, Gagliardi says they will try to work with scholars from Queens and York who have already done this type of work. Likely, C-FAR will try to get in direct contact with professors from each department and ask them to self-identify, with a focus on race.

Directly Addressing the Issue

Collecting the data to gain a full and accurate picture of the issue at Concordia is only the first step. Ultimately, C-FAR hopes to become an "umbrella network" to help organize groups that are already active on campus, and recruit faculty and students

ships that we've already created, and to the people who are already organizing and have their own projects underway," she says. "It could sort of be like a funding body."

The money will be reserved for projects surrounding issues of equity. According to Gagliardi, that could include anything about gender, race, sexuality, and ableism.

"We want to keep it broad because we feel like the work is so intersectional that, for it to actually be transformative, we have to let people design their needs," she explained. "We have to let students and faculty tell us what're their experiences, and how they're going to address those things because everyone's



NIKOLAS LITZENBERGER AND KELSEY LITWIN

Homa Hoodfar: A Global Effort

Academics Push for the Valued Concordia Scholar's Release

CLAIRE LOEWEN
@CLAIRELWN

"Please, send our colleague back to us."

The sentiment resonated across the room during a press conference held at Concordia on Wednesday, Sept. 7, as Concordia associate professor Marc Lafrance paused, letting his point sink in.

This time, he addressed Iranian officials directly.

Academics across nations are pushing for Homa Hoodfar's release from what they call an unjust imprisonment with more force than ever before. The former Concordia University professor has been held in solitary confinement for over 98 days, apart from a brief stint in hospital to treat her rare neurological condition.

Hoodfar went to Tehran, Iran in late February to visit family and conduct some research. Her apartment was raided in March, and her passport, laptop and research documents were confiscated.

On June 6, she was incarcerated under unknown charges. On June 24, news got out that she was being charged for "collaborating with hostile governments against national security and of propaganda against the state," which a press release—issued at the conference—claimed to be fabricated.

She was also accused of "dabbling in feminism and security matters."

The conference brought to light the great impact Hoodfar's imprisonment had on her personal relationships, her fragile health, and the state of global academic freedom.

Hoodfar holds triple citizenship—Canadian, Iranian and Irish—which is what urged Canadian and Irish scholars to launch a cross-Atlantic protest, calling on all governments involved to "do everything they can to facilitate the speedy release of Prof. Hoodfar and to return her home safely to Montreal," according to the release.

On the same day, Irish academics gathered outside the Iranian Embassy in Dublin. Hoodfar's Irish citizenship marks the possibility for diplomatic contact with the Iranian government, something that has not been possible in Canada since the Harper government ceased diplomatic relations between countries in 2012.

"Of course the Irish government has a responsibility to help her and to enter into whatever negotiations it can with the Iranian government," said Emer O'Toole, a professor of Irish studies at Concordia who was present at the conference. "Comparatively, Ireland has quite a good diplomatic relationship with Iran."

There is a strong tradition of sociology, human rights and academia in Ireland, O'Toole added.

Hoodfar's colleague and friend Marc Lafrance said hosting the conference, during which this cross-Atlantic protest was launched, is a good example of the university supporting the campaign to free Hoodfar.

"I think that this is precisely the sort of thing that we're happy to see the university doing, and I anticipate that we will continue to be supported in this way," he said.



Marc Lafrance, Emer O'Toole, Kimberley Manning, Francoise Nandillon and Charles Draimin were at the conference on Sept. 7.

The university has not made any significant promises to circulate any petitions or campaign information through its vast networks of students, alumni, and other contacts.

Concordia President Alan Shepard said the press conference had a big impact here in Montreal, and around the world.

"We've been supporting Homa herself as best we can. She's far away, but we're signaling our support for her," Shepard added. "She's a hugely respected and valued member of the community, we'd like to have her home."

He added that much of what the university has done has been behind the scenes.

"The diplomacy that happens behind the scenes is often very powerful and very important," he said. "Protests have their place, but there are other kinds of efforts as well."

"The university will continue to support the efforts of Dr. Hoodfar's colleagues to secure her release," added Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota in an email on Monday, Sept. 12.

"What form that support should take could change but for the time being we believe letting her colleagues take the lead might be the most effective."

Shepard's first priority is not to do anything that would jeopardize Hoodfar's safety, he said.

Hoodfar's imprisonment has raised many questions about academic freedom worldwide—how could a scholar known to be balanced and evenhanded be subjected to this torture?

This fear is always in the back of academics' minds when they travel to certain parts of the world, according to Kimberley

Manning, principal of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, which has the oldest women's studies program in Canada.

"I think this is an ongoing worry," said Manning, who referenced that she has conducted academic research in the People's Republic of China, at the conference. "I don't think that it ever goes away, I think that her incarceration speaks to a growing concern—it's always there."

While this issue is relevant to many academics, for Hoodfar, travelling to Iran has been a constant part of her life for 30 years—she has family there, an apartment, and even citizenship.

"Because her citizenship in Canada and Ireland is not recognized by the Iranian government, she's more vulnerable to this kind of false charge and incarceration," Manning said. "We've seen this before as well in other contexts including China."

Hoodfar's Iranian identity was one of the many aspects of her personality she shared with the graduate students she still supervised at Concordia, including anthropology student Pamela Fillion.

During her time supervising Master's students, Hoodfar helped prepare them for upcoming thesis presentations by holding a mock conference in her own home.

"She invited all of us to her home and baked us brunch and then a full Persian meal, and we got to each, one by one, go through and present our conference paper," Fillion said.

"For me, that's when I really connected with Homa."

During her time in Hoodfar's class, Fillion realized how much she could benefit and learn from Hoodfar, who she felt could help to further her critical thinking. Hoodfar has always been very involved and caring with her students, even while in the process of retiring, through her own ill health, and when her husband—who passed away in late 2014—was sick.

"Just thinking about the fact that this professor didn't drop her students during this time, and still hasn't, is kind of amazing."

Hoodfar's imprisonment has impacted her students and colleagues alike.

Lafrance, who works at Concordia's Sociology and Anthropology Department, called Hoodfar an incredible mentor, as well as "like a family member" to him.

"I just want to express how deeply difficult this is, and the psychological toll that it's taking on all of the members of the campaign really is immeasurable," Lafrance said.

He added that Hoodfar being held hostage is a heinous injustice because she is a balanced, even-handed, rigorous and tireless scholar.

"Not only is she all of that, but she is just one of the most kind-hearted, giving, good people you will ever meet," Lafrance said.

"Not only is she a mentor but she is a role model as a scholar and she is a role model as a human being. That somebody like her would be subjected to this absolutely brutal treatment is heartbreaking beyond words."

CLAIRE LOEWEN



Caribou Legs rocked the same war paint that he runs with at a Concordia conference on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016.

NATALIA BLASSER

Run for the Missing

Gwich'in Man Journeys Across Canada for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

JON MILTON
@514JON

For 20 years Brad Firth, better known as Caribou Legs, lived on the streets of Vancouver.

"I was doing drugs, drinking, doing crime," he said.

He's come a long way since then—both literally and figuratively.

Caribou Legs has spent the last few months running across Canada to honour and raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Having begun in Vancouver in May, he stopped in Montreal on Friday, Sept. 9 for a conference at Concordia.

"Only two out of every ten people I speak to know what MMIW stands for," he said at the conference. "It's a very apathetic country. How do we get people to care? I want people to fucking care."

MMIW is a Canada-wide phenomenon, with the Native Women's Association of Canada estimating that over 4,000 aboriginal women have been murdered or gone missing since 1980. To put that in perspective, Canada's indigenous population is just over 1.4 million people—slightly larger than the population of the Ottawa-Gatineau region, according to the 2011 federal census.

In Quebec in particular, knowledge is lacking about MMIW. Chantel Henderson—representing Missing Justice, a grassroots Montreal collective active on the issue since 2008—said this results from a process of invisibilization which begins with an absence of indigenous history in Quebec schools.

"Because of that, it's almost like indigenous people in Quebec are nonexistent, or are artifacts," she says. "It's the same situation with the police." She continued, "If society sees certain people as less valuable, the police don't find any value in bringing [perpetrators of violence against indigenous women] to justice."

"We need to re-educate the police, and we need to

get our hands in their training," Caribou Legs said at the conference.

A member of Gwich'in First Nation, Caribou Legs used his running to escape his life in the streets. Today, he laughed, explaining that he first ran "to get away from the cops."

"One day, one of [the police officers] pointed out to me that I should go run with a running group. So I checked it out," he recalled. "The next step was for me to start using my running for a cause."

Caribou Legs runs with war paint on his face, and wears full indigenous regalia. He carries a drum that he refers to as his suitcase. When an audience member asked how he plans his route in the morning, he laughed and said that he would "ask Grandmother Google."

recognizes and validates native women."

The inquiry may also serve as a platform for indigenous people to speak of the broader social issues that have led to widespread violence against indigenous women.

"There's poverty, there's homelessness, there's lesser wages—especially for women," Henderson said. "There are all these factors that can affect our future, our housing situation, employment."

Henderson also tied violence against indigenous women to the ongoing colonial policies of the Canadian government.

"Colonialism continues today because a high proportion of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women are tied to the dispossession of land," Henderson explained. "Half of our people live in urban centres, and that's where the majority of our women go missing"

She continued, "The women who are left on reserves are subjected to abuse, drugs, alcohol, poverty."

As large corporations continue to appropriate land, more indigenous women are continuously put in peril.

"The dispossession of our land takes us away from our culture, our traditions, our people and our livelihoods," she said. "Land is being claimed by corporations for

IF I HAVE TO RUN ACROSS CANADA FIVE MORE TIMES, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO

—CARIBOU LEGS

Public Inquiry

Since his election in autumn 2015, Justin Trudeau has begun the process of a public inquiry into MMIW—a long-sought demand by groups such as Missing Justice for many years.

Caribou Legs said the inquiry is "about 150 years too late," but that he still appreciates Trudeau "taking a stand."

"I think it's a good start, but eradicating racism against different groups across Canada is where it needs to go," he said.

Henderson shared his sentiment, saying that she sees "a lot of potential for the inquiry."

Melissa Mollen Dupuis, a spokesperson for Idle No More Quebec, a grassroots indigenous protest movement, said during the conference, "We must make sure that this inquiry

extraction of resources."

One high-profile example of this dispossession is occurring in Northern Alberta, where the expanding Tar Sands have displaced various indigenous nations—notably the Athabasca Chipewyan and Beaver Lake Cree First Nations, among others—of their traditional territory.

All participants seemed to hope that the inquiry was the beginning of something bigger. Caribou Legs highlighted this point.

"Systemic racism has been here for 500 years, so it's going to take time to change," said Caribou Legs.

"If I have to run across Canada five more times, that's what I'm going to do."

Forget Time, Just Dance

An Independent Music Festival in Montreal's Old Port

OCEAN DEROGHIE and SIMON NEW

@OSHIEPOSHIE and @THENEWSIMONNEW

The bass is consuming; walking into Ancient Future, you can't help but dance as you move from stage to stage.

Ribbons decorate nearly every surface; lights in hues of blue, red and green are scattered across the ground and bouncing from tree to tree. If you didn't know any better, you'd think you were in a real forest.

The relatively small, down to earth festival is still in its infancy—the first one was in May last year.

Compared to more established events such as Osheaga, Mutek or Picnik Electronik, the grounds often felt under-populated, but the scarcity was a welcome change for those hoping to escape the shoulder-to-shoulder feeling of commercial festivals.

With an attendance of about 3,000 over the entire weekend of Sept. 9 to 11, the Quai d'Horloge in Montreal's Old Port provided an intimate venue to dance and let go.

"The biggest challenge is getting people to come," explained public relations manager Francis Corbeil-Savage. "It's really hard for a new festival, especially in Montreal where there is already so much competition."

The grounds felt free of the pretension and buzz that one may find in the dusty, man-made creature that is Parc Jean-Drapeau. Ancient Future embodied a natural ambiance of peaceful, happy celebration. Cooling off in the hammocks or grabbing a drink came without a sense of urgency.

The scene at Ancient Future wasn't easy to create, with 25 people working on the park since April, from UQAM students to famous Montreal video jockeys.

"I think we offer a certain quality in terms of installations and experience—there's hammocks for everyone, *des chilling spots*—there's activities. When you go to Osheaga you're going to be in a *foule* of thousands of people," said Corbeil-Savage.

Although Ancient Future focused on bringing underground and local talent to its stages, Florida producer and electronic artist Marcel Everett, known as XXYXXX acted as an unofficial headliner for the festival.



When you have to play a set at 9 p.m., and defend your thesis at 10 p.m.

PHOTOS SIMON NEW

Everett's roots are in hardcore, but since his 2012 breakout track "About You" went viral, he began producing for a growing list of artists with his signature deep, heady brew of down tempo vocal sampling and hip-hop.

Not that Everett is focused exclusively on producing for others—he asserted that another album is on its way. On producing, he said, "I just wanna make good music, no matter what it sounds like."

That attitude, as well as Everett's sound, fit perfectly

into Ancient Future's atmosphere, with the crowd getting especially live for "About You"—a track whose popularity he used to resent. "I had a stage when I hated it—I couldn't play it," he explained.

It isn't hard to see why the song had such success, with it being as unique as it is. Everett's drive to create off-trend beats was sparked by his disdain for sameness in music. "If you follow trends, you're going to disappear," he added.

This approach towards the production scene meshes with Ancient Future's vision for their lineup, but hasn't been without its downsides.

Starting an independent music festival is no easy feat, explained Martin Loutrel, president of La Bacchanale—the event-planning group behind the festival.

"We lost a bit of money—about \$100,000—last year," he started. "I mean, to create a festival is something completely different than an event. Even if Bacchanale is doing big nights with 1,000 people, a festival of three days and with three stages is so different."

Last year's lineup featured an array of well respected but equally underground artists—such as Octave One or Extrawelt—but their niche scene wasn't enough to bring a large crowd. "Montreal is a lot more diverse in terms of music, we discovered. We weren't able to bring three or four thousand people on only underground artists."

With this in mind, organizers invited a wider range of genres to the festival, in hopes to attract listeners of different parts of the musical spectrum. Now that there's a better balance of artists, the festival has become profitable, said Loutrel.

The varied musical styles of RYAN Playground, Tokimonsta and Thomas White brought together a mix of people who would get to interact with new genres of electronic music that they usually wouldn't be exposed to at a single show.

"You still need different music to bring people inside," quipped Loutrel.

"It's a unique occasion to mix these crowds," added Corbeil-Savage. "I think we create something here with all these people that don't normally hang out together—two different vibes—but now for this occasion they are reunited on a new level."



When you're having those good times at Ancient Future Festival.

#MTLTATTOO

How Social Media Breaks the Industry It Makes: a Tale From the Montreal Art Tattoo Show

JOSHUA DE COSTA
@JOSHUADECOSTA21

Mike Mendes is a craftsman, but his toolbox holds no hammers; he wears a blacksmith apron even though he works with ink. His creations won't please everyone, nor will they ever hang in a museum. Yet his work will last a lifetime—albeit on someone's skin.

Mike Mendes is a tattoo artist.

On Friday evening, the 30-year-old Toronto-native artisan arrived in Montreal and went straight to Place Bonaventure, where the Montreal Art Tattoo Show was taking place from Sept. 9 to 11. While it was his first time tattooing in Montreal, Mendes was already fully booked.

"I didn't even really announce that I was coming. I posted one or two things on Instagram—that's all I had to do," he said. "A day or two later, I was fully booked."

A tattoo artist for the past eight years, Mendes recalled when he first got inked at 16, and how the culture has changed since then.

"It was kind of a nerve-racking thing going into a tattoo shop—a bit daunting," he explained. "Nowadays, you can just hop on your phone and look on Instagram and see what's going on in a tattoo shop without even setting foot in the door. People get comfortable that way."

While social media has continued to make people increasingly at ease with tattoos by virtually inviting them into shops, it has also made it easier for people to steal artists' work, said Mendes. "I've had so many designs ripped off. People just take photos off Insta-

gram and take it to their tattooer and get it done for cheaper."

Pierre Chaplan, a tattoo artist himself and the organizer of this year's Montreal Art Tattoo Show, said ripping off designs is a part of tattoo history and the scene today is no different.

"I think tattooing has always stolen everything," he said. "We copied people because we were inspired. I don't think that's a problem; it might be a compliment after all." Chaplan gave the example of how Japanese tattoo artists today repeat original designs by Hokusai and Kyōsai—two artists from Japan's Edo Period.

This was Chaplan's fourteenth year organizing the three-day event. Since the rise of social media, he has seen the show's attendance grow from 3,000 visitors per year to 10,000—and the number of guest artists has increased to over 250.

"Social media has made a huge difference. We posted a video on Facebook and we had over 2,000 shares and over 100,000 views without sponsoring or anything," Chaplan said. Today, people are even using social media to book their tattoo timeslots in advance, he added.

But even as social media has helped grow the show's attendance numbers, it can also hurt the celebrated art form, according to Chaplan.

"Tattooing is something very precious to me and a lot of people, and social media opens a huge door where anybody now thinks they can do it—and they can," he reasoned. "So the good side is you get new talents and new styles, but the bad side of it is: 'Is it going



Tattoo artist Hori Shin working on a client.



The show has grown considerably to host 10,000 visitors PHOTOS JOSHUA DE COSTA

to become less precious at some point?"

Mendes agreed that social media has opened a door for backyard tattooists to enter the industry, and he said a lot of them can "cheapen the experience" of getting a tattoo.

"A lot of people who don't really respect the tradition of tattooing are getting into it," he said, explaining that those who are copying designs or buying kits off eBay and doing stuff out of their basements aren't concerned about the practice. "I'm all for fun DIY stuff, but you have to know what you're doing," he said.

At the show on Friday night, 33-year-old Fan-Yee Suen stood across from Mendes' stall, waiting for her turn to get tattooed. She made the trip all the way from Toronto to see the show and to get a tattoo from one of Mendes' colleagues, Caroline Tattersall.

Suen, who is a media professional, said social media today has made tattoos "not only more accessible, but socially acceptable as well."

"You see them everywhere and it becomes commonplace—it no longer becomes a taboo," she explained. "Today, everybody from their 19-year-old daughter to their mother is getting one."



Mike Mendes inking a client's shin.

THE

LINK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 13 - Sept. 20

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| TU Poetry Night The back to school edition of Kafein's classic poetry night. Special guest presence from Metatron, an independant Montreal publishing house. Kafein • 1429 Bishop St. • 8 p.m. // FREE | WE Do We Need Borders? A talk about the borders that define territory and celebration of the play "Sunk in the Trunk." Montreal arts interculturels (MAI) • 3680 Jeanne Mance St. • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. // FREE | TH MoodLifters at Zaz Bar: Edwin Raphael x Soggy Beard x Bea Box Stop in for some folk-punk and decent headbanger moments. Soggy Beard is an emerging Canadian band and their music deals with the extremes that we all face sometimes. Zaz Bar Terrasse • 4297 St. Denis St. • 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. // \$6 | FR Busty & The Bass + Dead Obies The Concordia Student Union invites students to enjoy the radically awesome sound of two groovy bands. Celebrate in the name of a new school year! Corona Theatre • 2490 Notre-Dame St. O. • 6 p.m. // \$12 presale, \$15 at door Britney Spears Dance Party Baby, can't you see, you should be dancing it out at Le Ritz this Friday to a classic pop icon. Bar Le Ritz • 179 Jean Talon St. O. • 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. // PWYC |
| SA Feminist Stand-Up Comedy This is an open mic night to showcase local feminist comedic talent. It will be hosted by Kalyani Pandya and is headlined by Ify, a Nigerian born, Calgary raised and Toronto based performer. Reggie's Bar • 1455 de Maisonneuve O., Hall building mezzanine • 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. // FREE Montreal Independent Games Festival The Montreal Independent Games Festival gives the opportunity to participate in a bunch of activities, as well as play innovative, indie video games. Dawson College • 3040 Sherbrooke St. O. • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. // FREE | SU Eyelet (US) / SKIN / False Lives / Loess Turbo Haüs is social club—so basically a place for alternative shows and such. Come see some solid bands on tour and local ones as well. Turbo Haüs • 5011 Notre-Dame St. O. • 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. // \$8 or PWYC | MO Godspeed You! Black Emperor Montreal-native and local legends Godspeed You! has multiple events coming up, with mystery guests as well. Theatre Paradox • 5959 Monk Blvd. • 7:30 p.m. // \$18 | TU Little Beast A night of drawings by Maridza Kim Sarah with poetry readings from Map Gri. A francophone art event celebrating the beast in all of us. Quai des Brumes • 4481 St. Denis St. • Opens at 6 p.m., readings at 9 p.m. |

Poems

667

CHARLES GONSALVES

667

after learning who Steve Roggenbuck is and seeing Steve Roggenbuck perform poetry in the same day

(i)

i think i had a nearprofoundexperienceofArt last night but I don't want to say w
h
y i love
more than fifty percent of what it made me feel and hate
more than fifty percent of what made it possible

(ii)

before arriving at La Passe i convinced myself that doing so with any less than 1/3 of the smoothie i was drinking would produce a catastrophic event only i would suffer and immediately after this thought i forgot what neighbourhood of what city i was in and as i looked around and found nothing familiar in my surroundings i was thrilled to finally be alone with life

when a sign inside of the library reminded me why i was there and where i had come from i was devastated

(iii)

to see less than 1/3
of the espressopeanutbutteralmondmilkbanana mixture remaining
to know that i can not possibly know i
f the catastrophe i
am
anticipating is remembering who i am
or inevitably forgetting again

Triumph

JAZMIN MEHRMANN

My lungs remember
The way each breath
Curves around
The edges of your name
And how to cry out
Against it
By remaining
Unfilled

On a Plastic Night

VERNON LECRAW

Don't cry while you still can,
We'll just blame the government,
Run away and build a sky,
Sheltered by stars on a plastic night.

While they're busy counting stars, go ahead and take your time,
We could be counting corrections, so they can bathe in lime.
Sadness is a used diary, read by a burner of books,
Forest fires, unknown desires and all the leaves they shook.

You will bottle them up and distribute them to your comrades
Mermaids in the sand and something else attempting to be emotionally provocative.
If only we were certain that this sadness was extraordinary,
To reassure ourselves we are not crying over a fair dosage.

Well I don't like to casket aspersions,
But we've cast pearls before swine!
We are cats among the pigeons,
With eight lives less than nine.
Grab your slice of humble pie,
Hear the eleventh hour tick,
Remove your ear from the ground,
It is time we face the music.

While they're busy counting bodies, go ahead and pick and pry,
We could be counting causes and reading between lines.
Happiness is a warm scalpel, lead by a cold heart,
Surgery is less than helpful, and quite the dying art.

MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

thelinknewspaper.ca • September 13, 2016

Tackling a Big Goal

Sought-After Offensive Lineman Matthew Halbgewachs Joins Stingers

SAFIA AHMAD
@SAFS_ONTHEGO

There are obvious differences between Regina, Saskatchewan and Montreal. Here, millions of people walk the streets daily. There, roughly 240,000 individuals inhabit the city. Other noticeable differences include the vast number of buildings, the French language and the overall faster pace of life that defines Montreal to a tee.

For the new Stingers football player Matthew Halbgewachs, who is born and raised in Regina, there's something else that stands out about his new home, a certain buzzing sound he hears every single night.

"The beetles and the trees, they always make that sound," he said, smiling. "I hate that sound. They don't have that in Regina. I thought it was the powerlines!"

Getting used to the sound of the critters that inhabit his neighborhood is not the only thing he'll have to adjust to. After playing in the Canadian Junior Football League, Halbgewachs will face some of the country's top prospects coming into the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec.

"Going against Mathieu Betts, who is Laval's defensive end, you know rookie of the year last year and a hell of a football player," said Stingers head coach Mickey Donovan. "I think Matt wanted that challenge. He wanted to come in and show him what he can do."

Halbgewachs is a seasoned offensive lineman who spent four years in the CJFL. The league itself houses 20 teams in six provinces and is divided into three conferences: The Ontario Football Conference, British Columbia Football Conference and the Prairie Football Conference. Halbgewachs played in the latter conference with the Regina Thunder.

Along with representing the Thunder in the PFC all-star teams in 2014 and 2015, he was also named the conference's outstanding offensive lineman and CJFL all-Canadian in 2015. He also gained some valuable experience practicing with the Saskatchewan Roughriders last year during his time in the CJFL. After joining the Stingers, the French television sports channel, RDS, rated Concordia's offense with an "A-" and attributed this high grade partly to the acquisition of Halbgewachs.

Despite these honors, the 22-year-old remains naturally humble and doesn't let his past successes get to his head. He is fueled by his desire to work hard and improve on a daily basis without taking anything for granted.

"I don't care about that stuff," he said. "I think they would have been just fine without me. I feel like I'm just kinda grabbing the coattails and getting dragged along."

Halbgewachs had the chance to play another year with the Regina Thunder and practice with the Roughriders again but he opted for a change in scenery. While playing in the RSEQ will give him an edge in his pursuit for a career in the CFL, he also wanted to finish school before moving

forward with his plan. His time with the Roughriders gave him perspective on the life of a professional football athlete and made him realize the precarious nature of this career path.

"It's important to have a backup plan and I saw that first hand," he explained. "It's a crazy world, professional football [...] One day I'm sitting beside a guy and the next week I'm sitting beside somebody else because he [the other guy] got traded or he

who just finished high school.

"There [are] some really, really good players in CJFL but there's a lot more depth in CIS," he explained. "I'd say the best players in the CJFL and the best player in the CIS are just as good. It's just that the next best guy [in the CJFL], isn't."

This depth allows for coaches to use a variety of different defensive strategies, enabling a greater form of specialization and skill that isn't found in the CJFL.

"The CJFL, you know, it's standard football.

tackle, which is a kind of offensive lineman, he is required to prevent Miller from being attacked by the opposition's defensive line.

While they've only known each since last December, they've developed a strong bond on and off the field. Along with being teammates, they have also taken their relationship to the next level—by becoming roommates.

"You know, Matt's a great roommate," said Miller. "He's actually surprisingly clean for a big man so that's good."

Halbgewachs also appreciates his roommate, but can't say the same for his cleanliness.

"He's pretty clean but he doesn't do his dishes," he said, chuckling.

There remains a lot of football to be played for Halbgewachs, who has three years of eligibility in the RSEQ. Coach Donovan believes that he will be recruited before that time is up. Until then, the new Stinger has only one goal in mind and a burning desire to accomplish it: winning the Vanier Cup.

"We wanna be one in zero every week," said Halbgewachs.



Halbgewachs displays his sportmanship with a Laval opponent after Saturday's home-opener.

ALEXANDER PEREZ

got cut or something like that."

Halbgewachs got his first taste of CIS football when Concordia defeated the McGill Redmen on Sept. 2 for the Shaughnessy Cup. He came away with a few positives and negatives that he plans on improving as the season progresses.

The six-foot-five, 305-pound tackle has already noticed some differences between the football played here compared to the game out west. For starters, players in the RSEQ are older than those in the CJFL. Because everyone in Quebec must go through CEGEP before attending university, rookies often come into the league around the age of 20. Halbgewachs was used to playing with guys

Maybe last season, I saw three stints all year and I saw like seven last game [against the Redmen]."

While certain adjustments need to be made, the Stingers head coach is pleased with his new recruit, praising Halbgewachs for his work ethic and quick feet. Donovan feels that he will be able to compete and raise his game to a different level by playing in the RSEQ.

"He wanted to play against the best and he knew that coming to the Q, he was gonna get that," said Donovan.

Not only will he get to play against some of the top players in Canadian university football, he also gets to side with last year's RSEQ MVP and quarterback Trenton Miller. As an offensive



Nachi Fujimoto is excited to start her career with the Les Canadiennes in the CWHL.

COURTESY CÉLINE GÉLINAS, LES CANADIENNES CWHL

Recruited From Across the World

Nachi Fujimoto Looking to Make an Impact with the Montreal Canadiennes

JORDAN STOOPLER
@JSTOOPLER

As she left the Canadiennes locker room at the Bell Sports Complex in Brossard, Nachi Fujimoto was approached by the team's media relations director. The 25 year old, who is from Japan and was in Montreal for the team's training camp, had a number of interviews scheduled.

"You are quite popular around here," joked Canadiennes general manager Meg Hewings after briefly catching up with Fujimoto in between interviews. Fujimoto nodded and smiled.

As a household name in her native Japan, Fujimoto has represented her country internationally at different age groups of championships as well as the Universiade games—an Olympics-type event for university-level athletes. Her older sister, Nana, is a goaltender for the New York Riveters and played for Japan at the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

The younger Fujimoto sister is eager to pursue her hockey career with the Montreal

Canadiennes in the Canadian Women's Hockey League. She is equally excited to follow in the footsteps of fellow Japanese players Kanae Aoki and Aina Takeuchi of the defending CWHL champion Calgary Inferno, as well as Sena Suzuki and Tomomi Kurata of the Toronto Furies. Fujimoto quickly noted that Les Canadiennes do not have any Japanese players on their roster and that she hopes "to be the first one."

In her first exhibition game on Friday, Sept. 9 against McGill, she collected an assist on her team's second goal in what would turn out to be a 4-2 Canadiennes victory. The pass from the end boards was sublime, onto the tape of the reigning league MVP Marie-Philip Poulin stationed at the point. She pointed to Poulin, in recognition of her accurate shot, before congregating with the rest of her teammates on the ice in celebration. A clear team player, Fujimoto sought to recognize Poulin's shot above her own pretty pass.

Fujimoto described herself as a "defensive defender who can make a good first pass and get off a good shot." She's confident that she'll

be able to showcase these assets of her game with Les Canadiennes, despite the noticeable differences between North American and Japanese hockey.

"The rink here is smaller than in Japan," Fujimoto said. "It's very fast-paced here. You have to move your feet, make hard passes, and take hard shots. This team is very fast."

Another barrier Fujimoto must overcome is one common to Montreal—language. During the afternoon on-ice training session, Fujimoto always positioned herself towards the front of the group when coaches were presenting their drill instructions. She wanted to grasp the task at hand to the best of her ability.

While she is able to make out English "a little," Fujimoto does not understand a word of French. This has not been an issue, thanks to the help of her teammates.

"My teammates have been very kind and have been translating everything into English," Fujimoto said. "They ask me 'are you OK?' I say 'yes, I'm fine.' Communication is working very well so far."

Ten defenders are currently in camp, including all six starters from last year's regu-

lar season champions. But since veteran Julie Chu will be absent for a number of games due to her coaching commitments with the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team, the team may decide to carry additional bodies on the backend.

While refusing to make any assurances as to Fujimoto's spot on the team, Hewings was highly complimentary of her new recruit.

"We're impressed by Nachi's commitment and desire to push her own limits and showcase her talents here at the Canadiennes camp," said Hewings. "She has mobility, speed and tenacity, and an incredibly positive energy. We're going to continue evaluating her this week."

Difficult decisions will have to be made over the coming weeks as the team continues their exhibition tour of university-level teams—including a date with the Stingers at the Ed Meagher Arena on Sept. 30.

Fujimoto has until Oct. 15 to prove herself, when the roster will be finalized for the first game against the Brampton Thunder. Hewings has said repeatedly that the best players will ultimately be selected.

Safe Streets

How Can Montreal Become Bike-Friendly?

SARAH JESMER
@SARAHJESMER

“Be as safe as you want, but it’s not always up to you. There’s a saying that graveyards are full of people who had the right of way,” says Paul Rozenhal, a bike messenger working in Montreal.

“You can’t slip, definitely,” he continued. “And every morning, I kind of like, remind myself. And there’s certain things—like every time I see roadkill, every time I go under an underpass, the white bikes, they all remind me.”

White bikes are spray painted in memoriam to people who have been killed while riding, like Justine Charland St-Amour, 24, who was struck and killed only a few weeks ago by a truck.

“Sharing the road in the way that Montreal does is a little bit like a war because you need a fast bike—if you’re biking on the road you kind of feel like you’re being hunted.”

Rozenhal said he was hit once while working in the rain. “I was hit very lightly, but it was still enough to knock my head and have it be a very real reminder that there’s crazy people on the road and we share a space with them.”

In the summertime, drivers are more aware of those they have to share a road with, but the risk factor only goes up as temperatures fall. “It becomes much less safe to be on a bike

[in the winter] because there’s like power in numbers,” said Rozenhal.

In a press conference, Mayor Denis Coderre proposed photo radars in dangerous areas of the city and called for changes to the Quebec Highway Safety Code. Changes to the code have already included pricier fines for dooring cyclists, but that’s only if police officers side with riders in accidents and hand out tickets. Unlike progressive cyclist countries like the Netherlands, the law is not always pro-cyclist in Montreal.

For a city like Montreal that promotes alternative transport options, conditions should be improved. The city joined the modern trend with other metropolitan cities to promote a culture of biking and eco-friendly transportation after they introduced the widely popular BIXI bike sharing system in 2007. But while the city will provide bikes, you’re on your own when it comes to arriving to your destination safely.

If you claim that you are bike friendly, you have a responsibility to create an environment safe for bikes. Although crashes are reported, Montreal statistically scores very well when it comes to bike accidents per 100,000 rides—it’s only two annually according to a 2015 study by Pembina Institute. But small collisions like side swiping, or slamming on your brakes, or having to narrowly escape a turning car, or even

getting doored, go unreported and aren’t represented statistically.

According to CAA Bike Safety, 7,500 Canadian bikers are seriously injured every year, with ‘serious injury’ being defined as “fractures, concussions, internal lesions, crushing, severe cuts and laceration, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and any other serious lesions entailing detention in hospital.”

The city has some segregated cycling facilities on the sides of major roads. The total biking infrastructure the city has racks up to 648 kilometres, an impressive figure, but a far second to Calgary’s 1032 kilometres, according to Pembina’s study. But while east to west travel in the downtown area is focused on, it’s not enough. North to south travel infrastructure in and near the downtown core desperately needs to be improved.

It’s horrible to ride north on streets like St. Laurent and St. Denis, as they both have no type of separated line or lane. On top of the added complexities of the construction on northern St. Denis, it makes the street almost impossible to travel on. As a bike messenger, Rozenhal says he just avoids taking certain streets in the summertime point blank, like St. Catherine St. and Duke St.

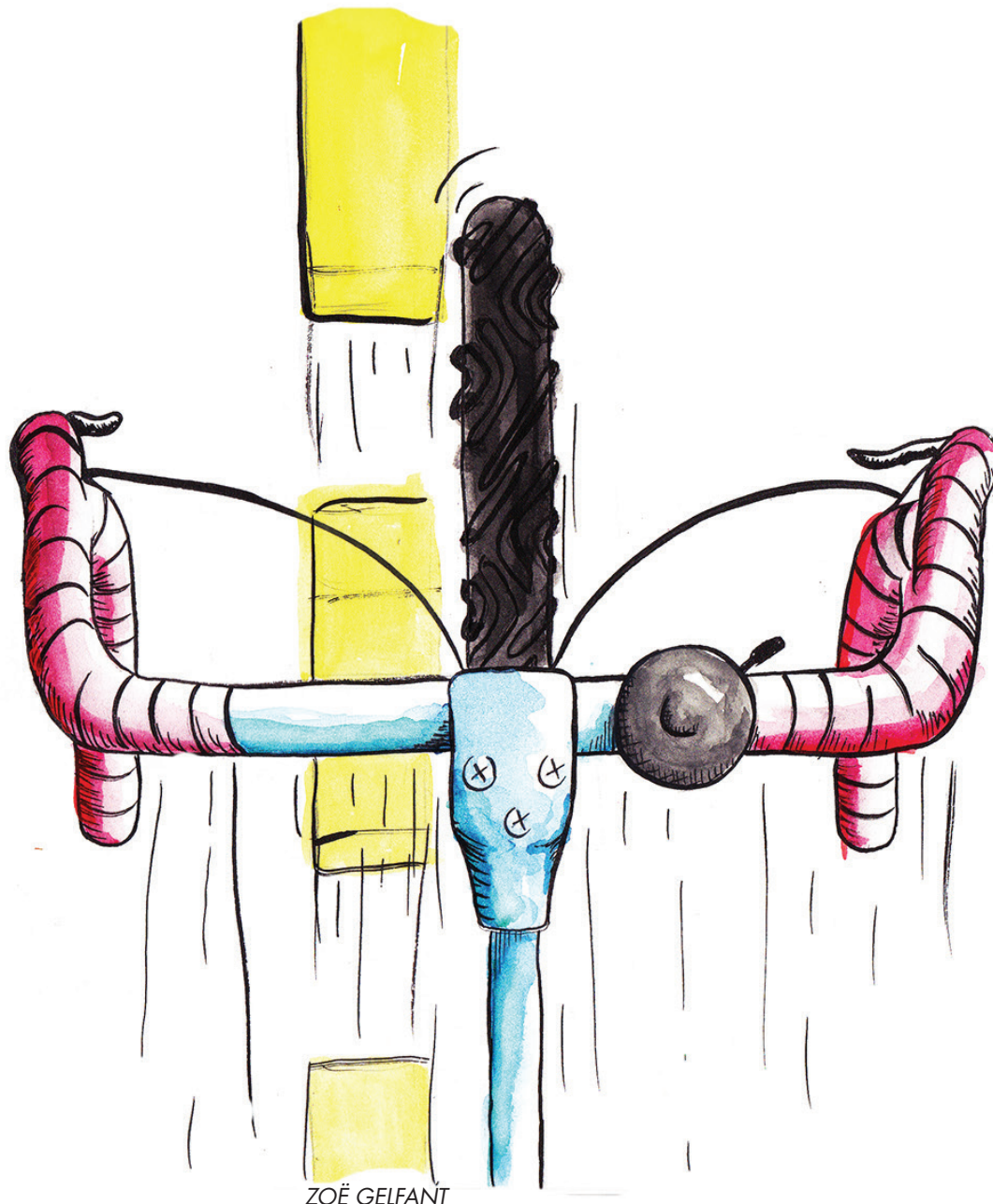
Aside from infrastructure additions and modifications, a call for attention to bikers would be useful as well. Bikers’ jobs are not

to be invisible. When we truly share the road as community members and give attention to the two-wheeled details, everyone wins. Even city signs reading “watch for bikers”—similar to the hundreds of construction signs all over the city—would bring another level of awareness to the minds of pedestrians and drivers.

Montreal should also consider new left-turn laws. During peak traffic, busy streets—like those that branch off from Ste. Catherine St. and De Maisonneuve Blvd.—should designate time for cars to make left turns instead of competing with foot traffic and bikers.

As a driver, it’s sometimes difficult to wait for a break in the foot traffic. It becomes difficult on a whole other level when you have to cut through bikers who ride through the green light, and walkers who don’t give drivers a break to pass through the crosswalk. It’s a complicated game of high stakes Frogger that can too easily end with a serious accident—a true game over for either biker or walker. It would benefit everyone if left turns had a new procedure and the basic traffic direction was reevaluated with bikers in mind.

Biking is wonderful. All we’re asking is to have the city on bikers’ side, to watch our backs for us, so we can focus more on enjoying the ride than making sure we make it to our destination without hurting ourselves or others.



ZOË GELFANT



the **experts** tell it like it is

Come to our pitch meetings **Tuesdays at 4:15 PM** to hear from guest editors, former Linkies who have made it in the industry.

09/13 - David Murphy (freelancer, writer Nunatsiaq News)

09/20 - Elysha Del Giusto Enos (CBC Montreal)

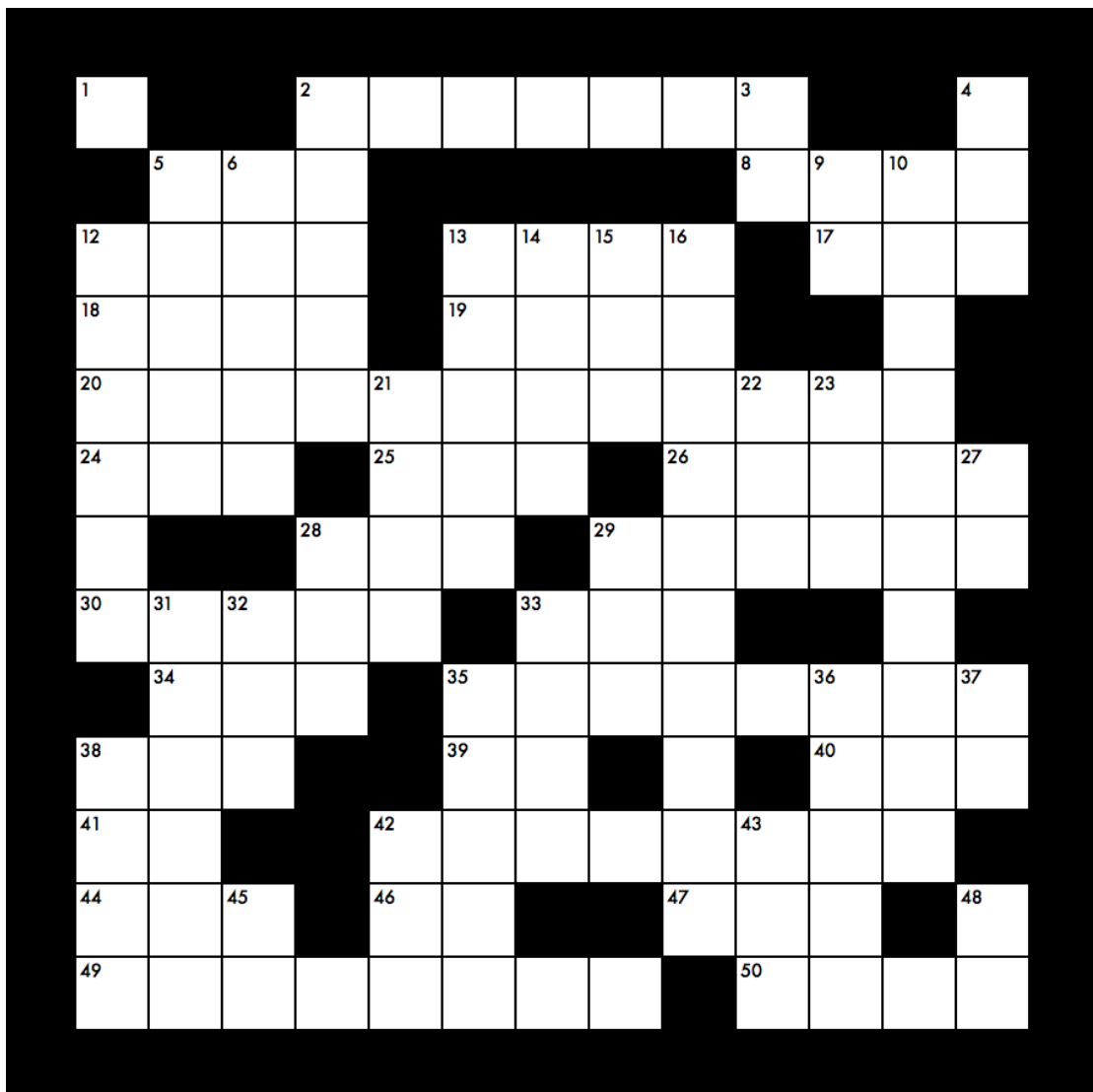
09/27 - Verity Stevenson (formerly Globe and Mail and Toronto Star)

Check all that apply

- ☐ *I live and breathe the Montreal arts scene*
- ☐ *My headphones are always blasting the newest, coolest album*
- ☐ *I'm probably on my way to some exhibition right now*
- ☐ *I want to be **The Link's new Fringe Arts Online Editor***

Send an email to editor@thelinknewspaper.ca and fringe@thelinknewspaper.ca for more information

This is a Crossword:



ACROSS

- 1 01011010
 2 Why so ____?
 5 Canada's NASA
 8 Dessert wine
 12 What to do re: Saul
 13 Where an experiment happens
 17 Famous online talks
 18 Earnings before Income Tax
 19 Rihanna, shortened
 20 Protest in progress
 24 Big-horned mammal
 25 Nice tat, sick ____
 26 Diverse acronym
 28 American gun nuts
 29 Shut down, restart, or
 30 Hockey players or NAFTA
 33 Repeated pestering
 34 A single European mountain
 35 Very clean. Also, napkins
 38 Hydrogen Chloride
 39 Yes/No
 40 Guilty mind: "mens ____"
 41 Robots with brains
 42 MTL original inhabitants
 44 Journalism student association
 46 User interface
 47 Ecole Technologique Superieur
 49 Our P. Minister
 50 I'm trapped

DOWN

- 2 I'm Salt
 3 Special abbreviation
 4 "Get tested"
 5 Secret group
 6 Quietly move
 9 Extra hockey period
 10 Kremlin and student movement
 12 Strong adhesive and/or sidewalk
 13 Sports place
 14 ConU independent paper
 15 Character story or type of welding
 16 Organic in Quebec
 21 My mixtape is ____
 22 Australian boot
 23 80's/90's Quebec comedy group
 27 Sporty Audi model
 28 2015 election chokers
 29 A party for nerds
 31 I'm not ____, but...
 32 Everything
 33 One billionth
 35 La crise en [Syria]
 36 You're a knight, so get up
 37 Yes
 38 Pilgrimage to Mecca
 42 Long-term contraceptive
 43 Off the hook
 45 Augmented reality
 48 Extended play

Nah'msayin?

Role Reversal At Le Gym

NINON SCOTO DI UCCIO
 @NINONSCOTTO

Don't you hate being that one guy in the lifting area with all those intimidating buff girls around you?

It seems like men are shy to lift weights and use the squat rack because women are too busy doing their routines. They feel like they need to prove they are good enough to train there, trying to validate their presence.

Guys at Le Gym get annoyed when women ask if they're almost done with their sets, even when they just started. Women seem to ask men if they need help putting back weights, because it can be a little too heavy for them.

One of my friends decided to go against the flow—he stopped doing yoga and cardio workouts and is taking on weights, like a woman! He's very upset that men are still seen as the weaker gender in this day and age. So after class, he picks out his favourite gym outfit and trains hard. For himself, for his body and for his wellbeing.

He's also very frustrated by the media, and he has the right to be. Muscular men are seen as being less attractive. Look at all the negative comments that male Olympic athletes got this summer, based solely on their appearances.

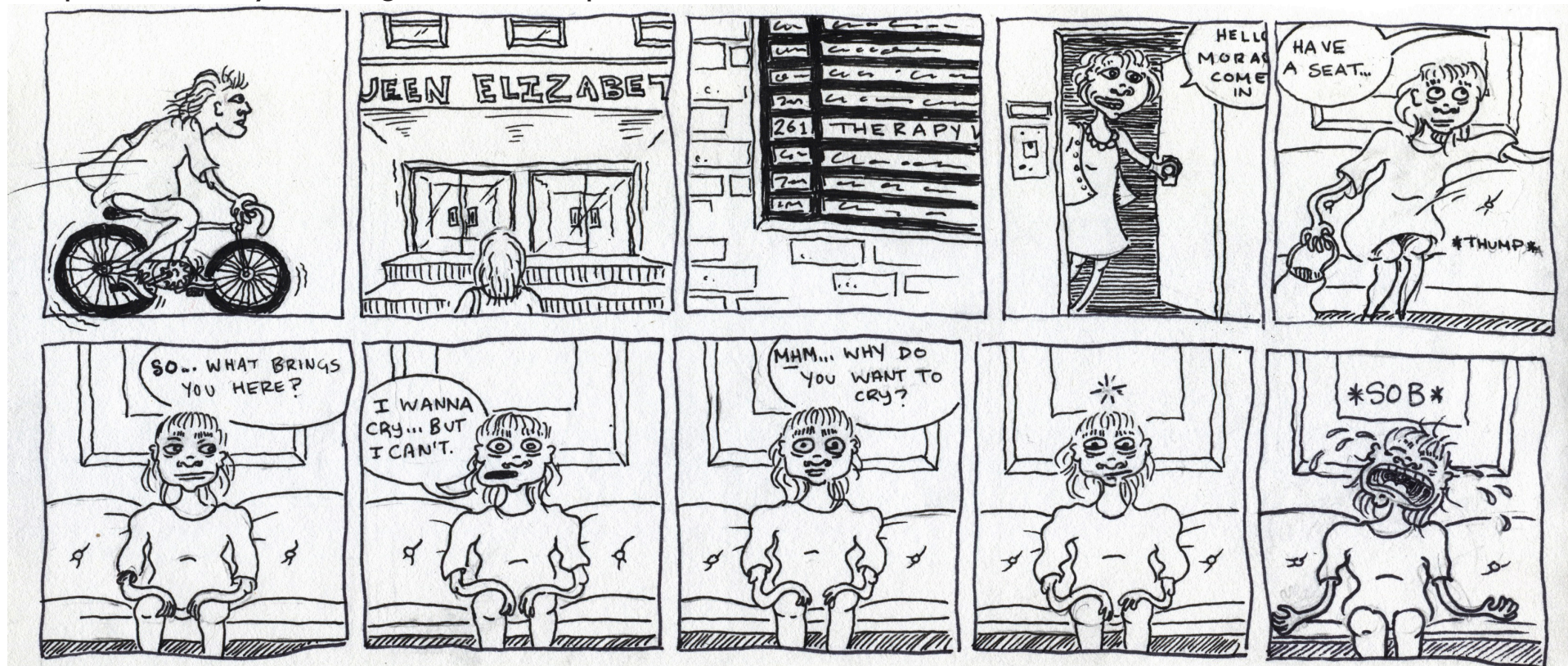
In Vancouver some gyms have lifting areas just for men so they don't feel undermined by women when they are working out. Will Le Gym at Concordia have to take this measure so men feel comfortable when they work out? I sure hope not.

To all the women out there reading this, please, tone it down. Let the men have their space.

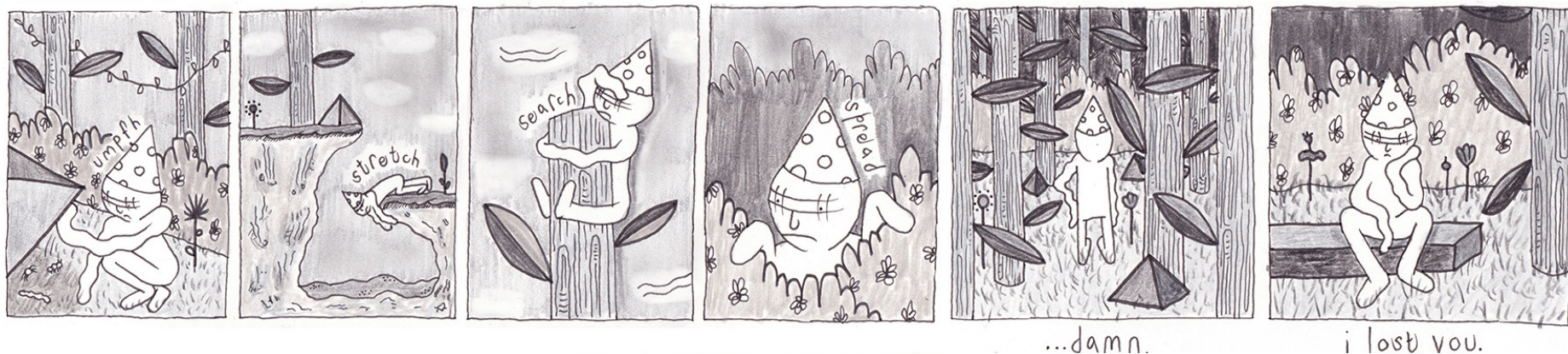


MORAG RAHN-CAMPBELL

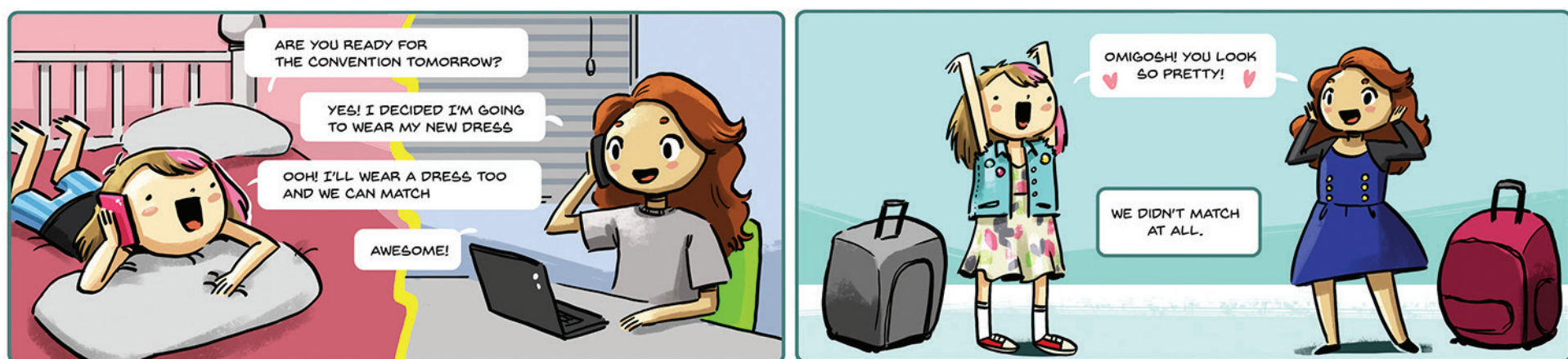
Crap Comics by Morag Rahn-Campbell



Mistakes by Bronson Smillie @bronsosauros



Caity Comics by Caity Hall @caityhallart



Hastily Put Together by Theo Radomski





NICO HOLZMANN

EDITORIAL

Why Concordia Needs an Institutional Equity Office

Equity is a big deal—it's important that university administration ensure all Concordia students a comfortable space in which to learn and succeed.

We have the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, which offers a policy for students dealing with behavioural issues or harassment—but there is no specific place where students can seek assistance and advice for issues related to discrimination based on one's gender, race, sexual orientation, or disability.

For this reason, *The Link* supports C-FAR's initiative to collect survey data on students' experiences with racism, sexism and so forth, with the ultimate goal of developing an institutional equity office at Concordia. Standing for Critical Feminist Action in Research, the group will also be researching representation amongst faculty, and assessing class syllabi across campus for similar issues.

"We have a very diverse campus," Concordia president Alan Shepard told *The Link*. "I think that's a big strength for Concordia—I'm very proud of that."

While this may be true, the university's institutional bodies—like its Senate and Board of Governors—are far from being rep-

resentative of its student body. Shepard added that university administration has "tried in our hiring [...] to keep that in mind and try to move towards an administration that reflects the campus we have," while also acknowledging that they still have work to do despite some progress. The Sexual Assault Resource Centre and related policy changes are good examples of how the university has responded well to students' calls for action—but now it's time for more.

Concordia's history is rich with meaningful mobilization against austerity, racism, and sexism. While this is something we should be proud of as Concordia students, we must question why these public demonstrations of solidarity were necessary in the first place.

In 2014, an anonymous former student politician experienced instances of racism and sexism during her time at the Arts and Science Federation of Associations. Mei-Ling—the student's alias—came across Facebook messages between the president and vice-president of the association, calling her terms like "chink slave."

Other messages read: "I'm going to try to fuck her at the first meeting," and "Well what-

ever, if she doesn't suck our dicks: impeached."

Mei-Ling went to the Dean of Students, where she was told that her story was a common one, and that the dean couldn't help her without an assessment from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities. The office told her that since conversations were private, Mei-Ling was alone to deal with the situation.

She went to the Centre for Gender Advocacy and the Legal Information Clinic, and was later referred to the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations, a non-profit, external organization whose mandate is to promote racial equality and combat racism in Canada.

Perhaps with the proper resources here at Concordia, Mei-Ling would not have had to jump through all these hoops in her search for justice against what she called a "toxic, blatantly misogynistic, sexist, racist environment that stifled how student leaders should be creating positive change."

Various equity offices have emerged at many universities across North America, including Queen's and Wilfrid Laurier Universities.

Laurier's Diversity and Equity Office is

a space which "strives to foster an atmosphere of equity and inclusiveness at Wilfrid Laurier University [...] We believe in eradicating the barriers that inhibit access to equal opportunities, and we advocate for the inclusion and equal treatment of everyone, regardless of gender, race ethnicity, culture, sexuality, religion, age, ability, or socio-economic background."

Queen's has a similar office, which is also committed to initiating processes with which to find gaps in equity policy and continue to implement policies to remove barriers to equity.

C-FAR's survey project is the first step in Concordia's long walk to more equal representation and participation amongst students and faculty. Another big question, though, is whether those running the equity office will be representative of the student body itself—something that is crucial if we are to strive for an inclusive space.

The Link supports the development of an equity office fit to the needs of our students, based on the results of this survey which will hopefully reflect students' actual experiences at Concordia.

THE LINK

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