

THE MEDIA

democracy

issue

editorial:
it's hypocritical
of the CSU to want
its membership
fees indexed

23



freddie gibbs

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3:07pm

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thelinknewspaper.ca

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The Concordia Stingers baseball team fell short to their rival, McGill, in the CCBA National Championship Game this past Sunday.

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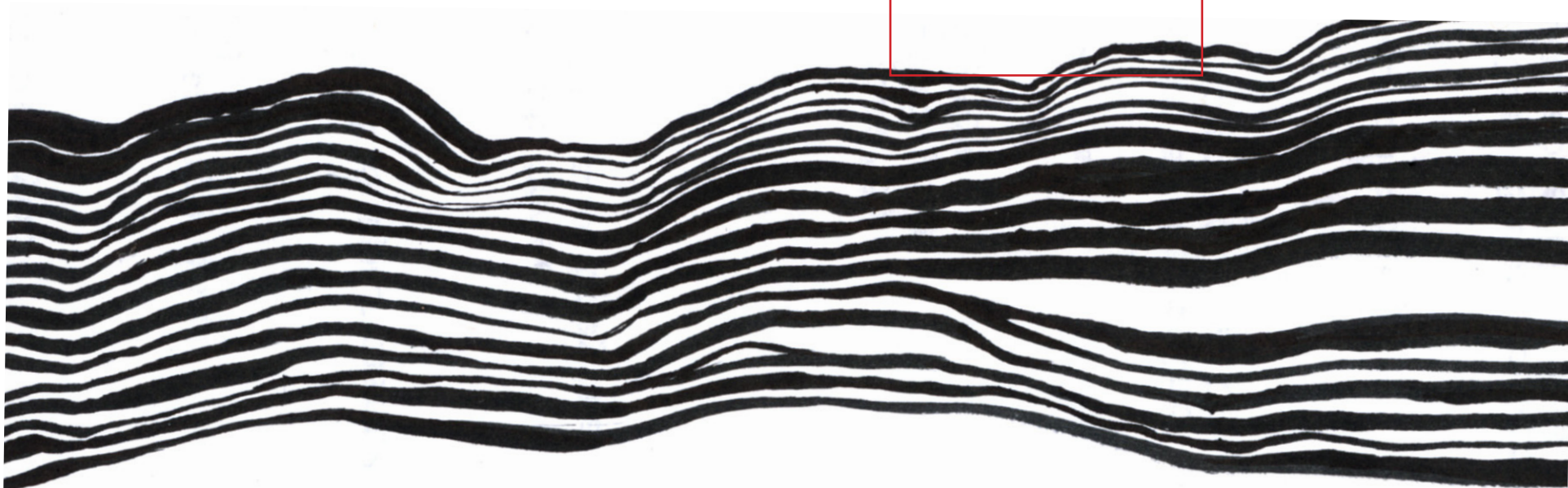
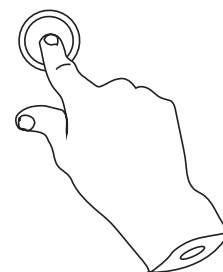
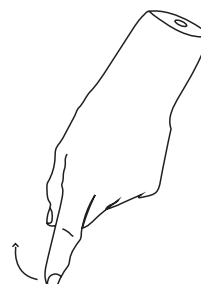
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Catch up on the Concordia Stingers' past week through our online recaps.

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A graduate student's call to restore sanity to their student association.





The Magic Word Is “Terrorism”

Glenn Greenwald Talks Surveillance, Ottawa and Fear-Mongering

by Vanik Kechian @VanikKechian

Friday evening at Concordia, Glenn Greenwald almost immediately addressed the controversy that led him to achieve what those who believe in the “polite Canadian” stereotype never thought possible.

“I wanted to spend the week having my inbox filled with angry Canadians,” joked Greenwald, the journalist responsible for publishing whistleblower Edward Snowden’s NSA and global surveillance leaks in 2013. “I finally accomplished that, so I’m really thrilled.”

Despite writing a controversial article about Monday’s murder of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Canadian involvement in the Middle East, Greenwald was introduced to a roaring crowd of nearly 700 in the Hall Building’s Alumni Auditorium.

Concordia welcomed the journalist and former constitutional lawyer for a talk on government surveillance and the resulting

loss of civil liberties in Western democracies as part of the Concordia Student Union’s Speaker Series.

The playful tone quickly shifted as Greenwald addressed the week’s concurring attacks on Canadian soldiers stationed at home.

“Western governments have been able to shape and manipulate their citizenries in the name of terrorism, in order to dismantle the basic civil liberties and other legal protections that have long come to define how we think of ourselves in Western democracies,” said Greenwald. “I think you can even say this week has been a perfect laboratory for understanding how that takes place.”

The theme of the talk was similar to that of the article he published less than an hour before the Ottawa shooting on Wednesday on *The Intercept*—the independent news website Greenwald co-edits—in which he condemned what he considered Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s “fear-mongering

agenda over terrorism” after Monday’s events in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

“The function of the word ‘terrorism’ is to render a rational debate impossible,” Greenwald told *The Link*. “Once that word gets injected into the discourse, you’re almost obligated to embrace a whole array of positions and opinions upon pain of being criticized and attacked [...] and that’s the reason why governments love that term.”

Greenwald also noted how the word is used as a tool to generate fear among citizens and therefore facilitate a government’s surveillance of its population.

“It’s this sort of authoritarian dynamic where if you scare the population enough, they will almost demand that the government acquire more power,” he said.

The Harper government took advantage of the emotions the word “terrorist” incites in order to push for wider surveillance, he said.

Greenwald explained that a contributing factor to this is the media’s portrayal that we in the West are constantly the victims and “forget, by design” that we are also responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children, the support of tyrannical governments, and the destabilizing of many countries in the Middle East which causes anger and resentment in the region.

“When they bring [the aggression] back to our part of the world, the reaction is, ‘We need to drop more bombs,’ [...] which in turn increases the anger and resentment and anti-Western sentiment of that part of the world, which brings more violence to our country, which ensures that the cycle continues,” Greenwald said.

“When future generations look back on what we’ve done, they will say that we were in a posture of endless war.”

photo Alex Bailey



by Josh Fischlin @fishynewswatch

Who’s to keep police accountable for their actions aside from the police themselves?

Advocates denounced the lack of transparency the families of victims of police killings receive by law enforcement officials on Friday evening.

The fifth Annual Commemorative Gathering and Vigil for Victims of Police Killings hosted nearly 150 people this Wednesday. Protestors gathered in front of the police station on Gilford Street in solidarity with families who have been affected by police violence.

The vigils started in 2010, after the families of several police brutality victims came together at the Forum Against Police Brutality and Impunity to show support for each other’s struggles and to remember those they’ve lost.

Robyn Maynard, a member of the Justice for Victims of Police Killings Coalition, commented on the likelihood of the creation of

a third-party investigation bureau to investigate police misconduct.

“I guess we can hope that the pressure becomes such that they have no choice,” she said. “It’s unlikely that [...] the police would do that of their own accord, because it obviously works very well for them to investigate their own cases and say ‘there’s been no wrongdoing.’”

The number of police-related deaths in Montreal continues to climb. This year, 41-year-old Alain Magloire was shot multiple times in the thorax in front of the Berri St. intercity bus terminal as he allegedly threatened police officers with a hammer.

Julie Matson says her father was attacked and smothered to death by a group of police officers in May 2002 over a parking dispute.

“Losing a loved one is one of the hardest things to go through, but losing them in such a violent, surreal way is beyond imagination,” she said. “Especially at the hands of those we are led to believe are here to serve and protect.”

Matson said that throughout the investigation she couldn’t help but notice the “blatant

Emotional Remembrance for Victims of Police Killings

Advocates Call for Third-Party Investigation Bureau

use of profiling, be it class, race, or otherwise, and the continual upholding of systemic impunity and privilege that the police have.”

Throughout the vigil insults were thrown at the police officers standing behind the glass doors of their headquarters.

“I have some news for you. You stole something. You stole my brother, you stole him from his son, you stole the brother of my sister,” Jean-Sebastien Nadeau, whose brother died after police shot him in his Hochelaga apartment, told police.

Another incident discussed at the vigil was the death of Mohamed Anas Bennis, who was killed on his way home from morning prayer at a mosque in Côte-des-Neiges in December 2005. Bennis allegedly attacked a police officer with a kitchen knife, which prompted the use of deadly force.

Among the case’s inconsistencies pointed out at the vigil were the refusal by police to produce an attack weapon, the refusal by police to demonstrate the supposed wounds that the officer had sustained, and the with-

holding of security video footage of the incident. Additionally, the identity of the police officer in question was never disclosed.

The circumstances of Bennis’s case are not unlike others in Canada.

In the cases of both Fredy Villanueva and Claudio Castagnetta—both of whom were honoured at the vigil—the officers responsible for their deaths were exonerated. Some believe that the lack of reprimands toward the officers responsible resulted from the investigations being conducted by other police officers.

This concern prompted a reaction from both the Liberal government in 2011 and the Parti Québécois government in 2012, who both introduced bills in the Quebec National Assembly that would have created an independent “civilian oversight bureau” called the Bureau civil de surveillance des enquête indépendantes. However, neither amendment was implemented.

photo Shaun Michaud

A By-Election Will Go Down as Leaves Turn Brown

CSU Council Votes on a Series of Referendum Questions to Present at Upcoming Ballot

by Verity Stevenson @vestevie

A referendum question on whether students agree to index the Concordia Student Union's fee levy to inflation will set the wheels in motion for a fall by-election Nov. 25 to 27.

Members of council voted on the motion to put the question, among others, on the ballot this season at the meeting last Thursday evening.

"Our administrative salaries are tied to inflation," VP Finance Heather Nagy said at the meeting, responding to Arts and Science Federation of Associations president Paul Jerajian, who said indexing wasn't "the best way to increase a fee levy."

The passing of a "Yes" vote in the referendum would see the union's fee levy tied to inflation, which is now at two per cent. Nagy said though many other costs were tied to inflation, the CSU's operating budget had remained static.

"We might as well circumvent the problem," she added.

Earlier that day, ASFA voted against indexing its fee-levy to inflation at a special council meeting that led them to announce a by-election on the same dates as the CSU's. ASFA instead voted to increase its fee-levy from

\$0.38 to \$1.60 per credit because Concordia's expenses often don't follow inflation rates.

The CSU will also be asking students if a \$102,563.79 loan it took from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund can be expensed to pay for startup costs that were not approved by the fund committee, including operational costs, "miscellaneous startup costs," marketing and promotions.

The question will ask students whether they think it's an appropriate expense for the SSAELC to incur, rather than the CSU having to pay the loan back from its operating budget.

At the last CSU meeting there was debate on whether to have a by-election or not, following Concordia Model UN's submission of its constitution.

The constitution had garnered scrutiny by the CSU's policy committee, which questioned whether the group could "function" under the constitution as it stood despite its legal soundness.

Councillors voted to have the constitution sent back to the policy committee for another review. The motion led Jerajian and councillor James Tyler Vaccaro to question whether the second review would push CONMUN past



the deadline to participate in a fall by-election, which would decide whether they could become a fee-levy group or not.

But on Thursday VP Academic Terry Wilkings said the policy committee's decision was ready, leaving enough room for the group to submit their application for the election after a "notwithstanding" vote to push the deadline further.

Wilkings said the committee, which he sits on, had met with CONMUN again earlier that day and that it "went really well."

"We're in favour of this document as something CONMUN can function under," he added, explaining that CONMUN had made changes to its constitution.

Also on the ballot is a referendum question that would render the International and Ethnic Association Council independent from the CSU, and increase its fee levy from \$0.06 to 0.12 per credit.

photo Verity Stevenson



Philosophy Students Vote to Strike

Multiple Student Faculties Take Position Against Austerity

by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

Philosophy students voted Friday to hold a one-day strike Oct. 31 to protest austerity at their general assembly. The action is part of a broader strike and protest by public sector employees and other student associations across Montreal to express their discontent with the "budget compressions" announced by the provincial government.

The faculty also released a "firm stance" against the budget cuts.

"The Philosophy department has taken a large portion of these cuts, resulting in larger class sizes, reduced TA positions, and loss of staff. As a result of this [...] [our] overall quality of education will suffer enormously," the position reads.

The strike will allow the students involved to participate in a protest called "Austerity: A Horror Story" to denounce the cuts in spending by the federal and provincial government. Protesters are invited to disguise

themselves—with one advised precaution.

"Don't wear masks," philosophy student Katie Nelson urged the students assembled. Nelson was active in the Maple Spring protests, and was referencing Bylaw P-6, which forbids protestors from wearing face coverings, such as balaclavas or masks. She also warned that face paint mixed with pepper spray would be potentially unpleasant.

The Graduate Students Association had planned to vote on whether or not to have a one-day strike "in solidarity with our allies from other student associations and in preparation for a potential escalation of tactics in Spring 2015."

The vote didn't take place, however, after a group of engineering students voted to elect executives before voting on the strike, and left the meeting immediately after the elections. Quorum was lost, and the GSA was unable to hold the strike vote.

Similarly, the School of Community and Public Affairs Student Association had

planned to hold a strike vote but was unable to do so, as their General Assembly was three members away from meeting quorum. The members present discussed the possibility of a strike and the implications for the faculty.

"Although we are not officially part of it, SCPASA generally promotes anti-austerity," Agunik Mamikonyan, Executive Secretary at the SCPA, told *The Link*. "You will find that many SCPASA students will be walking that day and taking a stance to recognize that there is a bigger change in need of happening."

"We work for the people, and we believe that the education we receive today will help us make better decisions for the world's future," Mamikonyan added. "We hope this is the first step to a bigger change to come."

The Concordia Student Union will be asking students to take a position opposing "the budget cuts to the education sector specifically, and the public sector in general" in a referendum question this November.

Additionally, the position supports "work-

ing with other organizations [...] to seek alternate sources of public revenues as facilitated through the provincial and/or federal government."

The Sociology and Anthropology Student Union will be voting on a position against the provincial and federal austerity measures and encourages students to "participate and act in solidarity with the protest taking place the 31st of October."

The position also requests that Anthropology and Sociology faculty "make all class material optional for that date and not penalize absence in any way [...] in order to encourage students to participate in the protest."

According the official "Spring 2015" website, as of Oct. 24, 34,649 people will strike on Oct. 31. The number includes multiple student associations at the Université de Montreal and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

photo Laura Lalonde

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Want to hear what the CBC's Diana Swain and Peter Mansbridge have to say about the journalism industry? Looking to get an insider's perspective on covering politics on Parliament Hill? Interested in having your writing critiqued by a professional journalist? Ready to party with *The Link's* editors in the nation's capital?

If you've contributed to *The Link* this volume, you can apply to be sent to the conference as part of our delegation. Just come by our office (H-649) before Tuesday, Nov. 11 to tack up a letter explaining why we should send you!

ELECTIONS ARE ON FRIDAY, NOV. 15 AT 3PM

for more info, email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca

THE LINK³⁵

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CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

Wednesday, October 29, 5 p.m.
The Link Office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)

After weeks of anticipation, *The Link's* by-elections are here! Here's who's running for what:

Managing Editor
Michael Wrobel

News Editor
Michelle Pucci

Assistant News Editor
Mattha Busby and Jonathan Cook

Fringe Arts Editor
Athina Lugez

Fringe Arts Online Editor
June Loper

Sports Online Editor
Vince Morello and Daniele Iannarone

Opinions Editor
Mattha Busby

Copy Editor
Graeme Shorten Adams

Community Editor
Noelle Didierjean

Creative Director
Laura Lalonde

Coordinating Editor
Jonathan Cook and Mariana Voronovska

Graphics Editor
Madeleine Gendreau

The following people are eligible to vote:

Justin Blanchard, Mattha Busby, Alex Callard, Alex Carriere, Jonathan Cook, Matt Garies, Madeleine Gendreau, Caitly Hall, Daniele Iannarone, June Loper, Vince Morello, Michelle Pucci, Ester Straussova, Leigha Vegh, Mariana Voronovska and all current *Link* masthead.

VOLUME 35

BY-ELECTION



Students at McGill hold up cards to vote in a motion on whether the SSMU should condemn the State of Israel.



To Condemn or Not to Condemn?

McGill Students Fail to Come to Decision on Israel-Gaza Conflict at General Assembly

by Vanik Kechian @VanikKechian

McGill students voted on a motion that would prompt their representative body to condemn all violence against civilians during Israel's most recent invasion of Gaza on Wednesday at the William Shatner University Centre.

But as debate on the issue opened to the floor, the President of the International Relations Student's Association of McGill, Ameya Pendse, presented a new motion.

"Please vote to postpone this forever," Pendse said, adding that if a debate were to take place, it would create a divide between students—many of whom claim such a divide already exists.

The motion was debated at the Students' Society of McGill University's Fall General Assembly, where issues like weapons research at the university and action against

climate change were also on the agenda.

However, most of the nearly 800 students present were there to try and sway the outcome of the motion presented by McGill Students in Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, and debate the issue of human rights in Gaza.

For almost two hours, students debated whether or not to postpone the original motion.

The postponement passed with approximately 54 per cent of those present in favour.

Sami Fuller was a supporter of the Yes campaign and was hoping to express his concerns regarding current issues in Gaza.

"They are probably very uncomfortable with the idea of people discussing Israeli human rights abuses, the occupation, the siege, which are all illegal and in our opinion pretty much indefensible," said Fuller.

McKenzie Kibler, a third-year arts student

and supporter of the motion to postpone, told the assembly he does not want a student union to speak on his behalf, especially on an issue as divisive as this one.

"By voicing itself [as the opinion of the whole student body], it limits the freedom of association and freedom of speech of each student," said Kibler. "[The motion] in effect puts words into their mouths and attachments to their positions."

Supporters of the Yes campaign were particularly frustrated with arguments like Kibler's, citing the student union's constitution and past positions.

"SSMU has taken many stances in previous times, against South African apartheid, Canadian military involvement in Iran, and conflict in Iraq" said Fuller. "We feel [objections were raised] just because they didn't want the Palestinian issue to be discussed, because otherwise, why didn't the same

group mobilize to speak out against many of the previous condemnations?"

However, the No campaign argued the general assembly was simply the wrong place to discuss Israel's operations in Gaza.

"SSMU isn't a particularly useful venue for this sort of discussion," said Kibler. "The motion itself ... [works] not to generate a dialogue or protect students on campus, but to criticize a foreign state, an action for which SSMU is not at all responsible or empowered to conduct."

The debate will not be rehashed at McGill for at least a few months, but Concordia's turn is fast approaching. The CSU has adopted a similar motion to be presented in a referendum question this November.

photos Vanik Kechian

weekly calendar

CURRENT

Concordia's Farmers' Market - Grand Opening
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 12 p.m.
Hall Building, Room 224
Free

Check out the grand opening of Concordia's first farmers' market at the Green Space this Wednesday. Conveniently located at the heart of the downtown campus, Con U students can now purchase local and organic fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices and more. Stock up on those veggies as gifts will also be provided with your purchases.

THEATRE

Belle Soeurs—The Musical
Playing until Sunday, Nov. 9
Segal Centre for Performing Arts (5170 Côte-Ste-Catherine Rd.)
Tickets starting at \$50

Michel Tremblay's award-winning musical is back and ready to make waves. It tells the story of a Québécois woman from the Plateau that wins one million trading stamps from a huge department store, transforming her entire life along with her capacity to spend.

ART

Beaux Dégâts #25
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Les Foufounes Électriques (87 Ste. Catherine St. E.)

How does a night surrounded by art and beer sound? If that's your groove, don't miss Beaux Dégâts' 25th edition! Watch six teams of graffiti artists battle one another, covering the walls with their artworks. Attendees vote for their favourite piece by throwing empty beer cans in their favourite team's garbage bin.

DATA: SALON 1 // Josée Brouillard / Mitchell Stafiej & Robert Feulner
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.)
Free

This exhibition will showcase the film *Found*, a visual experiment described as lying somewhere between voyeurism and alienation. This intimate and emotionally charged film enters the lives of individuals who grieve the recent loss of people close to them. *Found* strives to play on viewer's memories in order to create a powerful impression of the past.

MUSIC

SBTRKT
Thursday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
Corona Theatre (2490 Notre-Dame St. W.)
\$27 in advance/ \$30 day of show

SBTRKT is a musical project lead by Aaron Jerome. Armed with electronics, acoustic drums and synthesizers, you've probably already heard of his remixes of songs by M.I.A., Mark Ronson and Radiohead. Currently on tour to promote his latest album *Wonder Where We Land*, SBTRKT will be jamming in Montreal this weekend.

Le POP d'Époque - A Digital Baroque Opera
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Société des arts technologiques (1201 St. Laurent Blvd.)
\$18.25 Movie, \$42.25 Movie + Performances + Snacks

The SAT and art collective Party Like It's 1699 have collaborated to bring the baroque world to the contemporary era. This immersive, multidisciplinary performance unites opera with new media, theatre, dance and electronic music. The work revisits narratives of the baroque era through empowering queer and feminist lenses.

LITERARY

Argo Open Mic #29
Argo Bookshop (1950 Ste. Catherine St. W.)
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Free

Remember all those stories, poems and anecdotes and written content you've penned over the last few months? How about you take them out of their notebooks and share them this Wednesday at the Argo Bookshop?

OTHER

LUCID: A Dystopian Dream with Swayzak, DJ Zadig and Friends
Friday, Oct. 31, 10 p.m.
Secret location TBA
\$30

La Bacchanale Montreal is proud to present their greatest event of the year, LUCID. Upon entering the establishment, join the cult gathering and experience a world you've never witnessed before. The event is separated into two rooms, each carrying a different atmosphere and distinct music. This special occasion will be DJ'ed by renowned artists DJ Zadig and Swayzak.



THE DARK SIDE OF ROSE-COLOURED LENSES

Richard Mosse's Visual Installation Shines a Colourful Hue over Instability in the DRC

by Athina Lugez @Athinalugez

Casting a pink hue over a modern-day *Heart of Darkness*, Irish photographer Richard Mosse documents the effects of armed conflict on everyday life in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, unveiling violence and instability that has largely been misunderstood and insufficiently covered by Western media.

"Today we're bombarded by images all the time and have become desensitized to their contents," said DHC/ART curator Cheryl Sim. "Mosse's transformation of verdant landscapes into shocking pink monochromes is going to shake up what you know of images of Africa."

The DHC/ART gallery is currently exhibiting Mosse's visual art installation *The Enclave* and photographs from his series *Infra*. Both have garnered Mosse a considerable amount of attention from critics, and *The Enclave* won the prestigious Deutsche Börse Photography Prize this year.

As a photographer, Mosse isn't easy to categorize.

"Richard Mosse [exists] somewhere in between photojournalism and conceptual photography," said Sim. "He believes that photojournalism is cast in a conservative paradigm that has a conventional mandate to be presented in newspapers and magazines."

"But he's not interested in that kind of

framework," Sim continued. "He distances himself from that surrounding to gain freedom, to push into questioning [...] how to find new ways to chronicle and what the problems are in that process."

Mosse strives to break the strict conventions of photojournalism by casting aside the standard black-and-white and RGB models that have long defined the documentary photographic approach. Instead, he opted to capture landscapes, people and hidden objects using Kodak Aerochrome III, a type of now-discontinued infrared film that caused dense tree cover to appear in a monochrome hot pink.

Aside from being an interesting aesthetic choice, there's also a certain symbolic value in using Kodak Aerochrome film. Developed during the 1940s by the U.S. military, it was widely used for camouflage detection and aerial surveillance during the Vietnam War.

"It detects the chlorophyll present in healthy green plants. When the film is developed, it transforms the green into pink, making camouflage much easier to recognize," said Sim, adding that it also became popular in the music scene during the 1960s, when it was used to create psychedelic album covers for musicians like Jimi Hendrix.

This creative choice calls into question the notion of photographic truth—the idea that

photography is the most accurate means of capturing the world. As Sim notes, the film "turns the invisible into the visible."

With the exhibition, Mosse's goal was to shed light on everyday life in a conflict zone by capturing "the impossible photograph"—an image that could somehow encapsulate the deeply complex conflict in the DRC.

He focuses his lens on Kivu, an eastern region of the country where there has been armed combat between the military, United Nations forces and rebel groups, including Hutu Power extremists who were the main actors in the 1994 Rwandan genocide and who later crossed into the DRC.

Although the Second Congo War officially ended in 2003, hostilities are ongoing. By 2008, the political and social instability in the DRC had led to approximately 5.4 million deaths since 1998, making it the deadliest conflict worldwide since World War II.

As a video installation, *The Enclave* has allowed Mosse to go beyond still photography to convey a different reality. In collaboration with cinematographer Trevor Tweeten, the film was shot in 2012 on a 16 mm film. Six different screens depict a portion of the film, and it's all accompanied by music produced by minimalist composer Ben Frost.

"The difference between still [photography] and film is that the first is a very contemplative

register whereas film portrays a main line to the emotions," said Sim.

"It transmits reality and addresses the problems of perception. This film highlights the everyday situation like seeing a moving camp or watching people move a house. All this is rather extraordinary, but it happens there more often than we think."

Mosse's images can provoke mixed emotions in viewers. As depictions of human suffering they're obviously thought-provoking, but they also extract and convey a hidden beauty. Despite the fact that the photos highlight an often-overlooked armed conflict, Mosse still manages to provide a brighter perspective on Africa than Western audiences are accustomed to.

Ultimately the installation's format helps the observer travel through the complexity of the conflict from one screen to another.

"This conflict is not a black or white situation. It's really like travelling through a labyrinth to trace [...] the whole thing out," Sim said.

Richard Mosse exhibition // DHC/ART (407 Saint-Pierre Street) // Until Feb. 8, 2014 // Free admission

photo courtesy of DHC/ART



SPINNING A NEW URBAN YARN

Feminist Art Magazine *Yiara* Gets Set to Yarn-bomb the Downtown Landscape

by Rudyapriya Rathore @rrudrapriya

Last Wednesday morning found the VAV gallery at Concordia's Fine Arts building in an unusual state: balls of yarn hung in the windows, couches and comfy chairs turned one corner into a living room and the walkway leading up to the entrance of the building asked in bright chalk, "Feeling Craftsy?"

Throughout the day students wandered in and out of the gallery to spend some time knitting and crocheting as part of a workshop hosted by *Yiara Magazine* called Bundle Up: A Yarn Bombing Fiasco!

"I think all of us feel a desire to leave a mark, a trace of oneself in the environment we inhabit," said Marilène Gaudet of yarn-bombing collective Les Ville-Laines. "[Yarn-bombing] is one way of doing that as a woman, of re-appropriating public space."

The workshop is the first in a series of four organized by *Yiara* and held in collaboration with multiple universities and art and feminist organizations in the city. The project aims to get as many groups and individuals as possible involved in the collective creation of a wearable piece of clothing that will be installed on the statue of Louis Cyr in Saint-Henri on Nov. 22.

Entertaining as it is to imagine the hyper-masculine eight-foot-tall figure of the Québécois strongman outfitted in brightly-coloured yarn, the practice of yarn-bombing functions on deeper levels as well.

Typically an urban form of feminist activism, yarn-bombing aims to disrupt the everyday pedestrian's experience of city life in ways that force him or her to question the cold, hard masculinity of the environment we live in.

The materials of our outside space are largely chosen for their permanence and utility; concrete, stone and brick make up structures that serve specific purposes for commerce and industry. To install a material like yarn—which contrasts those qualities so starkly—around urban landmarks is to contest what a shared public space should look and feel like—and why.

Some of the reactions from authorities and the public that yarn-bombers encounter highlight the practice's subversive aims. Gaudet described an incident where she was questioned by a security guard while installing a piece near Place-des-Arts: the guard first asked her to take the piece down, then considered it for a moment longer and changed his mind, telling her he liked it.

"Most of the reactions are overwhelmingly positive," Gaudet said. "People love to touch the yarn, interact with it, especially children."

"Knitted work has an emotional place in most people's memories, a history alternative to the alienating one of the city."

Even if the work is taken down, yarn-bombing retains an extended life online.

"Because we take photos and put them up online, the activism of the installation continues for much longer," said Gaudet's colleague Anne Buisson. "In that way the pieces have an enduring presence in the way people are able to imagine the city."

The historical connections between knitting and crocheting as typically feminine activities situated in the domestic sphere also play a subversive role in yarn-bombing. To overwrite a public space with the type of yarn work women have done for centuries is to reclaim a femininity that supposedly belonged in the home. It acts as a loud insertion of traditional womanhood into a masculine urban space that is not viewed as even safe for women, especially at night—let alone welcoming.

The word yarn-bombing is itself interesting due to its unexpected violence—when asked, Gaudet and Buisson explained that it functions

as a kind of joke. Using yarn to disrupt rather than console make the activity a sort of guerilla art, somewhat like graffiti in its often politicized message but more often a kind of visually disorienting jolt or shock for the general public.

As students joined the *Yiara Magazine* masthead and Les Ville-Laines in the VAV Gallery to learn how to knit and crochet while snacking and talking about yarn-bombing, they acted in certain ways as a revolutionary installation themselves. The process of artistic creation became one everybody shared, with the pieces of knitting themselves acknowledged as ephemeral, instrumental in beginning and continuing an ever-evolving conversation.

F Word's Yarn Bomb // Nov. 7 and 8 // 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. // McGill Campus (location TBA)

Yiara Magazine is a feminist art and art history magazine that publishes written and visual work by Montreal undergraduates. To learn more about upcoming events, check them out on Facebook and Twitter.

photo Zara Domingues

BABY FACE KILLA ENTERS THE UNDERWORLD

Rapper Freddie Gibbs Shows Canada Love During Show At Cabaret Underwold

by Julian McKenzie @JulianTheIntern

"Y'all want to hear some Canadian shit?" yelled DJ Izzo, the opening act for Friday night's set at Cabaret Underwold. He was met with boos from possibly unpatriotic and restless fans that had waited since as early as 8 p.m. for the American indie rapper Freddie Gibbs.

Canadian hip-hop fans aren't necessarily ungrateful for their Canadian content, even though they may have mixed reviews of Drake. Understandably, however, they'll go crazy for foreign artists who show them love in their city.

Freddie Gibbs of Gary, Indiana spread his love for his northern neighbours, especially in Montreal.

"I fuck with the French culture here, it's dope," Gibbs told The Link.

"[Montreal] is a dope city. It's one of the dopest cities I've been to."

Gibbs was in Montreal for very first stop on his North American tour and was pleasantly surprised at the 350 fans who moshed and rapped along during his show.

"I expected [to have] 200 people or 150 [at the show]," Gibbs said. "I didn't know my first show [of the tour] would be packed like that. I totally didn't expect that at all."

"There's artists that [are] on major labels that can't pack out shows like this, so I'm glad to be doing it on my own. It's definitely a blessing. I put in a lot of work to get where I'm at. I think I'm definitely in the top tier of emcees, of guys who can actually rap. I worked hard to be in that."

Gibbs weaved his way through tracks from his mixtape days, such as "BFK," "Deuces," and "One Eighty Seven," to more recent tracks such as "Thuggin'" and "Deeper," both off his newest album, *Piñata*, a collaboration album with producer Madlib.

The rapper came up with the name for his latest album, *Piñata*, after a "crazy dream" he had involving a piñata filled up with cocaine,



Rapper Freddie Gibbs performed at Cabaret Underwold this past Friday.

a representation of his upbringing in Indiana.

"I come from that lifestyle," he said. "I wanted to make a title that kind of alluded to that, [I wanted to] put it in more of a slick way."

Gibbs also opened up about his upcoming follow-up album *Lifestyles of the Insane*, due in Spring 2015. It was believed that "Eastside Slim" would be its title, but Gibbs admitted he may have been under the influence when he said it was.

Gibbs remarked on the amount of Canadian producers who will be heavily contributing to the album, including Jordan Evans and Matthew Burnett, who have worked with artists such as Lil Wayne, Jay Z, Eminem and Drake.

"2015 is looking real good for me," he said. "The Canadian producers I'm working with, they've got my sound turned up."

Gibbs says he plans on dropping new songs from the project within the next few weeks. Near the end of his set, Gibbs performed select tracks from the project, much to the delight of the crowd.

Gibbs enjoys all Canada has to offer, from

the musical talent to the women, but there was a time when the country didn't love him back. He wasn't able to cross the border until this year due to "issues with the law," but thanks to his lawyer his love affair with Canada can continue.

"I'm a taxpaying law-abiding citizen now," he said. "So, I'm just over here [in Canada] doing something positive, spreading this gangsta rap across the border and just keeping it thorough and innovative."

The rapper also praised the Canadian hip-hop scene, shouting out big-name artists he'd love to work with in the future, while also praising the Canadian fans that have supported him.

"I like what's going on here in Canada," he said. "I want to work with artists like Drake, PartyNextDoor and The Weeknd."

"I'm into [Canada] and I'm glad that they're taking to my music and really appreciating it. That brings me great joy, so I'm going to keep doing what I do."

photo Shaun Michaud



Artist Ricardo Cavolo (left, top left photo) poses with one of his art pieces next to Paul Desbaillets (right, top left photo), owner of the Burgundy Lion Pub in St-Henri. Cavolo is the creator of Gol, Carajo!, an exhibition showcasing surrealist artwork of legendary soccer stars.

Painting a Fútbol Culture onto Montreal

Local Pub Owner Enlists Help of Spanish Artist to Unite Art and Soccer

by Jonathan Cook

When you're talking about a sport you're passionate about, it's easy to get sidetracked. As Ricardo Cavolo and Paul Desbaillets discussed the growing partnership of FC Barcelona's two international superstars, Neymar and Lionel Messi, the two friends seemingly forgot why they were together that night in the first place.

Cavolo, a Spanish artist and illustrator currently based in Brighton, U.K., opened his latest exhibition "Gol, Carajo!" to the public at a vernissage held in Galerie Station 16 last Wednesday.

The Spanish artist created surrealist portraits of legendary past and present soccer stars, such as Diego Maradona, Zinedine Zidane, Zlatan Ibrahimović, Cristiano Ronaldo and even retired referee Pierluigi Collina.

"I wanted to choose the football players I had a relationship with," Cavolo said. "It's not about the best ones."

"If I can choose a gang [to hang out

with], it's these guys."

Desbaillets, an owner of Pub Burgundy Lion in St-Henri, first met Cavolo approximately a year ago over a "few pints" and a televised soccer game. The pub, which is known for its prioritized soccer viewing, wanted to "grow the football [i.e. soccer] culture in the city," and Desbaillets saw Cavolo as a perfect ally.

"[We wanted to] bring different cultures of art, sport and everyday life together," said Desbaillets about the project. "It's with you all the time, not just when you're watching the game."

Originally from Salamanca, Spain, Cavolo said he was "born in his father's painting studio." Cavolo said growing up he never had to ask himself the classic existential question, "What am I going to do with my life?"

This self-assurance led him to paint commissioned murals in cities around the world like Cologne, Hong Kong, Paris, Kiev, and Montreal, where he'd worked twice previously.

Cavolo is also known for working with "found" canvases, examples of which

include the wooden frame of a broken mirror or a wooden cabinet with a slightly unhinged door.

Most notably from a soccer standpoint, Cavolo created a mural for FC Barcelona's famous youth football academy La Masia and customized personal laptops for the first team, allowing him to meet his heroes like Messi, Andrés Iniesta and Xavi Hernández.

"They were totally happy," Cavolo said about the players when they received the gifts.

However, for Cavolo, witnessing a victory live in the stadium is more satisfying than a meet and greet with the players.

"I prefer to be in Camp Nou [Barcelona's stadium]," he said. "I don't need autographs like other fans."

His artwork is often described as "Frida Kahlo-esque" in its use of "folk art tones." For the soccer-themed pieces, he employed religious imagery to convey the devout passion fans have for the game.

"[The work] always related with their career or life," Cavolo said. "[It is] like a

religious tale."

Cavolo began painting and designing for the show only two weeks before the vernissage. Because of his relationship with Desbaillets, he was able to combine his two lifelong passions in one project. As a personal bonus, he worked in a growing, soccer-loving city where many of his friends are from.

"Giving my little help and work—being in a city I have a nice connection with—it makes the project really good," said Cavolo.

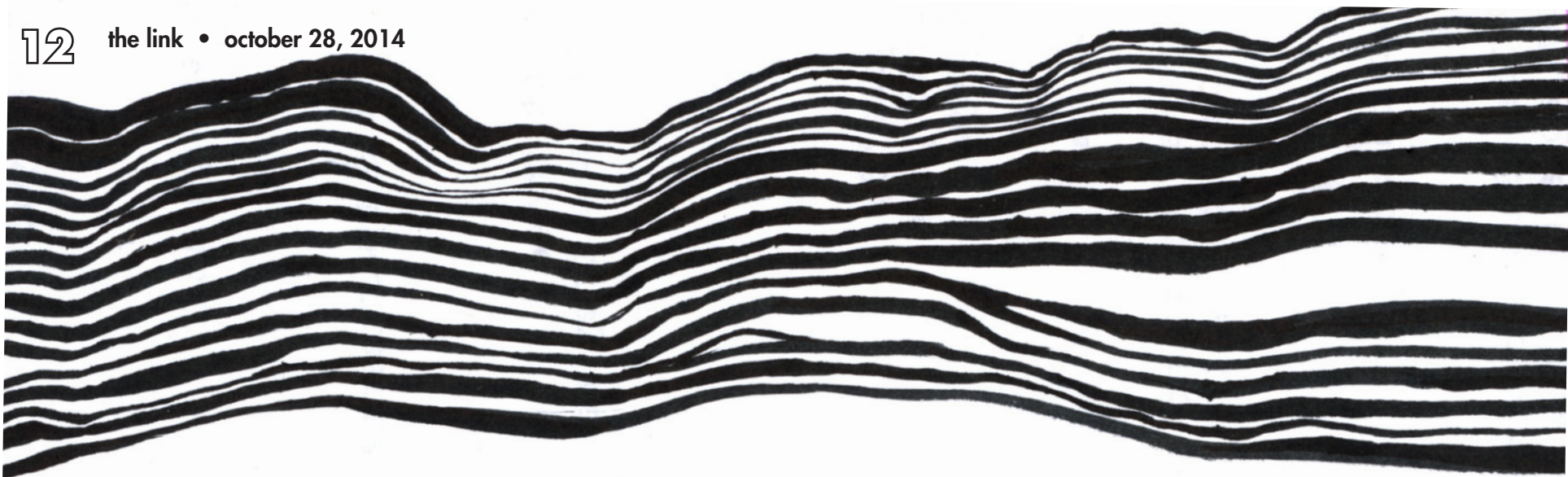
Known as the "beautiful game," soccer has a wide-ranging aesthetic appeal among its fans. For the Spanish native, it's not the crunching slide-tackle or the athleticism he finds most pleasing but the thought process behind the players' decisions.

"Strategy," Cavolo answered when asked about his favorite aspect of the game. "The brain working from the coach and the players [together]."

Gol, Carajo! will be on display at the Burgundy Lion until Nov. 5th.

photos Shaun Michaud





Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Glenn Greenwald said he will publish more on Canadian state surveillance during his visit to Concordia Friday.

CSIS AND DESIST

Glen Greenwald Speaks to Student Media

by Verity Stevenson @vestevie

When Glenn Greenwald was looking for a partner to help publish Edward Snowden's revelations of Canadian state surveillance, the pickings in Canadian media were slim.

The former constitutional lawyer and investigative journalist, who won a Pulitzer Prize this year for his coverage of the Edward Snowden story, cut ties with *The Globe and Mail* after the paper didn't follow through on an agreement with him to publish a 20-page document detailing Communications Security Establishment Canada's monitoring of one of the country's airport WiFi connections. Greenwald took his reporting to the CBC instead, media commentary website *Canadaland* reported last week.

However, the partnership with the CBC took a similar turn.

"There was just one person at the CBC who basically hung up the reporting," Greenwald told student media before his talk at Concordia Friday night. "He has pretty conservative views and seems to like surveillance and didn't want to report on it."

That person was CBC's senior correspondent Terry Milewski, Greenwald revealed to *Canadaland*.

But resistance on the part of Canada's mainstream media hasn't stopped Greenwald from striving to reveal CSEC and Canadian Security Intelligence Service secrets.

"Now that I think the relationship has improved, I think we're going to do a lot more reporting," he added before his talk.

It was unclear which relationship he spoke of because former CBC news content director David Walmsley, who worked with Greenwald on his reporting with the public broadcaster, is now editor-in-chief at the *Globe*.

"The CBC was actually a really good reporting partner until the two people who were working with me left," Greenwald said. "One actually went to go become the editor of *The Globe and Mail* and he's a really aggressive editor."

Though CSEC hasn't experienced as much coverage as its American equivalent, the National Security Agency, Greenwald said Canada's surveillance activities shouldn't be seen as separate from the other countries in the Five Eyes Alliance, which consists of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

"Virtually all surveillance that the Five Eyes alliance engages in, they engage in jointly," Greenwald said.

And despite people typically seeing state surveillance as "a little bit more remote of a threat," he added, "I think that the stories we were able to do here in Canada—the limited number—got a huge amount of media attention and created a lot of debate. And I think the [stories] that

we're going to do will continue to do that.

"Human beings instinctively understand why privacy is so critical."

On Canadian media's reaction to the Ottawa shootings

One threat that does seem to hit close to home in many places in North America, though, is that of "terrorism."

And yet, "you have a greater chance of dying slipping in the bathtub and hitting your head or being struck by lightning than you do being killed by a terrorist attack," Greenwald said.

According to Greenwald, mainstream media is complicit in creating the irrational fear of terrorism, a fear which he says benefits federal governments.

When attacks like those targeting Canadian soldiers last week in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Ottawa straddle the lines separating terrorism from murder, people tend to demand governments implement "preventative measures."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was swift in labeling last Wednesday's shooting an act of terrorism and making a push to fast-track a bill that would increase CSEC and law enforcement powers.

The reaction was quick. Shaken by what had happened a few days earlier, people questioned whether Parliament's security was adequate.

"The coverage did have this tone of hysteria, almost like wallowing happily in the melodrama of it all," which validates citizens' fear and government appeals to conduct pre-emptive surveillance and imprisonment, Greenwald said. He added that in spite of these reactions, there had been voices of restraint in Canadian media this week.

Peter Mansbridge was praised for his live television reporting. "It's on days like this, where a story takes a number of different pathways, [that] a number of changes occur, and often rumors start in a situation like this," Mansbridge said soon after news of the shootings broke. His statement was repeatedly quoted in reflections on the crisis and praised in international media.

Often the powers governments take on as a response threaten "civil liberties that have existed for centuries," Greenwald said.

And in the past week's emphasis on "terrorism", it appears the government and media may have missed part of the story.

"By all appearances in each case it seems to have been a single individual acting alone with some mix of psychological, emotional, political, ideological and religious motivations," Greenwald said.

photo Alex Bailey

OK COMPUTER RIOT

A Look Back at Concordia's Greatest Protest, 45 Years Later



by Shaun Michaud @shaun_mic

Concordia University, which took its name from Montreal's motto of "well-being through harmony", was once the site of flagrant strife. From the way the university's administration treats its own history, a more accurate inspiration would be "well-being through sticking your head in the sand."

45 years ago, students protesting against apparent institutionalized racism flooded an entire floor of a major academy, ignited a fire, and defenestrated bulky computers, letting them shatter on Mackay Street after a nine-storey drop. A heavy snowstorm of myriad punch cards swarmed the streets. The Computer Riots cost Sir George Williams University \$2 million. It was one of the most monumental student riots in Canadian history.

"It's important to remember past incidents because they exemplify what has to be done for students to curtail injustices," said Ben Prunty, president of the Concordia Student Union.

The incident sparked the implementation of student representation in university decision-making and the creation of the Ombuds Office.

Yet the administration has never fully acknowledged its role in these crucial changes, preferring to sweep the whole story under the rug.

"It's not in the university's interest to promote disruptive student leadership," said Prunty. "They want everything to run

smoothly. They have an image to maintain."

Talking to students at Concordia, it seems that the administration's efforts have been successful. Most students are simply unaware the Sir George Williams Affair (as it's sometimes known) ever occurred.

The story goes that in the spring of 1968, five West Indian students accused biology professor Perry Anderson of unfair treatment. The class Anderson taught was essential for students to be able to enter medical school. The administration at Sir George ordered an inquiry, but the students felt that nothing would change.

Concordia history professor Ronald Rudin's classes have touched on the events that transpired back then.

"The investigation, based upon the grades that the students were given, didn't prove that the professor was necessarily biased or prejudiced," he said.

White and black students united, organized protests and demanded that the administration change its policies. Notably, they wanted to sit on the committee that oversaw tribunals.

On January 29, 1969, close to 200 individuals walked out of the university-organized hearings on the case and occupied the Computer Centre on the ninth floor of the Hall Building for two weeks.

When peaceful negotiations led to a dead end on February 11, all hell broke loose. In the aftermath, some protesters were imprisoned while many students from the Caribbean had no choice but to

return without a degree.

Two days after the riot, the accused biology professor was reinstated.

Following the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, Concordia allowed students the right to make decisions concerning their academic lives. In effect, the CSU is a direct progeny of the Computer Riots.

With the merger, Concordia completely revamped its approach to students. The university has embraced and even boasted of a diversity of gender, ethnicity, language, and mobility in its student body. All this has stemmed from the hearings into claims of racism that started the 1969 student mobilization in the first place.

"The students at the time quite appropriately pointed out that the committee that made up the document [clearing the accused professor of wrongdoing] had no student representation," said Rudin. "As a consequence, the university entirely changed its procedure."

Still, the Computer Riot remains buried in Concordia's archives, the online version of which contains a careful summary of the incident under the flippant section heading "Quickie Histories." The university makes no effort to educate their students about their own history, although Rudin maintains that current resources are adequate.

"Anybody can go to the archives and read the story for themselves," Rudin said. "The university hasn't prevented anyone from staging events on campus."

Jaggi Singh, a member of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia, an activist organization that raises awareness about the Riot every year on its anniversary, thinks that students have done more than enough.

"In 2001, the student union made a point of commemorating and inviting some of the people involved in the Riot," said Singh. "I think that's the way to do it. I don't think we should count on official authority structures to do it for us. We should be doing it ourselves."

Singh thinks that Concordia has adopted the wrong approach in relation to its own beginnings.

"Even the university, when it does refer to these events, the terms they use are literally whitewashing," said Singh. "Calling it 'the Sir George Williams Incident,' not really talking about the fundamentals of what was happening. It was a riot. A police attack on students. A battle against racism."

Ronald Rudin agrees that the school should come to grips with what happened, if only because of the sheer magnitude of the changes it triggered. But as the legacy of the Riot approaches the half-century mark, official commemoration is no guarantee.

"Maybe in the 50th anniversary that would be a good thing for the university to do, but that's for the administration to decide," Rudin said.

graphic Vivien Leung

From Ink to Links: The Decline of Print Media

research
by Mariana Voronovska

in 2013
network evening newscasts
aired less than half of
the foreign
coverage they aired
in the late 1980s

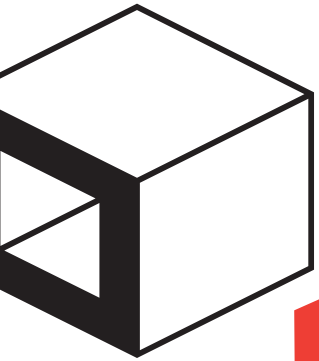
ADVERTISING + SPONSORSHIP
ACCOUNT FOR 87% OF REVENUE
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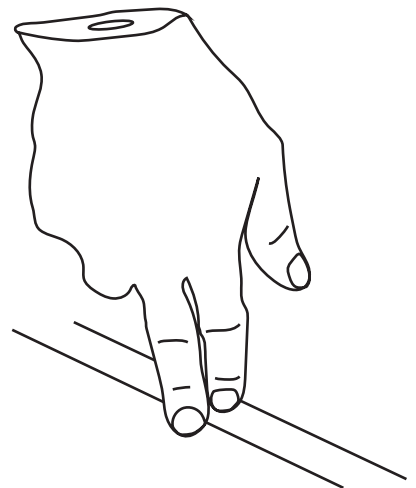
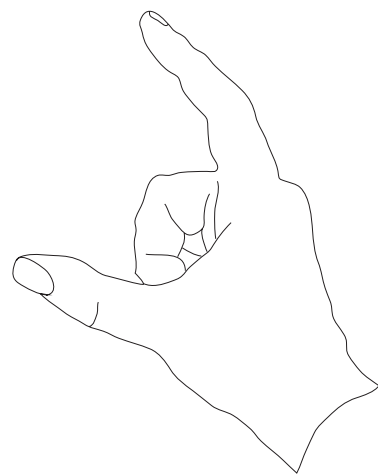
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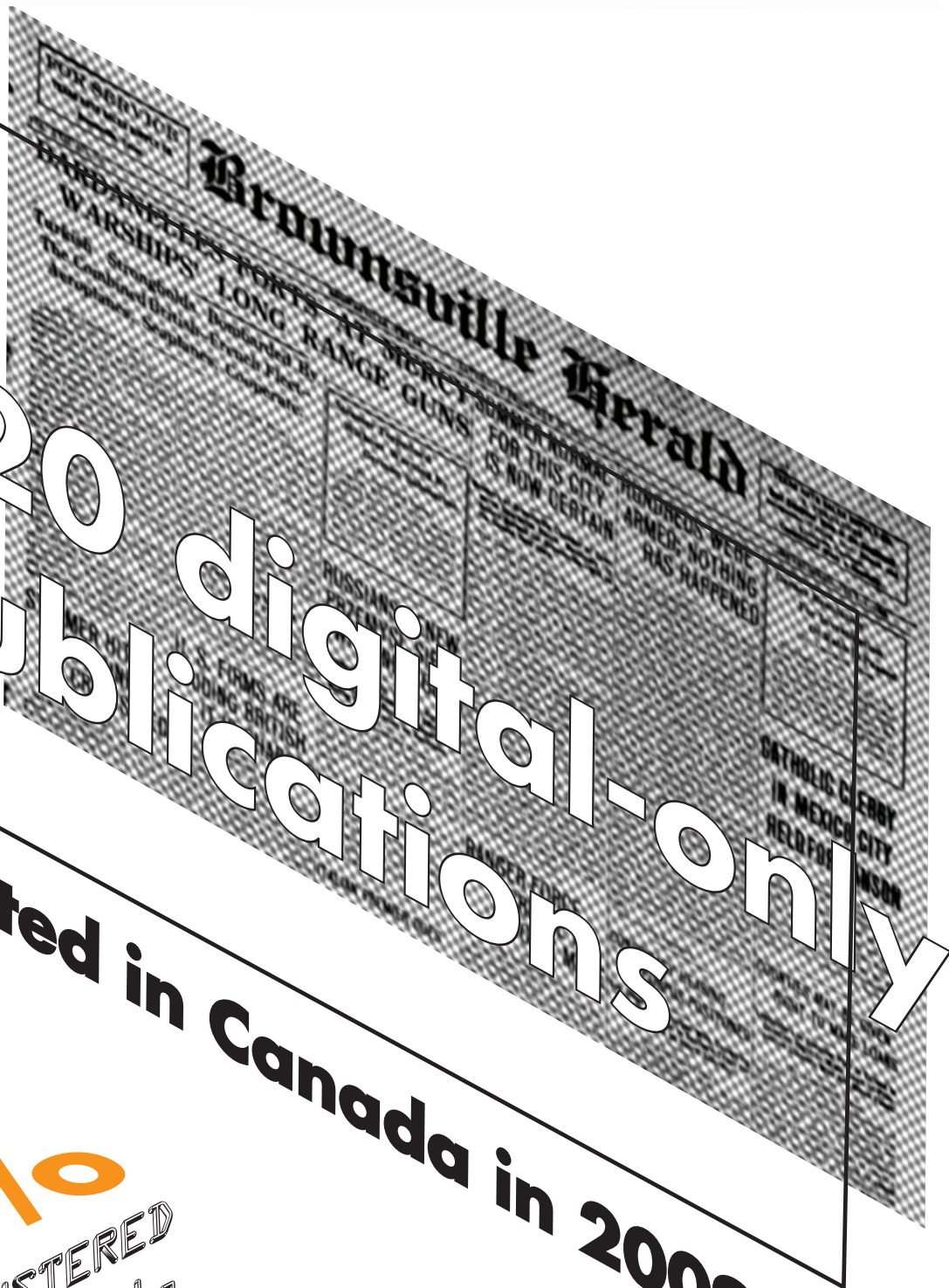
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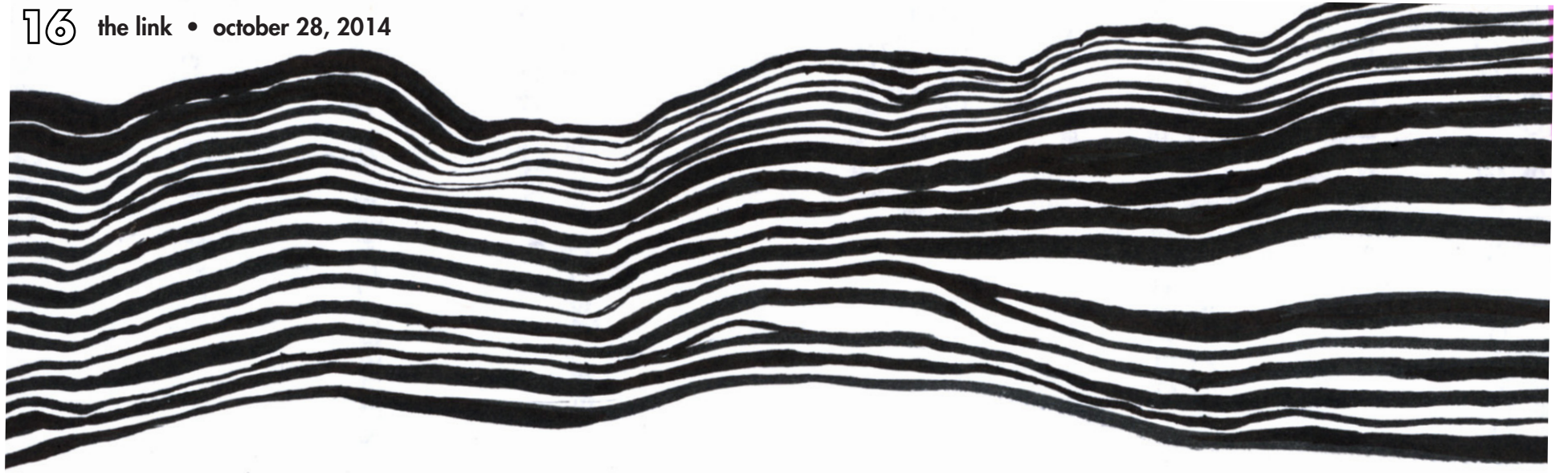
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OF WHICH WERE CLUSTERED
AROUND TORONTO, MONTREAL,
OTTAWA AND VANCOUVER

120 digital-only
publications
existed in Canada in 2009



graphic Laura Lalonde





ONLINE UNTIL THE GRAVE

A Look Into the Lives of Full-Time YouTubers



by Baghdad Balyan

YouTube's come a long way from the days of grainy vlogs and lip syncs on built-in desktop webcams.

From its scrappy beginnings in February 2005, the platform has grown into a launching pad for bona fide Internet celebrities. A handful of successful full-time YouTubers create and broadcast videos to audiences that are often fanatically loyal—and to many on the outside, that stature seems tantalizingly within reach.

"Within a month I gained 3,000 subscribers, and I thought, 'Wow, this is incredible,'" said Jeffrey Chang, a video creator from Montreal's South Shore. "And then AdSense [a targeted advertising program developed by Google] came along [and] I got my first paycheck on YouTube."

Chang, known as JeffreyFever on YouTube, gained unexpected popularity on the website through his technology review videos. He now has over 53,000 subscribers and close to 2 million views on his channel.

This past summer Chang quit school and

his job to pursue his YouTube career full-time. He left for Los Angeles, the networking hub for YouTubers who are serious about their channels.

There are plenty of reasons YouTube has become the platform of choice for many would-be Internet entrepreneurs—not only is it free, but it also has a lovably DIY heritage of people sharing everything from their hobbies and daily experiences to videos of their beloved cats.

Stories like Chang's have become more and more common as creative ideas and popular videos circulate the web with YouTube as their source, bringing massive amounts of attention to creators overnight. But for those who see some success beyond the typical fifteen minutes of fame—and especially those who partner with advertisers—this attention creates a pressure for consistency and a regular, episodic format that demands the same attention as a full-time job.

But can maintaining a YouTube channel really become a full-time career and help sustain a comfortable lifestyle based off ad revenues alone?

Jake Roper is well known for his video game-related content on the YouTube channel Vsauce3 and has over 2 million subscribers. He turned his YouTube channel into a full-time career after it launched in September 2012.

"Making money on ad revenue isn't the most lucrative thing in the world," Roper said. "So you really do need a lot of views, or large audiences to be able to sustain that."

Roper added that while it's possible to "make a living" off YouTube, a substantial amount of work is necessary.

YouTuber Ben Willingdorf from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, has been using YouTube for seven years. He argues that more than ad revenue is necessary for a real career. "YouTube by itself wouldn't work as a career—[it] allows you to open doors to other things that work as a career," he said.

"I don't think it can be a solid source of income on a long-term basis. [...] On YouTube usually you're only relevant for 3 years and then you kind of dim down," he said. "Mostly after 3 years people turn to brand deals and stuff like that to maintain their income."

Having a YouTube career means being a self-employed registered business and dedicating most of your time to it every day. "Every moment that you're awake, you're working. It sounds like an exaggeration, but it isn't," Roper said.

"What is the asset? It's you, the creator, right?" Roper continued. "Not just the videos you make but your personality on Twitter and Facebook, Instagram—[it] just becomes your life. Because your personality is what people are wanting to watch."

Like any career, the life of a full-time YouTuber is not for everyone. Like any career, it requires a passion for making good work and a willingness to persevere through discouragement. And although working long hours are required to bring food to the table, like any career, being passionate about your job can be rewarding.

"It is definitely a job," Roper said. "It's not a job I dislike, but it is a job, it's what I do day in and day out to make a living and just create content."

photo Alex Areonesei

ON THE GAZETTE'S REDESIGN

Dear *Montreal Gazette*,

I grew up seeing my dad read the *Gazette* over breakfast before he drove me to school every weekday. I remember the impression its black-and-white, gothic type logo gave me: "I'm older than your dad, so you should trust me." No brainer.

On Oct. 21, the *Gazette* redesigned everything about itself, including its logo. As a graphic designer, I know that when doing a logo redesign, you want to consider the original. That day the *Gazette* lost over 200 years of history.

I don't recognize the *Gazette* anymore. The new logo doesn't say, "trust me." Now it just whispers "I'm from Toronto," or, more specifically, "My design was outsourced to Hamilton," because it's a little to shy to admit it. I would be, too.

The sleeve for the first issue of the redesign

says "Reimagined for today." Don't believe it. It wasn't "reimagined"—it's actually a carbon copy of the *Ottawa Citizen's* redesign, which was the first Postmedia publication to see its design gutted. The *Citizen* also lost their iconic logo.

This new *Gazette* doesn't deserve the name anymore. Postmedia might as well rename all their publications "Postmedia [insert city name here]."

I hope one-day the *Gazette* regains its visual independence, because as of today it's been lost. Montreal, welcome to the new world of print media. I mean, Postmedia.

—Clement Liu, former *Link* creative director

graphic Brandon Johnston



Concordia Stingers women's hockey coach Les Lawton (top right) has coached ConU to two national championships and IS provincial titles during his 34-year tenure.



34 Years and Still Going Strong

Les Lawton Reflects On Ongoing Legacy of Greatness in Women's Hockey

by Daniele Iannarone @DanIannarone

The old saying "If you love your job, you will never work a day in your life" rings true for Les Lawton. Lawton has been the head coach of the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team since 1980, and is showing no signs of slowing down.

"It's a great environment to work in," said Lawton. "You're working with bright and motivated university kids, so they're really good to work with."

During his 34-year tenure, Lawton has accomplished much with the Stingers and with Team Canada's international women's hockey program. On top of his two national championships and 15 provincial championships with the Stingers, Lawton coached Team Canada to a gold medal in the 1994 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Hockey championships in Lake Placid, beating the Americans on their home soil.

With over 615 career wins to date, Concordia has regarded Lawton as the coach with the most wins in women's hockey history.

Lawton began his career as an assistant coach with Concordia's women's hockey team in 1979, but was promoted to head coach after just one season following the resignation of the previous head coach. Lawton took over at a point where the quality of the women's hockey program wasn't as renowned as it is today.

"Women's hockey was a varsity sport but we weren't part of any national sports organization," Lawton explained. "We had girls that were coming in from figure skating and from ringette, playing hockey for the first time, so a lot of players were very inexperienced, but it was a lot of fun to work with them."

Lawton has coached a number of players who went on to become Olympians throughout his career at Concordia, including Canadians Caroline Ouellette and Thérèse Brisson, Swedish goalie Cecelia Anderson, and Americans Cammi Granato and Karyn Bye. Lawton is pleased with the Stingers alumni who have gone on to bigger and better things, and continues to keep in touch with them.

"I'm very proud of the number of players that have gone on to graduate," Lawton said. "Really, it's the players that have moved on from university and succeeded in other things and we would hope that Concordia would be a big part of it. We're extremely proud of our alumni and the players that have moved on."

"Obviously the national championships were very special to me," Lawton continued. "We've won a number of league championships, but it's really the relationships that I've built with players over the years that is something I'm really proud of."

Lawton's success as a coach could easily be chalked up to his work ethic, committing everything he can to his team. His squad

practices three hours per day and plays one or two games per weekend, playing at home at Ed Meagher Arena, and in road games as far as Ontario. When he's not preparing his team for their next game, he's building for the next season through recruitment.

"We sit down, we have a number of player-coach meetings, there's a lot of film to look at, we're evaluating other teams, we're recruiting," said Lawton. "Whenever we're not playing on the weekends, I'm out recruiting. There's always things that keep you busy in the life of a coach."

"We do normally see [Lawton] on the ice and behind the bench, but there's so much that goes into what he brings on the ice for games, for practices, that he does on his own time," said starting goaltender Briar Bache. "I know he does research for different drills and other teams and the scouting, that takes up a lot of time itself. [The scouting] is the things that people don't think of, but there's a lot that he puts in."

"Being a coach, he has a family so it just goes to show how dedicated he is," added forward Valerie Wade. "Putting all this time and effort into our team, it says a lot about himself too and how much he cares about the program."

This season Lawton's Stingers are in a rebuilding process. They have 15 players who are in either their first or second season as Stingers, and, according to the players,

Lawton wasn't afraid to let go of senior players in order to accommodate a rebuild.

"He could be fine with keeping fourth or fifth-year players and not doing as much recruiting, and we'd have the numbers but we don't necessarily have the skills, so he puts the team first," said Bache. "Rebuilding isn't the easiest thing for anybody, but it's necessary."

"We had a good recruiting year [this year], we had a great recruiting year last year and the kids know what we're going through," Lawton said. "They realize that in a couple of years, or maybe as early as next year, we're going to be a team that other teams will have trouble beating."

While the team may have ways to go before bringing a national championship back to Ed Meagher for the first time since 1999, Lawton has been working hard to ensure that success eventually returns to Concordia, and doesn't envision himself leaving the hive any time soon.

"It's a great environment to be in with young, energetic people that have good goals both academically and athletically," he said. "I still enjoy it, I still enjoy working with the athletes, I still enjoy working with the department. I haven't even thought about moving on to tell you the truth."

photo from The Link archives



Disappointment Doubled

Stingers Lose National Championship for Second Consecutive Year

The ConU Stingers baseball team were undefeated throughout the CCBA Nationals tournament heading into the championship final vs. McGill, including an 8-1 win over the Saint Mary's Huskies, but ultimately lost in the final 6-1.

by Julien Assouline @julienassouline

It turns out that the highlight of beating McGill in the Canadian Collegiate Baseball Association's North Division final last weekend was the peak of Concordia's baseball season—it could only go downhill from there.

Unfortunately for the Stingers, that's exactly what happened.

Facing the Redmen in this past Sunday's CCBA title game, the Stingers lost 6-1 to their archrival.

"We're frustrated," said Stingers manager Howie Schwartz after the loss.

"We wanted it and we didn't get it, but I don't think we played well enough to get it today."

The Stingers have now lost back-to-back national championship games, having lost to the Windsor Lancers last year.

"Last year I didn't really see it as a loss because we really, really, played well," said fifth-year first baseman Jean-Christophe Paquin, who was named the best hitter of this year's CCBA tournament. "We were

in it all nine innings so it was just a good game, and here we just didn't play as well as we should have and we lost.

"I came back [to the team] for a reason. That was to win a national championship and we came up short, so I'm pretty disappointed right now."

After defeating the Université de Montréal and then McGill in conference playoffs, Concordia went undefeated in the nationals portion of the postseason, winning all three of their round-robin games as well as their semi-final game against Saint Mary's, defeating the Huskies 8-1.

However, the Stingers struggled when it mattered most. The Stingers were baffled by McGill starting pitcher Tim Jones, who threw for seven innings as he gave up just one run on seven hits while striking out eight batters on 114 pitches.

"[Jones] had a great game out there," said Schwartz. "[He] kept us off-balance and we really didn't know what to do. We didn't have smart, disciplined at-bats and

that was the difference in the game."

The Stingers countered with Brandon Berkovits, who got off to a strong start in the first inning, retiring the first three batters he faced, striking out two. But problems for Berkovits started in the second inning, where he gave up two runs on two hits.

A run scored thanks to a sacrifice fly ball in the second inning by infielder Alex Hall would then cut McGill's lead to 2-1, but that was as close as the Stingers would get for the rest of the game.

Berkovits allowed two more runs before being pulled from the game in the fourth inning, ending his day with only 3.1 innings pitched.

Sam Belisle-Springer then came in and allowed another run and pitched only two-thirds of an inning before giving way to relief pitcher Andre Lagarde. Lagarde played three innings and threw two strikeouts, but allowed a run in the sixth inning to extend McGill's lead to 6-1, putting the final nail in the coffin for the Stingers.

A second consecutive loss in the title game felt bittersweet for a few Stingers, including Paquin and Lagarde, two key veterans who won't be back with the team next season.

"We got to the national championship finals, so I'm really very proud of the guys," said Schwartz said. "But I'm also very disappointed and sad for them because I know how much they wanted it. A couple of guys are graduating and I felt very badly for them, in terms of Andre Lagarde, in terms of Jean-Christophe Paquin—these guys wanted it even maybe more than I did."

Still, Schwartz remained positive and promised a better squad next season.

"We're going to come back next year," said Schwartz. "We're going to fill the holes where we're going to be missing graduating students, and we're going to come back stronger next year."

"I'm not leaving, we're not quitting."

photos Shaun Michaud

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF OCT. 20 TO OCT. 26

THURSDAY

23

Men's Basketball—Concordia 85, St. Lawrence 64

FRIDAY

24

Baseball—Concordia 15, Saint Mary's 1
Baseball—Concordia 5, UdeM 4
Women's Basketball—Concordia 62, Laurier 60
Men's Basketball—Concordia 76, Laurier 82
Women's Soccer—Concordia 1, UdeM 2
Men's Soccer—Concordia 1, UdeM 5
Women's Hockey—Concordia 2, Ottawa 3 (SO)
Men's Hockey—Concordia 8, York 2
Men's Rugby—Concordia 14, Bishop's 27

SATURDAY

25

Baseball—Concordia 4, UNB 2
Women's Basketball—Concordia 71, UofT 54
Men's Basketball—Concordia 87, Waterloo 52
Football—Concordia 0, Sherbrooke 29
Women's Rugby—Concordia 5, Ottawa 13

SUNDAY

26

Baseball—Concordia 8, Saint Mary's 1
Baseball—Concordia 1, McGill 6
Women's Basketball—Concordia 71, Laurentian 48
Women's Soccer—Concordia 0, Laval 3
Men's Soccer—Concordia 0, Laval 3

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

WEDNESDAY

29

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Ottawa Gee-Gees (Ed Meagher Arena)

FRIDAY

31

7:30 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. University of Ottawa Institute of Technology (Ed Meagher Arena)

SATURDAY

1

1:00 p.m. Football vs. McGill Redmen (Concordia Stadium)
5:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Queen's (Ed Meagher Arena)
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at Vermont Catamounts

SUNDAY

2

3:00 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)



The Graduate Students' Association Becomes a Circus

Calling on Grad Students to End the GSA's Downward Spiral

by Jonathan Summers @jonathans_MTL

The Graduate Students' Association has enormous potential to unite students around common struggles and to represent their remarkable diversity.

Unfortunately, the conduct of some members at the GSA's general assembly last Thursday did nothing to change the perception among some students that the association is nothing but a big joke.

The GSA held by-elections at the GA to fill a number of positions, including VP Mobilization and VP Academic and Advocacy. I currently sit on the GSA's Council of Directors as a representative for arts and science students, and I threw my hat into the ring as one of the candidates for the position of VP Mobilization.

I lost by a wide margin to engineering student Danish Sheikh, who beat me by a wide margin, and I congratulate him and look forward to working with him. He seems like an upstanding individual and I hope he's up to the task.

That's not the problem. The problem is that some members chose to turn our general assembly into a circus—and not the fun kind.

First, members voted to move the elections to the very top of the agenda, before even the approval of the minutes from the last GA. Then they refused a call for a vote by secret ballot, which would have assuaged concerns that members were being bullied by their friends

into voting for them.

Things really began to fall apart during the vote for VP Academic and Advocacy, when members got up to leave as elections officers were trying to count the show of hands.

When a motion was put forth for a revote, Mostapha Marzban, VP Finance for the Engineering and Computer Science Graduate Association, threatened that his large constituency would reject every motion if members dared to contest the election results.

"We will stay here until morning voting against your bullshit motions," snapped Marzban, who happens to be married to Dina Alizadeh, one of the candidates up for election.

Staying until morning wasn't necessary. The assembly proceeded to pass a motion moving the election of the VP Academic and Advocacy to the next GA, and then elected its senators. But when we came to the election of representatives on the Council of Directors, the majority left the room, quorum was lost, and the assembly adjourned.

We never made it to my motion calling on the GSA to denounce government austerity measures and endless cuts to education, and join 35,000 other students—including undergrads in the philosophy department—for a one-day strike on Oct. 31.

We never made it to VP Academic and Advocacy candidate Trevor Smith's motion that would have the GSA join the growing

movement seeking to block the oil pipelines, curb environmental destruction and respect Aboriginal rights.

We never made it to the GSA president's report, the finance report, or the report on our ongoing—and problematic—accreditation campaign.

On top of that, we started receiving messages after the GA from people who felt they had been intimidated or harassed.

This is simply embarrassing for Concordia's more than 6,500 grad students, especially for those of us who work so hard for the association on a daily basis. You could hear it in our pleas and see it in our faces on Thursday.

I believe in having a strong student association to serve as a forum for healthy debate and to defend students' individual and communal interests. I believe in participatory democracy, collective decision-making and general assemblies.

But it's clear we have a lot of work to do to foster such a culture among Concordia's grad students, many of whom have come from abroad to study engineering and may only be in Montreal for a couple of years.

The GSA has a budget of over \$400,000 and provides a wide range of services and activities to its members, but one of its proudest moments came in 2012 when its members—including engineering students—voted at a general assembly to join more than 100,000 other students on strike. The GSA was one of the

few associations at Concordia to participate in the student movement that forced a provincial election and halted the tuition increase planned by Jean Charest's Liberals.

The GSA's motto, after all, is "In The Classroom and On The Streets: Defending Your Rights Since 1970." However, since 2012, we've seen the GSA fall a long way.

Fortunately, there are opportunities for redemption. Our bylaws mandate us to hold at least two general assemblies per semester, which means we'll likely have our next one in November.

Members are welcome to attend council meetings and work with us on various committees. We have a very active Facebook group and can all be reached by email or, if you're old-fashioned, approached in person.

This is a call to action: If you're a grad student and see any value at all in having a student association, now is the time to step up and help end the GSA's downward spiral.

A student association is not a joke, but it will take the active involvement of all our grads—not just engineering students—to prove it.

Jonathan Summers is a graduate student in educational studies, a member of the Council of Directors of the Graduate Students' Association, and a former staff member at The Link.

graphic Mariana Voronovska

Letter

Expressing Concerns about the CSU Referendum Questions Tackling Austerity and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

To CSU council members,

Conservative Concordia is one of the 80 recognized clubs under the Concordia Student Union. Our mission is to be a home for conservative students from Canada and abroad where they can discuss current affairs and promote a balance between fiscal accountability, progressive social policy and individual rights and responsibilities.

On Oct. 19, we became aware of two referendum questions up for discussion at the Oct. 22 CSU council meeting that will directly affect Conservative Concordia. The first one is concerning budget cuts and the second one is concerning the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

At the meeting, councillors decided to include a referendum question on the ballot that would ask undergraduates if they want the CSU to "officially oppose the budget cuts to the education sector spe-

cifically, and the public sector in general," as well as work with "other organizations with comparable positions in order to seek alternate sources of public revenues as facilitated through the provincial and/or federal government."

The portion "seek alternate sources of public revenues" means one thing only: increasing taxes. This would undermine Canadians' standard of living and discourage many companies from investing here, which means less employment opportunities after we graduate.

Also, the question suggests that the federal government made cuts to the education sector, which could not be further from the truth. The Conservative government has invested \$12 million in aboriginal business studies, \$40 million for internships in high-demand fields, \$123 million to modernize the Canada Student Loan program, \$800 million in the Canada Social Transfer for post-

secondary education and \$1.8 billion to support research in Canadian universities. The government also introduced the Canada Student Loan forgiveness program for medical and nursing graduates who practice in rural and underserved communities.

Secondly, with regards to the BDS referendum question, which will also be included on the ballot, we denounce that the petitioners did not provide the full story, once again. We wonder why they always forget to mention that the greatest enemy of the Palestinian people is armed groups such as Hamas, who use funding from international aid to attack innocent Israeli civilians, including children.

We strongly believe in the right of Israel to exist and defend itself from these terrorist organizations, and find it shameful that the petitioners refuse to acknowledge that international humanitarian aid (our tax dollars) is going towards build-

ing terror tunnels and rockets instead of feeding the general population.

We stand behind our leader and Prime Minister who said in Israel's legislature, the Knesset, that denying the right of Israel to exist is the new form of anti-Semitism. We denounce the fact that this type of rhetoric is still tolerated at Concordia University in 2014, in our modern multicultural environment. We also do not understand why the CSU feels the need to interject in international matters they have no influence over, as well as how this resolution will contribute to the betterment of the Concordia student body.

Finally, we would like to say that the current CSU executive does not speak in our name and we denounce their partisan attitude of governing only for those who elected them.

*Michael Eugenio
President of Conservative Concordia*

A Psychedelic Renaissance

New Research on Psychedelics Is Unveiling Their Potential for Healing

by Gonzo Nieto

As university students, we know how prevalent substance use is.

It's practically impossible to go through your degree (or your day) without being exposed to the use of coffee, energy drinks, alcohol, cigarettes, pot, Ritalin or other drugs for a variety of reasons ranging from partying to relaxing to studying.

In our daily lives, the social acceptability of particular drugs is based heavily on stigma and the law, rather than on a sober evaluation of their effects and harms.

It's perfectly acceptable for me to boast to my friends about how drunk I got on the weekend, but I'll get weird looks and an uncomfortable response from the same people for wanting to talk about a profound and meaningful experience I had while on LSD, and this is despite the fact that LSD is far less harmful than alcohol.

The word "drug" itself often keeps us from developing a more nuanced understanding of these substances. This is a term that places cannabis, heroin and MDMA into the same category, despite their radically different effects and harm profiles.

In political dialogue, the term "drugs" is Orwellian; it's a scare-tactic word that lumps the good with the bad and the ugly.

However, the last several years in the United States have seen this perspective challenged at least in the case of cannabis. Its medical and therapeutic applications are gaining recognition, and legal restrictions on its use have been relaxed in more than a dozen states.

It can be argued that psychedelics, including LSD, psilocybin (magic) mushrooms, mescaline and ayahuasca, are in a similar situation. The current legal classification holds that they are potential drugs of abuse with no medical or therapeutic application, but a lot of research in the 1950s and '60s investigated these very applications and had promising results.

In recent years, the scientific study of these mind-altering substances has been revived, with scientists picking up lines of research that stopped dead in their tracks decades ago as a result of governments' focus on the criminalization of these drugs. Their findings are very exciting, both inside and outside of medical and therapeutic contexts.

Some research explores the potential of psychedelics, when administered in a supportive setting, to spark profound spiritual or mystical experiences characterized by a sense of sacredness, a feeling of unity or interconnectedness, and feelings of transcending the self or ego. Such an experience is powerful and often very significant for the individual



who's had it. If approached properly, it can be a source of positive change in a person's life.

A promising therapeutic use of psychedelics lies in individuals with anxiety related to life-threatening illness. A recent study that administered LSD to this population found that, even several months later, participants reported significant improvements in their anxiety, depression and overall quality of life, as well as reductions in their fear of death. Other research teams have had similar results with psilocybin.

Psychedelics may also have therapeutic potential in the treatment of addiction. Past studies had some success in using LSD in the context of therapy to treat alcohol abuse, with improvements sometimes lasting as long as six months.

A number of studies around the world have used MDMA to treat PTSD in war veterans

and victims of violence and sexual assault. The results are inspiring, with many participants experiencing significant improvements or resolution of their symptoms. As well, a protocol has now been approved in the U.S. for the use of MDMA in therapy to treat social anxiety in autistic adults.

Psychedelics may also act as creative catalysts. One notable example is Nobel Prize-winning biochemist Kary Mullis, who has said he seriously doubts whether he'd have made the discovery for which he was recognized if he hadn't taken LSD.

We can support the research taking place by reading and talking about it, and contributing to it if we can do so. Recent crowd-funding efforts for psychedelic research have been rather successful, and there are sure to be more in the future.

What can we do on a personal level? Start

by acknowledging and then challenging what we think we know.

The mindset regarding drugs is similar to sex: if we're not well-informed, the first thing to do is educate ourselves in order to sort the facts from the stigma and sensational preconceived notions—and to ensure our safety.

Seek out information on substances that you're curious about; ask friends that have experience with these substances, or spend some time reading the endless trip reports that exist on sites like Erowid to get a better idea of what the subjective experience is like on a particular substance.

Most importantly, talk. I try to challenge drug stigmas by writing articles like these and enabling conversations with the people around me, and I urge you to do the same.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau



Letter

My Thoughts on the Parliament Hill Shootings

Let me start off by expressing my deepest condolences for the innocents who have been injured or killed in this attack on Parliament. I would also like to express my complicated feelings, those of angst and fear.

I do not fear individual acts of terrorism. I do not fear those who believe in Islam. I hold a greater fear of dying by heart disease thanks to a monoculture of underpriced processed foods or being struck by a car on my bicycle than of dying at the hands of a religious zealot. What I do fear is that the government will use this attack as an excuse to restrict civil liberties in the name of security.

We do not live in an age of terrorism.

Today is the safest time that the developed world has ever experienced, according to world-renowned Canadian author Steven Pinker. What we do live in is a time of media fanaticism thanks to a 24-hour news cycle and a disproportionate escalation of force in the name of safety and security. The upscaling of the security budget and the destruction of personal privacy has been on the agenda of the industrial military complex outlined in President Eisenhower's 1961 farewell address.

Governmental programs deemed necessary to the integrity and stability of the government itself, such as privacy-invading

security programs, are next to impossible to scale back upon, and therein lies the problem. The government has no incentive to scale down programs that are continually growing its power. These programs hurt the public more than they help it. Our faith in the accountability of the government is greatly diminished when the government fails to restrain itself in such matters, and faith in Canadian democracy at large is further put into question.

I remain fearful that the response to these attacks will be overzealous and heavy-handed. I wish we could take a page out of Norway's book following their massacre in 2011, where parents

of victims expressed the hope for appropriate rehabilitation of the massacre's instigator. A girl from the Labour Party-affiliated Workers' Youth League said it best: "If one man can show so much hate, think how much love we could show, standing together."

In future wars, I hope that we Canadians decide to drop seeds for crops instead of bombs for war. Not only do the economics make more sense, but it might just end up creating a few less enemies overseas.

Jamie Klinger
Concerned Canadian Citizen
JMSB Marketing Alumni 2009



Massaging the Male G-Spot

I'm a straight male in a relationship and I want to try massaging my prostate. My partner and I have never explored anal play before so we're not sure where to start. She asked me to lead the way but I don't really know what will feel good or how to do it. Any tips on how to start?
—Prostate Explorer

Similar to any other first-time sex act, the place to start is with an openness to explore yourself. I have some tips that can serve as a basic intro to anal and prostate play, but the key is to use these steps as a way to find what feels good for you.

There are some safe sex practices you can adopt when engaging in anal play.

Before getting started, you might want to have a bowel movement to clear the rectum and then clean the surrounding area to limit the presence of fecal matter. However, for some people, fecal matter is part of what excites them.

Either way, you can be safer by wearing latex gloves on any hands involved in the acts and by using a latex barrier (condoms, dental

dams, gloves) on any toys or objects. Each of these practices limits direct contact with fluids and fecal matter, which lowers your risk for transmission of STIs and bacteria.

Whether you decide to use barriers or not, it's also a good idea to cut and file the nails on any penetrating fingers to avoid scratching or tearing the rectal lining, and to use the pad of fingers for stimulation to avoid leading with your nails.

As for how to do this, you might opt to explore on your own before doing it with a partner, but the steps are basically the same. The main difference is that clear communication is essential with a partner since they won't always be able to tell if something feels good or when you're ready to continue.

Anal penetration is easiest when the receiving partner is relaxed. This can be difficult your first time since you might feel nervous and physically tense your muscles. Starting slow and with a lot of foreplay is key to facilitating most penetration.

If alone, you might start by fantasizing and touching your body to get in the mood. With a partner you might want to start with kissing, light physical touching or a body massage—

anything that turns you on and helps you relax.

From there, you can start by massaging the perineum, which is the area between the testicles and the anus. Many men enjoy this because it stimulates the prostate from the outside. A good starting position is with the receiving partner lying on their back with their legs bent, lifted and spread. Using the pads of fingers, you can rub or press gently on the perineum—whatever feels good to you in the moment. You can try this on its own or paired with stroking your penis or massaging other parts of the body.

Once you're feeling ready, you can move towards stimulating the anus in the same way, without penetrating it at first. This would be a good time to add lube if you haven't already since it will feel awesome and help make this easier and safer. Taking your time, check how relaxed the anus is and experiment with partially penetrating it. The lining of the rectum is thin so you want to move slow and avoid forced movements.

Once inside, place the finger on the rectal wall at the front of your body and aim to reach the spot behind the perineum that you were

massaging earlier. You're looking for a round spot of tissue, the prostate. Once you find it, use the pad of your finger to massage it. You can start by applying direct pressure or rubbing it directly at different speeds. At this point, it's all about exploring what gives you pleasure and following it.

Some people like this stimulation alone; others like to pair it with stimulating the penis. Some people do this until orgasm, while others just enjoy the ride. Where you go from here is up to you. Share this with your partner and hopefully it will help you both feel more equipped to start exploring, but feel free to write back if you have questions on further exploration or the prostate itself!

—Melissa Fuller @mel_full

Submit your question anonymously at sex-pancakes.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SextEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!

Nah'msayin?

A Curious Incident, about a Dog, in the Nighttime

This past week, my roommate's dog bit me. The adorable little Jack Russell Terrier was staying with us for a week while her parents were on vacation. The impromptu attack happened immediately after a cuddle sesh, sometime past midnight. In shock, I stepped back and surveyed the damage. The bite itself was not bad at all, only a couple of legitimate scratches. In the face of something startling, I did what all good girls do. I called my best friend, who immediately raised the question: do you have your tetanus shot?

My roommate assured me that her dog was vaccinated, but after a call to my parents' house I discovered that I, in fact, was not. Suddenly the situation with the dog bite

was somewhat of a ticking time bomb. Previously, I had no intention of going to the hospital with such a small injury, but after consulting my friend—who is studying to be a doctor—I realized the safest bet was for me to go to the emergency room.

And that, my friends, is how I ended up at the General Hospital's emergency room at one in the morning on a Wednesday. All the nurse had to do was give me my tetanus shot, but as the story goes with most emergency room trips, I got home three hours later.

— Sarah Lozinski @sarlozinski

graphic Caity Hall



Crummy Pants by Jei Jei Steeves



Balloon Ventures by Mengekko Jones



Filbert by L.A. Bonte



Boop by Caity Hall





Editorial

Indexing CSU Membership Fees Is Hypocrisy

Undergraduates will vote at the end of November on whether or not to index the per-credit fee charged by the Concordia Student Union to the inflation rate. That this referendum question will be on the ballot is a prime example of the union's hypocrisy.

The CSU opposed the provincial government's decision in 2013 to index tuition fees to the annual rise in disposable household income. Its official position calls for university tuition to be frozen at 2007 levels instead.

And yet indexation is precisely what CSU executives have proposed as a solution to their own unsustainable financial situation.

Arguing in favour of indexing the fee levy, union executives say the CSU's expenses rise every year due to inflation and yearly increases in employees' salaries.

Ironically, that's the same argument advanced by university administrators and the provincial government in defending the indexation of tuition—the very argument largely dismissed by the student movement.

Universities' expenses increase as a result of inflation, like the CSU's.

And as is the case with the CSU's employees, university employees are guaranteed yearly salary increases through their collective agreements.

If universities' operating budgets don't rise over time, salaries will eat up an ever-larger share of their budgets. University administrators maintain that indexation is needed for financial sustainability.

It's logically inconsistent and highly problematic that the CSU roundly denounces the indexation of tuition with one breath and asks that its membership fees be indexed with the next. The union's calls for a tuition freeze are less meaningful when it's simultaneously sending the message "do as I say, not as I do."

When the provincial government sought to increase tuition fees in 2012, students cited disasters like the *Îlot Voyageur*, a real estate project that nearly bankrupted the Université du Québec à Montréal in 2007, as examples of financial mismanagement by top university administrators.

Quebec's student federations argued universities weren't underfunded; instead, funds

were being poorly spent. Before asking students for more money, universities should first look inwardly at their own spending, they said.

It's sound advice, and it applies to student associations too. Like the province's universities, the CSU should first consider how its present-day funding could be spent more effectively. As in any bureaucracy, it's highly probable there are opportunities to trim expenses and become more efficient without cutting services.

Documents distributed at the last CSU council meeting show this year's orientation activities came in under budget. It's an encouraging sign that this crop of CSU executives are trying to be fiscally responsible.

But the CSU is also on course to run a projected deficit of over \$135,000 this school year. The explanation for the deficit is rather weak—CSU president Benjamin Prunty told *The Link* last month that the union's finance team didn't know how the university collects and distributes student fees, leading them to underestimate how much funding they'd get this year.

If the CSU wants students to pay higher membership fees, the way it spends its funding must be efficient. The CSU must also be completely transparent about where student funds go.

Unfortunately, students don't have easy access to their union's budget documents. The CSU's outdated website is apparently so difficult to update that it's fallen into disuse, and the latest budget documents posted on the website date back to 2011. It's an unacceptable situation that must be rectified.

With the CSU facing an imbalance between revenue and ever-growing expenses, union executives are concerned about the possibility of a negative cash flow. The financial sustainability of the CSU's operations account is at stake, so students will have little choice but to approve the union's request to index its fees.

Still, we at *The Link* have very real reservations about endorsing a "yes" vote as long as the union hasn't proven itself to be both wise and transparent with student funds.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau

THE LINK³⁵

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The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

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The article "Can Political Films Make Any Real Change?" [Vol. 35, Issue 9] wrongly attributed quotes to filmmaker Amy Miller, who was, in fact, not present at the Cinema Politica roundtable on Oct. 16. In fact, Widia Larivière said the quotes. All of the quotes attributed to Richard Brouillette and Philippe Gendreau were in fact said by Ezra Winton. Also, one of the quotes wrongly referred to the Sundance Festival instead of Participant Media. *The Link* regrets the errors.

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