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CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

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FOR ART IN ALL ITS FORMS



Taking Back the Night for Everyone

Annual March Brings Montreal Organizations Together Against Gendered Violence

by Mattha Busby @itsmattha

People of all genders and experiences took back the night on Friday in solidarity against gendered violence that disproportionately affects women.

"Everyone has a right to feel safe and welcome in this space," Julie Michaud, administrative coordinator at the Centre for Gender Advocacy declared.

The march came amid continued disgust at Montreal police sergeant Laurent Gingras' comments last month, which provoked a furor of criticism.

He stated that women ought not to travel in taxis alone at night, particularly when intoxicated, or else they risk putting themselves in harms way.

"Why ought the onus be on women to be careful or to remain sober?" attendee Rog Bastain told *The Link*. "It should be more of a general concept that men should not rape or sexually assault women."

Attendees voiced concern about the sergeant's remarks, especially after the police disclosed there had been 17 female victims of assault in taxis this year.

"[What he said was] really unfair, it doesn't really shed light on the situation or provide any solutions," Bastain added.

CTV reported this week that there has been a law since 2001 which demands that "any aspiring taxi driver will have to submit to the criminal background check."

However, this law has "by and large not been enforced by the industry, partly because there has been no province-wide

standard for background checks in place," according to the report from CTV.

Transport Quebec and the City of Montreal have announced their intention to strictly enforce the law starting the first of December. But for the 46 reported victims of abuse from taxi drivers in the past two years it may be too little, too late.

"Rather than denouncing the violence and introducing punitive and preventative measures in place the SPVM instead [suggested women follow several guidelines]," Trampis Hogg and Anaïs Van Vliet, volunteers for the Centre, told the crowd. "This response is infantilizing and misogynistic; it puts blame on victims and perpetuates rape culture."

Michaud told *The Link* that the Centre "wants to make Take Back the Night marches more inclusive [by not just making them exclusive to women and children] and acknowledge that gendered violence affects not just women."

Consequently men, women and transpeople alike participated in the event—although the vast majority of attendees were women between the ages of 18 and 40.

"[I'm here] to show support against rape culture and put the emphasis on people who would sexually assault and rape people," Bastain said.

"It really is a widespread problem which requires a generational solution."

Take Back the Night is primarily "an event to bring attention to sexual harassment and sexual assault," Michaud told

The Link. "Its name references the kinds of advice women are often given to stay safe at night and avoid sexual assault."

"In fact being out alone at night is not a contributory factor to sexual assault. When someone is sexually assaulted it is because one person has chosen to sexually assault another," she continued.

"It might sound a little preposterous, but we need to teach people to not sexually assault each other."

Several different groups, in addition to the Centre, spoke before and after the march about the many forms of gendered violence. These included Women in Cities International, the Reproductive Justice League Choir, Accessibilize Montreal, Quebec Native Women, and the South Asian Women's Community Centre.

The Centre elaborated on the violence indigenous women experience, which tends to be a lot more aggressive and common.

In recent years, there has been greater pressure on organizations and institutions to enact policies to provide women with greater protection in a society that systematically discriminates against them.

"Unfortunately, Concordia is, in fact, one of those institutions which is not doing anywhere near enough," Michaud stated.

The Centre for Gender Advocacy has been asking Concordia to implement mandatory workshops regarding consent, especially for students living in residence.

Recently Concordia president Alan Shepard told *The Link* that sexual consent workshops might not be effective because "saying it's

mandatory, in my view, actually can diminish its effectiveness."

Shepard's comments, according to Michaud, almost implies "sexual consent workshops are considered a punishment [or suggest] that they [the person undertaking the workshop] are a rapist."

"We think this is shameful; they [Concordia] need to take action," she said. "This is a no-brainer."

McGill University has held mandatory workshops for its students in residence through the McGill Rez Project for the last eleven years.

Throngs of protesters left Norman Bethune Square and headed east on de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. As they trekked along the promenade in temperatures below -5 C, the crowd chanted, "no means no, wherever we go."

"What do we want?" exclaimed the sopranos of the crowd in a rhetorical query.

"Safe streets!" the tenors replied. "When do we want it?"

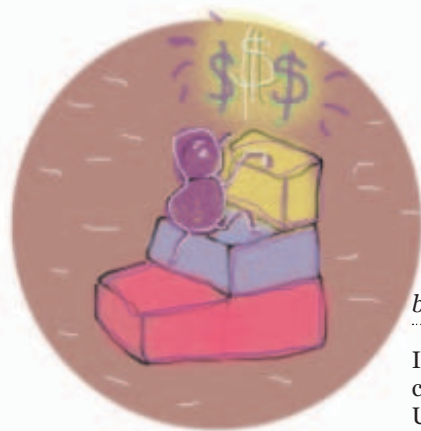
As the lyrical pendulum swung back to the questioners, they responded with a resounding "NOW!"

The crowd made a left onto McGill College Avenue where the protesters reconvened in front of McGill's Redpath building to listen to two more speakers.

Shortly before the march's end, the speakers told the crowd anecdotes detailing their experiences of feeling intimidated in male-dominated public environments.

photos Fatma Daldoul





IEAC Separation and Fee Levy

by Michelle Pucci

In two referendum questions, the International and Ethnic Association Council is asking to separate from the Concordia Student Union and double its fee-levy.

The IEAC is currently a part of the CSU that represents international clubs and promotes multiculturalism.

The IEAC falls under the CSU umbrella and acts as the go-between for those clubs, whose memberships total 8,000 students in all faculties.

Right now, the IEAC only represents 11 international clubs. With separation from the CSU it can represent more clubs, but doesn't know how many cultural clubs will actually join.

The coalition wants to represent all the cultural groups at Concordia, in the same way CASA represents commerce students or the Fine Arts Student Alliance represents everyone studying fine arts.

Separation from the CSU also means more autonomy to finance the group's projects without having to go through the CSU each time. The IEAC is also in the middle of becoming incorporated.

By doubling their fee-levy from \$0.06 to \$0.12 per credit, the IEAC says it will be able to provide funding to the new clubs.

It says a bigger budget is needed to provide funding for cultural clubs and to entice them to stay under the IEAC umbrella.

The IEAC organizes international events like last week's free international food event and World Cup viewing parties during the summer.

The IEAC doesn't have a visible campaign for the referendum questions, even though those questions, if passed, will change the entire structure of the group.



Student Housing

by Michelle Pucci

The CSU is asking for student approval to consider new student co-op housing initiatives as a student space project. At the last student council meeting, l'Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant presented its work on creating student-housing co-ops in Montreal.

UTILE has been working with the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank (HoJo) on the study and a website that will act as an online resource for students about the housing.

Working with UTILE and passing the referendum will help put student housing issues at the forefront, according to Hannah Brais from HoJo.

She says the number of international and out-of-province students is high in Concordia and Montreal—and these students are the most likely to pay higher rent and be unaware of their rights as tenants.

"We're always dealing with people in crisis mode," Brais said. Working with UTILE on a housing co-op initiative will provide solutions and decent housing for students so they don't have to visit HoJo in a crisis.

UTILE already has a pilot project in the works, with the help of the provincial government. At the council meeting they presented different approaches to creating more housing co-ops through restoring existing residential buildings or commercial buildings, or building something completely new.

They're seeking support from different interest groups, including student unions, that can invest equity or loan initial startup funds.

The CSU has a fee-levy in place to fund student space initiatives under the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund, which already holds over \$12 million.

Initially the money was supposed to be used on a building or a space on campus reserved for student activities.

The feasibility study by UTILE on how the CSU can support co-op housing was paid for through the SSAELC. It's expected that the fund will also be used to invest in projects like UTILE's, in the future if students vote "Yes."



The Hive Café CSU Loan

by Michelle Pucci

The CSU is asking students to approve loaning money from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund (SSAELC) to pay back the Hive Café Co-op's startup costs.

The union is asking to borrow \$102,536.79 from the SSAELC fund, which is supposed to be used for student space initiatives and projects that make the university more accessible.

The CSU is currently riding on the support they received last year to open the Hive Café in the Hall building mezzanine.

According to a document released by CSU President Benjamin Prunty, the Hive has 2,000 co-op members and is fulfilling its mandate to engage students.

In the scramble to open the café for this semester's orientation, the CSU says it was unable to fundraise in the same way it did for Loyola's Hive Café, which resulted in the \$100,000-plus price tag.

The money was already taken from the SSAELC fund, with the approval of council, but the CSU needs approval from students since the fund is actually separate from the CSU's operating account.

To pay this money back to the SSAELC fund, the CSU has two options: borrow the money from a bank and pay it back over five years along with 2 to 5 per cent interest rates (that would mean the CSU dedicates \$20,000 a year plus interest towards paying the loan back to the bank), or not paying back the fund at all.



Model UN Fee Levy

by Zach Goldberg

Concordia's Model United Nations club, known as CONMUN, is looking to become a fee-levy group, at the cost of seven cents per credit.

According to the group's executives, CONMUN has 50 active members and is steadily growing in event attendance and popularity, with the petition for a fee levy garnering 1,400 signatures.

CONMUN sends Concordia students to Model UN conferences in Canada and abroad. Participating students research a country's foreign policies and then represent its positions in a simulation of a United Nations committee.

Currently, CONMUN's only funding is through a club budget, an annual allocation determined by the CSU based on a submitted budget proposal.

The CSU doesn't fund travel expenses, which represent the majority of CONMUN's expenses, according to the club's executives.

"Most of the funding has had to come out of students' pocket. [...] It ends up excluding students," said Alex Chaboud, CONMUN's VP Strategy and Marketing.

Though they have tried to cut corners with van rentals and cheap hotels, Nathanaël Dagane, president of CONMUN, insists their current financial situation is "not sustainable."

The requested seven cents per credit will provide CONMUN with an estimated \$50,000 annually, according to its executives.

A part of the funding will be used to reduce the financial burden on participating students and ensure that the Model UN is as accessible as possible to all students. "The basis of the campaign is to be as inclusive as possible," said Chaboud.

The funding will also be used to cover the costs of holding training sessions that students can attend to improve their debate skills and learn more about Model UN.

It would also allow the club to bring speakers to the university from around the world to talk about diplomacy.

CSU By-Elections

The CSU by-elections will be taking place from Nov. 25 to 27. Here are the referendum questions that will appear on the ballot.



Budget Cuts

by Noëlle Didierjean

The referendum question on austerity in this by-election will ask, “Do you wish for the CSU to take the position of officially opposing the budget cuts to the education sector and the public sector in general?”

University expenses climb higher every year and funding isn’t increasing to keep up.

Austerity measures in the education sector were originally implemented by the Parti Québécois government in 2012.

They announced that Quebec universities’ operating funds would be reduced by \$124.3 million on an “annual, non-permanent basis.” Thus, if the economy were to take a turn for the better, the operating budget would be restored.

When the Liberals came into office last spring, that number climbed to \$173 million and was made permanent, forcing universities and CEGEPs to cut still deeper into their operating expenses.

The third wave of cutbacks came just months ago, when the provincial government imposed a further \$31.6 million in budget cuts, bringing the total cuts to the Quebec university sector to just over \$200 million.

As of Nov. 18, Concordia expects that \$17.2 million will be eliminated from its operating budget. The university introduced the Voluntary Departure Program in September to allow staff members who had been at the university for ten years or more to leave their positions with a severance package.

Concordia President Alan Shepard recently announced that fewer staff members than previously anticipated chose to leave as part of the program—only 90 accepted the offer instead of the expected 180.

This Halloween, a province-wide protest against the austerity measures took place. Labour unions, student associations and other organizations officially denounced the cuts to both the educational and public sector, including the Students of Philosophy Association and the Fine Arts Students Alliance at Concordia.



Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

by Jonathan Cook

One question on the ballot is asking undergrads to endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

The student group opposed to this referendum, Concordians United Against BDS, said that the CSU should not take a side on “complex, foreign political issues” that have no effect on students’ quality of life on campus, according to its Facebook page.

The group continued by saying that if the CSU supported BDS, it would limit the “free flow of ideas” and create a “rift” in the community as well as “legitimize hostility” toward some students on campus, according to the same page.

A representative from Concordians United Against BDS said the committee could not directly comment on the referendum over concerns about CSU election regulations.

In response to the notion that the movement will marginalize certain students, Javier Hoyos, the chair of Concordians In Support of BDS, said it is a “legitimate” concern but added that there is precedent in other universities who adopted it without substantial controversy.

Hoyos pointed to the case of Concordia’s Graduate Students’ Association, which officially endorsed the movement last year.

“We’re asking for equality. We’re asking for everyone to be entitled to a life with dignity,” Hoyos continued. “I don’t see how asking for equality for Palestinians will actually be asking to marginalize another sector of society.”

Hoyos said that approval for the CSU to endorse the campaign is mainly “symbolic” and “important to create awareness.” He added that students are historically the “spearheads” for social justice and that Israel is currently in violation of human rights.

Hoyos also dismissed accusations of anti-Semitism, saying commentary regarding financial sanctions placed on Islamic nations such as Iran rarely leads to discussions about Islamophobia.

“We hope this will spread throughout [Canada],” Hoyos said about the movement’s growth worldwide. “It’s not going to take one or two years—it could take a decade—but I believe that it will happen. I just hope Concordia is on the right side.”

After an appeal by the Concordians United Against BDS committee, the CSU Judicial Board chose to use the alternate question created by CSU Chief Electoral Officer Andre-Marcel Baril, which removed the phrasing, “occupation of Palestine until Israel complies with international law and universal principles of human rights” on Monday night.

Judicial Board chair Zach Braman said the altered referendum question is the “most reasonable, clear and least ambiguous” wording.



CSU Daycare Centre

by Michael Wrobel

The CSU is asking students to give them a mandate to move forward with planning an on-campus daycare centre.

A 2011 report commissioned by Concordia found that student parents make “large sacrifices” in order to strike a balance between work, school and family responsibilities.

According to the report, there are 130 daycare slots available to students, faculty and staff at the university, but faculty members often get priority and waiting lists stretch up to four years.

The report recommended creating more flexible and affordable childcare at the university, as only two in five survey respondents said they had access to subsidized daycare, and a quarter relied on unpaid care, such as babysitting by family members or friends.

The CSU council voted in September to spend \$1,500 on a feasibility report looking into the possibility of opening a CSU-run daycare centre. The funding for the report came from the union’s Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund.

Terry Wilkings, the CSU’s VP Academic and Advocacy, said the feasibility study will be presented to council soon. “It’s just a matter of finalizing all of the documentation because it was quite a comprehensive report,” he said.

If undergrads vote “yes” in this referendum, the CSU will start negotiating with the university for a physical space, he said. It would also mean that the CSU could use the SSAELC fund to have architectural plans drawn up once a space is chosen.

Wilkings said student support for the daycare project would demonstrate “a need to prioritize this project” to the university.

The CSU doesn’t know yet how much opening a daycare centre would cost.

“The feasibility study included scenarios for different sizes for the daycare,” Wilkings said. “The costs for renovating a space to meet the requirements [for a permit] will be dependent on the scenario and the size of the space that’s available.”

Adding to the uncertainty about the total cost is the fact that the CSU could obtain government subsidies to help pay for the construction.

“We’ll be exploring as many funding streams from the government in terms of subsidies and grants,” Wilkings said. “But I think it’s safe to say that the general start-up costs would be using the SSAELC.”

Once the CSU has a better understanding of the scale and scope of the project, as well as the daycare’s operating costs, it will consult students again for final approval, Wilkings added.

graphics Madeleine Gendreau

Leaked Audit Reveals \$330,000 Deficit

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci

The estimated \$60,000 surplus from the Concordia Student Union's budget last year was revealed to actually be a deficit of \$331,793, according to a draft of the 2013-2014 audit leaked to *The Link*.

The audit is a public document and is only supposed to be released on Nov. 27, the last day of CSU by-elections.

But the former and current presidents of the CSU say the hefty deficit is the consequence of a finance executive largely M.I.A.

Former CSU President Melissa Kate Wheeler defended her team, saying they made financial decisions based on information given by last year's Vice President of Finance Scott Carr.

"Information was very difficult to attain last year from the financial office of the CSU," she said.

"It's not clear to me whether this was misinformation or a question of neglect, but certainly it's unacceptable for the deficit to be so large, especially when there was a surplus on it at the end of the year," she added, admitting she hadn't seen the final audit and couldn't make any definitive comment on the situation.

Information that was presented in the end was not really put through the executive board before going to council as it should have, according to Wheeler.

"I don't think there were very many checks involved because it was given to us so last minute," she said of the year-end reports.

"Council and most of the members on my team did the best that they could with the information provided to them."

According to current CSU President Ben Prunty, information was unavailable to last year's president, general manager, board members and even finance committee.

Orientation costs, for example, were initially not expected to go over budget. Then they were reported as being \$19,000 over, according to Prunty, who says the actual costs of the orientation in 2013 ended up being almost \$90,000 more than expected, on a budget of \$155,000. All of this occurred in the first quarter of the year.

"The council was told that we were looking at a surplus for the entire year, and not just that but they were told that it was one of the largest surpluses the union has seen in a long time," he said.

Prunty says the council and president were basing their expenses throughout the rest of the year on the impression that they were still working with a surplus.

"The board had no reason to reduce spending elsewhere in order to make up for these losses, because they were told that the financial situation of the organization was in tip-top condition," he said.

The Link could not receive the updated budget needed to point out exactly where the expenses went wrong. But a large amount of the deficit is likely to be tied to orientation expenses and an overall increase in annual expenses that wasn't accounted for, includ-

ing executive salaries. The latest accessible 2013-2014 budget update was presented at the June 11 council meeting and shows a \$41,366 surplus.

Carr says he can't comment on the deficit because he hasn't actually seen it yet, but he says some unexpected expenses might also come from fees owed to MHPM, a project management firm hired by the CSU in 2012 to advise it on creating the elusive student space.

Last year, *The Link* also reported on back taxes that added to unexpected expenses. These taxes were charged for bringing international artists to perform at orientation concerts between 2011 and 2013.

The taxes carried over to last year's executive and added up to almost \$42,000. Carr said the amount would be paid through interest collected by the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency fund.

But Wheeler says the amount given by Carr to *The Link* was off, and the taxes actually added up to a number closer to \$100,000. Also, any money pulled from the SSAELC fund needs to be justifiably linked to student space or accessibility initiatives in order to pass—students are voting on a number of questions concerning the fund in this week's referenda.

Wheeler says the finance committee was also occupied with lowering checkpoints on the amount of money that could be spent with committee approval. In other words, projects that would normally get funding through the committees designing them would have to seek

approval at a higher level (i.e. the executives).

This is something Prunty says made it nearly impossible for him to receive funding for "Green Initiative" projects, even though he was VP Sustainability, forcing him to fundraise a major part of the money needed.

The current CSU made changes to the way finances are reported by requiring committees to update their expenses at least every financial quarter along with the mid-year report they are required to submit to the financial committee.

Carr ran in the last elections on a separate team along with Maylen Cytryn and Kyle Arseneau. All three are now running for council positions in the current by-elections. The former VP Finance is running on a campaign to bring more transparency to the CSU and the financial office, and accuses executives of having "tunnel vision" in their projects.

Needless to say, some of Carr's former co-executives are not happy he is running.

"There was tension," Carr said. "There is still tension between certain members."

Both Prunty and Carr acknowledged a tension between them. The two have had arguments at meetings, which resulted in one of them leaving or swearing, or both.

"Last year, no doubt I made mistakes," Carr said. "I'm always the first one to say I made a mistake."

"We're students doing jobs that someone with much, much more experience should be doing."



by Erica Pishdadian @ericapish

A panel of students and faculty members came together at a Town Hall event to discuss austerity measures and the impact they're already having on academia on Monday night.

The panel was composed of seven student organizations and one external coalition dedicated to opposing both user fees and the privatization of public services. Many of the panelists emphasized the systematic gutting of the university's budget and the effects these cuts are having on the faculty at Concordia.

"When you start cutting budgets, the teaching budget is the big budget. That's what you spend money on here," said Robert Sonin, VP Mobilization for Teaching and Research Assistants of Concordia (TRAC). "When you cut that, what ends up happening is you have to replace outgoing, tenured professors who

are retiring with cheaper staff."

He continued by discussing the impact that austerity cuts have already had on teaching assistants, who are responsible for correcting and grading much of students' work in 200-level courses. He explained that in some classes assignments were actually being cut, because the financial changes meant that TAs did not have enough budgeted working hours to grade them.

These difficulties are not limited to teaching assistants. Michael Giesbrecht, a representative for the Students of Philosophy Association (SoPhiA), discussed similar problems in the philosophy department.

"We haven't received any full-time hires over the past four to five years, despite losing many faculty members," he said, adding that the department has been hiring part-time faculty members on limited-term bases to

fill the empty slots.

Several of the panelists also discussed the rhetoric used by the government and the media to portray austerity measures as a necessary evil.

"People look at austerity and deficits as if it's some kind of natural, organic thing that just happened," said Maria Peluso, a part-time professor in political science and the former president of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association (CUPFA). "We have a deficit because it was deliberately created. It was deliberately created because there's always been, since the beginning of time, a scarcity of resources."

Several other panelists echoed her sentiments. Joël Pedneault, a representative from the anti-privatization coalition *Non aux hausses*, summarized the general state of the budgeting process.

"What we're seeing right now across the board is spending cuts, program closures and increasing fees whenever that's possible," he said.

One of the main organizers for the event, Jonathan Summers, encouraged students to get involved in the movement. Interested parties could join Solidarity 2015, attend meetings at 5 p.m. and get involved with other groups.

"There's a number of groups on campus that look at austerity measures," he said. "They could also vote in the referendum for the CSU."

"This is a good avenue for students to come get involved and be able to speak about austerity and things that impact their life at school, and in their general lives as well."

photo Shaun Michaud

Student Congress Says Yes to Sustainability, No to Dance Majors

Second Congressional Gathering of Student Associations Sees Intense Debates

by Jonathan Cook

A motion to integrate a “sustainability component” into all 200-level courses passed during the second session of the Concordia Student Congress on Thursday.

This was one of seven motions that members of various faculty and department associations, along with the Concordia Student Union, debated, amended and voted on to demonstrate student solidarity.

Notably, a motion to allow free access to Le Gym for contemporary dance majors was not passed.

In each faculty at Concordia University, less than 10 per cent of courses implement sustainability into their curriculum, according to Michael Banks of the Engineering and Computer Science Association.

“There are very few opportunities for students to learn about sustainability,” Banks said. “[Sustainability] often also belongs to specializations, so very few students take these courses.”

For his own faculty of engineering, Banks added that 19 courses contain sustainability content while approximately 230 do not. In regards to specific faculties offering courses which incorporate themes of sustainability, he explained that other faculties should mimic fine arts, where students already incorporate energy efficiency and

resource consumption into their design projects.

“This would provide students with more knowledge to create value in a world with limited resources and declining ecosystems,” Banks said. “With 200-level classes, we hope to give students a mindset that they can hopefully carry on in their future education.”

“This motion is to tell faculty and departments that students are actually interested in learning about sustainability.”

After dissent and scrutiny of the wording of a second amendment to the original motion from a few groups, the amended motion passed with 90 per cent of those in attendance in favour—the threshold required for any motion to be passed at the Congress.

“We want Concordia graduates to be capable of building a better world,” Banks said.

A motion that garnered similar debate, yet did not pass, was one brought forward by the Dance Student Association. Maria Paula Cano, a contemporary dance major, asked for student support to allow 70 students from her program free access to Le Gym on campus. It ended with a vote of nine in favour with six against, which did not meet the 90 per cent threshold.

“We’re working academically to become critical [thinkers], but we are also training our bodies to keep up with our [demanding] classes and choreography,” Paula Cano said. “We need



to train our body more specifically, and in class, we don’t have time.”

Currently, the fee to have access to Le Gym is \$70 per semester for new Concordia students and \$65 per semester for returning ones. Paula Cano added that classes focus on “musicality and rhythm” of dances more than on strengthening specific muscles. Technically the studios located inside Le Gym belong to the program, but contemporary dance majors often share time with all gym members.

“Students in other majors are offered free access to libraries [and] student space, while the contemporary dance major [has] nothing,” Paula Cano continued. “Having free access to the gym is an injury-prevention point.”

“It’s a matter of safety for us,” she concluded.

The motion failed largely because of the accepted notion that students in most programs have to pay extra fees toward services and facili-

ties that will advance their career.

“The body is our major,” Paula Cano said in response to comments that all students have extra fees. “It’s not an extracurricular thing that we’re doing to be healthy or have fun—it’s just for performing better. We too have other fees.”

The Student Congress passed a motion allowing engineers to take minors—which they currently aren’t allowed to. Emma Saboureau, the president of the Engineering and Computer Science Association, said there is “no reason” for forbidding students in the engineering program of 120 credits to pursue a minor if they so choose.

The other motions passed by the Congress included a plan for Concordia’s new strategic direction process, increasing the term limits of student senators and formal opposition toward unpaid internships.

photo Brandon Johnston

A Night to Remember

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil Held at Norman Bethune Square

by Andy Fidel @Tournearouge

Holding candles and paper bags, men and women stood in a circle at Norman Bethune Square on Thursday at a vigil in remembrance of people who lost their lives to transphobic violence.

“Almost every transgender lives with the knowledge that ‘this could be the day that somebody decides to hurt me because of who I am,’” said Ché Baines of Queer Concordia.

Transgender Day of Remembrance strives to raise public awareness of the hate crimes committed against transgender people worldwide and to honour their memory.

The movement began after the murder of Rita Hester, an African-American transwoman, in 1998. Hester was stabbed to death in her apartment.

A web project called “Remembering Our Dead” was created to commemorate not only Rita’s death but all those who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence.

“I’m not sure if understanding is what we need,” said Ché Baines. “We need acceptance of the fact that we all exist and that every experience is valid.”

Candlelight vigils are now held internationally annually on November 20. Although certain elements may differ from country or group, the names of the victims are always recognized and read out loud.

“Trans issues are still a very serious human right issue,” said Sam Bell-Moar, communications coordinator at Queer Concordia. “Trans Day of Remembrance is to acknowledge the fact that trans people face disproportionate amounts of violence and oppression.”

According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), anti-LGBTQH murders increased from 27 in 2010 to 30 in 2011, which is an 11% increase. This is the highest number of murders recorded by the NCAVP.

“If you see a woman and she doesn’t fit your idea of what a woman should look like, why is it important that you call that out?” said Baines.

“A lot of transpeople violence comes out of just ignorance that turns ugly,” said Ché Baines.

Queer Concordia made some changes to the vigil this year to become more inclusive. People were given the chance to share their own experiences either by writing a message or a person’s name.

“I have a lot of friends who I take with me when I go to Transgender Remembrance events,” said Baines. “I’ve lost quite a few friends.”

Sam Bell-Moar announced her dedication to the memory of a transgender woman named Jennifer who was murdered in the Philippines by a U.S. Marine.

“People I know in the Philippines are outraged by this, and I think we should be as well,” said Sam Bell-Moar. “For that reason, I dedicated my candle and my vigil to her.”

There are still many stereotypes prevalent in society surrounding the transgender community, such as the assumption that all transgender people are mentally ill and therefore that being transgender in itself is a mental illness.

“Until recently, being trans was an officially diagnosed mental disorder,” said Baines.

Other stereotypes range from associating all transgender women with sex workers and transgender men with “women who internalize misogyny.”

“Trans women are just seen as men in dresses, which is not correct at all,” said Baines. “They’re women in whatever clothes they choose to wear.”

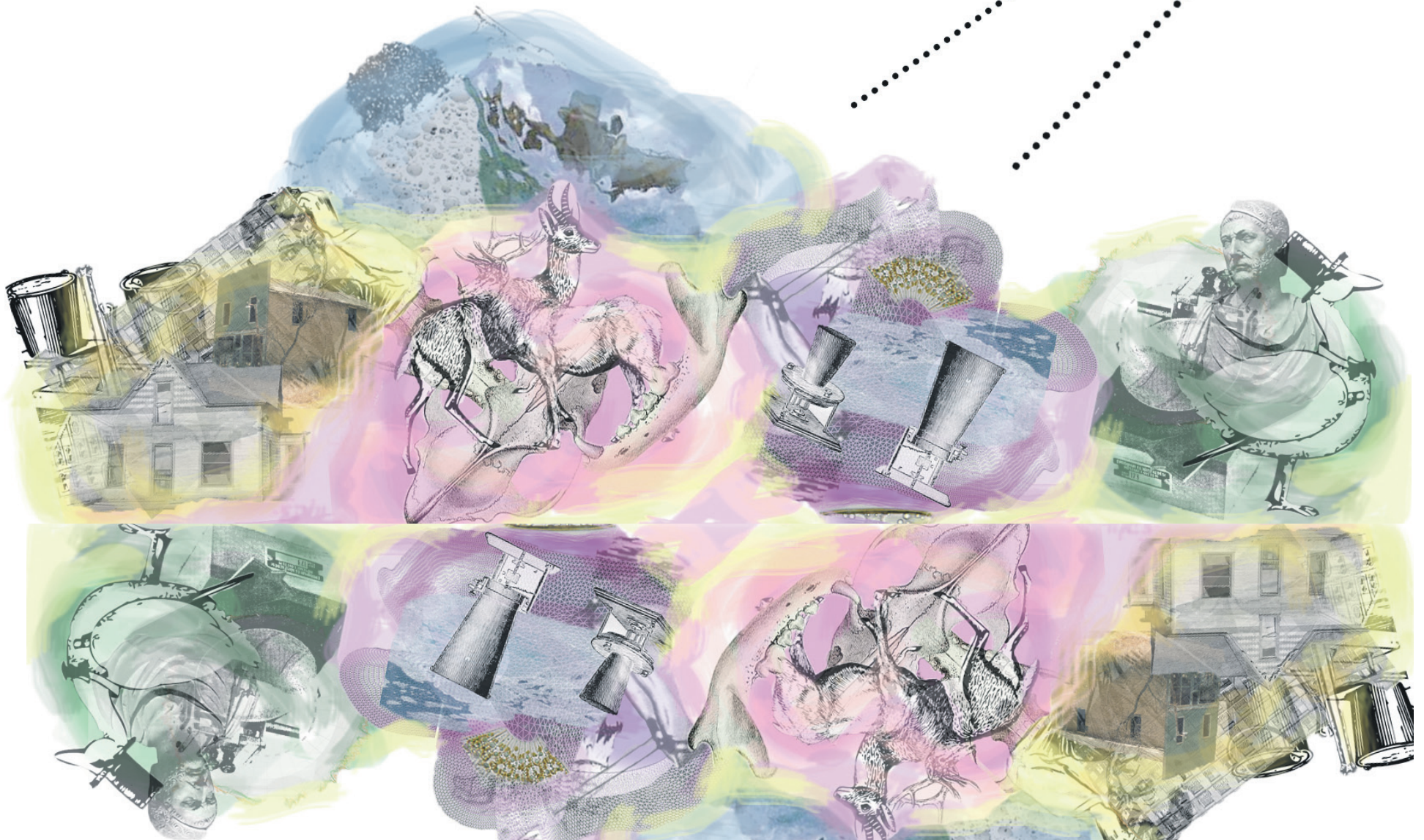
“It is not your place to speak over them, it’s your place to sit back and listen, consider what they’re saying, and listen to people when they tell you, ‘this is how you can be an ally to me,’” said Bell-Moar.

Baines is also part of Transcordia, which started last year as an offshoot of Queer Concordia in order to gain more visibility and representation. The organization will offer more meetings and events in the winter semester.

“I wanted a space that was guaranteed to be trans people-positive for trans people to talk about our experiences in a place that was only for us,” said Baines.

photos Andy Fidel





CURATING: IT AIN'T AN EASY JOB

Co-curator of BNLMTL 2014 Discusses the Trouble with Taxidermy

by Leigha Vegh

The international art world has been increasingly affected by globalization, through the saturation of mobility and communication technologies. International exhibitions play a key role for prominent, rising cities in exposing the artistic activities taking place within them.

At the *Afternoons at the Institute* lecture series held in Concordia's EV Building, Peggy Gale, an independent critic and co-curator of the BNLMTL 2014, discussed the curatorial strategies, themes and conditions used at this year's event focusing on *L'avenir* (looking forward).

Gale explained that the five main focuses of the exhibition were water, ecology, liquidity, displacement and other politics.

Taxidermy on display represented ecology, Arabic writing transformed into a collection of photographs spoke of displacement, while portraits of a young woman featured in an air traffic control tower accentuated liquidity.

Anna and the Tower is a film by Lynne Marsh featuring a young woman named Anna in a tiny airport just outside of

Berlin. Taking her inspiration from her father, who was an avid flyer, Anna became fully qualified as an air traffic controller. The caveat is that she does not often get the chance to put her skills to use.

"Anna is at her post in the dark, but basically there are no planes. The piece is about looking forward, but the future is just always over the edge," Gale explained.

Gale collaborated with other art curators for the exhibition, but found herself butting heads with Biennale co-creator Gregory Burke.

"Greg has a much more theoretical and sociological approach than I do," Gale said. "My own approach is far more intuitive. I tend not to look at the ideas behind the work, I tend to look at what it looks like or what the artist is saying in words."

Despite the difficulties faced due to the opposing viewpoints between the two curators, they found common ground on the overall selection of artworks and themes to work with.

"We didn't speak the same interpretive language, but we came down to liking the same notions," she said.

A taxidermied deer was on display behind a steel art sculpture spelling out

the word "Eternity." Next to it were three tiny beautifully coloured birds. These pieces have been tactfully positioned to symbolize the dark future of the environment based on unsustainable and destructive practices, explained Gale.

"It's not easy to put a deer out that's going to make sense to somebody, and it's not going to be tripped over by somebody else," Gale explained.

According to artist Abbas Akhavan, putting the birds on display was even trickier than the problems encountered with the deer, because of the fear that people would steal them. The challenge of both pieces was to emphasize the livelessness of the animals.

"Akhavan did not want the animals to look bright and chipper...he wanted them to look dead because he wanted to evoke how this state represented the future. The animals are disappearing," Gale said.

In sync with the message of sustainability the exhibition highlighted, the animals were obtained ethically. The deer pelt was donated after it was hunted and used for food and the birds were donated after having died of natural causes, Gale explained.

The execution of an artist's concept

doesn't always go according to plan. This is where Gale comes to the rescue, revising pieces within their limitations and guidelines.

The piece by artist Taysir Batniji was supposed to feature large-scale Arabic writing with a message in a unique type of paint, although issues were encountered.

"In Arabic [the painting was supposed to say] 'no condition is permanent.' In my mind, this was a subtitle for the entire exhibition," Gale said.

"The piece was going to be painted in a very particular type of paint that shifts depending on the light or angle you're at[...] but the paint wouldn't work," she explained.

Gale considered writing the phrase on little bars of soap that visitors could take away to emphasize the message of impermanence. Despite having a contract with a local soap factory, the order fell through.

"We ended up with a collection of photographs of borders and transitional barriers [to emphasize that] wherever you are, you are always next to something else," she said.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau



STUDENTS INVESTIGATE OUR "RIGHT TO THE CITY"

Concordia Student Exhibition Combines Theatre, Art History and Storytelling



by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

Three Concordia courses took students out of the classroom and into the community of Pointe St. Charles this semester. On Saturday, the general public will be able to view the results of their research in an exhibit that combines theatre, art history and digital storytelling.

Concordia professors Cynthia Hammond, Steven High and Edward Little received a teaching grant from the university to make their "tethered-teaching initiative" a reality.

"What we decided to do was to [...] to focus on a specific neighbourhood in Montreal that we knew to be very rich in archival history, urban history, but also living oral history and thus life stories," Hammond said.

She said the rich history of activism and community mobilization in Pointe St. Charles—a formerly working-class, now post-industrial neighbourhood currently undergoing gentrification—made it a great place to study.

"I think Montreal is not unique in the sense that there's a top-down approach to urban planning," said Hammond, adding that there's a lot of disillusionment in the city with how those in power make decisions.

"But what's amazing about Pointe St. Charles, if you look at it historically, is that so much of what is vital and important about this neighbourhood has come through citizens creating it themselves, despite enormous challenges and restrictions. I felt [...] that this would be an incredibly inspiring site for students to work on, because knowledge doesn't just come from above, it comes from below."

Each of the classes had both undergraduate and graduate students, Hammond said.

The exhibit on Saturday will begin at 1 p.m. with a guided walk through Pointe St. Charles. High, the co-director of Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, had his students work together to produce an audio-walk based on interviews with the neighbourhood's residents.

"This is original, primary research that's never been done before," Hammond said. "You walk through the Point, you look at different streets, you look at different buildings and you hear someone in your ears talking from their own lived memory about that place that you're standing in front of at that moment."

At the end of the hour-long walk, participants will head to Share the Warmth, a non-profit organization that occupies a former church at the corner of Wellington St. and Fortune St.

Little, the chair of the theatre department, has tried to give students the opportunity to create site-specific theatre performances that incorporate the stories of different neighbourhoods and their residents. Students will perform some of the pieces they created at the exhibition.

Hammond, who teaches architectural history, had her students work on hands-on projects, researching the history of the neighbourhood's built environment and then intervening in it in some way.

"Every site in the city has a spatial history, and by that I mean it has a social, cultural and political history. [...] Their [goal], as historians but also creative individuals, was to find a way to make that history visible for a present-day audience," said Hammond.

Two students in Hammond's class, Evan Stanfield and Laura O'Brien, chose

to study two empty lots in the neighbourhood—one a triangular patch of land next to the Canadian National railway at the corner of Charon St. and Knox St., the other an empty lot between housing complexes on Bourgeois St.

Through their research, they found that two McGill architecture students, Joe Carter and Pieter Sijpkes, had done an intervention project of their own on those empty lots in the 1970s. "They turned one of the sites into a community vegetable garden, and they turned the other site into a playground for children in the neighbourhood," Stanfield said.

"For our own intervention project, we wanted to try and create a link between the history of those sites and specifically the previous interventions that had happened there and the current state of disuse of those sites in contemporary Pointe St. Charles," he explained.

Stanfield and O'Brien spent time at the two lots cleaning up any garbage and talking to local residents.

The CN-owned site on Charon St. is no longer accessible to the public. It's gated and "largely abandoned," O'Brien said.

Meanwhile, the site on Bourgeois St. is slated for condo development. "We found out [from local residents] that the site is privately owned, and right now the owner is doing soil tests to find out how contaminated the soil is," Stanfield said. "Development will probably start within the next year or two."

Although these two plots can no longer be appropriated by the community as public spaces, O'Brien and Stanfield said they hope their project will inspire local residents to explore the potential of other lots.

"Hopefully, people will walk away and

realize that these sites could become more than just dumping grounds or empty plots of land," O'Brien said.

Another student in the class, Lisa Graves, researched the former Grace Church that now houses Share the Warmth. She wanted to find out what happened to the church's bell tower.

"In 1975, [the tower] was removed," Graves said. "There were bricks that were falling and it either needed to be renovated or removed, and at the time they couldn't afford to renovate."

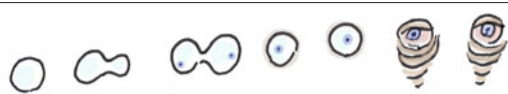
Pointe St. Charles, like other formerly working-class neighbourhoods, is experiencing gentrification, with new condo owners moving in and rising property values and rents potentially displacing the area's traditional residents.

Throughout the semester, the three professors held classes at Share the Warmth. The non-profit operates a food bank, prepares nutritious meals for students at 25 Montreal-area schools every week, and collects school supplies throughout the year to distribute to needy students every August. Volunteers and staff also run an after-school program, tutoring local youth in specific subjects, especially math.

With the teaching grant, the university rented the space from Share the Warmth, thus making a financial contribution to the organization.

"[Share the Warmth] is really a kind of social economy project rather than a philanthropy or charity project, because they're trying to get—and are succeeding in getting—the community that they're aiming to serve to also take ownership of the project," Hammond said.

photo courtesy of David Ward



weekly calendar

CURRENT

BDS Vote
Tuesday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to Nov. 27, 6 p.m.
Concordia University

Get a chance to voice your opinion and vote yes or no to the referendum question about the CSU's endorsement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel's occupation of Palestine. The BDS movement takes as a model the international boycott movement that played a key role in abolishing apartheid in South Africa during the 1970s.

Holiday Farmer's Market Sale
Wednesday, Nov. 26, 12-6 p.m.
Concordia University, H-224

For the last Concordia Farmer's Market of the season, local producers and artisans are putting together a holiday-spirit installation with local and organic gift-ready options to help you get some Christmas shopping out of the way.

ART

Hillel Divine Exhibition
Thursday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m.
Hillel de l'Université de Montréal (5325 Gatineau Ave.)

Working hand-in-hand with HEC's cultural committee, UdeM's Hillel presents its first multidisciplinary art exhibition around the broad theme of religion. On this occasion, the Hillel space in Côte-des-Neiges will be transformed into a contemporary gallery, presenting the works of artists who've reflected upon the debates and contradictions surrounding religion in a contemporary urban scene. Highly acclaimed Montreal DJ Seychelle will be taking care of the music for the evening.

Yondertone Fundraiser
Thursday, Nov. 27, 8:30 p.m.
Cabaret du Mile End (5240 Park Ave.)

The non-profit organization Yonder, devoted to helping young local filmmakers develop short films and digital artworks, presents Yondertone—a fundraiser celebrating the image in all of its forms. The evening will showcase a series of short films, photo and art exhibitions as well as live art performances honouring pictures, from painting to graphic and digital art.

David Lynch Free Screening: *Eraserhead* and *Wild at Heart*

Friday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m.
Concordia University, VA Building (1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.)

Concordia's Film Studies specialization bloggers from MontReel-X have put together an evening of film screenings devoted to director David Lynch. The two films selected for the event are *Eraserhead* (1977) and *Wild at Heart* (1990) in 35mm. Get your dose of chills to take a break from studying your final exams and enjoy some free homemade pies, doughnuts and coffee before and during intermission.

MUSIC

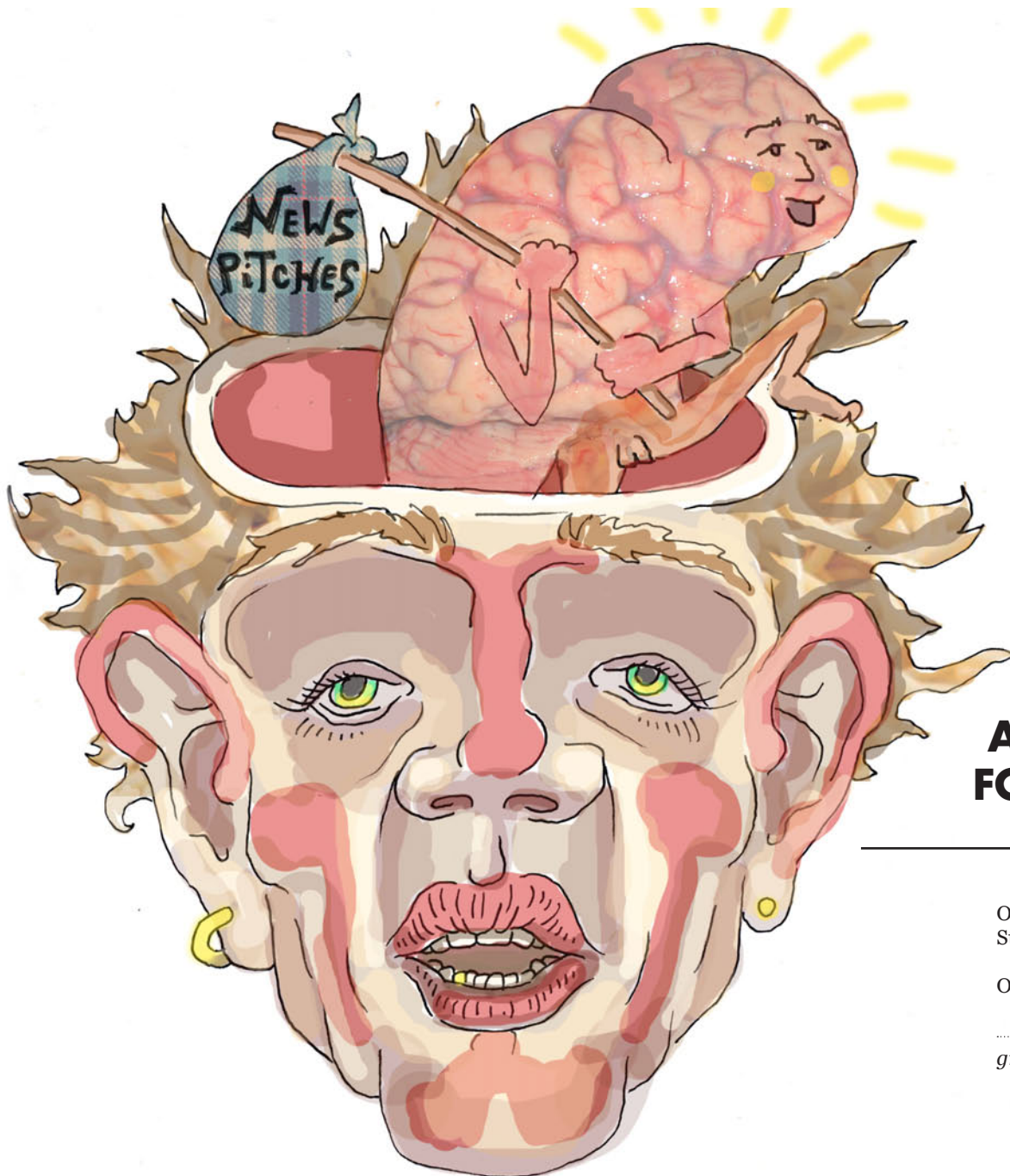
Duality w/ Orphx Live Set
Friday, Nov. 28, 10 p.m.
Espace des Arts (9 Ste. Catherine St. Est)

Music collective Human Pause proudly presents a second evening of musical endeavours, inviting the DJ Orphx to perform live. Orphx is highly respected in both techno and industrial music circles. Using modular and analog synthesizers, he combines experimental aesthetics with elements of early industrial music.

OTHER

Anti-Consumerist Talk + Action workshop
Wednesday, Nov. 26, 6 p.m.
Concordia University, Grey Nuns Building (1185 St. Mathieu St.)
\$8 general admission, \$6 students/seniors

As part of Concordia's Anti-Consumerism week, "The Share Economy: Vectors of Change for the 21st Century" workshop will consist in presentations, discussions and collective brainstorm. Led by School of Community and Public Affairs professor Jason Prince, the focus will be on creating five community projects that will be implemented in the upcoming year. Workshops are filling up fast so don't miss your chance to get involved.



AN INDEPENDENT PAPER FOR INDEPENDENT MINDS

Our paper has a history of telling the stories others won't. Stand out from the media crowd—get published at *The Link*!

Open meetings are every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in H-649.

graphic Sam Jones



Defensive back Kris Robertson is setting his sights on returning to the Canadian Football League after playing his final season as a member of the Concordia Stingers

You Must Train to Remain Insane

Stinger Defensive Back Kris Robertson Does It All as Athlete and Personal Trainer

by Vince Morello @vinnymorellz

When Kris Robertson first became a Stinger, he had one goal in mind. That goal was to become a professional football player, and he did anything and everything he could to reach it.

Robertson takes it upon himself to be in extreme shape to help him become a better and stronger player. Being named Concordia's fittest male athlete two years in a row—in 2010 and 2011—did not happen by accident.

Becoming a personal trainer seemed like an obvious choice.

"I needed something that I liked doing, that I would be able to make money [from] and support myself in the summer to pay for my training and pay for my supplements and whatnot," Robertson said. "Something where I need to have the hours that could accommodate my training schedule."

"I have my own business that allows me to make my own hours so I can work out like nine-to-five everyday."

The work Robertson has put into reaching peak fitness and becoming a dominant player in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport has paid off. The defensive back will end his university career as a two-time CIS All-Canadian and a three-time all-star in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference, his third time coming after this season where he recorded a league-high five interceptions.

Robertson will take a second crack at the Canadian Football League after being selected 11th overall during the 2013 CFL Draft by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, a high point of his young football career.

"I wanted to get drafted top 15 and it happened. The hard work paid off," he said.

However, a torn anterior cruciate ligament put his dreams on hold. Robertson was released by the Blue Bombers and forced to watch his colleagues play from the sidelines.

"It wasn't physically hard—it was more mentally," Robertson said. "Seeing people from your draft class playing and doing well and you're rehabbing. It's not the easiest thing in the world."

After battling through his injury both physically and mentally, Robertson came back to play for the Stingers in his final year of eligibility in 2014.

"[The] last resort was coming back to play again, to show CFL teams that I can in fact play again," said Robertson.

Although he has the CFL in his sights, Robertson will never forget about his time with the Maroon and Gold, particularly this past season where the Stingers won their first game since 2012 and subsequently won their first four games of the season. The Stingers finished with a 5-3 record, the team's first winning season since 2008.

"Honestly it was amazing," Robertson

Kris Robertson Factoids

3-time RSEQ All-Star & 2-time CIS All-Canadian

Drafted by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL in 2013.

Led RSEQ with 5 interceptions in 2014

said of the season. "The fact that since being here I haven't been on a Stingers team that has been .500 and to be .500, ending up with a 5-3 record, the best record of my career here—it just, it feels like there's a sense of pride to be a Stinger again."

It's a sense of pride first-year head coach and RSEQ Coach of the Year Mickey Donovan helped instill into the team.

"Honestly, it's just new life, it's a breath of fresh air," said Robertson. "It's a new regime now. That's the plan."

Although it's his final year with the Stingers as a player, fans shouldn't be shocked to hear Robertson's name called years after his football career is over. The veteran back may even follow in the footsteps of Donovan, who took up coaching after his playing days were done.

"Coaching is something that I definitely want to get into. I have already started at the youth level in high school," Robertson said. "My goal is to be back at the CFL and then when my football career is over, then I'm going to address that issue of coaching."

In the meantime, Robertson has his sights on making a living as a CFL player and he's looking to make the most of his second chance.

"I'm just going to finish school. It's my last year. [I'm going to] train really hard, hopefully I get a shot again," said Robertson.

photo Dylan Maloney



A Much-Needed Victory

Stingers Edge Guelph Gryphons With 3-2 Win

Concordia Stingers goalie Robin Billingham made 35 saves in his team's 3-2 victory over the Guelph Gryphons this past Saturday afternoon.

by Daniele Iannarone @DanIannarone

It was a must-win game for the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team. After dropping four straight games including an 8-4 loss to the Western Mustangs this past Friday, the Stingers returned to the win column by beating the Guelph Gryphons 3-2 at the Ed Meagher Arena on Saturday.

Scott Oke's goal in the third period proved to be the game winner, as goaltender Robin Billingham made several highlight reel saves, including one in the final seconds, to secure the victory for his team.

"I feel pretty good," said Oke after the game. "It's been a while since we won, so I think the boys are pretty happy about that. Robin was really good for us; he made some key saves and that's what I feel made

us stay in the game."

The Stingers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by captain Olivier Hinse and Dominic Beauchemin. But with the previous night's meltdown fresh in their minds the Stingers were quick to blow a 2-0 lead in the second period against the Gryphons and were at risk of losing yet another game, much to the displeasure of head coach Kevin Figsby.

"I went out there between the second and third period and I just asked them why they didn't follow the game plan," said Figsby. "They followed the game plan in the first period and we scored two goals. We didn't follow the game plan in the second period. We had guys doing individual shit. When you do individual shit, the team fucking takes second position. And then we went out there in the third period and played like a team, and when

we did that, we had success."

"We talked a little [in the second intermission]," added Hinse. "We knew that the second period was always a struggle for us so we tried to stay focused and just go back to our game plan, simple plays, and just skate, and that's what we did in the third."

Figsby was also quick to give praise to Billingham, who made 35 saves on the night and rebounded with a solid performance after having given up eight goals the night before.

"I'm not going to bullshit, I think [the play of our goaltender] was the major difference between last night and tonight," Figsby said. "He brought his A game tonight. I don't think he brought it last night. I thought today in the third period, he made some outstanding saves and that gave us momentum."

Despite blowing another lead, Figsby knows

that it's a learning process with this team.

"At the end of the day you take the win," Figsby said. "We're a young team, we've faced some adversity, we've had a lot of injuries this year, we've been playing with three forwards on the back end, our goaltender's been second-guessing himself quite a bit. Today the guys went out there, took a lead, then turned it into a tied game and then we went out and persevered in the third period."

The Stingers now play two more games before the Christmas break, including a big game next Thursday at McGill and a game next Sunday at Royal Military College. If Hinse gets his wish, the Stingers will win both games.

"We want to win all the games we have left before Christmas, so it's a good start," he said.

photo Daniele Iannarone

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF NOV. 18 TO NOV. 24

WEDNESDAY

19

Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, Carleton 2 (SO)

FRIDAY

21

Men's Hockey—Concordia 4, Western 8

SATURDAY

22

Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Guelph 2
Women's Basketball—Concordia 55, McGill 65
Men's Basketball—Concordia 41, McGill 64

SUNDAY

23

Men's Rugby—Concordia 28, McGill 21
Women's Hockey—Concordia 0, UdeM 3

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

THURSDAY

27

10:30 a.m. Men's Hockey at McGill Redmen (McConnell Arena)
6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins

FRIDAY

28

7:00 p.m. Women's Hockey at Ottawa Gee-Gees

SATURDAY

29

7:00 p.m. Men's Hockey at Royal Military College Paladins

SUNDAY

30

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



Fifth Time's the Charm

by Tristan D'Amours @tristandamours

The tension between Concordia and McGill fans was as thick as the fog covering Loyola Campus. Both groups were in for a treat at the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec men's rugby final, a game that will be remembered as one of the craziest finals in recent times.

After 100 minutes of some of the most intense rugby this season, Stingers captain Yannick Fortin accepted the RSEQ men's rugby champions banner, confirming a long awaited championship season for his team. The scoreline went Concordia's way with a score of 28-21.

"We were winning, then we were losing, then we tied—it was going back and forth the whole time," said fly half Joey Fulginiti. "It was an emotional rollercoaster of a game."

The Stingers were 16-9 with under four minutes to play in the second half before eight-man Philippe Bibeau-Remedi scored a late try and kick taker Joey Fulginiti kicked the two-point convert, sending the game to overtime.

Both teams found themselves tied at 21 in overtime, before a blocked McGill kick was returned all the way back to McGill's end zone by centre Graeme McClintock, giving the Stingers a 28-21 lead and ultimately, the victory.

"McGill hasn't lost a final in eight years and we finally picked it up," said flanker Lucas Hotton. "It feels great to be part of this team."

The game was so tense that it took 25 minutes for the first points of the game to be scored as the deadlock disappeared with the fog. A penalty given to Concordia gave the opportunity for Fulginiti to put the Stingers up 3-0.

Late in the first half, a mistake by the Concordia players gave the ball to the Redmen and the action concluded in a penalty awarded to McGill, which tied the score.

The Maroon and Gold didn't want to leave the pitch with a tied score. In the last seconds of the half Concordia pushed hard and were awarded

a penalty kick, which was converted by Fulginiti, giving Concordia a 6-3 lead at the half.

Concordia added to their lead early in the second half as inside center Yannick Fortin forced McGill to concede a penalty, which was once again converted by Fulginiti.

The Redmen responded right back, giving them a 10-9 lead. The Stingers seemingly began to lose both confidence and the game.

Following a penalty converted by McGill kick taker Thomas Stokes at the 16th minute of the second half, the Redmen had a four-point lead with the score being 13-9.

Mistakes caused by the Concordia players resulted in McGill being awarded yet another penalty that brought the score to 16-9, having then allowed 13 unanswered points.

The Redmen supporters were ecstatic, many of them chanting, "Let's go Redmen!" and nagging opposing players on the field.

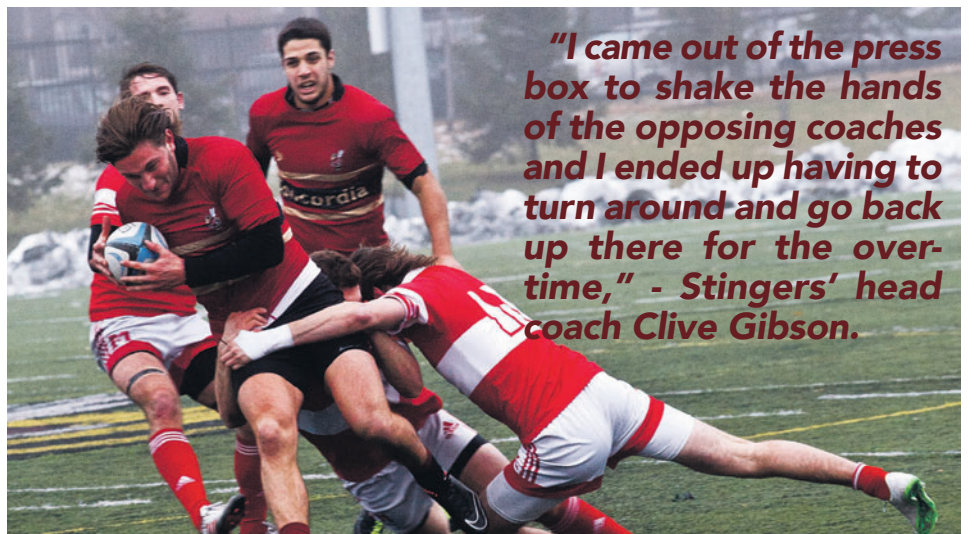
Late in the game, the sense of urgency surrounding the Stingers was palpable. The game was now down to additional time and the Maroon and Gold was pushing harder to get the equalizing try.

"We were taking a lot of penalties late in the second half," said Fulginiti. "We were able to build phase after phase and stuck to our game plan and it worked."

The Stingers were very deep in McGill's end and a final second push by eight-man Philippe Bibeau-Remedi ended in the try zone. All that was needed to send the game to overtime was a conversion by Fulginiti.

The crowd erupted when the ball crossed the uprights. The Stingers were still in the game and there would be 20 minutes of rugby left to decide a champion.

"I came out of the press box to shake the hands of the opposing coaches and I ended up having to turn around and go back up there for the overtime," confessed head coach Clive Gibson.



"I came out of the press box to shake the hands of the opposing coaches and I ended up having to turn around and go back up there for the overtime," - Stingers' head coach Clive Gibson.

After a tight few minutes, the first half of overtime went Concordia's way. A low kick by fly half Joey Fulginiti was picked up by winger Caleb Jordan for the try, but the try was not converted as Fulginiti missed his kick.

The Redmen weren't backing down, however.

In the first seconds of the second half, the Redmen already found the way to score. However, their conversion was missed as well, tying the game at 21 points apiece.

In the third minute of the second half of overtime, a McGill kick was blocked by inside centre Graeme McClintock and was returned all the way for a try. Alongside a successful conversion, the Stingers were up 28-21 and were seven minutes away from the title.

Hard fought battles in rucks and scrums for the remaining minutes of overtime gave Concordia their first championship in five straight final appearances.

"It was never-ending," said Gibson about the game. "We stuck to the game plan for the most part and were rewarded with the gold medal in the end. I'm enormously proud of them."

Concordia can say that the fifth time is the charm, as it took five tries to finally beat McGill in the RSEQ men's rugby finals.

"Fifth time's the charm, definitely," agreed Hotton. "But hopefully it won't take five times to beat them next time."

photos Shaun Michaud



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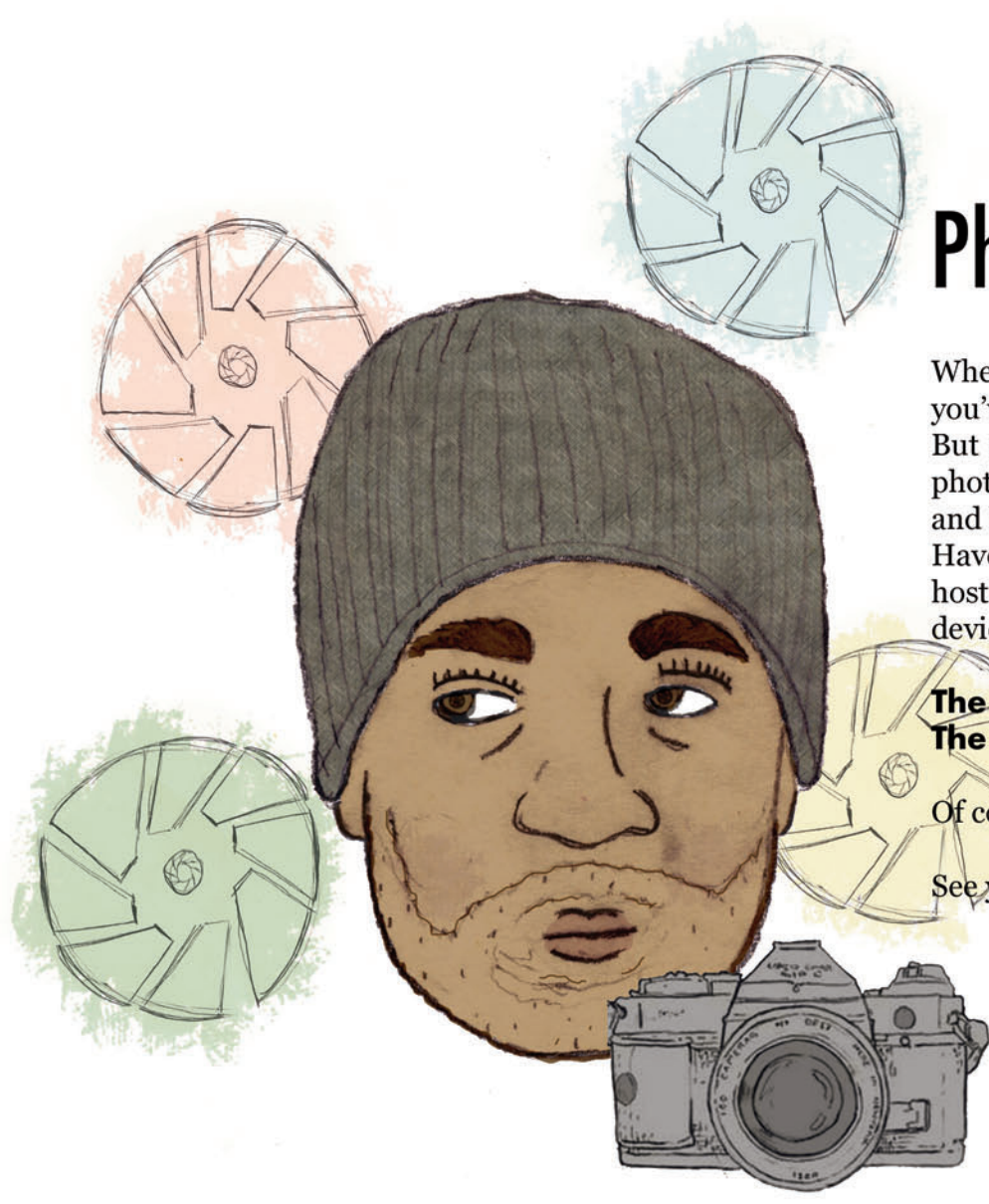


Photo & Video Workshop

Whether you have an iPhone or a Canon MK III, chances are you've taken a few photos or videos throughout your life. But are you getting the most out of your equipment? Are your photos grainy and poorly composed? Do your videos look shaky and badly lit? Have no fear! Our photo and video editor Shaun Michaud is hosting a workshop on how to get the most out of your pictorial devices.

The workshop starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 28 in The Link's main office (H-649).

Of course, it's free and heck, there will even be coffee!

See you there!

graphic Brandon Johnston

BDS Quebec endorses "Yes to BDS" campaign at Concordia University

This summer, the world witnessed yet another massacre of Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Those massacred were men, women and children who are occupied, besieged and, since 2007, subject to a total blockade by the armed forces of Israel, the occupying power. This blockade is illegal, immoral and inhuman.

But the immorality of the collective punishment Israel is inflicting on the Palestinian people goes well beyond the borders of Gaza. Israel is an apartheid state, as defined by the UN Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of the Crime of Apartheid. Israeli apartheid is based on the same three pillars as South African apartheid: different rights for different groups; discriminatory access to land and population separation in different geographical zones; and total control of the population and military repression.

Palestinian citizens of Israel suffer legalized and institutionalized discrimination at the hands of the Israeli state, simply because they are Palestinian. Like South Africa before 1994, Israel is a "democratic" State for its Jewish population—though certain categories of this population face

injustice—but a profoundly anti-democratic one for Palestinians.

Israel is the only state in the world that benefits from total impunity before the international community. The states of this community have woefully failed in their duty to hold Israel responsible for the constant violations of rights of the Palestinian people, leaving Israel free to continue its occupation, its colonization and its dispossession with total impunity.

Where the international community has failed to hold Israel to account, it is up to civil society to lay the grounds for change by supporting and engaging in the worldwide campaign to Boycott, Divest and Sanction the State of Israel.

In the coming days, Concordia students will be asked to join this mass international movement in favour of human rights, justice and equality for all. On behalf of the Québec BDS Coalition, we want to praise Concordia students for once again standing on the right side of history. Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israeli Apartheid!

—Rushdia Mehreen

Steering Committee of the Québec BDS Coalition



YES TO BDS, NO TO INJUSTICE

I would like to express how impressed I am by the democratic atmosphere at Concordia University, which continues to be fostered by the CSU team. This invaluable trait seems to be a natural outcome of the Quebec student movement, which taught students how important their role is in shaping history. In this spirit, I would like to urge the undergraduate students at Concordia University to vote YES to the BDS referendum question from Nov. 25 to 27, due to the following reasons:

1) First and foremost, one of the most important objectives of education is to promote human respect and dignity, which can happen only when we stop wars and promote peace. BDS aims to stop Concordia's relationship with Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and all other institutions that directly support the Israeli war machine against civilian Palestinians as a way to achieve peace. Peace will only be possible once equality is achieved in that region and the current Israeli state policies, which systematically discriminate against citizens and non-citizens based on their religion, are at odds with this goal.

2) Adopting BDS on campus will send a strong message to Stephen Harper to dissuade him from his

continuous and unconditional support of Israeli apartheid. Canada should have a political position promoting peace, not a biased position that favours one side over another.

3) As Concordia students we are fortunate to have access to education, but many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have lost that right. This is due to oppressive Israeli measures such as arbitrary attacks on Palestinian university campuses, arrests of Palestinian students at checkpoints and the bombardment of Palestinian schools (most notably the Israeli shelling of the al-Fakhura school in Gaza). As students, we have the moral obligation to support other students' access to education globally.

4) By saying yes to BDS, we are helping to end systematic apartheid policies that create injustice for Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle East. BDS is not about religion, ethnicity, colour or gender; it is about creating equality for everyone.

Therefore, as critically minded students and good citizens, I urge Concordia undergraduates to vote with their conscience: YES for BDS. Let's stop our complicity with injustice!

—Christale Terris

Letters

graphics Brandon Johnston

NO BDS, NO CAMPUS ANIMOSITY

There are numerous reasons I will be voting "no" in the upcoming election regarding whether the CSU should boycott Israel.

First, if students vote to support the boycott, the CSU would have the right to forbid Israeli speakers from coming to Concordia, to withhold funds from Israeli clubs on campus and to discontinue the exchange program that Concordia has with an Israeli university.

More importantly, should the BDS movement be approved, many students will feel threatened and unwelcome on campus.

Universities should be places where students feel a sense of community and connectedness to their school.

However, because the issues surrounding the BDS movement are controversial and may cause conflict among students, allowing the CSU to support the BDS movement detracts from Concordia's sense of connectedness and unity. Universities are not the place where the BDS movement should be discussed. Students should express their support for or against the BDS movement through appropriate means, by writing to their elected representatives, through demonstrations, etc.

Just to prove how divisive this issue is, I recently lost a Muslim friend of mine after she found out I was not supporting the BDS movement. There is a time and place for

everything. This is neither the time nor the place.

The BDS movement is one-sided because it ignores the crimes that Hamas—the internationally-recognized terrorist group—has committed against Israel in violation of international law.

Hamas's crimes against Israel include attacking civilians by shooting rockets at populated areas (like schools and hospitals), using human shields, disguising combatants as civilians and shooting missiles from within populated areas (such as mosques and schools).

Finally the BDS movement is immoral because it focuses disproportionately on Israel while ignoring countries that are guilty of far greater injustices, such as North Korea, Syria, China and Saudi Arabia.

In addition, by focusing solely on Israel, attention is turned away from human rights abuses that are far greater than what Israel is alleged to have committed.

Indeed, ISIS has killed, raped, and injured tens of thousands of people, and President Assad of Syria has killed approximately 200,000 of his own people.

Although no country is perfect, by focusing solely on Israel, we are committing a disservice to what the concept of human rights stands for.

—Michael Zajdel



No to BDS, Yes to Peacemaking Actions

I spent two years in Israel, living as part of the Christian Israeli minority. I've met pragmatic Israelis and Palestinians in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ramallah who care more about austerity and the rising cost of life than politics.

Israelis and Palestinians deserve the same right to live in dignity. I understand the motivations of some BDS supporters who seek justice and a viable state for Palestinians.

So why vote No? Because BDS is designed to serve the interests of political groups who rejected peace. Moderate Palestinian leaders such as Mahmoud Abbas or ex-prime minister Salam Fayyad have condemned BDS, which not only misleads the public, but also the time and money of their own volunteers and donors.

Let me expose a few points in order to clarify my own.

1) University is the place for a civilized debate. No sensationalist movement that pretends to hold "the truth about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" can be taken seriously. BDS statements are often presented with partial information. Let's not surrender to this attempt to export the Middle East conflict and impose a group's opinion on the whole campus, which already has a prejudicial effect on another group of students.

2) The referendum question is

ambiguous. What does "Israel's occupation of Palestine" mean? 1967 borders? Pre-1948? Omar Barghouti, a key figure in the BDS movement, is known for his refusal to recognize Israel. How credible is a campaign that does not respect international law?

3) BDS is an academic and cultural boycott of Israel. Israeli professors and artists are among the most critical of the Israeli government and the best defenders of Palestinian's rights. Excluding them from the dialogue makes no sense.

4) BDS dehumanizes the conflict, alienates Israeli society and ignores complex facts. It increases prejudice and encourages left and right extremists in Israel to "community downturn." The risk of a third intifada, with terrible consequences, is real.

A NO to BDS is a YES to diversity and inclusion not only for both Palestinians and Israelis, but also for all those on our campus with Middle Eastern origins and interests. We can learn from each other. I call upon anyone who shares the values of acceptance, dialogue and understanding to join me in order to create this unique association. No one will be excluded. I commit myself to creating that association in the coming year.

—Ariel Teboul

It's Time for Alan Shepard and the Rest of Concordia to Stand Up

At their general assembly on November 18, GEOGRADS, the graduate student association for the department of Geography, Planning and Environment, unanimously passed a motion denouncing the austerity agenda of Premier Philippe Couillard.

Standing united as an association, we firmly believe in a more just and equitable society and strongly disagree with the austerity-driven politics and policies of the Liberal Party of Quebec.

These policies, which were solely devised to—in the words of the *Montreal Gazette* and the previous Liberal government—“re-engineer” Quebec society, are disproportionately targeted at the middle and working class, with legislation aimed squarely at public service workers, labour unions, university students and education funding, healthcare services and universal daycare.

We believe this society is worth defending. In this hour of crisis, we need leaders from across Quebec to stand up against the politics of privatization.

While neoliberal fiscal policies have been implemented by political regimes around the world since the early 1970s, their origins, within the context of Canada, trace back to the federal governments of Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, and provincially in Ontario under Mike Harris in the 1990s.

Put into practice, this agenda leads to the privatization of social services and provides tax breaks to corporate entities rather than providing for society at large.

In selling austerity to the public, these policies have been framed as kindling “entrepreneurship” within the province.

This positive image is merely political cover for reorganizing society away from focusing on the welfare of the people to the welfare of corporate power.

In other words, what's happening in Quebec today is an agenda to create a corporate welfare state. Building a society on such a premise is the road to a dystopian serfdom.

GEOGRADS therefore officially calls on those in positions of power, particularly Alan Shepard, the president and vice-chancellor of Concordia University, to unite with the growing number of student associations, staff and faculty in denouncing the now \$17.2 million in budget cuts the Liberals have proposed for this university alone.

In uniting at Concordia, we firmly believe other universities in Montreal and Quebec, who face similar budgetary measures, will join us in saying “NO” to the politics of austerity.

—Pierce Nettling, GEOGRADS President

Vote Yes to the CSU Housing Referendum Question

When I first came to Concordia in 2010, I found what I thought to be a reasonably priced and comfortable one-bedroom apartment near the downtown campus. Concordia residences didn't appeal to me and as a new international student I did not know a single person I could room with.

Soon problems began to occur. Windows didn't open, the shower never really stopped running and in the winter my upstairs neighbour's pipes burst and flooded my bathroom.

Using any electrical appliance meant all of the lights would flicker and dim and the oven was twice as old as I. When I signed the lease my landlord asked me for three months of rent up front, even going as far to write a clause saying that I agreed to the deposit.

I hated my first apartment in Montreal; it was a rushed decision based on having a week in February to find a place to live for July and having no information on what my rights were. I chalked it up as a one-off bit of bad luck—that I was played by the slick promises of an unsavory landlord.

Many years and apartments later I work for the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank and found my experience to be more of the norm. Every day I see the consequences of

the city's inadequate housing in peoples' lives.

I say people, not students, because attending Concordia is just one aspect of the life of each person who comes into our office. We are students, but also parents, workers, caregivers and friends. Inadequate housing affects each of these identities that encompass our whole being.

After a long day of working, studying, giving care and raising families each Concordia student should be able to go to a safe, healthy and affordable home.

As it stands now this issue is hardly on the radar.

There is no reason that we must settle for inadequate and crowded housing. We can use our identities as students as a point of reference to build the world we want to live in now.

We do not need to wait. Voting yes on the CSU referendum question to support student-housing initiatives will be the first step to making a tangible difference in the life of our community.

Kyle McLoughlin is the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Assistant. These opinions do not reflect any stance taken by HoJo as an organization.



CSU to Mandate a Referendum On Affordable Student Housing

Have you ever lived in an apartment that was decidedly less than ideal, or dealt with an absentee landlord? Ever stopped to ask yourself why you're paying so much rent for services you were promised and yet aren't receiving? I have.

Having access to quality, affordable housing is something that can make or break your student experience. More than that, it's a social justice issue!

While Montreal has always enjoyed relatively cheap rent (compared to other big cities), the cost of living has been rapidly increasing while solid, unproblematic living situations seem to be becoming increasingly rare.

Most of us have dealt with bad landlords, broken appliances, poorly-heated apartments, pest problems—the list goes on. Research shows that students are among the most vulnerable residents and occupy some of the worst apartments in Montreal.

Dealing with apartment drama in a Montreal winter while you're bogged down with homework and trying to finish your degree is a special kind of hell.

That's why voting in support of the CSU's initiatives to address student housing conditions and support cooperative housing is a revolutionary act that will shape the future of student life in the city.

The CSU is currently engaged in conversations with UTILE, (Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant) about developing awesome student spaces. As students, we have the opportunity and responsibility to be a part of that process.

Currently university residences in Montreal can only house five-per cent of students. UTILE's survey of students housing expenses indicates that the median rent paid by students from outside Quebec living in the city is \$605 per

room with services, while the equivalent for students from the province is \$495.

Collectively, we can work to keep rent prices affordable and develop solid living situations for ourselves and for others around us.

The referendum question is this: “Do you as a member of the Concordia Student Union approve the continued prioritization of efforts being made to address student housing conditions and actively support student cooperative housing as a student space initiative?”

Home is a sacred space. Having access to good, affordable housing is something that affects us on an individual level, but it also contributes to structural and societal change that affect everybody. I encourage all of you to vote yes!

—Michaela Holt



You've Said a Mouthful

by Melissa Fuller @mel_full

What is the most sensitive, polite way to convince a woman that (mutual) fellatio is a really great thing? She just seems dead against it but I know it would give our sex life together another sort of dimension...
—Mouthing Off

From what I understand, you would like to engage in mutual oral sex* with your partner but she doesn't want to. There isn't really a sensitive or polite way to convince someone to do something they don't want to do.

Why would you even want to convince her to do something she's not into? That's rule #1 of what not to do with a sexual partner.

Consent does not involve wearing a partner down until they finally say yes to doing something you want. Consent must be freely given; it should be enthusiastic, not reluctant.

However, I'll give you the benefit of the doubt and assume that you are just trying to figure out what to do because you and your partner have different sexual interests.

A good approach would be to talk

together about your sexual interests in general, with each of you sharing what they are, why you want these things and which things are off the table.

As with all couples, your sexual interests will likely form a Venn diagram of sorts. You each have your circles of interests and then you overlap in some areas.

You shouldn't be aiming to bring your partner into your circle but rather aiming to discover and focus on the areas where you overlap while mutually respecting the parts that don't.

In starting a conversation about this, let her go first and listen to what she tells you, evaluating what things you're into and what things you aren't.

If it's uncomfortable or difficult for either of you to do this on the spot there's a great online tool to facilitate this called Mojo Upgrade (mojoupgrade.com).

It allows each person to respond privately to multiple choice questions about their desires with "no", "if my partner is interested", "we already do this", or "yes!!"

Upon completion, it only shares where your

interests overlap without revealing points you might be embarrassed about if either of you isn't interested.

If something that matters to you doesn't come up when you have this conversation, like oral sex, you can start a conversation specifically about that.

In this case it seems like you already have at some point. You can try asking her if she'd like to share what about it doesn't interest her and if there's a reason so you can better understand it from her perspective.

Don't do this to try to find out how to convince her, but rather to better understand her. Then when it's your turn you can express why you do want to do it and what you feel it would add to your sex life together.

Remember that this isn't about either of you defending your reasons or choices, or using them as a tool to convince.

Also talking about the things you already do together and enjoy can help make these conversations easier and more fun since it gives you each opportunities to compliment each other and say positive things about your current sex life.

Once you've heard each other out you can determine where you both stand. If she still doesn't want to do it, then I strongly suggest you let it go.

In the end, even if you think it would be great, it probably won't be for her if she doesn't want to do it and she may feel just as strongly against it as you do in favour of it.

It's also okay to have some incompatible sexual interests in a relationship. What's important, however, is for each partner to feel heard on how they feel about the differences and not pressured to do anything they're uncomfortable with.

***Just to clarify some terms: fellatio refers to oral sex on a penis and cunilingus refers to oral sex on a vagina. We can also just say oral sex to apply to any mouth to genital action!**

For more check out sex-pancakes.com and like "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook. Quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SexEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!



A Tripper's Guide to the Galaxy

Seven Principles to Optimize your Psychedelic Expeditions

by Gonzo Nieto @gonzebo gonzonieto.ca

Set your intention

Before taking a psychedelic, you should take the time to reflect on your intention for doing so. If you're dipping your toes for the first time, your intention might be as simple as curiosity or exploration. If it's not your first rodeo, you might have more specific intentions, such as working through a personal issue or exploring your creative abilities through music, art, or poetry. In life it's often the case that we don't get what we don't ask for. Harnessing your mind's power by setting your intention will help you derive some benefit from the experience.

Shed your expectations

The range of possible experiences on a psychedelic are enormous; each trip is different from the last. Bringing expectations into the experience, even something as general as wanting a really positive trip, can leave you disappointed and prevent you from focusing elsewhere. Especially if you've been reading

trip reports or have past experiences that you still feel attached to, you'd do well to acknowledge any expectations you have and then release them. This is a little harder than it sounds—sometimes you'll go into an experience thinking you have no expectations and come out of it realizing you totally did. It's a learning curve. If you find yourself unable to shake an expectation, consider holding off tripping until another time.

Select an optimal setting

You'll want to trip somewhere that is comfortable and private, where unexpected situations and interactions are kept to a minimum. If you live in the city, this will likely be your apartment or that of a friend. Psychedelic experiences in a natural, outdoor setting can be pretty profound, but it's hard to find a suitable place in the city that doesn't simultaneously put you at risk of running into people that won't be sensitive to your state of mind and might influence your experience for the worst. Also, tidy up and clean the setting before tripping! A cluttered environment is a cluttered mind.

Pick your dose and stick to it

The last thing you should be doing is trying to decide whether or not take more drugs while already on drugs. Only bad decisions can come of this. Pick how much you are going to take and have that experience. If this is your first time with a substance, you're better off starting with a lower dose to get a feel for it; you can work your way up in the future once you're more comfortable.

Look within, don't distract yourself

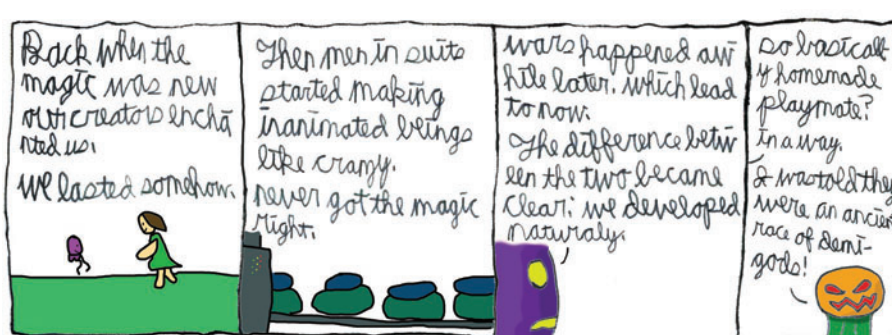
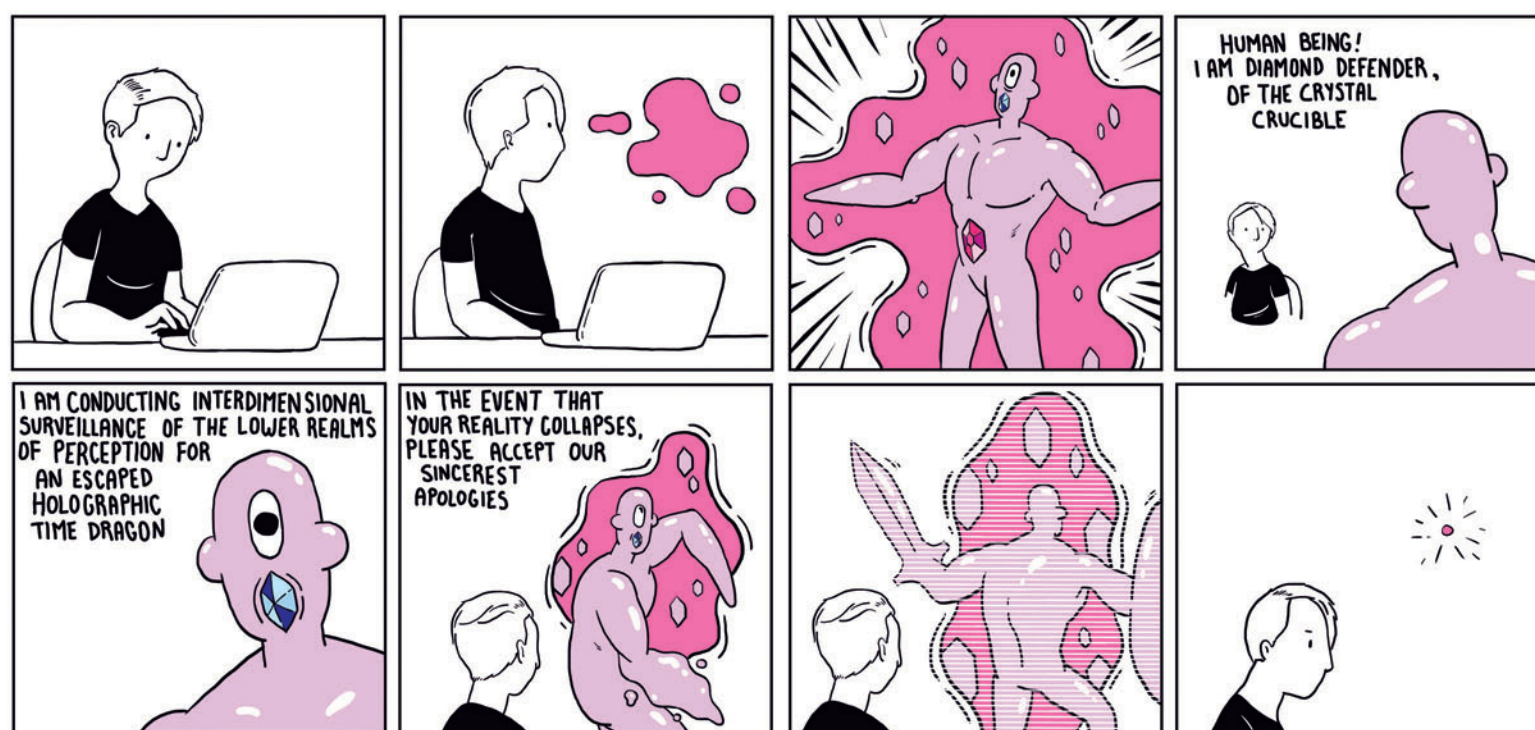
For the most part, this is an inner experience. Moving around a lot or being in a place where there's a lot going on around you can be distracting. Instead, try things like meditating or lying down and closing your eyes; you'll be surprised what you can see when your eyes are closed. I'm not saying to not talk with the people you're with, but definitely don't distract yourself with things like video games or movies.

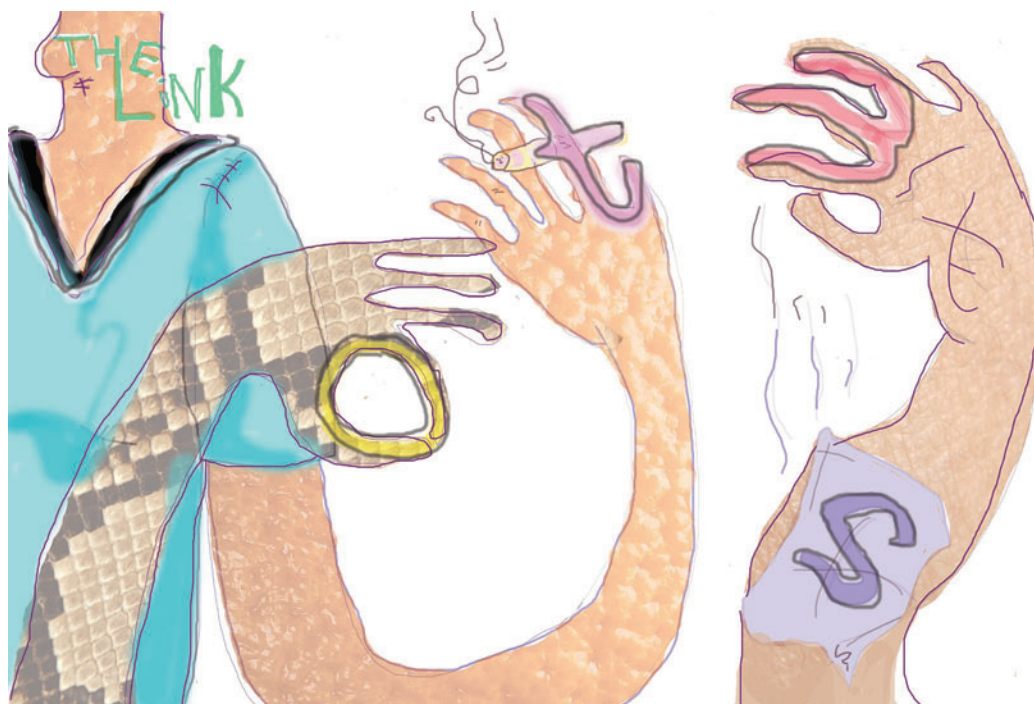
Relinquish control

There might appear to be a sort of paradox in setting your intention while simultaneously not having expectations about the experience. The key here is the recognition that the lessons we need often come to us in unexpected ways. It's a little like taking a rollercoaster in the dark. You can't see where it'll take you, but once you're strapped in, you need to give up the need to control the experience and let it take you where it will. Find comfort in knowing that psychedelics often give you the trip you need, not the one you want.

Give yourself time for integration

Ideally, the day following a trip should be free from responsibilities and commitments. Use that time to reflect on your experience, and to write about it or talk about it with someone. The psychedelic experience is very rich in content and you could forget significant components of it if you don't give yourself time for reflection.

BOOP by Caity Hall**Filbert** by L.A. Bonte**Balloon Ventures** by Mengekko Jones**False Knees** by Joshua Barkman**Power Theatre** by Alex Callard



The Link's Endorsements for the Fall 2014 By-Elections

Daycare Centre — YES

Currently, there are few daycare spaces available at Concordia. A research report produced four years ago was not acted upon by the university or the student union until now, despite the fact that the demands on student parents' time is a major barrier to their academic success.

In September, the CSU council approved funding for a feasibility study looking into the possibility of opening a CSU-run daycare centre. The student union is now asking the student body to give it a mandate to start negotiations for a physical space with the university.

Concordia has a large portion of so-called "non-traditional" students, which include student parents, compared to other Quebec universities. We feel it's important for Concordia to be accessible to all students and support the CSU's prioritization of the childcare project.

Student Housing — YES

Given the high costs students currently face in regards to housing options in Montreal, we support the referendum question and encourage the CSU to continue looking into the possibility of getting involved in a co-op student housing initiative.

Hive Café Loan — NO

In late July, the CSU's request for additional funding for the Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative, namely for expenses listed under "operational costs," was not approved by the Fund Committee.

The CSU had requested that the additional

funding come from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund. When the CSU failed to get approval for the proposed expenses, a report by CSU President Ben Prunty outlined several possible courses of action.

Among the possibilities were "borrowing the money with a repayment plan," which was "partially recommended" by the executive and "borrowing the money today and asking students for permission to use the funds tomorrow" in a referendum question, which was "recommended."

However, in recommending the latter proposal, Prunty acknowledged that the CSU could ensure that if students didn't approve the referendum question, "the loan would be repaid within a timeframe that will not hinder the operations of the union."

Basically, the CSU would be unhurt by repaying the loan from their own operating fund.

The Link's editorial team believes that making financial decisions and only consulting the student body in hindsight is highly irresponsible. Speeding up the opening of the downtown café isn't reason enough to retroactively ask for student approval for a loan that isn't a financial necessity.

Budget Cuts — YES

Given the extent of the budget cuts implemented across Quebec's public sector and their detrimental effect on our university's ability to function to its full potential, we will be voting "yes" to this question, giving the CSU a mandate to officially oppose austerity measures.

In October, we urged Concordia president Alan Shepard to take a stance on austerity, but we have yet to see this happen in any substantial way.

We feel strongly that austerity is not the answer to our poorly-functioning economy and would like the CSU to reflect that position officially and publicly.

IEAC Separation — YES

The International and Ethnic Associations Council (IEAC) represents some of Concordia's many multicultural organizations. Currently, there are at least sixteen additional student groups that could fall under IEAC's umbrella if it were able to expand its capabilities.

Our editorial staff recognizes how autonomy for the IEAC could help it better support and assist cultural groups with their operations and programming. As such, we support their bid for separation from the CSU.

IEAC Fee Levy Increase — NO

Despite our support for IEAC's bid for separation, we do not support its request for an increase in its fee levy. IEAC's proposed increase from six cents per credit to 12 cents per credit isn't warranted.

A representative of IEAC told us their reasoning for the increase was that they anticipate more groups joining their organization if they break away from the CSU. However, they were unable to provide an estimate of how many more groups would become affiliated with the IEAC and their reasoning was largely hypothetical.

The lack of a tangible plan demonstrates that there is not a genuine need for this additional money.

Model UN Fee Levy — YES

The Concordia Model United Nations Education and Leadership Centre are seeking your approval for a seven-cent-per-credit fee levy. It's currently registered as a CSU club, which means its budget is limited. Additional funding would allow CONMUN to develop its leadership program, bring more speakers to the university and make participating in Model UN competitions more accessible.

CONMUN says it will be transparent about how it uses student funds, pledging to use 10 per cent of its budget to hire external auditors to review its finances, which shall be disclosed periodically.

We support this motion and hope that it will provide CONMUN a greater chance to compete with other Model UN teams at home and abroad.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions — DIVIDED

The Link's editorial staff is divided on this question.

Regardless of the outcome in this week's vote, we're encouraged by the fact that Concordia students were able to discuss such a topic while maintaining a climate of civility and mutual respect.

We would also like to stress that criticizing Israel's domestic and foreign policy does not in and of itself constitute anti-Semitism.

We encourage Concordia undergrads to inform themselves about the BDS campaign by reading opposing views on the movement before casting their ballots.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau

THE LINK³⁵

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I wish you all the best on your upcoming exams
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