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## current affairs

## casting out

Fly Fishing in the Lachine Rapids  
Helps Veterans Tackle Mental Illness

by Samuel Rancourt

Benoit Sorel throws his gear into an old army duffle bag, gets on his bike and hits the Lachine Canal's waterfront bike trail. He surveys Montreal as he outfits himself with waders and water-repellent clothing. He can see flashes of perch below the water awaiting his drifting line. With one motion after the other, Sorel loses himself in the act of fly fishing.

The soothing effect of the water, interrupted only by the adrenaline rush of a hook and the ensuing battle, is one of the things he enjoys most. He was introduced to the recreational activity last July at the Royal Montreal Regiment and at the Lachine Rapids program for Canadian soldiers who have experienced war.

Sorel and two other war veterans have benefited from the fly fishing expertise of Montreal Hemingway Outdoor Life shop owner Anthony Colucci. During a two-day period, Sorel was taught the basics of the sport, in which an artificial fly is used to catch fish. He was trained to swing the lines and master the timing of the fly line arc.

"Fishermen tend to be very open to freely share their knowledge and their methods," says Colucci. "As a fisherman myself, I am willing to share my art."

Colucci showed Sorel and his colleagues how easy it is to learn fly fishing, regardless of injury or handicap. To prove it, he covered his eyes and spun in circles. He asked the veterans, who were about 50 metres away from him, to reproduce the sound of the trout. Despite being completely blind and disoriented, he located his target and expertly

placed the fly line next to the participants' feet. He showed that fly fishing is accessible to everyone, even the blind.

Colucci created his prototype program for the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces. The project's purpose is to provide an opportunity for soldiers, like Sorel, to find an enjoyable and liberating hobby. The Montreal fisherman was spurred to action in 2014 when he heard that three Canadian soldiers had committed suicide. He was moved by the personal anguish these people had gone through.

"They gave so much service to the country," Colucci said. "It's important to help our Canadian veterans who are depressed, still facing a lot of personal challenges [and] even contemplating suicide."

The federal government has announced it will provide \$200 million over six years to address mental health issues among members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The latest statistics from the National Defence department reveal that the CAF have lost more personnel to suicide than were killed in combat in Afghanistan. It shows 160 personnel members have committed suicide between 2004 and March 31, 2014, compared to the 138 soldiers killed in combat between 2002 and 2014, when Canada's mission in Afghanistan formally ended.

"You don't just get up and go to war," says Sorel. "You get all the training and the final test to do your job. When you hear that first snap, that first bullet going near your ear, you realize that this is not training anymore." The former master corporal was deployed by the Canadian Forces to Afghanistan twice; once

in 2004 and once in 2006, joining a deployment of over 40,000 other soldiers. On the field, he witnessed tragedy and was awoken to the brutal reality of war.

"We lost six soldiers with only one bomb. These deaths brought me an emotional pain that I did not know how to deal with," he said.

Those who do make it home and return to civilian life risk developing psychological issues from the fighting.

The 2013 Canadian Forces Mental Health Survey found that symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder were reported by 5.3 per cent of full-time regular force members. 4.7 per cent of the reported symptoms were associated with generalized anxiety disorder and 3.4 per cent were associated with panic disorder.

Sorel's return home was infused with the issues of the new freedom faced by people coming back from war.

"You get used to always being on your guard when you are on the field," he said. "Your heart just goes and beats up so fast. When you get back to Canada, your body does not have that constant adrenaline anymore."

His post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, which manifested two months before the end of his tour in Kandahar, increased once he was back at home. He denied his mental illness to prevent disturbing his wife and children. Even if he felt stuck with a constant sense of danger and painful memories, no action was taken. In order to move on, Sorel finally decided to face his memories and emotions by getting medical guidance.

American author and Ernest Hemingway's grandson John Patrick Hemingway, who is in charge of Hemingway Outdoor Life's public relations, says that the dilemmas of many veterans like Sorel can be found in his grandfather's short story *Big Two-Hearted River*. The story follows Nick Adams, who has returned from war, on a fishing trip in northern Michigan, where he realizes that his life will never be innocent and carefree.

During World War I, Ernest Hemingway was wounded by Austrian mortar fire while running a mobile canteen. "As I mentioned to the veterans during the fly fishing activity, fly fishing helped my grandfather to move on," Hemingway said. "It healed his soul just like it did for Nick Adams."

"In fly fishing, participants don't need the psychiatrist, nor the psychologist. They are just out there living in the present surrounded by this tremendous natural beauty while taking care of themselves."

John Patrick Hemingway uses the idiom "Physician, heal thyself" to demonstrate that veterans with mental illness can do an activity such as fly fishing without the help of a doctor. "Once Anthony [Colucci] taught them the basics, the soldiers can fly fish alone," Hemingway said.

In addition to the support from his family and his therapist, Sorel uses fly fishing to concentrate on the joys of nature—not on occupational problems. The sport itself requires him to focus completely on the fish, the water, the presentation and the natural surroundings. All this helps him to put his days in Afghanistan where they should be—in the past.

"Nature seems to have a very calming and beneficial effect upon the human spirit," Colucci said. The shop owner believes fly fishing is a great way to deal with some of the insecurity and inner conflicts created by traumatic experiences. He adds that it shelters the individuals from the troubles and worries they've been through.

"Fly fishing is one of the ways where one can relax, go out of the house and avoid becoming morose or depressed," Colucci said.

Sorel is not the first to experience war and will definitely not be the last. Like many other veterans, he has to confront his own inner demons.

"Fly fishing helps me to get my journey somewhere else, to calm down and clean my brain," says Sorel.

Photo Samuel Rancourt





CSU VP Academic and Advocacy Terry Wilkings (centre) discusses the daycare project at Wednesday's CSU meeting.

## CSU-Run Daycare Project Moving Forward, Reggie's to Remain Closed Until September

CSU Executives Meet with University to Find a Space for a New Daycare on Campus

by Michael Wrobel @michael\_wrobel

Concordia Student Union executives have begun meeting with university administrators to try to find a space on campus for a CSU-run daycare.

At last Wednesday's CSU council meeting, VP Academic and Advocacy Terry Wilkings said he met with Roger Côté, the university's VP Services, before the end of the fall semester. Martine Lehoux, Concordia's director of facilities management and planning, also attended the meeting, which Wilkings described as "a really positive gesture."

"I think that's a really strong indicator that they take the need to establish the daycare very seriously, as opposed to holding several meetings and delaying as much as they can," he told council.

"Several locations were discussed at both campuses," he added. "These were hypothetical suggestions that are now being explored."

Undergrads voted 86.8 per cent in favour of prioritizing the daycare project in the CSU's by-elections last November.

There are already two daycares at the university, but the CSU says the "vast majority" of spots in these centres go to faculty and staff, not students. Additionally, neither daycare offers evening or drop-in care, a further reason why they're not meeting the needs of student parents, according to the CSU.

A 2011 report by the university found that approximately 10 per cent of Concordia students are parents, although the report's authors said their survey results might not be representative of the whole student population due to a low response rate.

Wilkings tabled a 24-page report at the meeting detailing space and staff requirements for the eventual daycare, as well as estimates of the set-up and operating costs, based on three different scenarios—a daycare with 24, 50 or 80 spots.

He said the production of the report was "very helpful" in demonstrating to the university that the CSU is aware of regulatory requirements for daycares in the province.

Excluding construction costs, the report anticipates set-up costs to be between \$26,800 and \$37,600. Operating costs could vary from about \$359,000 to \$1.1 million annually, depending on the number of spots, although the union could get roughly \$239,000 to \$796,800 in provincial subsidies.

Wilkings cautioned that detailed financial estimates cannot be calculated until the CSU knows where the daycare will be located.

### Reggie's

Students will have to wait a while longer before they can have an after-school drink at Reggie's, Concordia's student-run campus bar. CSU

President Benjamin Prunty told council that the bar—which was closed in October 2013 for renovations originally supposed to take three months—isn't likely to open until September.

Kate Bellini, VP Clubs and Internal Affairs, said the CSU has now approved the conceptual design for the space so its architectural firm is "increasing the amount of details [...] so that it can afterwards go to tender."

"As it stands, the construction phase should start in late February, March," she said. "The timeline needs to be adjusted, so I'd rather not give a final date for the project right now."

Prunty said the cost of the renovations could be a roadblock.

"We have to answer the question of whether or not our board has the legitimacy to approve an expense that's over \$1 million, and we're not really sure if that's the case or not," he said. "It's going to be up to council how we move forward."

### Financial position

VP Finance Heather Nagy told council that the CSU will be in a good financial position for the remainder of this year. "We won't come up against any cash-flow problems," she said. "All of our expenses are on track."

However, the union may face a negative cash flow at the start of the next academic year.

"The major problem [...] is the nature of the activities and when they happen at the CSU," Nagy said. "The CSU's largest activities happen at Orientation, at the beginning of the year, before we actually get our fee levies from students. That happens at the end of October."

Nagy said the cash-flow issue will put next year's executives in a "crunch" for the first two or three months of their mandate, before the university passes over the student fees it collects on behalf of the CSU. She said the union doesn't yet have a "concrete plan" to circumvent the problem.

"[The solution] may be something as simple as [looking at] Orientation expenses and when they're paid," she said. "We were proud that we were able to pay off our Orientation expenses by the time the Orientation was done, but maybe in hindsight, we should have left some of the larger suppliers until after we got our surge [of revenue] from student fees in late October."

John Molson School of Business councillor Scott Carr, who served as the CSU's VP Finance last year, said he wasn't particularly concerned about a negative cash flow.

"I think every student organization in this university goes through that exact same cash-flow issue every August," he said.

Photo Michael Wrobel

## Teach-in' About Austerity

Concordia Students Join Together in Teach-In to Fight Austerity

by Mab Coates-Davies

The fight against austerity measures in Quebec is far from over for student organizations.

Members of the recently mobilized Solidarity Concordia want to bring political activism to students by connecting different Concordia student groups for a weeklong conference on anti-austerity projects at the beginning of February.

Across the province, groups are criticizing the cuts by the Liberal government that will affect public sector job security and curb public spending. The last months have seen union workers in Quebec take to the streets to voice their opposition.

Now, Solidarity Concordia is setting up a teach-in and says it's time for students to organize. A teach-in is a spin on a regular conference, used to organize political action.

"We want to build a movement against austerity, in provision in the build up for a general strike at Concordia," said Myriam Tardif, one of the teach-in organizers.

Solidarity Concordia chose to hold a teach-in so people can "share skills, meet each other and build bridges between their own struggles at Concordia," added Tardif.

Events will run from Feb. 2 to Feb. 6, starting with a radical walking tour of Concordia. Tuesday afternoon's program will feature a panel on the history of the student movement in Quebec since 1996, ending with a collective discussion/panel about the Concordia 2012 strike, direct democracy and a discussion on the upcoming 2015 strike and Concordia's role in the coming months. Thursday's program will focus on how austerity measures are linked with environmental activism with a panel consisting of participants from Climate Justice Montreal and the Concordia Food Coalition.

For Solidarity Concordia, skill building is key to the teach-in. It's an opportunity to build

bridges between communities, but also to let people know that austerity policy measures are not finite, said teach-in organizer Anas Bouslikhane.

"We can respond and we are able to do that and here are some possibilities, knowledge and some tools to work with," he continued.

Saturday's workshops will range from Graphics 101 and Media Training, to Mobilization 101, Organizing Demos and Action 101.

The teach-in organizers were seeking input through a call-out last week, especially since the idea for the conference came from community members themselves. The ideals of direct democracy and equality are key to this movement, according to Tardif.

"Together we can teach each other so that we can build connections," said Tardif. "We do believe that it's not only the executives of the group that have the power of the direction of a movement, but that everyone can join together."

The first teach-in was held in opposition to the US occupation of Vietnam in 1965 at the University of Michigan. It encouraged audience participation and equal dialogue between organizers and participants. With a focus on participatory democracy, teach-ins are not held to a specific theme, and the conversation generated can be unpredictable.

"We're looking to have it as wide as possible, reach as many different communities—maybe racialized, marginalized, any language background," Bouslikhane added. "For me, there's an effort that it should be as open as possible."

The teach-in is open to all Concordia community members and is free of charge.

Schedules and workshops listed in this article are subject to change.

For more information on Solidarity Concordia's future and past events visit <http://solidarityconcordia.org>

**thelinknewspaper.ca/news**

- + Canadian Academic Anthony Stewart Speaks about Race in Canada
- + Surprise Surprise: Capitalism Fuels Income Inequality





## AVE MARIO: AN 8-BIT ORCHESTRA

montreal video game orchestra to premiere super nintendo-inspired concert

By Jake Russell @Jakeryanrussell

Songs from video games are the unsung heroes of the audiovisual world. Film scores are considered “high art,” with their own esteemed dedicated categories at the Oscars, and top 40 radio pop songs sweep the Grammys every year. Video game music has yet to break free from its confines to the console.

But Montreal’s Orchestre de Jeux Vidéo is on a rescue mission. The wind instrument orchestra is made up of gamer-musicians who are expanding the ever-underestimated realm of video game music from the Xbox to the box seats.

Sebastian Wall, a trombonist in the OJV, told *The Link* that the “semi-professional” orchestra, founded in 2008, was formed purely out of their love for games.

“Nobody in our orchestra is a professional musician, we’re all there to have fun,” Wall said.

“We had about 300 people at our first-ever show, which was really not what we expected. It’s our seventh year right now, and we’ve just been growing, growing, growing.”

The OJV is a spin-off of the Orchestre à Vents de Musiques de Films, a film soundtrack orchestra; both are headed up by Montreal conductor Jocelyn Leblanc. Last year, the two orchestras faced off in a rap battle-esque dual concert called “Final Fantasy vs. Star Wars.”

“We would have both orchestras play a little from their franchise. [...] You had, for instance, Sephiroth vs. Darth Vader, or Princess Leia and Aerith,” Wall said.

“And then the two orchestras came together, about 80 musicians, and we played these arrangements that just mixed both themes,” he continued.

“[The response] was just great, the fans were going hectic in the concert hall. I think we had, like, six standing ovations during the show.”

Each OJV concert centres around a different video game franchise or theme. A popular concert in 2014 featured music exclusively from *The Legend of Zelda* games, such as *A Link to the Past*, *Ocarina of Time*, *Majora’s Mask*, *Twilight Princess* and more.

Last year also saw the OJV’s first ever NES concert, playing arrangements from Nintendo Entertainment System games only.

“It was our big *Zelda* year [in 2014], and we finished the year with the NES show that we thought would be a little smaller, and it turned out to be sold out again in a few weeks, which was about 600 seats,” Wall said.

“We were really impressed by that and we decided to go naturally to Super NES this year, and again, the response was amazing from the fans.”

Their Super NES Concert will feature music from beloved and timeless games such as *Chrono Trigger*, *Donkey Kong Country*, *EarthBound*, *Star Fox*, *Super Mario World*, *Yoshi’s Island* and more. Both dates were sold out in a matter of weeks—a humbling trend amongst the OJV’s local shows.

“It’s really crazy. We’re not professionals, we’re really not used to that, we’re just doing it for fun. And to see those shows going sold out in a few weeks, it’s something we never expected. It’s really a great experience for all the musicians,” Wall said.

Along with their own private shows, the OJV also plays local festivals and conventions, such as Otakuthon, which they’ll be playing for their third time this year. Wall says it’s one of his favourite shows to play because the orchestra erupts into star-mode like a flashing, rainbow, invincible



Mario with their biggest and best songs.

“That’s like our big treat concert for the whole year,” he said.

“We usually go with the classics. We play popular stuff like *Zelda*, maybe some *Halo*, *Mega Man* is always there, too, *Castlevania* and we try to put together a show that’s never gonna stop being epic, so we kind of set aside the nostalgic, quiet music and we just go all out for all of the show.”

### Level-Up Concert

The appeal of classic video game tunes turned classical appears to span a number of generations, drawing a diverse audience.

“I was pretty surprised, at our NES show we had a lot of young people. For example, we played *Mega Man*, and we had kids, 13 or 14, they came to talk to us and were like, ‘Oh, man, *Mega Man* was so cool. So much fun.’ So it’s a very large [variety],” Wall said.

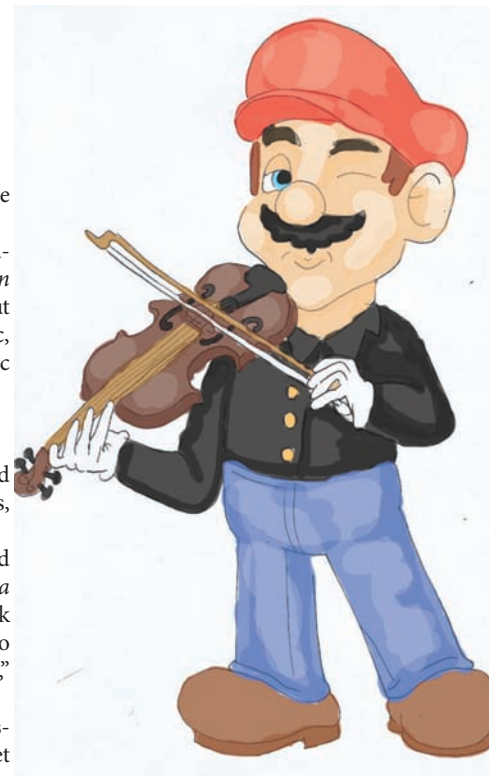
“That’s one of the cool things about the orchestra, that you get people from everywhere and get them exposed to orchestra music, [when] they wouldn’t be in a normal context,” he continued.

“It’s not everybody that’s gonna go and listen to Beethoven, but everybody knows Mario, so if you can take that music and bring it into an orchestra, well, then, all is fun and everybody’s interested. One of our missions is to be accessible to the very large public [that] maybe wouldn’t go that way without us.”

And Wall says the OJV wants to make their shows as memorable as possible—leveling up from a traditional orchestra show into a multi-faceted gamers’ delight, including providing up to eight consoles for show goers to play before the show and hosting small competitions.

“What we’re really trying for is to get out of the typical concert experience and bring, what we call among ourselves ‘Concert 2.0,’” Wall said.

“We always have a raffle; usually the big prize is a console. We had three *Zelda* chests made, they were amazing, and they looked like the real ones. And when the person would come onstage, they would pick one of the three chests, open it and they’d lift the prize out in their hands, and the orchestra would play the music that plays in *Zelda*



when he opens a chest. So, it’s little things like that that we try to do to not be only a concert, but have a whole lot more to it.”

In the future, Wall says the OJV hopes to add a special light show to accompany the music, and feature cut scenes and sequences from video games projected onto concert walls. But for now, any updates or patches to the show remain under development.

While the Super Nintendo show is sold out, gamers and music fans can still catch the OJV in action this spring. The group recently announced an encore performance of their “Final Fantasy vs. Star Wars” show, back by popular demand on April 4.

**Super Nintendo Concert // Salle Marguerite-Bourgeoys (Collège Regina Assumpta) // 1750 Sauriol St. E. // Jan. 23 + 24 // 7:30 p.m. // SOLD OUT**

**Final Fantasy vs. Star Wars // April 4 // More details T.B.A.**

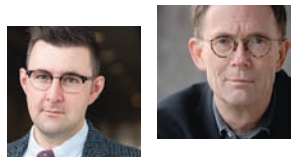
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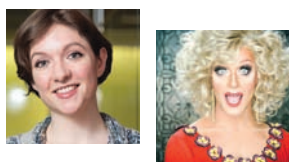
### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**DIGITAL LIFE, DIGITAL IDENTITY**  
A conversation about the internet, fiction and the future.

Fenwick McKelvey, Internet Researcher and Assistant Professor in Communications Studies, and author William Gibson, talk about the relationship between fiction, the future and the digital technologies that share our lives. How does the digital shape you?

**Conversation: 7 p.m.**

D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Sir George Williams Campus



### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**GENDER PERFORMED**

A conversation about sex, gender, theatre, and politics.

Emer O'Toole, Assistant Professor at the School of Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University, and Panti Bliss, performer, author and activist, talk about what shapes sex and gender and how we express who we are. Are you what you wear?

**Conversation: 7 p.m.**

D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Sir George Williams Campus



### MONDAY, MARCH 9

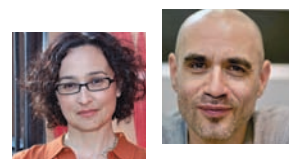
**STORYTELLING IDENTITY**

A conversation about writing who we are.

Kate Sterns, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Concordia University, and Joseph Boyden, author, talk about how and why we write stories, and how they reflect who we are.

**Conversation: 7 p.m.**

D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Sir George Williams Campus



### MONDAY, MARCH 30

**CURATING LIFE**

A conversation about what's private and what's public.

Erica Lehrer, Canada Research Chair in Post-Conflict Memory, Ethnography, and Museology (Concordia University) and broadcaster and author Jonathan Goldstein, talk about what we call private, personal and public in our stories and what it reveals about us.

**Conversation: 7 p.m.**

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# mixing it up

Montreal Based EDM DJ Dave Luxe Preps for His Upcoming Igloofest Set

By Dori Julian

Dave Luxe, self-proclaimed future beats and R&B DJ and producer, originally from Belgium, claims to have landed in the right city because of Montreal's vibrant music scene along with the prominent fan base the city has offered him.

Constantly experimenting with different sounds, Luxe pulls a great range of his musical influences from the 1980's to the present day. This has helped keep his style fresh and appeal to a variety of crowds from different musical backgrounds and scenes.

Luxe told *The Link* about what to expect from his upcoming unreleased materials and his future performance show at Igloofest this Friday Jan. 23 with the Saintwoods crew, on the stage Videotron Mobile.

The fact that Luxe remains an unsigned artist has contributed to his liberty to play and create new musical sounds.

"I've been through a lot of different phases. I've produced house/club type of music, years ago I was working with rappers from the south in the U.S. and producing rap beats [...] now I'm working in the future beats/future R&B scene," said Luxe.

Luxe admitted that his creative freedom is important. It isn't necessary to be signed to a label in order to become a successful DJ anymore, as he and many other artists have proven.

"If I sign to a record label, it's probably going to be a big one [...] it's not a priority for me. I've been able to DJ every week and tour America and Europe without being signed," he said.

The connections Luxe has garnered over the years and the collaborations he's taken part in with local artists including Tommy Kruse, influenced his decision to move to Montreal and participate in city's active EDM movement.

"The scene in Montreal is very dynamic and I had the opportunity to play here a couple times already [...] I knew some people here, mostly DJ's and promoters. I like the city's vibe so much so I thought it was time to make the move.

"There's a lot of inspiration and energy from the people around me [...] It's definitely motivating to be surrounded by talented people," said Luxe.

With Montreal's endless range of music venues combined with its booming underground music scene, Luxe said Montreal has an active nightlife culture.

"You can go out basically any night of the week

and find some good music [...] there's music for everyone [...] it's not too focused on one genre"

When organizing his live sets, Luxe prefers to judge what would please the crowd upon his arrival and interpret throughout the night the appropriate music.

"It's pretty much always last minute, it depends on my daily mood. I never play a specific set; I don't have a playlist ready for the night. I make a big selection of a list of tracks then I feel the mood and vibe of the venue. Most of the time I just freestyle based on the energy of the crowd and what the DJ's before me play. If I have an idea in the moment I just go with it and see what happens."

Luxe intends to apply this same frame of mind for his upcoming show at Igloofest. Having never even attended this iconic electronic music festival, he confessed his curiosity.

"I am excited to find out what it's all about though," said Luxe laughing.

Baring in mind his experience from his debut North American tour that took place over the summer, Luxe believes that the mood of his crowd varies depending on the country he's playing in.

"Basically the response to my music has been the same everywhere but in North America, people are maybe a little more wilder [...] it's a little bit more fun, let's say."

Igloofest-goers can expect to hear a mix of house, UK garage, two-step, hip-hop, R&B, trap and dubstep influences present in Dave Luxe's set.

"It really depends from one track to another [...] right now I'm working on going in more of an up-tempo direction with my music [...] it's always evolving and mutating so it's hard to define my style," explained Luxe.

Aside from a few remixes featuring Bridge and Schoolboy Q, Luxe says he will be slowing down on the remixes and bootlegs for the next while to focus on putting together his first official EP.

"There will be fewer releases but I will be working on bigger, more official projects," concluded Luxe.

This four to five track EP will feature vocalists from Begium, France, and the U.S.

**Dave Luxe // Friday, Jan. 23 // 11 p.m. // Igloofest (Quai Jacques-Cartier du Vieux-Port de Montréal)**

Photo courtesy of Miguel Legault

## THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

Wednesday, Jan. 28 4 p.m.

The Link Office (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649)

It's the start of a new year and we're looking to fill our editorial roster. We currently have three positions open. If you've contributed to four (4) separate issues of this year's volume of the *The Link* then you're eligible to run. Applicants must submit a letter of intent and three (3) samples of published work to The Link's office by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Elections will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. in *The Link's* office, H-649. All staff members (those who have contributed four times or more) are eligible and encouraged to vote in the election.

Here are the current open positions:

### Community Editor

You are the link between our editors, audience and contributors. Organize social events, help curate our online presence and keep the community thriving.

### Current Affairs Editor

You're in charge of the news portion of our weekly print issue. Keep tabs on student politicians, uncover corruption, and ensure that everyone's voice is heard in our weekly publication.

### Graphics Editor

Every story needs a visual. Use your artistic prowess to help us illustrate unflattering portraits of bureaucrats, communicate with graphic contributors and draw sexy pictures for sexy stories.

### Eligible to run:

Melissa Fuller, Caity Hall, Alex Carriere, Erica Pishadian, Joshua Barkman, Leigha Veigh, Alex Callard, Daniele Iannarone, Matt Garies, L.A. Bonte, Ester Strausova, Gonzo Nieto, Jei Jei Stevens, Shane Wright, Tristan D'Amours, Jennifer Aedy, Sam Jones, Fatma Daldoul, Verity Stevenson, David Landsman, Justin Blanchard, Jake Russell, Jane Lakes

### One contribution needed:

Alex Ocheoha, Yacine Bouhali, Chaneel Jacques, Erik Trudel, Colin Harris, Bianca Gazinschi, Andy Fidel, Robert Arzenshek, Erin Sparks, Elysia-Marie Campbell





By Olivia Frey

From Jan. 20 to Feb. 17, Montreal's Phi Centre will be presenting the Metafilms Carte Blanche series, five nights of film screenings highlighting favorites selected by Metafilms' producers: Nancy Grant and Sylvain Corbeil.

Their varied selection includes Claude Jutra's *À tout prendre* (1963), Maurice Pialat's *À nos amours* (1983), Harmony Korine's *Gummo* (1997), Joachim Trier's *Oslo, 31 août* (2011) and Jean Eustache's *La Maman et la Putain* (1973).

Danny Lennon, the Phi Centre's film curator and a passionate cinephile, has sustained a lasting relationship with Grant and Corbeil, whose numerous short and feature-length productions have won over his confidence for this month's program.

"When Metafilms announces a new film, I don't bother looking it up, I instantly run to see it," said Lennon.

For the unsuspecting audience, both Grant and Corbeil are behind such Quebec hits as Xavier Dolan's *Tom à la ferme* (2013) and *Mommy* (2014), which won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and Maxime Giroux's *Félix et Meira* (2014), crowned "Best Canadian Film" at the 39th Toronto International Film Festival.

Grant and Corbeil's contributions to contemporary Quebec cinema is an important one, having brought the public the works of Mathieu Denis, Simon Lavoie, Julie

Hivon, Frédéric Pelletier, Karl Lemieux and Guy Édoin, to name a few.

Denis Côté is also a close and frequent collaborator and his films have all been awarded internationally, making him one of Quebec's most acclaimed *auteurs*.

Through these often difficult, existential films, the duo's trademark cinematic vision has thrived alongside directors who embrace marginal perspectives and succeed in viscerally melding psychic and emotional turmoil with Quebec's spirited and ominous landscape.

Metafilms' prolific production of short features espouses Danny Lennon's fierce dedication to promoting the best short films by independent filmmakers from around the globe.

"The two-year-old Phi Centre seems to be the ideal platform to challenge conventional cinema and genuinely deliver daring artistic visions," explained Lennon.

Lennon collaborates regularly with no less than 20 Quebec film festivals, taking part in the short sections of around 50 festivals worldwide, as well as serving as director of programming for the short-film component of the Festival des films du monde de Montreal.

In general, and particularly for this month's Carte Blanche, "the concept of thematic curation would be too constricting," said Lennon.

Instead, Lennon's sole premise is to show films that hit you in the gut. The tedious task at hand for the producers of Metafilms was to pick five essential films that emerged as emblematic observations of a generation.

What links their chosen films is the groundbreaking frankness they initiated with regards to themes like teen-

age exuberance and alienation in *Gummo*, the emotional estrangement fuelled by drug addiction in the Norwegian feature *Oslo, 31 août*, and feminine sexuality in *À tout prendre*, *La Maman et la Putain* and *À nos amours*.

Through this screening experience, audience members can expect a creatively audacious investigation into the subtleties of human emotion, roaming from rural nihilism to feminine emancipation from chauvinist ideals.

In much the same way that Jutra and Eustache explore the classic theme of gender entrapment or Trier explores Scandinavian melancholia and drug recovery, Korine's *Gummo*, a film often denigrated as pretentious, is now elevated to the ranks of other classics through its touching observation of Ohio's disaffected youth. *La Maman et la Putain*, now lauded as a seminal piece of French cinematography, was on its release condemned as immoral, obscene and "an insult to the nation," according to the French newspaper *Le Figaro*.

As a fervent film curator, Danny Lennon stresses the importance of granting to such unique films the public film-viewing ceremony they and the audience deserve.

Overall, the upcoming Metafilms Carte Blanche series seeks to relay a poignant reflection of individual lives at odds with their surroundings and calls for a reevaluation of films that have shocked complacent audiences by their sheer veracity.

**Metafilms Carte Blanche film series // Jan. 20 to Feb. 17 // Phi Centre // \$41.25 for a 5-film pass to the series**

Photos courtesy of Phi Centre

## reflections on metafilms

Film Curator Danny Lennon Discusses Movie Selection for Carte Blanche Series





Two-time Olympic gold medalist and Concordia student Alexandre Bilodeau (right) was named ambassador of the 2015 Special Olympics Quebec that will take place in March.

# The Right Fit

## BOX SCORES

WEEK OF JAN. 13 TO JAN. 19

THURSDAY

15

Women's Basketball—Concordia 69, Bishop's 32  
Men's Basketball—Concordia 86, Bishop's 84 (OT)

FRIDAY

16

Women's Hockey—Concordia 3, McGill 5  
Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Windsor 6

SATURDAY

17

Women's Basketball—Concordia 62, Bishop's 48  
Men's Basketball—Concordia 40, Bishop's 59  
Men's Hockey—Concordia 4, Windsor 8

## UPCOMING GAMES

COMING UP IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

WEDNESDAY

21

Men's Hockey at UQTR Patriotes

THURSDAY

22

6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gymnasium)  
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. UQAM Citadins (Concordia Gymnasium)

FRIDAY

23

7:30 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena)

SATURDAY

24

5:00 p.m. Women's Basketball at UQAM Citadins  
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at UQAM Citadins

SUNDAY

25

3:00 p.m. Women's Hockey at McGill Martlets  
3:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Laurentian Voyageurs

by Yacine Bouhali @mybouhali

Concordia student and two-time Olympic gold medalist Alexandre Bilodeau understands the struggle of growing up with physical or intellectual disabilities. The former freestyle skier has a younger brother, Frédéric, who was diagnosed at a young age with cerebral palsy, an illness that causes permanent movement problems.

"My brother has always been an exceptional person to my eyes," said Bilodeau. "He taught me many things over the years."

Bilodeau sees his brother as an inspiration, especially during his own Olympic career, which makes the 27-year old a perfect choice to become ambassador of the 2015 Special Olympics Québec that will be taking place in Lévis, Québec in March.

"The link between him and the Special Olympics is easy to make," said Bilodeau. "These kids have the same right to practice sports as any other person—the only problem is that they often lack resources, and that's when SOQ comes into play."

Bilodeau, who is also president of the 2016 Québec Games, was introduced as ambassador to the media by Special Olympics Québec, a not-for-profit organization that supports nearly 5000 athletes in a ceremony last Thursday at the John Molson Room.

"I was able to have the opportunity to become an Olympic champion," said

Bilodeau. "Not everybody has that chance. I want to be able to give the slightest chance to these athletes to persevere and make their dreams happen."

The SOQ also took the time to recognize former Olympian and speed skating champion Nathalie Lambert, SPVM Director Marc Parent and former Montreal Canadiens president Pierre Boivin with individual awards during the evening.

SOQ chair Daniel Granger was happy to add Bilodeau to a staff of over 1500 volunteers. He even admitted that he'd been longing for a partnership between Bilodeau and the SOQ, feeling he can contribute to a group that lacks visibility and funding.

"He knows the issue [of being intellectually disabled] and its realities," said Granger. "He knows the potential of our athletes [that are intellectually disabled] and believes in sport and its benefits."

"Alex will be a great asset. We hope that he'll inspire the young ones to do more sports and be persevering."

Over the past 18 years, retired diver and Olympic medalist Annie Pelletier was one of the only public figures to openly support the SOQ, and she is glad to know that she can now count on the help of Bilodeau.

"We hope that with his great notoriety across Canada and his credibility and sensitivity, he will take our visibility to another level," said Pelletier.

"Even for Olympic athletes, it's difficult to get

some recognition," she continued. "So imagine how difficult it is for the special athletes."

Valérie Gagnon-Paradis, a swimmer who won five medals during the 2014 Special Olympics Summer Games in Vancouver, was excited at the prospect of Bilodeau becoming a face of this year's Special Olympics Québec event.

"Alex is such a dynamic guy; it's just nice to be around him," said Gagnon-Paradis who will represent Canada next July during the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, California. "He brings a lot of courage and determination," she said. "I hope that he'll be our ambassador for as many years as possible."

Former Montreal Alouette quarterback Anthony Calvillo was also in attendance for the ceremony, and he too approved of Bilodeau being named ambassador.

"You just think of [Bilodeau's] story, you think about himself, his brother and what kind of impact sports does to an individual, and to me, it's just the right fit," said Calvillo, who was inducted into the SOQ Partners Hall of Fame last year.

"The more [attention] you can get the better it's going to be for the athletes, because more people are going to get involved, whether it's volunteering or [contributing] financially to help them live their dreams."

Photo Melissa Vincelli





# The Pope of Peace Park

The Story of "Boots," the Man Who Fought to Legalize Skateboarding in Montreal

by Shaun Michaud

"Boots" sits as if he has just realized the full weight of his decade-long labour of love. He won't even crack a smile. I cannot fathom how such a curmudgeonly man could be so admired.

"Sorry dude," David "Boots" Bouthillier says, his blood-shot eyes shifting away from my inquiry. "A good friend of mine passed away today, and I'm just not in the mood."

My fingers reel every time we greet. His granite hands could have been hardened on a construction site. In truth, they are from a long grind on the stones of Peace Park. Despite the puffed-out concrete chest, a heart the size of the Rock of Gibraltar is able to pump a whole lot of love beneath the rigid exterior.

For ten rough years, he worked with the Société des Arts Technologiques (SAT) to convince city hall that legalizing skateboarding could rejuvenate Peace Park. Their efforts proved fruitful. Last year, the city launched a pilot project that allowed skateboarding in the square for a short period between July 9 and Sept. 26.

"Businesses were happy," says Boots. "It helped improve the park's image."

So, at the last meeting of the Ville-Marie borough council before Christmas, Bouthillier swaggered into the room like Patrick Swayze. He even presented Montreal mayor Denis Coderre with a custom-made skateboard bearing his signature.

Then, the 35-year-old lit up like a child's eyes on Christmas Day. Coderre had agreed to start the process of permanently legalizing skateboarding in Peace Park.

"I would like to thank you," said Coderre to a humbled Boots. "This is part of the solution. And it's one of the most splendid projects I've seen in a long time."

On The Main, the local skateboarder's status was near legendary even before this achievement.

I got to know the guy as part of a photojournalism

project. I followed him one night as jolly bouncers welcomed him in like a VIP, and bar owners traded jokes and shots like it was Mardi Gras. By the end of the night, I wasn't even able to walk straight. Boots, however, remained sober.

"I'm on a diet," he says, the broken capillaries around his nose revealing the downsides of his lifestyle. "I haven't had a drink for three days straight."

Bouthillier has been a mainstay in the neighbourhood for more than a decade. Everybody who is anybody seems to know him. Pizzerias feed him for free. His boards adorn the walls of several bars and shops including TRH Bar, Bar Bifteck St-Laurent and Montreal Pool Room. His graffiti's decorate dark alleyways and dingy watering holes alike from Mont-Royal to Ste-Catherine St.

He is an unabashed Instagram celebrity, worshipped by the likes of MTL Blog. They dubbed his account the best in the city and—curious fact—he didn't even have to pay for the publicity. Best of all, his close friends have great stories to tell about him.

"I once saw a UFO with Dave," said partner in crime Patrick O'Connor, a documentary filmmaker who focuses on the street art scene. "We were sitting on a roof and we saw flashing lights defying the laws of physics."

Like O'Connor, Boots has helmed a documentary. Called *Peace Park*, the film is an ode to street life and, of course, the history of the park itself.

The area, on St. Laurent Blvd. just north of René-Lévesque Blvd., has long been an infamous chill spot for drug pushers and cobblestone-gazing addicts, vagrants and nightstick-toting flatfoots alike. Its peculiar architecture has made it a popular—albeit for a long time illegal—skatepark in Montreal. Its borders are framed by rows of connected stones that facilitate grinding, a trick that involves sliding along an object using the trucks of a skateboard.

"That's why the stones are all worn," says Boots.

In a city where police officers hand out mammoth fines

just for skating on the edge of a sidewalk, Bouthillier is something of a collector.

"You could get served a ticket of more than \$600 for skating at Peace Park," he says. "Trust me, I know."

When the SAT opened its doors in 2004, they weren't blind to the cycle of poverty, violence and addiction that overwhelms the area to this day. Marie Létourneau, the SAT's director of public and media relations, says they were also aware of the benefits that skateboarders have on whichever environment they choose to inhabit on any given day.

"Skateboarders tend to scare away the violent types who merge at the park," says Létourneau. "They pick fights around the stones. They can't do that when the skaters do that trick when they slide."

She says it was fitting to choose Boots to help rejuvenate the area. But in 2004, Bouthillier says the city was desperate to sell the land surrounding the park to condominium developers. They had no time for hipsters and extreme sports enthusiasts peddling a pet project.

"They ordered the police to clean up the place," says Boots. "And that included us."

When I ask him about his future plans, Bouthillier succeeds at hiding his determination like a long-distance runner would his perspiration. Despite his triumph, this is a man constantly afraid that the rug will be pulled out from under him. Past failures have taught him better. He never sheds his humility even when talking of past actors who, he claims, never gave him a fair shake.

"We didn't have support from influencers back then. It just wasn't the right time," he says. "This mayor is open to new projects though. We'll see what happens. For now, we have several events lined up for next summer."

The system is a slow-moving beast. Boots and the SAT are still waiting on city hall as they determine how to implement the new rules.

Photos Shaun Michaud





Boots celebrating with Denis Coderre



Boots' signature board hanging at Trh Bar



Boots presenting his proposal at the Ville-Marie borough council



Boots with Fred Vitu, owner of Trh Bar

**"We didn't have support from influencers back then. It just wasn't the right time."**



Boots with friend Jolyanne Mathieu



Trash can at Peace Park



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The Link recently returned from The Canadian University Press' annual conference on journalism. We'll be hosting a workshop explaining what we learned—data journalism, coding, photojournalism, access to information requests and much more.

Join us at **5 p.m.** on **Friday, Jan. 23** for some major journalism insights.

The Link Office: 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. room H-649

Graphic Brandon Johnston





opinions

Graphic Jennifer Aedy



Friends With An Ex

Do you think it's possible to be friends with an ex? I'd like to believe it is but it's never really happened to me.

by Melissa Fuller @mel\_full

Whether it's possible to be friends with an ex is only one part of the question of post-breakup relationship dynamics: the other part being whether it is desirable.

Many variables, including the quality, history and meaning of the relationship inform whether or not a friendship with an ex will work.

In my opinion, a significant factor is whether you were friends prior to dating.

When we begin a relationship with someone about whom we know relatively little, we get to know him or her primarily in relation to ourselves.

Then, after breaking up, we often find ourselves feeling as though we never knew the person we spent so much time with, because in many ways we never did know them for themselves.

In this instance, you would have to get to know that person anew, for whos they are outside of their relationship to you, in order to create a friendship.

However, if you have a pre-existing friendship, it can allow you to see the other person not just in relation to you but more in their own right.

This makes it easier to see things from each other's perspective, to genuinely have each other's best interests in mind,

and generally understand and know each other in a more realistic light.

This pre-existing friendship can serve as a foundation, giving you an idea of what this new friendship might look like.

Once you've established whether it's possible for you to be friends with an ex, it's important to consider whether it's desirable.

There are many great reasons to keep an ex in your life. If you loved someone, you can probably still recognize the qualities that drew you to them and appreciate them as a person.

However, very often friendships between exes are started out of obligation.

Maybe you said you'd always stay friends in the past, maybe they're the one who wants to be friends, or maybe you feel like you owe them something.

Depending on how the relationship ended one partner may also still have feelings for the other or hold some resentment.

These situations are unlikely to lead to a true friendship and someone is likely to get hurt. It's fine to say that you would like a friendship one day but it's also acceptable to say that today is not that day or to let an ex know you're not interested in pursuing a

friendship at all for whatever reason.

Not everyone in your life needs to remain there forever.

The first thing I would recommend is to take some real time apart from each other before even trying to be friends, instead of trying to go straight from a relationship to a friendship.

It's natural to want to hold on to someone at the end of a relationship, but stepping away can help you put things into perspective.

Without a period of separation and reflection, it can be hard to break out of the roles you play in each other's lives.

Whatever your situation, a likely obstacle might be a sense of obligation or pressure for a friendship to work based on a previously expressed expectation.

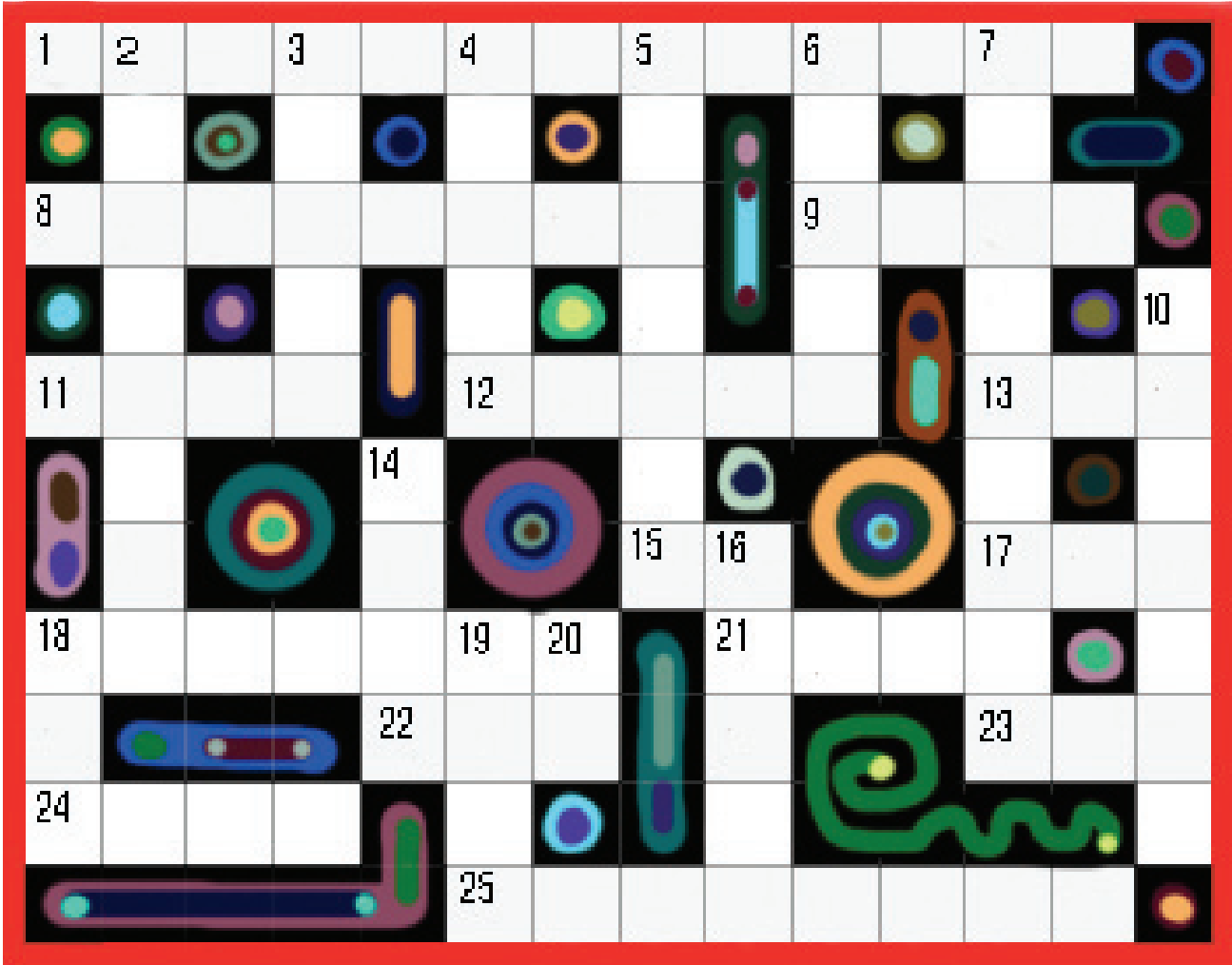
What if it just doesn't? After a breakup, people sometimes fall into the trap of focusing more on the maintenance of a friendship than on their own health and well-being.

So my final thought would be: don't push too hard for a friendship. If it's what's supposed to happen, it's what will happen.

Submit your question anonymously at [melissafuller.ca](mailto:melissafuller.ca) and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Crossword

by Mattha Busby @itsmattha



ACROSS

- 1. He found worldwide fame and teenage adoration as Edward Cullen, but which character does this chiseled heartthrob portray in the Harry Potter film franchise? (6, 7)
- 8. Finishing university, completing a trek or enduring a hunger strike might do this to your body. (8)
- 9. If you suddenly have something in your possession, then it has been \_\_\_\_\_. Abbreviation. (4)
- 11. To rue or express grief. Middle English (4)
- 12. Ottoman court at Constantinople. A Francophone may say 'bien fermer la \_\_\_\_.' (5)
- 13. By not so innocently lending your \_\_\_\_, you may actually begin to eavesdrop. (3)
- 15. We won't be hearing anymore of this now Santa Claus has returned to Lapland. (2)
- 17. Add this local tax at the till. Acronym. (3)
- 18. This Metro station's occasionally dysfunctional escalators make for perhaps the most arduous uphill trudge on the STM map. (7)
- 21. Insignificant synonym. (4)
- 22. With policies emphasizing sustainability and electoral reform, which party leader hopes to hold the balance of power after next year's federal election? Surname only (3)
- 23. You're most likely to eat this grain in your cereal. (3)
- 24. Pepper, spear and winter are types of what? (4)
- 25. Canadian-American inventor of the bouncy sport the Harlem Globetrotters have since taken to North Korea. Surname only. (8)

DOWN

- 2. First name of the militant leader of the Suffragettes. (8)
- 3. Paleontologists prefer bones, compared to their interdisciplinary cousins who opt for the study of what? (5)
- 4. Motorists in Montreal ought to be careful to not get a \_\_\_\_ on their automobile wheel. Thanks to the city's confusing municipal laws you might do well to never avoid one. (5)
- 5. The act of burial. Or to be covered in mud. (7 / 2, 5)
- 6. A narrow passage (noun), or the process of stuffing yourself with food (verb). (5)
- 7. Jane Eyre married which Mr. in the novel of the same name? (9)
- 10. Though perhaps not initially intended as such in film, The Hobbit is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord of the Rings trilogy. (7)
- 14. This local film festival seeks to advance social change and certainly did so last November. (4)
- 16. Latin for "all." Colloquial speak for a group of people who have few dietary preferences (5)
- 18. Dubstep typically runs at 140, House music at 120, DnB at 170. Acronym. (3)
- 19. We've been experiencing this in frozen form for the past couple of months. (4)
- 20. This Chinese social network comes complete with its own currency. (2)

Graphic Sam Jones

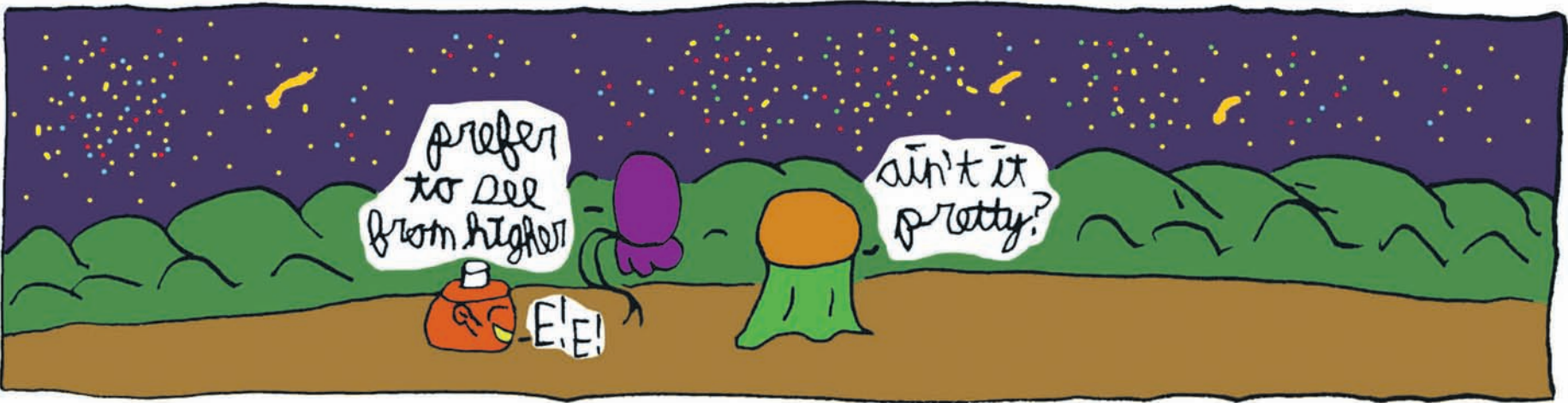




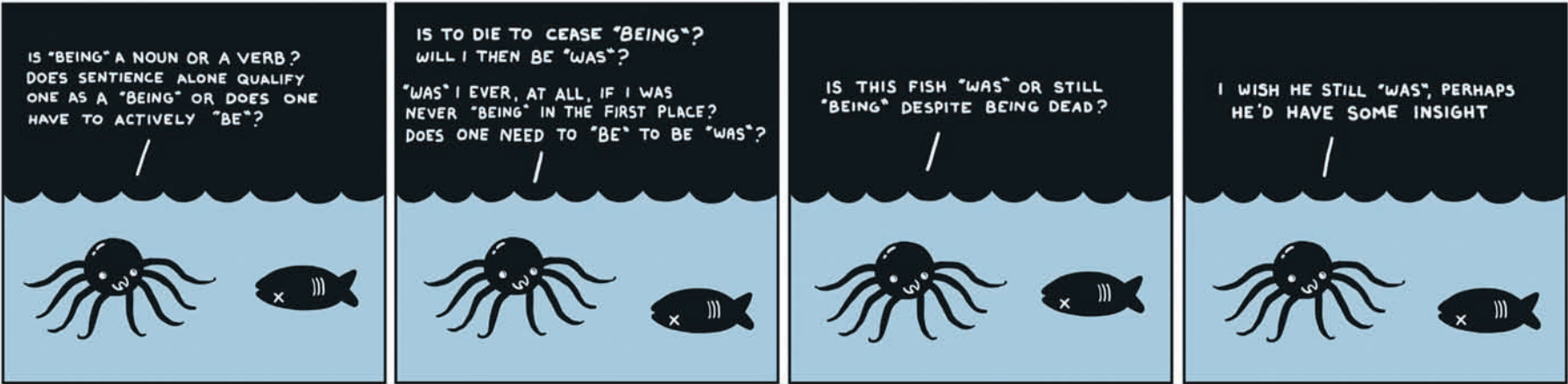
BOOP by Caity Hall



Balloon Ventures by Mengekko Jones



Power Theatre by Alex Callard



nah'msayin'?

I'd rather zero bus shelters than several that tease me so

by Mattha Busby @itsmattha

It's subzero. The snow is brittle. The air freezes your nose. The metro won't take you where you need to go. You choose to take a bus. Who even owns a car? I don't even mind the bus.

But where the fuck are the fucking bus shelters?

There are some scattered across the city, so I guess the concept is one that several urban planners have picked up on. But they are few and far between.

Did I come from such a bourgeois European enclave where local authorities just have tons of extra money to waste on plasticky metal things?

Why don't they exist here where it's ten times colder?!

One must take shelter in an errant doorway in -30°C temperatures whilst scrambling to check the STM app in the absence of a timetable whilst keeping an eye on the bus stop from your faraway makeshift shelter.

Perhaps the city can spare the cash for some plasticky metal shelters sometime soon in light of the fact that Montreal's 2015 budget increased STM managers' salaries far more than inflation.

I love Montreal: I'm just sick of being pushed around by the elements while waiting for the bus.

Graphic Sam Jones







It's not often that *The Link's* editorial staff can unequivocally endorse a Concordia Student Union project, but the promising trajectory of the CSU-run daycare project gives us hope that unicorns really do exist.

A university degree can be difficult to obtain. Long hours dedicated to reading, attending classes and completing work leave little time for student parents to balance studying and caring for their children.

Additionally, the cost of sending a child to a Quebec daycare facility is something that not all student parents can afford. For those who don't qualify for government-subsidized childcare, daycare programs can cost more than \$30 per day. With the current Quebec Liberal government's austerity measures cutting funding

to public institutions—such as daycare facilities—the situation for student parents is only becoming more bleak.

Quebec's daycare program, which guarantees a \$7-a-day province-run childcare service for Quebec residents, was initiated in 1997 to help low-income families strike a balance between working and raising children. That very institution is now likely to be changed to a system that runs on a sliding scale based on family income, despite the Liberal government's promise in the 2014 election campaign to index daycare fees to inflation. The benefits of a free childcare service for university students are clear, even if most students don't earn enough to see the sort of drastic rise in daycare rates proposed by the Liberals for high-income earners.

In November, we supported the referendum

question mandating continued research into the possibility of opening a CSU-run, on-campus daycare. A recent report published by the CSU details the projected costs of establishing the facility, suggesting that the total bill could run as high as \$1.1 million, although anticipated government subsidies could amount to almost \$300,000. The costs admittedly aren't cheap, but we believe the service and the opportunities it will provide are priceless.

We also support the CSU's recommendation that the union spend additional money equipping the daycare to accept children under the age of 18 months. Concordia has two existing childcare centres, but only one of them currently accepts infants, and the waiting list for this facility is two years long.

# editorial

## Why We Support the Concordia Student Union's Daycare Initiative

Most of Concordia's existing daycare spots are filled by the children of faculty and staff members, leaving student parents with few in-house options for care. The situation doesn't improve much for students who look elsewhere either, as most external daycare facilities begin enrollment for children at 18 months and older. This is particularly problematic as many student parents have very young children who require constant care and attention. Students should not have to delay their studies for multiple semesters just because their baby is too young for most daycares.

More than 85 per cent of students voted yes in favour of moving forward with the project last November, sending a clear signal that there is both significant support and demand for more daycare spaces on campus. Not only are on-campus daycare facilities more convenient for students, they would also give some peace of mind to parents of children with health problems or special needs who feel uncomfortable leaving their children in faraway neighbourhoods while they study.

Being a student parent is tough. The thousands of Concordians who rush from work to class to daycare and still have to find time to cook dinner and complete assignments deserve our respect and, above all, our support.

Helping student parents out now will enable them to better support their families and contribute more to society when they graduate. It is also, simply put, the right thing to do. We are fully behind the daycare proposal and hope the project moves forward quickly with the support of the university administration.

Graphic Isabelle Thuy-Mai Nguyen

## THE LINK<sup>35</sup>

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