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The Link is an independent, student-run, not-for-profit multi-media publication at Concordia University in Montréal. The Link aims to publish stories not usually covered by mainstream media, with a focus on advocacy journalism. Contributors cover stories about student life, as well as local, national and international issues of interest to the Concordia and Montréal communities.

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The Office Manager will also lead new and ongoing initiatives for staff and volunteer development, as well as maintain outreach with the Society's alumni.

The Office Manager will be available 18 hours a week on Friday afternoons, Sundays and Mondays during the regular fall and winter school semesters.

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3 february 2015



current affairs

3



land, love, and the colonized

Indigenous Artist, Academic and Activist Talks Decolonial Love

of her favourite stories because “nothing violent happens” and it presents a counter-narrative to the hundreds of cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women throughout Canada.

After her story Simpson asked the following questions: “What if the *ikwezens* had been in an educational context in which having an open heart was a liability instead of a gift? What if she hadn’t been on the land at all? What if she lived in a world where no one listened to girls? Or where she had been missing or murdered before she ever made it out to the sugarbush? What then?”

Simpson described driving in the early morning from Peterborough, Ontario to Toronto and looking at the highway thinking about whether her great-great-grandmother would recognize the land that they have shared. The forces of colonial power have tried to remove Aboriginal people from their connections, first to land but also to history and, she argues, intimacy.

Addressing her own hopes for future Aboriginal populations, Simpson said, “I want my great-great-grandchildren to be able to fall in love with every piece of our territory.” She wants them to live without fear, to value their responsibilities to the land and to be heard and cherished during their lives.

Simpson’s last story was the retelling of her daughter’s first experience with racism. A man confronted her and her daughter while they were picking wild leeks in the forest. Her daughter shut down about the experience and Simpson looked for help from female elders in the community.

Simpson’s friend Tara Williamson, a singer-songwriter, suggested that Simpson herself needed to deal with the incident in order to help her daughter. Simpson ended up writing a poem about the experience, with Williamson collaborating with a musical accompaniment to produce the song “Leeks.”

When they recorded a video to accompany the song, Simpson’s daughter danced for it in the same forest of the encounter. Telling this story drew together themes of motherly love, community strength and her daughter’s power for the author.

During the question period follow-

ing her talk, one person asked about her feelings towards reconciliation, a popular viewpoint towards healing relationships between settler colonial and Aboriginal populations.

While acknowledging that initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in British Columbia have helped some survivors of residential schools, she pointed out that these commissions do not talk enough about the relationship between land and bodies and that the conversation about missing and murdered Aboriginal women has to be at the forefront of these discussions.

In response to another question about how descendants of colonial families can join the conversation, Simpson stated, “We need more communities of resistance against the current system” and added the necessity of teaching people to be able to think within the indigenous intelligence system.

For more information about Leanne Simpson, visit <http://arpbooks.org/books/detail/islands-of-decolonial-love>

Photos Evgenia Choros

by Mab Coates-Davies

Self-described “recovering academic” Leanne Betasamosake Simpson wove traditional Anishinaabeg stories about trust, racism and confidence together with narratives of Western education in a thought-provoking reading at First Voices Week.

Editor of *The Winter We Danced*, a collection of essays, stories and poems about the Idle No More movement and *Dancing on Our Turtle’s Back*, a collection of Anishinaabeg traditional stories and meditations on Indigenous intellectual movements, her latest work is *Islands of Decolonial Love*.

Simpson read excerpts from *Islands* to an audience of Concordia students on Jan. 29 as part of the First Voices week at Concordia.

Identifying herself as an artist, academic and activist, Simpson said that she has a problem with the boundaries between these roles and declares that, “for me, they don’t exist.”

Simpson, who is of Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg ancestry and a member of Alderville First Nation, told four stories that painted connections between land, bodies and stories and showed her audience a way of thinking that juxtaposes traditional Western education systems with indigenous culture.

Her first story was about an *ikwezens* [girl] who discovers how to extract maple sugar by copying a squirrel and shows her mother and aunties what she has found. Helped by her community but confident in her own curiosity, the *ikwezens* learns to trust herself.

The *ikwezens* is supposed to be there out in the forest learning and playing, something that Simpson made a point of emphasizing. Simpson hailed it one



by Jonathan Cook

In last semester's by-election, the Concordia Student Union asked the student body to approve the CSU's support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. The referendum question was changed the day before polling after the No side appealed to the Judicial Board. Chief Electoral Officer Andre-Marcel Baril suspended the ballot count a week later while he sought legal consultation. The referendum passed with 1276 "Yes" votes to 1067 "No" votes. There were 237 abstentions.

It really could've been so much worse, Chief Electoral Officer Andre-Marcel Baril said after the ballot count in early December about the controversy surrounding the BDS referendum.

Baril delivered his 2014 by-election report of budget breakdowns, accusations, complaints and recommendations to council at a meeting Wednesday night. "[On] both sides, by and large, people behaved incredibly well, were incredibly diplomatic with each other," he said. "I met great people from both sides."

Six new council members were elected and seven other referenda appeared on student ballots, but the main contention

on campus was the BDS question. In his report, Baril called the question "polarizing," crediting the increased voter turnout to the debate surrounding the question. 2582 students voted last semester compared to 818 in the 2013 by-election.

He added that he received dozens of emails and social media inquiries, including a short film made by students at Tel Aviv University condemning the referendum.

hate crimes investigation against the CSU. "I don't know the specific details of this," said CSU President Benjamin Prunty. "It hasn't come up as a substantial issue here in any capacity."

Both the Yes and No sides issued complaints against one another to Baril. Notably, the group Concordians United Against BDS accused the Concordians in Support of BDS group of harassment, which included unauthorized photograph-

and a half-hours with the legal firm Sarrazin Plourde discussing how to proceed with sanctions. He added that the fee will be "reasonable" and will come out of the elections budget or the CSU's legal contingency fund.

Concordians United Against BDS were fined \$150, the maximum amount the CSU reimburses them for their campaign. Both committees operated on \$300 budgets.

Some recommendations Baril suggested in his report include a harassment policy where council members and other engaged election participants are held "accountable," the hiring of a media specialist to aid the CEO with the promotion of elections, the creation of an election committee and the extension of online and print campaigning until the last day of the polling period.

"We'll take his recommendations really seriously but the elections themselves, it's really hard to create policies around them," Prunty said. "We have a few weeks before the general elections, so we'll see what we can do for that."

After overseeing CSU elections for three years, the CEO has given his final report. "I'm quitting," Baril told council Wednesday night.

With files from Michelle Pucci

BDS: The Aftermath

CSU CEO's Report Elaborates on the Discontents of Fall's By-Election

"People felt very passionately about the issue and I was the easiest person to reach out and talk about it to," he said. "I understand why people feel they are being directly implicated by this question, like Israeli and Jewish students, and I can understand why they're upset."

Despite acknowledging that situations could have worsened, Baril said he saw equal evidence of discriminatory attacks against both sides and that his personal safety was threatened on occasion. B'nai Brith, a Jewish service organization, is currently pursuing a

ing of them.

"We have been subject to assault, physically and online," Zach Ross, a member of the No side, said before the ballot count about indiscretions like the pictures.

The Yes side accused the No side of misrepresenting facts. According to Baril, three separate students emailed him saying that representatives from the No committee falsely informed them that Israeli students and kosher food would not be allowed on campus.

Baril said he spent approximately two

Loyola Office Move Expenses Approved

The Loyola CSU office will move to the CC building in the next month.

The new office will have more space and create separate offices for services that are available downtown, including the legal and advocacy centres and the CSU's Housing and Job Bank.

Council approved a \$12,000 budget from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency Fund (SSAELC) to pay for new furniture, office supplies and IT equipment for the new Loyola offices.

"The reason we decided [on] \$12,000 is to allow for a significant buffer so we won't have to come back to council mid-way," said Gabriel Velasco, VP Loyola. The Loyola committee estimates they'll need \$9,000.

The move is supposed to take place before or after reading week.

General Election Nomination Dates Announced

The nomination period for this year's CSU general elections will be from March 2 to March 6.

Last year the nomination period was stretched to ten days instead of five, possibly to encourage involvement. Voter turnout increased significantly during the November by-election, with about 2,500 students participating.

"The CEO recommended we shorten the nomination period," said CSU President Benjamin Prunty at the last council meeting.

Prunty says the nomination period is also being brought up in advance to give the Chief Electoral Officer enough time to prepare.

In a report delivered to council last Wednesday, former CEO Andre-Marcel Baril pointed out that the last by-election was called on short notice.

Voting will take place March 24 to March 26.

Advocacy Centre to Open in March

The downtown CSU-run Advocacy Centre is expected to officially open after the reading week.

Renovations for the new Advocacy Centre should be completed in the next ten days and furniture will be delivered in two hauls.

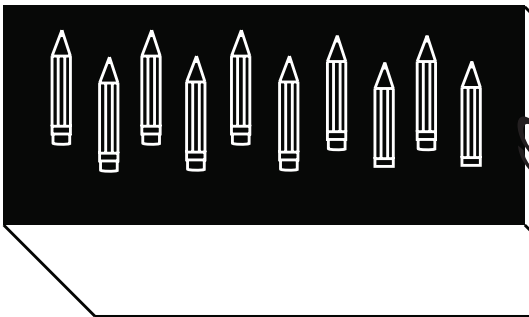
Part of the renovations include installing a floor-to-ceiling window wall in the former Travel Cuts bureau. Travel Cuts, also known in Quebec as Voyages Campus, moved in 2013 to its current location at the corner of St. Denis St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd.

"It looks professional and I think it's a better work environment for the advocates," said Terry Wilkings, VP Academic and Advocacy. "Right now they're in a windowless room."

The Legal Information Clinic will take over the Advocacy Centre's former office space on the seventh floor to create a separate conference room.

CSU Briefs

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci



the following people are eligible to vote:

All current masthead and Jennifer Aedy, Julien Assouline, Justin Blanchard, Yacine Bouhali, Alex Callard, Elysiaa-Marie Campbell, Alex Carriere, Evgenia Choros, Tristan D'Amours, Fatma Daldoul, Noelle Didierjean, Matt Garies, Jane Gatensby, Caitly Hall, Daniele Iannarone, Sam Jones, Jane Lakes, David Landsman, Erica Pishdadian, Verity Stevenson, Ester Straussova, Erik Trudel, Leigha Veigh, Shane Wright

The Link's by-elections are here!

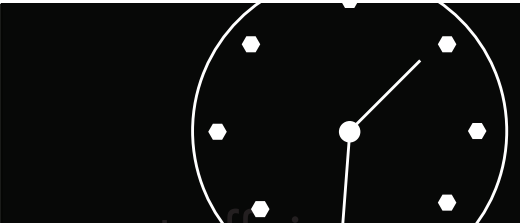
here's who's running for what:

graphics

sam jones . jennifer aedy

community

erica pishdadian



current affairs

noelle didierjean

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 4 p.m.

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

from solitary to solidarity



How the Israeli Prison System Fostered a Culture of Non-Violent Resistance

A Shift in the Culture of Incarceration

But the progressive mentality of the Palestinian inmates has changed over the years.

After the mass incarceration of the second *intifada*, or uprising, Hamas and Islamic Jihad became more prevalent and it became increasingly difficult for members of the different political parties to overcome their differences.

The counter-order became harder to maintain, and the education system and political discussions were no longer seen as the norm, according to Norman. This was partly due to the fact that the parties had lost much of their credibility and were unable to influence the prisoners to mobilize like they had in the past.

"The education system, the political committees... all that was much weakened, and the parties didn't really have the same political impact that they had earlier," Norman said.

Despite a lull in non-violent resistance in the 1990s and early 2000s, a focus on hunger strikes began again at the end of 2012. The rebirth of significant activism occurred when a small number of administrative detainees started to strike individually, pushing for their own release.

Activism amongst Palestinian security prisoners has undergone a shift from collectivity in the "golden age" of the 1980s, to individual-based resistance in the present-day, said Norman. The focus is no longer on achieving better living conditions, but rather on individual release.

Photos Noelle Didierjean

by Josh Fischlin

From hunger strikes to alternative educational structures, the mass incarceration of Palestinians has led to a plethora of subversive modes of resistance—some tactical, others cultural.

McGill Political Science professor Dr. Julie Norman, who researches non-violent resistance and media activism in Israeli and Palestine, gave a talk called "Prisoner's Dilemma" at Concordia Friday afternoon in the context of Montreal's Month Against Prisons.

Around 500 prisoners are being held in what is known as "administrative detention," Norman said. This is "detention without charge, or without trial," that is authorized by an administrative military order.

It can last for up to six months, and can be renewed an unlimited number of times. It is legal under the Geneva conventions but is meant to be used in only the most extreme circumstances. But even the Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that the current use of administrative detention is overstepping that boundary.

According to a tally that was taken at the end of 2014, there are approximately 5,500 incarcerated Palestinians who are classified by the state of Israel as Security Prisoners are being held in Israeli prisons.

"It's estimated that approximately 20 per cent of the [Palestinian] population, and up to 40 per cent of the male population has been imprisoned or detained [...] since 1967," Norman said.

In the recent past, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has claimed that 50 per cent of the Security Prisoners are considered to be those "with blood on their hands."

Norman refuted this claim by citing a conversation that she had with the former head of the IPS. "She was pretty clear about the

fact that it's really a minority who have real blood on their hands."



Prison as an Educational Experience

An indirect form of resistance was the creation of "parallel institutions" in prison that provided the inmates with an alternative from what the authorities tried to impose on them.

"They were very successful at creating this 'counter-order' within the prisons and they basically created a whole system and a whole governance within the prison," she said. "There was a series of committees that all dealt with different aspects of life, and created a sense of normalcy, a sense of discipline, and a sense of dignity."

The education system that they formed was so influential that some prisoners actually referred to their jail time as "university." They had their own internal elections, political debate sessions and news teams that gathered and reported information to fellow inmates via smuggled-in radios.

"For many of the prisoners, that was really the core of the day-to-day resistance," Norman said. "Building that counter society, and finding ways to use the prison time to not only survive, but to thrive, and to push forward."

Radical Non-Violence

Currently, the state of Israeli prison facilities is considered to be in line with international standards and norms. Non-violent activism has played a key role in achieving this goal.

The difficult conditions that the inmates lived in during the 1970s and '80s have improved only because of persistent, non-violent activism. According to one of the older prisoners, "everything inside the prison had a story of resistance behind it."

Hunger strikes were the most direct form of prisoner activism. There was usually prison-wide cooperation in these strikes, and occasionally there would be multi-prison coordination, which allowed for strikes to occur in different prisons at the same time.

The aim of the hunger strikes was to disrupt the prison order, and to make the system unworkable, Norman said. It forced the authorities to sit down with the prisoners to negotiate better conditions.



by Sabrina Matteau

In a short musical career, DJ Robert Robert has already experienced many milestones. In September 2014 he released his first album, *Pastel*, with StagRecords. The LP is reminiscent of '90s RnB, combined with jazzy melodies and tropical hip hop beats, that also implements his electro roots fueled by catchy synthesizers and keyboards.

This Sunday will mark the DJ's first appearance at Montreal's renowned outdoor music festival, Igloofest.

"This is definitely a milestone in my career and my life altogether," Robert Robert said of his upcoming performance. "Igloofest brings big names to Montreal. Being able to play at such a unique festival less than a year after releasing my album really motivates me to keep going."

"People are always thinking. I feel bad when I try to make a song that will make people think even more," Robert continued. "What I really tried to do with *Pastel* is strip that thinking time away from the listener, so that they can just relax their brain. I hear more people saying that they're stressed out than at ease. So I tried to make it as light and laid-back as possible."

Robert Robert extended his thought and blurted the term "lo-fi" to give a more colorful sense of his truck-stop style.

Meanwhile, the DJ is making efforts to ease his own stress.

"I'm really trying to work on that as much as possible. But it's hard. Hopefully my music can change that for some people," he said.

"Trying to make an organic sound out of electronics was the biggest challenge for me when making *Pastel*," said

robert robert takes on the arctic experience

Montreal DJ Piles Up Musical Accomplishments with Upcoming Igloofest Performance

Robert Robert. "That was another goal for me, to make really organic stuff and bringing the electro I like inside that organic vibe. I want it to sound like my song is playing live next to you, not the way it would sound through earphones or on a computer."

You may have seen the music video for *Pastel*'s hit single "Stereochrome." A growing trend in the realm of music videos is to produce clips that go beyond a regular performance and instead illustrate a narrative with a meaning. Viewers are usually left perplexed as to what message the artist tried to evoke.

"Stereochrome" instead invites viewers into the joyful and creative parallel universe of Robert Robert and his team. It requires no contemplation, only optical pleasure.

The video includes a superb fusion of colourful chaos, an abundance of broken glass, street art, graffiti and skateboards, along with synchronized swimmers and hipsters on bikes. "Stereochrome," which sounds like an explosion of fireworks fused with electro beats and psychedelic phonetics, takes you on a multicoloured adventure of good vibes and smiles.

"My friends really helped take some of my ideas and inspirations and made them into a reality, with a lot of their [input] too, of course," Robert said. Gratitude and appreciation are quali-

ties characteristic of Montreal's latest breakout artist.

Robert Robert's sincere nature is also evident in the reasoning behind his stage name. It has no relevance to his birth name, Arthur Gaumont-Marchand, but does relate to his laid-back musical style.

"The first track I ever made was a joke song. It was a guy singing 'bom diggy boom' repeatedly. So I wanted to find a name that sounded like a joke, too. The name 'Robert Robert' reminds me of a frog. I don't want to act like everything I chose was really thoughtful and had giant planning, as if I plotted the whole thing. I just wanted it to be human, and humans do things because they do it, without calculating all their moves. [...] And this is the style that I try to evoke in my music, too."

Robert Robert is currently working on a new EP and working on the side with Montreal's praised DJ Ryan Playground, along with rappers Panther, Zefire, Retro Spark Static and Furst. Robert Robert wants to include more hip-hop in his upcoming EP, as well as unleash his inner pop sound.

"I want each track to be an entity of its own and offer something unique. I'm focusing less on the connection between each song; I don't want one song to influence the following one like it did in *Pastel*," he said.

"We made a song together recently

that we're really proud of. It's experimental with big chords, kind of a classical composition, but it also has the cheesy hip-hop sound, too. It's nothing like we've ever done before so we're really excited about that song."

Robert Robert also confessed that his mother is a key contributor behind his inspiration.

"My mom used to play me artists like Manu Chao, which is more alternative Latin, along with bossa nova, which has a jazzy sound. So when I mix my music now, it always goes back to those influences that she would always play around the house," he said. "Another major influence would be Boards of Canada. I like how they achieve a truly organic sound despite being made from a computer."

Robert Robert explains that his objective at the moment is simply to explore his horizons. "I'm only 19, so I don't want to stick with one thing right now," he said. "I'm still discovering my style. I want to open as many doors, and just do pretty much everything before settling."

"One thing I want to do in particular is go to different cities, and play with different artists too to learn more. I think working with people will help me evolve."

"When I was 15, Igloofest was the biggest winter festival in Montreal [...] there's not that kind of stuff anywhere else. [...] Now I get to be a part of it, not as a fan, but as an artist," Robert Robert said, adding that he wants people to jump around and "go ham" during his set.

Robert Robert // Feb. 6 // Igloofest (Quai Jacques-Cartier) // 8 p.m. // \$20 online

Photo courtesy of Phimo Photos



the motion of love

Experimental Film Installation at Phi Centre Explores the Transitional Phases of Romantic Relationships

by Elysia-Marie Campbell

The bodies of a man and a woman move seamlessly in levitation. Their bodies dance softly, caress and twist and eventually move in shocking ways until they jerk, shove and yank at each other's hair.

These poetic scenes of love through movement appear in Dominique T. Skoltz's latest work, *y2o*. The short experimental film is the latest installation at Montreal's Phi Centre, running from Feb. 6 to Mar. 7.

y2o seeks to expose a love on the verge of drifting and represents multiple stages that two people go through in a relationship. "It keeps going until they come face to face, where [it's impossible] to not be together," Skoltz said.

The film depicts a man and woman, scarcely dressed, who float in constant slow movement underwater in different locations. Time is made elastic through the use of slow motion and a unique music track plays with stimulating sounds.

"We see a transposition of the inner state of each character," said Skoltz. "When the two people fall in love with each other in the beginning, they're mostly in a state of hesitation and later on there is a scene where they tear each other apart and both pull the hair from each others' heads."

She said the story of the film is more of a metaphor for how people feel in different moments in their relationship and how they can tear each other apart.

Skoltz is not fond of her work being tagged as experimental. "Yes, it can be classified as an experimental film because it's not a fiction film, but [it] might just be a new way of telling a story," she said.

"It's a cross between a film and an arts film," she said. Although it doesn't follow the traditional narrative arc, Skoltz says it has a story nonetheless, whether you interpret it

in one way or another.

The film is cut into two different versions: the short 11-minute version is for film festivals and theatres and the 30-minute one is for gallery installations. The longer version is displayed through different projectors on boards, which screen each scene separately.



"There are nine boards where you see the characters evolving. [...] That in itself is very different than being told a story from point A to Z," she said. "It's a transposition of [an] idea through images."

"All of the filming was done underwater and in front of a green screen because I wanted to detach my characters and bring them into other universes," Skoltz said. "It was filmed in an aquarium, like the giant glass cube you can see in the film, which permitted the characters to look like they're levitating and defying gravity."

A Montreal-based special effects company made the giant aquarium and the whole film was shot in their studio.

"We had to do tests with the actors ahead of time in a pool and we taught them how to breathe underwater with an oxygen tank with the supervision of a diver and a stuntman because it could have been super dangerous," Skoltz said.

The film was shot in two days in the winter of 2013, but the post-production process took a lot of time. "I spent months working on the hair because it was really complex for it to look nice and be credible," she said.

The project came alive through sketches and ideas that she was accumulating for a long time. "It started from a personal place and I would go and sketch what I was feeling," Skoltz said.

The Montreal-based artist feels she is evolving through her work and ideas. "Right now I'm kind of undergoing a transformation," she said. "I worked with mostly sound and image for about ten years, and now I'm working more with problems of communication and emotional facets."

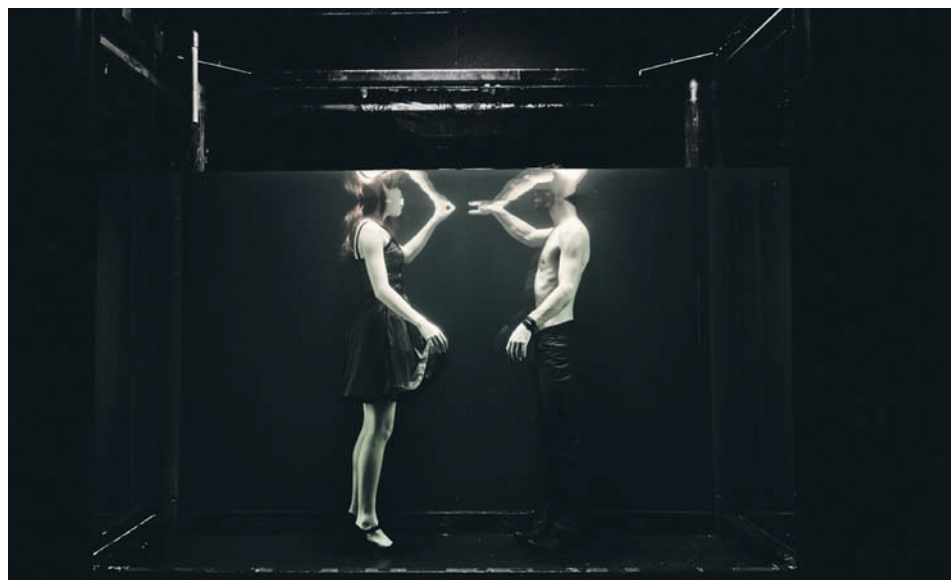
Skoltz is taking a step back from the technical side of things and says that the emotional domain is completely different.

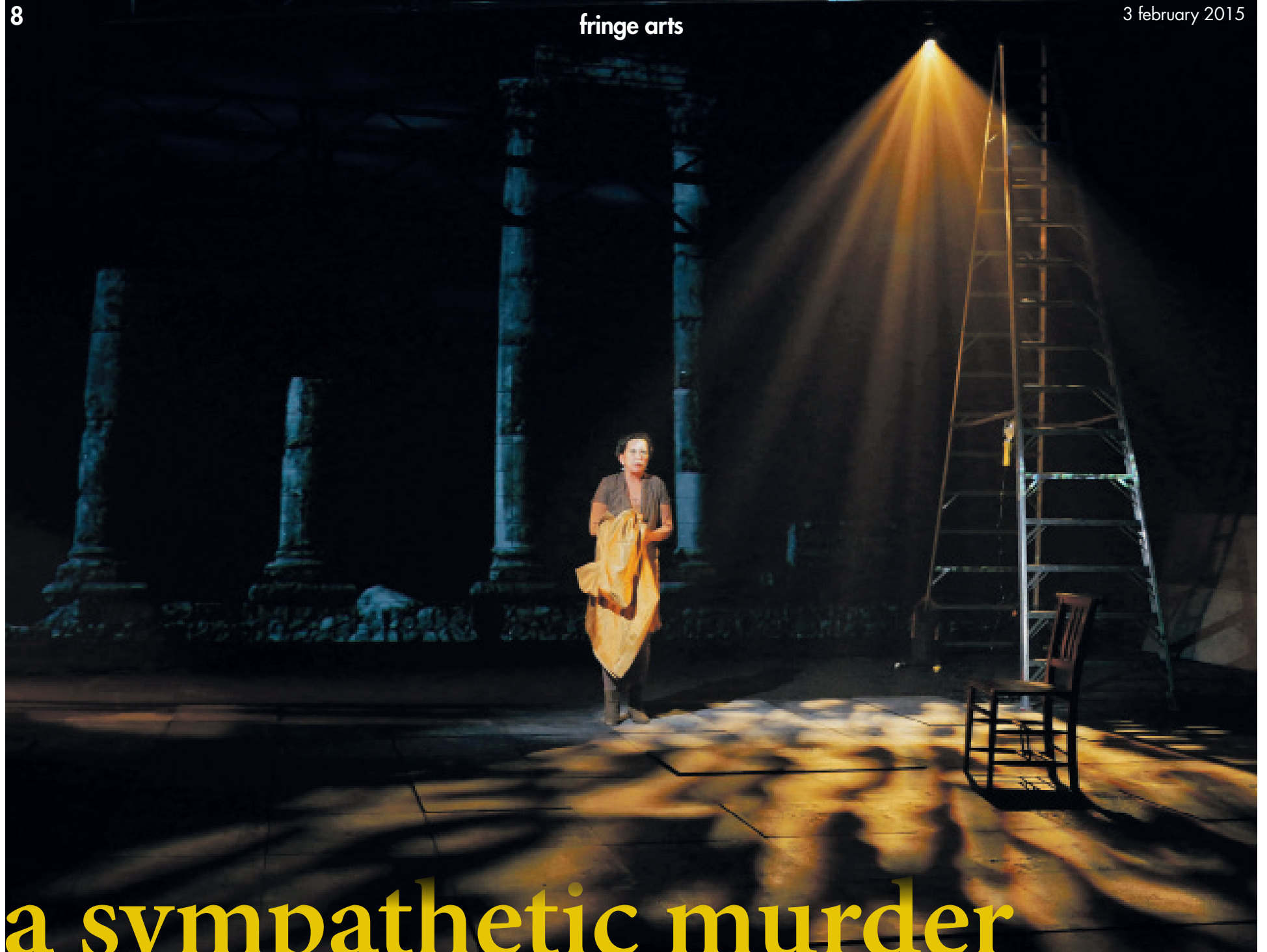
Skoltz's work has been presented at more than 50 festivals, events and museums around the world. Since 2013 *y2o* has won multiple prizes such as Best Experimental Film at the Yorkton Film Festival and the PRIM prize at the 2014 Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois's "Prends ça court!" event.

The film's next rounds include the British Film Institute in London, the International Kurzfilmwoche Regensburg in Germany and the Tempere Film Festival in Finland.

***y2o* // Feb. 6 to Mar. 7 // Phi Centre (407 St. Pierre St.) // Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. // Free admission**

Photo courtesy of Centre Phi





a sympathetic murder

ConU Alumnus Emma Tibaldo Reimagines Classical Tragedy *Medea*

By Joshua Rosenbaum

Only a particular person could embody the character of a mother that murders her two children in cold blood and gains the audience's sympathies. In *The Medea Effect*, show director Ugo is desperately looking for a woman talented enough to play the main character in his rendition of the ancient Greek tragedy *Medea*.

Concordia Theatre graduate Emma Tibaldo directed this play, originally written by Québécois playwright Suzie Bastien and translated by Nadine Descrochers.

The plot revolves around two characters scarred with family abandonment issues and an inability to be understood or to be heard. Each of them is obsessed with the classic Greek heroine Medea. Through dialogue and compassion, they unveil their own personal demons and the reasons for their attachment to the play.

"We like to call this a tango, with one person pushing and the other person following," said Tibaldo. "It's all about fast turns and straight lines, and people pushing each other to the limit and trying to pull out, but then being pulled back into the story."

The central character of Euripedes' tragedy, Medea, is heartbroken and alone after her husband Jason leaves her to marry another woman. As revenge, she kills her two children and his fiancée in order to inflict upon him the most pain imaginable.

Medea's filicide doesn't come from a place of hysteria but rather from one of clarity. She understands the magnitude and repercussions of this unforgivable act. The abandonment she felt when her husband left her coupled with her inability to change the situation left her with only one option.

The character is often praised for her revolt against the male-dominated oppression she faces throughout the story.

In Tibaldo's rendition of the play, an exhausted director has gone through countless auditions to find the right woman to play Medea. To appropriately display the range of this character, an individual would have to reach deep into their consciousness and externalize their most personal conflicts.

Ugo, however, can't find anyone capable of handling it.

After a fruitless day of auditions, Ada, played by Jennifer Morehouse, arrives uninvited in an attempt to convince Ugo of her worthiness to play the part. Exhausted and annoyed, her encounter is met with hostility.

Ugo ultimately recognizes Ada as the actor who played Medea 10 years earlier, only to infamously walk off stage during a performance. As the two characters become more intimate with one another, they recount each other's deceptions.

"It's not about forgiveness; it's more about being heard. In this play, they ask to be heard," said Tibaldo.

The story of Medea attempts to send a similar message. Her ability to grasp and articulate to audiences the thought process behind her actions allows the viewer to sympathize with her.

"The base of all modern drama is Greek theatre and to sort of see that in a modern context is very appealing and entertaining," said James Loye, who plays Ugo.

The set design is minimal, creating a space of simplicity and emptiness that encourages the audience to focus and listen. The stage contains only a tall ladder and a few chairs, while the players express

themselves through dialogue and movement. The drama of the play is created through distances, pacing and the timing of the actors.

"I believe theatre lives in the metaphor, it lives in a place of the imagination, so it's become fairly clear to me over my career that I don't go to furniture or props," Tibaldo said. "A lot of the work is about how they stand, or face each other, or move away."

Much like the character she plays, Jennifer Morehouse had previously played Ada in an earlier incarnation of the play. She described the difference of revisiting the same character.

"You relive the text in a very different way when you first explore the character. You're just trying to get the lines in; this time around that part's already done," she said. "I've had two years to feel this person, to feel what she's gone through in this story."

Loye, who is a recent addition, only had a short time to prepare for the play. Regardless, director Emma Tibaldo couldn't be happier with the actor.

"He's done a great job and he's only been rehearsing for two weeks," she said.

The Talisman Theatre produced the play. The production company's main objective is to translate French-language Québécois plays and bring them to an English audience. This is Tibaldo's second stint directing this show after a successful run in 2012, which earned nominations including Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction from the Montreal English Theatre Awards.

***The Medea Effect* // Feb. 3—Feb. 7 // Segal Centre for Performing Arts (5170 Côte Ste-Catherine Rd.) // \$18 adv. // 8 p.m.**

Photo Courtesy of Michael Leon



managing expectations

An In-Depth Look at Concordia Hockey Team Managers

by David S. Landsman @dslands

Every year a new crop of players comes to training camp to try out for the Concordia Stingers hockey teams, and coaches are faced with the tough task of forming a competitive roster to battle through a season. Behind each team are managers whose tasks, from sharpening skates to ensuring players eat nutritiously, also make them essential for success.

At Concordia, managers Caitlin Booth and Stewart Wilson are integral members of the Stingers hockey teams who have

helped take care of players during their university careers.

Wilson, 66, has been with the men's team since 1992 and he's seen many changes of the guard in his tenure so far. He started as a manager for both the football and hockey teams before choosing the men's team exclusively.

"I'm a very organized and meticulous person," said Wilson on being a manager. "I like making sure I can read the coach's mind before he can even say anything."

Originally born in Preston, England,

he immigrated first to British Columbia before making the move to Montreal, where his wife has family. Wilson planned on staying in Montreal for a year before heading further east to Nova Scotia.

"Twenty-three years later I'm still here but no regrets; family always keeps me going strong," he said.

Booth, 25, is relatively new to the managerial game, in comparison to Wilson's 23 years of experience. The Leisure Science graduate is in her third season working behind head coach Les Lawton and the women's team.

"I got hired on the spot and was invited to meet the girls as they did their fitness testing on the field," said Booth. "I remember holding this clipboard and asking everybody for their papers and they looked at me clueless. I remember knowing and thinking that this task might be harder than I thought."

Developing bonds with players has been of huge importance for both managers, as they've come to be more than skate sharpeners and equipment caretakers. They are a part of the Stingers hockey family.

In the case of Wilson, he could pass as a surrogate hockey parent.

"Stew is always there for us for whatever we need," said men's team forward Dany Potvin. "Getting our tape, sticks and [he] always has our skates sharpened. He takes care of us and makes sure we never forget anything—and if we do, he won't. He's also our biggest fan."

"Being our biggest fan he's always more mad when we lose and happiest when we win," Potvin continued. "He's the hardest worker in the room when we lose and the heaviest drinker when we win."

As for Booth, she is praised for the

energy she brings to the women's team.

"[Booth is] a very enthusiastic person, always prepared and ready for every situation," said Lawton. "She's our extra player and is part of the team. There is so much respect between all of us."

Managers can even endure regular frustrations with their players and hockey life, varying from flying pucks to sharpening skates too close to game time. However,



the downsides of being a team manager pale in comparison to the good.

"When they bring me [skates] five minutes before [the game], it always gets me stressed," said Wilson. "But it doesn't bother me too much and I get it done. Not much will get me upset around here."

"Sometimes the bench door can hit you in uncomfortable places, getting hit by a puck, or the girls who sometimes steal my water bottles," said Booth. "But at the end of the day, I love my job, I love these girls."

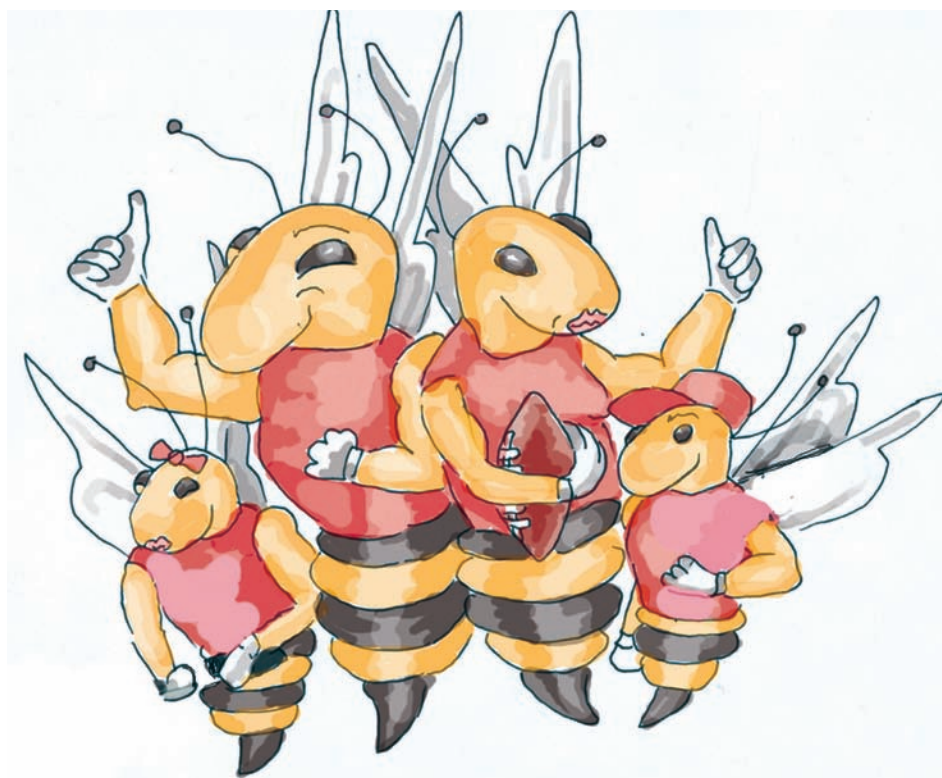
1. Photo Bianca Rosetti 2. Photo courtesy Concordia Sports

all in the family

The Concordia Stingers Football Team Is Hard at Work Adding to Their Roster

by Vince Morello @vinnymorellz

It may be cliché to call a sports team a family, but for the Concordia Stingers football team, it became their rallying cry this past season, and they continue to build on this principle.



The Stingers coaching staff is well into their recruiting season, finding and attracting talent for Concordia, or "The Family," according to assistant head coach Patrick Donovan.

Since the end of the season, the Stingers have brought in 28 players, including U18 Team Canada running back Myles Browne and CEGEP all-star slotback Yanic Lessard.

Coaches have been attending training camps in Canada and the United States, seeking out future Stingers who fit the mould to bring to the hive.

"For me, the most important thing that we preach and how I was brought up, is preaching about family and love," Donovan said. "We want to bring kids in who will believe in us, who will also believe in them. They will come in, be part of the family and not separate from, or not separate the other players."

"Every kid that I've recruited wherever I was, they come because they truly know I do care about them," Donovan continued. "I want to make sure they do well and they succeed in everything they want to do in life."

The concept of family and belief in one another has appealed to Browne and Lessard, two highly sought-after recruits who have committed to the Maroon and Gold for the upcoming 2015 season.

"I felt like there was a great chance of brotherhood," Lessard said. "When the coaches talk about the players and everything, they seem to really take care of them and I see a family at Concordia."

"[The Stingers] cared a lot for me the second I was there," Browne said. "I met every single

coach [and] they introduced me to every single player. It was really nice to see and I can tell that everyone there is friendly and like I said, it's like a family."

Education also plays a factor for the players as well, especially for recruits who have many options on their plate.

"I wasn't looking to study in French," said Lessard. "I want to study in English. It's way easier for me to study in English."

After going 5-3 this past season, the Stingers are still rebuilding from their winless campaign in 2013, which has helped to entice players into suiting up at Concordia.

"I did that when I was in high school," said Lessard when asked about being part of a rebuilding program. "We were an underdog program and we built something good, so I'm really pumped to play for Concordia and to change the mentality the RSEQ has on Concordia."

"They're in a really good rebuilding process and I want to be part of it," Browne said. "They have the right mindset, so I want to be in a program that's trying to build something, instead of something already built."

The coaching staff and players know it's going to be a process, but for the most part are excited and optimistic for the upcoming season.

"We're young blood," said Donovan. "We know we can win here."

"As a whole, a university, a sports complex, we're all a family and everyone is all on board. We all work together."

Graphic Sam Jones



“monster gamer, quiet guy”

A Look into Men's Basketball Rookie-of-the-Year Candidate Ken Beaulieu

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF JAN. 27 TO FEB. 2

THURSDAY

29

Women's Basketball—Concordia 63, Laval 72
Men's Basketball—Concordia 77, Laval 79

FRIDAY

30

Women's Hockey—Concordia 3, Ottawa 1

SATURDAY

31

Women's Basketball—Concordia 74, Laval 67
Men's Basketball—Concordia 79, Laval 71

SUNDAY

1

Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, UOIT 4

UPCOMING GAMES

COMING UP IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

THURSDAY

5

6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball at McGill Martlets
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at McGill Redmen

FRIDAY

6

7:30 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. McGill Redmen (Ed Meagher Arena)

SATURDAY

7

2:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. McGill Martlets (Concordia Gymnasium)
2:30 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. McGill Marlets (Ed Meagher Arena)
4:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. McGill Redmen (Concordia Gymnasium)

by Julian McKenzie @JulianTheIntern

On the court, Stingers rookie Ken Beaulieu makes his presence felt through his play. As top scorer, the team relies on him, and when the opportunity presents itself, he will raise the roof with a slam-dunk, celebrated with a jubilatory roar.

“He does what he needs to do [to] pump up the crowd,” said Beaulieu’s teammate Michael Fosu.

Off the court, however, he is more frustrating to get an answer from than National Football League star Marshawn Lynch. Lynch’s recent refusal to speak to the media has been well documented, but at least his antics are humorous and noteworthy.

Post-game questions directed towards Beaulieu are either given quick, mumbled and barely audible responses or an “I don’t know.” The best way to communicate with Beaulieu is either in French when he does speak or by making plays. He lets his basketball do the talking.

“I don’t talk a lot,” he said. “I just listen to my coaches and keep doing what they say.”

Following this past Thursday’s game against the Laval Rouge et Or, Beaulieu addressed questions about the newfound attention he’s been receiving.

Already regarded by his coach as the most exciting player in the conference, Beaulieu is making his presence known in his rookie season. He is fifth in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec scoring

charts, averaging 13.6 points per game.

Concordia cannot resist posting videos and GIFs of their budding star making or dunking a timely basket, and the hashtag #kenbeaulieudunking has surfaced on both Facebook and Twitter. Beaulieu has even made victims out of his teammates and an equipment manager during practices.

He has drawn praise from RDS, as the French-language sports channel mentioned him in their “Le 6ème homme” basketball recap segment this past week.

“It’s about time university sport—basketball in particular—got a pat on the back from the RDS or any other media outlet,” said Stingers head coach John Dore.

During Beaulieu’s interview, he was joined by two teammates, Aamir Gyles and Michael Fosu, who were a little more responsive than Beaulieu.

Once the questions were directed towards Beaulieu, his teammates took the opportunity to leave. Beaulieu did everything in his power to keep them around, but they wanted nothing of it and left him to answer questions solo.

“Practice your English, man. Practice that!” said Gyles.

The rookie lets his actions to speak for him, no matter what game is played.

“Monster gamer, quiet guy,” said teammate Inti Salinas. “He’s really good at Trivia Crack too.”

“In French he doesn’t lose; I have to play him in English.”

Beaulieu was a first-team all-star in

CEGEP before arriving at Concordia this fall as an independent student. He averaged 14.9 points and 8.9 rebounds for Collège Édouard-Montpetit and was coveted for his athleticism.

He has brought that and more for Concordia this season, often coming out of games as the team’s most productive player. This past Saturday, Beaulieu led his team in scoring with 19 points, 11 rebounds and three assists in a win at Université Laval, avenging Thursday night’s loss.

As one of the eight new recruits on the team, Beaulieu is more than happy to be among the team’s notable new players.

“It feels good,” Beaulieu said. “All of my teammates are good, so I got to keep pushing myself.”

Beaulieu’s play even draws comparisons to a previous Stinger star, Evens Larocque, a former conference MVP.

“[Evens and Ken are] athletic, they jump out the gym. They play any position, they’re versatile,” said Stingers veteran guard Gyles.

“If you ask them to rebound, they’ll rebound. If you ask them to shoot, they’ll shoot. If you ask them to defend the tallest or the best player, they’ll do it.”

Praise abounds for Beaulieu, from his teammates and the media. However, don’t expect the upstart rookie to puff his chest and brag, or n mutter so much as a peep. He would rather play and leave it on the court, and his teammates think that’s just fine.

Photo Matt Garies

opinions

the fine line between education and exploitation

Why Are Unpaid Internships the Norm?

by Mattha Busby @itsmattha

We all want to make enough money to be able to live a comfortable life one day. Unless you intend to become a one-hit-wonder (see: Bobby Shmurda, Rick Astley), you'll probably have to supplement your studies with an internship.

You won't often be paid for this in Canada, nor will you be protected by federal legislation. And as young people entering the workforce begin to form a growing segment of the population, this issue is unlikely to go away anytime soon.

"Interns should be classified like any other worker under the labour code," said Adam Seaborn of the Canadian Intern Association. "There should be a way for interns to have a path for recourse."

The Intern Protection Act, which was first tabled last June, is set to be debated and voted on in Parliament this spring and has contributed towards keeping this debate alive.

The law, if passed, will provide unpaid interns—estimated to number about 300,000 nationwide—in federally-regulated industries with the basic protections that are afforded to permanent employees.

The bill is the brainchild of Laurin Liu, the New Democratic Party MP for Rivière-des-Milles-Îles, who told *The Link* in September that "interns are not protected by federal law in Canada."

Liu said the Harper government has altered its position since the tabling of her private member's bill, although it hasn't yet announced whether it opposes or supports the bill. Despite this, it has recently undertaken consultations with student groups.

"My private member's bill forced the government to reconsider its interpretation of the Canadian Labour Code with regards to interns, to look at the issue and to take it seriously," Liu said.

"A patchwork of provincial labour laws exists across the nation, but in general these are inadequate and do not provide a clear avenue for recourse against an employer."

The bill would provide interns with the same protections as other employees, something that many believe is already the case. It's shocking that interns have practically no rights in the workplace.

Liu says the proposed Intern Protection Act is "far from radical."

"It is largely a common-sense piece of legislation," she said. "It will limit the working week to 48 hours, provide interns with the right to refuse dangerous work and protect them from sexual harassment."

A private member's bill is a piece of legislation proposed by an MP that isn't a cabinet minister. Given the Conservatives' majority in the lower house, this bill will require bipartisan support in order to become law.

Many employers, however, are looking to the government for exact guidelines on what they can and can't do.

When I spoke to Liu in January she told me that her party had asked the government how many interns are currently working for the federal government.

"Since 2008 the federal government has employed almost a thousand interns," said Liu. "However, only 22 of these interns were subsequently hired after their internship. This proves that the chances of gaining a job in federal government after interning are very low."

**"Labour rights is an issue that affects almost every Canadian citizen."
-Adam Seaborn**

The non-payment of interns is largely a "North American phenomenon," according to the Canadian Intern Association, which attributes the growing mass of interns to the economic climate and says that unpaid internships have subsequently become widely culturally accepted.

"Interns are a reality of our current economic situation. They exist in large numbers and, for the most part, they are not protected by the law in their province or nationally."

The Canadian Intern Association, founded in 2012, is seeking to educate young people who are entering the workforce and may be put into a precarious position by accepting an unpaid internship. It also lobbies for legal reform and change on the municipal, provincial and federal levels, while also helping graduate students collect data, thus making it easier for the group to lobby for policy changes.

"The Intern Protection Act, if passed, will be a great amendment to the Canadian Labour Code," said Seaborn. "At the moment there is a serious gap in the law with regard to the protection of unpaid interns."

"Labour rights is an issue that affects almost every Canadian citizen," Seaborn asserted. "Having [interns] explicitly stated in law is a pretty important issue when dealing with sexual harassment complaints or refusal to work."

Seaborn added that interns are often given tasks that would typically be done by paid administrative assistants.

Under the provisions of the proposed law, the employer will be obligated to notify their interns of the terms of the internship, including pay, or lack thereof, along with the hours they

will be required to work.

Liu said that the New Democratic Party feels this is merely a "first step" to providing interns with greater protections.

Of course, there's nothing inherently wrong with an internship per se. Shaun Michaud, Photo and Video Editor at *The Link*, described his four-month internship at the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies as a "fruitful experience."

"I had complete creative freedom and the experience I accrued was helpful," Michaud said. "However, I was not paid, although I fulfilled tasks similar to paid employees—although I knew that before I decided to undertake the internship, so I guess that's my choice."

Maryne Zammit, who is interning at Radio Centre-Ville, performs part of the role of a paid employee without any remuneration. Most of the training she receives is based on feedback from her own projects, however, her boss hasn't been present recently. This seems to be a fairly typical experience.

Alex Tyrrell, leader of the Green Party of Quebec, says his party is "generally in favour of the bill." However, the Greens also "want to make sure any legislation like this doesn't stop anyone from doing volunteer work."

"We would be more favourable [toward] people doing internships in small businesses or non-profit organisations rather than large corporations where most of the abuse comes from."

The proposed bill follows the death of Andy Ferguson, an unpaid intern at Astral Media's local pop rock radio stations, The Bear and Virgin Radio in Edmonton. Ferguson died from a head-on collision in 2011 after working excessive hours.

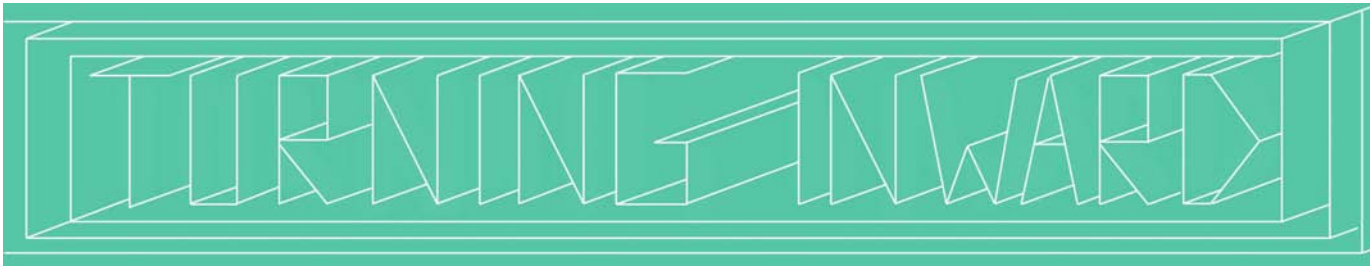
Although Bell, which made a profit of over \$1 billion in the third quarter of last year, has relented to public pressure over the hiring of unpaid interns, many others have continued the practice.

The ubiquitous logic of neoliberalism, in accord with cultural acceptance of unpaid internships (despite the fact that such internships disproportionately favour kids with rich parents), is one that has to be challenged. However, I would endorse Tyrrell's suggestion that unpaid internships be allowed at non-profits.

If you're going to get exploited you may as well make sure it's not going to add to the profits of your overlords.

Graphics Sam Jones





You can read the entirety of this article at www.thelinknewspaper.ca/opinions

by Gonzo Nieto @gonzebo

In the resurgence of psychedelic research in recent years, one of the areas that has been examined with successful results is the treatment of anxiety-related issues in psychedelic therapy.

It's not uncommon to hear of people who have used these substances to the same effect but on their own rather than in the context of therapy and this sort of use underscores something very important: for many people, their experiences with psychedelics have empowered them to take charge of their own well-being, often in times where it previously felt out of their control.

This week, I had the opportunity of interviewing someone who was willing to share their experiences with just this type of use. Over the course of several years, psychedelics functioned as a tool that allowed him to work through anxiety issues that he'd had from a young age, which were exacerbated by traumatic events during adolescence.

As you read this, keep in mind that people's experiences with psychedelics vary widely and the type of effects and results talked about here are due not only to properly conducted psychedelic sessions; they are also due to the work that the individual puts in outside of their experiences to reflect on and integrate the material that emerges during such experiences.

Due to the nature of the subject matter, the identity of the individual will remain anonymous. For the purpose of this article, we'll call him Alan.

Gonzo: Let's start from the beginning. Can you tell me about your issues with anxiety when you were younger?

Alan: From a very young age, I was an incredibly anxious person. I was an insomniac, I had a lot of trouble sleeping, I had a lot of trouble making friends. For a kid, I thought way too much about everything and my parents didn't understand or realize the extent of it, like the amount of nights I was staying sleepless in my bed thinking and panicking about world issues that I actually had no control over—things like 9/11 or a world war breaking out.

Then, when I was 17, there was a pretty traumatic event that happened in my life: my mother tried to kill herself by swallowing a bottle of painkillers. Luckily, I came home the morning she had planned to do it completely by fluke, found her and stopped her before they could kick in.

But that event shook me to the core...I can't help but feel that it was a selfish act, but how am I supposed to know what she was going through at the time? I just couldn't understand why anyone would try to kill themselves. I just felt despair, like my passion for life was taken from me by that event. The question of why she would do it was all I could think about, to the point that I dropped out of school and ended up going on medication.

To add to this, a couple months later I was in my first semester at Dawson when the Dawson shooting happened and that really compounded my feelings of "why is life so shitty?" The following semester I did very poorly and I dropped out within two weeks of my third semester.

Gonzo: What led you go on medications?

Alan: Well, after all of this, I was diagnosed with a major anxiety disorder. Due to this diagnosis, I was put on a mood stabilizer called Effexor for six months. They took away the peaks from life—I didn't feel sad or stressed or unhappy or anxious, but I didn't feel happy or excited either. With that and the shooting having pushed me over the edge, I just couldn't deal anymore, so I escaped instead. I didn't leave my home, I became very unmotivated, smoked pot and played video games all the time and I lost contact with all of my friends except my best friend who made the effort to come see me. It was a very dark period, very solitary. I had very much given up.

About the fifth month in, I realized the meds were having no effect on me except that it made me an absolute zombie. Luckily, my psychiatrist was okay with it when I decided to go off them—she had studied behavioural therapy so she would teach me little exercises to start dealing with anxiety and panicking and other things.

Gonzo: And when did you begin to use psilocybin mushrooms?

Alan: The following summer, I took mushrooms for the first time and in the several weeks after I was left with a lasting feeling of contentment and happiness. I really didn't expect this from taking drugs, but this drew me to try them again and it became very much a sort of self-medication. That first year it was like every two to three months and then the next year it was like every month and a bit, and then maybe by the third year I started doing mushrooms closer to weekly.

I don't know how [else] to describe it but to say that those experiences slowly rewired my brain. I slowly just started being less and less anxious, all of my friends started coming back into my life; I started taking photos that became my new passion. I became passionate about life again! That's what it gave me back; it gave me back my passion that I'd lost.

Gonzo: What was it about those mushroom experiences that left you feeling so positive in the following weeks?

Alan: One of the things that used to be an issue for me was worrying about things that are completely out of my control. And I think that's something that mushrooms helped a lot with too, the feeling of loss of control. When I'm on mushrooms, I feel very much in control and it even comes across in my speech—I don't stutter, I speak very clearly, I almost speak in poems sometimes, it's very weird. It just feels like my thought process is on point the whole time, like my mouth can finally keep up with my brain, or like I'm not inhibiting myself between what I think and what I say. It feels like I'm able to speak from the heart without holding myself back. In contrast, when I'm sober, my speech just doesn't flow out in the same way.

As an anxious person, death was also something I thought and worried about all the time. That wasn't healthy, you know, it stopped me from doing a lot of things I might've done, but I was so scared that it inhibited me constantly. But through my experiences with mushrooms, my fear of death also decreased over time.

Gonzo: And how do you think these experiences with mushrooms affected you over a longer period of time?

Alan: I feel like mushrooms let me reinvent myself to a certain degree. I was at that point in my life where anxiety was going to consume me and burn me up from the inside. I was at a point where I wasn't leaving home anymore and that was very unhealthy, but I had no disability, I had nothing holding me back except my own mind.

But in these experiences, it was like I got to step outside of that headspace for a little bit and really take an almost third-person view of my own life. For a long time I had felt very powerless and [...] scared, but with mushrooms there was this feeling of oneness with nature, with the people around me and with the universe at large that made me feel so connected instead of feeling scared and powerless.

Instead of seeing myself as tiny and insignificant in a vast, vast universe, the feeling that began to seep in was that my life did matter, and my experience did have value—the value I assigned to it. What value is there to anything if you don't assign the value yourself? And I think that's what I just didn't understand about the human condition until after, is that you decide how happy you are, you know? You really do and mushrooms let me get to that point where I could decide how happy I was.

Of course, that took time. It took many, many years of working at it, learning to stay calm and not letting my emotions take over, and not letting my anxiety take over, but I

really think that mushrooms were the deciding factor in getting myself there.

Gonzo: And did your use of mushrooms stay as frequent as you said earlier?

Alan: I started off very seldom; built up to fairly often, to the point where I was doing them weekly over the course of spring to fall one year; and then retracted to the point where now I do them like maybe twice a year [...] So now it's more infrequent and much more of a recreational thing because, having gotten what I did out of those experiences, I no longer feel like I need to rely on them for that anymore.

Something that's important to recognize from Alan's story is that he relied less and less on going back to the psychedelic state as he integrated the lessons and changes that were coming to him. As he did this, he found that the changes in perspective that would be felt during the psychedelic experience were slowly brought out of the experience, until they were more present and grounded in his daily life.

Interestingly, psychedelics appear to be the only class of drugs whose use tends to regularly decrease over time among a majority of its users. And with that, I'm reminded of the saying that one should only seek out teachers that seek to render themselves obsolete.

Graphic Sam Jones





Pregnancy Options

My period is late so I took two pregnancy tests, but they each came out different... I don't know what to do now or what to do if I'm pregnant. I always thought I'd have an abortion if it happened but now I feel confused. Help?

by Melissa Fuller @mel_full

Before anything else, you'll want to find out if you're actually pregnant.

Since you've already done two at home pregnancy tests with mixed results, it's time to go to a clinic. You can go to Concordia Health Services, a CLSC, or any walk-in clinic.*

They might do another urine test or go straight for a blood test; but either way, you'll want to double-check any positive results from an at-home pregnancy test with a nurse or doctor since they can be faulty.

If calling a clinic ahead, make sure to tell them that it's for a pregnancy test since you're likely to get an earlier appointment.

From there, let's say you find out you're pregnant and take a look at possible next steps.

Even if you always thought you'd have an abortion, it's impossible to know how you'll really feel until you're in the situation.

If you're not sure about continuing a pregnancy, you'll want to start by exploring your feelings about the pregnancy and your options.

This is a very personal decision that can be complicated, so it's one that only you can make for yourself.

It can help to reach out to a person who

you trust to support you through your own decision-making process without trying to influence your decision.

Since that can sometimes be difficult for someone close to you to do, I recommend seeking the help of a professional counselor or therapist either way.

Counseling will give you the space to freely explore your feelings away from other people who may be affected by them.

Concordia Counseling and Development is a free on-campus resource that you can check out for counseling services.

You can even read counselors' bios online to see if someone specific interests you.

If you're looking for off-campus support and you're 25 years old or under, I highly recommend the social services at Head & Hands. You can call (514) 481-0277 and ask to make a counseling appointment.

At the same time, maybe you're not interested in seeing a counselor or you want to start with something more private.

There are also resources that can guide you through a personal reflection on your own or with a person you trust. The website pregnancyoptions.info offers free workbooks to help people process feelings and thoughts related to pregnancy and abortion.

The Pregnancy Options Workbook is

a great and thorough tool to help anyone who becomes pregnant to figure out their next steps.

It addresses both physical and emotional aspects of pregnancy, while providing detailed information on what to expect for all available options.

Depending on your choices, the other workbooks on the Pregnancy Options website might be of use to you.

Whatever your situation or decisions, I would also have more suggestions for support and resources, so feel free to reach out again with any follow-up questions.

*Concordia Health Services—call to make an appointment or show up in person for urgent care services: 514-848-2424 ext. 3565 (SGW, GM-200), ext. 3575 (LOY, AD-131)

CLSC or walk-in clinic: call info-sant  at 8-1-1 from any Quebec phone line and ask for the nearest clinic.

Concordia Counseling and Development : call 514-848-2424 :ext. 3545 (SGW), ext. 3555 (LOY)

Submit your question anonymously at melissafuller.ca and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Check out our workshops!

Held every Friday at our office in room H-649

NASH

The Link went to the annual NASH conference in Ottawa last month. We are holding a community workshop to synthesize what we learned from the many workshops we attended there.

We will be sharing insights we gained about:

feb. 6

- Interviewing skills
- How to find and deal with sources
- Access to Information tips
- Freelancing 101
- Writing about Aboriginal issues
- Making great infographics
- Data journalism and data mining social media
- Social media strategies for FB and Twitter

...and several other very useful subjects like these.

radio hosting

Matt D'Amours
Julian McKenzie

Our podcast extraordinaires will be giving tips on how to write and read copy for radio, voice training, tips on podcasting, recording setup, editing and way more. Don't miss it!

feb. 13

social media

Director of web communications at Concordia, Lucy Niro transitioned from journalism to corporate marketing communications over the course of her career. This workshop will be delving into internal and external communications strategies for effective marketing in a digital, global economy.

lucy niro
feb. 20

Valentine's by Lucia Ceta



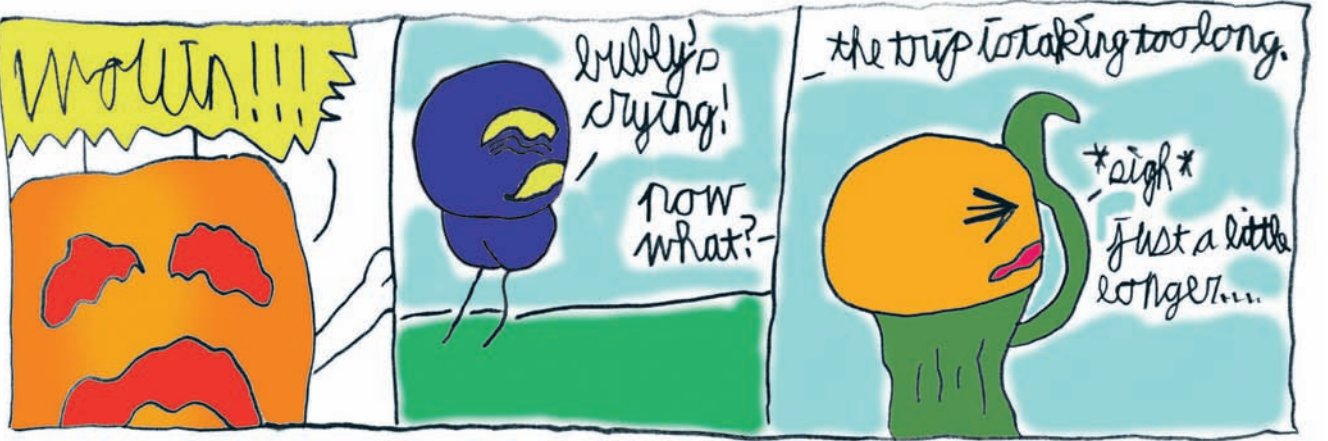
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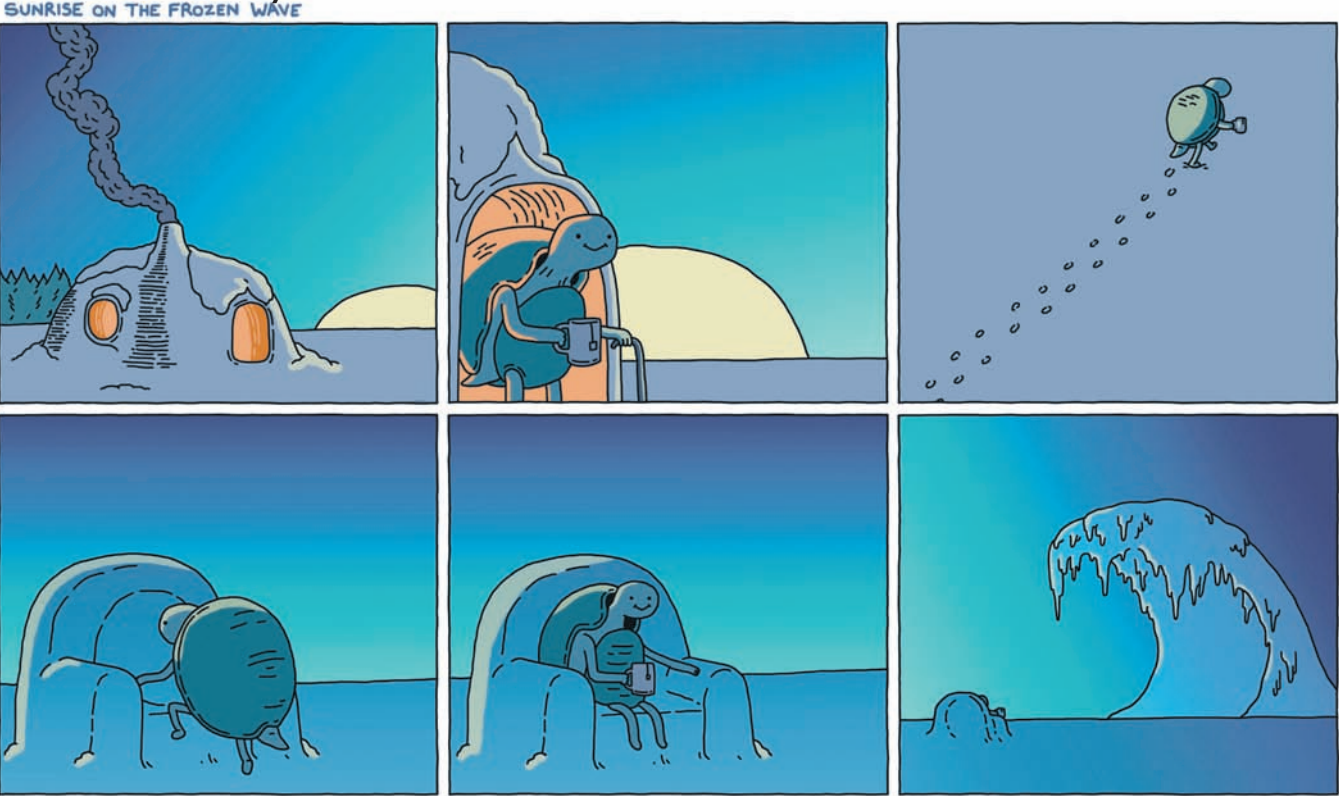
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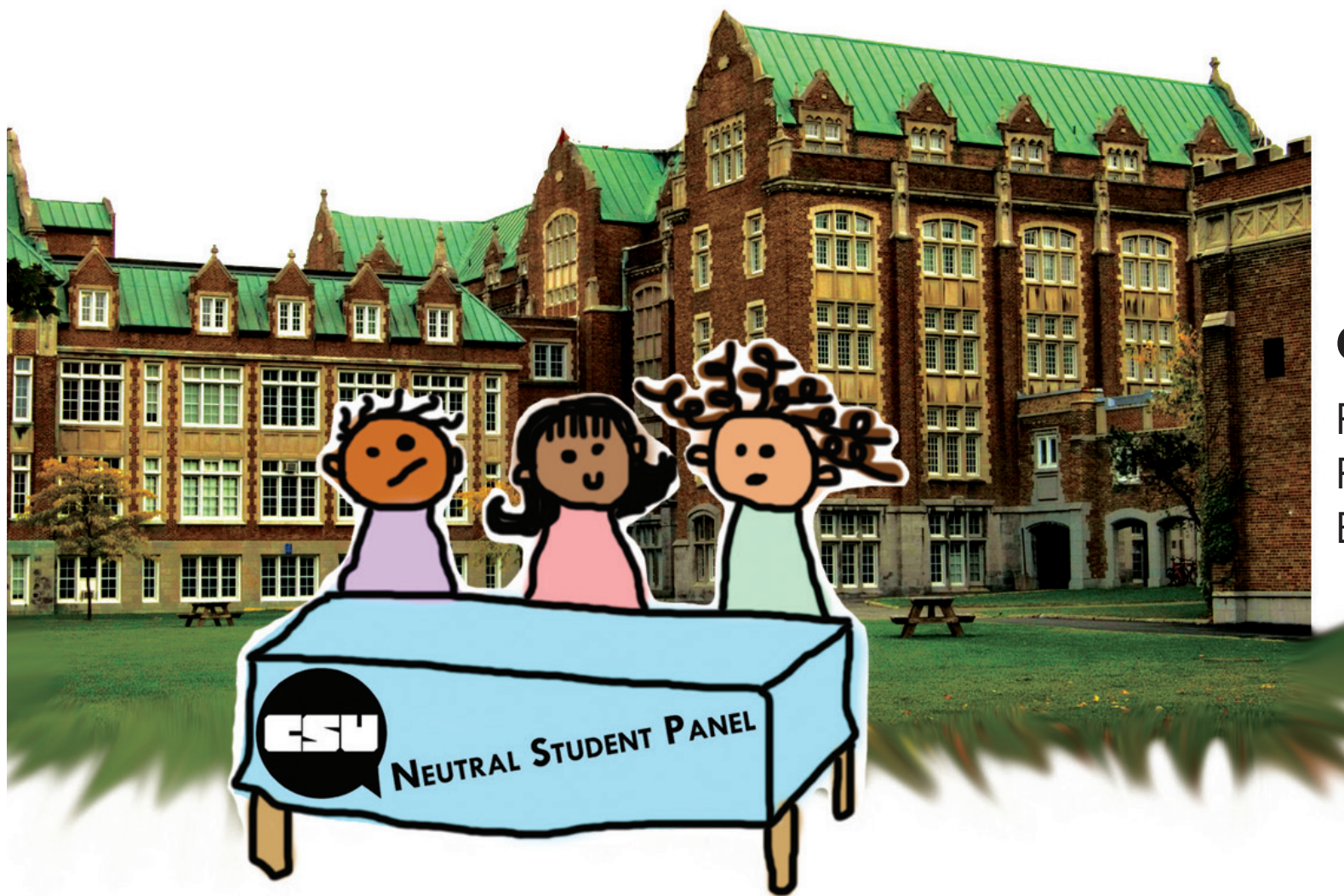


Balloon Ventures by Mengekko Jones



Power Theatre by Alex Callard





editorial

Picking Up the Pieces After the BDS Debacle

After the mishaps during last semester's Concordia Student Union by-elections, chief electoral officer Andre-Marcel Baril has delivered both his election report and his resignation.

In the report, he applauds Concordia for holding a "democratically sound public referendum" on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel's occupation of Palestine, adding that he is also very proud to have overseen this process.

While we at *The Link* are also proud of this fact, we believe that there were many failings during the by-election and it's a good thing that Baril has identified these in his report.

Frankly, if divisive issues must be addressed, it is necessary to first have a robust democratic institution as well as oversight to successfully manage the electoral process.

Ultimately, however, this referendum was an anomaly and policies created after this by-election should only be for sensitive questions in the future. The "electoral committee" proposed by Baril—which would be composed of students without a vested interest in the

election's outcome—might not be necessary for all questions.

The Concordia Student Union should take Baril's recommendations seriously to avoid a repeat debacle that has the capacity to mar an entire election.

Externally hiring a chief electoral officer along with a panel of neutral students could be a feasible solution.

Baril noted the criticism he received in a *Link* editorial dated December 12, 2014, where we suggested that the electoral regulations are flawed. We stand by the assertion that it is a ridiculous notion to permit changes to a referendum question 24 hours prior to an election, after student groups have campaigned upon a certain premise for weeks prior.

Baril didn't address the 24-hour emergency window at all at the council meeting, but he is on the record as saying it should be changed.

The CSU might benefit from engaging the wider student body, which generally regards it as an irrelevant institution despite paying CSU fees of up to \$75.40 per semester for full-

time students.

Building upon the vastly improved (yet still miniscule) turnout figures of the November by-election would strengthen the CSU, so the union ought to put more effort into engaging its electorate.

Both the Yes and No camps for the BDS question woefully misinformed curious Concordians in the Hall building mezzanine.

As Baril rightly states in his report, the No camp explicitly claimed Israeli students would not be allowed on campus and that kosher food would not be allowed either, both of which are false. The Yes campaign, meanwhile, was guilty of exaggerating Concordia's complicity in the oppression of Palestinians through its association with Israeli institutions.

There are unanswered questions as to why the No side was sanctioned, while the Yes side wasn't, even though there were rule violations on both sides.

If the CEO had had an election committee around him, these violations may have been stopped in the first place.

We endorse Baril's recommendation for the CSU to hire a Media Specialist whose role would include publicizing the election and informing the student body, in addition to the establishment of an election committee.

We also suggest that more ballot counters be hired for future elections to prevent ridiculous 21-hour work shifts like the one's Baril describes in his report.

From the small survey of Concordia students that we approached, a pitiful number of them were informed about the rules and procedures of voting, the nature of the election and the implications of their vote.

The executive mismanagement of the BDS vote effectively overshadowed other important questions concerning students.

Nevertheless let's not forget that students gave the CSU a mandate to oppose budget cuts in the education sector, the endorsement of a CSU-run daycare centre, and the approval of the Hive Café loan.

Graphic Jenn Aedy

THE LINK³⁵

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