



defacebook

We leave our digital footprints everywhere.

Audrey Samson buries them.

P. 6

editorial

Concordia's sexual assault resources are on the right track, but they still have a long way to go. P. 15

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making better support for survivors a matter of policy

Concordia Prepares Internal Review of Its Sexual Assault Policy

by Jonathan Cook

Nowhere in Concordia's current policy on harassment, sexual harassment and psychological harassment does it use or define the term "sexual assault."

"Some survivors are unsure if they can make a complaint or go forward because they're not sure if their experience fits in or 'counts' when it clearly does, and they clearly experienced sexual violence," said Jennifer Drummond, the coordinator of Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre.

She adds that victims might not know sexual assault can fall under the sexual harassment section or the violent and dangerous section of the code.

A new committee of administrative staff, faculty and students is conducting an internal review into Concordia's sexual harassment policy and recommendations for changes may be ready this semester, according to Concordia president Alan Shepard.

The committee is chaired by Deputy Provost Lisa Ostiguy and includes her executive assistant Angela Ghadban, Dean of Students Andrew Woodall, Melodie Sullivan of the Office of the General Counsel, associate professor from Applied Human Sciences Hilary Rose and undergraduate students Ian Walker and Jessica Lelievre.

Ostiguy says that she formed the team to have a variety of expertise and different views of how the campuses operate. She adds that the committee's goal is not to create a new policy but to offer recommendations, although a complete overhaul is possible.

"[Our] role is really to consult various groups across campus with different expertise than what we have on the committee," she said.

Woodall recommended the recruitment of Lelievre and Walker. She says they are representative of the student body and are "smart

people" who were referred to her by other students.

The formation of the committee is an effort by Shepard to avoid potential scandals faced by other North American universities in recent years, according to Ostiguy.

"We've been looking at a variety of universities that have recently updated their new policy and seeing the recommendations they have and comparing them to ours," she said.

Finding Inspiration

Colleges Ontario, an advocacy group representing postsecondary schools in the province, made national headlines last month when it released a 14-page template outlining how sexual assault victims should proceed formally and legally following an attack, to be implemented in March.

Approved by the Committee of Presidents of the province's 24 publicly-funded colleges, it outlines terminology like sexual assault, sexual violence and consent, and explains who and where to go for help. It also states supportive responders to victims must listen without judgment and accept that the disclosure is true.

Karen Horsman, the manager of communications at Colleges Ontario, says that the development of a new protocol came in response to a lack of a uniform provincial policy where victims felt they were being served.

She says the focus was always to create a welcoming environment where survivors are heard. "There's nothing more powerful than saying, 'We hear you, now how do we get help, how do we proceed?'" Horsman said. "That immediacy is what legitimizes the whole process."

Shepard says he is in touch with representatives from Colleges Ontario. "It is important that the Ontario colleges recognize that if someone has experienced sexual assault, it will not

take a PhD to find on the website where to go, what to do next and how to help," he said.

Problems within the System

Drummond is the only full-time staff member at SARC, but she has a team of undergraduate volunteers and the staff at the counselling and development office to work with. The centre is a two-office setup on the downtown GM building's third floor, to the left of a narrow corridor.

A piece of scrap paper with the words, "Sexual Assault Resource Centre" written on it, along with a directive arrow, is posted to a corkboard adjacent to the elevator.

Drummond says her office's location has pros and cons.

"On one hand, it does provide a fairly anonymous type of situation which can be really good for people," she said. "They're walking into a big building, taking an elevator, walking down a maze of corridors to get here, so they're protected in that way."

"On the down side, it makes it harder for people to know that we exist."

SARC doesn't have an account on any social media platform. There isn't a link to its online resources on the Concordia homepage. Typing "sexual assault" in the search bar causes SARC's page to appear first in results. It takes two or three more clicks to reach PDF versions of flyers explaining assault, consent and a list of contacts.

Ostiguy says that this visibility issue may be addressed as SARC is going to work more closely with the Dean of Students office. The new relationship may lead to procurement of new space and additional staff for front deskwork, she adds.

Drummond says adding more staff may be difficult for the university due to the financial climate. She adds that SARC would "definitely benefit" from more employees as much as any other organization in the university.

"We would be able to do more and help more people and reach more people with our educational initiatives if there were more staff," she said.

Shepard says Drummond developed the model of working with undergraduate volunteers and that they have a good relationship with her. "From what I understand that's working very well," he said.

Education is Key

At a Board of Governors meeting this month, Louise Shiller, the director and senior advisor of the Office of Rights and Responsibility, said in a 2013-2014 report that they dealt with 11 cases of sexual harassment, four of which involved sexual assault. Three of those were formal complaints and one included threatening or violent conduct.

She said that her office works closely with SARC and that they occasionally sit down together with a victim to discuss the best options. However, she continued that her office is a "very specific" place and "not for everybody" as victims are referred to both resource centres or sometimes go directly to security.

Drummond says she is impressed with what Colleges Ontario has created with clear instructions and statements, like making sure the victim feels their story is believed, and the use of gender-neutral diction.

"It just doesn't happen; people don't make that up," she said of allegedly false sexual assault allegations. "More education needs to be done around believing survivors and encouraging people to come forward."

Drummond says she is developing training for athletes and coaches about sexual assault education and is currently working with the campus residences and RAs.

Photo Jonathan Cook

anti-austerity: a non-united front?

The 'Official' Demo

A run-of-the-mill anti-austerity protest legally ran its course without a hitch this past Saturday. The Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) provided the police with their itinerary and daycare workers, union organizers and radical activists chanted peacefully and securely, side by side with a token number of police in riot gear.

Compliance with 2012 amendments to municipal bylaw P-6 that obliges protest organizers to provide police with their itinerary is contentious. FEUQ formally opposes the amendments, but giving police the protest routes in advance was its policy even before the rules were put in place, FEUQ President Jonathan Bouchard told *The Link*.

"It's just for logistics, so that everybody feels free to join in," he explained.

The sentiment was echoed by protester Lise Bouc, carrying a sign bearing an anthropomorphic pair of scissors in reference to cuts in the education budget.

"It's really about being there, being present. So it's not important if they give their itinerary or not," she said.

The policy "is about not alienating the people that they're working with," former FEUQ executive Gene Morrow said.

The FEUQ "work with a lot of different people and obviously, their actions and positions are formed by their membership," he continued. "They've never been told not to give their itinerary."

Protest Highlights Splits in Method and Ideology of Protesters

BY Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

TIMELINE Andrew Harris-Schulz

PROTEST PHOTOS Brandon Johnston

The Ironic Demo

No less poignant was the "anarcho-PKPist" contingent to the FEUQ-organized march. Under a banner sporting media mogul and Parti Québécois politician Pierre Karl Péladeau wearing a stuffed wolf hat—a play on the Printemps 2015 movement's anti-austerity symbol—the ironic demo called for action.

The banner refers to a perceived affiliation of FEUQ with the PQ.

"That's the classic trope," Morrow commented. "It's sort of a joke. Like, 'oh, the FEUQ, the PQ's youth wing.'"

But many politicians outside the PQ got their start in FEUQ as well, he added.

"There's also people in the Liberal party and the CAQ who have the same lineage."

Former FEUQ president Martine Desjardins raised eyebrows when she joined the PQ after negotiating with them for a tuition freeze.

A March 2014 editorial in *The Link* said there was "no question that she's abandoned the progressive values she championed for during the Maple Spring," especially with Péladeau in the party.

According to *The Gazette*, "Péladeau has imposed lockouts 14 times during labour disputes," giving him a reputation for union-busting.


"People are comparing him a lot to Berlusconi in Italy, the media magnate and Prime Minister," Summers said of Péladeau.

"People are trying to have some fun with an otherwise pretty frightening situation."

1989

In 2004, before cuts in the education government sparked student protests, the University of Laval student union disaffiliated with the FEUQ because of its "lack of effectiveness," then-president of the student union Antoine Goutier is quoted as saying in a University of Laval press release.

2006



The FEUQ was created after an increase in tuition in 1989. According to their website, their mandate is "to defend the rights and interests of students, especially against governments."

2004

The Student Society of McGill University disaffiliates. "The 2005 student strike was headed for success until FEUQ's late-entry and co-opting of the negotiations," an article from McGill Underground quotes the proponents of leaving the FEUQ as saying.

The Anti-Demo

Although devoid of physical conflict, ideological friction was quick to surface around the march.

With a black cover photo emblazoned with the hashtag "FUCK LA FEUQ" in one corner and a note announcing they wouldn't provide police with their itinerary in another, the Facebook event countering the organization's official protest didn't pull any punches.

Though it garnered only around 300 "attendees" in comparison to the official protest's 1,400, the planned demo countering the FEUQ's is part of a longstanding custom, according to Morrow.

"It's pretty traditional," he said of the dissenting event. "I think almost every FEUQ demo since 2005 and probably earlier has had some kind of counter-demo organized around it."

Though the counter-protest didn't physically manifest on Saturday, the anti-FEUQ and anti-P-6 sentiment it voiced is far from underground.

"A lot of people who want to be involved in mobilizations don't feel comfortable because they don't want to cooperate with P-6. Especially since the P-6 charges were dropped," Jonathan Summers, member of anti-austerity group Solidarity Concordia, told *The Link*.

"They're collaborating with the bylaw, whereas the CSU for example has taken a stance against it, like a lot of the Montreal activist community has," Summers continued.

That FEUQ complied with the police was "unfortunate," CSU VP Mobilization Anthony Garoufalis-Auger said. "We need to be showing a common front against law P-6, and this has to come from across civil society. This includes la FEUQ."

"FEUQ has demonstrated in the past and has demonstrated again that they're not necessarily entirely in the interest of students," Concordia student and anti-austerity organizer Katie Nelson told *The Link*.





le Roof, the of, the Roof Underwater

by Jon Cook

A ceiling water leak delayed the opening of the new advocacy centre in the Hall Building, according to Concordia Student Union VP Academic and Advocacy Terry Wilkings. Originally scheduled for unveiling Friday, the facility had its second furniture delivery date this week postponed. The furniture installed before the break, as well as the flooring, wall paint and ceiling, was partially damaged, Wilkings says. The installation of the IT systems “luckily” did not happen before the accident, he adds. The source of the water was from the fourth floor, and the university will clean the space and replace the tiles.

The full extent of the damage has yet to be determined and Wilkings could not be reached for further updates by press time. He says that the delay in opening the new space is “highly regrettable.” Construction of the new advocacy centre began last November. Wilkings told *The Link* that the aims of the relocation from the seventh to the second floor were increased visibility, increased foot traffic and easier access. The CSU hired the same contractor who renovated the Hive Café. Wilkings said at the time the goal was to have the centre open and ready for service in January.

student union of l'Université du Québec en
uais disaffiliates. due to “a lack of democ-
n the organization, spokesperson David
nt told La Presse.



The student association Levis Campus at the University of Québec at Rimouski votes to leave FEUQ. The former head of the association Thomas Briand Gionest denounced the lack of communication and transparency of the executive, according to Le Devoir.



MSA Reacts to Damning TVA Reportage

by Michelle Pucci @michellempucci

Concordia's Muslim Student Association received a surprise visit by a TVA journalist last week, who went to the club's office in search of books by religious extremists.

The MSA's library contains texts by controversial figures like Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Bilal Philips and Raheem Green.

The visit, performed in a hidden camera style, accused the association of disseminating the texts to the 6,000 Muslim students at Concordia.

Media outlets usually call the MSA offices or send them an email to make an appointment. But the president of the MSA, Majed Jamous, said the TVA journalist put the students working at the club's office in “defense mode.”

“They came and on the spot started recording,” Jamous said. Jamous says TVA arrived and recorded without permission from students in the middle of organizing Islamic Awareness Week.

“They didn't give us a chance to speak, or explain ourselves,” he said.

Jamous says the library contains books on a range of Islamic figures and ideologies and is open to everyone, including students from religion classes.

“Any books we have, it doesn't mean we're ‘for’ them, it's just for academic purposes,” he said.

Concordia told TVA they were looking into the situation. Jamous says he's meeting with university representatives to explain their side.

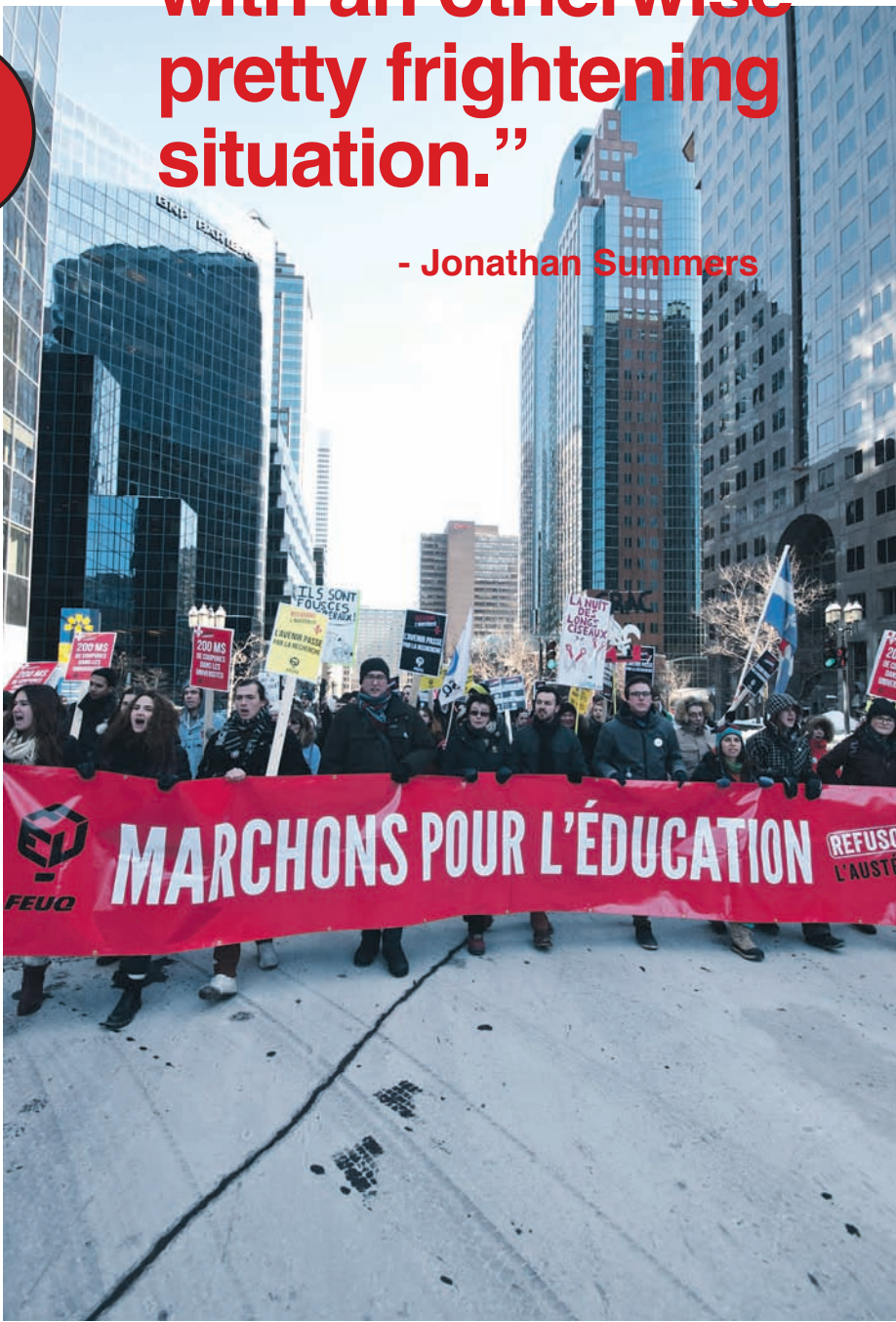
“They just wanted to bash us,” he said of TVA.

He's afraid the report will discourage students from approaching the association.

“We know that it's not the right way to practice our religion,” Jamous said.

“People are trying to have some fun with an otherwise pretty frightening situation.”

- Jonathan Summers





putting data to rest

Artist Audrey Samson Orchestrates a Symbolic Funeral for Your Digital Data

by Catherine Dube

We're constantly leaving our footprints in the digital world, whether by chatting online or posting a picture on our Instagram. Our data is saved for the use of big corporations and governments, but also piled up on our own computers for personal use.

The implications of the colossal amounts of data we produce and leave behind have pushed many to reflect on being able to erase our digital footprints, or our "virtual double." However, it's nearly if not completely impossible to do so.

Artist, media designer and researcher Audrey Samson thus proposes to orchestrate a symbolic funeral for digital identities. The resident artist at Eastern Bloc will be collecting and embalming digital storage devices, on which the owners will have saved specifically chosen data they would like to put to rest. The project is a continuation of *ne.me.quittes.pas*, a previous art project of hers, consisting of the destruction of digital storage devices with acid upon request from the owners.

Samson's new project *Pompes Funèbres/Faites Embaumer Vos Données Digitales* tries to point to the materiality of data and its consequences. However, just as important to the project is people's desire to put their digital data to rest. Samson states that her project gives people an occasion to mourn their digital data.

Audrey Samson intends to embalm small data storage devices using epoxy, sealing them forever. The embalmed devices will be presented at Eastern Bloc in Montreal from

April 1 to 5 as an art exhibition, but also as an occasion for mourning. The remains will then be sent back to their owners for private display.

Additionally, Samson will attempt the performance of a live embalming by casting data storage devices on site. Guests will be able to bring their own small data storage devices on the night of the show's opening, have them embalmed and be able to bring them back home.

"We have a lot of digital information and digital traces online and this has many consequences, as we've seen with cases of government surveillance," Samson explained.

"Big data' has promised to help with all the world's problems. For example, with big data we could make better businesses or have better understanding of our populations, etc. [...] I guess I'm trying to point to the consequences of all this data storage, analysis and surveillance and to remind people that there's another side to 'big data.'"

The other idea Samson explores in her project is the complicated and sometimes abstract relationship between digital technologies and data.

"I want to reflect [on] the fact that we don't often think about data as being part of ourselves," Samson said. "But I think that increasingly, when we look at how our memories and data are externalized, for example, in Google or Facebook servers, we need to start to consider that this data is in a way part of ourselves."

Samson delves into this idea more specifically through the example of online

mourning.

"We see this emerge with 'digital deaths'. More and more people are starting to think about what happens to a person's data after they die.

"Big Data, digital death, online mourning and putting digital identities and data to rest are all related to the idea of the materiality of data," according to Samson.

"More and more people are starting to think about what happens to a person's data after they die."

-Audrey Samson

"What brings it all together, for me, is the materiality of data. Data is often considered to be a very immaterial thing—we have all these metaphors like 'the cloud' and even the word 'uploading' just sounds like you're sending it to outer space.

"This is actually really false," Samson continued. "Data has a really physical component: it goes through people and networks and servers and things like that. If the Facebook server burns down, well, everything goes. There is a very tangible aspect to data."

Samson explained that the preconceived

notion that data is immaterial can actually serve commercial and governmental interests.

"If you keep thinking that data isn't really part of you and it's all up in the air and it's not very tangible, then it's really easy to just catalogue people's information without them really thinking about it," said Samson.

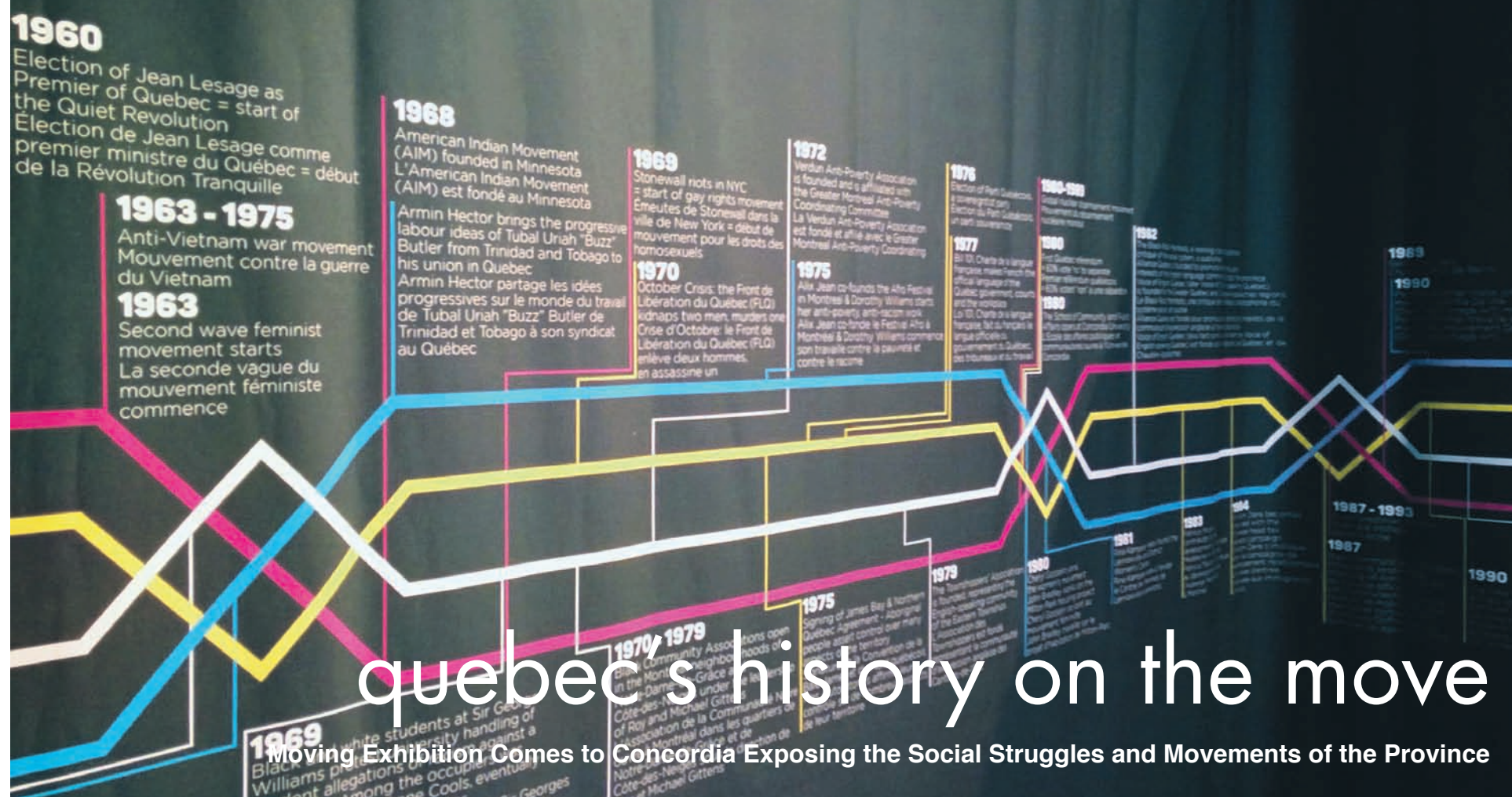
"There's a part of them that wants to remember, but another part that needs to forget, because otherwise they would go crazy. Mourning is about slowly forgetting, in a way," Samson continued. "I think that we have that kind of relationship to data, like when people say, 'Oh I wanted to erase this thing, but I really don't think I can.' I think that in the people who participate, there are a lot of them who want closure."

Samson is still looking for participants for her project. If you've ever wished to erase any of your digital traces, you can bring your devices to her at an open lab night (or at any other moment) and they will be coated in epoxy and presented during the exposition.

You can also bring your digital storage material the night of the show's opening and have them embalmed. If you're interested, you can contact Audrey Samson at mail@ideacritik.com. To read more about her ideas and past projects, her essay "Erasure, an attempt to surpass datafication" is available online to everyone.

Pompes Funèbres/Faites Embaumer Vos Données Digitales // April 1—April 5 // Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.) // 8 p.m // Free

Photo courtesy Audrey Samson



quebec's history on the move

Moving Exhibition Comes to Concordia Exposing the Social Struggles and Movements of the Province

by Michael Wrobel

For two weeks, the atrium of Concordia's downtown library will be home to "Quebec on the Move," an exhibit exploring various social movements in relation to Quebec's English-speaking communities from 1960 to today.

One of the exhibit's aims is to allow the next generation of activists to learn from the success stories and struggles of older community organizers involved in fields as diverse as immigrant rights, organized labour and equality for the deaf community.

"It really came from observing a lack of information on the recent history of social movements and community organizing in the English-speaking communities of Quebec," said Chloe Gendre, the exhibit's project manager.

"The idea was really to bring together a group of people who are part of the English-speaking community and find out more about those social movements that are more English-based."

The exhibit, which will be on display from March 4 to 18, was organized by the Centre for Community Organizations, a non-profit that supports English-language, bilingual and ethnocultural community groups in the province by helping them in their organizational development and providing leadership training.

The centrepiece of the exhibit is a 20-minute video composed of excerpts from interviews with 11 contemporary community organizers. There will also be a timeline showing the broader social movements across the country and the province, as well as boards displaying advice for those looking to become more involved in the community sector.

The full-length interviews with each of the community organizers featured in the 20-minute film will soon be made available online, Gendre added.

John Bradley, one of the people interviewed for the exhibit, worked as a developer of social housing for over 25 years, beginning in the 1980s with the Milton Park project, a housing cooperative network that restored and renovated several

Victorian homes just east of McGill University, saving them from destruction.

After the Montreal Citizens' Movement came to power in the 1986 municipal election, Bradley worked in a para-municipal agency developing other social housing projects. More recently, he was a community organizer at the Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Clinic.

Bradley told *The Link* there's a democratic deficit in today's public institutions, with citizens having little control over such things as the urban environment, housing or healthcare. "If we do not have a profound, democratic shift, [...] then we're in for a very bad time," he said.

According to him, the Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Clinic is the province's only "citizen-run, democratically organized" healthcare provider. The non-profit clinic, which has agreements with the province's health ministry allowing it to deliver services as if it were a CLSC, has annual general assemblies and a board of directors elected by the clinic's users.

Bradley said the secret to organizing a successful social movement is to avoid "professionalizing" it. Instead, a movement must retain close ties to the community it is looking to help.

"In the past, [...] you would have university students and others coming to working-class communities and sort of intervening in some sense. I think there were some failures there," he said.

"The approach has to be much more on the basis of what's called 'radical popular education' [...] where it becomes a co-educative process."

That means community organizers and educators must learn from the community's residents and vice versa, he said.

"Sometimes, schooling will de-skill you. This is not an argument against education, but I think education has to be rethought so that it becomes a cooperative, democratic enterprise," he added.

William Dere was also interviewed as part of the project. He was a key figure in the two decades-long struggle demanding an apology and compensation for the

federal government's discriminatory laws and policies targeting Chinese immigrants, which were in place until the 1960s.

Beginning in 1885, the Canadian government charged every Chinese immigrant a fee to enter the country, known as a head tax. In 1923, that tax was replaced by a ban on Chinese immigration, resulting in many Chinese Canadians being separated from their families.

The immigration ban was lifted in 1947, although it wasn't until 1967 that Canada liberalized its immigration policies and gave all applicants for immigration an equal opportunity for admission into the country, regardless of ethnicity.

The redress movement seeking an apology for the head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act began back in the days of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government.

Dere served as the co-chair of the Chinese Canadian National Council's national redress committee and chairman of the Montreal redress committee.

As part of their campaign, organizers found some of those who had paid the head tax in order to immigrate. In all, between 350 and 400 families in Montreal were registered, Dere said.

Mobilizing around the issue meant starting a dialogue about a topic few people in the Chinese-Canadian community spoke about, he explained.

"My father and my grandfather both paid the head tax, but they didn't talk about it because they considered this to be a very shameful and humiliating period in their lives," Dere said.

Gaining little traction with the country's politicians, a class-action lawsuit was launched against the government, seeking compensation for those who had paid the head tax, their spouses or descendants. The court case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against compensation on the grounds that the 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms cannot be applied retroactively, Dere said.

He added that the movement also tried to "internationalize" the issue by bringing the history of the Chinese head tax and the

Chinese Exclusion Act to the attention of the UN rapporteur on racism and racial discrimination.

Eventually, the redress movement did succeed. Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered an apology and compensation for the discriminatory policies in 2006, not long after assuming office.

Dere told *The Link* that the "Quebec on the Move" exhibit will show visitors that there are a wide variety of social struggles and movements in the province.

"It's not just the nationalist struggle or the federalist struggle, because these struggles are going on in the dominant society, but minorities have their own struggles too," he said. "We cannot wait for the dominant society to sort out its own problems, because we have our problems that we need the larger society to address as well."

Dere said all community organizers and activists looking to jumpstart a social movement must begin by educating themselves about the issues and being proud of who they are.

"That's the first step, being proud of your own history, proud of your own existence and that you belong in this province, despite the fact that you may be seen as an outsider or not part of the mainstream," he said.

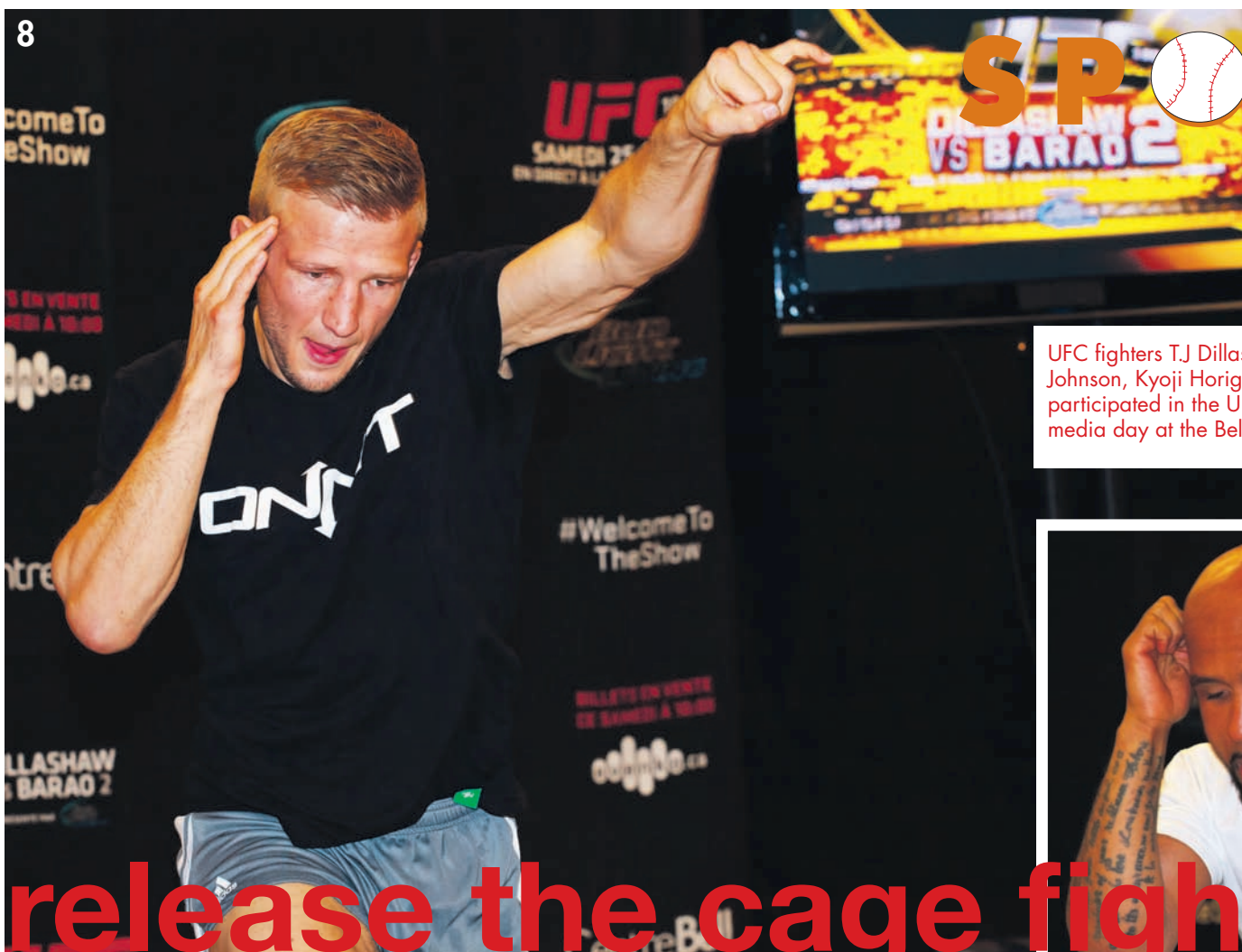
A meet-and-greet on Thursday at 5 p.m. in the atrium will allow those visiting the exhibit to meet some of the community organizers and activists who were interviewed.

"I think that it will really add to the exhibit, to be able to interact with people who are involved and participated in the project," Gendre said.

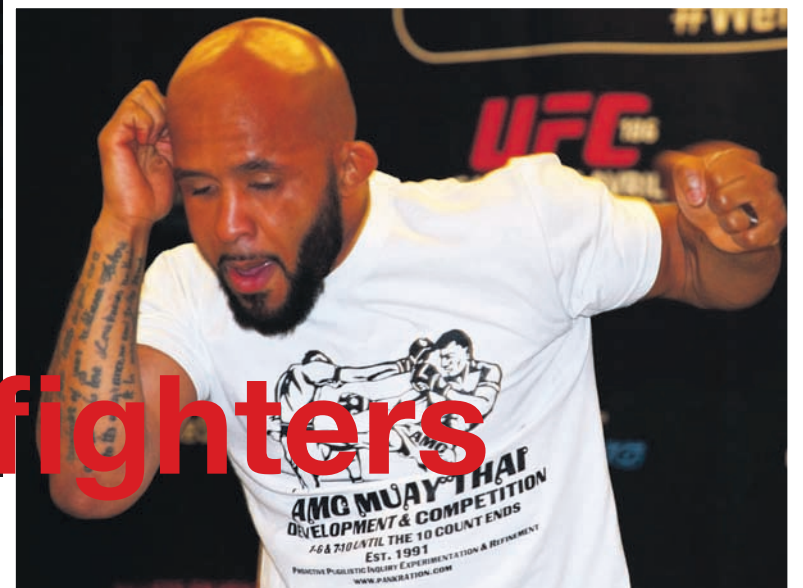
Concordia is the second stop on the travelling exhibit's journey. It was displayed in February at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke and will head to Quebec City after Montreal.

Quebec on the Move // Atrium, McConnell Library Building (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) // March 4 to March 18 // Vernissage, March 5 at 5 p.m.

Photo courtesy Chloe Gendre



UFC fighters T.J. Dillashaw (top), Demetrious Johnson, Kyoji Horiguchi and Renan Barao all participated in the UFC 186 open workouts and media day at the Bell Centre this past Wednesday.



Long-Awaited Rematch Between T.J. Dillashaw and Renao Barao Headlines UFC 186

by Patrick Mocella @pmocella13

Ten months ago the war drums of promotion for UFC 173 began to sound, and UFC president Dana White boldly claimed that Renan Barao, his then-bantamweight champion, was the pound-for-pound best fighter in the world.

While most pundits and fans disagreed with White, everyone agreed Barao was a great fighter. However, Barao's challenger T.J. Dillashaw didn't care about the hype. Dillashaw decimated Barao for most of the fight, before finishing him off with a flurry of strikes to earn a technical knockout victory.

After negotiations for a rematch in March 2014 fell through, the two will have their rematch on April 25th at the Bell Centre for UFC 186: *Dillashaw vs. Barao 2* on April 25.

The card for UFC 186 features not one but two title fights, featuring a Bantamweight Championship rematch between champion T.J. Dillashaw and former champ Renan Barao and a Flyweight Championship fight between defending champion Demetrious Johnson and number one contender Kyoji Horiguchi.

Dillashaw, sitting before the media in a press conference last Wednesday, remained confident that he could once again defeat Barao in April.

"I expect to do it faster this time," Dillashaw said after leaving his workout session. "I'm going to be in his face, bringing [it] to him and I'm going to continue where I left off from round six."

"Round six," a term for the potential rematch between Barao and Dillashaw, was originally scheduled back on Aug. 30, 2014 at UFC 177. The fight was cancelled a day before the scheduled date, after Barao collapsed in his hotel bathtub after losing too much weight in a short period of time. Barao assured the media that a similar episode would not happen again for his upcoming match.

"We're doing a lot of work with my team and it's going to turn out 100 per cent fine this time," said Barao.

Because of his cancelled fight at UFC 177, Barao was forced to take another fight versus Canadian Mitch Gagnon in order to reclaim top contender status.

Though Barao won the fight against Gagnon by

an arm triangle choke in the third round, Dillashaw wasn't fazed by Barao's victory.

"I wasn't impressed by his performance," Dillashaw said. "I hope he's the same fighter I saw that night, but I'm going to prepare for the best Renan Barao ever."

UFC 186 will also feature a championship fight between flyweights Demetrious "Mighty Mouse" Johnson and Kyoji Horiguchi, whom were also present at Wednesday's press conference.

Johnson has been undefeated since dropping from 135 to 125 pounds and has defended his title four times in decisive fashion, including a decision over an EPO-fueled Ali Bagautinov at UFC 174 in June 2014.

Despite that, Johnson, the third best wrestler in his weight class, has had trouble translating his in-ring success into any monetary payoff, as his last two main events have only drawn a combined 320,000 pay-per-view buys. Other flyweight fighters like Ian McCall and John Dodson feel that Johnson needs to do more to promote his division. Johnson, however, doesn't feel it is his responsibility to drive up any hype.

"I'm just doing my job to go out there and beat people up," Johnson said. "I'm here doing media and answering all your questions, what else do I have to do?"

Even if Johnson were to attempt to build up publicity for his title fight, it doesn't seem that his dance partner would do much to help.

Hailing from Tokyo, Japan, Horiguchi, who only has 3,358 Twitter followers, built his name almost exclusively off defeating men on the regional Japanese circuit who are unknown to most of the North American public.

While he hasn't had much time to expose himself to the UFC masses, Horiguchi has done well in the octagon by knocking out two of his four UFC opponents.

Horiguchi, said he had a "secret weapon" to defeat Johnson at UFC 186. When asked by a reporter what it was, Horiguchi responded that it was "character."

Whether it be through his fighting, or character building, Horiguchi will look to do as much damage in the cage come April 25.

Photos Shaun Michaud





Stingers men's basketball head coach John Dore (third from right) is surrounded by assistant coaches Ernie Rosa (left), Rasko Popovic (second from left), players Mukiya Post (third from right), Gabe Riche (middle), Athletic Director Patrick Boivin (right of Dore) and Stingers mascot, Buzz, before his last home game as coach on Saturday, Feb. 21.

stepping away from the sidelines

Departing Men's Basketball Coach Reflects on Legacy

by Michelle Pucci @michellemucci

Stingers basketball players probably see him more often than they see their parents.

John Dore has been the man on the sidelines of every men's basketball game for the past 26 years, as well as the man behind the never-frowning but stern lips and eyes permanently pinched from smiling, or maybe exhaustion.

After barely a day off—coaching takes up at least six days a week—Dore is still pretty cheerful. Following a late-night return from playing in Quebec City, Dore drove all the way to Hudson to spend only an hour and a half with his grandchildren.

"I enjoy life, I enjoy every day. Not too many things I don't like," he says with a tinge of his native Queens, New York accent.

With a legacy as head coach for the Stingers that is older than most of his current roster, Dore is headed to his last regional playoffs at Bishop's University on March 6. His team will meet the rival McGill Redmen in their semi-final game.

But the regional games are nothing compared to the heyday of Dore's career: 13 trips to the national championships, winning the prize in 1990 and making the finals in 1995 and 2005.

"I'm honoured to have been at Concordia all this time," he said the day before his last home game against McGill. That game featured a celebration of Dore's Stingers career, featuring friends from across the country, and ended in a Stingers victory.

"I had a great time here."

The 62-year-old basketball veteran is a former Stinger himself. He started off playing for Loyola College in 1971 and graduated from Concordia in 1976. He went on to teach and coach at St. George's High School for 14 years, before coaching at Vanier College for a few years.

Dore's past life also includes a two-year stint as assistant coach of Concordia's women's team from 1976 to 1978. In the 1980s he returned as assistant coach for the men's team, eventually rising to head coach status.

When Dore isn't coaching in the Loyola gym, he's stepping in to help players in their personal and academic lives.

"It's important for me to have student athletes that not only want to compete on the basketball court, but want to do well academically, and to make them socially conscious," he said.

Dore reminds players that they are still students—basketball has an end where real life and work begins.

"He always there to guide us, regardless if it's something basketball-related, school-related, job-related," said assistant coach Rasko Popovic. "A lot of us come here young and inexperienced and we leave here grown men."

Popovic played for the men's basketball team from 2001 to 2006. He's been coaching with Dore for the last two years.

"I make fun of him now, because he's mellowed," Popovic said with a smile, remembering his first practices with Dore as being intense. He describes Dore as a player's coach, always pushing his team, but giving them freedom to make decisions.

During Popovic's time as a player, the Stingers played highly respected basketball programs from the NCAA in the U.S. including Duke and Connecticut. Two years after Popovic left the Stingers as a player, Dore's Stingers delivered an upset against the University of Illinois in the Loyola Gymnasium.

"I have the best experience of my life as a player and it's because of coach Dore," said Popovic. "He believes in these guys."

Ricardo Monge from Gatineau is a first year JMSB student, but despite his rookie status he's the team's starting point guard, one of the most specialized roles in the game.

"I only knew him for a short period of time, but he trusted me," Monge said of Dore.

"He gave me the opportunity to be a starter even though it's my first year," he said. "He mentored me a lot and I feel that I improved a lot since I came here."

Dore is proud of the consistency in the pro-

gram. In 26 years, he says he's only had about five assistant coaches.

That means spending decades with students and being there when graduates visit their former stomping grounds. Dore also makes it his mission to help players figure out their next steps.

"I've sat in on job interviews with student athletes," he said. "You want to help them and sometimes you know the people and they tell you to come in and sit down."

For Dore, helping out is all part of coaching, even if that entails being a part-time father.

"If a kid's from out of town and needs to go to the hospital because he's sick or needs surgery, whose going to take him?" he said.

The team's motto is that whatever needs to be done has to get done by someone, regardless of their position or status.

"If I have to carry the water bottles out, I'll carry the water bottles out," Dore said. "Doesn't matter if it's me or somebody else."

The attitude carries to the court.

"There's no thinking, 'we can't do this,'" he said. "Do right the first time and move on."

Coming off a media blitz and interviews with CBC, Sportsnet, and TSN to name a few, Dore says he knows the attention he's getting is more than your typical retirement party.

"I got an email from Spain yesterday, it said 'I heard you're retiring,'" Dore said casually.

Dore will probably stay in the spotlight for a while longer. Sportsnet was the first to contact him about a possible job as an analyst within the network, he says. Previously, he's worked with The Score, TSN and CBC.

He's already on the board of advisors for LiveBarn.com, a new live-streaming service for amateur and minor league hockey, basketball and indoor soccer games.

"I really don't know what I'm going to be doing," he said. "I know I won't sit for too long and do nothing."

Photo Brandon Johnston

"I enjoy life, I enjoy every day. Not too many things I don't like."

-John Dore



playing footy in the great white north

Aussie Rules Football League in Quebec Looks to Continue Expansion

Aussie Rules football players practice in a gymnasium at College Andre-Grasset. Aussie Rules Football Quebec held an open practice for willing participants on Saturday, Feb. 21.

by Erik Trudel

Quebec is, surprisingly, a hotbed for Australian rules football. Since 2008, AFL Quebec, formerly known as the Eastern Canadian Australian Football League, has offered players a chance to participate in the popular sport from down under.

Since January, AFL Quebec has been holding open practices on Saturdays for any willing participant, regardless of skill level, of the sport.

After he grew homesick of his native land, Australian Luke Anderson established the league the same year he moved to Quebec.

Seven years later, Daniel Robinson, another Australian, is the current president of the AFLQ. Before moving to Canada, Robinson played two levels under the Australian Football League. He values the importance of the game, and is appreciative of Quebec's own circuit.

"When I came to Quebec two-and-a-half years ago, I got involved because for me [and] for a lot of the Australian people here, it's our family," said Robinson. "It's a great club, it's a great community to be involved with."

"It's more than just a sport," said Aussie rules footballer and Canadian international player Aimee Legault, who started playing in 2009. "It really is a community and it's amazing to just be a part of such a great group of people."

Coming from a soccer background, Aimee Legault is regarded as the best Australian rules footballer outside of Australia. In fact, she captained Canada to an International Cup win in August 2014 in Australia. She will also move to Australia in order to play in an

upcoming professional women's league.

In Australia, the sport without offsides and timeouts features 18 players on each side of a massive oval field. The clock only stops if the ball goes out. For various reasons, the game is altered here.

"We play nine-a-side and we usually play on rugby pitches and football fields," said Ronan Shaughnessy, director of operations of AFLQ. "The game is broken down into four 15-minute quarters. The clock keeps running."

The unique scorekeeping is maintained with the two goal posts and two behind poles. A player who kicks the football between the former will award his team six points. An athlete who propels the ball onto a goal post or between two poles of different heights gives his team a single point, known as a behind.

Therefore, the team that finishes with 8.17 has recorded eight goals and 17 behinds for a final score of 65.

The AFLQ is composed of four men's teams and only two women's teams. In each league, all sides make the post-season and compete in a two- or four-team single-game elimination playoff until one champion is left standing.

At times, the squads will merge together to form the women's Montreal Angels and the men's Quebec Saints, both 18-a-side teams. They will travel and compete against other teams from North America in exhibition matches or at the U.S. Nationals.

"To me, it's the most natural game," said Shaughnessy. "You want to get the football from one end to the other and you could move wherever you want."

Shaughnessy moved from Ireland to Mon-

treal in 2009. For him, Australian football is the lovechild of Gaelic football and rugby.

"It has a perfect mix of skill, speed and physicality," he said. "Everyone has a specific role, but everyone has a role they can do together."

Emily Legault, who represented a second Canadian team at the Australian Football International Cup, is going into her fourth season. The Concordia student said Australian football is a full-time commitment.

"We're constantly training, but [the season] starts in early May," said Emily Legault. "We have the pre-season tournament where all the [teams] come from the U.S., across Canada."

"Now, we practice indoors starting about mid-February until April and then we switch to outdoors on Wednesday nights," said Christopher Micheletti, the 2011 AFLQ leading goal-kicker.

Micheletti, who once played for the Concordia Stingers men's rugby team, learned about an AFLQ team based in Pointe-Claire a few years ago. He emailed them and was told to simply show up at a practice. It has been an adventure for him ever since.

"I've played for the provincial team and I've played Canada under-23 a couple of years ago too. We went for the [U.S. Nationals] title in Ohio for that."

Veronique Chasse has been playing for three years. She lived in Australia for a year, so she learned about the sport. In Quebec, she has been witnessing the development of both leagues.

"[The sport here] is growing a lot," said Chasse.

The Ottawa Swans from AFL Ontario will

be dividing into two teams, as they will join the NDG Devils and Plateau Eagles in the women's league for 2015 onward. The men's league is composed of the Laval Bombers, Montreal Demons, Old Montreal Dockers and West Island Wooders, and there may be more teams in the future.

"We're hoping to expand and get a team in Sherbrooke in the next year and maybe Quebec City, but we need someone up there to do that," said Shaughnessy.

Due to its obscurity, physicality and complexity, introducing people to the sport has been a struggle. As a result of a limited number of coaches, the men and women often practice together.

"Our big problem is always recruitment because it's just getting the name out there, like no one knows Australian football leagues," said Shaughnessy. "It's obviously not for everybody. Australian football is a contact sport at the end of the day."

Despite whatever barriers lie in the way of Aussie rules in Quebec, AFLQ president Robinson has big plans for the future and development of the league.

"I think it's really important that we get a junior program here in Quebec in the schools because that's where it all comes from," said Robinson. "If you can get young kids into the sport, they're going to grow up continuing when they're older."

"Just sharing a sport and helping people in any way I can to develop [the players] and to have a good time. To have a second family is super important to me."

Photo Elysia-Marie Campbell

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF FEB. 24 TO MAR. 2

THURSDAY

26

Women's Basketball—Concordia 61, UQAM 60 (OT)
Men's Basketball—Concordia 79, UQAM 65
Women's Hockey—Concordia 0, UdeM 2 (RSEQ Playoffs)

FRIDAY

13

Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, UdeM 3 (RSEQ Playoffs)

UPCOMING GAMES

THURSDAY

5

8:00 p.m. Women's Basketball at UQAM Citadins (RSEQ Playoffs)

FRIDAY

6

6:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at McGill Redmen (RSEQ Playoffs)



Concordia Stingers winger Olivier Hinse (right) stands next to men's hockey head coach Kevin Figsby. Hinse finished this past 2014-15 season with 18 goals and 31 points in 26 games.

Inside the Hinse

Concordia Stingers Star Discusses His Family, Career and Tendency to Think Too Much

by Laura Lalonde @laura_lalonde

Olivier Hinse is the kind of person you'd want to be stranded on a desert island with.

"He's a stand-up guy," says Kevin Figsby, head coach of the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team. "And he's got that glow."

Olivier Hinse is the team's most valuable player, top scorer and team captain. He was the first player to be named an assistant captain of the Stingers in his first year. In 2014, he was nominated by his teammates for the Randy Gregg Award, a top award in Canadian Inter-university Sport hockey, combining academics, athletics and community service.

"He'll go pro," Figsby says. "I know it. Everyone knows it."

Some might call this "pressure"—to be loved by everyone, to be successful, to excel at his degree (which is Child Studies). But just meeting him, it's easy to see Hinse's future is as solid as his handshake. And as he enters the office where Figsby is still gushing about him, both of them eating handfuls of Cadbury Mini Eggs, Hinse is ready for anything. Including this interview.

As Hinse stands in the doorway of Figsby's office, he looks right at home. He wears a hoodie and a polo shirt and a baseball cap with sunglasses on them. He shakes Figsby's hand like he missed him.

"Hey Buck," Figsby laughs, delighted to see Hinse, who is just as delighted to see him.

I had hoped Hinse would be easy to break down. I wanted to see what went on behind all the success and praise. But even I was enamored by his "glow." That very presence that Figsby promised, it's real—so real, that Figsby got up from his hospital bed just to meet Hinse for the first time.

"Oh, I'll tell you about the first time I met Olivier," Figsby laughs. "It was in April." He pauses. "A Tuesday."

He says this dramatically with a twist of

irony, kind of laughing at himself, but not really. "I fell off my roof—where I had been doing maintenance—and I dropped 20 feet. I had seven fractures."

But email still works from inside a hospital, so Figsby arranged to meet Hinse the next day.

Figsby had his wife Debbie "stuff him in the car" and drive him, broken bones and all, to the Burgundy Lion. "I wasn't going to let McGill get him," Figsby says. They were scheduled to meet each other at noon. Figsby got there at 11:15.

Olivier grew up in Sherbrooke, Quebec. He is the middle child. He has one older sister and one younger brother, both of whom spend their days helping others. His siblings work with the elderly and the disabled and his father has always volunteered. Hinse wants to work with kids and open a daycare some day. If there is such a thing as a kindness gene, this family has it. But Hinse gives his mother all the credit.

"I love her so much. She gave us everything," he says.

She had to drop out of school when her father, Olivier's grandfather, passed away. The family owned a potato factory in Sherbrooke, where his mother had to take over after her father's death (she was only 20 years old). He admires her and smiles deeply every time we discuss her. "I think that's why I work so hard," he says. "She would die for me."

Earlier in the interview, Figsby was quick to mention that "five NHL teams came to check Hinse out just last week." But the star player does admit—although he isn't very convincing—that he does fail. "I fail a lot, actually," he says, "but I never fail twice at the same thing."

Except when that failure is external, and breaks his jaw.

When Hinse played as a defenseman in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, (he's an offensive player by nature), his success was shot down, quite literally, by a puck to the face.

"The first time I broke my jaw, it was my draft

year for the NHL. Then I broke it again, two years later. But I always kept the dream [of going pro]. I came back and I went all in," he says.

He goes all in for most things, driven by the high standards he sets for himself. I ask him if he works too hard.

"No, because I'm never working. I mean, my job is to work at a hockey arena. It's my dream." And whatever success story he does allow himself, he attributes to other people. "My success isn't because of me," he says.

"I'm just doing my job."

-Olivier Hinse

Now, he makes all of this seem kind of easy. He has been gifted with a supportive family, a coach who loves him and the "job" of his dreams (he often says, "I'm just doing my job"). But Hinse does work, and he works really hard. A lot of the work, though, happens in his head.

"I think too much," he admits. "I think about what will happen if things go wrong." So, it isn't that Hinse is without worries. He worries a lot—about his family, about his career. Mostly, though, he worries about his mom.

"I just want my mom to be proud of me."

Hinse has the demeanor of someone who's used to being questioned by strangers, but not enough to be comfortable with it.

"I'm just a normal guy," he says, almost apologetically. But what Hinse doesn't understand is

that he isn't just a normal guy. With his passion comes a unique curiosity, a sort of childlike wonder, for what life has to offer.

"That's why I don't sleep much," he says. "I love to be awake and see the world."

On the ice, Hinse is known for his speed. In real life, there's nothing speedy about him. Hinse is slow and careful when he speaks, taking a step back from his life as if to study the outcome of these questions, this feature, his career. Because no matter the place or time in his life, Hinse makes a lot of decisions, none of which leave room for error. It's no wonder he scores the most goals: Hinse is playing to win.

Photos Laura Lalonde



opinions

the plague that is xenophobia

Speaking Out Against the Vilification of Muslims

by Thomas Shukr

What I read in the news last Friday troubled me. I haven't felt such profound anger in a while. Perhaps it has been building up, but the new ad by the Bloc Québécois sent me over the edge.

The ad I'm referring to regards the use of a niqab to depict a point-of-view of the Parliamentary chamber. Aside from it being a political attack on a specific party that was strategically published to win back the seats it lost, this ad crosses a line.

The systematic vilification of Muslims needs to stop. I do not have a legal background, but the ad seemed to me to be a clear violation of our Human Rights Act, so I did some research.

If a political ad can be construed as a "notice" to the public, then it can be subject to Section 12 of the Act, which outlines how the ad could be constituted as discriminatory if it "incites or is calculated to incite others to discriminate."

If "accommodation" can be construed as Canada's adaptation for diversity as mandated by the Multiculturalism Act, then Section 12 can also come into effect by invoking Section 5, which prohibits differentiating "adversely in relation to any individual" in "the provision of goods, services, facilities or accommodation customarily available to the general public."

What this means is that this ad can be subject to the terms of the Human Rights Act and that it is, by my interpretation, in violation of those terms. However, the implicit nature of legal language has its cost: equal interpretation can be used against this argument.

Nevertheless, the ad clearly undermines the Multiculturalism Act, which outlines how "diversity should be promoted, respected and protected." Many will call this ad racism, although it would be more appropriate to deem it an act of a discriminatory nature.

Unfortunately, many in Quebec will praise the Bloc. But how many will recognize a deeper truth? Xenophobia directed towards Muslims is rapidly spreading across the country.

Regardless of the political situation in the Middle East, Canadians should not resort to

such acts of discrimination.

I also recently read about a Quebec judge that refused to hear a woman's case because she wore a hijab in court. This is absurd. Again, I did research to confirm my suspicions.

The only relevant passage in the Regulation of the Court of Québec pertaining to court decorum is outlined in Section 13, stipulating the necessity of appropriate attire.

This is obviously not sufficient to justify deeming a hijab to be inappropriate attire no matter the interpretation. The decision should be revoked.

Since before the Charter of Values debate, the mentality of intolerance has been present in Quebec, but Canada is not immune. Recently, debate arose over wearing Islamic head garb while taking the oath of citizenship and while voting.

However, after reviewing the Citizenship Act, I couldn't find any section prohibiting someone to do so. Although it largely outlined the regulations of the oath-taking process, it does not mention any requirements concerning dress; nor did I find any such section in the Elections Act, which only mentions ID cards and address.

The latter has been an issue in the past and will certainly arise this coming fall. So, if none of these actions can be supported by legislation, then why are they accepted? Why is intolerance tolerated?

Furthermore, how can we ensure that Canada's multiculturalism policy is respected, when the minister responsible for the Act supports the ban of Islamic head garb while taking the oath of citizenship?

What any debate concerning diversity boils down to is: does it affect you? No. Does another individual's religion, or ethnicity, or culture interfere with your life? No. It truly doesn't. Whatever happened to the non-interference mentality of liberalism?

Moreover, there is one argument swimming in the midst of these debates I need to address. One most commonly used as an incentive of dissuasion.

It conveys how the aforementioned mistreatments are justified because the Islamic head garb worn by women is implemented through force. This is also absurd.

First, everyone is fundamentally entitled to the sanctity of his or her own will. Second, if a hijab or niqab is being worn against someone's will, why would you punish that individual even further by depriving them of their civil or political rights?

Perhaps I'm disillusioned with what it means to be Canadian, but in moments like this, I don't recognize my country anymore.

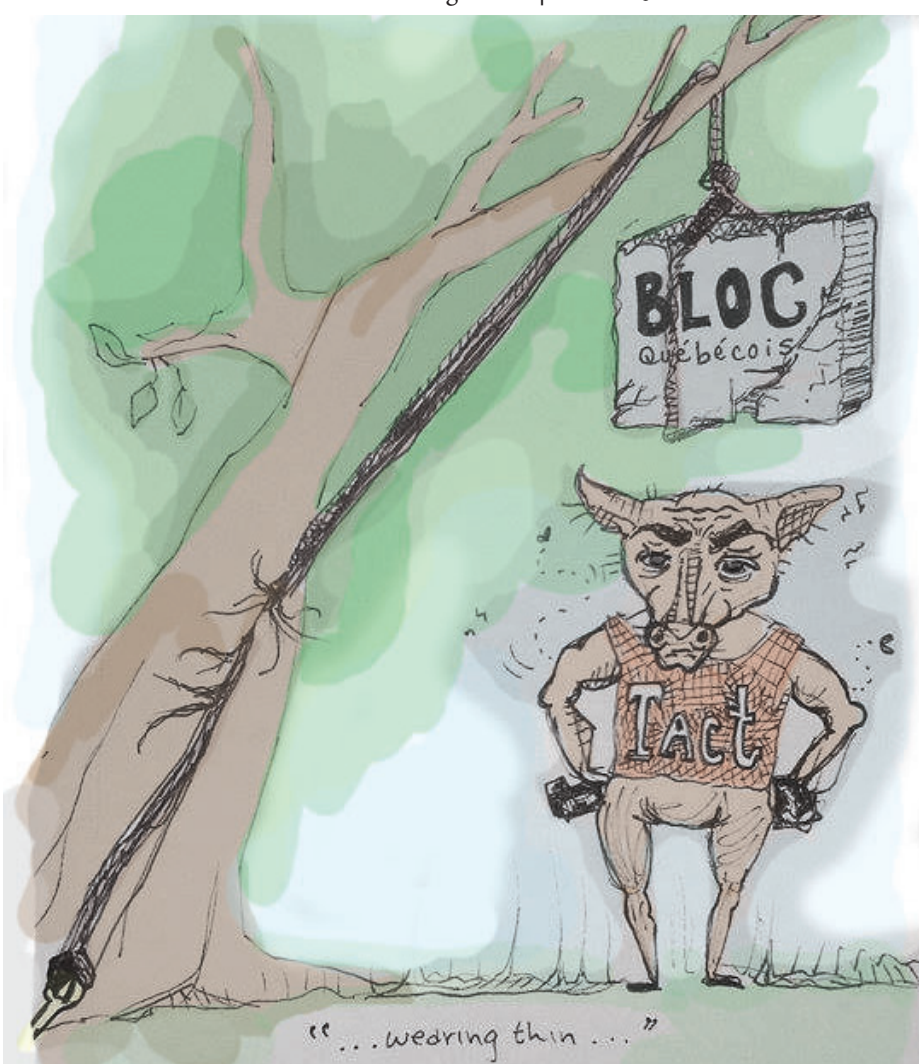
I was brought up with the values entrenched in the Charter. The values I'm beginning to realize not all Canadians have. What went wrong?

Canada used to be internationally recognized for our social progress, peace and tolerance. Maybe I really am disillusioned. How can Canada embody these qualities?

But it can. It has the potential, that much I'm certain of. We all need to stand up for the rights and freedoms of our fellow Canadians.

To those of you who take these values and qualities to heart, I implore to speak up against this sickening xenophobia that has no place in our country.

Graphic Sam Jones



gender and sexuality special issue brainstorm

Identity crises, representation imbalance, intersectionality and the f-word come to mind when thinking of gender and sexuality. We need more minds to develop ideas.

Come to the brainstorm meeting for our upcoming special issue on **Friday at 2 p.m.** to share ideas, stories and thoughts on some of humanity's most complicated and contentious issues, as they relate to identities that are most human.

"Au Revoir," French Students

FEUQ Voices Opposition to Increasing French Students' Tuition

Since 1978, an agreement between France and Quebec meant that French students pay the same tuition fees as Quebecers, as do Quebec students studying in France.

However, the Couillard government has decided to renegotiate the agreement—Christine St-Pierre, the minister of international relations and La Francophonie, announced the new criteria on Feb. 12.

Although the new agreement does provide a "grandfather" clause and tuition fees will remain the same for graduate students, the government intends to triple tuition fees for new French undergraduate students.

Concretely, tuition fees will increase from \$2,200 per year to \$6,650 per year by September 2015.

Overestimated savings

With this reform, St-Pierre expects the government to save \$30 million annually.

Moreover, the minister of international relations has reiterated that Quebec students studying in France continue to enjoy the same fees as before.

First, the savings generated by the new agreement are overestimated.

It's a back-of-the-napkin calculation, assuming 7,500 undergraduate French students will bring in \$4,450 each per year.

The calculation fails to consider the number of credits they register for, as well as the fact that many of these students are on exchange and don't pay their tuition to Quebec universities, but to their home universities in France.

Once these elements are taken into consideration, the government could, at most, save \$19 million by increasing French undergraduate tuition.

This assumes that enrolment doesn't decrease.

With this calculation, the government is using an accounting approach that doesn't consider the actual financial contribution of these students in Quebec.

Indeed, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec estimates the economic impact of undergraduate French students' consumption at nearly \$280 million annually (rent, living expenses, etc).

Obviously, it is naive to believe that these benefits will remain stable with such a drastic increase in tuition fees.

According to the government, higher tuition will only have a minimal impact on student enrolment.

However, a 2006 study, conducted by CROP for the Regional Conference of Elected Officials in Montreal, noted that nearly 60 per cent of international students at Montreal universities chose Montreal specifically because of the cost of education in Quebec.

Although the increase negotiated by the Liberal government won't impede all French students from studying here, the FEUQ does expect a reduction in French students' enrolment, which will further reduce the "savings" that the government claims to expect.

Damaging universities

With this increase, universities will also see damage. Rural universities depend on French students to offer more programs, and French students at the master's and doctoral level contribute to the expansion of knowledge.

An important relationship has developed between Quebec and France to increase research collaboration and student mobility.

At the doctoral level, thesis co-supervision has been quite successful, and 3,000 French and Quebec students have completed such a doctorate.

Theses initiatives require student mobility, and increasing tuition fees could have a nefarious impact on this dynamic.

Taking another look at the role of international students

Over the coming years, Quebec will begin to see the impact of an aging population.

The province, more than ever, needs a growing workforce, specifically a highly educated and specialized workforce.

Allowing students to complete their education in Quebec at low cost is the first step of a strategy to attract and retain this workforce.

In addition, the FEUQ has, for several years now, demanded a tax credit to reimburse part of the additional tuition fees paid by international students who decide to settle in Quebec.

This measure fits into a strategy to

retain these individuals. Not only are these students ideal immigration candidates because of their education and the recognition of their degrees, but they are also already well integrated in Quebec.

Concerns about Quebec's demographic shift are only increasing. This issue is of serious concern, and the announcement made by St-Pierre on Feb. 12 is wholly irrational in the long term.

Obviously, the Couillard government sees international students as cash cows—a source of additional revenue for state coffers.

To reiterate an important fact: increasing tuition fees for French undergraduate students is the first step in a series of future

negotiations with other countries.

Indeed, the Couillard government has already stated its intention to review agreements with international partners upon expiration. The next one is with China.

Thus, more increases for international students are expected. That bodes poorly for international students; for Quebec students, whose international mobility might be limited with new agreements; and for Quebec society overall.

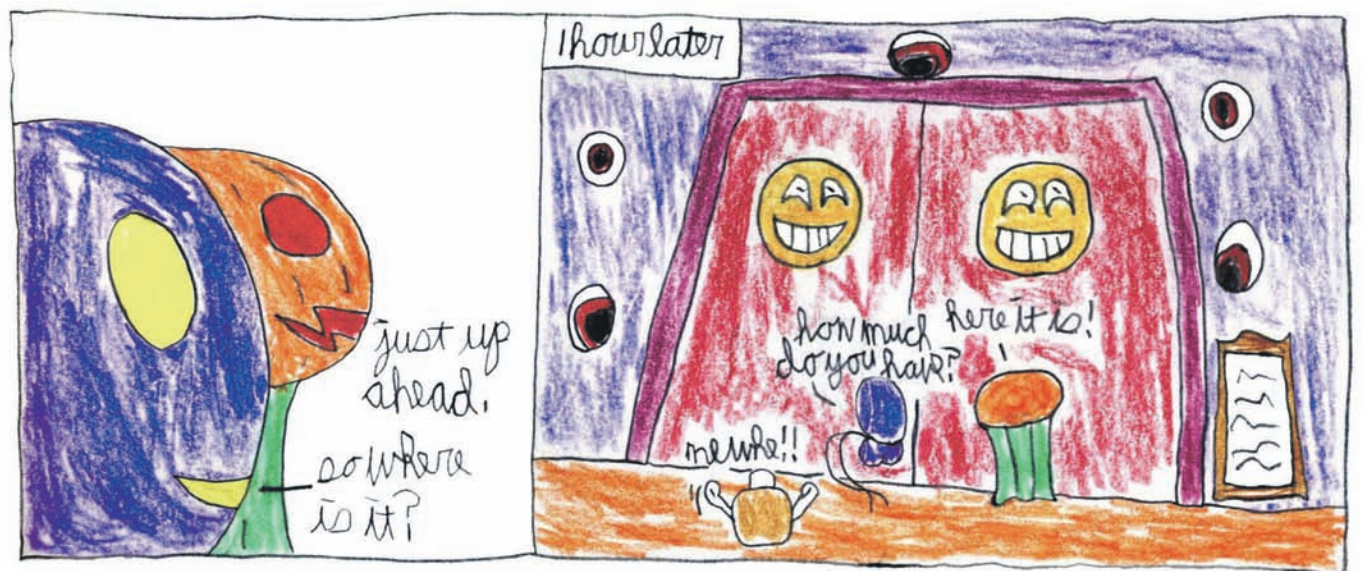
*Philippe Poirier-Monette, political attaché
Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec*

Graphic Sam Jones



Boop by Caitly Hall

Balloon Ventures by Mengekko Jones



Filbert by LA Bonte



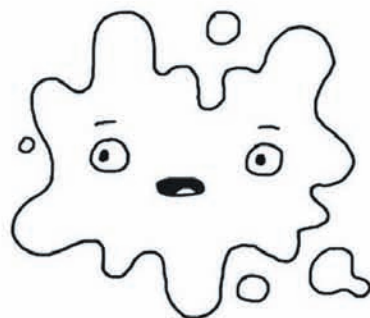
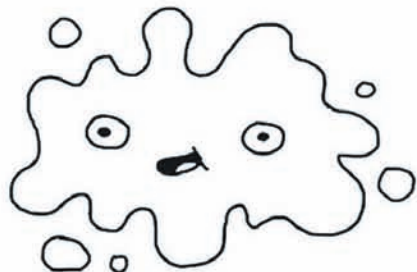
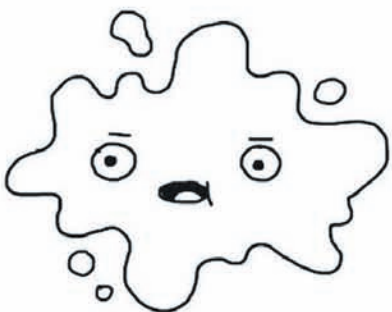
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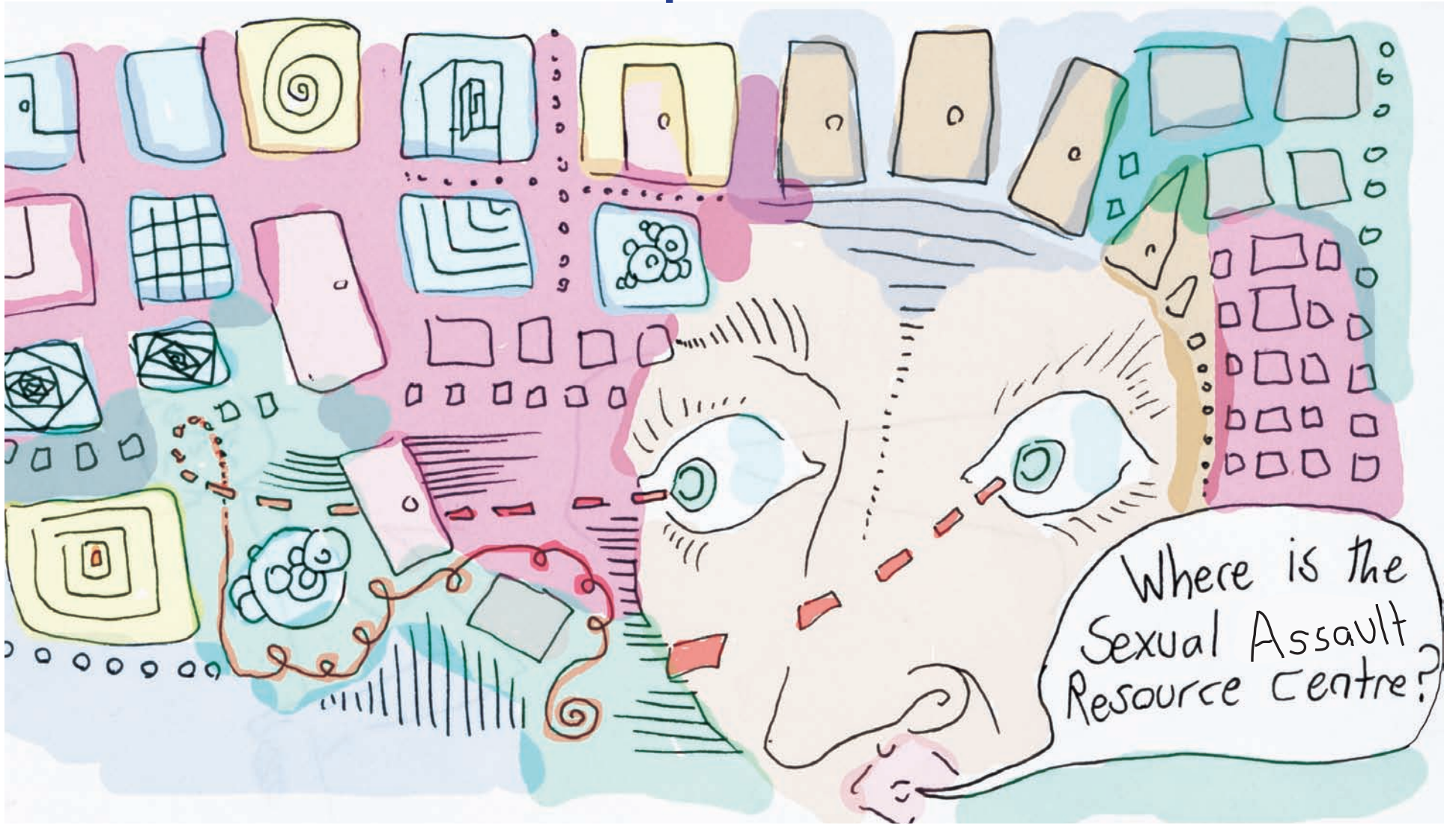
Power Theatre by Alex Callard

I've almost succeeded in dissolving my physical essence, folding into the ephemeral consciousness of the universe itself.

I mean humans are pretty weird in general, all mediated by ritual and language and whatever. It'll be nice not to be restricted to a corporeal vessel, my perception no longer filtered through my ego.

And now, my tangibility as a being comes to an end and I join the great infinity.





editorial

The Sexual Assault Centre Needs More From Concordia

Nearly a year and a half after Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre was finally established on campus, it's lacking resources of its own.

The centre has only one paid, full-time employee and relies heavily on volunteers. Although those who work at the centre are undoubtedly committed, there are obstacles at the administrative level to making their work more effective.

The visibility of the centre at the university, physically and virtually, has vast room for improvement. The SARC is located down several winding corridors on the third floor of the GM building, well out of the way of everyday student traffic. A search of Concordia's website does not lead pursuers to a list of contacts nor useful information intended for those seeking help without first clicking through several pages. Compounding the problem, the centre also doesn't have any social media presence.

Another point of contention is Concordia's official harassment policy, adopted in 2011,

which doesn't include the term "sexual assault." The phrase is not mentioned at all, in fact. As SARC coordinator Jennifer Drummond explained, the haziness of Concordia's current terminology makes sexual assault survivors unsure whether their own experiences "count" or are reportable.

It's welcome news that Concordia is beginning an internal review into its sexual assault policy and the visibility of services. We have faith that the refreshingly interdisciplinary committee, made up of academic and legal figures from the university as well as undergraduate students, will provide an insightful overhaul of the policy. But we also hope that they'll listen to the needs of students for whom this service was sorely lacking until recently.

This, of course, is symptomatic of a larger culture where sexual assault survivors are led to constantly doubt themselves and are even blamed for their own assaults. Unfortunately, this is demonstrably typical of experiences at Canadian universities. High-profile cases such

as that of high school student Rehtaeh Parsons and Columbia University undergrad Emma Sulkowicz, to name only two, have unfolded and continue to unfold in the public eye—to say nothing of the countless number of assaults that never receive any such attention. The protection of victims is far too often overlooked by various authority figures, police officers, and members of the community, who aren't able to provide the necessary social support victims need in times of distress either due to ignorance or to lack of know-how.

Any academic institution that intentionally or indeed unintentionally complies with the status quo does a disservice to its mandate. Concordia president Alan Shepard has expressed that the SARC appears to be functioning well, and while this is likely true, a sexual assault centre should strive to be maximally beneficial to the students who end up needing to use it rather than just good enough.

Although Concordia is facing a series of stringent financial cuts from the government, we feel

it is important that they increase the outreach of the centre, the dissemination of safety information, and the number of permanent staff at SARC. Prevention through education should be the first priority, so making information easily visible and accessible is a simple and effective strategy that Concordia could implement. Relying on one person and a group of volunteers to serve a 46,000-strong student body is unwise, and additional staff would allow the centre to assist more people and achieve greater reach in their initiatives.

We're looking forward to seeing the results of the review and its recommendations, hopefully this semester, as Shepard suggested. The crucial next step will be the implementation of those recommendations. Concordia addressed a critical gap in its services when the centre finally opened, but there's still much to be done to provide students with the full range of services they deserve.

Graphic Sam Jones

THE LINK³⁵

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GENERAL ELECTION

VOLUME 36

We are holding our annual general elections this Wednesday, March 4 at 4 p.m.
All members of staff are encouraged to come out and vote.

THIS YEAR'S CANDIDATES ARE:

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Wednesday, March 4
4 p.m.

The Link's office (H-649, 1455 de
Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)

ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Jennifer Aedy, Julien Assouline,
Justin Blanchard, Yacine Bouhali,
Alex Callard, Elysia-Marie
Campbell, Alex Carriere, Evgenia
Choros, Tristan D'Amours, Fatma
Daldoul, Josh Fischlin, Matt Garies,
Jane Gatensby, Zach Goldberg,
Caity Hall, Daniele Iannarone, Jane
Lakes, David S. Landsman, Verity
Stevenson, Ester Strausova, Erik
Trudel, Leigha Veigh, Shane Wright
and all current *Link* masthead.

**PHOTO
WORKSHOP**

Friday, March 6 at 4 p.m.

Composition and Photo Editing

The Link's former photo editor and current editor-in-chief is hosting a workshop on how to make your photos sexy. From getting the photo right in your camera to editing and perfecting your work in Photoshop, we'll go through the process and answer any questions you may have.

Join us at *The Link's* office: 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-649



Friday, March 13 @ 4 p.m.

A public workshop on
opinion, comment and
persuasion.

Unfortunately, the art of persuasion doesn't come
naturally to everyone. Let us learn together.

Are student fee hikes necessary for structural
fiscal balancing? Is homelessness largely the fault of
individuals? Are drones developed for solely
peaceful means?

Come to our workshop (featuring me, your friendly
neighborhood Mattha, and assorted all-star guests)
and we can get into some of the nitty-gritty of
opinion writing together and disprove what the
mainstream media sugar coat—perhaps there'll be
coffee too.

GRAPHIC FLORA HAMMOND

```
?>  
Want to learn how to send  
secret emails to your  
friends? Ever wanted to  
decode government docu-  
ments?  
//
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// Come to our coding and  
encrypting workshop with  
computer extraordinaire  
Cleve Higgins.
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<Head over to The  
Link office on March 20. at  
4 p.m./
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<BRING YOUR LAPTOP>  
?>
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<?php endwhile; ?>
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