



LINK³⁵

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

MONTREAL JOINS THE MOVEMENT

Thousands take to the streets of Montreal in solidarity with the People's Climate March. P. 5

IN
THE DUST
OF THIS
PLANET

MONTREAL MARCHÉ POUR LE CLIMAT

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EDITORIAL: CANADA HAS TURNED INTO AN ENVIRONMENTAL VILLAIN P.15

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Attendees of Naomi Klein's Book Launch Weigh in on Our Planet's Future


So, How Fucked Are We?

Jane Barr, environmental consultant




"I'm optimistic for the future of the planet... for the future of the human species, perhaps not so much."

Sam Houston, psychology and environmental studies student



"I think we're fucked, and I think it's a philosophical issue. [...] The real issue of climate change is a philosophical issue, and it's one [for which] we need to acknowledge our pre-determined demise and work every day to ameliorate the essential and inherent pain that exists with that understanding."

Zina Rahman, Concordia alumnus



"I'm a gloomy optimist. [...] I want to say that we'll be okay, but I do feel like we're fucked if we don't make the right decisions. But there's always room for the right thing."

WHAT'S UP AT THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

FRINGE BLOG POP MONTREAL DIARY: AGAINST ME! <p>A look back at Pop Montreal and Punk Rock band Against Me!</p>	FRINGE BLOG POP MONTREAL DIARY: SAXSYNDRUM <p>The electric duo at Saxsyndrum talk to <i>The Link</i> about their new EP "Maceonectar."</p>	FRINGE BLOG A WEEKEND FULL OF HIP-HOP <p>Elementaika and Hip Hop You Don't Stop united to celebrate Hip-Hop.</p>	SPORTS ONLINE WHAT'S THE BUZZ? <p>Catch up on the Concordia Stingers' past week through our online recaps.</p>
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“There seems to be a huge amount of consensus that we are just heading towards Armageddon, and the argument is whether there’s any reason to lose hope at all.”

—Naomi Klein, author of This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate

Naomi Klein on Capitalism, Climate Change and the Possibility of “Armageddon”

Author Speaks Before Montreal Book Launch of *This Changes Everything*

by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

Journalist, environmental advocate and every corporate executive’s worst nightmare Naomi Klein isn’t just an author—she’s an icon. Her book *No Logo* made alternative globalization activists the way The Ramones made punk rockers. *This Changes Everything*, her latest book, examines the relationship between capitalism and climate change.

Klein sat down with *The Link* before the official book launch to talk about corporate power, indigenous resistance and the divestment campaigns in the context of climate change.

Do you think humanity will undergo the drastic ideological shift you describe as necessary to combat climate change, and if so, when do you think it will take place?

[Laughs] Hmm, at exactly 3 p.m. You know, I don’t engage in that kind of speculation. There is a path that we can choose. I have no idea if we’re going to choose that path. I think the odds are pretty strong that we won’t.

In the face of that, we could despair, or we could fight really hard to try and convince other people that we should make that turn, and try to make that path as enticing as we can and as exciting as we can.

But [no one] could predict this. Human behaviour is non-linear, just like the climates, and I find that since publishing the book, I’m having an argument about whether or not change is possible. And to me, that’s not really a question that we answer rationally, it’s a choice that we make as human beings about whether we’re going to have hope or not.

There seems to be a huge amount of consensus that we are just heading towards Armageddon, and the argument is whether

there’s any reason to lose hope at all.

A problem you highlight in the book is the power multinational corporations hold through investor protection provisions of free-trade agreements. What do you think the average person, the average consumer, can do in their daily life to combat the all-invasive power of corporations?

I found after I wrote [*No Logo*] that the first question people would ask after the speech would be, ‘What kind of sneakers should I buy?’ What I’m documenting in this book is the triumph of the sociological project designed to make us see ourselves only as consumers and tell us that all we are are these self-interested, gratification-seeking units. I think what people need to understand is that we were born into the rubble of that model.

So, part of what responding to that model means is changing how we think of ourselves. It means shaking off that lie; we are not just consumers. If our first question is, ‘How do we respond to this as individuals?’ We’ve already lost.

We cannot respond to multimillion-dollar corporations as individuals. We have to respond to them collectively, it’s our only hope. The only thing we have going for us is that there are many more of us than there are of them.

You also highlight the power of indigenous communities that challenge the legal rights of multinationals through their treaty agreements. Do you see any alternative methods of enforcing indigenous land claims, and what can non-native environmental groups do to help that combat?

I think one of the ways in which this debate has shifted in Canada is that, in recent years, more and more Canadians have come to understand that First Nations land rights are probably the most robust legal barrier in the face of a government that seems determined to ram through with extractive projects despite the will of the local population. And so that calls for genuine solidarity.

I think the underlying issue is that Canada and, by extension, all non-indigenous Canadians have broken again and again promises made.

In so many First Nations communities, the choices are impossible. Do you want running water, which will supposedly come if you sign a deal with an extractive industry, or do you want your water poisoned by the said extractive industries?

These are impossible choices, and nobody should be forced to have only bad choices in front of them. There have to be good choices! And I think that that’s a deeper form of solidarity and that’s the discussion we need to be having.

At McGill and Concordia, divestment campaigns have sprung up in the last couple of years. Concordia is considering the creation of a responsible investment fund as an alternative to investments in fossil fuel industries. However, nothing has thus far been solidified. To what extent do you find these tactics effective?

Well look, it’s early days. It’s pretty stunning how quickly this movement has spread. It’s only been a couple of years.

I understand, from a student perspective. You’re only at the university for three or four years and you want to get things done, and I think that sense of urgency is entirely appro-

priate, but it is happening quickly, and we’re seeing movement at schools that originally said no, now they’re starting to say maybe, they’re starting to say okay maybe just coal, and so there’s movement.

You began your career at a student paper at the University of Toronto. In light of this, how do you view the role of independent media and their corporate counterparts in shaping the public’s views and actions on climate change, and do you relate that at all to the fight against the corporate influence and greater neoliberal ideology?

I think that it’s one of the many things that I don’t devote enough attention to in the book. That is sort of the issue that is underneath all the other issues. Anyone fighting for any type of shared-interest justice-based platform has an interest in reducing the power of corporate money in politics.

The same is true for having media that is genuinely accountable to its users. It’s a bit depressing, being on this tour and seeing how embattled the CBC is, because I do believe in alternative media but I also believe in public-sector media, which is under tremendous attack in this country.

How do you think Big Green can be prevented from forming ties with the fossil fuel industry?

Honestly, I think that there is such a strong and growing climate justice movement that a lot of these groups that have made these dirty deals are going to become irrelevant because people are moving to another phase and they know that this is not where the answers lie.

photo Brandon Johnston

Thousands Take to the Street to Demand Action on Climate Change

Montrealers Join International "People's Climate March"



(Left) Students leaving from Concordia head towards Lafontaine Park. (Right) Protestors march up Park Avenue towards the end of the march.

by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

Several thousand people marched in Montreal on Sunday in solidarity with the People's Climate March in New York City. Held to coincide with the U.N. Climate Summit, the march's goal was to "bend the course of history," according to its organizing group, 350.org.

A student contingent left from Concordia University at 12 p.m. to join Montreal's march at Lafontaine Park.

"This is the beginning of a larger mobilization to rid ourselves of the fossil fuel economy we know is largely responsible for climate change," said Anthony Garoufalidis-Auger, the

Concordia Student Union's VP External and Mobilization.

The demonstrators leaving Concordia hit a bump, however, when patrol cars surrounded them and forced them onto the sidewalk.

"Get onto the sidewalk! You're obstructing traffic!" police officers said from their cars.

Despite being relegated to the sidewalk, the students continued to walk on Ste. Catherine Street. Holding signs bearing statements like "Frack off Gasholes!" and "Pipeline = Climate Crime," they made their way to the main event, arriving around 1:30 p.m.

"The Energy East pipeline is a national catastrophe," Bernard Roy of the Quebec

Association for the Fight Against Atmospheric Pollution said.

The association was one of a diverse roster of organizations present at the march.

The Montreal Raging Grannies, a group that lends its voice to various social injustices, sang to express their disenchantment with the tar sands and hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking," a technique of oil extraction.

Demonstrators filed out of the park around 2:30 p.m., preceded by electric cars and police cruisers. Heading the demonstration was a marching band and a troupe performing a "silent disco." The dancers, dressed in colorful costumes, some as frogs and others

as flowers, added a festive air to the protest despite the persistent drizzle.

The march continued on La Fontaine St. to Ontario St., and wound its way up Park Avenue.

"Electrify our transport!" chanted the crowd, referring to electric energy. "Electrify Harper!" a few participants added jokingly.

The protest came to an end in Jeanne-Mance Park around 4 p.m. Protesters formed a circle around the marching band with many dancing as the music played, some even playing a game of Ring Around the Rosie.

photos Brandon Johnston

CSU Facing Possible Negative Cash Flow As Of Next Summer

Union Expects a Deficit of Over \$135,000 this Academic Year

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

There may soon be an imbalance between revenue and "ever-growing expenses" at the Concordia Student Union, affecting "the financial sustainability of the [CSU's] operations account," VP Finance Heather Nagy said at a CSU council meeting last Wednesday.

"There are multiple plans that are in the works for this issue," she said. "One plan is to do a 10-year assessment of the CSU's financial position, five years in the past and five years in the future."

The potential for a negative cash flow at the CSU beginning in June of next year led John Molson School of Business councillor Vicky Rodgers to ask Nagy how the union's financial situation could affect whether or not next year's elected executives will be able to deliver on their campaign promises.

"We won't leave our term in office with the next people coming into a shit show," Nagy said.

"I intend on working with the finance team and presenting a concrete plan of action maybe in January [detailing] exactly how we're going to go about solving the issue of financial sustainability."

In his executive report to council, CSU President Benjamin Prunty said the union's executives are "somewhat confident" in their ability to resolve the most immediate concerns "without action needed from council," but that dealing with longer-term financial issues will likely require input from council and Concordia undergrads.

"After removing the agenda and the orientation expenses from an analysis of our current spending, the union is going through roughly \$135,000 per month in operating

expenses," he wrote.

"This kind of spending is well under what we can handle as an organization, but this does not mean that we will not need some kind of cash injection in the near future."

Rodgers asked if an increase in the student union fee charged to undergrads was a possibility.

"Potentially," Nagy replied, adding that the union was looking into the possibility of indexing the fee levy, but that it wouldn't make any decisions before performing a financial analysis.

Budget Deficit Anticipated

Meanwhile, budget documents distributed ahead of the meeting show the CSU expects total expenses this school year to be slightly over \$2.1 million, with a projected deficit of \$135,173.

Prunty attributed the anticipated deficit to "contractual increases in overhead costs like the mandatory increases in pay for [the CSU's] staff."

He also said the union was "caught off guard" by the way that the university distributes money to the student groups on behalf of which it collects fees.

According to Prunty, the university anticipates how many students will be enrolled and then distributes money to student groups based on that estimate, taking back any money in excess of what was actually collected through student fees at the end of the year.

The CSU wasn't aware of how the funding worked because of a new team in its financial office, Prunty told *The Link*.

with files from Verity Stevenson



A demonstration in solidarity with last year's prison strikes gathered 60 people in front of federal prisons in Laval on Saturday.

No Validity Without Papers

Protesters Visit Laval Immigration Detention Centre to Commemorate Lindsay Strikes

by Michelle Pucci @michellepucci

Last Saturday, 60 demonstrators protested in front of the Laval immigration detention centre to commemorate last year's migrant strike in Lindsay, Ont.

On Sept. 17, 2013, 191 immigrant detainees staged a peaceful protest after they were transferred from a Toronto detention centre to the maximum-security prison in Lindsay. A few of them committed to a 60-day hunger strike.

The detainees felt isolated after being relocated more than an hour's drive away from their families and lawyers.

"These are people who, maybe they had small charges, but most likely they just got picked up and didn't have papers," said Virginia Lee, one of the protest organizers. Lee is also part of the Prison Radio Show, which runs Fridays on McGill-based campus station CKUT.

The strikers pointed out faults in Canada's immigration detention methods, such as arbitrary detention. A working group of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights released a report calling Canada's system "endless"—some migrants spend a decade in holding centres.

"The report basically says if you can't deport them, they shouldn't be in detention," said Lee. "There isn't any real way to plead your case and get out."

The Lindsay strikers also demanded

migrant detainees not be held in maximum-security prisons. These prisons offer less access to basic resources like showers, time outside and programs some detainees may need to complete before they can be freed or let out on bail. Migrants also have limited access to legal aid, including interpreters and pro bono representation.

The march Saturday in the east end of Laval was meant to also raise awareness of other issues linked to Canada's justice system, including wage cuts felt by inmates working in prison-run factories.

The cuts last year reduced wages by 30 per cent; before that, some inmates made up to \$6.90 a day, but most received \$3. A group of inmates in Ontario are suing the Canadian government for these cuts in a case that should be heard this fall.

"When the prisoner's pay scale got set in the first place, room and board was factored into that \$6.90 number, which hasn't changed in over 30 years," said Lee.

As the protesters shouted these accusations through a sound system set up on the roof of a car, many inmates in one of the minimum-security buildings stood by their windows and waved.

In the yard behind a four-foot chain-link fence, some of them even danced as AC/DC's "Highway to Hell" blared from the street. A young family stood on the porch of one of the centre's "weekend homes" to watch the commotion.

"Part of the point of coming all the way out here is to let people know on the inside that we're doing these protests," Lee said.

Looking directly into the rooms of one of the minimum-security buildings—guarded by officers in colourful uniforms as part of their own protest against the provincial government's pension reform legislation—it's hard to imagine inmates enduring the deprived conditions often depicted on television.

Arash Aslani, an activist and former detainee, was held in the Laval centre for 11 months. He calls it a "human taming centre."

"We're not here to say the beds are dirty or the washrooms are not clean," said Aslani. "My name is Arash, but nobody called me Arash, I was 205 Delta."

Aslani, who left Iran in 2004, said he felt more like a criminal than a refugee.

"You left your country, you didn't have a beautiful life in your country," he said, describing the situation of many migrants in holding centres. "And [guards] talk to you and say, 'you are not allowed to do that,' in a patronizing way."

The visiting room of the immigration detention centre looks a lot like a public school cafeteria. Swivel chairs are bolted to round tables in a plain pink tiled room. While many joke about school being prison, there are fewer tears and hushed conversations in cafeterias.

Carlos Alfredo Gomez is a native El Salvadorian who came to Canada seven years ago. Gomez, his wife, mother-in-law and newborn son crossed the border in 2007 from the United States, where they had been living for two years. After his two-year Canadian visa expired, Gomez continued to live in Canada without papers.

"We came to Canada for a better life, but here it's worse," he said in near-perfect French. "For us, who come from Central America, it's impossible to get papers."

Now he lives in the Laval holding centre with other illegal immigrants and struggles with family issues. His wife died last year during surgery for a heart infection she couldn't afford to get treated without health insurance.

And now her aunt, who immigrated legally to Canada during the civil war in El Salvador, is demanding custody of Gomez's child.

"If I leave my son here, I will lose him completely," he said. Gomez's eight-year-old son has U.S. citizenship because he was born there, and has a better chance of staying in Canada than his father.

After spending three months in the Laval detention centre, Gomez was set to be deported this week, but will stay until at least next month for a court hearing on whether he can keep custody of his son.

photo Michelle Pucci

And the Winner is... Your Uterus

Reproductive Justice Activists Hold "Uterus Pageant" In Solidarity with New Brunswick

by Verity Stevenson @vestevie

Seven pink, red, multicolour and glittery uteruses danced and sang in a "uterus pageant" at Parc Émilie-Gamelin Saturday afternoon.

They and about 40 other people gathered to denounce the lack of access to reproductive services in the country, especially in New Brunswick, where the province's only abortion clinic closed due to a lack of funding shortly before candidates began their campaigns for Monday's upcoming provincial election.

"We want to just be saying to the candidates who are running that we're watching and we're going to be paying attention to you once this new government is formed and if you don't strike down these restrictive regulations, we're going to make a fuss," Julie Michaud of the Centre for Gender Advocacy told *The Link* at the rally.

The rally was one of many being held across the country and called for by the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada.

"And we're not going to stop drawing attention to these injustices until these paternalistic regulations are done away with," added Michaud.

Janelle LeBlanc, an abortion-rights activist from New Brunswick, relayed the access issues in her province, where two doctors must concede that an abortion is medically necessary for a woman to get the procedure in one of the two hospitals offering it.

Without the two-doctor approval and with the clinic closed, many women must travel out of province, often to Montreal, to get an abortion.

She also cited the main candidates' positions on the subject, saying the current premier is for keeping the current provisions, while the Liberal contender, Brian Gallant, said his party would look over them. The

NDP and Green Party have both said they would do away with the rule.

"There's also plenty of proud anti-choice candidates who have publicly stated anti-choice statements," LeBlanc said. "Who knows—we may be back here in a few weeks."

Following the speeches, the seven women wearing large paper bags decorated with painted pictures of the female reproductive system—uteri, ovaries and so on—climbed on the stage for the "uterus pageant."

There was a rainbow flag uterus with the shape of the organs outlined by rhinestones, placards reading "Pussy Power," and brown-eyed Susans glued onto the drawing of a uterus. Michaud asked each of the women a question about their opinions of misconceptions about abortion and reproductive rights.

All of the contestants won because "all uteruses deserve to have the same access to all of the different reproductive choices they might want to make," Michaud told the crowd.

Writer, activist and the Centre's campaign coordinator Maya Rolbin-Ghanie spoke to the crowd to clarify the concept of reproductive justice's wide approach.

"It locates the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive autonomy in the larger sphere of reproductive justice," she said, explaining that the term was coined by organizations that promoted the rights of native women and women of colour in New York in the late '80s.

"I would say that it's necessary to support the leadership and power of the most excluded groups: excluded women of colour and girls of colour and indigenous communities within a culturally relative context," she said.

"What that looks like is complicated and takes work, but we all need to engage with it every step of the way."

photos Shaun Michaud



Women dressed in "uterus dresses" sang and participated in a "uterus pageant" to decry the lack of abortion access in the Maritimes during a rally at Parc Émilie-Gamelin Saturday.



Weekly Calendar

by Athina Lugez @Athinalugez

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Place-Based Community: How Do We Build a Sense of Belonging?
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd.)

Free

Have you ever wondered how a community was formed? Maybe yearned, at one point, for a sense of belonging? This public conversation, hosted by Concordia's University of the Streets Café in collaboration with the Peter-McGill Community Council, will answer these questions. It will tackle some important notions such as the challenges of living in a "hyper-connected" world, as well as strategies to build meaningful and inclusive communities.

FILM

Downtown Screening Under the Stars: Imagined States of America
Friday, Sept. 26, 9 p.m.

Place de la Paix

Free

When we think of America, we assume that everything is bigger, from the cars to the food to the businesses and even its people. Some other preconceptions of note: American suburbs, militarism and religious fundamentalism. This movie explores these myths to illustrate the United States, a country deemed to still fascinate the world. Inspired by the photos of Quebec artist Pierre Guimond, this movie highlights American paradoxes.

MUSIC

The Drums

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 8 p.m.

Le Cabaret du Mile-End (5240 Park Ave.)

\$20 advance, \$25 door

Brooklyn-based indie-pop band The Drums will be playing in Montreal this Wednesday. Since having released their debut single "Let's Go Surfing" in 2009, the band has witnessed a growing fan base. The Drums will be launching their newest album, *Encyclopedia*, on Sept. 23, and it will serve as the main repertoire at their concert. To get a glimpse of their new sound, be sure not to miss this!

Shovels & Rope

Sunday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.

Corona Theatre (2490 Notre-Dame St. W.)

\$24 advance, \$27 door

Shovel & Rope is an American folk duo from South Carolina. Meshing their musical past with this current project, this band successfully blends folk with rock and roll, country and punk music. Currently on tour to promote their latest album, "Swimmin' Time," this band will surely provide you with an eventful Sunday night filled with dancing.

LITERARY

Book Launch: Blind Spot by Laurence Miall

Thursday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.

Drawn & Quarterly (211 Bernard St. W.)

Free

This Thursday, celebrate with Laurence Miall the release of his debut novel, *Blind Spot*. The book tells the story of Luke, a failed actor, whose parents have recently passed away. The character heads to his hometown, but he remains disconnected from pain and grief as he embarks on a relationship with a woman living nearby. This book explores the gripping tale of an anti-hero blind to his own faults. A must-read!

DANCE

Trois décennies d'amour cerné

Tuesday, Sept. 23 to Friday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m.

Agora de la danse (840 Cherrier St.)

\$22 student, \$30 regular

Choreographed by one of France's most important figures in contemporary dance, Thomas Lebrun, this show tells the story through movement of Eros and Thanatos that set a damper on society's sexual customs and passions. This dance explores, in four segments, the emotional and physical impact that HIV has had, restraining desire and envy. As explained on their website, "love is suspect, tethered and fenced in."

PARTY

Art Matters Rooftop Party

Thursday, Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m.

EV Building, 11th floor

Free

Want to get involved in what promises to be one of Montreal's biggest art festivals of 2015? Art Matters is looking for volunteers! Head over to their rooftop party this Friday night to eat, drink, dance and get all the info you need to know to help organize next year's event.

OTHER

Journées de la Culture: Book-Making Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 27, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

La Vitrine (2 Ste. Catherine St. E.)

Free

Books surround us in our daily lives. How about learning the craft of making one? Art-texte is offering a drop-in workshop combining graphic design processes with hand-binding techniques. Participants will learn how to print, fold and bind to make their own publications.

The Travellin' Troubadours

Folk Duo 'Rube and Rake' Honours Musical Predecessors with Lyrics, Harmonies and Use of String Instruments



Folk duo Josh Sandu and Andrew Laite—better known as Rube and Rake—released their debut EP, *Haunted Brothel*, in March.

by Leigha Vegh

Folk duo Rube and Rake of St. John's, Newfoundland, have left their "haunted brothel" to hit the road and perform across the country on their first tour, with a Sept. 25 show in Montreal.

Comprised of best friends Josh Sandu and Andrew Laite, the band tackles depression and loneliness in great detail, and exposes the dichotomous indulgences of an individual—all central themes they elaborate on in their music, with the release of their first EP *Haunted Brothel*.

Rube and Rake represents Sandu and Laite's alter ego. They are each other's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Sandu says.

"Rube represents the simple and nice country boy, while Rake is the one susceptible to indulgent pleasures," he explained.

"We also just wanted to go with something that sounded catchy by adding a little bit of alliteration in there," Laite chimed in.

The band formed a year and a half ago after Sandu moved from his hometown in British Columbia to St. John's, where he met Laite, who was from the city. They became friends and combined their musical talents.

Fans of harmonic vocals and string instruments, the two shared a similar focus

on music from the start.

"We both had some interest in music. Andrew played guitar and I played banjo and we just started taking it from there," Sandu said.

While Laite channels his inspiration from various sources, ranging from personal experiences to books, movies and art, Sandu has sought inspiration from a darker corner of his psyche—that of the homesickness and loneliness he experienced from his relocation.

"The songs on the album are melancholic songs and a lot of them are references to my hometown, as well as the yearning to be back where I grew up."

Rube and Rake pay tribute to their musical predecessors, including the likes of Simon & Garfunkel and the Avett Brothers, through their use of acoustic guitar, banjo and harmonic vocals.

The roots of country music can also be heard in their lyrics, which address travels and nostalgia.

"We also take our influences from legendary singer-songwriters such as Hank Williams or the Everly Brothers and we meld that into more of an Americano vibe," Laite said.

The duo came up with the name *Haunted Brothel* from an inside joke of the previous

tenants of the place Sandu moved into.

"We recorded the album in Josh's living room, which was formerly known as the 'haunted brothel' of Victoria Street," Laite explained.

"We knew some of the girls who lived in the place where the album was recorded before us and they used to call it the 'haunted brothel,' so we just ended up calling it that out of convenience," Sandu said.

Their first album isn't contracted by a record label, but the two say they hope future releases will be.

"Right now, we're just trying to travel across the country and play our music to as many audiences as possible and see where it goes from there," Sandu said.

In the wintertime, they will record their next album and then they might try to take it one step further," he added.

On the road to producing their first album, the team avoided major challenges by favouring a minimalistic approach to their music.

"We wanted to keep it all quite simple. We had just two instruments on the go and our two voices," Sandu said. "Recording our songs in one take and have it go on a record was the biggest challenge."

When asked about their previous musical endeavours, Laite said that before meeting

Sandu, he started his musical career with another band at the age of 18.

"I played bass guitar for the band and I just began to sing harmonies. I took a few lessons when I first started playing, but it didn't last too long," he said.

"What's more important is that you have the ambition."

Sandu was also a part of another band, in which he says he developed his musical abilities and his capacity to write songs.

"I started playing guitar when I was around 14, but didn't really write any songs until I was about 16 while I was playing in various punk bands," Sandu said.

"Very terrible bands," he added quickly.

Rube and Rake are on tour, performing in all major cities across Canada.

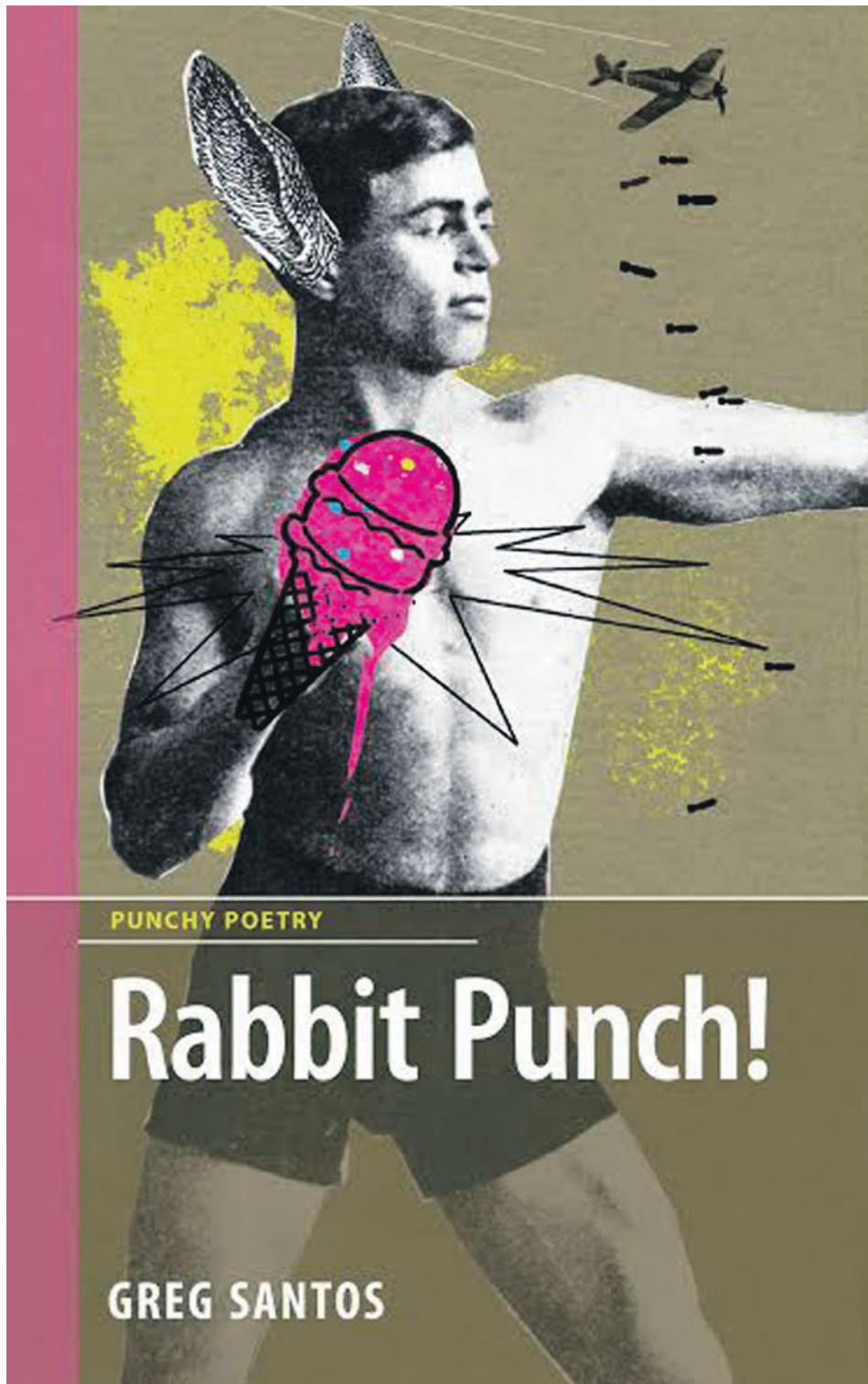
Though Laite says he feels a connection to the city, it will be his first time playing in Montreal.

"I feel like I already love it for some strange reason," Laite said.

"It's truly a wonderful place," Sandu chimed in.

Rube and Rake // Sept. 25 at The Plant (185 Van Horne Ave.) + Sept. 26 at Barfly (4062 St. Laurent Blvd.) // \$10

photo courtesy of Rube and Rake



Former Concordia student Greg Santos explores the workings of the subconscious, the concept of masculinity and more in his second collection of poems, *Rabbit Punch!*

by June Loper

Montreal-based poet and former Concordia student Greg Santos is releasing his second collection of poems, *Rabbit Punch*, challenging the conventions of poetry with a humorous twist.

From whimsical atmospheres created around popular figures such as Paris Hilton and Stephen Harper, to darker introspective pieces, *Rabbit Punch* blends a vast array of poetic genres.

His poem "Smash," for instance, is written from the point of view of The Incredible Hulk working in an office job and dealing with the issues of everyday life.

"I find it interesting to make these strange juxtapositions, to incorporate ideas that are not necessarily always recognized as being poetic," Santos said.

"I like to make people laugh because it's strange but also have them seriously discuss something within the poetic framework."

Inspired by great figures such as Federico García Lorca, René Magritte and Salvador Dalí, *Rabbit Punch* looks at the elaboration of the thought process. In Santos's view, the making of a poem is just as important, if not more important, than the finished product.

Interested in the style and the workings of the subconscious, Santos builds somewhat of a surrealist aesthetic in experimenting with the poetic form and the landscape of popular culture.

"I capture the thought process of my own head. I enjoy writing and I'm playing with that, it's still an experiment for me," he said. "I'm playing with what poetry means to me in 2014 and what a poem can be."

In that sense, the poems in *Rabbit Punch* have a contemporary. They challenge the traditional seriousness and reverence that are often associated with this medium.

Santos plays with popular culture in his writing, not because he wishes to shine a negative light on it, but because he enjoys it.

His poetry can be appreciated by a public new to poetry that can recognize the characters that are part of their cultural landscape.

"I was the night light in the darkness of poetry," Santos joked.

In an attempt to make people rethink poetry, Santos reflects on what it means to be a man writing poetry in the 21st century. Many of the characters mentioned in *Rabbit Punch* are representations of "uber" masculinity. Evoking these characters that are seen as very masculine or chauvinistic in a

Poetry That Has Punch

Concordia Alum Greg Santos Challenges Poetic Traditions in Latest Published Collection



"You read them quickly but they pack a punch. They challenge what you think is poetry, or they make you laugh or they hit you in the gut."

—Poet Greg Santos

poetic context creates a different perspective in the public eye, adding a layer that might not have otherwise existed.

Following that line, the name *Rabbit Punch* makes a reference to a deadly boxing move which relates to this theme of hyper-masculinity, as well as a word play on the publishing house's motto "DC Books, punchy poetry."

"I like the idea that the poems go to the reader quickly because they're not long poems. You read them quickly but they pack a punch. They challenge what you think is poetry, or they make you laugh or they hit you in the gut," said Santos.

However, Santos does not limit himself to humour. Playing with different tones, he goes back and forth between light and dark.

The poem "Mean Boys" is a reflection on the shootings that occurred at Virginia Tech in 2007 and the Boston Marathon bombings of 2013.

He deals with the issues in a sensitive way, exploring the feelings that emerge from such events rather than referencing certain people in particular.

With a background in music and theatre, Santos was first introduced to poetry in high school. He entered the creative writ-

ing undergraduate program at Concordia as he was still trying to figure out where his experiments and taste for writing would lead him.

After taking his first poetry workshop at the university, Santos fell in love with the medium and says he has never looked back on his choice.

"I remember thinking that I needed to focus on one thing, and it was poetry that captured my imagination the most," said Santos.

Inspired by his encounters with poetry teachers and writers, Santos decided to dedicate *Rabbit Punch* to someone he very much admired—Paul Violi, who was a professor at Columbia University and The New School in New York, both universities at which Santos pursued graduate studies.

"Paul Violi was a big influence on me, he was very funny and very intelligent. He would always be quoting classic poets and New School ones," Santos said.

"A lot of the poems in *Rabbit Punch* were ones that I had shown to him and that we had talked about. After he passed away and when I was making the book, I had him in mind," he added.

photos courtesy of DC Books

Pop and Jock Jams

POP Montreal Holds 3rd Annual Star-Studded Basketball Charity Game



The 2014 edition of Pop vs. Jock featured numerous celebrity guests, including Arcade Fire frontman Win Butler (centre, left photo), former pro basketball player Luke Bonner (left, centre photo), and Bon Iver lead singer Justin Vernon (centre), all to raise funds for the DJ Sports Club, a non-profit organization dedicated to educational and recreational programs for children.

by Julian McKenzie @JulianTheIntern

It's not everyday that the names of Win and Will Butler from Arcade Fire are said in the same breath as that of NBA champion Brian Scalabrine, but the POP vs. Jock charity basketball game held on Saturday bridged the gap between the two professions.

Included in the star-studded roster were Justin Vernon of Bon Iver, as well as Nikolai Fraiture of The Strokes. A roster including this many Grammys, and this much musical talent, would normally have fans confused and in awe because of their skill on the court.

However, within the history of the POP vs. Jock event, a music-sports crossover event held by POP Montreal and the non-profit organization DJ Sports Club, the musically inclined players have proven to be diamonds in the rough, distributing passes, jacking up threes and going all out for a win.

At the third annual event this year, Win even charged towards an oncoming defender, sending her down on the hard court, while driving towards the hoop.

It appears you cannot spell "win" without Win Butler, who's had basketball in his veins since his youth.

"I grew up in Houston during the Hakeem Olajuwon era," said Butler after his "POP"

squad knocked off the "Jocks" 101-92 in the charity game. "I played when I was starting the third or fourth grade.

"I always loved the game, I kind of got more into it in my mid-20s. I never really wanted to play at a higher level, but I really enjoy the competitiveness and the playing and the camaraderie that comes with sport."

Win was joined by his brother Will, Vernon, Fraiture, Scalabrine, as well as Luke Bonner, the brother of NBA champion and "POP" head coach Matt Bonner, along with a host of semi-pro players as they went head-to-head with a "Jock" squad filled with McGill and Concordia University players.

Four current and former Stingers from the men's basketball team were on hand—forwards Mukiya Post, Michael Fosu, Xander Jean and Gabe Riche—and all contributed heavily in their team's effort, relishing the opportunity to play against celebrity basketball players.

"It means a lot to me [to play in this game]," said Post. "An opportunity to help the youth in any way means a lot to me.

"I didn't know what to fully expect [of the POP team], but when I saw them in warmup I saw that they had some legit guys. I was happy with the level of talent they had."

The POP vs. Jock game, a staple of music

festival POP Montreal since 2012, has been spearheaded by Win Butler, as well as his "Pop" teammate and former Concordia Stinger basketball player Dexter John, who is also the founder and president of DJ Sports Club, which provides communities in St. Henri, Little Burgundy and Brossard with educational, social and recreational programs.

DJ Sports Club is a host to a number of basketball leagues, and it was through basketball that John and Win got their idea for POP vs. Jock in motion.

"I met Win through a basketball league, so we kind of became friends [that way]," said John. "We tried to put together something fun, and then we started brainstorming.

"We were thinking of things to do with basketball that were relevant [with what we wanted to do], how to get the community involved, and how to get Concordia and McGill involved at the same time."

"I just think that music and sports are far too separated sometimes," added Justin Vernon. "It's just good to see a bunch of musicians and athletes supporting an opportunity for little kids to have a place to play sports."

Since the first POP vs. Jock charity game in 2012, the event has allowed DJ Sports Club to continue funding its programs for each of its locations and to be a haven for young kids

and even adults.

"DJ Sports Club is definitely an organization that I've been involved with since I moved to Montreal," said Eric Thomas, a radio host from sports radio station TSN 690 and MC of this year's event. "I like the community involvement, I like the tight-knit family over there. Anytime I can help out, it's awesome."

Xander Jean participated in a DJ Sports basketball league, keeping himself in shape after his CEGEP basketball career ended, before eventually committing to Concordia University.

"I wasn't playing [basketball] for two years after [I graduated from] Dawson," said Jean. "[So], I was playing for DJ Sports."

"I liked the league [I was in], it's a well organized league. I was glad we could help out today."

While only in its third year, the event has already been a success with fans of basketball and of POP Montreal alike. The sky is the limit for how far the event can go, or whom they could bring.

"I'd love to get Kanye [West] to a game here," said Win. "He can play too, he's got some good handles, and you know he'll have the best shoes on the court."

photos Susan Moss

Box Scores

Week of Sept. 15 to Sept. 21

Wednesday, Sept. 17 Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, UQTR 9

Friday, Sept. 19 Football—Concordia 29, Sherbrooke 22
Women's Hockey—Concordia 4, U of T 5
Women's Soccer—Concordia 0, UQTR 0
Men's Soccer—Concordia 0, UQTR 0

Saturday, Sept. 20 Baseball—Concordia 11, Ottawa 5
Baseball—Concordia 0, Carleton 8
Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, Ryerson 2 (SO)

Sunday, Sept. 21 Baseball—Concordia 4, Carleton 6
Baseball—Concordia 10, Carleton 0
Men's Rugby—Concordia 29, Sherbrooke 24
Women's Rugby—Concordia 64, Sherbrooke 7
Women's Soccer—Concordia 0, Sherbrooke 3
Men's Soccer—Concordia 0, Sherbrooke 1
Men's Hockey—Concordia 2, UQTR 6

Upcoming Games

This Week in Concordia Sports

Tuesday, Sept. 23 7:30 p.m. Baseball at McGill Redmen

Thursday, Sept. 25 TBA Men's Hockey at Western Tournament

Friday, Sept. 26 TBA Men's Hockey at Western Tournament
6:30 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. UdeM Carabins (Concordia Stadium)
8:30 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. UdeM Carabins (Concordia Stadium)

Saturday, Sept. 27 TBA Men's Hockey at Western Tournament
12:00 p.m. Baseball at Ottawa Gee-Gees
1:00 p.m. Football at Saint Mary's Huskies
3:00 p.m. Baseball at Ottawa Gee-Gees

Sunday, Sept. 28 12:00 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)
1:00 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. St. Thomas Tommies (Ed Meagher Arena)
1:00 p.m. Women's Rugby vs. Ottawa Gee-Gees (Concordia Stadium)
3:00 p.m. Baseball vs. McGill Redmen (Trudeau Park)
4:00 p.m. Men's Soccer at McGill Redmen
6:00 p.m. Women's Soccer at McGill Redmen

■ Check out Stingers game summaries at thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

Keeper of the Hive

Former Montreal Impact Goalkeeper Greg Sutton Brings Wealth of Experience to Concordia



After retiring from a senior career that saw him suit up for eight different teams over 14 seasons, Greg Sutton was named head coach of the Stingers men's soccer team in 2013.

by Jonathan Cook

He was late.

Practice was over. About 10 minutes had passed since the scheduled meeting time. Greg Sutton, the second-year head coach of the men's soccer team at Concordia and a former professional goalkeeper, was doing his job—talking with one of his players.

What appears like an insignificant conversation to most people is actually an insight into the 37-year-old Ontario native's coaching methods.

"I think in this game now, especially in this day and age, soccer is a game about man management," said Sutton. "It's not so much about tactics on the field but how you manage the players off the field."

In a career that began in Major League Soccer with the Chicago Fire in 1999 and ended as a Montreal Impact player in 2012, the former Canadian international player acquired a wealth of experience and expertise that will serve him well in coaching a new generation of Concordia soccer players.

Besides playing alongside soccer legends like World Cup winner Thierry Henry and Mexican international player Rafael Márquez, who he simply refers to as "good guys," Sutton also played under high-profile coaches who he could analyze and now

emulate. Most notably, he was a goalkeeper for Bob Bradley, the former United States men's national team coach, in his rookie year in Chicago.

However, Sutton says he learned more from the coaches he disliked than the ones he liked.

"I learned more from my poorer coaches," said Sutton. "You learn a lot from kind of the bad things that go on and what you don't want to do."

"As a player, you know what you can respond to," added Sutton. "I knew what motivated me and I knew what motivated some other guys on our team that maybe had a different type of personality."

In 2013, Sutton became Concordia's full-time head coach after initially serving as an assistant coach since returning to Montreal in 2011.

Teaching soccer in some capacity was always something he thought he might do following retirement, and he says doing so at Concordia was a great opportunity.

"I really enjoyed my time in university," said Sutton, who played at St. Lawrence University in New York. "I felt like I really could have an influence on these kids knowing what it's like to study and play at the same time."

Winless after three games, the team's

goals for the remainder of the season remain the same: win the provincial championship and go to nationals.

"That's something I think would be great for our program, especially for the guys in their fifth or fourth year," said Sutton. "They've been part of this program when it wasn't so great, and so it would be nice to give them something to go off on a good note."

After tying "one of the best teams" in the country—Université Laval's Rouge et Or—in their second game, Sutton's players are seemingly adjusting to his management.

First-year goalkeeper Wes Aucoin said it's "great" to have Sutton as a coach. In particular, he benefits more from someone who knows his position extensively.

"You see him as a leader," said Aucoin. "He helps me, encourages me, and improves my game every day."

Other players, like fourth-year defence-man Stephen Meterissian, find the experience of having a retired professional, especially one known for his time in Montreal, more nostalgic.

"Actually, I have his soccer card at home signed by him," said Meterissian. "I was like six or seven years old [when he played] for the Impact."

"It's fun to see people ask me, 'who's your coach?' And I go, 'Greg Sutton, the

goalie for the Impact."

As a former professional, Sutton hesitated to confirm whether his squad has any pro prospects, citing slim odds of "one in a thousand" student athletes continuing their career post-graduation. But he understands what is required to reach the highest level in North American soccer.

"If there is a university in Canada, or in Quebec for that matter, that can get kids to the next level, it would be our school," said Sutton. "Just for the fact I recently retired, so I've been there and know what it takes to get to the next level."

"I can identify the talent."

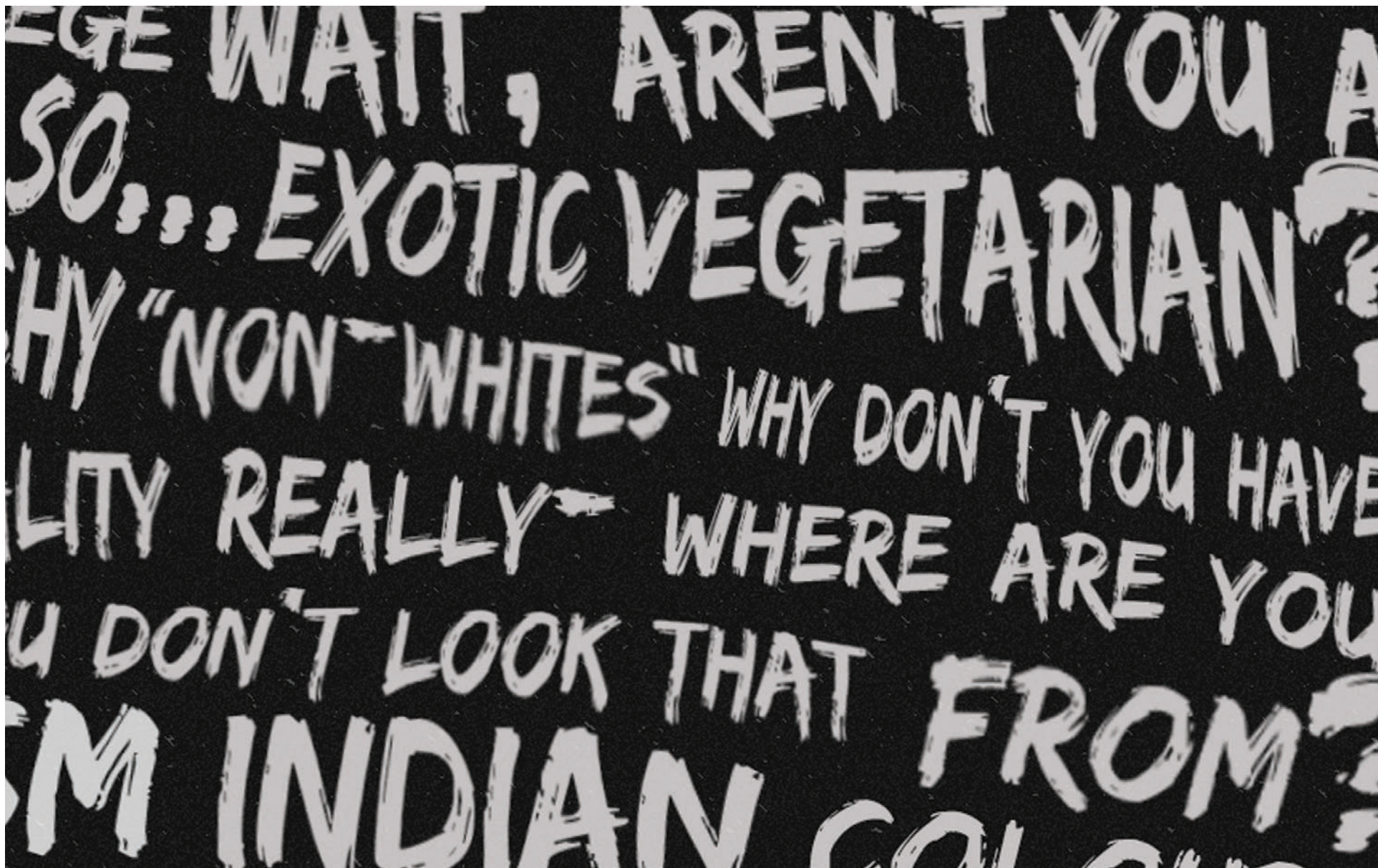
A common narrative in sports is the retired player turned head coach yearning from the sidelines to be on the field once more. With a daughter and son waiting at home, Sutton says those are days he no longer fawns over.

"I don't miss playing," said Sutton. "I don't miss jumping around and diving on the ground."

"But if there's something I miss, it's the relationships with the group of guys that I played with," he continued.

"That stuff meant a lot to me, but the day-in, day-out grind, I don't miss that one bit."

photo Laura Lalonde



Confronting Discrimination in All Its Forms

Sparking Conversations about the Racism and Misogyny One Faces as a Woman of Colour

by Rudrapriya Rathore @rrudrapriya

If you study in the humanities or in the arts, you have hopefully come across the word “intersectionality,” a term that sounds like it has more to do with traffic than with the politics of things like race, gender and sexuality.

Many people exist at the intersections of such hierarchies, negotiating who, where and how to be in a society that does not like to discuss the inequalities it perpetuates.

If you are one of those strangely capitalized entities, like a Woman of Colour, you find yourself constantly navigating spectrums of discomfort in speaking to others about something as simple as where to have lunch.

“Oh, of course you’re vegetarian,” people smile knowingly. “I forgot.” And if you decide to reply instead of letting it be—if you have the energy and the good mood to reply that day—you say, “Yes, but it’s not religious, my parents eat meat.” Or you ask them, “Sorry, what did you forget?”

And when you end up at an Indian restaurant and someone gushes about a dish but not without cautiously looking at you first, you pretend it’s nothing.

Weirder, though, than having a classmate comment on how it’s easier to get published if you’re “exotic,” weirder than watching bindis become a fashion statement, weirder even than hearing your new dentist wonder why you don’t have an accent, is realizing that the people closest

to you—the friends and family you choose to spend your time with—often don’t get it.

There is no way to ensure I will convince some relatives of mine that the unnecessary and inhumane police response to this summer’s protests for justice with regards to the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was a perfect example of systematic racism.

The fact that such events continue to serve as testaments to an institutionalized war against non-whites, fuelled by armed white authorities who are getting away with their crimes and who will never have to deal with the reality of racial discrimination, is not yet enough to convince them.

There is no way to convince some men that condescension towards a woman in a distinctly gendered fashion because she happens to have an emotional reaction to something is called sexism, and it is enraging in the same dark way that all microaggressions are.

There is no well-worn path to convincing a classmate that conflicts in the Middle East do not exist because Islam is “barbaric,” “primitive,” “backwards” or any one of the numerous racist terms that people continuously use to blind themselves to facts.

And there is no way to make sure the firefighter in uniform who thinks he’s entitled to comment lewdly on my dress learns about why street harassment—especially harassment enacted upon the population of a city he is supposed to serve—is unacceptable.

It’s not my responsibility as a Woman of Colour to ensure those things. The Blacks, the Asians, the South-Asians, the Hispanics, the Africans—it is enough for them to attempt every day to try and bear the burden of their own pain, of their own discomforts, and to live in those feelings.

The responsibility of changing structural inequality must be shared by *every* person, regardless of gender, of race, of sexual orientation.

By virtue of being human, you should bear the burden of acknowledging that it is more than likely you have it better than other humans for no other reason than the way you were born. And yes, you should be working to change that.

Being light-skinned enough to sometimes be told I don’t “look *that* Indian” and choosing to dress and speak in a way that doesn’t match stereotypical constructions of Indian-ness means that I have to constantly find new ways to just exist in different situations.

I have to acknowledge that I’m treated differently on the streets of Udaipur or Delhi or Mumbai than Montreal—that I’m respected, envied, sometimes stared at—due to the privilege I possess as a lighter person in a society that marks darkness as ugly, dirty and dangerous.

A society that functions under the doubled weight of a colonial past that produces both self-loathing and a paradoxical desire for evidence of having overcome that self-loathing to become as Western as possible.

A society in which Fair & Lovely ads for

bleach-based face cream dominate billboards and incessantly turn whiteness into an unquestioned signifier of beauty.

Many, many women have to do this: simultaneously confront the oppression of darker women in places like South Asia and the exoticization of non-white women in North America.

It’s also an important thing to realize that the discomforts that people experience are as varied as the people themselves, that there is no one experience that invalidates another.

That while I may be feeling weird at lunch, the things I am able to call discomfort and microaggressions are manifesting themselves as the brutality and trauma and grief of physical and violent racism, misogyny and homophobia elsewhere.

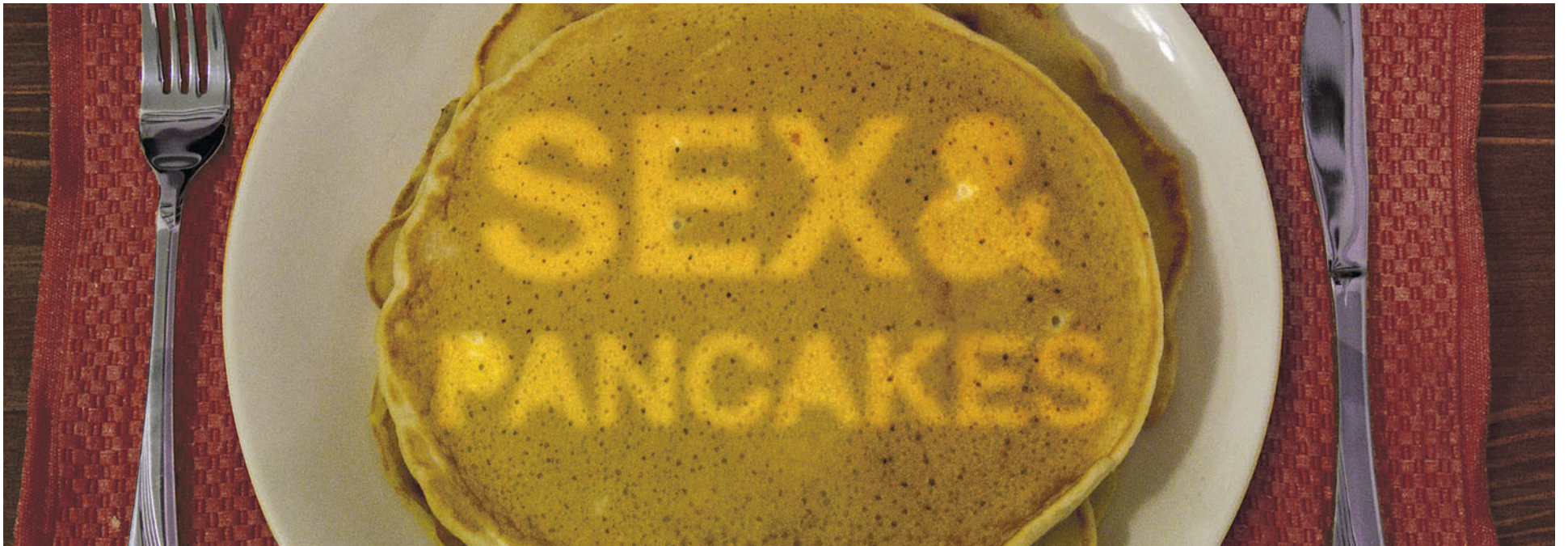
That this keeps people from living their lives, period.

And this means that it has never been more necessary to keep asking questions about how our communities deal with injustice.

It has never been more important to keep initiating the conversations that are sometimes unbearably uncomfortable because they require people to stare at their own privilege in the eye, to see that it is messy, infuriating and heartbreaking, that is it used as a weapon, that when it’s not killing people from the outside in, it’s also killing them from the inside out.

It has never been more important to keep examining the intersections.

graphic Laura Lalonde



Knowing the Baseline

I was 14 years old when I started taking hormonal birth control to alleviate my menstrual cramps. Since then, I've tried many different kinds on my search to find the one that won't make me mentally or physically uncomfortable for days on end, and will leave me feeling like me.

I started with a combined oral contraceptive pill, a.k.a. "the pill," then switched shortly to the patch because it was harder to forget a dose.

Eventually I developed rashes wherever I placed the patch so I switched methods again. And again. And again.

Some pills gave me horrible mood swings, making me a completely different person on some days. One made my breasts swell two cup sizes and become painfully sensitive. One made my period last four months. Another made my sex drive disappear and eliminated the need for birth control altogether.

By the time I was 24, I'd tried a different option almost every year but found myself no closer to getting it right. Despite being equipped with all the information I would need to find the right method, I couldn't seem to make it work.

I had been looking to treat the severity of my menstrual cramps, but that's when it hit me—after being on one or another method of birth control for so long, I no longer had any idea how severe my menstrual cramps were,

and was relying on a memory of what they were like a decade ago.

So I decided to take a break from hormonal birth control. Most people will tell you it's "out of your system" by three months, but I decided on a year-long break because I wanted to see what my cycle was like if it had enough time to fully regulate itself.

What followed was an experience that has changed the way I relate to my body, my cycle and even my identity as a woman. I know it sounds extreme, but it's true.

I became highly aware of the way my body functions and it fascinated me to no end. I downloaded a cycle tracking app and obsessively entered every symptom I had. By six months I was able to identify patterns and know where I was in my cycle based solely on the symptoms I was experiencing.

Huge pimple on my forehead? I'll be ovulating in the next few days. Feeling absolutely gorgeous and full of energy? I'm ovulating. Hate how I look in everything I own? I'm getting my period tomorrow.

My period also began to show its true self—it was much lighter and shorter than I had previously experienced. It never lasted more than four days, and most days all I needed was a pantyliner.

I still had cramps, but they rarely lasted more than an hour, and I learned to identify when they were coming on so I could take a preemp-

tive painkiller and avoid them (I recommend Aleve). I also noticed a pattern in which my cramps were less severe if I'd been exercising and eating less greasy foods recently, and this motivated me to take better care of myself.

As awesome as some parts were, I'll admit some discoveries weren't so pleasant. My skin would break out at the same time every month, which was often painful and annoying. More and thicker hair began to appear in places I didn't want it, like my arms and face (I'm not a werewolf, I promise).

Both of these changes coincide with the drop in estrogen associated with going off birth control. Estrogen tends to reduce skin complexion issues and inhibit hair growth so going off can result in a sudden change that takes some time to even out.

I also still experienced mood swings before ovulating. Still, they were easier to handle as I could associate them to a specific time in my cycle thanks to my tracking.

After two years and much thought, I decided to return to hormonal birth control. It's only been two months so far, so I still don't know how it'll turn out. However, I do finally have a strong sense of my baseline, which puts me one step closer to finding what works for me.

We all have variabilities in our cycles and hormonal levels. Some women have a 25-day cycle, while others have a 30-day cycle. Likewise, some women naturally have lower or

higher levels of estrogen and other hormones.

While hormonal birth control methods can be awesome for certain reasons and people, they force everyone into a 28-day cycle and the doses of hormones are not tailored to your individual hormonal composition.

Some women find themselves to be incompatible with this "one size fits all" approach to regulating their cycle, which can result in negative side effects like excessive mood swings and weight fluctuations.

In evaluating what method is right for us, we take several things into account—the ability to take a pill daily, its effectiveness, the minimization of menstrual discomfort, etc.—but we rarely take into account the loss of our body's natural cycle and how gaining an intimate knowledge of it before trying to alter it can help us better understand if a method is working for us or not.

-Melissa Fuller @mel_ful

Check out next week's Sex & Pancakes for a how-to on figuring out your baseline!

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

Nah'msayin? Moodle is Brutal

It started with a murmur—students speaking in hushed tones in the hallways, talking about a revolution.

Rumour had it there was finally an upgrade. But alas, as you logged in to Moodle this morning, the same old interface mocked you with its snail-like speed, its outdated graphics and its predictable unreliability.

Moodle is the antithesis of artificial intelligence, a throwback to 1997, a troglodyte prancing on Times Square. You found it hilarious the first time you used it. But that was before you had to submit work through the lagging Neanderthal. Now it's crushing your dreams of a decent GPA. Like a dumbed down version of Skynet, it has chewed bits and pieces of your academic career.

Profs are forced to use it in teaching their courses since there is no other option—the university has

refused to put Moodle to pasture. So, teachers keep imposing the wretched software, muttering the tired old mantra "an upgrade is coming this year, it'll get better, you'll see." All are hoping for the best, but expecting the worst.

Now, students have become more vocal about this situation. Moodle has got to go, no doubt. We have a computer science department in this school. Why not trust it with creating something user-friendly? I'm not advocating patching up the roof. I'm calling for the digital revolution that we deserve.

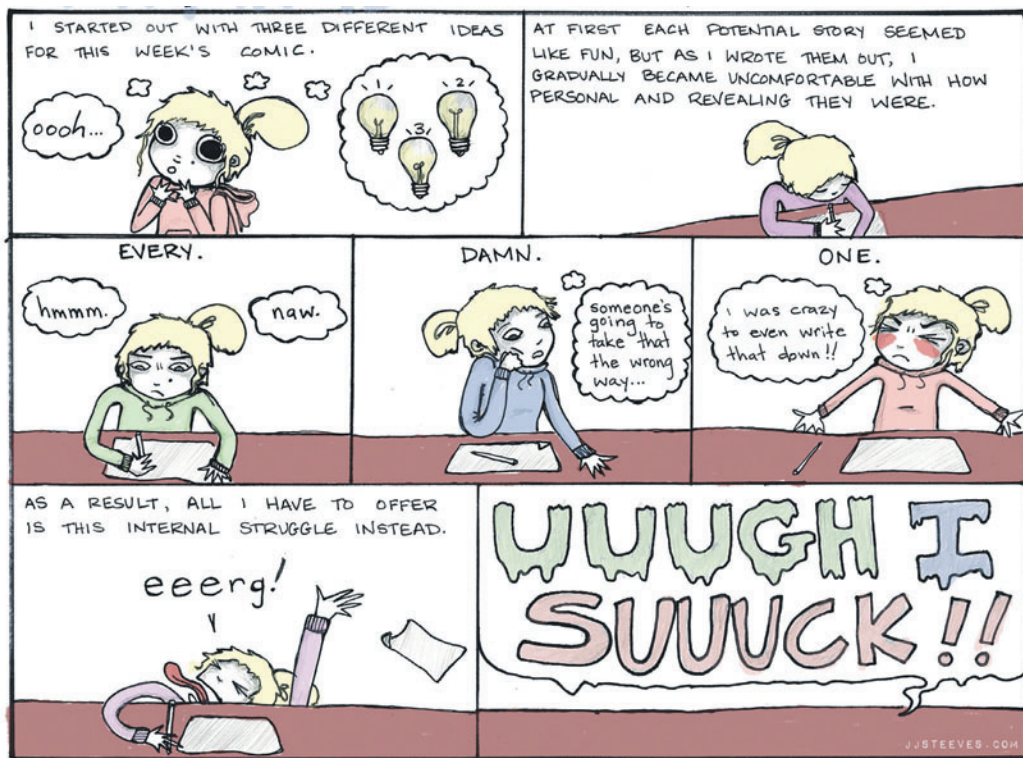
Slay the dragon. Or at least euthanize it.

-Shaun Michaud,
photo and video editor

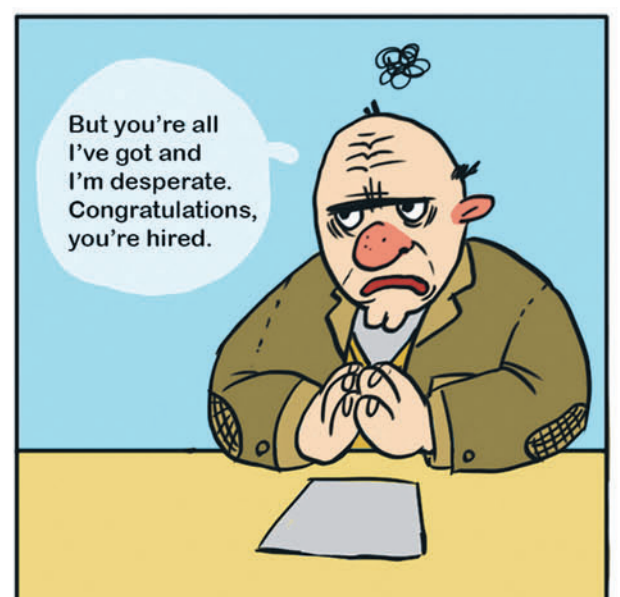
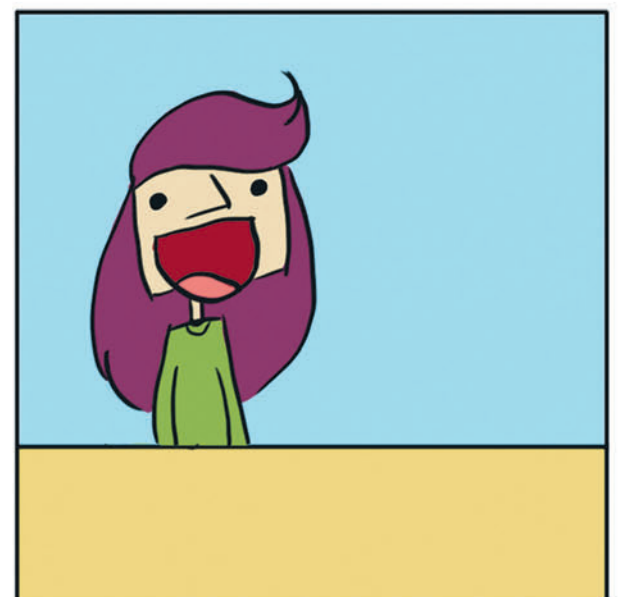
graphic Caity Hall



CRUMMY PANTS BY JEI JEI STEEVES



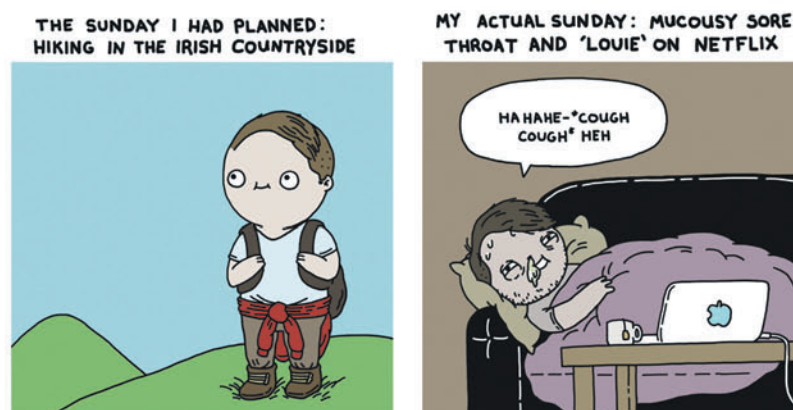
BOOP BY CAITY HALL



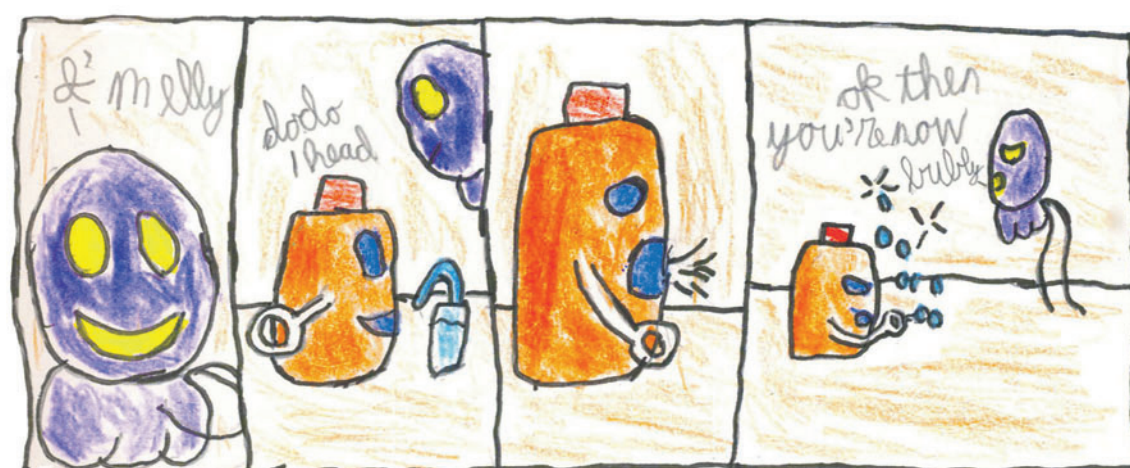
POWER THEATRE BY ALEX CALLARD

MY WEEKEND

IN THEORY & PRACTICE



BALLOON VENTURES BY MANGENKKO JONES



FALSE KNEES BY JOSHUA BARKMAN



Editorial



Concordia and Canada Aren't Doing Enough to Combat Climate Change

Several hundred thousand people marched through the streets of New York City on Sunday while the United Nations was holding its climate summit. Busloads of students and activists drove down from Canada to New York to join the People's Climate March and demand that governments around the world do more to pursue environmental justice.

One notable Canadian, however, was not present at the summit—Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Instead, choosing to send Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Harper continued to reinforce the idea that climate change is not an issue at the forefront of his political agenda.

On the contrary, the Canadian government, over the years, has become one of the worst environmental villains through con-

tinued economic reliance on tar sands, the withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol in 2011 and the construction of pipelines through national parks and Aboriginal territory.

Canada is moving backwards as a leader on environmental issues. Rather than taking major steps to reorient our economy towards more sustainable energies such as wind and solar power, Canada continues to rely on the black gold created by dirty tar sands out west.

Our country's environmental policies are not only criticized by those within the nation, but are also being attacked by outside observers. The Keystone XL pipeline, for example, became an international symbol of Canada's environmental backtracking. Our international reputation as a world environmental leader has been desecrated.

Once seemingly sheltered from the effects of climate change, we are no longer able to ignore what is taking place in our backyard. Arctic ice is melting, sea temperatures continue to rise and the changes are even noticeable from season to season.

Our university, too, is complicit in the environmental degradation taking place in Canada. Financial audits of Concordia's endowment fund reveal \$9,173,715 invested in oil and gas and \$2,605,670 in pipelines in 2011 (the annual reports from 2012 onwards list only an all-inclusive "energy" category).

A divestment campaign has been created to urge the university to shift funds away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable initiatives. Concordia says it's exploring alternatives to investments in fossil fuels, but it's unlikely that the university's foundation will

take these campaigns seriously for many years given how much return they receive annually from these investments.

Earlier this week we asked students if they were optimistic about the future of the planet or if they foresaw gloomier prospects. Almost all the responses were pessimistic, with most students saying they believed that we were indeed "fucked."

Unless our governments starts acting now by shifting economic development from the fossil fuel industry towards more sustainable projects, we at *The Link* can't help but agree.

By empowering grassroots movements and indigenous communities in asserting sovereignty over their lands, we can protect what's left.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau

THE LINK³⁵

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Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m.

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

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THE MEDIA DEMOCRACY ISSUE

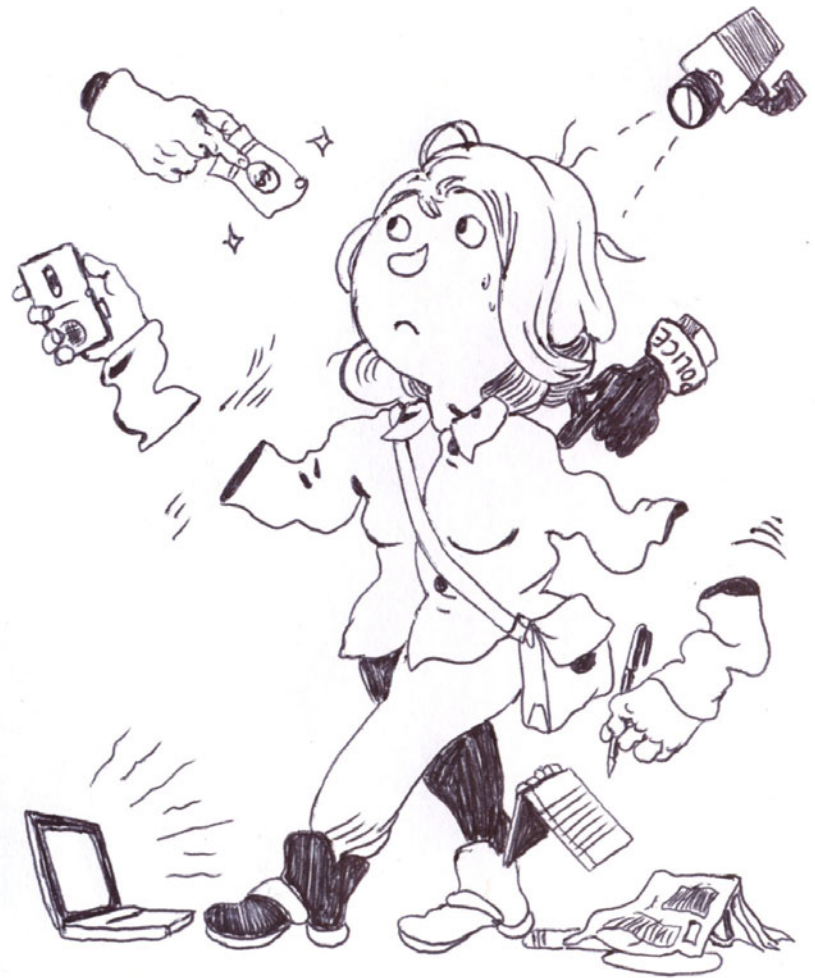
Journalism is in constant flux—now, more than ever before, with layoffs plaguing the industry because of falling advertising dollars and content moving to digital platforms.

Do journalists still hold enough weight and have enough independence to be the watchdogs? Are reporters given the tools necessary to accurately relate events? And, how does this affect our 21st-century society?

We want to hear your thoughts, ideas and stories. We want your thought-provoking pieces and your accounts of how media is affecting democracy today.

Our **Media Democracy issue** is coming out Oct. 21 and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

Join us at our **brainstorm meeting** on Wednesday, **Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m.** at *The Link's* office in **room H-649** in the Hall Building.



graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



ON OCT. 18, THE LINK CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT PRESS.
JOIN US FOR A FREE SPEAKERS SERIES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
(1455 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD. W.) IN H763 AT 4 P.M.



Philip
Authier

Serving as *The Link's* Managing Editor for our inaugural volume and as Editor-in-Chief for Vol. 2, Authier oversaw the first years of the newspaper.

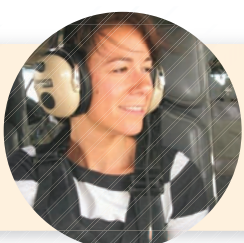
He is currently on his 25th year at *The Gazette* in Montreal, serving as a political reporter and analyst. With a focus on both federal and Quebec politics, Authier has covered his share of stories about the ever newsworthy Parti Québécois, the 2012 student action against tuition increases, and the saga of Jean Charest's leadership in the province.



Jennifer
Ditchburn

Ditchburn served as *The Link's* News Editor during Vol. 15.

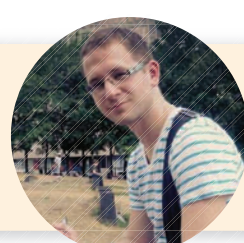
Ditchburn works for The Canadian Press as a Senior Parliamentary Correspondent, where she has been since 1997. With the CP, she has won two National Newspaper Awards — the first in 2010 for coverage on the abolishment of the long-form census by the Conservative government, and again in 2012 for reporting on the expense claims scandal of Senator Mike Duffy. She now also works as an instructor for Carleton University's journalism program, where she received her Masters in Journalism.



Maria
Abi-Habib

Abi-Habib worked as the News Editor for *The Link's* Vol. 26

Since 2007, Abi-Habib has reported for the *Wall Street Journal*, now working as a Middle East Reporter based in Beirut, Lebanon. She has also been based in Kabul, Afghanistan — where her 2012 piece on atrocities occurring in a Kabul military hospital was a finalist for a South Asian Journalism Award — and in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Her current focus is on Syria, al Qaeda, and The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).



Justin
Giovannetti

Giovannetti served as *The Link's* Editor-in-Chief during Vol. 31. During his tenure, Giovannetti revealed the purchase of the Faubourg building for Concordia's new student centre, Student Union battles with the Canadian Federation of Students, and the controversial exit of Concordia President Judith Woodsworth.

Stationed in Vancouver as a reporter for *The Globe and Mail*, he has had the opportunity to cover the disaster in Lac-Mégantic, the British Columbia teachers' union strike, and the devastating Washington State mudslides in 2014.

Before joining *The Globe* in 2013, Giovannetti was reporting at CTV Montreal.

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