

THE WIRE



COVID CANCELLED
FINAL 2020 EDITION

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THE FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF COVID-19

LILY HUGHES

Montreal has the largest number of homeless out of any Canadian city, with 3,149 people living on the streets, as of 2018. The effects of coronavirus are also being felt the hardest in Quebec, with high density urban areas feeling the majority of the blow. The number of cases seems to be rising and falling at a steady pace now. What will these numbers mean for the future of its residents with nowhere to go? Probably not good things. Furthermore, not only are they the most susceptible residents, with little access to healthcare and shelter from the elements, but their chances are slimming day by day. Homeless facilities are closing their doors, not accepting any new residents. What with people too scared to carry or take cash, it becomes harder and harder to get the money they need to buy food. No one's going to bother to transfer money into a homeless beggar's account. Anyone who was out on the streets at the beginning of the crisis still is, but now with no access to basic needs and with far more access to a deadly disease.

It isn't hopeless for the homeless, however. Now, more than ever, people are realizing the value of their help, and volunteers have already set up five shelters for those awaiting testing or treatment. People all around the city are doing their part to help stop the spread, starting with the most vulnerable. Moving forwards, if we want to help these people get off the streets, we are going to need every hand we can get. As long as you aren't endangering yourself or others and take protective measures, you too can volunteer to help, whether in person or from a distance. If everyone helps just a little, we can ease the pain of the city's most vulnerable residents.

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/vancouver-news/homeless-people-brain-injury-vancouver-1947335>



COVID-19 cases per 1,000 people



NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

LILY HUGHES

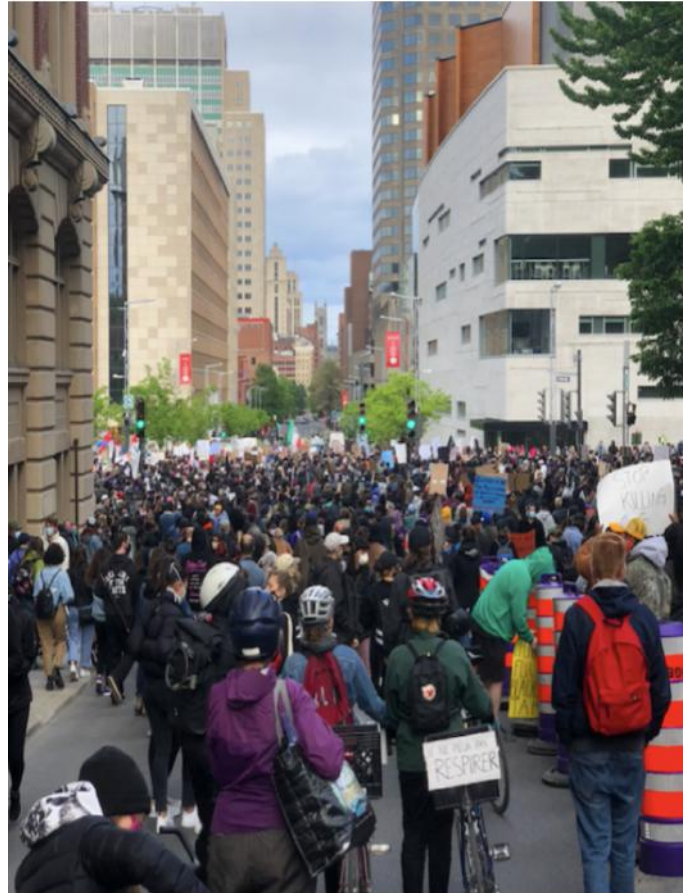
On May 25th, an unarmed black man was killed by cops who claim he was 'resisting arrest'. This is not a new statement, sadly. It's sickening how common it has become to hear that sentence. This time, though, everything was documented. Bystanders took videos, which have spread and become viral, so that what happened is undeniable, and undeniably disgusting. These videos ended up leading to riots in the city of Minneapolis. Say what you will about the nature and helpfulness of the riots, but it is certainly a powerful response, and will invoke some answers, as something needs to be done. These riots have sparked protests around the U.S., in almost 30 states by now. It has also sparked protests around the globe, like the one seen in Montreal just last week. Because these peaceful protests stemmed from violent ones, certain governments –the United States especially– seem to think it is justifiable to meet them with violent force. They've been breaking up protests with tear gas and rubber bullets, and have gone on to kill another man since it began. This is in direct violation of the First Amendment, which grants citizens the right to peaceful protest. In Montreal, of course, there is no such rule, and so at the end of the protest last week, tear gas was fired into the crowd right in our hometown.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd



His name is George Floyd. Say his name.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7036660/george-floyd-montreal-protest-police-brutality-2/>



The protest on the 29th in Montreal

A CNN news team was arrested on Friday, May 29th, while attempting to report on the riots in Minneapolis. The state police have since released them, and stated their reasoning for arresting them as being because "They were told to move and didn't". As seen in the live footage, the reporter had in fact allegedly moved back with his team multiple times, to the exact point where the police had asked them to be. This is worrisome not only because it is a demonstration of infringement of free speech, but also because it demonstrates a blatant lie on the part of the state in an attempt to cover this up. The police are meant to be the protectors of the people, and we should not need to be afraid of them. If they are no longer our protectors, who will be?

PIPELINE PROTESTS: AT A STANDSTILL

HARRY WILTZER

The Covid 19 Pandemic has caused many ongoing news stories to come to a standstill. Along with stay at home orders and social distancing, protesting in large groups has become impossible. One such protest that has become obsolete over the last two months is the protest over the construction of the Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Oil is one of the largest parts of the Canadian economy. It is in high demand but it is difficult to transport from rural Alberta to the U.S. or Canadian ports. One solution is the construction of pipelines that run from Alberta to all over the U.S. and Canada. A major controversy surrounding this method of transportation is that many of these pipelines run through indigenous communities. The current controversy surrounds the Northern Gateway Pipeline as it runs through many different indigenous communities. The affected indigenous population feel that their land is being exploited and that they have no say in the matter. Also, they believe that more drastic measures must be taken in order to keep their land.

Back in the winter, the more radical protesters set up blockades along many different railroads, blocking the supply of goods to many cities, including Montreal. In addition, people who generally take the train from Toronto to Montreal were stuck driving. Many indigenous activists were arrested for participating in the blockades. These blockades not only affected the pipeline, but also the Canadian economy. Due to the protests, over 1400 employees of Canadian rail companies were laid off. In addition, many parts of Quebec were facing propane supply shortages, and farmers were unable to export their goods. At the time, it was believed that in the near future, we would see the prices of many goods begin to rise as products from Toronto cannot reach Quebec.



<https://electrek.co/2020/03/31/three-states-pass-anti-fossil-fuel-protest-bills-three-weeks/>



<https://grist.org/politics/police-discussed-stopping-anti-pipeline-activists-by-any-means/>

Many indigenous community chiefs believed that the protests and blockades would not stop until the government succumbed to the demands of the affected people. This situation put the Canadian government in a spot where they were torn between the country's economy and the happiness of its indigenous communities. Justin Trudeau spoke on behalf of all Canadians who were suffering from the protests when he stated, "The barricades must come down now."

It will be interesting to see if the protests start back up once stay at home orders are no longer in effect, or if the time off has given both sides a chance to cool down and come to a resolution. Hopefully, the Canadian government and the affected indigenous communities can reach an agreement or the suffering of many Canadians will only get worse again, and, after the Covid 19 Pandemic, that is the last thing that anyone needs.

KEEPING BUSY DURING COVID-19

MATTHEW ANZAROUTH

Social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic has radically altered people's lifestyles. Isolation has taken its psychological toll, boredom has struck, and many students are upset to hear that an end to this may not be nearby. But the need to stay home and avoid human contact has also driven innovation, bringing people to find new things to do with their time. Here is an overview of how LCC students have been keeping busy.

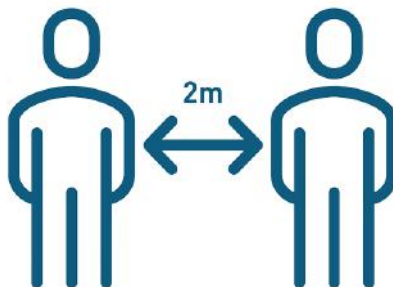
Many students have taken this time to get into shape, going on distance walks, runs, and bike rides, and turning their bedrooms, living rooms or basements into home gyms. With Mr. Moody producing and sharing high quality workout routines, students have the opportunity to learn and train with the best. Meanwhile, in LCC Athletics, we are back to the drawing boards, as coaches and teams meet virtually to strategize for upcoming seasons.

At the demands of their parents, many have taken this time to become useful in their homes. Spending more time in the same living quarters seems to have awoken us to the work needed to maintain them. Not to mention, with shorter school days and less work, the "I have to go study" excuse is weakening by the day. Cleaning the house and cooking meals are among the tasks students are performing, with parents pleased to finally see a more equitable distribution of work.

Students are also busying themselves with hobbies, either old ones that could not be squeezed into tighter schedules, or entirely new endeavours. The interests of our student population are diverse, and the variety of activities people are pursuing reflect that diversity — playing chess online, reading, learning to knit, baking, dancing and singing, to name a few.

The need for social interaction has not been forgotten. These times may not be easy, but students are resourceful and are finding ways to see the outside world. Group calls among friends and walks at a distance from one another are showing that, while we must remain physically separated, the LCC student population is managing to go through this together.

<https://www.highlandseast.ca/en/news/the-importance-of-social-distancing-and-self-isolation.aspx>



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SALKELD

MATTHEW ANZAROUTH

The Wire recently interviewed Deputy Head Mr. Salkeld. Here are his thoughts on our questions.

What is your favourite pastime?

It's probably sport-related – and real sports, not North American nonsense. I like watching real sports like football (not American football). I like cricket.

And this is what I mean about North American sports. So baseball; you know why baseball was invented? Baseball was a combination of cricket and rounders, which is played by schoolchildren in England. And baseball was designed for two reasons: one, that the pitches – the fields – were not good enough in North America to play real sports like cricket, and secondly, that North Americans were generally just not up to the intellectual demands of the sport [cricket].



<https://www.lcc.ca/about/leadership>

What is your favourite sports team?

My favourite sports team. Well, in football – or soccer as you'll probably have to refer to it so that your idiot readership can understand properly – my local team was York City. York City is now in their sixth level of divisions in England, but when I was watching them, they were in their third division, very famous for beating Arsenal in the FA Cup fourth round, and they tied with Liverpool in the fifth round, 1984.

If you're looking at Premier League Football – soccer, for you – at the moment, I'd love to see Liverpool win.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

Other than all my obvious superpowers that I already have?

Yes, a new one.

I would have the ability to heal others.

If you could meet one person of your choosing, dead or alive, who would it be?

Gandhi. Achieved a whole lot through peaceful means.

Would you ask him anything specific or just have a nice conversation?

I think just a nice conversation, but I think [I'd also ask] 'How did you have the patience and willingness to let things ride themselves out?' I think that's something that just doesn't happen anymore.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SALKELD (CONTD.)

MATTHEW ANZAROUTH

The Wire recently interviewed Deputy Head Mr. Salkeld. Here are his thoughts on our questions.

What is your favourite movie and why?

My favourite movies probably go back a while. Shawshank Redemption, and, going back further, Casablanca. I know it's very clichéd, but it's a wonderful movie.

Several weeks ago in your assembly address, you asked us whether it is ever ethical to break the law, so we figured we would turn it around and ask you: is it ever morally permissible to violate the law?

Yes. In many instances. Because who creates the law? It might not be a just situation that creates the law. Very easy examples of where it's permissible, or even a moral imperative, to break the law, if you go back to Nazi Germany or any instances like that. Absolutely. And I think even now, wherever you are, you need to establish your own thoughts about what created the law, what were the circumstances for the law, and whether the law is truly for the good of society. I think if you blindly follow, you end up in a totalitarian situation.

GRADE 11 POETRY INSPIRED BY JOE BRAINARD'S "I REMEMBER"

Several Grade 11 students wrote their own versions of "I Remember" by poet Joe Brainard. What follows are the creations of four students who were inspired by different issues.

I remember the dread of the 7:12 am wake up
I remember the sounds of locks clicking
I remember the regret of not getting enough sleep, or eating breakfast
I remember the anxiety of a teacher yelling at me for eating with my friends
I remember the a smell of fresh air on the field
I remember laying on, over, and next to my friends
I remember the feeling of serotonin in a class during last period
I remember the excitement for the weekend as the last period bell rang
I remember my teammates laughing during practice
I remember blasting music with friends and dancing until our feet hurt
I remember the moments where I thought to myself, "these are the best memories of my life". I
remember not being as thankful as I should've been
I remember no one asking for this.

- Elizabeth Assimes

I remember doing the monkey bars until my hands bled
 I remember how short four hours felt at gymnastics every Saturday morning
 I remember the look of anxiety on my mother's face when I presented a new gymnastics skill
 I remember observing award ceremonies at gymnastics competitions and feeling pathetic for having to leave empty-handed
 I remember the sound of gold and silver medals click-clacking on my chest as I approached the podium for the last time
 I remember waking up excited to go to school
 I remember Friday afternoons filled with extra recess and freezies
 I remember when my grandmother would read to my class in elementary school
 I remember the anticipation in the library as my classmates and I awaited her exuberant arrival
 I remember observing the jealousy in my classmates' faces when I got to sit beside her, facing them
 I remember having to let go of her hand as she turned each page
 I remember the feeling of her soft hand on my cheek as she brushed away my tears during her last days
 I remember focussing on other cars on the highway during long drives to the country house
 I remember wondering where they were going and if their lifestyle resembled mine
 I remember imagining whether or not they also had an aunt who wasn't their actual aunt but who they called their aunt anyway, even though she was just a really close family friend
 I remember questioning if they ever left a competition empty-handed
 I remember feeling overwhelmed by the hundreds of cars on the road

- Sophie Kalichman

I remember him leaving town for a better life.
 I remember how he would always wait with me for my taxi when the moon came out.
 I remember teaching him how to Bachata dance because he wanted to learn.
 I remember going to the store and turning my head only to be traumatized by what I saw.
 I remember the tremble in my fingertips as I attempted to stabilize the evidence in my hands.
 I remember the ground he laid on.
 I remember his words as he pleaded for an end.
 I remember the wail of the alarm as it left the scene.

I remember the burning sensation in my eyes from the tear gas.
 I remember the chalk outline on the pavement.
 I remember the wails of the helpless.
 I remember the weapons across from me and the hands with me.
 I remember the strength in our voices and the tremor in our jaws.
 I remember the ground I stood on.
 I remember the freedom of one.
 I remember the absence of another.

I remember George Floyd

Each line is written with the intentions of perceiving different points of views of those who witnessed the strangling of George Floyd, as well as those who participated in protests against the police's actions. Black lives matter!!!

- Elana Bromberg

I remember when the coolest thing was a cotton hood
I remember when my parents ate separate food
Feel Good

I remember not wanting to go to Manhattan
I remember when my safe haven was a night light
Red Faction

I remember the rarity of the dove
I remember the feeling of "after-school"
Make Love

I remember that I loved Doritos
and that I hated brussel sprouts
Snow (Hey Oh)

But most of all

I remember the sky dimming
And thinking 10 PM was late
Remembering even further
The light was falling,
Crystal Dolphin

- Jacques Boaknin

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GRADE 11 ARTWORK

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PERSEPHONE

HELIA NAHIDI



ACRYLIC ON CANVAS



ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

PAINTING

SOPHIA MASHAAL



DOLORES

SEBASTIAN AJ



MIXED MEDIA

WHOLE NEW WORLD

KAYLEE FELDMAN



ACRYLIC ON CANVASBOARD

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COMPILED BY
DOMENICO D'AMICO

THE WIRE
2020