

Continuing Revelation:
Quaking with Grace and Joy in
Modern Times

Sunderland P Gardner Lecture 2016

Maggie Knight

Back when we were teenagers...





*Students' Society of McGill University
Executive Committee 2011 – 2012*



NEWS

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McGill students violently forced off campus

Demonstrators subjected to tear gas and pepper spray

Erin Hudson and Jessica Lukawiecki
The McGill Daily

reached those outside through text messages and phone calls. Demonstrators proceeded to form

A brief confrontation took place between demonstrators and police. Demonstrators pushed police back

News

The McGill Daily | Thursday, February 9, 2012 | mcgilldaily.com 3

Occupations continue throughout the night

Lobby "party" ends, sixth floor contingent carries on

Erin Hudson
The McGill Daily

Following a rally Tuesday morning in support of CKUT and QPIRG, 23 students occupied the office of Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson. The students occupying Mendelson's office are holding a "surprise resignation party" for him in protest of the administration's decision to invalidate the results of the fall 2011 existence referendum for CKUT and QPIRG.

A second group of students occupied the lobby of the building after pushing past McGill Security

Byers announced to occupants of the lobby that they would no longer be permitted to enter and exit freely. As of 9 p.m., wireless Internet was disabled in the building.

"The building is closed, so if you guys want to sit here and keep doing what you're doing, it's been peaceful, so let's keep it that way. If you guys do leave, please take your belongings because we won't let you back in," Byers told the students and faculty in the lobby.

Washroom facilities were not available to those in the lobby, and security agents were directed to stop students from finding alternative ways to go to the washroom.

Students "partying" on the sixth floor negotiated with Associate

"partyers" on the sixth floor requested a student from the lobby partake in negotiations. Student Amber Gross, escorted by Nicell, joined negotiations on the sixth floor about half an hour later.

QPIRG Board member Patrick DeBaur said that Jim Nicell is not involved in their discussions with McGill administration concerning the fall referendum question.

Nearly thirty students remained in the lobby throughout the night. A tent was pitched and around seven demonstrators spent the night outside in support of occupiers indoors.

A public Facebook event called "The James 6th Floor occupiers do NOT represent me" was created after the occupation began.



#MANIF22MARS

Volume 101, Issue 38
March 26, 2012
mcgilldaily.com

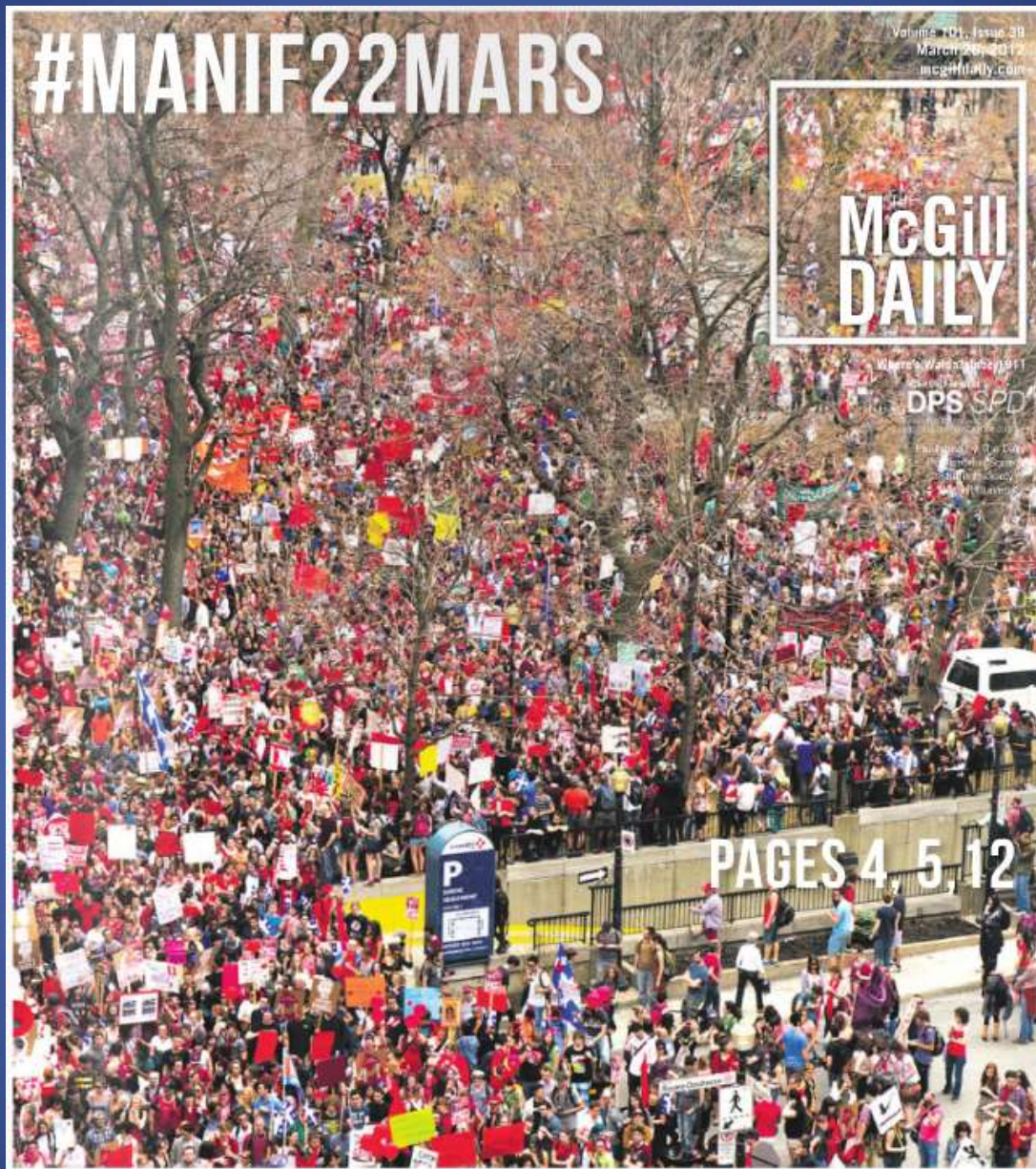
McGill DAILY

Warren's War as Inception 1911

DPS SPD

Pauline's Day
The McGill
Daily
March 26, 2012
Volume 101, Issue 38
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PAGES 4, 5, 12



Handwritten arithmetic exercises on the left page, including long division and multiplication problems. Some numbers are circled or underlined. The text is written in a cursive script.

Examples of calculations visible:

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- $12 \overline{) 362}$
- $69 \overline{) 151}$
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A BRIEF
ACCOUNT
 OF THE
Rise and Progress
 Of the People called
QUAKERS.

IN
 Which their Fundamental Principle, Do-
 ctrines, Worship, Ministry and Discipline
 are Plainly Declared to prevent the Mistakes
 and Perversions that Ignorance and Prejudice
 may make to abuse the Credulous.
 With a Summary Relation of the former Dispensations of
 God in the World, by way of Introduction.

As unknown, and yet well known, 2 Cor. 6. 9.

By W. Penn.

London, Printed and Sold by T. Sowle, near the Meet-
 ing-House in White-Hart-Court in Grace-Church-Street,
 and at the Crooked-Billet in Holywell-lane near Shore-
 ditch, 1694.

PART I:
TRANSFORMING OURSELVES

“As long as there is inward chaos, all outward actions will be contaminated by this chaos.

In such a case all that we do will promote rather than allay confusion.

We seek to bring peace in the world when there is no peace in our hearts, and as a result we infect the outer world with our inner conflict.”

-- Howard Brinton, 1948

“What **boundaries** need be in place for me to stay in my **integrity** and make the most **generous** assumptions about you?”

-- *Sociologist Brené Brown*

“Today we are taught by a culture that views work as an end in itself. It is what supplies our identity and gives meaning to our lives by maximizing success and money through our labor. **Our work is never done, and the constant drive to prove ourselves destroys our ability to find rest.**

This distortion of work’s purpose cripples our chances of finding true joy and fulfillment in our work. When divorced from God, all work degenerates into pure self-centered ambition.”

-- Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director of the Institute for Faith,
Work, & Economics

“Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility...

Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because **it liberates us from the need to be finished.”**

-- Wayne Muller, author of *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*

Query 1:
What is enough?

Query 2:

When do I most love myself?
When am I in best balance with
myself?

Query 3:

How am I staying open to Spirit?

later that night
i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered
where does it hurt?

it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere.

-- Second half of Warsan Shire's poem
"what they did yesterday afternoon"

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least **fails while daring greatly**, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

-- Theodore Roosevelt, 1910



“Our integrity sells for so little, but it is all we really have. It is the very last inch of us, but within that inch, we are free.”

- *V for Vendetta* (2005 Warner Bros film by The Wachowski Brothers, based on the graphic novel of the same name written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Weare)

PART II:
TRANSFORMING OUR RELIGIOUS
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Challenge 1:

Leaning into the discomfort: talking
about money and embracing
abundance

Challenge 2: Journeying through conflict

“We are...often held back along the path to our common vision by our fear of hurt, scorn, or humiliation.”

“We need the loving support of our worshipping community as we reach for new growth in truth, because growth can be a very painful process in itself. We often have to shed old ideas, former certainties, as we move on to new insights. There is sometimes a period of disorientation and grieving before we are ready to acknowledge our new growth.”

“Openness brings risks. We make ourselves vulnerable to the hurts and joys of ourselves and others. We are also vulnerable to the pain which may come when we feel called to follow the Light shown to us. Without this vulnerability, we cannot be faithful. To be fully human is to be vulnerable, open to pain and joy alike.”

-- *Betty Polster, SPG 1988*

Challenge 3:

Healthy boundaries and deeper discernment: above all, nurturing our blessed community



Challenge 3:

Healthy boundaries and deeper discernment: above all, nurturing our blessed community

PART III:

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD







What do Friends have to offer an increasingly secular world through our faith and practice in 2016?

1. The cultivation of a practice of collective silence and contemplation in an age of distraction.

2. A faith grounded in strong and compelling testimonies that offer up ways to heal the world.

3. A beloved community in a time of growing social isolation and a fraying social safety net.

4. A spiritual practice based in discernment, in questions, rather than dogma.

5. Inter-faith work that transcends the Clash of Civilizations narrative.

6. A long tradition of speaking truth to power, and engaging in faith-based activism and advocacy. The integrity to show up for our own work and a spiritual practice to keep at it.







3 Asks

1. Firstly, I ask that you **practice explaining your faith and inviting others into it.** What is the Light that you delight in letting shine? What are you quietly, humbly proud of?
2. Secondly, I ask that you **find your way to contribute to community-building in your Meeting,** to help your community transcend any Quaker crankiness, get better at conflict and money, and turn towards each other's bids for connection.
3. And finally, I ask you to discern what your life would be like if you decided to **spaciously, joyously, and abundantly** gift some of your time to Friends. What Quaker service would you let go? What else in your life would you like to let go? What new service would you be led to undertake?

Thank you