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the bottom line: “All I wanted was for you to be free from everything. And with
I have recently been reading the poetry of various Tibetan Buddhist masters. These beautiful poems are laced with symbolism and imagery, yet they discuss topics of non-duality. By looking through the vast expanse of objectivity, it is possible to find the basis of everything. Every symbol and object is built from the same tiny specks, the elements which build and unify to create the varieties of existence which we have today. It is from the barren ground that the flowers sprout to fill the fields with splashes of colour. Those colours which we see emerge from the completeness of light and lack of light. Everything comes from the emptiness of nothing, and this can be seen in the darkest of places.

The everything side of our special double issue includes written works from a variety of McGill students, and they are complemented by photos and illustrations from Montreal based contributors. Thanks should go out to Krista Liberio for providing a beautiful watercolour painting for the cover of Everything.

I would like to express the utmost gratitude to all of the members of our editorial board over the past two years. They have helped provide the support and submissions required to always continue publishing fantastic issues of Radix. I would also like to extend my deepest thank my co-editor, James, who has done an amazing job doing the editing and dealing with my constantly frazzled demeanour.

Please enjoy this exciting issue!

Edward Ross
Radix Co-Editor

The cover design, called Emergence, was painted by Krista Liberio.

that freedom, you often showed me another world, so I wanted you to be even
ghosts of you
blossoming into my thoughts
vivid
rose petals behind my eyes
left behind by the tide
pulled by a white moon in a clear sky

ghosts of you
transcribed into a crowd
fleeting
faces I half recognize
a faint smile in a stranger’s eyes
disappearing round the bend of a river

ghosts of you
resonate under my skin
echoed
taps and creaks and whispers
your frequencies and murmurs
woven into the world around me
The above photo was taken by Mackenzie Roop in Bundanoon, NSW, Australia.

- Kyung-Sook Shin • “Be content with your lot; once cannot be first in every-
Trisha Iyar is a U1 Political Science, Communications and World Cinema student from Georgetown, Ontario who focuses her writing on self-growth and exploration.”

The above photo was taken by Edward Ross

thing.” - Aesop • “We had everything: love, attention, the best money could buy,
i always blink at the wrong time

Trisha Iyar

i go there to meet you
when the sun drowsily
awakens from her sweet slumber
her soft canary wings stretching
across the rose glaciers
that fill the lonely sky

my feet timidly sink into the soft earth
the copper toned mud is thick and chilled
melting between my toes
the grass and moss are silky
their misty dew grazes my ankles

when i arrive
the wind faintly runs its delicate fingers
through my unbrushed hair
its touch sending me into a trance of tranquility
i think about the way you taught me to breathe
when my lungs were filled with water

an orchestra of waves gently caressing rocks
can be heard from the waterfall nearby
its beautiful song echoes in my ears
almost as if each note was crafted specifically for me
i think about the way you taught me see beauty
when all i could see was pain

i stare at the white-crowned sparrow resting in her nest
hidden within the branches of an aging willow tree
today is the day her egg will hatch
i see a flicker of light movement
and hear the hushed, tender cries of a new life
i think about the ways i know you’re here
and how if i had blinked, i might have missed you.

but we were taught that we had to first give to then receive.” - Cristiane Serruya
Although the ground and flora may be unquestionably dead, there is a certain coming-together as winter begins to drag on. We escape with our skates, skis, dogs, and thermoses of coffee into one of the many wintry arteries of Mont Royal. At once you feel isolated and embraced among others. As your face numbs and your eyes lose focus, the world around you can blur and become a painting. Patrick Kavanagh wrote, “Gather the bits of road that were not gravel to the traveller but eternal lanes of joy on which no man who walks can die.” At that borderline of frostbitten stinging and unabashed enjoyment, we can sit and reflect as our faces change colours many times over a warm beverage. It reminds us that we are not just alive; we are flourishing, and it therefore makes us stouter.

- “It is part of a good man to do great and noble deeds, though he risk every-
David Epstein is a U2 Classics student from Montclair, New Jersey. His interests include photography and hiking. The above photograph was taken by David Epstein.

“thing.” - Plutarch  •  “To realize that everything in the universe is connected is to
both accept our insignificance and understand our importance in it.” - Jeffrey Fry
spatial superposition

Heydar Ensha

When small, nothing can be ignored, all have impact and pull.

When large, anything can be ignored. Things are just things and they’re acknowledged as such, shrugged off for forward vision.

Near-sighted are swept in intricacies and forced into channels. They are grounded with and by others. Linked and caged by roots, they cannot envision an onward. All they see is what is immediately in front, the dirt that nourishes and suffocates, the dust that trips them.

Built up, one can see that all-around expand and converge above the roots, the bends, meandering and all. Gliding over what those below see as walls.

When middles are stretched, when the short sighted get lasik, their visions are superimposed, in attempts to rectify and reconcile a new depth; what will eventually decohere, returning to the background.

In 2008, Heydar Ensha went to South Dakota with his father for a week.

• “When you experience something, it actually widens your understanding about
I have always felt them near me.
They are watching from the depths.
Their eyes glow in the darkness of my mind.

Black

I killed my sisters to take control.
I cast them aside to attain ultimate power,
But I can still feel them pulsing with rage.

Red

Controlling this power alone is difficult.
Constant battles drain my energy.
Defence is no longer an option.

Yellow

Their souls claw their way to the top.
They push me aside and take the throne.
I accept defeat and fall to the abyss.

One

I feel a hand on mine.
My sisters pull me back up.
They are much wiser than I.

Without my sisters, I am nothing
Together, we are everything.
Edward Ross is a U3 student in Joint Honour Asian Religions and Classics from Cornwall, Ontario with interests in papercraft and spirituality. He is also Co-editor of Radix magazine.

beauty can be found. And everything has potential for beauty.” - Kamand Kojouri
swallow your words like swords

Amy Currie

I. “I want to say goodbye before I leave,” he tells me over the phone.

we are nothing more than a bad case of Pavlov’s dogs, I am learned behaviour (filth teaches filth, right?). I’ve already moved on, I have better things to do than grieve a scumbag who doesn’t know how to commit or find a clitoris. who goes to the doctor at 9 pm? did you really think I would fall for that?

“I have nothing to say to you”

II. He finally texts back: “I’m sorry I cancelled again but I’m free right now if you want?”

these past few months without you I wasted away, pickling my own body with wine and letting myself grow moss before I realized that you could never be home and I would be better off underwater, and I stayed submerged for so long that the kelp bound my legs together—committing me to a world separate from yours, forever. you should not have let that garden die out while I was away.

“I already put your box of shit on your lawn” I press send, lock my phone, and unlock it again. “Didn’t wanna distract you from your new girl.”

• “You have access to everything that has ever happened or ever will happen if
III. “I’m sorry. I didn’t mean it like that,” followed by a frowning Facebook sticker.

don’t set yourself on fire to keep others warm
Illustration by Angad Sharma, U2 Civil Engineering

you can only open your consciousness to receive it.” - Russell Anthony Gibbs •

this is not child’s play. it never was. everybody knew, except for the boys. everybody knew except us. you’re the one that called time of death before checking for a pulse. go on, tell me you’re not lonely. act like you’ve forgotten everything. pretend like I’m not still the dirt on the soles of your shoes or the chipped black nail polish you can’t, or won’t remove.

I open it and leave it read. She blocks me on every social platform the next day.

Amy is a U3 Sociology and Sexual Diversity Studies student from Washington, she enjoys deep fried pizza and not making eye contact.
“Set yourself free. Realize you already have everything you need and don’t need

The above photograph was taken by Alexandre Daigle.
I feel so distressed
when I hear someone saying
“Everything or nothing
and there’s no third way”

Why should I limit
one thousand options to two
why should I approximate
until I lose the clue

Why should I label people,
as well as myself
as perfect or awful,
as normal or strange

Why should I replace
a colour picture with black and white
why should I describe the world
in darkness and light

Every conquest is achieved
one step at a time
accepting only “everything or nothing”
won’t earn us a dime

There are infinite shadows
and if we are wise
we’ll welcome Something
and bear no labels in our eyes.
The Rabbit Hole Café
The Rabbit Hole cooks up vegan lunches every Friday at 1:00 p.m. during the fall and winter terms. Drop by, pay a toonie, enjoy the company and eat up! All proceeds go towards maintaining this Yellow Door program (3625 Aylmer) along with their Food For Thought student food bank, sponsored by the McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

Mid-Week Quaker Meditation
Quakers practice silent group meditation. They listen in stillness to discern their highest truth, which it sometimes feels beneficial to share with the group. All are welcome at this relaxing weekly meeting. Montreal Mid-Week Quaker Meeting meets every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30. Keep an eye on our facebook page for locations, which may change from week to week: www.facebook.com/groups/mtlmidweek

Radix is looking for Volunteers.
Like what you see? Believe in student creativity, and inter-faith collaboration? Help us do it better! We can always use help in marketing, web-development, research, distribution, writing, layout, and much more! Email us to join the community. radix@mail.mcgill.ca

The McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (MORSL)
MORSL, a proud member of McGill Student Services, is located in the Brown Building, suite 2100. Please feel free to stop by our Meditation/Prayer Room any weekday during the fall and winter semesters from 10:00am to 4:00pm! You’ll find a full-spectrum light therapy lamp, CD’s for guided relaxation, a serene space with floor pillows and meditation stools, and some suggestions on how to meditate in different traditions. Take time for some serenity! Stay connected with MORSL on Twitter @SpiritualMcGill or like us on Facebook: fb.com/morsl

Newman Centre
Newman Catholic Centre, 3484 Peel Street, is a home away from home for Catholic Students. Visit www.newmancentre.org to find out more about this centre for Catholic spiritual, social, and intellectual life on campus!

Confucius • “All good books are about everything, abbreviated.” - Andrew Smith
Orthodox Christian Students Join our twice-monthly student meeting, Orthodox Christian Fellowship! We also have monastery visits, picnics, and movie nights. Contact McGill’s Orthodox chaplain, Father Ihor for details: ikutash@gmail.com.

Mondays at MORSL
The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life hosts “Mondays at MORSL” – a variety of free Monday-night events, including art therapy, yoga, Zen meditation, Quaker meditation, Om meditation, talks on World Religions, Orthodox icon-writing workshop, movie nights, and more! Like us on Facebook at fb.com/MORSL to find out more or email morsl@mcgill.ca.

Weekly Zen meditation
Every Friday morning at 8:15am during the fall and winter semesters, McGill Zen Buddhist chaplain, Zengetsu Myokyo, offers guided Zen meditation in the Birks Chapel (3520 University Street, 2nd floor). Must arrive early or on time to join!

My Neighbour’s Faith Series
This series of monthly visits to Montreal’s places of worship provides a guided experience with various world religions being practiced in Montreal. Email morsl@mcgill.ca to join the mailing list.

Midnight Kitchen
Every day of the week at 12:30 pm in the SSMU Building during the fall and winter semesters, Midnight Kitchen offers free vegan lunches to students. Bring a tupperware container and indulge in some delicious vegan delicacies such as their famous vegan cakes.

The Jewish community at McGill
Visit www.hillel.ca, www.chabad.mcgill.com, and ghettoshul.com for information on Shabbat meals, holiday celebrations, educational programming, and fun social activities!

Local Conferences
Meetings
MISCS Interfaith Students’ Council email miscsinterfaith@gmail.com or visit the weekly Interfaith Student Council meeting on Mondays at 5:30 pm in the University Room. Check out the Weekly Interfaith Student Council newsletter for more information.

Orthodox Christian Students
Join our twice-monthly student meeting, Orthodox Christian Fellowship! We also have monastery visits, picnics, and movie nights. Contact McGill’s Orthodox chaplain, Father Ihor for details: ikutash@gmail.com.
And the man beneath it,
Sort of like that ice,

Without fear,
It was without knowledge.

Without form and consciousness.

Before I started writing.

This page was empty.

That void beyond the periphery:

Feeling and reason,

It was more like a suspension of

Head as it fell from the sky.

What thoughts went through my

And I don't even remember

Hell if I know.

"Phew, that could've been bad, man!"

We had a good laugh after that.

Crashed right behind my head.

Terrifying when the sound it made as it

Who saw it fall was probably more

But the face on the man

Maybe I'm exaggerating,

Walking down St. Laurent,

Of a restaurant while I was

Ice came speeding off the roof

A gigantic hurdle of sharp

I think I almost died today.

So I'll tell you a story instead:

Hell if I know.

Wall that separates us?

Break that imaginary

Is this even poetry if I

Yeah, weird shit right?
There is nothing to be lost by experimenting with the sickened human mind.

G. Sanguine is a Master of Music in composition student from Antigonish, Nova Scotia with interests in film and poetry.

Illustration by Angad Sharma

U2 Civil Engineering

Don't set yourself on fire to keep others warm.
It is about humans and humans are nothing without humanity.” - Zaman Ali

He hails from Montreal.

GYH is a student in Natural Resource Sciences.

order to succeed. For instance, it is much easier to care for nature when one can rely on a scientific background (Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta) that argues humanity is part of nature. People have always been capable of feeling deep compassion, but a proper understanding of the world can help reveal where this compassion should be directed.

We may also consider the opposite perspective. When one can rely on a scientific background (Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta) that argues humanity is part of nature, people have always been capable of feeling deep compassion, but a proper understanding of the world can help reveal where this compassion should be directed.

An Ecological Bodhicitta/Awakening Mind would therefore understand the necessity of both the rational and the emotional, as well as how each concept can be used to help support the other. Of course, the emotional connection to the nonhuman world requires something more. This is the contribution of the emotional realm, that is to say the Conventional Ecological Bodhicitta. After all, effectively removing humanity’s claim to privilege towards nature tends to require an emotional connection to the nonhuman. Therefore, it is not enough to just consider the opposite perspective. Even within the realm of “privilege” towards nature, reducing suffering and removing injustice is claimed, yet often insufficient. People have always been capable of feeling deep compassion, but a proper understanding of the world can help reveal where this compassion should be directed.

Note: This piece is partially based on one of my posts on the E4A (Economics for the Anthropocene blog) https://e4a-net.org/category/blog/). Also, for further reading on the Buddhist Lojong tradition, you can check out:


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having. “Kate McGahan  •  “Humanity must need to continue because human-

logical and the Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta require each other in

Just as in the Buddhist concept of Bodhicitta, the Conventional Eco-

ourselves, to, well, all of nature.

stimulate change. It is a way of increasing what we care about from

From species to ecosystems to climatic change refugees, it is necessary to

al realm, Compassion for those affected by ecological destruction,

Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta Bodhicitta would then apply to the emotion-

Conventional Ecological Bodhicitta is achieved when there is no distinction between

between humanity and nature.

be achieved when there is no difference, with respect to several issues,

Self and Other. In my version, Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta would

Ultimate Bodhicitta is achieved when there is no distinction between

thermodynamics and evolutionary biology are important in this regard.

ultimately different from other beings and objects. The sciences of

Similarly, science must break down the perception that humanity is
down objects into constituent parts until nothing intrinsic remains.

Ultimate Bodhicitta in several ways, including mentally breaking

aspects of environmentalism. Buddhist practitioners cultivate

Ultimate Ecological Bodhicitta would refer to the scientific/rational

Perhaps we might call it Ecological Bodhicitta.

I suggest that a similar concept could be useful in environmentalism.

ness.

Both the rational and the

stand the necessity of

would therefore under-

An Ecological Bodhi-

emotional.
Be willing to be disappointed, for if you risk nothing, you'll have nothing worth

To a healthier perspective, concept might be useful in shifting

I was struck with how an analogous

...contrary to the very process of cultivating compassion for

 xrange barriers between Self and Other, encouraging compassion for

 Bodhicitta, but one is a path to the other. The Emptiness of all things

 Bodhicitta, however, not only are both considered necessary to achieve

 intrinsic reality, why care about all sentient beings?

 Initially, these two ideas seem quite incoherent: Perhaps even

 of intrinsic reality, ultimate Bodhicitta refers to the realization that all things are empty.

 At its core, the term Bodhicitta/Awakening Mind refers to an altruistic

 If here is my own, simplified, version.

 that this is a complex topic with many variations and what I am offer-

 be useful for the current ecological crisis. Keep in mind, of course, that the current ecological crisis.

 Brief explanation of the term and then an analogous term. I'll offer a

 Conventional and Ultimate Bodhicitta. Mind refers to an altruistic

 But let's return to the specific Buddhist concept I have in mind: The

 call it, and least of which is the emphasis on compassion.

 becomes clear that there is much that can help in creating an ecological

 world. However, as one delves into an actual Buddhist worldview, it

 Samsara) in which we all find ourselves. But-

 Life is Suffering, and the goal is to achieve Liberation from the cycle

 and environmentalism. To some, Buddhism may initially seem to be

 Of course, I am not the first to look at the intersection of Buddhism
emotionally dichotomous.

In striving society in a healthier perspective, there’s an analogy concept might be useful -
Although this course did not really apply this concept, it is useful for a way to solve this false dichotomy of the rational versus the emotional.

So, what can be done about this? I feel we can look at other worldviews. For instance, we can be struck in this odd dilemma, where environmentalists are seen to be stuck in this day to day lives of the public. Our society views for a way to solve this false dichotomy of the rational versus the emotional. Although I participated in a course on Buddhist (Lojong) Mind Training, I was struck with how an analogous concept might be useful -

Although this course did not really apply this concept, it is useful for a way to solve this false dichotomy of the rational versus the emotional.

Recently, I participated in a course on Buddhist (Lojong) Mind Training, which allowed me to explore the Buddhist concept of the Conventional and Ultimate Bodhicitta/Awakening Mind found in this tradition.

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Although this course did not really apply this concept, it is useful for a way to solve this false dichotomy of the rational versus the emotional.
The problems of the human race and divide those who achieve from those who

and that is the greatest of illusion...

ultimately I see no one – nothing...

as I look within, beyond the ego-illusion,

a being that transcends definitions,

a being unbound by others classifications;

a being that can overcome any self-imposed limitations;

a being that can at a moment’s notice change direction;

flexible and free to be whoever I want to be.

and what is quite a relief for it essentially means that I am a being of plasticity;

from this questioning comes the realization that I indeed have no definitive identity –

and of whom I’ll come to be?

can anyone really define me? can anyone really be the judge of what I am?

who am I? what is my true identity?

there remain these questions:

but with such diverse ideas associated with the name which was given to me,

catch with their own conception of me, each with their own impression of me;

it seems as if there are as many versions of me as there are people I meet;

Alexandre Daigle

Who am I...?
The desire and ability to press on has and always will solve persistence. Alexandre Daigle is a last-year Environment and Religious Studies student expressing his experiences of spirit and nature as visual story-teller.
nothing in the world can take the
our silly rules, nothing—Lionel Shriver

"Nothing in the world can take the
tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

The crack in me has not fully healed. I still withdraw sometimes, and

have signs of life everywhere to cling onto.

should a crack appear once more in the center of me, I would at least

those spaces and gaps do mean, the light they already hold even if it is

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

the split in me is not empty, and I am learning to understand what

the pain still visits. But like the spaces between the stars where more

The crack in me has not fully healed. I still withdraw sometimes, and

the spaces and gaps do mean, the light they already hold even if it is

the pain still visits. But like the spaces between the stars where more

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

I felt a tremendous need for empty space in my life and my soul. So I

nothing in the world can take the
I raise my head, looking up into the darkness, searching for any visible stars. I often find a single star, and if I am lucky, a second. In the spaces between those stars, if I look long enough, sometimes more points of light will start to multiply, and what was at first a dark, empty space becomes filled with light, even if it is light that I cannot see.

I was always on the brink of letting myself down, of giving up, of ending everything. I was never sure what I should do, what others wanted me to do, and what I desired to do. I was bewildered, and I did not know the difference between winning and losing, between time with friends and time alone. I stopped spending my schoolwork, I stopped spending time with friends, I avoided talking to people, I could not think of what to do. I don’t know how to operate, I thought to myself, staring ahead in my room. I don’t know what to do. I don’t know who I am.

I had always had certain periods in my life that were darker than others, but this was different. I didn’t want to rise from bed. I didn’t want to go out of the house. I didn’t want to shop for groceries. It was as though all meaning had gone out from the world. I was in Kingston, during my last semester at Queen’s University. I am in pain, I thought to myself, as I walked to campus with the words I am in pain flashing through my mind.

Anonymous

Journal entries
Cheryl Chu is a GSFS and English Literature major with a passion for making music and writing poetry.

Cheryl Chu

I create to survive, each day is the same:
Each day a race, to drown out the other
I fight my battles with pen, no paper,
I create to survive, each day is the same:

Writing Poetry

But with bars on my windows and a tickling clock
Not quite swallowed, not quite locked
Tantalizingly in front of me

“You’re home,” they say as they dangle the key
Not quite swallowed, not quite locked
Tantalizingly in front of me
In a world so quiet I hear the growls

"But the one thing he could not have imagined
Ine - Patrick Branwell Bronte"
Ayn Rand • “I know only that it is time for me to be something when I am not...”

by Sam Thornley

The above art is titled ‘Chizz L’.
Emily Szpiro is a U3 English Lit student who spends too much time reading and should probably stop because it’s ruining her eyesight.

Emily Szpiro
edge is dead...We're nothing more than dust jackets for books...so many pages to

enjoy exploring cities, minds, and art.

Katharine Birkness is a U1 Cognitive Science student who

enjoyed exploring cities, minds, and art.

Katharine Birkness is a U1 Cognitive Science student who

The way the sun lights up the morning sky with no

thought for its constituents:

for who slept, or how little,

the days that go by seem

so untimely, trivial –

you filled them with yourself

(but had to, I suppose)

joining a cult has never felt better –

pop-culture – one and the same

but till the sun lights up,

shifts the cold evening muck

an exercise in solipsism.

bones as bars

thought for its constituents:

The way the sun lights up the morning sky with no

empty

table for one wouldn’t be so

at least then this

Nose to the ground, ear to the grindstone

and every night before echoes bare

a last-ditch effort not to die tonight,

The turgid gray seedlings dazzle in monotony;

I spin my webs and forget about politics/

one and the same

The turgid gray seedlings dazzle in monotony;

to bigger and bigger things

shunts the cold evening muck

But till the sun lights up,

in exercise in solipsism.

happened in these dusty cages;

(you filled them with yourself

– so unimpeachable

the days that go by seem

for who slept, or how little;

thought for its constituents:

The way the sun lights up the morning sky with no
From the pre-Socratic writings of Parmenides to the postmodern theatre of Samuel Beckett, the question of Nothingness has assumed a curious selection of shapes. There's the quiet and contemplative emptiness of Buddhism, the noisy Nothingness of Chaos in Milton's Paradise Lost, the paradox shaped playing-fields of nothing in the Renaissance, captured in works like Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing or pretty much any of Donne's poetry, there's Schopenhauer's weird will to will-less-ness, or Heidegger, Sartre, and the Kyoto School and all their Strange Nothingness. In particular, we have a fascinating article from GYH and a strange small story from Em-ly Szpiro called "Lonely Men," big thanks go to James Reath for offering the cover-image and to Edward Ross for the cover design, called In Between, was painted by Time of the Sun. We have a half of our Everything/Nothing edition is a great example of the slippery and protean nature of thinking about Nothingness. It has a habit of turning into an engine of creativity, a spiral of stuff. This half of our Everything/Nothing edition is a great example of the slippery and protean nature of thinking about Nothingness.

Such is the slipperiness and protean nature of thinking about Nothingness. It has a habit of turning into an engine of creativity, a spiral of stuff. This half of our Everything/Nothing edition is a great example of the slippery and protean nature of thinking about Nothingness.

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James Reath