A HISTORY OF THE MEZZ_ HIVE CAFÉ

1966

Construction is finalised on the Hall Building, as it is officially opened in October.

1

1969

Following a dismissal of a year long grievance filled from Black (along with Asian) students against a biology professor for deliberately failing students of colour, a two week occupation of the computer room - the university's nerve centre - on 9th floor of the Hall Building took place.

2

The occupation ended through police intervention with many protesters beaten and abused upon arrest, and some had to be hospitalized. This debacle led to the creation of what eventually became the University's 'Code of Rights and Responsibilities', an updated policy still regulates behavior on campus.

1970

The Student Union purchases a building on Crescent and De Maisonneuve. This become a student hub with lounges and a basement coffee house.

3

1975

The Student Union's VP services helps opens up a student-run café on the mezzanine called Café 651.

With the Union in deficit, it sells off its building on Crescent and De Maisonneuve and then donates $673,000 from its student union funds to the University in exchange for a Student Centre on the downtown campus.

1983

1984

A formal agreement is made between Concordia University and the Student Union, that the money given in 1975 would be used to build a student-run centre on the mezzanine of the Hall Building.

CUSACorp is created to act as the for-profit branch of the Student Union. It quickly takes over management of Café 651, as well as the Loyola Campus Center, and Reggie's bar.

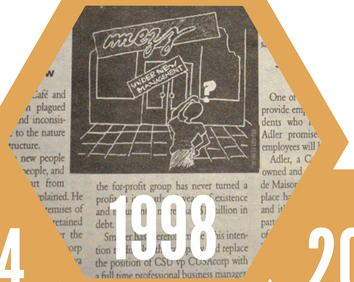
1988

1994

Renovations on the mezzanine are completed. The newly-constructed Reggie's and a student-run café open on the mezzanine, both under the management of CUSACorp.

1998

After reaching more than $1 million in debt, CUSACorp leases out the the Mezz Café space to Java U. This causes a loss of student authority and direct student control over the space.



4

2001

JavaU's lease is renewed until 2005.

2005

JavaU faces criticism from the student body for having resisted selling fair trade coffee. CUSACorp holds an open bid to find a new tenant. A former Concordia student's business proposal wins the bid. The night before JavaU is set to be evicted, CSU executives illegitimately sign a lease renewal with JavaU. Several lawsuits are filed, leading JavaU to franchise the space.

2009

JavaU's lease is renewed until May 2014.

2013

Students mobilize across the campus to petition the CSU not to renew a lease with Java U and instead to establish or help found a student-run co-op café on the mezzanine. A referendum is called and students vote 87% in favour.

2014

The Concordia Food Coalition and the CSU team Community Matters actively support and help found an autonomous student-run co-op café called the Hive Café Solidarity Co-op. With two locations, one Downtown and one at Loyola, the Hive Café Co-op exists as a student-run sustainable food option, as well as a community space for radical change.

1 Hall Building under construction - ca 1965. View from CJLO and de Maisonneuve. Pen Open Lou Brunette, P154-02-01 http://archives.concordia.ca/media/4249
2 Students occupying the Sir George Williams computer centre on the 9th floor of the Hall Building, February 1969. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Occupation_Sir_George_Williams_University_computer_centre_1969.jpg
3 Sir George Williams University Student Union Coffee House, 1970. http://archives.concordia.ca/media/4249
4 http://www.thecourier.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/mezz.jpg