

RITZ-Y TIMES

Check out upcoming
Concordia events!



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CSA ELECTION

Meet your new CSA
representatives!



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The Bolt.

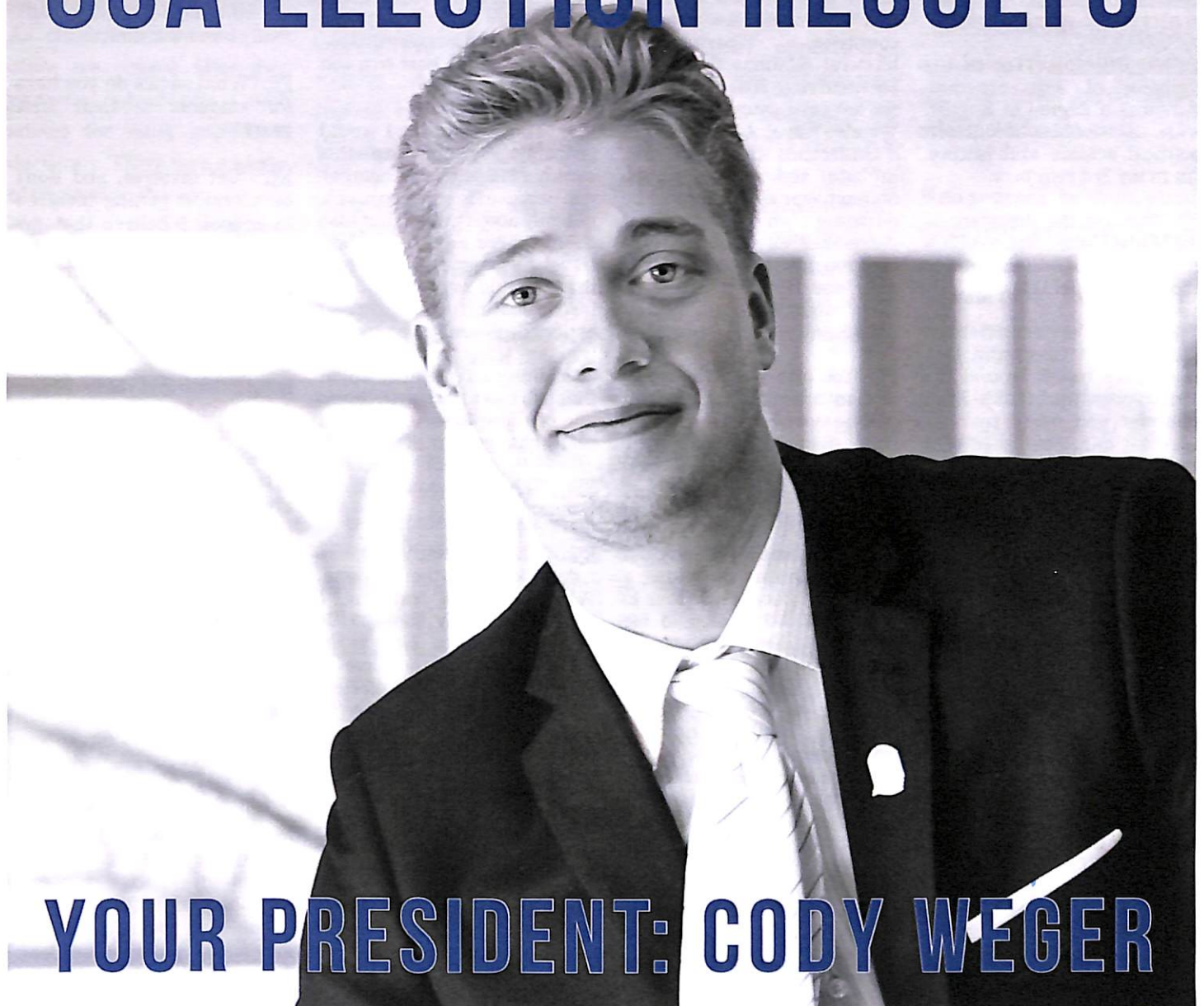
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March 23rd 2015

Issue 13

CSA ELECTION RESULTS



YOUR PRESIDENT: CODY WEGER

KEEPIN' UP WITH KELSEA

Peter
Fourlaris
Student Life

This week it was my honour to interview Kelsea Gillespie, and listen to her tell me about all of her interesting travels and her involvement in Concordia's Model United Nations Club.

Peter Fourlaris: "What program and year are you in?"

Kelsea Gillespie: "I'm in the Bachelor of Arts program, pursuing a degree in English with a double minor in political science and history. I'm in my 3rd year now."

PF: "You are the President of the Model United Nations Club at Concordia. Tell the reader about the Model UN"

KG: "The Model United Nations Club here at Concordia is a club that's based around the conferences we attend. Each semester and every year we educate our new members about the United Nations, the role the United Nations plays, and the international political world in general. We usually focus on one specific topic for our regional conference, that's kind of the purpose of the club is attending the regional conference every year. This year the conference was on human trafficking. They've also done conferences with incredibly interesting topics and which are very relevant to what is going on in the world today. The students get together in delegations, in groups of two or three and prepare for the topic at hand. You represent a country, so I have taken the role of Haiti and Jordan, as well as Canada before, and really, when you go to these conferences your biggest goal is to accurately

reflect what that country would do in the United Nations. It's very exciting; it's one of the only ways you can get a hands on experience at being a diplomat without actually blindly pursuing it. It's always exciting how there is public speaking, debating, negotiating, and sometimes fights here and there. It gives you a really good sense about how the world works and diplomatic ties between countries, particularly bilateral relations that might be occurring that you might not have been aware of before. We also travel; I have been to a conference in South Korea in 2013, and Rome in 2014. So next year our club will be pursuing an international conference as well, they are on a much larger scale, rather than one hundred delegates, there might be one thousand delegates."

PF: "You also write the travel section here at The Bolt (and will be story editor next year), what inspired you to write about travel?"

KG: "This is a bit of an interesting story because last year my boyfriend and I were planning on taking a trip purely because we love to travel and we wanted to see the Middle East. We wanted to get passes from The Bolt to see if we could get into some of these conflict zones. As we were planning, situations had gotten a little bit tricky and there was no way we could feasibly go into any of these countries and come out unscathed. We decided to travel to Spain and Portugal instead, Spain largely because of my boyfriend's love of Ernest Hemmingway, and Portugal because of the close proximity. I actually ended up enjoying Portugal a lot more than

Spain, which was unexpected. Besides that trip, I have been to Greece and Turkey, New York, and Orlando. I've also lived abroad before, and like I mentioned, I've been to South Korea and Rome, so I felt that I have had enough traveling experience to give people practical advice. There were many bumps along the way in this summer's trip and I've had a lot of fun writing about those."

PF: "What is the best trip you have ever been on?"

KG: "That's so hard! I would probably say our trip this summer to Spain and Portugal, just because I learned so much, not only about myself, but also about others around me and travel in general. Other than that, I would say South Korea just because it was a surreal experience and because I was so sleep deprived that everything I remember about that trip has a haze to it. It was one of those experiences that really changed my life."

PF: "What is your dream vacation spot?"

KG: "This is tough because I don't know if there is one. When I look at traveling, I don't necessarily look at it as a vacation, so I guess in the future I really have a hankering for South America, but I also would really like to visit India and Nepal, then eventually I'd like to visit Africa. I guess if I were ever going to take a vacation I'd go back to Europe to see Ireland."

PF: "What is your favorite hobby away from school?"

KG: "That's tough, most of my life revolves around school! In high school it used to be dance, because I had danced for my

whole life. Now I actually instruct dance, so it's less of a hobby and more of a job."

PF: "What is your favorite movie?"

KG: "I'm a self-proclaimed Harry Potter nerd, every year on September 1st I regret that the Hogwarts Express is leaving without me! But there is eight movies, and I can't really narrow it down."

PF: "What advice do you have for students in their first year?"

KG: "Get involved, and don't be afraid of getting involved in school. I believe that my extra curricular activities have enriched my experience so much that I honestly would not have gotten the same educational value from my time here at Concordia if I did not participate in those things. And don't be afraid to throw yourself in there, I remember my first year running for the arts rep at the CSA I was so afraid to put posters with my face on it, because people might know who I am. Never be afraid of that, always throw yourself a little bit outside of your comfort zone because that's what gives you a great university experience."

Thank you, Kelsea for an outstanding interview. It was a lot of fun to speak with you!

Finally, if you, the reader, have anyone in mind that you would like to see featured in one of my articles, you can send in your requests to me. I can be reached through my email pfourlar@student.concordia.ab.ca or via twitter at @PeterF_94.

DEPENDENCE ON INDEPENDENCE

Kayle
Sieben
Advice Column

There comes a point in time in everyone's life when individuals realize that their life is no longer dictated by parents or authority figures. As children and teenagers, often we sought after our parent's guidance and advice for most important decisions. There was a sense of comfort in thinking of our guardians as all-knowing, making crucial decisions for the betterment of our lives. This sense of comfort slowly fades away as we begin to realize our parents, our authorities, and our heroes are just regular individuals like you and I.

It's a coming of age story. Eventually we must make the transition and seek knowledge and truth for ourselves. Of course; not everyone makes this transition at the same pace, but it is an essential step in everyone's life to gain the sense of independence.

It's ironic, as children we often wish for adulthood. Now, as adults, we sometimes wish for the

simplicity of being a child; less accountability, less responsibility, and someone to do the hard work for us.

It's often tough to find consistency in independence; some days you're just not feeling it. One of the biggest lessons I've learned since coming of age was that anyone can be brilliant in spurts; it's the ones who bring that dedication and hard work every single day that set them apart. Consistency is still something I struggle with. It's a bit of a paradox; I know my potential, yet struggle to reach it day in and day out.

Oddly enough, I like to compare my life to that of the Edmonton Oilers: a young, wildly talented group who just can't seem to win consistently. They too, are coming of age. I have noticed spurts of greatness from this young core; whether it's Nugent-Hopkins getting a hat trick or Nail Yakupov firing some one-timers into the back of the net. The issue with this young core of Oilers players isn't talent, or dedication: its consistency. This is something that a large percentage of young adults

struggle with. The issue isn't unique to anyone; you're not alone in having a hard time adjusting to adulthood on the fly.

It's been said that humans often wish for what they can't have; so let's make the most of our opportunity. Most of us are just starting to carve out our niche in this world. Let's embrace this independence and be the best individual we can be. Through independence we can gain our own understanding of this world and form our own opinions.

You see, our entire lives have been shaped by people making decisions for us: what class to take, what to believe, what to eat, what hobbies to have. Now is the time for us to make our own decisions, and become that person we've always wanted to become. For me, the opportunity of independence led to me discovering my artistic side. Whether its career choice, painting pictures, or writing poetry, I don't think I would have done these things had these decisions be made for me. I know I certainly would not be writing these articles

and would not have taken the opportunity to become future Editor-in-Chief. So use this opportunity to try new things and truly find out for yourselves what you enjoy and what you don't enjoy. Don't allow previous misconceptions or others' opinions ruin something for you that you've never attempted for yourself.

Find yourself; be unique and form your own path on this earth. Human life is such a delicate thing, so why live in someone else's conception of how it ought to be? The truth is that no one has all of the answers; we just use the best running theory of how it should be. Stand on your own two feet, you may be surprised at how enjoyable life can be.

If you have any questions or concerns you would like advice for, please don't hesitate to email your question to kdsieben@student.concordia.ab.ca, or to csabolt@student.concordia.ab.ca. All entries remain 100% anonymous, and I will do my best to alleviate your concerns.

RITZY EVENTS

Rachel
Whipple
Senior Writer

The GTC, or Green Thespian Collective, is the Drama Student Association of Concordia and we have some fun events coming up!

On Saturday, March 28 we will be hosting The Roast of Randy Ritz. It will be a night filled with comedy, food, and insults! We are celebrating Dr. Ritz's career at Concordia by grilling him in front of the entire student body, his family and friends, and the staff! We hope to share many laughs with you! This will be

a licensed event. The event starts at 7:00 pm and the tickets are \$20. They can be purchased in the bookstore.

For more info or to get on the list of roasters, contact Josh Eastman at (587) 357-5674 or at eastmyster@hotmail.com.

The next event we are hosting is "A Very Punny Night: The GTC Student Directed One Acts". This is a whole weekend of great shows featuring the directing, writing, teching, and acting of Concordia students. We have a great line up of shows and it will be a fun weekend. There will be two sets of shows spread out

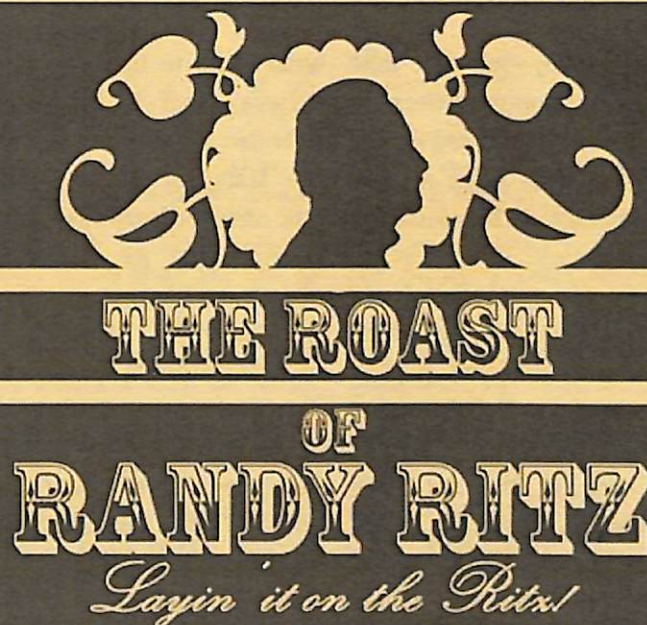
over four time slots. It will be Friday, April 10th at 7 pm, Saturday, April 11th at 2 pm and 7 pm, and Sunday, April 12th at 2 pm. So you will have two chances to see each One Act. The theme is bad puns and myself and Alexa Larocque will be hosting. We are the first ever female hosts that this festival have seen (no pressure!) so we will definitely do our best to entertain you! We have music pieces, comedies, dramas, and zombies all lines up for the festival so there should be a show for every viewer! The admission is pay-what-you-can so you won't break the bank supporting Concordia

dramatists. We hope you can make it out!

For more info contact Ayslan Damato at (780) 632-0037 or at adamato@student.concordia.ab.ca

Make sure to like the GTC Facebook page for more updates: <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaGTC> or email me (Rachel Whipple) the President of the GTC at rwhipple@student.concordia.ab.ca or check out our pillar in the upper mezzanine of Tegler, near the microwaves.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events!



MORE THAN A GAME

Checkpoint Charlie

The Campush-Dish

The fabled foosball table in Tegler has seen many memorable matches. It is a place where heroes and villains alike meet daily. Goals are scored and tears are shed. It is a place where friends are made and bonds are broken. It is a cathedral of passion. A place where students can unwind before heading to class late because they needed a fifth game to break a tight deadlock. Truly, a great place to be on campus.

However, recently I learned just how expensive this table can be. Like any great sport, this place is run by greed and corruption. I had no idea that behind the scenes, an intricate betting system was making students rich. When I started playing foosball here several semesters ago it was all for fun and games. Those times have changed. In its stead, is a very serious betting ring run by ruthless thugs.

This syndicate is well hidden from the general student body. But one way or another they always have an ear in the halls or an eye on the table. Once you start winning games and become a regular face on the circuit, you are forced to join. This unofficial network is a tightly knit organization which prides itself of secrecy and

high stakes games. On any given lunch period Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, hundreds of dollars can swap hands.

I first caught wind of this underground operation when I returned back from reading week. I had been playing very well and was starting to pick up a reputation for my strong defensive play. I began to notice that the attendance at my games were starting to rise rapidly. These educated foosball fans were always taking notes or making phone calls during my matches. Now I've come to realise that these were in fact foosball bookies. They had been placing bets and mathematically determining my odds as a player. Later that week I was approached by a very tall student in an overcoat.

He introduced himself as Donald, but I knew this wasn't actually his name. We had taken several Spanish classes together the year before but I understood his reason for secrecy. He told me that he was working undercover on behalf of the CSA in the hopes of dislodging the bookmakers who were running the table. The plan was to stage a high stakes game so ambitious that we would each walk away with upwards of \$218.75 and cause the betting circuit to crash. Donald had been waiting for a new defensive player who still

had the odds against him. He wanted to pair my stability on defense with his deadly skills and tricks upfront. He wanted to create the ultimate doubles team. Seeing as I badly needed money for a Snoop Dogg concert ticket, I quickly agreed.

The top earning team was a Serbian pairing from the drama department. They hadn't lost a game in 3 semesters. They were the safest bet in school. Whenever they came out to play it was always a large buy in. Our new team didn't have enough street cred yet to justify a game. We had to pull off a quick upset to raise our stocks. We lined up a game with one of the top 5 clubs in the school. This team consisted of two philosophy students. We had heavy odds against but came up with a heavy upset and won in 4 games. Already, this unexpected win had a huge ripple effect on the school economy. Chicken burger prices in the caf shot up by nearly 13%, and vending machine prices also skyrocketed. Bookies were now seriously worried that an upset against the Serbs could result in a tuition hike. The result of this next game had a bigger outcome than we might have thought.

Sure enough, we were given a shot at the title. Again, this was still a stretch. Regardless of our earlier upset, were

we still given long odds at pulling it off. Our game took place during peak season at the foosball table: Friday afternoon at 12:15 pm. Word had quickly spread about this very lucrative and interesting fixture. The game began with over \$838.12 placed on the game. This total didn't include the numerous new and used textbooks which easily find their way onto the school black market at events like this.

With that, the stakes were set and the ball was dropped into play. No foosball game at Concordia had ever seen such a wager. However, the top Serbian team did not disappoint. They defeated Donald and I handily in only 5 games. We didn't stand a chance. We had just financed the group we had planned on destroying. In a high stakes game like this, once you lose a critical game you are placed at the bottom of the ranking pool. Our quick rise to fame was heavily contrasted with our fall from grace. We became a Concordia Foosball urban legend.

The black market continues to thrive, but it had learned a valuable lesson from our title shot. Never again would they allow a new team to rise the ranks so quickly; we had almost cost them dearly. Ultimately, I choose to retire from foosball. Regardless, I encourage you to go play at this historic table and meet some new friends.

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Lethbridge



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She secured a co-op position at Washington, D.C.'s Global Centurion, an organization dedicated to the abolition of modern slavery. Not only did Courtney see Hillary Clinton give a speech at the Department of State,

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FUN & GAMES

The Bolt.
Mar 2015 | 7

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CROSSWORD CLUES

COFFEE STUDY NIGHTS	LATE PAPERS PROJECTS LIBRARY	BOOKS RESOURCES FINISH
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28							29			

- | Across | Down |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sports show feature | 1. Fairy tale brother |
| 4. Yours truly | 3. Clue room |
| 5. Relative of .org | 4. Streaker with a tail |
| 7. Even shorter than SoCal | 5. JFK's kid brother |
| 9. Bashful | 6. Engine type |
| 10. Talent for music | 8. Turks and -- Islands |
| 12. Flat hat | 9. Trademark, for short |
| 14. Vital | 11. Freshwater fish |
| 15. Hampton of jazz fame | 13. Stein filler |
| 17. Rapids transit | 16. Opposite of SSW |
| 18. Indian fruit | 18. Some will be receiving one in May |
| 21. To go on a spree: Fr. | 19. Put on _ _ _ front |
| 22. Up to the task | 20. Rent |
| 23. Volcanic ejection | 21. Fastener |
| 25. Antenna | 24. Underground riches |
| 28. Part of NHL | 25. Attorney Gen. |
| 29. Skirt | 26. Euro alliance |
| | 27. Poet Housman's initials |

OVERCOMING ILLNESS USING POSITIVE THOUGHT

Annie
Chow

&
Declan
Beddow

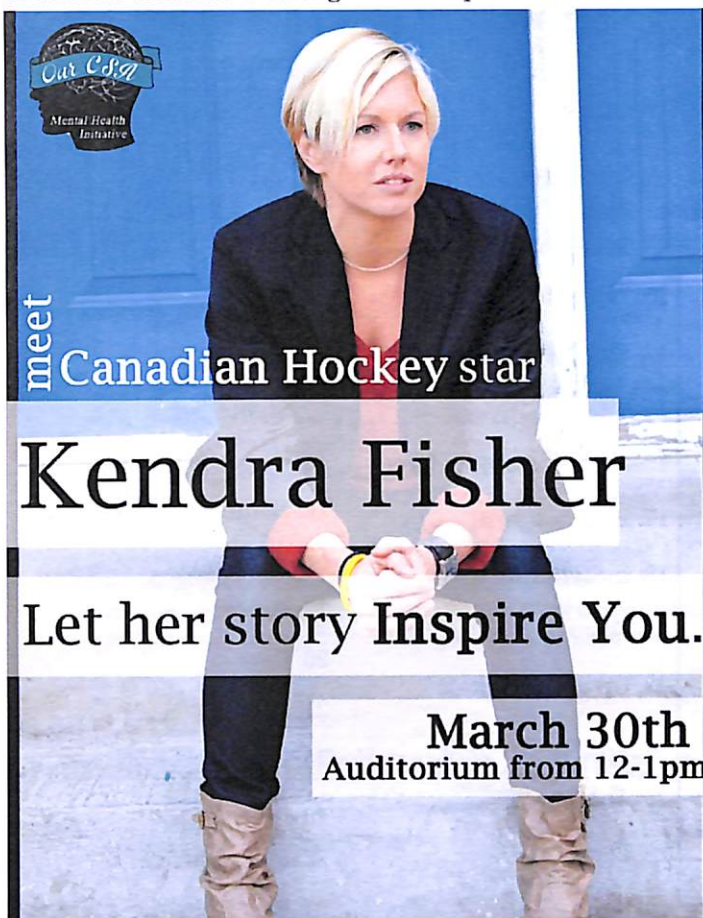
Mental Health Initiative
Alexa Pickens is a former Concordia student who studied as a sociology major with a Psychology and English double minor. She was aspiring towards a career in law enforcement as a police officer when she was struck by illness. At the end of the fall semester a strong

pain developed in her back, but she avoided seeking medical attention, thinking it was caused by her love of fitness and exercising. The pain persisted and worsened and by February she had been finally diagnosed with a form of Leukemia, a type of cancer that affects the white blood cells. Alexa had the only case of leukemia with tumor formation. Shortly after her diagnosis she spent seven consecutive months in the hospital from March 2014 until September 2014.

Her journey was difficult as she encountered a variety of illness' and complications due to her medications. Eventually she was induced into a coma, fading in and out of consciousness and awareness. During this time she had meningitis. After treatment of both the cancer and the meningitis, she awoke with the loss of motor functions. Essentially having to relearn how walk, eat and perform everyday activities. This was the most mentally taxing part for Alexa. She attributes her triumph over this phase to her positive thinking and the support of her loved ones. "The body and is much more fragile than what we believe they are to be" Alexa Pickens said. While Alexa's body was in distress she found it extremely important to do what she could to keep her mind healthy. She practiced art therapy which involved drawing, writing poetry, and keeping a diary (before she lost function in her wrist). Alexa is very goal oriented

and continued to set small goals which led towards accomplishing larger ones, like, restarting her fitness regime. As Alexa reminds us, "slow and steady wins the race." She literally started one step at time and is now able to jog for five minutes straight. The best thing about her recovery was being surrounded by her family and friends during these times of struggle.

We agreed with Alexa's statement "TV lies." Cancer treatment isn't glamorous, it's brutal and unimaginable. While interviewing Alexa, we had never spoken to a cancer survivor, we realized the how cancer is portrayed on TV is not comparable to how much time and effort is really spent on treatment. Alexa's story was truly moving. We're glad to report that with Alexa's strength of character and motivation she is able to return to Concordia next fall semester to continue her aspirations of becoming a police officer.



meet
Canadian Hockey star
Kendra Fisher
Let her story Inspire You.
March 30th
Auditorium from 12-1pm

ALEXA'S MENTAL HEALTH CHECKLIST

- ✓ SET GOALS TO BE BETTER
- ✓ EXPRESS YOURSELF
- ✓ COMMUNICATE AND RECEIVE SUPPORT
- ✓ BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE

MODEL (UN) CITIZEN

Kelsea
Gillespie
Travel

Once again, I will stray from my usual conventional article on travel anecdotes and share the recent conference experience from our Model United Nations Club here at Concordia. For those of you who know me, you know that there is no end to the list of positive things I can say about the Model United Nations experience and the conference hosted by Grant MacEwan March 6-8th was no exception to this. Eleven delegates from Concordia attended, representing Canada, China, Haiti, the Netherlands, and the Philippines. With seven veteran members, five new delegates and our fabulous and always supportive academic advisor, Elizabeth Smythe, there was significant excitement and anticipation about what the weekend would hold.

The conference hosted by MacEwan, as previously mentioned, was one of the most interesting and well-run local conferences that Concordia's Model United Nations Club (CMUNC) has attended. A weekend filled with diplomacy and debate, negotiation and resolution-writing, our delegates had a truly excellent experience. As Club President and MUN delegate for the past three

years, I can also confidently say that I have never seen so many well-rounded and informed delegations emerge from CMUNC.

Our delegations were tasked with tackling the issue "Global Action on Human Trafficking," which is an incredibly relevant topic in today's global political world. The nature of global human trafficking is one that has no easy solution or simple policy prescription; our delegates were forced to work both diplomatically with other nations, as well as acknowledge the existence of different views and perspectives surrounding the issue. Before the conference began, our delegates were given the opportunity to hear from Karen McRae, the provincial coordinator for the Action Coalition on Human Trafficking, who brought the problem of human trafficking to our doorsteps. Her speech highlighted that the problem really is one that affects EVERY nation and community, including Edmonton. In this truly eye-opening experience, our delegates were forced to reflect upon Canada's "deportation" policy, that victims of human trafficking into our nation are deported, even if that means sending them back to destitution and poverty in a failed state. Following Karen was the Honourable Douglas

Roche, former Senator and Canadian Ambassador to the UN on disarmament, who has authored over 20 books and articles, most on the topic of peace and security. His speech was inspiring; reflecting on the 70th anniversary of the United Nations this year, Honourable Roche challenged us to anticipate a generation of peace and human dignity worldwide, a world that would have to be created and cultivated by our generation.

Once the conference officially opened, our delegates began to flourish. All of the Concordia's opening speeches were delivered by our newest delegates, which was an incredible opportunity and success for all of our delegations. Speeches were so meticulously prepared and well thought out that the Chair of the conference learned quickly that in order to proceed with the conference, all speeches would need to be limited. Our delegates quickly adapted, and streamlined their speeches to adjust to the new time limit. When the conference was in full swing, our delegates were able to partner with our like-minded nations and create resolutions addressing human trafficking on a global scale. Our General Assembly was able to merge 25 working papers into eleven comprehensive resolutions, which were voted on on

Sunday morning. With some resolutions passing, and some resolutions receiving controversy, our delegates were all successful at staying true to their assigned role, and maintained the utmost professional behaviour throughout the entire conference.

The conference, and Model United Nations in general, is an excellent way to experience the world without leaving Alberta. Largely based in research, our delegates get a true understanding of what it means to be a diplomat and to work within the confines of the United Nations to achieve peace and stability globally. Once again, after the conference, I have received overwhelming feedback from our students saying that Model United Nations has changed their lives in some way or another, by giving them confidence they did not have before, by opening their eyes to a world they hardly knew existed, or by challenging their existing dreams and career paths. This in itself is what CMUNC strives for: changing students' lives, while providing an excellent educational opportunity. Welcome to the ranks new delegates, I anticipate great adventures ahead of us! Thank you, I yield my remaining time to the Chair.

THE INNER WORLD OF UN RESOLUTION WRITING

Simone Alaine

Polo

Senior Writer

Over the first weekend of March 2015, MacEwan University hosted a Model United Nations Conference on Human Trafficking which brought together various universities who study throughout Alberta, Concordia included. My colleague, Kelsea Gillespie and I, amongst other members of the student body, attended the conference as Concordia's Model UN – this is why the both of us are writing on this event. That being said, my focus here is on the remarks given by the Keynote Speeches and the technicalities that go into writing resolutions for the UN.

The first of these speeches that we heard was by Karen McRae, the Provincial Coordinator of the Action Coalition on Human Trafficking. Throughout her speech she presented us with an anecdote that is close to home.

Mrs. McRae told us the story of a North Korean woman that managed to escape her country and made her way to China. Once she arrived to China she began to be forced into labor as she tried to get by. Eventually, she was told that she could make far more money than she did in China if she went to Canada – and so, she did. This woman ended up arriving to Canada and was forced into sex trade at a massage parlor which became her prison, for she was forced to stay

there under the threat that if she told anyone, she would be deported. This got to the point that she did try to reach the authorities; her abusers were persecuted, but she was still deported.

With this story, Mrs. McRae went on to challenge some of the ways through which we try to deal with the problem of human trafficking, for they are not victim-supportive, as the story demonstrates. Foreign policies in regards to immigration and refugee status can often present restrictions and challenges for these victims – in fact, our own policies can be used as a threat against victims, as also shown by the story.

The other Keynote Speech was the Honorable Douglas Roche, a former senator and Canadian Ambassador to the UN for Disarmament. His speech consisted of reflections of the UN turning seventy years old and the progress that it has made at developing strong diplomatic relationships amongst Member States. Ultimately, he brought to our attention some of the challenges that are present for the UN now – the issue of terrorism was particularly given an emphasis. In the questions section, one of my fellow delegates at the conference brought out a provocative question worth considering: What constitutes terrorism?

Now, having addressed both of the Keynote Speeches, I would like to talk a bit about what I've learned in regards to policy and resolution writing in my time at the conference.

I believe that these emulated interactions between delegations representing different countries do, in fact, give an insight into how international relationships play a role on the language and the strength of the policies that are made in General Council of the UN.

In the introductory speeches, exposition was central. Upon carefully listening to what each delegation had to say, I was able to pick up much of their general stance upon these issues and their relationships with each other. One of these particular moments was when the whole room ended up gasping was when Argentina called out the US on some problems they have been having with each other. Much of the content of these speeches helped establish the environment that we would have to work through. As the speeches went on, notes began to be passed on to countries trying to negotiate their work on resolutions together as they began to see themselves fit to work with one another.

My colleague Miranda Coleman, current story editor of The Bolt, and I were representing The People's Republic of China, so from our experience, we had a certain reluctance in working with resolutions that imposed operative claims against State Sovereignty. Here is where the language of the resolutions became crucial.

The following operative clauses we had to be attentive

about: accepts, adopts, approves, authorizes, decides, declares, designates, and instructs. The use of these words often lead to a clause of resolution that could potentially force something upon a country, thus raising further issues. More often than not, the resolutions that worked with focused on using more neutral operative clauses to ensure the comfort, the participation, and the acceptance of the resolution by a vast variety of countries.

Ultimately, it was through negotiation and finding common grounds that these resolutions were formulated. We had to research the work already done by the UN and individual countries to have some backing to what we were working with, as well as to ensure that we are not doing work that has been completely done in our resolution. Some very particular delegations stood out in terms of preparation, having understood much of the work that had been already done.

Once that the resolutions were up for debate, each resolution would be presented by sponsor, then two countries would defend it and two would attack it. The process in it of itself managed to bring up interesting points for further resolutions to improve upon the one's we had worked on. By the end of the vote, the conference was over.

The Model United Nations conference was a fantastic experience; I must say that I cannot way to do more work in the Model UN.

ONE MORE APPLE TO ADD TO THE TREE

Blake
Novak
Business

Exciting times are upon us! After years of speculation, rumour, and mimicry, the company, which managed to bring smart technology into the forefront of the public mind, has finally decided to commit itself to the idea of offering a smart watch. On March 9th, 2015, Apple CEO Tim Cook revealed to the world that Apple would begin producing and selling the 'Apple Watch' (because apparently calling it the iWatch would have been too predictable) for commercial use in April 2015.

With April nearly upon us, many of us are wondering if it would be worth the trouble to throw our entire tax refund into purchasing a miniature smartphone that can only be operated with one hand. Well, relax. I am here to tell you whether or not this will be game changer for Apple, as a company, and the technology world in general.

First off, lets figure out what the Apple Watch is. I have heard people calling it the "iPod watch", much like how people called the iPad just a "large iPod". While many features are derived from the iPod, the Apple Watch has more to it than what

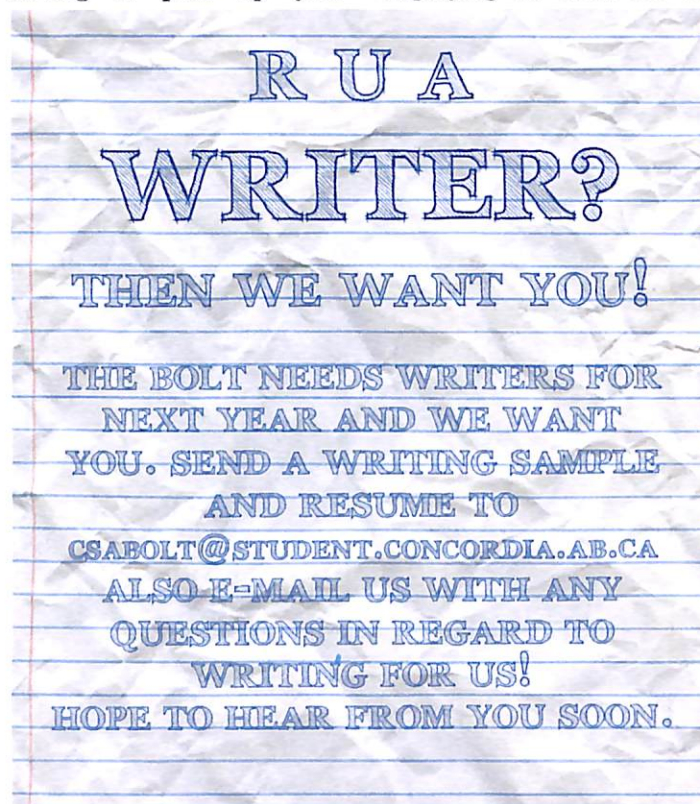
was expected. To start, it is a watch. It connects to your phone through Bluetooth, allowing it to be set to international standard time, and will always be accurate. So no more need to look at your phone when you need to know the time. Additionally, there are many sections of the phone, which can be accessed using the special rotating dial. Other sections include; moon phase, timer, calendar, stocks, weather, activity (health), stopwatch, world clock, and sunrise/sunset. Quick access to all of that information without having to pick up your

phone. Additionally, there are a wide variety of apps to add functionality to the watch. Maps will display navigation, making it less likely that you will be asking for directions; while the pictures app will display your most recent pictures from your albums. Numerous health apps will monitor everything from steps in a day to heart rate. There are even apps to share this information with your doctor to provide accurate up-to-date data.

All in all, the watch can do many things aside from displaying the time, but the

question is now whether you will buy one. To an early adopter such as myself, I would be standing in line on launch day if I didn't pay for tuition this year. Which brings into question the price of the device. As this is the newest product added to the Apple product line up, it also brings the largest range in pricing for any device. The base Apple Watch Sport model is \$349, while the 18k gold plated Apple Watch Edition model goes as high as \$17,000. This may start out as a shocking figure, but in the grand scheme of luxury items, it's actually on par. A Rolex watch runs for \$20,000, and it only tells time. And the Hermes Birkin bags start at \$18,000, and that is the introductory model. While I'm sure that every student will not go for the Watch Edition model, we can all get over the high price that they came with.

For the average consumer, I would suggest heading down to your local Best Buy or Apple store to test the device for yourself. Apple has changed how we use our phones, made the iPad a necessary tool for education, and altered how we listen to music. I'm putting my money on this being another innovation that will impact our everyday lives and I can't wait till their official launch on April 24th.



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