

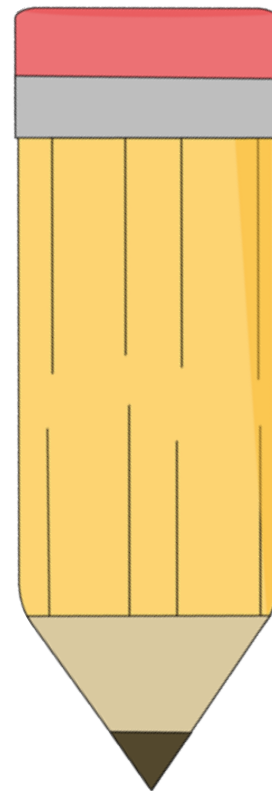
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# THE BOLT NEWS

## WELCOME BACK CONCORDIA



### Inside:

UNIVERSITY TIPS - A collection of articles featuring advice for making the most of your university experience from our writers and editing team.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT - Concordia student Joel Dinicola talks about his journey from Drama 149 to the Edmonton Fringe Festival.

AND MORE:

# WELCOME TO CONCORDIA!

Hello everyone and welcome to Concordia University of Edmonton! I'm Nick Clark, the Editor-in-Chief of The Bolt: our student news publication. If you're returning to Concordia this year, you probably know all about The Bolt and everything that's going to be going on over the next while to kick off the year. If you're new this year however, this issue is full of information for you!

As you've probably noticed, Concordia is a pretty small school (though it's growing more every year), so whether you're transferring from another institution or this is your first year of university, we have some tips to help you make the best of your time here.

At larger schools it can be easy to feel like you're just a number or a face in the crowd of a lecture hall. The professor might not remember you from one day to the next and if you have questions, they can go unanswered sometimes. It's not like that here.

My first piece of advice to you is to get to know your professors and let them get to know you. If they know who you are, what you're like, and what it is you're hoping to accomplish by coming to university, they can help you a lot more effectively than if they just have to guess. This might seem obvious, but it's easy to forget the resources you have available to you when you're already overwhelmed with assignments and homework to do.

My next suggestion is to evaluate your studying techniques as soon as possible. I know the way I studied in highschool certainly didn't translate all that well to university classes when I first started and it took me a while to figure out what the problem was; it wasn't comprehension or volume of information, it was figuring out what to study in

the first place. If you're the same way I was, you may find this helpful: in class, don't stress out over copying notes from the slides at the front of the room or rush to take down a professor's words verbatim. That's going to give you a lot of information that's not only going to be difficult to remember, it will also make it difficult to determine which parts were important. Instead, use your class time to listen carefully and think about what the important parts of the lecture are. As you get deeper into the year, you'll start reviewing certain topics. Once you start reviewing, use your class time to make a note of the topics you know and the ones that need more work, then use that information to prioritize your study time later.

That's a good segue into my next tip: READ AHEAD. If you can consistently know what's coming up next in class and have a general handle on the subject before the professor begins to teach it, it will be a lot easier to keep up. You won't have to scramble to take down little bits and pieces of information and you won't be forced to stay up late every night playing catch up with the textbook. Plus, you'll get the added bonus of being able to say, "Yes I did the reading" when the professor asks. That will make them like you and that is something you definitely want.

Good relationships with your professors can help you a lot. It starts with getting to know them and continues with being a good student by keeping up with reading and putting in a worthy effort. How does it end though? It goes beyond trying to get your professors to like you so they'll give you better grades. You might find that your teachers are very connected people and if they see you as someone reliable, who works hard, and knows how to get along with others, their connections might become your connections, whether that be in the form of an internship, a foot in the door during an interview for a job, or even a good letter of recommendation. Besides all

Haunted House" is by far the shortest and fastest on the album. With lightning-quick lyrics that display Homme's immense vocal prowess, this track certainly packs a punch. Throughout this number, the ever-present synth maintains the sinister tone. This is perhaps the best song on the album, but who can say for sure?

### Track 6: Un-Reborn Again

This track certainly contains a trademark Queens Of The Stone Age bass groove that is omnipresent throughout. With strange, surreal lyrics and the use of horn instruments towards the end, this makes for an interesting song.

### Track 7: Hideaway

This is the second slower paced song on the album, however it doesn't quite hold up to "Fortress" in my opinion. It accomplishes to uphold the dark vibe of the rest of the tracks, but on the whole is a bit boring next to the rest of the pieces on the album.

### Track 8: The Evil Has Landed

Oh boy does this song rock. As the second single on *Villains* this song definitely holds up when put side by side with "Like The Way You Used To Do." Methodical and driven, it's easy to tell that this song is headed somewhere spectacular, and it certainly is. Between Homme's vocals and short guitar solos the song is held tightly together by the drums and bass. And then right as it seems like the song has come to an end Josh Homme slowly announces, "here we come." The band then launches into a twenty second high tempo burst to a completion that is reminiscent of "No One Loves Me, And Neither Do I" by Them Crooked Vultures, another one of Homme's musical endeavors including John Paul Jones of Led Zeppe-

lin and Dave Grohl of Nirvana and the Foo Fighters; an absolutely sublime ending to this track.

### Track 9: Villains of Circumstance

The beginning of the final track focuses mainly on the vocals and simplistic guitar that both maintain the surreal and eerie "emerging out of a fog" ambiance. The song then picks up as more instruments are introduced and the chorus feels almost like it could be out of a Muse song (not a bad thing) while still maintaining a distinct QOTSA flavour. The ending of the song turns quite dark, ominous, and theatrical sounding, extremely similar to the majority of the final tracks on their other albums such as "The Mosquito Song" from *Songs For The Deaf*.

Overall, this is a great album that effectively maintains a common feel throughout the entirety of the song selection and a record that holds up extremely well compared to the rest of Queens Of The Stone Age's previous titles. It's probably a 7/10 rating from me.



# “VILLAINS” FROM STONE AGE KEEPING MODERN ROCK ALIVE: AN ALBUM REVIEW

by Kohan L. Eybergen

On August 25th, 2017, modern rock veterans Queens Of The Stone Age released their seventh studio album titled *Villains*, their first album since 2013. As modern rock has been on a downward spiral towards soft alternative-folk-pop crap since Mumford and his bearded Sons released their first album, Queens Of The Stone Age have been one of the few bands still keeping the spirit of rock & roll in alternative music. Their 2013 album *Like Clockwork* hit hard with tracks like “My God Is The Sun” and “Smooth Sailing,” songs that remind listeners of frontman and guitarist Josh Homme’s stoner desert rock past. However, QOTSA’s latest release, *Villains*, goes in another direction for the band, yet is still recognizably an album with their style and flavour all over it.

## Track 1: Feet Don’t Fail Me

The first track on the album begins with a slow and ominous intro. The first noises heard are faint strange scraping guitar sounds followed by eerie synth and Josh Homme’s ambient vocals, which effectively sets the dark tone of the album. The intro is then followed by a fast-paced dance-like bass line and metronomic drums. The synth continues in the background of the song, maintaining the eerie feeling of the track. The quiet bridge contrasts drastically to the quicker paced groove of the rest of the song, while Homme’s

vocals are almost Bowie smooth. This is an excellent beginning track to kick off an album.

## Track 2: Like The Way You Used To Do

As the band’s first single off of the album, this track really kicks a lot of ass for a radio-friendly tune. Beginning abruptly with the main guitar riff, this song lets the listener know early on that they’re in for a ride. About halfway through the track, the instruments go into a syncopation that instills unease and anticipation. Closer to the end of the song, there is what I can only describe as a classic QOTSA silent instrument pause, followed by a very cool guitar burst. The track then ends with the driving guitar riff and a strange synth outro that leads into the next song.

## Track 3: Domesticated Animals

A short, unsettling intro kicks this one off, shortly followed by Josh Homme’s somewhat staggered lyrics. The irregular time signature of the song (7/8 I believe) further reinforces the eeriness of the album, and Homme’s haunting vocals add to the feel as well; an excellent yet unique song.

## Track 4: Fortress

This song also is preceded by an otherworldly synth intro. By far the slowest and calmest track on the album, it is definitely one of the best ones with some of the most meaningful lyrics, in my opinion: “If your fortress is under siege, you can always run to me,” “If ever your fortress caves, you’re always safe in mine,” Homme assures. This is certainly a vocal based track on an album full of quicker tempo songs.

## Track 5: Head Like A Haunted House

Speaking of faster tempo songs, “Head Like A

that, getting along with people is a good way to go through life in general so try not to be too shy when you can, you never know who you’ll meet.

My final piece of advice comes to you from a great deal of my own personal experience. Eat lunch. This one is something I’m still working on. I don’t think I’ve eaten lunch at school in a year and a half and trust me when I say: food helps you stay awake! Coffee may be the water from the spring of life itself but its powers are limited when it comes to sustaining you for a whole day. Even a quick snack half way through your day will keep you from having your eyes glaze over during your last class and forgetting everything you talked about in it. You’ll probably find that you have a handful of professors that even don’t mind if you eat during class as long as you’re not disturbing

anyone. That said, there’s always someone who shamelessly brings a tuna sandwich or a bucket of egg salad into class and forces everyone to endure it with them as soon as they crack the seal; don’t be that person if you can help it. Apples, oranges, bananas, and trail mix are your friend.

Well that’s about all I have to advise you on for the time being. I hope your first week goes well and that you have a great rest of the year to follow it up!

The Bolt releases a print edition bi-weekly so check back later in the month for the next issue. If you’re interested in writing for us, either send us an email to [csabolt@student.concordia.ab.ca](mailto:csabolt@student.concordia.ab.ca) and let us know or fill out the form on the back page of this edition and bring it down to our office in L279 (that’s in the library).

# MEMOIR OF A FOURTH YEAR STUDENT

by Taylor Jevning

Every time a new school year comes around I see myself and my classmates filled with a combination of emotions ranging from stress and anxiety to optimism and motivation. Getting back into the swing of assignments, deadlines, and tests is no easy feat, but looking back on the semester when it is over is a reminder that not only are we capable of finishing the huge amount of work that lies ahead of us, but we are capable of doing it well. There is no better feeling than getting your grades back and feeling a sense of accomplishment. As I go into my last year of university, I thought my first article of the year should involve sharing with the incoming first years (or anyone else who needs the advice) what I have learned through my experience of being a university student these last few years.

My first piece of advice is to tap into that initial feeling of motivation and utilize it before it fades away. Take the first week of school to check the syllabus and put all of your assignments down into either the calendar on your phone or an agenda. I learned the hard way in my first year that the professors in university will never mention due dates to you, so the first weeks of school are a great opportunity to check out which weeks are going to be the most stressful during the semester. This will give you some idea of how to spread out your workload so that, throughout the year, you don't get bogged down by too many assignments being due at the same time. Planning efficiently is one of the simplest ways you can ensure success this semester.

Secondly, make an effort to actually finish your assignments before they're due. The best time to take

your notes, do those small assignments, and finish all your minor homework is now--before you have to shift your focus on essays, projects, and presentations. During one of my philosophy classes, I neglected to do the small one-page assignments that were due throughout the year, and they all built up until the end of the semester when I had too many major assignments to actually complete the smaller ones. Altogether, they were worth fifteen percent of my grade, and while that may not seem like much, the few assignments I got zeroes on added up and made the difference between a 3.7 and a 4.0. If I would've completed them sooner, not only would I have understood the course material better due to the prior knowledge, but I would've been able to significantly increase my grade. This holds true for many classes. Procrastination is one habit that I've struggled to kill during my university career, but by harnessing that beginning-of-semester boost of energy, you should be able to make the semester less stressful by a long shot.

My last piece of advice was something that took me until my last year to figure out. University may seem like it takes forever, but as I enter my final year, I can't help but wish I had a little more time to focus on my friendships and enjoy myself. Time goes too quickly to spend all of your time stressing about assignments and class. One of the biggest things that helped me succeed was focusing a lot of my time into building good, strong friendships and having fun. Going to Concordia events, making plans with friends on the weekend, and hanging out between classes is a great way to improve your university experience, to keep your happiness and mental health a priority, and to make sure you have a good support system in place during the hard times. University is stressful, especially if you are an athlete, have a job, or do other extracurricular activities. There is always time for friendship and, if I've learned anything from my incredible group of friends, I wouldn't be able to do this without them.

# 3, 2, 1... SCHOOL IS BACK!

by Allison Crawford

Well it is that time of year again where we as students begin to freak out and panic that the school year is about to begin. Unless, that is, you are excited to see your friends and academic peers again, maybe even a few favourite professors. For me personally, I can't remember the last time I was truly ecstatic to go back to school (though I do have to admit that I do geek out a bit, enthusiastically anticipating certain classes I am enrolled in). I too slowly count down the remaining dog days of summer with remorse.

Now going back to school isn't as bad as it really seems. It may seem like a big dog with a big bite, but in reality this big dog only has a little bite. This is because humans are creatures of habit and do not like change, so returning to a fall routine after

months of lazy summer days seems horrible. Once we begin to get in the groove of things though, it really isn't as bad as what we make it out to be.

As for the remaining dog days of summer...well, summer technically does not end until the beginning of the fall equinox which is Friday, September 22nd. So instead of moping around due to the beginning of the school year (if you still think it is the end of the world that summer break is over), I would recommend for you to take a calendar and lay it out on the table for some visual representation. Here you can begin to plan your last few summer adventures before the season is over-- before you become overwhelmed with tasks, assignments, and tests that inevitably come with the fall semester. If you need some inspiration, don't look far, there are plenty of things to do within the city. Consider checking out [ExploreEdmonton.com](http://ExploreEdmonton.com); you'll find a list of current and ongoing events in the city there. So whether your last summer jaunts are within the city or outside it, I hope you make the most of it. If university is killing you already, take comfort in knowing that reading week is only within an arm's length or two (November 13-17).

**Club Fair**  
**Sept. 14th-15th**  
**Lower Tegner**  
**11am - 1pm**

Concordia Students' Association  
 Our CSA Association

# ACROSS THE UNIVERSE: MY SEMESTER ABROAD

by Emma Bott

Concordia provides a lot of opportunities for its students to go abroad to study or do internships. We have quite a few partner universities all over the world: Nigeria, China, India, Japan, Thailand, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Columbia. Concordia's website provides information about these options to study abroad, and our international office makes getting that information even easier. Concordia also has international internship programs that take place in Washington DC, the Washington Center and Smithsonian Internship Program. For more information on those programs, you can go to the career services team.

The international opportunity that Concordia provided that I chose to take was the Washington Center. The Washington Center is a program that takes place in Washington DC. Participants go to an internship four days a week. They also take an evening class. On Fridays, participants take part in different seminars and listen to different speakers. The program can be either ten or fifteen weeks depending on the time of year you go.

When I first came to Concordia, I never planned on going away for a semester. One of the really cool things about Concordia is that the staff is so helpful in preparing you for your semester away. Going to another country for a semester alone is scary and nerve-wracking, but they give you any information they have that will help and will even

put you in contact with other students that have already done what you're about to embark on.

Washington was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I learned so much, and I met so many people, many of which I am still in contact with. I met people in the field of law; it was an experience that has really made me think about my future. I was able to sight-see so much during my time which provided me with so many once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Of course, it wasn't always easy; there were some really difficult parts. Like when my phone stopped working; thank goodness for AppleCare.

One of the coolest parts about these international options are the people you meet. You learn so much from talking to them and with social media, you can stay connected to them and continue learning. There is however, one downside to having friends everywhere: when something terrible happens in the news--as is common these days--you will worry, like in the case of the riots in Virginia over the statue of Confederate General, Robert E. Lee.

So, my advice to incoming students is to consider your opportunities. There are probably things you've never even considered doing but, if it sounds interesting, at least think about it. Not just for one nanosecond, really consider it. It might just change your life, as corny as that sounds. I would also highly recommend travelling during your education! You learn so much. It is also a great resume-booster in this globalized world.

I will be giving a presentation later in the semester on about my experience at the Washington Center if this is a program you want to hear more about.



Regardless of what advice I give, we all have our struggles and successes to look forward to in the upcoming year. One thing we can all look forward to is the awesome environment Concordia provides to make friends, get our work done, and hopefully make it through this school year in one piece. I'm officially starting to look forward to the nerves that come from the first week of school for what's likely to be the last time in my life (thank the Lord), and I hope you all feel the same. Make sure to pay attention to your assignments and speak to your teachers about their expectations of you for this year. Your relationship with your teacher and your ability to be accountable can make or break your year. Start your

coursework early and give yourself a break to clear your head for those essays that are coming far too soon. Don't forget about your friends and keep your head on straight, because if I've learned anything from being here for over three years now, you can't be all about school all the time. Finding that balance between school, work, and friendship is difficult, but by setting boundaries early, you can easily get started on the right foot.

Lastly, I'm looking forward to getting back to school and getting to go through this next school year with all of you by my side. I wish you all the best of luck this year and if you need a familiar face or someone to talk to, I live at the school, so drop by and say hi!



**May 2018**

Peru Mission Trip

Registration Opens From: September 6, 2017 - December 1, 2017

Contact: Adrianna Blitterswyk at [ccu@student.concordia.ab.ca](mailto:ccu@student.concordia.ab.ca) for more information.

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# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: JOEL DINICOLA

by Macalan B-J

Joel Dinicola wrote, directed, and co-produced a musical titled “Conventional Musical” this past August at the Edmonton Fringe Festival. This is his story.

**Macalan: How did you meet the composer?**

Joel: I met Preston in Drama 149 in Caroline Haworth’s class. We did our final project together, and we made into a musical with a couple other people in 2014. It was skeleton-scripted: we wrote the songs and then improvised for all the parts in between. It kind of had the bones for what “Conventional Musical” turned into. It was kind of postmodern, kind of nudging and winking at the audience the whole time. And then he approached me after that and asked if I wanted to actually write something rather than just improvising and I said yes. I’ve always wanted to write a musical; he’s good at music, and I’m an okay writer.

**Was the Edmonton Fringe always plan A?**

Yes, the plan was always to write it for one act festivals and, if it went well, modify it for the Fringe the following year. And we agreed that it did, so we decided to move forward with it. So there were really three steps to this. First it was the skeleton script, then it turned into “Apathy” that was put on a Caroline’s Carnival, and finally “Conventional Musical.”

**What have been the biggest changes from “Apathy” to “Conventional Musical”?**

“Apathy” had a lot more to do with apathy and the

whole millennial Aesthetic and energy and not really caring about world events or about our own lives. In “Conventional Musical,” that was shed less for theme and more for jokes about breaking the fourth wall and musicals themselves.

**What was Concordia’s role in the production?**

Concordia has been totally instrumental to the dramaturgy and the production in general: they’ve let us rent their space, they have given us professional insight, and Randy Ritz and Caroline Haworth have given me tips and encouragement to actually pursue putting it in the Fringe. Concordia has been absolutely necessary for this production. Concordia gave me space to make mistakes and create things in a low-pressure environment, which I think is very important for creators of art. Artists need to be able to fail safely so you can then learn how to succeed.

**In “Apathy” you had a very different cast than in “Conventional Musical”. Did that help to evolve the show?**

A different cast? Yeah, I think so. There are quite a few differences within the characters and, obviously, two actors are not going to play a character the same way at all. I think that if we had retained a majority of the cast, there would have been threads that remained from “Apathy” that might have strengthened it, yet might’ve not been what I wanted. Having a fresh set of eyes to look at this new version was positive. I feel like the roots are the same but the leaves are a lot different, so having new actors to water those leaves is nice.

**You’re not in a class, you’re at The Fringe. What’s that like?**

Yeah, it does feel a lot more high-risk. I try to remind myself that it’s still low-stakes: if we fail, we get a bad review and we can move on. The chal-

lenges of classes versus the real world is like administrative problems. Keeping communication lines open with The Fringe Administration, meeting deadlines--it is reminiscent of meeting deadlines for classes, but in classes you do a lot more fun kind of creative work. You get to do deep dives into characters and things like that. You still do that on your own time here, it’s just that getting the sheets signed and getting the posters made in time is scarier and kind of more boring. Yeah, I like the artistic side; it’s more interesting, but both are necessary.

**What advice would you give to a freshman writer/director?**

Just write. You’re not going to make something good for a long time. Lots of writers say that. Lin-Manuel Miranda is active on twitter saying just how much you have to write before you get something good and I think that’s definitely true. Don’t be afraid of putting on the things that are mediocre because, during those processes, you learn so much more by doing rather than theorizing. Directing is like spinning plates: trying to get the art department, the actors, and the stage management on the same page. You’re the facilitator they all have to go through and you can’t know what that’s like until you’re actually doing it.

