

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something."

- Thomas Henry Huxley

EXAM TIME! TIME TO BUCKLE DOWN...



RE-EVALUATION TIME?



The semester is nearly over, and Christmas break is on G the way. This

JOSIAH KOENIG CAREER SERVICES may be a good time for some of you to re-evaluate your career and academic goals. Sometimes, when you're in the middle of a semester, it is difficult to accurately evaluate your progress toward your goals. When the essays are beginning to pile high, and when you didn't end up doing so well on that midterm, you may feel like the academic sky is falling and that you want to switch academic paths or drop out entirely (which is not always a good idea). But now you have the winter break. Now you can sit in your big comfy chair next to that warm artificial fireplace and do some thinking about your goals. Firstly, a liberal

arts education is important for attaining a well-paid job and for gaining a broader perspective of the world. I have hit that nail on the head multiple times throughout these articles, so I won't say much more about that here. Basically, do not make an emotionally driven and rash decision by dropping out of school—not everyone can be a Bill Gates-drop out.

Continued On Page 4



Comment/? Concern/? Article/? Idea/? Tell U/!

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concordia.bolt@ gmail.com

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Around the School

MICHAEL COREN: AN INVITATION TO DEBATE



T h e Concordia Philosophy C l u b sponsored a presentation on heresy

STAFF WRITER in Tegler on Friday, November 16. Coren, a native of Britain, is a TV show host, radio personality, journalist, and author. He spoke on topics in his newest book Heresy: 10 Lies They Spread About Christianity. The presentation was part of the 7th annual "Love Live Conference" held in Concordia's auditorium over the weekend.

During the presentation in Tegler, Coren expressed his views on Christianity and brought to light many issues Christians deal with in regards to their faith. He stated,"if you are in any way a good, decent Christian, you will have been attacked. If you have stood up for your faith, in any way, you will have been attacked. If you haven't, you're not doing your job properly." Coren explains that Christians are not Christian because it is easy, but because it is what is right. He believes that to be a good Christian is to experience hardship, just like

everyone else.

Coren uses the popular question 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' to help explain his point. Coren mentioned that "belief in Christ doesn't guarantee a good life, it guarantees a perfect afterlife... this is a question for the materialist."

In my opinion, Coren brings up a number of key points that many Christians and non-Christians run into. He uses Heresy: 10 Lies They Spread About Christianity to help everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike, to better understand a few of these issues and possibly clarify some misconceptions about the faith. After his presentation, Coren took a number of questions from the audience. These are just two of those questions posed to him.

Q: Modern Christian apologetics. Should it be kind and gentle, or rough and hard-edged?

A: I don't know if they're mutually exclusive. G.K. Chesterton said, "There's no contradiction between being funny and serious. It's like contrasting a shape with a colour." [Your approach will]

We at The Bolt would like to thank

INSTANT DIGITAL

depend on the circumstances.

Q: What do you mean by 'lies'? [In regards to the title of his book]

A: An untruth, something that isn't true. Not an opinion. When you've been given the truth about a fact and continue to spread a lie, there may not been an intent to deceive, but it's still a lie. I believe there are different aspects of what constitutes a lie. Coren's presentation sparked many conversations throughout the rest of the day and into the weekend. He left those in attendance on Friday afternoon with just as many questions as they came in with and even more opinions. One of Coren's most poignant statements, "It's not an argument against Christianity, it's an argument revealing the fallen nature of humanity," was a popular discussion point after the presentation. Both of Michael Coren's books can be found in the Concordia library.

Comments? Questions? Outrage? Please submit something to the Bolt for publication! concordia.bolt@ gmail.com OR Write on our Facebook Wall!



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AROUND THE SCHOOL POETRY LOOKOUT WITH RACHEL

THE ILLEST ODE BY: ERNST

Oh, how I love to be ill! Eyes puffed, nose stuffed, All brought on against the will. Wake up to vomit; All your vile fluids spill Into a porcelain frame, A mosaic of what caused you pain, And window to future relief of grief. Oh, how I love to be ill! A steady stream of empathy. People waiting on me relentlessly, But in good health I'm alone. Dinner dates people postpone, They fathom that I'll be here tomorrow, As if each day weren't something one borrows.

Oh, how I love to be ill! Nothing like being ill! Nothing like illness. To revive the spirit Of what it means to be well. For living is mundane, banal, I dream to be green like the hulk! Sickness brings me out of sulk

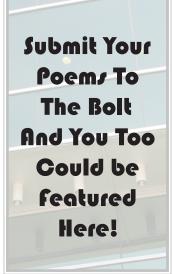
Oh, how I love to be ill! It's the yin yang of life. As a Shadow cannot exist without light— Good health cannot exist without strife. Oh, how I long to be ill, I need it to restore my will.



Ernst is a second year philosophy major. His main aspiration is to attempt to save the world,

RACHEL WHIPPLE STAFF WRITER

and he hopes to devise a way to serve the common good. He has lots of fun at his day job, which is coaching competitive snowboarding at Rabbit Hill. Ernst is quite popular around campus and has quite the sense of humour. Being sick is something that no one enjoys. Unfortunately, most of us do come down with some type of illness this time of year. Ernst took a subject that is generally viewed as bad and put it in a brighter light. He wanted to present a different perspective on illness or maybe have people get excited about being sick. Ernst was inspired to write this poem while sitting in a medical clinic waiting to have blood taken. Coincidentally, he caught a cold right after this visit, which gave him an opportunity to embrace the message he was writing. The poem's unique rhyme scheme and brisk meter displays Ernst's vision of this poem being chanted in a tavern. The message is all about the idea of yin and yang, black and white, good and bad—there must be one to balance the other. Ernst illustrates that "illness allows us to appreciate the times we are healthy."



SHOPPING AND GIFT IDEAS FOR CHEAP!



It's that time of year again. This is a time for snowball fights, tree decorating,

and gift giving.

Tony Wong Staff Writer

I think I can relate to all of you out there when I say that the budget is tight this year (as it is for most students). So here are some cost cutting tips and

gift ideas that won't leave you scraping the bank account.

<u>Zellers</u>

It's no secret that Zellers is going out of business. Those who are patient enough should take a look at the Kingsway Zellers when it goes out of business (which it will have already by the time this issue hits newsstands). You will be able to get some stupid-cheap stuff, from toys to movies, at a very good discount ranging from 30%-50% off. Best get on that as soon as you can as you won't be the only person looking for a good value.

Gift Cards

I know you're thinking that Gift Cards are a copout gift. Well, as a student I can safely say that not everyone has the same amount of time as the regular Joe out there to go shopping when students could be studying or writing essays. But, as a student, if I got a gift card, I think I would totally take advantage of it. As an added bonus, iTunes Cards, which can be used to buy not just Apps, but music, movies, and TV shows, are frequently on sale at 20% off at a variety of retail outlets.

Continued On Page 5

CAREER SERVICES

TIME FOR THAT MID-YEAR CHECK

Continued from Page 1 Changing your academic path, however, may be a more suitable solution for attaining your goals. For example, I may decide to switch from a philosophy degree to a social work degree, because I feel that my future career will be centered around working with people on a deeper emotional level. If you are considering switching degrees, I don't recommend doing that until you have done a little research to make sure that this is the best course of action for you. For myself, I am going to make sure to do more social work volunteering to see if that is really what I want to do. I recommend getting academic advice before you make any major changes. Doreen Kooy, the Career Services Administrator, has many excellent resources that can help students rediscover their interests, and she has been working with students concerning academic and career goals for many years, so she has lots of experience. Now, get cozy in that chair next to the fire, do some thinking, and ask for some advice. Let's work together to rediscover your

academic and career goals so we can find the academic path that works best for you. Also, register on the Career Portal to get updates on employment and volunteer opportunities (careerportal.concordia.ab.ca), and stop by the office to have your resume critiqued. Have a great Christmas break.

JANUARY EVENTS	Date and Time					
Graduating Seminar	Tues. Jan. 8; Wed. Jan. 10 , 4:30-6:00 PM					
Interviewing for Grad Studies	Thurs. Jan, 17, 4:30-6:00 PM					
Networking Toward Employment	Wed. Jan. 23, 4:30-6:00 PM					
Networking Toward Employment	Thurs. Jan. 24, 4:30-6:00 PM					

The Career Services office is located in the Library (L265). The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm. To see Doreen please make an appointment by coming in person, or by using one of the following methods:

Email: Doreen.kooy@concordia.ab.ca; careerservices@concordia.ab.ca

Phone: 780.378.8461

The Concordia Concert Choir Presents

JLORIA!

With Guests: Early Music Ensemble La Folia And Alvin Lowry, (ткимрет), & Alyssa Miller, (овое) SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2012 at 3 PM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 10014-81 AVENUE

Tickets: \$15 for Adults and \$12 for Students & Seniors @ Tix on the Square, Concordia Student Accounts or at the door.



VIDEO GAME MOVIE WILL WARM YOUR HEART



Tony Wong Staff Writer

storytelling with real life video game references. With all the advertising for the movie from word of mouth alone, you would have to be living under a rock if you haven't heard of this movie.

This week's

Wreck-it

Disney video

game hybrid

that mixes in

Disnev-style

is

the

review

Ralph,

Wreck-it Ralph stars video game villain Ralph (John C. Reilly) on the eve of the 30th anniversary of his arcade game, "Fix it Felix Jr." Tired of being the bad guy in his game, Ralph decides to journey to the other games in the arcade to find a way to prove that he is the hero. In leaving his own game, Ralph unwittingly causes his own game, "Fix it Felix Jr.," to go haywire with the possibility of the game getting unplugged. Fix it Felix Jr. (Jack McBraye), from the game of

the same name, must travel to the other games searching for Ralph. Along the way they meet up with a newcomer to the arcade, Sergeant Calhoun (Jane Lynch) of "Hero's Duty." After bringing the evil bugs from "Hero's Duty" to the Mario Kart-esque racer game, "Sugar Rush," Ralph unwillingly befriends a quirky racer named Vanellope Von Schweetz (Sarah Silverman). Ralph must work together with Vanellope to not only prove that he is a hero, but also to save his own game and the rest of the arcade from the Cy-bug threat.

This movie was an absolute treat to watch. The main reason I wanted to see this movie was because of the marriage of a plethora of video games into one media. Never have we seen a combination like this since *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*? with Disney and Warner Bros. The best part of the amalgamation of these video game characters in one movie is that all the characters keep their original personalities (for the most part). Zengif is more or less evil, even though his original backstory isn't the same. Everything about this movie is exactly what you expect if you have seen the trailer. Not only that, but Disney has found a way to make it still acceptable for the average child audience, with plenty of childish references, while still making the movie acceptable to the adult moviegoer, with little bits and pieces of gaming history.



The acting is what you can expect here. What really

surprised me was how much I enjoyed Sarah Silverman's acting. As a personal decision, I just don't like her as an actor, and I find her really annoying and loud. That being said, her role as Vanellope was just right. That character really got up in your grill and made you want to slap her, but because it is a kid's game, that would be impossible. Actor cameos are up the wazoo in Wreck-it Ralph, and Alan Tudyk (of "Firefly" fame) couldn't resist the crazy role of King Candy in Sugar Rush Racer. Tudyk really brought a lot of his trademark dynamic flare to the Sugar Rush level, which really helped the humor of the movie overall.

Wreck-it Ralph is a treasure trove of video game references. Even if you are not a gamer, there is still plenty of content in this movie to enjoy with feel good moments peppered in at the right spots. This is a movie that you should not miss.

MORE GREAT SHOPPING IDEAS! JUST IN TIME!

Continued From Page 3

<u>eBay</u>

While the quality of eBay may be questionable, if you are looking to save a chunk of money, then eBay is your best friend. Some key words you should be looking for are OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) or NIB (New In Box). Both of these tags on eBay mean that the item you are bidding on will be brand new and not an infamous Chinese knockoff of what you were looking for.

<u>Groupon</u>

Groupon is a social crowdsourcing coupon web service, which provides some stupid-cheap deals on some really good places. How it works is a company will post a deal that they are willing to offer onto Groupon. Users then vote on the offer. If enough people vote on it, then the deal comes into existence. Here is an example of what you can actually get on the Groupon service as of the writing of this article: I bought a \$30 tea package from Cha Island Tea Co. for \$14. How is that for savings?

Set up a Secret Santa

Do you have a small group of friends? Well, instead of getting a gift for every single person, set up a secret Santa within your clique. While you're at it, set up a maximum price limit to the gift exchange. This way you will be able to get one really good gift rather than several hastily bought gifts while keeping the giving spirit alive.

Well there you have it: a few suggestions of how to shop smart, and save money and time this season. Happy shopping everyone!

ENTERTAINMENT

CONCORDIA SYMPHONY PERFORMS



On Sunday, November 18th, Concordia's Symphony Orchestra performed

RACHEL WHIPPLE their concert STAFF WRITER entitled Romantic Reflections. featured twelve-year-old Τt violinist, Gabrielle Despres; director, artistic Dr. Joy Berg; and conductor, David Hoyt. The pieces played were "Egmont Overture (Opus 84) composed by Ludwig van Beethoven, Violin Concerto in E Minor composed by Felix Mendelssohn, and Symphony No.3 in E-flat Major (Opus 97) "Rhenish" composed by Robert Schumann. The music was engaging and had a romantic allure—it was impactful and exciting just as romance should be. At times, it was like listening to a soft lullaby. The orchestra sounded phenomenal as they followed Gabrielle, building suspense and adding emphasis. Sometimes the performance appeared to be a joyous conversation between the solo violin and the rest of the orchestra.

Gabrielle was focused, brilliant, and extremely skillful. Her talent mesmerized the audience, and during her solo all eyes we fixed on her fantastic playing. She appeared angelic as she played and looked elegant beyond her years in a beautiful, long, black dress. After the concert she was welcomed with two bouquets of flowers and

H'IIN ANI

lots of applause.

Gabrielle has performed in violin master classes and has won several awards in numerous festival and competitions over the last seven years. She is an extremely bright individual and serious student—she received the highest score in Alberta for the Canadian National Mathematics League contest.

David Hoyt conducted with much energy and enthusiasm. He explained the pieces very well before each to help the audience understand and interpret what they were listening to. The orchestra responded to Hoyt well and he seemed very connected with his musicians.

The concert was a great success with much praise

from the audience and a seemingly flawless performance. Concordia's School of Music has many concerts and events throughout the year, and all concerts are free for Concordia students (with the exception of The October Sacred Music Festival at the Winspear). Here we have a list of their upcoming events. The next one you must attend is Concordia's Concert Choir Christmas Concert on December 2nd at 3pm, which will be held at trinity Lutheran Church (10014-81 Ave, Edmonton). Student tickets are \$12 and are available through Tix on the Square, Concordia Student Accounts, or at the door. Hope to see you all there!

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Answer sheet is available at: www.theboltnews.com

FINFAGIS

"Almost" is the longest word in the English language with all its letters in alphabetical order.

A proper handshake should last for about three seconds.

The largest amount of text messages sent by a single person in one month was 182,689.

The color blue causes the brain to release calming hormones, making it the color most suitable for studying and relaxation.

Whitney Houston was buried with \$500,000 dollars worth of clothes and jewelry. Water has been reused so many times, that it's actually possible that the next glass you have may already has been drunk by someone else.

Bill Gates has said that he appoints the laziest person to do the hardest job. Because they'll find an easiest way to do it.

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91% people at some point in
their life have tried to close the
fridge slowly to see when the
light goes out.
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http://uber-facts.com/

LIFE 'N STUFF

PARENTS AND HEALTHY FIGHTING



Dear Life n' Stuff, In the eyes of my mother I've never been good enough. I'm super active in school, get

Life 'N Stuff

almost all A's, and still she finds fault. Over the last few years I've started thinking/feeling that she might be right. Especially when I find my world collapsing around me. I blame myself. I hate feeling like this, how can I stop?

Dear Mom Troubles,

I hear ya! When I read your question, I instantly empathized with your situation. Mothers are amazing people, and sometimes I don't think they fully understand the impact they have on their children. I know from my own life that at times my mother has been an amazing support; however, she has also been my toughest critic.

I remember spending sleepless nights, tossing and turning, enraged by disagreements I had with my mother, especially in the last three to four years. We would fight about anything and everything, from my staying out too late to how I spend my money to if I cleaned the bathroom to her standards. I mean how clean does a counter need to be? It's not like you have to eat off it!

Anyway, I am speaking of my experiences in past tense for a

reason-I got over it. My mother is a fifty-five-year-old women who will not change. I have exhausted all other options, and I have chosen to agree to disagree. Since I have a home of my own now, my mom can't say much. I pay my own bills and the place hasn't burnt down yet, so I figure I must be doing something right. The point is she is still my mother and I love her, but I do not have to agree with her. She raised me to be an independent and respectful individual, and my choice in how I deal with her negative opinions reflects this.

Anyway, enough of my ranting and back to your question . . .

Even though your mom may "hate on" a lot of what you do, she loves you. Have you had a serious heart to heart with her? Primarily, I would try expressing how you feel. If you are not comfortable doing this, maybe involve another family member as a mediator. If all else fails and you feel that what is happening is starting to truly impact your daily life, you can always talk with Barbara van Ingen and email her at barbara.vaningen@concordia.ab.ca.

I don't know the full extent of your situation but someone like Barb or a member of her team would be able to better analyze what is going on here. Please remember that you are never alone.

Good luck on the homefront, and try to remember that your mom

might honestly not realize how much she is hurting you. You need to let her know. Take care!

Dear Life n' Stuff,

My guy and I have been in a two-year relationship and we have never fought or argued before. Most people say it's healthy to fight, that we are simply weird, and all that negative stuff. Is it weird that we don't fight at all?

Dear Young Pacifist,

Lol! Sorry, I couldn't help myself, but seriously . . . if you have been in a relationship for two years and haven't fought, GOOD FOR YOU! Unless of course you actually are a pacifist, then that is an entirely new ball of wax!

Let's approach this logically. Think about your best friend. I would bet it is safe to predict that it is either the person you're dating or they are close to being that. That is a complete assumption, but I am basing it off the logic that there is a huge difference between getting into a fight and a disagreement. Even best friends disagree, but I can say I have never actually fought with mine.

It is impossible for two people's opinions to be exactly the same under every circumstance, and if anyone in a relationship disagrees with that statement chances are they have conformed to the needs of their partner. This is NOT a good

v thing!

In your situation specifically, I would consider the possibility that either your boyfriend or yourself could in fact be doing this. Either that or you both simply agree to disagree; however, at this beautiful age of discovery this is doubtful. It is not impossible that this is the case but I have yet to see this actually be reality.

Going forward, I would suggest that you keep the lines of communication open, and stay true to yourselves. Don't change for anyone. Compromising=good, altering yourself=BAD! It is ok to disagree. Stirring the pot only encourages discussion and enhances the level of familiarity with one another. Only through disagreements do true colors and intentions become apparent.

You haven't fought, but don't be afraid to disagree and have rational discussions regarding your personal opinions. It is a completely healthy process.

Thanks for your inquiry, and I wish you many years of happiness together, but seriously—have a disagreement already! Take care.

*As always, please submit any questions, thoughts, or concerns to asklifenstuff@gmail.com, and your question might show up here! Take care all!

Life 'n Stuff

Don't Forget!

Concordia is host to a ton of clubs and you should check them out! If you missed the club fair and want to know more just come on by the CSA Offices



SPORTS RECAP & UPCOMING EVENTS



Hello loyal readers, I hope everyone is having a

BAILEY GARDECKI good time STAFF WRITER writing their pre-exam essays-I know that I am not, but that is beside the point. ladies Our team recently completed a trip to Prince Edward Island to compete in the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association Women's National Championship. Our ladies brought home the silver medal (our second one I might add) and some great memories. Congratulations ladies! You did a fantastic job this season! Also, the ladies Coach Dean Cordeiro was awarded CCAA Women's Soccer Coach of the Year, so some more congratulations are in order. Concordia is lucky to be blessed with such talented and committed individuals, so keep up the good work!

Our men's basketball team played a great game on November 16th against St. Mary's University College, winning the game 79-62. But they were challenged with a game against Lethbridge which they lost 77-86. The ladies also won their game against St. Mary's 78-28, and they followed it up with a spectacular 92-52 win against Lethbridge College. Our Concordia Thunder men's hockey team played some great games against Portage recently. They tied their game on November 16th in Lac la Biche 6-6, and then won their home game 3-1 on November 17th. For those interested in traveling to the games, there are rides available from Tegler for every home game. Just contact Professor Karen Leonhardt for more information.

This weekend, November 30th and December 1st and 2nd, our Concordia curling team will be travelling to Grande Prairie to compete in the first play down of the season. There is usually little to attract fans to watch a curling game especially when you have to drive seven hours just to watch it, but I would encourage everyone to watch their Concordia athletics Twitter feed as we will try to keep it updated on how the games go.

I hate to dampen the mood, but in two weeks final exams start. Is anyone else in a panic?! I wish everyone a good week, and if you see a zombie walking around campus, it's me in study mode.

See you next time, Bailey









Seasonal Depression, also known as SAD, affects millions of

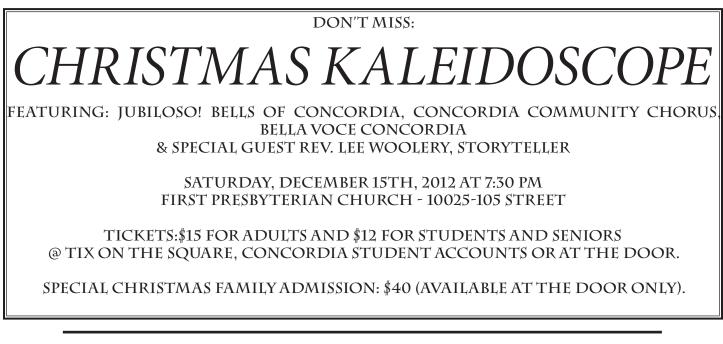
JESSICA RUSHTON millions STAFF WRITER

people all over North America every year, and almost half of the people suffering from it have no idea. SAD is a mild form of depression that is set off by cooler temperatures and, most importantly, lack of natural light. While the sun is still present in winter and there is bright white snow on the ground, the lack of sunrays that carry Vitamin D to the body are drastically diminished. SAD causes the sufferer to feel gloomy, tired, and longing for warmer months. While everyone suffers some form of SAD each year, severe cases can cause people to be bedridden for days, unable to make themselves happy. Some easily recognizable symptoms are increased hours spent sleeping; lack of motivation to get out of bed or pursue normal day to day activities; a craving for alcohol, sweets or starchy foods; weight gain; irritability; and insomnia. People who are diagnosed with SAD usually undergo this depression around the same time every year (usually when the weather dips and the sun is not as

prevalent) and rid themselves of these symptoms the same time as well (usually early or late spring when there is warmer temperatures and more natural



Image from FreeDigitalPhotos.net light). Fortunately, almost every case of SAD is easily treatable: Vitamin D pills once a day, plenty of artificial light in the home (lights, candles), open windows, and uplifting music can snap a person out of a case of SAD. If you or someone you know has SAD, try investing in an abundance of fruits, exercise, and "natural light lamps" that actually give off a light similar to that of the sun. Also, make sure that your Vitamin D levels stay high, as people with lower Vitamin D counts are more susceptible to SAD. Winter may be a lousy time of year for some, but stay positive! Christmas is right around the corner-and after that, summer!





TO SEPARATE OR NOT TO SEPARATE? THAT IS THE QUESTION



STAFF WRITER

Т h е separation of the Church and the State has been a topic of debate for, seemingly,

forever. Some people believe that the Church has no place in legal matters and that societal law has no place in canonical law. Others believe that the Church dictates the law, while the rest believe that the Church is outdated and useless within modern law.

I think that the separation of the Church and the State is absolutely necessary but nearly impossible. As a Christian, I am morally and ethically bound to the laws and teachings of Christ. As a person of society, I am bound to the laws of the courts. There are times when my Christianity comes to blows with my societal obligations. I know there are laws in the world, and in Canada, that need to be changed, but they go against the non-Christian viewpoint. There are also issues within society that are advocating for change that I don't necessarily agree with because of my faith.

Due to the way humanity developed, it would take an entire overhaul of human nature and understanding to completely separate the Church and the State. Humans naturally create belief systems regardless of what that belief is centered upon. This belief then dictates how humans judge right from wrong. This judgment leads to a punishment when a wrongful act is committed. Therefore, due to the belief system, a law is put in place to help direct and shape the society. The laws, alongside of the faith, become part of the morality and ethical standards of that society.

The desire to separate the Church and the State comes out of the need to further control the structure of the society. The Church wishes to guide humanity in one direction, towards their morality and ethical structure, when the State wishes to guide humanity

towards theirs. It is never this cut and dry, but this is the simplest understanding I have come to terms with in regards to this debate. I think it is possible to separate the Church from the State, but it will be extremely, next to impossibly, difficult.

I think the best we can hope for is a compromise. The one thing humanity has never been able to truly master.

Comments? Questions? Outrage? Please submit something to the Bolt for publication! concordia.bolt@ gmail.com OR Write on our Facebook Wall!

ER FOU YEA "I'm pleased that he won the It was that



time again. Every four vears we are bombarded i t h w

REBECCA FIRLOTTE advertisements, STAFF WRITER campaign

ads, and news coverage of the American election. I follow politics quite closely, but I was curious as to the reaction from the rest of Concordia's population. I went around asking different students and faculty one question. What do you think about the Obama administration gaining four more years in office?

"I'm just glad that he can move forward with Obama-care, even though it's been criticized. He has four years-use them well." -Launcelot Lindoff, 2nd year student

election. But, due to the way the houses are set out, I don't think we'll see much change."

-Caroline Howarth, Instructor in the Faculty of Drama

"I think it's a step in the right direction. Obama's policies will benefit a larger portion of the population in contrast to Romney's narrower policies. Besides, who wants a Mormon in office?"

- Will "Ernst" Fraser, 2nd year student

"I don't know much about politics, but I do know that the politics in other countries affect our country. I don't agree with some of the positions he [Obama] stands for, and I don't know where Romney stands in opposition, but I know where

my morals lie and that dictates where my support lies." - Gina Bazzarelli

"I didn't properly follow the coverage of the election in the United States, but I was relieved to hear that Obama had been granted a second term, although the percentages were closer than I would have imagined." - Taylor Collingwood, 4th year student

"I'm not surprised, although I'm a little disappointed because Romney better understands the economy and would've been better with inter-party relations. That being said, regardless of who was elected, in the case of President Obama, the United States has to face the reality that in order to tackle the deficit, they will need to increase

taxes across the board and cut services."

-Andrew CSA Koning, President

These are just a few of the people with whom I had a discussion, and the general consensus seems to be that having Obama is the lesser of two evils and for many, two unknown evils. The overwhelming statements that were pro-Obama didn't surprise me, but I was slightly surprised that not many people follow politics as closely as I do. I leave you with a quote to think about from one of my favourite American authors, William Faulkner. "The past isn't dead, it isn't even past."

Comments? Questions? Outrage? Please submit something to the Bolt for publication! concordia.bolt@ gmail.com OR Write on our Facebook Wall!

Student Personal Finance

The #1 Mistake All 20-Somethings Make Financially & How to Avoid the "Rat Race" After You Graduate



Michael Stead Staff Writer

personally going to be calling you out and challenging you to a whole new level.

If you thought

my last few

abrupt in tone,

this one is sure to rock you

back on your

heels as I am

were

essays

However, in order for us to move forward together, you are going to have to be 100% honest with yourself and completely acknowledge where you are today financially . . . if you are not prepared to do that, then please stop reading this article now . . .

What I am about to cover might seem simplistic, but the root cause of this simple mistake goes much deeper than just the financial ramifications.

So what is the number one mistake nearly all 20-somethings make financially? Simple— Buying things they don't need and can't afford.

At a first glance, this appears to be overly obvious and somewhat ridiculous, but the question you need to ask yourself is the following: Why are you doing this?

Like it or not, North American society is still largely driven by trends that create an "Us vs. Them" mentality. In other words, if you are not part of the group (Us) then you must be an outsider (Them).

In no way is this more apparent than when people spend their money on what the latest fads are in pop culture. Unfortunately, in an effort to either become more popular or to raise their social status, people in their 20's spend far beyond their means and often dig themselves into massive amounts of consumer debt in order to finance a "phony lifestyle."

While the original effects of this retail therapy might be positive, the end result is a life that is stuck in the "rat race"—Make more money, spend more money, go deeper into debt, work harder, make more money, etc.—with very little to show at the end of the journey.

Fortunately, the solutions for overcoming this challenge are just as simple and straightforward as the problem itself.

First of all, if you cannot pay for something in cash or with a debit card, it means you cannot afford it. Quit thinking in terms of monthly payments and start focusing on the actual cost of the item you would like to purchase. Don't be fooled by "nothing down easy monthly payment" promotions.

Yes, that means there will be lots of things you can't buy. But that is a good thing, not a bad thing. Use the money management system I taught in the article "Why the Rich Get Richer & the Poor Get Poorer" until you have enough money saved up to go and buy the item outright.

Secondly, recognize that it is very difficult to acquire wealth if you increase your spending every time your income goes up. The truth is there is only a marginal relationship between how much you spend on housing, transportation, vacations, and toys and the enjoyment you can derive from them.

Clearly understand, however, that I am not saying you cannot have luxury items in your life, nor am I advocating becoming a miser and scrimping and saving every single penny.

My advice to you is to discover your own way to live your own version of a "rich life" at your current income level. You can improve your lifestyle as your income increases, but you must exercise discipline to allocate more money to each of the 5-C accounts.

Lastly, whenever you are buying something ask yourself the following question, "Do I want this so I can validate myself to other people or am I buying this to express my own unique style and individuality?"

If you can follow these guidelines, you will be well on your way to leading a richer and more abundant lifestyle without the stress of being underwater financially.

Stay tuned for my next article as I am going to help you tackle the "elephant in the room" no one is talking about and show you exactly how to overcome this financial burden (*Hint: It has four letters and starts with a D...)

If you have any questions/ comments/feedback about this article or about finances in general, please send me an email at mstead@student.concordia. ab.ca and I will respond to them personally.





THUNDER SPORTS GAMES!

DECEMBER 1, 2012

THUNDER HOCKEY: CONCORDIA @ MACEWAN - 8:15PM THUNDER BASKETBALL (MALE/FEMALE): CONCORDIA @ GRANDE PRAIRIE - 1:00/3:00PM THUNDER VOLLEYBALL (MALE/FEMALE): CONCORDIA @ SAIT - 6:00/8:00PM

REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO THE BOLT!

ТЕХТВООК ВИУ-ВАСК

DECEMBER 10TH TO DECEMBER 14TH (MONDAY TO FRIDAY- 5 DAYS) JANUARY 7TH TO JANUARY 11TH (MONDAY TO FRIDAY- 5 DAYS)

> 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE

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