

B&W blue & white (feb. 01 + 84) **ISSUE Eight**



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B&W

blue & white

feb. 01 + 10

front cover by **Christian Whitty**

[photography, 2010]

back cover by **Sierra Elliott**

[photography]

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and have it featured on the cover of Blue & White

ISSUE No. 8: Thanks, as per usual, on picking this sucker up. Enjoy your read and check out SIERRA ELLIOTT's gorgeous shot on the back of this issue. The colour blue represented within the photo is just fantastic. Together with the cover shot it creates a surreal contrast of aggressive and calming. I'm loving it. [/pretentious]

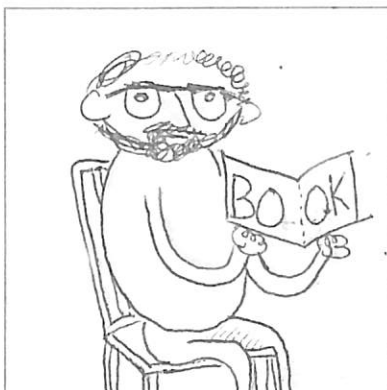
This time for the B&W staff photos, we decided to throw together self-portraits. Each sketch down below is drawn by the respective editor.

Plus, for the NEXT ISSUE we are hoping to do a special edition on travel. If you have any stories or photographs from around the world, send them in. I can't guarantee they will all make it since we have a great writing staff with a myriad of ideas, but we will do our damndest. Send it in and we'll eat it up.

- Christian Whitty, Editor-In-Chief

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story editor



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maria
sumalinog

a message (philosophy club)

written by Syma Habib

Students of Concordia:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Syma, and I am the current president of the Philosophy Club of Concordia, a student-run group that strives to provide an atmosphere of open debate and understanding of a variety of philosophical issues.

Very recently, Concordia held a club fair, on the same day as a philosophy club meeting in which the club was planning to discuss the problems surrounding immigration and the philosophy behind assimilation. As a few of you may know, flyers with rather provocative statements were issued around campus, and while they were effective at getting people riled up and asking questions, they were not permitted to be on campus for long enough to evoke the response I had hoped for. This is due in part to the blatantly offensive nature of the flyers, and also because they were simply removed at the behest of those who were offended. Due





to the reaction, I have been asked and have agreed to offer my fellow students an apology for a set of statements that on the surface, appeared to be intolerant and racist. I am truly sorry for striking a nerve within the student population about these very touchy and controversial subjects. However, I am also deeply saddened by the inability of the student body to respond to the statements in a more mature and less hostile manner.

I would like to make one thing clear: Those statements were meant to offend. In a society where we all carry baggage that is fundamentally liberal and democratic, we tend to stifle the voices of those who speak contrary to this mindset. As a woman of Pakistani descent who identifies as a Muslim, I have felt repressed (and sometimes not so repressed) hatred from people who were simply ignorant of my beliefs because they have been conditioned not to bring their prejudices into the public. In a world where "free speech" has been twisted and deformed to reflect

the opinions of the majority, people in the minority often feel alienated. Whether they be right-wing conservatives or a liberal Muslims like myself, many variable opinions and viewpoints are being suppressed in the name of tolerance. However, the key to tolerance is not suppression, rather it is understanding. When we seek to suppress offensive opinions, even with the best of intentions, cooperative understanding cannot be reached.

I apologize once again to anyone who was deeply offended by the flyers, but I implore all of you who were offended to ask yourselves: What good is censoring a statement that you find offensive? Wouldn't you by far rather understand your own beliefs and learn to defend them?

Editor's Note: When asked, the Student Affairs Office stated that the flyers were taken away because they did not clearly indicate the Philosophy Club's intention to invite students to its forum.

<p>CANADA'S MULTICULTURALISM</p> <p>keeps our nation from developing a strong unique identity.</p> <p>TODAY (January 19) HA009, 4:40 PM</p> 	<p>MUSLIM WOMEN</p> <p>in North America should be banned from wearing any sort of oppressive religious headdress in public space.</p> <p>TODAY (January 19) HA009, 4:40 PM</p> 	<p>ONLY EUROPEANS</p> <p>should be permitted to immigrate into Canada. And refugees from Asia and Africa should not.</p> <p>TODAY (January 19) HA009, 4:40 PM</p> 	<p>FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION</p> <p>should be legal in Canada for people who have cultures that encourage it.</p> <p>TODAY (January 19) HA009, 4:40 PM</p> 
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reading week mission

written by Brittni Carey

On February 11th, 21 students from the Concordia community will be heading out to Vancouver Island to spend a week working with the BC Mission Boat. In the ten years that the Mission Boat has been running, this will be the eighth year that Concordia will be participating.

"The Mission trip started a long time ago," Chaplain Garry Dombrosky says about how Concordia came to be a regular participant in the Mission Boat's ministry. "A student came to me and said, 'We really need to revitalize our campus community. We need something.' So I had a friend, Pastor Bob Kopernick, out at Parksville and he was trying to revitalize ministry out there, which was the mission boat

along the west coast. And so as kind of a favour, I phoned him up and said 'I have a group of students who would like to do some sort of mission work, can you help us?' Well, 12 went the first year to Ahousaht, and they came back, and it really did change our campus, it really did. And the rest is, as they say, history."

Teams that go on the mission trip over reading week help out in First Nations communities, running kids' camps, making house visits, holding youth nights and Bible studies, along with whatever else the communities need. For example, some teams have been called on to serve musically, while others have helped out in the school setting. A vital aspect of the

ministry, though, is building relationships. The Mission statement for the society ties it all together nicely: "Working together to make God's love in Christ known through serving, building relationships, and personal growth."

The mission trip is a great opportunity to grow in and share the hope and acceptance that faith in Christ brings. Prayers for safe travel, courage and God's blessings on the trip would be much appreciated by all those going on the mission trip.

For more information on the BC Mission Boat, visit their website at www.bcmissionboat.org

the blue & white: uncovering our mythical student newspaper

written by Brandon McLeod

photo by Christian Whitty

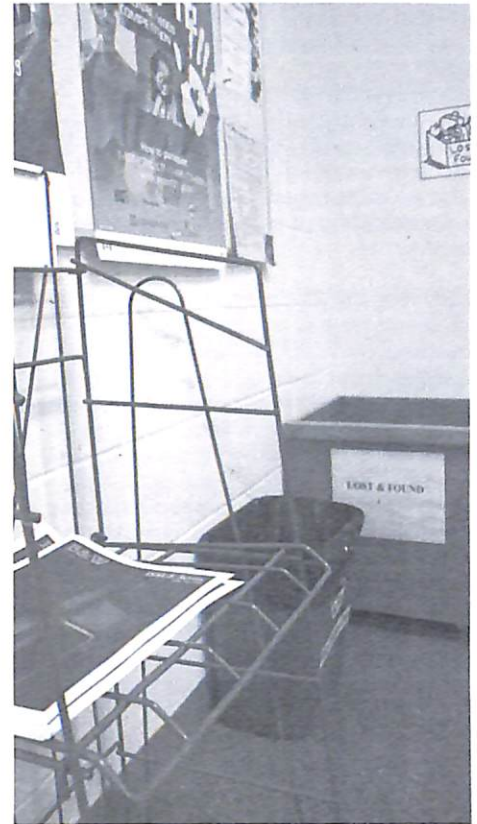
Where is the Blue and White? Where can I find copies? Why are they not delivered straight to our hands? These are all questions that rarely arise during the school year. No one asks because no one knows. If someone was actually aware of our special little paper, I am certain they would be appalled at the poor placement and inaccessibility of the Blue and White. Our lack of awareness and the difficulty we all have finding the Blue and White can be directly attributed to the poor placement of it within our library.

Somewhere along the way, Concordia's library staff came to the irrational conclusion that the Blue and White cannot be placed in an ideal and unused spot: a spot in plain view, only ten feet from the entrance of the library and nestled up nicely against a support column. At the beginning of the school year we (the Blue & White Staff) made a request to have a newspaper stand placed near the entrance of the library in order to reach the greatest number of potential readers. The library staff accepted the request and a stand was immediately erected and placed by the aforementioned support column. This lasted a total of one day - if that. The next day the stand had been moved. Not just off to the side or up to the next

support column, the stand was picked up, carried around the corner, even further from the entrance, and set down next to the Lost-and-Found. Now you're all asking yourselves: We have a Lost-and-Found? Yes, Concordia does have a Lost-and-Found! It's right next to the hard-to-find Blue & White stand!

It is my understanding - and please, correct me if I'm wrong - that most libraries, including our own, are meant to promote and facilitate reading. By hiding the Blue & White around the corner, making it difficult to find, the library has effectively hindered or discouraged hundreds, maybe even thousands, of potential readers who enter through those doors every single day.

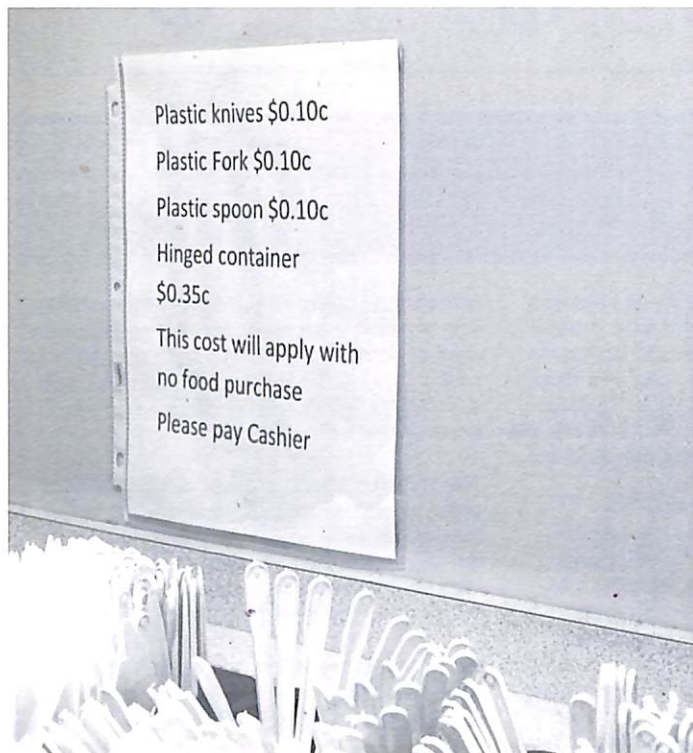
You may be thinking, it's just the Blue & White, why is it the library's responsibility to promote it and place it in an ideal, easy-to-access spot? True, it is just the Blue & White, and it's not the library's responsibility to promote it. However, as I just mentioned, it's a library's responsibility to promote and facilitate reading, so why not have the Blue & White out in the open, making it easy to grab and easy to read? That would be the responsible thing to do.



go ahead, charge for everything. just kidding, don't actually!

written by Brandon McLeod

photo by Christian Whitty



I would just like to extend a big thank you to Aramark and all its subsidiaries, including the Concordia Cafeteria, for all of their unintentional environmental work.

I used to come to school every day, happy as can be, with an unused tea bag and leftovers from the night before. I would then head down to the caf to warm up my leftovers and make my cup of tea. These two activities used to be free, as did the later activity of eating the leftovers, but all this has changed.

Now when I come to school, I am not so happy. Warming up my food is still free but to make tea and to lift the food into my mouth now costs me twenty cents, thirty if I have something to cut.

The cups I used to use for tea now cost ten cents, as does each utensil. It was so easy before things changed; I would get one cup in the morning and use it for the rest of the day. Now I grab a cup and am caught with an evil stare and a, "ten cents please."

So now, instead of walking around with a pocket full of change, I bring my own food and drink accessories to school. A hassle yes, but some of us will do anything to keep our dimes out of the hands of Aramark.

I've been off paper cups and plastic forks now for almost three weeks. And in the process, I've unwittingly made Aramark a friend of Mother Earth. Now, if only they were a friend of the student.

emotional (not) eating

written by Brittni Carey

"In 2005, more than 500,000 Canadians suffered from some sort of eating disorder (Canadian Mental Health Association)".

I used to believe that people fell victim to eating disorders due to the media. I thought that skinny models and diet marketing made people want to be thin. While our image-driven society does play a role in influencing what is seen to be 'glamorous', there's more to it than that.

"Lots of people feel depressed when they look at models, and everybody looks at models - but not everybody has an eating disorder because of it," says Alyssa Washington, a friend of mine with special interest in the subject of eating disorders and nutrition. "In our society, emotions are frowned upon. We're encouraged to be happy, but we're not encouraged to feel sad, we're not encouraged to feel angry - especially for girls. It's way more acceptable to diet than to be angry; it's an outlet. You're saying 'I'm angry, I'm feeling all this stuff, so I'm going to turn it inward and be angry with how I look and my body and I'm going to fix it by not eating anymore'. I think culture has more to do with it that way." And in the shifting fashions portrayed by the media, male cases of anorexia and other eating disorders are increasing. The slim, athletic man, as opposed to the bulked-up macho

man, is becoming more culturally prevalent. Men now make up 1 in every 10 cases of anorexia and that number is steadily growing.

Behavioral and physical signs of anorexia can be seen at work in a person's life before they lose a lot of weight. Signs such as being uncomfortable eating with others, treating eating food ritualistically, poor sleeping patterns, general restlessness, or dressing in a lot of layers can be warnings. People may also develop a thin layer of down-like hair called *lanugo* on the face or arms, have jittery thought patterns, or be unable to recognize how thin they are (body dysmorphia). People with bulimia are often binge-eaters, consuming vast amounts of food before purging afterwards. They may also use laxatives, thereby becoming dehydrated and fatigued. Alyssa sums up the symptoms as "any change in behavior around food; when you have an eating disorder, you're either afraid of food, or you feel you've conquered it and you're kind of above food."

If you think that someone close to you is struggling with an eating disorder, you're probably right. "It's like a secret, but it's so obvious. Like, I really thought that no one knew I had an eating disorder and it's like everybody knew, 'cause it's obvious, you're like 84 pounds, right?"

Alyssa advocates talking to someone about their emotional well-being, because they're already going to be defensive about food, "They really, really, really think that they're hiding it, and you have to respect that. Your intention with them has to be so 'I want to help you, I love you, I want you to be better' because if there's any sort of like 'what are you doing to yourself you idiot,' they won't hear you."

Having gone through two years of recovery from an eating disorder herself, Alyssa has thoroughly researched the subject. "I've been in the weight loss industry, I've been in the nutrition industry, I know what proper nutrition looks like. Anything that's harming your body because of the food you're taking in, or not taking in, or [excessive] exercise or whatever, these are all eating disorders and I've been exposed to all of it." She currently has a blog on the subject of eating disorders, as well as a webpage for discussion on the topic. Check it out at: www.edtakesdown-support.blogspot.com/

Need to talk to someone? Call Concordia's counselor, Barbara van Ingen, at 780.479.9289.

concordia students attend society of biblical literature annual meeting in new orleans

written by Dan Brister

photo uncredited

This past November, three students and a faculty member from Concordia's new Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies Program attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in New Orleans. This event brings together scholars from all over the world, both students and teachers alike, for four days of paper presentations, stimulating discussions, and relationship building. Aside from the opportunity to get connected with cutting edge research and provocative new ideas, the meeting also allowed student participants to have a first look at a host of MA and PhD programs offered by various institutions throughout North America and Europe.

The Concordia MA in Biblical and Christian Studies program can subsidize the attendance of up to four students at this and similar academic conferences each year. This year's participants thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend the meeting, though it was a challenge to juggle this with course commitments as well. If you are thinking of continuing with your study of scripture, do keep the MA program and the Society of Biblical Literature in mind. For those who would like to know more about the Society, there will be a 30-minute information session held on Feb. 4 at 3:15 pm in HA 309. Next year's meeting of the SBL will be in Atlanta Georgia. See you there!



pansy? no! a healthy serving of moxie and guts

written by Bobbi Belsek

The main character in the movie *Avatar* is a paraplegic marine. I was extremely impressed by this and the excellent portrayal of the character in the film. I personally think that I am qualified to make this judgment. See, you may not know, but the guy who contributed this article to the *Blue & White* also happens to be the guy you may see wheeling around campus in a titanium sports wheelchair. This is due to the fact that for the most part, I don't have use of my legs. Alright, enough background!

I believe that the character of Jake Sully in *Avatar* is amazing. First of all, his character takes the lead role in the movie. I have never seen

a movie produced on the Hollywood scale that had a character in a wheelchair serve in the lead role. I think this is an incredibly gutsy move and is a big step forward for Hollywood in terms of accurately portraying the diversity of our society in films. It seems as if there have been movies released with a protagonist from each of the major minority groups in society, so this was long past due!

The way the character was depicted in the movie was excellent also. The marine had spunk and testosterone. He was very determined in the movie and definitely did not sit idly by. At least in my interpretation, it also seemed like he had

a wee bit of a temper. It was clearly evident that he had feelings for a woman. These are some of the proverbial defining characteristics that many men share. It was refreshing to see a movie in which a character in a wheelchair was portrayed as equal and having similar characteristics to other men. This serves as a sharp contrast to the quiet, unobtrusive, unnoticeable, dweeby, off-in-the-background stereotype. Nice one!

*Author's Note: For another very good portrayal of a character in a wheelchair, try to track down an episode of *Without a Trace* called "Rewind".*

in defence of a fur coat

written by Karen Leonhardt

I recycle. I buy used books. I shop on Kijiji. Half my wardrobe comes from Value Village. It's not that I'm cheap (I'm not), or even that I'm poor (I am), but I believe in getting by with as little as possible. It's both a religious and an environmental stand.

That's why it surprises people to see me in a fur coat. That's right, a fur coat. This is no ordinary fur coat, either. It's full-length black Alaskan seal. At 50-100 years old, it represents not only the killing of animals, but the near-genocide of First Nations culture in Canada. So why do I wear it? Not just because it was free (it was, in case you think Sessional Instructors are getting paid too much these days) or because it's warm (it is). I wear it because of the best and the worst that it represents.

I have had people yell, "Fur is MURDER!" and I agree. Equally wrong is the exploitation of people by large companies for

profit. Let's think for a moment about the decimation of nature. Do you really believe that the production of your nylon, Gortex, Thinsulate winter gear doesn't kill anything? Does the factory that produces it not pollute the earth and gobble up resources? How long does your winter jacket last? Will you replace it next year with a newer style? The truth is that ALL CONSUMPTION KILLS, and overconsumption kills ruthlessly. Are we smug in thinking that we don't have blood on our hands if we don't wear fur? What about the species of insects that are being wiped off the face of the earth because of our need for more: more clothes, more cars, more computers, a larger selection of sophisticated cell phones, bigger houses, bigger cars, smaller computers? Does the extinction of the Red-Barbed Ant not count because it isn't as cute as a seal? How about the human cost? Has the exploitation of people by large companies for profit somehow disappeared since the last

time I checked?

I considered splashing red paint on my coat, just to make the point even clearer, but then I decided that it would not do honor to the beauty of the animals that it came from. Instead, I take gentle care of it, repairing every tiny hole so that it will last me a lifetime. Every time I slip into my fur, I am grateful for the lives of animals that provide me with food and clothing. I am humbled by the knowledge that I live in a society of privilege, through the accident of my birth and by no merit of my own, in a world where millions live in poverty and exploitation. I am conscious that every time I buy something new, it costs this planet something.

So unless you are a fruitarian who hand-weaves all your own clothes from the wool of sheep that you raise in your organic backyard, keep your paint off my coat.



guys and girls: some insight for the daft gentlemen out there

written by Natalie Morpurgo

photo by Christian Whitty

Guys, I don't know what you do or how you do it, but you make it so hard for us women to want to keep you in our lives. A majority of the time, you drive us crazy with the things that you do. I understand that you all want to have your own lives away from your girlfriends and trust me, so do we, but ignoring us when you're with us is not so cool. How hard is it to put the video game controller down when we come over? How hard is it to actually look at us when we're talking to you? Let me give you some advice on how to make a woman feel important and wanted by you men.

Lesson one: Women always desire to feel wanted – even when we have someone. We want men to desire us not just for the stuff that happens behind closed doors, but for everything that makes us who we are. How can you make us feel important and wanted? The answer to this question is an easy one: call us up. I don't mean call us every five minutes, but every other day. Listen to how our day went and ask us questions about it as if you're deeply interested. Oh, and guys, don't call us up

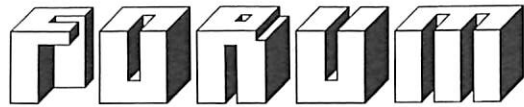
and just talk about yourselves.

Lesson two: Women like to feel important. By extension, we like to think what we have to say is important. How do you make a woman feel important? Well, you just learned this in lesson one. Call us – you'll make us feel important to you. It would be a really good idea to stop what you were doing before we got to your place and focus on us. Guys, this means turning off the video games even if you're working on a world record or turning off the sports game. When we walk in the door, it's your time to woo us and make us feel important. Also, when we talk to you, focus on us! Actually, look at us and at least pretend to be interested in us! I know with Clark, the boyfriend, he talks on and on about video games and the like, which I really couldn't care less about. Yet I listen to him and I ask him questions about these games. It makes him feel important and it makes him feel that what he has to say is important. If we have to put up with you guys and your boring conversations, it should only be fair that you put up with ours.

If you cannot shut off the game off (video or sports), I just have to say that I don't think you are ready for a relationship. What do you care more about? Achieving a high score, which team is winning, or a physical person with a soul? You should clearly choose someone who cares for you over inanimate objects such as video game consoles and televisions. Women are caring beings. We are patient. We nurture and support the people we care about. We like to feel desired and important by the men in our lives. We do a lot for you guys and we try to make you feel desired and important also. It's nice to receive the same emotions from you guys. It's not too hard – just a phone call, some eye contact, and focusing on us is it all it takes. Try it out and see if it works. Let me know. You can get a hold of me at: nmorpurgo@gmail.com

Editor's note: In defense of men, we're not all like that, and oddly enough, women can be bad too sometimes. I promise.

– SD



This is where you, the student, can have their opinions, comments, and ideas posted. Share comrades! Share! We want your rants, complaints, praises, and shout-outs.

That, or comment on our posted questions. We want you to vocalize what's in your head. Just share whatever: bw.concordia@gmail.com

for issue 9:

On January 19, Concordia's Philosophy Club handed out adverts containing controversial statements (see this issue's first story). The adverts were taken away because they did not indicate that they were actually an invitation to a debate forum and may be taken as a statement of fact and not a topic of debate.

What are your thoughts? Was it okay for the Philosophy Club to suggest controversial topics of debate or did the adverts cross the line? Do you feel the school's reaction was censorship or proactive caution?

Let the debates begin.

responses from last issue:

The question for the last issue was, "What do you think about Facebook? Is it a good service, an irritating fad, or just plain "meh"? Let us know." Here's what you said:

"Facebook is a beautiful new social addiction. It is the tool that every insecure person can use to know, indefinitely, what people think of them, and what they say about them. I prefer tiny nooks in cyber space where I can write just to myself, the New Age version of talking to yourself."

— Tegan, First year Arts student

"Hate it. No time for it. Intrusion."

— Daniela, First year Science student

"While in my opinion it becomes an addiction that is hard to shake (especially around exam time), I still believe it is a great way to keep in touch with old friends or distant family. Nowadays, communication is split by many sources including phone, e-mail, and text messaging. Facebook is just another way to get in touch with individuals you already know or get to know new people. Facebook has changed the face of communication—no pun intended—and I think it's pretty useful."

— Sheliza Ramji

"Facebook is good even though it's addicting. It's very nice to have a way to keep in contact with friends and family you live far away from."

— Danai, First year Political Economy student

"I like Facebook. Sure there is the privacy issue but I have mine set pretty high. Of course, the whole idea wouldn't work if everyone did it. It is fun to add people from university. Maybe I'm the only creeper that does it, but it's great to learn information about your fellow students that wouldn't be at your finger tips otherwise. On the other hand, my good friend canceled his Facebook account to study. I was wondering what would happen if we all changed our phone numbers and deleted our Facebook accounts. Perhaps all our grades would go up? Just my thoughts at the moment."

— Josey, Management student

"A great stress reliever and an irritating addictive annoyance."

— David Edwards

"Satisfaction, according to sociology, is not so much based on what we have per se but on what we have relative to what others—especially relevant others—have (or don't have). Facebook allows us to gauge how we are doing in life without having to have face-to-face interactions with, say, the town idiot or Little Miss Most Likely to Succeed. We are annoyed by their minute-per-minute status updates but, alas, they confirm what we've always known all along: People, including ourselves, are overrated. So, what of Facebook? A great social tool indeed."

— Maria Sumalinog, Third year Arts student



send in your own art to bw.concordia@gmail.com and have it featured in the Blue & White