

THE BOLT

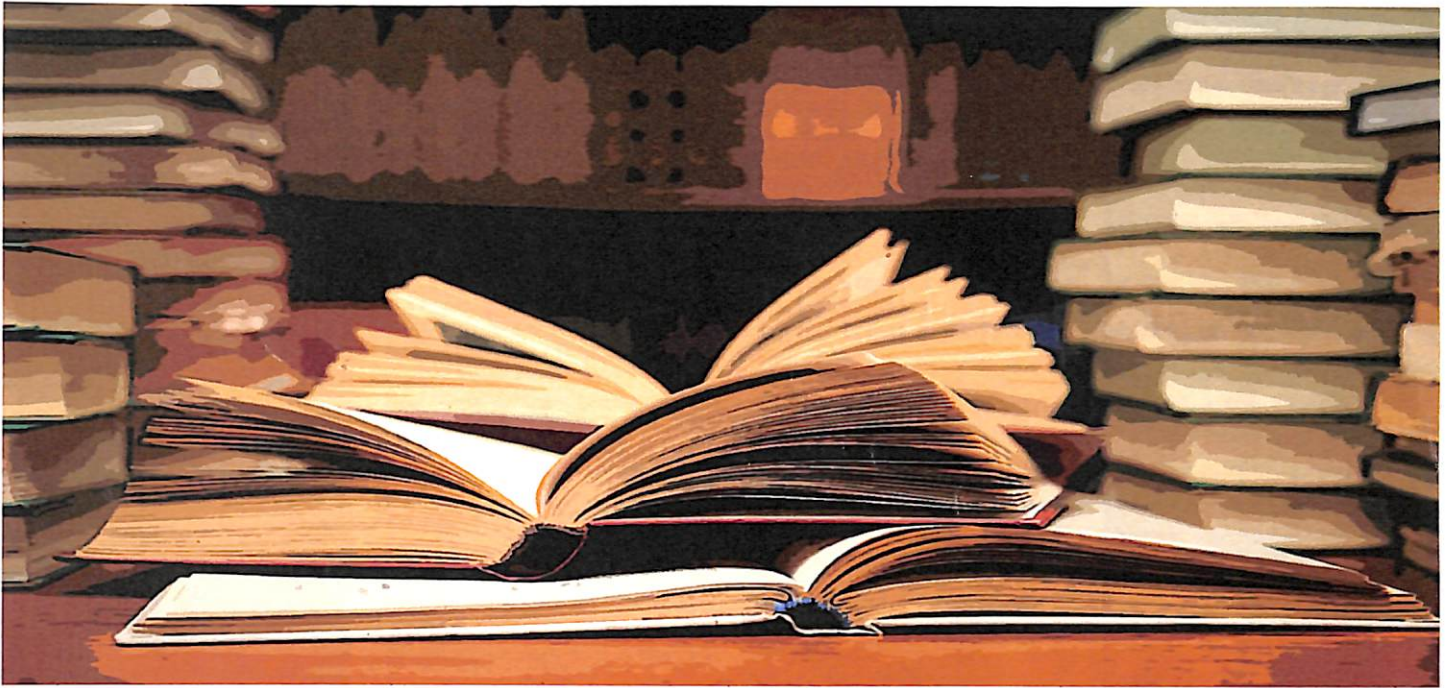
ISSUE: 011

FEBRUARY 25, 2013

"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of the past centuries."

Descartes

BACK FOR MORE AFTER READING WEEK



POP CULTURE POLITICS



REBECCA FIRLOTTE
STAFF WRITER

Some of the most enticing and intriguing television shows on today are based around politics of some form. From Law & Order to The Good Wife, politics plays an integral role in every drama. Being integrated into social media and television is also an extremely important

part of a campaign strategy for any political race. Some master this art successfully whereas others fail miserably.

In television, politics is celebrated, exaggerated, and mocked. In shows such as Law & Order, politics enters on several stages. There are the social policies and advocates that roam the streets, such as protesters and social order, and there are direct links to the system, such as dead political

figures and icons. Many 'hot topics' are covered as episodes. The Good Wife addressed DOMA (Defense Against Marriage Act) in a number of episodes. Law & Order often comments on the futility of political involvement in the justice system. These depictions can be overrated and offensive but some can help bring light to an otherwise untouched subject.

Continued on Page 7

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AROUND THE SCHOOL

POETRY LOOKOUT WITH RACHEL

POEM

BY BRITJNI CAREY

"Her successful parents expected Elise to graduate from Bard and pursue a respectable life. When she associated with unconventional people and experimented with sex and drugs, her parents sought professional help."
- "Mental Illness" by William Lawlor

Because success does not mean peace, security does not mean safe—I think it was a lot like what happened to us: you slept around and I lusted after books we needed to be fixed, could only shoot ourselves up with substances we could control. Unlike Elise we come through respectable, well-groomed—we go willingly to shock treatments, come away with dead tongues in our mouths the ends of our hair still tingling I looked up and saw angels slip by into sublimity: You saw your feet. O Elise! my poetry bends to you history twin you also saw the nuclear leak and heard what I heard in the screeching tunnel of night, the groaning of monsters with back pain and sweet you had compassion and went down while I cowered—we survived our treatments. Are given back to our parents. Sit in dim rooms and laugh at nothing. For two years or until we are disturbed by a terrible dream.



RACHEL
WHIPPLE
STAFF WRITER

Brittjni Carey is Concordia alumni. She graduated last April with her Bachelor of Arts; she was an English major, drama minor. She has a long standing affiliation with The Bolt: last year she was the Story Editor, the year before she was Editor-in-Chief, and before that she was a contract writer. Today, she keeps herself busy by stage managing for Concordia's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," getting involved with other dramatic productions, working at Starbucks, and, of course, writing. She has written many plays and other works, and she has just finished her novel with the working title "The Patch Project." Brittjni thinks that poetry "exemplifies the beauty of language and our everyday lives" and that "poetry, in it's truest form, challenges

people and resonates with their experience."

One day Brittjni really felt like writing, but she could not find inspiration. So she randomly opened a book about the Beat Generation and saw this quote: "Her successful parents expected Elise to graduate from Bard and pursue a respectable life. When he associated with unconventional people and experimented with sex and drugs, her parents sought professional help." - "Mental Illness" by William Lawlor. This would be the inspiration of her poem. The Beat Generation is characterized by a feeling of displacement after WWII; it was the beginning of the hippy movement. They went against the "white bread" and "white picket fence" outlook of the 1950s. Eastern philosophy, such as passivism, influenced the Beat Generation greatly. Brittjni's free form poem shows how two different characters deal with their society.

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THE BOLT

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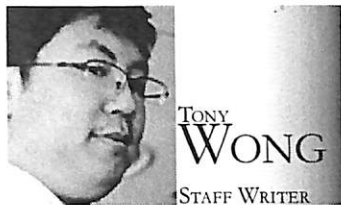
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PAPER



AROUND THE SCHOOL

SNAKES ON A PLANE REVIEW



For lack of a better movie to review in this week's issue, I chose the aptly named 2006 movie *Snakes on a Plane*. See what I did there? Because it is the Year of the Snake for Chinese New Year, I wanted to theme this column up a little. I will be honest, this is one of the first movies that I thought of that is semi-relevant to the occasion. Other than being a horrible B-rated movie combined with a terrible internet meme, what makes this a movie that everyone should watch? Read on to find out.

Sean Jones (Nathan Phillips) was minding his own business dirt biking when he witnesses the brutal murder of a prosecutor by a mob boss. Sean must work with FBI Agent Neville Flynn (Samuel L. Jackson) to get to Los Angeles in order to testify against Eddie Kim (Bryon Lawson). The only problem is that Eddie has Sean's flight number, and he plans to sabotage the trial using the most colourful and

unique method: snakes drugged up on pheromones. Now the passengers, along with Sean and Neville, must make it safely back to Los Angeles before the snakes take over and kill everyone on the plane.

Just a little backstory on this movie, because the plot is just so paper thin. The movie's popularity can be solely traced to Samuel L. Jackson's involvement. According to him, the only reason he took the job was because "[he] read the title." The movie also garnered great interest from the Internet long before the initial reception of the movie. *Snakes on a Plane* was a huge hit because of its linear premise and thinly veiled storyline. Unfortunately, the Internet did not receive the film as well as expected. Quite possibly the best line in the movie was Samuel Jackson's famous "I've had it with these ***** snakes on this ***** plane!"

Undoubtedly you are wondering, did this movie even do well? Well to answer that question very briefly, no. However, there are rare moments in movie history where terrible movies

become cult classics (ie. *Rocky Horror Picture Show*) and *Snakes on a Plane* fills all the criteria. Everything from the predictable sex/death scene to the over the top characters, *Snakes on a Plane* is literally like a plane crash but, for some reason, you can't look away. It has a sense of flare that kept me watching. Maybe it is the final pay off at the end where you hear Samuel L. Jackson say his iconic line or maybe it's the fact that the movie takes itself way too seriously when in

reality it is the opposite. I will always laugh at the microwave snake bit because of its sheer ridiculousness.

Dare I say that I think *Snakes on a Plane* will surely be one of those cult films that people will watch even though it is bad all around the board. There really has not been a film like it even to this day, and while the era of cult classic films is dying, *Snakes on a Plane* manages to make a name for itself and will always be that film that no one believed would ever come out.



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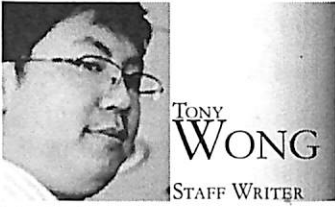
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ENTERTAINMENT

MORE REVIEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR



To balance out the Chinese portion of this week's issue, here is an actual Chinese movie that everyone should watch. Kung Fu Hustle is a comedic look at 1970s Chinese gangster movies starring the iconic and comical Stephen Chow who is comparable to Jim Carrey here in the west.

The story is set in 1970s China with mafia wars at their highest in terms of controversy and violence. When the Axe Gang attempts to move their territories into a local community, they are met with violence from some of the Kung Fu masters of the group. Oddly they find a set of imposters claiming to be part

of their violent gang. When the Kung Fu masters bring the two imposters, Sing (Stephen Chow) and Donut (Zhi Hua Dong), to their master, they decide to use them in their cunning plan to take over the village.

The humor and comedic satire is not only funny, but it is also completely unique to Stephen Chow's acting style. You typically see this kind of comedy in international comedic movies, which, again, is totally original and unseen in Western movies. One of my favorite scenes is the chase scene, which is a parody of the Roadrunner and Coyote chase scenes. That kind of humor you don't really see much in Western films. Yes, they may get those kinds of moments parodied once in awhile, but it is the Chinese films that really take it to the next level. A good

way of explaining the humor is that they make the worst possible scenario for everyone and then, for some miraculous reason, everyone carries on like nothing is wrong. It's really funny that way.

The reason why Chinese movies are able to pump out these movies like clockwork is because of the random special effects they use. Take, for example, that Roadrunner scene again. Clearly some really bad CG and post editing (that adds to the charm of the movie overall), which would account for the lack of quality, is the reason why Chinese filmmakers are able to pump these out so fast. At the same time, some of the fight choreography is just absolutely awesome which is something you'd expect from a movie with the words Kung Fu in it. Yes,

there are wires like crazy, but really, no one can fly 20 meters and still be fine. Because of the comedic nature of the film, it's only natural that even the fight sequences be embedded with bits of funny.

This movie is a great laugh for everyone to enjoy. Great for a company of friends to laugh at or even if it's just a night alone. Even if the story is lacking in the romance department, the comedy and action bits should make up for it all. If you enjoyed this movie you should watch it's predecessor, Shaolin Soccer, which stars a similar cast of actors and is about Shaolin Monks trying to spread the word of martial arts through soccer (football for our European readers).

YOUR VOICE

COMPILED BY NICK CHEVALIER

What is "Your Voice"? It's a place where you can be heard and stay completely anonymous.

We want you here from you, the student body, and even staff at Concordia. Air your grievances, get something off your chest, or just say something nice to a stranger.

Holy internet Batman! The WiFi got Super Powers!

There were some great events before reading week! Can't wait for Open Mic night!

What's with all these Fairytale themed movies coming out? Jack and the Beanstalk... really?

I need more time in a day... or more days in a week.

Submit your Voices, Vents or Vocalizations to csabolt@student.concordia.ab.ca or to our Twitter (if you feel like being a little less anonymous) at [@THE_BOLT_NEWS](https://twitter.com/THE_BOLT_NEWS)

LIFE 'N STUFF

DEAR COMMITMENT TROUBLES



Dear Life n Stuff,

I'm a 21 year-old guy and have been with my girlfriend for about 6 months. I really like her, but I find myself to be quite attracted to, and still flirt with, quite a bit of other girls. I haven't cheated on her, but to be honest, I'm having a hard time refusing advances. I care about my girlfriend and don't want to hurt her, but I worry that I might regardless of my good intentions. What should I do?

Dear Commitment Troubles,
I am going to tell you this one straight. To me it sounds as if you are NOT ready to be in a serious relationship. Now, don't get me wrong here, flirting is fine. We are all guilty of it, myself included; however, the fact that you yourself admit you cannot continue to refuse other girls advances is concerning.

You are twenty-one. University is a time of self-discovery. I am not anti-relationship but not everyone should be in one simply to be in a relationship. I fully support people who choose to not have a relationship while in school. Think about it this way—what if you do breakup? I can only assume you have mutual friends. Can you imagine the tension? Also it is midterm time! It can be incredibly hard to handle the emotions resulting from a breakup while studying for your exams and having to see this individual on a regular basis at school.

I know breakups are a part of life and they happen to even the best people. I just feel that all angles need to be considered prior to making that type of commitment.

From another standpoint though—you are in a relationship. You have to be honest with yourself and your girlfriend. As I have mentioned in other articles, communication

and honesty are essential in any type of relationship. And I am talking anything from acquaintances to marriage. Let her know how you are feeling. For all you know she may be feeling the same way.

If you honestly feel you can see a future with your girlfriend, then stay out of situations in which you feel tempted. Stick with it. Even the best relationships require work.

The bottom line is you

have to be true to yourself. Unfortunately, that may mean hurting someone you care about in the process. But the reality is that being honest will be way less hurtful than the alternative.

Good luck with whatever you decide to do.

**As always, please submit any question, thoughts, or concerns to asklifestuff@gmail.com, and your question might show*

up here! Take care all!

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SPORTS

OLYMPICS & MORE



BAILEY
GARDECKI
STAFF WRITER

Hey Sports fans,

We have had a busy few weeks here at Concordia! I hope everyone had a fantastic reading week and is ready to finish the second half of the semester, I know I am.

A recap for your Concordia teams: our badminton team was able to send one of their members to Ontario for nationals! Congratulations to Samantha Wong who will

be advancing to the CCAA championships on February 28th - March 2nd. We are very proud of you!

Another piece of good news is that the hockey team on campus made it to the playoffs this year! They played Augustana on the 15th and 16th of February; they won one game 4-3 and lost one ,5-2. Stay tuned for more details on their standings.

Today's hot topic in sports is . . . drum roll please . . . the 2014 Winter Olympics!!! Let me just start by saying that Winter Olympics are so much better

for Canada - seriously - we are about as good at summer sports as Jamaica is at bobsledding. Just kidding! That's a pretty horrible Cool Runnings joke. However, we do generally fare better at the Winter Olympics, which is why everyone should be ecstatic for the games which are in Sochi, Russia. Personally, I wouldn't dream of missing them, and since they fall during reading week next year, guess where I will be. Now, the big question is . . . what is the biggest draw for the Olympics? There is hockey, snowboarding,

and figure skating, which are personal favorites, or the less conventional ones like bobsledding, the luge, and cross country. On that note, what is the prediction on medal numbers? The rounded number of 30 sticks in my mind, however, that is just my guess. I would encourage others to start saving up for this fantastic experience, and hey, I might see you there!

Bye now.

Don't drink and drive,

Bailey

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GO THUNDER GO!

POLITICS

MORE ON POP CULTURE

Continued From Page 1

In shows such as The Simpsons and American Dad, politics is often mocked and criticized. During the political campaign for President, The Simpsons often comment on either party in a joking manner. In one episode, the First Lady makes an appearance to help encourage Lisa to pursue her dreams. This is another way politics is integrated into television. Michelle Obama

appeared on the show, as many other celebrities and other icons have, to express either personal views or to comment on a situation within pop culture. A key component of the last American election was the integration of social media. Both candidates, as well as other political figures, addressed the 'Information Age' group through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The use of social media helped Obama gain

the Youth vote in the election in 2008 as well as in the past election. Many young voters participated in the election due to the comments and feedback on posts and updates made by the campaigns. This feedback allowed for a better insight into the demographic and aided in altering political strategy on both sides.

Whether mocking or mimicking, pop culture has been a key part in keeping many

people up to date with politics. I, for one, follow politics regardless of television, but the various outlooks do help in keeping the entertainment value in a sometimes dry subject.

Comments? Questions? Outrage? Please submit something to The Bolt for publication! csabolt@student.concordia.ab.ca OR comment on our Facebook Wall!

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STUDENT PERSONAL FINANCE

HOW TO SPOT & AVOID INVESTMENT SCAMS



Everywhere you go, no matter where you are, someone or something is trying to get your money from you.

Whether it is companies trying to sell you their products or services, institutions encouraging you to invest in their programs, a crazy spouse that takes you for everything you're worth in a divorce, or people simply just steal money from you; like it or not, the world is NOT designed to help you become rich—quite the contrary in fact.

Despite your best efforts of trying to exercise self-discipline and financial responsibility, sometimes even our best intentions are not enough to combat against all the forces that are trying to attack our financial fortresses.

Although I have covered many strategies already to help curb your spending and maximize your savings, there is another force out there that can destroy any chance you have of reaching your financial goals—investment scams.

If you are like most college graduates, you will leave school with very little in the way of savings, if any at all (hopefully you will have a lot, providing that you have been following my advice).

With high hopes and little

money, in an attempt to make up for lost time, many graduates try to speculate their way to wealth by getting involved in investment opportunities they have little knowledge or understanding of.

Instead of investing in their financial education so they can make better and more informed decisions, most grads rely on “hot tips” or get tricked by a smooth talking salesperson into buying investments that promise to help them become rich with little work or effort on their part.

When these deals and opportunities go south, people then redouble their efforts and try to find even more sensational stories to pour their hard earned money into. Unfortunately, seldom do these investments ever materialize into any level of wealth and more often than not, the end result is you becoming poorer, not richer.

Luckily, if you know what telltale signs to watch out for when you are looking to begin investing your money, you will put yourself in a position of power instead of becoming a victim.

Here are the top 5 signs to look for to determine if the potential investment you are looking at is a scam:

1.) High Pressure Sales People: If the person you are dealing with is desperately trying to get you to purchase the investment they are showing you, RUN don't walk. Remember, when it comes to your money you have the control.

If people are pressuring you to invest, it means they are frantic for a commission. Investment opportunities are a dime a dozen so be very selective about the people you deal with. Only do business with those who have a proven track record, scores of client testimonials, and the proper accreditations.

2.) A Sensational Story: Investing is a very logical and linear process. If the story you are told about the investment doesn't make rational sense, then steer clear. As the old adage goes, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

3.) The Investment Is Not Easy To Understand: If you don't understand the business or opportunity you are looking to invest in, then you are not investing—you are gambling. And contrary to popular belief, gambling with your money will only make you poorer, not richer. If the person you are dealing with cannot clearly explain the opportunity in a way that you can understand, take your money elsewhere.

4.) Promises Extremely High Returns: If an investment ever promises returns such as 2%/day, 10%/week, or 50%/month, chances are very good that the opportunity is a total rip off. Keep in mind that the great investor Warren Buffet—who at the time of this writing is the third wealthiest person in the world

with an estimated net worth of \$46 billion—has only averaged 19%/year with his investments. If you are trying to make up for lost time by trying to achieve a higher rate of return on your investments, then you would be far better off to focus your energy on making more money and then investing it conservatively.

5.) There Aren't Proper Legal Documents: When you are investing in anything, ALWAYS ask for the following documents: An offering memorandum, an investment prospectus, and audited financial statements. If you cannot understand these documents, either ask another professional to look them over and get a second opinion or hold onto your money.

Know this: It is HARD to earn money, but it is EASY to lose it. If you follow these guidelines when you start to invest your savings, you will avoid the pitfalls that cripple the majority of people financially and you will be well on your way to living a rich life.

Stay tuned for my next article where I am going to teach you how to become a great investor so you can reach your goal of financial independence.

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.