

JUSTIN TRUDEAU VISITS BU



Liberal leadership candidate sweeps through town and sweeps the ladies off their feet

Brady Knight

Assistant
Editor-in-Chief

OVER 200 people came out to hear Federal Liberal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau speak at Brandon University this past Thursday.

The event was organized by the Brandon University Politics Society. President Brad McClelland was thrilled by the chance to host Trudeau. "It's really important to engage students," he said. "I think to have a charismatic, potential national leader come to our campus and engage youth like that — that's invaluable."

During his hour-long appearance, Trudeau spoke on a wide variety of issues, the majority of which came from audience questions. When asked about his position on the legalization of marijuana, he said "I'm in favour." He went on to explain legalization would make it easier to control who has access to the drug.

Trudeau often referred to the need for the Liberal party to re-establish their connection with Canadians. "What we need is not just to stand at the podium and put out a great five point plan and wait for people to come back to the Liberal party, the past years have demonstrated that's not the way it works," he said. "We need to get out and reconnect and draw people in."

Trudeau speaks to the crowd on Thursday morning. Photo credit Holly Kalyniuk.

He spoke at length about the "Idle No More" movement that has been sweeping across the country, saying it represents an "extraordinary opportunity" for Canada to "re-start" relations with the aboriginal population. Pointing to the large percentage of young people living in First Nations communities, Trudeau stressed that future growth in Canada is going to depend on "empowering [aboriginal people] to be the drivers of their communities, of their economy, [and] of society, that they can and must be."

Speaking on postsecondary education, Trudeau emphasized the need for greater ease of access. "We're still having a lot of difficulty in access to postsecondary education - access being financial for many people, needing help with tuition fees, needing help to allay the fears of the level of indebtedness that students are getting into."

Without getting into specifics, he also stated that accessibility must be improved for Canada's aboriginal youth, whom often don't receive a quality high school education or sometimes even the primary education required for success in the postsecondary environment. — *continued on page 2*

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The Quill

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

Wednesday, March 6th

Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal from Both Term courses.

Friday, March 22nd

Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal from Second Term courses.

Wednesday, April 10th

Second Term and Both Term courses end.

Friday, February 8th

Deadline for team registration for broomball tournament.
Tournament on February 10th next to the HLC, cost \$5.
Contact campusrec@brandonu.ca.

Saturday, February 9th

Winterlude: hot breakfast, skating, live music, students vs. staff/faculty hockey game!
"Interdisciplinary Visual Art Praxis" presentation by Dr. Mary Longman, 9.00 am, room 104 in Clark Hall.

February 8th – 10th

The Evans Theatre presents Blackbird. Tickets \$6.

Monday, February 11th

Applications due for 2013 BUSU Work Study Program.

Friday, February 22nd

Deadline for RDI Winter '13 Community Outreach proposals.

Tuesday, February 26th

Blood typing test on campus. Watch for posters!

February 28th - March 3rd

Brandon University Theatre presents Safer Ground?
February 28th to March 2nd at 8.00 pm, March 3rd at 3.00 pm in the Evans Theatre. Tickets \$10.

Do you know of an event that the campus should hear about? Drop us a line at eic@thequill.ca. Classified ads of up to 30 words (excepting textbook ads) are free for students and clubs!

JUSTIN TRUDEAU VISITS BU

Continued from front page

Trudeau also noted the government must ensure that all levels of postsecondary education are providing a high enough quality of instruction to allow Canadians to "build a stronger economy on it." He added the federal government needs to take a leadership role on education, while "respecting provincial jurisdictions."

Carissa Taylor, President of the Brandon University Students' Union said Trudeau's visit was important in creating political dialogue. "No matter what political party students are aligned with, I think it's good to have political discussions on campus, and get students engaged – and I think he's a really great candidate to do that."

She notes that although Trudeau didn't give any concrete answers regarding postsecondary education, he had mentioned wanting to increase accessibility. "He has also expressed an interest in educating aboriginal students, which I think is extremely important," said Taylor. "They are very under-represented in post-secondary education."

Taylor was impressed Trudeau made a stop in Brandon. "It's always a little bit frustrating when these things happen, and everything is in Winnipeg, because there exists a world outside the Perimeter [highway]."

Overall, McClelland was pleased with the day, and extended his thanks to the executive of the Politics Society and the members of the community who helped make the day a success. "All in all, the event ran really smoothly, and I think it was a great success. We had an awesome turnout, and everyone seemed really happy."

Trudeau was also delighted at the number of people who attended the event. "I'm really touched by the number of students and people from the community who came out to talk about how

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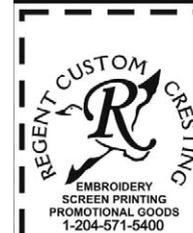
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we can change politics."

"People want to see politics done differently, and that's what's really exciting," he said, while driving home that his campaign is about listening to the people, and bringing all Canadians together. "In 2015 there will be a robust, strong, clear platform for the Liberal party [...] right across the country."

The new leader of the Liberal Party will be announced on April 14th. §

YOUR MONEY, YOUR TIME: TUITION AND FEES AT BU

All you ever wanted to know – and if not, let us know

Holly Kalyniuk

ON JANUARY 29th and 30th, Brandon University's Financial and Registration Services hosted "All You Ever Wanted to Know About BU Tuition & Fees" information sessions in the Louis Riel Room to inform students and faculty of standard financial activities within the university. Giving special attention to the division of tuition fees, Director of Finance and Registration Deb Berkan explained how tuition fees are regulated on a yearly basis.

As everyone knows, Brandon University boasts quite loudly about having one of the lowest tuition rates in the country. Financial support for programming and services available to students on campus during and after school hours is made possible largely through government funding (80%), tuition fees (18%), and other miscellaneous fees, including mandatory student ID cards and the newly enforced Student Fitness Fee.

Other revenue is generated via Ancillary Service Fees, which operates on a cost-recovery basis to provide services such as the parking spots at any of the various lots on campus and lost ID cards, as well as fees for living in residence, including the cost of room, board, Internet, and maintenance. In response to the ebb and flow of the economy and based on the rate paid in previ-

ous years, BU students naturally experience the dreaded phenomenon of rising tuition.

Over the past four years, Brandon University has increased the price of tuition by roughly 13%, with a 2.8% jump for the 2012-2013 school year. The numbers seem unreasonable considered on their own, but we must take into account that the province of Manitoba froze tuition fees from 1999 to 2009, just before a tuition fee reduction of 10%.

So in the long run, over a span of fourteen years, tuition fees have risen by less than 1% per year. By comparison, the University of Manitoba upped tuition by 2.8% this year as well, and the provincial-wide sum of tuition increases totaled 3.9% in Alberta, 4.9% in Saskatchewan and 10.1% in Quebec.

While the figures vary between faculties, students enrolled in 24 credit hours in the Faculty of Arts this school year paid \$2,914.25. Meanwhile, institutions like the University of Winnipeg and the University of Regina charged anywhere from a little over one hundred to over a thousand dollars for theoretically the same educational experience.

However, due to the different methods used by each post-secondary institute to group fees,

comparing statistics between universities is difficult. For example, Brandon University doesn't group the cost of a health and dental plan with standard student tuition fees, whereas the University of Regina forces students to pay higher tuition in lieu of student fees. Similarly, other universities automatically charge for certain documents (i.e., confirmation of enrollment or letters of permission) potentially sought by students regardless of whether the students actually seek them at all, while BU students need only pay the fee if they request the documents.

Brandon University is able to offer students both their academic experience and a fair tuition for a reason, and it definitely puts other institutions to shame by a consistently-meager yearly tuition increase. As the information session highlighted, there are no hidden fees, and arguably the only concealed element of our university experience in regards to financial burdens is our own privilege.

Exact figures for tuition and fees are estimated by Brandon University by April 15th of each year. This information is sent to Manitoba's Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE), and approved by May 31st. Students are contacted soon after with concrete financial figures. §

COMMENT ON THESE ARTICLES ONLINE AT THEQUILL.CA!

JUST WHAT DOES "IDLE NO MORE" MEAN TO US?

Words from the First Nations community about the grassroots movement

Trish Cullen-Watt

THE CEREMONY ROOM in the Health Studies Building was far from 'idle' this past week. Infused with a genuine sense of community spirit and cultural camaraderie, the room was transformed into a warm and welcoming 'sharing circle' and round dance.

On January 29th, members from Brandon University Aboriginal Student Council (BUASC) organized a gathering of both Native and non-Native community members to explore what "Idle No More" means to everyone. With approximately one hundred people in attendance, the evening commenced with a traditional smudging and prayer by a First Nations Elder, and was then followed by a deliciously impressive potluck feast. With bellies full of scrumptious treats and home cooked meals (not to mention the delicious elk-meat chilli!), the session was well underway.

Chief Norman Bone, of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, opened the discussions by addressing the group by sharing how he believes that the Idle No More movement is an opportunity for First Nations peoples to share their teachings and stated that "the current movement is not one to feel threatened about."

Jerry Daniels, an economics graduate from the University of Winnipeg, followed up by saying "all we [First Nations people] want is to be mutually prosperous," and described to the attend-

ees how the current economic ventures in Canada are not utilizing environmentally sustainable methods. Daniels was emphatic when he spoke on the importance of everybody in the country, not just First Nations people, to tune in on what is happening around them.

Craig Miller, the pastor at Knox United Church, described how involved the United Church is in supporting the Idle No More movement not just locally but nationally as well. Miller went on to describe how Natives and non-Natives need more unity by saying, "We are all in this together. We have different and similar histories. We have different and similar approaches to living together." Carissa Taylor, President of BUSU, echoed Miller's commitments by stating "we fully stand behind Idle No More."

Lisa Whitecloud-Richard (Brandon University) and Will Goodon (Manitoba Métis Federation) were equally alarmed by the government's apparent disregard for not just the sanctity of water, but also for the practical sustainability of it. Goodon went on to predict how future wars will be no longer involving the world's access to oils, but instead, to healthy and protected water sources.

Lorraine Mayer (Brandon University), who teaches Philosophy and Native Studies, shared, "It is time to stop being silent. It is time to take back our own voices."

In a statement, BUASC members expressed their satisfaction with the event: "The Idle No More information session was definitely a success. Many people from various backgrounds came out to learn and voice their own opinions on everything and anything pertaining to Idle No More. It was very educational and positive."

While the messages and objectives of the Idle No More movement may seem to be obscure and unfocused to mainstream media, the perspectives shared on January 29th indicate an undeniable need for the Canadian Government to revisit any existing treaties and arrangements with First Nations communities to determine just how our nations can proceed with future opportunities. Many of the participants suggested the crucial need for more tolerant relations between the Native and non-Native communities, more inclusion of treaty histories within the education system, and the pursuit of a "collective conscience" by all Canadians.

BUASC plans on meeting with the City of Brandon to discuss any shared opportunities that there may be in better educating the local community about the Idle No More movement.

As a treaty status Anishinaabe woman, what does 'Idle No More' mean to me? That question is much like asking a fish to describe the water in which she swims. §



HOCKEY IS BACK — BUT NOT EVERYONE IS SMILING

The Quill's satire columnist bares it all on the ice

B. Please, Esq.

NOT LONG AGO, the word “hockey” either curdled blood or triggered blank looks of incomprehension. Now it’s back, and is once again becoming every other word the common Canadian mutters, and the only blood it seems to curdle is mine. If you’ve not heard, the stick-prodding, skull-cracking, figure-skating dudes who play our second national sport have finally worked out a better contract with the people who own their teams. And, unsurprisingly, any notice given to soccer, lacrosse, or even local hockey games is back to nearly zero, save perhaps for their die-hard fans.

Now, hold on. If you think I mean to simply bash and criticize the sport and its fans for liking it, you are, alas, wrong. If you think that my point is to highlight the fact that this is the third labour dispute for this particular league in nineteen years, you’re still wrong (sorry). You also needn’t worry that all I plan to do is rant about how much these players make per season (around \$450,000 in average: can I have their problems, please?), then ask why they don’t simply accept the first agreement placed in front of them. You can find

all of *that* included in any rant as to why anyone thinks an elitist sport (populated mainly by the hyped-up jocks from high school whom you’ve long forgotten about) is stupid. The issues faced by the players of hockey this year were totes serious, y’all. And we should be really happy to have Don Cherry (Dawn Chérie? Done Carry? Breaking Don? I don’t know) and his epilepsy-inducing suits and ties back to keep us entertained at night.

No, seriously, you are allowed to be happy that the NHL is back. You have my sincere consent to stop paying attention to your social circles, to your local sports team (including hockey!), and to any other forms of actually-entertaining and undeservedly-overlooked sport. Go for it, really. Here, you can even have some weird, sticky, coloured paste to smear all over your face. You don’t look silly – trust me. Well, in any case, you don’t look any *sillier*.

But while you’re celebrating, just for me, please remember that each time you insult fans of *America’s Next Top Model*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Gossip Girl*, or (even) *Vampire Diaries* – it would be only too easy for you to be insulted just

the same. I don’t personally recall a time when Tyra Banks stepped away from her show because receiving a couple hundred thousand dollars a year wasn’t good enough for her – or, for that matter, a time when her network locked her out of the studio because they thought they were paying her too much.

So yes, please, celebrate the wonders of having your beloved spectacle of a sport back. It’s okay to forget that it’s not even the first national sport of Canada. ...Which would be lacrosse. ... Anyone? Cool. One more thing: remember that you stuck with your dear hockey league through three lockouts, several player-committed crimes, a rather large amount of severe and very real violence, and even Sidney Crosby’s weepy commercials. On the other hand, it only took the rest of us one bad episode to stop watching *Glee* altogether. You think about that, and have a wonderful Hockey Night in Canada. §

B. Please’s satire column is a new addition to the Quill. Like it? Hate it? Let us know online by posting on TheQuill.ca!

MCGILL ATTEMPTS TO BAR STUDENT JOURNALISTS FROM ATI REQUESTS

The university files motion to bar 14 respondents from filing access-to-information requests

Matthew Guité

The Concordian
(Concordia
University)

MONTREAL (CUP) — McGill University has filed a motion that would grant it the ability to deny access to information (ATI) requests from The McGill Daily, The Link, the website McGillLeaked and anyone associated with them. This comes in response to what the university describes as a “complex system of repetitious and abusive requests” for information.

According to the Canadian Access to Information Act, publically-funded, government-run institutions like universities are required to release certain documents to the public when officially requested.

The McGill Daily reported on January 19th that the university filed the motion to the Commission

d'accès à l'information, the provincial body which oversees access to information requests, claiming that the ATI requests were set up “as a retaliation measure against McGill in the aftermath of the 2011-2012 student protests.”

The motion, which names 14 respondents, seeks the authority to disregard current requests as well as any future requests made by the respondents or any person who can be linked to them, essentially barring the individuals named from ever submitting ATI requests to McGill.

It also seeks the right to deny future requests on a variety of subjects, such as military research and mining investments. Future requests could also be denied if they were found to be “overly broad,” “frivolous” or if they target “trivial docu-

ments and information.”

McGill's motion claims that the respondents set up a “complex system” via repeated ATI requests, which the university describes as repetitious and abusive. It also argues that responding to the requests would represent “serious impediments to [the University's] activities.”

McGill student Christopher Bangs, the founder of the website McGillLeaked and one of the respondents involved in the case, told The Concordian that he was not only worried about the motion itself, but also the motivations behind it.

“We've had a lot of complaints, not just from McGill students but from a lot of members of the McGill community, about how ATI requests are handled,” he said. — *continued on page 7*

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ACADEMIA AND THE INTERNET: AARON SWARTZ AND THE FEDERAL COURT

Open access: the future? a nightmare? a pipe dream?

Graham Janz

THE SUICIDE OF social justice activist and programming prodigy Aaron Swartz has brought forward once again the debate over the morality of online file sharing. Mr. Swartz was to face thirty-five years of imprisonment and a million-dollar fine for downloading four million academic articles from the online database JSTOR: a charge likened to that of borrowing too many books from the library. Both JSTOR and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where Mr. Swartz downloaded the files, did not press charges; rather, the Federal Court sought to prosecute Mr. Swartz. Activists, politicians, and lawmakers have since been trying to make sense of what motivated the Grand Jury to impose such a punishment.

Addressing the application of traditional laws protecting physical property to files shared freely on the Internet during a speech in Washington, D.C. last May, Mr. Swartz asks, “Is sharing a video on BitTorrent like shoplifting from a movie store? Or is it like loaning a videotape to a friend? Is reloading a web page over and over again like a peaceful virtual sit-in or a violent smashing of shop windows? Is the freedom to connect like freedom of speech or like the freedom to murder?”

Mr. Swartz was vehemently opposed to the privatization of knowledge and, in his Guerilla Open Access Manifesto, urges “students, librarians, scientists” who have access to academic databases not to “keep this privilege for yourselves. You have a duty to share it with the world.” He continues, “Large corporations, of course, are blinded by greed. The laws under which they operate require it, their shareholders would revolt at anything less. And the politicians they have bought off back them, passing laws giving them

the exclusive power to decide who can make copies.”

In an interview on Democracy Now!, expert witness Alex Stamos pinpoints the loopholes in MIT's licensed agreement with JSTOR which enabled the downloads, “MIT decided to license the JSTOR database in a way where access was provided to the entire MIT network without asking for any kind of individual authentication...[additionally] they decided to run an extremely open, unmonitored network...in a method that allow[s] people to jump on from wireless or wired access points all over the campus and take on the identity of somebody affiliated with MIT.”

“Aaron,” Mr Stamos continues, in reference to the incidents leading to the indictment of Mr. Swartz, “wanted to find a place that he could leave his laptop for several days to continue downloading without him having to be there, and so he opened up and went into an unlocked wiring closet and plugged his computer into a switch. That, MIT [...] call[ed] trespassing.”

“JSTOR [...] noticed a lot of documents were being downloaded from one address at MIT, and so they would cut off that address. Aaron would notice and [...] ask the MIT network to give him a new one [...] it's that action [which] the government seems to consider wire fraud or computer fraud.”

Mr. Swartz's Grand Jury indictment states, “JSTOR's service is important to research institutions and universities because it can be extraordinarily expensive, in terms of both cost and space, for a research or university library to maintain a comprehensive collection of academic journals. By digitizing extensive, historical collections of journals, JSTOR enables libraries to outsource the journals' storage, ensures their preservation,

and enables authorized users to conduct full-text, cross-disciplinary searches of them. JSTOR has invested millions of dollars in obtaining and digitizing the journal articles that it makes available as part of its service.”

The question of whether knowledge should be free remains. The majority of research is conducted using government grants which are funded by the taxpayers. Most authors publish their articles so that they may be read and in order to advance their achievements, and both these goals are hindered when the article becomes too expensive. The publishing companies, whose ideal function is distribution, but who often determine and uphold copyrights, who charge a heavy bill to databases such as JSTOR and students alike. Arguably, Aaron Swartz demonstrated that the Internet has rendered this distribution bottleneck unnecessary: the authors of academic articles could easily reserve their own copyrights, upload their articles to the Internet, and thus share their research with the world. §



ARE YOU EATING A MUTANT MEAL?

Breaking down genetically-modified food

Jessica Lampard

The Martlet
(University of
Victoria)

VICTORIA (CUP) – When I first heard about genetically-modified (GM) food, I reeled at the ingenuity of customizing a food product through the very source: DNA. The prospect sounded like something from a science fiction film. To be honest, it was a little unnerving. For the time being, though, I shrugged off the idea that I might personally have eaten GM foods. I assumed I'd know one if I saw one.

GM food in the spotlight

Despite not being asked an opinion directly about whether GM foods are safe, the public is nevertheless finding ways to weigh in. Some of those who favour GM feel there's a modern witch hunt underway, and indeed there are articles that have misreported scientific findings by citing the dangers of GM to health when, in fact, the original studies did not support those claims.

But scientific studies, and the articles reporting those studies, do sometimes merit a second look. For instance, a recent independent study done in Quebec found that traces of Bt toxin (the active ingredient in GM pest-resistant crops) can survive in the human bloodstream. This finding counters a previous belief that the Bt toxin would break down within the digestive system.

The Quebec study sampled blood from pregnant and non-pregnant women, and found that high percentages of the women in each test group – 93 per cent and 69 per cent, respectively – carried the toxin. What's more, Bt toxin was also found in 80 per cent of the fetuses, raising concern that GM material could be passed down like our own DNA. This situation isn't proven to pose health risks, but the researchers have recommended further testing.

On the other hand, there's evidence to suggest that GM food could actually improve health. For example, scientists have developed a variety of rice that's rich in vitamin A – the vitamin necessary for good eyesight. The goal is to donate this “golden rice” to undeveloped countries, where every year upwards of 250 000 children go blind because they lack vitamin A.

There's also a special debate related to how genetic-modification technology could help undeveloped countries in a broader sense. Specifically, GM food is sometimes looked to as a solution to world hunger due to high crop yields and plants that can grow in harsh conditions.

But negative public opinion has kept countries such as Africa from fully accepting GM food. For instance, when a drought-stricken Africa and citizens were faced with starvation, Zimbabwe and Zambia turned down offers of free maize from the U.S.A. “simply because the maize was GM,” according to the report “Response to issues on GM agriculture in Africa: Are transgenic crops safe?” published in 2011 on the website BioMed Central. Similarly, “golden rice” has failed to reach its target population thus far in part because of the bad press surrounding GM.

Environmental impact

Effects on the environment are closely tied to effects on human health. Unsurprisingly, there's a similar amount of conflict about the environmental impacts of GM food, with both opponents and supporters.

Given that GM technology is effective and can produce fast results, it makes intuitive sense that it might also be hard to control. One concern is that GM crops will outcross with neighbouring non-GM crops, spreading their seeds through pollination and wind. Some people worry the situation could lead to non-GM crops being overtaken by GM crops altogether down the line.

Another potential problem is the possibility of creating “superweeds.” As discussed, it's hard to predict what will happen when mixing DNA in the wild. There's concern that weedkiller-resistant crops will eventually, through the process of mating with wild plants, over time lead to super-resistant weeds.

Basically, if the worst-case scenarios described by GM opponents actually pan out, biodiversity and the balance of the ecosystem could wind up broken beyond repair.

However, studies have found that fewer chemical sprays are used in GM farms versus non-GM farms. The fewer chemicals used, the less toxic waste left over. So GM could potentially reduce chemical pollution in the environment. But since no long-term studies have been done on the environmental effects of GM crops, there's no hard evidence to back up any of these claims.

Labelling

Canada is one of the only developed countries, along with the U.S.A., not to require mandatory labelling of GM foods. This stance varies from the United Kingdom, where GM foods are required to be labelled under a “precautionary principle.”

In Canada, the government allows companies to decide for themselves whether they want to include “contains GM ingredients” on the labels of GM food. In other words, labelling is voluntary in Canada and virtually non-existent as a result.

But it appears voluntary labelling has been unacceptable to most consumers from the beginning. In 2003, 88 per cent of respondents to a sci-

entific poll conducted by the University of Maine and The Ohio State University wanted mandatory GM labels. And today the trend continues, with online polls routinely showing a marked desire for a mandatory labelling law.

Speculation

The pro-con GM debate comes down to this: there are real, noteworthy findings that support and oppose each argument, and along with the facts, there is much speculation.

Perhaps the biggest speculation lands with us. We have no choice but to guess which foods might have GM ingredients, or to ignore the possibility. And we're likely to keep guessing in the future. By not making labelling mandatory in Canada, it's impossible for the government to accurately chart the long-term effects – disastrous, wonderful, or somewhere in between. §

This is the final part of a three-part series. The first part was published January 22nd, and the second part was published January 29th. If you have any comments on this piece or others, drop us a note at eic@thequill.ca!

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JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND THE CYNICISM OF CANADIAN YOUTH

You gotta talk the talk and walk the walk (except maybe when it's minus 50)

Carissa Taylor

BUSU
President

ON THURSDAY JANUARY 31st, Justin Trudeau stopped by Brandon University to promote his bid for leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada and to meet potential supporters.

Manitoba does not have a strong base of Liberal supporters; of the 57 ridings represented in our provincial government, a Liberal holds only one of those seats. Dr. Jon Gerrard is that MLA, having also the title of the leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba. Likewise, we only have one Liberal MP representing our province. The point of this short digression is that Trudeau came to a setting where, according to current numbers, he probably will not win much support – and so, in my opinion, his visit is all the more appreciated for that very reason. I am always happy when politicians realize that there is more to the province of Manitoba than what is within the Perimeter Highway.

Trudeau gave an interesting presentation, focusing on the cynicism of youth and how that leads to disengagement from the political process. He used the example of youth mobilizing during the Quebec student strike, but how that mobilization did not result in increased voter turnout among youth. He talked about the Idle No More movement and how youth have been engaged through that. His speech was, as to be expected, highly politicized, urging listeners to imagine a better world, then telling us why he is the only person that can lead the change necessary to bring that world to fruition. While many in the crowd wanted to believe his words were the truth, I suppose we will not really be able to know until he has more of an ability to show us what he can do. From an outside perspective, he has certainly been raised to be a successful politician.

Trudeau Jr.'s visit to our campus created more of a buzz about politics than I have experienced in a long time. Even people who do not necessarily care about politics came out in droves to catch a glimpse of his admittedly rather attractive face. Political affiliations – and “dreamy” men – aside, I think it was great for students to talk about politics. It is important for youth to learn the facts and then speak up. Otherwise, politicians will continue ignoring the youth demographic because it simply does not really benefit them to cater to our needs. Health care will win them more

votes than education because the elderly vote. Though health care is immensely important, it is also important to make sure our youth have the tools to succeed in the world, as success is essential for economic growth.

I will end this by relaying the interesting conversation I had with Justin after his presentation. I did not get the chance to ask him my question during his presentation, but was able to ask it afterwards. I asked him what his thoughts were on creating a national postsecondary education act. I also asked him what his thoughts were on the national student debt crisis, noting that the \$15 billion cap was lifted last year, and subsequently raised. This completely ignores the fact that student loan debt is going to become a huge economic issue in the coming years. He did not answer my question, but instead gave me a target of educating more Canadians. I asked him whether this would actually solve the problem, as we have a lot of youth who are educated but are underemployed.

He did not answer this question either. He talked about some more of his views, and I said that talk unfortunately does not mean much: I need to have some sort of grasp of how he will accomplish his goals. He then asked me if I was a supporter of the NDP. I told him that I was not a card-carrying member of any political party, which is the truth. He then asserted that I was an NDP. I responded with the fact that it does not really matter what my political affiliations are, but what matters is that I am asking tough questions of someone who may very well be the next leader of our country. To quote Justin Trudeau in a tweet he sent to me: “Keep pushing all politicians for better answers and more action. But don't allow yourself to become cynical!” This was perhaps the best thing he said all day.

I hope that Trudeau's visit to our campus will not be the last visit by a major politician in the near future. I also hope that it will be the fuel that leads to a greater sense of engagement with



Photo credit Holly Kalyniuk.

politics. The democratic process is beautiful in that it sees every individual, regardless of race, gender, or sexuality (et cetera) as having a voice which has the same value as the next. Regardless of our cynicism regarding politics and the political process, silencing that voice is not a useful form of objection: it just allows others to get away with their wrongful actions. So speak up and make sure you are always conscious and critical of your leaders – and yes, that includes me. §

MCGILL ATTEMPTS TO BAR STUDENT JOURNALISTS FROM ATI REQUESTS

Continued from page 5

“We've all had trouble with it, but the fact that they're going to take this extreme step at this point makes us wonder about their commitment to ensuring both an open dialogue and access to information.”

Bangs also contested the suggestion that the fourteen respondents were operating in collaboration while filing their requests.

“There were fourteen of us in this motion, and the fourteen of us did not co-ordinate our motions,” Bangs said. “We did not submit them together, we did not have some sort of secret plan to bring down the university through access to information requests, so the fact that

they were all submitted at the same time does not give McGill university the right to deny not only those requests but also all future requests we might make.”

Julie Fortier, associate director for McGill's media relations office, explained that the motion is based on current law which allows ATI recipients the right to not answer a request if it breaks certain rules, and that the ATIs in question fall into these categories.

“There are provisions within the law on access to information that allow an organization to make the request to the commission to not reply to certain requests when these are abusive by their nature,” said Fortier. “When

they're systematic or repetitive, or when they could seriously disrupt normal activities, and we thought that this was the case.”

Fortier also said that prior to this motion the ATIs in question were not rejected, and that future requests would be denied if they were considered to be of the same nature as those in the motion.

The Concordian contacted Chris Mota for comment on the nature, depth and number of ATI requests that Concordia receives, but Mota said that the school could not comment on the matter. §

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ASK MISS Q

Q:

Dear Miss Q,

What comes before what? I feel like I have way too many things to juggle and I'm just not sure what needs to come first. I need to do well in my classes, but I also need to work, and that's not even thinking about my friends and family! How do I balance everything?

Sincerely,
Overwhelmed

A:

Dear Overwhelmed,

Ah: the eternal question of balance. Take some comfort in the fact that everyone struggles with this throughout their lives.

The question of life-balancing is arguably two-pronged: one must address both prioritization as well as time management. Neither is easy!

First you must decide which of your obligations must come before all else. This choice can change over time! Perhaps this month you absolutely must focus on your schoolwork first. If that is the case, inform your friends and family as well as your workplace. Explain why in concise terms: perhaps there is one class that is vital to your degree which you need to focus on. Alternatively, perhaps a serious long-term relationship needs attention right now.

Once you've carefully decided what needs your attention most, stick to it. Make time for that regularly and work at it! If you are adamant about spending time on your chosen focus, you may find that the rest of your life balances as a result, since you are accomplishing your goal more efficiently and thus still have time to work on other priorities.

My best,
Miss Q

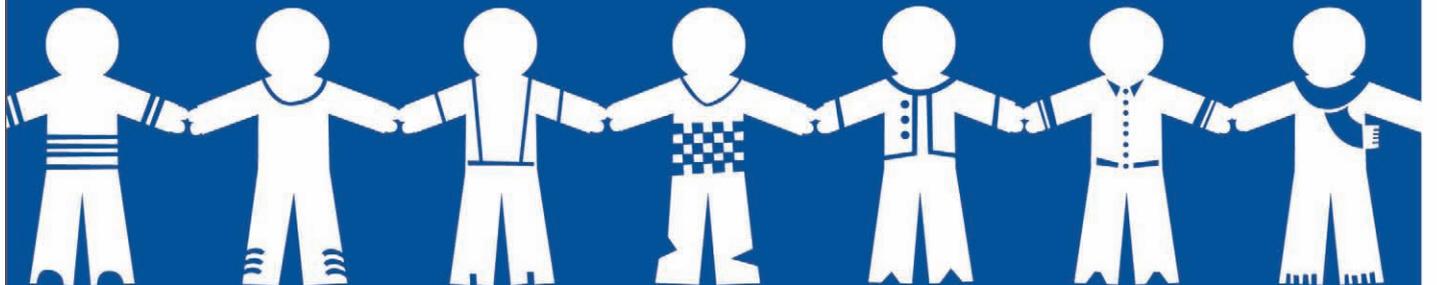
*Do you have a question for Miss Q?
Email it to us at missq@thequill.ca.*

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