

# CUPARUC

newsletter of the concordia university pensioners association  
bulletin de l'association des retraité-e-s de l'université concordia

vol. 15, no 2, august/août 2006

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year older and wiser (I don't know about the wiser!!) CUPA trundles along. We now have our new office at MI 206, 2130 Bishop Street and moved in only to be greeted by a flood from the drains overhead. Great fun and true to the Concordia tradition!! However, all has been cleaned up and we are now in operation. Once again, if you know of any retirees who are not members of CUPA, please encourage them to join.

The spring AGM took place at the end of April with an interesting talk by Frank Chalk on the use of Radio and propaganda in Africa. We also made a presentation to Jim Whitelaw, our newsletter editor who has retired after many years of work for CUPA. Many Thanks, Jim and welcome to Mair Verthuy who has taken over. Lacking any other volunteers, your executive was re-elected for another year. The next meeting is presently scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2006 at Loyola.

As to Pensions and Benefits, all of you who are eligible should have received 2.2% indexing this June. This amount is in accordance with the current formula with a partial catch-up from prior years and, by chance, corresponds to full indexing for the last year. Our concerns about the formula are still present, however, and we will continue to work on them. Those who have retired for more than five years will still be

## RAPPORT DU PRESIDENT

Un an et de la sagesse en plus (enfin, pour la sagesse, j'ai des doutes !!!), l'APUC suit son petit chemin. Nous occupons maintenant notre nouveau bureau, MI 206, 2130 rue Bishop; la tuyauterie dans le plafond nous a accueillis avec une belle inondation. Qu'est-ce qu'on s'amuse à Concordia ! Mais après un bon nettoyage, nous avons pu reprendre nos activités. Avec ce nouveau départ, je vous invite encore une fois à encourager vos connaissances qui sont à la retraite de Concordia à adhérer à l'APUC.

La réunion annuelle du printemps a eu lieu à la fin du mois d'avril; Frank Chalk a fait une excellente présentation sur l'utilisation de la radio et de la propagande dans les massacres en Afrique. Nous avons profité de l'occasion pour faire une présentation à Jim Whitelaw, le rédacteur en chef de notre Bulletin, qui, après avoir travaillé pour nous pendant de longues années, a pris une deuxième retraite. Merci, Jim, et bienvenue à Mair Verthuy qui occupera sa place. En l'absence d'autres volontaires, le mandat du Bureau a été renouvelé pour encore un an. A l'heure où j'écris, la prochaine réunion est prévue pour le vendredi 27 octobre 2006 sur le campus Loyola.

En ce qui concerne le régime de retraite, toute personne éligible aurait du faire l'objet d'une indexation de 2,2% en juin. Ce montant, conforme à la formule actuelle

6-8% below what proper indexing should have provided.

The lawsuit that went to the Supreme Court has been decided. The court ruled by a vote of 4-3 that the class action suit was inappropriate and returned the matter to the labour courts. We are still not quite sure of all the implications of this ruling. On the surface this is negative as we, pensioners, are not a "union" with full access to those courts. However the alternative, which could have caused major changes to the plan if the University lost the class action suit, has been alleviated. We will continue to follow developments and will keep you posted. In the meantime let me assure you your pensions are not in any risk or jeopardy. The plan continues to do well. Socially we have had a couple of activities - Sugaring Off and a Casino visit - that are described below. Attendance while small at these events is increasing and we hope to have more in the Fall. Any suggestions?

A reminder - you are entitled to receive the Concordia Journal and Magazine by mail if you want BUT you must notify them you wish to do so!! (Details below). They are trying to encourage the use of online viewing instead of mail.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very nice summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Graham Martin, President, June 2006

avec un rattrapage partiel des années précédentes, correspond en fait à une pleine indexation pour l'année qui vient de s'écouler. La formule continue de nous préoccuper cependant et nous continuerons à travailler à son amélioration. Ceux et celles qui sont à la retraite depuis plus de cinq ans continuent de toucher de 6 à 8% de moins que ce qu'une indexation sérieuse aurait fourni.

Nous avons eu le résultat de l'action en justice devant la Cour Suprême. Par un vote de 4 contre 3, la Cour a décidé qu'un recours collectif était irrecevable et nous a donc renvoyés devant le tribunal du travail. Nous ne mesurons pas encore toute la signification de ce règlement. Au premier degré, il paraît négatif, car, ne constituant pas un syndicat, nous ne jouissons pas d'un plein accès à ces tribunaux. En revanche, nous n'avons pas à subir toutes les modifications importantes du plan qui auraient été nécessaires advenant que l'Université perde son recours collectif. Nous suivrons le déroulement des événements et vous tiendrons au courant. En attendant, soyez assurés que vos pensions ne courent aucun risque, aucun danger. Le plan se porte bien.

Dans le domaine social, nous nous sommes offert deux petites sorties : une cabane à sucre et le Casino. Le nombre de participants augmente légèrement mais demeure insuffisant ! Nous espérons vous voir plus nombreux à l'automne.

Un rappel. Vous pouvez, si vous le voulez, recevoir par le courrier régulier les publications de Concordia mais il faut prévenir les responsables, qui essaient d'encourager la lecture en ligne.

En terminant, permettez-moi de vous souhaiter un été très agréable. Au plaisir de vous retrouver à l'automne,

Graham Martin  
Président, juin 2006

## EDITORIAL

This my first editorial for CUPARUC ( and may well be my last, of course, if it's a real disaster.) It's very difficult to shake off old habits so, when Jim Whitelaw asked me to take over from him, I had a flash back to my first day at Sir George Williams. Jim it was who hired me when I arrived in Montreal; there was no way at that point (not yet tenured!!!) that I was going to do anything but respect his wishes and, as you can see, I still behave that way. Yes, sir! Certainly, sir! Please note the virtual salute.

Actually, Jim was rather good to me so I have reason to be grateful to him. The world has changed somewhat since our first encounter that took place just as we (SGWU) were moving out of the YMCA and entering the new and shiny Hall Building. Yes, shiny. Those were the days. There were in fact very few of us; everybody knew or recognized everybody else:

secretaries,  
professors,  
administrators, technicians, support staff (including the telephone operators hiding out in a gloomy corner in the parking garage) and REGGIE. I think Reggie was one of our best guidance officers; certainly many of the parents came to see him when their youngsters were in difficulty (our students arrived after grade 12 then and even after grade 11) and didn't even know an official service existed. Jackie Plamondon at the front desk was also a major asset in that area.

I'm sure that Loyola lived similar circumstances, everyone familiar with all colleagues and co-workers. Their world would have been slightly different because of their connection to the University of Montreal, but it must nevertheless have also been very cosy. I should like here to

## EDITORIAL

Me voici, pour l'instant au moins, rédactrice du Bulletin des retrait-és de Concordia. Vous me comprendrez si je vous dis qu'il ne s'agit pas là du but principal que je m'étais fixé dans la vie, mais comment résister à un plaidoyer de Jim Whitelaw, mon ancien patron, celui qui m'a engagée il y a tant de décennies. S'il y en a parmi vous qui regrettent mon passage à l'université, vous savez maintenant à qui vous en prendre !

Toujours est-il qu'en fin de compte la proposition me paraissait assez alléchante et j'ai décidé de m'y essayer - pour constater, bien sûr, qu'il est bien plus facile d'écrire un article dit «savant» que de préparer et mettre en page un journal. Vous excuserez, j'espère, mes erreurs.

Je tiens ici à exprimer toute ma gratitude envers Jim, pour tout ce qu'il a fait pour moi, mais aussi, et c'est bien plus important, tout ce qu'il a fait pour l'Université durant ses longues années de service. Qu'il ait ensuite sacrifié une partie de sa retraite à l'avancement de la CUPARUC ne peut qu'éveiller en nous tous et toutes une profonde gratitude. Merci, Jim, même si je vous en veux de m'avoir réfilé la tâche !

Dans une discussion avec un collègue de longue date, je me suis mise à passer en revue certains des changements qui ont eu lieu dans notre institution. Pour commencer, nous avons, nous les «sons et lumières,» souvent eu comme employeur initial soit Loyola soit Sir George. L'Église d'un côté, le Y.M.C.A. de l'autre. Le mariage qui a suivi n'a pas toujours été heureux; tout couple doit apprendre à vivre ensemble. Avec le temps, la leçon a été bien apprise

invite members from Loyola to write a few words for us on Loyola when...These memories are important; they are the real history of institutions. I should appreciate it if old Sir Georges would also write to us. At a later point we can ask for reactions to and anecdotes about the new university that was to be, Concordia.

Back to Jim. I think he's been a great asset to the university, to our association and certainly to our newsletter. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him. It's been a great privilege to know him. I just hope he doesn't laugh too sardonically when he sees my poor attempts at producing a newsletter as good as his version. I am going to rely on his continuing help, as indeed I shall rely on the continued cooperation of the indispensable Bérengère Gaudet. I'm sure all the Executive will do their best to help.

Mair

et le résultat est là: une université en bonne santé, connue pour l'excellence de ses travaux de recherche et la convivialité qui caractérise sa relation avec un corps étudiant très diversifié. C'est notre travail collectif qui a contribué à cette réussite.

Cela dit, il est normal, je crois, que l'on pense avec une certaine tristesse à ces années qui ont précédé la fusion, quand nous étions si peu nombreux de part et d'autre que tout le monde se connaissait: administration, enseignants, personnel de soutien, même les étudiants. L'histoire d'une institution est composée de l'histoire, de la mémoire, de ceux et celles qui l'ont connue. Je me permets ici alors de solliciter des anciens de Loyola et de Sir George afin qu'ils nous envoient des anecdotes, des souvenirs, d'une époque maintenant révolue. Que nous transmettions notre savoir sur ce passé à ceux et à celles qui suivent. Plus tard, nous pourrions inviter des réminiscences au sujet des premières années de cette nouvelle institution, l'Université Concordia.  
Au plaisir,  
Mair

*It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mary Brian. Mary started out as a Professor of Mathematics; she was the founder and, for many years, Director of the Mature Students' Centre. She was also involved in union activities. Mary was a great addition to Concordia University. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband, Michael Brian, former head of the English Department, as well as to their daughters and all other members of the family.*

**MINUTES OF THE  
Spring General Meeting of CUPA**

**With grateful thanks to our colleague Bérengère Gaudet.**

**Unfortunately, Bérengère Gaudet was unable to translate them into French on this occasion. We beg your patience therefore and hope to have a French version of the next minutes.**

The 37th General Meeting of CUPA was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at Kingston Hall, Loyola Campus. In his opening remarks, the President, Graham Martin, welcomed new members of the Association and gave a list of those who had died since the last General Meeting. He announced that, after having only a virtual office for almost a year, CUPA now has a new office at 2130 Bishop, Annex MI, room 206.

## **Reports**

### **Financial Report**

The Financial Statements were distributed to members attending. The Treasurer, Colin Waters, commented on them briefly. The document showed an opening balance of \$10,405.40, total income of \$4,802.48, and total expenditures of \$5,643.50 for a closing balance of \$9,564.39. On a motion by Peter Paquet and seconded by Audrey Williams, the Financial Statements were approved. A motion to keep the annual fees at \$15.00 was also approved.

### **Pension and Benefits Committees**

#### **Pension**

John Hall reported on the Pension Committee meetings. The fund managers continue to report twice a year. Some managers, he said, were under close scrutiny with respect to their performance, but there was nothing to create undue concern. Two new subcommittees were established and convened: 1) an Investment Policy sub-committee (a continuation of the former Asset/Liability sub-committee), to which he, John Hall, is assigned; and 2) a Socially Responsible Investment sub-committee - Howard Fink being assigned to this one. In response to queries from the floor about the lawsuit, John explained the purpose of the CSN's class action. He indicated that there had been a hearing before the Supreme Court on December 14, 2005, and that we were still awaiting the Court's decision as to whether the matter should go to an arbitration tribunal or should be treated as a class action.

#### **Benefits**

John also reported on the Benefits Committee, which held only two meetings, on March 8 and April 5, 2006. The main point of discussion was a report by Mercer's in response to CUFA's proposal that certain early retirement benefits be traded for improvements in the indexation formula. Mercer's evaluation is that this would be too costly for two reasons: 1) because of changes in actuarial valuations being based on a "solvency" basis rather than a "going concern" basis; and 2) because of our asset/liability ratios. Discussions on these issues will continue at future meetings.

He announced that Concordia retirees will receive a full 2.2% indexation on June 1st this year, as a result of the combination of the basic indexation (CPI less 2 %) and the Excess Interest Indexation.

John Hall being CUPA's representative as an observer on the Board of Governors, he also reported on the last few meetings of the Board. One of the notable items of interest is that every dean made a presentation to the Board on his or her Faculty's recent achievements and plans for the future.

### **Social Activities**

Graham Martin reported on past and planned social activities. The Day at the Races was well attended, the Christmas luncheon on December 12 was a success, and at the Sugaring-off, there had been a 100% increase in attendance, going from 6 to 12 participants! A Casino Matinee is being proposed for Wednesday, May 17; it is a new event we are trying out. In the Fall, there will also be a revival of a previous activity, organized by Christine MacKay and consisting in a luncheon followed by a visit or guided tour of Old Montreal, a museum, etc. For additional details, participants were invited to consult CUPA's Web site. Relations with Other Associations

In his capacity as President of CURAC (College and University Retirees' Associations of Canada), Howard Fink reported on its activities. He stated that all the committees are working very well, particularly those on Communications, Medical Issues, Pensions and Aboriginal Education. A regional conference for the Maritimes would be held in Halifax later that week. CURAC's Annual General Meeting will take place this year at Guelph University, Ont, from May 24 to 26. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, please consult CURAC's Web site, which is linked to our Association's site.

### **Scholarship Committee**

John Hall reported that the Endowment Fund created by CUPA generated sufficient returns to cover the full amount of awards and bursaries we are allowed to grant under the Fund's principles. As a result, the Committee dispensed a total of \$35,000.00 in 8 undergraduate scholarships and bursaries and 4 graduate awards. An Undergraduate Scholarship ceremony was held last November, a Graduate Award Breakfast in December, and undergraduate bursaries were granted earlier this month.

John read out the names of the four students who received undergraduate scholarships of \$2,000.00 and those of the four recipients of the Graduate Awards of \$4,375.00. The names of the four recipients of the undergraduate bursaries had not been made available to him yet. Invitations to attend our AGM had been sent out to the undergraduate recipients of scholarships and bursaries through the Financial Aid Office, and he personally sent invitations to the graduate awards recipients. John added that, although these students could not attend our meeting for various reasons, he had received letters of appreciation from many of them thanking CUPA for this financial aid.

One of the members asked John whether there was any way of ensuring a follow-up with the recipients. For example, it might be nice to hear about their professional plans, and would it not be interesting to know if they finished their degrees? John responded

that the Committee already receives a report from the Advancement Office, but said he was quite willing to follow up on this suggestion with the Scholarship Committee.

### **Technical Committee**

Peter Paquet reported that the Committee was still working on expanding the Majordomo list, which contains only 80 addresses at the moment. He invited all members to add their e-mail addresses to the list. It would seem that CUPA's Web site, at <http://cupa.concordia.ca/> is not accessed frequently enough, and Peter hoped he could make the site more attractive by posting more information.

### **Nominating Committee**

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, John Hall indicated that seven positions were up for renewal on the Executive Committee, namely those of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer and four of the six members-at-large. The present incumbents have just completed a two-year term. When approached, all the incumbents agreed to be nominated to serve another term. Therefore, the Nominating Committee was recommending that the following persons be elected in the following positions:

President: Graham Martin

Vice-President: Howard Fink

Secretary-Treasurer: Colin Waters

Members-at-large: Berengere Gaudet, Barbara Harding, Steve Kumarapeli and Shirley Robinson.

There being no other nominations from the floor, it was moved by John Hall, seconded by Geoff Adams, and unanimously resolved that the above-mentioned candidates be re-elected for a term of two years.

The ongoing members-at-large are John Fiset and Peter Paquet, who were re-elected last Spring and still have one year to serve. The other members of the Executive Committee are John Hall (as Past President) and Mair Verthuy, who has graciously agreed to become the Editor of the Association's Newsletter (CUPARUC). This is an ex-officio position, as are those of the two representatives on the Pension and the Benefits Committees.

### **Other Business**

#### **1. The Newsletter**

Mair Verthuy said she was new to an Editor's job. She was taking this opportunity to solicit contributions to the Newsletter. For example, there are newly retired members; we would like to know more about them, perhaps through a short biographical notice that we could publish. Also, members could send in funny stories, travel anecdotes and recommendations, or write a review about a book or a movie they have enjoyed, etc.—any items that would make lively reading. Mair's e-mail address is the following: [verthuy@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:verthuy@alcor.concordia.ca).

#### **2. Commendations**

Jim Whitelaw was awarded an Exemplary Service Certificate, presented to him by Graham Martin, in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Editor of our Newsletter during 13 years. Graham praised Jim's competence, his dedication to this work, his sense of humour, and thanked him on behalf of all the members. Jim also received a gift as a small token of our appreciation.

A presentation was also made to Vice-President Marcel Danis, in the form of a Certificate of Recognition, to thank him for his help and support, particularly in the area of pensions and

our representation on the Board of Governors. Unfortunately, Marcel Danis was unable to attend.

### **3. Recruiting Efforts**

Graham explained the problem we are facing in trying to recruit new members. New retirees can only be reached through Human Resources, who are willing to do mailings for us, but CUPA cannot obtain their names and addresses, because of the privacy stipulations regarding nominative information under the Access to Information Act, which Human Resources are obliged to respect. This restriction hinders our recruiting efforts. New members are joining us, he said, but not enough of them (CUPA now comprises 450 members, out of a potential of about 1100 retirees). Any suggestions from the members would be welcome.

Howard Fink pointed out that these difficulties in recruiting new members should not be seen as affecting the quality of our representation. On a real level, he said, we do represent all inactives, because under the terms of the Pension Plan, CUPA nominates two representatives (one on the Pension Committee, one on the Benefits Committee) who are mandated to voice the concerns of all retirees, regardless of their belonging to CUPA or not. But it is true that to be more "democratically representative", we do need to increase our membership.

### **Next Meeting**

The Fall General Meeting will be held in the last week of October, on the SOW Campus, if facilities are available.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m., and was followed by Guest Speaker Frank Chalk, who talked about genocide and his work in Africa. An outline of his presentation can be found hereafter.

Berengere Gaudet

### **To keep in touch with what's happening in Concordia.**

Online contacts are:

The University's home page is [www.concordia.ca](http://www.concordia.ca)

The Concordia Journal appears every two weeks at <http://cjournal.concordia.ca/>

Daily news is available at: <http://news.concordia.ca/>

And CUPA is at <http://cupa.concordia.ca>

For those who are not online you can obtain by mail, free of charge, the Concordia Journal by identifying yourself as a retiree and contacting  
Internal Relations & Communications Department of Concordia University



1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.; Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M5 Tel (514) 848-2424, ext. 4183; Fax: (514) 848-2814

The Concordia alumni Magazine is also available from the Alumni Office. Contact Harvery Borsuk, Editor, Alumni Magazine at Concordia (above address).

NOTE: We have been informed that even if you have already been receiving these free of charge you have to reconfirm your desire to continue to do so!!

### **Scholarship Committee Report April 26 2006**

The Concordia University Retired Faculty and Staff Endowment Fund generated sufficient funds to cover the full amount of awards the fund's current principles allow us to grant. As a result we dispensed a total of \$ 35,000.00 in 8 undergraduate scholarships & bursaries and 4 graduate awards. These awards were disseminated throughout the year with a U/G scholarship ceremony in November, a Graduate Award Breakfast in December and U/G bursaries dispensed early this month

Invitations to be here today were sent to the undergraduate recipients of our scholarship and bursaries through the Financial Aid Office, and I sent invitations to the Graduate recipients. Several replied that for various reasons they could not make it. If, by chance, anyone of our recipients are here, please stand and be recognized and, if you wish, to say a few words about yourself.

The individuals who received scholarship awards of \$ 2,000.00 each are:

Jessica BUTLER, B.F.A. (Major Design Art) 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr.  
Chungsong QU, B.A. (Honours Statistics) 3<sup>rd</sup>. Yr.  
Steven RICHMAN, B.Eng. (Mechanical Engineering) 4<sup>th</sup>. Yr.  
Shaun SELCER, B.Comm. (Major Accountancy) 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr.

The names of the four recipients of the Graduate Awards of \$4375.00 each are:

Agnieszka CHALAS, M.A. Art Education  
Afruza ISLAM, M. Eng. Civil Engineering  
Kevin McCAIN, M.A. Philosophy  
Hong Lin YAN, M. Eng. Electrical & Computer Engineering.

The names of the four recipients Undergraduate Bursaries of \$ 2375.00 each have not been made available to me as yet, as per the policy of the Financial Aid Office.

Even though the recipients could not make it today, I have received letters of appreciation from many of them thanking us for providing this financial aid.

John L. Hall

## A Day At The Casino

Fifteen fun-loving people spent a few happy hours and (maybe) a few dollars , Wednesday, May 17 at the Casino de Montreal.

We met at the entrance to the Casino and decided to skip the Cabaret show in order to enjoy each other's company at La Fortuna Restaurant. It was an excellent decision because it gave us the opportunity to have lots of laughs, catch up on what we've been doing, eat a delicious lunch and give way to dreams of winning a jackpot. A good time was had by all. This was my first event with the Concordia Retirees Association and it certainly won't be the last.

Pat Berger  
June 2006

## **Report on Pension and Benefits Committees April 26, 2006**

Benefits Committee:

Two meetings held, March 8 and April 5.

The main points of discussion were on a Mercer response to CUFA's request that certain early retirement benefits be traded for improvements in indexation. Net result: too costly in view of changes in Actuarial Evaluations being based on "Solvency" basis instead of a "Going concern" basis and the condition of our asset / liability ratios. Discussions will continue on these issues at future meetings.

Retirees will receive a full 2.2% indexation on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year as a result of the combination of the basic indexation (CPI minus 2%) and the Excess Indexation clause.

Pension Committee:

Business as usual, fund managers continue to report at least twice a year. Some managers under close scrutiny in view of performance but nothing to create undue concern.

Two sub committees being convened; 1) an Investment Policy sub-committee (a continuation of the Asset / Liability sub-committee) (John is assigned to this one); and 2) a Socially Responsible Investment sub-committee (Howard attending this one).

John L. Hall

## **Nominating Committee Report April 26, 2006**

This year we have 7 positions in our Executive Committee up for renewal. These positions are, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer and four of the six Members at Large. The present incumbents have just completed their first two-year term. Since the Constitution allows an individual to serve three 2-year terms in the same office, and when approached, all of the incumbents agreed to serve another term.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals be elected in the following positions:

President, Graham Martin  
Vice-President, Howard Fink  
Secretary Treasurer, Colin Waters

Members at Large, Berengere Gaudet-Tremblay, Barbara Harding, Stephen Kumarapeli and Shirley Robinson

Are there any nominations from the floor?

If not, then I move that the above-mentioned slate of individuals be elected to the indicated positions. (Call for a seconder and hold a vote.)

For your information the on-going Members at Large are John Fiset and Peter Paquet. The other members of the Executive Committee are John Hall (Past-President) and Mair Verthuy, who has graciously agreed to become our Editor of the Association's Newsletter (CUPARUC) This function is Ex-Officio, as are the two Reps on the Pension and Benefits Committees.

John L. Hall

Help Needed:

We have been asked if we had any members who would be willing to volunteer to work with TEL-AIDE. Tel-aide is a listening centre for people in difficulty. They provide respectful, empathetic and non-judgemental listening. Hours are part time and flexible and training is provided. For details contact Mr. Gagnon at 514-935-1105.

**Apparently they have a desperate need for English speaking volunteer listeners!**

**HELP! AUSECOURS! HILFE! AIUTO!  
MAYDAY! ETC.**

**ASK NOT WHAT YOUR NEWSLETTER CAN DO FOR YOU. ASK  
WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER.**

We like to hear from you. It's lonely sitting in an office all by yourself and even lonelier when no-one even writes to you. Have pity, please.

The editorial suggests you reminisce about Loyola and Sir George but we would also like to hear about your current activities.. Life doesn't stop on retirement day; it's the first day of the rest of your life. So... what are you doing out there? Playing golf? Curling? Tell us about it. Traveling? Tell us where you've been and what it was like. Picking up on your knitting, your embroidery, your quilting? One of my former colleagues has just finished a refresher embroidery course and is also practicing her crazy quilting. Her most recent triumph is a beautiful bag she made for her daughter. I recently found on my shelves the first ever encyclopedia of «ouvrages de dame.» It's more than 150 years old and I'm including a few paragraphs further on in the Newsletter in French. Perhaps you prefer watching movies? Tell us which ones we should go to and which we should avoid. And most people read a book here and there that they could tell us about. You will also find elsewhere in the Newsletter two book reviews, one in French, one in English. Please tell us what you think about them and send us more. Your information can be as short or as long as you like. Over and out!

### **WHO ARE YOU?**

We don't all know each other so I wanted to continue Jim's tradition of introducing us to ourselves! I tested a few people but they were rather shy. Bernice Goldsmith set an example and wrote a paragraph about herself, and I'm hoping that one day soon she'll tell us what she gets up to on those many international conferences. Colin Waters described, very briefly, his activities at Concordia, but has kept his current life to himself! Anyway, please write and tell us about your role at Concordia and all the fascinating things you do now.

### **ON COMPTE SUR VOUS !!!!!!!**

Quel tableau ! Une femme assise seule dans un bureau, sans personne à qui parler, coupée de toute communication avec le monde extérieur, sauf pour une petite souris qui passe de temps en temps. Le téléphone reste muet; quand elle veut consulter son courriel, l'ordinateur émet un bref rire rempli d'ironie. Voilà ce qu'est la vie de la rédactrice d'un bulletin auquel ses lecteurs et lectrices n'envoient pas de petits messages ni de petits textes à inclure dans le prochain numéro. Ah, c'est dur, la solitude.

Maintenant que vous êtes, tous et toutes, j'espère, en train de pleurer sur mon sort, je vous demanderai de sécher vos larmes, de sortir vos plus belles plumes et vos plus beaux claviers pour m'écrire. Vous ne pouvez pas me refuser cela !

On aimerait savoir comment vous passez votre temps et quels sont vos projets. Vous jouez au golf ? Vous voyagez ? Vous tricotez ? Vous raccommodez ? Vous bercez vos petits enfants ? Vous avez un projet de recherche ? Une collègue s'est remise à la broderie ainsi qu'au patchwork et réussit de beaux objets pour sa fille. Ce qui m'an encourage à inclure un petit extrait d'un livre vieux de plus de 150 ans, la première encyclopédie des ouvrages de dame publiée en français. Racontez-nous tout cela. Parlez-nous d'un livre que vous avez lu, un film que vous avez vu. Commentez les comptes rendus qui suivent; faites-en d'autres. On veut vous lire.

## ET QUI ÊTES-VOUS ?

Quand vous nous parlerez de votre retraite, donnez-nous aussi quelques détails sur votre vie à Concordia, comme l'ont fait Bernice Goldsmith et Colin Waters. J'espère qu'un jour Bernice nous racontera ces voyages à l'étranger pour ces colloques si intéressants. Colin est plus réservé quant à ses activités actuelles. Ne soyez pas timides. Il est important que nous nous commissions tous et toutes. Jim avait déjà commencé cet exercice; il ne faut pas l'abandonner maintenant.

## BOOK REVIEWS/COMPTES-RENDUS DE LIVRES

### YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE WELSH TO READ MATTHEW PRYCE !

Aberystwyth ain't what it used to be! I remember a quiet, extremely beautiful and rather boring seaside town, where getting a drink on Sunday was a major achievement. It's also a safe environment where Prince Charles was sent to study Welsh. Now, when I look it up on the Web, the talk is all about pubs (50 of them), bars, and various ethnic restaurants. And that's where Matthew Pryce comes in. He is the king of Welsh «noir» and has to date written three thrillers set in Aberystwyth featuring Louie Knight, the unsuccessful P.I. whose world is more reminiscent of Piglet than Welsh chapel country! The Druid-run Moulin Club is a Mafia cover and brothel, the ladies of the Sweet Jesus society do not only sell biblical ornaments at their market stall, Sospan, the ice-cream seller, is also a philosopher, the donkeys are central characters, murder and torture are the name of the game. Pryce's world of «noir» is, of course, a spoof as his titles would indicate: *Aberystwyth, mon amour, Last Tango in Aberystwyth, The Unbearable Lightness of Being in Aberystwyth*, and the next one off the press will be: *Don't Cry for Me, Aberystwyth !*

I say they are all very funny spoofs, but sometimes you have to wonder...  
Check them out for yourselves. Mair

### Pour prolonger l'été

L'été il semble que tous les lieux et toutes les heures du jour et de la nuit nous invitent à la lecture. Quel bonheur de lire sur son balcon quand la ville s'éveille et que la fraîcheur est encore là! Quel bonheur de lire sur la galerie du chalet quand descend la nuit! Quel bonheur de lire à l'heure de la sieste, étendu sur sa couche ou calé dans un hamac, écrasé par la chaleur ou la fatigue des baignades ! Quel bonheur que ces insomnies qui vous permettent de lire dans le grand silence! Bref, quel bonheur de lire, n'importe où et n'importe quand... mais pas n'importe quoi. Voici donc un roman qui a fait mon bonheur quelques jours de mon été.

Rien de mieux pour présenter **Dans la main du diable** d' Anne-Marie Garat que ce commentaire de l'auteure : «J'ai écrit ce roman en dette aux premières amours de la lecture, quand on palpète, ivre de feux d'artifice, de sens éveillés, de la vie en plus de la langue, magique...».

Il faut entrer dans ce pavé de plus de 900 pages en toute confiance et se laisser immerger dans le plaisir tout simple que procure une belle histoire bien racontée. Les premières pages, il est vrai, ont un petit parfum d'eau de rose : une jeune héroïne d'origine hongroise, au cœur pur, au caractère bien trempé, et à l'éducation raffinée qu'on donnait autrefois aux filles de la grande bourgeoisie, décide d'élucider la disparition de son beau cousin qui rut son amant avant de partir pour une expédition en Birmanie. Mais, même le lecteur réticent se laisse piéger par la machine à histoires mise en place par l'auteure qui manifestement aime l'Histoire à moins qu'il ne se laisse séduire par une écriture élégante, fluide et nerveuse. Et puis Anne-Marie Garat sait si bien évoquer les images et glisser dans son texte des références littéraires ou cinématographiques que tout lecteur se sent photographe de génie et sourit de contentement quand il saisit au vol ces clins d'œil complices.

Le livre s'ouvre sur l'image de «deux femmes solitaires dans une allée du Luxembourg») un jour de septembre 1913 et se ferme un an plus tard sur une autre image de deux femmes «perdues dans la foule» qui contemplant du pont supérieur d'un transatlantique le «relief découpé de la côte française», dernière image d'un monde en désordre «qu'il faut quitter comme on s'ampute à vif».

Mais si ce roman aux allures de feuilleton est un grand roman, c'est peut-être parce qu'il nous fait vivre de l'intérieur et donc avec émotions une page d'Histoire. Les intrigues, les complots, les passions qui tissent les destins individuels de Gabrielle Demachy et des autres personnages nous livrent le monde à la veille de la Grande Guerre. Ne me demandez pas pourquoi, le livre fermé, j'ai pensé à relire **Guerre et paix**.

Françoise Ligier

Et voilà, Mesdames ! Et Messieurs ?

### **Les Dentelles à l'aiguille**

Le genre d'ouvrage connu sous le nom de dentelles à l'aiguille peut être considéré comme un dérivé des jours sur toile.

Comme leur nom l'indique, les dentelles à l'aiguille sont exécutées sans l'aide d'aucun autre accessoire qu'une aiguille; elles se composent de points de festoon différemment placés et sont travaillées avec un seul fil.

Les dentelles les plus anciennes sont les dentelles «Reticella» dont les dessins se rapprochent beaucoup des dessins de jours sur toile.

Le XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle a vu naître la dentelle à relief avec brides irrégulières, connue sous les noms de point de Venise et point de France.

Au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle on préféra les dentelles avec fond de mailles et de réseau, comme le point d'Alençon, le point d'Argentan, etc. Aujourd'hui on apprécie beaucoup les dentelles à l'aiguille très fines qui sont faites en Belgique, en Saxe et en Bohême, mais

comme leur confection est très longue et très pénible, elles ne peuvent être faites au nombre des ouvrages de dames pratiqués en famille et n'ont d'importance que pour le commerce. (Ouf! dixit Mair.)

Le genre de dentelle à l'aiguille que Ton rencontre le plus souvent entre les mains des dames est la dentelle irlandaise. (Manifestement beaucoup plus à notre portée, Mair. Qu'en pensez-vous ?)

**PRESENTATION BY DR FRANK CHALK, Professor of History and Co-Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University.**

«The Operational Meaning of Genocide Today and Research on Radio Broadcasting.»

This fascinating and very informative presentation dealt with a topic which, while covering a specific area of the globe and a specific conflict, clearly applies also in other times and place. Dr Chalk began by explaining how earlier definitions of genocide have given way to broader concepts. The earlier definitions required the open intention to destroy in whole or in part and by various means a national, racial or religious group. These various means could include preventing new births, transferring children to other groups, starvation and, of course, killing. The issue, however, of specific intent and the definition of the victim group, frequently prevented foreign intervention to prevent the pursuit of genocide.

The aim of the new paradigm is to mobilize intervention before and during genocide when overwhelming evidence of systematic and serious crimes against humanity and of war crimes is already present.» Kosovo was a good example of this. Dr Chalk went on to discuss the use of radio as a source of information and of propaganda in such cases, using Sudan and Darfur as an example. On the one hand, in various radio broadcasts, various official sources (Condi Rice, Colin Powell, Kofi Annan, the BBC etc.) have clearly defined the events in Darfur as a case of genocide. On the other, Government run radio stations and other media in Sudan, refer to the efforts of the government to achieve a cease-fire, the Darfur rebels and refugees and «enemies of Islam» are blamed for the continuing violence. A close analysis of the broadcasts and actions undertaken clearly reveal that Sudan is simply stalling for time. The Sudanese people are being lulled into a false appreciation of the events in Darfur. Genocide is indeed the name of the game.

The audience was most appreciative of this dynamic presentation of an extremely serious subject.

If you would like to know more about our speaker, please consult the following site :  
<http://mediarelations.concordia.ca>