

Not the time for empty-chair politics

MONTREAL (CUP) — Can you smell it? That heady spicy scent wafting through the atmosphere is the by-product of youth groups across Quebec burning the midnight oil.

They're preparing for this February's summit on Quebec and youth, to be held in Quebec City.

Young people across the province are putting their heads together to decide what kind of issues they want explored, so that once and for all we can eliminate the social and economic exclusion that is the daily reality of Quebecers who are under 35.

Some youth groups have even wized up to the old "strength in numbers" credo and formed an ad hoc coalition called Concertation Jeunesse (Concentrated Youth).

But one group is missing. Concordia University's Student Union (CSU) and its ally, the Quebec contingent of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS-Q), have decided not to participate.

In fact, they're part of a group calling for the summit's cancellation.

The 21-member organizations of Concertation Jeunesse, whose only anglo voice comes from Alliance Quebec's youth wing, decided it was in their best interest to present a common front to the government.

Their demands so far seem to revolve around a broad range of youth concerns — education, suicide and integration into the labour market, to name but a few.

But what about Concordia

students? What do they care about? As it stands, no one at the summit will ever know.

This is not a good thing, given that the whole exercise is supposed to help the government create youth policy.

No CSU or CFS-Q means no one at Concordia will have their say on what should be done to ensure a viable future for young anglophone and allophones in Quebec.

It is my understanding that members of the CSU and the CFS-Q believe the summit to be a sham, a public relations exercise that will result in little more than rubber stamping a pre-determined government agenda.

They prefer to advocate through more activist means, such as student strikes and occupations. Fair enough. Individuals are allowed to have their opinions. It's a free country.

In fact, I must confess to a particular soft spot for activists. They have the courage of their convictions.

But the CSU is mandated to act in the best interests of Concordia students. At this point,

I do not think that a boycott fulfils that mandate.

It is premature to accuse the government of acting in bad faith. It has made sure that the eight members of the youth summit's four working groups are equally divided between the young and the more senior members of society.

The proposed themes of employment — knowledge and training, social equity, and opening Quebec to the world — are more than reasonable. And more importantly, young Quebecers are being asked to come up with the summit's content.

The results of the preliminary consultation will be in by the end of November. That is why it is vital that Concordia students have the opportunity to contribute. If anyone has problems integrating into Quebec society, it is the anglophones and allophones who walk these halls.

Moreover, we need to benefit from the strength in numbers that comes from the Concertation Jeunesse common front.

Political alliances are crucial to our future in this province. Student solidarity proved highly effective in forcing the government to freeze tuition rates. Imagine what 22 provincial youth groups could do if they put their heads together.

The CSU and the CFS-Q must sit down with Concertation Jeunesse and try to find common ground.

Let's wait until November to see if the preliminary reports reflect the real concerns of youth. If they don't, then it will be time to consider other action.

Now is not the time for the politics of the empty chair. The CSU and the CFS-Q owe it to present and future Concordia students to make an effort to work within the system on our behalf.

It is only when these efforts have proved fruitless that other means should be considered.

We deserve to have a prominent seat at the summit table.

We deserve to be heard.

Kim Fraser

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY Faculty of Graduate Studies Senate Review

The Dalhousie Senate is conducting a regular review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The purpose of the review is to improve academic activities and provide information for planning, budgeting and other decision-making processes.

The Senate Review Committee for Graduate Studies (chaired by Dr. Raymond Klein, Department of Psychology) is seeking information from all interested parties and is open to your comments and concerns. Faculty of Graduate Studies faculty, staff and graduate students (current and graduated) are particularly invited to participate in the review. Written submissions are welcome. Appointments can be arranged to meet with the Senate Review Committee and/or two external reviewers (who will be on campus from Monday, October 25th to Wednesday, October 27th for a site visit).

Any person or group wishing to meet with the Senate Review Committee and/or the External Reviewers is asked to contact Michele O'Neill as soon as possible.



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Chuck Wagon BY CHARLES LACERTE

Cooking is not rocket science, anybody can do it. With the aid of recipes, you can create great dishes. You should choose recipes you feel comfortable attempting, since some require more experience than others. For successful dishes, you should read the entire recipe first. Make sure you understand all the steps and have all the ingredients and equipment. Now is when some understanding comes into play. If it is an older cookbook and it calls for pints, check to see if it is an American publication since their volumes (16oz) are less than imperial (20oz) measurements. The extra liquid you add can alter the cooking time and end result.

The actual oven temperature is a larger factor in baking. The oven temperature could be different than what the setting is, so instead of buying a thermometer, pay attention to your actual

cooking time and adjust your oven temperature accordingly. Some ingredients can be substituted for others depending on your taste and budget (chicken thighs for breasts, peanuts for macadamia nuts) realizing that every change makes the recipe yours and less the authors.

However, some such as eggs, are important and necessary for moisture and leavening. To remove for cholesterol reasons is not a good idea. If your results come out differently than the accompanying picture, do not be disheartened since they generally are arranged by professional food stylists and photographers. One last point is that not every recipe in every book has necessarily been tested. The recipe was created and in theory, good results should occur.



SHEPPARD'S PIE

- 1 8" square pan
- 2 lb potatoes (peeled and cut)
- 3/4 cup diced onion
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1-1/2 lb ground beef
- 4 tablespoons barbecue sauce
- 1 cup corn
- 1-1/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- salt and pepper to taste

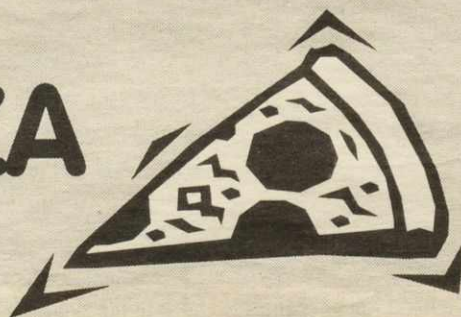
Place potatoes in a pot covered with water, add salt and boil until cooked. Place 1 tablespoon of butter in a frying pan on medium heat. Add onion, cook until soft (2-3 minutes) add garlic, cook another minute. Add ground beef, salt and pepper, cook until meat is done. Drain excess fat and add barbecue sauce. Place in pan and top with corn. Drain cooked potatoes and mash, add remaining butter, milk, salt and pepper, mix until well combined. Place on top of corn in pan. Bake at 350F for 30 minutes, let rest for three minutes then serve. Can be accompanied by salad.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday the 19th of October

at 6pm in Council Chambers, SUB

FREE PIZZA



All are welcome.
Must be a Dal student to vote.

THE GAZETTE