

Concordia students win journalism award

OTTAWA (CUP)—"It all started when . . ."

That is how Ian Halperin, the co-winner of this year's *Rolling Stone* College Investigative Journalism award, begins the story that rocked Concordia University's athletics department in 1983 and 1984.

Halperin and another Concordia journalism student, Max Wallace, wrote a series of articles on varsity athletic pay-offs, and sexism within the sports program at the Montreal university.

Their article was originally printed in Concordia's student newspaper, *The Link*.

Halperin and Wallace received \$1,000 from the American magazine, the first Canadian students to win the award. David Hunt, then editor at *The Link*, sent stories in for the contest's consideration without notifying either of the authors.

"We didn't even know he had until one day they called and said

we were one of the three finalists," said Halperin.

One of three finalists, from a field of 430 entries.

Halperin's and Wallace's series of exposes revealed a number of athletic department improprieties, including under the table payments to varsity athletes. A report of a committee set up by Concordia's administration later proved the writers' allegations.

The report said the athletic department paid for some athletes' books, tuition fees, living expenses, helped them find high paying student jobs and lent them money.

The Canadian Inter-collegiate Athletics Union, the league in which Concordia teams play, later suspended the university's men's basketball team for one year for paying some of its players. The team is still suspended.

The series also included stories about the huge disparity between the funding of men's and women's sports at Concordia and the apparent disregard of

women's concerns by the department's officials.

Halperin said a more recent committee has recommended that the athletic department alternate every four years from a female director to a male director.

The story doesn't end with changes in Concordia's sports program. Ed Enos, Concordia's athletic director, is suing Halperin and Wallace for libel.

"But we haven't heard anything about it for months," said Halperin, "and if it does come to court, we're not worried."

Enos settled out of court with *The Link* and Concordia's student council. Each paid him \$5,000.

Spending the prize money isn't worrying the two students either, both of whom enter the final year of their degrees this fall. They gave the \$1,000 to the East End Sports Association, an organization that provides funds for underprivileged black athletes in Montreal.

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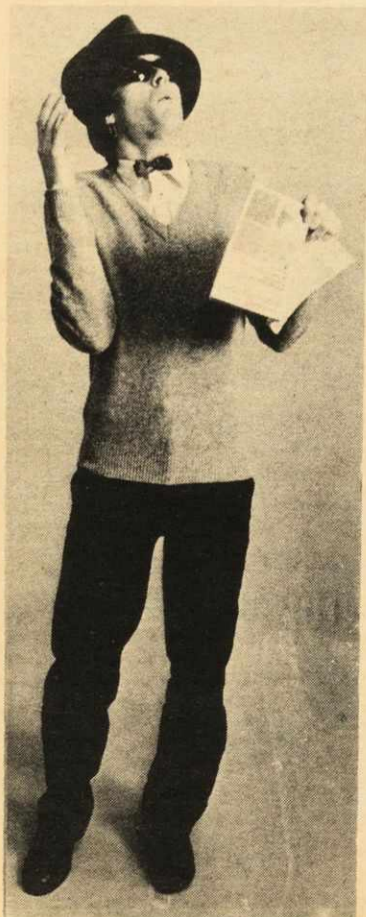
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