

# Concordia coalition against punks

**MONTREAL (CUP)**—A recent series of violent attacks on Montrealers by a group of skinhead punks has prompted Concordia University students to form a coalition to fight back.

The skinheads, who are said to be from Toronto and numbered at close to 30, have a nazi philosophy. They are reportedly interested in taking over Montreal's hardcore punk community.

The coalition against the skinheads was formed by the Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia (LGFC) and the Psychology Student Association (CUPA) after three LGFC members were attacked.

"I never thought it would happen in Montreal," said one of the victims, who wished to remain anonymous.

The three victims were walking by a nightclub when insults were shouted at them.

"Are you fellows faggots?" yelled one skinhead, according to the victim. When he answered, the skinhead attacked them with a wooden club and then the others joined the beating.

They escaped to the hospital for emergency treatment. One victim received a slight concussion and another suffered cracked ribs.

"It is essential to let people know there is an organized group of concerned individuals opposed to such

violence, and we are prepared to act against it," said Andrew Schmitz of CUPA.

The skinheads, or boneheads as they are sometimes called, have shown a preference to attack minorities, especially blacks, Indians, Jews and sometimes women.

LGFC coordinator Thomas Burnside said skinheads stand around in large numbers and yell insults at passersby.

"Any attempt to defend yourself, even verbally, can result in a severe beating," he said.

Burnside believes they are a well-organized wing of the National Front, an England-based neo-nazi organization.

"What is striking is that not all of their members are in fact skinheads," said Schmitz. "Their source of membership are young members of the hardcore community. They corrupt the minds of young individuals trying to find themselves."

Constable Andre Giroux of the Montreal police force said skinheads are organized, but said he doesn't consider them dangerous enough to take special measures.

After the latest attack, four skinheads were taken into custody and charged with assault. Police refused to comment on the case.

The coalition is urging other Montreal groups to help educate the public.



## Quips 'n' Quotes

*I think everyone should go to college, and get a degree, and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a bus driver. Then they would really be educated.*

— Al McGuire

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