



## CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Anna Fritze

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Carli Bruckmueller

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Harry Lien

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Jaid Perry

**ARTS & VARIETY EDITOR**  
Davina Bellinger

**OPINION EDITOR**  
Abby Westling

**COPY EDITOR**  
Alexandria Gosen

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Rene Elias

**LAYOUT DESIGNER**  
Jorge Vazquez Tejeda

**FACULTY ADVISOR**  
Eric Dregni

**WRITERS**  
Rebecca Beasley  
Mia Cahalan  
Isabella D'Burke  
MaryKate Fenstermaker  
Rajeera Geleta  
Mackenzie Grubbs  
Hamza Ismail  
Ethan Langemo  
Owen Liebert  
Richard T. Mahle  
Brittany McCarty  
Ryan Skille  
Erika Soukop  
Kalyna Xiong

### Letter from the Editor

BY ANNA FRITZE

**H**ALLOWEEN HAS COME AND GONE, the U.S. is in its second wave of the coronavirus, and our nation will have a new president in January. What a roller coaster this month has been. So, it's pretty much been like every other month since March! Crazy what America can throw at you.

Before I released last month's issue, I was most expectant of receiving negative feedback due to the majority of the paper taking the liberal side of the election. As many of you might know, the outrage came more from the allowance of a conservative side as well. To anyone who was offended by this, I do truly want to apologize. While I am disappointed from the negative feedback, I was and am thankful for the feedback that I received and can use moving forward. As a student newspaper, *The Sword* exists to represent all of the views and opinions of the students here at CSP, even if I, the Editor, disagree with some of them. That being said, I want to thank everyone for the feedback and ideas that were given to me.

I believe that this article is a step in the right direction, but future articles have the potential to do even more. That being said, I want everyone to know that I wholeheartedly support the Black Lives Matter movement and justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the countless other black lives that were ended needlessly at the hands of law enforcement. I believe that police reform is necessary for our community and country to move forward in unity. It will give me great pleasure to see Donald Trump leave the White House on January 19th, whether it be willingly or by force. While many people do not see Joe Biden as the most ideal presidential elect for 2021, he is the first step in the right direction, and we can only hope that he holds these ideals as well.

Since the last issue, *The Sword* has gotten the old newspaper email up and running again. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in contributing to the paper in any way, whether it be through writing, art, photography, or something else. I invite you to email me at sword@csp.edu or fritzea@csp.edu. As the editor in chief, I want all of the voices of our student body to be heard.

Thank you all again, and I look forward to hearing from you.

### Marginalized Students at Concordia Share Grievances: Recent Sit-In Organized by Black Students Challenges Administration

BY MARYKATE FENSTERMAKER

**A** GROUP OF AROUND 30 students staged a sit-on in the Tunnel on Friday Oct. 30th to express their dissatisfaction with Concordia's response to Black students on campus and the series of tragedies in our community this summer. Earlier that day, President Friedrich issued a statement acknowledging the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, as well as the diversity initiatives being taken at Concordia. However, to some students, the response was "too late." During the sit-in organized by CSP, Black Athletes Union President (BAU) Lauryn Samuel voiced students' distress about Friedrich's response. Other issues brought up were the need for more Black faculty and staff at Concordia and the controversial opinion article in *The Sword* supporting Trump's re-election.

Black students at CSP "want [their] voices to be heard," said Samuel. Following the murder of George Floyd, students requested that Friedrich condemn the officers involved and call attention to the long history of systemic racism in our country. What felt like "an eternity later" was, in fact, five months later, when he issued a statement. To some, it "felt forced," containing "superficial" assurance that "all will be ok." Davaris Cheeks, a leader for Black athletes, says, "We feel outnumbered. Out of all the clubs, organizations, and faculty on campus, there aren't enough Black people." To Samuel, the lack of representation creates "a lack of accessible tools for us." She said, "we are trying to push ourselves, but why should I push myself if I don't see myself there."

Dr. Eric E. Lamott, Provost and Chief Operating Officer, representing staff at the sit-in, said Concordia has been "working all along" on diversity outreach. He mentioned ongoing cultural sensitivity training and diversity inclusiveness training. Tacora Taylor, President of Black Students Union (BSU), said she was tired of always having to lead the conversations of race. "Why do we always have to have these conversations? Why can't you, even though it may not be as comfortable?" Taylor believes that non-Black students at Concordia should be responsible for educating others on racial sensitivity, diversity inclusion, and specific actions that support BSU and BAU.

Students were upset about *The Sword* article in support of Trump. Debra Bishop, Vice President of BSU, said, "politics shouldn't have been addressed in the opinion section." Bishop was particularly bothered by "how hard it was to get a response from the President," but how "easy it was to publish the article without a second look." When encouraged to write for the newspaper, open to anyone, Cheeks made it known that he is not interested because the Trump article felt "truly offensive." He said, "instead of taking sides, we need an approach that feels inclusive for all." Even though the newspaper endorsed Joe Biden, some of the students at the sit-in wanted less focus on political opinions and more focus on local school coverage. Taylor wanted to hear "how students could clean up the community after the riots." Also "it would have been helpful to find local voting resources in the newspaper." Jacob Giacomini, Marketing major, is a white student who had attended the Black Lives Matter protest on campus in September and the sit-in. He wants "more coverage specifically on smaller events," and "more student involvement." With the support of President Friedrich, CSP faculty, *The Sword*, and other students, Black students at Concordia will drive a new era of justice, equality, and inclusion. Lauryn Samuel's motto: "you won't be silenced," resonates with many as the Black community continues to fight for a voice.