Cultural crew plans Mexico mission

by Dick Wehrs

The SWORD, the newspaper publication of Concordia College-St. Paul, is currently planning a major overhauling of format, publication schedule, and staff. Among the changes planned is an addition and re-shuffling among editorial personnel. Current editor Jay Reinke will be joined by Dick Wehrs in a co-editor partnership. Wehrs had been serving as photography editor for the paper.

According to Reinke, the editor shift is just the beginning of a major staff structure change. To the staff the following editorships will also be added: feature, news, sports, photography, and arts and activities. Many new writers will also be added, as well as photographers and typists.

The new SWORD will also have a new look to reflect the changes in staff. An increased focus on student views and activities will be made through guest editorials, and a major letter-to-the-editor solicitation campaign. Special columns on student life and dorm living are also planned.

Readers will be able to keep tabs on the student senate and its activities through reports from the SWORD's senate correspondent. Organizations within the school and off campus will be featured in a "Special groups and functions" section of the paper. Printing and headlining changes are also planned as the SWORD moves toward a goal or regular, biweekly publication.

Students interested in participating in the various duties and functions of the SWORD staff are encouraged to contact either Jay Reinke or Dick Wehrs as soon as possible. A major orientation and structuring meeting is planned for the very near future, and all students are invited to participate as many positions, both editorial and other, are available.

The SWORD is the official newspaper of Concordia-St. Paul, and is under the auspices of the student senate publications ministry. Dean Treichel serves as faculty advisor.

Spring break, a time traditionally committed to student travel, will return this year to find the members of this college community once again engaged in any number of travel adventures. Among those will be a group of approximately 35 students whose destination is of a rather novel sort. Identified on their school business office account simply as "The LBCM tour group," the students will be volunteer participants in a 5-day work camp at the Lutheran Baja California Mission in Tijuana, Mexico. Their 4200-mile journey to the Pacific and back will be the culmination of months of development.

According to Jay Reinke, who has worked to coordinate organization of the trip, the efforts of the planning have been motivated by several goals. The group hopes not only to assist the mission by the donation of labor, but hopes to benefit itself as well in terms of cultural enrichment and spiritual awareness.

The trip evolved largely out of a desire to exercise some of the opportunities available to American Christians looking toward involvement in ministry within the context of the world community. The students hope to observe difficulties inherent to a less affluent society, to examine and gauge some of the avenues of Christian response to that society, and to assist in that response.

At the suggestion of the LCMS mission headquarters in St. Louis, the Concordia group contacted the Lutheran Baja California Mission. The LBCM was recommended as a highly effective and viable ministry. Although the mission is independent and operates under the direction and with the support of laypersons, pastors and groups from each of the three major Lutheran synods in America, the LBCM has also received contributions and support from LCMS mission office coffers.

In addition, the LBCM has enjoyed the strong support of the International LWML which is currently in the process of disbursing a $50,000 support grant to the mission.

Consistent support insures the LBCM's being able to continue its day school, its medical facility, its nutrition program, its children's clothes distribution, and its Christian literature campaign.

Participants in the trip admit that the venture has the appearance of being something akin to an endurance test. The rigors of traveling by school bus (3 days each way) will be broken only by overnight rests on the floors of church

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Editorial

Of Saints and Sinners

Recently this writer had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Myrtle Shira, director of admissions, speak to a large group of church members and prospective students on a weekend PR (Public Relations) outing. She touched on the many benefits and opportunities CSP offers, including the fact that Concordia has an excellent atmosphere for the promotion and advancement of moral living standards. Indeed, our community constantly strives to exemplify the high values of the Christian ethic.

This constant effort, taken perhaps subconsciously on a personal level, has mixed rewards. Our campus has a far lower than average level of property-type crime and vandalism; personal and violent offenses are almost unheard of. Instead, life goes on in a never-ending struggle with inner problems.

Students learn the value and great worth of maintaining Christ-like attitudes; despite the fact that the school is juxtapositioned as an island of God in the middle of a city full of crime and wickedness.

I sometimes wonder where my faith and morality would be if I were enrolled in a college where Christ is not the center, such as the state universities. There the scene is sad. The students are allowed to live as they please, often without dorm hours for restricted visitation. Atrociously, men and women sometimes are even housed in the very same building, often without so much as a locked door separating the floors! It surprises and shocks me that society, particularly in this "Christian state" of Minnesota, would allow such wickedness to exist.

If the aforementioned offenses aren't enough, the administrations of these heathen schools even have the unspeakably audacious gall to assume that these students will conduct themselves as adults, and even allow them to drink alcohol as they please! How indeed can they, without so much as a Christian community to support the individual student, pretend to believe that mere college-age children can responsibly handle those kinds of rights?

The crime doesn't stop there. I mean, so what if both state and federal laws declare that the students, our students, by age alone, are rightfully able to not only drink alcohol, but also to get married without the consent of their parents, to vote for their governmental leaders, to die in war, to buy and hold personal property, to smoke a multiply-proven dangerous substance (tobacco), to live with whomever one chooses, etc., etc.

What's most shocking is that we, as adults preparing spiritually and scholastically for church professions in a community centered on Christianity and built on the foundation and principles of Christian freedom, are not trusted or respected as adults with the rights provided for in the Minnesota state constitution.

In addition, I don't think my mother would appreciate the insinuation that she did a poor job bringing me up as a normal, responsible, mature adult. She thinks I turned out okay, and personally, I don't think I need to be babysat at twenty-two years old.

Frankly, if you can't trust tomorrow's chosen ministers of God's Word and Sacraments, well, I guess we're all in a bit of trouble. The point is not that I advocate drunkiness or job bringing me up as a normal, responsible, mature adult. She thinks I turned out okay, and instead, life goes on in a never-ending struggle with inner problems.

Students, Faculty team up

by Rachel Krause

Concordia has a number of committees which serve its campus in a variety of ways. Student-faculty teams, these organizations strive to meet the growing needs and concerns for whom they function.

The Academic Policies Committee recommends the initiation of new academic programs into the curriculum, which recently have included the special and early education areas. Now being proposed is the business administration program.

The Student Policies Committee, formerly Student Life, is concerned that the governing needs of the students are met. The Library Committee has been doing its best to increase the growth of the library and encourage its use (note the nursery rhyme overdue reminders?).

Convocation Committee is concerned that the presentations made to the student body are worthwhile and add to the variety of the learning experience at CSP.

ECC, or Educational Concerns Committee is to be a functioning voice between students and faculty, both to register gripes and give credit where it is due.

Finally, the Food Committee is working hard to mend relations between Zabo's and the students who daily pass through the cafeteria line.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student Senate has been a very active organization so far this year. From early fall until the present, senate has been filling the weekend gap with activities such as rollerskating, movies, dancing, the theater, bowling, shopping, and especially a ride to church on Sunday mornings. The weeknights have been sprinkled with some activities, but only a few as we realize that everyone studies at night.

What's ahead for senate? Is there an entertainment committee? The answer is up to those who take the time to get involved. It is possible for it to become a student power organization to try to force the administration to change in our favor.

Another feasibility, which is the most likely and practical alternative, is for senate to be the voice of a unified student body which can ask for change. The key is in the word unification. We need to work together as one. We on senate can't do it all by ourselves. We need you working together with us, so that together we can make things what we would like for them to be.

But in the meantime, we are still here lining up activities. You may have heard recently of the computer dating service which we are sponsoring for Snow Weekend. This has been made possible with the aid of Prof. Gibeson. She helped in the design of the computer program and gave senate other ideas for possible use of the computer. Our thanks also go to Curt Snow and Julie Peterson who have done so much of the work on the service.

Snow Weekend itself is packed full of activities starting Monday, January 21, and running through Sunday, January 27. The events will range from dress up day, snow sculpture contests, and dances, to the banquet and coronation of Snow Weekend royalty. Watch for publicity and enjoy.

As far as upcoming activities are concerned, we plan month by month, so if you have any ideas talk to Dennis Munkwitz or anyone else on senate and let them know.

If you are concerned with the food service, dorm conditions, college costs, Bible studies and spiritual atmosphere, chapel, campus security, energy conservation, or the possibility of such things as co-ed dorms, alcohol on campus, or a change in dorm hours, why not show up at the next senate meeting on January 31?

And don't underestimate the power of the press. If you have a concern or a gripe write a letter and submit it to the paper staff for publication. The SWORD can be a voice of the students if you want it to be.

Mark A. Johnson

Editor's Note: the SWORD invites you to express your opinion through this column. Letters must be signed, although your name may be withheld from print if you so request. Address your letter to Jay Reinke and mail through intra-campus post. Remember—the SWORD is your voice to the school!

Chapel Guild—Students working together

by Jay Reinke

While the goals for its existence as an institution may set particular limitations on the facilities and programming for a school like Concordia-St. Paul, it is precisely those goals which work to create for the CSP student the experiences and services which could be had in no other setting.

Perhaps the most striking example of the school's unique vitality is evident in the presence of its chapel. No other physical aspect of the campus states so emphatically or figures so strongly in the orientation and development of Concordia's future. With reverence for and in response to this unique interplay between Concordia's role as both an educational institution and as a Christian community, a number of students are working together to execute the particular duties of a Chapel Guild.

Under the facility supervision of the Dean of Chapel, Dr. Victor Gebauer, the Chapel Guild assists the worship efforts of the campus community by assuming responsibility for the mechanics necessary for effective corporate worship. The cleaning of the altar linens, Chapel banners and albs, the maintenance of the communion vessels and the recording of Friday Chapel offerings are all the responsibilities of individuals or committees of the Concordia Chapel Guild.

Though duties of ushering are delegated to dorm and city students via a weekly rotating campus schedule, the daily instruction of ushers' duties is again the task of Chapel Guild members. In addition to the administration of offices supplemental to daily worship, the Chapel Guild also assumes the responsibility for decorating the chapel in a manner appropriate for the celebration of the various seasons and days of the Church year.

Currently, the Chapel Guild is conducting one of the most ambitious projects in recent Guild history. With the goal of placing pew Bibles in the chapel, the Guild is raising pledge support from students, faculty and staff on campus.

According to Jonathan Asmus, president of the Chapel Guild, enough support had been raised prior to a special pew Bible pledge campaign during chapel services on Friday, Jan. 25, to place approximately 100 of the 320 Bibles needed.

At the service on Friday, worshippers were provided envelopes with which they could underwrite the cost of one, two, three or more Bibles at a cost of $3.50 apiece. The hope is that sufficient pledges will have been made and all payments received by Feb. 6.

Should that date be met, new Bibles should be received and placed in the pews by the end of March. Persons interested in supporting the project, who may not have received a contribution envelope, are encouraged to contact Jonathan Asmus or Dale Woock, Chapel Guild secretary.

Perhaps the most viable critique of the efforts by the Chapel Guild is visible in those things which are not seen, rather than in those things which can be seen. That the preparation done in advance allows chapel worship services to flow without distracting interruption, that the mood for worship is accentuated rather than distorted by planned seasonal variations in the chapel décor, and that the identity of this campus community gains its perspective from the centrality of its corporate worship are all factors which guide and which are guided by the efforts of the Concordia Chapel Guild.

CSP Christmas concerts held by Chris Bisping

The Christmas Season was highlighted this year by three performances from the Music Department. The Band, the Jubilate Choir, and the Christus Chorus each did their part in helping us prepare for Christ's coming.

The Band, under the direction of Professor Richard Norris, presented a concert on Sunday evening December 9th, following a weekend trip to Hudson, Wisconsin. American Overture provided the finale for the Band's selections. The Band played well known Christmas favorites such as Silent Night, and Joy to the World, while the audience sang along. The Band also sang a selection to add beautiful variety to their concert.

Concordia's two vocal groups; the Christus Chorus, and the Jubilate Choir, joined talents with a string ensemble, a trumpet trio, a brass quartet and the New Dawn Singers, in two performances on Sunday, December 16th.

Wednesday evening, December 19th, the Jubilate Choir, once again under the hand of Professor Leininger, provided the music for the annual Christmas vespers service. They sang a special arrangement of Away In a Manger written by Leininger, and one of their favorites, As Lately We Watched with solos by Bev Smith and Denise Sprengler.
Jubilate Choir sings—under the direction of Prof. Robert Leininger, the former ‘chapel choir’ performed in the sanctuary of the beautiful, newly redecorated St. Martin’s Lutheran Church.

by Dick Wehrs

St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Winona, Mn., was treated to a Concordia worship service experience on Sunday, January 20. Members of the Jubilate Choir as well as several college staff personnel converged on St. Martin’s, the largest church in its circuit, as part of a public relations endeavor designed to promote good will and inform prospective students about CSP. Rev. Robert Bremer, Public Relations Director for the college, delivered the sermon for the two-service outing. The theme of “Invitations” dealt with the four different levels of invitations, from unintentional dis-invitation to intended invitation, and how they relate to every Christian.

Between services Myrtle Shira, Director of Admissions, conducted an informational admissions seminar dealing with the various church and secular programs of study at CSP. Several members of the Jubilate Choir gave testimonial support as they attested to the school’s many facets of academic and spiritual involvement.

CSP’s Jubilate Choir, directed by Robert Leininger, complemented the services through a variety of anthems, as well as participation on several hymns, and the singing of the psalm of the day.

Following the second service, the school delegation had dinner, courtesy of St. Martin’s and served by church members. According to Mrs. Shira, the event was exceptionally well received by the members of St. Martin’s, and she terms the outing as “very successful.”

The choir is presently considering invitations to Brainerd, Mn., and Milwaukee, Wis., for visits in the near future.