By Lydia Wittman

Near and dear to many of your hearts, Laura Ingalls Wilder will be revisited tonight in the dining hall during dinner and a panel discussion at 6:30 p.m. As a cherished figure of many childhoods, she is the focus of much activity on the campus today. Some internationally accredited professionals, including the Laura Ingalls family biographer William Anderson and Michael Dorris, Native American author of The Broken Chord and Crown of Columbus, have come to Concordia by the invitation of Professor Eleanor Heginbotham and Dr. Jeff Burkart to discuss the Laura Ingalls tales and their place in American history education.

"This has really blossomed into a special event of regional importance," says Dr. Burkart of today's activities. "Great oaks come from little acorns, just like this event has grown from a casual conversation with Ellie about Laura Ingalls Wilder. We're now expecting almost 1,000 children from area schools to attend the activities in the Buetow during the day."

Much of the event's popularity is due to the ethical issue raised by both Dorris and Dr. David Bealieu, Commissioner of the Department of Human Rights in Minnesota and a member of the Chippewa tribe. Heginbotham explains that Indians and their descendants question the use of Laura's books in education because of their negative portrayal of Indians.

In defense of Laura, however, Heginbotham states, "It is hard to fault her because her stories are based on her experience and point of view. It's the job of educators to fill in the rest of the story." Burkart adds, "Educators need to teach the books in context, understanding all the facts involved. In that understanding we have a richer viewpoint and can enjoy reading and learning."

"Laura Ingalls' books provide good, wholesome reading," agrees senior Sara Ingalls continued on page 3.

Who Is Spending Your Money?

by Lisa Lindeman

Student Senate makes many important decisions that influence the lives of all Concordia students. One of these decisions is how to spend capital expenditure money. The student body president decides when capital expenditures will be discussed, but decisions are usually made near the close of the school year. Because that time is soon approaching, Concordia students need to be aware of what capital expenditures are, what the process of spending this money involves, and how it affects us as students.

Capital expenditures are a term few people know or understand. Many common misconceptions exist such as defining it as "extra money" or the like. This money is actually both budgeted and designated. At the beginning of the school year, Student Senate traditionally sets aside 10% of their budget for capital expenditure; nevertheless, this is not a set percentage. This year 10% of the budget came to $9,300; however, some money was subtracted to pay for expenses from the previous year. The reason this money is designated is to ensure that little things are taken care of. It allows for Senate to contribute money in areas that directly impact the lives of the students.

How does Student Senate decide how the money is spent? A group may present its request for capital expenditure money at a Senate meeting. The representatives on Senate seek out input from their peers and rack their own brains for ideal ways to spend the money. Opportunities for student input is provided through Graffiti Boards and other postings. Senate considers all options, keeping in mind specific guidelines previously determined. One stipulation for capital expenditures is that the money must go towards something that can be paid for all at once, a one time payment. Another requirement is that the money spent should benefit the whole student body. Although all of these guidelines are important, they are not absolute.

How does this impact us as students? The students of Concordia are responsible for making their opinions known to their representatives and to Student Senate. Organizations should be aware that now is the time to present ideas to Senate. Keeping the guidelines in mind, students need to support Senate and contribute actively in this decision making process.

Laura Ingalls Wilder Re-visiting HerStory

Illustration by Garth Williams
He Said

By Andrew J. Everard

From the keg parties at the "Soccer House," tequila feast at the "House on Laurel," the annual beer walk, Dew Drop Hop at St. Kates (because they serve free beer) and the other events, which I can't publish, it has been a great time.

COLLEGE.....IT HAS BEEN QUITE AN EXPERIENCE!!!

It has been a great learning and growing experience over the past four years. I've learned key ingredients for success. I've learned how to shoot an arrow from Professor Handerson; how to dress from Professor Hanson (in an inside joke), Dr. Reineck has taught me the keys to be a responsible person. I've learned how to experience over the past four years. I've learned the most important element I have learned is how to communicate, and handle people. I've learned from a text book nor the classroom. The Concordia has given me these skills.

Yes....that is the single most important thing in my four years. It may sound strange, but I learned in four years. It is my opinion that if you can relate, communicate, and handle people, then you'll be successful no matter what field you choose. Concordia has given me these skills.

Dorm hours is this week's topic? Dorm hours are wrong because they do not accomplish anything. The Dorm should be a place where students can grow and learn from each other—how to learn people skills!

We have kids who can not even go next door to tell their neighbor to turn down the stereo. What is going to happen to these students when they buy a house and the neighbors are loud at night all the time? What is this teaching students?

We are not doing these students any favor by having these hours. Some students may say, "I can't go to bed even now with dorm hours, what is going to happen without them?" Maybe by learning to communicate and dealing with others, you can go to sleep!

I drunk a lot of beer, didn't study much, and Mom and Dad were not here to tell me when to go to bed, with whom to hang around, when to study, nor should I drink from that keg. I have learned by trial and error.

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"R.A.'s Will Have to Stay up Late"

My natural response was, "Isn't that what they are paid for?" Come on guys is staying up one or two hours later really going to hurt your R.A.'s beauty sleep. After talking to a majority of RA's I found most of them didn't mind the extended dorm hours. Most also said that extended hours would not change their choice to become an R.A.

"What Are Our Priorities?"

Let's put a this way. Do we honestly think that extending dorm hours would cause the academic and social priorities of students to decline. People work when they want to work, play when they want to play, and whether one "priority" will come before the other is their decision. Part of college is learning how to manage your time wisely. So guys hold on to the parents because till you actually are one.

"There are places designed for 24 hour interaction"

All right let be honest, anyone who has studied, socialized, or attempted to watch TV in the 24 hour lounges knows that they are not the most, shall I say quaint places in the world. Actually, some them I quite scary. And they are not places in which I would care to spend a majority of my time.

Well, what if the lounges were redone? Let's imagine for a second that the 24 hour lounges do provide a quaint social and academic setting. What happens when it is past dorm hours, and people start calling to continue these evening? I think that could get crowded, and privacy would definitely not be a factor in the scenario.

Most important is the academic aspect of the 24 hour lounges. Plain and simple it is hard to study in a group when there are two other groups right beside you. And in my opinion is the biggest reason why dorm hours should be extended. Most students (a.k.a Adults), work until ten or eleven at night, and whether they want to be social or academic, an hour to do some is not a lot to ask. Extending dorm hours would make this task easier, and I do not think anyone could argue that fact.

"It is an easy way to make my roommate's guest leave."

If you do not have the communication skills to politely ask your roommate and his or her guest to leave, then walk down the hall and ask for the assistance of your R.A. In four to five years you will be working with colleagues, bosses, and children. Now is a good time to perfect communication skills. You will never survive in this world without them.

"What would the alumni say?"

Good question. Why don't we ask them and find out? They were in college once; I think they would love to share their opinion.

Please if you have any comments or question regarding this column, I would love to hear from you. If you do write in, please take into consideration that you mostly likely will be responded to just a warning.

One more thing. I would like to comment on the fact that I have nothing to do with the cheesy picture that always seems to follow our articles!

Some minds remain open long enough for the truth not only to enter but to pass on through by way of a ready exit without pausing anywhere along the route.

-Elizabeth Kenny
Australian Nurse

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She Said

By Bethany Moritz

A year ago I had the pleasure of visiting a good friend of mine at Purdue University in Indiana. Upon arriving I was asked to sign a statement. I agreed with the rules and regulations of the dorm. Well low and behold, you would not believe what I read. It actually said that I was responsible for my own actions. It implied I was to use my own judgment as an adult. Can you believe it? I asked my friend whether or not he liked this system of signing in guests and being responsible for them. He simply responded, "Is that what your college does?" I laughed.

I wonder though would Concordia ever consider this a possibility? If not, then what is wrong with adding some more hours for social and academic reasons? Oh, but there are plenty of reasons, Bethany." Here's what I say to those remarks.

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Down, but not Out!

By Tim Lucht

The Concordia college baseball team had a rough weekend with double-headers on both Saturday and on Sunday. The comets split their series with UW - Lacrosse. As for their big double header against their arch nemesis, St. Scholastica the comets won 0 for 2. For the weekend they ended up going 1 win and 3 losses. That does not mean that we should give up on the comets this early in the season, because it takes more games for a team eventually to mesh as a unit. In the first game on Sunday the comets look like a team that was on mission with good solid pitching by Dave Anderson, but the comets eventually lost the first game by a score of 5 to 3.

All the comets need to do is to continue their hard working attitude in practice and the wins will come more often than they are know. So let's all go out and watch them as they try to improve their record over the next few weeks.

Softball Swings Away

By Jodi Riggert

With senior captain Jen Wood and coaches Tom Cross and Tom Ruebbelke leading the way, the Lady Comet softball team certainly won't strike out this season! Seven letter winners return this spring accompanied by "a strong nucleus of freshmen," as head coach Tom Cross describes it. A week into the season, the Lady Comets ventured down to Oklahoma City to participate in the Hall of Fame Tournament. The tournament action, sponsored by last year's NAIA national softball champions in Oklahoma City, took place on this year's Olympic softball team's home field. Nine teams, including Concordia, competed in this stadium, which Coach Cross describes as "the most beautiful field ever." In addition to the games, the softball team toured the Rangers' and the Cowboys' stadiums, visited Six Flags amusement park, and observed the sight of the Oklahoma City bombing. The Lady Comets returned to CSP with a 3-6 tournament record.

Another competitive schedule challenges the Lady Comets softball team as they face numerous state schools. In addition to a slugging offense and tight defense, Coach Cross believes that fan support is also a key to victory. "Fan support is greatly appreciated and noticeable," Cross comments. "It made an impact on the two big wins we had over Wisconsin Stout. The girls play a lot better when the fans get into it."

Cross is pleased with the team's hitting action at the plate but feels pitching and defense could use some improvements. Injuries have also plagued Concordia's softball team, slowing down some of their progress. He hopes good health and good play will carry the Lady Comets into the playoffs, an event Cross has only missed twice in the last fourteen years. "The best softball is yet to come," Cross encourages. "The emergence of solid defense along with good hitting and great enthusiasm will progress through the rest of the season."

The Lady Comets defend the field with Jen Wood, Katie Meagher, Chris Chieler, Brenda Grieselmann, and Kelli Strehlo in the infield, Jill Stankey and Kathy Morrissey pitching and Sara Kvern catching. The outfield is controlled by Roni Schwartz, Naomi Stohlmann, and Amy Linden.
**Variety**

**Siblings Unite at CSP**

by Teresa Kunze

What's tighter than a size seven shoe on a size eight foot? What makes a person get more frustrated than a five page paper due at 7:40 a.m., when it hasn't been started at 7:45 a.m.? What spreads news faster than a gossip line? Well, some would have to answer: a sibling at college. By my roughly collected data, there are about fifteen sets of siblings at Concordia. Of all shapes and sizes, adopted or biological, these sets of individuals carry the knowledge not only of each other's pasts, but also their present.

Jen Slinkman, the older sister of Sarah Slinkman, reveals insight into this relationship by saying, "It's nice to have family here... Wait... did I say it was nice to have family here?"

One of the frequently held disadvantages, as stated by Melissa Bruening, is that, "Anything you do gets back to your family." Adds younger sibling Nathan Pakan, "Things from when we (Joel and himself) lived back home sometimes come up." Other disadvantages include:

- liking the same men (or women)
- people mix you up
- missing clothes
- they've known you your whole life
- intense arguments
- competition (friends, grades, etc.)

These disadvantages, however, often become flooded by the intensity of advantages. In fact, Jen Stamm states, "If (my sister) would be gone now, it would almost be like a void." On a lighter note, Deanna Ressie acknowledges that having sister LaDonna on campus provides, "Someone who understands that so-and-so looks like Uncle Jay." Other advantages include:

- only person who laughs at your jokes
- they've known you your whole life
- share clothes, phone bill, doing laundry, car, ride home, money, etc.
- the ESP thing?
- people mix you up
- more experiences together
- when you really need someone to talk to, they're there.

As the younger sibling of campus resident Tammy Kunze, I have also encountered these advantages and disadvantages. And since my roommate is the younger sister of my sister's roommate, I have had ample opportunities to be involved in sibling...um, "discussions" as well as incredible bonding experiences.

No, I didn't follow my sister to college in order to adopt her major, date her boyfriend, or follow behind her to the lunch room. Gol, I don't even wear her underwear.

However, throughout my college experience I have been honored occasionally to be considered Tammy's little sister. Who else could supply me Kleenexes, fierce and undeniable support, and a hug when the world feels like it will never make sense, quite like a sister can? Who can argue so intently, and then play soccer the next hour (or the next day) whose jokes send me shattered into laughter, when it really isn't funny, quite like Tammy's do?

A journey of the past, and now through the present, siblings provide challenges, love, and/or an extra closet.

I just hope I can show Mom and Dad this article before Tammy does.

---

Nanny/Domestic Assistant for working parents of four children, ages 2, 4, 8, 12. Must be energetic, nurturing, and fun-loving. Prefer Elementary Education degree or experience in child-care and/or child-rearing. Full time position. Excellent benefit package. Salary up to $18,000. Send resume to Nanny, PO Box 110, Morris, MN 56267.
Theatre to perform what director Mike Charron likely to hear snatches of "Oh, What a Beautiful
members come over from rehearsal, is more than
hall at 6:30 p.m. weekday evenings, when cast
cals in American musical theatre."

By Amy Klein
In less than a month, over forty Concordia
students will take the stage of the E. M. Pearson
Theatre to perform the Rodgers and Hammerstein
musical Charron has directed. He explained that
for a long time, he was not interested in doing
Oklahoma! because it is so well-known and so
popular, and he thought it was too "nice." That
once he decided maybe I should take a look at it, I
fell in love with it, and everyday I work on it, I like
it that much more. The people in it are too good,
and too nice, and they really love life, and that's
not how America really is. But I think the world of
America...it's America. Every song has some sort
of biographical lyrics and a groove from the Chilli
Peppers. I highly recommend this one.
Another great CD is the new one from Tegan and
Sara. "I'll be your friend" which is a cross between
Reznor and the band "To The Bone." Anyway, happy hunting and have a
day.

Well now that you have some cash and
you're in a CD store, take a look around. These
places often have the newest CD's for pretty
cheap. Most stores will also allow you to listen to
a CD before you buy it. Here are some recom-
endations on fairly new CD's. If you like hard
rock or punk rock, you'll love "Presidents of the United
States of America." Every song has some sort of
biology related lyrics and a groove from the Chilli
Peppers. I highly recommend this one.
Another great CD is the new one from The Gin
Blossoms, "Congratulations I'm Sorry." If you
liked their debut, this one is for you (I like to
hum along to "i saw you" and "blue"). One song has already
made it big "Follow You Down." There are many
tunes on this CD that are equally good. The last
CD I recommend is Bjork's new one "Post." This is
another exploration of sound with everyone's
favorite Icelander. There's a lot of trance-like
music driven by deep bass club beats. She also
experiments with some new stuff like "It's Oh So
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"Oklahoma!" You're O.K.!

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day.
A Plea for Liberia

Dear Friends of CSP,

There are few of us Liberians from West Africa among you. Many of you probably know us. I am a student and a couple of other Liberians work for the college. By this time we know we have survived the severe Minnesota winter weather with its penetrating chill. With the return of the Spring our bodies are warming up but our hearts are cold; these last few weeks with the news of recent outbreak of war in our country, Liberia.

It all began the Christmas Eve of 1999. Liberians were getting ready to join others around the world to celebrate Christmas when our national radio announced that rebels have entered the country on the Southeastern border with the Ivory Coast. Since that time blood continues to flood the streets of our cities, towns, villages and even the bushes. Tears have been the flood of many. Over half of the country's population have fled into other countries as refugees. Conditions have badly declined for many of our people. The price of a 100 pound bag of rice that used to be about 50 Liberian dollars has risen to over 2,000 Liberian dollars. This has led some to eat their own pets, their dogs and cats.

Recently a peace agreement was signed among the warring factions to bring the bloody cross to an end. The signing of this agreement brought all the warlords to Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia that has been a safe haven for about three years. The bringing together of these people who have lived lawless lives for over six years resulted in a fresh outbreak of war. This recent outbreak has been described by many people as the worst in the city of Monrovia since the war began. Dead bodies are spread all over in the streets of the city. Many Americans and other nations have fled the country.

It is in this Monrovia that our parents, relatives, friends and thousands of other innocent people live. As we walk among you these few days, our faces are dry but our hearts are drowning in tears and sorrow. Please pray for our nation that this bloody civil war that has taken the lives of thousands will come to an end.

Thanks,
Kennedy S. Gee
Student in Religious Studies—CSP

Human Light or the Light of Christ?

By Marcel Kohlmeyer

On April 5th President Clinton was in Oklahoma City for the anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building. He gave a tribute to the people of Oklahoma City for their community spirit after the bombing of the Federal building. President Clinton said, "On this Good Friday, what you have done has demonstrated to a watching and often cynical world that good can overcome evil, that love can outlast hate..."

But how can good come out of evil? Or how can evil do good? "The human nature we inherit from Adam is corrupt and evil. Therefore all human beings are spiritually corrupt and evil. We all walk in spiritual darkness and stumble over vice and wander away from God. This is the result of being sinners. The Apostle Romans when he wrote, "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3:10-12) Even people who demonstrate moral goodness are classified as unrighteous in God's sight. But Good News!!! As bad as we are, God still loves us. "But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) What an amazing God's love must be. To do all this for us takes a tremendous amount of love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him, should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life." (John 8:12) Indeed, when we follow Jesus we have light. But it is not our own light but Jesus' light. Therefore we look to Jesus Christ the Lord who is the light of the world rather to the "the light of human light" as President Clinton says.

I hope you have enjoyed this commentary and I would like to encourage all those who write articles for the Sword to remember Jesus Christ in your articles to encourage others in their daily body and for Concordia College who takes pride in being a Christ-centered school.

TIP ME IF A HUMAN FALLS DOWN IN THE CITY AND BABIES IT'S LEGS AND SCREAMS, APPEARS THERE'S NO TREE AROUND TO HEAR IT. DOES IT REALLY SQUAWK?

The Pun Has It

A pair of archeologists searching for artifacts in Central America came upon an ancient stone wall bearing the carved figures of two men. One figure was depicted as standing on the ground looking up at the other, who appeared to be flying over him.

"What do you think, Professor?" the one archeologist asked.

"Definitely Mayan," the other replied.

"And that one above him must be Supermayan!"

-Courtesy Ind. Save the Pun Found.
A View From the Tunnel

by Gerry Coleman, Campus Pastor

Spring has come to Minnesota. She has arrived reluctantly and hesitantly, but she now appears to be warming up to us. We hope she'll have a long and pleasant stay.

The rites of spring are gradually appearing, chasing away the winter. Road repair. Mowing the lawn. Frisbee. And by the time this appears in print, we'll wager that we will have enjoyed the first optimistic sun-bathers of the season.

Some highlights looking back...

As I think about the past year, I remember the highlights in my personal life. The start of a new ministry observed in an installation service with my parents and friends present. A life-changing vacation in England with my wife. A visit from my favorite sister-in-law and her family. A Lutheran Youth Gathering in San Antonio with 28,000 people. A mission trip to Naxos with the Concordia Mission Society.

* What is your personal list of highlights? Take time to think about it.

* Write down your thoughts. This form of counting blessings has healing powers.

Then, as I think about completing my first year at Concordia, there are highlights in my professional life to remember. Here’s a sampling, and I take credit for nothing on the list. The creation of a campus ministry center. The start of small-group ministry at Concordia. A star-studded sky created inside the chapel in celebration of All Saints. The weekly Eucharist in chapel. A Christo-Mormon funeral service for our good friend Richard Norris. The establishment of a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Memorable chapels services led by Kenneth Cree, Thompson Chastain, John Hoffman, and Natalie Chalmers. And, of course, the first optimistic sun-bathers of the season.

* Who are the people that mark this year in your life? What new people have come to Concordia this year?

People... come...

No one stays here forever. This community becomes a new community with each entrance and exit of a person. Graduation is a vivid and poignant reminder that one-fourth of our student body is new every year.

* Who are the people whose exit will mark this year for us in meaningful ways?

People go...

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Jon Clappert, the campus ministry intern par excellence. John Hoffman, a spirited presence in student life. Michelle Scott, the music man. And students too numerous to mention, with whom I’m filled with a blessing.

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Into the future...

Spring leads to summer. Summer yields to fall. Fall dies to winter. The future dawns. For others, the immediate future is life at Concordia, whose motto is is in litteris proficere volo malo dilexere Janum, which is roughly translated “I want to be proficient in letters, but even more I want to love Jesus.” I like that motto. As we go through our spring cleaning, it’s good to remember that our goal is proficiency in letters and love of Jesus.

Spring is a growing time. It’s natural. Living things grow in spring. This spring, as we grow towards the future, whatever it may hold, we are guided by a common goal expressed in our motto, letters and Jesus, knowledge and piety. Neither alone will do. It takes both.

Spring Rituals

by Gerry Coleman, Campus Pastor

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People go...

As I think about the past year, I remember the highlights in my personal life. The start of a new ministry observed in an installation service with my parents and friends present. A life-changing vacation in England with my wife. A visit from my favorite sister-in-law and her family. A Lutheran Youth Gathering in San Antonio with 28,000 people. A mission trip to Naxos with the Concordia Mission Society. Some new people have come into my life this year and made it more than memorable.

Jon Clappert, the campus ministry intern par excellence. John Hoffman, a spirited presence in student life. Michelle Scott, the music man. And students too numerous to mention, with whom I’m filled with a blessing.

* What is your list of highlights? Write it down.

* Write down your thoughts. This form of counting blessings has healing powers.

Into the future...

Spring leads to summer. Summer yields to fall. Fall dies to winter. The future dawns. For others, the immediate future is life at Concordia, whose motto is is in litteris proficere volo malo dilexere Janum, which is roughly translated “I want to be proficient in letters, but even more I want to love Jesus.” I like that motto. As we go through our spring cleaning, it’s good to remember that our goal is proficiency in letters and love of Jesus.

Spring is a growing time. It’s natural. Living things grow in spring. This spring, as we grow towards the future, whatever it may hold, we are guided by a common goal expressed in our motto, letters and Jesus, knowledge and piety. Neither alone will do. It takes both.