Celebrating God’s vastness

by Chris Ohland

How BIG is God? Such a question is perhaps beyond our understanding. But come April 25-26, with the use of Bible studies and a variety of fellowship activities, approximately 400 junior high youth from all over the Midwest will flock to Concordia College, St. Paul to discuss and explore this question for the 1997 Junior High Youth Gathering.

Currently, there are groups coming from a five-state area including Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Each group consists of about 10 youth and will be accompanied by an adult leader. A list of rules and responsibilities for the participant groups has already been sent out, a precaution the gathering committee hopes will help avoid distractions and allow them to focus on their real message.

Organizing such a large event would not have been possible without a lot of dedicated volunteers. Besides the 15 students and one faculty member on the executive committee, there are approximately 70 Concordia students who have volunteered to work as counselors for the event. This is the largest number of counselors ever recruited for the event and their enthusiasm is evident.

Matt Maas, a counselor for the event, expressed his anticipation of the gathering, saying, “I’m really looking forward to sharing the faith I have with the young and being a model Christian for them.”

The counselors went through a training session in order to prepare them for the important job they have, specifically, the Bible studies. Other students of the executive committee are involved in areas such as public relations, music and assembly, registration, bible studies, and hospitality. All are working to make the gathering an enjoyable experience for the youth and adults involved.

Merging brings convenience to library

by Lydia Wittman

If you have spent any time in the library at all this quarter, you are likely to have noticed some significant changes in the floor plans. Thanks to the donation of six new computers from Student Senate and the transition of the location of Information Services, Buenger Memorial has undergone a recent face-lift.

Kim Saylor, Circulation Supervisor, offers two reasons for the restructuring of the library: the addition of a new programmer and the merging of computing services and the library into one big information/technology family.

“We [Info. Services] really just want to be here to serve the students and faculty by providing resources in the most convenient way,” says Coordinator of Academic Computing Support Deb Haselman of the recent changes. “We wanted to be more available and by our appearance show that we are here to support.”

Saylor also stressed that the library is designed to be “user-friendly” and receptive to student needs. As the center of academic activity, students should feel comfortable making use of the resources available to them.

Many students view the library as the heart of Concordia because they assume it doesn't have what they need based on its small size and they do not take the time to look around.

However, according to Saylor, “There is really quite a lot available and more resources are coming all the time.”

Currently, the library contains approximately 120,000 volumes, 900 periodical subscriptions (half of which are in CD-ROM format), and access to 1.5 million volumes through CLIC (Cooperating Libraries in Consortium).

For a college of our size, these numbers are not bad at all. It is the lack of space and leaky roofs that cause the CSP community to cry out for the birth of a new library.

“The library is the heart of the institution,” comments Charlotte Knoche, Reference/Catalogue Librarian, referring to the necessity for a new facility, as the current one is celebrating its forty-third birthday this year.

As far as the new changes are concerned, staff and students couldn’t be more pleased.

“I really love it,” says Haselman. “Glen and the whole library staff have been very welcoming. It takes a lot of adjusting because we [Info. Services] are loud, and we’re in a place where it’s supposed to be quiet.”

Saylor adds, “It’s new and hectic, but definitely a good move. We haven’t worked together before, so we are still in transition. This floor plan really makes the most sense for students.”

Some upcoming additions include a new scanner and color printer coming this summer, donated by Student Senate, and the incorporation of the Help Desk into the library on April 28. Until the library gets a new facility with adequate space and handicapped accessibility, the staff are doing all they can to make Buenger Memorial accommodating to all who enter its gates.

A few new faces and a re-arrangement help make the library student-friendly. – Dr. Glenn Offerman and Deb Haselman, whose offices now share the same building, offer assistance to student employee Joel Zander in the recently restructured library.

How BIG is God?

1 John 3:19-20

Youth Continued on page 2
News

David Brinkman—A man of many blessings

by Lydia Wittman

After a conversation of any length with David Brinkman, you are not likely to attribute much to luck or chance anymore. To this man, everything good in life is a blessing: his job, professors, grades, committees, people, music, and on and on.

As he faces the last five weeks of his college career, Brinkman can honestly say he has no regrets about his time at CSP. Like any senior eager to break free from the walls of undergraduate school, this Natural Science major/Music minor is anxious for graduation day, but already knows what he will miss most about Concordia: the people.

Brinkman, a member of the Pre-Sem program and AEX club, has worked with and encountered people of all sorts in some memorable situations. The most influential event of his college years, the opportunity to serve on evangelism calls at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, has been a tremendous learning experience for him.

"The evangelism calls allowed me to put into practice everything that I've been learning in my classes. It really has been a powerful tool in motivating me in my career."

Brinkman is also thankful for the impact of Dr. Mark Schuler and Dr. David Menzie on his life.

He comments, "The religion department at Concordia is rigorous. I enjoyed the classes because of that. The music and science departments are exceptional, as well, for a school our size."

Because Brinkman squeezed four years of school into three, his burden to bear had nothing light about it. But even carrying overload credits every single quarter does not cause this guy to grumble.

"I'm just thankful that classes do not demand all my time of me. I'm blessed that I can manage my time without too many problems."

After being asked what his formula is for balancing his involvement in numerous committees, his job as Telecommunications Coordinator, Choir, and a gross load of classes, Brinkman simply smiles and says, "I do things that I really enjoy. Being stressed and angry just doesn't seem productive."

One of Brinkman's greatest blessings awaits him this summer. Senior Liane Bade and Brinkman will wed on July 26.

Congratulations to both of the blessed Brinkmans to be!!

Friend of CSP dies

The very same prize-winning novelist who graced Concordia's dining hall a year ago to present his side in a panel regarding Native Americans in education was found dead Thursday, April 10. Michael Dorris, 52, was supposed to have started his job as a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota on March 31, but cancelled because of illness.


An adoptive parent of children with fetal alcohol syndrome, Dorris devoted much of his life to helping children overcome hardship.

The Concordia community, while sad over the death of this richly talented man, is thankful to have had the opportunity to know him.

Clarification

by Katie Ollinger

In my last article on the new smoking policy, it seems there were a few unclear points which have sparked some controversy.

First of all, I apologize if I threw too much of my opinion into the writing. It was to be merely an informative article.

Second, I want to clear up any misunderstanding about how the policy came into being. There were various surveys filled out which a special committee, the Student Policy Committee, looked at and based the resultant rules on. This called "Matter of Conscience" was scheduled to be published in 1998. Other works of his include "Native Americans: 500 Years After" and "A Yellow Raft on Blue Water." He has also written children's books and short stories.

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I hope this has cleared a little of the smoke from the fires that the last article ignited.
Here am I Lord, send me

by Lydia Wittman

One professor accurately described her as having a 'heart for seeking the lost.' This woman knows no boundaries when it comes to sharing her faith in Jesus Christ.

This coming August will find Dawn Gilles beginning her year-long mission in Cairo, Egypt, a lost city of nine million people.

When Gilles talks about the incredible journey awaiting her, it becomes impossible to reject the contagious fire for Christ with which He has consumed her life.

"Four years ago, I would never have expected God to use my hodge-podge of classes and experiences for His work. I had no idea what was ahead of me," Gilles says regarding her switch from the DCE program to Church Teacher with a concentration in Outreach (Life in the Church), the first degree in that discipline for three years.

The Egyptian adventure came to Gilles after her inquiry for a placement anywhere in the world as a missionary. Gilles would like people to realize an opportunity like this awaits anyone who is willing to be used.

"We are God's little creations. He loves us and He wants to use us. No one knows the potential that his/her life has to impact the world."

While the trip ahead may be a recent undertaking, her love for missions is certainly nothing new. As the president of Concordia Mission Society (CMS), she has spent much of this year planning the club's Spring Break trip to Fort Myers as well as organizing various servant events around our local community, including trips to the nursing home, cleaning Dunning Field, and serving at a soup kitchen.

"It was a challenge to lead the [CMS] trip, but I learned an immeasurable amount. I learned just as much about leadership as I did about missions."

Her favorite CSP class being Cross-Cultural Outreach, Gilles attributes her desire to be a missionary to Professors Paul Mueller and Phil Bickel and thanks them for fostering growth of her love for God and His children.

In her last quarter at Concordia, Gilles spends her days student-teaching fourth and fifth graders at Trinity First Lutheran School in inner-city Minneapolis.

"Teaching is more challenging and exhausting than I had thought, but also more rewarding. The kids I teach are fun to love because they don't get a lot of love in their lives."

"It [student-teaching] requires all of my attention and thought during the day, but when I'm trying to go to sleep at night, all I can think about is next year in Egypt. Everyday it becomes more real and more amazing that God is sending me there."

Gilles encourages all those inside and outside of the Concordia community to be open for opportunities opened by the Holy Spirit.

"Explore your gifts and keep your eyes open. I am by no means unique in this. God is not selective; He will use anybody."

Gilles will be serving as a light to a dark Egyptian world with a 99% Muslim population. Prayers are more than welcomed as she lays down her life for the Gospel.

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Spiritual

What’s in Potsko’s Pot?

by Andrew Potsko

Sorry there wasn’t anything in the pot last issue. I don’t understand how to use these deplorable computers. Anyway, ever since I came to college I’ve recognized something all of you haven’t. I have actually seen little hairy trolls lurking around and leaping into people’s ears. They are very small, so you probably won’t notice them right away. See, I think that these deplorable creatures leap into our minds whenever we learn something new. And when they get in there, they start furiously masticating upon the fleshy folds of your brain. They jump around and make you feel as though, “Satan is good, follow him!” More will rally in the chant, until our brains have been assimilated to the immoral sounds of these trolls. Then, they die and eventually these ravenous beasts come out of your ears. Haven’t you ever wondered what earwax is?

Even though they’re gone, the voices are still echoing in your head. “Satan is good, God bad.” Maybe that’s why we tell our mothers lies still echoing in your head. “Satan is good, God bad.” Maybe that’s why we don’t look twice before crossing the street; maybe that’s why we don’t think we need to rescue little bunnies when they’re caught in fences and then use their hair to make beards for ourselves. Maybe that’s why we think we can control God with the very sound of these trolls, “Down with God, up with the Devil! Ha. Ha. Ha.”

The meaning today is this: be careful of what you learn. Remember Adam and Eve? But no matter what you’ve done this week, Jesus loves you anyway. Just remember what Walther’s thesis have to say about that.

Angry Christians and the World’s need for comfort

by Gerry Coleman

Campus Pastor

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend a counseling training session designed specifically for church professionals. It was an interesting gathering. There were Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Assembly of God, some non-denominational folks—quite an ecumenical group, including two token Lutherans.

I am an inveterate people watcher. I like to observe people. I’m also a Meyers Brigg “E” in the extreme, one who gets his energy from working with others. And the opportunity to work with a new group of people always appeals to me. It means new ideas, new insights, new inspiration. And in a seminar where the learning is interactive, I just go wild.

So it struck me as very odd that during our lunch conversation I felt a little sad. I even wondered if I was coming down with something. When the seminar was over and I got in my car to drive home, I realized, to my astonishment, that I had a feeling of grief or sorrow. What was it about this experience that was such a downer?

I was lost in thought as I drove west on Highway 56— which answers the question asked by other motorists observing my driving that day: what could be he thinking? — when it suddenly came to me. I had spent a whole day with church professionals, and their conversation had been a display of uninterrupted anger. They were, by and large, angry people. They were angry about an alarming variety of things. They were angry about modern culture. They were angry at churches that agreed to marry people living together before marriage. They were angry at the churches that didn’t require pre-marital counseling. They were angry about the possibility of the government endorsing same sex marriage. They were angry about the stuff situations in the churches and organizations where they worked. All that anger scared me. And it made me wonder if the God they knew and represented was the God who is justifiably angry at sin or the God who has taken our sin upon himself and who loves us extravagantly and unconditionally.

Now let me hasten to add that their anger may have been right. I know that anger has a place in the Christian life. “Be angry, but do not sin; and don’t let the sun go down on your anger,” says Paul in Ephesians 4:26. And it just may be that some of these fine professional people were appropriately angry, but all the same, their anger scared me. I remember thinking, “I don’t think I’d want to go any of these people if I needed a counselor.”

The most scary thing about their anger was the potential that it has to harm the hurting and broken people who flock to our offices. If they are anything like the hurting and broken people who come to our office, they are acutely aware of God’s anger, to say nothing of the anger of their families and teachers and roommates and the world. Many of them are so overwhelmed by this flood of anger that they end up being angry at themselves. The very last thing these people need is more anger.

A very wise old pastor was asked on the occasion of his retirement from 50 years in the ministry if he would do anything differently given the chance to do it all over. He said, “I wish I would have comforted more.” I cherish that insight.

Ours is a world that needs comfort. God knows that. So he has put his anger away. In Christ, all of God’s anger at sin has been absorbed. He has taken the anger that was aimed at us, and redirected it to the cross.

Many years ago I attended a service at which a very well-known Lutheran preacher was delivering a sermon complete with yelling and screaming and banging on the pulpit. People, I think, really got into it, until all of a sudden a little child about five years old spoke up and said in a loud voice, “Daddy, what’s that man so mad about?” The people in the congregation fairly choked on their laughter, wriggling like jello jiggles. I hope it’s not a sacrilege to think, as I do, that God also laughed at this marvelous display of the emperor’s proverbial nakedness.

The year will come quickly to a grinding halt. In the midst of all the things that must be done before it’s over, perhaps we can speak comfort and do comfort to hurting people in the world around us, some of whom are our roommates and classmates and teachers and students and colleagues.

Just thinking about it makes me smile. Whether or not it makes God smile I leave to your imagination, but you can guess what I think.
Recently, I've heard a number of people discussing the yearbook issue. CSP didn't have a yearbook last year and won't have one in the future unless someone initiates it. I wanted to find out how students feel about this. I intentionally included a disproportionate representation of seniors this time because they are most affected by this issue.

**Paul Anderson, junior:** "I think money for a yearbook should be included in your tuition and everyone should get one. We already pay $15,000 a year - that's $25 or $50 more!"

**Becky Cordes, freshman:** "I think it's okay not to have one because it's one of the things that separates high school from college, and that's fine by me."

**Eric Arndt, sophomore:** "It's always nice to have some sort of memorabilia. The thing I hated when I was in yearbook was that we only had the picture directory to remember people by. I guess it would be kind of neat to have a yearbook, but you don't want it to be all one-sided, just sports or anything."

**Carol Walle, senior:** "I like yearbooks because they give you a look at all the people in the school, because you don't get everybody in the mug book."

**Diane Bade, junior:** "It makes me very disappointed. I think it's sad that we don't have any record of all the memories, because I don't go around taking pictures of all the events that I want to remember."

**David Brickman, senior:** "It would be nice to have a culminating recording of your college experience. A mug book's wonderful because it's good to remember all the faces, but the yearbook doesn't have all the activities and the memories."


A view from the couch

by Rich Davenport

Have you ever been completely bored with the movies that are on the market? I have. The last time I was at the video store, I was amazed at the amount of sub-par films out there. I looked and looked, and finally figured, I had found some salvation in a few never before threads.

The Cable Guy looks good at first, but upon closer scrutiny, it becomes apparent that if Jim Carrey is not pontilating left and right, tying his face in knots, the movie is just not going to fly. This is one and a half grunts. If you love Jim Carrey's other movies, spare yourself this embarrassment. I would like it. I don't know why she hesitated. The story centers around the host of a veterinarian radio call-in show, her neighbor, and a man whom Abbie (the host) helped out. The guy, Brian, was so entranced by Abbie's on-air personality that he wants to meet her for coffee. She freaks, thinking her friendship follows, and we end up finding out that Carrey is no cable guy at all. He hasn't been for quite some time. We also find out that Jim Carrey is better off sticking to the physical comedy, because he failed miserably in this attempt to be more cerebral.

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The best part about having a job like this is the job description. See a movie, tell you about it, It's fun. It's different. And I can choose basically any movie I want, thereby creating an almost perfect job. I want to tell you now about a movie I'm sure you have all seen, and the problem with it is almost as opposed to when it was released. It's called Star Wars. Remember it? I, personally, am offended by the way that George Lucas is treating his fans. Most of us love those movies. They make us think happy thoughts. They were good before he started toying with them, which is not to say that they are any less good now, but why fix it if it ain't broken? Did you know that when Star Wars first came out, it did not have the sub-title “Episode IV: A New Hope”? Lucas added that to edify his desires to make more films of the same sort. No problem, right? They are all good movies, and I'm sure that the new “prequels” will be just as good. But it seems like he set things up to allow himself to come back to it and add things simply because he wanted to. Lucas is a visionary, no doubt about that, but let a dead dog lie, George. For pity's sake, altering a movie just because you have an inkling to do so twenty years later is like taking your children and changing their careers for them because you don't like their present ones. I am here to boost the Original Star Wars Trilogy. See them before marketing and greed twist and pervert them. Original Star Wars Trilogy: Five Grunts.

George Lucas' Orgy of Computer animations added to the originals: one half a grunt. Greed kills, George.
by Melissa R. Bargfrede

Spending a week on a bus with about 50 other people isn't what I usually do during Holy Week. Yet, as a member of the Christus Chorus, that is exactly what I did. Our "Lord of the Dance" tour began a long, long time before that, though. Some of the songs we did were started in September. Gradually, we added more and more to our program until we finally came up with the final product: 65+ minutes of music and a 90-100 minutes concert.

Where did we go? All over. We sang in big churches, little churches, big towns, and little towns. We were in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois (twice) and Indiana. We sang for our families, friends, and a lot of people we didn't even know.

The focus of our tour was to share the life of Jesus with our audience. The entire program was based on portraying Jesus as the Lord of the Dance. From the Annunciation to His ministry to His death and resurrection, up into the life of the church, we shared God's amazing grace and sacrificial love. And how appropriate for Holy Week. Each song we sang was of the events leading up to and stemming from the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With our hearts and minds focused on the cross, our message came across loud and clear. Jesus is the Lord of the Dance!

"Dance, then, wherever you may be. 'I am the Lord of the Dance,' said He. 'And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be. And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said He."
by Amity Foster

By now, most of you probably know that the Student Policy Committee (SPC) passed the proposed alcohol policy on April 17. The vote was 5-3 and it did represent the campus view on the policy: closely divided. This doesn't mean you can now buy a six-pack of beer and have a party in your room.

The revised policy now goes to the Board of Regents, which is composed of 13 members. They have the options of passing the policy as it is, vetoing it completely, or amending it. There is no way of knowing what they will do with it. The Board will most likely take into consideration the student polls, information from the open forums, parents' opinions, and other viewpoints.

They will be voting on the proposal on May 9. If they pass it, they have the power to decide when it will become effective. It has been suggested that if it is passed, it should be put into practice at the beginning of next school year.

The policy has gone through much change since it was originally proposed. The version that passed was the seventh edition. John Hoffman, the creator of the proposed policy, became involved earlier this year when a policy was written about the use of alcohol in non-college functions held on campus. He decided to write a policy that dealt with the use of alcohol on campus by students and members of the Concordia community. He did not think that the current policy was serving the students the best it could. The current policy places the importance upon the alcohol itself. The one he proposed puts the emphasis on educating students to make more responsible and educated choices surrounding their life.

The SPC did discuss the proposed policy at length before voting on it. One of the most discussed items was how would the proposed policy benefit the students. For Hoffman, this is the most important aspect of any policy. Other issues looked at included both parents' and students' opinions and the fact that the students themselves did not push the idea of a new alcohol policy.

When the Student Policy Committee looked at the poll turned in, they found that the biggest issue taken with the policy was the statement that allows for the Union Snackbar to serve alcohol if its management so desired. The majority of polls turned in (164 out of 450 handed out) disagreed with this. The food server, currently Marriott, would be able to serve two drinks per student per night if it chose to. It could serve alcohol every night, only weekends, or only for special events. This part of the policy was still included when the proposal was passed.

The alcohol policy went through many meetings, forums and revisions before it was passed. The Student Policy Committee voted for the policy which they thought could best serve and benefit the members of the Concordia College family. The Board of Regents will now have to take all of the information surrounding the policy and vote as they see fit.

During the month of May, Midway Storage will offer a Grand Opening Special. With the purchase of a 6-month rental on any size storage unit receive FREE use of Rental Truck! Call for details.

Editor Wanted:

Do you have good leadership skills? Want to help make a difference at Concordia? Want to earn some cash while you do it? Apply to be co-editor of The Sword.

We have one position available next year.

To apply, write a short essay detailing why you are qualified to edit The Sword and what you want to accomplish as co-editor. Send the completed essays to The Sword through inter-campus mail. Send it to Box 2223.
Decisions

Wet or dry? Student views...

by Andrew Postko

I suppose you have heard about the new proposed alcohol policy. If you haven’t, ask John Hoffman for the proposal and read it. It’s about you. I’m not going to burden you with all kinds of statistics, but present a few of my thoughts and questions.

Let me say first of all that I know that drinking is not a sin that causes the very flames of Hell to burn everybody who doesn’t mind a red dog (at least not for those 21 and over). Yes, I’m here to say that it is unlawful to drink under age. And I know there are plenty of people who don’t believe it because I’ve seen them drinking, so don’t kid yourselves.

However, I think there is something else that is driving this proposal. I’m not sure who it is, but it boils down to greed. Somebody wants money really badly and the only way they can make more is to convince you, the student, to bring alcohol on campus so they can shift the blame. Maybe I’m wrong, but that’s how I’ve been seeing it. I just think that it’s a dangerous thing to change something like an alcohol policy, all for the sake of money.

I was also wondering, why is everyone so hell bent on drinking? What is the need? Are you an alcoholic? Do you drink under 21? How many of you have bought it for minors? How many of you keep it hidden in your dorm room away from security? How many of you are letting it pass without saying anything? How many of you have vomited in dorms because you’re too drunk? Have you driven people away with your drinking? Have you ever insulted anyone when you were drinking? And have any of you committed a date rape while drinking?

I know this is a little one sided and you probably wish I addressed the other issues, but I think that is an easy way out. I’ve read the proposal and I’ve been to the forums and one of the toughest things we have to face is to stop being selfish. Concordia is not taking any rights away from you. You know that this was a dry campus from the beginning. Did you know that there are people here because it’s a dry campus? I’ve spoken with a few alums and every one of them would rather not have it. Don’t you think that they would know a little better since they are older, or do you have everything figured out?

If this is passed, I think we all start thinking ourselves these questions a little more often. I don’t know if I’m taking this verse from Romans out of context; you can ask the religion peeps. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” There aren’t as many dry campuses as wet ones. A lot have been changing over. I just don’t think that Concordia is ready for this change, yet.

Just one more question: is there anything positive that comes from drinking?
You MUST read this article!

by Chris Thompson

As we wrap up the 1996-97 academic year, we face many issues that will have a significant impact on all students who attend Concordia. As you have most likely already read, or should if you haven't, Senate is putting some proposals out for the students to vote on. Let me enlighten you on some of the issues so that you are able to make a better educated choice when you vote.

Senate Budget:

The purpose of Student Senate in a nutshell is to help make your life a little easier. Senate takes care of such activities as Homecoming, Spring Fling and the variety of other dances at Concordia. Senate is also responsible for recreational activities like trips to the Twins' game, skiing trips, etc.

But Senate provides much more than just the fun activities that help take away from the stress of classes. Senate is also the voice of the students with the faculty and administration. Last year's revision of the dorm hours policy was a direct result of Senate taking a voiced need of the students to the administration, through the Student Policies Committee, and helping make the changes the students wanted.

These activities and responsibilities, however, are not free. Senate pays in many hours planning activities, researching issues, and working for the students. Costs ranging from lights for a dance to printing costs to helping cover the costs of this fine publication mount up over the course of a year. In the past, Senate and administrators spent days squabbling over Senate's budget. How much do the students really deserve was the question commonly asked. During the 1985-86 school year, the administration and Senate reached a compromise that would help eliminate this annual squabbling by allocating 1% of all tuition dollars to Senate. Note: this does not include room and board revenues, only actual tuition dollars. Nonetheless, Senate was happy with the 1% allocation. This gave them the ability to help represent the students well and provide a variety of services to help keep students happy and well prepared. Senate funds have done the following:

* helped finance the installation of e-mail services on campus,
* purchased much of the signage which is located around the campus,
* purchased the six new computers in the library,
* worked on purchasing a color printer and scanner for the library,
* bought the pump station located in the new softball field,
* purchased a battery-jumper for cars whose batteries die.

Recently, however, the 1% marker which has helped provide Senate with the funds for these types of projects has been overlooked. According to published budget figures, since the 1990-91 school year, the percentage has dropped from 1.0% of tuition dollars to this year's level of 0.717% of tuition dollars. That's nearly 30% of what should have been Senate's budget that is no longer there. Translation in dollar signs: $35,055.20. All in all, since the decline began in 1990-91, Senate has lost out on more than $100,000 in funds due to them.

Does Senate really need all this money to help the students? What are other schools doing for their Senates? Well, this year's Senate budget of $88,840 breaks down to roughly $81 per student. By means of comparison, Hamline contributes $772 per student to its Senate, while Macalester gives $126. St. Catherine's assesses $220 per year for Senate activities while Carleton gives $312. In fact, of the 16 schools researched, only St. Scholastica and Gustavus gave less to their Senate than Concordia.

So what does this mean to you? Well, the student body is losing out on opportunities to be better served by the Senate because they can't afford to run additional activities for the students. That is why the proposal is being included in next week's vote to get the 1% allocation restored by the administration.

Union Budget:

The Student Union at Concordia College was built in 1971 after the students of the school expressed a desire for a facility to use for socializing and relaxing. After much research and planning, the union we have come to love so dearly today was the result. To finance the project, the students voted in favor of a fee of $75 per quarter being assessed to their tuition. This covered the payments needed to be made on the loan which was partially financed by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development). From 1972-1974, the "student activities fee" was assessed as a separate fee shown on student statements. After the 1973-74 academic year, however, the fee was absorbed into tuition, which rose 57% that year, and was no longer shown on student statements. Nonetheless, it continued to be assessed.

Now we zoom ahead to 1997. The loan which helped finance the Union will be fully repaid this year. A decision needs to be made concerning the student activities fee and how it will be directed in the coming years. That's what the Union proposal is all about. It simply states that you, a student of Concordia College who is already paying the fee, want to see the funds continue to be directed toward improvements and program planning in the Union.
The proposals:

Library proposal

Editor's Note:
The following is a proposal regarding improving the school's library and technology facilities. More information is available by contacting a Senate representative or by attending the informational meeting April at 10:20 a.m. in the Beutow Auditorium.

--- Fourth Draft ---

Preparing students for the technology of the 21st century

Whereas the student of Concordia College recognizes that the current Library and Information Technology Services are inadequate and insufficient for student and faculty use, having a lack of space, availability, and on-hand materials and services for all classes and areas of study, with much of the material and services being outdated or inaccessible and,

Whereas Concordia College is now changing to University status as of July 1, 1997,

and it is necessary for a new University to have the adequate resources that would make Concordia a prestigious and respected University, where students have access to a state-of-the-art Library facility with the most current information and reference material available, where students as well as the University faculty/staff can gain current technology skills, and use them to further their education and apply to their careers and,

Whereas Concordia College also recognizes the need for a new library, currently having the college's library committee investigating possibilities for a new library site, and the College's development office conducting a feasibility study for a new library, and,

Whereas the students see the immediate need for a new Library and Information Technology Services and are willing to help initiate the process, therefore be it

Resolved that the students vote to add a Library and Information Technology Services fee to their tuition, starting in the 1998-99 school year, for the initiation of the development of a new Library and Information Technology Services, be it further,

Resolved that students pay an ongoing $75 fee, per person, per semester, equaling $150 a year, for initiation of the development, continual maintenance, future improvements, and enhancements, to the Library and Information Technology Services where the total fee amount may be used yearly or saved for coming years, be it further,

Resolved that a standing Library/Information Technology Services enhancement committee be formed, consisting of the Library Director and Assistant Dean of Information and Technology as co-chair, six other faculty members, three chosen by Student Senate and three chosen by faculty, the President of the Student Association, two students from the student association at large, chosen by Student Senate, the CSAL Director, and the SAC director, to direct the funds from this fee in areas that best fit Concordia University;

Resolved that a minimum amount of $190,000 be borrowed up front to begin this initiative, by making the entire campus laptop accessible, with dial-in capabilities, including but not limited to dorm rooms, dorm lounges, the Student Union, stem zero, classrooms, and the Ganglehoff center; therefore be it

Resolved that the money obtained for these advancements be above and beyond the already established budgets of the various University departments and thus not create any subsequent budget cuts or reallocations within the university.

Senate budget proposal

The mission of Concordia College, a college of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is to prepare students for thoughtful and informed living, for dedicated service to God and humanity, and for the enlightened care of God's creation, all within the context of the Christian Gospel.

The purpose of the student senate is to:
* aid each student in growing in Christ;
* develop the talents and the potentials of each student as a total personality for the purpose of becoming a fit instrument in the service of God and fellow human beings;
* provide an environment in which Christian living and training can be carried on;
* provide a student government beneficial to student life.

Whereas the Student Association Government plays a key role in enhancing the lives of their students, especially concerning the costs associated with attending the college, and,

Whereas the Student Association Government offers a unique opportunity for students to learn a variety of leadership and organizational skills, and,

Whereas the Student Association Government wants to ensure a consistent operating budget relative to enrollment and tuition to meet the demands of the students, and,

Whereas student enrollment and student tuition have both increased, however, the Student Association Government budget was decreased this year,

Whereas students voted in 1986 to have 1% of total tuition dollars go toward the Student Association Government budget annually,

Whereas the Student Association Government budget last year was 71% of total tuition dollars; therefore be it

Resolved that the students vote to add a Library and Information Technology Services fee to their tuition, starting in the 1998-99 school year, for the initiation of the development of a new Library and Information Technology Services, be it further,

Resolved that students pay an ongoing $75 fee, per person, per semester, equaling $150 a year, for initiation of the development, continual maintenance, future improvements, and enhancements, to the Library and Information Technology Services where the total fee amount may be used yearly or saved for coming years, be it further,

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Resolved that a minimum amount of $190,000 be borrowed up front to begin this initiative, by making the entire campus laptop accessible, with dial-in capabilities, including but not limited to dorm rooms, dorm lounges, the Student Union, stem zero, classrooms, and the Ganglehoff center; therefore be it

Resolved that the money obtained for these advancements be above and beyond the already established budgets of the various University departments and thus not create any subsequent budget cuts or reallocations within the university.

Union proposal

Whereas in 1971, students voted to assess themselves a $75 fee annually to cover the mortgage on the Student Union,

Whereas the mortgage comes due in November 1997,

Whereas the Student Union plays a key role in enhancing the lives of many students, especially concerning the costs associated with attending the college, and,

Whereas student enrollment and student tuition have both increased, however, the Student Association Government budget was decreased this year,

Whereas students voted in 1986 to have 1% of total tuition dollars go toward the Student Association Government budget annually,

Whereas the Student Association Government budget last year was 71% of total tuition dollars; therefore be it

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Wet

continued from page 9

becoming drunk is one of the pitfalls of wine and his real message is to give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ for all the blessings in our lives.

So as he is witnessing to the Ephesians about abstaining the choice not to become drunk, we, too, can witness to our fellow neighbors about the choice not to become drunk. I am in so way disagreeing with the fact that drunkenness is not what Christ wants. In fact Paul writes about how drunkenness is not what Christ wants as many of his other letters as well (i.e. Romans, Corinthians, Galatians). The point I want to make is that in these warnings of drunkenness, warnings to stay away from alcohol are not given.

Are we doing the work of Christ not allowing drinking or by allowing a controlled atmosphere incorporating Christ love into the education of responsible drinking and further profession of Christ as our savior.

The campus status is currently a dry campus. If the policy would change to the proposed policy, Concordia would be under the official terms of "wet" and "dry" still be considered a "dry" campus because the amount of alcoholic beverages that could be consumed would be controlled and limited.

If someone drinks an alcoholic beverage it does not mean he/she is not a Christian. If a college allows alcoholic beverages to be consumed on its campus, it does not mean that it is not a Christian College, incapable of professing Christ as our Lord and Savior. What mixed messages about Christianity do we send if students are not allowed to consume alcohol, but off-campus groups who rent out the college facilities can petition to serve and consume alcohol at their function? If alcohol is not permitted, will there be alcohol education available? If alcohol is permitted will more alcohol related problems arise? There are many questions to ask ourselves in making the choice to change policies on this issue and they all must be considered.

When deciding on an issue such as this it is important that we understand and point out what we really mean when we use the term "Christian." We must prayerfully, thoughtfully, and meditatively discuss this with ourselves, one another, and the Lord.
Fine Arts Spotlight: Bill Sather

by Anna Eisenbraun

"Blah, blah, blah. Yadda, yadda, yadda." If you've been at Concordia for any length of time, you won't be surprised to hear that these were the first words uttered in my conversation with this month's spotlight: Bill Sather. Bill is known for his practical jokes (like putting automobiles in the scene shop), his work as an R.A. in Minnesota Hall, and the roles he has played on Concordia's stage.

But, if you talk to any person who knows Bill well, they will tell you that this actor is more serious than first impressions lead you to believe. Besides being an R.A.,

"And for the first time I understood what the lyrics 'I want to shout it from the mountain top/Hey world Jesus loves you' really meant. I called my parents on my cell phone and told them that."

Bill is a well-rounded honor student and member of the Kings Players. He is working on a one-man drama/music recital to be performed next year, and plays bass and percussion for the band CrossEyed. He will also be playing the role of Billy Crockett in Concordia's upcoming production of Anything Goes.

Bill spends his free time in numerous activities and can be seen in a variety of places. He enjoys bungee jumping, sky diving, rock climbing and cooking. (He makes a chocho-mocha cheesecake that is "to die for.") He said the best thing he ever did was the climbing trip he took to Wyoming earlier this year. "I was at 10,000 feet and it was a sunny day," said Bill. "And for the first time I understood what the lyrics 'I want to shout it from the mountains top/Hey world Jesus loves you' really meant. I called my parents on my cell phone and told them that."

Of the many things in Bill's life, his art is one of the most important. "God gave me a strong talent [in acting]," Bill said. "I enjoy acting because the collaboration between artist is unreal. There is an incredible feeling you get when you are performing. Not an 'I'm so wonderful, look at me'... more of a 'look what we've accomplished'."

Bill said that a dream of his is to perform professionally. Some of the roles that he would love to play are Hamlet in Shakespeare's Hamlet, Mark in the rock musical Rent, and the lawyer in Steinberg's The Dream Play. He also has a desire to teach. "I think Margie Weaver [an acting professor at Concordia] has the best job in the world, although my mother would faint if she actually knew I wanted to be a teacher," chuckled Bill.

Bill's best advice to those trying to make it in the world of acting is "to have fun, do as much as you can and never say no." He also recommends seeing as much theatre as possible (including movies), remember your emotions when you have them, keep a journal on what you've seen and felt, and "to learn to like theatre history because if you don't you'll die."

He ended this conversation with a quote from M.A.S.H. that represents his outlook on life: "Sometimes you need to drop your pants and slide on the ice, just so you can know what that feels like."

Bill Sather can be seen performing in Anything Goes with Sather -- Artist of the Month Bill Sather rehearses for the upcoming performance of Anything Goes. Bill has been an active member of the theater department since his arrival in 1994. The role of Billy Crockett in the upcoming production Anything Goes. Anything Goes opens May 16, 1997 in the E. M. Pearson Theatre.

Radio stations switch format in hopes of drawing new audiences

by Jon Krueger

Finally, after having to suffer through three years of alternative music, pure rock is back in the Twin Cities. But wait, not just one hard rock station, but two! Many hard rockers on campus, along with my radio station, along with my daily motivation and method of escape from the everyday monotony of life, was stripped away from me. After listening to an entire weekend of the continuous play of It's the End of the World as We Know It, I was forced to come to grips with the fact that in order to hear my favorite bands on the radio, I would either have to move to another city or suffer through bands like Supertramp, Fleetwood Mac, and the dreaded Rolling Stones (the worst band of all time). However, I will give Tommy Bernard and the KQ Morning Crew credit for having the best darn morning show.

I went through periods of uncertainty, and although I really enjoy country music live, it just doesn't do it for me on the radio. I tended on the Edge, and once again had to wait through sorry acts such as Melissa Etheridge and the 10,000 Maniacs to hear a solid rock track from Candlebox or Pearl Jam.

But, finally, my longtime wish has been answered in double. X105 and Real Rock 100 share core artists Van Halen, Rush, Aerosmith, Def Leppard, and Metallica. In addition, both stations do an excellent job of mixing in bands which are all rooted in hard rock, but were sucked into the alternative scene, such as the Stone Temple Pilots and Soundgarden. The two stations do differ, however, when you consider their extended play lists. X105 has the tendency to play more of the harder, heavy metal bands such as Tool, Korn, and Megadeath. Real Rock 100, on the other hand, includes bands such as Boston, Styx, and on occasion, a track from Pink Floyd.

So if you like rock, and you're sick of psycho acts like Alanis Morissette and No Doubt, give hard rock a chance. It's amazing how much of a difference a little Van Halen can make on your mood after a long day of classes. Tunes like Dance the Night Away and Why Cant This Be Love can give a big boost to your studying intensity as we approach finals.
**Anything Goes set to open**

by Rich Davenport

The silence in the darkness is deafening. You wait anxiously, with bated breath for the curtain to rise. The band strikes up, the music swelling around you like a living thing. The lights come up, the curtain flies, and you are bombarded with a visual and musical extravaganza that you will not soon forget. **Anything Goes**. The name itself is indicative of this cacophony of music, dance, comedy, and acting talent.

On May 16-18 and 23-25, you will have the opportunity to see the culmination of this year's Theater Department's efforts, and it is, according to director Mike Charron, "a blast." In an interview with Professor Charron, he stated that he chose **Anything Goes** for its challenge. "It's a chance to stretch the student's talents in acting, music, and dance," he mentioned in this abbreviated discussion. "The show is just plain fun. It's an opportunity for the principals to showcase their individual talents. For example, Bethany Moritz can show off her voice, Tim Ruhl can showcase his comic talent, and Bill Sather can finally get a chance to play a romantic role."

Professor Charron mentioned that **Anything Goes** is truly a performer's musical. "The cast has to really know their stuff," he said. Professor Charron smiled when asked how the project was coming along. A smile this writer has been privy to before. He said, "Anything Goes will blow you away."

Asking some of the other members of the cast and crew for their thoughts on this production was fun in and of itself. The members are all excited and charged up for the opening. Shelley Doemke says, "It rocks my world," while April Salchert mentions with a nod, "It's fun to learn all the dances."

Walt Jones, the Assistant Technical Director says, "Technically, it will be a dazzling showcase of the talents of our theater staff." When asked how the performance would fare, Walt did not know. He's been so busy building the incredible set and working on the technical side of things that he barely gets a chance to hear the rehearsals from across the hall. "But it sounds great," he adds with a huge grin.

**Anything Goes** will be performed on May 16th, 17th, 23rd and 25th at 8pm; on the 18th and 26th at 2pm in the E.M. Pearson Theater. Heidi Souba says this about the show: "It is a fun, feel-good show, with lots of tap and romance. It's reminiscent of the '30s. Come out and see it!"
Softball soaring into playoffs

by Ryan Knollmaier

Nothing brings more optimism for success when facing a challenge than being on a roll. That is a situation that the Comet softball team is in right now. With the playoffs just around the corner they are rolling along. They have come together as a team, and seem to be able to do everything they need to get done to win. In fact, in the last six games, they have not lost. In one week the Comets went from two games below .500 to three games above, making their record-to-date 11-8. A streak like that can’t help but boost their confidence.

On the field, they seem to have everything going their way. When the bats aren’t getting it done, good defense and strong pitching make a few runs enough to come out ahead. When the pitching isn’t as strong, the offense seems unstoppable. More than once during the “streak” the Comets have extinguished late rallies by their opponents to squeak out a victory. In reality though, they have been hit by the malicious teeth of the injury bug. The Comets had to win without starters Chris Chiater and Kelli Sretho. Amy Jo Lindon has filled the gap left in the outfield by Chiater’s injury and Naomi Sobhman moved to third to cover for Sretho. She has done quite well, making an impact last weekend in the Comet Classic.

Somehow, despite the injuries and the fact that the team not too long ago was record-wise, mediocre, the team now looks forward to ending the season having completed all their goals. “Realistically, we have eight games left. It’s just a huge weekend coming up, for us to have all our goals in front of us,” said Coach Gross.

Those goals are to win 20 games, become conference champs, and win the sectional tournament. The 20 games are no longer feasible (the best they can do is come one short), but considering the majority of the competition in the playoffs are teams the Comets have beaten, the conference and sectional crowns are hardly an impossible dream.

In the past week, the Comets have split a double-header, swept another, and won a tournament. Not too shabby for a team that seemed to have been limping into the last leg of the season. Now, save for a few regular season games and a tournament in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, they are heading towards the NCAA Sub Sectional Playoffs with a full head of steam. The playoffs will run May 2-5 and will consist of St. Scholastica, Brier Cliff, Mount St. Mary’s, McKendree, Northwestern, and CSP.

On Saturday, April 12, the Comets christened a new new ballpark in their home opener. From now on, they will reside at Lutheran Memorial Field (on the west side of Hamline, across from the MCV), a home still needing finishing touches. Besides the pile of earth that sits behind the back-stop and the shabby outfield wall, there has yet to be a Comet homerun over the 200 foot fences -Tessa Schultz from Dakota Wesleyan is the only player to go yard, hitting one out in the first game of the Comet Classic... Yet, judging by the way they have played there, the Comets seem to have found a hospitable home.

In the inaugural game at Lutheran Field, the Comets, sadly, lost the first game of a twin-bill against University of Wisconsin-Stout. In that game, Stout jumped all over the Comets and scored unrelentlessly. The second game was more representative of the Comets season: they turned things around and found a way to win. Led by freshman Andrea Miller on the mound, a much stronger defense, and more potent bats, the Comets finished their first day on the new field with a split. The Comets would never look back.

The next victim of the Comets was Northwestern, rivals located just a homerun down Snelling. Again, it was at home. With the momentum on their side from the previous Saturday, they looked to take both games from Northwestern. Again, the Comets found Lutheran Memorial Field to be a quite fitting place to play. This time though, they would not allow their opponents a chance to get ahead. This time they swept.

The biggest part of the Comets winning streak came April 19-20. It was the 14th conference and sectional crowns are hardly an impossible dream. The fun stopped there for the Jackets. By the fourth inning, Concordia had put 14 runs on the board, and they didn’t even bother finishing the game. Tally one up for the home team. Make it a really big tally, because it was a rather impressive win. CSP continued to be impressive in their second game against Dakota Wesleyan University. A win for the Comets would guarantee them second place; they went after the bid for the championship game passionately. When the dust settled, the Comets were congratulating Andrea Miller for pitching a complete-game shutout and themselves for an 8-0 win over the team from the Dakotas. CSP first faced-off against Superior, who had just played the first game of the tournament squashing past Dakota Wesleyan 9-8. The Comets/Yellowjacket game resembled Superior’s first in not one way. Superior jumped out to a five-run lead after the first inning and seemed to be on a roll. The fun stopped there for the Jackets. By the fourth inning, Concordia had put 14 runs on the board, and they didn’t even bother finishing the game. Tally one up for the home team. Make it a really big tally, because it was a rather impressive win. CSP continued to be impressive in their second game against Dakota Wesleyan University. A win for the Comets would guarantee them second place; they went after the bid for the championship game passionately. When the dust settled, the Comets were congratulating Andrea Miller for pitching a complete-game shutout and themselves for an 8-0 win over the team from the Dakotas. CSP first faced-off against Superior, who had just played the first game of the tournament squashing past Dakota Wesleyan 9-8. The Comets/Yellowjacket game resembled Superior’s first in not one way. 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Athlete of the month
by Melissa R. Bargfrede

Senior Andrew Bicek knows all about commitment. It's the way of life he follows every day. This New Prague resident and CSP athlete has great commitment to both sports and academic life.

Last year was Bicek's first time ever to throw the discus. He put many extra hours into the sport to first build a technique, and then to improve it. His best throw last year was 127 feet. This year, in his first outdoor meet at St. Olaf, he started on the mound and, with excellent defense for both teams kept what would have been a good game from going to a mid-season series stretch. Concordia seemed to be having trouble being productive offensively as well. The sixth inning was the inning of fate for Concordia. It was not only the first single that Scholastica scored, but it was the last time that the Comets would have a single run in the sixth for CSP would not only catch this athlete of the month in upcoming meets on May 2, 9, or 16 at Hamline, Loras and UW LaCrosse. Maybe you'll see his qualifying throw for Nationals!

According to Coach Schmidt, Andy seems to spend more time "constantly trying to better himself. He has come a long way in a short time." Schmidt speaks highly of Bicek's leadership skills, as well, commending him for the work ethic he projects to the other members of the team, especially freshman catcher Matt Johnson. "He sets a good example for Matt," says Schmidt.

Leading by example; that's what a truly committed athlete does for his team. And Andy does it well, whether it's for the track team, on the football field, or in the classroom.

Around the horn
Inside the Concordia Sports Program

Batting Average

<table>
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Medlo was throwing a shutout through the first five innings. Despite the three runs in the second inning, Concordia seemed to be having trouble being productive offensively as well. The sixth inning was the inning of fate for Concordia. It was not only the first time that Scholastica scored, but it was the last time that the Comets would score with a single run in the sixth for CSP would not only prove to be their last run, but it was the winning run. In the top of the seventh, with a series of questionable hits and lucky breaks, CSS started a comeback. Coach Cross pulled Schutkey for Miller. The final out of the game came with the tying run in scoring position. Miller was credited with the save as Stankey and the Comets got the win. The championship was theirs. What a way to finish a spectacular week.

Coach Cross can't quite figure out what has been the secret for success as of late, saying, "Our hitting has been up and down. Somedays our hitting is better than others, but our defense has been fairly consistent."

A lot can also be contributed to Stankey and Miller, the only two pitchers to throw in the Classic. Sara Schmidt has been a real team leader, "both by her play and by team leadership," said Cross. Brenda Gieselmann, a slick-gloved shortstop, has been playing well, and the Concordia outfield, composed of Karen Fitzgerald, Amy Linden, and Lynn Peterson, as good as any. All-in-all, this team doesn't rely on any superstars, it is a team that gets its victories by playing hard and as a team. It is also a team that is looking forward to a strong run in the playoffs.
A message from the President

With all the area floods and rumors of floods, with all the hard work and harder courage, with mid-term pressures and more pressures, I share a poem of blessing from Gerhard Frost.

President Bob Holst

"God said to Noah, 
...I will establish my covenant with you..."
Genesis 13:18

We know the story, how the storm clouds gathered, thunder rolled, lightning flashed, as Noah went in, into the ark, the dark of the ark, where the Lord shut him in.

And it rained. And rained. And rained. Noah waited, while the Lord remembered his promise to Noah, his shut-in.

It was hard to wait, but the great day came when Noah strode forth into the blinding light of God's promise.

My ark and me, God's shut-in, I wait and wonder, but he, The Lord, remembers while it rains.

Minnesota floods call National Guard member to serve

by Lydia Wittman

The whole west bank of Minnesota and the cities of Fargo and Grand Forks, N.D. are deep in troubled waters for the third week in a row, making history as the worst floods ever to cover the Midwest. The Minnesota River and Red River have been spilling over for twenty days now, leaving the citizens and home-owners of the surrounding towns in great despair, having to abandon the cities in order to save their lives.

Lutheran Pastor Jim Holthus of Gardner, N.D. told the Star Tribune (Sun., April 20 ed.), "It's like being in a war zone - you feel helpless. And you never know what's coming next. People are just trying to survive and hoping to get some good news."

Freshman John Hennemann has left his comfort zone at Concordia by order of the National Guard to enter into the flood "war zone." Thursday, April 10, Hennemann, a member of the Guard, heed their request for help and is expected to return in the next week. Prayers are appreciated for Hennemann and all the helpers and residents in the midst of the chaos caused by the flooding.

From the mouth of a favorite friend of the Sword, who goes by the name of Pastor Coleman, "Chaos gives God a chance to make order."

Final Issue Approaching...

For our final issue we want to include as many pictures as possible, so if you have any pictures highlighting an event from this past year, send it to The Sword at box #2223 through campus mail. Thank You!

God Bless!