Dorothy Day may be saint

by Anny Foster

Christmas has always been the time to honor those who have helped serve others. People who help out in soup kitchens, shelters, and other service organizations are noticed more during this time of the year than in others. Many students and faculty and staff at Concordia University have taken part in serving by working at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. Dorothy Day herself deserves notice for her action in helping others. If you are like me, you may have thought that Dorothy Day was just a St. Paul woman who helped people and as a result, got a building named after her. In reality, she did much more than that.

November 7 marked the centennial of Day's birth. She died 17 years ago at age 83. Recently, there has been much discussion of Day's becoming a saint.

Unlike many people up for sainthood, Dorothy Day did not spend her entire life as a religious person. It wasn't until 1927 that she became a Catholic. At this time, Day had recently given birth to a daughter, Tamar, whom she wanted baptized. Five months after this was done, Day was baptized also. Previous to this, she had been an atheist and a political activist, particularly in the call for women's right to vote. This activism carried over into her Catholicism. She wanted to do more than just feed people.

Gloria Jacobs, in Ms. magazine, says, "She sought to live a Christian life in which all material goods were shared and poverty was eradicated." Day wanted to do more than just volunteer; she wanted to change the world.

Day was a radical in many ways. Before she became Catholic, she had been a member of the Socialist Party, called a Communist by her father, and had even been thrown into jail often for taking part in hunger strikes, and once for supposed prostitution. She was involved with people

President Hoist lead an alumni and friends of Concordia tour in November and now is preparing, with the help of Dr. Mark Schuler, to take students through the Holy Land. Schuler's group will be participating in an archaeological dig at En Gedi.

See article on page 2.

Photo provided by Jeff Walther

Daybreak provokes emotion

by Anna Klemp

Stan Thompson leans comfortably back in his chair in the Midi lab that has a synthesizer hooked up to a computer in the Concordia music building. "Now I'm spending most of my time in this room," he says, looking right at home as he puts his feet up on the crossbars of the synthesizer stand.

Thompson and co-writer Bill Sather spent around 100 hours a week between the two of them working on their "baby," Daybreak, that premiered on December 11, 12 and 13. They wrote the score for Daybreak, a modern rock musical that is very loosely based on the story of the prodigal son. This musical used a rock beat and contemporary sounds for the songs, was accompanied by a live band, and was based on modern situations.

The story line followed the prodigal son in that it was about a family with two sons; one parent was dead and the younger brother took his inheritance and ran away. Originally, all the text was going to be sung. Because of time constraints, the dialog was mainly spoken. Thompson said that one of the biggest struggles of this was "capturing the rhythm of dialog in music," while trying to "keep the content as real as possible."

The whole idea started with a song by the musical group Extreme that Thompson used in his senior guitar/electronic recital. After the recital, Dan Asmus, Director of the Student Union, told Thompson that he thought it would be fun to write a musical based on the prodigal son story. That was the beginning of Daybreak.

Daybreak provokes emotion

May of this year. Thompson and Sather started writing in July, and have been at it ever since, pulling out tunes that had been written in the past year and fitting text for Daybreak into them.

Thompson said that it has been challenging musically for him. "Writing the songs, he said, "God's like, 'You're going to write now. I hope you can keep up.'" About 90 percent of the music has been written by Thompson, with Sather supplying the other 10 percent and the majority of the text and lyrics to the songs. Someone told Thompson once, "You are a music guy who does theater and Bill is a theater guy who does music."

Finding the time to perform this play on

continued on page 9
Resident population pushes space limits

by Lyon Adams

Since 1993 the number of students living on campus at Concordia has consecutively grown. Last year the number of students on campus was 383, while this year the number jumped to 427. We all have certainly noticed the maximizing of current space that has taken place this year like splitting Minnesota between men and women, limiting the number of single rooms and making the most of space in larger rooms (i.e. Wollager's 3 person rooms). But what more can we do?

If requests for student housing go up significantly again for next year, do we have room to house all of these students? These are questions that have already been asked by Sharon Krueger and those in charge of residence life. In an interview with Sharon Krueger, she said that the growing population of on-campus residence presents an excellent opportunity for problem solving skills to be exercised. So what are some of the options that have been considered so far?

One of the more drastic options that has been looked at is that Centennial Hall be converted into Residence halls. Centennial has been used for a number of different things, including housing, but since 1989 it has served as an office building. Sharon Krueger says that there are pros and cons in converting Centennial. Among the pros are that it would be relatively easy. Certain renovations would need to take place. A new water heater and new carpet would be essential. Other pros, Krueger said, are that Centennial is already air conditioned and it would easily provide the necessary room needed.

Cons to this conversion, however, are that there would need to be a place for the people in the offices to go. When it comes down to it, if the population of this campus continues to grow, as we all hope it will, there is going to be a need for a new building. Whether that building is for offices or residents will have to depend on the need at the time. Krueger emphasis, though, that there are, "101 options to consider." One must look thoughtfully and carefully at all of the options. For example, there are vacancies in the apartments across the street from campus this year.

Looking at how we can make better use of the space we already have is going to be the main objective for now. Possible areas for more space include rooms occupied by RA's who live in two-person rooms, rooms in Luther that could accommodate three people, study rooms in Wollager or 24 hour lounges in Luther hall.

A more accurate prediction on how many requests for housing there will be for next year will be made in the Spring, says Krueger, and decisions will be made in order to best serve the students and their needs.

Sharon Krueger quotes the Housing Agreement, by saying that it is "important that residence halls are an integral part of the academic experience, learning to live and work with other people while getting an education." Achieving this and making sure we have enough space to do it is the goal of Residence Life and will be taken into consideration while making the decisions for future housing.

Holst leads alumni tour in Holy Land

From Nov. 3 through 15, President and Mrs. Holst traveled to Israel and Egypt leading a Concordia sponsored tour of twenty-eight pilgrims. Alumni director Jeff Walther, who organized the tour, explained that it had two primary goals. First, alumni and friends of Concordia would have a special, meaningful travel experience, including a spiritual dimension. Second, people would learn more about Concordia University from its president and be better able to help recruit students and benefactors.

The tour of the Holy land began along the Mediterranean Sea at the ancient site of Caesarea, before moving north to visit Elijah's cave at Mt. Carmel and Nazareth in the hills of the Galilee. Because of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the Concordia group was able to visit sites that were until recently restricted. Besides visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, Tibersias, Capernaum, the Jordan River and other traditional Sea of Galilee sites, the group toured the Golan Heights and even drank water from Jacob's well in Samara.

Leaving northern Israel, the tour traveled to Jerusalem and Bethlehem where the Western Wall, Dome of the Rock, Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Church of the Nativity were some of many high points. President Holst noted that, on the way to Masada the group passed En Gedi where Professor Mark Schuler and CSP students will participate in an archaeological dig in January, 1998. The pilgrimage ended in Egypt with tours of the three great pyramids and Sphinx at Giza as well as the ancient capital in Memphis with its great statue of Ramses the Second.

When asked about the highlight of the trip, President Holst quickly responded, "The people!" He added that the regular evening devotions with the pilgrims always brought new insight and meaning. Biblical places provided inspiration for spiritual growth. Personal comments shared faith and transformed the tour into a spiritual odyssey.

Alumni Director Jeff Walther reports that other tours are planned. Tentatively, in 1998 Concordia will sponsor a tour of Turkey and Greece, tracing some of St. Paul's journeys. In 1998 there may be a trip to Europe and the Passion Play at Oberammergau will draw Concordia pilgrims in the year 2000.

Students to enter the Promised Land

President Holst and Dr. Mark Schuler will be leading another group through the Holy Land in early January, this time a group of students. The first group of 15 will leave on Jan. 2 with Dr. Schuler to participate in an archaeological dig at En Gedi. Five days later they will meet up with President Holst's group of five students and they will spend the rest of the time touring together until their return home on Jan. 19. Please keep this group of explorers in your prayers over the holidays.

**Dorothy continued from front page**

who were drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, and prisoners. Her time in jail humiliated her and allowed her to form a "bond with the victims of official callousness". Her newspaper, the Catholic Worker, dealt with hospitality houses, run by Catholic workers, rights, and even nuclear armament. Her time in jail humiliated her and allowed her to form a "bond with the victims of official callousness". Her newspaper, the Catholic Worker, dealt with hospitality houses, run by Catholic workers, rights, and even nuclear armament. Dorothy Day knew that she and her daughter would need something to hold on to. Dorothy Day's life has become the subject of several books and even a movie, *Frontline Angels*. She is one of those people who is not recognized by us today, but has done great things. Gary Wills says about her in his book, *Certain Leaders*: "It was her spiritual intensity that made Day a mentor to several generations of people concerned with the poor". Because of this spiritual intensity, people today can go to a place like the Dorothy Day Center to carry on her desire to help people.

If you would be interested in serving at the Dorothy Day Center or other saintliness opportunities, check the Campus Ministry Center door for upcoming events.
**Security information**

by Ryan Kecelmaier

There have been many residents lately who have been receiving prank phone calls. Most of these calls have been made for the amusement of the caller. They have, however, been a great annoyance to the people receiving the calls. These calls have been mostly made to residents of Luther Hall. The caller has been pretending to be conducting a survey and asking these women if they wear lipstick and smoke Virginia Slims brand cigarettes, among other things.

Initially, these calls were very discouraging and threatening to those receiving the calls. Later, the calls seemed to be nothing more than an annoyance and inconvenience. Nonetheless, calls of this nature are still an invasion of one's privacy and a hindrance to one's ability to go about their business. Because of this, CSP Safety and Security offers the following tips to handle such calls:

- X Hang up immediately.
- X When a prank call is received, notify your RA and Security for documentation.
- X Write down the time and frequency of calls.
- X Turn off your phone for an appropriate amount of time. The length of time should be determined by your own comfort. Voice-mail will receive any important calls you may miss.
- X If calls persist, call Security again. They will work with Information Services to help find the source of the calls.
- X Always try to remember what the caller said or did. Write down important aspects of the call.
- X Do not show emotions the caller is trying to provoke. Try not to convey feelings of anger or disturbance. Just end the call.
- X Never hold a conversation with the caller. Be assertive and calm. Finish the call as soon as possible.

**Security Tips**

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**Twins departure hurts Minnesota**

by Rich Davenport

W.P. Kinsella wrote, "Summer without baseball. A disruption to the psyche." It is impossible to know how Minnesotans will feel a couple of summers from now, when the hallowed field of the Metrodome will remain empty, with only the echoes of the sighs, sounds and smells of baseball inhabiting the space. Already they feel bewuddled, betrayed and angry. But when summer 1999 arrives and there is no team on the field, there will be a void that cannot be filled by the WNBA, minor league baseball, or football minicamps. There will be no amazing plays at third, no leaping catches in center field, no extra innings. Unless you live in North or South Carolina.

Do the people of Minnesota realize that for less than nothing, we could have kept our Twins in this state? When the time comes for Major League Baseball to expand and we are clamoring for a franchise, will we realize how utterly stupid we were to allow a team to be given to us, a stadium to be built at no cost to the taxpayers? Will we realize that an expansion team will cost one hundred percent more than it would have cost to keep the Twins?

Kirby Puckett was right. Where are all the fans now? Two, at least, were camping out on the capital lawn for a few nights. The rest are probably busy buying Cubs hats and resigning to the fact that we will be reduced to watching Cubs baseball on WGN from now on. This begs the question: for all the money and greenness we do about lack of loyalty to the fan, where is our loyalty to the team? It is a sad thing to see Bulls jackets when we have the Timberwolves right at our backdoor. Packers jerseys when the Vikings play in a stadium right up the street. White Sox hats when our own Twins were struggling. My father always told me that you have to give respect to get it. The same goes for loyalty. How can a team remain loyal to a city which obviously cares nothing for them unless they are contenders?

Kiss a piece of history goodbye, Minnesota. A game that goes back so far into the nether regions of history that no one alive can recall its inception has left and we are left holding our homer hankies. And for what? To spite a man? Carl Pohlad is no Mother Teresa; but is it really worth giving up a piece of our history to send him a message?

Years from now, we will remember Major League Baseball. The old timers will tell tales of a game-saving grab in game 6, a heartwrenching last-pitch battle to the end, but my children will never know the splendor of Major League Baseball in Minnesota because, make no mistake, this was our last chance. There is no way the commissioner will allow another team to be placed here since we are not willing to commit to our team.

Let's step back for a moment, and ignore the history part of it. Let's look at the financial blow the city of Minneapolis will endure. Hundreds of jobs lost. Local businesses will suffer, starting with, but not limited to, the restaurants and bars around the Metrodome where fans would go to celebrate a win or mourn a loss. Just a couple of thoughts to get you through the cold winter.

The public ownership plan would have prevented a lot of heartache, prevented the Twins from leaving, and finally would have made the Twins Minnesotan for good. It was dropped in our laps, and we churlishly said, "NO! We want it THIS way or NO way!" Thanks to our overly suspicious attitude, we have lost a Minnesota institution.

I'll end this the same way I began, with a quotation from W.P. Kinsella:

"I don't have to tell you that the one constant through all the years has been baseball. It has marked the time while America has rolled by like a procession of steamrollers. It is a living piece of history, like calculus... It continually reminds us of what once was, like an Indian head penny in a handful of new coins."

**Three students to begin journey in India**

by Dr. Bruce Corrie

Three students will leave for India in early January for a twelve week foreign study program in India. They will have a brief stop-over in Malaysia and then fly into Madras in South India. They will have a brief tour of Madras, which will include a visit to the place where according to tradition, Thomas the apostle of Jesus was martyred. Their final destination is the city of Cochin in the state of Kerala, where they will be based.

Kerala is located on one of the ancient sea routes that brought traders from Arabia, Persia and Rome. It is a meeting place of various religions of India. For instance, there was a vibrant Jewish community in Kerala, and according to tradition, the apostle Thomas came to minister to this community in the first century. The students will be located in the home of the family of Professor Bruce Corrie.

Two students want to explore social work and social policy in India. One student wants to get some teaching experience in India. The three students have attended a semester-long seminar on India at Concordia where they will spend in the forests, learning about forest policy in India and working on their research papers.

Then begins their long train journey from one end of India to the other—from Cochin to Delhi, the capital of India. In Delhi, they will visit one of the seven wonders of the world—the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was built by the emperor Shah Jahan in memory of Mumtaz Mahal, his wife that he loved deeply. Legend has it that in his old age he would just sit and gaze at the Taj Mahal and think of her. And when his sight grew weak, he would gaze at a reflection of the Taj in a huge diamond embedded in the wall. The students will be thinking of the Taj Mahal as they begin their journey back home from Delhi and plan to be home for Easter.

To see some beautiful pictures of Cochin on the Internet, see the web site http://shashi.nws.com/~777/cochin.htm. For information on Kerala, try www.Kerala.org. You can also see pictures of the Taj Mahal on the Web at numerous sites.
Variety

Concordia Speaks

This Christmas will be the first time, at least, in recent memory, that Concordia students will have an entire month off for break.

What are we going to do with 31 school-free days?

by Amy Ruth Klein

Bethany Olson, senior: "Lots of sleeping and lots of working to pay off my debts from Christmas. I work at Bath & Body and my dad's gas station, and then my internship."

Jason Moran, freshman: "I will probably spend a lot of time just relaxing. I'm not planning on getting a job like a lot of people are. I'm going to catch up with a lot of friends who are at Michigan schools and spend some time with my family and go back to my favorite coffee house."

Katie Anderson, freshman: "Sleeping, working, probably at Target, and I'm going to go sledding, and that's about it."

Amity Foster, senior: "I'm going to St. Louis to see my grandmother, to South Dakota to see the rest of my family, to Wyoming, and then I'm going to London. I hope."

Jonathan Meyer, sophomore: "I'll most likely be working for Dow Corning. I'll just be resting and enjoying my family's company and I'll also be writing short stories."
A view from the tunnel

The Season to be Jolly?
by Gerry Coleman
Campus Pastor

The advertisers wish us a merry Christmas. Hollywood wishes us a merry Christmas. The manufacturers and merchandisers wish us a merry Christmas. But none of them care how merry our Christmas is, unless merriment can be measured in dollars. Their Christmas has nothing to do with the real Christmas.

The chasm between their Christmas and the real Christmas was revealed to me with dramatic clarity through a series of events in the final months of 1990 that happened to my dear friend Matt Miller, whose picture hangs in my office. On September 24, Matt called me to say that his father had just been diagnosed with cancer. Six weeks later, on November 6, he called me to tell me that his father had died. I know that Matt’s Christmas and his family’s Christmas was a struggle. I know it did not seem very merry. And no advertiser or merchandiser or entertainer could put the merry in merry Christmas.

Even at its best, life is full of pain for fragile ones like us who break so easily. Even at its best, life is full of pain for those whose picture hangs in your office. Even at its best, life is full of pain for those whose picture hangs in mine.

A view from the tunnel

God gives you this gift: your Messiah is born. But Bethlehem’s star which illumines your eyes, the bliss that refuses to shout out its cheer, the joy that can’t speak, the grief with no tear, can put the everlasting merry in merry Christmas. He made it a season to be jolly, not by bypassing the pain but by sharing it. Your pain is not your own, it is his. His joy is not his own, he offers it to you. That can be hard to remember in these dark winter days.

Can you hear it?

by Aimee Bruening

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" Luke 2:13-14

The sounds of Christmas! "What wonderful sensations to our ears! The music of the season, the bells of the Santas, the children’s laughter, and we can’t forget the sleighbells or the chestnuts roasting on an open fire! What a wonderful holiday!"

But listen even harder. Do you hear it? Probably not. It has been tapped over by the rustling of wrapping paper and the crackling of fire. And after the holidays it still stays under the surface, covered up with papers to write and presentations to give. All of these things are wonderful gifts that God himself has given us to decorate our lives—yes, even the papers and the presentations—but we tend to slip over the most important sound: the sound of the angels!

I challenge you this holiday season to stop what you are doing and take a listen to what the true sounds of Christmas are. You will be excited to hear how beautiful the message really is. And that message of the Christ child is not only for Christmas, but for always. Christ really is the reason for the season and the true sound of Christmas.
**Women's athlete spotlight: Chris Chisler**

by Katie Ollinger

In her third year here at Concordia, Chris Chisler has had no less than three different coaches. Together with her year at Normandale, she has accomplished a unique feat. And this feat is never playing under the same coach twice. I don’t think that too many of us can claim this. So, who is this person anyway?

Chris Chisler, a senior, is the tallest and oldest member, excluding coaching staff, on the women’s basketball team this year. Her age happens to be the same as her number but I’m not going to tell you that, so you’ll just have to come and see for yourself!

When I asked Chisler what was different about this season as compared to all the others, she noted right away, “This team is a whole lot younger.” Then a second later she added, “As a whole, we’re also a lot quicker. And the new uniforms are pretty nice, too.”

Her goal for the team this year is to win more games as the ladies keep improving by evaluating their weaknesses and working on them.

She graduated from Sibley High School, and after a year at the aforementioned Normandale Community College, Chisler came to this campus. She is close to completing a Physical Education major and a Health minor for Kindergarten through twelfth grade. She will be walking the stage this coming May but because she switched majors, she will be graduating in December of 1998 after student teaching.

Together with school and basketball, Chisler is also a manager at Circus Pizza. This was her first and only job and interestingly enough, she is now her mother’s boss!

She has worked there for almost six years and says they are very flexible with working around her schedule. It’s a good thing because her name appears on the softball roster as well.

Chisler has one older brother who is married and has made her an aunt to little Hannah. Hannah will turn three years old on Christmas Day. Incidentally, that is her mother’s birthday also. Some other points of interest about Chisler include the fact that she used to show Portuguese waterdogs and that she taught Sunday School for nine years.

Members of the basketball team have described Chisler as “easy to talk to, funny, hard working and a generally all around good person.”

“Ben is a good player, and an even better person.” - Coach Getzlaff

“Both academically and athletically.”

Men’s athlete spotlight: Ben Bushaw

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

Avid fans of Comet Hoops may not recognize his face just yet, but most recognize his name: Ben “BOOOOO0-shaw” (according to everyone’s favorite sports announcer, Jon Krueger). A new addition to the team this year as a senior and an even better person!

Avid fans of Comet Hoops may not recognize his name: Ben “B000000-shaw” (according to everyone’s favorite sports announcer, Jon Krueger). A new addition to the team this year as a senior and an even better person!

Ben started his basketball career very young – almost twenty years ago, when he was still too short to have much height on the ball. His dad has coached him from the word, “go,” and Ben credits him with passing on almost all that Ben knows about the sport. His father, along with Michael Jordan, are his two greatest basketball influences.

After graduating from high school in Austin, MN, Ben attended Austin Community College, where he enjoyed two successful years. His sophomore year has been his best to date. His averages of 16 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists per game were enough to earn All State honors. After leaving Austin, Ben played one year at Winona State University before making the decision to transfer to CSP.

Now that he’s here, Ben is attempting to fulfill his goals of success both on the court and off. He claims to be enjoying classes so far, as he is working toward a major in secondary math education. He also enjoys “hanging out with the guys [of the basketball team].”

Ben says that he has felt that he was “accepted right from the start.” Freshman Erin Simmer has only good things to say about Bushaw. “He’s a nice guy – a good, positive influence on the team.” Coach Dennis Getzlaff also gives his accolades, saying that “Ben is a good player, and an even better person.” He continues to say that transferring is always a challenge, and that a transfer in the senior year is usually even less desirable, but if all were like Ben, he’d “take one every year.”

**Comet Basketball Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>UW - LaCrosse</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Northern Iowa</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>St. Scholastica</td>
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<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Wisconsin Tech</td>
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<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Moundview</td>
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<td>Mounds View</td>
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<td>St. Scholastica</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Division Crown</td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
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*Home games scheduled*
Sports

Men's basketball experiences growing pains

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

Many of the players on the men's basketball team are still young enough to remember—and definitely tall enough to have experienced—their very own "growing pains." This young team is learning all over again how painful it can be to work toward a refined, finished product that looks good on the court. They are learning a lot from each other, their coaches, and themselves.

So what's so tough about putting a good-looking and effective team on the floor every game? Well, the season is still young, for one thing. Even though they have been practicing together for two months, it is impossible to have learned everything that there is to know about the style of every other player that is on the team, aside from a few major and defining characteristics.

Head coach Dennis Getzlaff says that the same thing in not quite so many words: "We're playing 11 people... an unusually high number. [Even though that kind of] depth is good, it's tough to mesh when there are so many (players)." He attributes this to the aforementioned fact that they are all still trying to learn to play together.

Another factor that has been detrimental to their record is that the schedule this year is a tough one, and the early part is even more difficult than the latter part. Getzlaff is quick to point out that this is not an excuse; rather, it is simply a fact that can be taken into account.

He also claims that it is still "too early to look too far down the road" for the season.

One thing that Getzlaff mentioned is that the team as a whole is playing very hard, which is a necessary element in order to have a chance to succeed. Their hard work does not just take place when they are in game uniform. It happens at practice, too. On any particular afternoon, you can walk into the Gangeltath Center to find them working on anything from basic skills to complex concepts, and it all has to do with learning more about the game.

When asked about the bright spots in the team or throughout the season so far, Coach Getzlaff says that a bright spot really has yet to occur. However, he said that he has been surprised and happy to find out that the depth of the team is as good as it is. He has "more quality players than I've ever had before."

If anyone reading this remembers having "growing pains" while growing up, keep in mind that those pains eventually went away, and things locked up from then on. It just took time. There is plenty of time left for this young team to overcome its growing pains and develop to its fullest potential. Of course, most of the players have the feeling, "the sooner, the better." The hard work that has gone into the season is bound to give them something back. As soon as that happens, look for some impressive games to come out of this particular Comet squad.

Sports Editorials: This one's going to cost you, CSP

Editor's note: This article is in response to the recent removals of two Concordia head coaches, Brian Schmit and Tom Cross. The success encourages any additional comments or questions regarding this matter. We can be contacted through campus mail or voice mail, ext. 6777.

Two major changes have recently occurred in the athletic department in the past week, one of those greatly affecting my life and, thus, the reason I write this article. As many of you have heard, Cross Country and Track Coach Brian Schmit and Football and Softball Coach Tom Cross are no longer coaching at Concordia. Both of these announcements are very shocking, particularly to those of us who participate in these sports. I cannot represent the feelings of the football and softball players toward Tom Cross' leaving, but who I can tell you about is Coach Schmit.

Since I am a cross country runner, I am greatly affected by this decision and I needed to hear further information about the situation. This is what got to me: Coach Schmit has a family and needs to support them. Since he was not making enough money at this school to support them coaching at this school, he decided to start his own business. In order to make time for this business, he came up with this proposal: he would continue as head coach of cross country, but instead of being head track coach, he would just coach distance. Although he would receive a major pay cut, he would still have time for his business. As far as I know, all the athletes supported this plan. However, the school administrators and told Coach Schmit that he must head coach both sports or they would find someone else to take his place.

What I do not understand is why he should be coaching track in the first place. Track is not anything like cross country. They are literally as different as football and soccer. Track is geared mostly towards sprinting, throwing, and jumping with few distance races. The only true reason for the distance races is for distance runners to keep in shape for cross country. So, it really is a bad move in the first place to have the Cross Country coach also coach all of track.

Men's basketball experiences growing pains

Don't just take my word for it. Take a little bit of time out to come and watch a game, and it will treat you well. The athletes can tell when they have a crowd, likewise, they can tell when they don't. It goes back to that whole "support = success" thing. We have a lot of good things happening here on our campus, and you should take part in them. But don't take it from me. Find out for yourself.

Where are you, fans?

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

This is a little letter to you, the readers of this article. It is not intended as a sports article, per se, but more as an editorial. "Where are you? Are you in your room? At work? In class? What are you doing? Studying? Taking a break? Working? Nothing?"

Why aren't you at the game? Why aren't you cheering for your fellow students? Why aren't you showing your support in every way possible?

I get a little frustrated when I look in the stands at a basketball game and I see that the visiting team has more fans than the home team. I get a little frustrated when I can't hear our supporters who are there because they won't clap, yell, or cheer when our team is doing something well (or not so well). But then I realize that it's because you aren't there.

Did you know about the game? Did you know that it doesn't cost you anything to get into a home game and that you get roughly two hours' worth of free entertainment watching America's favorite pastime (sports)?

What's the deal? Didn't you know that fan support is one of the keys to a team's success? You should really go and find out for yourself what a cheering section can do for the morale of a team. I'm not saying that you should give up your studies or job to become an avid follower, but attending a game doesn't really take all that much out of you.

Take a little bit of time out to come and watch a game, and it will treat you well. The athletes can tell when they have a crowd, likewise, they can tell when they don't. It goes back to that whole "support = success" thing. We have a lot of good things happening here on our campus, and you should take part in them. But don't take it from me. Find out for yourself.
A view from the couch

by Richard Davenport

Hello there, fellow film fanatics. Here we are again, only this time, it's Christmas! Well, almost. I feel like I need to review a Christmas movie just because it sets a theme. Well, why not? Away we go...

The film 'The Santa Clause' is what they call a "New Holiday Classic," which means Disney feels it is necessary to tell us what is not a classic and what is not. Nevertheless, this is a superb movie for the holiday season. It is the story of a divorced man, Scott Calvin (played by none other than Tim Allen--ARRRR!!!) who wants desperately to have a relationship with his son. Scott ends up donning Santa's garb when the real St. Nick falls from Scott's roof and dies. This is a grisly means to an end, but hey, it's Disney, so it's okay, right? Anyway, whatever Scott did not know when he wrapped up in Santa's tunic was that he was willingly giving up his real life to be the next Santa Claus. This is explained in the "Santa Clause" on a business card. Humor and heartwarming moments ensue as Scott tries to cope with--oh, let's call it "filling out"--a magically growing beard and that list that we all know about. You know, the one Santa checks twice...An absolutely wonderful film about believing in magic. Three and a half grunts. Laughter all the way.

The next two films have no ties to the holiday, but are on my list anyway, so here we go.

Chasing Amy is the latest film by Kevin Smith, the writer/director of Clerks and Mallrats. This newest endeavor is his best so far, showing that he has been doing his homework and brushing up on his skills. Bruce yourselves kids. This deals with a couple of controversial issues. Consider: boy meets girl. Boy falls for girl. Boy finds out girl is gay. Boy keeps her after, and they eventually end up together. The film is a roller coaster of human emotions, keeping you interested with an homage to Steven Spielberg, an appearance by Jay and Silent Bob, and the brilliant scripting of Kevin Smith. Chasing Amy is controversial, witty, sad, funny, and sassy all rolled into one. If you have ever been in a relationship, no matter with whom, this movie will touch you.

I give it three and a half grunts. Give it a chance, you won't be sorry.

Last up is a film about spies and Nazis and love and life. It is called Mother Night, from the novel by Kurt Vonnegut. It stars Nick Nolte as an American playwright who turns into a spy for the American government during World War II. He is told that he will not be acknowledged by the US if he is discovered, but he is to become a symbol for the Nazi party. He begins with a radio show on which he calls himself the last free American and gives speeches which boost the morale and the visibility of the Nazi party. He marries and is separated and is eventually found out, disgraced and deported. He becomes a bum on the streets of a middle Eastern city, living simply until his past comes back to haunt him. Even when he tries to live his life is threatened by the very country he agreed to help. The ending is a surprise, and the story is interesting and full of political and social satire. I give Mother Night four grunts for its marvellous script and honest adaptation of one of Vonnegut's best novels. See it, if you can.

That will do it for this edition of the Couch. Have a great break and come back here ready to hear about Alien Resurrection, Amistad, and An American Werewolf in Paris. Adesce Fidelis.

Literary Genius: If on a winter's night a traveler

by Amity Foster

When I told Lydia that I didn’t know what book to review, she told me to review a book from a class. I told her that I normally try not to do that, and she asked why. I wasn’t quite sure, so I have decided to do just that. If my professor reads this and wonders what I am talking about, oh well. In Literary Theory, we are reading If on a winter's night a traveler. It is by Italo Calvino and it is very interesting.

If on a winter's night a traveler is hard to review because it is not a traditional novel. It is more a collection of sections of several books by (supposedly) different authors. In between each of these is a chapter about the reality. It is hard to explain without having a visual aid. The first four chapters should give a pretty good idea of how the book works.

The book begins fraudulously with a chapter about reading. It is written in the second person. The reader is taken through a book store and goes past sections titled: "Books You've Been Planning to Read for Ages," "Books That Everybody's Read So It's As If You Had Read Them, Too," "Books You Could Put Aside Maybe To Read This Summer," and my favorite, "Books That If You Had More Than One Life You Would Certainly Also Read But Unfortunately Your Days Are Numbered." In my class, we spent about twenty minutes talking about how this really is how we are in a bookstore--so much to read, so little time. This chapter also talks about how exactly people read, in fact, the entire book can be seen as a commentary on that.

The second chapter, titled "If from a winter’s night a traveler" is completely different; you will think you are in a second book. I read this chapter and I almost wanted to stop reading. The narrator is first person. It takes place in a railroad station, and the narrator is waiting for someone specific to give something to. Pretty simple, right? Not exactly. This chapter ends with the narrator being surprised when everything is the narration is repeated, identical to the previous chapter and I almost wanted to stop reading. The narrator is first person. It takes place in a railroad station, and the narrator is waiting for someone specific to give something to. Pretty simple, right? Not exactly. This chapter ends with the narrator being surprised when everything is

The third chapter reverts back to the third person narrator. The minute you start reading, you realize that obviously something is wrong. What happened to the railroad station? the suitcase? This chapter reads as if it were someone observing your thoughts as you realize what has happened. It says, "And as you continue, what develops? Nothing. The narration is repeated, identical to the pages you have read. Wait a minute! Look at the page number. Damn! From page 32 you've gone back to page 7. It is in If on a winter's night a traveler.

The fourth chapter is the same as the second. Well, not the same plot, character or location. It is another section of another book, entitled "Outside the town of Malbork." This time the characters number five, and the plot involves a fight between two young men over a photograph. After reading this chapter, you will begin to realize the structure of the entire book. First, a chapter is directly about the reader. Then there is a chapter that is supposed to be an excerpt from a real book. Then you go back to the chapter addressed to you, the reader. If on a winter's night a traveler continues on like this.

At the time that I write this article, I have not finished the book. So far, in my class, we have spoken about the idea of this book being about reading and writing as processes, the idea that there is a sort of factory of stories, the idea of machines writing books, and many others. We have also applied various theories to the book. If on a winter's night a traveler is one of the strangest, most annoying books I have read. It is a good book, and it will definitely make you think about what is happening to you as a reader. If you don’t want to do that, don’t read this book.
Music review: Beat depression with ska

by Bruce Parker

People like to listen to music and are always interested in what's new or some cool stuff they haven't seen before. So, every month I'll come back and tell you about music that goes about unheard in mainstream America. That's punk, ska, metal, or another kind of crazy music unheard of in mainstream America. (That's if punk, ska, metal, or another kind of crazy music happens to pass through my ears.) If you're into music (and by golly, you'd better be or you're just not human and we'll have to have a little talk because you're probably some sort of alien), just look for my articles on music.

So many Concordia kids have asked me about this crazy new musical called ska and this month (my debut with the Stork I might add) I'm going to talk about nothing but ska. First off, I'd like to mention that ska isn't new at all, but has been around for about three-hundred years or so. It all started with the Jamaicans in the 1600's who had all these economic problems. So, they created ska as a way to help escape their problems and just slip into a nice little fantasy world.

Ska has changed quite a bit since those days in the 1600's and has evolved into numerous different waves or styles, so that no one knows what the heck each wave or style really is (at least, I get confused). Waves are just basically the different styles in which ska is categorized. The time period that the ska is played in helps determine the wave. As an example, 50's rock, 70's rock and 80's through 90's rock vary as much as first wave ska, second wave ska, and third wave ska. Kinda catch my drift here?

Keeping all that in mind, I have two bands that vary quite a bit in their style of ska and one can easily find them at your local record store. Beat, Big Fish and Hepcat are the ska bands of December and boy, oh boy, are they some good bands. So, after reading about them, I hope you go and check them out.

Red Big Fish in my mind is one of the best ska bands around, but some people may disagree (just tell me and I'll beat them to a bloody pulp). RBF's debut album on Mojo records, "Turn Off the Radio," has got to be one of the most powerful records that has ever passed through my ears. Greg Lee and Alex Desert (two of the coolest looking Jamaicans you'll ever see) have some of the warmest and softest voices. I can't find any other adjective except for coolest sounds. What I'm saying is that when you're listening to RBF you can't help but feel cool, and coolness is what it is all about. Let's take, for example, the very first song on the album, "Country Time." There is a verse in the song that goes a little bit this way: "Imagine what you must try and change your ways and at least, I get confused." Waves are just basically the different styles in which ska is categorized. The time period that the ska is played in helps determine the wave. As an example, 50's rock, 70's rock and 80's through 90's rock vary as much as first wave ska, second wave ska, and third wave ska. Kinda catch my drift here?

Next month look forward to either punk rock or swing music. I haven't decided about which one I feel like writing. Maybe I'll go ask the Concordia population. Oh yeah, one last thing, if there is ever a type of music you would like to learn more about or just would like to let other people know about it, come and talk to me and I will review it free of charge.
His goals go beyond Friday night blowouts. Which means if he drinks, he does so responsibly. And that's what BACCHUS is all about. Students helping students pursue healthy, responsible lifestyles. As a proud supporter of this organization, Discover* Card celebrates all students making their own healthy statements.

Go to [www.bacchusgamma.org](http://www.bacchusgamma.org) for more information or [www.discovercard.com/student](http://www.discovercard.com/student) to apply for a card.

He made a statement by passing the bar.

Not entering one.
Battle of the season: Santa vs. Jesus

by Gordon Elliot

Well, this is my first article in the Concordia Sword and I hope that it won't be my last. I will come to you every month with some crazy investigative reporting and try to get underneath what really runs this society we call America. I have my own investigative reporting team (yeah, you heard me right, I have a team) and we will always try to get the best information we can. Sometimes we might fall on our faces and get a little bruised, but it's all for a good story.

Let's go ahead and meet the three guys behind this loony column. First off, there is me (Gordon Elliot) and I'm the brains and leader behind what stories I write. I also will keep my two fellow reporters in line, because they can be a little wacky and weird at times. Secondly, there is Dr. D. Botsch (at least that is his name for now) and he is a little shy, but every once in a while he will just go plain nuts and I'll have to beat him severely to get him back in line. Lastly, there is Dr. D. and he is one bad mother and that's all anyone knows about the Dr.

Okay, on with the story. The first story is going to have a little holiday spirit in it: Santa vs. Jesus. No, I'm not going to have them fight and cause a bloody ruckus and make millions off of Pay Per View, but I am going to get to the bottom of this. "What is the bottom of this?" you ask. Well, it's all about who is the king of Christmas. I'm talking about hard hitting questions like, "What do Americans think when they think of Christmas?" Is Christmas more about greed and a pretty penny than about Jesus Christ? I hope everyone see what I'm getting at here because I'm moving on.

The original plan was to have J.J., the Dr., and I go to the mall and talk to the Santa Clauses and passers by there, but we could never get a car and had lots of college work to do. So, instead, I checked my old pal, the internet. The internet told me lots of really neat things. Once I typed in Santa Claus as a keyword on Yahoo, I received almost a trillion sites (okay, okay - lots of really neat things. Once I typed in your first name and then your last, list or his bad list. All one had to do was enter the Cocoon I am here.

The Caterpillar

by Koryn Saunders

I am here. I enter the Cocoon. I am here. I am here a power house of what will be destroyed to absorbing all that I will aspire to fill myself to know myself growing then I emerge the butterfly. I am here. I am here a metamorphosis of beauty, splendor and grace. I am a graduate of complete thought. I have evolved molded my mind and spreading my wings. I will fly to my full potential gathering and learning yet arriving to touch the stars.

Christmas means something different for everyone. Just be glad we all celebrate it in the same week. This is Gordon Elliot signing off. Have a Happy Christmas and a Merry, Merry New Year.

We humans

by Amy N. Hansen

We humans... We struggle constantly through life. We try to leave behind our past, yet it is a part of us. We doubt, mistrust, lie. Even to ourselves. When will we realize We gotta let it go? We can give up our burdens. To the One who loves us. God is always there. Even when our hearts are broken, our trust is betrayed, Our God is with us.

We might not see Him, But He lives in us all. Through heartaches and tears, Broken dreams and great pain, God is with us. He is the greatest comfort in life, through love, faith, hope. Exercise your faith... Walk with God.
**A message from the President**

Memories of Christmas paradoxically touch some of the happiest and some of the saddest moments of life. I remember with great joy some unique experiences. The children's Christmas Eve services when I was a child are dear memories. Memory of the children's "Posada" in Mexico City still awes me. Another Christmas, I joined German Christians for an afternoon and evening of reading German Christmas prose, poetry and Bible stories, and singing hymns and folk songs. In New Guinea, memories of the grace, beauty, power and wonder of the rhythmic pounding drums and circle dances of the Ipili's month-long Christmas celebration bring unforgettable joy. Precious warm feelings come when I remember the Christmas when Lynne and I got engaged and then the first Christmas after we were married. I hope that you also save good memories of great joy in your Christmas memory bank.

I also have known pain at Christmas. There was the pain of the first Christmas after Lynne's mother died. It hurt the first time one of our children could not be home for Christmas. I still feel the lonely pain of my own first Christmas away from home. I was on my internship in Canada. Far from my own parents and family, I not only felt lonely but even unloved as I watched other families enjoy the holiday times together. I remember hurting as I drove home from a country church's Christmas Eve service. Passing through wind swept, snow covered Canadian wheat fields, my car lights stared into empty darkness while Christmas music from the radio drowned the motor's dull hum. I felt sorry for myself being alone. Families with whom I had just worshipped were now in their homes opening gifts with loved ones. Suddenly, a deer raced through the darkness and I laughed out loud. I don't know why. Was I startled, even afraid? Maybe it seemed like Santa had lost one of his reindeer! Maybe I realized suddenly the beauty of the deep and peaceful silent night. I had seen something graceful. I had a deer companion on Christmas Eve! One can be alone and yet not lonely.

Each of us will have unique experiences this Christmas--some pleasant, some painful. Whatever the mix of emotions, may the reality of God's love grow more real. For me, as a Christian, remembering the birth of Jesus is a reminder of the reality of God's love. Christmas means that God is love and I am loved. I am never alone in either pain or pleasure. I am loved by God and God's people. May God make your Christmas celebration a time for renewed understanding of God's love for you. Merry Christmas.

President Bob Holst

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**C.I.T. is coming; get ready**

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

It's coming.

CIT (Concordia Invitational Tournament), the annual basketball showdown among the Concordias, will be hosted here at CSP January 30 and 31. Men's and women's teams from River Forest, Illinois, Seward, Nebraska, and Mequon, Wisconsin, will travel here to play in the two-day tournament that promises to be action-packed and full of thrills again this year. For those of you who really don't have a clue about this weekend-of-all-weekends, let me lay out some of the technicalities. There will be four games a day, starting at 1 p.m. and going until the final buzzer of the last game--probably around 10 p.m. The Gangelhoff Arena will be packed to its

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*Schedule of Events:

**Friday, January 3**

1:00 p.m. Women's River Forest v. Seward

3:00 p.m. Men's Mequon v. Seward

6:00 p.m. Women's CSP v. Mequon

8:00 p.m. Men's CSP v. River Forest

**Saturday, January 31**

1:00 p.m. Women's Consolation

3:00 p.m. Men's Consolation

6:00 p.m. Women's Championship

8:00 p.m. Men's Championship

More information can be found on our CSP website: http://www.csp.edu/csp/Dept_pages/CIT