Campus Safety Issues Addressed

By Lee Vang

The 2000 Concordia University Campus Crime Report reached student mailboxes in late September. A first glance showed a number of empty boxes, indicating the low figures and/or absence of any crimes committed on or nearby the campus. However, taking a closer look, 44 jumps out like sore thumb. Forty-four was the number of liquor law violations on campus residence.

Sara Muho, Assistant to the Director of Plant Operations for Safety and Security, said, "these numbers reflect the number of underage individuals who were referred to Student Affairs for disciplinary action due to the fact that they were found drinking in residence hall-a violation of our residence hall policies but also a legal instruction."

Explaining the reasons and importance of the report, Muho said, "The Campus Crime Report is prepared and distributed in compliance with the 1990 Student Right-To-Know/Campus Security Act. This report is required to be completed by all higher educational institutions, which receive federal financial aid. The first report was distributed in 1990. The complete report for Concordia University is available at and more information about the 1990 Student Right-To-Know/Campus Security Act is available at - at ."

An interesting question of safety and security comes from a physical assault on Concordia University students at Dunning Field on October 31.

In light of this assault nearby campus, Muho said, "While CSP officers were the uniformed victim of this assault, the investiga-
tion has been handled by the St. Paul Police due to the fact that it occurred off-campus on public property. We have been working with the police and at this time I am not aware of any arrests in this incident."

However, Muho, for reassur-
ance to the Concordia community, said, "In my 10 years of involve-
ment with the department, this is the first such incident of this nature that I am aware of students being involved in. I believe that this incident heightened students' awareness that there are random acts of violence that can occur any-
where at anytime. I feel that this also gave our department a chance to remind students to utilize the Escort Service as well as staying with groups in well lit, high traffic areas."

"Safety," according Muho, is "a relative phrase. Each individual has a different idea and concept of what conditions need to be met in order for a situation to be safe. I believe that our department provides services that maintain the overall safety, security, and well being of campus community. While there are incidents, which occur on campus, most are congruent with typical urban crime/inci-
dents and are not a breach of secu-
ritry." All in all, regarding safety and security on campus, Muho noted that the department operates much more effectively with the help of students, staff, and faculty. "The information they pass on to us is critical as the officers cannot be everywhere at all times," she said. "This heightened aware-
ness makes Concordia University safer for all of us. It is important for the campus community to always be alert, safety-conscious, and knowledgeable. Many incidents may be avoided with some careful forththought." Moreover, Muho said she is always interested in hearing about concerns and suggestions that individuals have concerning Safety and Security.

Task Force Supports Students' Staying Course

By Lee Vang

Nine people, one mission: retention. For the last two and a half months, a group of Concordia faculty and staff members has been working vigorously to gather and analyze qualitative data regarding the retention of stu-
dents at Concordia University. In the words of Dr. Jones, Chair of the committee, "it has been a very comprehensive process, assisted by a terrific team of dedicated educators."

The "Task Force" is an ad-
hoc committee established by President Holst and, as Dr. Jones stated in an October memoran-
dum, it "serves the specific pur-
purpose of developing a plan specific to the mission, vision, and strate-
gic priorities for Concordia University, wherein the campus community will be engaged in processes which will successfully increase the percentage of stu-
dents returning to study at and ultimately graduate from the uni-
verson." The committee consists of Rosemary Braun (Director of Academic Advising), Dr. Cheryl Chatman (Executive Vice President/Dean of Division), Paul Hillmer (Associate Professor of History), Dr. Edith Jones (Vice President for Student Affairs), Scott Morrell (Associate Dean of Enrollment Services), Dan Mulso (Student Senate Vice President of Relations), Daniel O'Brien (Director of Athletics), Dr. Carl Schonebeck (Vice President for Academic/Deans of Faculty), and David Stueber (Director of Institutional Research).

Thus far, the committee has collected information from ten focus groups on campus—approx-
imately 191 individuals. With this data and those previously collected-at hand, Dr. Jones said, "we are in the process of determining specific goals and developing measurable objectives, with individuals assigned to carry out the objectives--including deadlines for developing and/or completing the objectives."

Currently, the committee is focused on three goals: "establish-
ishing support for students as the highest priority for staff and faculty; establishing systems to retain new students, and establishing systems and strategies to enhance physical, human and financial resources."

Dr. Jones calls on the cam-

pus community, challenging the university to become engaged in retention—to make retention an institutionalized tool. She said, "the engagement and energy of the entire campus community is important to carrying out the goals and objectives of the Retention Task Force...we want to build on our goals and strengthen-

Students Delve Into Hmong History

By Lee Vang

"The college experience, from my biased perspective, is one that should encourage a love of learning for its own sake. So, I'm hoping this (Hmong Oral History) project will pro-

vide students with a love of learning and teach them something new and meaningful about their own history and culture," said Paul Hillmer, Assistant Professor of History at Concordia University. Recently, Hillmer, Concordia sophomore Tou Thao, and other students have embarked on a project of Hmong Oral History—a project that began as a side conversa-
tion between Thao and Hillmer. In May 2001, sophomore Tou Thao contacted History pro-
fessor, Paul Hillmer, about an internship, which began a promising partnership. On the way over to set up Thao's intern-

ship at the University of Minnesota, Hillmer inquired about Thao's family's history.

"It interested me," Hillmer said. "I asked Tou if he had ever spoken extensively with his par-
tents about their experiences, and he said no. I've been doing oral history as part of my his-
torical inquiry class for over ten years now, so this seemed like a good opportunity to apply the method outside the classroom."

"Hmong Continued On Page 2..."
Chou Vang: Sophomore, Servant, Soldier

By Lee Yang

Last spring, a young Hmong man emerged from Concordia University's Graebner Memorial Chapel. He spoke the words of a perseverant son, loyal friend, and devoted Christian. He had been saved at a young age by his faith in the miracles of Jesus Christ and had decided, early on, that he would live his life devoted to serving the Lord. Chou Vang, from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, was only in his first year at Concordia University when his leadership potential became clear. However, he never mentioned how deep his love for serving others ran—so deep that he had already enlisted in the National Guard in his junior year of high school. Vang has continued his patriotic services now for three years. Nevertheless, it has not been an easy journey.

"In the first three weeks of boot camp, I really wanted to quit. I questioned myself why I even entered and I was very homesick," said Vang.

After three grueling months, Vang now only has to commit to one weekend every month when he makes the three-hour drive back to his home base, the Wisconsin Rapids Armory, and spends the entire weekend in drills and learning more skills applicable to his medic position that would assist him in the care of sixty soldiers out in the field.

Recently, however, with the attacks of September 11 Vang's situation has changed. As of last month, he had a 60 percent chance of going overseas to war.

"In the midst of the War on Terrorism, Americans at home can only wonder what the sons and daughters of their nation are undergoing overseas. Vang, ranked as a specialist in the Guard and trained as a medic, said, "I received the call a couple of weeks ago and we all went to 'the meeting.' . . . we were asked if anybody had a problem going to war . . . and there was pressure—not to look stupid and not to look like a coward."

At that very moment, Vang recollected that he thought to himself, "I should go because I have a skewed perspective—there's a skewed perspective. This is an opportunity to provide some balance to the community's collective perception (or misperception) of the Hmong."

As both a student partnering in the venture and the official Hmong Oral History Project cooperator, Thao said his reasoning and motivation behind the initiation of the project is simple: "It sounded like fun and I felt that we're making history everyday, even though we really don't realize it often, so any documentation is good because one day, someone will read about what we accomplished—that's what makes history a great subject."

Thao added, "I just want people, including myself, to have a better understanding of how the Hmong were involved in Vietnam and the story of how we came to the United States."

For more information regarding the Hmong Oral History Project, Thao, who also encourages many more participants, can be reached via phone at ext. 8215.

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

As a student at Concordia, Vang knows that his involvement in the National Guard has affected him in many ways.

"I tend not to complain about school work, appreciate life more, and I'm more content with the little stuff in life.*

*With more respect for the authorities because he's experienced some of the hard work they undergo. Vang is scared to go to war but knows it is his duty. In the meantime, he feels that the soldiers overseas are "doing a good job because this war is different—we have a really good solid reason for fighting and we'll win just because of the support of the people of our country."
I loved the production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The singing, dancing, acting, visual effects and orchestra pleased the senses and touched the emotions. It also held up a mirror to life. Too often we make life a cabaret, filling or emptying the present or meaning for the good old days. Or we wall as if to be the best of country western over self-inflicted wounds that carry pain. Or we squall for dominant Elvis-like folk idols with influence, ego and insincerities. 

We may "hide" our hopes and our heads in sand" and overlook the beauty in life's multicolored coat of beautiful experiences. Life is not a drag, imposed routine. Joseph would say, "Take time to dream." Ending one semester, beginning another, preparing for Christmas and moving from an old year into a new year also challenges our ability to dream.

Recently, in Rome, Italy, I saw several marble busts of the ancient Roman god Janus. Janus gave name to our month of January because Janus was the god of entryways, rising and setting of the sun, or general endings and beginnings. You can always identify a statue of Janus because he has two faced. One face looks forward and one looks back. One bust that I admired had Janus with a vibrant, energetic face looking forward with a tired, weary face looking back. Can I identify with the latter face this time of year?

Challenges faced, issues addressed, pressures felt and work consumes fatigue. Patience can forbid dreams. However, semester break, holy days and a new year promise rest for the weary and new opportunities for the dreamers. May your semester break give you an energetic face looking forward. Put on your multicolored dream coat. For me, as a Christian, the Message of Christmas strengthens my faith and lifts my spirits. I think again of the reality of God's love. I sing again that Jesus, Son of Mary and Son of God, brings the humanity of God into human history with divine saving love in teaching, helping, forgiving, suffering, dying and rising. Such faith brings peace, helps us serve as a foundation and launching pad for dreams. May the semester break provide more than time for rest and relaxation. May the holiday season bless you with time for spiritual reflection and renewal. Take time to praise God. Take time to dream.

- President Bob Holst
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Sports

CU Dance Team: Dancing on the Court

By Casey Lux

The Men's Basketball Team hopes to improve from last year's 9-18 overall record (4-12 record in the NSIC Conference Play) this season with a blend of veterans and rookies. With a roster filled with returning seniors, they reap experience and guidance from the previous season while bringing in eight freshmen, this team is both bigger and better than last year, from top to bottom. "I've got to make sure that our new guys are accomplishing great things," Concordia's head coach, Justin Vandenberg, said. "I want us to be more competitive, night in and night out, and I want to make sure that our new guys are running the system correctly." During the first game of the season, the Golden Bears faced off against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, not forgetting that they are capable of accomplishing great things. Concordia's football team played against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Concordia's dance team proudly poses after their successful performance at the Metrodome. Photo Submitted by Concordia's Dance Team

Men's Hoops Review: Improving Top Concern

By Debbie Burke

The 2001/02 Women's Basketball season looks to be an exciting one. With six returners and eight freshmen, this team is both bigger and better than last year. Head Coach Paul Fleischer said, "It's nice to look at the bench and have someone to put in." Although they may be young, as this year's team has no returning seniors, they reap experience and guidance from the team's special assistant coaches, Anagost Combos, Junior Kristi Shaw and junior Lisa Harfield. Fleischer looks to these girls mainly to "keep the freshmen flying around the basketball and books." Kristi Shaw said that besides being a leader on the court, she helps "keep the freshmen off the court with school issues and any answers they need answered. One of the biggest facts this year could be our co-captains Lisa Harfield who last year earned the first team Lutheran All America Award, making her the first sophomore ever to earn the prestiuous award. Fleischer said of Harfield, "She's a big asset to the team, and she still has one more year. She's outstanding." On December 11, the Golden Bears' next home game, Harfield will be presented with her All Conference plaque at halftime.

Another important game to attend will be on December 14, where the team will face the St. Cloud Huskies at home. "The team has been picked to finish fifth overall in the conference this year, but has the capability to go all the way. Knowing that his team is very young Fleischer want us to be more competitive, night in and night out, and I want to make sure that our new girls are running the system correctly." Concordia's football team played against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the dance team performed a new routine at halftime. Freshman dance team member Ashley Nupadi said of the experience: "It was very exciting and special because it's not something that everyone has the opportunity to do." Concordia's Dance Team has gotten off to a promising start this year, as the dance team performed a new routine at halftime. Freshman dance team member Ashley Nupadi said of the experience: "It was very exciting and special because it's not something that everyone has the opportunity to do." Dance Team's 15 dedicated women have shown what hard work and team unity can accomplish. Because they perform for both football and basketball games, the dance season is a lot longer than many other sports. They have received a lot of positive feedback from people at Concordia who have come to cheer their performances on at games. Freshman Ashley Hyatt

CU Dance Team: Dancing on the Court

By Joanna Stark

"Five and six and seven and eight." Concordia University's Dance Team has gotten off to an amazing start this year. Since last year's disappointing dance team has just about doubled in size—which is an amazing feat for coach Stefanie Escay, who is leading the team for her first time. Escay rescued the program: the team is working hard and performing well.

How has Escay, a junior managed to turn this team around and bring up the number of people involved, from just eight women last year to 15 women this year? Escay, who also plays on Concordia's women's soccer team and is the co-producer and co-host of Concordia's TV Show "Dead Heat," did not want to have tryouts for the team. Rather, she wanted people who were willing to learn how to dance and be dedicated to the team. Escay herself picked up soccer as an extra-curricular activity. Although she had never played before, she worked hard to learn the sport and is certainly a vital asset to the soccer team.

Escay says, "I am a prime example of just picking up an extra-curricular activity. I wanted people to try out who wanted to have fun and be willing to work at it. If we continued to just polish the routines, the dances would come together." Athletic Director Dan O'Brien is pleased with the number of women involved in the Dance Team as an extra-curricular activity. He acknowledged, "The numbers are higher than I've ever seen them—that's encouraging." O'Brien also sees the Dance Team as a way for more people at Concordia to participate in some kind of activity on campus. O'Brien stated, "I think the dance team is yet another opportunity for people to compete and be involved."

Already the team has performed a variety of routines for both football and basketball games.

These routines have included different styles of dance ranging from country to pop to hip-hop and funk. Although the talents of each person on the team vary, they all seem to want to help one another. The Dance Team solid leadership.

Under this leadership, the team had the opportunity to perform in Concordia's 2002 Homecoming. On Friday November 9, Concordia's Dance Team proudly poses after their successful performance at the Metrodome. Photo Submitted by Concordia's Dance Team
Holidazzle Parade Lights Up Downtown

By Alisha Polivka

The Holidazzle Parade is one of Minneapolis’ signature events and is a great way to start off a wonderful evening in downtown Minneapolis. The parade features illuminated streetcar floats and about 250 costumed characters, from Captain Hook to Santa Claus. Each float in the parade plays in original music making the Holidazzle full of a variety of music. Also, a different holiday choir and marching band performs each night.

The parade is led by the Fanfare float which features trumpeters and the grand marshal. The Sound of the Season float carries Minnesota community choir dressed in lighted robes. The amount of festive lights one sees while at the Holidazzle is breathtaking. Your eyes will never be bored.

"We will cancel the parade if the wind chill drops to -25 degrees, but the best thing to do is bundle up," said parade spokesperson Alyson Schmidt, "Wear long underwear, boots, hats, gloves, and a jacket that closes all the way up.

Donations of canned goods and non-perishable foods will be collected prior to each parade and will be donated to food shelves as part of the Holidazzle Food Drive. The Holidazzle Parade is an exciting way to enjoy the holiday season as well as a chance to give to those in need. Show your support of the community and enjoy an evening in the winter wonderland of downtown Minneapolis.

‘Let It Snow’

By Jennifer Mills

As members of the Minnesota community on Concordia campus, we should know our snow. In years past, the average accumulative snowfall for the Twin Cities area ranges from 35.5 inches all the way to 84.1 inches. Thus, it seems important to know this fluffy, sometimes white, substance that surrounds us and covers our environment during the winter months.

Like every type of weather, snow continues to challenge weather forecasters across the country. Not only is it difficult to predict, but it is also hard to measure. Perhaps you, too, wonder about snow, what exact snow is or why it snows white? Is snow really edible? Never fear, answers to these questions and more are in this article.

An average of 105 snow-producing storms affect the US each year. These storms have a lifetime of two to five days. And in the United States, practically every location-including Florida—has seen snow flurries.

While the winter weather sparks easy conversation and accounts for multiple jokes, there is also a serious side to snow. In the United States, snow kills hundreds of people. Primary snow-related deaths are from traffic accidents, overexertion, and exposure.

But how exactly does snow make its way to the earth and fall upon Concordia’s campus? When water freezes inside clouds, ice crystals form. The ice crystals join together creating snowflakes. Similar to rain, once the flakes are heavy enough they fall to the ground as snow.

As everyone knows, snow is generally a beautiful bright white color. The song goes, “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas,” not a blue Christmas. Snow reflects most of the white sunlight. So while Concordia and Ice Data Center (NIDC), the complex structure of snow crystals result in countless tiny surfaces from which visible light is efficiently reflected. Snow absorbs sunlight uniformly over the wavelengths of visible light, thus giving snow its white appearance.

We have all heard the wise old saying, “Don’t eat yellow snow.” And being clever humans, we easily see clear of any “marked” snow. Nevertheless, snow is certainly edible. Snow in urban areas may contain pollutants that one should not eat, but they would probably be in much lower concentrations that it might not matter. Sometimes snow contains algae, which gives it a red color. This snow, surprisingly, is actually safe to eat. So don’t eat yellow snow, eat red!

This Christmas season, while we ‘Deck the Halls,’ ‘Ring Bells,’ and ‘Rock Around the Christmas Tree’ proclaiming it to be ‘the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,’ let us look out upon a ‘Silent Night’ and ’LET IT SNOW’!

Attention All Creative Writers!!!

The Variety Page would like to have a Poets Corner and it needs YOUR poems to make this possible. Please submit your best poems to the Variety Editor at: starki@proverbs.csp.edu. If your poem is selected by Sword Editors to be published, you will be paid $5. So get those creative juices flowing, and send in your poem today!
Create Christmas Presents Absolutely Free: Random Things You May Never Need To Know

By Jocelyn Redemann

It's that time of year again, the time of year when poor college students with a very meager cash flow are challenged with the task of finding Christmas presents for family and friends. Well... I have got wonderful news for you! Below are ideas for a gift anyone would be sure to love!

**El Puppet-o**

How many of you remember those sock puppets from when you were a kid? Yeah, me neither, but I hear they were a hit so...

Gather:
- A pair of socks
- A discarded pair of shoes
- A small amount of wallpaper

**Blossom Bunch**

I don't know if you've ever bought fresh flowers, but man, they're expensive! And you know, it's not like you can just give up. So here's a way to make them last a little longer.

Diy: some scrap paper (colors are nice) from your garbage, under your desk, or whatever drawer or folder it has accumulated.

Find a scissors and some writing utensils you don't care about. All you need is a little bit of glue. Take out various shapes from the paper no bigger than 4 square inches. Remember, you're making flowers here, think pretty. Lightly fold the shapes in half and cut a small slit in the middle, just big enough to fit around the writing utensil, but not too big that it will slip off. Color coordinate the shapes in groups of 3 or 4 so they are aesthetically pleasing.

Place a grouping of flowers on a writing utensil and bend the "petals" slightly upward.

To assemble a bouquet, gather three to four blossoms and tie with a shoelace.

Also making a note to get you into the spirit of the season is a great Christmas song.

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The movie "Spy Game," directed by Tony Scott, is in dire need of change. If you just wait for the home video version, you will be able to turn this hit-and-miss movie into a thrilling thriller. All you need to do is hit the fast-forward button to about two minutes into every flashback. The problem with this movie is directly attributable to the construction of the screenplay by Michael Frost Beckner and David Araza.

Set in 1991, the film involves CIA agent Nathan Muir (Robert Redford). Muir is only hours away from retirement when he has been captured by the Chinese government while on his latest mission in Beijing, and will be executed in 24 hours.

The film spans 16 years, Nathan and Tom look the same at all times, never appearing to age in the least, which makes this film even more unbearable.

The film is a sizzling thriller and the characters are curiously lacking. Nathan Muir and Tom Bishop, quite a notable feat in itself, and also provides the sort of passion and depth, in a small role, that both Pitt and Redford themselves are curiously lacking.

With lightning-speed editing, the director of this film hopes to fool the viewer into thinking that something supernatural is occurring when there never actually is. The film is desperate in its aim to supply divergent entertainment when, in actuality, it is a crushing bore that lacks even a hint of enjoyment.

Towards the end of the film, the script begins to run out of gas until it gets to the CIA task force's final consequence by Muir as he completely outwits everyone.

After Muir's last brilliant stroke, he can't think of anything better to say than a clichéd, "Do you remember when we could tell the good guys from the bad?"

At a time when it is clear that our country desperately needs a much larger and aggressive spy agency, "Spy Game" seems awkwardly dated.

In the end, "Spy Game" is a surprising waste of time that leaves you feeling cheated, unsatisfied, and mind-boggled as to exactly the point of it all was.

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**May we make a suggestion?**

Hennepin County Department of Economic Assistance now has numerous part-time openings available that are ideal for December grads with skills in the social sciences, food pantry operation, and service delivery. Jobs in:

- **FINANCIAL ADVISOR**
  - Visits clients in their homes, explains programs, explains the process of applying for assistance, and assists in completing applications.

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**www.aasstinc.com**
Students Travel To Texas

By Heather N. Sandberg

The five members of the Student Senate Executive Board attended the Associated Students for Higher Education (ASHE) conference in Austin, Texas November 7-11. This annual conference is located at a different Concordia University System college each year and provides the sole opportunity for members of the student governments from each Concordia to get together.

While at the conference we had a chance to learn about the different policies, procedures, and activities planning at each Concordia. I found the ASHE conference very helpful in providing healthy comparisons between the Concordias and a unique opportunity to learn more about our Senate while discussing with representatives from other schools. One of the most valuable pieces of information we received was learning about the structure of the respective Senates because it has given us an opportunity to reflect on how we can improve our system to better serve the students we represent.

Each year the delegates choose a relevant item from the Synod to discuss at the conference. This year we discussed For the Sale of the Church: An initiative by the Lutheran Church to double the number of Christian graduates of the CU System by 2010, as well as raise a $400 million dollar endowment.

This is an important program that will not only increase the enrollment at each of the colleges, but will also provide the necessary funds to improve buildings and services on campus for generations to come.

Our Senator, Angela King, served as the Assistant Executive Secretary for this year’s conference; however, at the conference Angela was elected to serve as the Chairperson for the 2002 ASHE conference that will be held in Seward, Nebraska.

She will be responsible for planning, as well chairing the conference. Congratulations Angela!

Start Planning For Winter Formal

By Angela King

As if the anticipation of the end of the semester, a break, and Christmas wasn’t enough for Concordia to experience at this time of year, many anxiously await the time that they can come together again in one of the beautiful view of downtown St. Paul.

Rachel Young, Social Activities Chair for Student Senate, along with other CAB and Executive Board members, has spent numerous hours planning this event with one primary goal in mind: give Concordia students the opportunity to come together and celebrate the holidays.

If dancing with the dinosaurs at the Science Museum is not enough excitement in itself, Rachel adds, "The room has a great view of the Mississippi on one side and on the other side is a beautiful view of downtown St. Paul. It’s the perfect atmosphere for a dance like Winter Formal."

The dance will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be free buses leaving from the Student Union at 8:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. They will leave from the Science Museum at 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. There will be plenty of food, consisting of hors’ d’oeuvres and dessert. Attire should be formal but does not require tuxedoes.

The cost of this event will be $12.00 for a single ticket and $20.00 for a couple. Tickets will be sold in the tunnel during the week of December 10-14. There will be two limo rides raffled off for all who buy their ticket before Wednesday, December 12. Register to win the limo ride at . It will ask for your ticket number. Come and celebrate the holidays with all of Concordia.

The SWORD is the work of students and faculty at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. We welcome and encourage the feedback from all readers both inside and outside the Concordia community.

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Angela King

Photographers: Jonna Stark Joe Sarte Ashley Hyatt

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