Fines Empty Student Pockets

By Lindsay Hartleben

Day after day, notices are sent out from the Buenger Memorial Library about overdue books. While students could heed this warning and return the used resources and be subjected to a fine of merely five cents per day, often it becomes more serious. As a result, a process called recollection is carried out twice a year in the library to recover those missing materials.

Recollection takes place so that the Coopers Librarians in Constitution, better known as CLIC system, can account for their respective materials. At this time, the eight schools and 14 libraries included in the online borrowing system are doing inventory for materials overdue and billed between the dates of April 1 and Oct. 1. Students responsible for missing items have received four notices over a period of four weeks, both through e-mail and campus mail.

"We send out a final notice, a second notice, a final notice and then the billed notice," public services librarian Geruth Buetow said. "If they returned the book, it was $5 fine, but if it was not returned before the Dec. 1 cutoff date, they are responsible for a $65 fine."

"To pay for non-returned items, we have to use money that could buy databases, books, and other things for all students to use."

-Anus Buetow

Because the money used to cover the tab comes out of the library budget, when materials are not returned and paid, it affects all students.

"To pay for non-returned items, we have to use money that could buy databases, books, and other things for all students to use."

-Anus Buetow

If books are not returned by the specified date, the schools bill each other. According to Buetow, the bill can get quite large.

"Of course we don't want to have any bill, but in the past we've had to pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars," Buetow said.

Furthermore, being responsible for overdue items causes larger problems for student's reputations.

"Their library privileges are suspended and we put a hold on their student accounts," Buetow said.

Such penalties may sound harsh, but they are enacted to keep the library running smoothly for all students. This is especially important because materials are shared among so many schools.

"To pay for non-returned items, we have to use money that could buy databases, books, and other things for all students to use."

-Lindsay Hartleben

Hilmer Helps Harness Hmong History

By Shiloh McClelland

Hmong students at CSP have a unique opportunity to learn their recent family history by interviewing their elders about their experiences in the war in Laos. Dr. Paul Hillmer, assistant professor at CSP, has developed an oral history project that includes students and their traditions, language, and the story of their people.

Elders and even young adults Hmong worry about the future generation losing their traditions and forgetting what their parents have experienced. The Hmong oral history project is a way to learn about, and hold onto, those experiences.

Last year, the project included interviews, conducted in Hmong and translated to English, and a presentation at the Asian Festival last Spring. This year, there will be more concentration on the interviews, and a reflection on the project.

"I think we need to focus on those things that went well last year, building on those positive experiences," Hillmer said.

Hillmer plans for the interviews to be in an archival repository, such as the Minnesota Historical Center or the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

"I think our ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive, evocative, and instructive body of testimony about the Hmong experience."

-Hillmer

"I think we need to focus on those things that went well last year, building on those positive experiences."

-Paul Hillmer

Students of other nationalities can also benefit from the oral history project. Applicants were only accepted until shortly after Thanksgiving, and after that time, a search committee evaluated the resumes to narrow the selection down to five. In addition to Hillmer, those on the committee are Lisa Reit, the Senior Women's Administrator; Geoff Carlson, the women's volleyball coach; Tom Sodexho; and Stoltenow.

"I'm going to try to make it a first opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

-Hillmer

Alumni Fills Sports Director Vacancy

By Shiloh McClelland

Just as many sports teams often shuffle the lineup, the Athletic Department has changed its lineup. Since Dave Wright's resignation as Sports Information Director (SID) on Nov. 14, Joe Austin has taken over the position while a search for a permanent replacement occurs. Wright, who was employed as SID since 1999, submitted his resignation at the end of October.

"Dave did a tremendous job of getting our program off the ground, as well as developing and organizing the Sports Information Department."

-Austin's newly acquired position has many facets, including producing press releases and media guides, keeping websites up to date, maintaining stats, and basically dealing with any information regarding sports.

"As a coach, one thing you have more is that you are responsible for your team."

-Austin said.

Another person who helped during the transition period was Joel Stoltenow, the graduate assistant in the Sports Information Department.

In the long-term search for this position, Austin is a candidate.

"I'm happy to get this opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

-Austin

Are Students All Smiles with Sodexho?

Photo by Dhanrajia Brooks

Sodexho reacts to Sodexho by filling out comment cards.

To find out more turn to page 2.
CU Launches EMentoring Program
By Josh Reams

For students who are not sure what to major in or what to do after graduation, CSP has developed a program that can guide them through their difficult decisions. CSP’s Career Services and Alumni Relations have collaborated to create again the Office of Career Services.

“The EMentoring program offers career-minded students the opportunity to be matched with a young adult who has graduated and can provide guidance and advice,” director of Career Services said.

Barker, who was part of the EMentoring program last year, also said, “It was great because you can ask a former CSP student what they liked and disliked about Concordia, and furthermore, what you can do unlike my time here to the fullest. They also helped me develop ideas for what I may want to do with my future.”

“Many students find their future at young age. The EMentoring program is online, giving students and alumni access to face-to-face conversations about students about what they want to do. However, the obvious limitation is time, as alumni were only able to be on campus one to two hours.”

EMentoring relationship is not time consuming. 99 percent of time takes place via email. If you feel like you could benefit from this program spring semester, contact Pamela Braun in Career Services (CAP Center) office, at x6241 or email her at .

Brock explained how this program gives students the chance to learn about the skills they will need, the chance to start networking within their interested career avenue and the practice of interacting with the “professional world.”

“Working with a mentor allows the students to experience what they may be going into themselves, one day,” Brock said.

EMentoring offers the students the opportunity to gain real world experience through interactions with individuals in their chosen career area.”

Barker said.

Sodexho Responds to Comment Cards

By Shiloh McClelland

Sodexho has taken a huge amount of criticism in the eight years it has managed food service at CSP. The complaints cover a lot of ground, from quality of food, to variety, to availability and so on. One thing Sodexho has done to help students deal with their angst is to respond to “Comment Cards.” Comment cards can be found near the exit of the Dining Hall and of the MSA.

Let’s take a look at some real-life comment cards and their responses:

**Comment:**

Large toaster is missing.

**Response:**

We replaced our large toaster with a smaller toaster to provide the ability to make toast... and refill them BEFORE they are empty.

**Comment:**

Vegetarian day: What, no Meat?!?! For any and all “Vegetarian Day” themes, we will also serve at least one popular meat entree.

**Comment:**

Beverages empty!!!

**Response:**

We will check the beverages regularly during meal service and refill them BEFORE they are empty.

**Comment:**

Day Vegetarian: What, no Meat!!!

**Response:**

As a student, do you feel about the Comment Card system? Is it working for you? Do you see improvements? How do you really feel about Sodexho? Send responses to “Shiloh McClelland, Sodexho Office,” or to atx6241@proverb.csp.edu and they will be considered for publication.

*Photo by Dhanrajia Brooks*
Fizz or Flop: Energy Drinks Exposed

By Morgan McLaughlin

Every time you turn around these days, all you seem to see are energy drinks. Gas-stations, super-markets, bars, and television advertisements tout the benefits of energy drinks. However, do manufacturers have hidden the effects of these drinks, or are there serious risks that come from their consumption?

"Energy drinks such as Red Bull have confirmed the positive effects and extensive medical research," says Dr. Haller, an expert in the field of nutrition and physical fitness. "The effects of energy drinks are limited, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and some professional sports leagues have banned their consumption in regards to sports team use of energy drinks.

Even though many athletes associate these energy drinks as "Red Bull" does contain a number of vitamins, including niacin, thiamine, and pyridoxine, plus important vitamins and carbohydrates: a unique composition that had never been tried before. "

"The energy drinks promise to raise your energy levels, which they do, but is there a price for this unnatural boost?"

-Morgan McLaughlin

Dr. Haller, an expert in the field of nutrition and physical fitness, adds, "Energy drinks promise to raise your energy levels, which they do, but is there a price for this unnatural boost?"

-Morgan McLaughlin

These energy drinks promise to raise your energy levels, which they do, but is there a price for this unnatural boost?

-Morgan McLaughlin

"These energy drinks promise to raise your energy levels, which they do, but is there a price for this unnatural boost?"

-Morgan McLaughlin

Union Hosts Sale

By Amy Foster

Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders. The three big ones. They're all great bookstores, but where do you go when you want local Native American writers or Hmong crafts? BirchBark Books, Bookstore of the American and Hmong Arts, Books and Crafts are just three of the Twin Cities local bookstores.

People can go to the individual stores, but on Dec 10 the CSP community can shop all three at Concordia Library's Book Sale in the Student Union. All three stores will be offering books and crafts at a 10 percent discount to members of the Concordia community.

"If you're looking for children's books, materials on learning the Hmong language, and Hmong fiction, this is the place you're looking for."

-Amy Foster

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BirchBark Books, owned by Louise Erdrich, focuses on American Indian fiction, culture and children's literature. Erdrich has written many books herself, including Love Medicine and The Birch bark House. Some of her autographed books will be available at the sale as well as a few crafts and other books and art.

Bookstores of the Americas is part of a human-rights organization and they offer up-to-date information on Latin American countries, myths, Spanish-English dictionaries, and many other topics. They also focus on current events like child labor, immigration issues, and human rights. If you are a teacher and need to develop multi-cultural lesson plans, this could be a great resource for you. Curriculum materials are a large part of their collection. Materials such as the Many Faces of Mexico and Child Labor Is Not Cheap provide curriculum for middle and high school students.

One newly published book, Bamboo Among the Oaks: Contemporary Writing by Hmong Americans, is a collection of essays and stories about being Hmong in America. It's available at Concordia Library, Books and Crafts, a local bookstore that features books, art, and many resources about the Hmong culture. Finding materials about the Hmong culture can be a difficult experience and this bookstore has made itself a resource, including books, videos, story cloths, and many other items. If you're looking for children's books, materials on learning the Hmong language, and Hmong fiction, this is the place you're looking for.

Whether you're looking for Christmas gifts or variety in your reading, these bookstores are the best places to look. All of them will be at the book sale sponsored by the library on Dec 10. It'll run all day from 9a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union. Come celebrate the diverse culture that exists in the Twin Cities.

Library Fines

Continued from page 1

"We have fines to make sure no one returns books that other students can access materials as well," Burrows said.

Students can avoid accumulating large fines by returning the books, or by renewing. "We can do that online at the CLUC page, and two renewals are allowed for four weeks each."

"Though this recommendation may seem like a big hassle, the problem can be kept at bay. "It is really a small fraction of the student body that is causing the problem," Burrows said. "Most people are very good about returning things."
On Christmas: A Trip to St. Louis

By David Johnson

On Wednesday, December 18th, the pre-seminary department had the option of visiting the Missouri Synod Synod in both Fort Wayne and Concordia University’s campus ministry associate, Mr. Kohl. Kohl, Concordia University’s campus ministry associate, is a man who understands these feelings. If you aren’t familiar with Mark Kohl, feel free to stop by the campus ministry office and introduce yourself.

Kohls has an upbeat view of Christmas that isn’t always seen outside of the holiday TV commercials and advertisements surrounding this society. He is convinced that the true underlying ideals of Christmas have not changed over the years. Christmas is the event of the world.

"Christmas isn’t dependent on whether we are naughty or nice, but on the fact that we are God’s children." -Mark Kohl

On the day of Christmas, the students of the pre-seminary department have the option of visiting the Missouri Synod Synod in both Fort Wayne, Indiana, and St. Louis, Missouri. On Thursday, October 17th, the time came to visit Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

At ten o’clock, immediately after chapel, nineteen individuals embarked on the journey. They took three vehicles, and the drive took about eleven hours altogether, including stopping, taking the wrong roads, and getting separated from the other vehicles. Despite all of these unplanned events, everyone arrived at Concordia Seminary by eleven o’clock that night.

Upon arrival, dorm keys and introductions to Kohl, Concordia University’s campus ministry associate, were distributed. Then vehicles. Despite all of these delays, Kohl stated, "They took three vehicles, getting separated from the other students. The campus ministry tour, which included a series of classes, activities, and presentations, was completed. That night, several Concordia students visited a café in downtown St. Louis and visited the Hard Rock Café and walked Union Station in downtown St. Louis, where students hung out at the Hard Rock Café and walked Union Station in downtown St. Louis.

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinion." Since Kohl had neither seen this painting nor know the hearts of the paintings, he refused to judge the painting.

Kohls loves the breathtaking decorations, caroling, and movies of Christmas. "My favorite Christmas movie is it’s a wonderful life. It’s a wonderful example of just how important everyone you know and to get to meet really is, and the legacy that they have on your own lives," Kohl stated.

As Kohl went on, he continued, "It has recently become popular for people to point out how commercialized Christmas has become. An infamous example of this may be a painting of Santa Claus, crucified. Kohl did not want to reveal his opinion of the painting, stating, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion." Since Kohl had neither seen this painting nor know the hearts of the paintings, he refused to judge the painting.

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"Wherever life’s travels may take you, make those around you and you will have family forever." -Mark Kohl

The most prevalent lie around Christmas is from parent to child regarding Santa Claus. Kohl shared this from his experiences growing up. "I don’t believe in lying to kids about Santa Claus, because as a child, I felt that it was a lie. I felt the tradition of hanging up stockings and finding presents underneath the tree on Christmas morning, but I think their are other ways to go about it.

"What about Bob?"

By Emily LaPlant

Recently, I saw a jolly fellow with a beard and a plump body. No, it wasn’t Santa Claus; it was Pastor Bob.

"Who?" I can hear freshmen asking each other.

The reverend Robert Benke, affectionately referred to as "Pastor Bob," was the campus pastor. Pastor Bob graduated from Concordia University from 1999 up until the beginning of his 2003-04 school year. The loss of Benke’s position was due to CSP’s recent financial crisis and resulting budget cuts.

Most recently, Benke has been preaching and teaching the saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ, serving as interim pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. He has also accepted a call to serve as pastor at Jehovah Lutheran Church in St. Paul, located at the intersection of Snelling and Thomas Avenues. He will begin his duties as pastor at Jehovah on January 6th, 2003, with his installation date yet to be determined.

Benke hopes for both of his brothers, Lutheran pastors, to be present at his installation.

When asked about how his life had changed over the past few months, Benke replied, "We are all pilgrims on a journey."

"When asked about how his life had changed over the past few months, Benke replied, "We are all pilgrims on a journey."

Sword Staff

The Sword Staff would like to wish all our readers a blessed and joyful holiday season.

Thank you for your contributions and interest in the past semester.

Keep an eye out for our first issue of the spring semester due out in February.

Enjoy the break - we know we will!!
Saint Nicholas Confesses ‘Christ is Lord’

By Paul Brutscher

Paul Brutscher

Revolutionary children’s writer L. Frank Baum wrote a novel called “The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus,” detailing the birth of this perennial figure, his spiriting away to the realm of fairies and then his youthful pastime for generosity and his eventual acceptance of the mantle of immortality from the Greek god Zeus. Hmm, come again?

Excuse me, but isn’t the existence of a generous figure that gives gifts to children every year on Christmas preceded by the existence and veracity of Christ? What’s with the pagan symbols?

Saint Nicholas Confesses ‘Christ is Lord’

Summarized the Christian’s and the Christians in the world.”

Kieschnick’s message, entitled “A Missia of Our Time,” outlined various negative and positive aspects of the LCMS while challenging the audience to our relationship with the world.

He took this one step further when he challenged those listening to him: “In one instance the offering of the child, God’s hunger to be fed, and the children who made the offering. God has placed us on this

day to be a channel through which the love and mercy of Christ is the lives of other people.”

Proposition: We believe in the one God, the Father, the Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

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Proposition: We believe in the one God, the Father, the Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
'Little Shop' Mayhem Audience Pleaser

By Jen Wilson

Murder and mayhem tore through Concordia's Emerson Theatre. Victims included serial killer Andy Dramstad, Gary Nelson, Karen Bindewald, and Adam Winegarden. Authorities report, however, that it was not a crazed criminal who killed these innocents; it was a man-eating plant.

The classic musical "Little Shop of Horrors" kept audiences entertained for eight performances. The show combines comedy, romance, and crime. Although seemingly a difficult show to stage due to the monstrous, man-eating plant, Concordia's theatre department called in the talent cavalry, and the show was a hit.

The main characters of the show include Seymour, played by juniors Alli Fahey and Stella Fasanello. These three low-class ladies comprised "Little Shop's" version of the Greek chorus. Their ever-changing names and hair blended in with the other actors throughout the show.

The musical numbers displayed each actor's singing talent. During Winegarden and Bindewald's love song, "Suddenly Seymour," this audience member grew rather雯

The show's story was not the only source of entertainment during the evenings; the combination of veteran and new actors displayed the unending source of CSP's talent. While the murder and mayhem were only imaginary, this show was definitely a "killer."

Fear and Media collide in "Bowling for Columbine"

By Mike McCarthy

Rarely does a movie that examines social problems become popular in the U.S. Michael Moore's films, however, have become the exception. His latest movie, "Bowling for Columbine" dissected the school-shooting epidemic.

In Moore's study of violence, he uncovers a troubling statistic. "Why," he asks his interviewees, "does the U.S. have 11,000 murders each year while other industrialized nations have barely 100?"

He questions Charlton Heston, Marilyn Manson, Terry Nichols, the producer of "Cops", Matt Stina, two victims of the Columbine shooting, and others to get their views. These interviews prove thought provoking, hilarious, and sometimes unnerving.

When Light Triumphant Breaks

Sacred music of the holiday season, featuring Concordia University's outstanding Choral Studies, Christ in Christmas, and Alumni Ensemble. And featuring renowned Christmas and holiday favorites.

Concert Date: Dec. 7-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8-3:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Boston Auditorium
Tickets: $1 Adults, $0 Student/Seniors
**Just Gotta Have 'Faith' - Sullivan, That Is**

By Jennifer Joy Mills

"You're the same person after you get the damn thing," said author Faith Sullivan about receiving the Milkweed National Fiction Prize in 1996 for her fifth book entitled "The Emperor of One." Her animated hands, adorned with multiple gold bracelets, wave around to accent her words: "Into each book you pour your blood, sweat, and tears." 

Originally a history major from Mankato State University, Sullivan has written and published six books since the first writing novels at age 42.

"Sometimes you can get too middle-aged without knowing what you are supposed to do," Sullivan said. After her youngest child had started kindergarten, Sullivan took a story idea and decided to "write a few chapters and see if I like it." Sullivan said that writing is "something I must have felt pretty good. Not only is writing her profession - it is her therapy."

"How do I know what I think until I see what I say," Sullivan said about the benefits of writing. Sullivan cultivates her mind by spending half of the day writing and the other half reading. Sullivan said that writing is "an author's duty to continually reading."

Besides her own writing, Sullivan consistently meets and mentors new, young writers. She holds and hosts workshops for students to see her work as a process of comparison. "The workshops began as a six-week course in novel writing, but the opportunity to compare work is now extended to the class into her home. Her workshops are for writers to give writers the opportunity to compare work, put writers at ease, and answer all of the "dumb" questions.

"You have to admit how dumb you are," Sullivan said. "And they (new writers) have the tendency to think they know all this stuff - like it is automatic." Sullivan takes a story idea and "writes a few chapters and see if I like it." With each book you pour your blood, sweat, and tears. So what is Sullivan - the "demon gardener, flea marketer, and feeder of birds" - up to these days?

When not attempting to keep her house clean, she can be found promoting her latest novel, "What a Woman Must Do," working on a book of short stories, or recently, participating in the International P. Scott Fitzgerald Conference due to the request of her long-time friend, Dr. Eleanor Heginbotham.

"She knows I'm a sucker. Plus I love Ellie Heginbotham. I would do anything for her. All she has to say is 'Faith' and I'm there."

**Young-n-Old Resurrect 'Guns-n-Roses'**

By Chanafeiz Brook

The Target Center took a time machine to the 1980s. With big hair, spiked jewelry, and ripped up jeans, concertgoers of all ages resurrected all the 80's fashions to attend the Guns-N-Roses concert. The teenagers, not even born past their prime, Guns-N-Roses is still a chart-cropping group.

Axl Rose, the only original band member remaining, exceeded the same energy and quality that he had ten years ago. The concert featured favorites such as "November Rain," "Paradise," and "Sweet Child O'Mine." "Patience," and "Mr. Brownstone." GNR is a must-see band. November 14 proved that.

Each of these members brings his or her own style to the band to create a diverse yet tightly-knit group. When G, a rhythm guitarist/lead vocalist, was asked what his favorite part of the band is, he answered, "We are a blend of all kinds of people so we are able to attract a crowd made up of all kinds of people."

By Andrea Nelson

"Old-school funk, rock, and soul" is how one of the lead vocalists of "The Combo" described their music. "The Combo" is a local band that plays at Bunkers every Monday night in downtown Minneapolis. Their music, "The Combo" is made up of all kinds of people. We are a blend of all kinds of people so we are able to attract a crowd made up of all kinds of people."

The band has eight regular members: a male keyboardist, two male guitarists, one of whom is also lead vocalist, two male vocalists, a female vocalist, a male bass guitarist, and a male drummer. Each of these members brings his or her own style to the band to create a diverse yet tightly-knit group. When G, a rhythm guitarist/lead vocalist, was asked what his favorite part of the band is, he answered, "We are a blend of all kinds of people so we are able to attract a crowd made up of all kinds of people and have each night go off problem-free because everyone gets along."

If lucky, one will see "The Combo" on a night when other local artists are present. Often times, other artists live up the show by Joining the band for a song or two. Two of the regular guests do excellent renditions of funk hits.

What makes this band unique is that each of the artists is able to show off his or her style throughout the night. Each member of "The Combo" has a solo and they take turns bringing lead singer.

When you're looking for off-campus fun on a Monday night, head over to Bunkers and rock with "The Combo." Shows begin at 9:30 p.m. If you cannot make it on Monday nights, Bunkers has a variety of live music throughout the week.

**'Mystery Cafe' Serves Up Secrets and Surprises**

By Tasia Wagner

Where can you find mystery, music, and a meal all in one place? The Mystery Cafe. This treasure of St. Louis Park's Holiday Inn is a dining experience. "You pick a play, a meal, a date two-weeks-in-advance, and show-up ready for some fun."

"I attended "I'll Die Death Do Us Part," the audience sat in the hotel's banquet hall, serving as wedding guests in the show. The cast served our meals and chanted with us periodically. The Mystery Cafe takes audience involvement to a whole new level. During the show, the audience gets to guess the murderer. The actors serve clues with each portion of the meal.

"The Mystery Cafe takes audience involvement to a whole new level. The audience members write their guests of the suspect and their reason for the involvement to a whole new level." - Tasia Wagner

TheSWORD 7 is the Art Gallery's December exhibit, "Subjective Histories," runs through December 20 and highlights three, nationally known artists' works. This show presents the combined work of artists Angie Buckley of Denver, and Nichole Freehurch and Myra B. Genet of New York.

"The theme of the show focuses on the recovery and reenactment of memories through various photographic processes such as pinhole photography, digital effects, and chemical manipulation," said Stephanie Huidor, Contempory art professor. "These are only a few of the mediums used to create such an collaboration."

The Art Gallery and show can be viewed from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Art Gallery Shows Three Artists**

Photo by Chanafeiz Brook

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Basketball Ladies Light It Up on the Court

New Players Add Strength, Momentum to Men's Basketball Program

By Casey Lux

Basketball has returned to the Gangelhoff Center and the Concordia Golden Bears are on a mission this season.

This year's squad posts no players back from experience and the addition of key players in the Bears system. "We now have players that fit into our system," said Coach Jim Datka.

If the system runs as smoothly as planned, look for the Golden Bears to scare some NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) opponents this winter.

The Golden Bears are an improved team this year. They have added some height and muscle in a variety of freshmen, transfers, and red-shirts.

Players like: Thomas Blunt, Jerome "Fly Bye" Brooks Jr. and Brian James are finally able to set foot on the court for the Bears. "This year we have the most talent since I have been here, we have more Division II players now," commented Datka.

The Bears want to add some consistency against top-notch teams this year. "This year we play three out of our first five games against top Division II teams. Our conference is up from last year, and there are a lot of good teams in the league." Datka said.

Once again the regular frontrunners are back, Minnesota-Duluth, Northern State and Bemidji State are back to compete for the title. What some teams are not aware of is that Concordia will be a much tougher team than their 9-18 finish last year.

Some players to look out for this year are: Tommy "The Goods" Blunt, Jerome "Fly Bye" Brooks Jr., Brian James and David Albo. Returning Players include: Ray Dawson, Jansin Vandenbogen, Dan Torres and Gery Adkins.

Datka commented on his team's position with most depth. "We are very deep at point guard, with three talented guards.

Point guards make a team go, and with Dave Albo, Chad Tomlinson, and Jansin Kuhanna the Bears will be in good hands at Allstate."

Team morale and talent level are up, and when a team has those two components, they can be a fearsome team to face. If the Bears can get themselves into the conference tournament all they would need to do is win those games in a row to earn a spot in the NCAA Elite Eight.

Datka said of his team this year, "how good we get at executing the system, will determine how good we are this year."

Basketball Ladies Light It Up on the Court

On March 3, the Golden Bears plan to be in the opening game of the Conference Tournament, hosted here at home and continuing on March 8 and 9.

It is our goal to play in all three tournament games, and to make sure we're the highest seed to play in that first game," Datka said.

This year marks the first for the Golden Bears as a full member of the NCAA Division II. Last year all sports were simply provisional members, meaning teams had no chance at postseason play. Datka sees this as having a major impact on the season.

"I have been here, we have more in tradition of winning and knowing what it feels like to win a conference title."

The Golden Bears have several factors in their favor on the road to victory. The team touts its unity as one of its strong points.

"Our biggest strength is that we all trust in each other. We're not trying to compete against each other, instead we really work together and we're all on the same level," junior captain Jessica Combs said.

In addition, the sophomore class is expected to contribute greatly to the team's success. "We had a strong freshman class last year, and now they've had a year of maturing, a year of strength, a year of college life. They've grown up so much that even though we start three sophomores, we're not a young team," Datka said.

Across the court, gifted players bring varying strengths to the Bears' lineup. Pozzani enters her second year of action after being named last year's NSIC Newcomer of the Year. As a guard, Pozzani led the team in scoring.

"We will be expressing her to continue with what she did last year," Datka said.

Senior forward and captain Lisa Harfield has been a go-to player on offensive plays for the past three years, but this season is particularly special because she is within reach of breaking the school record for points. Pozzani is the leading scorer on the team.

She began the season with 1,110, well within sight of the current record of 1,499. Senior Kristi Shaw and Nikki Jaycox also help add leadership and experience to the roster.

In addition to the captains, team leadership comes largely from sophomore point guard.

"Our commitment toward basketball is 110%," Combs said. "We don't give anything less."

New Players Add Strength, Momentum to Men's Basketball Program

By Casey Lux

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Vegas Voices:
It feels like the semester’s never going to end

By Kristina Shaw

"enjoyable at a southern university, but it’s not a walk in the park."

The SWORD • 9

is anyone else feeling this way? Am I only the one who walks into my classes and says, “I don’t know what to do today, I don’t know what to do this week, I’m so stressed out.”

The weather. First of all, the weather is definitely worse than it was at the beginning of the semester. The sun doesn’t come up until 6:00 am, and I still have to wake up at 8:00 am. I know everyone is tired of this, but I’m actually enjoying the cold weather. I love getting out of bed in the morning and feeling the cold air on my face. It makes me feel alive and ready to tackle the day.

Basketball. I’ve come to realize that basketball is a huge part of my life. I’ve played it since I was a kid, and it’s always been a huge part of my identity. I love the thrill of the game and the sense of teamwork.

Retention issue creates student woes

By Joe Baker

Retention problems, two worlds when combined haus; Dr. Edith Jones, vice president of student affairs, is not to mention the stress that comes along with that. Their stories are all too similar, with enrollment numbers down in their own sector due to changes in prospective major changes of CSU. After selecting through, Dr. Jones’ presentation on the retention issue took over 10 times and receiving enough parents to get a generation of my own I wonder how we can still be having a problem.

We have students sitting on the task force (the MOST important thing when it comes to student retention) trying to think of ways to improve retention, and staff members that are the most dedicated and outstanding staff a university could ask for. But we are all realizing that it’s not that easy.

First, improving customer service is not addressed enough. Corina Van Houten once said, “Customer service is the most important thing in a business,” and that is just that simple. Students have no clue who the most important staff are, and what they are doing. There are no customer service hotlines, and no one is trained to handle customer complaints.

Second, students are not given enough opportunities to get involved in the university. There are a few students who are in the retention task force, but there should be more. It’s important to involve students in the decision-making process. It’s important to have students who are interested in the university, who want to make a difference.

Third, the university needs to be more organized. There is a lot of bureaucracy in the university, and it can be frustrating for students. It’s important to have a streamlined system, and to make sure that everything is going smoothly.

Fourth, the university needs to be more transparent. There is a lot of secrecy in the university, and it’s important to have an open and honest system. It’s important to have a system where students can see what is going on.

It’s important to have a system where students can see what is going on.

Finally, the university needs to be more accessible. There are a lot of students who are not able to come to campus, and it’s important to have a system where they can still be involved.

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The Feckless Wanderer: A Night at the Opera - Bluejeans and All

By Paul Brutscher

I wear white heg. I secured a seat in the front row of the pre-show lecture, I even bought one of those over-priced European concert tickets during the intermission. Now imagine a thin woman wearing blue jeans and a flannel and that same of the "Old Money" that attended the show glanced distrustfully at my unkempt, peasant appearance. The point is, I went to the opera. The Merry Widow by Franz Lehar at the Ordway, to be precise. And it was hilarious. I mean that in the most stuffy, "old world" kind of way, of course. The plot: A small, fictional European country is up in arms over the fact that a rich widow marries out-of-country. The operatic parts were in German, giving a nice variety and allowing the audience to more thoroughly comprehend the biting wit of the dialogue while enjoying the music in its original form.

This statement can be readily understood by any opera fan, but it just means that we all have a certain preset stereotype when it comes to our heads, of what a heavy rock band is going to look like. These presets can govern what a bands appearance will be. You wouldn't go to a country concert and expect to see the musicians dressed like members of the band Kiss would you? I think that typically we expect country singers to wear country type outfits, in my opinion a very good album, but in my opinion they went in a slightly different direction with it, and in the process lost some of its edge. If you are interested in the band Disturbed, you can visit their web page, and the option to read the story, and re-watch the video. I'll let you have completely different thoughts on the video after the second time.

There are other special features on the CD, such as a link to their web page, and the option to get a copy of a newsletter updating you on any news regarding the band. As for a review of their second album, in its entirety, I have to say that I prefer their first album to the second one.

The very hot rock band Disturbed released their second album on September 17. The CD entitled Believe has many "religious undertones" says the band's singer David Draiman. David attributes this to his Orthodox Jewish upbringing.

Of course first impressions do mean a lot. When you first see the CD, or hear the name of the band, you don't quite get the same impression that you would if you first heard the names of some of their songs, such as "Prayer," or "Fear."

There are a few key things to remember about rock music. One is that appearances can be deceiving, and that if a rich widow marries out-of-country, it is not unusual. For those of you who are like me, I even bought one of those over-priced European concerts during the intermission."

- Paul Brutscher

‘Disturbed’ Themes Ban ‘Prayer’ Video

By Morgan McLaughlin

If you are a regular watcher of the rock band Disturbed, you can visit their together web site, with enough visual sparkles and bobbles to keep your attention. The site also contains downloadable music, music videos you can watch, and you can even buy Disturbed merchandise.

This quote by David Draiman was so good I just had to include it. I just had to give you a better look into the character, of this odd looking man. With this album I wanted to speak about important things in a grand way, and even touch on things that may not seem so important, but come at them from a perspective that makes them interesting...

The vocals were beautiful, and the opera-stic parts were in German, giving a nice variety and allowing the audience to more thoroughly comprehend the biting wit of the dialogue while enjoying the music in its original form. The sets were beautiful. I think that perspective that makes them interesting...

By Morgan McLaughlin

As for a review of their second album, in its entirety, I have to say that I prefer their first album to the second one.

This doesn't mean that Vince Gill doesn't occasionally like to dress like Tommy Lee, he just means that while he's up onstage, he's going to look and act a certain way. 

- Morgan McLaughlin

Do You Know Who I Am?

We at the Sword thought it would be fun and definitely entertaining to include baby pictures of faculty and staff. Can you guess who this little cutie is? Answer on page 12.

By Morgan McLaughlin

The act opened with the only section in the production sung in English, the character of the secretary to the embassy proclaiming his status as a "gay Parisian". I was pleasantly surprised, and it was great to see the expressions of shock on the faces of some of the more well-to-do opera goers at the end of this number.

This is not the goosebumps, heart-breaking kind of opera, but the gut-wrenching comical, and I recommend it to anyone with three hours to spare one evening. You could even try wearing blue jeans to the show to enjoy the disdain of the idle rich. Brutscher out.
Almost Funny from the twisted mind of Eric Oswald

Scalpel? We need more morphine. We couldn't save Hannah. Would you like her buried or pan-fried with a zesty lemon sauce?

I'm so use, she's dead. Join us next week for more adventures with The Fish Doctor.

Sponsored by Red Lobster.
President Holst Shares Tribute to Parents

By President Bob Holst

"I'm sorry to tell you that both your parents were killed in an auto accident today." Sounding worded, Incandescent Pain? "Life changing! As I write these words these three weeks later, raw emotions still ebb and flow. Because I had such a close relationship with my parents, the shock of their death was overwhelming. My mother had the gift of hospitality. One friend wrote on a sympathy card, "Your mother had the most beautiful smile and it was always there."

My mother used her smile, friendly words and good food to build relationships with family and friends. extended family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her cookies, cakes, and pies blessed tie that bind hearts in love. Even when we prepared for her funeral, we made her cookies. Another sympathy card talked about the energy and love Mother had a plaque on the wall at home. "All things work together for good to those who love God. Romans 8:28." Thank you, Mother, because I need those words now.

Please accept my personal acknowledgment as part of the healing for my grief. I intend no specific lesson, but hope that my words may stimulate your thinking. Count your blessings. Love your loved ones. Treasure the moment. Embrace life. Know the reality of vulnerability.

Stay Together: There is Safety in Numbers

By Sara Mulso

You've probably seen the security alert around campus and read the stories in the paper about the four missing college age students in the Midwest that have disappeared since October 31. At that time I'm writing this, the police have not found connection between the disappearances. The only similarity is that all four were attending Don't be afraid to use the buddy system or if you're on campus contact Security at 887-777.

Stay on popular, well-lit paths. If you choose to drink, drink responsibly. Be aware that alcohol consumption increases your vulnerability. If you see any suspicious activity, call 887-777.

Answers to Holiday Crossword Puzzle from page 11.

"Don't chat... unless you want coal for Christmas"

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Senate Members Travel to ASHE

By Andy Johnson

This month, on November 7 through the 9, three members of the Concordia University Student Senate traveled to Concordia University in Seward, NE for a student senate conference. Angela King, vice president, Andy Johnson, vice president, and Joel Barker, activities coordinator, represented the St. Paul MN. The only Concordia that was not in attendance was Selma AL. This conference moves to a different Concordia each year. Last year it was held in Austin TX and in prior years, it has been held at Concordia St. Paul. Overall, there were 38 students in attendance.

"This conference provided learning opportunities and growth for all participants." - Andy Johnson

Anita Abb, ML, Irene CA, and St. Paul MN. The only Concordia that was not in attendance was Selma AL. This conference moves to a different Concordia each year. Last year it was held in Austin TX and in prior years, it has been held at Concordia St. Paul. Overall, there were 38 students in attendance.

"This conference provided learning opportunities and growth for all participants." - Andy Johnson

The conference started Thursday night with all of the Concordia gatherings getting to know one another. On Friday the true conference started with a welcome and introduction to the Concordia students in their chapel service. Throughout the day there were different meetings and then also some time where schools introduced themselves and then told about their respective schools and senate programs. Presentations were also given by one of the founders of the ASHE conference and also by Julie Johnson who spoke on servant leadership/service. Some other highlights of the conference included a service event in which we spent several hours in a nursing home learning about life and playing some exciting games of UNO. In addition to all this fun there were also true meetings. The future direction of ASHE was decided. Some changes were made to the conference after spiritual discussion. In this meeting, the president and secretary for the ASHE conference were selected, and to our great honor, Angela King was elected president for the second year in a row. This means that she will again have to honor of planning out the conference (which will be in Portland next year).

This conference provided learning opportunities and growth opportunities for all participants. All students came away from this conference with the understanding that we are all Concordia System and that there are other schools out there who are going through many of the same things that we are. This conference truly emphasized that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Make sure you don't fall into this risk-taking trap. The following tips only take a moment and may keep you or someone else out of harm's path.

1. Let someone know where you are going and when you leave and when you arrive at your destinations.
2. There is safety in numbers. Don't be afraid to use the buddy system or if you're on campus contact Security at 887-777.
3. Stay on popular, well-lit paths.
4. If you choose to drink, drink responsibly. Be aware that alcohol consumption increases your vulnerability.
5. If you see any suspicious activity, call 887-777.

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"Don't chat... unless you want coal for Christmas"

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

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