Activists Advocate for Peace

By Kristina Shaw

Concordia University's faculty and staff pride itself on the many programs Concordia offers, but recently the Teacher Education program has given them something extra to smile about. This teacher education program, which has to be approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching in order to be licensed by law, received a big honor at the beginning of March.

Concordia submitted its College Education Program to be reviewed by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). National accreditation, though not mandatory by law, is a boon for the school, faculty and, especially, students. If a program is nationally accredited, it matches the education standards of the nation, according to Vice President Carl Schoenebeck. For example, a student graduating from Concordia can go to another state and teach, knowing that their qualifications will match other graduates from that state. This not only impresses potential employers, but also helps students receive the highest standards of education possible.

Carl Schoenebeck, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, was Concordia's NCATE Coordinator. Dean of College Education Roberta Kaufman was the administrative leader of the unit. Schoenebeck and Kaufman, along with Associate Dean of Undergraduate Teacher Education Don Selke, Associate Dean of Graduate Teacher Education Barb Schoenebeck and Louis Mally, Coordinator of Field Experiences and Clinical Practice, wrote the report that the visiting team of NCATE examiners reviewed.

The 100 page report, which they posted on a website for the examiners to read before they came for their visit, consisted of documentation to support and describe how Concordia's Educational Program meets the six national standards of NCATE. These six standards, which also have other standards within them, are: candidate knowledge, skills, and dispositions; program assessment and unit capacity; field experiences and clinical practice; diversity; faculty qualifications, performance, and development; and unit governance and resources.

To be approved for national accreditation, the five NCATE board examiners focused on Concordia's ability to help all students learn. In order to determine this, they reviewed the document prepared by Concordia's writing team that showed evidence that all six standards were met; looked for evidence that Concordia's program is current and dynamic and determine the quality of Concordia's candidates (current students) and graduates.

NCATE Examination Continued on page 2

Macalester College on what some consider liberal grounds. According to Commander Pole of the St. Paul police, there were no arrests.

Area businesses like Jamba Juice called for extra help from other employees, who might have been marching. Jamba Juice wasn't prepared for the rush of business that the march brought.

"Yeah we have been really busy, we've done time and a half," said Jessie Waters, Jamba Juice's manager on duty.

Bob Rohland, who has worked in a control room for 35 years and is now with Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Customer Service Representative, said that the United States fight began before the infamous 9/11. According to Rohland the government covers up many of their mistakes. He mentioned the assassination of JFK as one of them.

"No fighter planes were scrambling to defend until an hour after the World Trade Center went down," Rohland said. "Question for you: why weren't fighter planes ready to shoot down an hour before the crash, our government knew they were coming."
Holst: ‘Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace’

‘April showers bring May flowers.’ My mother used that saying often. As a child, I understood it literally. When we had to play inside the house because it was raining outside, it was Mother’s promise that weather changes soon not only could we play outside but there would be plenty of flowers for the kitchen table. Now I realize that Mother’s message went beyond literal truth. She was teaching me philosophy on life. ‘April showers’ come in many forms in life but so also do ‘May flowers.’

As I write these words, showers of rockets and missiles are beginning to rain down in Iraq. I pray that by the time you read these words that storm will have abated. Because I believe that all life is a gift of God, I consider all war a human tragedy. That does not mean that I am an absolute pacifist. War and peace are complex issues. I searched my soul on that issue long ago when I was a military chaplain in the rain forest of Papua New Guinea. The Australian army officer enforcing colonial power often criticized me because I did not have or carry a gun among people he considered ‘savages.’ I knew that he was wrong. He knew neither the language nor the culture of the tribe or he would have admired the stability and nobility of the people.

Yet I knew that, as in any culture, there are violent people. I knew that some New Guineans might fear and hate me because they assumed that I was a member of the same clan as the capricious and sometimes vicious colonial military power. I thought often about the danger. Jesus’ words, ‘Blessed are the peace makers’ grew in importance for me. I worked for peace. I disciplined the language. I changed foods. I slept on the floor of the thatched roofs. I tried to make friends. But in that colonial setting, danger persisted.

Thinking about that, I pray that I would have the courage and faith to die as faithfully as St. Stephen if I was ever attacked when alone.

On the other hand, I realized that if my wife and children were attacked, I would defend them as forcefully as I could. I shudder about now. An old baseball bat would provide little defense from arrows. Yet in a situation of real or imagined danger, I learned much about myself and my attitudes on war and peace.

Now, in the face of war in Iraq and its aftermath, all of us have the opportunity and responsibility to give thought to our attitudes, emotions, and attitudes about war and peace.

May showers of accurate research, critical thinking, enlightened introspection, and care filled communication bring flowers of understanding of the beauty of God’s will and of the complexity of our global village.

Meanwhile, on the wall of my office, the prayer of St. Francis gives me guidance: ‘Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.’”

— President Bob Holst

Events for Asian History Month

Tuesday April 1st
Movie and Art Display in Tunnell
11am-4pm

Wednesday April 9th
Cultural Dress Day
All-around campus
8:30am-5pm

Tuesday April 15th
Tart of Asia in the tunnel
11am-4pm

NCATE Examination

Conducted from page 1

The team spent a week on Concordia’s campus in order to gather this information.

Concordia had two goals in mind during this process: to become accredited, and to receive recommendations and suggestions on how to make our programs even better,” said Schoenbeck. “We met those goals. Technically we are still in the process of becoming nationally accredited and we won’t find out officially until August, but we received verbal approval from the examiners that they would recommend us to be accredited,” said Schoenbeck.

Concordia’s staff and faculty have been working towards this accreditation visit for three years. All parts of Concordia pitched in to make sure the examiners received the best possible treatment.

“We bonded them laptops during their stay so they could easily access our network and work on their report, so we appreciated the help from the Technical Support Staff on campus,” said Schoenbeck. “Everyone on campus did a little bit extra to make this happen. Faculty, staff, students, graduates, cooperative teachers and principals from off campus, everyone contributed in some way.”

“The visiting team had a lot of compliments for us, not only about how we met the standards, but about Concordia in general. They said they were warmly received and felt welcome on campus,” said Schoenbeck.

Not all schools choose to go through the nationally accreditation process because it is a difficult and lengthy process. Schoenbeck, however, feels that all the hard work was worth it. “We feel really good about the results,” he said.

The complete NCATE report can be found at www.csp.edu/coe/ncate.
A 'Happy Fun Time' for All

By Janelle Cotter

Combine 350 people, a crowd crazy about hippos, and a quartet of improvisers, and what do you get? Happy Fun Time, a comedy troupe sponsored by Youth for Christ. Happy Fun Time performed at the Heart Alive Theatre in Brooklyn Center on March 12. The group tours around the country making people laugh through good clean fun. Nate, Mike, Nika, and Wes are the humor-loving 20-somethings who make up the group.

Happy Fun Time combines "sketch comedy parables" and crowd participation improvisational skills to express the Gospel message. The positive moral messages of the video parables were evident, and the comedy routines were virtuous and enjoyable. The group asked for crowd topic suggestions (many of which revolved around hippopotami) for their four talented and hilarious routines. The "Whose Line is it Anyway" format was appealing to the audience, and the humorous parables offered messages of truth. These parables gave messages of God clearing our houses (four hearts), following the map (God's will for our lives), mowing the lawn alone (we don't look to God), and marketing spoiled milk (sin promoting itself to the world).

"I thought it was pretty good," said Hannah Gunderson. "The parables were so true. I especially liked the one with the spoiled milk. Some directly matters itself to the world, but good advertising doesn't make something cool. Too often people just look at the package instead of the actual product."

The product that Happy Fun Time had was one of truth. "Their ultimate message was," Wes said, "You can have fun and be a Christian and live a Christian life without compromising values."

By Ch. (LTC) Jim Cotter

Mobilization Mumblings Become Reality

It is currently stationed at Camp Atterbury, a base also south of Indianapolis, Indiana. CH. Cotter is responsible for counseling troops and processing them through the camp to make sure they are ready for their battle in Kuwait. He will be continuing to serve in this capacity for the next two years. Please keep him in your prayers.

The snow is falling and the big white flakes are beautiful against the gray sky. The wind is gently blowing, providing the flakes with some wispy movement, nothing but blowing, providing the flakes with

...was dressed; many had forced entrance wearing my BDU's. They time they had been in a place of strangely I joking about how strangely I looking for a place of solace and some are just looking and searching for some unknown peace. Some are looking for a place of rest and solitude; they've been here before. Some came just because. Just because the chapel is always warm. Just because everybody else was coming.

...and the flock is getting ready to leave. Not just leaving, but entering into harm's way. Those were my brother's last words as he died in my mother's arms. I was 11, and he was eight, but I remember it like it was yesterday - not almost twelve years ago. It's hard when people... And the truck is coming around the corner and some came by the end of the service. They have left the snow of Indiana, but not my heart. Please keep them in your prayers. The soldiers of the 152nd "Trained in the snow to fight in the sand." God's speed.

Prayer Provides Support

By Bobbie McClelland

"Ahight, park the car here."

Those were my brother's last words as he died in my mother's arms. I was 11, and he was eight, but I remember it like it was yesterday - not almost twelve years ago. It's hard when people... And the truck is coming around the corner and some came by the end of the service. They have left the snow of Indiana, but not my heart. Please keep them in your prayers. The soldiers of the 152nd "Trained in the snow to fight in the sand." God's speed.

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Gospel VI: Awards of Biblical Proportions

Christus Cruises the Country

By Lindsay Harbertsen

Endless hours on a bus, nights in hotels, and stops at tourist attractions seem to add up to a typical vacation. Add nightly performances at various churches and a trip to a retreat and the result is this year’s Holy Week Tour of the Christus Chorus.

The first stop on this year’s Holy Week Tour is in Urbandale, Iowa, the first of nine churches the Christus Chorus will visit. Some of the churches have personal ties to CSP students. Some are home congregations of some extended invitations for CSP to pay a visit, and some were visited in the past, or were merely midway points between tour stops.

This tour gives us a chance to hone and refine our musical expertise as a choir. Also, the people involved get to experience a lot of great relationships with each other, Mennicke said.

A performance is scheduled for each night during Holy Week, with two on Palm Sunday.

The theme for this year’s event is “A Light to Enlighten the Nations,” which corresponds to the 2002-2003 CSP theme: “A Light to the World.” The program is ninety minutes with intermittent rest, and it consists of a broad range of musical styles.

“We are performing a wide variety, from Bach to Gospel,” Mennicke said. “It goes through a creation and, moving through the light of incarnation and Christ’s ministry, then it ends on the Eternal Light.”

Each day, the Christus Chorus will travel about 250 miles on the bus to various cities in Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

Students will get a chance to rest their voices during visits to tourist attractions like Mount Rushmore, Then, in the middle of the trip, the group will make a stop at a retreat center in Colby, Kansas for a unique experience.

“We will get to do some group bonding at the retreat center,” Mennicke said.

In the past, the tour coincided with CSP’s spring break and the band tour, but it has been during Holy Week since 1995.

This date change been beneficial, particularly because of the spiritual benefits gained by those involved.

“Having the tour during Holy Week has been very significant,” Mennicke said. “Also, this gives students involved in Fine Arts an opportunity to do many things, especially this year with ‘Gospel Time’ going on during the March break.”

The cruise concert will be Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Graceful Memorial Chapel. This performance is free of charge and the Concordia community is encouraged to attend.

Immortalize Yourself...

Buy a Brick

Immortalized in Mortar?

You or your organization can be immortalized in a place all will walk, sun themselves, read, and visit.

The Fellowship Plaza on the South side of the new library is offering the opportunity for groups (or individuals) to buy a brick on which you may inscribe a name, a professor, a favorite bit of scripture, your organization, or in doing so, your commitment to Concordia.

Gather friends, split the $200 bill, and think of the perfect inscription of up to 14 characters on each of one to three lines.

See Doug Harford in the Development House for more details.
Senior Artists Showcase Final Exhibits

By Jen Wilson

As graduation approaches, seniors are preparing their final projects.

While many will be laboring over laptops and books as they write extensive papers, several art majors will be getting down and dirty—literally. Studio art majors at CSP must put on their own exhibitions for their capstone project. Not only must they create the art to display in the show, these students must plan the details of the show and financial cover their materials.

According to senior studio art major and capstone project organizer, "Scheduling a gallery space either on or off campus, determining a title for your show and which works will be displayed in it, framing and matting your art works, ordering postcards, posters, and all other publicity arrangements, organizing refreshments for the opening reception, and the installation and deinstallation of the exhibition." The senior art shows are required for students to graduate with the studio art major; failure to hold a show means failure to complete the major.

With that importance weighing on these shows, it is no wonder senior art students can be spotted—or heard—laboring away on their creative projects.

The chosen theme or media for the shows depends on the particular student’s idea.

Dylin’s show, which runs April 22 through May 9 is entitled “Call-Liﬁe,” and will display her drawings, paintings, and photographs.

Students may create 3-dimensional works like ceramics or pottery if they desire; the entire show is their own creation.

The CSP community is welcome to attend each of these exhibitions.

For a listing of each student’s show, visit the calendar on the Art Wall in the Luther lounge.

Seeing the hard work of our fellow students should help to inspire us all during the challenge of finals.

Cho Cracks Up Cities

I figured it would be in person too. I hit the nail right on, she came out in those spiked heels, goofy looking dress, and a wig extension.

She started talking about how fun things have become, and she wanted to keep it real and next thing you know she took off those silly boots and that funny looking wig and said, "Next time." The show promoted all types of diversity—race, sexuality, and religion letting the audience know that it’s all right to be an individual and to be proud of that.

She also touched on the body image issue which ultimately led to her losing her position on the sitcom “American Girl.”

The image that sees thinks society has projected to be beautiful, Cho recalled, when she was told she wasn’t skinny enough or Korean looking enough the suggestion was that she lose weight and have some cosmetic surgery done, Margaret Cho refused and was fired.

Making fun of the Hollywood industry and every diet she has been on, (known to man) concerning the show.

She also spoke of her views on the war.

I wasn’t quite sure if she was for or against the war. That never came right out and said, but she did make reference to the show "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell," her opinion is that if you are willing to fight for your country, why can’t you do it as who you are—not who they want you to be.

Margaret’s theory was everyone is equal and it shouldn’t matter if your black, white, Korean, man, woman, got, Jewish, or been in a different country if you are an American you are equal.

I think that Cho’s Comedy Show was a hit, there were many controversial topics that she touched on, but Cho put them in the right context to make sure those issues wouldn’t come across offensive to anyone.

I also agree with her views toward equality and it should be recognized within the armed forces.

Those who are brave enough to fight for our freedom should be able to be free themselves.

By Jim Wilson

While many students traveled home for spring break, Concordia’s concert band headed in another direction—south.

This spring break was the annual band tour, which included such states as Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri.

Things got off to a rocky start for this year’s tour. "We started the [Austin, Minnesota concert] a half-hour late because our bus got a flat tire," said Cindy King, K-12 music education major and clarinet player.

Luckily, a bus’s flat tire and student’s twisted ankle proved the only catastrophes for this year’s trip.

During this year’s tour, the band performed eight concerts, seven church services, and three assemblies.

This grueling schedule put the band in front of approximately 3,000 people, according to band-mate Dr. Steve Stohlmann.

This year marked religion professor Stohlmann’s third band tour.

"I don’t know if I’m the faculty rep or what, Bill [band director Dr. William Ford] stopped me in the hall one day and asked me to go along," Stohlmann offered as reason for his involvement.

The band had a new addition for this year’s tour: Cones, CSP’s own golden bear mascot.

"We had the mascot along this time for the first time ever. We had quite a few kids at the concerts and he (senior elementary education major Brett Hartwig) did a good job. It was a big hit with the kids at the concerts," Stohlmann said.

Joining Hartwig for this tour was his wife, a student counselor and manager of the band, Alanna Carre (Opperman) Hartwig. Hartwig and his band mates were put to work as Carre did much of the logistical planning for all the concert activities that Stohlmann used to do.

Junior K-12 music education/ELA major and oboe player, April Boulder observed this year’s tour was worth the grueling schedule: “I had fun. I think band members grew a lot closer.”

At least one good thing came out of the enduring bus ride. The band did receive somewhat of a break. They were given a day off in Branson, Missouri.

When asked how the Branson break went, Stohlmann chuckled and said, "Amusing." (Junior band performer) and [freshman percussionist] Matt Griendtells fell in love—ask the band."

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**Casey’s Corner: Sports Spring Cleaning**

**By Casey Lux**

The Concordia Golden Bear Softball squad is back! They are coming off a 20-19 (126 in the NSIC) record last year in a team that is well respected by their NSIC Conference foes.

The Bears were ranked second in the preseason poll and took three first place votes. "Duluth gained six first-place votes, and was ranked first overall," commented Head Coach Tom Rubbelke.

The girls expect nothing better than a top-two finish this year as do their coach. "If we don't finish in the top two of the Conference it will be somewhat of a disappointment," said Rubbelke.

Coming off a season trip in Orlando, Florida the Bears posted a 4-6 record against opponents such as Florida Southern University, University of Florida, and South Dakota University.

One of the important components of a spring trip is to get your team bond together. "This year’s team has the fewest clichés of any team that we have ever gotten along with and have fun," said a long lost (in Florida) and know now what we need to do. The girls need to swing the bat offensively and not defensively (not to strike out!)," said Rubbelke.

There have been some pleasant surprises for Rubbelke and his coaching staff upon their return from Florida. "Iowa Western (the original Golden Bear) is currently hitting .394 with 4 doubles, 3 triples and 9 RBIs." And pitcher Allison Paitich is 10-0 with a 2.08 ERA and 18 strikeouts.

**High Hopes for Softball**

**By Casey Lux**

The Golden Bear Softball team coming off a 30-13 (266 in the NSIC) record last year is a team that is respected by many. "It was a success from many angles," said McKenzie.

They beat the twenty-sixth team in the nation, we are off to a strong start in conference play, and the trip really helped the guys get to know each other and bond. We want to do something like this every year," said McKenzie.

Kevin Garnett does admit that though the trip was successful, the team really struggled as they travel. "They get lost and can’t find their way," said Garnett.

Some tough competitors in the NSIC this season include University of Minnesota-Duluth, Winona State, and Wayne State.

"Wichita State is a young team that wants to know a lot about each other, and they have a freshman that hit .365 home runs," Rubbelke commented.

Games to look forward to for the Golden Bears include: home games on April 1st versus Wisconsin-River Falls and a match-up with NCC powerhouse Minnesota State-Mankato and their first year in the NSIC.

"These guys are taking about building the program, they want to go out there and get it done. That’s what we are focusing on this year," said McKenzie.

Some of the guys were in tears afterwards. It was just a wonderful opportunity most of them will never forget," said McKenzie. "It also provided a lens for us to see the Twins were about their business of playing the game, and that’s what we want to be," said McKenzie.

Kevin Garnett was on the First-Team Defense and Joe Peters became a two-run bomb over the left field fence. The Bears also defeated the University of Minnesota on April 7th. "There was an 8-0 win in the first game of the series, and a 4-3 win in the second game," said McKenzie.

**Baseball Comes Out Swinging**

**By Kristina Shaw**

Returning triumphant from their Spring Training Trip to Fort Myers, Florida, Concordia’s baseball team is currently 6-1 in the preseason.

"This is the first trip we have ever gone on like that," said Head Baseball Coach Mark McKenzie. "It was a success from many angles."

We beat the twenty-sixth team in the nation, we are off to a strong start in conference play, and the trip really helped the guys get to know each other and bond. We want to do something like this every year," said McKenzie.

Kevin Garnett doesn't care if the beat Appalachian State, and Andrew Weile (10.1, 1.16 ERA, 3 K's).

The Women’s softball team is expected to do big things this year in the NSIC. The team came back from a tough trip in Orlando 4-6. "We came home with Vanessa Duflerone and the Bears hitting field fence. The Bears also defeat- ing the Division II Freshman of the Year along with NSIC Freshman of the Year and All-Region Freshman of the Year."

"Travis Biggs was named to the First-Team Defense and Joe Peters is the Year and All-Region Freshman of the Year."

"Bertelsen was a victim of some tough losses; she went 1-3 but that’s okay," said McKenzie. "If we can finish in the top two of the conference, they want to go out and make some noise."

"I don’t care if the beat Appalachian State, and Andrew Weile (10.1, 1.16 ERA, 3 K’s)."

"This was a good lesson for our guys to notice. Also, after fac- ing the 30 mile hour pitches and the speed of a game like that, our guys were able to get a taste of what the next level was like and be able to pick up their games a little bit," said McKenzie.

"I think we have great potential to go this year and make a legit- mate chance to make it to the conference tournament," said McKenzie.

"The top four teams in the conference go to the tournament. Concordia Baseball has made it to the tournament," said McKenzie. "It also provided a lens for us to see the Twins were about their business of playing the game, and that’s what we want to be," said McKenzie.

Kevin Garnett does admit that though the trip was successful, the team really struggled as they travel. "They get lost and can’t find their way," said Garnett.

Kevin Garnett was on the First-Team Defense and Joe Peters became a two-run bomb over the left field fence. The Bears also defeat- ing the University of Minnesota on April 7th. "There was an 8-0 win in the first game of the series, and a 4-3 win in the second game," said McKenzie.

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How to Somnambulate in School

By Mike McCarthy

One of the greatest aspects of CSP is the small class sizes and professors who are available when you need them. Of course, you still need to believe that advantage is being fully utilized. Students, how often do you go to class and half your way through the class because you might as well not be there? Many professors are concerned with attendance and it may help your grade to show up, but regarding the lesson that has taken place, how often do you leave class feeling like you wasted your time. Professors, ever notice how you have to say anything important five or six times before the students hear you? Ever ask a question and the class receive a muttering response after a period of silence? See how their eyes are glazed over? That's because they aren't listening. How often do they stare at the front and not at you? That's because they're playing solitaire or instant messaging friends. How often do they actually engage in the learning process right now? Are they thinking critically and expanding upon their current knowledge? Or are they simply being passive, and if they were asked, are they passively taking notes and memorizing by rote something that looks like it might be knowledge? We need to see how ourselves this question will often find the latter. Most students walk into class, knowing they're in for another boring fifty minutes. They shut down and go into mental hibernation to cope. At the end of class, they might emerge from their coma and be surprised to see a list of one or less facts, not even sure what they were. Why are we addressing them? The plan also includes that CSP wants to buy the St. Paul Water Works property on the north side of Hadley Avenue by 2005. If we were to look back on our parking problem will be gone once we put a parking lot in front of the building. So the student also would be no need for a gate on any lot. I would love to see a list of the very common fantasies is the role of the student and professor. Professors play the role by standing in front of their students, and are we? Not! Students are encouraged to come up with reflections of saying goodbye and over the mushiness, sadness and tears. They are not happy to be here. I will not be a part. I know change is the basis of growth, but I guess it is human nature to be selfish and know that every time comes and goes. I will not be a part of The Sword staff. I won't have an email address with a .edu domain ending. I will not be a part of the CSP student body. I don't know if you will ever see them again. I want to be a part of The Sword staff because I have a great time teaching. I want to be a part of The Sword staff. I won't have an email address with a .edu domain ending. I will not be a part of the CSP student body. I don't know if you will ever see them again. I want to be a part of The Sword staff.
Class Combines 'Faith' and 'Film'

By Lindsay Hartleben

It began in 1999, when two professors discovered their common interest in films. Not simply going to the movies, but looking much deeper into the content of the films to discover an abundance of religious, sometimes directly Christian, themes and symbols.

As a result, Rice University professors Michael Charron and Professor Winegarden have collaborated on a four-analyzed paper as to attend several Communications conferences and are in the process of developing a summer film criticism course called "Faith and Film."

"This is an experiment," Winegarden said, "we don't know if it's going to fly or not. The way I envision the course is two hours in the morning going through the 'book stuff'; basic elements to film criticism such as the genres and methodology."

The plan is to then attend local movie theaters to see current films, particularly "The Matrix Reloaded," and return to the classroom to analyze the subject matter.

"I am trying to get free passes for the movies. I don't want to have to charge students to see them." Winegarden said. "Also, it's free year's passes to theaters for them," Winegarden said. "Also, it's for the movies. I don't want to give students something that isn't real there. But I'm learning more and that's it there."

Charron has a particular interest in "The Matrix" and its overt Christian themes, as well as "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings" because J.R.R. Tolkien was a consciously Christian writer.

"The most blatant example of themes embedded in films is "The Matrix." It's remarkable how overtly Keanu Reeves' character's life parallels the life of Christ. Most people really aren't aware of it, though," Charron said. "With "The Lord of the Rings," I was curious to see if director Peter Jackson be true to the Christian themes present in the book. The themes aren't as strong as in the book, but the film does directly acknowledge the fact that they exist."

Charron pointed out that it is interesting how today's large secular society filmmakers oftentimes use "the greatest story ever told" in a unique manner to tell their own story. Overall, the objective of "Faith and Film" is to give students a deeper understanding of how to look at the ideals and values of society through the themes in films which are sometimes not so obvious.

"Films, television and even theatre don't always reflect back what society is, but sometimes effects our culture. Movies can make people make changes or take action," Charron said.

Winegarden hopes the class will inspire students to see movies in a new light.

"Movies are okay as entertainment, but we should understand, 'This is also educational.' Science Fiction movies especially make it easier to talk about issues because they take them out of the here and now and place them in the 'other' and 'there' so people can make more comfortable discussing heavy topics," he said. "After this class, students will never go to a movie and see it in the same way again."

Feckless Wanderer:
I don't really hate balls that much

By Paul Brutscber

I used to think I was uninterested in sports, physical competition, and general metabolic activity. In elementary school, I was the kid paying absolutely no attention in kickball, unable to comprehend batting, and sitting on the black top reading when football became a regular recess activity. I would mockingly whitic the theme from "The Natural" when I made my wimpy attempts to swing a softball bat. Then I realized. The thing all these psychocultural constructs called sports had in common was the pursuit of a ball. In the words of Bill Waterson's Calvin, "Why do I have to spend half my childhood chasing a stupid ball?"

Balls are a mental crust, used to gauge physical prowess. Historically, ball sports have only been pursued by the most barbaric of cultures. You just know that the concept of ball sports developed when some prehistoric warlord was trying to figure out a recreational use for the multitude of severed heads his henchmen had killed. Some folk hit them with wooden paddles, some threw them through hoops, and some simply wrestled each other for its possession. These people diverged and migrated to Europe and the Americas.

While the English were perfecting cricket and the Aztecs wereplaying gristy ball games with human heads, the peoples of Southeast Asia were moving in more local directions. Over thousands of years, a tradition developed that encouraged its disciples to turn their bodies into bowel instruments capable of incredible feats of acrobatic destruction and reflective self defense. Like the strokes of a brush or the gentle pressure of a sculptor tool, the body movements needed to accomplish these tasks required years of development, hence the term used to describe the myriad disciplines in the Western world: martial arts.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to report that our very own U.S. martial arts center. Headed by resident student Sensei Michele Biius, the class follows the shoto kan school of Karate.

Aside from improving flexibility and speed, Karate provides the obvious practical skill to defend oneself. Poorly meeting only Thursday nights at 10:30 pm in the dance studio, my fellow students and I expressed enough interest and enthusiasm to add a second class at 7:00 on Tuesday nights.

I know what you are thinking, "10:30? I need my sleep." To which I aptly reply, "Nap on the weekend, silly." Besides, the late hour means one's mind is clear of the stresses and mental states that the human brain normally falls into on a day to day basis, making it a lot easier to learn.

So here is my plug. Come to karate classes. See what we are about. Our sensei/teacher) is honorable. She is also roughly half my mother's age and could defeat me in single combat in numerous colorful ways.