New Grading System Passed, Will Begin Fall of 2005

By Kaatlin Hartnett

Last summer, an idea was proposed that the current grading system at Concordia University be changed to better reflect students' work. The idea was to incorporate pluses and minuses into the GPA system, so that, for example, an A- is worth only 3.67 points instead of four. The new system, which will be incorporated at the beginning of fall 2005, is getting mostly positive feedback from students.

"I think it will be good for people trying for the A instead of the A-" sophomore Ashley Olson said. "It will encourage people to work harder." Olson continues, "I think it's great because it helps out a larger majority of the students. More students are going to be affected by a C+ or B+ grade, which according to the new scale will give them a higher GPA than a C-/C or B-/B." 

"The system does in fact hurt a student who earns an A- or B-, but also promotes the idea to beat the system," sophomore Paul McKenzie sdil. "It doesn't just to let him down easily. He had applied for the job of the new Athletic Director after former director Dave Herbster found another position at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. It turned out that LaMott actually took him out to lunch to congratulate him on receiving the position. "I didn't think I was going to get it," Rubbelke said. "There were so many other qualified people applying for the job. It didn't even sink in right away."

Before accepting the job as Athletic Director, Rubbelke was head softball coach and also said that the grading system was not done on a whim, Beilke said. It had to be approved not only by UAPC, but also by a majority on the Faculty Senate. The Senate has to approve every new academic policy that comes through.

"The only negative feedback we heard from students is that they'll have to work harder to maintain their G.P.A.s," Beilke said. "But that's actually turning out to be a better thing."

"I like it," junior Chris Schwanke, student representative to the Faculty Senate.

Former Softball Coach Named New Athletic Director

By Kaatlin Hartnett

When Dr. Eric LaMott took Tom Rubbelke out to lunch over a month ago, Rubbelke thought it was just to let him down easily. He had applied for the job of the new Athletic Director after former director Dave Herbster found another position at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. It turned out that LaMott actually took him out to lunch to congratulate him on getting the job.

"I was shocked," he said. "I was really honored. There are a lot of people on this campus that deserved it just as much." 

Motz, who knew some of the professors when they were students here, said his favorite part of the job was not being stuck behind a desk all the time. "I get to see the campus everyday," he said. "I get to do different things. I learn new things all the time."

He also said there was not much he did not like about the job. "Sometimes there are jobs that aren't fun," Motz said. "But I can't think of anything that I really don't like."

"My favorite part about Concordia was the people: the faculty, staff and students. "They treat you really well here," he said."

Not only does Motz work here, but his wife, Lea, and son, Al, work here as well. "Al plans to be around for awhile," he said. For his words to live by, Motz said not to take life too seriously. "Always work through it, and you'll be fine," he said.

Operating Engineer Voted Employee of the Month for February

CSP's employee recognition program acknowledges Al Motz in February with the Concordia Moments of Excellence Award for outstanding customer service.

By Kaatlin Hartnett

"Always work through it, and you'll be fine," he said.

"Waking the Dead" Highlights the Heart 

SNEAK PEEK

Book of the Year Author

Stanley Gordon West Visits Concordia

Theatre Students Serve "The Dinner Party"

Healthy Tips for Spring Cleaning: Get the Facts, Lose the Germs

Answers According to M: Money Matters

Women's Softball: A Start of Splits

Battle to Sweet Sixteen

"Waking the Dead" Highlights the Heart
Book of the Year Author Stanley Gordon West Visits Concordia

By Eric Cannedy

On March 16, Concordia welcomed Book of the Year author Stanley Gordon West to its campus, with special events planned all day to honor this native son of St. Paul. Starting with a convocation on the book, “Growing an Inch,” West continued throughout the day by speaking with students, visiting classes, and participating in a reception and book signing.

At the convocation, West spoke on various topics surrounding his book and its characters. He asked trivia from the book, rewarding correct answers with pieces of Double Bubble chewing gum (a cameo from “Growing an Inch”). Speaking on a range of topics, West engaged the audience with wit and wisdom garnered over his years as an author. West has written five novels, with a sixth due out this summer.

When asked how he felt when he was told that “Growing an Inch” had been selected as Concordia’s 2004-2005 Book of the Year, West said that he was “delighted.”

Set in St. Paul in 1949, the book follows the life of Donny Cunningham and his family. While attending Central High School, Donny had to face the harsh realities and implications of his mother’s death while going through all of the normal stress associated with being a senior in high school. With the locations featured in the book being literally across the road from Concordia, it is easy for students to imagine what Donny would have seen and heard in 1949. Although Central High School looks nothing like it did in 1949, other aspects of St. Paul remain the same.

With family still in the Twin Cities, West makes it out from his home in Montana often. While places like downtown St. Paul look vastly different, West sees places like Grand Avenue and the Goodrich and Prior neighborhood looking very similar to the way they did in 1949.

Barbara Sommers, Executive Assistant for Academic Affairs, helped in orchestrating West’s visit to Concordia. As a special treat to guests of the convocation, Sommers put together a large display of photographs and items that appear in the novel. The items, such as pictures of the old Central High School and other locations in St. Paul, also contained trivia from the novel. West enjoyed the display very much, chuckling when items reminded him of favorite parts of the book.

Sommers, also a native of St. Paul, actually grew up very close to West’s childhood home and saw many parallels in their lives. Sommers’ enthusiasm for West’s work is very apparent, and it is obvious that his novels are meaningful to her. Fans of his work are actually what drove him to write “Growing an Inch.” This is the third novel he has written, dealing with this time period and group of characters. After hearing demand for more stories like them, West seemed confident that “Growing an Inch” would be the last volume of this unexpected trilogy.

“Growing an Inch” by Stanley Gordon West can be purchased at the Concordia University Bookstore.

Thank-A-Thon Expresses Gratitude Toward University Benefactors

By Emily Marcus

How much more motivated would one be to talk on the phone if one was paid? On Tues., March 15, students at Concordia had the opportunity to do just that. Concordia’s annual Thank-a-thon was held in Tier Zero of the tunnel from 6:30-9 p.m. Besides building ice cream sundae and registering to win a $100 cash prize drawing, students were given a list of at least 15 contributors.

The event, which was started by the Concordia University Development Department, is a chance to say thank you to those who have given donations, which contribute to quality growth and maintenance of the Concordia campus.

As Katherine Moulds observed, “Only 70 percent of what it costs for a student to attend school each year is covered by their tuition; the rest is covered by the University budget—part of which comes from all the support we receive from donors.”

“Only 70 percent of what it costs for a student to attend school each year is covered by their tuition; the rest is covered by the University budget—part of which comes from all the support we receive from donors.” - Katherine Moulds

Photo by Jacob Anderson

Anderson entered his photo of the Schweitz Saloon to the contest that illustrates Stanley Gordon West’s Book of the Year, “Growing an Inch.”

“Growing an Inch” Photo Contest

**See the other contest entries on page 4**
Theatre Students Serve “The Dinner Party”

By Michael Marvosh

Concordia’s Theatre Department is having a prolific semester. Aside from “Gospel Time in Gospel Rhyme,” there are two other full-length shows—Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” and Neil Simon’s “The Dinner Party.” There are more than fifty people involved in these two shows, including cast, directors, scenic designers, and backstage crew. “The Dinner Party,” showing April 8-10, will stand out this semester as the free-of-charge student produced and directed one act play.

This senior project is entirely produced by students. From the acting to the scenic design and construction to the lighting to the costumes and props to the promotions, everything is coordinated and managed by students at Concordia. Because of this, the Theatre Department cannot charge admission. However, this certainly will not diminish the quality of the show. Amanda Busby, the show’s director, is making her directing debut. She has been heavily involved in the Theatre Department at Concordia for the past three years. Averaging more than one theatre production per semester and maintaining high marks in all her classes, Busby is a prime candidate for directing this production and is very enthusiastic.

“Directing ‘The Dinner Party’ has been a very exciting experience,” says Busby. “I have really enjoyed all of the unique responsibilities that come with the process of directing a show. I have had so much fun working with my talented production team and cast, and I have every confidence that the show will be a success.”

The small cast of the show is comprised of three men and three women. Seniors Eric Cannedy, Andrea Fasanello, Becky Hanson, Michael Marvosh, Paul Modderman, and sophomore Kate Wulf are all seasoned and talented actors.

The plot of the show revolves around, as the title implies, a dinner party. Six guests have been invited to this party. With the arrival of the first few, the dinner seems to be comprised of a group of complete strangers. As more and more guests arrive, however, the group slowly realizes that there is more that unites them than they first thought. Filled with intense emotion and witty humor, “The Dinner Party” will almost guarantee have the audience crying at one moment and in stitches the next.

Fine Arts Events:

Theatre Department:

“The Dinner Party”
April 8-10, 7:30 p.m.
April 10, 2 p.m.

Senior Amanda Busby directs a full-length drama in the Westlund Black Box Theatre. This presentation is free and open to the public.

“As You Like It”
April 26-30, 7:30 p.m.
May 1, 2 p.m.

The Forest of Arden is filled with exiled couples discovering the pains and pleasures of love. Rosalind, who is in love with Orlando, disguises herself as a boy and offers to "cure" Orlando of his passion by allowing him to woo "her." Filled with biting wit and sharp satire, “As You Like It” is one of Shakespeare’s best loved comedies.

Art Department:

Student Art Exhibit: Stephanie Molostre-Kotz
March 10-April 8, Art Department Gallery

Student Juried Exhibition
April 14-May 4, H. Williams Teaching Gallery

Music Department:

Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles Concert
March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Grabner Memorial Chapel

Jazz Band Concert
Wed., May 4, 7 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium

Jubilate Easter Vespers
Thurs., May 5, 7:30 p.m.
Grabner Memorial Chapel

Opera Workshop Performance
Fri., May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium

Spring Fine Arts Concert
Fri., May 13, 7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium

Baccalaureate Evening Prayer Service
Sat., May 14, 7:30 p.m.
Gangelhoff Auditorium

Photo by Eric Cannedy
Senior Rebecca Hines rehearses for her role as Yvonne Fouchet in “The Dinner Party.”
“Growing an Inch” Photo Competition Entries

These are some of the entries submitted to the “Growing an Inch” photography contest. This contest was a challenge to illustrate Stanley Gordon West’s Book of the Year, “Growing an Inch.”

Photo by Antoinette Simeone

Photo by Olivia Mulvey

Photo by Melanie Vasterling

Photo by Katie Wamsley

Photo by Julian Noble

Photo by Hannah Dorow

Photo by Melinda Vasterling
Healthy Tips for Spring Cleaning: Get the Facts, Lose the Germs!

By Alissa Kress

As the season of last year, you're sitting in class and the person behind you keeps coughing. Then, three other people on the other side of the room start coughing; within a few days, chances are you'll be coughing too. There always seems to be an abundance of sickness around this time of year. In response, Concordia's Risk Management and Health and Wellness Departments have been taking measures to promote health and wellness.

Since spring is, it is time to do a little spring cleaning and take precautions against these bugs that are traveling around. Concordia nurse Cher Rafftery states, "the posters are up to remind and reinforce the fact that the most effective way to prevent spread of diseases is by hand washing. It's such a basic, easy thing to do but it often isn't done or done correctly. Hand washing is the most effective tool to help prevent the spread of disease."

She adds that one's hands pick up the most germs from various surfaces, such as desks, phones, computers, handrails, doorknobs, ATMs, elevator buttons, vending machines, money etc. Germs can live on these surfaces for several hours, and then, when one touches contaminated hands to face, nose, eyes or mouth, the germs will enter the body. Rafftery states that, "we need to practice keeping our hands away from our face. Eighty percent of infections are spread by hands. Each square centimeter of skin contains about 1500 bacteria. Hand washing can reduce that by 100-1000 times."

"Diseases are easily spread in college environments because of everyone living, eating, sleeping, and attending classes in close contact. Two area colleges were on the news with several cases of the norovirus which causes vomiting and diarrhea for 2-3 days."

- Rafftery

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- Cher Rafftery

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Healthy Tips for Spring Cleaning:

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Variety

Concordia's Idols Sing Again This Spring

By Jeanne Ronchak

"On Air" lights glow above the doors of Classroom 130 as Detail, the campus cable channel, has been hard at work on their second edition of "Concordia Idol." Voices singing various pop, country, Christian, and even rock songs carry out into the hallway as passersby may think, "Weren't there books in there before?" Many Concordians have tried out for the show in the hopes of becoming Concordia's next singing sensation.

The first "Concordia Idol" aired last year with Angie Carrozzo as its winner. This year, Detail has more advances with the new space and technology, as well as currently working with the IT department to make the voting process more efficient. Since Detail wanted to have a more organized voting system than last year, they worked together with the IT Department to create a better app for the Concordia community to vote for their favorite performer. Detail faculty member Zach Schwartz explains, "For each contestant there is an e-mail account set up to permit the voters to vote in such a way that we can get near immediately results. This process also allows us to filter out duplicate votes and sort them out in a timely fashion." Students can also find out more information on how to vote by watching the campus' "On Air" channel.

The semi-finals were able to be aired live, as well as the upcoming finals. Schuster said, "The semi-finals...were re-re-airing through April 13. Voting can occur via e-mail until April 15. Then, tune in to the live finals on April 19 to see who wins." With Detail's new ability to air programs live, voting for the finals will take place until the final performances, and the program will be able to announce the winner of "Concordia Idol" that same evening. Votes will be played by those who may have missed it, but voting will no longer be in effect.

"We have received criticism that it is 'reality TV.' But Concordia Idol, while developed as a parody/satire of American Idol is more a genuine look at CSFs' singing talent. "When someone can sing, we should uplift them and encourage them to use their talents," said Schuster. "We don't look at students that we can tear down for their flaws, but encourage them in their pursuit of musical talent." All the performers and Detail staff and students have been working really hard and have been doing a great job. Times for the shows will be aired on campus channel 6. So, please remember to get out those laptops and vote for the next Concordia Idol.

Haircuts for the average (and not so fantastic.) It is true, Fantastic Sams, one also gets a hair cut and a shampoo at Fantastic Sams, what is Fantastic Sams? I would never go there for Concordia students to get their hair relaxing, and up-dos. Also, Fantastic Sam's washes and conditions the customer's hair without an extra charge added. Meanwhile, the hair will not only turn out great, but the staff is welcoming and friendly, making the customer feel special. Fantastic Sams is a great place for Concordia students to get their locks trimmed. At the price of only $12.15 a cut, it won’t break the bank for those trying to pay for an education. Fantastic Sam's is a rational chain, and there is one very close to Concordia. There is one right off of Highway 5, about seven minutes from campus. For more information on Fantastic Sams, check out http://www.fantasticsams.com. Overall, students need haircuts, and Fantastic Sams is a close, cheap, welcoming place to get rid of the extra hair weight.

Answers According to M: Money Matters

Dear M,

I am an accounting student, and I am studying to get my degree, doing homework, and working all the time. I feel like I'm doing too much, but at the end of the day when I look at my bank account, I still am way behind. I need some tips on managing my money. I make money, but I spend it on the weirdest things. I need some advice on saving money or else I might not make it out of here.

Bank Account Bust

By Abby Gimbel

Hair growth is incredible. However, many college students are too far away from their home salons to get the help they need. Not to worry though! When hair gets too frizzy to bear, Concordia students can find relief at Fantastic Sams.

Student Billy Schultz says "Fantastic Sams, what is Fantastic Sams? I would never go there because my grandma is the only one that can style my coif. I trust no one." Not only can one get a haircut at Fantastic Sams, one also gets a ride in a spinning chair.

Concordia Student Erin Thompson believes that Fantastic Sams is the place to go, noting that the "only reason it is called Fantastic Sams is that it’s so fantastic." It is true, Fantastic Sam’s offers affordable, attractive haircuts for the average (and not so average) student.

Fantastic Sams offers not only

basic cuts and colors, but it also offers beard and mustache trims, hair relaxing, and up-dos. Also, Fantastic Sams washes and conditions the customer’s hair without an extra charge added. Meanwhile, the hair will not only turn out great, but the staff is welcoming and friendly, making the customer feel special. Fantastic Sams is a great place for Concordia students to get their locks trimmed. At the price of only $12.15 a cut, it won’t break the bank for those trying to pay for an education. Fantastic Sam’s is a rational chain, and there is one very close to Concordia. There is one right off of Highway 5, about seven minutes from campus. For more information on Fantastic Sams, check out http://www.fantasticsams.com. Overall, students need haircuts, and Fantastic Sams is a close, cheap, welcoming place to get rid of the extra hair weight.
Women’s Softball: A Start of Splits

By Ben Johnson

The Concordia University women’s softball team has a great start going to their season. They returned from California with a record of 9-10 overall. The Bears have split nearly every double header that they have played this season.

The team first split with Vanguard University as the Bears dropped the first game but turned it around the second game thanks to a no-hitter pitched by the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) 2004 Pitcher of the Year Kristin Schmidt.

The second split came against California State University (CSU) Dominguez Hills as the Bears lost the first game 2-1 but then came back to win the second game 2-0. The third split came against University of California (UC) San Diego with the win coming from a great performance from Schmidt as she pitched a two-hit shutout. The Bears then turned around and split their fourth straight double-header with Point Loma Nazarene and yet again the win came from the arm of Kristin Schmidt as she led the Bears to a victory by throwing another great game and shutting out their opponent. The Bears then ended the trip with yet another split to Concordia Irvine as the Bears won the first game 5-2 and then dropped the second game 1-3.

The women have a great start going to their season. They have the complete package of pitching and hitting that is going to make them a force in the NSIC this season.
Freezing Winter Brings New Spring

I have found that, regardless of how cold it gets during winter, the grass still grows and the hibernating squirrels will eventually wake up to the campus by May. How do the plants and animals survive such frigid conditions? I can’t answer this question scientifically, but I do know that the beautiful green grass of spring will come, and this idea can keep my daysdreams while the snow is underfoot.

Life has its seasons, too; sometimes we feel like cold days spring up through the thick snows because of the phenomenon of snow and frozen ground. Doesn’t it seem logical that if we wouldn’t be able to survive the insoal cold that occurs between January and March? But after six years at Concordia, I am finding that regardless of how cold it gets during winter, the grass still grows and the hibernating squirrels will eventually wake up to the campus by May. How do the plants and animals survive such frigid conditions? I can’t answer this question scientifically, but I do know that the beautiful green grass of spring will come, and this idea can keep my daydreams while the snow is underfoot.

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