Panel open to opinions
Community Meetings encourage discussion of issues

By Josiah Laubenstein

A chance to shape the campus. A chance to be heard. A chance to bring about change. That's the idea that Cameron Heiliger, Student Senate President, used to spearhead the first ever community meeting at Concordia University.

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005, five faculty and staff members sat on a panel at over 40 of Concordia's students throw questions their way. Questions ranged widely. "Will the lease be extended for laptops next year?" "Is CSP a safe campus?" Some questions were addressed promptly, such as whether students could receive tuition money is being spent.

Questions ranged widely. "Will the lease be extended for laptops next year?" "Is CSP a safe campus?" Some questions were addressed promptly, such as whether students could receive tuition money is being spent. Others were harder to answer, but all were given a fair hearing.

"The important thing is having a chance to be heard," said one pleaded student. The idea began when Heiliger and Mike Mulso, Director of Security, were deliberating over how to make security information available to the students in a fast, easy manner. One of the ideas that came up was a question and answer forum. That idea was just the beginning.

Heiliger decided to invite members of organizations from all over campus. He sent out requests to members of security, Sodexho, campus ministry, the financial office, admissions and others. Those that responded were asked to sit on the panel of representatives.

Many questions focused on security issues, which Mike Mulso, Director of Security (third from right), answered.

"What's really going to change? Nothing," said one student. Cheryl Chatman, Dean of Diversity, said, "Give it time. It's only begun." Only just begun and expected to continue. Heiliger stated that it will likely be turned into a monthly event, bringing representatives from each facet of campus.

"They [faculty and staff members of the panel] showed up because they want students' opinions. They want to hear what you have to say," Heiliger said. With a little perseverance and tenacity, these meetings will continue, as long as there are students to question and faculty and staff to answer. Don't like this idea? Got a problem with it? Then show up and voice your concerns at the February meeting.

Going, going, gone?
Student aid under attack in Congress

By Rachel Felderman

The Deficit Reduction Bill in Congress could result in a significant loss of loans and grants available to college students. A majority of students at Concordia University don't even know that their student aid is in danger of being reduced, if not taken away.

According to government record, "The fiscal year 2002 appropriation bill signed by President Bush on Jan. 10, 2002 increased the Federal student aid available to students through the national deficit, a jaw-dropping $8.08 trillion. Deep budget gouging to student aid programs could mean hard times for low and middle income students. The Higher Education Act of 1965 enables students to take out government loans with low interest rates, receive grants and take postsecondary classes without having to pay college tuition. Every five years the act is reauthorized to reflect changes in social needs and government policy. Experts in higher education say these are easily the biggest cuts in the history of the HEA."

Doug Hartford, Vice President for University Advancement and Director of Legislative Relations at Concordia University, explained that, "The reauthorization of the HEA has been bundled with a proposal for hurricane relief, drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Reserve and budget reconciliation. Simply put, Congress is looking to take money from the HEA to pay for hurricane relief, oil drilling in a national forest, the war in Iraq..."
Passing over Paris

By Lindsay Hartleben

In January, 19 students traveling on Concordia’s tour of major European cities will not be seeing historic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower or bottles of French wine. Tour organizers and Concordia administration decided that in the interest of safety, Paris would not be included on the 2006 tour.

According to BBC News, riots began on Oct. 27 in a Paris suburb after news of the deaths of two young men reportedly chased by police. Violent riots, which included car burning and ransacking, spread across country, mainly in African and Arab communities and resulted in emergency laws in France and travel advisories to Americans.

A Public Announcement from the U.S. Department of State was issued from Nov. 7 to Dec. 29, 2005, about the ongoing security concerns in France. It advised travelers to "be alert to news media reports for the most up-to-date information, avoid areas where riots have occurred, move quickly away from any demonstrations they may encounter, exercise particular caution during evening and nighttime hours." Authorities said the announcement did not seem to be directing anger at "ordinary citizens of tourist." Dr. Susan Pratt, Associate Professor and Chair for the Department of English and Modern Languages, and Dr. Thomas Saylor, Associate Professor in the Department of History, said that students previously spent in Paris are under emergency laws that would not visit France, which is under emergency curfew laws.

"It's a big gamble with a 50/50 chance of passing because of the great need for funding hurricane relief," Dr. Pratt said. Although both Senator Norm Coleman (R) and Senator Mark Dayton (D) voted against the Deficit Reduction Bill when it went to the Senate on Nov. 3, 2005, the bill was passed, 57-42. The next step is for the bill to be brought to the Congressional Conference, where both Senates will be present, between now and January 2007. This could mean the bill could be voted on as soon as next week or it could be put on hold until 2007 when a new congress is elected, forcing the process to start from scratch.

One Concordia senior pointed out, "If the U.S. wants to stay on top as a global leader, reduce crime and homelessness while increasing economic stability, the government even think about reducing accessibility of education to today's youth, the future of our nation?"

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residential streets running north to south there is parking only on one side of the street, as indicated by signage that points to the east as the west have parking on both sides.

During the day, routes are plowed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Streets marked as black routes will have parking on both sides, north to south residential streets have parking on one side, and east to west residential streets have no parking.

If parking regulations are violated, the owner of the car will receive a ticket or "snow tag," with a fine of $45, as well as the risk of having the car being towed. If a car is towed and continued tax cuts for the wealthy. It is a "one size fits all" and continued tax cuts for the next five years. The largest portion (50/50) stated, "The economic future of our country." Dr. Jim Gimbel, President and Chair for the Department of Business Administration, said, "I think we want to start the educational future. That's the economic future of our country." Bruce Feo, the Director of Government Issues for the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) stated, "The economic crisis will produce $54 billion in savings over the next five years. The largest portion of those savings comes from the federal student loan programs."

If the bill passes, the Department of Education will be forced to set higher standards and criteria for loan and grant recipients, making it more difficult to receive aid. The major impact will be to the Pell Grant, the nation's largest loan and grant recipients. At Concordia University, 300 students receive Pell Grants and 90% rely on financial aid to finance their education. Director of Financial Aid, said, "It is uncertain at this point how the reallocation will directly affect students and parents receive at tax time, and $200,000 to $300,000 is projected to cut from the Pell loan and grant recipients, making it more difficult to receive aid. The major impact will be to the Pell Grant, the nation's largest loan and grant programs."

Many smaller grants have already been terminated over the years and there will be many changes to come if Congress follows through with these deep cuts to the HEA. Some of these changes include drastically decreasing or possibly eliminating the educational credit that students and parents receive at tax time, and $200,000 to $300,000 is projected to cut from the Pell loan and grant programs. But you don't do it by short changing our children's educational future. That's the economic future of our country."

U.S. Representative Betty McCollum - D) has stated, "It is uncertain at this point how the reallocation will directly affect students and parents receive at tax time, and $200,000 to $300,000 is projected to cut from the Pell loan and grant programs."

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"Honestly, while I was there I never felt unsafe, not even for a second. The riots have subsided, and largely they took place in the outskirts of Paris. I think that canceling the Paris part of the [AP] trip is a wrong decision, and I'd feel bad for the students who would miss out on a great, safe city tour."

According to BBC News reports, most violence had subsided by Nov. 17. On Nov. 16, French Parliament voted to extend emergency laws that impose curfews and door-to-door searches for an additional three months.

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Emergent churches: Moving with traditions, not away from them

By Olivia Mulvey

Postmodernism isn’t a term that regularly contributes to the traditions of contemporary Christianity. But, for the emerging church, the significance of living in a post-modern era has been foundational as the shape of tradition becomes more fluid. The emergent church movement began in the late 20th century throughout the world, but predominantly in Western Europe, North America and the South Pacific. Seeking to deconstruct and reconstruct Christianity within a post-modern context, much of the movement comes as a reaction to postmodernism and its influence on Western culture. Fifty years ago, during Modernism, the cultural movement was to reject academic and historic traditions. Today, there are many different factors contributing to the evolution of modernism to postmodernism, including globalization, consumerism, commodification of knowledge and the fragmentation of authority. With this change in society, some churches have undergone the same evolution of traditions.

While attending Solomon’s Porch (a Minneapolis-based emergent church) visitors and members take part in a number of traditional Christian practices, such as singing, communion and the reading of an invocation, while simultaneously participating in new, matured traditions. New songs are sung, contemporary art is hang, prayer postures taken and a communal conversation is had. Just as there is a variety of styles and practices within the traditional churches, even within denominations, various practices are held within the emerging churches. Although the practices may differ from the traditional churches, post-modern churches do not reject the old and the traditional, but rather they juxtapose and unite the traditions with a desire for the development of faith, and the way it is articulated.

There is no formulated structure for emergent churches, yet community, holistic living and creative spiritual expression (be it music, or fine art) are distinct emergent qualities. Perhaps the greatest difference between some traditional churches (from the Minneapolis area) in the style of the preaching. The preaching is more of a conversation where dialogue is facilitated between the church community and the pastor. Questions are asked, stories are shared, and communities are made by members and pastor alike. This is known as narrative theology, and attributes largely to the conversational environment of the emergent church.

When Christmas celebrations merge

By Mark Josting

The month of December brings many familiar and wonderful things, such as car doors frozen shut, salt-slushy roads and early morning shoveling. Amidst the myriad of these winter joys, the thought of Christmas is one that looms ever larger as the month proceeds. For many, this means a candy cane and eggnog diet. Some families keep sugar cookies out for a month straight while others keep a fish in their bathtub for good luck.

Maria Dolores, or Dee, hails from the small hamlet of Katamaran, Samar. Being the antithesis to Minnesota’s climate, Katarman is a tropical island nation of the Philippines, where an Indian summer lasts all year long and helper monkeys are common. Growing up Filipino meant strict Catholicism, and growing up as the daughter of the only man in town who owned a generator meant even stricter behavioral expectations. Christmas for a family in the Philippine countryside meant quality family time and reflection on the meaning of Christmas. After the children were allowed their fun going door to door to ask for candy, Christmas was spent focusing on the holiday’s namesake in church. Children were also encouraged to visit their godparents and wish them a merry Christmas. Aside from the similarity to an American Halloween, gifts and candy played a small role in the typical celebration.

Meanwhile, 8000 miles away, David was growing up in the German Lutheran tradition so prevalent in Minnesota. Christmas for the son of a Lutheran pastor meant church services, and a lot of them. For many kids, this is a bad deal. But David had an optimistic attitude. Maybe it was the bag of delicious candies sweetening the tree aisle. Perhaps it was the distraction of wondering whether the candle-ornaments would light the tree after. But David’s account of the Christmas services doesn’t reflect boredom or suffering. Like many American children, his Christmas was made jollier by a little bundle of sweets and a small surprise in the stocking. As it was for Dee, the treats were not the point for David, and the story of what Christmas means proceeded them.

Whether under falling snow in Minnesota or the tropical heat of the Philippines, the lessons taught at Christmas were the same for David and Dee. It was these lessons that made it relatively easy for these two individuals to forge their own Christmas traditions when they met in graduate school and eventually got married. For their children, Faith, Patrick, Margaret, and myself, Christmas continues to focus on what it did when David and Dee learned the story—some guy named Jesus. Though the Christmas snack-food which presents itself at our table tells of 8000 miles of distance, the lesson of the evening tells of none.

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Words of advice:
Do your own thing!

By Dr. Miriam Luebke
Vice President, Student Services

In my efforts as a 40-year college unit administrator (and sometime professor) to learn more about 21st century college students, I have found a book that has helped me to see student life "from the other side." The book, My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a 21st Century College Professor, written by Rebecka Nathan (2005), an anthropology professor and researcher, involves studying human cultures, typically in remote villages in the jungle. When she went "undercover" as a freshman at her large, public university, Dr. Nathan brought the research method of being a "participant observer" to the world of undergraduates. As an anthropologist, Dr. Nathan is interested in the "customs and rules," the "taboos" that we unconsciously follow in order to play out our roles in society. Her insightful and ultimately compassionate study focuses on the social norms of traditional American college students and on their concerns and values.

One of those values is choice. Students today, like most Americans, value the ability to choose what they want to do, when and where they want to do it. Things that are not freely chosen (like food, clothes, friends, etc.) are resisted. Given our mobile and technologically advanced culture, students are very often able to have it their way. Cell phones, email, and on-line courses allow tremendous flexibility in where and whom we communicate with at any given time. Dr. Nathan observes that this social value of "choice" often clashes with attachment to a sense of "community" on campus. She notes the disappointing outcomes of community-building efforts tied to residence hall programs or educational workshops, dormitories, TV lounges, individuals eating in their rooms rather than in communal dining areas, and running instead of participating at campus events. Instead, the students observe tends to form their own "individual-community"small, personal self-selected networks of people who do things together that they choose to do. I observe this trend on "Facebook," too, where individuals seek out others who "match" their likes and dislikes, their beliefs and "issues." Dr. Nathan concludes that this trend reflects America's ambivalence about community. Community provides support, but it also means obligations, such as the obligations to understand and get along with folks we may not choose as friends. More and more we seem to seek out only those things that define us as individuals and allow us to avoid rubbing up against people and ideas that are different or challenging. These choices tend to break down the sense of community.

But I am hopeful about our own campus community here at Concordia. I see many examples of students reaching out to other students who are not necessarily like themselves, trying to build a stronger sense of a common Concordia experience. One example is Student Senate Executive Board's goal this year: building bridges in our own campus community. We still have a way to go to create a community where all feel included. But if, with a sense of purpose to pursue individual preferences or "do your own thing," you make the choice to join in the community, Concordia will be a better place for all.

God's got your back

By Dr. Jim Gimbel

"Jesus will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." I Corinthians 1:8-9

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas are many events: a great concert series, the special advent services on and off campus, art shows, holiday shopping trips, early celebrations with loved ones. This season also includes the accumulated effect of things that have been procrastinated, including term papers and finals.

The curse in the Garden of Eden spoke of work and thorns, which translates to the sweat we invest in papers, tests and other projects. Jesus came to break the curse, so we rejoice in the good news that the God who joins us in fellowship with Jesus Christ is faithful. He promised to keep us strong until the end, so that the holy schedules and struggles of our lives do not separate us from the love of God that is ours through faith in Christ Jesus. Not even this busy season.

During this season two "welcoming events" run parallel to each other. We are prepared during Advent to praise God as we welcome Jesus into this world of sin as an infant. We are also prepared during Advent to welcome Jesus back to this world in triumphant joy on the last day, when He will usher all believers unto life in Him for eternity.

Both the fun and the stress points welcome Jesus in the Prince of Peace. When we celebrate Christmas, Christ is the focal point. When we are concerned about tests, papers, graduation, jobs, shopping, God helps us focus on the most important thing in life: Christ the Prince of Peace. Basking in the certainty of His loving forgiveness and gift of eternal life and salvation, our focus is on a life of service to our Lord and Savior. Here we have peace. Christ is our true Prince of Peace. He promises that He will keep His beloved children, who belong to Him in faith, strong in that same faith until the end of the Semester, the end of the year, but especially, until the end of time.

And we have certainty, knowing that God is truly faithful, and will do what He has promised.

Finals are coming! Chill out!
The Sword Perspective

By President Bob Holst

In November, I walked in the "Footsteps of Paul" on the Concordia alumni/friends annual trip, this year to Greece. Paul's footprints touched Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Berea, Philippi, Ephesus, and Rhodes and others. A sense of irony marched with the forty Concordia pilgrims. Magnificent marble Greco-Roman buildings must have tempted Paul to be at home. But his hope triumphed. One of the many highlights of the trip for me was standing in what remains of the great 25,000 seat theater in Ephesus and hearing one of our tour members sing, "How Great Thou Art." Stone forms rise; stone forms live.

"Stones form ruins; stone forms lives." -President Holst

Ephesus and hearing one of our tour members sing, "How Great Thou Art." Stone forms rise; stone forms live.

As the semester ends, remember that "Hope for Our Journey" provided the theme for our academic year as we began. Now we can line up hope's initial expectations for critical evaluation in the reality of our experiences of the past month. To be honest, wonderful things filled the semester and yet not all my hopes stand realized. In all, "Hope for Our Journey" remains a good guiding theme. In the tension of tests and term assignments in the final days of the semester, you may reflect on the spiritual hope that life will go on despite above human stress and strain. For me, as a Christian, celebration of the birth of Jesus reminds me that life on earth can be touched by God and blessed with divine given hope. May each of you have the joy of sharing this experience with family and friends after an intellectually challenging semester. More important, may the time give you renewed expectations for "Hope for Our Journey," Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

A continuing hope for our journey

By President Bob Holst

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Do you like Technology?
Concordia reacts to the year's gizmos.
By Greg Holz

Another year has passed us by and yet more gizmos and inventions of technology have invaded our lives. MP3 players, blackberries, camera phones and wireless internet are a few. Many students at Concordia have reacted both positively and negatively to these advancements. Is technology really improving our lives or is it making us lazy and just starting to get annoying? Here are just a few thoughts from students as perhaps you consider which gadgets you want for Christmas and what kinds of things you may need in the coming year.

"I can put my mouse on my leg, head or my room-mate’s back! I can now kill people in my video game from across the room with my wireless mouse!"
- Aaron Cawthorn

"Freshman year I had a Palm Pilot but it was a piece of junk and I never used it. But now that my life is hectic and busy this new Palm Pilot with all its features and possibilities for advancement, I’m able to organize my life and have fun at the same time! Every time I sync it with my computer it downloads the latest news!"
- Aaron Gehriks

"I’m very distraught that my cell phone does not have the capabilities to take pictures, because it seems like everyone else can take pictures whenever they want, but it seems like I’m going to have to spring for a digital camera to keep up with all the other kids."
- Cameron Heiliger

"The MP3 player I purchased assists me in my workouts by blocking out the distractions that could be in the Bear Den."
- Tom Sewing

"Cell phone companies are bogus and botch up my phone bills all the time!"
- Lisa Campbell

"I have never relied so much on cell phones than I have on my internship. Being able to call friends and family on the other side of the country is a must in order for me to stay in touch. Whether I’m in Florida or driving around Minnesota, I can always keep in contact with people. Cellphones are one of the best technology tools I have."
- Kami Jo Kuesel

"I just got Logos Bible software, so it’s a lot easier to look up stuff about biblical texts without getting 4,000 books and read through them all.
- Mike Suelzle

"Technology is only as good as the battery life.
- Marcus Huff

Technology seems to be able to handle just about every little task we need to do to take care of anymore. Whether you think it is really helping us out or just making us lazy, technology is here to stay. So start making up your mind as to what you plan to do with it.

Sincerely,
Eric Goodrich
Jason Rahn

An observation on Nerf Tag

Dear Editor:

Nerf Tag. What else can cause the degree of paranoia and apprehension not normally seen at Concordia? This year was fun for me as a game master, being able to see everything happen without the stresses of trying to stay alive. However, I was disappointed with many of the attitudes of the players and those assisting them. We said clearly that the purpose of the game is to glorify God. The game itself may not be exactly “God-pleasing,” but the expectation is that people will have a good time and show good sportsmanship, not complaining or bickering about anything. After all, out of 73 people, only one or two will win. As Concordia Activities Board, we try to put on fun events and activities for people to enjoy. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve the quality of Nerf Tag, I encourage you to send them to myself or studentsenate@csp.edu. Look for Nerf Tag V in the spring.

Billy Schultz
Concordia Activities Board Spiritual Life/ Volunteer Chair
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Letters to the Editor

Sodexo: Slowly, but surely, getting there

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the Nov. 3 letter to the editor about losing meals in the Concordia meal plan system. It’s not that I disagree with the article—there are some valid issues raised in the letter, and I do think that they should be, at least, discussed.

This letter is not about those issues, though. I’m writing to bring up the often-forgotten point that Sodexho has come a long way in the past few years. I think that the previous letter to the editor made some unfair comments about the quality and choice Sodexho offers. I remember all-to-well the regrettable quality of the food when I was a freshman in 2001. And variety? Choice? Virtually non-existent. It was so difficult to stomach the food sometimes, but I made it.

True, there are some aspects of student life at Concordia that still have a long way to go, but the fact remains that Sodexho has come a long way in the past four years. Obviously Jason Rahn and Eric Goodrich are interested in improving the quality and variety for students. Every year the food has gotten better, and there has been an obvious trend towards having more available for the students who eat in the dining hall. It’s not great—yet—but it’s getting better every semester.

As a commuter, I also personally attest to the benefits of the new commuter meal plan (I only wish there were maybe 2 more meals per week). I appreciate the fact that Rahn and Goodrich have a genuine interest in improving the options open to students at Concordia, and that shows no sign of stopping. I also remember what it was like to live on-campus—and how simple it was to change my meal plan to one that fit my needs. I don’t think anyone is out to get us—rather, I think they are clearly on our side.

As with anything in college life, the food service here will always have its critics. There will always be things that can improve. There will always be little injustices that leave the students out to dry. But there will also always be people here to work for us, and I think Jason Rahn and Eric Goodrich are two of those people. We should all hope that they keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Eric Goodrich
Jason Rahn
Krua Thailand: The original Thai food

By Gregory Holz

As you travel down University Avenue deep into Frogtown, you might miss it. It's a little white restaurant, decorated with homemade borders and Thai music, or Thai rock and roll. You will normally be greeted by the owner, Cathareen Chang, and her family. You might try the delicious peanut curry or the mee pad (fried little noodles). The owner, Cathareen Chang, and her family, all come from Thailand. It might be recommended to start with the pad Thai, a classic Thai noodle dish with peanuts, but for the more daring connoisseur, the possibilities are endless. Begin the meal with spring rolls or maybe chicken satay for an appetizer. Perhaps for the entire family, try the delicious peanut curry or the mee pad (fried little noodles). If a person is feeling ill, they may try one of the soups like tom yum kung (spicy mushroom soup) or the Thai omelet in broth. Both not only taste great but look delicious. To drink, try a Thai iced tea or coffee or get a cup of hot green or ginger tea. And to finish the meal try the sweet sticky rice with mango.

Equally as good as the food is the service. Cathareen’s father and sister do the cooking and she and her mother greet people, seat them and bring them their food. “The people there treat you like family,” says Emily Marcus about the service at Krua Thailand. Perhaps the highest compliment to Krua Thailand comes from Danica Myers, a student from Bethel College. “What makes it special is not that you can’t find the food at other Thai restaurants, but the authenticity of culture that the family brings to it.”

Concordia’s favorite recipes

Get into the kitchen, try cooking something new

Compiled by Katie Robison

Chicken Divan

Contributed by Dr. Kay Madson, Professor of Social & Behavioral Sciences

4 large boneless chicken breasts, baked, cooled and cut into large pieces,
18 slices broccoli, slightly cooked and drained,
2 small cans cream of chicken soup,
1 teaspoon lemon juice,
1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack or monterey creme cheese
1/2 cup bread crumbs
1/2 cup mayonnaise or Miracle Whip

Spread broccoli on bottom of buttered 9x13 inch baking dish and cover with chicken pieces. Spread with a mixture of the soup, mayonnaise, and lemon juice. Sprinkle with cheese and crumbs. Bake uncovered about 40 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Hollywood & Vine Rootbeer Sweet Potatoes

Contributed by Rosie Braun, Director of Academic Advising

1 quart root beer,
1 ounce lemon juice,
1 pinch of ground cloves,
6 ounce water,
2 ounce butter.

Mix root beer, lemon juice, cloves, sugar & butter in a pot and bring to a boil. Mix corn starch with water and add to boiling mixture. Then this is ready to pour over sweet potatoes. SWEET POTATOES: You can use fresh, sweet potatoes sliced in 1/2 inch circles. Bake in a 350 degree Fahrenheit oven until soft or you can use canned sweet potatoes. Heat them then pour rootbeer glaze over them and serve.

CHOCOLATE OATMEAL CLUSTERS

Contributed by Dr. Marjorie Johnson, Associate Professor of Marketing & Management

8 ounce semi-sweet chocolate chips,
1/3 cup margarine or butter,
16 large marshmallows,
2 cups oatmeal,
1 cup coconut.

Melt chocolate chips, margarine & marshmallows in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until smooth. Remove from heat. Mix in vanilla, oats & coconut. Drop mixture by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper and shape into clusters with hands. Refrigerate until firm, about 20 minutes.

Christmas Traditions

Compiled by Kate Davis

Photos by Elizabeth Wehr

Greg Holz:
“During Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners my siblings and I all hang spoons from our noses and take pictures and see whose spoon stays on the longest while we eat.”

Gretchen Becroft:
“I hand-make about 100 Christmas cards as ‘gifts’ to friends and relatives near and far.”

Mindy Block:
“My family goes to midnight service at church which is at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve night, then we go back to our house, all get our pajamas on, get something to drink and turns on the Christmas lights. Then we all sit in the living room and open all of our presents up one at a time. We stay up late and talk about what we got!”

Damien Dukek:
“All of my family gets together. We eat turkey and play cribbage and snow-football.”

Kris Enlund:
“We put up a green tree and presents under it. every year.”

11/12/96

On December 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre, the 24-hour play festival that was held by the Len-Ham community Theater Company in Concordia's Peacock Theater.

Casting the play for Brutscher was somewhat simple. He already had an idea of what the cast pool would look like even while writing the play. "I wrote the play with my actors' appearances and physical instruments in mind," Brutscher said.

One of the challenges that Brutscher faces is the fact that he has to cut the play down to twenty minutes. "In that time I have to convey a self-contained story drawn from my play's longest sequence of events," Brutscher said.

Not only are these nine students striving for a high grade on their final, they are also competing against each other to direct the full-length version of their show in the spring.

"I am excited at the prospect of possibly directing the full version of this play next spring, but I have to remember I am one among nine directors that have the chance at that privilege," Brutscher said.

Overall, this final is truly a unique experience. Each student has his or her own share of joys and challenges in this final, but each expects such tension when experiencing something that could turn into a career. Before these directors make the big time, the shows can be seen for free, December 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

By Katy Davis

Concerts: renewal of hope

By Jeanne Reschak

This year, the theme for Concordia's Annual Fine and Performing Arts Christmas Concert was "Hope Renewed." The theme was chosen by director Dr. David Mennicke as a statement of the theme for Concordia's school year, "Hope for Our Journey." The concerts were held in the Boustwick Auditorium on Dec. 4.

"In researching possible music on the theme of hope, I came across the hymn, 'The Hills Are Bare,' in which stanza three ends with the line, 'and hope renewed, cries out, 'Amen!'" Mennicke explains that the song has three stanzas, which is the same amount of portions that make up the concert as a whole. The three parts of the concert are "Advent, hope in Christmas and hope in the Renewed with all of our music and carols," said Mennicke.

The concert included the massed choir, concert band and traditional seasonal hymns with the audience. Featured portions of the concert will include the brass and massed choir singing Respighi's "Laudi to the Nativity," a piece accompanied mainly by piano and woodwinds, as well as the South African pieces, "Hope for Resolution" and "E'en So, Lord Jesus." The Band is playing a major band classic, "Russian Christmas Music," and the Handbell Ensemble is featured in two pieces. All of our full-time music faculty is also providing their voices.

The concert included the traditional choir and band performances, but there will be some new acts this year. As fresh visual aspects to the concert, two students will be performing interpretive dances to selected music. "I hope to dance to the women's choir piece, 'Pilgrim's Hymn,'" said Olivia Mulvey. "I also have the men's choir piece, 'Betelhemj,'" said Mennicke. As well as new visuals, the performance will also change. Not only are these new readings a little different. Olivia Mulvey and Steve Klonkey. "We started with the songs that are popular, the songs that people know. We knew what was going on until we opened it up they had let old food in there and unplugged it so it was full of maggots."

"This is not the only extreme situation that has occurred. According to student worker Travis Banwart, "A year ago in that same hall someone had moved a chair into the bathroom and none of the residents knew what had gone on until it started to smell. Apparently someone had been using it as a urinal."

"But they don't stop there."

"Remember about six years ago in the second floor of Walther Hall there was a bathroom," says another seasoned Janitor Earl Vincent. "I opened up the middle stall and there was a Christmas tree planted upright in the stall that had been decorated with used condoms."

The biggest problem maintenance is having to deal with is the insect empires, makeshift urinals, or even the monuments to yesteryear love. The biggest problem the people who are having is battling the never-ending tides of vomit."

"I remember for three weeks I said, on the second floor of Centennial Hall someone would fill to the brim, a sink with vomit," said Vincent. "We had to start looking up the bathrooms."

"Every week the maintenance staff mop up, wash down and carry out mass amounts of vomit."

"We've lost two vacuums to)

By Emily Marcus

For many students, Tuesday mornings consist of waking up, after hitting the snooze button several times and heading to class. For two Concordia students, Tuesdays mornings are a little different. Olivia Mulvey and Mark Joesting spend their Tuesday mornings at Women's Advocates, which is made up of three housing facilities for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The buildings, located on Grand Avenue, are a comfort to have in need.

Mulvey came upon the facilities out of curiosity. Once she learned about the advocacy work, Olivia decided to take another step. After talking with Molly Gillin, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Women's Advocates, Mulvey decided to combine her knowledge as a Community Arts Major with some of the volunteer work provided at the shelter.

Gillin and Mulvey agreed it would be helpful to have a children's art program which would run on a weekly basis. Hannah Dorow, director of the Art Club on campus, was then contacted to solicit the help of fellow art students. "The students were very receptive," said Mulvey. Eight students went through the volunteer process by which all who help at Women's Advocates.

When a Tuesday slot was opened, some of the spaces which needed to be filled, because the women were in group, and due to time conflicts, the list of volunteers was narrowed down to Mulvey and Joesting.

According to Mulvey, the process of developing a program can be frustrating and slow in the beginning, but has its benefits.

Some mornings the two create art projects for the students, sometimes four and other days some at all. "The kids and parents seem very receptive to the program overall. The more children that show up, the more energy we have."

Along with the Tuesday morning program, small events are arranged. "For Halloween we had an evening event of painting pumpkins in which Chris Mark Joesting, Lorraine Wooky and Hannah Dorow participated. We used a woodburner and we worked with about 15 mothers and children that evening," recalls Mulvey.

For seven Tuesday events, it is just another day of classes, but for others such as those involved with Women's Advocates, it's a chance to do what they enjoy and make a difference—a little at a time.

By Jesse Stevens

If it weren't for our janitors we would be ankle deep in beer bottles, burger wrappers and an expanding cascade of filth that a hobo wouldn't touch with a ten foot pole. For student workers, a maintenance position is one of the highest paying jobs Concordia would run on a weekly basis. Hannah Dorow, president of the Advocates, which is made up of three housing facilities for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The buildings, located on Grand Avenue, are a comfort to have in need.

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Athletes make holiday sacrifices

By Nakia Carlisle

When most students are spending time with their families during the holidays, players like Megan Kirchenwitz are still working hard on the court. With a road game right before Thanksgiving and a big game just two days after Thanksgiving, Coach Paul Fessler had to make sure he kept his team in tip-top shape to perform at its best, even if it meant sacrificing time with family around the holidays.

Kirchenwitz, a sophomore shooting guard on the Concordia Golden Bears women’s basketball team, has a ten-hour drive from St. Paul to her hometown in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. When she is able to get back to Oconomowoc, she is usually there for just a weekend. That is before the basketball season. During the season, the weekends are full and her family usually makes plenty of trips to the Twin Cities to visit their youngest daughter. “My parents and family would never want me to give up everything that has been put into being successful in athletics here in college”.

This year, Kirchenwitz will have to sacrifice more time with her family for the tough basketball season. Last year she was able to enjoy Christmas break with her family for a whole week, while this year she will be able to share barely four days.

On Thanksgiving, she did not see them due to scheduled practices. Teammates as well as coaches that are from or live in the Twin Cities are quick to welcome Kirchenwitz and other teammates who can’t get home into their own families for the holidays.

One of the players whose family invites teammates over is Razee Ellis. “My mom would never want any of my teammates to spend holidays by themselves so she makes sure that we invite them to come over and eat with our family,” Ellis says. “My dad is a great cook! He makes a lot of food so there is always enough for our teammates out!”

Not only does being accepted into teammates’ homes make missing holidays with family a little more easy, but being involved with “the funniest group of girls you will ever meet,” as Kirchenwitz calls them, helps too.

“One of the best parts of the season has truly been a success. The team has come together, with the support of family and the comfort from teammates as well as coaches. “I love the girls on the team and the people I surround myself with up here in St. Paul, so I look forward to coming back to see all of them.”

No matter what, Kirchenwitz knows her family is a phone call away.