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It may be cold and snowy outside, but that's not stopping Concordia students from having a little winter fun. Monday, February 12 kicked off the beginning of Snowcoming Week that continued through the 16th. Five different dress up themed days, nightly activities put on by the Concordia Activities Board and of course the crowning of the Snowcoming King and Queen made for a busy week on campus.

Monday started things off with a Western themed dress up day and a high intensity snowball fight on the knoll.

Tuesday was all about the 50's with a dress up day that included poodle skirts and saddle shoes, and ended with a 50's dance in the BEC.

Wednesday was not only Valentine's Day, but Concordia's 1st annual "Love Tap Day." Students could purchase a 'love tap' for 25 cents in the tunnel and have it delivered to their special someone via campus mail. There was also a blood drive from 11-4, a FISH service featuring student Marcus Huff as the speaker and of course the surge run, with only 5 brave male students participating.

Thursday was 'twin day' and included a "Winter Wonderland" coffeehouse that featured student musicians Jameson Baxter, Shelley Schwalm and Mark Mueller. CAB members Joy Sewing and Syndee Bickett also entertained the audience with a little story time between acts.

Friday closed out the week with a win in Men's and Women's basketball against Upper Iowa University and the crowning of the Snowcoming Court during halftime of the men's game. King was freshman Andy Dawkins and Queen was freshman Katie Benke.

Overall the variety of activities were enjoyed by many students and offered some good mid-semester excitement to the days of below zero temperatures and a snow covered campus.
Closed Union, Disappointed Student

**Student Union and Meal Plan crushes one student's hope to eat on a cold Sunday afternoon**
by Josiah Laubenstein

The scene is set: a young college student awakens on a bright Sunday morning to birds chirping happily outside and the sun filtering lightly through his blinds, falling across his eyes. He blinks and tries to shed sleep, then rises for the one thing that drives people from their beds every morning, day in and day out: food. Donning some clothing and grabbing his student ID, he ventures from his burrow, skipping optimistically toward the Union, not shivering despite the frigid weather.

But alas, upon arriving, the poor soul finds the doors locked and the griddles cold. No smell of greasy meat and baked goods waft from this abandoned hole. Clouds arrive to cover the sun and the birds, struck by some sudden laryngitis, cease their cheery song. Warily, he stumbles toward the Dining Hall, but misfortune follows our friend for he has no meals left on his plan. Broken and beaten, with nowhere left to turn, this crushed spirit has no other option left but to pay the outrageous amount that it costs for a meal in the Dining Hall without a meal plan. The day hangs over his head, ruined by these catastrophic events.

Alright. Possibly you've figured it out by now, the student in our story is none other than me. And the quest penned above, although extremely overdramatic, is what happened to me this past Sunday morning.

Perhaps a little back story is in order. Many of you may already know that as a student living at Concordia University, you are forcibly required to be the proud owner of a meal plan. Of course, the school does its best to provide many different choices, involving combinations of meal plans and Union dollars, allowing one to choose between our two places of acquiring food: The Dining Hall and the Union. I am on the seven meals a week plan, with three hundred flex dollars to spend per semester, flex dollars really only usable in the Union. A few of my friends and I switched to this last year because the Union has more options, such as the tasty yet healthy Odwalla drink, better pizzas, and the ability to purchase a snack as opposed to a full-blown meal anytime I feel the inclination of hunger.

But back to the problem at hand: what to do on a Sunday when my meals are spent? I know I'm not the only one in this predicament. Are we supposed to save two if not three meals for the sole purpose of eating on a Sunday? Okay, I guess with enough planning and a few inconveniences, I could make things work. But I'm not paying for this food because of its lack of nutritional value or its repetitive taste. I'm paying for the convenience of it being so easily accessible and available.

So really all I'm asking for is what I paid to get in the first place. Also, didn't the Union remain open on Sundays last year? I seem to remember that, at least for part of the year, I enjoyed my tasty treats in the waning light of a Sunday evening. Why not make the Union open on Sundays again? With a little foresight, Concordia could save a lot of their students the trouble of having nowhere to eat on a Sunday afternoon. And if that's too much to ask, which I don't think it is, how about they make Sunday the day of the week when the meal plan resets itself? Seems simple enough. And yet here I sit on a Sunday afternoon writing this article, with my tummy rumbling.

Little Man, Big Hits

**A little bit of man, a little bit of rock and a whole lot of energy.**
by Erin Anderson

"I can only think of one word that can accurately describe this band: sharp." This is how the band Little Man was described to me by one fan, Minneapolis native Chris Peterson. I must admit, I am inclined to agree.

Originally based in Chicago, lead singer, guitarist and founder Chris Perricelli was so inspired by the Twin Cities that he decided to make Minneapolis his permanent residence. Little Man, formed in 1998, has been growing steadily in popularity for the past nine years. The band has released three full-length albums and even toured with the likes of Ike Reilly Assassination. The band was nominated for Rock Band of the Year by the Minnesota Music Academy. Little Man's sound is a bit classic rock with a splash of retro flare. The melodies are catchy and easy to bop along to. According to venue and fan reviews, Perricelli puts on a fantastic act. Standing at only 5'2", this "little man" exudes enough energy to fill a whole city block.

Chris Peterson has seen the band play three times so far. "They always put on a good show," he says. "They are all so down to earth and it is easy to see that they are having a good time on stage."

Never a band to stand idle and wait for fame, Little Man will be releasing their fourth album this March. The album is entitled Soulful Automatic.

Fans like Peterson eagerly await the band's latest effort. Be sure to check out all of the band's albums in stores, and keep an eye out for Little Man at a venue near you. I know I will be.

*February 22: 331Club - Mpls, MN*
*Soulful Automatic Listening Party*

*March 2: 7th St Entry - Mpls, MN - CD Release*

*March 31: The Varsity - Mpls, MN*
Will Your College Education Get You A Job?

by Steven Namanny

Operation Ivy was a band in the late 1980s that named themselves after a series of United States nuclear bomb tests in 1952. In 1989, the band released a song called, 'Freeze Up'.

What was happening in 1989? Computers and machines were being revolutionized and began replacing the industrious jobs of people. The 'freeze up' is a metaphor of the harsh times of winter and the difficult times for all the people losing their jobs to machines and computers; it was a freeze up of their jobs.

Operation Ivy paints the picture, "Empty factories to the east and all our waste, the shape of things that came to show on the broken worker's face, to the west you'll find a silicon promised land, where machines all replace their minds with systematic profit plans." Now it is 2007. Thomas Friedman describes in his book The World is Flat, why globalization is happening and how it is going to affect our lives. This "flattening" of the world would be dubbed by Operation Ivy as another freeze up, "just one political song, just one political song, to drop into the list that stretches years and years long." Friedman's answer to this new freeze up: "There will be plenty of good jobs out there in the flat world for people with the right knowledge, skills, ideas, and self-motivation to seize them." He calls these people the 'untouchables.' He basically tells the reader that there is no resistance to this change and by going against it you will be left behind. This is the capitalistic trap that is created. Capitalism is the survival of the fittest, among humankind. It forces humankind, all to often, to exploit one another. Due to 'flattening,' corporations are going to outsource wherever they can find a cheaper way of doing business, especially in the labor aspect (causing another freeze up of jobs).

Capitalism is also the backbone of individualism: how can I use others to help better my standard of living? It plants seeds of greed and selfishness and is not based on helping others or working together for the sake of humanity or love, "The course of human progress staggers like a drunk, its steps are quick and heavy but its mind is slow and blunt."

This is what Operation Ivy was singing about in 1989. People are, "drunk with power, and fighting one another," doing whatever they can to get themselves to the top. But who sets the standard of living? Does a person with a six or seven digit salary truly live a fuller life than a person with a low five digit salary? What about an American compared to a tribesman in Africa? Is life more fulfilling for the American?

Operation Ivy ends their song by letting the listener know that, "Static and division are increasing like a storm... nothing can be changed except ourselves, nothing can be changed except ourselves, there's a freeze up coming." This poses the individual question of reflection: what am I greedy or selfish about and what am I going to do about it?

What Is To Come For The Bear Den?

by Carl Wendorff

Sometimes change is a good thing. This rang true on Wednesday February 14 as the Student Senate passed a proposal to update the Bear Den.

The Bear Den has needed new equipment for a few years and the proposal will potentially place new cardio and circuit training equipment, possibly a speed bag, and new flooring into the fitness center.

The project will cost just under $30,000 and will be paid for with funds from the capital fund of Student Senate. Senate will pay up to $5,000 for the project this year, and the rest of it over the next 4-5 years, but the equipment will come all at once.

It may seem like a lot of money, but the equipment is top quality and will last for years to come.

Student Senator Tom Sewing says, "The Concordia community would have a peace of mind in knowing that this facility will be improved in a very timely manner and would be available for use all year round."

Along with input from faculty and staff, students will be able to determine what equipment they want in the Bear Den. This can be done by taking a survey in Bear Path under the personal information section; this is currently slated to happen the week before spring break.

The new changes to the Bear Den will be a great investment for this college and a great way for students to pursue fitness.
August Wilson

by Shaun Evans

A few students at Concordia are putting together a play by African American writer August Wilson. Wilson wrote plays dealing with African Americans in different decades, depicting what they were going through during those time periods.

The students at Concordia are doing the play "Fences," written during the 1950s. It's about a father who cannot commit to anything he does, and he is afraid of letting his son play college sports because he himself was never given the chance to play.

The play was put together by Dr. Chatman and Professor Beilke, who hope it will be a success in the near future.

Black History Month, Involving Students

by Shaun Evans

Black History Month is one of the most celebrated times in the African American community. We can look back and see all the accomplishments and achievements that African Americans have made and contributed to America.

Black History Month is also a time that we can look into our history and see the strides and steps that African Americans have taken to get to where we are today. It offers African Americans a chance to learn about their culture and see the advances we have made as people.

This year at Concordia I decided to ask a few students certain topics about Black History Month and what is going on around Concordia.

When I asked Antwon Williams about it, he said, "Black History Month is a time to honor all the African Americans in the pursuit to bring unity not only between blacks but all the races in the world. It is also a time to celebrate peace between everyone, and starting to love one another."

I plan on spreading the knowledge I have to others around Concordia and just showing everyone a lot more love. The things that are happening around Concordia for this month are trying to unite Concordia Students together to get to know one another better.

D'Andre Clark said, "February is the start of Black History Month. [...] in 1926, it was started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Chatman's been doing a lot of work around Concordia to promote it as much as possible. She has informed us young black people about it. To unite our people [...] I have also been volunteering and going to the UMOJA meetings."

UMOJA stands for United Minds of Joint Action and it's an organized group on campus which involves African Americans and other ethnicities to share their thoughts and opinions positively on many topics involving their cultures on and off campus.

Concordia has provided readings of quotes by famous African Americans every morning in the tunnel. There are also things in the tunnel that show appreciation to other influential African Americans.

The African American community around Concordia has also showed interest in such activities as local African Americans fraternities and cultural events like movies about Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, and the History Channel's documentaries about Malcolm X and other African American figures whose efforts have contributed to social equality.
HITTING YOURSELF IN THE FACE WITH A HAMMER
IS NOT HARMFUL AS LONG AS YOU ONLY DO IT SOCIALLY.
**CSP IN THE ROUND**

**SOCIOLGY DEPARTMENT**
- Sociology Club approved by Student Senate for full club status
- Student Services
- Announces Megan Schmidt, M.S., as new disability specialist as of February 5, 2007.
- "Sleep Smarts" will be held in the tunnel March 7 from 12:00-2:00 PM.
(Sponsored by Student Services)

**SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**
- Concordia University Math Day: Over 100 high school math students will be on campus to compete in math-related games and contests on Feb 21.
- Tri-Pi Game Night: The annual event (free food, gaming, and entertainment) is scheduled to take place in the Union on Thursday, March 29.
- Internships: Monica McNamara is working with McKesson in Medical Sales and John Kruger is working with Personix as an Inventory Analyst.
- 45 elementary school students will be learning about stewardship of money and stewardship of the environment as part of a Thrivent Grant. The students will be restoring a portion of the Concordia University Environmental Research Station this Spring.
- The recently renovated Research Institute of Biosciences lab on the second floor of the Science Building is up and running.
- Dr. Shellie Kieke and her research student Kyle Warren are continuing the HPV breast cancer project this semester. Dr. Kieke was awarded a $900 research grant from CSP. Three research students from last year (Akoua Attiogbe, Matt Salewski and Kelsey Walt) will travel to the state capitol in St. Paul this month to present their research poster.
- The science faculty and students will assist with Math Day again this year by hosting the "Science Olympics."

**BASEBALL**
- February 4, the CU Baseball team had their first game against Augustana. They played a double header but on a later date it was decided the second game would not count. CU lost their game to the Vikings 4-2.
- Though the second game didn't count, Senior Matt Borman, and Tony Boswell both hit homeruns, which gave them three of their five runs.
- Concordia Baseball team leaves for Fort Myers, Florida on Friday 23 to play a series of eight games, one of which will be against our very own Minnesota Twins. This has been a tradition for five years. Last year the team faced pitch- ers Joe Nathan and Francisco Liriano.

**ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**
- We have two writing contests happening this month: The Lange contest for best poetry and the Kaden contest for best short story. Stories and poetry were due February 15 and results will be out soon.
- The English Department has decided to make internships MANDATORY for non-education English majors. It won't affect those who are already English majors. The department is hoping to have it required for all English majors who come to CSP beginning next year.

**CURRENT EVENTS**
- A petition that requires over 200,000 signatures is going around in Washington State as an attempt to get a measure put on the next election ballot that would make married couples get a divorce if they don't have kids in the first three years of their marriage.
- John Amaechi became the first NBA player to publicly admit he is gay.
- Abu Ayub al-Masri, al Qaeda's leader was possibly wounded recently while his top aid was killed in Baghdad.
- Lasers beamed from space have detected big sloshing lakes of water underneath Antarctic ice.
- In Las Vegas, a shelter was forced to kill 1,000 dogs and cats because of an outbreak of contagious diseases.
- In Las Vegas, a shelter was forced to kill 1,000 dogs and cats because of an outbreak of contagious diseases.
- The treasury data that was released last Monday shows that low taxes are a good thing right now. The fiscal deficit is down to $191.9 billion, or 1.4 of the GDP. Total receipts have grown by 11.5 % and spending grew 5.5%. If this trend continues it means the budget can be in a surplus as soon as May 2008.
- Household net worth has risen by $13.2 trillion since tax cuts were fully implemented. Total receipts are growing faster than Gross Domestic Product and the ratio of tax receipts to the overall economy is also rising. This means that they will likely continue to rise further given the interaction of a tight labor market with progressive tax rates. With a little gridlock and if the super- tight market stays present and continues to drive the overall revenues higher, the budget could move back into balance by May of 2008.
- This information is courtesy of the article "When you tax profits you Tax People" by Larry Kidlow found at <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=4X32MD0Y4Z5eJY3ZxkZLx57TY9m75mYyY2QknW351T1M>, and Barnes Kelley at Colgate University.

**GOLF**
- The men's and women's teams are both going to the Phoenix, AZ area for spring break.
- Laura Shelander recently joined the women's team for this spring.
- Kyle Schwietz recently joined the men's team for this spring.

**BASKETBALL**
- Kyle Marxhusen scored a season-high of 30 points in the game against Upper Iowa University on February 16. He is one of only thirteen Concordia athletes to score over 1,000 points in school history.
- Katie LaVioletter scored 17 points in the February 16 game against Upper Iowa University.

**ART DEPARTMENT**
- Senior Art Major Isaac Bratzel opens his Senior Exhibition, Shelter, on Thursday, March 8. Cover page image is a painting done by Bratzel.
- Annual Student Juried Show opens April 12. Deadline for work coming soon.

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Planning to quit smoking after college? The odds are against you.
Research shows most students who say they'll quit smoking right after college...can't.
A number of things have been happening in student senate lately. First is the Fact Finding Committee (FFC), which is a new committee in Senate. It was formed to properly obtain factual statistical information concerning the community of Concordia University. The committee will provide the Senate with institutional research, which will help guide the Student Senate in its service to the Student Association and which will allow the Student Senate to make enlightened, informed, and fiscally responsible decisions.

Basically, the FFC creates surveys for students to take on Bear Path so that Student Senate can accurately see how the majority of students feel on particular topics, instead of relying solely on their friends' opinions.

At the February 7 Student Senate meeting the FFC presented the findings of the first survey and gave the following recommendations based on the findings of the survey:

1. That the Executive Board draft a resolution from the Student Senate to President Holst and Board of Regents stating these findings and urging them to approve the construction of the new housing center for vote and approval at the next Senate meeting. (This had already been completed by this meeting, and was unanimously passed by the Senate.)

2. That all student senators personally work on reaching out more to all our classmates, especially the underclassmen and commuter students.

3. That the Student Senate pass the proposal to move the Union printer to Tier Zero and to establish who is responsible for the care of the printer, especially paper restocking.

4. That Student Senate seek an up-to-date online schedule of all events in the Gangelhoff Center including outside events and especially athletic practices that is readily available for students in the form of an Outlook calendar or a downloadable document, and that it be updated regularly.

5. That with retention of the Student Portal, the Student Senate should seek reinstatement of the student bulletin as it was, not as a mandatory e-mail sent to all students, but instead as an optional service that students can elect to receive.

6. That Student Senate work to establish an online card reader on the Luther statue side of the tunnel to provide access to Tier Zero after the tunnel is locked at night, and to purchase the online card reader with capital funds if necessary.

7. That Concordia Television Productions be eliminated from the Student Senate budget because the majority of students do not watch CTP, and the fact that CTP also receives operation funds from the Communications Department, also that the funds in the CTP budget be allocated to the capital budget.

8. That Student Senate seek to better educate the student body about policies found in the student handbook without the creation of a physical handbook, and instead educate students about the location of the virtual student handbook.

9. That Student Senate seek to improve the recycling program at Concordia, beginning by seeking a report on the current status of recycling and what is currently being done to improve recycling from John Brockupp and Jim Orchard at the next available senate meeting.

10. That the Campus Ministry Center maintain the quality of their current chapel services and continue to offer communion at its current time.

The FFC hopes that the Student Senate elects to meet all these recommendations by Easter break if not sooner, but time will tell which ones the senators decide to take up and fulfill.

The two winners of $10 Target gift card raffle for completing this first survey were Katrina Johnston and Melissa Hill.

At the time of publication, the next survey will be about the current proposal to spend $11,000—$30,000 on improving the Bear Den, and is slated to happen the week before Spring Break.

The senators passed a proposal to spend $5,000 on the Bear Den which is to be matched by Jason Rahn. The FFC will be given six weeks to create, administer, process and present the results of a survey to be conducted on what students specifically want to see improved in the Bear Den.

Student Senate also approved the creation and endorsement of the Psychology Club by granting them New Club Status. New Club Status comes with a lot of responsibility for the club leaders, including attending monthly meetings of the Student Activities Council, a meeting of all club leaders with Vice Principal of Finances and Organizations Andrea Chandler.

The senators also tabled a proposal to move the Union student printer to Tier Zero until more information could be obtained as to who would be responsible for maintaining the printer, specifically in regards to restocking the paper.

The Student Union Board of Governors discussed Tier III ideas and movie rentals, which can now be given their attention since they are in a holding pattern for the FFC to finish their survey.

The Academic Events committee is in the process of picking a Commencement speaker for the graduation ceremony at the end of the year. The Health and Wellness committee talked about meeting with Cher Rafferty and planning some more events for the tunnel.

The Residence Life committee is waiting to hear about the Capstone project approval from the Board of Regents. The Technology Appeals committee will be meeting on some appeals the week before spring break and are integrating a new electronic appeal form.

The Student Conduct Review committee had no new information.

Senator Joanna Gimbel was appointed to look into the issue of 24-hour tunnel access which will probably result in another more detailed survey topic very soon.

At the February 14 meeting of Student Senate, the senators decided to table a motion to grant the Student Alumni Council (STAC) New Club Status after discussing the openness of STAC as a student organization and their motivation for becoming a Student Senate recognized club. A representative from STAC is expected at the next Senate meeting to answer questions.

There was time at this meeting for the Senators to break up into many of their committees and report on their current discussions. The Student Policy Committee finished their work on academic integrity. The Food Service committee discussed meeting with Eric Goodrich, top boss of Sodexo.

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Talk In The Tunnel...

compiled by Hannah Dorow

Please keep an open mind when reading the below statements. All entries are strictly tongue-in-cheek. We do not claim that any of these are true or false.

Junior Art Major turns 20, pictures show she's old enough to be at a local bar... Future Teacher receives two private panties as gifts for Valentine's Day... At least 67 people are engaged at Concordia... Sophomore FISH participant eats salmonella-infested peanut butter from the Dining Hall... Former Volleyball Player canoodles with three guys—one was her boyfriend, two were not... Former Quarterback and Alum Concordia Education Major are engaged... Sword Writer is engaged to Winona Warrior... 202 people are single at Concordia... They flirted in the hallways all last semester but Freshmen Midwesterner was taken, she's now single and is wanting to see him soon... Freshmen Royalty wants to marry Football Player for all his large assets... Encouraging words from a coach: 'Hey men, chicks are unbeatable, don't let them pull you down—uplifting!' Or is some bitterness showing through these words of the wise... Sophomore Early Education Major hung out with 9 guys in one night... Psychology Major seeks medical help for chocolate addiction... Outlook's email services will no longer be Concordia's forte, Gmail will be the new outlet coming this fall...

If you any comments to contribute to the Talk In The Tunnel section please email Hannah Dorow at dorowh@csp.edu. You may be as discreet as you would like.

FUN FACTS
- The Mall of America in Bloomington is the size of 78 football fields - 9.5 million square feet.
- The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is the largest urban sculpture garden in the country.
- Because steel expands when it gets hot, the Eiffel Tower is six inches taller in the summer than in the winter.
- Jazz fans and gun owners are among the most sexually active Americans.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.
- Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- In the course of an average lifetime, while sleeping you might eat around 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders or more.

Dear Readers,

We would like to retract the following statements:
In Issue 5 we printed that the Progressives were behind the showing of the film Obsession. This is untrue. While the Progressives think the Republicans should have the right to show the film, they are not endorsing it.
We also apologize for the spelling error made in Matt Griepentrog's column.
In the travel section from Issue 6, the article entitled "Kemet" wasn't entirely correct. While the internet provides this information, we were informed that more popular way to interpret Cairo in Egyptian would be Kairo.

From,
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It's A Cold World Out There

by Erin Anderson

At some point in every person's life, they have been judged unfairly. And at some point in everyone's life, they have judged someone else unfairly.

In late 2006, the University of Oslo's Natural History Museum in Norway presented an exhibit examining homosexuality in the animal kingdom. There have been hundreds of species that have had homosexual behavior documented; this exhibit in Oslo focused on 51 of these species.

The exhibit, entitled "Against Nature?" examines the idea that homosexuality is a completely natural, and even beneficial, part of life. "Against Nature?" is a first-ever museum display on the subject. Though homosexual behavior has been well documented in over 1,500 species, it is a subject that is rarely discussed in the scientific community. In fact, homosexuality is often dismissed as unnatural by scientists as well as popular society, because it appears to have no benefits to a community or society. This exhibit seeks to change that view.

Linda Wolfe, head of the Department of Anthropology at East Carolina University, says that many scientists are under the impression that "if it doesn’t have something to do with reproduction it’s not important." Many species, humans included, participate in sexual activities more than is needed for reproduction within their species. With more and more evidence coming to light about the nature of homosexuality, many in the science community argue that homosexuality may have a greater cause than just pleasure, specifically in terms of survival. Homosexual sex has been documented to be used for alliances and protection among animals. In species of animals that are mostly bisexual, sexual relationships between animals allow new members to join a pack. Petter Bockman, the project coordinator for this exhibit, said that "In bonobo communities [a type of chimpanzee], strict heterosexual individuals would not be able to make friends in the flock and thus never be able to breed." Bockman also said that "In some bird species that bond for life, homosexual pairs raise young. If they are females, a male may fertilize their eggs. If they are males, a solitary female may mate with them and deposit her eggs in their nest."

Whether individuals on this campus are aware of this fact or not, there is a homosexual community living and working within this institution.

Geir Soli, project leader for the exhibition, stated that "a main target of this project was to get museums involved in current debate; to show that museums are more than just a gallery for the past." Soli has said that he is pleased with the exhibit and the awareness it has raised on the subject of homosexuality. "The argument that a homosexual way of living cannot be accepted because it is against the 'laws of nature' can now be ejected scientifically," Soli said.

In learning about the "Against Nature?" exhibit, I was brought back to life on Concordia's campus. Whether individuals on this campus are aware of this fact or not, there is a homosexual community living and working within this institution. For many of the individuals in this community, every day is a constant struggle. For this article I interviewed three Concordia students and three St. Thomas students about their struggles as gay students attending Christian universities. The fact that none of these students were willing to have their names printed speaks volumes about how they are being treated.

"I am so tired of being treated like a pariah on this campus," says one Concordia student. "Why should anyone else care what my sexual orientation is? It's not like my being gay is hurting them in any way." Jumping in, another Concordia student had this to say: "Do you know how many times I have been told that I am going to hell? I cannot believe that a person would say that to a fellow student in normal conversation and think that it is okay."

"This is a liberal arts university in an urban area and diversity should be expected," added another Concordia student. "Unfortunately, there are so many close-minded individuals on this campus, and they make it very hard for someone like me to feel comfortable. And that's not right."

Students from St. Thomas had similar grievances. "It's like people just don't believe that I could be gay and a Christian," said one student. "I have been called just about every derogatory term there: faggot, queer, homo, fairy," said another student. This student went on to describe that his car had been vandalized by fellow St. Thomas students. The school never conducted an investigation to find out what happened. One student who was very reluctant to speak with me had this to say: "I came out to my family when I was fifteen years old. When I came to St. Thomas, though, I had to hide who I was. This institution would have a hard time accepting that one of their scholarship athletes is gay."

After listening to these students and hearing what they go through everyday, I felt ill. I honestly felt embarrassed by Concordia and ashamed of its students. I truly hope that the people of Concordia can learn to accept one another and look past labels and stereotypes. As the Native American' proverb says: "Grant that I may not criticize my brother [or sister] until I have walked a mile in his [or her] moccasins."

Ethanol Creates Food Problem

by Matthew Griesentrog

You may recall that in September I wrote an editorial critical of ethanol, specifically in regards to government mandates and subsidies attached to the controversial fuel. The column ignited a firestorm unlike any other column I have ever written, both in this paper and in the conversation of students on campus.

The piece was designed to be both humorous and educational—entertain, if you will. Instead, my attempt at humor did not play well and people were insulted and taken aback.

I wish I had written the article differently, because my point about ethanol was no joke. There's no denying the fact that ethanol is a more expensive and less efficient fuel than gasoline, and an illogical solution to our country's energy crisis that will only create more problems. That being said, I was pleasantly surprised to read the editorial from Michael Miller in the last issue of the Sword. Michael, not a platform Republican by any means, seemed to notice that ethanol production was to blame for an upcoming continental crisis—corn prices.

Michael was absolutely correct in his assessment of corn prices. Not only have corn prices doubled in the last year, but the price of beef has gone up twenty percent on the futures markets in the last six months.

The last few months have done nothing but prove me right about ethanol. Ethanol as a fuel alternative is a terrible idea, and will have disastrous effects on our economy. Commodifying part of the nation's food supply for fuel will cause our food prices to skyrocket. In addition to rising food prices, the heavy tax subsidy of 51 cents a gallon on ethanol will burden the middle class.

How do higher food prices help the American people? That's what I would like to hear from President Bush and Hillary Clinton. The answer is that they don't, of course. But no politician will ever oppose ethanol as long as the Iowa caucuses determines who becomes the President of the United States.

The production and subsequent subsidies of ethanol need to be stopped before corn and beef prices get even higher and begin to cripple our nation.

We who oppose ethanol are not trying to prevent America from solving a national problem; we are trying to point out that the ethanol solution would make the current situation even worse.
Gangelhoff Center's Schedule

Gangelhoff use, beneficial for payment but what about Concordia's students

by Lance Meyer

After thinking for a couple months that we were going to sneak by without winter this year, we are paying for our optimism full force here in February. The cold weather and snow-covered ground that we have been trying to get used to also means that students can't stand to do anything outside. It's too cold outside to go for a jog down Summit Avenue, throw the frisbee around on the Knoll or play a game of volleyball in the outdoor pit. So students turn to the Gangelhoff Center for their exercise and recreation.

Along with a desire to stay inside, the winter weather also brings the busiest months for Concordia athletics in the Gangelhoff Center. All of our sports teams are battling for facility time during their season or off-season training, but the building still has to be paid for at the same time. This is where the problem comes in—I haven't even mentioned where students fit into this already hectic situation.

The Gangelhoff Center was built in 1993 and to avoid a rise in tuition for students, President Holst and others wanted the building to be entirely self-financed. Along with this plan, Concordia created the Conference and Events department to bring in outside organizations and events to help pay for the $4.5 million complex. "The building was a great deal and the perfect size for the number of students and status of Concordia at the time, but it is being quickly outgrown," said Assistant Athletic Director Tom Mauer.

Since its creation, the Conference and Events Department has been run with three main objectives. The first is to maximize the facilities in any way possible, whether that is through use by students or outside organizations. A second is exposure, which Concordia has made leaps in over the past fifteen years. "When I started eleven years ago, people automatically thought of [Concordia College in] Moorhead when they heard the name Concordia, but since then we've put Concordia-St. Paul on the map," said Mauer.

The exposure that Concordia receives from hosting events in the Gangelhoff Center ranging from the NCAA Final Four Slam Dunk Contest to the Minnesota Ripknees Games is very beneficial to our university as a whole. When I was in junior high, I played in the Lutheran State Basketball Tournament and attended the Junior High Youth Gathering here at Concordia, both of which in a way led me to want to come to school here. I probably wouldn't have even looked at Concordia if it hadn't been for those two experiences.

The third objective is to bring in revenue to offset the cost of the building and provide upkeep. This is where the outside sources come into the picture, since the Gangelhoff Center doesn't get any money from our tuition. If we were supporting it with our tuition, we wouldn't need the different organizations to use our facilities, freeing up more room for students, but the downside would be higher tuition.

The use of the Gangelhoff Center by outside organizations also benefits our intercollegiate sports teams substantially. For example, by Concordia allowing 3M to use the Gangelhoff Center on Wednesday nights, the men and women's golf teams receive the use of the practice facilities at Tartan Park Golf Club. In addition, each team and organization here at Concordia is allowed to host an event in the Gangelhoff Center and receive all the profits from it. The money brought in through concessions is another obvious benefit for having outside groups use the facilities as a percentage of the profit goes directly to the team that works the event.

Every year during the busy winter months there are always many complaints about the use of the Gangelhoff Center and how difficult it is for students to use at times. However, this isn't an easily fixed problem as I have explained. But September Nelson is taking some steps on the administration side to improve this situation. She keeps a detailed calendar at the Gangelhoff Center front desk that is just a phone call away and she is also in the process of getting a schedule on the athletic website.

The lack of sufficient space in the Gangelhoff Center for our athletic teams and all our students while maintaining support of the building might always be a problem here at Concordia. Thus it is that much more important for students to understand the situation and work around it the best they can. Have a schedule for your workouts that you know won't have conflicts, or maybe use the soon-to-be-improved Bear Den as an alternative if conflicts do come up. If nothing else, Tom Maurer and September Nelson are always available for suggestions and discussion of the current system.

Would you like to write for the Sword?? You can. Contact hartnetk@csp.edu
Sophomore Leader Helps Propel Program In Right Direction

by Lance Meyer

Last fall, Concordia hired new head track coach Lance Meyer and brought in a more team-oriented group of student athletes to try and propel the team in the right direction. The coaching mindset also changed from being all about great individuals to being all about assembling a great team to compete in the conference and on the national level. Matt Eicheldinger was one of these incoming freshmen, and he is a model for the change in direction the program has taken.

Eicheldinger was recruited by the program’s previous coach allowing him the last year and a half to witness the team to compete in the conference and on the national level, “he said.

Eicheldinger came to Concordia last fall from Montrose, Colorado with a high school record in the 400 meter dash. In his freshman year here, he made one heck of an impact right out of the gates as he earned the conference title in both the 400 meter dash and as part of the 4 x 4 team, and he also set a school record in the 500 meter dash while most other freshmen athletes were still trying to adjust to the change in scenery.

This year, however, Eicheldinger was asked early to make the transition from a 400 runner to an 800 runner which can prove quite difficult at times. “The changes will make me a threat at the national level once my body is able to adjust, and I tip my cap to the coaching staff for seeing it in me,” said Matt about the difficult transition. This is a prime example of the more team oriented philosophy that the coaches have adopted. “They are always looking for ways to make us more competitive as a team,” added Eicheldinger.

Currently nearing the end of the indoor season, Matt’s times in the 400, 600, and 4 x 4 relay are all top five in the conference. When it comes time for the conference meet and he can’t run all four races though, he will run whichever events will give the team the best chance at winning. Seeing his results so far this season, it is evident that the transition initiated by the coaching staff has definitely made Eicheldinger a more dangerous runner individually and more importantly a greater asset to the team’s success.

Pay attention to the success of the up-and-coming track team in the near future as they challenge for a conference championship, but at the same time pay attention to Eicheldinger’s transition into a national contender. There are some exciting years ahead for Eicheldinger and the track program. The sky’s the limit with a team-oriented mentality and hard working individuals.

Timberwolves Game Makes For An Experience

Student benefits from press pass at the Timberwolves game.

by Stephen Batcher

When I was young all I wanted to do was to be a professional athlete, whether it was playing baseball, football, soccer, basketball or even bowled. It always seemed to depend on the season, too. When the leaves began to change colors I put away my bat and glove, donned my Cris Carter jersey and got my pigskin out. I also remember bowling on cold days or shooting hoops at my grade school. Though baseball was my favorite, I loved all the sports. As I got older I fell in love with wrestling, I guess Iowa does that to a boy.

My aspirations of the big time never left, but I did not have the skills in any sport to make it to the big leagues. Thanks to wrestling, weak ankles and bad knees left me slower than ever. Though I have given up hopes of professional athletics I still want to be involved and that is why I have chosen to be a reporter/broadcaster hoping one day to have my own national sports show. Coming here to Concordia University, I did not know how I would make this happen. Recently I was given press passes to a Timberwolves game because of my position on this paper and for that, I am thankful and blessed.

February 14 2007. Yes, it was Valentine’s Day, but this isn’t a sappy love story, although my girlfriend did come all the way from Iowa to surprise me! This was the day I got my first professional press pass from the media ranks. At 4:30 PM, a short left my girlfriend in my room and added to the Target center. The parking was absolutely packed and I didn’t get to the media check-in area till 5:15. I rushed to the media room using my new credentials. The line was long, but I decided to scope out the area, so I headed to the press room to get some refreshments. I was able to find a table, and I ordered two drinks.

I even heard people next to me talking about the Winona State-Concordia Game. The game started at 7:00. The first quarter went by fast, but the game was slow. The crowd seemed dead and so were the teams. Nene for the Nuggets and Mark Blount for the Timberwolves made some shots, but the game was tied once and changed five times. Nene finally made a shot and Carmelo Anthony took over for the Nuggets. Kevin Garnett made some clutch shots, but for most of the game the star was Mark Blount scoring 8 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter hitting several huge shots in a row. He put the team up 91-90, and then 93-92 right after Carmelo made it 92-91.

Randy Foye made a huge bucket, driving to the hole and Kevin Garnett put a game away with late free throws. At the end, the Timberwolves came away with the victory, 99-94.

After the game I listened to the Timberwolves’ press conference and then went into the locker room. I talked with Kevin Garnett, Rashad McCants, and Randy Foye. It was amazing to see these athletes up close. I am very thankful for this experience and I will never forget it.