THREE-PEAT!
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Greetings faculty, staff and students of Concordia University, St. Paul,

As I chug my $5.00 gingerbread latte I think about how the semester is finally almost over, and to be honest I am now basically insane. This is due to the lack of sleep and the massive amount of home work and presentations that take place instead. Now I depend on espresso to make me walk through the days with my eyes at least half open pressing toward the final day when I get to relax. I know you are all thinking the same thing, so do not try and argue.

But through the end of the semester, things good things also, like BREAK, and Christmas. So in this time of frantic insanity all I am looking forward to is December 18th!

Helena Woodruff
Editor-in-Chief
Crime on and Around Campus

By Zara Abdi

On Monday November 16th, the Concordia Security department notified students through e-mail about the increased thefts around and on campus. Dozens of reports have surfaced that unattended items are being taken in areas such as Pearson Commons, Tier Zero, the Gangelhoff, and classrooms. Students have reported that the items being taken are backpacks that contain laptops, iPods, purses, and cell phones. A young woman was attacked and kidnapped at knife-point a few weeks ago and a Concordia student and Sword editor was attacked while walking, by a number of boys. The reports of these disturbing activities have been worrisome for Concordia students and staff.

The young woman that was kidnapped for a short while at knife-point was standing in front of the Super America gas station on Portland and Snelling a few weeks ago. She was getting gas, and when she finished fueling her car, the attacker let himself into her car by opening the passenger door. He shoved a knife in her side and yelled at her to "start your car and drive," then ordered her to drive to Yankee Doodle Road in Eagan. The attacker then took off with her purse and keys and got into the car that was following them. The victim is now home safe, but is suffering from emotional and physical trauma that may take some time getting over.

Concordia student and Sword editor, Brennan Blomgren was attacked by juvenile delinquents while he was walking down Hamline Ave. The young men walked up to him and punched him in the face and then laughed. Brennan ran away thinking they were going to do something worse. The young men were arrested by authorities because they had posted video of the beatings on YouTube.

The numerous crime reports on and around campus have become something to be wary about. I as a commuter am definitely disturbed by this because I stand on the bus-stop by the gas station every evening to catch a bus home. As a security reminder we should all be aware of activities around us, never leave items unattended and if we see suspicious people loitering and hanging around campus, we should notify security immediately.

Dr. Chatman Receives Alumni Achievement Award

By Eman Abdullahi

On October 17th, Executive Vice President and Dean of Diversity, Dr. Cheryl Chatman received the Alumni Achievement Award from her alma mater, Iowa State University, College of Human Sciences. Dr. Chatman received the award in recognition of her commendable achievements in the areas of business and industry, education, family, and consumer sciences, and health. When asked what the award meant to her, Dr. Chatman replied, "It is very rewarding to have an institution that you have matriculated, affirm your accomplishments and contributions to society.

This award is particularly valuable to Dr. Chatman because her nomination came from the mentor that inspired her as an undergraduate. "To have been nominated by my advisor makes it even more special because she is the one individual that I have worked closely with and for us to have maintained contact and our relationship for over 30 years is very special to me," said Dr. Chatman.

When asked to provide words of advice to the students of Concordia, Dr. Chatman said, "Treat people the way you would want your parents or any one you care for to be treated. Be responsible; let your word be your bond. Whatever you say you're going to do, do it. That's the key to being successful. People should set high goals for themselves and follow through on these. Go as far as you can in the giving of yourself and the rest should come."
Concordia and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

All About the Morris Family

By Annie Pitschka

Known as “Tia Sandy” by her daycare kids, Sandy Morris is providing high-quality daycare at a lower cost. Sandy began her career as an early childhood teacher in the St. Paul Public School system, but when she was expecting her first child she discovered the lack of affordable, quality daycare in her neighborhood.

For the past fourteen years, Sandy has been providing daycare out of her home for both her children and the children of her neighbors. She charges just enough to support her family, but her home is hanging on by pieces. Several repairs are desperately needed including fixing the leaking roof, sinking floor, and separating porch.

Despite the noticeable deterioration, daycare parents said the condition of the house didn’t matter, Sandy’s care is top notch and that was more important to them. Sandy teaches Spanish and English, explaining why the kids call her “Tia”, which means aunt in Spanish.

In addition, she volunteers at a kids summer dance club called El Arco Iris. Every day after class the children are welcome to have lunch and play at her house until their parents get off work - free of charge. Needless to say, Sandy has been giving to her community for over 14 years and now has been blessed with a new home provided by Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

When the producers of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition approached a handful of St. Paul colleges and universities about providing scholarships for the family whose home they were in town to renovate, Concordia University, St. Paul seized the opportunity. On Wednesday, Extreme Homes host Ty Pennington surprised Sandy Morris and her children, Mychal (12) and Catricia (15), with the news that their higher education dreams were now secure thanks to full-ride scholarships being provided by Concordia University, St. Paul.

After the big reveal on Friday, Oct. 9, the Morris family spent their first night in their new home. They met with the home builder and other groups who contributed in many different ways to the makeovers at a brief (and chilly) outdoor press conference on Saturday afternoon. Executive vice president Dr. Cheryl Chatman presented the family with gifts from Concordia and shared the University’s pleasure at being able to offer scholarships to a family that reflects Concordia’s values of making a difference in the lives of individuals and the community.

“The Morrises are a very special family,” Chatman said. “I think Concordia University is an excellent fit for Mychal and Catricia, and they will be outstanding members of our campus community when they join us here.”

CSP students Anne Pitschka, Emily Stanzyk and Abby Nielsen also had the opportunity to volunteer at the site early Friday morning as the team put the finishing touches on the house before the Friday afternoon reveal. Although a specific date has not yet been determined, the program featuring the Morris family is expected to air sometime in January 2010.

CSP students Anne Pitschka, Emily Stanzyk and Abby Nielsen had to wear white hard hats and Blue Extreme Makeover: Home Edition t-shirts while volunteering on site. They vacuumed up trash throughout the house, put away temporary doors, swept the garage and hauled mulch to the playground area, cleaned hard hats, dressed out breakfast and carried away garbage to the dumpster.

The girls show off their t-shirts after their 3am-8am volunteer shift. When asked about the experience, Amanda said, “I was able to witness the community really coming together to help out a family in need. It is an experience I am proud to be a part of.”

The program featuring the Morris family is expected to air sometime in January 2010.
5 Easy Christmas Gifts
How to Show Loved Ones (and Your Wallet) That You Care
By T.G. Schoeberg

Christmas is often viewed as the “most wonderful time of the year,” a time for family, traditions, and celebration. Another famous phrase, “it is better to give than receive,” can also be heard this time of year, a time for family, traditions, and celebration. Another famous...
Inside Scoop:
Lacrosse in Concordia's Future
By William Lange

According to an inside source, a new club sport may soon be offered at Concordia—lacrosse. Athletic Director Tom Rubbelke has already met with a potential coach. Concordia is moving forward with the men's and women's varsity lacrosse programs, but these will not be NCAA counting programs.

Although Concordia would not be competing in the NSIC, the teams will still have a great opportunity to succeed. The competition would most likely be from Minnesota schools that already have a lacrosse team. Along with lacrosse, men's soccer has a opportunity to be a club sport again at Concordia. These new additions should attract popularity to the university and encourage higher enrollment.
THREE-PEAT!

Concordia University volleyball, national champions once again!

By Stephen Lybeck

Saint Paul, MN-The Gangelhoff Center was packed to capacity by a crowd roaring with energy. Fans fought for a view of the Concordia volleyball team in their quest to achieve the unthinkable—a third straight National Championship!

The tournament kicked off with Concordia's defeat of the University of Indianapolis in the NCAA quarterfinal on December 4th, 2009. The following day the Golden Bears defeated the #2 ranked Cal State San Bernardino in the championship semifinal. Finally the Golden Bears defeated the Lady Buffs of West Texas A&M 3-0 on Saturday December 5th, 2009, to become the NCAA Division II champions once again.

In the championship match on December 5th, 2009 both teams started off hesitant at first. The tension was visible as the significance of the match suddenly became a realization to the twelve women on the court. After a few dives and spikes, Concordia started to get going. Texas responded with strong play, but the hard fought first set went to the Golden Bears.

The defense for Concordia—like always—was outstanding! "Tonight they played composed; we let our defense do the talking for us," said Coach Starkey. The Lady Buffs played exceptional on defense as well, but every long rally or hard fought point seemed to always go in the Bears favor.

The head coach for Texas, Jason Skroch said, "The reason why Concordia is good is they just make less errors." After taking the first set 25-18, the Bears didn't let off the throttle. Concordia went on to take the second set in identical fashion (25-18).

With the team up 2-0 behind then energy of the home crowd, it just felt like there was no way Concordia would lose. Separating themselves 21-9 in the third set, Concordia could smell the victory.

The Lady Buffs battled back late, but junior Emily Palkert ended their late rally with the championship kill. The team celebrated with one another for a few seconds before being cloaked by diehards from the stands. Shortly after, Emily said "This is incredible! It hasn't even sunk in yet." "It's indescribable," said senior Sadie Kessler.

Coach Starkey said, "They are unreal. They played so hard every night no matter what team they played. That's all you can ask for as a coach." With a ridiculous win streak of 74 straight games, what else is there to discuss.

"We just stuck to our game," said Junior Megan Carlson. Transfering from Marshall University, Carlson has proved to be a tremendous addition to the squad this year; she was named to the NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team as well as Cassie Haag, Emily Palkert, and seniors Mary Slinger and Maggie McNamara.

Concordia has solidified their existence as a dynasty in NCAA division II volleyball. At the post-tournament press conference, McNamara said, "When we're on, there is no stopping us." That certainly proved to be the case.

Now that the season is through the Golden Bear volleyball team will have to say goodbye to valuable seniors Mary Slinger, Maggie McNamara, and Sadie Kessler.

Congratulations to the team on their outstanding effort!
Lady Bluff's Season

By Kevin Winge

The West Texas A&M Lady Buffs had a tremendous season coming out of the Lone Star Conference. This was A&M's 5th consecutive and 20th overall tournament appearance.

Three Lady Buffs were named to the all-tournament team; Laura Prinsen, Katie Rickwardz and Melissa Harper. Rickwardz said, "The things we've been able to accomplish this season, it's what you become a college athlete to do. I got to play against the best team in the nation in the national championship. It's hard to take a loss anytime, but they were the best of the best, and if you are going to lose, you want it to be against a team like that."

Head coach Jason Skoch commented on the team's championship performance: "I'm very proud of the effort of the team," said head coach Jason Skoch. "The score was closer than it appeared in the sense that we gave away a lot of points on errors." They ended their season with a 39-4 overall record (including the national championship) making it to their first national championship since 1997.
2009 VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

THIRD ROUND
November 21 and 22
Sat. 11/21  Final
1. Dowling  3
3. Bridgeport  1

QUITERFINALS
December 3
Thurs. 12/3  Final
1. Dowling  0
2. Flagler  3

Sun. 11/22  Final
1. Wingate  1
2. Flagler  3

S E M I F I N A L  C H A M P I O N S H I P
Fri. 12/4  Final
2. Flagler  1
3. West Tex. A&M  3

Sat. 11/21  Final
1. Central Mo.  1
3. West Tex. A&M  3

Sat. 11/21  Final
1. California (PA)  1
2. Lock Haven  1

Sat. 11/21  Final
1. California (PA)  3
2. Lock Haven  1

THIRD ROUND
November 21 and 22
Sat. 11/21  Final
3. Tampa  1
0. Saint Leo  2

QUITERFINALS
December 3
Thurs. 12/3  Final
1. Tampa  1
3. CSU San B’Dino  1

Fri. 12/4  Final
1. CSU San B’Dino  1
3. Concent. St. Paul  1

Sat. 11/21  Final
3. Concent. St. Paul  1
0. Metro St.  7

Thurs. 12/3  Final
3. Concent. St. Paul  1
0. Indianapolis  1

Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final
Hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul
St. Paul, Minnesota
Announcing Six-Sentence Writing Contest Winners

Stories submitted to the Writing Club and SixSentences.com Writing Contest were judged by SixSentences.com creator and editor Robert McEvily. Contest winners are as follows...

**THE 5 WINNERS OF $20.00:**
- Eman Abdullahi - "All of a Sudden"
- Rachel Kuhnle - "To Answer Your Question"
- Thomas Schoenberg - "In Dad’s Closet"
- Joshua Stebbins - "Transmogrification"
- Chloe Weinberg - "Mountains"

**THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF $100.00:**
- Sai Schandorf - "A Man"

The goal of the Writing Club is to help foster an appreciation for creative writing on campus. For more information or if you would like to be added to the email list, email Rachel Kuhnle at kuhnler@csp.edu

"All of a Sudden"
By Eman Abdullahi

And all of a sudden I’m not young anymore. And all of a sudden I think too much but none of these thoughts are right. And all of a sudden I’m drowning and everyone is watching. And all of a sudden I burst into embarrassing, messy, body wracking, tears. And all of a sudden I don’t know if God really exists. And all of a sudden I know what it’s like to miss.

"To Answer Your Question"
By Rachel Kuhnle

"There’s a picture of us right after a run, me and him, after the first river run we went on since it got warmer, which is funny ‘cause by the time we took the picture, the rain had turned to snow. I look terrible... I mean, no makeup or anything, plus I’m moving to hug him so...I’m a blur. And we were both freezing ‘cause the snow caught us off guard. But I see him in that picture—I see his smile, ice crystals in his beard, his eyes are wet and warm—and you know, when he holds you in his eyes he holds you in a bear hug or a big, sloppy kiss—and he glows in the flash from the camera. When I miss him, I think of that picture. I mean, it’s not that I look at that picture and miss him—to answer your question, I really miss him every day."

"In Dad’s Closet"
Thomas Schoenberg

Everything was suddenly very quiet. I watched him as his breath was stolen away, as his balance left him, and as he fell. I froze, confused. He was choking now, and I slowly regained my senses. I rushed over and knelt close, but it was too late. Apparently it was loaded.

"Mountains"
Chloe Weinberg

The ribbon of pavement winds steadily ahead, in and out of an unwavering presence that humbles us all. The Texas humidity and our skepticism roll away as we rise higher among the mountains and drift farther South. Hushed birds, not flapping as though on schedule, but soaring between layers of heat and wind sail against a vast blue canvas. Torn from my mind and back on to four wheels by the familiar scent of cigarettes and hunger, heaving silently forward in uneven waves from the seat behind me. He cries, his broken breath and running nose consume the recycled air of which the three of us share. The four sympathetic eyes of my sister and I locked mutually ahead, while the perpetually clenched knuckles of his battered disposition regain color with a long awaited exhale.

"Transmogrification"
by Joshua Stebbins

I’m a cube. A cubed individual working in a cubical, driving around in a cube of steel and alloy, coming home to sit plastered in front of another cube. A damn cuboidal life. How I envy that rolling stone with no home that gathers no moss, that oval with no worries or concerns ever falling forwards. Or to be a nice triangle, with angles pointing all right, perhaps. But this life only takes cubes, hammered through with great efficiency, leaving me hungrily leering at that bean bag toss.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

"A Man"
By Sai Schandorf

There’s a man on the corner with dirty clothing and bad breath. I drove past him because he’s a stranger. He holds a cardboard plaque that represents his victory over pride. He hasn’t had to spell anything, but “help” for years. One day he’ll be gone and we won’t have to fidget at stoplights anymore. For now, you avoid eye contact although his sign will never drop.

Novelist Rick Moody, filmmaker Neil LaBute, and comedian David Wain - all contributors to Six Sentences, Volume 2.
Two-Day Directing One-Act Festival
Compiled by Rachel Kuhnle and Mimi Alanen

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 6:30PM

Libation Bearers by Aeschylus
Directed by Alex Heetland, starring JP Kostecki, Jo Gimble, Shelly Schwalm, Beth Albrecht, Mina Souvannasoth, Jackie Wiebold, Ariel Gittens, Anna Fink, and Rachel Kuhnle

A Greek drama, the plot of The Libation Bearers surrounds the return home of Orestes, the hope of the House of Atreus, as he seeks revenge upon his mother, Clytemnestra, for the death of his father, Agamemnon. A chorus of slave women narrates the conflicts and trials as the action unfolds.

Abelard and Heloise by Ronald Millar
Directed by Jo Gimbel, starring Andrew Eckhardt, Christine Mennicke, Josh Pehl, Shane Birzter, and Alex Heetland

Set in twelfth century Paris, Peter Abelard is a scholar and philosopher adored by all his students and much of France. As a man who is expected to remain celibate in dedication to his academics and to the church, Abelard is successful for his first 37 years. But when he meets Heloise, the niece of a Catholic canon, her intelligence, wit, and beauty creates a difficult barrier for his once easy promise of chastity. When Heloise becomes pregnant, there is no turning back and the debate begins: should they marry, and in doing so, ruin the reputation of Abelard? This and more questions are raised in the historically-based story of true love in the Middle Ages.

Dog Sees God: The Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead by Bert V. Royal
Directed by Amanda Snyder, starring Josh Stebbins, Andy Swenson, Lauren Awe, Kelley Lee, Ellie Hemmingson, Sara Peterson, and JP Kostecki

A parody, Dog Sees God imagines the lives of the classic Peanuts characters as teenagers. After the death of his dog to rabies, "CB" begins to question life, death, and everything in between. He seeks comfort from his sister, a goth, "Tricia" and Marcy, who enjoy vodka with their school lunches, Matt, recognizable as "Pig-Pen," who is now aPurell-addicted germaphobic, and "Lucy," who has been institutionalized for setting the Little Red-Haired Girl's hair on fire. Outside of CB's immediate circle is the mysterious outcast "Beethoven." Throughout the play, "CB" discovers and rediscovers drugs, sex, and violence all against the backdrop of the Peanuts franchise.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 6:30PM

Some Girl(s) by Neil LaBute
Directed by Diana Woodruff, starring Dan Sailer, and Anna Fink

On the verge of finally settling down and getting married, a writer, identified only as "Guy," decides to visit former girlfriends he has wronged in the past. Among these women are Sam, a high school sweetheart he dumped just before prom night, Tyler, a free-spirited sexual "plaything," Lindsay, an older, fire-and-ice college professor, and Bobbi, the one who got away. But what Guy's motives, really? And who, if anyone, can be trusted?

The Miss Firecracker Contest by Beth Henley
Directed by Bethany Wisce, starring Lauren Berlin-Burns, Chris Kotlarek, Mimi Alanen, Christine Mennicke, Josh Stebbins and Beth Albrecht

When her cousin Delmount decides to sell the house they grew up in, Carnelle is inspired to correct her tarnished reputation in the small Mississippi town by winning the Miss Firecracker Contest and leaving in a "blaze of glory!" The family and friends who help her along the way include her tipsy ex-beauty queen cousin Elain, who seeks to escape her unhappy marriage, Elain's brother Delmount, just released from a mental institution, Carnelle's seamstress friend Popeye, a sweet hillbilly who has a crush on Delmount, Mac Sam, an old flame from Carnelle's past, and Tessy Mahoney, the "ugliest girl in town."

Little Murders by Jules Feiffer
Directed by Rachel Kuhnle, starring Brittany Pitts, Cristopher Gibson, and Elizabeth Ehlenz

- Despite all odds, amidst a series of random shootings, garbage strikes, electrical outages, and crank calls by perverts, Patsy, a cheerful, die-hard optimist, and Alfred, a nihilist avant-garde photographer famous for his photography series featuring "shit," fall in love—or something like that. But after a disastrous first meeting with Patsy's family and a wedding that ends in a fistfight, Patsy and Alfred find themselves in an ideological fisticuff...when tragedy strikes.

Don't Drink the Water by Woody Allen
Directed by Becky Erickson, starring Dan Sailer, Brittany Pitts, AJ Longabaugh, Kelley Lee, Mimi Alanen and Mina Souvannasoth

This comedic farce by Woody Allen is set in the United States Embassy of an undisclosed communist country. Tourists Walter, Marion and Susan Holland are forced to seek asylum from the Communist police when they are suspected of being American spies. The Hollanders are granted asylum at the US Embassy, supervised by the bumbling diplomat Axel Magee. There they meet Mother Drobney, a nun who has been living in the Embassy for six years. With the help of Axel and Drobney, the Hollanders stage their escape under the guise of an intoxicated middle-eastern princess.

The directing class will present their semester projects as a series of one act plays in the Westlund black box theatre Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 at 6:30pm. This is a free event open to all of campus. The plays presented are as follows. *Disclaimer—some shows contain coarse language, violent content, and strong sexual content.
Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Come to the Art Club Christmas sale!

By Christine Mennicke

Earlier this week, Art Club continued its tradition of sponsoring an on-campus Christmas sale in the Meyer Hall tunnel.

This sale was a great opportunity for Art Club members to show off their talent. Half of the profits from each piece sold went to the artist, and the other half go to benefit Art Club. Many of the items were made specifically for the sale, but some items may be projects that students created over the course of the semester as a part of a class.

Students prepared sale cards, prints, photos, paintings, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, knitted items, and ornaments. Some of the money made from the art sale will go to help fund a Chicago trip over Spring break. The group will explore the art scene accompanied by art professor Alonso Sierralta.

The art sale was just one way the Art Club helps exhibit the hard work of Concordia students.

Need a Change of Scene During Finals Week?

By William Lange

This weekend I made a trip to the St. Paul Public Library in downtown St. Paul. Upon arriving, the view of the historic site was remarkable. However, the view lost its appeal after seeing it for a half hour—the time it took me to park. Once inside, the building's historic interior design makes for a great learning environment. Although the floors look a type of Arctic-Brown Granite, they are actually made of a soft rubber. This came to me as a surprise after I dropped my phone and it bounced back up to me. These rubber floors not only create some safety but also dampen the noise of most shoes. The quiet floors help to reduce distractions.

Once I finished doing my prep-work, I needed help locating and accessing information. The librarian was more than willing to assist me. He quickly got materials I requested and showed interest in my subject of study. He was also able to point me in the direction of more helpful information. The librarian was also able to quickly teach me how to find information in case he wasn't there in the future.

Once I had all my materials, finding a place to study was very simple. In the library, there were multiple full length tables, each furnished with two built in lamps for maximum lighting. The full length tables allow one to spread out all their materials to study without cramping. For the materials that aren't allowed to be taken out, copies were allowed to be made. At twenty-five cents a copy, one needs to be precise if they wish to make multiple copies. Fortunately, one is only charged for the copies they wish to keep, and the other copies are recycled at no charge. There was no charge for parking on the street because it was Sunday. Aside from buying copies, my trip cost me nothing—no admission.

For convenience, I give the library 4 out of 5 Will Lange Hearts—there are 3 other libraries between there and Concordia, counting the Concordia library. Parking was hard to find but the location is just off the freeway with signs pointing the way. For looks, I give the library 5 out of 5 Will Lange Hearts. No other library in the city comes close in size and structure. For service I give the library 5 out of 5 Will Lange Hearts because I loved it that much. There were multiple workers on each floor ready and waiting to help.

If you'd like a change of scene during finals week, I recommend the St. Paul Public Library.
Adventures in Frugality, In Time for the Holidays

In search of the ultimate thrifting experience

By Chloe Weinberg

With our economy in shambles these days, everyone is looking for ways to save money. Not showering, diluting ketchup with water, and wearing Snuggies in lieu of turning on the heat are all viable options, but when it comes to cutting back, nothing beats shopping at a thrift store. Some of us have been digging through filthy clothes since springing forth from the womb, but others are new to the game. There are good thrift stores and terrible thrift stores, but how do you know which is which? If you're a "n00b," thrifting can be overwhelming, confusing, dirty, and downright unpleasant. This is why I, a financially-challenged young adult just like you, took to the streets to evaluate four popular thrift stores. My rating system is 1 to 5...but I never rate that high.

Salvation Army Thrift Store - Unidale Mall

Housed in Unidale Mall, alongside Dollar Plus, Inc., Earth's Beauty Supply (which has an amazing selection of wigs/framed Tupac posters), and that fish place with all the neon coating and smell of its competitors, it also lacked the unmistakable thrift store atmosphere. Quite frankly, I was bored. Somewhere between here and Unique lies the perfect balance of eccentricity and peace of mind. However with its general shabbiness, Unidale is curiously charming and indescribably delightful. Visiting here is like going to grandma's house. If grandma was, you know, unwashed and crazy. Beware, however—you may be asked for money. More than once. Overall impression: 2

Unique Thrift Store - Rice & Larpenteur

First of all, the parking lot is a nightmare. If, by some absurd flight of fancy, you see a good parking space, you will get in 14 almost-accidents trying to get there. The store is always hot and stuffy, despite multiple ceiling fans. Unique is always crowded; you are always in someone's way and someone is always in your way. Lots of creepy men—ladies, I recommend you don't go alone. Pulsating Reggaeton beats emit from the back of the store, adding much needed groove to the shopping experience. Good selection of naked Barbies, shoes (particularly children's cowboy boots), and romance novels. The quality of stock at Unique is pretty good, but its grade is hurt by the undeniably gross overall impression: 4

St. Vincent de Paul Store - W. 7th & Goodrich

Parallel parking may be necessary, but it's worth it. No, St. Vinnie's is not classy... or well lit, or easily navigated, but the prices are low and the creepers are scarce—most shoppers are harmless middle-aged women. The front of the store houses the clothes, cookware, and games, while a short trek lands you in a huge garage/basement area where rollerblades, furniture, lamps, and Christmas decorations are kept. St. Vinnie's is overcrowded and messy, but not for lack of trying. It's organized as best it can be, but there's just too much stuff for such a little space. The checkout line is exceptionally slow, due to both ancient electronic devices (read: calculators) and chatty customers. Good selection of shoes, books, buttons, and plates. Here's a plus—it's within walking distance of Sophie Joe's Emporium, Visual Addiction Tattoo & Piercing, and Marahaja's! Overall Impression: 3.5

Goodwill - Fairview & Charles

There is ample fluorescent lighting to guide your way, a notable lack of disarray and debris, and an overall feeling of sophistication. Well, as sophisticated a feeling as possible in a place known on the streets as "Hoodwill." The knock knock shelves were rather discombobulated, but that's entirely due to the fault of careless customers (like myself). All that said, this shopping trip wasn't nearly as enjoyable as the others. Though Goodwill lacked the greasy coating and smell of its competitors, it also lacked the unmistakable thrift store atmosphere. Quite frankly, I was bored. Somewhere between here and Unique lies the perfect balance of eccentricity and peace of mind. However I complain about questionable shopping conditions, it's just not a thrift store without them. Overall Impression: 3

Don't Stop Believing

America has fallen in love with the music of Fox's new show, Glee

By Erin Rudolph

America has fallen in love with the music of Fox's new show, Glee.

For high school students, participating in Glee Club has been akin to willingly commit social suicide; performing legendary Broadway tunes onstage while doing high kicks and jazz hands is not a typical teenager's idea of "cool." In the past few months, however, this image has changed dramatically as Fox's breakout show Glee has made being a nerd cool again. Not only did they take an entire collection of popular songs and classic show tunes and turn them into campy campfire anthems, they have managed to infuse the show with a lets-get-dirty-I-don't-care feeling that is the stuff of which dreams are made.

The album opens up with the song that originally started the "Gleeck" (the nickname given to fans of the show, which is a shortening of the phrase "Glee geek") phenomenon last spring. The cast's rendition of the Journey classic "Don't Stop Believing," is wonderfully pleasing, seamlessly mixing choral techniques with mainstream rock ideas. The familiar piano melody that opens the original song is still present, except this time the human voices become the instruments that bring forth the melody. This is a powerful tribute to the impact of the human voice, as the melody can be clearly heard and recognized. This song has become a sort of an anthem for the show—no matter how the fledgling glee club struggles to find its place at the high school, they never give up.

One of the most notable solo performances is a rendition of "Bust a Move" performed by Matthew Morrison, who plays the Glee Club's staff advisor, high school math teacher Will Schuster. Morrison, a Tony-nominated actor who got his big break performing as Link Larkin in the musical Hairspray on Broadway, demonstrates that he can not only sing, but also rap and pull off some impressive dance moves. Another Broadway star who makes her presence known is Lea Michele, who portrays the overly perky aspiring actress Rachel Berry on the show. Her amazing duet in "No Air" with costar Cory Monteith only solidifies the public's love affair with her voice that began on Broadway in Spring Awakening. Sadly, not everything can be perfect, as the album carries a number of lackluster duds that entertain but do not wow the public. One such track is a version of "Gold Digger" by Kanye West, rapped by Morrison on the show. Although Morrison must be given some credit for attempting to bring the song to the Glee scene, his rapping skills are put to better use on "Bust a Move." Another Broadway star, Kristin Chenoweth, makes an appearance on the show as a washed up former Glee club diva; naturally, the album contains a few tracks from this encounter. Although Chenoweth received rave reviews for her performance as Glinda in Wicked on Broadway, her annoyingly nasal voice serves up a thin performance when compared to Michele. Thankfully, Chenoweth is limited to only two tracks on the album, one of which is a duet with Morrison.

Overall, there are a few pieces of coal that lie amongst the diamonds in this first volume of songs from Glee, but that does not diminish the overall appeal of the album. Glee has struck gold, and America has taken the bait most willingly, leaving the first album sold out in stores across the country within its first week of release. One can only wait with anticipation until the second volume is released sometime before the holidays arrive. Glee airs on Fox at 8 p.m. on Wednesday nights.
Frosty the Snowman
This classic cartoon movie was watched yearly in my household. The movie was played on rotation with several other movies, but this one stands out as my personal favorite. THUMBS UP

Miracle of 34th Street
I only saw the 1994 version, which I loved. I enjoyed the big parades and the hilarious characters in it. The end always made my mom tear up a little bit, which is always the sign of a good movie. THUMBS UP

A Christmas Carol
A Christmas classic, this movie has many different versions. I've seen three different versions, each with their own unique spin on the tale, but each time I see this movie I love it. This movie is where one of my brothers got the nickname Jacob Marley, so my family thinks about this movie a lot. THUMBS UP

A Charlie Brown Christmas
I LOVE CHARLIE BROWN and all the specials. The Christmas special is my favorite. My family bought the movie along with the soundtrack when I was pretty young and when the TV isn't playing, the soundtrack is. Around Christmas time, the house is full of Charlie Brown Christmas music. THUMBS UP

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
We have the cartoon version in my house, but it was never a big deal. There were about five other cartoon movies that we watched around this time of the year that I enjoyed a lot more than this one. I never liked the Grinch, even with the happy ending. THUMBS UP

White Christmas
This movie is a HUGE deal in my household. We watch it for the first time on Thanksgiving Day after eating and naps. My entire family watches it, most of us sing along to it, and throughout the year we watch it many, many times. THUMBS DOWN

It's a Wonderful Life
Again, it's not that this movie is bad, it's that it was never a big deal in my house so I've forgotten about it. This movie is on TV all the time during the Christmas season, but I've never really connected to it. It might have something to do with Jimmy Stewart and his voice. THUMBS DOWN

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
This was another cartoon played in my house on rotation. I loved this one because it was claymation which was different from the other cartoons we watched. Plus, the songs are fantastic. THUMBS UP

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
Another claymation holiday movie. These songs were some that have stayed with me all my life, and one of them is even an inside joke within my family. THUMBS UP
News Briefs

World Nooz: North Korea asks Santa for South Korea
By Brennan Blomgren

Along with a long list items, including an endless amount of nuclear weapons, the perfect invincible army and the Moon, North Korea had South Korea as their first choice as a Christmas Present from Santa.

Recognizing that the UN will never make North Korea truly happy, they turned this week to Kris “Santa Clause” Kringle, a man whom they believe to be a greater power. After numerous attempts to take control of South Korea, it seems that Kim Jong-II may finally be able to achieve his goal. “PRAISE SANTA!” Jong-II said to a roaring crowd on Thursday. “SANTA GOOD!”

When questioned on the matter, Mr. Claus gave no official statement regarding whether or not he would give North Korea its wishes. “I’m looking into it...” he remarked. “I have to decide whether or not North Korea is naughty or nice.”

Lack of Snow Due to Administrative Cutbacks
By Brennan Blomgren

December is here, and many students are wondering why there has been such a small amount of snow over the past winter. In a startling announcement Wednesday, a CSP administrator confirmed that the lack of snow is due to further CSP budget cuts.

“Many students would often enjoy the very seasonal environment that they would experience in the winter, what with Minnesota’s traditional abundance of snow,” said the administrator. “But due to extensive budget cuts this year, we can no longer afford to include the festive snowfall that students usually expect.”

This does not mean we will have no snow,” said CSP Theater Co-Chair and Scenery Designer Jim Seemann. “Concordia will still have plenty around... just considerably less than usual.”

“I should know,” Seemann said. “I’ve been making it all in tscope shop.”

HO-HO-HOAX?
Skeptics Say Santa “Isn’t Real”
By T.G. Schoenberg

He sees you when you’re sleeping, He knows when you’re awake, He knows if you’ve been bad or good, but some people think he’s fake. For centuries, a debate has raged between the faithful and the jaded: is Santa Claus real? Both sides harbor very firm beliefs that they are correct in their assumptions, but I think it’s time we drew a line in the snow and settled this dispute once and for all.

Stories of Santa have emanated through history as early as the 5th century. Saint Nicholas of Myra is the basis for the Christian interpretation of Santa Claus; he was known originally as a secret gift giver, as he would do things like drop coins into people’s stockings at night, thus becoming revered in both the Catholic and Orthodox religions worldwide, Saint Nicholas is the model for the modern Santa Claus. His two most prominent traits are his naughty or nice? Again, easy: he has spies. Santa doesn’t live in the North Pole by himself, you know. Sure Mrs. Claus is there to hold him to his strict cookie diet, but Santa also lives with elves. Elves, along with the help of mall Santas (not including Billy Bob Thornton), keep an eye on everyone year-round. Two weeks before Christmas, they tally up your nice acts against your not-so-nice ones and see how they add up. After December 11th, however, your record stands the way it is. Don’t think they’re watching you? Hope you like coal.

Finally, the last question: if Santa is real, how come no one has ever seen him? Well let’s see, add up the fact that he comes in the middle of the night with how he knows if you’re asleep or awake, and it’s pretty obvious that he comes when you’re sleeping. If you stay up all night waiting to see him, then you’re a tool, and you won’t get your presents.

Presented with this irrefutable evidence, hopefully now you see the light. Santa Claus is real, and if you don’t believe in him, he uses your parents as surrogates for gift-giving. The only difference is instead of getting cool presents, he makes them buy you bad clothes. So be sure to get in all of your good deeds before December 11th, and have a Merry Christmas.

One of these holidays was from the ancient Babylon; it was the worshiping of the son of Isis on the day December 25th. The Second holiday was from Norse and their celebration called Jul or as many people know it as Yule. This holiday was when the Norse believed that the god Ingvi Freyr rode on his boar and brought Light and Love to the world. It also signifies the beginning and end of all things. The third holiday was from the Romans and their celebration called Saturnalia, this is to honor Saturn the god of agriculture. On December 25th Romans celebrated Mithra, the Sun god. This was the most important holiday for the Romans and they went all out for this holiday.

There are many similarities of all these pagan holidays in Christmas. Christmas to the tiny detail can be traced to one of these holidays. The tree from the Norse, and the king of kings and the son of god from the name that the Romans use to call their emperors, Babylon influenced Judaism and everyone knows that Jesus and his disciples were Jewish.

Even through Christianity vehemently condemns Paganism, Christmas combines three big pagan cultures (Roman, Babylon, and Norse) together. Not many people know this but it is true. Christianity did not create Christmas but took some ideas from other religions into their own showing that even though they condemn other religions they were open to ideas from other cultures and religions.
Happy Belated Birthday

By Eman Abdullahi

Christmas, whose name is derived from the Mass of Christ - a mass service called Eucharist where Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, is celebrated on December 25th and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. However, the birthday of Jesus is not given in the Bible, so why is it celebrated on the 25th of December? In fact, it has been hypothesized that Jesus wasn’t born in the winter but in the spring or the autumn. It can get very cold in the winter and it’s unlikely that the shepherds would have been keeping sheep out on the hills in the winter.

Christmas was first celebrated on December 25th in the 4th century. The first Christian Roman Emperor Constantine chose the date because the Winter Solstice and the pagan Roman festivals called ‘Saturnalia’ and ‘Dies Natalis Solis Invicti’ took place in December. The Winter Solstice, often referred to as Yule in parts of Northern Europe, occurs between December 22nd and the 25th and held great importance for the pagans. It is the day where there is the shortest time between the sun rising and the sun setting. This indicated that winter was over and spring was coming.

The pagan festival Dies Natalis Solis Invicti means “birthday of the unconquered sun” and was held on December 25th after the Winter Solstice. As the days grew longer, it was thought to be the birthday of the sun. The early Christians gave the festival a new meaning - to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, “the unconquered Son”.

There is another good reason why the 25th may have been chosen. March 25th was a celebration of spring and new life to the pagans and the Early Christians took this day over as the day when Mary was told she would have a special baby, Jesus. This day is referred to as Annunciation and is still celebrated by modern day Christians. Nine months after March 25th is December 25th, and thus we have Christmas.

Christmas

Brought to you by: Coca-Cola and good ol’ fashioned Capitalist Consumerism

By Ashley Marzolf

Think about Christmas. What pops into your head? I am willing to bet that one of the images was a big, fat, rosy-cheeked, snowy haired, jolly looking Santa Claus. Now why on earth do you have that perception? I’ll tell you. Coca-Cola. Yep, that’s right. Santa Claus was created by Coke in 1931. Before then people had various interpretations on what the bringer of holiday cheer looked like. Some thought he was a tiny elf-like creature, others depicted him as a bishop, and still others thought he looked like a Norse hunter. How, might you ask, did Coke manage to squelch this wondrous diversity? Advertising! Now, why in the heck would a beverage company want to advertise with Santa? The answer is obvious to anyone familiar with Capitalism. TO SELL MORE COKE! Apparently, people were not purchasing enough Coca-Cola during the colder months, and what better way to change that than to plaster the icon synonymous with winter drinking a coke onto every popular magazine. Needless to say, the campaign worked, and the face of Christmas has been forever changed. Yay Capitalism!

On the same note, I’m sure when I said think about Christmas you’ll thought about presents. It’s okay admit it; I do it too. Christmas is supposed to evoke the spirit of giving, and give we do. Retailers make twenty percent of their annual income during the holiday season alone.

In an attempt to increase this percentage, advertising for Christmas shopping started earlier than ever this year. Right after Halloween, stores had their Christmas merchandise on the floor, and commercials announcing layaway options for early Christmas shopping aired. What happened to Thanksgiving? There was a time in the not-so-distant past, where Christmas was not mentioned until after Thanksgiving. There was a time in the not-so-distant past, where Christmas was not mentioned until after Thanksgiving. It was early November, and I was being harassed by a Salvation Army bell ringer! I was so confused I went home and checked my calendar! So, when you’re gathered around the tree and your little son/daughter/brother/sister/niece/nephew/cousin asks you if Santa Claus is real say, “Yes, honey he was created by Coca-cola in 1931,” and then go enjoy your Capitalism-fuelling presents. Merry Christmas everyone!
Spend Until You Die

By Brennan Blomgren

It's that time of year again, folks. The signs are all around us. Those blasted Christmas Carols scream at us in the stores about how it's the most wonderful time of the year or how someone hears those sleigh-bells jingling. There are trees everywhere that have been lit up and covered in baubles like strange mutants shambling around - some of them even albinos. People are inexplicably hanging their socks on their walls, shivering as their feet freeze off. Red-leaved plants are popping up around houses everywhere. Yep. It's the Christmas season. It's a time where families get together and share heartwarming moments together as they accumulate a debt the size of which is usually reserved only for the government.

Christmas is a time of spending until your wallet wants to run away and die. I come from a large family, and we are all very close knit. This generally means that everyone gets everyone a present, maybe more than one. When I was a kid, that was awesome, but now I realize just how terrifying the Christmas season really is. Why? Because my "immediate" family consists of about 30 people. That's not to mention really close friends (another 20 or so), my girlfriend, and other really close family friends (add about 15). That's 66 people who require presents: I know they'll all be giving ME one.

Now, I'm an extreme case, but we all still have to get through the holidays. And so you spend. And you spend. You spend so much that our government stops looking like it has that bad of a debt after all. Because it's not just the presents. Oh, no. The presents are just the beginning! See, you also spend money on a tree that we put in our house to look at! That's a good 40$. And then the poinsettias! At 10$ a pop, they're a bit pricey, but you can't have just one! You need SIX! And then, of course, you have to COOK. You need food! So you have scenes like this:

YOU: I'd like a turkey, please.
BUTCHER: That'll be 20 dollars.
YOU: Will you accept my liver?

And all the while that cursed song is still insisting what a wonderful time of the year it is in the background.
So finally, after all the wait, the cooking, the attempts to cope now that you've sold your left arm, spleen, and left kidney - Christmas comes. Finally there is salvation! Now all of that work will pay off, right?

NIECE: This turkey tastes like poo.
GRANDMOTHER: You undercooked the potatoes.
FATHER: The TV won't work.
COUSIN: A sweater? Seriously, that's all you got me?
MOTHER: I think I'm allergic to the tree.
NEPHEW: I wanted Transformers!!
GRANDFATHER: You bought pie from a store???

At this point, no jury on earth would convict you if your family mysteriously became Christmas leftovers.
But you somehow manage to avoid beating your entire family to death with a gingerbread house ($14.99). You say goodbye, and finally sleep.
And then you sell yourself into slave labor, because some reindeer destroyed your roof ($689).

Local Universities Winter Break Differences

By Hlee Yang

It's a wonderful feeling that Concordia has a month off for winter break starting Friday December 19th through Tuesday January 19th 2010, can't beat that right? Other local universities and colleges on the other hand have less than a month off, like St. Thomas University starting their break the same time as Concordia but resuming classes on January 4th, 2010. The outcome, we get out of school a few weeks later than the other local school. Hamline goes on winter break on December 17th and resume their classes on February 3rd because of J-term. Macalester College gets off on December 21st and resumes their classes on January 25th which is a month off also, but they start a week after us. Overall, the winter breaks of local universities and colleges is not that different from one another besides the fact that we get out of school a week later then the other schools. I personally think that we should all go on break during the same time like spring break for example, while most schools are on their spring break we are sitting in class. I overall think it makes things more fair for our students.
A Winter's Masquerade
Friday December 11th, 2009
Nine O'Clock - Midnight
The University Club Penthouse
Transportation Provided
Masks are optional, but encouraged!!!
$15 for one ticket $20 for two tickets